

Public Document Pack

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Bridgend County Borough Council



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

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

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



Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate

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

Gofynnwch am / Ask for:

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Wednesday, 11 January 2023

Dear Councillor,

CABINET

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held Hybrid in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB / remotely via Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday, 17 January 2023 at 14:30**.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008.
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 16
To receive for approval the Minutes of 13/12/22
4. Call-In of Cabinet Decision: Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration: Appropriation of Land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay 17 - 84
5. Llangynwyd Playing Fields 85 - 194
6. Budget Monitoring 2022-23 - Quarter 3 Revenue Forecast 195 - 224
7. Capital Programme Update - Quarter 3 Report 2022-23 225 - 246
8. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-24 to 2026-27 247 - 296
9. Council Tax Premiums - Long Term Empty Homes and Second Homes – Outcome of Consultation 297 - 332
10. Play Sufficiency Duty, Assessment and Action Plan to Secure Sufficient Opportunities in Bridgend County Borough 333 - 460
11. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children 461 - 466

By receiving this Agenda Pack electronically you will save the Authority approx. £10.16 in printing costs

12. Appointment of Local Authority Governors 467 - 472
13. Unreasonable Behaviour/Vexatious Complainant Policy 473 - 482
14. Information Report for Noting 483 - 504
15. Urgent Items
To consider any items of business that by reason of special circumstances the chairperson is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency in accordance with paragraph 2.4 (e) of the Cabinet Procedure Rules within the Constitution.
16. Exclusion of the Public
The following item is not for publication as it contains exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 14 and 16 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.
- If following the application of the public interest test Cabinet resolves pursuant to the Act to consider these items in private, the public will be excluded from the meeting during such consideration.
17. Approval of Exempt Minutes 505 - 508
To receive for approval the exempt minutes of 13/12/2022

Note: This will be a Hybrid meeting and Members and Officers will be attending in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Angel Street Bridgend / Remotely via Microsoft Teams. The meeting will be recorded for subsequent transmission via the Council's internet site which will be available as soon as practicable after the meeting. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk or tel. 01656 643147 / 643148.

Yours faithfully

K Watson

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

Councillors:

JC Spanswick

N Farr

W R Goode

Councillors

J Gebbie

HJ David

HM Williams

Councillors

JPD Blundell

CABINET - TUESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2022

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD HYBRID - COUNCIL CHAMBER/REMOETELY ON TUESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2022 AT 14:30

Present

Councillor HJ David – Chairperson

JC Spanswick
HM Williams

N Farr
JPD Blundell

W R Goode

J Gebbie

Officers:

Alex Rawlin	Corporate Policy & Public Affairs Manager
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
Janine Nightingale	Corporate Director - Communities
Kelly Watson	Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive
Deborah Exton	Deputy Head of Finance
Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Michael Pitman	Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Steven Howell	Group Manager Placements & Provider Services

88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

89. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of a meeting of Cabinet dated 15 November 2022, were approved as a true and accurate record.

90. UPDATED FOSTERING ALLOWANCES POLICY

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing submitted a report, that provided Cabinet with details of the updated Fostering Allowances Policy.

She advised that in March 2022 Bridgend County Borough Council's Fostering Services brought their new Fostering Financial Policy to Cabinet for approval, with approval also sought to delegate authority to the Head of Children's Social Care to implement the new policy.

During the implementation phase of the policy an administrative error was identified as reflected in paragraph 3.2 relating to Fostering Allowances. These discrepancies were highlighted in yellow in this section of the report.

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing explained, that despite the above, no Foster Carer received an erroneous amount and the Policy was amended to include the correct financial information as set out in the report.

She proceeded to advise, that in July 2022 the Fostering Financial Policy was further updated to change the rates of allowance (following agreement at Cabinet) to award a 7% increase to the allowances paid to all Bridgend Foster Carers (which would be backdated to April 2022 and apply to the 2022/23 financial year) and the introduction of 2 weeks paid respite for all Foster Wales Bridgend Foster Carers.

Finally, the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing stated that the 7% increase to Foster Care Allowances agreed by Cabinet in July 2022 has now been paid to Foster Carers, adding that the administrative error in the Policy was amended during the implementation period.

The Deputy Leader confirmed that Fostering in Bridgend was of a very high standard and she was really pleased to say that ‘Becky and Pete’ Foster Carers, had recently won an Excellence Award earlier this year.

She added that with an increase in Looked After Children, we needed more foster carers to come forward to support these young people.

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing added that there had been an interest in the form of enquiries for foster caring, following a recent successful advertising campaign.

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) That Cabinet noted that the error in the Fostering Allowances Policy as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report was amended and has been implemented.
 - (2) That Cabinet further noted that the Policy has been further amended for 2022/23 to include the 7% increase to Foster Care Allowances agreed by Cabinet in July 2022.

91. **APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS**

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support presented a report, the purpose of which, was to seek approval from Cabinet for the appointment of the local authority governor to the school governing body listed at paragraph 4.1 (of the report).

He stated that in accordance with the Council’s ‘Guidance on the appointment of local education authority governors’ approved by Cabinet on 14 October 2008, officers considered applications received for the current vacancy for the local authority governor position on the governing body of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr.

There was competition for the vacancy and the two applicants were detailed in the table in the report.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support confirmed, that having given due regard to the strengths presented in the applications from both applicants, officers determined that the recommended appointment be Mr Ben Morgan.

The Cabinet Member – Education alerted Members and Officers to the fact that there were still a considerable number of School Governor vacancies as detailed in Appendix A to the report that required filling, so he asked them to share this fact with anyone who may be interested in becoming a governor at any of the schools where such vacancies existed.

- RESOLVED:** That Cabinet approved the appointment detailed at paragraph 4.3 of the report.

92. **PORTHCAWL WELSH-MEDIUM SEEDLING SCHOOL AND CHILDCARE**

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support presented a report, the purpose of which was to:

- detail the outcome of the options appraisal process for the delivery of a Welsh-medium seedling school and childcare provision for the Porthcawl area; and
- seek approval to consult on a proposal to establish a Welsh-medium seedling school and childcare provision for the Porthcawl area on land at the Porthcawl Primary School site.

By way of background, he advised that in March 2018, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance made available £30m across Wales for projects dedicated to supporting and growing the use of the Welsh language in education. This funding would assist the delivery of Welsh Government's ongoing commitment to achieve a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

A childcare sufficiency audit of settings within Bridgend had identified gaps in this vital provision. These gaps, together with a lack of Welsh-medium childcare, resulted in a decision being taken to centre Bridgend's proposals on Welsh-medium sessional, child and wraparound care.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support confirmed that Porthcawl was identified as one of the four key locations that would benefit from Welsh-medium childcare provision. It was considered that such facilities at these strategic locations would help support transition from childcare into Welsh-medium primary education. A successful funding bid was made to Welsh Government for such provision in certain areas of the County Borough, that included Porthcawl.

He proceeded by advising that, an options appraisal found that land on the existing Porthcawl Primary School site was the most suitable location to accommodate both a seedling school and childcare facility. To compensate for the land which will be used for the new facility, an all-weather pitch would be provided at Porthcawl Primary School.

The proposed seedling school is a 'starter class' with 30 full-time equivalent nursery places, and 30 Reception places, the Corporate Director – Education and Family Support explained.

It was planned that the seedling provision will be operated and governed by Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr, and pupils would transition to that school at Year 1 to conclude their primary education; that is until a Welsh-medium primary school is established in Porthcawl as part of a future band of the school modernisation programme, which Cabinet previously approved in principle.

The proposed childcare facility will have capacity for 16 full-time (32 part-time) childcare places, together with 6 places for 0 to 2 provision offering full care from potentially birth to four years old. This included afterschool and holiday provision, to offer full wrap-around care via the medium of Welsh. It was planned that this facility will be operated by a private provider.

Porthcawl was previously identified as a key location that would benefit from Welsh-medium childcare provision. It was considered that such facilities would help support transition from childcare into Welsh-medium primary school education.

It was currently estimated that if the proposal progresses to completion, the new provision will open in January 2025.

The Cabinet Member – Education stated that it was really pleasing that this extremely exciting proposal was continuing to take steps forward. There is a strong Welsh

language presence in Porthcawl, and this new seedling school will continue to reinforce the importance of the Welsh language in the County Borough as a whole.

He added that the proposal will have a positive impact on the amount of young people studying a Welsh-medium education in the area and crucially will also help to strengthen transition links.

The Cabinet Member – Regeneration asked if there would be car parking available at the school, to which the Corporate Director – Education and Family Support responded that a Full Transport Assessment would be undertaken in order to put in place that which was deemed suitable to minimise the impact of the development.

The Cabinet Member – Communities was pleased to see that an all-weather pitch would be provided at the school and hoped that this could be used by the wider community out of school time as well as for pupils there.

In response to a further question, the Corporate Director – Education and Family Support, confirmed that the new school would be targeting net zero carbon, in line with the Council's Carbon Neutral agenda.

The Leader concluded that there would also be a childcare facility at the school, which was pleasing to note.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet gave permission to consult on a proposal to establish a Welsh-Medium Seedling school and childcare provision for the Porthcawl area on land at the Porthcawl Primary School site.

93. **HOUSING (WALES) ACT 2014**

The Head of Partnership Services submitted a report, to highlight the changes made to Welsh Government homelessness legislation in respect of the new Priority Need category and to seek Cabinet approval in respect of applying the 'intentionality test' to that new category.

In accordance with legislation, he advised that the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 (The Act), places a duty on the Council to assist those who are threatened with homelessness within 56 days by taking all reasonable steps to prevent/relieve homelessness. The duty to prevent homelessness under the Act is irrespective of whether the applicant has a local connection to Bridgend or whether the applicant is intentionally homeless. Those that make a homeless application, but have no local connection, receive advice and assistance only from the Council unless, for example, they are fleeing violence/domestic abuse.

The Head of Partnership Services confirmed, that in the event that homelessness prevention was not successful, there was a duty to relieve the applicant's homelessness and to take all 'reasonable steps' to do so.

The Act also introduced changes in respect of how to apply the 'intentionality test'. Welsh Government removed the intentionality test for all families with children even if they are found to be intentionally homeless. There was a caveat to this he advised, in that it would only apply if they have not been found intentionally homeless in the last 5 years. The definition of intentionally homeless was outlined in paragraph 3.5 of the report.

Paragraph 3.6 of the report listed the different categories of what the Council considered as homeless under set criteria covered by legislation and/or agreed by Cabinet at a previous meeting.

The Head of Partnership Services further added that the Act also specified 10 categories of households who were to be considered priority need. Priority Need is considered for the provision of temporary accommodation and the final homeless duty to secure permanent accommodation.

At the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic, Welsh Government (WG) introduced an 'All In' approach to homelessness and directed local authorities that no-one was to be without accommodation due to the public health imperative making everyone Priority Need. Therefore, the intentionality test was suspended to respond to the emergency situation at the time leading to greater numbers being provided with temporary accommodation in hotels, Air B+B's etc.

Whilst some households will not be considered to fall within a priority need group, they will still receive the same level of support albeit they will not be eligible for temporary accommodation.

The current changes implemented by WG have been made with a view to them reviewing the entire Act in the future and therefore it is proposed that the Council apply the intentionality definition to the new category of households 'Street Homeless' until such time as this takes place.

The Cabinet Member – Future Generations confirmed that even if individuals looked to become intentionally homeless, the Council with its partners, would still look after them and try to persuade them to secure some form of accommodation. This was not easy however, as some homeless people did not wish to be placed in accommodation. This situation was compounded by the fact that some of these people had very complex health issues/needs.

The Head of Partnerships confirmed that temporary accommodation was available for those on the streets and regular meetings were held with key stakeholders to ensure that those sleeping rough had somewhere to go, particularly in the weather we are now experiencing. There was also assistance from the Rough Sleepers Intervention Team to this end.

The Cabinet Member – Future Generations advised that anyone who had concerns regarding rough sleepers, could report these cases to StreetLink.

The Leader concluded the debate on this item, by reminding those present that 98.7% of people in society did not wish to make themselves intentionally homeless.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved that the Council applies the 'intentionality test' to the new category of households 'Street Homeless' and publishes its intent to do so in accordance with Welsh Government direction.

94. **CONTINUATION OF HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES ON COITY ROAD**

The Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change, submitted a report, the purpose of which, was to seek approval from Cabinet to modify an existing contract in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs), in order to allow for the continuation of housing related support services on Coity Road.

The Head of Partnership Services advised Cabinet, that following a procurement exercise in 2018, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) currently has a contract in place with the Wallich, for the delivery of three housing related support projects located on Coity Road, Bridgend.

The contract BCBC has in place with the Wallich commenced on 1 April 2018 and expired on 31 March 2023. An option to extend the contract for a period of up to 24 months has been exercised with there being then no further option to extend.

He added that the current annual contract value was £358,170 and this was funded by BCBC's Housing Support Grant. The total value of the contract was £1,790,850.

The Head of Partnership Services reiterated, that with the current contract in place with the Wallich due to expire on 31 March 2023, in line with BCBC's Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs) a procurement exercise was required to ensure continued service provision on an ongoing basis.

On 1 December 2022 the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 came into force and a future report to Cabinet will outline the wider implications of the Act, but it is clear there will be implications for providers of temporary and supported accommodation. Some of these were explained in the report.

It was proposed that the procurement process which will be required to secure continued provision on an ongoing basis, be delayed and the current contract in place with the Wallich be extended, whilst the implications of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016, were fully understood.

The concern of a procurement process beginning now, in order to secure a new contract by the 1 April 2023, was that detail set out in a Service Specification at this stage could quickly become out of date by potential Welsh Government changes. In addition, explained the Head of Partnership Services, there would likely be greater interest in a tender process from prospective providers once the implications of the Act were fully understood.

He concluded the report by advising, that if Cabinet approves the proposed modification of the existing contract, a procurement process will be undertaken in line with BCBC's CPRs, in order to secure a new contract with a start date of 1 October 2023. To allow for a full procurement exercise to be undertaken including mobilisation of a new contract and consideration of TUPE, the process would begin around March 2023.

In terms of the report's financial implications, the Head of Partnership Services confirmed that the cost of the contract modification detailed at paragraph 4.9 of the report, was within 10% of the current overall contract value. The cost of the modification would be funded by BCBC's Housing Support Grant.

The Cabinet Member – Future Generations stressed the importance in BCBC understanding how the Act will change the current systems in place and the impact this will have on the sector, as there were unprecedented pressures with cases of homeless people. He hoped that we would have a procurement process in time, which ensures we have the best value for money in terms of support and an equal service to that which supports residents currently. He also commended the work of the Wallich in the support of the homeless.

The Leader asked if the Council could write to the Minister for Climate Change who is also responsible for Housing, in order to encourage Welsh Government to make any

such policy changes as quickly as possible, so that we can progress the commissioning of the service in the not too distant future.

He also suggested that the three new local Ward Members be briefed on this issue, in order that they are able to understand the services being provided locally, as well as being aware of the support mechanisms that are in place.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved a modification in the form of a 6 month extension of the Contract BCBC has in place with the Wallich for the delivery of Housing Related Support Services on Coity Road.

95. **AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES**

The Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy presented a report, the purpose of which, was to:

- seek approval from Cabinet to amend the lower financial threshold for obtaining three quotations for works, goods and services from £5,000 to £10,000 within the Contract Procedure Rules to take effect from 1st January 2023;
- to recommend to Council an amendment to the Constitution to incorporate the revisions to the Contract Procedure Rules.

By way of background information, she confirmed that the Council is required to ensure the Contract Procedure Rules, which form part of the Council's Constitution, are reflective of current market pressures and are fit for purpose.

The Contract Procedure Rules also contains the rules and guidelines for procuring goods, services and works. They are designed to ensure compliance with UK law, ensure best practice is followed and best value is achieved in the use of public funds.

Turning to the present situation, the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy stated that in order to procure goods, services and works above £5,000 a service must obtain three quotes. This has proved to be unmanageable due to the volume of quotations across the Council, leading to delays on service delivery. There were several reasons for this which were outlined in the report, upon which she expanded.

The Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate policy explained that a benchmarking exercise had shown that an increase to £10,000 for obtaining three quotations is in line with neighbouring councils and it was proposed that BCBC follow suit with this.

She referred Cabinet to a copy of the proposed amendments to the Contract Procedure Rules to this effect, shown via tracked changes at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet Member – Resources commended the report which would bring BCBC in line with other neighbouring authorities in terms of the increase in threshold and allow us to better face inflationary pressures.

The Leader sought reassurance that there would still be an audit trail in respect to procurement decisions that would be made, despite the proposed change to the Contract Procedure Rules.

The Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy reassured Members that there was still a process to follow, ie obtaining three quotes which will be arranged by the Business Support Team and approved by Management.

In response to a further question, she advised that a progress report on the Contract procedure Rules would be brought back to Cabinet in 6 months time.

She finally also confirmed that there were a few neighbouring authorities that obtained three quotations for works estimated at £15,000 and even upward of that.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (i) Approved the change to the lower financial threshold from £5,000 to £10,000 for obtaining three quotations within the Contract Procedure Rules as shown at Appendix 1 to the report, to take effect from 1st January 2023;
- (ii) Recommended to Council an amendment to the Constitution to incorporate the revisions to the Contract Procedure Rules.

96. **CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS**

The Corporate Director – Communities submitted a report, in order to seek the approval of Cabinet to adopt a revised procedure when consulting with local members, individuals and organisations and when giving public notice related to permanent Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs), in order to streamline the process going forward.

She explained that the Wales Transport Strategy 2021, published by the Welsh Government identified as one of its key priorities, to ‘change the default speed limit from 30mph to 20mph in built-up areas to reduce traffic related injuries and fatalities and make walking and cycling safer and more attractive’.

It was therefore proposed, that by enabling a much wider take up of 20mph limits, this would achieve significant road safety benefits, particularly in deprived neighbourhoods. In the longer term, reductions in the perception of road danger was expected to lead to more walking and cycling, which will improve public health and replace some short car journeys and assist further reductions in collisions and casualties. More walking and cycling was also likely to lead to greater social cohesion, which brings further societal and health benefits. Lower speeds would also lead to reductions in traffic noise, while impacts on air quality will be neutral at worst and journey time increases will be slight.

The Corporate Director – Communities further explained, that as part of the new legislation, a 20mph Task Force was created to work closely with Local Authorities to identify those roads which would be an exception to the legislation.

Bridgend County Borough Council have identified over 100 exceptions, all of which will require Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO’s), either for the retention or amendments to speed limits. The deadline for the roll-out of the 20mph status for certain roads by Welsh Government was September next year

Outlined in paragraphs 4 of the report, was the consultation process generally to be undertaken prior to the statutory public notice stage and before a permanent TRO can be implemented. Dependent upon the size and scale of the TRO process, this may result in different engagement methods being undertaken, she explained. This section of

the report also listed the statutory consultees the Council were required to engage with, that included local Members.

The remainder of the main body of the report went on to explain the legal process regarding the Council's statutory obligations when proposing to make a TRO, together with the process that has to be followed if there are any objections or appeals to such a proposal(s).

The Corporate Director – Communities, then finally explained the report's financial implications, ie that the costs for Authority sponsored Traffic Regulation Orders are either funded from within existing budgets, or from third parties. There were therefore no financial implications arising from the report's proposals.

The Cabinet Member – Communities commended the report and advised that Welsh Government in the new year would be publicising proposals regarding the 20mph scheme so that members of the public are more aware of this intention.

The Leader added that the making or amending of a considerable number of TRO's would give a significant amount of increased workload to Officers in both the Legal and Highways Directorates.

In response to a further query from the Deputy Leader, the Corporate Director – Communities, confirmed that a key consultee of a TRO was the Police, who would get the opportunity to agree or disagree with proposals that would be pursued by local authorities across Wales (including BCBC), as this was a National Scheme that would be applied subject to exceptions (ie roads that will not be subject to a 20mph speed restriction). Any contravention regarding speed limits on the highway network by drivers of vehicles, was of course she added, the responsibility of the Police to enforce.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

(1) Approved that the Consultation Procedure for Road Traffic Regulation Orders 2014, as set out in the Cabinet Report attached at Appendix 1, is amended as outlined at paragraph 4.5 (subject to the deletion of the words in brackets in the first sub-bullet point in paragraph 4.5.1 of the report) and that authority is delegated to the Corporate Director – Communities to make the necessary amendments.

(2) Further approved, that all future traffic management and road safety proposals follow the amended procedure as set out in the report.

97. **BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL DESTINATION MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2027**

The Corporate Director – Communities presented a report, the purpose of which, was to seek Cabinet approval of the Bridgend County Borough Council Destination Management Plan, 2022-2027 and approve the implementation of the resulting actions.

She explained that a Destination Management Plan (DMP), is a statement of intent to manage a destination in the interests of tourism, over a specified period, setting out the ways in which different stakeholders may work together to achieve a positive impact. The new DMP is a shared statement of intent to manage Bridgend County Borough as a successful visitor destination between 2022 and 2027.

BCBC to this end, will work in partnership with Visit Wales, regional entities such as Cardiff Capital Region and the Valleys Regional Park, neighbouring authorities, and key stakeholders such as town and community councils, accommodation providers, tourist attractions, activity providers and other local businesses that support the visitor economy.

The Corporate Director – Communities confirmed, that since the last DMP was produced, significant change has taken place at global, national and local levels, with the Covid-19 pandemic, the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union and rises in the cost of living. All of these have had implications for the tourism and hospitality industries. Whilst much has changed, there is also much potential for the future.

BCBC has identified tourism as part of its foundational economy with a recovery response that includes additional funding streams, public amenity projects, infrastructure upgrades and support for the accommodation sector.

The Bridgend County Borough Council Destination Management Plan, 2022-2027, was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. If adopted by Cabinet, this was intended to set the framework for supporting the delivery of the tourism vision to 2027.

The Corporate Director – Communities stated that actions contained within the Destination Action Plan, have been developed to propose the most efficient use of resources, focus on key strategic opportunities for development, maximise external funding opportunities and where possible deliver in partnership. It would focus action upon the priorities listed in paragraph 4.5 of the report.

The goals of the Destination Management Plan, were to:

- create economic growth that delivers benefits to people and places;
- promote environmental sustainability;
- provide social and cultural enrichment for residents and visitors alike;
- incorporate health benefits (for example through promoting active travel, physical activity or mental wellbeing associated with experiencing the natural environment.)

The delivery of actions in relation to tourism will focus on maximising areas and opportunities that present greatest impact for the County Borough and utilising a range of external funding opportunities as and when they become available and this would involve partnership working. This would in turn, assist in the achievement and implementation of the the actions outlined in Appendix 1 and the successful promotion of BCB as a coherent destination.

The Cabinet Member – Regeneration stressed the importance of having a Plan such as this in place, in order to shape, promote and encourage tourism within the County Borough.

The Cabinet Member – Communities added that BCB had a great natural environment, particularly within the three main valley areas, of Ogmore, Garw and Maesteg. He felt it would be beneficial if in the emerging Corporate Plan performance indicators were included in there, in order to gauge the targets we were setting ourselves are met in terms of tourism.

The Leader concluded by stating that pre-pandemic tourism brought over a third of a billion spend into the BCB economy and protected over 4,000 jobs, but obviously this was then hit hard by lockdown. The industry was now reviving he was pleased to add. He was encouraged particularly, by the growing number of visitors to Bryngarw Park where the Council received funding in order to improve this facility. Similarly, Rest Bay

was also high on the visitors list where we previously received European funding for improvements such as the water sports facility and more money would be committed to Porthcawl as part of its continued Regeneration Programme, he added.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (1) Approved the Bridgend County Borough Council Destination Management Plan, 2022-2027;
- (2) Delegated authority to the Corporate Director - Communities to implement the Destination Action Plan contained within Appendix 1 of the report.

98. **BRIDGEND 2030 – NET ZERO CARBON STRATEGY**

The Corporate Director – Communities presented a report, to seek Cabinet approval to formally adopt the Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy. The report recommends that the strategy should be adopted and the action plans detailed in it implemented, so that Bridgend Council can achieve net zero status by 2030.

By way of background, the report advised that in October 2018, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) produced a report on the state of global warming. The report identified that a continued warming of global temperatures will significantly increase the likelihood and resulting impact of floods, droughts and extreme heat.

Welsh Government then declared a Climate Emergency in April 2019 and following this, the Welsh Government has now committed to achieving a carbon neutral public sector by 2030.

The Corporate Director – Communities reminded Cabinet, that in June 2020 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) Cabinet approved a report that set out the crucial roles that BCBC has to play through the management of its own resources and assets and the way in which it works with and supports local residents, organisations and businesses to respond to the challenges set out in the IPCC report.

A target for Local Authorities in Wales to be net-zero carbon by 2030, is an ambition set by Welsh Government. In response, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) with local government Leaders established a Decarbonisation Strategy Panel, supported by all 22 local authorities, Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Cardiff University.

Following appointment of the Carbon Trust to work with BCBC on the development of a Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy, Officers had undertaken a number of proactive activities and these were listed in paragraph 3.8 of the report.

The final version of the Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. This had been developed following an in-depth review of data in line with the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Guide and through engagement with internal and external stakeholders. Importantly, the Strategy will not be the only driver for net zero, as it would be a part of the Council's Corporate Plan, whilst policies, strategies and ongoing plans will all need to reflect the commitment to net zero. This will ensure it is fully embraced across the organisation.

The Corporate Director – Communities confirmed that public consultation on the 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy was undertaken over a twelve-week period from 8 June to 30

August 2022. The consultation received a total of 360 online survey completions, with a further 35 face to face engagement completions. The consultation report was included at Appendix 2 to the report.

Analysis of the responses received, showed that the majority of respondents are in support of the draft Bridgend 2030 Net Carbon Zero Strategy and the priorities contained within this.

The Carbon Leads for taking forward the delivery of the Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy were:

- o Carbon Management – Group Manager - Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability
- o Waste – Head of Operations - Community Services
- o Transport – Group Manager - Highways and Green Spaces
- o Buildings – Group Manager - Corporate Landlord
- o Land Use – Climate Change Response Manager
- o Procurement – Corporate Procurement Manager

The Corporate Director – Communities concluded the report, by highlighting some financial implications of the Strategy which were elaborated upon in paragraph 8 of the report, which were significant.

The Leader advised that this was one of the most important Strategies that the Council was required to implement, so as to deliver upon the Climate Emergency.

The Cabinet Member – Communities stated that paragraph 4.5 of the report listed the Officers in the Communities Directorate that were required to lead on the different aspects of the Strategy, however, he added that there should also be a lead Officer for the Climate Change Agenda in each of the other Directorates, as there needed to be a Council wide approach to deliver this as a 'One Council' Corporate Priority. He added that he had some concerns around the cost of the project and hoped that Welsh Government would be able to assist local authorities financially, in order to successfully deliver the Strategy in its entirety.

The Cabinet Member – Education asked if consideration could be given to having a standard paragraph in the report template for all Committee reports, outlining how such reports affected (if at all) the Carbon Reduction Agenda.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that this could be looked at in conjunction with the Committee report template review that was currently work in progress. It was hoped to submit a report to Council in February, outlining some adjustments to the report template.

The Deputy Leader asked if the review could also include having an Executive Summary as a paragraph in longer and more complex, detailed reports, to which the Monitoring Officer replied that this could be looked at also.

The Cabinet Member – Resources finally advised that he was pleased to confirm, that in the Welsh Government settlement that had been announced today, it was confirmed that a sizeable proportion of Capital spending was intended to be committed to Carbon Reduction across welsh local authorities.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet formally adopted the Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy

99. **URGENT ITEMS**

None.

100. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as they contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Following the application of the public interest test it was resolved that pursuant to the Act referred to above, to consider the following items in private, with the public excluded from the meeting, as it was considered that in all circumstances relating to the item, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

101. **PORTHCAWL WATERFRONT REGENERATION**

102. **FORMER EWENNY ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE: PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT**

The meeting closed at 17:00

This page is intentionally left blank

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

17 JANUARY 2023

REPORT OF SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2

CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION: PORTHCAWL WATERFRONT REGENERATION: APPROPRIATION OF LAND AT GRIFFIN PARK AND SANDY BAY

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present Cabinet with the findings and recommendations of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 from their meeting held on 3 November 2022, following a Call In of a decision of Cabinet in relation to Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration: Appropriation of Land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay.

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

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 In accordance with Rule 18 of Part 4 Rules of Procedure in the Council's Constitution, 5 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and 2 Scrutiny Chairs, requested that the Executive decision made by Cabinet on 18 October 2022 be Called-In.
- 3.2 The Committee considered the proposed decision by Cabinet including the reasons for the decision, taking into account whether the decision is in line with corporate priorities and policies.
- 3.3 The role of Councillors exercising Overview and Scrutiny is, amongst other things, to ensure that the development of the Council's policies and the way they are being implemented reflect the needs and priorities of local Communities in the County Borough. As such, in holding the Cabinet to account for the efficient exercise of the executive function, the Overview & Scrutiny process aims to strengthen accountability for the decisions and performance of Bridgend County Borough Council.

- 3.4 For the purposes of informing Cabinet, the following appendices have been attached:
- **Appendix A** – Cabinet Decision Record 18 October 2022;
 - **Appendix B** – Notice of Call In Form;
 - **Appendix C** – Report to Cabinet 18 October 2022;
 - **Appendix D** - Call In Report to the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 on 3 November 2022.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 Following its examination of the decision, and detailed discussions with the Leader, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Officers invited, the Committee concluded that the Decision would not be referred back to Cabinet for reconsideration, but made the following Recommendation to Cabinet:
- a) That having regard to concerns expressed to Members by Porthcawl residents, views shared by public speakers and questions from Members, that Cabinet be requested that going forward for the next stages in the process that they involve Porthcawl Town Council, all stakeholders and the public in further consultation and engagement.

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 Wellbeing of Future Generations Implications are outlined in section 7 of the Cabinet report of 18 October 2022, attached as **Appendix C**.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 The financial implications are outlined in Section 8 of the Cabinet report of 18 October 2022, attached as **Appendix C**.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 Cabinet is requested to consider the Recommendation of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 as outlined in paragraph 4.1 above and provide a written response to the Committee.

11 January 2023

Contact officers: Meryl Lawrence
Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny

Lucy Beard
Scrutiny Officer

Jessica McLellan
Scrutiny Officer

Telephone: (01656) 643515 / 643613 / 643263

Email: scrutiny@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Democratic Services - Scrutiny
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Background documents: None

This page is intentionally left blank

DECISION RECORD OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD HYBRID IN COUNCIL CHAMBER/REMOTE ON TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2022 AT 14:30

Present

Councillor – HJ David – Leader/Chairperson

Councillors

J Gebbie, N Farr, J Spanswick
H Williams, JP Blundell,

Apologies

R Goode

Officers:

M Shephard, C Marchant, L Harvey, J Nightingale, C Lord, K Watson, H Picton, M Pitman, J Ellams

Title of Report	Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration: Appropriation of Land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay
Decision Made	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet considered the representations received in response to the advertisement of the proposed appropriation of land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay and officers' responses to those representations set out in Appendix 5 to the report. 2. Cabinet approved the appropriation for planning purposes of the land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay outlined in red on the Appropriation Plan (Appendix 1)
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None

Title of Report	Call-In of Cabinet Decision: Recycling and Waste Service Post 2024
Decision Made	Cabinet considered the Recommendations of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee as outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the report and agreed to provide a written response to the Committee.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None

Title of Report	Proposal to Implement a Ban on the Giving of Live Animals as Prizes on Council Owned Land and an Overview of Work to Ensure High Standards of Animal Health and Welfare across the County Borough
Decision Made	<p>Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the work of Shared Regulatory Services to ensure that high standards of animal health and welfare are maintained across the county borough 2. Noted and supported the RSPCA campaign to prohibit the practice of giving live animals away as prizes. 3. Approved the implementation of a ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on all Bridgend County Borough Council owned land. 4. Agreed that residents should be made aware that the duty to police the ban lies with them and a whole community response was necessary.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None

Title of Report	Shared Regulatory Services Annual Report 2021-22
Decision Made	That Cabinet noted the Shared Regulatory Services Annual Report for 2021-22.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

Title of Report	Corporate Self-Assessment
Decision Made	Cabinet endorsed the corporate self-assessment report 2021-22 attached as Appendix 1 to the report, to be submitted to Council for approval on 19 October 2022.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None

Title of Report	Review of Corporate Plan Targets for 2022-23
Decision Made	Cabinet endorsed the revised Corporate Plan targets for 2022-2023 as set out in Appendix A to the report, (subject to the adjustments to targets proposed by the Corporate Director of Social Services and Wellbeing and the Corporate Director for Communities) and recommended it to Council for approval on 19 October 2022,
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None

Title of Report	The Establishment of an Advisory Board with Awen to Support Strategic Direction and Partnership Development In Bridgend
Decision Made	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet approved the proposed change to an Advisory Board approach to better support the partnership and current contractual arrangement and to provide notice to Awen of the agreed change. 2. Cabinet determined the representation on the Advisory Board; 3. Cabinet delegated authority to the Corporate Director of Social Services and Wellbeing to negotiate and agree the final terms of the Deed of Variation and to arrange execution of the Deed of Variation on behalf of the Council, subject to such delegated authority being exercised in consultation with the Chief Officer Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy and the Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None

Title of Report	The Provision of Care and Support in the Secure Estate
Decision Made	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the information contained in the report and the responsibilities for the Council under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014; 2. Approved the transfer of the care and support service provision at HMP Parc to the Council noting the TUPE implications as outlined at paragraph 4.10 of the report; 3. Delegated authority to the Director of Social Services and Wellbeing in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory, Human Resources and Corporate Policy and the Section 151 Officer to continue negotiations with G4S and finalise and enter into a varied or new agreement with G4S.

Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None

Title of Report	Outcome of Public Notice to Open Provision for Pupils with Additional Learning Needs Establishing a Learning Resource Centre for Pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder at Tremains Primary School.
Decision Made	Cabinet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted that no objections were received during the public notice period; and • Approved the implementation of the proposal with an opening date of autumn term 2022.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

Title of Report	School Modernisation Programme - Coety Primary School - Permission to Commence Statutory Consultation
Decision Made	Cabinet gave approval to commence a statutory consultation process to a make a regulated alteration to enlarge Coety Primary School to a 2.5-form-entry school with an 88 full-time equivalent nursery from the beginning of spring term 2025.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

Title of Report	Outcome of Public Notice to Open Provision for Pupils with Additional Learning Needs Establishing a Learning Resource Centre for Pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant
Decision Made	Cabinet: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted that no objections were received during the public notice period; and 2. Approved the implementation of the proposal.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

Title of Report	Appointment of Local Authority Governors
Decision Made	Cabinet approved the appointments detailed at paragraph 4.1 of the report, subject to the deletion of Cllr Alex Williams for Pencoed Comprehensive School.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

Title of Report	School Modernisation Programme - Heronsbridge School Outcome of Statutory Notice
Decision Made	Cabinet: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the outcome of the published statutory notice to make regulated alterations to Heronsbridge School to increase the number of pupils for whom the school makes provision to 300 and to relocate the school from its current location at Ewenny Road, Bridgend to Island Farm, Bridgend; 2. Determined to modify the implementation date of the proposal to the beginning of spring term 2026; and 3. Gave approval to issue and publish a decision letter, as required by the Code.

Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

Title of Report	School Modernisation Programme - Heronsbridge School, Procurement
Decision Made	<p>Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved the preferred procurement strategy as set out in paragraphs 4.2, 4.3 and 4.16 of the report in respect of the appointment of a design team and main contractor for Heronsbridge School; 2. Gave approval to proceed with the procurement process; 3. Noted that Cabinet will be presented with a future report regarding the outcome of the options appraisal in respect of Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate's residential and respite provision; and; 4. Noted that Cabinet will be presented with a future report prior to awarding the main construction contract which sets out the position regarding project costs and budget.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

Title of Report	School Modernisation Programme - Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr Outcome of Statutory Notice
Decision Made	<p>Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the outcome of the published statutory notice to make a regulated alteration to enlarge Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr to a 2.5 form-entry school, with a 90 place full-time equivalent nursery, plus an 8-place observation and assessment class on land off Ffordd Cadfan; 2. Determined to implement the proposal with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025; 3. Gave approval to issue and publish a decision letter, as required by the Code.

Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

Title of Report	Welsh Medium Childcare - Bridgend Town
Decision Made	Cabinet gave approval to co-locate the Bridgend Town area Welsh-medium childcare provision with YG Bro Ogwr.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

Title of Report	School Modernisation, Bridgend West - Modification of English-Medium School Opening Date
Decision Made	Cabinet: 1. Approved Option A as the preferred programme for delivery of the schools; and 2. Modified the planned opening date of the new Bridgend West English-medium school to September 2024.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None

Title of Report	Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021-2022
Decision Made	Cabinet approved the gaps analysis and action plan (attached as appendices 1 and 2 to the report) for submission to Welsh Government as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021 - 2022.

Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

Title of Report	Budget Monitoring 2022-23 Q2 Revenue forecast
Decision Made	Cabinet noted the projected revenue position for 2022-23.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

Title of Report	Capital Programme Update Q2 2022-23
Decision Made	<p>Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted the Council's Capital Programme 2022-23 Quarter 2 update to 30 September 2022 (Appendix A to the report); • Agreed that the revised Capital Programme (Appendix B) be submitted to Council for approval; • Noted the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2022-23 (Appendix C)
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None

Title of Report	Treasury Management - Quarter 1 2022-23
-----------------	---

Decision Made	Cabinet noted the Council's treasury management activities for 2022-23 for the period 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022 and the projected Treasury Management Indicators for 2022-23.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

Title of Report	Annual Treasury Management Outturn report 2021-22
Decision Made	Cabinet: 1. Noted the annual treasury management activities for 2021-22. 2. Note the actual Treasury Management Indicators for 2021-22 against those approved in the Treasury Management Strategy 2021-22.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

Title of Report	Approval for Tender of Annual Insurance Policies
Decision Made	1. Cabinet approved the commencement of the tender process for all annual insurance policies to commence on 31 March 2023 up to a maximum five year Long Term Agreement. 2. Cabinet noted that a further report will be submitted on the outcome of the tender process for the procurement of the insurance policies and to seek Cabinet's approval to award a contract as a result thereof.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

Disclosed	
Title of Report	Constitution and Constitution Guide
Decision Made	<p>Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved the recommendations of the Democratic Services Working Group in so far as they related to the Executive functions (Appendix 4 of the report referred); 2. Approved the revised constitution (at Appendix 1) and constitution guide (Appendix 2 & 3) in relation to the Executive functions; 3. Noted that a report will be presented to Council on 19 October 2022 seeking approval to adopt the revised constitution and guide with effect from 1 December 2022.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.
Title of Report	Suspension of Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Award of Contract for the Supply of Temporary Workers
Decision Made	<p>Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved the continuance of the supply of temporary workers, to allow for a full review and a fully compliant tender process to take place. 2. Suspended the relevant parts of the Council's CPRs in respect of the requirement as to re-tendering of the proposed contract; and 3. Authorised the Group Manager Human Resources and Organisational Development to enter a contract for the Supply of Temporary Workers until 10th May 2024.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022

Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.
---	-------

Title of Report	Cabinet, Council and Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes
Decision Made	Cabinet: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the period 1 November 2022 to 28 February 2023 at Appendix 1 to the report; 2. Noted the Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees' Forward Work Programmes for the same period, as shown at Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 of the report, respectively.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

Title of Report	Information Report for Noting
Decision Made	Cabinet acknowledged the publication of the document listed in the report.
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

Notice of 'Call-In'

Committee: Overview & Scrutiny Committee

1. Decision Subject To Call-In:

Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration: Appropriation of Land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay

2. Member(s) of the Committee Wishing to Call the Decision In

Name
Chair, Cllr. Alex Williams
Councillor. Freya Bletsoe
Councillor. Amanda Williams
Councillor. Martin Williams
Councillor. Norah Clarke
Councillor. Della Hughes
Councillor. Philip Jenkins

3. Reasons for the Call-In

Members have expressed the wish to call-in for further scrutiny the Cabinet decision on the the appropriation of land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay in more detail following representations from members of the public.

Members note that responses to the public consultation were overwhelmingly against the appropriation of land for the purposes outlined with reasons including loss of open space, changes to Griffin Park, concerns about proposed housing at Sandy Bay, lack of investment in tourism facilities, as well as the impact on wildlife and ecology.

To provide public assurance, Members would like further clarification as to why the appropriation of ALL of this land is necessary to enable Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration.

Members would like to question the Cabinet Member on whether there was sufficient consideration of the representations to the consultation and why Cabinet did not discuss the option of a reduction in the area of the land proposed for appropriation, as suggested by members of the public in their consultation responses.

While Members acknowledge that appropriation does not predetermine what happens with the land for planning purposes, it does remove the protection that exists whilst it is held in

trust for recreational purposes.

Furthermore, the Cabinet report did not make reference to the survey which expressed a desire to retain a suitable and sufficient area of land which would protect it from permanent development.

Members would like to scrutinise how the Cabinet has considered relevant legislation in reaching this decision including The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the 5 ways of working embedded in this Act, and Planning Policy Wales guidance.

Members would like assurances that the 5 ways of working embedded in the WBFG Act including involvement and collaboration with the community (which goes beyond the statutory minimum) has occurred.

4. Date of Call-In: 25/10/22

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**REPORT TO CABINET****18 OCTOBER 2022****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES****PORTHCAWL WATERFRONT REGENERATION: APPROPRIATION OF LAND AT GRIFFIN PARK AND SANDY BAY****1. Purpose of report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:-

- Inform Cabinet of the representations received in response to the advertisement of the proposed appropriation of land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay to support the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme.
- Ask Cabinet to consider the representations received as a result of the public notices and the officers' responses to those representations, and to seek Cabinet approval to proceed with the appropriation for planning purposes of the land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay as outlined in red on the Appropriation Plan (Appendix 1) in order to facilitate the delivery of the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme.

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

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

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

3. Background

- 3.1 On 20 July 2021 Cabinet authorised the Corporate Director – Communities and the Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services to advertise the Council's intention to appropriate the open space land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay that is identified on the appropriation plan provided as Appendix 1 (Minute 692) to support the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme. As detailed within the 20 July 2021 Cabinet Report, the process of appropriation allows for the Council to transfer the land from its current use to a use for planning purposes. Before appropriating open space to planning purposes the Council must advertise its intention to appropriate for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper circulating in the local area before considering whether the land is no longer required as open space and any objections received to the appropriation. Minute 692 of the Cabinet meeting on 20 July 2021 requires the officers to report back to Cabinet to consider any objections received to the appropriation.
- 3.2 In addition to authorising the advertisement of the appropriation on 20 July 2021 Cabinet also gave approval to make, advertise, notify and progress confirmation of a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) in order to acquire land to deliver the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme. The CPO was subsequently published on the 8th of October 2021 and formally submitted to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW). The publication of the CPO was followed by a statutory objection period between 21 October 2021 and 26 November 2021, during which a wide range of representations were submitted to PEDW. PEDW have now confirmed that the CPO is to be subject to a Public Inquiry which will take place in due course.
- 3.3 The land parcels subject to the CPO and appropriation are intrinsically linked as, together with land in respect of which an agreement has been entered into with the owners of land at Coney Beach Amusement Park, they form the Coney Beach and Sandy Bay development site which has been identified for mixed use regeneration as a part of the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme, as reflected through the current Local Development Plan (LDP) allocation, proposed Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) allocation and adopted Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy. For reference a plan has been provided as Appendix 2 which shows the appropriation land in red and the CPO land in blue.
- 3.4 Whilst the CPO and appropriation land parcels together form the Coney Beach and Sandy Bay development site, they remain subject to their own distinct legal processes. The current proposed planning purposes for the appropriation land is mixed use development in accord with the existing LDP allocation, proposed RLDP allocation and Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy. The decision to appropriate the land does not however prejudice the form of any planning application that is to made and

determined in due course, the details of which would be considered in accordance with the policy documents applying at the time the application is considered.

- 3.5 In order to avoid any confusion that could arise from multiple consultations taking place at the same time, the advertisement of the intention to appropriate land at Sandy Bay and Griffin Park was not progressed whilst the CPO and subsequent Placemaking Strategy consultations were ongoing. Following the completion of these two consultations and subsequent approval of the Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy by Cabinet (Minute 813) on 8 March 2022, advertisement of the proposed appropriation commenced on 6 June 2022.
- 3.6 The proposed appropriation was readvertised over a period of 21 days commencing on 30 June 2022 as during the first consultation period it was brought to the attention of officers that there was only a reference to Griffin Park and not Sandy Bay in the body of the notice of the proposed appropriation. The second consultation period used a revised notice to avoid any doubt as to the land which is proposed to be subject to appropriation.

4. Current situation/proposal

Land to be Appropriated

- 4.1 The land subject to the proposed appropriation consists of 0.743 hectares of land at Griffin Park and 19.098 hectares of land at Sandy Bay with the combined area of the 2 parcels equating to 19.841 hectares.
- 4.2 The former Sandy Bay Caravan Park which forms the majority of the land owned by the Council in the area intended for development was acquired by the Council for the purposes of public walks, being purposes set out in section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875, and section 4 of the Physical Training and Recreation Act 1937. The acquisition took place following the confirmation of the Porthcawl Urban (Newton) Recreation Ground Confirmation Order 1948 which authorised compulsory purchase acquisition of the land for those purposes. The land is accordingly held pursuant to a statutory trust imposed by section 10 of the Open Spaces Act 1906 to allow, and with a view to, the enjoyment thereof by the public as an open space within the meaning of the 1906 Act.
- 4.3 It is unclear what powers were used to acquire Griffin Park, a part of which is also to be appropriated so that it can be used to access the wider Scheme, but this land was acquired from the Great Western Railway Company in 1928 and it seems highly likely that it was either acquired utilising the powers contained in section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875 or section 9 of the Open Spaces Act 1906, and that this land is similarly held by the Council pursuant to a statutory trust imposed by section 10 of the 1906 Act.

- 4.4 The area of land to be appropriated from open space use within Griffin Park includes 2 tennis courts and a bowling green which are currently in use. Additionally, there is an existing single storey building that has remained vacant since December 2021. Prior to the building being vacated it most recently functioned as a community building via two twelve month leases granted by BCBC to Porthcawl Town Council with the predominate use being a veterans hub. Prior to this temporary occupation, which ceased on December 2021, the building was declared surplus to BCBC requirements. As it stands the building is in poor condition with the floor having failed. Due to this and the limited lifespan of the building it has been identified that repairs to the building are not cost effective and it has been earmarked for demolition accordingly.
- 4.5 With respect to the tennis courts, the Council is committed to providing replacement provision with a new modern facility to be installed at an alternative location within the extended Griffin Park that will be delivered within the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme with the exact location and design of this facility to be developed in due course. In terms of bowling green provision there are 3 bowling greens in Griffin Park, one of which (located outside of the appropriation land) is disused. The current proposal is to bring that disused bowling green back into use prior to development taking place so as to mitigate the loss of the bowling green. That may depend on the extent of utilisation of the current bowling green. It is conceivable that the extent of bowling green provision within Griffin Park would be reduced to a single green and that the new tennis court provision would be located at the site of the existing disused bowling green to the north of Griffin Park. With respect to the vacant building which previously accommodated the Veterans Hub the Council will work with this group to identify an appropriate alternative premises within the Town. It is recognised that there is potential for a short time between the removal of facilities within Griffin Park and their potential replacement/alternative facilities being available for use but any such delays would be kept to the minimum necessary.
- 4.6 The area of land to be appropriated within Sandy Bay is unoccupied with the exception of a temporary caravan park area on the western edge of the site that is operated by the Hi Tide Inn on a seasonal basis. This operation represents a temporary use that has been taking place via a short-term licence agreement prior to the planned redevelopment taking place. Additionally, the Town Council have been granted short term licences to use part of Sandy Bay as a temporary events space. The remainder of the land has been publicly accessible since the closure of the Sandy Bay caravan site in 2000.

Process of Appropriation

- 4.7 Appropriation is the formal legal process that allows the Council to transfer land from its current use to another use, such as a use for planning purposes as in this case.
- 4.8 The Council has a general power to appropriate land under the provisions of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972. Under this section a Council may appropriate land owned by the Council which is no longer required for the purpose for which it is held for any other purpose for which the Council is authorised by statute to acquire

land. The Council is authorised to acquire land under Sections 226 (using compulsory powers of acquisition) and 227 (by agreement) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Under Section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 land can be acquired for planning purposes if the Council think that the acquisition will facilitate the carrying out of development, re-development or improvement on or in relation to the land and the Council think that the development, re-development or improvement is likely to contribute to the achievement of any one or more of the following objects—

- (a) the promotion or improvement of the economic well-being of their area;
- (b) the promotion or improvement of the social well-being of their area;
- (c) the promotion or improvement of the environmental well-being of their area.

- 4.9 Given the Council's proposals for the land to be used as a part of the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme, for which it has an LDP allocation, the proposal to include it within the RLDP and the inclusion of the land within the adopted Placemaking Strategy, appropriation of the land to planning purposes is possible. Whilst appropriation allows for land to be transferred to planning purposes it does not fetter any future decision that may be made by the Council acting in its capacity as the Local Planning Authority. As such, any future applications for planning permission will be subject to due consideration and determined based on material planning considerations, in accordance with the relevant planning policies that apply at the time any planning application is made. It is expected that any planning applications will be made by developers in due course.
- 4.10 The appropriation will however enable the Council to give certainty to both the Welsh Ministers (who will consider whether the CPO ought to be confirmed) and developers alike that the land is available for development and that the statutory trusts that apply in respect of the land are released. It will also enable the Council to show that there are no impediments to the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme proceeding at the public inquiry into the CPO, as required by Welsh Government circular guidance.
- 4.11 In reaching a decision to appropriate land the Council must decide that the land is no longer required for the purpose for which it is currently held and in making that decision the Council should consider the public need within the area for the existing use. Additionally, the Council must consider the responses to the advertisement of the appropriation prior to making a decision. The need for the existing use of the land and responses to advertisement of the intended appropriation are considered under the relevant headings below.

Public Need for Existing Use

- 4.12 It is recognised that Griffin Park is a valued and well used area of formal open space within Porthcawl that accommodates various facilities including bowling greens, a now vacant single storey community building, public toilets and tennis courts with recreational paths and grassed areas. As such, and whilst the appropriation land includes a 0.743 hectare area of Griffin Park in order to accommodate a road that would provide access to planned development to the east, the Council does not

intend to reduce the size of Griffin Park following the proposed appropriation as it intends to include an extension to Griffin Park within the associated redevelopment of the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme. In contrast to any reduction in space, the plans outlined within the Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy show how Griffin Park would be extended by in excess of 4 acres which would essentially double its existing size. A plan showing the extent of the proposals to extend Griffin Park is provided as Appendix 3. As part of the extension to the park, any existing facilities located within the appropriation land would be able to be relocated as may be required, with this providing an opportunity to provide improved facilities such as new all-weather tennis courts as part of any redevelopment. It is recognised that there is a potential for a short term impact on facilities, but delays in the provision of new facilities would be kept to the minimum necessary. The Council can control such delays through its disposal strategy for the land and in its role as local planning authority, through which it can condition requirements for replacement/extended open space.

- 4.13 Whilst it is proposed to extend Griffin Park it is important to recognise that the development will also generate its own open space requirements and to that extent, the extension of Griffin Park is required to meet the needs of the new development as well as representing additional formal open space provision that will be available for existing residents within Porthcawl. The proposed retained and extended Griffin Park, which will remain in public ownership, also provides an opportunity to deliver qualitative improvements to open space provision within the area.
- 4.14 With respect to land at Sandy Bay the proposed appropriation includes 19.098 hectares of land that forms the former Sandy Bay Caravan Park. Whilst this land was acquired as open space and has remained accessible to the public since the closure of the caravan park in 2000, it has not been used or maintained as formal open space and its planning status has been long regarded as suitable for redevelopment as reflected by the allocation of the site under allocation ref. H1 (58) in the now superseded Unitary Development Plan (UDP) adopted in 2004, the current LDP adopted in 2013 (Policy PLA3(8)) and proposed reallocation in the RLDP (Deposit Plan Public Consultation Document (PLA1)). Both the 2004 UDP and adopted LDP were subject to approval by full Council prior to their adoption, whereby in approving the Development Plan allocation the redevelopment of the site was considered acceptable.
- 4.15 The longstanding proposals to redevelop this area of land were further detailed within the 2004 and 2007 Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) Documents that were prepared for the sites and formally adopted by the Council.
- 4.16 The suitability of Sandy Bay for redevelopment was most recently confirmed by the approval of the Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy by Cabinet on 8 March 2022. This document sets out the Council's vision for redevelopment of Sandy Bay, Coney Beach, Salt Lake and the surrounding area for mixed use development including the provision of circa 1100 homes across the wider development area, new commercial and leisure development, significant areas of new open space, community use

opportunities and new transport infrastructure. A copy of the illustrative masterplan layout produced as part of the Placemaking Strategy is provided as Appendix 4.

- 4.17 Whilst subject to the statutory trusts referred to above and physically open to the public, the suitability of Sandy Bay for redevelopment is further reinforced by the findings of the Council's 2020 Outdoor Sport and Children's Play Space Audit available via the following link:

<https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s25785/Appendix%2022%20-%20Outdoor%20Sport%20and%20Childrens%20Play%20Space%20Audit%202021.pdf?LLL=0>

- 4.18 This Audit does not recognise Sandy Bay as falling within any of the categories of open space identified by the Audit. It is noteworthy that, despite that, there remains an identified surplus of 'Amenity Green Space' within Porthcawl. 'Amenity Green Space' is defined within the Audit as being "*Informal recreation spaces, communal green spaces in and around housing and village greens*". 'Amenity Green Space' is the category of open space with the most shared similarities to the open previously developed nature of the land at Sandy Bay. As such, the appropriation of land at Sandy Bay for planning purposes and associated proposals for redevelopment would not affect the existing identified surplus of 'Amenity Green Space' within Porthcawl.
- 4.19 With respect to other categories of open space it is recognised that the Audit does identify shortfalls in other categories of open space that include Playing Pitches, Other Outdoor Sports, Equipped / Designated Play Provision, and Other Outdoor Provision. An extract of the numerical sub area analysis contained within the Audit is provided as Appendix 6. This numerical analysis shows the respective surpluses and deficits in forms of open space provision within Porthcawl.
- 4.20 The extent to which the extension of Griffin Park contributes towards the open space needs generated by the redevelopment of the land as a part of the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme would need to be considered in the process of considering any detailed planning application. In addition to the extension to Griffin Park it is anticipated that any future development proposals would include additional areas of smaller scale local open space (such as pocket parks and play areas) as required to meet the needs of the new development in line with planning policy requirements. Any such additional provision would be controlled by the Local Planning Authority when considering any future planning application.
- 4.21 As above, it is important to recognise that the development will also generate its own open space requirements and to that extent, the extension of Griffin Park is required to meet the needs of the new development as well as representing additional formal open space provision that will be available for existing residents within Porthcawl. To that extent the extension to Griffin Park and any contribution towards remedying the deficit in formal open space provision as identified within the 2020 Outdoor Sport and Children's Play Space Audit cannot be fully quantified until details of the overall open space provision within the new development and wider Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Area (PWRA) are confirmed through the planning application process.

4.22 The proposed retained and extended Griffin Park, which will remain in public ownership, also provides an opportunity to deliver qualitative improvements to open space provision within the area. It is also recognised that the appropriation of part of Griffin Park will enable the development of the area and that the development in so far as it affects Griffin Park will in the short term exacerbate a shortfall in formal open space provision, but any delay in delivering the extension to Griffin Park and any other additional space, the need for which is generated by the development, would be kept to a minimum.

4.23 Within the context outlined above it is not considered that there is an overriding public need for the existing use of the appropriation land. Additionally, and in the event it was considered that there was a benefit in retaining the land in its current use, it is considered that any such benefit would be outweighed by the wider benefits arising from the redevelopment of the appropriation land (and adjoining land that collectively forms the PWRA) in accordance with its LDP allocation and framework for development outlined within the Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy. In summary these wider benefits are considered to include the following:

- Creation of new and enhanced open space for current and future residents and visitors;
- Provision of improved connectivity across the site and to adjoining areas;
- Creation of additional housing to meet an identified need within the existing boundaries of Porthcawl and adjacent to established infrastructure;
- Additional job opportunities arising from both the construction and operational phases of the development;
- The development of this previously developed site protects against the unnecessary loss of countryside and the associated environmental impacts; and
- Having a positive impact on the perception and function of the area, benefiting existing residents and businesses.

Proposed Planning Use

4.24 When considering whether to appropriate the land for planning purposes it is important to understand the current planning status of the site. Whilst a detailed planning permission has not yet been secured, the site's previous UDP allocation, current LDP allocation, proposed RLDP reallocation and the approved Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy set out key land use parameters and a framework for comprehensive development that any detailed planning application would be expected to accord with.

4.25 The proposed appropriation land and the wider Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Area is currently allocated for mixed use development within the existing Local Development Plan. Policy PLA3 of the Adopted Local Plan sets out the Council's objectives for mixed use regeneration and identifies the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Area as being a significant part of this strategy through its allocation as site PLA3(8).

- 4.26 In addition to the allocation in the Adopted LDP, the site is identified as a Mixed-Use Strategic Development Site within the RLDP Deposit Plan Public Consultation Document. Specifically, Policy PLA1 of the RLDP Deposit Plan Public Consultation Document allocates the land at Porthcawl Waterfront for a comprehensive, regeneration-led, mixed-use development that will deliver circa 1,115 homes (including 30% / 335 units of affordable housing), incorporating a new one form entry Welsh medium primary school, extension of the existing English medium primary school, a new food store, leisure facilities, a bus terminus, recreation facilities, public open space, plus appropriate community facilities and commercial uses. Policy PLA1 goes on to set out a series of placemaking and master planning principles that apply to the site.
- 4.27 The Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy builds upon the LDP and proposed RLDP allocation outlined above. The Placemaking Strategy was formulated in order to ensure that the future development of the wider Regeneration Area is aligned with the Council's aspirations to deliver development of the highest quality and responds to the wide-ranging needs of both the current community and future generations.
- 4.28 The preparation of the Placemaking Strategy and associated consultation provided an opportunity for members of the public to understand and influence the framework and guiding principles for development within the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme. This includes both the future development to be delivered upon the appropriation land and the wider development that will be unlocked via delivery of enabling infrastructure such as the new access road on the part of the land proposed to be appropriated.
- 4.29 The public consultation for the Placemaking Strategy was undertaken over a three week period from 24 November 2021 to 17 December 2021. The consultation included a two day public exhibition in the Porthcawl Pavilion which was attended by in excess of 1,000 members of the public. This exhibition was followed by the consultation material being displayed on the Cosy Corner site hoarding for 3 weeks and being made available online on the Council website.
- 4.30 The outcome of the public consultation process was fully outlined within the consultation report included as part of the 8 March 2022 report to Cabinet which resulted in the Placemaking Strategy being approved. In response to the areas of concern identified through the consultation, the following core amendments were made to the indicative mix and distribution of uses identified within the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Area:
- Creation of a circa 200m long and 70m wide linear park along the Salt Lake seafront.
 - Enlarged area of open space adjoining the pedestrianised extension to Dock Street and adjoining piazza.

- Reduction in the area of land on Salt Lake earmarked for housing by approximately a third.
- 4.31 Whilst the aforementioned amendments do not directly alter the nature and scale of the form of development anticipated to be delivered across the land proposed for appropriation, they have introduced significant changes to the form of development across the wider Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Area as a whole, including the introduction of additional open space that can be used flexibly by the community.
- 4.32 In addition to these amendments the Placemaking Strategy includes proposals for a new access road to Sandy Bay complete with integrated active travel routes and a significant extension to Griffin Park which would connect through to the relic dunes and Sandy Bay Beach. The delivery of this enhanced access and open space infrastructure is reliant on the proposed appropriation as the land is required to be vested for planning purposes in order for the highway works and the associated development to be delivered.
- 4.33 It is within the planning context outlined above that the appropriation of land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay is being proposed, with the appropriation being an important step towards facilitating the comprehensive regeneration of the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Area.

Advertisement of intention to Appropriate Land

- 4.34 Section 122(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a notice to be published in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the land to be appropriated is situated. In response to this requirement a notice was placed in the Western Mail on the 6 June and 13 June 2022. An electronic copy of this notice and the associated appropriation plan was also made available on the Council's legal notices page.
- 4.35 The proposed appropriation was readvertised via both site notice and Western Mail advert over a further 21 day period commencing 30 June 2022 using an amended notice, as it was brought to the attention of Council officers during the first period of consultation that there was only a reference to Griffin Park and not Sandy Bay in the body of the notice. This was done for the avoidance of any doubt about the land which is proposed to be appropriated. Objectors were informed that there was no need to submit a further objection if their objection already dealt with the proposed appropriation of Sandy Bay, as many/most had.
- 4.36 In addition to proposed appropriation being advertised in the Western Mail and on the legal notices page the consultation was expanded beyond the baseline statutory requirements by advertising the appropriation more widely, in order to ensure the public had maximum opportunity to be made aware of and in turn consider and comment on the proposed appropriation. This additional consultation consisted of the following:
- Display of notices and proposed appropriation plan at key entry points to Griffin Park and Sandy Bay.

- Background information, copies of documents and instructions of how to comment included on the BCBC consultation page
 - Press and social media releases which provided further information and detail on how to comment.
- 4.37 With respect to the duration of the consultation the baseline requirement is for a 2 week period as outlined within the report to Cabinet that provided the initial authorisation to proceed with the advertisement of the appropriation. As with the approach to advertising outlined above additional time for responses was provided with the consultation period set at 3 weeks in order to maximise the opportunity for the public to consider and comment on the appropriation. In addition, the 21 day re-advertisement of the proposed appropriation commencing 30 June 2022 gave further time for members of the public to consider the proposed appropriation and submit written representations for consideration.

Representations Received

- 4.38 Representations of objection were received in response to the advertisement of the intended appropriation. An analysis of and officers' comments in response to the issues raised within the representations is set out in Appendix 5.
- 4.39 In summary, the advertisement resulted in 679 responses being received. The majority of these representations consisted of objections to the Council's proposals for the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme and most contained multiple reasons for making objections. In terms of the number of individual grounds for objection, recurring themes included the following:
- Fully opposed to the appropriation
 - Opposed to any housing within Sandy Bay
 - Opposed to the amount of housing
 - Want to see more open space retained
 - Concerned about loss of tennis courts
 - Oppose loss of community building in Griffin Park
 - Object to loss of Griffin Park
 - Desire for more leisure and recreational uses
 - Comments in relation to parts of the PWRA which fall outside the appropriation land
 - Concerns as to whether the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is being considered in full
 - Ecology concerns
 - Concerns regarding infrastructure capacity
 - Concerned about impact on access to medical facilities and education provision
 - Consider insufficient information has been provided

- Lack of consultation
- Concerns about legal process

4.40 The consultation summary document provided as Appendix 5 includes officer comments in response to the summarised / paraphrased and aggregated grounds of objection. It is now necessary for Cabinet to formally consider the consultation responses and to decide whether the proposed appropriation should proceed. In considering representations made following the advertising of the intended appropriation, the Council is required to take these into account in reaching its decision to appropriate. This involves the exercise of discretion and the duty to act reasonably, taking into account all material considerations. In practice this will involve considering whether there is a need for the land to remain in its existing use in addition to balancing the benefits of appropriating the land against any detriment suffered by members of the public that may use and enjoy the land for open space purposes. Cabinet should consider the issues set out in detail in this report. Members of the public who currently use the open space for recreational purposes will have their current ability to use part of the open space land for these purposes taken away, but the short term exacerbation of a shortfall in formal open space provision in relation to the proposed appropriation of part of Griffin Park as well as the effects of the appropriation on all the land proposed to be appropriated must be weighed in the balance against the wider social, economic and environmental benefits to the area.

Human Rights

4.41 Objections have raised concerns in relation to the PWRA and impact on access to open space and leisure facilities. Consideration should be given to whether the Council would be complying with the Human Rights Charter for Leisure if it proceeds with the proposed appropriation. The World Leisure Organisation's review of the implications of the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognises the right of all to enjoy leisure time and to freely participate in the cultural life of the community, for governments at national, regional/provincial and local levels; commercial organizations; education institutions; professional bodies; non-government organizations; and individual citizens. The latest revision was conducted by a Special Taskforce of the World Leisure Academy over the period 2017-2019 and was approved in 2020.

4.42 Article 1 of the Charter for Leisure recognises that everyone, whether adult or child, has the right to adequate time for rest and for the pursuit of leisure activity. Article 5 explains that leisure is a medium through which other rights and related benefits set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and associated covenants can be exercised, including: the physical, mental, emotional and social development of the child through play; support for family life; personal expression and development; sustaining of cultural life of the community; and promotion of physical and mental health and well-being through sport, physical activity and cultural engagement. Article 6 provides that rights should therefore be observed and supported by all of society's institutions, including commercial organisations, education institutions, professional bodies and non-government organisations. It recognises that

Governments at national, regional/provincial and local levels have particular responsibilities reflecting commitments under United Nations treaties and, in some cases, provisions in national constitutions and legislation. Article 7 sets out that although Governments face many challenges and competing demands for resources, they nevertheless have particular responsibilities to:

- ensure availability and protection of land for open space for recreation in residential areas;
- ensure preservation of, and public access to, natural and culture heritage;
- ensure the provision of suitable space and facilities for children's play;
- support provision of health-enhancing amenities, such as facilities for sport and exercise;
- support cultural institutions and activities;
- ensure that all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, ability or income, have access to beneficial leisure facilities and services;
- support suitable training of a technical and professional work force for the leisure/ sport/cultural service industries;
- support research on the benefits and costs of leisure activity and on the provision of leisure facilities and services;
- include recognition of leisure-related rights in relevant national/provincial legislation and regulations, including those concerned with regulation of mass communications and digital media;
- recognise, in national, regional and urban policies and plans, the contribution which leisure-related provisions can make to personal, social, cultural and economic development;
- support other human rights which facilitate the participation in the cultural life of the community, including the right to food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services and security, as set out in Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

4.43 UK domestic legislation has not adopted the World Leisure Organisation's Charter For Leisure nor the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which it reviewed. It has however, via the Human Rights Act 1998, adopted various rights in the European Convention on Human Rights, including for example the rights to family and personal life in Article 8 and the right in Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 to own property and use possessions, which should also be considered. The close interconnection between the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (reviewed in the Charter for Leisure) and the European Convention on Human Rights is clearly expressed in the preamble to the latter treaty. It is therefore considered that the Council should consider the impact of the Charter for Leisure.

4.44 It is clear from the drafting of the European Convention on Human Rights that those rights of relevance are not absolute and can be overridden in a fair and proportionate manner. For example, Article 8 is qualified in that rights only apply except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the

prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. Similarly, Article 1 of protocol number 1 does not in any way impair the right of a State to enforce such laws as it deems necessary to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest or to secure the payment of taxes or other contributions or penalties. In considering the appropriation of the land, the Council has to carefully consider the balance to be struck between individual rights and the wider public interest. Any interference with Convention rights is considered to be justified in order to secure the economic, social, physical and environmental regeneration that the redevelopment will bring. Appropriate compensation will be available to those entitled to claim it under the relevant statutory provisions.

- 4.45 The proposed appropriation fits within a legislative context which requires consideration of the continued need for open space and provides for compensation of those whose property interests are affected. The policy context within which the proposed appropriation is being considered has been the subject of wide consultation. It is also considered that the proposed appropriation fits within the factual background which is described above in more detail. Overall, it is considered that the proposed appropriation wholly accords with the Charter for Leisure, the Universal Declaration, the European Convention and the Human Rights Act 1998. Any interference with such rights is considered to be a proportionate reasonable and lawful interference with the same in all of the circumstances.
- 4.46 Similarly, consideration should be given to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention came into force in the UK in 1992. Specific regard must be given to whether the appropriation is a breach of Article 31 – the right of every child to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities. In all of the circumstances, overall, it is considered that the proposed appropriation is in accordance with the UN Convention on Rights of the Child.
- 4.47 It is considered that there is a compelling case in the public interest for appropriating the Council's land as described in this report and that the appropriation would strike an appropriate balance between public and private interests. Furthermore, it is considered that the interference with individual rights is necessary and proportionate in the context of the delivery of the scheme and the benefits it will bring. These benefits are summarised within paragraph 4.21 of this report.

5 Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 The approval of the proposed appropriation is an important step in the progression of the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme within the programme for delivery and will positively support the Council's policies and procedures.
- 5.2 As detailed within preceding sections of this report the site is currently allocated for mixed development within the existing Local Development Plan. In addition to the allocation in the Adopted Local Plan the site is identified as a Mixed-Use Strategic Development Site within the Replacement Local Development Plan Deposit Plan

Public Consultation Document. The Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy sets out a framework for development that delivers upon the objectives of the existing and proposed LDP allocations.

- 5.3 In addition to the planning status of the site at a local level, there is significant support for the proposed regeneration at a national policy level. Planning Policy Wales (PPW) supports the prioritisation of suitably located previously developed land for regeneration purposes, subject to other policy considerations.
- 5.4 When considered in the policy and procedural context outlined above, the proposed appropriation represents an important and necessary step in progressing the delivery of development across the PWRA, realising the regeneration objectives of the Council and wider national placemaking objectives of Welsh Government.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening for the development across the PWRA 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 Equality Impact Assessment on this proposal.
- 6.2 For the avoidance of doubt, whilst the proposed appropriation seeks to change the legal status of the land it will not directly result in any material change to the physical state of the land. Any future decisions in connection with the disposal of the site and associated development will be brought before Cabinet for consideration in due course. Any future planning application will be subject to determination by the Local Planning Authority. Further EIA will be required and carried out at these stages.

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

- 7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment based on the 5 ways of working has been considered, as summarised below, and there are no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.
- Long term - The Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme is a strategic development scheme which has the potential to add vibrancy to the locality through the provision of new housing, leisure and tourism opportunities, as well as retail and commercial developments; set within appropriate open space, parking and public realm.
 - Prevention – the current Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme sites are largely unoccupied and under-utilised and detract from the attractiveness of the area.
 - Integration – the development of land within the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme will integrate with and access the existing town centre, sea front and leisure developments.

- Collaboration – the Council will continue to collaborate with residents, visitors and end users of this project to ensure successful and sustainable development and outcomes.
- Involvement – ongoing engagement with the community will continue to be an important facet of the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 The process of appropriation can in some instances result in compensatory payments where there are underlying third party interests in land. In this case there are no such known interests in the appropriation land and therefore it is not anticipated that any compensatory payments would arise as a result of the proposed appropriation. However, in the event that such interests were engaged then compensation would be made available and, in the event of any dispute, the extent of compensation would be referable to the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber) for determination. Given that the appropriation has not yet been confirmed, and it is not anticipated that that any compensatory payments would arise as a result of the proposed appropriation, it is premature to confirm if any compensation payments will have to be made or to what value. Should there be a need for compensation payments the amounts required, if agreed between the parties, will be clarified and a report will be presented back to Cabinet and/or Council to inform it of the amounts to be paid along with the funding source. Should there be a capital cost this will be reimbursed from future sale receipts from disposal of the land at Porthcawl.
- 8.2 With respect to the proposed relocation of existing facilities impacted by the proposed development and provision of new facilities as part of the wider development, it is anticipated that these projects will be part of a significant number of large-scale individual and interlinked development projects as identified within the Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy. The approval of the legal process of appropriation does not constitute approval of any additional capital or revenue expenditure in connection with such individual projects and therefore there are no direct financial implications arising for BCBC from this report. All financial considerations will need to be considered on a project by project basis and further reports will be brought back to Cabinet and/or Council in connection with any future planned disposal / development of the appropriation land and wider regeneration area as appropriate.

9. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended:

- 10.1 To consider the representations received in response to the advertisement of the proposed appropriation of land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay and officers' responses to those representations set out in Appendix 5.
- 10.2 To approve the appropriation for planning purposes of the land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay outlined in red on the Appropriation Plan (Appendix 1)

Janine Nightingale
CORPORATE DIRECTOR – COMMUNITIES
18 October 2022

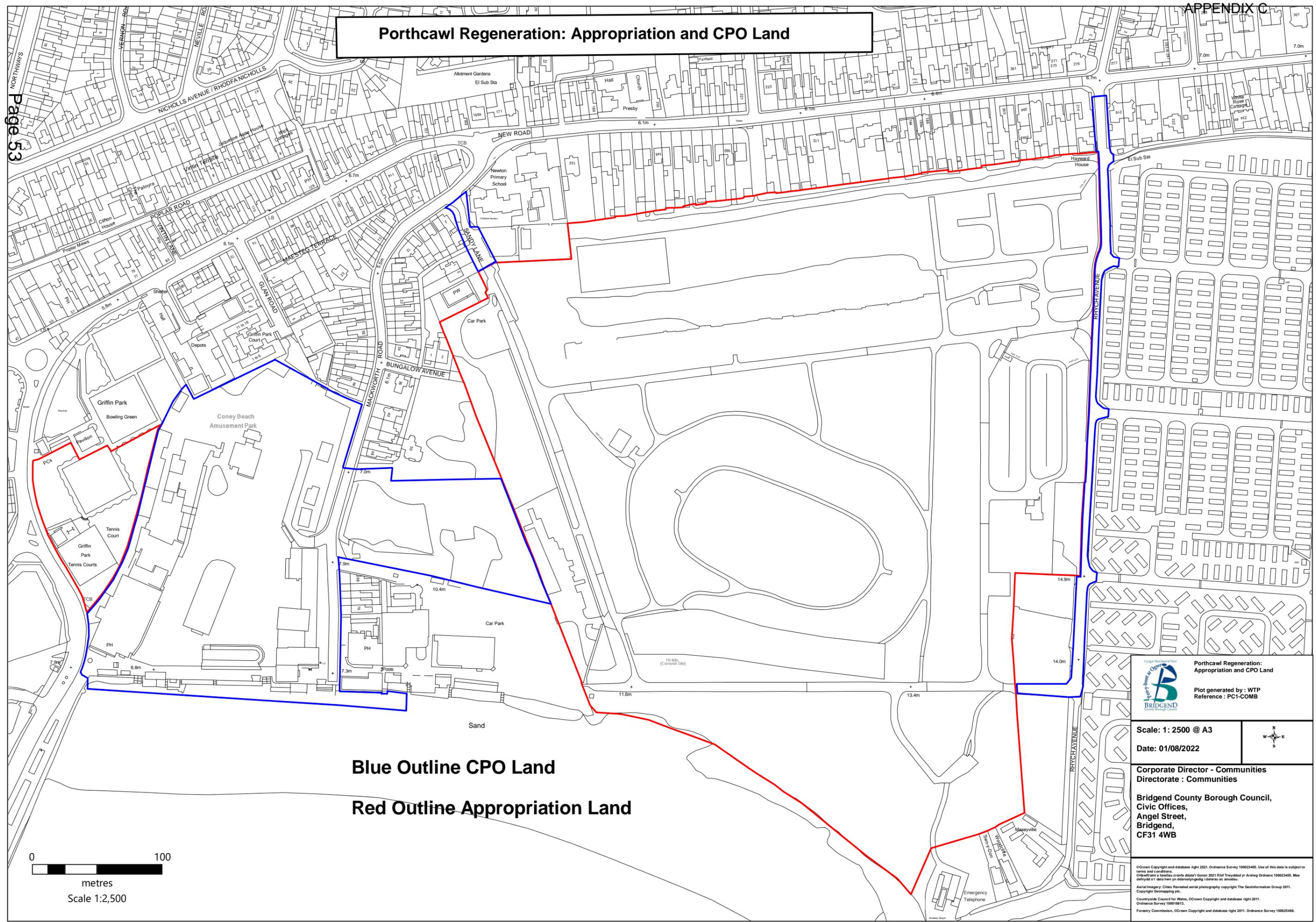
Contact officer: Jacob Lawrence
Principal Regeneration Officer

Email: jacob.lawrence@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address: Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Background Documents: Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy 2022
Bridgend Local Development Plan (Adopted September 2013)
Bridgend Replacement Local Development Plan Deposit Plan
(2022)

Porthcawl Regeneration: Appropriation and CPO Land



Blue Outline CPO Land
Red Outline Appropriation Land

Porthcawl Regeneration: Appropriation and CPO Land

Plot generated by : WTP
Reference : PC1-COMB

Scale: 1: 2500 @ A3
Date: 01/08/2022

Corporate Director - Communities
Directorate : Communities

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

© Crown Copyright and database right 2021. Ordnance Survey 100023405. Use of this data is subject to terms and conditions.
© Hafwrain a hawliau corffwrddysys Goron 2021 Rhif Trwydded yr Arweinyddiaid 100023405. Mae holl hysbysu o'i ddata hysbys yn ddilysrwyddedig i ddarparu ac amodau.
Aerial Imagery: Cities Revealed aerial photography copyright The GeoInformation Group 2011. Copyright Getmapping plc.
Countryside Council for Wales, © Crown Copyright and database right 2011. Ordnance Survey 100018813.
Forestry Commission, © Crown Copyright and database right 2011. Ordnance Survey 100025498.



 Public Realm key points and linkages

 Green Infrastructure key points and linkages



MIX OF USES, DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE

- Residential
- Residential areas with mixed uses at ground floor
- Car parking
- Metro link
- Green infrastructure
- Public realm
- Leisure
- Commercial / retail
- School
- Future development opportunity
- ★ Key community use opportunity





**Appropriation of Land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay
Public Consultation Report
August 2022**



Overview

In total 679 representations were received by letter and e-mail in response to the advertisement of the proposed appropriation. Advertisement included the publication of notices in the Western Mail on 6th of June and 13th of June, in addition to notices being displayed on land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay from 6th of June until 27th of June. Further exposure was given to the consultation period through the publication of consultation details on the BCBC website in addition to a press release that was issued via the BCBC website and was posted on social media.

The proposed appropriation was readvertised over a period of 21 days commencing 30 June 2022 as during the first consultation period it was brought to the attention of officers that there was only a reference to Griffin Park and not Sandy Bay in the body of the notice. The second consultation period used a revised notice to avoid any doubt as to the land which is proposed to be subject to appropriation.

Planning and Prior Consultation Context

The proposed appropriation land and the wider Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Area (PWRA) is currently allocated for mixed use development within the existing Local Development Plan (LDP). Policy PLA3 of the Adopted Local Plan sets out the Council's objectives for mixed use regeneration and identified the PWRA as being a significant part of this strategy through its allocation as site PLA3(8).

In addition to the allocation in the Adopted LDP, the site is identified as a Mixed-Use Strategic Development Site within the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Deposit Plan Public Consultation Document. Specifically, Policy PLA1 of the RLDP Deposit Plan Public Consultation Document allocates the land at Porthcawl Waterfront for a comprehensive, regeneration-led, mixed-use development that will deliver circa 1,115 homes (including 30% / 335 units of affordable housing), incorporating a new one form entry Welsh medium primary school, extension at the existing English medium primary school, a new food store, leisure facilities, a bus terminus, recreation facilities, public open space, plus appropriate community facilities and commercial uses. Policy PLA1 goes on to set out a series of placemaking and master planning principles that apply to the site.

The Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy builds upon the LDP and proposed RLDP allocation outlined above. The Placemaking Strategy was formulated in order to ensure that the future development of the wider Regeneration Area is aligned with the Council's aspirations to deliver development of the highest quality and responds to the wide-ranging needs of both the current community and future generations.

The preparation of the Placemaking Strategy and associated consultation provided an opportunity for members of the public to understand and influence the framework and guiding principles for development within the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme. This includes both the future development to be delivered upon the appropriation land and the wider development that will be unlocked via delivery of enabling infrastructure such as the new access road on the part of the land proposed to be appropriated.

The public consultation for the Placemaking Strategy was undertaken over a three week period from 24th November 2021 to 17th December 2021. The consultation included a two day public exhibition in the Porthcawl Pavilion which was attended by in excess of 1,000 members of the public. This exhibition was followed by the consultation material being displayed on the Cosy Corner site hoarding for 3 weeks and being made available online on the Council website.

Whilst the LDP allocation and Placemaking Strategy provide a framework for development, detailed proposals for individual developments within the PWRA will be subject to a planning application in due course and this will include further public consultation at both pre application and application stages as part of the statutory requirements applicable to planning applications.

Whilst appropriation allows for land to be transferred to planning purposes it does not fetter any future decision that may be made by the Council acting in its capacity as the Local Planning Authority. Any future applications for planning permission will be subject to due consideration and determined based on material planning considerations, in accordance with the relevant planning policies that apply at the time any planning application is made. It is expected that any planning applications will be made by developers in due course.

Representations Received

The significant majority of representations constituted objections to the Council's proposals to appropriate the land. Specifically, 658 of the representations received constituted an objection with 11 representations in support of the proposed appropriation. There were a number of grounds of objection that were raised by multiple respondents and many of the respondents objected to the proposals on more than one ground.

The grounds for objection have been aggregated / paraphrased as appropriate and are set out under themed headings below. Where appropriate comments have been provided in response to the grounds of objection.

It is worthwhile noting that a large number of representations relate to the overall regeneration proposals across the PWRA as opposed to the proposed legal process of appropriation. Such representations have been included below with comments provided in response as appropriate.

Loss of Open space / Impact on Recreational Opportunities

Representation: Opposed to any loss of open space

Representation: Griffin Park should be retained and upgraded

Representation: Opposed to any building on Griffin Park

Representation: Sandy Bay is the only green land left in Porthcawl and has the opportunity to be created into a much needed larger park than the existing Griffin Park.

Response: Whilst the majority of Sandy Bay is proposed to be developed, the proposals will result in a significant extension to Griffin Park which will provide a green link eastwards, connecting the existing Griffin Park to the Relic Dunes. It is recognised that there is potential

for a short time between the removal of facilities within Griffin Park and their potential replacement/alternative facilities being available for use but any such delays would be kept to the minimum necessary. There is an identified surplus of 'Amenity Green Space' within Porthcawl as identified within the 2020 Outdoor Sport and Children's Play Space Audit.

Representation: Sandy Bay is widely used by dog walkers and should be retained as open space

Response: The proposed extension to Griffin Park which will provide a green link eastwards, connecting the existing Griffin Park to the Relic Dunes will provide space for dog walkers to continue to exercise their animals. It is recognised that there is potential for a short time between the removal of facilities within Griffin Park and their potential replacement/alternative facilities being available for use but any such delays would be kept to the minimum necessary. There is an identified surplus of 'Amenity Green Space' within Porthcawl as identified within the 2020 Outdoor Sport and Children's Play Space Audit

Representation: The new development must include open/community space within the heart of the development and should not rely on the beach to be it's community space.

Representation: Porthcawl has very limited leisure facilities and BCBC have not provided Porthcawl with a much needed leisure centre, pool or any other type of leisure for decades. To take what the town does have away will be detrimental and damaging.

Representation: The area should be retained as open-space and used to create things such as family friendly picnic areas, bike park, skateboard park, tennis courts, outdoor lido. The list is endless. Let people enjoy our great outdoors not develop more little boxes built on shifting sand.

Representation: There is no cinema, swimming pool or other major indoor recreational facility despite I believe many requests over the years.

Response: The proposed extension to Griffin Park outlined above forms a core element of the development and will provide opportunities for new community and recreational facilities as outlined within the Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy. It is recognised that there is potential for a short time between the removal of facilities within Griffin Park and their potential replacement/alternative facilities being available for use but any such delays would be kept to the minimum necessary. There is an identified surplus of 'Amenity Green Space' within Porthcawl as identified within the 2020 Outdoor Sport and Children's Play Space Audit. In addition to the extension to Griffin Park the wider proposals for the PWRA include a site at the southern end of salt lake earmarked for leisure uses. As outlined within the Placemaking strategy one potential leisure opportunity for this site is a new hotel, which could include the provision of onsite leisure / spa facilities which could be utilised by both hotel guests and residents within Porthcawl.

Representation: Request that a designated green wedge be included in the development

Representation: Sandy Bay acts a green belt between Trecco caravan park and nearby developed land and should be maintained.

Response: as outlined above, the proposals include a significant extension to Griffin Park which will act as a green corridor, linking Griffin Park to the Relic Dunes. It is recognised that there is potential for a short time between the removal of facilities within Griffin Park and their

potential replacement/alternative facilities being available for use but any such delays would be kept to the minimum necessary. There is an identified surplus of 'Amenity Green Space' within Porthcawl as identified within the 2020 Outdoor Sport and Children's Play Space Audit

Representation: The loss of open spaces designated for leisure in Porthcawl will also have a significant impact on the mental and physical wellbeing of existing residents and visitors to Porthcawl

Representation: Given the cost of living crisis and post covid context it is imperative that we provide sufficient areas of suitable land for public recreation, pleasure and mental wellbeing.

Response: The positive role of open space in facilitating physical and mental wellbeing is fully recognised. The proposals include a significant extension to Griffin Park which will act as a green corridor, linking Griffin Park to the Relic Dunes. It is recognised that there is potential for a short time between the removal of facilities within Griffin Park and their potential replacement/alternative facilities being available for use but any such delays would be kept to the minimum necessary. There is an identified surplus of 'Amenity Green Space' within Porthcawl as identified within the 2020 Outdoor Sport and Children's Play Space Audit.

Representation: The proposed new road system will cut through the lower half of Griffin Park, taking away the much needed leisure facilities in the tennis courts, veterans hut and local bowls club. What proposals are in the Porthcawl Regeneration scheme to replace the loss of these facilities?

Representation: Opposed to the loss of the bowling green and tennis courts, particularly if there is a time lag between their loss and replacement facilities being provided.

Representation: Opposed to appropriation as land is regularly used for intended purposes but lack of investment has impacted on the use of the bowling green and community building which is now closed.

Representation: Opposed to loss of tennis courts as they are the most used part of the park

Response: The area of land to be appropriated from open space use within Griffin Park includes 2 tennis courts and a bowling green which is currently in use. Additionally, there is an existing single storey building that has remained vacant since December 2021. Prior to the building being vacated it most recently functioned as a community building via two 12 month leases granted by BCBC to Porthcawl Town Council with the predominate use being a veterans hub. Prior to this temporary occupation which ceased on December 2021 the building was declared surplus to BCBC requirements. As it stands the building is in poor condition with the floor having failed. Due to this and the limited lifespan of the building it has been identified that repairs to the building are not cost effective and it has been earmarked for demolition accordingly. The Council will work with this group to identify an appropriate alternative premises within the Town.

With respect to the tennis courts, it is proposed for these to be relocated and a new modern facility installed at an alternative location within the extended Griffin Park that will be delivered within the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme with the exact location and design of this facility to be developed in due course. In terms of bowling green provision there are 3 bowling greens in Griffin Park, one of which is disused. The current proposal is to bring that disused bowling green back into use prior to development taking place so as to mitigate the loss of the bowling green. That may depend on the extent of utilisation of the current bowling

green. It is conceivable that the extent of bowling green provision within Griffin Park would be reduced to a single green and that the new tennis court provision would be located at the site of the existing disused bowling green to the north of Griffin Park.

It is recognised that there is potential for a short time between the removal of facilities within Griffin Park and their potential replacement/alternative facilities being available for use but any such delays would be kept to the minimum necessary.

Representation: Sandy Bay provides a safe area for children to ride bikes with surrounding roads too dangerous and the beachfront too busy to cycle safely.

Response: The proposed development will incorporate both an extension to Griffin Park and a series of active travel routes in order to ensure safe routes for cycling. It is recognised that there is potential for a short time between the removal of facilities within Griffin Park and their potential replacement/alternative facilities being available for use but any such delays would be kept to the minimum necessary. There is an identified surplus of 'Amenity Green Space' within Porthcawl as identified within the 2020 Outdoor Sport and Children's Play Space Audit.

Representation: Proposed appropriation is in direct contradiction to the majority of Porthcawl's residents wishes and also to the wishes of the early urban council that purchased 56 acres of Sandy Bay back in 1948 for the express purpose of providing an area for leisure and exercise.

Response: as part of the appropriation process the views of residents have been sought via the statutory consultation process for which the report provides a summary. The council has a duty to consider such comments when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposed appropriation. Teward must also be paid to the wider benefits arising from the redevelopment of the appropriation land (and adjoining land that collectively forms the PWRA) in accordance with its LDP allocation and framework for development outlined within the Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy. In summary these wider benefits are considered to include the following:

- Creation of new and enhanced open space for current and future residents;
- Provision of improved connectivity across the site and to adjoining areas;
- Creation of additional housing to meet an identified need within the existing boundaries of Porthcawl and adjacent to established infrastructure;
- Additional job opportunities arising from both the construction and operational phases of the development;
- The development of this previously developed site protects against the unnecessary loss of countryside and the associated environmental impacts; and
- Having a positive impact on the perception and function of the area, benefiting existing residents and businesses

Representation: Griffin Park is the only free seafront play area in Porthcawl and refuge for those with young children when the weather is not quite good enough for the beach.

Response: The proposals will result in a significant extension to Griffin Park which will provide a green link eastwards, connecting the existing Griffin Park to the Relic Dunes. As such, the

proposals will result in additional open space in closer proximity and directly linked to the seafront when compared to the existing situation. Additionally, the proposals include a new beachfront revetment which will improve access to the beach at Sandy Bay with a new walkway to be provided alongside this revetment. These works will collectively improve access to the seaside on the parts of the land controlled by the Council and provide a catalyst for redevelopment of areas along the seaside that are not within the land we control. It is recognised that there is potential for a short time between the removal of facilities within Griffin Park and their potential replacement/alternative facilities being available for use but any such delays would be kept to the minimum necessary. There is an identified surplus of 'Amenity Green Space' within Porthcawl as identified within the 2020 Outdoor Sport and Children's Play Space Audit. In addition to this further areas of open space are proposed within the PWRA by way of a new linear park running parallel to Eastern Promenade, in addition to further flexible all weather open space within the southern portion of Hilsboro Car Park.

Representation: Concerned about the loss of outdoor space for local people to train and enjoy sport. Taking away the Sandy Bay Area would have a huge impact on the fastest growing triathlon club in South Wales as it is used for both training and events.

Representation: Concerned as to whether BCBC have prepared an Open Space Assessment of the local area and whether the proposals are adequately linked to other relevant plans and strategies

Response: The positive role of open space in facilitating physical activity and recreation is recognised and the proposed regeneration includes significant areas of new formal open space, both within the appropriation land and across other parts of the PWRA. With respect to the reduction in the quantum of open space at Sandy Bay and query regarding an open space audit there is an identified surplus of 'Amenity Green Space' within Porthcawl as identified within the 2020 Outdoor Sport and Children's Play Space Audit. Whilst the development of Sandy Bay may require groups that use this space to relocate their activity the findings of the 2020 Outdoor Sport and Children's Play Space Audit confirm that there is still a residual surplus of alternative 'Amenity Green Space' open space that falls within the same categorisation as Sandy Bay that is available for use.

With respect to alignment of the proposed appropriation with other strategies of the Council regard should be given to the planning context.. In summary the proposed appropriation represents an important step in delivering upon a longstanding strategic allocation within the LDP.

Representation: The regeneration proposals for Sandy Bay itself would see the loss of easily accessible green space, currently used by the school for outdoor learning, which is now a legal requirement in the new curriculum.

Response: As outlined above the proposals would include an extension to Griffin Park and there is a surplus of 'Amenity Green Space' within Porthcawl which will act as a green corridor, linking Griffin Park to the Relic Dunes. It is recognised that there is potential for a short time between the removal of facilities within Griffin Park and their potential replacement/alternative facilities being available for use but any such delays would be kept to the minimum necessary. The Proposals also set aside land alongside the existing Newton Primary which would be sufficient both for a new school and for appropriate open space provision for both the new and retained school. Additionally, a series of active travel routes

would be included within the development in order to ensure safe routes for cycling. In respect of the school in particular, access would be maintained via Sandy Lane with this providing a high level of accessibility to both the relic dunes and beach area beyond.

Representation: There is insufficient information available regarding the use and value of Sandy Bay in order for it to reach an informed view on whether the open space is still required in the public interest of the locality.

Response: The Councils 2020 Outdoor Sport and Children's Play Space Audit does not recognise Sandy Bay as falling within any of the categories of open space identified by the Audit. It is noteworthy that despite that, there remains an identified surplus of 'Amenity Green Space' within Porthcawl. 'Amenity Green Space' is defined within the Audit as being "Informal recreation spaces, communal green spaces in and around housing and village greens". 'Amenity Green Space' is the category of open space with the most shared similarities to the open previously developed nature of the land at Sandy Bay.

Representation: The appropriation covers the whole of the land at Griffin Park and Sandy bay, yet a large proportion of the land at Sandy Bay (the relic dunes) is not proposed to be covered by the regeneration but left as Relic Dunes. Therefore, including this area within the land appropriation appears to be a misuse of the process and the statutory process should, as a matter of course, not be used to be relieve land of its status of being held in trust through appropriation for planning purposes when it is not covered by the proposed plans.

Response: The retention, protection and enhancement of the relic dunes forms an important part of the proposed development, and it is for this reason that it has been included within the area proposed to be appropriated for planning purposes. Whilst included within the area to be appropriated it can be confirmed that there are no plans for development within this area other than any work required to safeguard the dunes and ensure an appropriate level of public access is maintained in the future.

Representation: The proposed appropriation land would be used for intended purposes if the Authority considered making the land available for "pop up" events. Collaborating with local groups to make running adhoc events easier to organise, would be hugely beneficial.

Representation: The Land has been used successfully for public events and fundraisers. It is a travesty that Porthcawl Lions Club were forced to relocate their monthly boot sale & annual classic car rally outside Porthcawl as open space is available to them. With the right investment "the Sandy Bay bowl" could be an ideal all weather leisure & recreation location, much needed by tourists and residents alike.

Response: The proposals include a significant extension to Griffin Park which will act as a green corridor, linking Griffin Park to the Relic Dunes and will provide space for future events to be held. It is recognised that there is potential for a short time between the removal of facilities and their potential replacement/alternative facilities being available for use but any such delays would be kept to the minimum necessary. Additionally, the placemaking strategy identifies proposals for a new linear park along eastern promenade in addition to a large area of flexible community space within the existing Hillsboro South Car Park. These spaces will provide further opportunities for events to take place.

Housing

Representation: There are no affordable homes in Porthcawl and building on prime land will not remedy this.

Response: The proposed development would result in an overall increase in the supply of homes within Porthcawl. Based on current planning policy, and subject to scheme viability, up to 30% of any new residential development would be required to be provided as affordable housing.

Representation: There must surely be areas to build houses further back from the sea front so that the designated area could be used as recreational for visitors and residents.

Representation: it would be more suitable to develop new housing on sites on the outskirts of Porthcawl

The site is allocated within the LDP and RLDP for mixed use regeneration as it is a sustainably located site that is comprised of previously developed land. Development in close proximity to the seafront will comprise of both residential and commercial development. For example the Coney Beach frontage has been identified as being suitable for ground floor commercial / leisure development with the potential for residential units above.

This approach accords with the site search sequence outlined in national planning policy, whereby previously developed land within existing settlement boundaries should be prioritised for development over agricultural land outside an existing settlement.

Representation: The houses on New Road are at a lower level than Sandy Bay and I do not want my back garden overlooked by new properties. This potentially will significantly lower the value of my property.

Response: The separation distances between any new development and existing properties will be carefully considered as part of any future planning application. The design of housing and retained separation distances will be required to ensure that no unacceptable overlooking to neighbouring properties arises as a result of the proposed development.

Representation: more of the land should be designated for recreational facilities rather than housing to bring more visitors into the town as Porthcawl relies on tourism to generate its economy

Representation: Please reduce the number of dwellings proposed and use the opportunity to increase leisure facilities and open spaces for the benefit of the community and visitors

Representation: Opposed to development of any homes, Sandy bay should be used for caravans again

Response: The proposed mix and quantum of development has been informed by the LDP and RLDP processes which have included a robust assessment of relevant development needs in line with national planning policy. The resultant draft allocation in the RLDP is based on comprehensive, regeneration-led, mixed-use development that will deliver circa 1,115 homes (including 30% / 335 units of affordable housing), incorporating a new one form entry Welsh medium primary school, a four classroom block extension at the existing English medium primary school, a new food store, leisure facilities, a bus terminus, recreation facilities, public open space, plus appropriate community facilities and commercial uses.

Representation: Concerned that any housing built in those areas would be snapped up for holiday lets or for rental purposes rather than locals or first time buyers.

Representation: Residents of Porthcawl should be given priority to buy any properties built in Porthcawl

Response: Based on current planning policy requirements 30% of new homes within the developemnt would need to be provided as affordable housing. With respect to use of dwellings as holiday lets this would, if necessary, be controlled via the planning system.

Leisure and Tourism

Representation: Demand exists for an extension to the Hi tide seasonal caravan & camper van site and this should be pursued instead of housing.

Response: The proposed mix and quantum of development has been informed by the LDP and RLDP processes which has included a robust assessment of relevant development needs in line with national planning policy. The resultant draft allocation in the RLDP is based on comprehensive, regeneration-led, mixed-use development that will deliver circa 1,115 homes (including 30% / 335 units of affordable housing), incorporating a new one form entry Welsh medium primary school, a four classroom block extension at the existing English medium primary school, a new food store, leisure facilities, a bus terminus, recreation facilities, public open space, plus appropriate community facilities and commercial uses.

Representation: Building homes on Sandy Bay would kill off the front and seaside town character.

Representation: Plans are ill conceived. Porthcawl is a tourist town, celebrating our beautiful beaches and coastline. Any development at all needs to reflect that and add to the potential tourist attraction.

Representation: The redevelopment of a seaside resort should be focussed on improving Porthcawl's tourist offer and not as an opportunity to bolster housing and meet development plan housing targets.

Representation: Concerned as to what is going to happen to events such as the Elvis weekend and Bonfire night fireworks

Representation: Opposed to the loss of the funfair as it's removal will impact the towns attractiveness to overnight tourists and day trippers

Response: The proposed housing forms part of a wider masterplan for the PWRA as set out within the Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy. The fun fair is a private business and therefore the decision to close down the fun fair is not one that the Council can control. The plans for the PWRA are in part a response to the long planned closure of the fun fair by the company that operates it. The provision of new leisure and commercial development alongside new and enhanced open spaces and community facilities are important elements of the overall plans for the area. Collectively this mixed use regeneration is considered to provide an opportunity to improve the attractiveness of Porthcawl as a place to visit as well as live and do business within. The proposed regeneration will not act as a barrier for Porthcawl to continue to host special events such as the Elvis Festival and Bonfire Night. Conversely, the new spaces such as the seafront linear park proposed can create an opportunity to continue these events and

indeed establish new events that further support the towns attractiveness as a tourist destination.

Representation: With the right investor sought the bowl at Sandy Bay would be the perfect site for a wave pool like those at Bristol and Snowdonia which would make Porthcawl a world class surfing location for both natural and artificial waves.

Response: The land at Sandy Bay has been allocated for development as prescribed within the LDP and RLDP. Notwithstanding this the Councils planning policies are supportive of new tourism related business in appropriate locations. As such, should a proposal for such a facility represent a viable business opportunity and such proposals were to come forward on an alternative site then this would be able to be considered in accordance with the relevant planning policies.

Representation: Proceeds from any residential development should be for use on recreational purposes in Porthcawl, improving areas for walks and for creating exciting new attractions such as splash parks, crazy golf and similar facilities for both residents and visitors alike.

Response: the anticipated capital receipt from the new food store on the northern portion of Salt Lake has already been ringfenced to fund infrastructure improvements within Porthcawl. It is possible that future receipts from residential development could be targeted in a similar manner and used to fund any necessary infrastructure / development within Porthcawl, but that is ultimately a financial decision for the Council to make in due course.

Representation: Land at Sandy Bay is under covenant to be used for Recreational purposes. As such there should be no houses built on it. Instead it should have a pump track built in the Bowl for use by cyclists and skateboarders. There should be a splash park and mini golf

Response: The proposed appropriation would release the statutory trust that applies in respect of the land. Whilst the majority of Sandy Bay is proposed to be developed the proposed extension to Griffin Park forms a core element of the development. This extended park, alongside additional areas of open space along Eastern Promenade and within Hillsboro South Car Park will provide opportunities for new community and recreational facilities which could include some of the suggestions listed above.

Representation: Porthcawl has very little hotel or guest accommodation and other than the Parkdean holiday park the town has predominantly become a destination primarily popular with day trip visitors.

Response: The wider proposals within the PWRA include a site to the north of the marina which has been safeguarded for leisure use. As depicted within the Placemaking Strategy one potential use of this site would be for a new spa hotel which would act to bolster the hotel accommodation offer within Porthcawl.

Representation: If the council needs a cash injection then sell Sandy Bay area to Parkdaen or other similar operator

Representation: A campsite by the beach could bring in so much more tourism. With our great surf and wonderful beaches it would be the perfect spot. Something similar to Llangenith on Gower.

Response: The proposed appropriation has been brought forward in order to enable the site to be used and developed for planning purposes, in line with the LDP and RLDP allocation. Whilst the PWRA includes an area earmarked for a possible hotel the land at Sandy Bay has not been identified as being suitable for visitor accommodation such as a campsite and/or caravan park.

Representation: The development will cause a reduction in parking and in tourism to the area which a lot of businesses depend upon.

Response: There is only limited existing car parking available within the land subject to the proposed appropriation with this being the unmarked car park at Sandy Lane. Whilst the proposed appropriation does not relate to Salt Lake Car Park it is noteworthy that the PWRA includes this land and proposals for its redevelopment are predicated on the delivery of a new multi storey car park at Hillsboro North, as outlined within the Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy.

Representation: Children's activities don't seem to have been considered other than extending Griffin Park. Barry Island still attracts lots of visitors & has managed to keep the funfair & children's rides along the front.

Response: The extended Griffin Park and proposed linear park along Eastern Promenade provide ample scope to include activities and facilities for children. At this stage these spaces have been mapped out spatially but not designed in detail. The detailed design of these spaces will be subject to further consultation in due course.

Transport, Highways and Parking

Representation: the new residential area would appear to be poorly served by public transport thus resulting in a corresponding private vehicle load on the local routes that are already stretched

Representation: There are a lack of cycling tracks within Porthcawl and also a lack of cycle routes in and out of the town.

Response: the overall proposals for the PWRA include the provision of a new four bay metro link which will enhance public transport accessibility within Porthcawl and provide links to adjoining settlements such as Pyle and Bridgend. The proposed development of Sandy Bay includes provision of a new access road that could be used as part of a new bus route. Additionally, a range of new pedestrian and cycle routes will be delivered across the PWRA which will support walking and cycling for local trips.

Representation: Establishing an access road through Griffin Park is un-necessary. Alternate route could be established if amalgamated with proposed sea revetment in front of Coney Beach Funfair.

Response: the route along the sea revetment will provide a safe and scenic route for pedestrians and cyclists with the provision of commercial / leisure development adjoining this

route adding to the tourist offer and overall vitality of the area. The revetment will also improve access to the beach. As such a new access road would not be appropriate in this area. The planned route through a small section of Griffin Park, across the existing fun fair and through the former monster park has been identified as the most appropriate route.

Representation: Little or no consideration given to parking facilities which will negatively impact on tourism and drive parking into the town and residential streets.

Representation: The Salt Bay car park is hugely necessary during peak periods and the loss of this will cause a huge car parking overspill into the surrounding streets and roads

Response: There is only limited existing car parking available within the land subject to the proposed appropriation with this being the unmarked car park at Sandy Lane. Whilst the proposed appropriation does not relate to Salt Lake Car Park it is noteworthy that the PWRA includes this land and proposals for its redevelopment are predicated on the delivery of a new multi storey car park at Hillsboro North, as outlined within the Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy.

Representation: Porthcawl would benefit from a park and ride scheme, and better transport links, existing car parks could then be used as green spaces for visitors and residents to enjoy.

Response: the potential use of out of town parking facilities is an option that the Council will continue to consider in parallel to its plans for parking provision within the PWRA itself.

Representation: The highway infrastructure cannot support more all-year-round traffic

Representation: New Road is already an extremely busy and often congested road and cannot take more traffic.

Representation: Existing road system is inadequate, when events are held currently (like Bonfire Night) there is difficulty actually accessing the town & parking.

Representation: What is the situation regarding the access to the 900 houses in Sandy Bay.

Response: The proposed access road via Griffin Park has been expressly designed in order to minimise any impacts on New Road. For example an alternative to the current proposal could have been vehicular access to Sandy Bay via an upgraded Sandy Lane and / or Rhych Avenue. Such an approach was ruled out due to the fact that New Road could not accommodate the associated increase in traffic.

Representation: You are removing an area behind Sandy Bay used by residents & particularly disabled people who use the existing metalled roads around the bowl.

Representation: As a regular user of the place of worship on Sandy Lane, will the council assure us continued access to the property during & after any construction work?

Representation: safe access to the primary school must be maintained

Representation: Concerned that the redevelopment of Sandy Bay may cut off the car free route to the beach from Newton Primary

Response: access to both the place of worship on Sandy Lane and Newton Primary will be maintained via Sandy Lane. Access further southwards to the beach will remain pedestrian and cyclist only to ensure Sandy Lane is not used as an alternative vehicle access into Sandy Bay. Pedestrian and cycle links to the beach from Newton Primary will be included in the development.

Representation: Object to BCBC taking part of Griffin Park for a proposed road which at this time they have no Planning Permission for and in fact do not own or control the majority of the land (other than Griffin Park) which is required for the road proposal.

The proposed mix and quantum of development, including the requirement for a new access road through part of Griffin Park and the Coney Beach Fun Fair has been informed by the LDP and RLDP processes which has included a robust assessment of relevant development needs in line with national planning policy. The resultant draft allocation in the RLDP is based on comprehensive, regeneration-led, mixed-use development that will deliver circa 1,115 homes (including 30% / 335 units of affordable housing), incorporating a new one form entry Welsh medium primary school, extension at the existing English medium primary school, a new food store, leisure facilities, a bus terminus, recreation facilities, public open space, plus appropriate community facilities and commercial uses. There is no apparent reason why planning permission would not be granted.

Sustainability and Environmental Constraints

Representation: What will be implemented to protect the coastline and the development

Representation: With global warming and sea levels rising, is it a wise decision to build houses so close to the sea on land that is basically sand dunes?

Representation: Isn't there some risk building new homes by the sea due to rising sea levels

Response: Coastal flood risk will be appropriately mitigated as part of any new development with initial proposed design solutions including the provision of a stepped concrete revetment along the Coney Beach frontage

Representation: BCBC has a target of net zero, which cannot be reached by house building, tarmacking over wild areas and having thousands of construction lorries move in.

Representation: Concerned about CO2 emissions, the amount of extra traffic this will add to travelling in and out of Porthcawl will definitely have an impact on our environment.

Representation: Has the environmental impact been properly considered?

Response: The Council has a statutory duty to identify land for development to meet the needs of its local population via the local strategic planning process. A key element of the LDP and RLDP processes is assessing the suitability of a site from a sustainability and environmental impact perspective. This site and the proposed mixed use regeneration has been subject to a robust assessment and found to be suitable from a sustainability and environmental impact perspective. Further consideration of the environmental credentials and carbon footprint of detailed proposals will take place at the planning application stage, where relevant

environmental protection and carbon reduction policies will be applied to any new development proposal.

Infrastructure Capacity (Water, sewerage, electricity etc)

Representation: Public sewers are inadequate to accommodate the development

Representation: Concern that the size of residential provision will cause an unsustainable burden on the sewage treatment works at Ogmore resulting in potential spillage and contamination of our coastline that has long been a valuable asset to the town.

Representation: The current sewage system is operating at maximum capacity and is only relieved of a catastrophic breakdown by the emergency reservoir behind the Eastern Promenade. Overflow releases untreated effluent into the sea. An additional 900+ housing units will only exacerbate this problem.

Representation: Concerned about run-off issues when heavy rain, often driven by onshore winds, falls on an impervious surfaces such as roads and drives.

Representation: With so much building work there will be a lack of drainage which could cause flooding in the future.

Response: A drainage strategy has been prepared for the site which identifies the necessary on-site infrastructure required to accommodate both foul water and surface water flows arising from the proposed development. Further drainage design work will be completed at the time a planning application is considered and this will be subject to independent review by Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water(DCWW) in respect of foul water and the Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB) in relation to Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) requirements.. Should this review process identify the need for further upgrades to existing infrastructure then such work would be specified by DCWW as a requirement for any relevant phase of development.

Representation: Concerned about the probable extra strain on the utilities such as water, electricity and broadband.

Response: the ability for the development to be accommodated by the existing utility network in the town has been subject to review as part of the LDP and RLDP processes. Whilst these reviews did not indicate any headline concerns with regards to capacity this will be reviewed as part of the detailed planning application process via consultation with statutory consultees in connection with future planning applications.

Ecology

Representation: The area is an important wildlife corridor, and any development will result in loss of wildlife habitat.

Representation: I have seen a surprising number of species in the area including sky larks and kestrels. This space is clearly home to several species of flora and fauna, some of which may be significant in conservation terms. Building in the proposed volume on this unique habitat will be devastating to the wildlife and those who enjoy it.

Representation: The area commonly referred to as the bowl is home to numbers of migrating birds that nest in the area

Response: A Phase 1 habitat survey has been completed. This survey included both a desktop review and detailed site walkover in order to provide a robust basis for determining what ecology constraints may exist within the site. The Survey found as follows:

-It is not considered that the proposed development would have any adverse impact on any designated biodiversity sites in the surrounding area.

-The majority of the site provides habitat of low ecological value with limited areas of neutral maritime grassland considered to be of high local value within the site

-Provided adequate mitigation measures are implemented the proposed development of the site is not unacceptably constrained by biodiversity and nature conservation issues.

Representation: Local wild life will be adversely affected by taking so much of the coastal dunes away

Representation: The sand dune ecosystem is unique and should be preserved for future generations to experience and enjoy.

Response: the proposed development would not negatively impact on the relic dunes. Conversely the proposals include the retention and ongoing management of the relic dunes to ensure they continue to function as an important area of habitat.

Community Facilities / Social Infrastructure

Representation: Instead of 900 houses we need community space, outdoor facilities and places to enjoy and be proud of.

Response: The PWRA proposals are not limited to housing. For example the proposed extension to Griffin Park and new seafront linear park parallel to Eastern Promenade form a core element of the development and will provide opportunities for new community and recreational facilities as outlined within the Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy

Representation: Concerned about where the veterans hub members will go, without support potential for noise and anti social behaviour.

Response: Whilst the single storey building that previously accommodated the veterans hub is no longer fit for occupation, the Council will work with this group to identify an appropriate alternative premises within the Town.

Representation: Local infrastructure totally inadequate for size of development

Representation: The town's infrastructure, schools & medical services can't cope with the demand at present let alone with an increased population.

Response: In terms of GP surgeries the Council has been engaging with Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board from the outset of the RLDP process. Early meetings were held to ensure the level and spatial distribution of growth proposed was clarified to help facilitate alignment of service provision. As part of Stage 3 of the Candidate Site Assessment, the health board amongst other consultation bodies were invited to provide comments in respect of those sites identified as suitable for future development and possible allocation in the Deposit LDP.

Whilst the Council cannot ultimately control provision of primary healthcare services, close working relationships will continue and be maintained with Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board. This will be key to service provision planning as site allocations within the Deposit Plan progress.

In terms of additional supporting infrastructure, an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) has been produced for the site. The IDP provides a single schedule of all necessary infrastructure without which the development of the site for the anticipated uses within the plan period could not proceed. The key enabling infrastructure required to facilitate the proposed development includes the following key requirements:

- Coastal defence improvements;
- New public open space;
- Drainage infrastructure;
- New road and roundabout;
- Active travel improvements;
- Education provision (incorporating a new one form entry Welsh medium primary school and extension at the existing English medium primary school); and
- Utility connections and upgrades

Wellbeing of Future Generations

Representation: Regard must be given to the views of children, obtained through consultations, on what play and recreation provision they want in their areas; how they would like their neighbourhood to be organised to provide the play opportunities they want; and what barriers stop them from playing.

Representation: Regard should also be given to the views of parents, families and other stakeholders, The views of parents, families and other stakeholders, obtained through consultation, on play provision/opportunities and how this has or will inform future plans'

Representation: The social value of this land has been greatly underestimated by BCBC. This land should remain in trust to ensure that recreation and pleasure opportunities remain for my children and future generations.

Representation: I urge you to consider the long term physical and mental benefits your plans will have for the residents, and not the short to medium financial benefits of more residential properties.

Representation: It concerns me greatly that our children and grandchildren will have opportunities removed from them because of the current corporate and business deals being proposed which core purpose is to maximise receipts from land sales in our town.

Representation: Concerned about consultation and whether our community, young people and others been successfully engaged with and been given appropriate opportunity to give their opinion on the regeneration proposals.

Representation: How does this project safeguard the resources which may be needed by future generations? Open space is a valuable resource that should be protected for future generations.

Representation: It concerns me that there is potential for little or no open land to be left for our children and children's children to use. If the area is all developed, there will be no open space in which to maintain or improve our social and environmental wellbeing.

Representation: There has not been areas of land defined for retention and protection for future generations to have a say in the use of any land.

Response: The proposed framework for development outlined within the Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy followed public consultation which was attended by and engaged with by a broad spectrum of the community including both young and old. Additionally, a focused engagement session was held with a group of students from Porthcawl Comprehensive as part of pre public consultation stakeholder engagement. The responses from this engagement fed into the emerging strategies and opportunities identified at consultation stage.

The Council is fully cognisant of the requirements set out within the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (WFGA) and such matters are taken into account as part of any formal decision making by the Council. A summary review of the Placemaking Strategy against the key WFGA criteria is included as part of the approved document.

With respect to the proportion of open land safeguarded for future generations it is considered that a suitable proportion of open space has been identified as part of the proposals for the PWRA. Whilst development across Sandy Bay will reduce the amount of open space compared to the current provision, due regard should be given to the quality of public realm and in this respect it is considered that the proposals provide an opportunity to provide significant qualitative improvements.. The detailed design of these spaces and facilities contained within will be subject to further design work and consultation in due course.

In addition to the proportion of open space identified within the placemaking strategy (which is retained public land that can be used flexibly and modified over time in response to changing needs) regard must be given to the needs of future generations with respect to housing and employment opportunities. The proposed large scale mixed use development across the PWRA would make a valuable contribution to meeting such needs of future generations within Porthcawl.

Economic

Representation: Regeneration plans should also take into account the requirements of traders and for business not to be adversely affected in any way.

Representation: It is unclear how this appropriation will benefit the town's traders.

Representation: Concerned about economic impact resulting from the fair closing and associated businesses that rely on the linked trade

Representation: Concerned about impact on attractiveness of Porthcawl as a tourist destination.

(NB: further representations in relation to tourism and leisure covered under relevant section above)

Response: The proposed regeneration plans are expected to provide a significant uplift in economic activity and spend within Porthcawl, both in terms of enhanced attractiveness of the area to tourists in addition to the economic impacts arising from the construction and operational / occupied phase of the development.

Education

Representation: Newton School Governors are concerned about loss of green space including the loss of school playing field. The loss of the playing field, which has been in use for over 20 years, would have a considerable detrimental impact to our pupils who use this area everyday for their playtime and to participate in the daily mile, an initiative aimed to improve the physical and mental health of children.

Representation: Schools currently can't cope so will struggle with increased demand.

Response: the proposals do not seek to develop the existing Newton Primary grounds for alternative uses. The LDP and RLDP allocation safeguards a 1.8 hectare site adjoining the existing primary school to accommodate a minimum one form entry Welsh medium primary school, the expansion of the existing Newton Primary School (with co-located nursery facility) and a financial contribution to nursery, primary school and secondary provision as required by the Local Education Authority will be calculated at the time a planning application is made in accordance with the Education Facilities and Residential Development SPG and secured by way of planning obligation before planning permission is granted.

Representation: We have significant concerns regarding the loss of the informal parking facilities used by parents of the school at the start and end of the school day. This is likely to increase the volume of traffic around the school and could increase the risk of an accident occurring for example due to quick drop-offs at the school gate, or illegal parking.

Response: Suitable pick up and drop off facilities (both for the existing school and proposed new school) will need to be designed and implemented as part of the development of the new school and any extension to Newton Primary.

Other Matters

Representation: The Porthcawl Lifeguard Club are deeply concerned about how access to their station and the parking area will be severely impacted by this proposal.

Response: there are no plans to impact on the ability for the club to access their station. In contrast the proposals provide an opportunity to improve upon existing access arrangements and the Council is committed to working with the lifeguard club to facilitate this.

Representation: Porthcawl's issue is about a lack of "brand" identity. For example is Porthcawl a retirement village, a Commuter town, a residential town with thriving businesses or a seaside tourist resort. I would like the regeneration to find a balance between providing for all of the above

Response: The Council recognises the range of requirements for both the current and future Porthcawl. The proposals for the PWRA are considered to represent a balanced approach that maximises on the opportunity to deliver transformational change through high quality development that meets the land use planning requirements identified within both the LDP and RLDP.

Representation: The proposals for the appropriation of Sandy Bay are illegal. It's a well known fact that the land in question was left to the people of Porthcawl for leisure purposes by a benefactor.

Response: The appropriation is proposed within the legal framework in which BCBC operates.

Representation: From a personal point of view I am concerned about the lane which runs along the back of our houses in New Road. I don't know how accurate your red line is but in some instances it seems to go through the end of garages. Whatever you intend to do with this lane is very likely to affect access to our garages and gardens, if not stop it all together.

Response: the red line follows the Council's freehold ownership of Sandy Bay. Access to the rear land that serves properties on New Road will be maintained (and likely enhanced) as part of the proposed development.

Representation: The consultation pre-empts any changes to the LDP and Placemaking Strategy as a result of the consultations undertaken last year

Response: In order to avoid any confusion that could arise from multiple consultations taking place at the same time, the advertisement of the intention to appropriate land at Sandy Bay and Griffin Park was not progressed whilst the RLDP, CPO and subsequent placemaking strategy consultation were ongoing. Following the completion of these consultations and subsequent approval of the Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy by Cabinet on 8 March 2022, advertisement of the proposed appropriation commenced on the 6 June 2022.

Representation: Concerned at the distinct lack of information regarding what is planned. As residents, we are being asked for our views, but there are no plans that are easy to find on the BCBC website, and only newspaper reports found during a web search.

Representation: Concerned about a lack of transparency as to the intended use of the land the council seeks to appropriate. The council should be more forthcoming with their planning on how they intend to use this area for regeneration to allow for transparency with the Porthcawl community.

Representation: Object to the Porthcawl Appropriation on the basis that no detail has been provided apart from a map outlining the designated land to be taken.

Representation: The Council has tried to limit the views of residents on this important issue; three weeks is not enough time to consider such complex issues with the correct amount of thought and consideration.

Response: The Council has clearly set out its intentions for development within the PWRA through the consultation on and subsequent approval of the Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy which was undertaken over a three week period from 24th November 2021 to 17th December

2021. The consultation included a two day public exhibition in the Porthcawl Pavilion which was attended by in excess of 1,000 members of the public. This exhibition was followed by the consultation material being displayed on the Cosy Corner site hoarding for 3 weeks and being made available online on the Council website.

With respect to the appropriation consultation this was advertised in the Western Mail and on the BCBC legal notices page. In addition to this the consultation was expanded beyond the baseline statutory requirements by advertising the appropriation more widely, in order to ensure the public had maximum opportunity to be made aware of and in turn consider and comment on the proposed appropriation. This additional consultation consisted of the following:

- Display of notices and proposed appropriation plan at key entry points to Griffin Park and Sandy Bay.
- Background information, copies of documents and instructions of how to comment included on the BCBC consultation page
- Press and social media releases which provided further information and detail on how to comment.

With respect to the duration of the consultation the baseline requirements are for a 2 week period as outlined within the report to Cabinet that provided the initial authorisation to proceed with the advertisement of the appropriation. As with the approach to advertising outlined above additional time for responses was provided with the consultation period set at 3 weeks in order to maximise the opportunity for the public to consider and comment on the appropriation. In addition, the 21 day re-advertisement of the proposed appropriation commencing 30 June 2022 gave further time to objectors to consider the proposed appropriation and submit written representations for consideration.

Representation: under Local Government Act 1972 section 122 (2A) and Section 246 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 122 LGA 1972 provides that: The Council may appropriate for any purpose for which the Council is authorised by statute to acquire land by agreement any land which belongs to it and is no longer required for the purpose for which it held immediately before appropriation. I note that you are using the above Act. But under the National Assembly for Wales (transfer of functions order 1999) planning legislation was transferred to what became the Welsh Government. Most executive functions and secondary legislation powers contained in the England and Wales Acts were transferred to National Assembly. Called National Assembly for Wales (trans functions) order 1999. These powers were transferred to Welsh Ministers as a result of the Government of Wales Act 2006. Since then there has been numerous planning legislation Acts issued by Welsh Government one being the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 on primary legislation to be made on a Wales only basis. Which also includes the Well being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Planning legislation has been devolved to Welsh Gov. so why is BCBC still quoting regulations under the. local Government Act 1972. Section 122-2A.? Surely, BCBC should be using more recent legislation issued by Welsh Government?

Representation: The legal trail leading to its present ownership is steeped in controversy and possible fraud.

Representation: There are covenants in place for Sandy Bay that the area is for Leisure use only. These also need to be considered as part of the appropriation.

Response: The Council is following the appropriate legal process for the proposed appropriation.

Proposed development is in conflict with local and national planning policies

Proposed appropriation would prejudice comprehensive development of an area

Response: the LDP allocation and framework for development set out within the Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy prescribe a comprehensive form of development of the type proposed. The proposals will also be subject to more detailed consideration when a planning application is made.

Representation: Object to any land within Griffin Park being removed from the use of residents of Porthcawl until such time that BCBC has planning permission, funding and a proposed developers has obtained planning permission to proceed with the development of the Sandy Bay site

Representation: A Public Inquiry has been called following the large numbers of objections to the Compulsory Purchase Orders for land related to the regeneration proposals. It would seem prudent to await the result of the Inquiry before attempting to appropriate land.

Response: Given the Council's proposals for the land to be used as a part of the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme, for which it has an LDP allocation, the proposal to include it within the RLDP and the adopted Placemaking Strategy. Appropriation of the land to planning purposes is necessary prior to planning permission being granted in order to demonstrate that there are no impediments to the scheme which underlies the CPO. Whilst appropriation allows for land to be transferred to planning purposes it does not fetter any future decision that may be made by the Council acting in its capacity as the Local Planning Authority. As such, any future applications for planning permission will be subject to due consideration and determined based on material planning considerations, in accordance with the relevant planning policies that apply at the time any planning application is made. It is expected that any planning applications will be made by developers in due course. The appropriation will however enable the Council to give certainty to both the Welsh Ministers (who will consider whether the CPO ought to be confirmed) and developers alike that the land is available for development.

Representation: To accompany my objection and reasoning I have attached the results of an online survey which I carried out ahead of having to submit a statement of case for the impending public enquiry. This survey identified, with a very clear consistency throughout the duration within which responses were being received, that the most important element to the respondent was to retain and protect sufficient and suitable land and protect it from permanent types of development - mean importance rating of 8.88 out of 10. Housing returned at a mean importance rating of 3.67 out of 10. 963 people responded to this survey.

Response: The submitted survey and information contained within is noted.

Representation: The public notice under Section 122(2A) of The Local Government Act 1972 is misleading and incorrect.

Response: The proposed appropriation was readvertised over a period of 21 days commencing 30 June 2022 as during the first consultation period it was brought to the attention of officers that there was only a reference to Griffin Park and not Sandy Bay in the body of the notice. The second consultation period used a revised description of the land in the notice to avoid any doubt as to the land which is proposed to be subject to appropriation.

Representation: Concerned that private leasehold agreements have held back regeneration for so many years.

Response: The Council is committed to progressing its proposed regeneration plans within the PWRA. The proposed appropriation is an important step towards delivery of development and follows the success of the Jennings Building, sale of the food retail site and recent approval of the Porthcawl Placemaking strategy. In addition to the proposed appropriation the Council are progressing a Compulsory Purchase Order to unlock development.

Representations in Support

In addition to the key grounds of objections summarised / paraphrased and aggregated above there were 11 representations in support of the proposals which included the following comments:

Sandy Bay has been derelict for so long it's about time something was done about it the place is a mess and the bowl is full of rubbish and dog mess

Porthcawl needs more houses for it's next generations

Porthcawl is desperately in need of new housing of all types; apartments, townhouses, detached houses and semis etc.

New housing on these brownfield sites will ease the pressure on the green belt

New housing on these sites will be part of the natural housing land cycle and encourage some of the older, downsizers in other parts of town such as Nottage, Newton and Rest Bay etc to stay local and release their larger family homes to the market for families with children to buy.

If new houses are not built on these sites then the current supply and demand imbalance will cause prices to go up even further.

New housing on these sites will attract increased spend from new residents to stay within the town and assist regeneration and development of the town and creation of other business' and jobs etc.

This new housing development needs to happen asap or else there is a grave danger of missing the housing cycle again as has happened several times over the past 30+ years.

I am looking to purchase my first home right now and it's difficult to find houses due to high prices and lack of availability. There are many people in a similar situation to me and the main way to resolve this is to build more houses.

The proposed infrastructure plans surrounding the developments, whilst they seem to be high level at present, look very promising.

For too long, the town has been dominated by a loud negative grouping that opposes just about everything and believes that cheap air flights never happened.

The only thing that will regenerate Porthcawl is people living here. As our population gets increasingly older, the town needs new faces.

I live 50 yards from the development at Rhych Avenue and I am concerned that there is a misguided campaign from people, who live miles away to stop it in its tracks.

The local people should have a say but please listen to people who live near it allow them to have a greater voice. Any objection from a post code outside Porthcawl will have political motivation, a Nimby mentality and should be disregarded.

I would urge the local authority to see this development through. Purchase as much land as possible from local speculators who are happy to see prime sites left derelict (Knights and GHH come to mind) Build a large mixed use development. Built by local south Wales contractors with plenty of houses, apartments and tourist business'.

Do not listen to negative naysayers who will not be contributing to Porthcawl or spending any time near the project

I think it is fantastic that Porthcawl regeneration is being talked about. For far too long Porthcawl has been a tatty seaside town with a tired, dated, run down fair. The town is desperately in need of investment and the prospect of progress is exciting and welcomed.

Sub Area Analysis

Grouped Sub Market Area	2011 population	Playing Pitches (1.2 Ha per 1,000 population)			Other Outdoor Sports (1.6 Ha per 1,000 population)			Equipped / Designated Play Areas (0.25 Ha per 1,000 population)			Other Outdoor Provision (MUGAs and skateboards parks) (0.3 Ha per 1,000 population)			Amenity Green Space (1.22 Ha per 1,000 population)		
		Standard (Ha)	Existing Provision	Deficit or Surplus	Standard (Ha)	Existing Provision	Deficit or Surplus	Standard (Ha)	Existing Provision	Deficit or Surplus	Standard (Ha)	Existing Provision	Deficit or Surplus	Standard (Ha)	Existing Provision	Deficit or Surplus
Bridgend	49,404	59.28	30.72	-28.57	79.05	3.75	-75.30	12.35	3.00	-9.35	14.82	2.46	-12.36	29.64	99.50	69.86
Ganw Valley	7,784	9.34	5.46	-3.88	12.45	0.28	-12.18	1.95	0.79	-1.16	2.34	1.01	-1.32	4.67	4.83	0.16
Llynfi Valley	20,612	24.73	14.57	-10.17	32.98	1.33	-31.65	5.15	0.85	-4.30	6.18	2.59	-3.59	12.37	29.14	16.77
Ogmore Valley	7,954	9.54	6.60	-2.94	12.73	0.85	-11.88	1.99	0.63	-1.36	2.39	0.17	-2.22	4.77	13.81	9.04
Pencoed	10,054	12.06	14.73	2.66	16.09	0.58	-15.51	2.51	0.34	-2.17	3.02	1.57	-1.45	6.03	23.38	17.35
Porthcawl	16,005	19.21	11.20	-8.00	25.61	1.78	-23.83	4.00	0.75	-3.25	4.80	0.09	-4.72	9.60	20.85	11.25
Pyle Kenfig Hill & Cornelly	15,945	19.13	12.21	-6.92	25.51	2.08	-23.43	3.99	0.61	-3.37	4.78	0.55	-4.23	9.57	31.39	21.87
Valleys Gateway	11,420	13.70	11.41	-2.29	18.27	0.52	-17.76	2.86	0.75	-2.10	3.43	1.38	-2.05	6.85	15.10	8.25

APPENDIX C

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2

3 NOVEMBER 2022

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

CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION: PORTHCAWL WATERFRONT REGENERATION: APPROPRIATION OF LAND AT GRIFFIN PARK AND SANDY BAY

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable the Committee to consider the decision of Cabinet of 18 October 2022 in relation to Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration: Appropriation of Land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay.

2. Connection to corporate improvement 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 health and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
 3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 In accordance with the Rule 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution, five Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and two Scrutiny Chairs, have requested that an Executive decision made by Cabinet on the 18 October 2022 be Called-In.
- 3.2 For the purposes of informing the Committee more fully regarding the reasons for Call-In, the following appendices have been attached:
- **Appendix A** – Cabinet Decision Record of 18 October 2022;
 - **Appendix B** – Notice of Call-In Form;

- **Appendix C** – Report of the Corporate Director - Communities: Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration: Appropriation of Land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay on 18 October 2022.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The role of Councillors exercising Overview and Scrutiny is, amongst other things, to ensure that the development of the Council's policies and the way they are being implemented reflect the needs and priorities of local Communities in the County Borough. As such, in holding to account the Cabinet for the efficient exercise of the executive function, the Overview & Scrutiny process aims to strengthen accountability for the decisions and performance of Bridgend County Borough Council.
- 4.2 Five Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and two Scrutiny Chairs have requested to Call-In the Cabinet decision of 18 October 2022.
- 4.3 The role of the Committee within the Call-In process is to consider the proposed decision taken by Cabinet including the reasons for the decision, factors taken into account by Cabinet when making the decision and whether the decision is in line with corporate priorities and policies. Further details as to the reasons for Call-In are provided at **Appendix B** and set out below:
- Members have expressed the wish to call-in for further scrutiny the Cabinet decision on the appropriation of land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay in more detail following representations from members of the public.
 - Members note that responses to the public consultation were overwhelmingly against the appropriation of land for the purposes outlined with reasons including loss of open space, changes to Griffin Park, concerns about proposed housing at Sandy Bay, lack of investment in tourism facilities, as well as the impact on wildlife and ecology.
 - To provide public assurance, Members would like further clarification as to why the appropriation of ALL of this land is necessary to enable Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration.
 - Members would like to question the Cabinet Member on whether there was sufficient consideration of the representations to the consultation and why Cabinet did not discuss the option of a reduction in the area of the land proposed for appropriation, as suggested by members of the public in their consultation responses.
 - While Members acknowledge that appropriation does not predetermine what happens with the land for planning purposes, it does remove the protection that exists whilst it is held in trust for recreational purposes.
 - Furthermore, the Cabinet report did not make reference to the survey which expressed a desire to retain a suitable and sufficient area of land which would protect it from permanent development.

- Members would like to scrutinise how the Cabinet has considered relevant legislation in reaching this decision including The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the 5 ways of working embedded in this Act, and Planning Policy Wales guidance.
- Members would like assurances that the 5 ways of working embedded in the WBFG Act including involvement and collaboration with the community (which goes beyond the statutory minimum) has occurred.

4.4 Following consideration of the decision, the Committee if it is still concerned about it, may recommend that the decision be reconsidered by the Cabinet, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns. If referred to the Cabinet, it must be reconsidered by Cabinet within a further 7 clear working days, amending the decision or not, before adopting a final decision. If the Committee does not refer the matter back to the Cabinet, the decision may be determined on the date of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

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 equality implications are outlined in Section 6 of the Cabinet report attached as **Appendix C**.

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

7.1 An assessment under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has been made and is outlined in Section 7 of the Cabinet report attached at **Appendix C**.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The financial implications are outlined in Section 8 of the Cabinet report attached as **Appendix C**.

9. Recommendation

9.1 The Committee is asked to consider the Cabinet decision of 18 October 2022 relating to Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration: Appropriation of Land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay and to determine whether it wishes to:

- i) refer the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration;
- ii) decide not to refer the matter back to the Cabinet.

Kelly Watson

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

28 October 2022

Contact Officers: Meryl Lawrence
Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny

Lucy Beard
Scrutiny Officer

Jessica McLellan
Scrutiny Officer

Telephone: (01656) 643515 / 643613 / 643263

Email: scrutiny@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Democratic Services - Scrutiny
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Background documents: None

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

17 JANUARY 2023

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

LLANGYNWYD PLAYING FIELDS

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to enable Cabinet to:

- (1) Consider the business case prepared in accordance with the Council's Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Policy document to support the leasing of the pavilion and, two football pitches, other green spaces and car park at Llangynwyd Playing Fields to Llangynwyd Rangers Boys and Girls Club (Llangynwyd Rangers BGC);
- (2) Assess and, where appropriate, approve the funding package requested by Llangynwyd Rangers BGC under the Council's CAT Fund to support proposals to undertake essential pavilion repairs upon the completion of a proposed long-term 35-year lease for the whole site.

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

Llangynwyd Playing Fields – Facilities & Usage

- 3.1 The facilities at Llangynwyd Playing Fields, Maesteg Road, Llangynwyd, CF34 9SN (see Site Plan at **Appendix A**) is located 7 miles (11.3 km) from the centre of Bridgend town and includes the following:
- (1) *Pavilion*: The property was built circa 1950, with the changing rooms extended and a function room added since the original construction. The property, set over one level (see Pavilion Plan at **Appendix B**), is a detached masonry construction predominately finished with render and fair faced brickwork. The main roof is of pitched construction with concrete tile coverings with flat bitumen felt roof over the function room. The roofs drain into eaves gutters discharging into below ground drainage via downpipes. Pedestrian and fire exit doorways are provided in a number of locations. Single glazed steel and timber windows are installed. Internally, the property consists of changing rooms and shower facilities, a function room and kitchen.
 - (2) *Playing Fields*: 2 x football pitches. Historically, one of the pitches was used for rugby by Maesteg Celtic RFC and this has recently been re-configured for football with the rugby club developing a new pitch at their home ground, Garth Park in Maesteg.
 - (3) The site is served by one car park which is locked when the facilities at the site are not being utilised for sporting purposes.

Llangynwyd Playing Fields - Pavilion

- 3.2 The Pavilion has been subject to two independent condition surveys in recent years. Hurley and Davies undertook a detailed condition survey in May 2017 that estimated the total cost of building works to make the Pavilion fit for purpose to be £236,675. The inclusion of preliminaries, contingency and professional fees increased the potential total project cost to £350,721.14 including VAT (see Cost Summary at **Appendix C**).
- 3.3 The latest condition survey, however, undertaken by Faithful+Gould in March 2020 concluded that the fabric of the building was in a satisfactory condition. Backlog building works having a total value of £50,258.80 were highlighted under Category C (Poor with major defects) and Category D (Bad; life has expired or risk of imminent failure) and additional maintenance estimated to cost £12,503.00 over a 5 Year period was also highlighted in the survey (see Condition Survey at **Appendix D**).
- 3.4 The Faithful+Gould condition survey identified that the flat felt roof, UPVC guttering and downpipes were in poor condition and sections of the external render required repair. During the intervening period the condition of the building has further deteriorated with the roof having to be patched by the Council and now requiring full replacement. In addition construction industry costs have increased considerably, circa. 30%, due to market conditions and inflation.

Llangynwyd Playing Fields - Green Space Maintenance

- 3.5 A 6-year interim lease was granted by the Council on 27 June 2022 that enabled Llangynwyd Rangers BGC to undertake the self-management of the two football pitches and other green spaces at Llangynwyd Playing Fields and enabled drainage repairs and pitch improvements to be commenced during the close season.

- 3.6 Green Spaces & Bereavement Services have previously calculated the unit cost for the Council of ground maintenance per football playing surface (excluding other green spaces, e.g. grass verges) to be £3,667 and when applied to Llangynwyd Playing Fields annual ground maintenance costs are estimated to be £7,334 based on the two football pitches.
- 3.7 Oolong Sports Pitch Consultancy was commissioned to undertake a feasibility study for Llangynwyd Rangers BGC, funded under the Council's CAT Business Support contract, in February 2020 to assess the quality of the existing grass pitches and to propose improvement works. The feasibility study recommended the re-profiling to reduce the pitch gradients and the evenness of the surface, and installation of new drainage systems comprising of primary underdrainage pipework with secondary drainage sand grooving that was estimated to cost:

Playing Surface	Total Cost	Cost Excluding Annual Maintenance
Football Pitch	£51,000	£45,000
Former Rugby Pitch	£49,000	£43,000

(see Copy of Llangynwyd Playing Fields Pitch Feasibility Study at **Appendix E**)

- 3.8 The Council has already allocated funding of £10,000 under the CAT Fund to assist Llangynwyd Rangers BGC with the cost of purchasing pitch maintenance equipment costing £10,654.80 with the balance of funding being provided by the Club. The CAT Steering Group also assessed and approved a funding application in principle submitted by the Club on 12 May 2022 and allocated funding up to £50,000 for pitch and drainage improvements estimated to cost £63,833.06 with the balance of funding being provided by Llangynwyd Rangers BGC £9,615.06, and Llangynwyd Middle Community Council £4,218.00. The first phase of essential pitch and drainage improvements were commenced in June 2022 following completion of the 6-year lease so that works could be completed during the close season. Funding of £18,294 was released under the CAT Fund in September 2022 with the balance of funding £31,706 anticipated to be drawn down for the second phase of improvements in the close season (April – August 2023). It should be further noted that additional pitch improvements are likely to be required going forward, subject to funding being secured from other sources such as the Cymru Football Foundation and Sports Wales.

CAT Funding

- 3.9 The Council originally set aside capital funding of £1 million in February 2014 in the capital programme for works to refurbish pavilions, to encourage CATs and assist in ensuring that assets become sustainable. The scope for this funding was subsequently widened to also include building works undertaken on other Council facilities such as community centres and public toilets, to support the CAT process and ensure that as many buildings as possible could be kept open and provide long-term community benefits.
- 3.10 Under the revised CAT protocol approved by Cabinet on 25 July 2017, funding applications up to £50k from the £1 million CAT Fund can be approved by the CAT

Steering Group with sums in excess of this threshold being required to be referred to Cabinet for approval.

3.11 Cabinet agreed a range of measures designed to stimulate the CAT Programme on 25 February 2020 when approving the Playing Fields, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks Pavilions and Community Asset Transfer report which included:

- (1) A commitment to replenishing the £1M CAT Fund as and when necessary, subject to the availability of finite capital resources, to encourage transfers and meet demand particularly where value for money can be clearly demonstrated post CAT;
- (2) Extending the CAT Fund to include the maintenance of playing fields so that pitch and drainage surveys can be undertaken along with capital grants to enable pitch improvements and self-management and thereby increasing the chances of long-term sustainable CATs by:
 - Developing a programme of sports pitch improvement and drainage capital grants valued at £5,000 to £25,000 per playing surface to ensure that prioritised sites are fit for purpose based upon independent condition assessments.
 - Establishing pitch maintenance equipment grants to provide capital funding valued from £5,000 up to £10,000 for Town and Community Councils (T&CCs) and sports clubs who complete transfers to assist with the purchase of equipment to enable the self-management of associated green spaces.

3.12 Cabinet / Corporate Management Board (CCMB) recommended on 5 October 2021 that the CAT Fund should be topped up by £500K and this was approved by Council and included in the Capital Programme in January 2022.

3.13 Cabinet and the CAT Steering Group has, to date, allocated funding totalling £960,523.15 from the £1.5 million CAT Fund which is summarised in the table below and detailed at **Appendix F**:

Purpose of Funding	Total Allocations	Spend to Date	Commitments
Building Refurbishment / Development	£569,981.90	£454,403.18	£115,578.72
Maintenance Equipment	£184,175.22	£150,025.22	£34,150.00
Pitch & Drainage Improvements	£174,952.99	£107,319.07	£67,633.92
Miscellaneous*	£31,413.04	£17,433.04	£13,980.00
Total	£960,523.15	£729,180.51	£231,342.64

* Additional funding awarded to sports clubs and town and community councils via CAT Fund submitting funding applications under the Bridgend Sports Support Fund 2021-22 and Town & Community Council Capital Grant scheme that were over subscribed (see Appendix F for details)

4. Current situation/proposal

The Club

- 4.1 Llangynwyd Rangers BGC were founded in 1947, and currently has 15 sections, over 300 registered players from under 6, mini, junior, girls, youth and seniors. The Club has been awarded 'Platinum' club accreditation by the Football Association of Wales (FAW). The Club seeks to widen participation particularly women and girls and has a number of initiatives to broaden the appeal of football. The FAW 'Huddle' has been in operation since April 2021, and has attracted over 180 girls to play football.
- 4.2 Llangynwyd Rangers BGC has been a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) under the Foundation Model (Charity Number 1191676) since 6 October 2020 and previously operated under another charity, Llangynwyd Rangers Boys' And Girls' Club of Wales Football Club (Charity Number: 1118531). The change in status was required to conform to the Council's CAT Policy document that ensures that community groups finalising CATs must have a legal status demonstrating limited liability.
- 4.3 The object of the CIO is: "to promote community participation in healthy recreation by provision of facilities for the learning, teaching and playing of football and such other sports capable of promoting healthy recreation as the trustees deem appropriate for the benefit of the residents of Llynfi Valley and the surrounding area".

The Project

- 4.4 Llangynwyd Rangers BGC submitted an expression of interest for the Llangynwyd Playing Fields site on 8 February 2016 which was approved by the Council's Strong Communities Connecting Services Board on 24 March 2016.
- 4.5 The Club's vision is football development in Llangynwyd and the Llynfi Valley and to provide facilities of the highest standard. The key priorities of the Club are to:
- Renovate and refurbish the changing rooms / pavilion bringing them to an acceptable standard;
 - Provide new 'mini' pitches to cater for the club's extensive junior section;
 - Ensure grass pitches are well maintained, level, well drained with improved access and partitioning;
 - Develop pitches to adequate standard to allow school use during daytime hours, along with development of an indoor hall / space, with access to projectors, to allow classroom learning to take place;
 - Establish girls only teams across various age groups;
 - Overcome obstacles that inhibit growth such as not being able to provide welcoming fit for purpose facilities for all;
 - Give all teams every chance of securing high level football across both genders with the aim of getting the ladies/girls to the highest tier possible within the FAW pyramid system and men's team achieving a minimum of Tier 2 football within the next 10 years;
 - Put the health and well-being of the community at the forefront of plans and provide a recreational space and environment that everyone can enjoy.

- 4.6 The Club will seek to develop the Llangynwyd Playing Fields site in stages with further enhancements planned subject to additional external funding being secured with the Club presently developing funding applications for the Cymru Football Foundation and Sports Wales to enable the next stages of the project to be progressed. This includes reconfiguring the changing rooms to cater for the needs of women and girls' football and the creation of a new indoor educational / social space for community activities. Medium term aspirations also include developing the surrounding areas for pathways, that allow more access for the public and dog walkers, with an aim of using this pathway as a safe cycle to school route and working alongside Llangynwyd Middle Community Council and environmental agencies to further develop the nature reserve, and wetlands.
- 4.7 The Stage 1 proposal that Llangynwyd Rangers BGC are seeking funding under the CAT Fund are for:
- (1) Pitch maintenance equipment to enable the self-management of 2 pitches and other green spaces and associated essential improvements already approved in principle by the CAT Steering Group, and
 - (2) Essential pavilion repairs in line with the building condition survey works included at **Appendix C** and **Appendix D** which Cabinet are being requested to consider as part of the CAT approval process set out in 3.10 as they fall over the £50,000 threshold.

Business Case

- 4.8 Llangynwyd Rangers BGC have prepared detailed business and financial plans outlining their proposals to repair the pavilion and improvements to both football pitches and to provide assurance on the viability and sustainability of the project. The plans have been prepared with assistance from a Business Adviser from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust under the Council's CAT Business Support contract and may also be used to engage with third parties, i.e. external funders (see Copy of the Business Plan at **Appendix G** and the Financial Plan at **Appendix H**).
- 4.9 Both the business and financial plans submitted by Llangynwyd Rangers BGC have been reviewed by the Finance Department and are considered to demonstrate the financial viability of the project being proposed in the short and medium term in accordance with the CAT Policy document.
- 4.10 The self-management of the facilities under a proposed 35-year lease is seen by Llangynwyd Rangers BGC as safeguarding the longevity and financial sustainability of the Llangynwyd Playing Fields site for future generations.

Project Funding

- 4.11 Llangynwyd Rangers BGC have submitted the undermentioned three funding applications to the CAT Fund.

Purpose of Funding	Total Cost*	CAT Fund Request*	Other Funding*
Essential Pavilion Repairs	£157,240.85	£157,240.85	Nil

Drainage & Pitch Improvements (2 x Football Pitches)	£63,833.06	£50,000.00	£13,833.06
Pitch Maintenance Equipment	£10,654.80	£10,000.00	£654.80
Total	£231,728.71	£217,240.85	£14,487.86

* Amounts shown are inclusive of VAT as Llangynwyd Rangers BGC are not VAT registered

- 4.12 As previously confirmed at paragraph 3.8, the funding applications for pitch maintenance equipment and drainage and pitch improvements were approved in principle by the CAT Steering Group so that self-management of green spaces could be commenced at the earliest opportunity with £10,000 and £18,294 respectively already having been reimbursed to the Club by the Council. These applications were also reviewed by the Parks Department as regards the appropriateness of technical specification and also agreed by the Finance Department.
- 4.13 The latest funding application for essential pavilion repairs has been reviewed alongside the business and financial plans by the Finance Department in the first instance and by members of the CAT Steering Group.

Essential Pavilion Repairs

- 4.14 The condition surveys undertaken by Hurley and Davies (May 2017) and Faithful +Gould (March 2020) have estimated the cost of the building works to be £236,675 and £62,761.80 (£50,258.80 + £12,503.00) preliminaries, contingency and professional fees are excluded (see paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 and Condition Surveys at **Appendix C** and **Appendix D**). The Council's Quantity Surveyor (Major Projects) was requested to check the reasonableness of the funding application submitted by Llangynwyd Rangers BGC to support the building works to the Pavilion based upon the previous building condition surveys undertaken and the submission of tenders from three local contractors:

Contractor	Cost Excluding VAT	VAT	Total Cost
Company A	£195,057.50	£39,011.50	£234,069.00
Company B	£131,034.04	£26,206.81	£157,240.85
Company C	£232,608.00	£46,521.60	£279,129.60

- 4.15 The Quantity Surveyor (Major Projects) has recommended that the lowest tender submitted by Company B in the sum of £131,034.04 (excluding VAT) which contains £5,000 contingency should be accepted. As previously highlighted Llangynwyd Rangers BGC are not VAT registered and would be seeking total funding of £157,240.85.

Present Position

- 4.16 Llangynwyd Rangers BGC have undertaken the self-management of the two football pitches and other green spaces at Llangynwyd Playing Fields following completion of the interim 6-year lease on 27 June 2022 and have already carried out major pitch and drainage improvements which were approved by the CAT Steering Group and

funded under the Council's CAT Fund. The Club wish to complete the proposed 35-year lease for the whole site which will enable them to undertake essential pavilion repairs subject to Cabinet approving their funding application in the sum of £157,240.85.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There will be no direct effect 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. 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 Council is committed to promoting sustainable development and to discharge our duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The required Assessment Template has been completed and a summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is outlined below in respect of the proposed CAT of the Llangynwyd Playing Fields:

Long-term	Supports the priorities identified by Llangynwyd Rangers BGC in response to current and future needs of the Llynfi Valley and the wider local community, and in particular the participation of women and girls.
Prevention	Ensures the facilities to be leased can continue to be used by the football club and the wider community and promote healthier lifestyles and general well-being.
Integration	Enables Llangynwyd Rangers BGC to work in partnership with the Llangynwyd Middle Community Council, the FAW, other sports clubs / users and the wider community to meet local needs in a more holistic way.
Collaboration	The proposals have been developed and will be delivered through a strong partnership between the Council, the Community Council, FAW and Llangynwyd Rangers BGC.
Involvement	The proposals will be delivered in close partnership with Llangynwyd Rangers BGC and range of local stakeholders including the Community Council. Discussions and development with Llangynwyd Rangers BGC and the Community Council has taken place and are ongoing.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 Unallocated funding of £539,476.85 is presently available under the CAT Fund based upon the original allocation of £1 million and top-up of £500,000 approved by Council in January 2022 and total funding of £960,523.15 already earmarked or expended (see paragraph 3.13 and CAT Fund Allocations at **Appendix F**).
- 8.2 The proposed lease of the Pavilion, two football pitches, other green spaces and car park at the Llangynwyd Playing Fields to Llangynwyd Rangers BGC will achieve savings in support of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) with only the estimated annual revenue savings of £7,334 in respect of football pitch maintenance being readily quantifiable (see paragraph 3.7). Further savings to the capital and revenue budgets are also anticipated in future years as regards the costs associated with the Pavilion which was estimated by Hurley and Davies to cost £236,675 (excluding preliminaries, contingency and professional fees – see paragraph 3.2) to repair in May 2017, and day to day running costs of utilities which cost £1,808 for electricity and £354 for water pre covid pandemic.
- 8.3 Llangynwyd Rangers BGC have already obtained tenders for the proposed essential repairs to the pavilion which are estimated to cost £157,240.85 based upon the Schedule of Work and Returned Tender Analysis which has been independently assessed to assess value for money by the Council's Quantity Surveyor (Major Projects). The Council can also be assured that any reimbursement for building works are independently verified by Quantity Surveyor (Major Projects) based upon a review of the valuation and work before any funding is released. If approved by Cabinet, the allocation of £157,240.85 for the cost of essential pavilion repairs at Llangynwyd Playing Fields will reduce the balance of unallocated funding in the CAT Fund to £382,236.
- 8.4 Cabinet has previously indicated that the CAT Fund should be replenished to encourage CATs, subject to the availability of finite capital resources, so that assets can be developed and safeguarded for future generations, particularly where value for money can be clearly demonstrated. It is intended that a report highlighting the outcomes and benefits already achieved under the CAT programme will be submitted for consideration to the Cabinet / Corporate Management Board along with a business case under the Change Management Fund and Capital Programme to request additional funding where deemed appropriate. Any additional requests for Capital funding would have to seek approval from Council.

9. Recommendations

Cabinet is requested to:

- 9.1 Note the funding already allocated from the CAT Fund to Llangynwyd Rangers BGC to support the self-management of the two football pitches and other green spaces at Llangynwyd Playing Fields which was agreed in principle by the CAT Steering Group:

Purpose of Funding	Funding under CAT Fund
Drainage & Pitch Improvements (2 x Football Pitches)	£50,000.00

Pitch Maintenance Equipment	£10,000.00
-----------------------------	------------

- 9.2 Approve the business case (business and financial plans) submitted by Llangynwyd Rangers BGC to support the leasing of the Pavilion, two football pitches, other green spaces and car park at the Llangynwyd Playing Fields, under the Council's CAT programme, by demonstrating the financial viability and sustainability of the project.
- 9.3 Approve the funding request under the CAT Fund submitted by Llangynwyd Rangers BGC to undertake essential pavilion repairs in the sum of £157,240.85 which would take the full funding package for the transfer under the CAT Fund to £217,240.85.

Janine Nightingale
CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES
January 2023

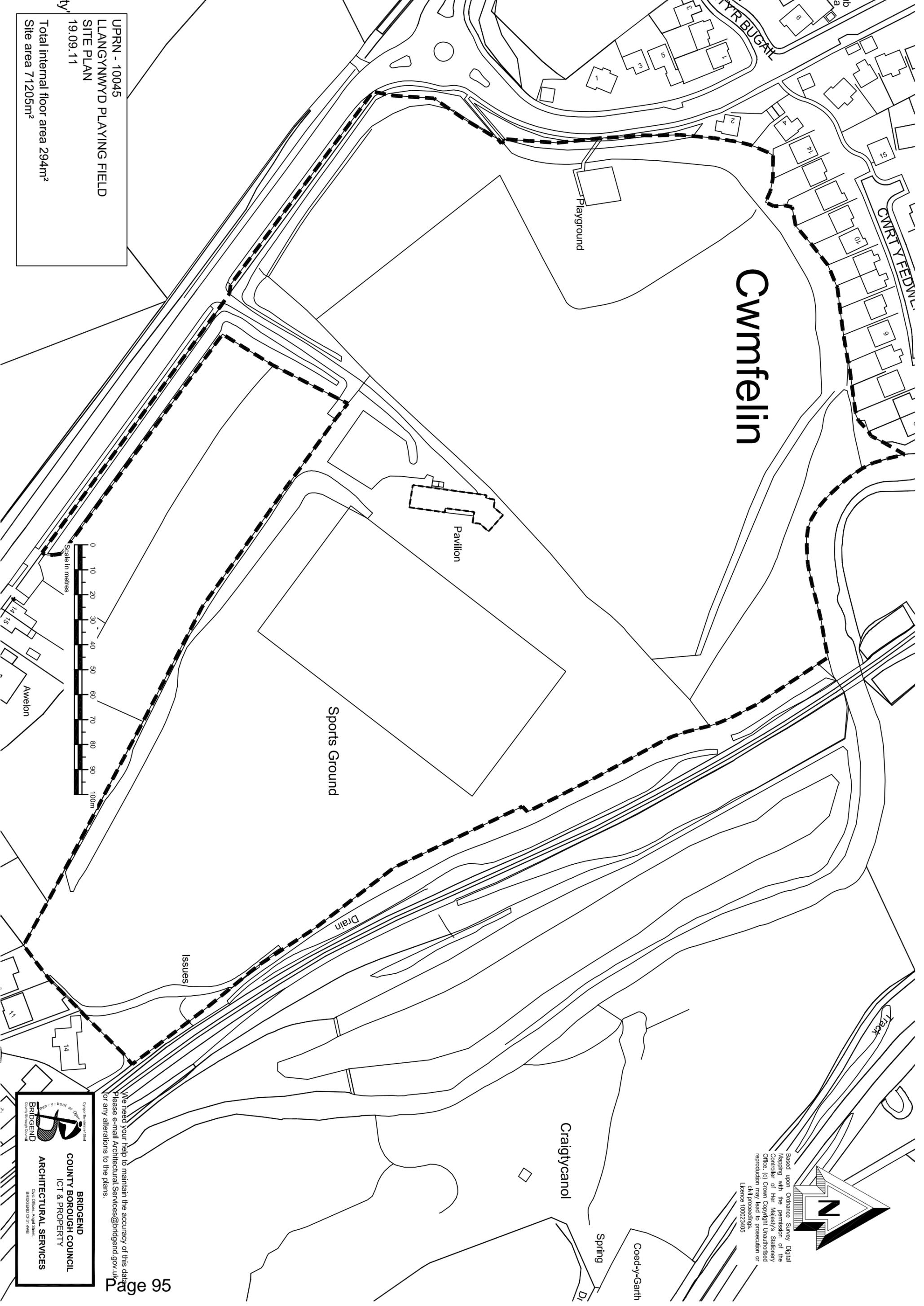
Contact Officer: Guy Smith, Community Asset Transfer Officer
Telephone: (01656) 815323

E-mail: Guy.Smith@bridgend.gov.uk

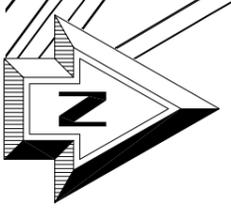
Postal Address: Bridgend County Borough Council,
Communities Directorate,
Civic Building, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Background Papers:
Revised CAT Policy Document (July 2019)

Cwmfelin



UPRN - 10045
LLANGYNWYD PLAYING FIELD
SITE PLAN
19.09.11
Total internal floor area 294m²
Site area 71205m²

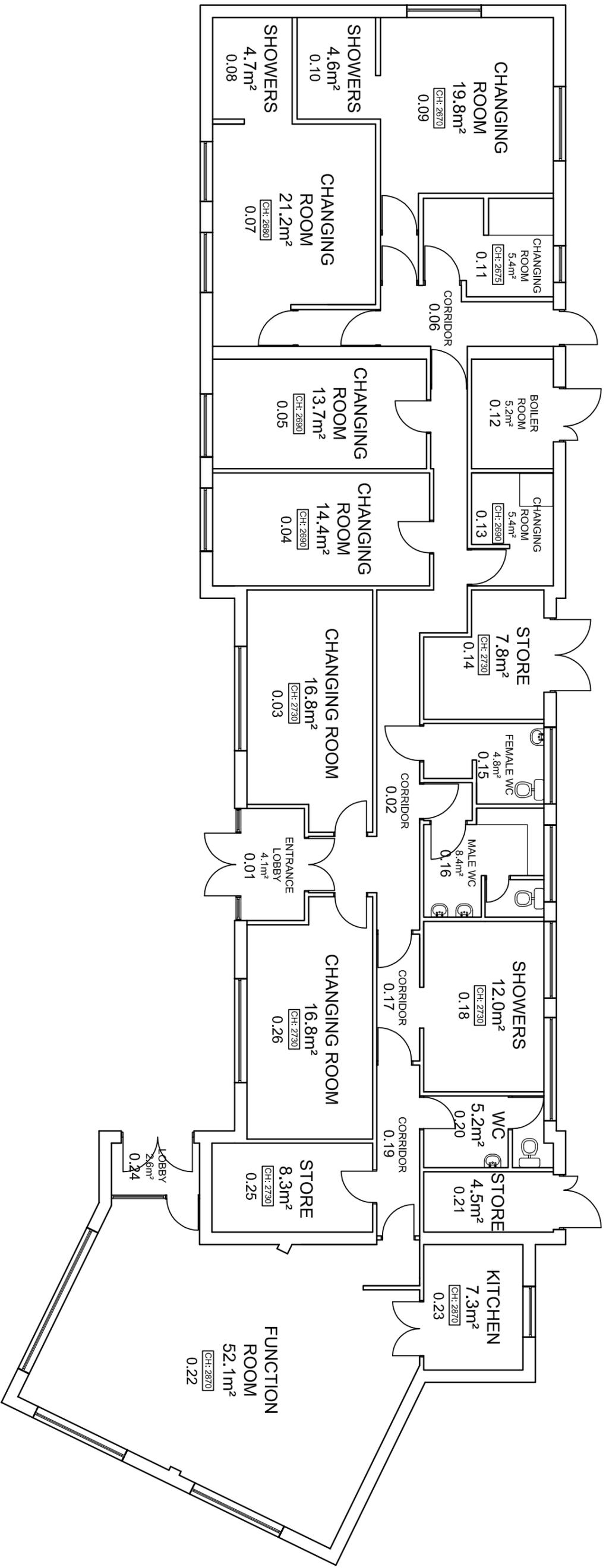


Based upon Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. (c) Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
Licence 10002405

We need your help to maintain the accuracy of this data. Please e-mail ArchitecturalServices@bridgend.gov.uk for any alterations to the plans.

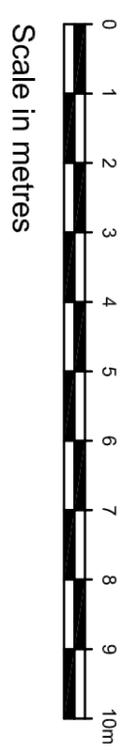
BRIDGEND
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
ICT & PROPERTY
ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

This page is intentionally left blank



UPRN - 10045
 LLANGYNWYD PAVILION
 BLOCK 1
 GROUND FLOOR PLAN
 10/02/12

KEY	Room Use / Name:	CHANGING ROOM
Room Area:	21.2m ²	
Ceiling Height:	CH: 2680	
Room No.:	0.07	
Room No. should be prefixed by UPRN and Block No. to read 10045.1.0.07		



We need your help to maintain the accuracy of this data. Please e-mail Architectural.Services@bridgend.gov.uk for any alterations to the plans.


BRIDGEND
 COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
 ICT and PROPERTY
ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES
 Civic Offices, Angle Street, Bridgend,
 CFS1 4WB

This page is intentionally left blank

Element	Description	Condition (A - D)	Priority (1 - 4)	Remaining Life Expectancy (Yrs)	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Cost
External Roof and Rainwater Goods	Undertake further inspection within roof void to fully assess condition of timber structure. (Full access not obtained at time of survey due to unknown condition).	C	1	0	1	item	500.00	£500.00
	Replace concrete tile roof covering in its entirety, including underfelt and timber battens.	C	1	0	400	m2	45.00	£18,000.00
	Replace the flat roof covering.	C	2	2	75	m2	80.00	£6,000.00
	Replace missing/defective lead flashing at flat roof junction.	C	1	0	1	item	500.00	£500.00
	Upgrade all rainwater goods to the building.	D	1	0	1	item	4000.00	£4,000.00
	Replace all fascias, bargeboard and soffit to the building complete.	D	1	0	1	item	3500.00	£3,500.00
External Walls	Undertake a structural survey of the building, prior to any potential asset transfer. (Includes any internal cracking also).	C	1	0	1	PS	1000.00	£1,000.00
	Replace the external render in its entirety, including providing new over any exposed brickwork.	C	1	1	300	m2	35.00	£10,500.00
	Determine whether damp proofing is installed (investigations only)	C	1	0	1	item	250.00	£250.00
	Replace all defective concrete window cills.	C	1	0	1	item	2000.00	£2,000.00
	Hack off all damp affected areas of plaster to inner face of external walls and renew. Provisional Sum.	C	1	0	1	PS	3000.00	£3,000.00
	Carry out minor repairs to all remaining areas of plastered walls in line with redecoration works.	C	2	1	1	item	1000.00	£1,000.00
External Windows and Doors	Upgrade all windows to the building including sub frames.	C	1	0	1	item	9000.00	£9,000.00
	Replace all external doors and associated framework complete.	C	1	0	1	item	6500.00	£6,500.00
	Replace anti vandal window guards.	C	1	0	1	item	2500.00	£2,500.00
	Ease and adjust steel louvre doors to boiler room.	C	1	1	1	item	100.00	£100.00
Internal Walls	Undertake a structural survey of the building, prior to any potential asset transfer. (Cost allowed in External Walls section).	C	1	0	1	item	0.00	Included above
	Hack off all damp affected areas of plaster to internal walls and renew.	C	1	0	1	PS	2500.00	£2,500.00
	Carry out additional minor plaster repairs to internal walls in line with redecoration works.	C	1	0	1	item	1000.00	£1,000.00
	Replace ceramic wall tiling.	C	1	1	1	item	3500.00	£3,500.00
Floor structure	No works identified.							
Floor coverings	Carry out short term minor repairs and deep cleaning of quarry tiles where provided (no allowance for full replacement)	C	2	1	1	item	1500.00	£1,500.00
	Replace all vinyl floor coverings.	D	1	0	115	m2	35.00	£4,025.00
Ceiling	Allow to replace all ceilings throughout the building.	C	1	1	275	m2	32.00	£8,800.00
Internal woodwork, joinery and Doors	Upgrade all internal doors throughout the building, including associated framework etc.	C	2	1	26	no	500.00	£13,000.00
	Replace all timber skirting where provided (consider tiled skirtings)	C	2	1	1	item	1000.00	£1,000.00
	Replace all timber window cills.	C	2	1	1	item	1750.00	£1,750.00
Decoration	Internal decoration throughout	C	2	1	1	item	10000.00	£10,000.00
	External decoration - None. All previously decorated surfaces recommended for replacement.	C	2	1	1	item	0.00	£0.00
Sanitary fittings and above ground drainage	Upgrade all sanitary fittings throughout the building including all waste pipework etc.	C	2	1	1	PS	15000.00	£15,000.00
Fixtures and Fittings	Upgrade kitchen units in the near future.	B	3	4	1	PS	7500.00	£7,500.00
	Replace all cloakroom fittings to changing areas including benching, coat hook rails etc.	C	2	1	1	PS	7500.00	£7,500.00
External Grounds & Boundaries	Undertake short term repairs to degraded areas of road and parking areas.	C	2	1	1	PS	5000.00	£5,000.00
	Consider resurfacing of road and car park areas in the near future.	C	2	5	1	PS	30000.00	£30,000.00
	Repair/resurface concrete path throughout.	C	2	1	1	item	1500.00	£1,500.00
	Uplift and relay concrete flag stones, allowing for isolated replacement.	C	2	1	1	item	1500.00	£1,500.00
	Carry out minor repairs to brickwork retaining walls.	C	2	1	1	item	500.00	£500.00
	Repair all rainwater gullies in line with paving repairs.	C	2	1	1	item	250.00	£250.00
Ongoing maintenance of paved areas including car park to remove moss and vegetation etc.	C	2	1	1	item	500.00	£500.00	
Mechanical and Electrical Installations	Mechanical and Electrical items inclusive of but not limited to upgrading ventilation, heating and lighting. Provisional sum.	D	1	0	1	item	50000.00	£50,000.00
General	Carry out a CCTV drainage survey.	C	2	1	1	item	1000.00	£1,000.00
Planning and Building Regulations	Planning permission (assumed not required for maintenance works)				0	item	0.00	£0.00
	Building regulation approval (PS)				1	PS	1000.00	£1,000.00

Project Llangynwyd Rangers Pavilion
 Title Building Condition Survey - Budget Costs (Appendix B)
 Date 02.05.2017
 Rev 0



Element	Description	Condition (A - D)	Priority (1 - 4)	Remaining Life Expectancy (Yrs)	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Cost
	SUMMARY							
	Total Identified Build Cost							£236,675.00
	Plus Preliminaries Percentage related Fixed - scaffolding				1	% PS	15% 12500.00	£35,501.25 £12,500.00
	Plus Contingency					%	10%	£28,467.63
	Sub-total of works					-	-	£313,143.88
	Professional fees					%	12%	£37,577.27
	Net Total (Works, Prelims, Contingency and Fees)							£350,721.14
	VAT					%	20%	£70,144.23
	Overall Total Cost							£420,865.37

Bridgend Estates Surveys

Llangynwyd Summary Report

Bridgend County Borough Council

17/03/2020



Notice

This document and its contents have been prepared and are intended solely as information for Bridgend County Borough Council and use in relation to provide an overall summary of the findings following the survey of Llangynwyd.

Faithful+Gould Limited assumes no responsibility to any other party in respect of or arising out of or in connection with this document and/or its contents.

Document History

Revision	Description	Origin	Checked	Reviewed	Authorised	Date
Rev 1.0	First Issue	JM	SA	SJ	SJ	17/03/2020
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Client Signoff

Client	Bridgend County Borough Council
Project	Bridgend Estates Surveys
Job Number	5183482
Client Signature / Date	

Contents

Chapter

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Survey Summary

Appendices

Appendix A. Photo Schedule

Appendix B. Condition Data

Appendix C. Floor Plans

1. Introduction

Faithful+Gould were instructed by Bridgend County Borough Council to undertake a condition survey of Llangynwyd, to include the internal and external elements of the building and immediate external areas pertaining to the building.

The inspection is non-intrusive in nature and a “visual only basis”. The survey will document defects at the time of the inspection, indicating general condition as well as specific existing visible defects and planned preventative maintenance issues, where necessary supported by photographs.

The survey was undertaken on 17/03/2020. We did not open up any areas that were not readily accessible and did not take any samples for later testing.

2. Survey Summary

2.1. Introduction

2.1.1. General Property Description

Llangynwyd Changing room is a cavity wall constructed building with pitched concrete tile and flat felt roof coverings, UPVC guttering and downpipes, exposed brick and render external walls, with steel plated and PVC external doors, single glazed crittal and softwood framed external windows.

2.2. Condition Description

2.2.1. Fabric

The external fabric is in satisfactory condition although there are several issues to note; the lesser flat felt roof covering is in poor condition with evidence of deterioration. In addition, the UPVC guttering and downpipes are in poor condition and nearing the end of their serviceable life.

Sections of the external render are blown and require repair, particularly to the front elevation. The single glazed crittal framed window are also beyond their serviceable life and require replacement.

The internal fittings and finishes are overall in good condition, with some areas being recently refurbished and redecorated. However, there are areas of redecoration required to the smaller store rooms and function rooms.

2.2.2. Building Services

Heating is provided to the changing room areas of the building via electrical radiant heaters which appear in satisfactory condition. An electrical bar heater within one toilet is beyond serviceable life and is recommended for replacement in the short term. Electrical radiant heaters within the function room appear in satisfactory condition. Hot and cold water is distributed through copper pipework which appears in satisfactory condition. Hot water is provided to the shower rooms via two separate systems, each consisting of two hot water storage cylinders. Two cylinders appear in satisfactory condition and two appear in poor condition and at the end of anticipated life cycle; replacement is recommended in the short to medium term. An electrical multipoint water heater within the function room appears in satisfactory condition. A number of local extract fans serving the shower rooms and toilets were not operational at the time of survey and are recommended for replacement in the short term.

Power is provided to the building via the main isolator to a number of sub isolators and distribution boards which generally appear in satisfactory condition; however, one distribution board is approaching the end of anticipated life cycle and is recommended for replacement in the medium term.

Power is distributed through flush and surface mounted wiring in conduit and trunking with plastic and metal accessories and the majority of the installation has been replaced recently; however, approx. 30% of the lighting wiring installation appears in poor condition and is recommended for replacement in the short term. Luminaires consist of linear fluorescent and LED fittings and bulkhead emergency fittings, the majority of which have been replaced recently; however, approx. 30% of luminaires are in poor condition and are recommended for replacement in the short term.

2.3 Grounds Description

The grounds are comprised of grassed football field, tarmacadam car park and area surrounding the pavilion.

2.4 Key Works Undertaken

In response to flooding, the main changing rooms were refurbished and redecorated in 2016. This including replacement of some flooring and replacement of some of the hollow core internal doors.

2.5 Further Investigations Required

No further investigations are required.

2.6. Cost Summary

Element Type	Backlog Costs (Total C And D items)	5 Year Total Cost (excl. Backlog)
Roofs	£6,050.40	£0.00
Floors and stair	£0.00	£0.00
Ceilings	£0.00	£0.00
External walls, windows and doors	£21,900.00	£4,500.00
Internal walls and doors	£0.00	£0.00
Sanitary Services	£0.00	£0.00
Mechanical Services	£15,914.00	£0.00
Electrical Services	£5,338.63	£1,246.08
Redecorations	£1,055.77	£6,756.92
Fixed furniture and fittings	£0.00	£0.00
Total	£50,258.80	£12,503.00

Appendix A.

Photo Schedule

Defective / Failed (C & D Grade) Photos

Llangynwyd

<p>Room 0.14</p> <p>Location Store</p> <p>Item Mechanical Services - Pumping - HWS Pump</p>	
<p>Room 0.21</p> <p>Location Store</p> <p>Item Mechanical Services - Calorifiers Heat Exchangers - LTHW Calorifier</p>	
<p>Room 0.21</p> <p>Location Store</p> <p>Item Electrical Services - Sub Main Dist - Distribution Board</p>	

<p>Room ALL</p> <p>Location ALL</p> <p>Item Electrical Services - Lighting System Inc. Switches Wiring Luminaries - Luminaires</p>			
<p>Room ALL</p> <p>Location ALL</p> <p>Item Mechanical Services - Heating LTHW Electrical - Radiator (m2)</p>			
<p>Room ALL</p> <p>Location ALL</p> <p>Item Electrical Services - Emergency Lighting - Luminaires</p>			

<p>Room ALL</p> <p>Location ALL</p> <p>Item Mechanical Services - Fan - Extract (Local)</p>	
<p>Room ALL</p> <p>Location ALL</p> <p>Item Electrical Services - Sub Main Dist - Lighting Wiring & Accessories</p>	
<p>Room ALL</p> <p>Location ALL</p> <p>Item Redecoration - Internal - Walls & internal joinery, windows & doors - Finished</p>	

<p>Room ALL</p> <p>Location ALL</p> <p>Item Roofs - Roof Coverings - Built-Up Felt Roof - Double</p>			
<p>Room ALL</p> <p>Location ALL</p> <p>Item Roofs - Roof Drainage - UPVC Gutters and downpipes</p>			
<p>Room ALL</p> <p>Location ALL</p> <p>Item Roofs - Roof Coverings - Timber Fascia/Soffit</p>			

<p>Room ALL</p> <p>Location ALL</p> <p>Item External Walls, Windows & Doors - External Walls - Render</p>	
<p>Room ALL</p> <p>Location ALL</p> <p>Item External Walls, Windows & Doors - External Windows - Steel Casement</p>	

Appendix B.

Condition Data

Appendices B - Condition Data References

The elements noted within the condition survey schedules are provided with the following references:

Condition Grading of Element

- A** - Good and operating efficiently
- B** - Satisfactory but with minor deterioration
- C** - Poor with major defects
- D** - Bad; life has expired or risk of imminent failure

Priority

- Priority 1** - Little to no outstanding works required, continued maintenance will enhance the serviceable life.
- Priority 2** - Potentially work may be required within three to five years that will prevent deterioration of the fabric or services and/or address a low risk to the health and safety of occupants and/or remedy a minor breach of legislation.
- Priority 3** - Essential work required within two years that will prevent serious deterioration of the fabric or services and/or address a medium risk to the health and safety of occupants and/or remedy a less serious breach in legislation.
- Priority 4** - Urgent work that will prevent immediate closure of premises and/or address an immediate high risk to the health and safety of occupants and/or remedy a serious breach in legislation.

Appendices

Block	Element	Condition	Rating	RSL	Measurement	Unit	Unit Rate	Cost	Comments
-------	---------	-----------	--------	-----	-------------	------	-----------	------	----------

Ceilings

Identified item total: £6,125.00
Backlog cost total (C/D): £0.00

Block 1	Plaster Board	A	4	25	100 PA	m2	25	£6125.00	
---------	---------------	---	---	----	--------	----	----	----------	--

Electrical Services

Identified item total: £27,944.56
Backlog cost total (C/D): £5,338.63

Block 1	Distribution Board	C	2	2	1	Nr	986.48	£986.48	Distribution board at the end of anticipated life cycle. Renew
---------	--------------------	---	---	---	---	----	--------	---------	--

Block 1	Luminaires	C	2	2	30 PA	M2	20.768	£1527.07	Luminaires appear in poor condition and at the end of anticipated life cycle. Renew
---------	------------	---	---	---	-------	----	--------	----------	---

Block 1	Luminaires	A	4	11	70 PA	M2	5.192	£890.79	
---------	------------	---	---	----	-------	----	-------	---------	--

Block 1	Earth Bonding - Primary	B	3	20	30 PA	M2	5.192	£381.77	
---------	-------------------------	---	---	----	-------	----	-------	---------	--

Block 1	Earth Bonding - Secondary	B	3	20	30 PA	M2	10.384	£763.54	
---------	---------------------------	---	---	----	-------	----	--------	---------	--

PPM DATA

Page 118

Block Element	Condition	Rating	RSL	Measurement	Unit	Unit Rate	Cost	Comments
Block 1 Isolator	B	3	20	1	Nr	903.408	£903.41	
Block 1 Distribution Board	B	3	10	1	Nr	986.48	£986.48	
Block 1 Isolator	B	3	7	2	Nr	903.408	£1806.82	
Block 1 Luminaires	C	2	1	30 PA	M2	5.192	£381.77	Emergency luminaires appear in poor condition and at the end of anticipated life. Renew
Block 1 Luminaires	A	4	24	70 PA	M2	20.768	£3563.17	
Block 1 Lighting Wiring & Accessories	A	4	24	70 PA	M2	33.2288	£5701.07	
Block 1 Small Power Wiring & Accessories	A	4	24	100 PA	M2	25.96	£6362.80	
Block 1 Bulkhead Fitting	B	3	5	4	Nr	311.52	£1246.08	

Page 119

Block Element	Condition	Rating	RSL	Measurement	Unit	Unit Rate	Cost	Comments
Block 1 Lighting Wiring & Accessories	C	2	2	30 PA	M2	33.2288	£2443.31	Lighting wiring and accessories appear in poor condition. Renew

External Walls, Windows & Doors

Identified item total: £37,963.20
Backlog cost total (C/D): £21,900.00

Block 1	Softwood Casement	B	3	5	5 PA	m2	450	£4500.00	
Block 1	Brick	B	3	30	20 PA	m2	90	£3600.00	
Block 1	Render	C	2	3	15 PA	m2	25	£750.00	Several sections of loose / damaged render to the external walls.
Block 1	Steel unglazed	B	3	25	4	nr	1099.8	£4399.20	
Block 1	Render	B	3	12	60 PA	m2	25	£3000.00	
Block 1	PVC	A	4	20	2	nr	282	£564.00	

PPM DATA

Page 120

Block Element	Condition	Rating	RSL	Measurement	Unit	Unit Rate	Cost	Comments
Block 1 Steel Casement	C	2	5	10 PA	m2	1057.5	£21150.00	The single glazed crittal framed external windows are in poor condition and nearing the end of their serviceable life.

FF&E

Identified item total: £122,550.00
Backlog cost total (C/D): £0.00

Block 1 Toilets/ Showers/ Changing	A	4	20	30	Percentage of	500	£36765.00	
Block 1 Toilets/ Showers/ Changing	B	3	10	20	Percentage of	500	£24510.00	
Block 1 Other Usable/Support Space	B	3	15	50	Percentage of	500	£61275.00	

Floors and Stairs

Identified item total: £17,272.95
Backlog cost total (C/D): £0.00

Block 1 Ceramic Tiles	B	3	10	70 PA	m2	80	£13,720.00	
Block 1 Welded Vinyl Sheet	B	3	8	5 PA	m2	50	£612.75	

Block Element	Condition	Rating	RSL	Measurement	Unit	Unit Rate	Cost	Comments
Block 1 Carpet Tiles	B	3	8	5 PA	m2	40	£490.20	
Block 1 Welded Vinyl Sheet	A	4	12	20 PA	m2	50	£2450.00	

Identified item total: **£13,258.78**
 Backlog cost total (C/D): **£0.00**

Internal Walls and Doors

Block 1 Ceramic Tiles	B	3	20	5	m2	80	£980.40	
Block 1 Render/Plaster	B	3	25	85	m2	25	£5208.38	
Block 1 Hollow Core Timber	B	3	8	7	nr	283	£1981.00	
Block 1 Solid Core Timber (Glazed)	B	3	10	2	nr	705	£1410.00	
Block 1 Hollow Core Timber	A	4	25	13	nr	283	£3679.00	

Block Element	Condition	Rating	RSL	Measurement	Unit	Unit Rate	Cost	Comments
---------------	-----------	--------	-----	-------------	------	-----------	------	----------

Mechanical Services

Identified item total: **£38,817.96**

Backlog cost total (C/D): **£15,914.00**

Block 1	LTHW Calorifier	C	2	2	2	Nr	3634.4	£7268.80	Hot water storage cylinders with electrical immersion heaters appear in poor condition and at the end of anticipated life cycle. Renew
Block 1	DHWS/ CWS	B	3	7	50 PA	M2	51.92	£6362.80	
Block 1	LTHW Calorifier	B	3	7	2	Nr	3634.4	£7268.80	
Block 1	HWS Pump	C	2	2	2	Nr	1869.12	£3738.24	HWS pumps at the end of serviceable life. Renew
Block 1	HWS Pump	B	3	10	1	Nr	1869.12	£1869.12	
Block 1	Unvented Storage Heater	B	3	6	1	Nr	623.04	£623.04	
Block 1	Radiator (m2)	B	3	10	90 PA	M2	30.73664	£6780.20	

PPM DATA

Page 123

Block Element	Condition	Rating	RSL	Measurement	Unit	Unit Rate	Cost	Comments
Block 1 Radiator (m2)	C	2	1	10 PA	M2	30.73664	£753.36	Electrical bar heater in poor condition and at the end of useful life. Renew
Block 1 Extract (Local)	C	2	1	10	Nr	415.36	£4153.60	Local extract fans appear in poor condition and at the end of anticipated life cycle. Renew

Identified item total: £7,812.69

Redecoration

Backlog cost total (C/D): £1,055.77

Block 1 Finished	C	2	1	25 PA	m2	17.23	£1055.77	Flaking paint visible to areas
Block 1 Finished	B	3	3	20	m2	17.23	£844.61	
Block 1 Finished	A	4	5	30	m2	17.23	£1266.92	
Block 1 Finished	B	3	4	30	m2	17.23	£1266.92	
Block 1 Finished	A	4	5	80	m2	17.23	£3378.46	

Block Element	Condition	Rating	RSL	Measurement	Unit	Unit Rate	Cost	Comments
---------------	-----------	--------	-----	-------------	------	-----------	------	----------

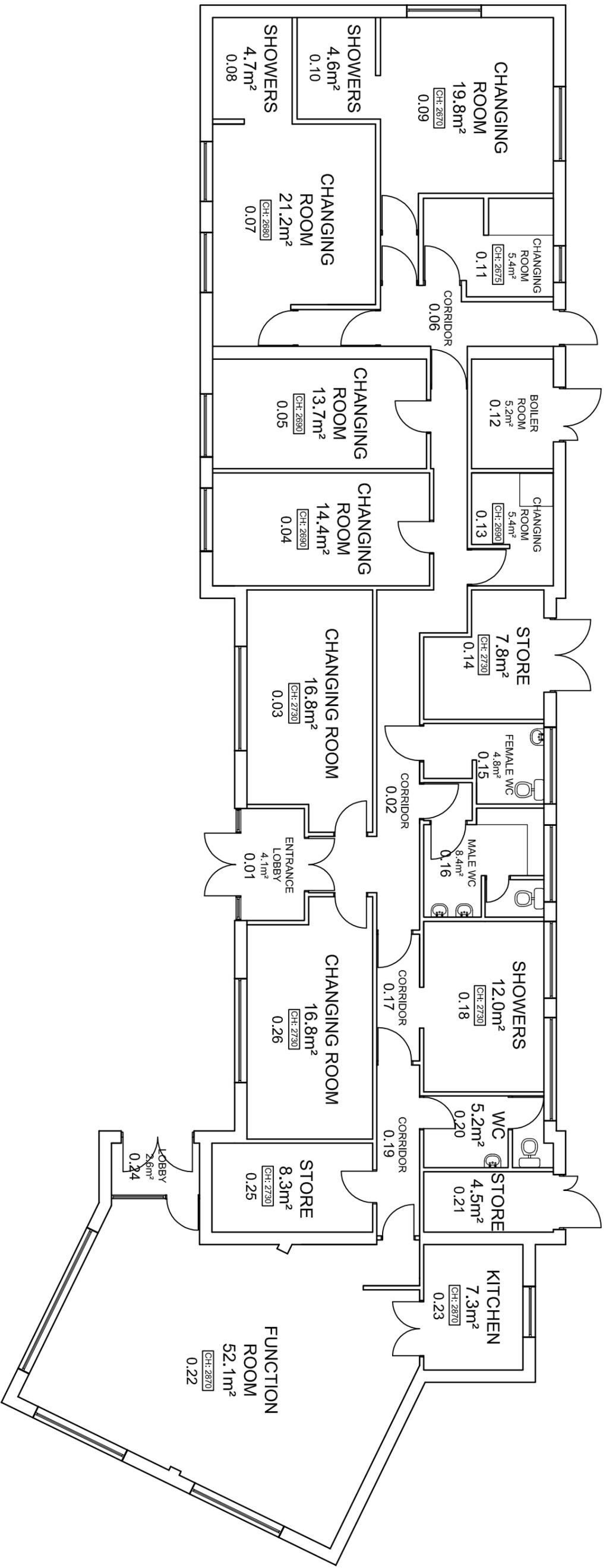
Roofs

Identified item total: £14,874.00
Backlog cost total (C/D): £6,050.40

Block 1	Built-Up Felt Roof - Double	C	2	1	10 PA	m2	120	£980.40	The built up felt flat roof is in poor condition and nearing the end of its serviceable life.
Block 1	UPVC Gutters and downpipes	C	2	2	100 PP	lm	45	£2250.00	The UPVC (with isolated aluminium downpipes) guttering and downpipes are in poor condition with several areas missing and / or damaged.
Block 1	Timber Fascia/Soffit	C	2	2	100 PP	lm	56.4	£2820.00	The timber fascias and soffits are in poor condition with rot and deterioration visible.
Block 1	Concrete Tiles	B	3	10	90 PA	m2	40	£8823.60	

Appendix C.

Floorplans



UPRN - 10045
 LLANGYNWYD PAVILION
 BLOCK 1
 GROUND FLOOR PLAN
 10/02/12

KEY	
Room Use / Name:	CHANGING ROOM
Room Area:	21.2m ²
Ceiling Height:	CH: 2680
Room No.:	0.07
Room No. should be prefixed by UPRN and Block No. to read 10045.1.0.07	



We need your help to maintain the accuracy of this data. Please e-mail Architectural.Services@bridgend.gov.uk for any alterations to the plans.


BRIDGEND
 COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
 ICT and PROPERTY
ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES
 Civic Offices, Angle Street, Bridgend,
 CFS1 4WB

Sarah Jones

Sarah.Jones@fgould.com

Telephone: +44(0) 2920 358159

Faithful+Gould Limited
Floor 2 Capital Quarter
2 Tyndall Street
Cardiff
CF10 4BZ

This page is intentionally left blank

Feasibility Report for 2 Winter Pitches at Llangynwyd Rangers BGCW FC, Maesteg



Prepared by

Mr Peter Watkin Jones BSc MSc MIAgrE
Oolong Sports Pitch Consultancy
February 2020

Disclaimer

This report was commissioned by Bridgend County Borough Council, The Coalfields Regeneration Trust and Llangynwyd Rangers BGCW FC and the contents within are private and confidential to the client. This report is issued solely to the client and Oolong Sports Pitch Consultancy (OSPC) cannot accept responsibility to any third parties whatsoever, following the issue of this report. Any such parties rely on the contents at their own risk.

Contents	Page
1. Scope of the Report	4
2. Site Visit details	5
Summary	6
3. Introduction	8
4. Methodology	9
5. Condition of the Ground	10
6. Equipment and Maintenance	19
7. Conclusions	20
8. Recommendations	20
9. Costings	21
10. Contact Details	23
Appendices	
Soil test results	25
PQS table	26

1. Scope of the Report

Oolong Sports Pitch Consultancy was commissioned to undertake a feasibility study for Llangynwyd Rangers BGCW FC to assess the quality of the existing grass pitches and to propose improvement works. The inspection focused on the drainage situation, ground surface levels (topography), soil conditions and grass health. Soil assessment investigations were undertaken to determine soil depths and conditions. Soil samples were sent for laboratory analysis to determine soil fertility status and confirm soil textural class.

Historical information about the site was gained through conversations with club staff.

Recommendations and outline costings for improvements are included which take into account the potential future use of the playing surfaces and requirements of Llangynwyd BGCW FC.

The following table shows the sequence of events required for a successful sports pitch improvement project.

It is essential that a qualified and experienced Sports Pitch Consultant is engaged to undertake these duties as this is a specialised profession. It is not appropriate to use a Civil Engineer or Contractor. The Project Management and Supervisory duties are of particular importance in ensuring the implementation of a successful scheme.

Item	Description
Feasibility Study and Report based on the PQS	Desk study and field assessment of pitch quality including recommendations and outline costings for capital improvement works
Design and Specification Document	Details design drawings, materials and workmanship specifications and a Bill of Quantities. The 'Specification' is a stand-alone document used for the competitive tendering process and contract management purposes
Project/Contract Management and Works Supervision	To oversee the technical and logistical aspects of the project and manage the contract. To supervise the construction works and react to unplanned events
Maintenance Inspection Visits	Post-construction inspection visits

Table 1 – The essential stages of a successful pitch improvement project

2. Site Visit Details

Client: Llangynwyd Rangers BGCW FC. The Coalfields Re-generation Trust and Bridgend County Borough Council

Site Address: Llangynwyd Playing Fields
Maesteg Road
Llangynwyd
Maesteg
CF34 9SN

Site Contact: Mr Ryan Jones (Game On programme manager, the Coalfields Regeneration Trust)

Present at visit: Mr Ryan Jones (Coalfields Regeneration Trust)
Mr Peter Watkin Jones (Oolong Sports)

Date of visits: 29 January 2020

Consultant: Mr Peter Watkin Jones (Oolong Sports)

Summary

Typically both pitches suffer from a lack of adequate drainage resulting in waterlogged and muddy playing conditions. The lack of active drainage means that the ground does not recover well after heavy rainfall events and is reliant on surface run-off and evaporation to remove standing water. As a result the pitch recovery can be slow and games postponed. Both pitches would be significantly improved by installing suitable drainage systems. This should include a primary piped system supplemented with a secondary system of slit drains or sand grooves.

The surface topography (pitch slopes and flatness) require attention. The soccer pitch is steep across the pitch and has undulations (ripples or waves) over the entire pitch making play difficult and is below the PQS. The surface of the rugby pitch is similarly sloping and particularly so to the east (see **Figures 3 and 6**).

Addressing these features would dramatically improve the pitch quality and increase the reliability of fixtures and, provided an adequate maintenance regime is followed, will give years of dependable performance.

The PQS provides the basic minimum standard for the construction and maintenance of grass turf playing surfaces. Principally this recommends that a natural grass pitch must:

1. Have adequate grass cover
2. Have low levels of weed coverage
3. be reasonably flat
4. Have the ability to drain surface water

It is divided into 3 categories: High, Standard (Mid), and Basic

Soccer Pitch

The table below highlights the elements of the soccer pitch which need to be addressed to achieve the minimum PQS requirements.

Item	PQS Category on the day of the visit
Ground cover	Basic
Undesirable weeds and grasses	Mid
Root depth	Mid
Thatch depth	High
Topsoil depth	High
Gradient lengthways	High
Gradient cross pitch	Below Basic
Drainage (Infiltration Rate)	Below Basic

Table 2 – Current PQS status of the soccer pitch

Rugby Pitch

The table below highlights the elements of the rugby pitch which need to be addressed to achieve the minimum PQS requirements.

Item	PQS Category on the day of the visit
Ground cover	High
Undesirable weeds and grasses	Mid (Moss element within Basic category)
Root depth	Mid
Thatch depth	High
Topsoil depth	High
Gradient lengthways	Below Basic
Gradient cross pitch	Mid
Drainage (Infiltration Rate)	Below Basic

Table 3 – Current PQS status of the rugby pitch

3. Introduction

Llangynwyd Rangers BGCW FC is a community based football club based in Maesteg. The club was formed in 1947 and now have over 260 members aged between 5 and 45 years. The club runs 9 junior teams who compete in the Bridgend and Port Talbot Junior League. The senior team play in the South Wales Alliance Football League Premier Division.

There is a changing block facility, a single soccer pitch and a single rugby pitch on the site. The River Llynfi is situated to the north east adjacent to a main railway line.

Both pitches suffer significant waterlogging conditions which cause postponement of fixtures.



Figure 1 - Outline of the pitches at Llangynwyd Rangers BGCW FC

4. Methodology

The proposed area has been quantified and a site report compiled by using the following methods and has not been judged through observations taken while a game has been in progress:

- Visual assessment of grass coverage to assess the proportions of grass species and weeds.
- Field assessment of the soil profile down to 450 mm with sampling of the topsoil and subsoil.
- Non-intrusive investigation into any existing drainage system and outfall facility.
- Laboratory analysis of soil samples recovered from the pitch.
- Use of National Soil Resources Institute Soil Maps
- Information reviewed using Performance Quality Standards (PQS) which are set out by The Institute of Groundsmanship, WRU.

A full copy of the standard can be seen on www.iog.com

5. Ground Conditions

Soil Profiles

Two representative soil profiles were assessed using hand augering techniques and samples sent off for analysis. Both profiles were found to be similar in makeup with dark brown Sandy loam topsoil to a minimum depth of 300mm above medium firm Sandy clay subsoil, see **Table 1**. Results from the laboratory tests include soil texture, organic matter content and nutrient status.

The British Geological Society classifies the local bedrock geology as Llynfi Member Sandstone Formation and Superficial Geology as Till, Devensian – Diamicton superficial deposits.



Figure 2 - Typical soil profile of the soccer pitch

Topsoil depths measured in the field were found to be approximately 300mm deep with some stone from 250mm and consistent across the site. The upper 100mm soils were noticeably de-structured with poor shear strength capacity.

Subsoil depths were assessed to a maximum of 450mm below ground level using a combination of hand augering and open trial holes, the profiles showed a consistent layer of Clay loam subsoil throughout.



Figure 2 – Typical topsoil structure

The upper 100mm of topsoil is compacted and shows signs of long term sustained damage. Below 100mm the profile shows compacted and poorly structured soil. The rooting depth is typically 130mm.

The Clay subsoil below 300mm is also poorly structured and will impair drainage.

Thatch is a layer of intermingled dead and living shoots, stems and roots which develop between the zone of green vegetation and the soil surface and can impede drainage. The observed thatch content was less than 5 mm deep which conforms to the highest PQS category.

The presence of organic matter within the topsoil at 4.2 to 6.1% is not excessive and will not unduly impair the infiltration of water through the soil, however combined with the surface thatch, the de-structured nature of the soil it will reduce the overall drainage capacity of the upper soil profile. There is some evidence that the upper profile does become saturated, holding elevated levels of moisture and associated reduction in wearing capacity.

Nutrient status

Soccer Pitch

The topsoil has a pH level of 6.5 which is ideal for Perennial Rye-grass and optimises the availability of micro-nutrients such iron, manganese and zinc. The ideal value for sports turf grass mixes including perennial rye grass is around pH 6.5 which allows for the optimum availability for (P) Phosphorus, (K) Potassium and (Mg) Magnesium. The reported soil index for P and K is 1 and slightly below the optimum of 2.

Rugby Pitch

The topsoil has an elevated pH level of 7.4 above the optimum for sports grasses. The soil is deficient in Magnesium and Potassium.

Deficiencies in nutrient status can be addressed as part of a maintenance programme through targeted fertilizer applications. Laboratory results can be seen in the Appendices of this report.

Trial Pit/Lab Ref	Depth (m)	Sand (%)	Silt (%)	Clay (%)	Classification
TP1/S2 Soccer Pitch	0 – 0.250	55	28	17	Sandy loam
	0.250 – 0.360				Sandy loam with much angular 20mm stone
	0.360 – 0.450				Clay loam
TP2/S3 Rugby Pitch	0 - 0.300	64	23	13	Sandy loam
	0.300 – 0.430				Clay loam

Table 1 – Soil profile textures

Topography

The site has a general slope north west to south east and is significant. The steepest gradients are found at the eastern boundary of the rugby pitch which increases towards the site boundary.

The soccer pitch has a cross field slope of approximately 1:35 and has marked undulations throughout (it is not flat).

The rugby pitch has a lengthways slope of approximately 1:40 with a cross-field slope of 1:100 but falls off dramatically at the eastern boundary, see **Figures 3 and 6**.

Both pitches fall below the minimum standards bench marked by the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) Performance Quality Standards (PQS) on pitch slope.



Figure 3 – General ground slopes



Figure 4 – View of the soccer pitch



Figure 5 – The changing rooms also showing pitch undulations



Figure 6 – Steepest gradients on the rugby pitch

Grass Coverage

Soccer Pitch

The area has vegetative coverage of 75% which lies within the basic category of the IOG specification, the approximate coverage is made up of the following grasses:

75%	PERENNIAL RYEGRASS	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
5%	BROWNTOP BENT	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
5%	FESCUE	<i>Festuca spp</i>

5% Weed grasses made up of:

ANNUAL MEADOW GRASS	<i>Poa Annua</i>
---------------------	------------------

Undesirable grass species and broadleaved weeds cause competition between themselves and the essential grass cultivar species present and should be eliminated. Annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*) is considered a weed grass within the sports turf industry, although it remains present in a large percentage of sports surfaces all over the UK.

5% broadleaved weeds present, mainly:

DANDILION	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
DAISY	<i>Bellis perenis</i>
PARSLEY-PIERT	<i>Aphanes avensis</i>



Figure 7 – Typical grass cover



Figure 8 – Showing bare ground within the goal areas



Figure 9 – General view of the soccer pitch

Grass Coverage

Rugby Pitch

The area has vegetative coverage of 90% which lies within the highest category of the IOG specification, the approximate coverage is made up of the following grasses:

80%	PERENNIAL RYEGRASS	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
5%	BROWNTOP BENT	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
10%	FESCUE	<i>Feuscia spp</i>

5% Weed grasses made up of:

ANNUAL MEADOW GRASS	<i>Poa Annua</i>
YORKSHIRE FOG	<i>Holcus lanata</i>

Moss and weeds present:

DANDILION	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
DAISY	<i>Bellis perenis</i>
PARSLEY-PIERT	<i>Aphanes avensis</i>
CLOVER	<i>Trifolium</i>
PLANTAINS	<i>Plantago major</i>
MOSS	<i>Ceratodon purpureus and Bryum</i>

Mosses are non-flowering plants that have no root structure and rely on a sufficient moisture environment for reproduction and survival. Colonisation usually occurs during autumn and winter months when the soil surfaces are lying wet and saturated for long periods of time, particularly in the absence of any turf maintenance work. Mosses are not the cause of turf decline but a symptom of environmental conditions and/or poor maintenance regimes.

Moss can establish on weak and thin swards where there is a lack of competition from vigorous turf. A strong healthy turf is the best answer to moss prevention which can be achieved through good soil and grass management practices.

Drainage

There is no evidence of any active drainage infrastructure on either of the pitches. The ground conditions display the characteristic features of a soil profile which is de-structured, has inherent low permeability and has no drainage capabilities and therefore is prone to saturated soil conditions and waterlogging.

There is an old drainage ditch/pipe which runs through the tree line along the south west boundary. This used to intercept surface water from the adjacent ground above but has since become blocked and overgrown. Consequently the surface water generated now runs directly onto the playing field and contributes to the overall wet conditions found on the ground.

The soccer pitch relies on surface water run-off to remove accumulated water. This water runs in a north east direction and is eventually discharged via a drain next to the railway line.

Similarly surface water from the rugby pitch runs towards the railway line to the east and discharges through the existing drain. This could be a useful outfall for any drainage system considered in the future.

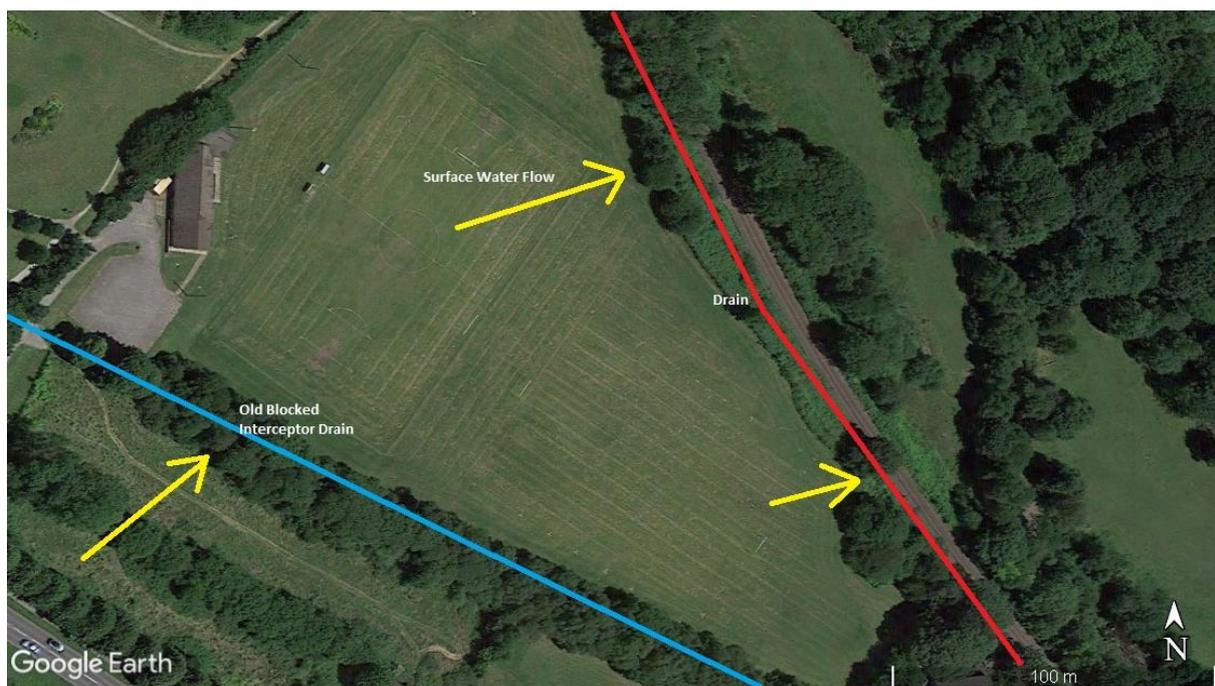


Figure 11 – Catchment Hydrology showing drainage and surface water flow

Other observations

- The dimensions of the soccer pitch as marked out on the day were approximately 60m wide and 100m long. The margins are approximately 2m to the surrounding railings in all directions.
- The rugby pitch is marked to approximately 60m by 90m (plus in goal areas).

6. Equipment & Maintenance

There has been some occasional sand top dressing applications to the soccer pitch undertaken by the council but generally only basic and limited maintenance work is undertaken on these pitches include grass cutting, line marking and occasional light aeration operations.

Pitch management practices are vital to fulfilling the designs true potential and inadequate maintenance operations will lead to poor surface performance and in turn not repay the capital invested in construction. A full maintenance programme should be provided with specifications for improvement works.

Conclusions

Both pitches show characteristics of surface drainage problems. The soccer pitch was reasonably dry and firm on the day of the visit however visual inspections of the surface highlighted areas of bare soil and poor grass health. Further investigations showed the upper soil profile to be compacted and de-structured which limit the infiltration of surface water through the profile and cause waterlogged surface conditions.

The rugby pitch had wetter surface conditions underfoot with some areas of surface ponding mainly towards the eastern boundary. The grass coverage was generally greater with a thicker sward.

The presence of Clay subsoil limits the vertical infiltration resulting in retention of soil moisture within the upper profile (topsoil) and hence saturated conditions after heavy rainfall events. The ground currently drains naturally as interflow (horizontal movement through the upper soil layer) to a limited degree with a reliance on surface water run-off after particularly heavy storms. Although not consistently waterlogged both pitches are subject to major disruption due to standing water and saturated ground conditions and often resulting in postponed matches.

The cross-field gradient of the soccer pitch is excessive and falls below the basic category for the PQS. An additional problem which is immediately noticeable is the undulating nature of the ground (the ground is not flat). This causes peculiar playing conditions and is outside the PQS.

The rugby pitch has a similar cross-filed slope which becomes more marked towards the eastern boundary and again falls below the basic category for the PQS. Some re-profiling of the ground to reduce the pitch slopes would improve this aspect of the PQS status.

Addressing the pitch drainage would dramatically improve play and increase the reliability of fixtures. It is also fundamental in promoting a healthy grass sward and an improved playing surface. Installation of a suitable drainage system and management of the upper soil profile would create a quality playing surface for both pitches.

8. Recommendations

The surface gradient (slopes) should be reduced by re-profiling the ground and the movement of surface water through the profile should be improved by the installation of a comprehensive drainage system.

The soil chemistry status and grass plant health can be addressed during surface establishment and subsequent maintenance operations.

Having considered the information from the investigations I recommend the following processes to achieve the highest level of the PQS Standard.

For both pitches

1. Re-profile to reduce the pitch gradients and the evenness of the surface
2. Install new drainage systems comprising of primary underdrainage pipework with secondary drainage sand grooving
3. Surface establishment of a suitable grass sward using a sports grass cultivar mix and improve the soil chemistry
4. Include an annual maintenance programme

Improvement works will need a specialist sports pitch contractor to undertake the work. It is not a job for a civil engineering or groundworks contractor.

9. Costings

The estimated capital costs for the recommended pitch improvement works are set out below. The figures are approximate and do not include VAT. A figure of 5% of the total cost should be added for any contingencies. Professional consultancy fees are not included.

Soccer Pitch

Item	Description	Estimated cost (£)
1	Re-grade surface by topsoil strip, grade subsoil, topsoil return	15 000
2	Supply and install pipe underdrainage system at 5m centres complete (1)	15 000
3	Install secondary drainage sand grooves	7 000
4	Surface establishment with sand top dressing, aeration, seeding and fertiliser	8 000
5	Annual maintenance (2)	6 000
	Total estimated cost	51 000

- (1) The primary drainage pipework may need to extend to a suitable outfall to the south east corner of the rugby pitch
- (2) Cost that would be expected to be incurred every year which would include some or all of the following operations in addition to the basic maintenance work such as grass cutting

Overseeding
Aeration/de-compaction
Fertiliser application(s)
Weed control
Sand topdressing

Rugby Pitch

Item	Description	Estimated cost (£)
1	Re-grade surface by topsoil strip, grade subsoil, topsoil return	15 000
2	Supply and install pipe underdrainage system at 5m centres complete	13 000
3	Install secondary drainage sand grooves	7 000
4	Surface establishment with sand top dressing, aeration, seeding and fertiliser	8 000
5	Annual maintenance (2)	6 000
	Total estimated cost	49 000

Project timing

Suitable ground conditions need to exist before any intrusive improvement works can be undertaken. This generally means commencement between early spring and late autumn when the ground is likely to be workable and grass establishment possible. Late summer or autumn sowing is preferable as there is likely to be better climate and soil moisture conditions for seed germination and grass establishment. There may be some constraints as to working on the fringes of the open season as this could disrupt the home fixture programme but this may be managed accordingly. Some operations would be weather dependent.

Indicative works programme

Activity	Year 1	Year 2
Mobilisation	July/August	
Cut and fill re-grading operations	August	
Primary cultivations	August	
Install primary drains	August - September	
Final cultivations and sow grass	September	
Maintenance programme	October through to	September
Install sand grooves		April - May
Sand topdressing		April - September
Pitch ready for full play		August - September

10. Contact Details

Please use the contact below if you have further questions about the contents of this report or for any other general enquiries.

Mr Peter Watkin Jones
Oolong Sports Pitch Consultancy
Carnforth
The Green
Denbigh
LL16 5TN

Tel: 07984 387 150

Email: peter@oolongsports.co.uk

Web: oolongsports.co.uk

Appendices

Soil sample results



ANALYTICAL REPORT										
Report Number	86591-20	W162	PETER JONES	Client	LLANGYNWYD PF					
Date Received	07-FEB-2020		OOLONG SPORTS		LLANGYNWYD					
Date Reported	14-FEB-2020		CARNFORTH		MAESTEG					
Project	SOIL		THE GREEN							
Reference	LLANGYNWYD P F		DENBIGH							
Order Number			DENBIGHSHIRE LL16 5TN							
Laboratory Reference		SOIL469148	SOIL469149							
Sample Reference		82 FOOTBALL	83 RUOBY							
Determinand	Unit	SOIL	SOIL							
pH water [1:2.5]		6.5	7.4							
Available Phosphorus (Index)	mg/l	15.0 (1)	21.2 (2)							
Available Potassium (Index)	mg/l	70.5 (1)	58.8 (0)							
Available Magnesium (Index)	mg/l	52.8 (2)	36.2 (1)							
Sand 2.00-0.063mm	% w/w	55	64							
Silt 0.063-0.002mm	% w/w	28	23							
Clay <0.002mm	% w/w	17	13							
Organic Matter LOI	% w/w	6.1	4.2							
Textural Class **		SL	SL							
Notes										
<p>Analysis Notes The sample submitted was of adequate size to complete all analysis requested. The results as reported relate only to the item(s) submitted for testing. The results are presented on a dry matter basis unless otherwise stipulated.</p> <p>Document Control This test report shall not be reproduced, except in full, without the written approval of the laboratory.</p> <p>Reported by ** Please see the attached document for the definition of textural classes.</p> <p> <i>Myles Nicholson</i> Natural Resource Management, a trading division of Cawood Scientific Ltd. Coopers Bridge, Braziers Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG42 6NS Tel: 01344 886338 Fax: 01344 890972 email: enquiries@nrm.uk.com</p>										

Performance Quality Standard Table (PQS)

Performance Quality Standard Tables – Association Football

Structural Quality

Performance Standard	Method of Test	Quality Standard		
		High	Standard	Basic
A. Herbage				
i) Length of herbage: during the growing season	1	25 - 40 mm	25 - 50 mm	30 - 60 mm
during the non-growing season	1	20 - 40 mm	20 - 60 mm	20 - 70 mm
ii) Bare area.	3	≤ 10%	≤ 15%	≤ 25%
iii) Total ground cover	3	≥ 90%	≥ 85%	≥ 75%
iv) Desirable grass species	3	≥ 80%	≥ 70%	≥ 60%
v) <i>Poa annua</i>	3	≤ 10%	≤ 20%	≤ . 30%
vi) Other undesirable grass species	3	Nil	≤ 5%	≤ 10%
vii) Weeds - Large-leaved	3	Nil	≤ 2%	≤ 10%
viii) Weeds - Small-leaved	3	Nil	≤ 5%	≤ 5%
ix) Moss	3	Nil	Nil	Max. 2%
x) Algae and Lichen	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
B. Pests and Diseases				
i) Diseases	3	Nil	≤2%	≤2%
ii) Earthworms	3	≤1%	≤5%	≤10%
iii) Pests	3	Nil	Nil	≤2%
C. Profile				
i) Root depth	4	≥ 150 mm	≥100 mm	≥75 mm
ii) Thatch depth	4	≤5 mm	≤10 mm	≤15 mm
iii) Rootzone medium	4	≥ 200 mm	≥ 150 mm	≥ 100 mm
iv) Rootzone silt & clay content	14	≤ 6%	≤ 17%	≤ 25%
v) Infiltration rate	5	10 mm h ⁻¹	≥ 5 mm h ⁻¹	≥ 2 mm h ⁻¹
vi) Evenness: 2m straight edge, or 0.5m straight edge	2	± 15 mm ± 8 mm	± 18 mm ± 10 mm	± 25 mm ± 12 mm
vii) Soil pH	15	6.0 - 7.0	5.8 - 7.5	5.8 - 7.5
viii) Soil nutrient level: P ₂ O ₅	11	Index 2	Index 2	Index 2
ix) Soil nutrient level: K ₂ O	12	Index 2	Index 2	Index 2
x) Gradient: Length ways Across the pitch	16	> 1:200 1:150 - 1:100	1:200 - 1:100 1:100 - 1:80	1:100 - 1:80 1:80 - 1:50

Telephone: 01604 750555 | Fax: 01604 750780
Email: info@totalturf.com | www.totalturf.com



CAT FUND : SPEND AND ALLOCATIONS (DECEMBER 2022)

COMMUNITY GROUP	ASSET
Bridgend Muncipal Bowls Club	Bridgend Municipal Bowls Club
Bryncethin RFC	Bryncethin Community Centre & Playing Fields
Caerau Bowling Club	Caerau Welfare Park Bowls Green
Caerau FC	Hermon Road / Metcalf Street
Carn Rovers	Cwm Garw Playing Fields
Cefn Cribwr Athletic Club	Cae Gof Playing Fields
Cefn Cribwr Bowls Club	Cae Gof Bowls Green
Cornelly Community Council	North Cornelly Community Centre
Garw SBGC	Blandy Park Paviloon
Gilfach Goch RFC	Evanstown Welfare Park Pavilion
Gilfach Gogh Bowls Clubs	Evanstown Welfare Park Bowls Green
Kenfig Hill & Pyle Bowls Club	Pyle Bowls Green
Kenfig Hill RFC	Croft Gogh Rugby Pitch & Green Spaces
Laleston Community Council	Bryntirion Community Centre
Lawn Tennis Association	Maesteg Welfare Park Tennis Courts
Llangynwyd Middle CC	Llangynwyd Playing Fields (Drainage Improvements)
Llangynwyd Rangers	Llangynwyd Playing Fields
Maesteg Celtic RFC / Maesteg Celtic Cricket Club	Garth Park Playing Surfaces & Green Spaces
Maesteg Harlequins	South Parade Playing Surfaces & Green Space
Maesteg Park FC	Tudor Park Playing Fields
Maesteg Town Council	Miscellaneous CAT Sites (Maesteg TC CAT Fund)
Maesteg Welfare Bowls Club	Maesteg Welfare Park Bowls Green
Nantymoel RFC	Nantymoel Playing Fields
Ogmore Vale Bowling Club	Caedu Park (Ogmore Vale) Bowls Green
Pencoed Athletic Boys & Girls Club	Woodlands Park
Pencoed RFC	Pencoed Recreation Ground Floodlights
Pencoed Town Council	Pencoed Recreation Ground Pavilion
Pontycymer Bowls Club	Pontycymer Bowls Green
Rest Bay Sports Ltd.	Rest Bay Playing Fields
Wyndham Bowls Club	Wyndham Bowls Club Green
	Total

KEY:

(BSSF) - Funding application submitted under oversubscribed Bridgend Sports Support Fund and provided via
(T&CC) - Funding application submitted under Town & community Capital Grant Scheme and provided via CAT

ACTUAL SPEND TO DATE			
Purpose of Funding			
Refurbishments	Maintenance Equipment	Pitch Improvements	Micellaneous
£0.00	£7,531.78	£0.00	£0.00
£110,000.00	£10,000.00	£7,110.00	£0.00
£0.00	£9,360.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£2,100.00	£9,394.00	£0.00	£3,500.00
£113,441.55	£8,580.67	£25,073.00	£3,500.00
£0.00	£5,170.75	£0.00	£0.00
£5,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£35,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,500.00
£0.00	£7,138.98	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£4,526.76	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£10,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
£50,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£4,941.03	£0.00
£0.00	£10,000.00	£18,294.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£5,850.00	£30,563.88	£0.00
£2,390.00	£10,000.00	£19,337.16	£0.00
£2,000.00	£7,921.60	£2,000.00	£0.00
£0.00	£9,969.78	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£991.98
£0.00	£10,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,441.06
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,500.00
£94,726.63	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£4,834.00	£0.00	£0.00
£39,745.00	£10,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£9,746.90	£0.00	£0.00
£454,403.18	£150,025.22	£107,319.07	£17,433.04

a CAT Fund under Delegated Power

▮ Fund under Delegated Power

	COMMITTED EXPENDITURE			
	Purpose of Funding			
Total Spend	Refurbishments	Maintenance Equipment	Pitch Improvements	Micellaneous
£7,531.78	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,480.00
£127,110.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£9,360.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£50,000.00	£10,000.00	£0.00	£3,500.00
£14,994.00	£8,233.72	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£150,595.22	£0.00	£0.00	£1,491.80	£0.00
£5,170.75	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£5,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£35,000.00	£15,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£3,500.00	£0.00	£10,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
£7,138.98	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£4,526.76	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£10,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,500.00
£50,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£36,600.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£4,941.03	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£28,294.00	£0.00	£0.00	£31,706.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£10,000.00	£0.00	£3,500.00
£36,413.88	£0.00	£4,150.00	£9,436.12	£0.00
£31,727.16	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£11,921.60	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£9,969.78	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£991.98	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£10,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£2,441.06	£0.00	£0.00	£25,000.00	£0.00
£3,500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£94,726.63	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£4,834.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£49,745.00	£5,745.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£9,746.90	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£729,180.51	£115,578.72	£34,150.00	£67,633.92	£13,980.00

	CAT FUND
	TOTAL ALLOCATIONS
Total Commitments	
£3,480.00	£11,011.78
£0.00	£127,110.00
£0.00	£9,360.00
£63,500.00	£63,500.00
£8,233.72	£23,227.72
£1,491.80	£152,087.02
£0.00	£5,170.75
£0.00	£5,000.00
£15,000.00	£50,000.00
£10,000.00	£13,500.00
£0.00	£7,138.98
£0.00	£4,526.76
£3,500.00	£13,500.00
£0.00	£50,000.00
£36,600.00	£36,600.00
£0.00	£4,941.03
£31,706.00	£60,000.00
£13,500.00	£13,500.00
£13,586.12	£50,000.00
£0.00	£31,727.16
£0.00	£11,921.60
£0.00	£9,969.78
£0.00	£991.98
£0.00	£10,000.00
£25,000.00	£27,441.06
£0.00	£3,500.00
£0.00	£94,726.63
£0.00	£4,834.00
£5,745.00	£55,490.00
£0.00	£9,746.90
£231,342.64	£960,523.15

Additional Information for Miscellaneous Expenditure

£3,480 Fire Safety Improvements (BSSF)
Additional Pitch Maintenance Equipment (BSSF)
£3,500 for additional maintenance equipment (BSSF)
£3,500 for pavilion heating improvements (BSSF)
£3,500 for pavilion CCTV (BSSF)
£3,500 site security fencing (BSSF)
Provisional match-funding for tennis court refurbishments 2023-24
Additional Drainage Improvements (T&CC)
£3,500 allocated to cricket club for facility improvements (BSSF)
Third match-funding for CAT Projects (T&CC)
Additional cost of pavilion security gate (BSSF)
£2,441.06 for barrier fencing (BSSF)
£3,500.00 part cost of floodlights (BSSF)

This page is intentionally left blank



LLANGYNWYD RANGERS BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Charity number: 1191676

Business and Community Use Plan

December 2022

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 Purpose of the Plan

The plan is to examine Llangynwyd Rangers Boys and Girls Club's (the Club) proposals for taking on Llangynwyd Playing Field under a Community Asset Transfer (C.A.T.) and to provide assurance as to the viability of the project. The plan may also be used to engage the support of external funders.

The site consists of two grass football pitches, changing room / pavilion, small car park and an area of grassland.

1.2 The Project

The Club (Charity No: 1191676) aim to transform Llangynwyd playing fields and changing rooms:

- 1) By Spring 2023, complete essential maintenance on the existing changing rooms (roof, external walls, windows etc.). External funding required from Bridgend C.B.C. C.A.T. Fund.
- 2) By Spring 2024, reconfigure the changing rooms to cater for the needs of women & girls' football within the Llynfi Valley plus create a new indoor educational / social space for community activities. External funding sourced from Cymru Football Foundation 'Fit-For-Future Facilities Programme', Sport Wales and Welsh Government's Community Facilities Programme.

The project builds on the Club's significant progress over the last 18 months:

- Sizeable drainage improvement work to perimeter and pitches.
- Unification of women & girls football within the Club.
- F.A.W. 'Platinum' club accreditation status.
- Agreement to self-manage football pitches and purchase of maintenance equipment.
- Reconstitution as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
- Volunteer recruitment drive and renewed enthusiasm.

Medium term ambitions, subject to external funding, include the development of the Llangynwyd wetland and nature areas that straddle the playing fields.

1.3 The Business Case

The Club core running costs are estimated to increase by £14,937 per annum (changing rooms) and £7,000 (pitches) once the asset transfer is completed. Running costs offset by the Club saving approximately £10,065 per annum on pitch hire (Llangynwyd playing fields plus reduced need for external 3G hire) plus in-kind voluntary support and better utilisation of the Club's charitable status to increase fundraising revenue. Crucially Llangynwyd playing fields and changing rooms will be able to comfortably accommodate the Club's multiple age groups. The project benefits from key education partner, sport, political and community stakeholder support (see 2.3).

The pavilion requires essential maintenance of £131,034 plus VAT (Manning Construction quote post procurement exercise, process overseen by Bridgend CBC Quantity Surveyor Team, based on two building condition surveys Hurley & Davies 2017 and Faith & Gould 2020) in order to bring the facility to an acceptable standard. The business case and funding application will need to be

submitted to the C.A.T. Steering Group for assessment and referred to the Bridgend C.B.C. Cabinet for approval as it exceeds the overall £50,000 threshold.

If successful the project will allow the Club to achieve its football aspirations securing and improving recreational facilities for club members and the wider community. Financial projections show that the project is financially viable:

Llangynwyd Rangers Boys & Girls Club						
Income and Expenditure Projections: Summary						
	Pre CAT	Post CAT				
Income £:	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Football Income:	27,967	38,688	41,011	43,489	46,134	48,959
Pitch Rental Income:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pavilion Income:	-	1,500	1,575	1,654	1,736	1,823
Other Income (Revenue):	24,672	14,648	15,980	17,136	18,930	20,635
Total Income:	52,639	54,836	58,566	62,279	66,801	71,417
Expenditure £:						
People Costs:	12,983	9,501	10,023	10,428	11,115	11,712
Pavilion Costs:	2,773	17,710	18,895	20,160	21,510	22,952
Football Costs:	31,521	20,198	21,450	22,787	24,214	22,863
Pitch Revenue Costs:	-	7,000	7,350	7,718	8,103	8,509
Total Expenditure:	47,277	54,409	57,718	61,092	64,942	66,035
Surplus (Deficit)	5,363	427	848	1,187	1,858	5,382
Balance	59,193	59,619	60,467	61,654	63,513	68,894
*cash in bank opening: £53,830						

2. The Project

2.1. The Charity / The Applicant

Founded 1947, Llangynwyd Rangers Boys' and Girls' Club develops young players to reach their potential, create positive role models and supports sides to achieve success at the highest levels of Welsh football pyramid. The Club is proud of its F.A.W. 'Platinum' club accreditation.

The Club boasts 15 sections, over 300 registered players from U6, mini, junior, girls, youth to seniors and prides itself on bringing the game of football to anyone who wants to play.

The Club's vision is football development in Llangynwyd and the Llynfi Valley with trustees and volunteers constantly striving for excellence on the pitch and through coaching, support for other clubs and the Club's positive impact on the wider community. Outcomes include club development through player growth and retention, raising standards, developing better players and increasing participation.

To achieve its vision the Club needs to provide facilities of the highest standard – a hub for Llynfi Valley football - to ensure that those playing and watching are proud to be a part of the Club.

Football participation rates among women and girls are much lower than among men. Thus, the Club delivers a number of initiatives that help broaden the appeal of football. The F.A.W. 'Huddle' since launching in April 2021, has attracted over 180 girls to free, fun football sessions (92% originally non club members), highlighting the latent demand for informal recreational football. The Club fully supports the F.A.W. 'Our Wales: For Her | Ein Cymru: Amdani' initiative to create the best environment (including appropriate and welcoming facilities at Llangynwyd playing fields and changing rooms), support structures and opportunities to accelerate the growth of women and girls' football for it to reach its full potential.

Llangynwyd Rangers Boys and Girls Club, is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (1191676) – Foundation model. Charitable objects are in sync with the objectives outlined in this plan. There CIO has 6 Trustees providing voluntarily an array of skills, contacts and experience:

- Mark Jenkins (Chair)
- Jonathan Owens
- Erica James
- Justin Kingdon
- Gemma Charnock
- Philip Poole

Previously, the club operated under another charity, LLANGYNWYD RANGERS BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB OF WALES FOOTBALL CLUB. Charity number: 1118531 but that needed to be wound down in order to obtain limited liability status via a new C.I.O., LLANGYNWYD RANGERS BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB, charity number: 1191676, a pre-requisite for an asset transfer of this scale and nature.

2.2 Club Priorities (Club Member Consultation):

- To renovate and refurbish the changing rooms / pavilion bringing them to an acceptable standard resulting in a facility that would be welcoming and could accommodate all gender and ages groups from u5s through to seniors.
- To establish new 'mini' pitches to cater for the club's extensive junior section, so finally all sections can call Llangynwyd Playing Fields home.
- To ensure grass pitches are well maintained, level, well drained with improved access and partitioning.
- To develop pitches to adequate standard to allow school use during daytime hours, along with development of an indoor hall / space, with access to projectors, to allow classroom learning to take place.
- To leverage the success of the F.A.W. 'Huddle' that has progressed (for the first time in club history) to the establishment of girls only teams across various ages - u8s/9s, u11s, u13s. A full committee, team management, first aiders supports the girls' structure.
- To overcome obstacles that inhibit growth such as not being able to provide welcoming fit for purpose facilities for all.
- To give all teams every chance of securing high level football across both genders with the aim of getting the ladies/girls to the highest tier possible within the F.A.W. pyramid system and men's team achieving a minimum of Tier 2 football within the next 10 years.
- To put the health and well-being of the community at the forefront of plans and provide a recreational space and environment that everyone can enjoy (see 4.2).
- To retain roots i.e. maintain the 'Boys & Girls Club' ethos that puts the wider development and welfare of the young people at the heart of the Club.
- To recognise that operations are supported by 10-15 volunteers and that their efforts must be acknowledged.

2.3 Progress To Date:

Community asset transfer discussions began in 2019 yet it has been within the last 9-12 months that the transition process to full self-management of facilities has made most strides:

Bridgend C.B.C. Support Secured:

- The Club agreed and completed the self management agreement for both pitches with Bridgend C.B.C. in May 2022. In turn this unlocked £50,000 of Bridgend C.B.C. grant funding to complete the drainage works required on the perimeter of playing fields. Addressing this issue

significantly improved pitch quality and increased the reliability of fixtures. Provided an adequate maintenance regime is followed it will give years of dependable performance.

- The Club took responsibility for pitch maintenance (from Bridgend C.B.C.). To do so, the Club purchased professional ground maintenance machinery (Sept 2022) with a £10,000 grant secured from Bridgend C.B.C.. The asset cost £18,300 with the Club funding the remaining balance.

Key Stakeholder Support Secured:

- Trustees have made considerable efforts to garner backing convening meetings with key stakeholders and generating support from the local Community Council, Chris Elmore MP and Huw Irranca-Davies MS. It is clear that the project needed buy-in from education partners (Llangynwyd Comprehensive School, Llangynwyd Primary School, Cwmfelin and the local Welsh Primary School (selected letters of intent / support included in Appendix B).
- The Club has received professional support from GAVO, F.A.W., The Coalfields Regeneration Trust (Game on Wales).
- As a statement of intent, the Club have taken action themselves to give the pavilion a cosmetic lift (pre lease agreement), painting the whole of the inside and out, laying new floor in main building, providing signage etc. The club have secured partnership with 'BT Connected Clubs' so that Wi-Fi can be installed (subject to licence agreement) at the facility allowing children access to learning as well as the various other opportunities this brings.
- The Club have engaged with numerous architects regarding the landscape and playing fields and have plans underway to relay out the area so that more pitches can be put in place so there will be designated areas for mini, junior, and senior football (equipment has already been purchased).

2.4 The Site: Llangynwyd Playing Field

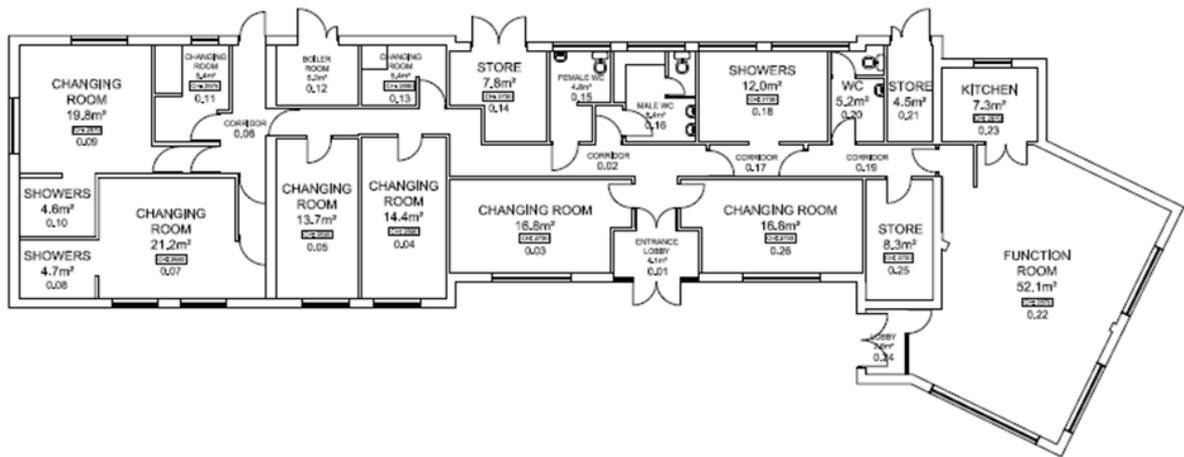
Llangynwyd Playing Field is held in trust by Bridgend C.B.C as part of its leisure provision within the county. The playing fields were bought for the purposes of the Physical Training and Recreation Act 1937 for the purposes of a recreation ground with no restrictions appearing to be in evidence.

The cost to rent Llangynwyd Playing Field is £4,800 per season. Due to grass pitch postponements and capacity issues the Club also rents external training facilities at £7,020 per season.

The proposal is to transfer to the Club, for self-management under a 35-year lease under the Bridgend C.B.C.'s Community Asset Transfer programme:

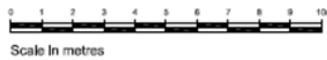
- Pavilion
- 2 x full size football pitches
- Car Park

The Changing Room / Pavilion



UPRN - 10045
LLANGYNWYD PAVILION
BLOCK 1
GROUND FLOOR PLAN
10/02/12

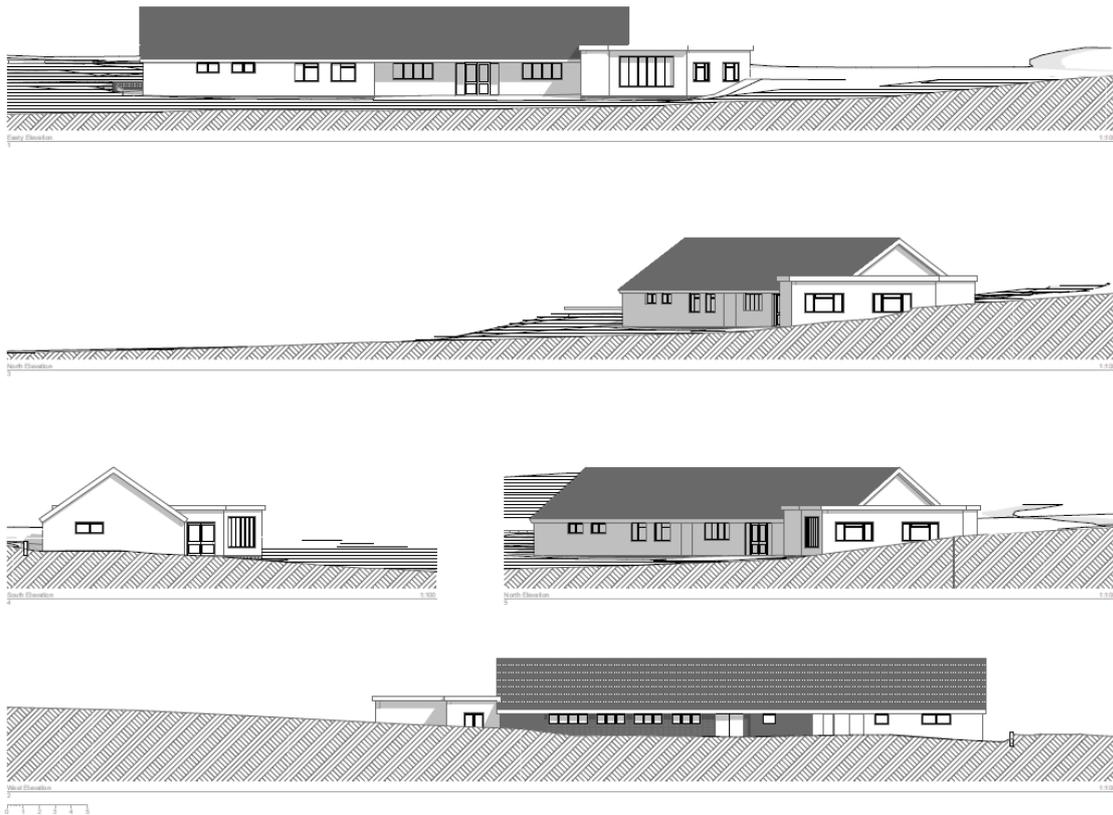
KEY	Room Use / Name	CHANGING ROOM
Room Area	21.2m ²	
Call by NAME	CH 2680	
Room No.	027	
*Room No. may be prefixed by UPRN and Block No. and used to identify.		



We need your help to maintain the accuracy of this data. Please e-mail: Architectural.Services@brw.gov.uk for any alterations to the plans.



Existing Layout



Existing Elevations

The current building has 6 changing rooms, however is not fit for purpose and the facility has a significant maintenance back log.

Bridgend C.B.C. commissioned a condition survey of the building (May 2017 - Hurley and Davies Property Consultants). It identified numerous ongoing issues including faulty roof, failing render, issues with the services, damp issues, general wear and tear, fixtures and fittings nearing or surpassed their expected life expectancy:

“The poor condition and lack of maintenance of external elements as well as a combination of inadequate heating and ventilation are having a detrimental effect on the internal finishes. Extensive refurbishment works will be required to bring the building back to a satisfactory standard for its current function.”

Another survey was commissioned by Bridgend C.B.C. (March 2020 - Faithful & Gould). This report again identified a significant back log of maintenance that needed to be addressed urgently. This urgent back log was estimated to cost £76,000 to rectify based on costs in 2020. In July 2021, Bridgend C.B.C.'s Building Surveyors highlighted a minimum of £80,000 to ensure the building was fit purpose; this cost is now £131,034 excluding VAT.

Additionally, the internal layout is poor and doesn't meet current F.A.W. design guidance for changing rooms / sport pavilions. There are communal shower areas located in the same corridor as spectator toilets, thus causing real privacy and safeguarding concerns. Males and females are unable to use the changing areas at the same time.

As highlighted, the Club has a flourishing junior section and new girls' section, and the current facilities are a barrier to this continued growth. The Club have put in place policies and procedures to protect its members and requires a facility that supports this good practice. If the Club are to grow their girls' section, then they need facilities that provide a safe and welcoming environment.

The social area is not appropriate to service the membership of the club with inadequate facilities and size of area too small to accommodate the needs of the club.



3.0 Renovation & Improvement Plans)

- 1) By Spring 2023, complete essential maintenance on the existing changing rooms (roof, external walls, windows etc.).

Cost: £131,034 plus VAT (Manning Construction)

Funding Sourced: Bridgend C.B.C. C.A.T. Fund

The current facility is not fit for purpose and the building has a significant maintenance back log. Essential repairs are required immediately. The current building is in a state of disrepair and unsuitable for a modern football club. Works to include: windows & doors upgraded to double glazing, all fascia boards replaced; damp within the pavilion addressed; roofing repairs (see full schedule of works, cost reports and detailed tender comparison).

A competitive tender process was undertaken (Sept / Oct 2022). The tender was based on the schedule of works Bridgend C.B.C. provided and was checked and approved internally by Bridgend C.B.C. Quantity Surveying team.

Tender submissions received were as follows:

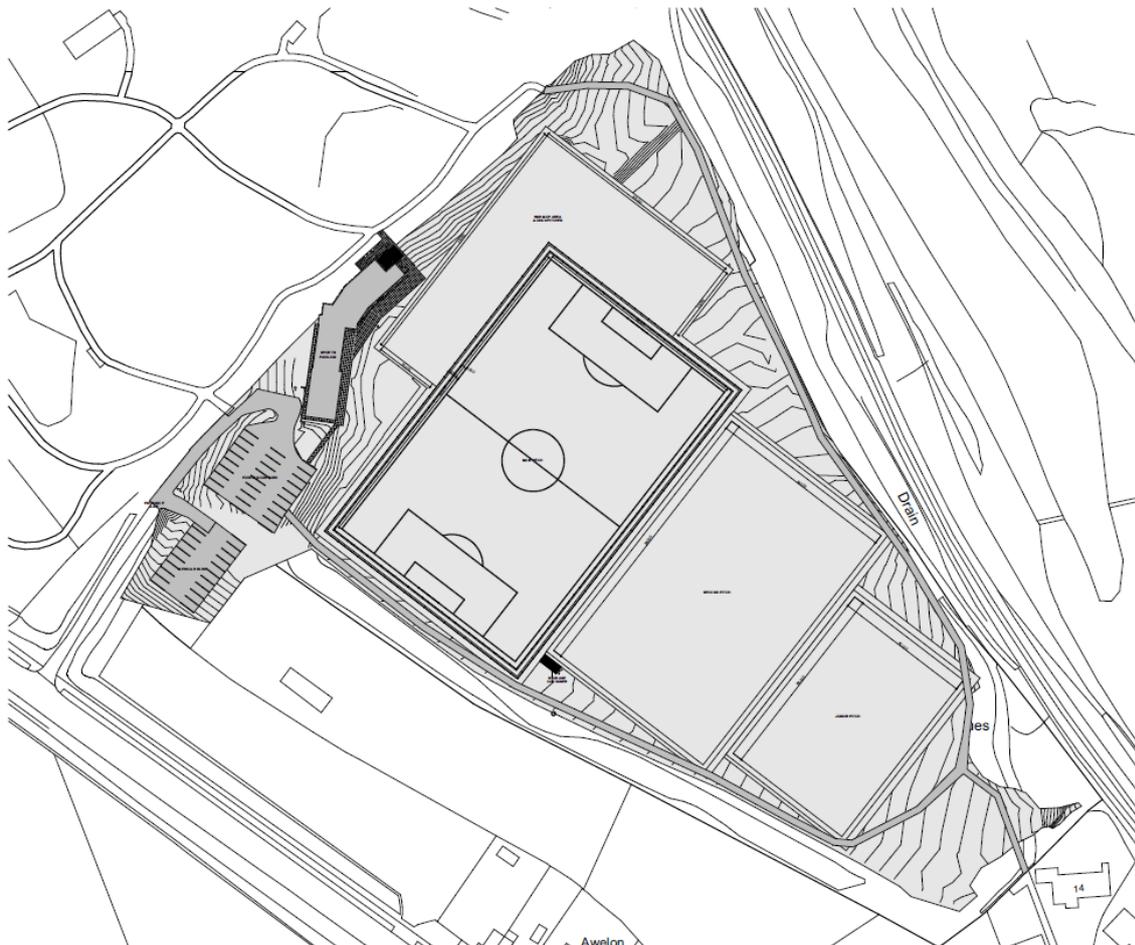
CONTRACTOR	TOTAL COST £	VAT £	TOTAL £
Stafford Construction	195,057.50	39,011.50	234,069.00
Manning Construction	131,034.04	26,206.81	157,240.85
Glamorgan Services	232,608.00	46,521.60	279,129.60

“Considering the forgoing, I conclude that the contract sum submitted by Manning Construction of £131,034.04 is a keen price for the Works and submit this report to the Community Asset Transfer Officer for consideration.” M.Ibrahim (Quantity Surveyor) 27/10/22 BCB0080549 –PROPOSED REFURBISHMENT AT LLANGYNWYD PLAYING FIELDS.

- 2) By Spring 2024, reconfigure the changing rooms to cater for the needs of women & girls' football within the Llynfi Valley plus create a new indoor educational / social space for community activities.

Quote: Circa £220,000 plus VAT

External funding sourced from Cymru Football Foundation 'Fit-For-Future Facilities Programme', Sport Wales and Welsh Government's Community Facilities Programme.



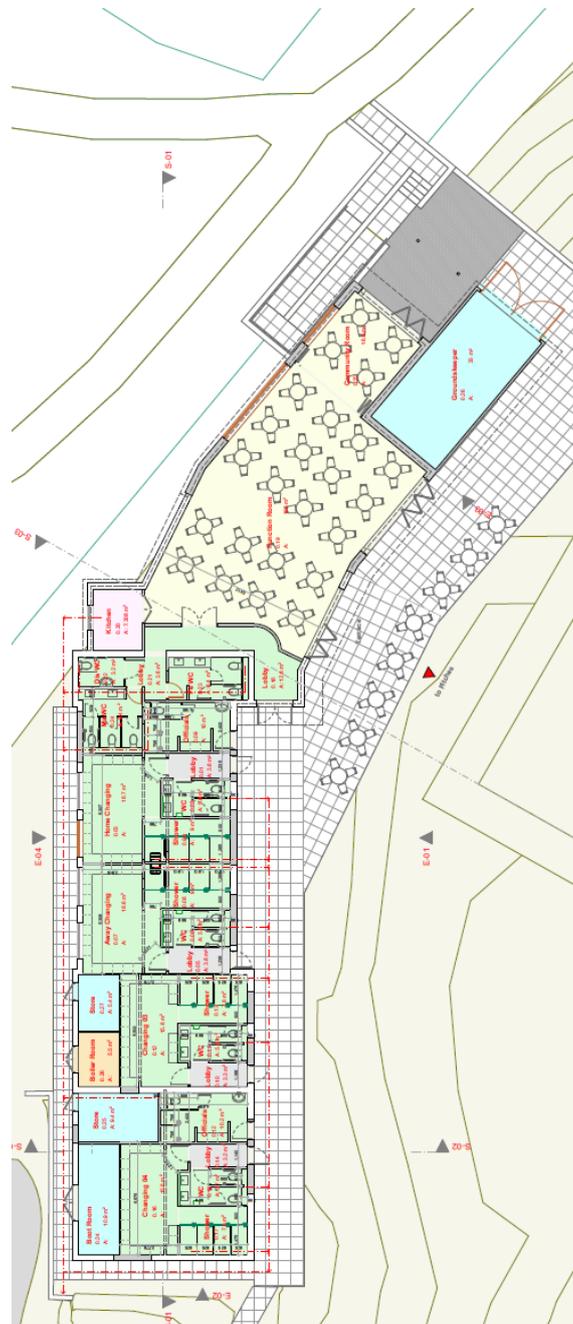
The changing rooms require reconfiguration and modernisation to cater for existing demand and the new thriving women & girls section, which has been kick-started through the successful F.A.W. 'Huddle' Programme.

The current pavilion also lacks any formal space for communal (income-generating) activities. The firm belief is that with the running of a successful multi-functional pavilion (instead of what is currently seen as simply changing rooms) will allow The Club to thrive. Thus:

Changing Rooms / Pavilion Redevelopment: Extension to create a facility that will be accessible to all. Reconfiguration will be in line with F.A.W. recommendations / guidelines i.e. changing room size

and pavilion best practice. Although the senior men's team currently operates at Tier 4 designs will be configured with longer term ambitions in mind i.e. promotion to Tier 2 and creating a centre of excellence for women & girls football in the Llynfi Valley. This will include four changing rooms with integrated shower areas and WCs so they can be used by any male or female team. There will be changing facilities for referees which will double up as flexible changing rooms for girls playing in mixed teams.

The facility will also have dual social area to service the spectators and parents of players providing refreshments that doubles as a educational space for schools and provision of F.A.W. Coach Education courses. This will be serviced by a kitchen and toilet block, including disabled WC.



3.4 Medium Term Developments:

Medium term plans includes:

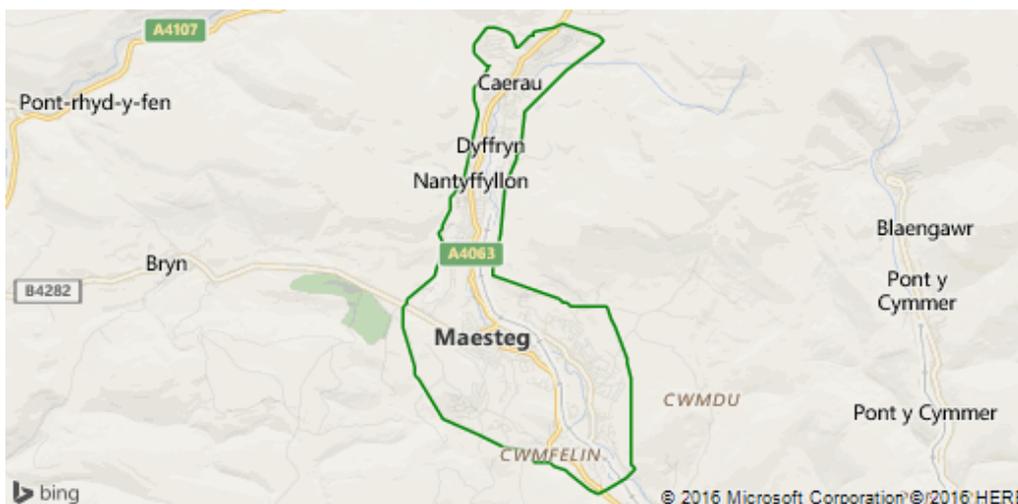
- Development of surrounding areas for pathways, that allow more access for the public and dog walkers, with an aim of using this pathway as a safe cycle to school route. Park runs also a possibility.
- Working alongside the environmental agency development of the nature reserve, wetlands and overall benefit to the environment.
- Possibility of new 'open access' MUGA or outdoor gym equipment to allow more informal physical activity to take place, thus improving the health and well-being of local residents. The MUGA / small 3G would also provide an off-pitch grass training area and possibly floodlight (subject to planning). It would be possible to situate the training area close to the pavilion.



4.0 The Market & Need

4.1 Current Usage

The site currently hosts multiple teams and sections and benefits from development potential. The main catchment area for the site is the CF34 postcode area including the Maesteg and Llangynwyd wards shown in the map below. Although this will be the main catchment area with a radius of 1-3 miles, the site will also attract people from Nant-y-ffyllon and Caerau wards and more broadly through the Llynfi valley. Currently the Club has members in all age groups from the above mentioned areas.



As with many other former mining communities Llangynwyd and the Llynfi Valley has issues around health, skills and employment; a legacy of neglect and underinvestment resulting in deprivation. The Club (with its BGC ethos) has always used its power and influence to help address some of these inequalities i.e. volunteering opportunities, skills development and sport & health initiatives.

Introduction Page 3 for an introduction to this report

 Population	There are 3,015 people living in Llangynwyd <small>See pages 4-10 for more information on population by age and gender, ethnicity, country of birth, language, migration, household composition and religion</small>	 Education & skills	27% of people have no qualifications in Llangynwyd compared with 26% across Wales <small>See pages 33-34 for more information on qualifications, pupil attainment and absences</small>
 Vulnerable groups	17% of children are living in poverty in Llangynwyd compared with 23% across Wales <small>See pages 11-20 for more information on children in poverty, people out of work, people in deprived areas, disability, pensioners and other vulnerable groups</small>	 Economy	39% people aged 16-74 are in full-time employment in Llangynwyd compared with 36% across Wales <small>See pages 35-40 for more information on people's jobs, job opportunities, income and local businesses</small>
 Housing	1% of households lack central heating in Llangynwyd compared with 2% across Wales <small>See pages 21-27 for more information on housing characteristics: dwelling types, housing tenure, affordability, overcrowding, age of dwelling and communal establishments</small>	 Access & transport	18% of households have no car in Llangynwyd compared with 23% across Wales <small>See pages 41-43 for more information on transport, distances services and digital services</small>
 Crime and Safety	The overall crime rate is lower than the average across Wales <small>See pages 28-29 for more information on recorded crime and crime rates</small>	 Communities & environment	64% of people live in a flood risk area in Llangynwyd compared with 41% across Wales <small>See pages 44-45 for more information on physical environment, air quality and neighbourhood classifications</small>
 Health & wellbeing	24% of people have a limiting long-term illness in Llangynwyd compared with 23% across Wales <small>See pages 30-32 for more information on limited long-term illness, life expectancy and mortality, and general health</small>	Appendix A	Page 46 for information on the geographies used in this report and 46 for acknowledgements

Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI), www.ocsii.co.uk/ 01273 810 270. ©OCSI 2016. This report, or any part, may be reproduced in any format or medium, provided that is reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading context. The source must be identified and the title of the publication specified with the copyright status acknowledged

Considerable redevelopment and regeneration has happened in the Llynfi Valley over the last two decades yet it remains an area with significant economic and social challenges. The challenges have been made all the more difficult given the cuts in government spending that have affected sports provision particularly hard and thus has necessitated the need for clubs like Llangynwyd Rangers to develop plans to secure community assets for continued community use.

On completion of the community asset transfer and with investment the Club will retain a much needed recreational community resource. The site will act as the focus for sport and wider community regeneration in line with the well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Government Tackling Poverty Action Plan.

The development will create and deliver public benefit to the communities of Llangynwyd and the Llynfi Valley by:

- Providing an enhanced sports facility to encourage increased participation in football and sport, with associated health benefits
- The provision of a refurbished community facility and a base for a wide range of activities, outreach and service delivery.
- Supporting the local economy by utilising local tradespeople and volunteers wherever possible.

4.2 Target Market & Growth

Increasing daytime use (pavilion main hall / space) is a key target. Potential users include the community council and local schools, as well as potentially bringing back spring & summer holiday sports packages, coffee mornings and men's shed activities. The Club has already been approached by nurseries and crèches for use of facility but this would be subject to Bridgend C.B.C. lease agreement.

Development of the wetland and nature area would result in need to cater for refreshments to the dog walkers and wildlife enthusiasts.

However, the issue facing the club currently is that facilities are old, outdated and not fit for purpose, restricting the growth and development of football. Better facilities are needed for existing and future players, particularly women and girls. The development of the sports fields and changing rooms / pavilion supports key agendas of F.A.W. Grassroots Investment and Sport Wales Community Sport strategy.

The project is strategically aligned to Bridgend C.B.C.'s Corporate Plan objectives; people in Bridgend County Borough are healthier; people in Bridgend County Borough are engaged and empowered to achieve their own potential:

- Supporting a Successful Economy – the club intend to use local suppliers to complete the works outsourced to third party providers. This in turn will support local jobs. The continued success of the club will also contribute to the community and local economy.
- Making Smarter Use of Resources - By completing the C.A.T. process with the Club, facilities will be used to its maximum potential for the benefit of the community. Bridgend C.B.C. will be able

to reduce its annual expenditure by transferring the costs of maintenance of pitches and changing room / pavilion.

- Helping People to become more Self-Reliant - as a result of the asset transfer, the club (and in turn the community) will no longer be reliant on Bridgend C.B.C. for the provision of the playing and changing facilities.

Supporting these priorities will provide a framework to grow and promote the club and increase revenue and sustainability.

Growth areas include new women & girls section(s) and informal football provision. The club will increase community use of the site by working in partnership with the local community council, Bridgend C.B.C., local schools (see letters of support), sports and community organisations.

The Club is committed to using a sports-based community development approach in addressing the social problems faced in the area. This is based on both the Club's own experience as well as good practice developed elsewhere in the UK. The club will:

- Provide opportunities for increased sports participation in the area for people of all ages and abilities.
- Use sports participation as a way of addressing health problems by increasing physical activity.
- Target young people in their late teens, addressing the nationally recognised problem of youth drop-out in 16+ age groups.
- Provide ways of engaging young people with developmental pathways so that they are not at risk of being involved in crime or anti-social behaviour.
- Provide opportunities for older people to be more active as part of an 'active ageing' agenda.
- Provide opportunities for education, training and employment to combat the problem of young people not in education, employment or training.

4.3 Competition

There is no football 3G pitch in the Llynfi Valley. The nearest 3G is at Ysgol y Dderwen (5.2 miles away). Close by is Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd's sand based astro and fields although usage is closely controlled by the school.

5.0 Project Management

5.1 Governance

Llangynwyd Rangers Boys and Girls Club has 6 Trustees that govern the charity i.e. Community Asset Transfer, Risk, Fundraising. Day to day operations continue to be the focus of the wider supporters, committees and volunteers.

Many of the people involved are self-employed or professionals with a broad range of skills to support the Club's long-term viability, on a voluntary basis, with the aim of keeping costs as low as possible.

5.2 The role of volunteers

The Club has 28 volunteer coaches and all DBS Enhanced certified. Grant funding for coach education has enabled the Club to focus on developing a strong and motivated volunteer coaching team and presently all volunteer coaches are FAW Football Leaders Award qualified. The Club has two FAW C Certificate Qualified volunteer coaches, one coach with a FAW Goalkeeper Award Certificate, one coach with Coaching Disabilities Award. 6 volunteer coaches who are fluent Welsh Speakers.

There is a wide range of expertise within the Trustees and the wider network. A working group is established to manage the physical development of the site; the working group report to the Trustees and provide a first point of contact for contractors and any other works carried out on the site.

The Treasurer manages the day to day finances and oversees the capital expenditure on the site.

5.3 Policies & Procedures

The Club operate under the direction of its Trustees and has in place policies, procedures and systems required to support operational requirements and any increase in responsibilities e.g.:

- Covid-19 Risk Assessments
- Health and Safety
- Risk Assessment
- Fire Safety Policy & Guidance
- Volunteer Management

Governance and Regulation is managed by Trustees; all policies and procedures for current activities are in place and reviewed annually. As new activities are developed the Trustees will take advice to ensure all regulatory requirements are met and the appropriate policies and procedures are in place.

The Trustees liaise with development officers from key stakeholders such as the F.A.W., Bridgend C.B.C. CAT Officer and other funding / support organisations. Trustees meet with local residents, the Community Council and other organisations in the area to encourage partnership working and ensure proposals meet the needs of the wider community. For example, pitch drainage

improvement work as highlighted in the Llangynwyd Middle Community Council Key Achievements¹ report.

The Club has insurance policies to cover building, contents and other liabilities. Amendments to these policies will be required based on increased responsibility post C.A.T..

5.4 Marketing & Promotion

The project has attracted widespread support particularly local politicians, local authority and community council (element of capital funding already secured).

The primary market is limited however the main income driver, the volume of the player and supporter base (gift aid donations / fundraising) is a largely untapped market. As noted in the financial plan (Appendix A) the club intends to increase donations and income by being able to host, accommodate and provide new community events.

The Club benefits from a strong social media presence:

- @LlanRangers (Twitter 1,210 followers)
- @Llanrangers (Facebook 711 followers)
- @llangynwydrangersfc/ (Instagram 357 followers)

6. Financial Position

6.1 Current Financial Position

Llangynwyd Rangers Boys and Girls Club are in solid position financially; activities are self-financing, with income covering running costs. Annual accounts illustrate the financial sustainability of the organisation.

Approximately 90% of income is self-generated i.e. player subs, sponsorship, fundraising. Annual accounts illustrate the financial sustainability of the organisation. The Charity does not employ any staff and is not registered for VAT.

LLANGYNWYD RANGERS BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB: Charity number: 1191676	Income	Expenditure	Surplus / Deficit
30/9/22	£52,077	£46,236	£5,481
30/09/21	£26,064	£16,934	£9,130
31/05/20*	£28,793	£16,072	£12.7k
31/05/19*	£32.73k	£19.23k	£13.5k
31/05/18*	£30.32k	£32.49k	(£2.17k)

*Year End for LLANGYNWYD RANGERS BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB OF WALES FOOTBALL CLUB (the former charity).

¹ <https://www.llangynwydmiddlecommunitycouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/79/2022/11/Attachment-4-Annual-Report-2021-22.pdf>

6.2 Project Finances

There are both short and medium term capital cost implications to the project: The capital build costs (phase 2 pavilion extension) are subject to planning permission. .

A detailed breakdown is provided in 5 year Financial Plan. Key points include:

- Pitch maintenance largely reliant on volunteer input.
- Pitches and pavilion leased from Bridgend C.B.C. on a 35-year lease at peppercorn rent / discretionary rates.
- Main costs: insurance, cleaning, stock subject to annual inflationary increases.
- Utility estimates double / triple prior (pre COVID) bills.
- No external hire of pitches as all capacity taken by internal teams.
- Club no longer need to hire external pitches elsewhere to play or train.

6.3 Potential Funding Routes

The Club seek direct grant funding to support the capital development, principally via Bridgend C.B.C.'s C.A.T. Fund, Cymru Football Foundation 'Fit-For-Future Facilities' & 'Fit-For-Future Equipment Fund' Programme, Sport Wales 'Be Active Fund', Welsh Government Community Facilities Fund.

Supplementary bids sought via The Coalfields Regeneration Trust Community Grant, Fords Legacy and Community Council grant fund.

Revenue

The Club will ultimately be responsible for ongoing additional revenue costs – circa £19,000 p.a. – post transfer. The club will work to generate increased revenue from new income streams derived from the revamped pavilion to cover additional running costs, but principally costs will be absorbed by the Club.

Latent demand justifies the need to better utilise and reconfigure the existing 2 pitches and in turn lessen the Club's external hire costs. A single 'home' will significantly reduce travel costs, reduce the need for the youngest members of the club to travel removing barriers to participation and encourage wider family involvement in the club. A single, enhanced, fit-for-purpose place to call home will provide a sustainable income for the long term and help offset pitch and pavilion maintenance costs.

Pitches will be maintained by the club and made available to hire on a full cost recovery model through hire fees to external users. At this stage there is no intention to charge schools for usage.

6.4 Financial Projections

The table below identifies the projected turnover and profitability of the Club for the first 5 years of operation, post CAT. Detailed projections are set out in Appendix A - Financial Plan.

Llangynwyd Rangers Boys & Girls Club						
Income and Expenditure Projections: Summary						
	Pre CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT
Income £:	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Football Income:	27,967	38,688	41,011	43,489	46,134	48,959
Pitch Rental Income:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pavilion Income:	-	1,500	1,575	1,654	1,736	1,823
Other Income (Revenue):	24,672	14,648	15,980	17,136	18,930	20,635
Total Income:	52,639	54,836	58,566	62,279	66,801	71,417
Expenditure £:						
People Costs:	12,983	9,501	10,023	10,428	11,115	11,712
Pavilion Costs:	2,773	17,710	18,895	20,160	21,510	22,952
Football Costs:	31,521	20,198	21,450	22,787	24,214	22,863
Pitch Revenue Costs:	-	7,000	7,350	7,718	8,103	8,509
Total Expenditure:	47,277	54,409	57,718	61,092	64,942	66,035
Surplus (Deficit)	5,363	427	848	1,187	1,858	5,382
Balance	59,193	59,619	60,467	61,654	63,513	68,894
*cash in bank opening: £53,830						

6.5 Cashflow Requirements

The day to day operational cash flow requirements will be managed within the Club's ongoing working capital. The cash flow requirements of the capital development will be managed jointly by The Club and Bridgend C.B.C. / F.A.W. once the construction profile is determined and the grant drawdown profiles identified.

7. SWOT & Risk Analysis

7.1 SWOT Analysis

S.W.O.T ANALYSIS	
STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charitable status • Effective club management structure • Large senior and junior membership. • High quality qualified coaching base. • Reliable and regular income through subscriptions. • High percentage of bi-lingual (Welsh speaking) coaches. • Good links with other statutory and voluntary organisations. • Strong volunteer base. • Support from politicians, local organisations, Community Council. • On-site pitch maintenance machinery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor state of current facility. • Needing to hire expensive external training facilities to cater for such as large set-up. • Local demographics limit off-field growth. • Limited groundkeeper knowledge.
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved facilities would reduce costs, encourage retention of players and allow progression in the league. • Refurbishment of the Pavilion to generate income and extend training opportunities • Environmental / wetland area. • Access to new funding opportunities. • Partnerships with schools, University, statutory organisations and community council • Successful new girls 'Huddle' programme • Gift Aid / Marketing / Fundraising. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital funding not secured. • Other sports facilities developments i.e. 3Gs. • Not being able to meet F.A.W. ground criteria requirements in future years. • Not being able to secure medium term capital development aspirations. • Bridgend C.B.C.'s pitch hire fee (FCR) increases.

7.2 Risk Mitigations Based on SWOT Analysis

Mitigations have been considered based on weakness and threats identified in the SWOT analysis. The risk of non-delivery is mitigated by the following factors:

- Ongoing commitment from Club supporters, including match and in-kind contributions.

- Stable financial position and reserve, with potential to underwrite / match fund elements of the ongoing revenue costs.
- Capital funding bids already in progress and track record of successfully undertaking general maintenance and improvements.

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Failure to secure any redevelopment (phase 2) capital grant funding	Wider Redevelopment reliant on securing grant funding	<p>The existing changing rooms require immediate repair. Regardless of successfully obtained additional redevelopment grant funding the repair backlog needs to be addressed.</p> <p>The Club makes applications to several funding organisations to maximise the level of funding available.</p> <p>Where there is a shortfall, design changes will be considered. There is also scope to phase the work.</p>
Decline in participation	A reduction in income	<p>Indications that all sections will embrace new developments. Improved social media presence and Huddle set-up help increase participation.</p>
Health and safety and property management issues	Operational issues potentially leading to liability and reputational damage	<p>Review Health and Safety policy and procedures particularly in light of the COVID challenges. Some maintenance tasks may need to be subcontracted to ensure appropriate H&S.</p>

8. Conclusion

The Club aims to take greater control of the existing community asset Llangynwyd Playing Fields and changing rooms / pavilion ensuring its sustainability, now and in the future.

To cater to the increased demand the project centres on refurbishing the pavilion and the creation of new mini football pitches. Beneficiaries include women and girls new to football, existing club members, local community groups and schools. Llangynwyd (and wider Llynfi Valley) is an area of deprivation in need of support. The business case outlines the project, its benefits and demonstrates short and medium-term financial viability.

Appendix A: Detailed Financial Projections – 5 Year Financial Plan

Appendix B: Selected Letters of Support

Appendix C: Building Condition Survey (separate attachment)

Appendix D: Pavilion Cost Report / Quotation Comparison (separate attachment)

Appendix A: Detailed Financial Projections – 5 Year Financial Plan

Detailed Financial Projections: Llangynwyd Rangers Boys & Girls Club									
Income £:	Pre CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT	Notes	all costs inc VAT	
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6			
Football Income (Subscriptions):	27,967						New Pitchero system:		
Minis	-	15,120	15,876	16,670	17,503	18,378	Apr 23 Est: 105 players @ £12 month	5% growth	
Juniors	-	15,792	16,582	17,411	18,281	19,195	Apr 23 Est: 94 players @ £14 month	5% growth	
Girls	-	7,776	8,554	9,409	10,350	11,385	Apr 23 Est: 54 players @ £12 month	10% growth	
		27,967							
Pitch Rental Income:									
Pitch Hire (2nd Pitch)	-	-	-	-	-	-	In-kind as other club contributing to maintenance		
Floodlights	-	-	-	-	-	-	n/a		
		-							
Pavilion Income:									
Onsite Refreshments / Cabin	-	1,500	1,575	1,654	1,736	1,823	5% increase p.a.		
Changing Room Facilities	-	-	-	-	-	-			
		-							
Other Income:									
Donations (Gift Aid), Interest & Fun Days	292	3,000	3,750	4,688	5,859	7,324	25% increase p.a.	inc. gift aid	
Seniors Lucky Fours	7,137	7,494	7,869	7,869	8,262	8,262	5% increase p.a.		
Sponsorship / Advertising Boards	3,956	4,154	4,361	4,580	4,809	5,049	5% increase p.a.		
Revenue Grants:	13,287	-	-	-	-	-	i.e. coach education, equipment		
		24,672							
Total Income		52,639	54,836	58,566	62,279	66,801	71,417		
Expenditure:									
People Costs:									
Salary Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Staff & Volunteer Training	2,114	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	inc. coach ed.		
Fundraising Costs	1,569	2,504	2,839	3,243	3,734	4,331	65% profit - Fun Days etc. inc. int tickets		
Lucky Fours Winners	3,569	3,747	3,934	3,934	4,131	4,131	50% of income		
Audit / Professional Fees	5,731	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250			
		12,983							
Pavilion Costs:									
Stock / Supplies / Cleaning	2,773	3,420	3,659	3,916	4,190	4,483	inc. cabin stock; 7% increase p.a.		
Electricity	-	7,196	7,700	8,239	8,815	9,432	double: 2016 BCBC annual figures		
Water	-	555	594	635	680	727	triple: 2016 BCBC annual figures		
Gas	-	1,592	1,703	1,823	1,950	2,087	figure n/a - estimate		
Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	no rates anticipated		
Annual fixed costs	-	593	635	679	726	777	at 50% quoted cost of BCBC 7% increase p.a.		
Waste / Pest / Other	-	670	717	767	821	878	7% increase p.a.		
One off repairs	-	934	999	1,069	1,144	1,224	post refurb - at 30% quoted cost of BCBC (2016 estimate)		
Insurance / Licences	-	2,750	2,888	3,032	3,183	3,343	PL; Contents & Buildings; 5% increase p.a.		
		2,773							
Football Costs:									
Ref Fees / Fines / COMET	1,585	2,321	2,461	2,609	2,768	2,938	6% of subscriptions		
Presentation & Trophies	4,964	3,482	3,691	3,914	4,152	4,406	9% of subs		
Ground & Training Fees (external to Llan)	7,020	1,755	1,878	2,009	2,150	2,300	Reduced by 3/4		
Equipment & Kit	10,947	6,964	7,382	7,828	8,304	8,813	18% subs		
BCBC Hire Costs	4,800	-	-	-	-	-	End post CAT		
Players Insurance & Affiliation Fees	660	1,934	2,051	2,174	2,307	2,448	5% subs		
Transport & Laundry	1,545	1,548	1,640	1,740	1,845	1,958	4% subs		
		31,521							
Pitch Revenue Costs:									
Regular Maintenance (Pitch 1)	-	4,000	4,200	4,410	4,631	4,862	Volunteer driven: at 50% quoted cost of external contractor		
Regular Maintenance (Pitch 2)	-	3,000	3,150	3,308	3,473	3,647	Volunteer driven: at 50% quoted cost of external contractor		
		-							
Total Expenditure		47,277	54,409	57,718	61,092	64,942	66,035		
Surplus (Deficit)		5,363	427	848	1,187	1,858	5,382		
Balances b/f		59,193	59,619	60,467	61,654	63,513	68,894		
*cash in bank opening: £53,830									

Pitch & Pavilion Usage Overview

Detailed Financial Projections: Llangynwyd Rangers Boys & Girls Club	Pitch 1 (Main)		Mini Pitches		Floodlights n/a	Changing Rooms								
	Whole	Half	Whole	Half										
Llan Rangers FC Seniors (1st & 2nd)	0	0	0	0	n/a	£30 game								
Llan Rangers FC Mini & Juniors	0	0	0	0	n/a	£30 game								
Other Users - Schools	0	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	£30 game								
Other Users - Other Football Clubs	90	n/a	55	n/a	n/a	£30 game								
Pitch Hire														
Llan Rangers Senior Team home games (1st)	18	games at	£0	per game totalling	£0	Main Pitch	Inc. friendlies & training							
Llan Rangers Team home games (2nds)	18	games at	£0	per game totalling	£0	Main Pitch	Inc. friendlies & training							
Llan Rangers Mini & Juniors	180	games at	£0	per game totalling	£0	Main Pitch / Mini Pitch	Inc. festivals & training							
Llan Rangers 'Huddle'	26	sessions per year	£0	per game totalling	£0	Mini Pitches	2 hours per week							
Other Users - Schools	30	games at	£0	per game totalling	£0	Mini Pitches	Inc. friendlies & training							
Other Users - Other Football Clubs	0	games at	£0	per game totalling	£0	Mini Pitches	Inc. friendlies & training							
	272				£0									
Seasonality	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		
Football related seasonality	3%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	5%	3%		
Revenue Forecasts	Apr	Jan	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan	£0
Year 1	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Customer Type - Year 1 (home team only)	Weekly Usage (hr)	Av no users	No. Weeks	Total User Hours										
Llan Rangers Senior Team home games (1st)	4	15	18	1,080										
Llan Rangers Team home games (2nds)	4	14	18	1,008										
Llan Rangers Mini & Juniors	12	75	30	27,000										
Llan Rangers 'Huddle'	2	18	26	936										
Other Users - Schools	4	30	18	2160										
Other Users - Other Football Clubs	0	30	14	0										
Totals	26	182	124	32,184										

Llangynwyd Rangers Boys & Girls Club

Income and Expenditure Projections: Summary

	Pre CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT
Income £:	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Football Income:	27,967	38,688	41,011	43,489	46,134	48,959
Pitch Rental Income:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pavilion Income:	-	1,500	1,575	1,654	1,736	1,823
Other Income (Revenue):	24,672	14,648	15,980	17,136	18,930	20,635
Total Income:	52,639	54,836	58,566	62,279	66,801	71,417
Expenditure £:						
People Costs:	12,983	9,501	10,023	10,428	11,115	11,712
Pavilion Costs:	2,773	17,710	18,895	20,160	21,510	22,952
Football Costs:	31,521	20,198	21,450	22,787	24,214	22,863
Pitch Revenue Costs:	-	7,000	7,350	7,718	8,103	8,509
Total Expenditure:	47,277	54,409	57,718	61,092	64,942	66,035
Surplus (Deficit)	5,363	427	848	1,187	1,858	5,382
Balance	59,193	59,619	60,467	61,654	63,513	68,894
* cash in bank opening: £53,830						

Appendix B: Selected Letters of Support



YSGOL GYFUN GYMRAEG LLANGYNWYD

PRIFATHRO | HEADTEACHER: MR MEURIG JONES BA (Anrh), CPCP
📍 LLANGYNWYD, PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR, CF34 9RW
✉ POST.YGGLLANGYNWYD@BRIDGEND.GOV.UK
🌐 WWW.YGGLLANGYNWYD.CYMRU
🐦 @YGGLLANGYNWYD
☎ 01656 815700
📞 01656 815701

Mis Mai 2021

LLYTHYR O ARGYMHELLIAD & CHEFNOGAETH – PROSIECT CYMUNEDOL LLANGYNWYD

Trwy gyfrwng y llythyr hwn ac ar ran holl gymuned ysgol Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, hoffem estyn ein cefnogaeth swyddogol i Glwb Pêl-droed Llangynwyd Rangers gyda'i gynllun tymor hir ar gyfer datblygiad y prosiect cymunedol o fewn caeau chwarae ardal Llangynwyd.

Gyda'r effaith gadarnhaol y gallai'r datblygiadau hyn cael ar gynyddu'r lefelau o ymrwymiad gan ddysgwyr YGG Llangynwyd tuag at weithgareddau pêl-droed yn yr ardal leol (yn y byr dymor a'r hir dymor), rydym yn barod i gytuno ar berthynas gydweithredol gyda'r holl sefydliadau sy'n ymwneud â'r ardal gyfagos er mwyn llunio'r ddarpariaeth fwyaf effeithiol bosibl i bobl a chymuned Llangynwyd.

Os oes unrhyw gwestiynau pellach, cysylltwch gyda ni trwy'r ysgol yn uniongyrchol.

May 2021

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION & SUPPORT – LLANGYNWYD COMMUNITY PROJECT

Through the medium of this letter and on behalf of the whole Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd school community, we would like to officially extend our official support to Llangynwyd Rangers FC with their long-term development plan for the wider community project for the Llangynwyd playing fields area.

Due to the likely positive impact that these developments would have on increasing the levels of commitment from YGG Llangynwyd learners towards football activities within the local area (in the short term and long term), we are prepared to agree on a working relationship between all parties involved in the surrounding area in order to formulate the most effective provision possible for the people and community of Llangynwyd.

If you have any further questions, please contact us directly through the school.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir / Yours Faithfully,

Mr. Joshua Hughes
Arweinydd Addysg Gorfforol / Head of PE

Mr. Meurig Jones
Prifathro / Headteacher

D Y S G . . . D A W N . . . D Y F O D O L . . .





Ysfaol Gynradd Llangynwyd Primary School
Heol Cadrawd
Llangynwyd
CF34 9TE

E-bost/Email: admin.llangynwydprimary@bridgend.gov.uk

Ffôn / Phone: 01656 815565

Prifathro/Headteacher: Mr Christopher Jones

20th May 2021

Dear Mrs James,

I am writing to you in support of what you as a club are offering the pupils who attend my school.

After what has been a very difficult year, our children are enjoying the training, opportunities and more importantly the fun you are giving them. The ambitious and exciting girls football project that has recently started is thriving and you are offering all ages the opportunity to take part in sport.

We are excited to work with you to help redevelop the playing area to further develop the activities and opportunities for the young people in Llangynwyd, Maesteg and the wider area.

The smiles and the enthusiastic way my pupils talk about their football experiences with your club has clearly had a massive impact on their wellbeing and mental health. The fact that they are all back playing is fantastic.

We both have the same aim. We want our young people to develop and continue to have:

- fantastic experiences,
- develop relationships with peers
- leadership skills
- sense of achievement
- skill development
- working as a team

I believe in the months and years to come, it is imperative that we work closely together, with our young people in Llangynwyd and Maesteg.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help in any way to further develop our mutual aims and aspirations.

Christopher Jones

Headteacher

Tel: 01656 815615

Ffôn/Fax 01656 815619

E-bost/E-Mail:



Pennaeth / Headteacher

Mrs Sarah G D Richards

YSGOL CYNWYD SANT

Pen Ynys

Maesteg

CF34 9YE

11-08-21

Dear Mr Poole and All at Llangynwyd Rangers,

I am writing to you in support of what you as a Club are offering many of the pupils who attend Ysgol Cynwyd Sant.

Following a very difficult year, our pupils are now enjoying the training, opportunities and more importantly the fun you are providing for them. The ambitious and exciting girls' football project that began recently is thriving due to the fact that you are offering all ages the opportunity to take part in sport. Almost every girl from our Yr. 4 cohort has attended. The smiles and the enthusiastic way our pupils talk about their football experiences with your club has clearly had a positive impact on their wellbeing and mental health.

Along with all our Cluster schools within the Llydi valley, we are excited to support you with the redevelopment of the playing area in order to further extend the activities and opportunities for the young people of Maesteg.

We all share the same aim. We want our young people to develop and continue to have:

- fantastic experiences,
- develop relationships with peers
- leadership skills
- sense of achievement
- skill development
- working as a team
- socialising within a safe environment

I believe in the months and years to come, it is imperative that we all work closely together for the benefit of our wider community in Maesteg.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance in the future.

Cofion gorau,

Sarah G. D. Richards

Pennaeth / Headteacher



This document has been prepared with support from the Bridgend C.B.C. C.A.T. project & The Coalfields Regeneration Trust.



This page is intentionally left blank

Llangynwyd Rangers Boys & Girls Club
Registered Charity: 1191676

5 Year Financial Plan: Pre / Post Community Asset Transfer

Dec-22



Detailed Financial Projections: Llangynwyd Rangers Boys & Girls Club								
	Pre CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT	Notes	all costs inc VAT
Income £:	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6		
<i>Football Income (Subscriptions):</i>	27,967						New Pitchero system:	
<i>Minis</i>	-	15,120	15,876	16,670	17,503	18,378	Apr 23 Est: 105 players @ £12 month	5% growth
<i>Juniors</i>	-	15,792	16,582	17,411	18,281	19,195	Apr 23 Est: 94 players @ £14 month	5% growth
<i>Girls</i>	-	7,776	8,554	9,409	10,350	11,385	Apr 23 Est: 54 players @ £12 month	10% growth
		27,967						
<i>Pitch Rental Income:</i>								
<i>Pitch Hire (2nd Pitch)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	In-kind as other club contributing to maintenance	
<i>Floodlights</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	
<i>Pavilion Income:</i>								
<i>Onsite Refreshments / Cabin</i>	-	1,500	1,575	1,654	1,736	1,823	5% increase p.a.	
<i>Changing Room Facilities</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Other Income:</i>								
<i>Donations (Gift Aid), Interest & Fun Days</i>	292	3,000	3,750	4,688	5,859	7,324	25% increase p.a.	inc. gift aid
<i>Seniors Lucky Fours</i>	7,137	7,494	7,869	7,869	8,262	8,262	5% increase p.a.	
<i>Sponsorship / Advertising Boards</i>	3,956	4,154	4,361	4,580	4,809	5,049	5% increase p.a.	
<i>Revenue Grants:</i>	13,287	-	-	-	-	-	i.e. coach education, equipment	
		24,672						
Total Income	52,639	54,836	58,566	62,279	66,801	71,417		
Expenditure:								
<i>People Costs:</i>								
<i>Salary Costs</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<i>Staff & Volunteer Training</i>	2,114	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	inc. coach ed.	
<i>Fundraising Costs</i>	1,569	2,504	2,839	3,243	3,734	4,331	65% profit - Fun Days etc.	inc. int tickets
<i>Lucky Fours Winners</i>	3,569	3,747	3,934	3,934	4,131	4,131	50% of income	
<i>Audit / Professional Fees</i>	5,731	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250		
		12,983						
<i>Pavilion Costs:</i>								
<i>Stock / Supplies / Cleaning</i>	2,773	3,420	3,659	3,916	4,190	4,483	inc. cabin stock; 7% increase p.a.	
<i>Electricity</i>	-	7,196	7,700	8,239	8,815	9,432	double: 2016 BCBC annual figures	
<i>Water</i>	-	555	594	635	680	727	triple: 2016 BCBC annual figures	
<i>Gas</i>	-	1,592	1,703	1,823	1,950	2,087	figure n/a - estimate	
<i>Rates</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	no rates anticipated	
<i>Annual fixed costs</i>	-	593	635	679	726	777	at 50% quoted cost of BCBC 7% increase p.a.	
<i>Waste / Pest / Other</i>	-	670	717	767	821	878	7% increase p.a.	
<i>One off repairs</i>	-	934	999	1,069	1,144	1,224	post refurb - at 30% quoted cost of BCBC (2016 estimate)	
<i>Insurance / Licences</i>	-	2,750	2,888	3,032	3,183	3,343	PL; Contents & Buildings; 5% increase p.a.	
		2,773						
<i>Football Costs:</i>								
<i>Ref Fees / Fines / COMET</i>	1,585	2,321	2,461	2,609	2,768	2,938	6% of subscriptions	
<i>Presentation & Trophies</i>	4,964	3,482	3,691	3,914	4,152	4,406	9% of subs	
<i>Ground & Training Fees (external to Llan)</i>	7,020	1,755	1,878	2,009	2,150	2,300	Reduced by 3/4	
<i>Equipment & Kit</i>	10,947	6,964	7,382	7,828	8,304	8,813	18% subs	
<i>BCBC Hire Costs</i>	4,800	-	-	-	-	-	End post CAT	
<i>Players Insurance & Affiliation Fees</i>	660	1,934	2,051	2,174	2,307	2,448	5% subs	
<i>Transport & Laundry</i>	1,545	1,548	1,640	1,740	1,845	1,958	4% subs	
		31,521						
<i>Pitch Revenue Costs:</i>								
<i>Regular Maintenance (Pitch 1)</i>	-	4,000	4,200	4,410	4,631	4,862	Volunteer driven: at 50% quoted cost of external contractor	
<i>Regular Maintenance (Pitch 2)</i>	-	3,000	3,150	3,308	3,473	3,647	Volunteer driven: at 50% quoted cost of external contractor	
Total Expenditure	47,277	54,409	57,718	61,092	64,942	66,035		
Surplus (Deficit)	5,363	427	848	1,187	1,858	5,382		
Balances b/f	59,193	59,619	60,467	61,654	63,513	68,894		

*cash in bank opening: £53,830

Detailed Financial Projections: Llangynwyd Rangers Boys & Girls Club

	Pitch 1 (Main)		Mini Pitches		Floodlights n/a	Changing Rooms	
	Whole	Half	Whole	Half			
Llan Rangers FC Seniors (1st & 2nd)	0	0	0	0	n/a	£30 game	
Llan Rangers FC Mini & Juniors	0	0	0	0	n/a	£30 game	
Other Users - Schools	0	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	£30 game	
Other Users - Other Football Clubs	90	n/a	55	n/a	n/a	£30 game	
Pitch Hire							
Llan Rangers Senior Team home games (1st)	18	games at	£0	per game totalling	£0	Main Pitch	Inc. friendlies & training
Llan Rangers Team home games (2nds)	18	games at	£0	per game totalling	£0	Main Pitch	Inc. friendlies & training
Llan Rangers Mini & Juniors	180	games at	£0	per game totalling	£0	Main Pitch / Mini Pitch	Inc. festivals & training
Llan Rangers 'Huddle'	26	sessions per year	£0	per game totalling	£0	Mini Pitches	2 hours per week
Other Users - Schools	30	games at	£0	per game totalling	£0	Mini Pitches	Inc. friendlies & training
Other Users - Other Football Clubs	0	games at	£0	per game totalling	£0	Mini Pitches	Inc. friendlies & training
	272				£0		

Seasonality

	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Football related seasonality	3%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	5%	3%

Revenue Forecasts

	Apr	Jan	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan
Year 1	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0

Customer Type - Year 1 (home team only)

	Weekly Usage (hr)	Av no users	No. Weeks	Total User Hours
Llan Rangers Senior Team home games (1st)	4	15	18	1,080
Llan Rangers Team home games (2nds)	4	14	18	1,008
Llan Rangers Mini & Juniors	12	75	30	27,000
Llan Rangers 'Huddle'	2	18	26	936
Other Users - Schools	4	30	18	2160
Other Users - Other Football Clubs	0	30	14	0
Totals	26	182	124	32,184

Llangynwyd Rangers Boys & Girls Club

Income and Expenditure Projections: Summary

	Pre CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT
Income £:	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Football Income:	27,967	38,688	41,011	43,489	46,134	48,959
Pitch Rental Income:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pavilion Income:	-	1,500	1,575	1,654	1,736	1,823
Other Income (Revenue):	24,672	14,648	15,980	17,136	18,930	20,635
Total Income:	52,639	54,836	58,566	62,279	66,801	71,417
Expenditure £:						
People Costs:	12,983	9,501	10,023	10,428	11,115	11,712
Pavilion Costs:	2,773	17,710	18,895	20,160	21,510	22,952
Football Costs:	31,521	20,198	21,450	22,787	24,214	22,863
Pitch Revenue Costs:	-	7,000	7,350	7,718	8,103	8,509
Total Expenditure:	47,277	54,409	57,718	61,092	64,942	66,035
Surplus (Deficit)	5,363	427	848	1,187	1,858	5,382
Balance	59,193	59,619	60,467	61,654	63,513	68,894

*cash in bank opening: £53,830

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

17 JANUARY 2023

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

BUDGET MONITORING 2022-23 – 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 at 31 December 2022.

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 23 February 2022, Council approved a net revenue budget of £319.510 million for 2022-23 based on the provisional local government settlement received from Welsh Government (WG) on 21 December 2021. The Welsh Government announced its final settlement on 1 March 2022 and, as a result of a technical adjustment, there was an increase in the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) for the Council of £4,336, increasing the net revenue budget for 2022-23 to £319.514 million. 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 31 December 2022

4.1.1 The Council's net revenue budget and projected year end spend for 2022-23 is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1- Comparison of budget against projected year end spend at 31 December 2022

Directorate/Budget Area	Original Budget 2022-23 £'000	Revised Budget 2022-23 £'000	Projected Year end spend Q3 2022-23 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend 2022-23 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend Qtr 2 2022-23 £'000
Directorate					
Education and Family Support	131,430	138,068	138,863	795	(217)
Social Services and Wellbeing	78,434	85,076	94,497	9,421	7,499
Communities	28,995	31,013	30,680	(333)	(526)
Chief Executive's	21,895	23,498	22,326	(1,172)	(658)
Total Directorate Budgets	260,754	277,655	286,366	8,711	6,098
Council Wide Budgets					
Capital Financing	7,329	7,203	6,481	(722)	(438)
Levies	8,177	8,210	8,226	16	0
Apprenticeship Levy	650	650	650	0	0
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	16,054	16,054	14,885	(1,169)	(900)
Insurance Premiums	1,363	1,363	1,236	(127)	(138)
Repairs & Maintenance	670	670	470	(200)	(200)
Pension Related Costs	430	430	430	0	0
Other Corporate Budgets	24,087	7,279	1,501	(5,778)	(989)
Total Council Wide Budgets	58,760	41,859	33,879	(7,980)	(2,665)
Total	319,514	319,514	320,245	731	3,433

4.1.2 The overall projected position at 31 December 2022 is a net over spend of £731,000 comprising £8.711 million net over spend on directorates and a net under spend of £7.980 million on Council wide budgets. As the projected position is currently an overall over spend position, there have been no appropriations to earmarked reserves. A detailed analysis of the more significant projected under and over spends is set out in section 4.3.

4.1.3 It is still too early in the financial year to provide a realistic indication of projected council tax for this financial year, and whether the Council is likely to see a reduction in council tax income over the 2022-23 financial year as more people are facing financial hardship as a result of the current cost of living crisis. A 1% reduction in the council tax income collection rate could result in an additional pressure to the Council of around £1 million. Council tax collection rates will continue to be monitored throughout the remainder of the financial year and reported in the outturn report.

Covid-19

- 4.1.4 Following the UK going into lockdown in March 2020, to limit the spread of coronavirus, the Welsh Government established a Covid-19 Hardship Fund to enable the Council to draw on for financial support. Some additional funding has been made available to support the Council in 2022-23, including for homelessness (£1.479 million) and to cover free school meals during holiday periods. With the WG Hardship Fund ending on 31 March 2022, a budget pressure of £1 million was approved by Council for 2022-23 as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to meet ongoing budget pressures, both in respect of additional cost pressures and ongoing loss of income. Updates have been provided to Cabinet through the quarterly revenue budget monitoring reports throughout 2022-23 on this budget.
- 4.1.5 Cabinet and Corporate Management Board (CCMB) agreed to establish a one-off £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 through the Hardship Fund. The balance on this fund has been carried into 2022-23 and CCMB have approved the use of this fund to support the free car parking offer for town centres to the end of 2022-23.
- 4.1.6 Whilst the WG Hardship Fund ended on 31 March 2022, local authorities continued to administer four schemes on behalf of WG – self isolation payments (scheme ended June 2022), statutory sick pay enhancement scheme (scheme ended August 2022), free school meal payments (scheme due to end February half term 2023) and the winter fuel support scheme. Table 2 summarises the amounts claimed to date in 2022-23. The £228,000 reflects claims that are pending review by WG with no issues anticipated in the settlement of these claims.

Table 2 – Covid related claims to Welsh Government - Quarter 3 2022-23

Specific Hardship fund	Claimed £'000	Pending review £'000
Self Isolation Payments (SIP)	635	0
Statutory Sick Pay Enhancements (SSP)	119	0
Free School Meals	1,346	55
Winter Fuel	2,944	173
TOTAL	5,044	228

Budget virements/technical adjustments

4.1.7 There have been a large number of budget virements and technical adjustments between budgets since the quarter 2 revenue forecast was presented to Cabinet in October. The main virements and technical adjustments in quarter 3 are outlined below:

Budget Virements

Service vired from / to	Amount
Transfer of funding from Capital Financing budget to Communities Directorate to cover the cost of prudential borrowing for highways maintenance schemes	£88,706

Technical Adjustments

Service vired from / to	Amount
Transfer of inflationary uplifts not confirmed when the Medium Term Financial Strategy was agreed that are held centrally until evidence of the uplift is provided by the service areas	£648,111
Allocation of funding retained centrally in respect of National Joint Council (NJC) pay award 2022-23 – confirmed in November	£7,615,710
Allocation of funding retained centrally in respect of Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) pay award for Chief Officers – confirmed in November	£53,330
Allocation of funding retained centrally in respect of teachers' pay award 2022-23 (covering September 2022 to March 2023), net of additional grant received from WG	£2,313,640
Transfer of National Insurance uplift budget from Directorate and School budgets back to central pay budgets. This covers the period November to March 2023 following the reversal of the Health and Social Care Levy.	£463,672

Pay/Price Inflation

4.1.8 When the budget for 2022-23 was set, very little funding was allocated to directorates for pay and price inflation, as most had not been determined for the forthcoming year. The majority of the 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 outlines the amount released from these budgets during the last quarter, based upon confirmed pay awards and evidenced inflationary uplifts.

4.1.9 Inflationary pressures released in quarter 3 reflect the agreement on pay claims for Teachers' pay, National Joint Council and Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers.

4.1.10 In addition, in recent months the Council has experienced additional costs not only as a result of the pandemic, but also rising costs resulting from Brexit, the impact of the war in the Ukraine, and increases in inflation not seen for over a decade.

4.1.11 There is a risk that there may not be sufficient funding available within these budgets for any further unexpected major price inflation increases. Inflation rates have also fluctuated since the budget was set - CPI was 6.2% in February 2022 and had increased to 10.7% in November 2022. In comparison it was 5.1% in November 2021. With these uncertainties the budget will need to be monitored closely during the remainder of the year and going into 2023-24.

Budget Reduction Proposals

4.1.12 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 £631,000. 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.

4.1.13 In February 2022 Council approved the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2022-23 to 2025-26. This identified 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.

4.1.14 At year end consideration will be given to requests from directors to carry forward any planned directorate under spends for specific purposes 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 2022-23. 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 2023-24 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 year end 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 14 June 2022 on the Revenue Budget Outturn 2021-22. In the report it was highlighted that, for 2017-18 to 2020-21, there were £2.376 million of budget reduction proposals that were not met in full, with a total outstanding balance to be met of £100,000. In addition, of the 2021-22 budget reduction proposals of £1.760 million, it was reported that there was a total outstanding balance to be met of £65,000. Directors have been 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. All remaining outstanding prior year budget reductions are summarised in **Appendix 1** with a summary per directorate provided in Table 3.

Table 3 – Outstanding Prior Year Budget Reductions

	Total Budget Reductions Required	Total Budget Reductions Likely to be Achieved	Shortfall
DIRECTORATE /BUDGET REDUCTION AREA	£'000	£'000	£'000
Communities	179	119	60

Note: The total budget reductions required in Table 3 represents the original budget reduction target of £179,000 - £14,000 of the proposal was achieved in 2021-22 leaving £165,000 to be achieved in 2022-23.

- 4.2.2 Table 3 shows that of the £179,000 outstanding reductions, £119,000 is likely to be achieved in 2022-23 leaving a shortfall of £60,000. The proposal still not likely to be achieved is COM 2 – Re-location of community recycling centre from Tythegston to Pyle. The new site in Pyle is anticipated to open in 2022-23, with both sites being maintained until the new site is fully operational, therefore the saving will not be achieved in full until 2023-24. The saving will therefore have to be met through alternative one-off efficiencies in 2022-23 in order to deliver a balanced budget position.
- 4.2.3 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 will consider applications from Directorates to the MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve to mitigate some of the shortfalls.

Budget Reductions 2022-23

- 4.2.4 The budget approved for 2022-23 included budget reduction proposals totalling £631,000, which is broken down in **Appendix 2** and summarised in Table 4 below. The current position is that £455,000 has been achieved to date, with an overall projected shortfall on the savings target by year end of £176,000, or 27.9% of the overall reduction target.

Table 4 – Monitoring of Budget Reductions 2022-23

	Total Budget Reductions Required	Total Budget Reductions Achieved to date	Total Budget Reductions Likely to be Achieved	Shortfall
DIRECTORATE /BUDGET REDUCTION AREA	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education and Family Support	68	68	68	0
Social Services and Wellbeing	365	284	284	81
Communities	150	45	55	95
Chief Executive's	48	48	48	0
TOTAL	631	445	455	176

4.2.5 The most significant budget reduction proposals unlikely to be achieved in full are:-

- SSWB 2 – remodelling of day service provision for older people and learning disability services (£81,000 shortfall). Efficiencies have been identified, however work is ongoing to further develop the remodelling to meet the savings target in full.
- COM 3 – change the composition of household food waste bags (£35,000 shortfall). Budget reduction proposal has been delayed due to ongoing national research and debate surrounding composition of household food waste bags, to ensure any potential changes in legislation do not impact on the proposal.
- COM5 – commercially let a wing of Ravens Court to a partner organisation or business (£50,000 shortfall) – delay in progressing budget reduction proposal whilst the future service delivery model is being developed.

4.2.6 At quarter 2 it was reported that EFS 1 – rationalisation of adult community learning (ACL) service (£68,000) was unlikely to be achieved as Welsh Government have changed the terms and conditions of the grant for this service area which has impacted on the core budget and deliverability of the proposal. A review of the budgets within the Education and Family Support Directorate took place during quarter 3 with replacement savings identified from supplies and services budgets.

4.2.7 **Appendix 2** identifies the value of the savings target that has been achieved to 31 December 2022, along with the projected amount of saving likely to be achieved against these proposals by year end 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 year end spend.

4.2.8 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.

4.3 Commentary on the financial position at 31st December 2022

Financial position at 31st December 2022

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 Education and Family Support Directorate, including school delegated budgets, for 2022-23 is £138.068 million. Current projections indicate an over spend of £795,000 at year end. The main variances are:

EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Projected Year end spend	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Adult Community Learning	125	168	43	34.4%
Family Support	3,074	2,758	(316)	-10.3%
Home-to-school transport	8,192	9,389	1,196	14.61%
Catering Services	1,494	1,578	84	5.6%
Corporate health and safety	403	326	(77)	-19.1%

Schools' delegated budgets

Total funding delegated to schools in 2022-23 is £110.420 million.

The schools' delegated budget is reported as balanced as any under spend 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 2022-23, projections indicated an overall surplus balance for school delegated budgets of £3.473 million at year end. At quarter 2 this reduced slightly to a £3.123 million projected surplus. At quarter 3 this has reduced to a projected surplus of £2.92 million. There are 7 primary schools and 1 secondary school (14% of all schools) projecting a deficit balance at year end.

Central Education and Family Support Directorate budgets

Adult Community Learning

- The adult community learning budget had a £68,000 MTFS budget reduction proposal for 2022-23 which related to the removal of the council subsidised support to adult learners. Subsequent to this proposal, Welsh Government changed the terms and conditions of the grant for this service area which has impacted on the core budget and deliverability of this proposal. The Education and Family Support Directorate has identified alternative budget reduction proposals to replace this saving through a review of supplies and services budgets across the directorate, therefore reducing the projected over spend to £43,000 at quarter 3.

Family Support

- The projected under spend of £316,000 primarily relates to staff vacancy management and maximisation of grant funding. The service area are actively looking to recruit to the vacant posts in 2022-23, therefore the saving should not be recurring in 2023-24.

Home-to-school transport (HtST)

- A MTFFS budget pressure of £2.472 million was approved by Council in February 2022 to support the increased costs of HtST reported in 2021-22. These included the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for pupils with additional learning needs attending our special schools requiring dedicated transport as bespoke packages of support. There have also been significant increased costs associated with the transportation of the current cohort of nursery pupils in dedicated minibuses and taxis. Several retendering exercises on home-to-school transport contracts have been required over the last year for vehicles of all types in line with contracts naturally ending and to ensure the local authority follows both procurement and Contract Procedure Rules. Market conditions are not favourable, and these procurement exercises have resulted in generally higher costs across many contracts in line with difficulties associated with the aftermath of the pandemic, namely the shortage of drivers and escorts and increased fuel costs internationally. These costs could not have been predicted at the time of the original budget pressure growth bid in February 2022 and will be highlighted as part of the MTFFS 2023-24 budget setting process.
- The HtST budget is currently projecting a £1.38m overspend primarily as a result of these retendering exercises with the increases linked to market conditions.
- The HtST budget will require close monitoring for the remainder of 2022-23 given the pressures continuing to be faced by the local authority.

Catering Services

- The projected over spend of £84,000 in catering services is comparable with the £88,000 reported at quarter 2 but had reduced from the projected over spend at quarter 1 of £154,000. This is due to support provided from the central price inflation budget towards the increase in the cost of food during quarter 2. This budget area will continue to be closely monitored in 2022-23 with the potential for further support from the central price inflation budget if inflationary pressures continue in this service area.

Corporate Health and Safety Unit

- The projected under spend of £77,000 within the corporate health and safety unit primarily relates to staff vacancy management. The service area are actively looking to recruit to the vacant posts therefore this saving should not be recurring in 2023-24.

4.3.2 Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate

The Directorate's net budget for 2022-23 is £85.076 million. Current projections indicate an over spend of £9.421 million at year end. This is a significant shift compared to the 2021-22 outturn position of a £5.931 million under spend and has increased since the projected over spend of £7.499 million reported at quarter 2.

The first reason for this is the significant grant income received in 2021-22, including one-off grants such as the Social Care Recovery Fund (£2.916 million), Social Care Pressures Grant (£2.221 million), and recurring grants such as the Social Care Workforce Grant (£2.221 million). Without these grants, the outturn position would have been an over spend of £1.427 million.

The second contributory factor is the exponential increase in need for children's social care as evidenced through increasing contacts, increasing numbers of assessments and high numbers of children on the child protection. To keep the children safe and for the Council to meet statutory duties in respect of safeguarding children, there has been significant engagement of agency workforce over the budgeted establishment– in particular this has placed pressure in Assessment and Care Management, Fostering, the Care Experienced Children's Team and the Children's Social Work Team in children's social care. A business case is being developed to inform the level of workforce required to sustainably deliver safe services.

In addition to an increasing quantum of need, there is also increasing complexity of need in adults and children's services with service over spends for key population groups, particularly care experienced children with more requiring residential placements, learning disability services with significant overspends in commissioned supported living and day opportunities, and equipment and direct payment budgets. Some increased complexity can be attributed to the impact of extended covid lockdowns on physical and mental health, but they also reflect cost pressures experienced by providers.

The main variances are :

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Projected year end spend	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Adult Social Care	57,773	62,195	4,422	7.7%
Prevention and Wellbeing	5,704	5,580	(124)	-2.2%
Childrens Social Care	21,599	26,722	5,123	23.7%

Adult Social Care

There is a projected net over spend of £4.422 million on the Adult Social Care budget. The most significant variances contributing to this projected over spend are:-

ADULT SOCIAL CARE	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000
Learning Disabilities Home Care	2,216
Learning Disabilities Residential Care	584
Learning Disabilities Day Opportunities	478
Equipment & Adaptions	419
Mental Health Home Care	360
Learning Disabilities Direct Payments	340
Older People Home Care	216
Older People Residential Care	132
Assessment and Care Management	60
Mental Health Supported Accommodation	(245)
Administrative and Central Services	(192)

The most significant projected over spends are:-

- Learning Disabilities Home Care – the projected over spend of £2.216 million has increased by £668,000 since quarter 2 with the service seeing unprecedented demand. Firstly, the number of hours of care covered by home care services has increased as people have either opted to not return, or are having a reduced service, within internal day services provision following a review of their assessed need. Secondly, there has been an increase in the complexity of people's needs – e.g. waking nights required rather than sleep-in nights which increases the cost of service delivery considerably. Thirdly, the service is experiencing an increase in agency costs in internal homecare due to difficulty in recruiting.
- Learning Disabilities Residential and Respite Care – there is a projected over spend of £584,000, increasing from the over spend of £265,000 projected at quarter 2. This is primarily due to an increase in costs for 6 existing placements within the residential and nursing service due to changing needs. In addition, the Breakaway Respite service have successfully recruited to vacant posts, and have appointed additional agency staff, increasing the projected over spend in this service area by £102,000.
- Learning Disabilities Day Opportunities – the projected over spend of £478,000 mainly relates to placement numbers exceeding the available budget for externally commissioned day services (£409,000). Placement numbers are similar to those in 2021-22, however the pressure was offset in the prior year by one-off grant income of £302,000. Secondly, whilst the learning disabilities home care budget is projecting an over spend, as people have not returned to internal day services, new people are taking up the vacant day services placements. Finally, whilst efficiencies have been identified in relation to the £115,000 MTFs saving relating to re-modelling of Day Services, work is ongoing to further develop the remodelling to meet the savings target and therefore it will not be met in full in 2022-23 as reported in section 4.2.5.

- Equipment & Adaptions – the projected over spend of £419,000 is because of continuing demand for equipment due to the need to support individuals in line with Welsh Government’s rehabilitation and recovery model. The outturn for 2021-22 saw an underlying pressure in this service area of £401,000. This is an ongoing pressure, and one which will continue into 2023-24.
- Mental Health Home Care – this includes supported living, short breaks and domiciliary care. The projected over spend of £360,000 is mainly due to supported living packages of care exceeding the available budget based on needs of people using the service. There are currently 35 placements and, whilst supported living packages of care have decreased slightly since the 40 reported in 2021-22, the Social Care Pressures Grant funding was utilised to offset a considerable element of the prior year over spend of £454,000.
- Learning Disabilities Direct Payments – there is a projected over spend of £340,000 as the service area has seen a shift to people choosing to opt for direct payments in line with the legal requirement for choice. This shift does not necessarily result in under spends in other service area budgets as there is currently significant demand for social services support across the directorate.
- Older People Home Care – the projected over spend of £216,000 has increased by £180,000 since quarter 2. This is primarily due to increases in Independent Domiciliary Care/Short breaks placements, with an additional 60 packages of care since quarter 2. In addition, there are a significant number of people waiting for packages of care and if hours become available then the projected over spend will become greater by year end.
- Older People Residential Care – the projected over spend of £132,000 has improved by £294,000 from the quarter 2 projected over spend of £426,000. This is mainly due to a reduction in projected staffing costs of £190,000 due to difficulties in recruiting and an increase in projected client contributions of £186,000. All contributions are financially assessed in accordance with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 but the average income received each year will vary in total depending on the financial position of the persons needing care during the financial year – e.g. if there are a small number of people who have savings or assets, and are paying their contribution in full or have a high contribution then this will increase the overall average
- Assessment and Care Management – there is a projected over spend of £60,000 which is primarily due to the increased costs of having to rely on agency staffing in the Community Network teams. Various recruitment activities and initiatives have been actioned in order to fill vacant posts, but appointments have been affected by the acute lack of availability of staff and increasing demands across the Care sector.

These are partially offset by the projected under spends in the following areas:-

- Mental Health Supported Accommodation – the projected £245,000 under spend primarily relates to maximisation of Innovation grant funding.
- Administrative & Central Services – there is a projected under spend of £192,000 which is primarily due to staffing vacancies as the service is currently going through a restructure. The structure is anticipated to have been populated by the final quarter of 2022-23.

Prevention and Wellbeing

- The projected under spend of £124,000 is primarily due to the maximisation of grant funding opportunities (Transformation, Summer of Fun, Local Authority Partnership Agreement, Disability Sports) The projection does not include an estimate for any contribution to the Council's leisure provider for any residual impact of running the leisure services in 2022-23 due to Covid-19. Close monitoring of the impact of Covid-19 on leisure services has been required and an update will be provided to Cabinet in the outturn report.

Children's Social Care

There is projected net over spend of £5.123 million on the Childrens Social Care budget compared with a projected net over spend of £4.296 million at quarter 2. The most significant variances contributing to this projected over spend are:-

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000
Care Experienced Children	2,307
Commissioning & Social Work	2,491
Management & Administration	302

- The projected over spend of £2.307 million for care experienced children is due to a combination of factors:-
 - Children's Residential Services are projecting an over spend of £380,000 mainly due to one-off increases in running costs (£67,000) and additional agency costs of £30,000 as a result of the challenging recruitment market.
 - The independent residential care budget (previously known as out of county) has a projected over spend of £1.633 million, an increase of £716,000 since quarter 2. There are currently 22 children in independent residential care placements, an increase of 6 from the 16 placements reported at quarter 2. This is due to a number of factors, including placement breakdowns, insufficient foster carers (in-house and independent) and children requiring specialist provision sometimes with high staffing ratios. The average weekly costs for these new placements equates to £4,350. It should be noted that this budget area can be volatile and small changes in demand/complexity can result in relatively high costs being incurred. The budget is being closely monitored to ensure that the projected spend is effectively managed.
 - There is a projected under spend on independent fostering agency placements (£241,000) and fostering placements (£205,000). This is due to alternative placement options being utilised, including in-house residential provision (£380,000 as noted above) and special guardianship orders, which are projecting an over spend of £285,000. These budgets will continue to be monitored closely in 2022-23 and budgets vired as appropriate.
 - The fostering team (who manage all the Fostering placements) are projecting an over spend of £160,000, which has reduced considerably from the quarter 2 projected over spend of £371,000. This is due to reduced use of agency staffing as

- management are actively trying to recruit permanent staff where possible, however this is proving to be a considerable challenge given the current recruitment market.
- The placements team are projecting an over spend of £120,000 primarily as they are having to rely on agency staff. However, this has again reduced from the quarter 2 projections by £98,000 due to reduced use of agency staff. Various recruitment activities and initiatives have been actioned in order to fill vacant posts, but appointments have been affected by the acute lack of availability of staff and increasing demands across the care sector.
 - Commissioning & Social Work – the projected over spend of £2.491 million is mainly due to having to continue to rely on agency staffing across all the children’s social work teams due to the ongoing recruitment challenges, acute lack of availability of staff and increasing demands across the care sector. The projections reflect the ongoing permanent staff recruitment issues and reliance on agency staff for the foreseeable future. Agency staff are being utilised where possible to limit the impact on service delivery and ensure that statutory duties are met.
 - Management & Administration – the projected over spend of £302,000 relates primarily to an increase in staffing costs (mostly agency staff - £285,000) who are supporting key roles in Children’s Services. There has been a significant increase in children and young people referred for care and support and/or due to safeguarding concerns. In addition to the impact this has on the social work teams being required to discharge their statutory duties, there is also the impact on business support due to the pivotal role they play in ensuring statutory timescales and recording requirements are met.

4.3.3 Communities Directorate

The net budget for the Directorate for 2022-23 is £31.013 million. The current projection is an anticipated under spend of £333,000. The main variances are:

COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Projected year end spend	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Planning and Development	691	1,013	322	46.6%
Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability	1,665	1,432	(233)	-14.0%
Waste Disposal & Collection	9,836	9,650	(186)	-1.9%
Fleet Services	177	392	215	121.5%
Highways Services (DSO)	3,245	2,945	(300)	-9.2%
Street Lighting	1,527	1,632	105	6.9%
Engineering Services	101	(49)	(150)	-148.5%

Planning and Development

- The projected over spend in planning and development of £322,000 is primarily due to a forecast downturn in planning application income based on income to date and comparison with the 2021-22 outturn. Fee income is subject to considerable fluctuations between years, depending on number of types of applications and will require close monitoring for the remainder of the 2022-23 financial year.

Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability

- The projected under spend of £233,000 is due to a combination of maximising grant funding and staff vacancy management. The decarbonisation, energy management and sustainability teams in particular are experiencing difficulties in recruiting. The service area are actively seeking to recruit to these vacancies therefore it is not a recurring saving.

Waste Disposal and Collection

- There is a projected under spend of £186,000 on the waste disposal and collection budget. This is primarily due to a reduction in the disposal fee of residual waste at the Material Recovery and Energy Centre (MREC) and a slight reduction in the tonnage figures since April, as people started to shift away from home-working. Close monitoring of this budget will continue in 2022-23 to see if the downward trend continues.

Fleet Services

- There is a projected over spend on Fleet services of £215,000. The fleet services team operate on a break-even basis with re-charges for work undertaken on directorate, South Wales Police (SWP) and the general public's vehicles generating income to support staffing and overhead costs. Productivity continues to be impacted by long term sickness as well as recruitment and retention difficulties. A review of the service is currently being undertaken which is looking at the productivity and maximising the provision provided by SWP and the Council and to review any overlap provided, to maximise productivity, and to identify any possible efficiencies.

Highways Services

- There is a projected under spend within highways services of £300,000 which is due primarily to staff vacancy management (£265,000) as a result of recruitment difficulties. The following teams in particular are experiencing difficulties in recruiting – hazzarding (£85,000), construction (£152,000) and stores (£28,000). The balance of the projected under spend is due to core funded staff being utilised to support work on capital schemes – e.g. replacement of street lighting works (£40,000). In these cases, the salary costs can be capitalised, thus generating one-off income for the service area.

Street Lighting

- At quarter 1 a £225,000 projected under spend was reported against the street lighting energy budget as a result of savings generated by the LED replacement programme due to reduced energy consumption. This had reduced to a projected under spend of £29,000 at quarter 2 as £100,000 of the saving generated from the energy savings has been utilised to replace the historic MTFs Permitting Scheme saving proposal. At quarter 3 a £105,000 over spend is projected due to additional essential street lighting maintenance works being undertaken.

Engineering Services

- There is a projected under spend on engineering services of £150,000. This 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.

4.3.4 Chief Executive's

The net budget for the Directorate for 2022-23 is £23.498 million. Current projections anticipate an under spend against this budget of £1.172 million. The main variances are:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	Net Budget	Projected year end spend	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Legal, Democratic & Regulatory	5,495	5,572	77	1.4%
ICT	4,052	4,162	110	2.7%
Housing & Homelessness	3,431	2,153	(1,278)	-37.2%
Partnerships	2,256	2,157	(99)	-4.4%

Legal, Democratic & Regulatory

- There is a projected over spend of £77,000 across Legal, Democratic and Regulatory services. This is primarily due to challenges in recruiting to permanent vacancies in key qualified roles and the increased costs of having to rely on agency staffing. This has been partially offset by Registration services seeing an increase in both the number of registered births and deaths in 2022-23 with a projected increase in income of £77,000.
- Legal fees continue to be a budget pressure as reported in the previous budget monitoring reports. The current projected over spend for legal fees for 2022-23 is £240,000 however this is supported by an earmarked reserve created at the end of 2021-22 to cover the continuing pressure in this service area.

ICT

- There is a projected net over spend of £110,000 across ICT budgets. As highlighted in 2021-22, due to reduced printing activity ICT have been unable to cover the fixed costs of printers and photocopiers through the re-charge to service departments. Consequently, reduced spend will have been incurred on printing budgets across the service departments and included in the projections for individual service areas. The projected over spend has improved since the £225,000 reported at quarter 2 as the implementation of the future service delivery model has seen additional staff return to office based working. This improvement will continue to be monitored as to whether any future budget virements will need to be actioned in 2023-24.

Housing & Homelessness

- There is a projected under spend of £1.278m on Housing & Homelessness.
- Budget growth of £2.192 million was approved by Council as part of the MTFB 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 through 2021-22.
- Despite the Hardship fund not being in place for 2022-23, WG recognised the need for homelessness accommodation to be secured in advance to continue the commitment to focus on support for homeless individuals and approved

£1.479 million to cover these costs for the first six months of 2022-23. In addition, the accommodation element of the Hardship Fund was replaced in 2022-23 by a WG 'Homelessness – No One Left Out' grant of £1.046 million.

- Spend on Homelessness accommodation in 2022-23 is projected to be in the region of £3.433 million. This has reduced from the £3.703 million reported at quarter 2. As reported to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 October, temporary accommodation arrangements were due to terminate on 30 September 2022 and providers were contacted to enter into further Service Level Agreements to continue to meet the Council's ongoing statutory duty. As part of this exercise, the Council's partner organisations, such as the Wallich, Pobl and Registered Social Landlords supported the service to free up spaces within current projects and some households made their own arrangements with family and friends.
- The projected accommodation costs are offset against the combined WG funding of £2.525 million referred to above. The shortfall of £908,000 is covered by the budget growth of £2.192 million, and the under spend against the core budget has enabled the service to fund a revenue contribution to capital of £530,000 for a refurbishment programme working with Valleys to Coast (V2C). V2C have confirmed that the properties will be available to the Council for nomination rights and to support those individuals and families in temporary accommodation. This capital budget was approved by Council on 20 July 2022.
- The projected accommodation spend is based on increased numbers of households and individuals supported, from 191 households and 322 individuals (109 of these children) in November 2021 to 233 households and 432 individuals (154 of these children) in November 2022. The remaining projected under spend from the budget growth of £754,000 will be closely monitored in line with any further changes in support required for homelessness accommodation.
- Other accommodation income is projected to exceed budget by £383,000 which is mainly due to additional housing benefit received from clients in homelessness accommodation, and small increases in deposits, hire charges and other fees.

Partnerships

- This service areas includes Transformation, Partnerships and Customer Services & Engagement. The projected under spend of £99,000 is primarily due to staff vacancies in the Customer Care section. Various recruitment activities have been actioned in order to fill vacant posts, but the recruitment market remains challenging.

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 net budget for 2022-23 is £41.859 million. Current projections anticipate an under spend against this budget of £7.980 million. The main variances are:-

COUNCIL WIDE BUDGETS	Net Budget	Projected year end spend	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Capital Financing Costs	7,203	6,481	(722)	-10.0%
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	16,054	14,885	(1,169)	-7.3%
Other Corporate Budgets	7,279	1,501	(5,778)	-79.4%

Capital Financing Costs

- The projected under spend of £722,000 mainly relates to interest paid and received due to a combination of lower borrowing than anticipated as the Council uses its own internal resources to finance schemes, and additional interest from current investments. The projection has improved by £284,000 since quarter 2 due to the improved interest rates achieved on the Council's current investments. This projection might further improve as the Bank of England increased bank rates up to 3.5% in December, the highest it has been since 2008.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

- There is a projected under spend of £1.169 million on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. This is a demand led budget and take-up is difficult to predict with an increase of £400,000 included within the budget for 2022-23 in anticipation of increased demand. Take up is slightly lower than 2021-22 when the gross spend in this budget area was £15.239 million. However, the final cost of this is difficult to predict as we have yet to see the full impact of the cost of living crisis on personal financial circumstances with the potential for an increase in the number of benefit claimants.

Other Corporate Budgets

- At quarter 2, discussions were ongoing regarding pay claims and any remaining inflationary uplifts not confirmed when the Medium Term Financial Strategy was agreed. 4.1.7 sets out what has been transferred to Directorate and school budgets in quarter 3 from funding that had been retained centrally until these discussions were concluded.
- Part of the under spend within Corporate budgets relates to the balance of the provision for pay and price inflation in 2022-23. However, given the uncertainty over inflationary levels which have increased from 6.2% when the budget was set in February 2022 to 10.7% in November 2022 this will require close monitoring for the remainder of the financial year.
- It is also anticipated that there will be a reduction in corporate support required to fund potential redundancy costs as, following the better than anticipated WG settlement for 2022-23, fewer budget reduction proposals had to be made. In addition, there is currently a lower than anticipated requirement against the £1m MTFS Covid-19 pressure approved by Council in February 2022.

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.

4.4.2 Given the overall projected over spend at quarter 3 as set out in 4.1.2, there have been no additions to earmarked reserves. The cumulative draw down by directorates is £5.209 million as shown in Table 5 below. The majority of draw down from earmarked reserves takes place in the later stages of the financial year, especially on capital and grant funded schemes. In addition, school balances are not adjusted until the year end – an overall reduction in year of £11.308 million on school balances is currently projected.

Table 5 – Usable Earmarked Reserves (Excluding Council Fund) – Quarter 3

Opening Balance 01 Apr 22 £'000	Reserve	Movement as at Quarter 3			Closing Balance 31 Dec 22 £'000
		Net Additions/ Reclassification £'000	Draw-down £'000	Unwound £'000	
	Corporate Reserves:				
45,994	Capital Programme Contribution	1,115	-	-	47,109
4,725	Asset Management Reserves	105	(563)	(34)	4,233
6,310	Major Claims & Insurance Reserves	(576)	-	-	5,734
3,593	Service Reconfiguration	-	-	-	3,593
2,543	Change Management/Digital Transformation	-	(209)	(30)	2,304
2,000	Economic and Future Resilience Fund	-	-	-	2,000
65,165	Total Corporate Reserves	644	(772)	(64)	64,973
	Directorate Reserves:				
841	Education & Family Support	-	-	-	841
8,870	Social Services & Wellbeing	-	(1,681)	-	7,189
4,244	Communities	(644)	(58)	(68)	3,474
4,139	Chief Executives	-	(605)	(13)	3,521
18,094	Total Directorate Reserves	(644)	(2,344)	(81)	15,025
	Equalisation & Grant Reserves:				
3,283	Education & Family Support	-	(1,465)	-	1,818
350	Social Services & Wellbeing	-	-	-	350
3,800	Communities	-	(500)	-	3,300
1,812	Chief Executives	-	(128)	-	1,684
-	Cross Directorate	-	-	-	-
9,245	Equalisation & Grant Reserves:	-	(2,093)	-	7,152
14,228	School Balances	-	-	-	14,228
106,732	TOTAL RESERVES	-	(5,209)	(145)	101,378

4.4.3 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 £47.109 million of funding in this reserve which constitutes 46.5% of our overall earmarked reserves balance. This is funding a wide range of schemes in the capital programme.

4.4.4 The School balances reserve increased significantly to £14.228 million at the end of 2021-22 due to additional school grant funding announced late in the financial year. As noted in paragraph 4.3.1 the quarter 3 projections indicate a projected overall surplus balance for school delegated budgets of £2.92 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 requested to:

- note the projected revenue position for 2022-23

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

Contact Officer: Joanne Norman
Group Manager – Financial Planning and Budget Management

Telephone: 01656 643645

Email: joanne.norman@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address : Raven's Court
Brewery Lane
Bridgend
CF31 4AP

Background documents: Individual Directorate Monitoring Reports
MTFS Report to Council – 23 February 2022

This page is intentionally left blank

PRIOR YEAR BUDGET REDUCTIONS CARRIED FORWARD INTO 2022-23

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal		Original Reduction and RAG £000	Revised RAG £000	Total amount of saving likely to be achieved by 22-23 £000	Reason why not achievable	Proposed Action in 2022-23 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
--------------	---

COMMUNITIES

COM19 (2017-18)	Permitting Scheme road works net of existing income of £95,000		100		100	A response from Welsh Government is still outstanding in consideration of the business case for the Permitting Scheme. Attempts continue to be made to make contact with the appropriate officers to gain a formal response on the submission. However, an alternative saving has been identified from with the Communities Directorate.	A review of the budgets within the Communities Directorate was undertaken during quarter 2 to identify a replacement saving for the original budget reduction proposal. A recurring saving on the Street Lighting Budget of £100,000 was identified as the LED replacement programme has generated savings due to reduced energy consumption.
COM 2 (2021-22)	Re-location of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle resulting in cessation of lease payments at existing site		60		0	The new site in Pyle is anticipated to open in 2022-23, with both sites being maintained until the new site is fully operational, therefore the saving will not be achieved in full until 2023-24.	The saving will be met through alternative one off efficiencies in 2022-23 to deliver a balanced budget position.
COM 7 (2021-22)	WG National AHP Waste Programme - capital contribution from WG towards 7.5 tonne vehicle to collect AHP recycling		19		19	New vehicle purchased part-way through 2021-22 therefore only partial saving achieved in prior year.	No action required - saving will be made in full in 2022-23.
Total Communities Directorate			179		119		
GRAND TOTAL OUTSTANDING REDUCTIONS			179		119		
REDUCTIONS SHORTFALL					60		

This page is intentionally left blank

MONITORING OF 2022-23 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2022-23 £'000	Value achieved to date 2022-23 £'000	Value Likely to be Achieved 2022-23 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
------	---------------------------	--	------------------------	--------------------------------------	---	--

EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT

CENTRAL EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT

EFS1	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.	68	68	68	Welsh Government have changed the terms and conditions of the grant for this service area which has impacted on the core budget and deliverability of this proposal. The Education and Family Support Directorate has identified alternative budget reduction proposals to replace this saving through a review of supplies and services budgets across the directorate.
Total Education and Family Support			68	68	68	

SOCIAL SERVICES & WELLBEING

SSW1	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.	200	200	200	Full saving achieved in 2022-23
SSW2	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.	115	34	34	Some efficiencies have been identified, however external factors are preventing the achievement of the full savings targets. The Directorate continue to explore alternative options to provide the required savings in this particularly challenging financial climate.

MONITORING OF 2022-23 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2022-23 £'000	Value achieved to date 2022-23 £'000	Value Likely to be Achieved 2022-23 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
SSW3	Remodelling Supported Living Services	A review of the service provision and alternative delivery models based on the current and predicted needs of individuals	50	50	50	Full saving achieved in 2022-23
Total Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate			365	284	284	

COMMUNITIES

COM1	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.	20	20	20	Full saving achieved in 2022-23
COM2	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	25	25	Full saving achieved in 2022-23
COM3	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.	35	0	0	Ongoing national research and debate surrounding composition of Household Food Waste Bags. Budget reduction proposal delayed until outcome of review known to ensure any potential changes in legislation do not impact on the proposal.
COM4	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	0	10	Staffing vacancies have delayed the implementation of this saving proposal, however the appointment of a Senior Portfolio Surveyor will make this a priority as we move forward.

MONITORING OF 2022-23 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Page 271

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2022-23 £'000	Value achieved to date 2022-23 £'000	Value Likely to be Achieved 2022-23 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
COM5	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	50	0	0	Delay in progressing budget reduction proposal whilst the Future Service Delivery model is being developed.
	Total Communities Directorate		150	45	55	

CHIEF EXECUTIVES

CEX2	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	48	48	48	Full saving should be achieved in 2022-23
	Total Chief Executive's Directorate		48	48	48	

GRAND TOTAL REDUCTIONS		631	445	455
-------------------------------	--	------------	------------	------------

REDUCTION SHORTFALL				176
----------------------------	--	--	--	------------

93	411	411
88	115	135
450	105	85
631	631	631

This page is intentionally left blank

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL	Budget 2022-23			Projected Year end spend £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
	Expenditure Budget	Income Budget	Net Budget			
	£'000	£'000	£'000			
EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT						
School Delegated Budgets	131,722	(21,302)	110,420	110,420	-	0.0%
Learner Support	7,886	(1,207)	6,679	6,764	85	1.3%
Family Support	8,575	(5,501)	3,074	2,758	(316)	-10.3%
Business Support	15,370	(4,447)	10,923	11,986	1,063	9.7%
Schools Support	1,506	(837)	669	625	(44)	-6.6%
School Modernisation	3,988	(214)	3,774	3,853	79	2.1%
Vulnerable Groups Support	737	(96)	641	605	(36)	-5.6%
Other Education and Family Support	1,997	(110)	1,888	1,852	(36)	-1.9%
TOTAL EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT	171,781	(33,714)	138,068	138,863	795	0.6%
SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING						
Adult Social Care	79,521	(21,748)	57,773	62,195	4,422	7.7%
Prevention and Wellbeing	6,534	(830)	5,704	5,580	(124)	-2.2%
Childrens Social Care	22,765	(1,166)	21,599	26,722	5,123	23.7%
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING	108,820	(23,744)	85,076	94,497	9,421	11.1%
COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE						
Planning & Development Services	2,336	(1,645)	691	1,013	322	46.6%
Strategic Regeneration	3,106	(1,413)	1,693	1,693	-	0.0%
Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability	6,804	(5,139)	1,665	1,432	(233)	-14.0%
Cleaner Streets and Waste Management	13,489	(1,502)	11,987	11,747	(240)	-2.0%
Highways and Green Spaces	23,681	(12,056)	11,625	11,483	(142)	-1.2%
Strategic Management	283	-	283	283	-	0.0%
Corporate Landlord	14,037	(10,968)	3,069	3,029	(40)	-1.3%
TOTAL COMMUNITIES	63,736	(32,723)	31,013	30,680	(333)	-1.1%
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S						
Chief Executive Unit	483	-	483	500	17	3.5%
Finance	47,127	(42,994)	4,133	4,084	(49)	-1.2%
HR/OD	2,514	(398)	2,116	2,110	(6)	-0.3%
Partnerships	3,483	(1,227)	2,256	2,157	(99)	-4.4%
Legal, Democratic & Regulatory	6,445	(950)	5,495	5,572	77	1.4%
Elections	163	(49)	114	212	98	86.0%
ICT	5,340	(1,288)	4,052	4,162	110	2.7%
Housing & Homelessness	11,289	(7,858)	3,431	2,153	(1,278)	-37.2%
Business Support	1,529	(111)	1,418	1,376	(42)	-3.0%
TOTAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	78,373	(54,875)	23,498	22,326	(1,172)	-5.0%
TOTAL DIRECTORATE BUDGETS	422,710	(145,056)	277,655	286,366	8,711	3.1%
Council Wide Budgets	42,829	(970)	41,859	33,879	(7,980)	-19.1%
NET BRIDGEND CBC	465,539	(146,026)	319,514	320,245	731	0.2%

NB: Differences due to rounding of £000's

This page is intentionally left blank

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

17 JANUARY 2023

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE - QUARTER 3 REPORT 2022-23

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 (2021 edition)'
- provide an update of the capital position for 2022-23 as at 31 December 2022 (**Appendix A**)
- seek agreement from Cabinet to present a report to Council for approval for a revised Capital Programme for 2022-23 to 2031-32 (**Appendix B**)
- note the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2022-23 (**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 2022-23, was approved by Council on 23 February 2022.

3.4 On 23 February 2022 Council approved a capital budget of £69.979 million for 2022-23 as part of a capital programme covering the period 2022-23 to 2031-32. The programme was last updated and approved by Council on 19 October 2022. This report provides an update on the following:

- Capital Programme monitoring Quarter 3 2022-23
- A revised Capital Programme for 2022-23 to 2031-32
- Capital Strategy monitoring
- Prudential and other indicators

4. Current situation/proposal

Capital Programme 2022-23 Quarter 3 update

4.1 This section of the report provides Members with an update on the Council's Capital Programme for 2022-23 since it was last approved by Council and incorporates any new schemes and grant approvals. The revised programme for 2022-23 currently totals £61.732 million, of which £28.242 million is met from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) resources, including capital receipts and revenue contributions from earmarked reserves, with the remaining £33.490 million coming from external resources, including Welsh Government General Capital Grant. Table 1 below shows the Capital Programme for each

Directorate from the October 2022 (Quarter 2) approved Council position to Quarter 3:

Table 1 – Capital Programme per Directorate 2022-23

Directorate	Approved Council October 2022 £'000	New Approvals/ (Reductions) £'000	Virements £'000	Slippage to future years £'000	Revised Budget 2022-23 £'000
Education & Family Support	18,770	0	370	(7,115)	12,025
Social Services and Well-being	3,939	707	(274)	(263)	4,109
Communities	60,732	(886)	0	(20,984)	38,862
Chief Executive's	5,049	914	0	(180)	5,783
Council Wide	1,049	0	(96)	0	953
Total	89,539	735	0	(28,542)	61,732

- 4.2 Table 2 below summarises the current funding assumptions for the Capital Programme for 2022-23. 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 2022-23 Resources

CAPITAL RESOURCES	£'000
<i>BCBC Resources:</i>	
Capital Receipts	5,551
Earmarked Reserves	10,209
Unsupported Borrowing *	2,806
Supported Borrowing	3,953
Other Loans **	4,223
Revenue Contribution	1,500
Total BCBC Resources	28,242
<i>External Resources:</i>	
Grants	33,490
Total External Resources	33,490
TOTAL RESOURCES	61,732

* Prudential borrowing – repayments are funded from BCBC’s own resources e.g. revenue budgets.

** For example, Salix energy loans, Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) for highways and coastal defence

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 2022-23.

4.4 A number of schemes have already been identified as requiring slippage of budget to future years (2023-24 and beyond). At quarter 3 the total requested slippage is £28.542 million, which comprises the following schemes:

Waterton Upgrade (£8.144 million)

The scheme has not progressed on the Waterton site as anticipated. Following changes to the Welsh Flood Risk Assessment Maps by Natural Resources Wales which resulted in the proposed disposal of land at Waterton for residential development no longer being viable, the way forward with the much needed improved highways depot is currently under review. There is no capital spend anticipated in the current financial year, therefore £8.144 million has been slipped to 2023-24.

Porthcawl Regeneration (£3.492 million)

Development work is still ongoing across the regeneration site, including further consultation and work on the infrastructure plan for Salt Lake. It is anticipated that enabling works in relation to the scheme will commence in 2023-24, therefore £3.492 million is being slipped for future use.

Highways Schemes Band B Schools (£3.300 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 £3.300 million is being slipped for use in 2023-24.

City Deal (£3.006 million)

Local Authority contributions to the City Deal have been reprofiled. BCBC’s contribution to the City Deal has been realigned to 2023-24 to 2025-26, with a small contribution forecast for the current year. There has been no change to the total amount of BCBC’s contribution.

Bridgend Heat Scheme (£2.000 million)

Negotiations with the preferred Design, Build, Operate, Maintain (DBOM) contactor have taken longer than anticipated meaning a delay in signing the contract with them and construction work starting. Given requirements, such as having to undertake in-road works to lay the pipework during school holidays to minimise disruption, the construction programme has moved to be mostly during the 2023-24 financial year. The project is still on track to be fully commissioned Winter 2023.

Sustainable Communities for Learning (£1.924 million)

Design development work is ongoing in respect of the primary school schemes, and the Authority is in the process of appointing a multi-disciplinary design team for the replacement Heronsbridge School. Design development will continue, and therefore £1.924 million is being slipped for use in 2023-24, as agreed with Welsh Government.

Maesteg Town Hall Cultural Hub (£1.500 million)

The re-development of Maesteg Town Hall is progressing well, with key milestones such as the full restoration of the iconic clock tower and roof replacement completed. However, the recent discovery of extensive defective plaster along with dry rot has resulted in an unavoidable delay to project completion. Therefore, £1.500 million is being slipped for use in 2023-24, with the project now due to be completed in Summer 2023.

Fleet Vehicles (£0.700 million)

There is a desire to replace existing fleet vehicles with electric vehicles to support the route to decarbonisation. However, as the required charging points are not in place yet, this has not been possible. Therefore £0.700 million is being slipped for use in 2023-24.

Welsh Medium Childcare Provision – Bridgend (£0.550 million)

Cabinet has recently determined to co-locate the Bridgend Welsh-medium childcare provision with the replacement Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr (a Band B project). The scheme is currently in design and Welsh Government have confirmed that the £0.550 million grant funding can be slipped to fund the scheme in 2023-24.

Welsh Medium Childcare Provision – Porthcawl (£0.550 million)

Cabinet has recently determined to co-locate the Porthcawl Welsh-medium childcare provision with the proposed Porthcawl Welsh-medium seedling school. Consultation regarding the school proposal will commence in early 2023 and subject to the outcome of that process, design development would commence on the school and childcare provision. Welsh Government have confirmed that the £0.550 million grant funding can be slipped to fund the scheme in 2023-24.

Bryntirion Comprehensive Classrooms (£0.500 million)

Design development has progressed on the six-classroom block planned for Bryntirion Comprehensive School, and the planning application has recently been submitted to the Local Planning Authority for consideration. Planning consent is expected to be granted at the end of 2022-23, therefore £0.500 million is being slipped to 2023-24 to fund the construction phase of the project.

The balance of £2.879 million is made up of various other schemes with individual slippages under £0.500 million.

Capital Programme 2022-23 Onwards

- 4.5 Since the last capital report approved by Council in October 2022, there have been a number of new externally funded schemes approved and proposed internally funded schemes, which have been incorporated into the Capital Programme, including:

Urban Centre Property Enhancement (£1.263 million)

The Council has been awarded £1.263 million from Welsh Government's Transforming Towns Placemaking Grant programme to address the decline in town centres and the reduced demand for high street retail. The focus of the Programme is sustainable growth of our towns and cities, and their transformation into places of living, working, learning and leisure. This award is in addition to the £0.103 million award that was added to the Capital Programme in October 2022 and covers the period 17 June 2022 to 31 March 2025.

Affordable Housing (£0.844 million)

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) was adopted by Council in October 2015 to outline policy and expectations on the delivery of affordable housing as part of new residential developments within the County. In cases where on-site provision is not considered appropriate and units cannot be delivered off-site, the Council can agree a commuted sum. Developments have been agreed under this process of commutation at Coety Primary school and former Ogmere Comprehensive, and S106 contributions totalling £0.844 million have been received by the Council. This funding will be utilised to support the provision of affordable housing schemes to meet the needs of homeless individuals and families, and to progress partnership arrangements with Registered Social Landlords and third sector partners.

Children's Residential Hub (£0.608 million)

The Council have been awarded an additional £0.608 million from Welsh Government's Housing with Care Fund for the Children's Residential Hub. This will enable net zero carbon and landscaping works to be completed, which were not included in the original scheme. In February 2022 the scheme received additional BCBC funding, with the understanding that if any future external funding was secured it would replace that funding. Now additional Welsh Government funding has been secured, £0.274 million has been vired back to the unallocated capital fund.

Cardiff Capital Region Metro Plus – Porthcawl Bus Station (£0.404 million)

The Porthcawl Bus Station project, which was initially added to the capital programme in February 2002 has been awarded an additional £0.404 million from the Local Transport Fund, increasing the overall budget for the scheme to £2.304 million.

Porthcawl Welsh Medium Seedling School (£0.370 million)

The Council have approved a capital budget of £0.370 million for the proposed Porthcawl Welsh-medium Seedling School scheme's design and survey costs up to tender stage. The scheme will be funded by a virement from the

unallocated capital budget initially, on the assumption that costs will be recovered once Welsh Government has approved the re-submitted business justification case.

Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle Transformation (£0.300 million)

The Council has been awarded £0.300 million funding from the Welsh Government's ULEV Transformation Fund to support the delivery of electric vehicle charging infrastructure within the Council's public car parks. Additional chargers will be installed in each of the Council's leisure facilities car parks, increasing accessibility to both leisure users and residents and encouraging electric vehicle use.

Access Improvement Grant (£0.187 million)

The Council has been awarded £0.187 million from Welsh Government's Access Improvement grant to support improving access to and on the Public Rights of Way network, open access land and green/blue space in Wales. The funding relates to the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025 and will be used to improve existing routes as well as increasing access for under-represented groups to the outdoors.

Ysgol Bryn Castell Hard-Court (£0.099 million)

The Council has been awarded £0.099 million from Sport Wales to improve the hard-court area at Ysgol Bryn Castell for both school and community use. The funding will support surface improvement for activities, court markings, fencing and additional lighting.

Puffin Crossing at Heathbridge, Kenfig Hill (£0.093 million)

£0.093 million has been added to the Capital Programme in relation to the installation of a puffin crossing on the B4281 Pysgah Street, Kenfig Hill. The scheme will be funded 50% from a virement from the Capital Asset Management Fund, and 50% from a contribution by Pyle Community Council.

HWB Schools ICT (£0.070 million)

An additional £0.070 million has been added to ICT equipment purchases for schools in relation to a range of planned ICT purchases in 2022-23. These will be funded from an existing earmarked reserve established for the purchase of ICT equipment by schools from their annual ICT SLA contributions.

In addition to the above schemes, the following schemes have been removed from the Capital Programme and are shown as a negative approval:

Enterprise Hubs (£1.757 million)

The scheme has been developed up to the detailed design and planning stage, but is unable to progress fully within the funding time parameters due to:

- Covid delays which impacted on the timeframe for delivery
- The Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) end date for the scheme could not be extended. Therefore the grant award was no longer eligible.
- Part of the funding was prudential borrowing therefore as rates rose sharply this tightened the viability of the scheme
- Tender costs were returned in the region of 250% over budget

- An approach was considered that would have installed services but the utility providers were unable to guarantee delivery within the project timeframe.

Whilst the scheme could still progress, this will be subject to securing alternative funding. Until such time as further funding can be secured the scheme has been removed from the Capital Programme.

Llynfi Valley Development Loan (£0.083 million)

Welsh Government has agreed that a further £0.083 million of the Llynfi Valley Development Loan can be used for feasibility works and is therefore not repayable. The value of the outstanding loan available for remediation works now totals £2.177m.

- 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 presented to Cabinet and Council in due course for approval.
- 4.7 A revised Capital Programme is included as **Appendix B**.

Prudential and Other Indicators 2022-23 Monitoring

- 4.8 In February 2022, Council approved the Capital Strategy for 2022-23, which included the Prudential Indicators 2022-23 to 2024-25 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 2021-22, the estimated indicators for 2022-23 set out in the Council's Capital Strategy and the projected indicators for 2022-23 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 £5.585 million at 31 March 2022.

- 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 £13.902 million at 31 March 2022. This is a 25-year agreement which will end during the 2033-34 financial year. Other long-term liabilities totalling £0.227 million include lease arrangements for the Innovation Centre and the Council's Waste Contract.

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 and Council with 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 2022-23 Quarter 3 update to 31 December 2022 (**Appendix A**)
- agrees that the revised Capital Programme (**Appendix B**) be submitted to Council for approval

- notes the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2022-23
(Appendix C)

Carys Lord

Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change

January 2023

Contact Officer:

Eilish Thomas
Finance Manager – Financial Control and Closing

Telephone:

01656 643359

E-mail:

Eilish.Thomas@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address:

Bridgend County Borough Council
Chief Executive's - Finance
Raven's Court
Brewery Lane
Bridgend
CF31 4AP

Background documents:

None

	Budget 22-23 (Council Oct 22) £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage £'000	Revised Budget 2022-23 £'000	Total Expenditure To Date £'000	Projected Spend £'000
--	--	------------------------	-------------------	-------------------	------------------------------------	--	-----------------------------

Education & Family Support

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING	2,324	-	-	(1,924)	400	41	400
YSGOL BRYN CASTELL	30	-	-	-	30	9	30
MYNYDDCYNFFIGPRIMARYSCHOOL	79	-	-	-	79	0	79
BRYNMENYN PRIMARY	44	-	-	-	44	-	44
LAND PURCHASE BAND B SCHOOLS	678	-	-	-	678	-	678
PENCOED PRIMARY	52	-	-	-	52	-	52
LLANGYNWYD WELSH COMP	100	-	-	-	100	-	100
GATEWAY TO THE VALLEYS SEC SCH	32	-	-	-	32	-	32
COETY PRIMARY SCHOOL	44	-	-	-	44	-	44
GARW VALLEY SOUTH PRY PROVIS.	139	-	-	-	139	69	139
PENCOED PRIMARY	53	-	-	-	53	-	53
GARW VALLEY PRIMARY HIGHWAYS	30	-	-	-	30	-	30
PENCOED PRY SCH HIGHWAYS WORKS	56	-	-	-	56	-	56
BRYNMENYN SCHOOL HIGHWAYS WORK	12	-	-	-	12	-	12
ABERCERDIN PRIMARY HUB	287	-	-	-	287	9	287
BRYNTIRION COMP SIX CLASSROOMS	650	-	-	(500)	150	69	150
FREE SCHOOL MEALS	846	-	-	-	846	113	846
COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS	930	-	-	-	930	23	930
MINOR WORKS	404	-	-	-	404	215	404
HERONSBRIDGE SCHOOL	284	-	33	-	317	317	317
SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY	81	-	-	(71)	10	10	10
SCHOOLS MODERNISATION	386	-	-	-	386	2	386
EDUCATION S106 SCHEMES	169	-	-	-	169	-	169
SCHOOLS CAPITAL MAINT GRANT	3,655	-	-	-	3,655	1,205	3,655
WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - BETTWS	484	-	50	-	534	529	534
WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - BRIDGEND	550	-	-	(550)	-	-	-
WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - OGMORE	797	-	(50)	-	747	362	747
WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - PORTHCAWL	550	-	-	(550)	-	-	-
WELSH MEDIUM - HIGHWAYS	100	-	-	-	100	-	100
HIGHWAYS SCHEMES BAND B SCHOOL	3,400	-	-	(3,300)	100	-	100
BRYNTEG COMP ALL WEATHER PITCH	324	-	-	-	324	4	324
ALN CAPITAL GRANT	930	-	(33)	-	897	-	897
YG BRO OGWR MOBILE CLASSROOMS	270	-	-	(220)	50	4	50
PORTHCAWL WELSH MEDIUM SEEDLING SCHOOL	-	-	370	-	370	-	370
TOTAL Learning	18,770	-	370	(7,115)	12,025	2,980	12,025
TOTAL Education & Family Support	18,770	-	370	(7,115)	12,025	2,980	12,025

Social Services and Wellbeing

BRYN Y CAE-UPGRADE HFE'S	40	-	-	-	40	-	40
TY CWM OGWR	331	-	-	-	331	247	331
VARIOUS MINOR WORKS	135	-	-	-	135	11	135
TREM Y MOR - ACCOMODATION	4	-	-	-	4	1	4

	Budget 22-23 (Council Oct 22) £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage £'000	Revised Budget 2022-23 £'000	Total Expenditure To Date £'000	Projected Spend £'000
BAKERS WAY MINOR WORKS	10	-	-	-	10	-	10
GLAN YR AFON CARE HOME	51	-	-	-	51	-	51
TELECARE TRANSFORMATION	483	-	-	(165)	318	-	318
CHILDRENS RESIDENTIAL HUB	2,497	608	(274)	-	2,831	1,338	2,831
ACCESSIBILITY WORKS HALO/AWEN	11	-	-	-	11	-	11
PORTHCAWL GRAND PAVILION LU	98	-	-	(98)	-	-	-
BRYNGARW HOUSE	30	-	-	-	30	-	30
COMMUNITY CENTRES	226	-	-	-	226	-	226
BRYNGARW PARK - ACCESS	23	-	-	-	23	19	23
YSGOL BRYN CASTELL HARD COURT	-	99	-	-	99	-	99
TOTAL Social Services & Wellbeing	3,939	707	(274)	(263)	4,109	1,615	4,109

Communities
Street Scene

COMMUNITY PLAY AREAS	1,286	-	-	-	1,286	376	1,286
PARKS/PAVILIONS/OTHER CAT	285	-	-	-	285	186	285
ABERFIELDS PLAYFIELDS	11	-	-	-	11	-	11
CITY DEAL	3,138	-	-	(3,006)	132	-	132
COASTAL RISK MANAGEMENT P'CAWL	2,528	-	-	-	2,528	1,546	2,528
CORNELLY CEMETERY EXT	279	-	-	-	279	4	279
COYCHURCH CREM WORKS	1,385	-	-	-	1,385	115	1,385
PORTHCAWL CEMETERY EXT	183	-	-	-	183	1	183
ACCESSIBILITY & SAFETY ROAD	392	-	-	-	392	129	392
REMEDIAL MEASURES - CAR PARKS	135	-	-	(85)	50	-	50
CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT CAR	38	-	-	(38)	-	-	-
ULEVT FUND	343	300	-	-	643	250	643
FLEET TRANSITION-ULEV	300	-	-	-	300	10	300
ULEV VEHICLES	320	-	-	-	320	-	320
TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPLACEMENT	250	-	-	-	250	250	250
TONDU WASTE DEPOT UPGRADE FIRE	140	-	-	-	140	-	140
20 MPH DEFAULT SPEED	580	-	-	-	580	28	580
ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES	124	-	-	-	124	73	124
PYLE TO PORTHCAWL ATR PHASE 1	387	-	-	-	387	237	387
PENCOED TECH PARK ACT TRAVEL	3,463	-	-	-	3,463	355	3,463
HIGHWAYS STRUCTURAL WORKS	340	-	-	(180)	160	24	160
CARRIAGEWAY CAPITAL WORKS	250	-	-	-	250	70	250
ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS	500	-	-	(400)	100	44	100
PROW CAPITAL IMP STRUCTURES	52	56	-	-	108	48	108
HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE GRANT	2,000	-	-	-	2,000	447	2,000
CARRIAGEWAY & FOOTWAYS RENEWAL	1,500	-	-	-	1,500	1,149	1,500
REPLACEMENT OF STREET LIGHTING	416	-	-	-	416	118	416
BRIDGE STRENGTHENING A4061	24	-	-	-	24	-	24
COMMUNITIES MINOR WORKS	591	-	-	-	591	14	591
RIVER PROTECTION MEASURES	-	-	-	-	-	(34)	-
PORTHCAWL BUS STATION CCRMETRO	1,900	404	-	-	2,304	43	2,304

	Budget 22-23 (Council Oct 22) £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage £'000	Revised Budget 2022-23 £'000	Total Expenditure To Date £'000	Projected Spend £'000
PENPRYSG ROAD BRIDGE LU	100	-	-	(100)	-	-	-
PENPRYSG ROAD BRIDGE	735	-	-	-	735	6	735
RESIDENTS PARKING BRIDGEND TC	124	-	-	(100)	24	5	24
FLEET VEHICLES	1,384	-	-	(700)	684	265	684
RELOCATE RECYCLING CENTRE	-	5	-	-	5	5	5
AHP WASTE	24	-	-	-	24	18	24
HEOL MOSTYN JUNCTION	169	-	-	-	169	1	169
S106 HIGHWAYS SMALL SCHEMES	45	-	-	-	45	3	45
PUFFIN CROSSING KENFIG HILL	-	46	47	-	93	-	93
TOTAL Streetscene	25,721	811	47	(4,609)	21,970	5,782	21,970

Regeneration & Development

BRDGND BUS SUP NETWORK	53	5	-	-	58	54	58
CWM TAF NATURE NETWORK	230	-	-	-	230	8	230
BRILLIANT BASICS	65	-	-	-	65	29	65
COSY CORNER (PRIF)	2,675	-	-	(475)	2,200	842	2,200
ARBED PHASE 1 CESP	100	-	-	(70)	30	-	30
EU CONVERGANCE SRF BUDGET	436	-	133	(436)	133	-	133
EWENNY ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	3,500	-	-	-	3,500	7	3,500
LLYNFI DEVELOPMENT SITE	2,260	(83)	-	-	2,177	-	2,177
BRIDGEND HEAT SCHEME	2,500	-	-	(2,000)	500	27	500
MAESTEG TOWN HALL CULTURAL HUB	4,369	-	-	(1,500)	2,869	1,449	2,869
CAERAU HEAT SCHEME	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ECONOMIC STIMULUS GRANT (WG)	500	-	-	-	500	-	500
URBAN CENTRE PROPERTY ENHANCE	103	138	-	-	241	111	241
PORTHCAWL REGENERATION PROJECT	3,492	-	-	(3,492)	-	-	-
COMM PROP ENHANCEMENT FUND	134	-	-	(134)	-	-	-
TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND	242	-	-	-	242	56	242
PORTHCAWL THI	124	-	-	(124)	-	-	-
TOTAL Regeneration & Development	20,783	60	133	(8,231)	12,745	2,583	12,745

Corporate Landlord

CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND	820	-	(47)	-	773	-	773
CORP LANDLORD ENERGY EFFIC SAV	390	-	-	-	390	184	390
ENTERPRISE HUB INNOVATION CENT	1,890	(1,757)	(133)	-	-	-	-
RAVENS COURT	447	-	-	-	447	1	447
DDA WORKS	327	-	-	-	327	134	327
MINOR WORKS	430	-	-	-	430	21	430
FIRE PRECAUTIONS MINOR WORKS	239	-	-	-	239	76	239
BRYNCETHIN DEPOT FACILITIES	908	-	-	-	908	338	908
NON OPERATIONAL ASSETS	480	-	-	-	480	-	480
WATERTON UPGRADE	8,144	-	-	(8,144)	-	-	-
EVERGREEN HALL	106	-	-	-	106	13	106
INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES	47	-	-	-	47	-	47
TOTAL Corporate Landlord	14,228	(1,757)	(180)	(8,144)	4,147	768	4,147

	Budget 22-23 (Council Oct 22) £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage £'000	Revised Budget 2022-23 £'000	Total Expenditure To Date £'000	Projected Spend £'000
TOTAL Communities	60,732	(886)	-	(20,984)	38,862	9,133	38,862
Chief Executive							
MANDATORY DFG RELATED EXPEND	1,950	-	(16)	-	1,934	924	1,934
TARGET HARDENING GRANTS	-	-	16	-	16	16	16
DISCRETIONARY HOUSING GRANTS	400	-	-	-	400	140	400
HOUSING RENEWAL AREA	218	-	-	-	218	16	218
EMPTY HOMES GRANTS-GRANTS ONLY	300	-	-	-	300	-	300
ENABL-SUP FOR IND LIVING GRANT	270	-	-	-	270	144	270
HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING	530	-	-	-	530	-	530
AFFORDABLE HOUSING	-	844	-	-	844	-	844
TOTAL Housing/Homelessness	3,668	844	-	-	4,512	1,239	4,512
ICT INFRA SUPPORT	698	-	-	-	698	332	698
CCTV SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT	427	-	-	-	427	4	427
HWB SCHOOLS IT	56	70	-	-	126	88	126
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	200	-	-	(180)	20	20	20
TOTAL ICT	1,381	70	-	(180)	1,271	444	1,271
TOTAL Chief Executive	5,049	914	-	(180)	5,783	1,683	5,783
Council Wide Capital Budgets							
CORPORATE CAPITAL FUND	373	-	-	-	373	-	373
UNALLOCATED	676	-	(96)	-	580	-	580
	1,049	-	(96)	-	953	-	953
GRAND TOTAL	89,539	735	-	(28,542)	61,732	15,411	61,732

Credit balances under 'Total Expenditure to Date' represent amounts payable and accrued as at 31 March 2022. Payments made during 2022-23 will be set against the credit balances shown

This page is intentionally left blank

PRUDENTIAL AND OTHER INDICATORS 2021-22 and 2022-23

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 2021-22 actual capital expenditure, the capital programme approved by Council on 23 February 2022 and the latest projection for the current financial year which has incorporated slippage of schemes from 2021-22 together with any new grants and contributions or changes in the profile of funding.

Table 1: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Expenditure

	2021-22 Actual £m	2022-23 Estimate (Council Feb 22) £m	2022-23 Projection £m
Council Fund services	29.741	69.979	61.252
Investment Properties	-	-	0.480
TOTAL	29.741	69.979	61.732

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 debt (the 'net financing requirement' - borrowing, leasing and Private Finance Initiative). The planned financing of the expenditure has been projected as follows:

Table 2: Capital financing

	2021-22 Actual £m	2022-23 Estimate (Council Feb 22) £m	2022-23 Projection £m
External sources	18.152	26.078	33.490
Own resources	1.020	30.993	17.260
Net Financing Requirement	10.569	12.908	10.982
TOTAL	29.741	69.979	61.732

The net financing requirement 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

	2021-22 Actual £m	2022-23 Estimate (Council Feb 22) £m	2022-23 Projection £m
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	2.970	3.187	3.111
Additional Voluntary Revenue Provision	3.553	2.476	1.913
Total MRP & VRP	6.523	5.663	5.024
Other MRP on Long term Liabilities	0.801	0.863	0.863
Total Own Resources	7.324	6.526	5.887

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

	2021-22 Actual £m	2022-23 Estimate £m	2022-23 Projection £m
Capital Financing Requirement			
Opening CFR excluding PFI & other liabilities	157.404	166.729	161.451
Opening PFI CFR	15.567	14.766	14.765
Total opening CFR	172.971	181.495	176.216
Movement in CFR excluding PFI & other liabilities	4.046	13.286	5.958
Movement in PFI CFR	(0.801)	(0.863)	(0.863)
Total movement in CFR	3.245	12.423	5.095
Closing CFR	176.216	193.918	181.311
Movement in CFR represented by:			
Net financing need for year (Table 2 above)	10.569	18.949	10.982
Minimum and voluntary revenue provisions	(6.523)	(5.663)	(5.024)
MRP on PFI and other long term leases (Table 3)	(0.801)	(0.863)	(0.863)
Total movement	3.245	12.423	5.095

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

	2021-22 Actual £m	2022-23 Estimate (Council Feb 22) £m	2022-23 Projection £m
Debt (incl. PFI & leases)	118.864	123.052	119.656
Capital Financing Requirement	176.216	193.918	181.311

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

The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower “operational boundary” is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

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

	2021-22 Actual £m	2022-23 Estimate (Council Feb 22) £m	2022-23 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	118.864	123.052	119.656

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

	2021-22 Actual £m	2022-23 Estimate (Council Feb 22) £m	2022-23 Projection £m
Capital Financing Central	6.719	7.205	6.706
Other Financing costs	5.500	4.423	3.860
TOTAL FINANCING COSTS	12.219	11.628	10.566
Proportion of net revenue stream	4.49%	4.26%	3.87%

This shows that in 2022-23, it is forecast that 3.87% of our net revenue income will be spent paying back the costs of capital expenditure.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

17 JANUARY 2023

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2023-24 TO 2026-27

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present Cabinet with the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-24 to 2026-27, 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 2023-2027 and a detailed draft revenue budget for 2023-24.

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 2023-24.

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 as set out in paragraph 2.1, but these are being reviewed as part of the process of developing a new Corporate Plan, for approval by Council in March and to be implemented from April 2023.

- 3.2 This draft MTF5 has been significantly guided by these and our proposed new objectives. Although previous year-on-year changes in Aggregate External Finance (AEF) have necessitated significant budget reductions across different service areas (£72.6 million since austerity began in 2010, of which schools contributed £2.7 million), 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 £485 million and is the largest employer in the county borough. The new Corporate Plan will be presented to Council for approval alongside the MTF5 2023-2027 in March 2023 and will be fully aligned with the MTF5 including explicit links between resources and well-being objectives.
- 3.3 The quarterly reports to Cabinet on the revenue position for 2022-23 have outlined in detail the increased difficulty in managing and monitoring the budget, in view of significant and rapidly worsening 'in-year' pressures which include residual cost pressures and loss of income from the Covid-19 pandemic, additional inflationary pressures arising as a result of the conflict in Ukraine, and the impact of the cost of living crisis on both pay and prices, particularly fuel and energy prices. Whilst some provisions were made in the 2022-23 budget to mitigate some of these costs, the changing economic climate during the financial year has been unprecedented with rising inflation around the world, particularly as a result of rising energy prices, with the UK at the high end of international comparisons of large economies, and supply bottleneck.
- 3.4 The Welsh Government announced its Final Local Government Settlement for 2022-23 on 1 March 2022. The increase in Aggregate External Finance (AEF) across Wales was 9.4%, with Bridgend receiving an increase of 9.2%. This increase, whilst intended to cover a number of new pressures, including the real living wage costs for social care workers, and the ongoing pressures from the pandemic, was considered to be better than anticipated. However, this was before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the subsequent impact that this had on energy and other prices globally, which has been a significant factor in the subsequent cost of living crisis, and calls for higher pay increases.
- 3.5 Budget planning for the financial year 2023-24 is therefore more uncertain and challenging than usual, with even more cost pressures presenting themselves going forward than has been experienced in previous years, and fewer opportunities to cut services in a climate that requires more support for our older and more vulnerable members of society with substantial increased demand for many services. In addition, there are higher expectations on the Council to address homelessness more robustly, and on a longer term sustainable basis, compounded by the additional challenges to also house Ukrainian refugees and additionally to strengthen and support social care, which is experiencing increased demand and costs as well as more complex cases in both adult and children's services.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 Budget Narrative

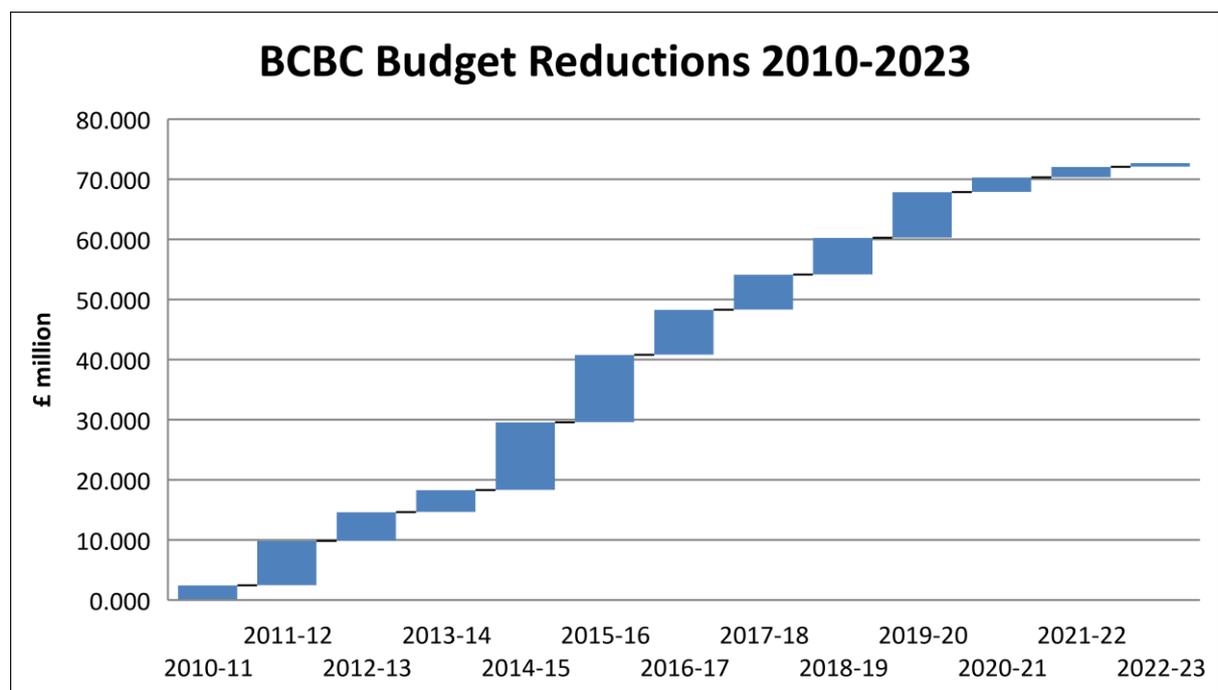
- 4.1.1 The Council aspires to improve understanding of its financial strategy, link more closely to its corporate well-being objectives and explain the Council's goal of delivering sustainable services in line with the overarching ambition of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The 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, and the financial consequences of this. Cabinet has requested that the following principles should underpin the development of the budget for the coming financial year:

- The Council will seek to protect the most vulnerable people in our communities;
- The Council will seek to limit service growth in the coming financial year;
- All budgets across the Council should be reviewed to identify savings for the coming year;
- Where possible “back office” services will be prioritised for service reductions;
- The Council should consider whether schools are able to contribute to the overall savings required in the coming year; and
- In setting the budget for 2023-2024 consideration needs to be given to the anticipated budget pressures in the following financial years.

4.1.2 Corporate Financial Overview

Since austerity began in 2010 the Council has made almost £73 million of budget reductions, as shown below, towards which school delegated budgets contributed £2.7 million. This represents almost 23% of the Council’s current net budget, however the percentage of savings and cuts has not been equal across all Council services, with relative protection given to schools’ budgets for example.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) Budget Reductions 2010 to 2023



While the Council’s net revenue budget is planned at £343.014 million for 2023-24, 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 £485 million in 2023-24. 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 £200 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 around 27% of the budget. This means that for every £1 spent on services provided by the Council, only around 27 pence is funded from council tax.

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 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. Not all new schemes are fully funded by Welsh Government, and for some the Council does not have the capacity to deliver them in a timely and efficient manner.
- An increase in need in children's social care – increase in contacts, assessments, historically high levels of child protection reviews and also very high numbers of care experienced children, particularly in Bridgend. This is further exacerbated by Care Inspectorate Wales's continued 'serious concerns' in respect of Bridgend children's services. In addition, Welsh Government has developed proposals to eliminate private profit from the care of looked after children, the result of which is driving an increase in costs of independent placements and increasing numbers of bespoke arrangements which have significant financial implications.
- 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. More investment is needed to support the Welsh Government's policy of discharge to recover and assess, in order to alleviate the pressures on adult social care. 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 during the cost of living crisis.

The Council is developing a new Corporate Plan that will set 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 currently 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. The effective and efficient use of resources will continue to inform our principles and ways of working in the new corporate plan, as well as being tested through the corporate self-assessment process.

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 2023-24 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 the current economic climate has brought to the population. This will mean that any increased charges above the current levels of inflation are likely to be unrealistic.

Alternative Delivery Models

We will continue to seek alternative ways of delivering services if that can ensure greater sustainability and efficiency. Over the past year there has been a significant acceleration in the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Programme, which is releasing savings 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. This is being developed through the Council's Future Service Delivery Model, and the Hybrid Working Policy, which sits at the heart of the model, and provides a framework for more flexible working, yet retaining service quality at its core.

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 more than a decade of substantial budget savings, opportunities for large scale savings of this sort are now very scarce, but where they emerge, they remain an important component of the MTFs.

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 next year, additional savings are proposed from a further review and rationalisation of office accommodation following the implementation of the new service delivery model for office based staff. Specifically, it is intended to accelerate shared use of space with public sector partners, in particular South Wales Police, and to market office space such as the unused 'wings' in Ravens Court. 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.

Changes to Service Provision

Unfortunately, despite the settlement we will receive for 2023-24 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.

4.1.3 Education

The Council is proposing to spend £137 million on services delivered by the Education and Family Support Directorate in 2023-24. The majority of this money will be spent by Bridgend's 59 schools and one pupil referral unit.

In addition to the £110 million proposed budget to be delegated to schools in 2023-24, 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 newly renamed Sustainable Communities for Learning 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, strategic outline cases, and outline business cases (that is, in respect of capital schemes) submitted by the Council around our aspirations for Band B funding. Full business case approval will be required for all schemes, and Welsh Government approval will be sought once tender prices have been received.

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 two special schools. 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 (for example, 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 2023-2024, whilst schools have been tasked with finding budget reductions totalling 2% of their budget, to be found as far as possible from efficiency savings, in order to help balance the Council's budget, they will receive additional funding for a range of pay and price increases that should significantly outweigh this budget reduction.

The forecast pressure on Council budgets for future years is such that further efficiency savings of 1% per annum may be unavoidable for schools for 2024-2025 onwards, and so it will be necessary for headteachers and governing bodies to plan ahead.

The Council's well-being objectives have and will likely continue to prioritise supporting vulnerable people and helping them to be more self-sufficient. 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.

4.1.4 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 strengthening practice, improving the 'whole system' and targeted preventative services, supporting our workforce. For many years it has been understood that working in this way can result in less dependency on commissioned social care services for many individuals and more effective and cost-effective use of statutory services. For many years it has been evidenced in budget monitoring and outturn reports that social services' financial performance has been highly dependent on short term grant funding with deficits in core budgets to meet the needs of the vulnerable population. Whilst 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 is more challenging than ever before with increasing need and demand for statutory support from children and families in the County Borough and the impact of extended lock down periods and delays in NHS treatments on the physical and mental health of an ageing population. The population of Bridgend is growing quickly, the second fastest growth of any Welsh Local Authority, and this means the number of people with care and support needs is also increasing. In addition, there is considerable challenge on the 'supply side' of social care in respect of both workforce (employed by the Council and providers with an increasing reliance on more agency workers) and social care provision, particularly children's residential, with some providers making business decisions to close particular provision and adult care and support at home.

Children's social care has a 3 year improvement plan, overseen by an Improvement Board chaired by the Chief Executive of the Council and advised by an independent professional advisor. In August 2022 Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) published the outcomes from a Performance Evaluation Inspection which, whilst noting improvements since their previous quality assurance check, also noted their 'serious concerns' with regard to Bridgend children's social care. They continue to monitor progress with improvements closely and are clear in their analysis of the need for continued corporate support for children's social care. There has been a significant increase in the need for statutory children's social care, most evident in historically high numbers of children requiring the protection of child protection registration. Meeting statutory duties requires significant investment of resources in the workforce and service provision. A whole system review is being progressed to ensure there is the most efficient and cost effective set of arrangements for children and families in Bridgend with the right model of practice and targeting of preventative services to prevent escalation of need. The reason for the 2021-22 under spend was the significant grant income received in 2021-22, including one-off grants such as the Social Care Recovery Fund (£2.9 million) and the Social Care Pressures Grant (£2.2 million). The budget has been dependent for many years on short term grant funding to meet statutory duties with underlying deficits and these have been highlighted in financial monitoring reports. There are increasing numbers of children who require residential accommodation, care and support which is resulting in a significant budget pressure in that area.

A further area of pressure is the volume and complexity of need for statutory social care services from the vulnerable population of the county borough. Practice continues to be strength based and eligibility criteria rigorously applied in adult services but the whole systems pressures are clearly evident with delays in people having their needs for care and support met. As with children's social care, there is a need for a sustainable service

and financial plan as CIW correspondence to the Council set out 'the importance of maintaining focus and oversight on all elements of service delivery, in adult services as well as children's services'. The inspectors noted that there are 'actions being taken to strengthen capacity for oversight and professional leadership in adult services alongside those in children's services'. Pressures are evident in learning disability services, mental health services and services for older people.

The supply side costs for commissioned care providers (domiciliary, residential and nursing) linked to inflation (food and fuel are particularly impactful) and the need to increase the pay of staff to compete with retail and hospitality, and the increased reliance on agency staff (particularly registrant nurses), have meant that some councils have reported having to look at applying across the board increases in their fees during the past year. A small number of providers are facing financial difficulties and there is market exit probability in both adult and children's services which will place more pressure on Council budgets as the Council will always be a safety net provider in such circumstances.

The 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, whilst progressing commissioning strategies and workforce plans which ensure the right person provides the right intervention and support in the most timely and preventative way. The exponential increases in need from both children and vulnerable adults needs to be understood and reflected in service transformation and aligned financial planning.

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 funded via this funding are both broad and diverse. This is done 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.

4.1.5 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 2023-24 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 2023-24.

The seven year contract with Kier is now moving towards the final years 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 has seen 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 high 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 2023-24. Work will also commence on looking at the provision of waste and recycling services post April 2024, when the Kier contract ends, and this will be reported to Cabinet during 2023-24.

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. Increasingly the Council will seek to enable and facilitate partnerships to help to deliver some services, including more meaningful engagement with local residents regarding the role they can play in working effectively with us.

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 between 2021-22 and 2023-24 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.

4.1.6 **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 (CCR) 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 implementation of the Placemaking Strategy. Other schemes include the redevelopment of Ewenny Road in Maesteg for both housing and employment uses, where the remediation of the site is being funded by a £3.5 million Housing Viability Grant from the CCR. 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 £3 million for 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. The completion of the £8 million redevelopment and refurbishment of the Maesteg Town Hall in the summer of 2023, will bring state of the art community, music, performance and library facilities to the heart of the Llynfi valley, and will safeguard this 141 year old listed-building for future generations.

We are also in the process of delivering a replacement Local Development Plan (LDP). This has been submitted to Welsh Government's Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) for examination in public and if successful could be adopted by the summer of 2023. 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. There is some £116 million of Section 106 contributions that will be forthcoming from an adopted LDP and these are essential for delivering high quality

new infrastructure, such as roads, new schools and play facilities in development areas within the Borough.

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 as stated above, and investment in initiatives to improve the town centre in Bridgend. This includes the development of a new £48 million Bridgend College Campus on the former police station site at Cheapside, in the town centre. The construction is due to commence in summer 2023 with a completed college building anticipated by September 2025. Much of this investment is not the Council's own money, but funded via the College itself and Welsh Government. However skilled BCBC teams are required to work alongside the College to enable the site to be cleared appropriately and that the development fits well into its town centre setting in terms of transport planning and public realm.

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. The Council has been awarded over £20 million from the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) to undertake various programmes with partners across the County over the next two years, including training and new business start-up grants. In addition, two detailed funding bids have been submitted to the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF). These include a £20 million bid for the complete refurbishment of the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl and a £25 million Transport Bid for the replacement Penprysg Road Bridge and removal of the level crossing in Pencoed. The outcome of these bids is due in January 2023.

4.1.7 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 service that deals primarily with the registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages. The service also undertakes Civil Partnership and Citizenship ceremonies and provides a replacement certificate facility.

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.

4.1.8 **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 enables us to better 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 decarbonisation strategy entitled "Bridgend 2030", was developed with the Carbon Trust and is supported with a detailed action plan, setting out how the Council will reach a net zero carbon position in Bridgend by 2030. This was approved by Cabinet in December 2022.

The service will continue to review its processes in 2023-24 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 lawfully. 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 external expertise when

necessary. Almost half of our in-house legal team is specifically focussed on child protection cases.

The service is very lean and will have to prioritise caseloads on a risk assessed basis.

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 supporting 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 have already successfully recruited a number of Graduates and apprentices and will continue this approach next year.

Working closely with our recognised trade unions, we maintain positive and transparent employee relations arrangements.

Overall the significant workforce issues the Council is facing have led to a considerable increase in demand for these services, with the number of advertisements for new staff increasing substantially and the development of training to meet new skills requirements also creating additional workload. The provision of more well-being support for staff has also been an area of greater focus with many staff teams fatigued and depleted following the pandemic and post pandemic issues, and unwelcome staff vacancies increasing the pressure and challenging the resilience of those staff and teams still in work in some services.

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, through the development and digitising of information-intensive processes, freeing up capacity and making efficiencies.

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 in-house career progression.

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 and the Council has adopted a Corporate Procurement Strategy which supports this approach. There have been sustained increases in the costs of goods and services in the last two years. This is as a result of inflationary pressures, rise in fuel costs and shortages in the supply chain. We have been unable to award some contracts as they cannot currently be delivered within the agreed budget. Contractors are experiencing similar challenges and, on some occasions, have terminated their contracts as they are unable to fulfil the contract due to their increased costs.

Democratic Services

The Council is a democratic organisation with 51 elected members (Councillors) who make decisions, set policy direction and oversee the general performance of the Council. 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 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 2023-24 and outline proposals for 2024-25 to 2026-27.
- The capital programme for 2022-23 to 2032-33, linked to priority areas for capital investment and the Capital Strategy, which will be presented for approval by Council in March 2023, along with the Treasury Management Strategy 2023-24.

- The Corporate Risk Assessment, which will be updated and included in the final MTFs in March 2023.

- 4.2.3 When Welsh Government announced the Final Local Government Settlement for 2022-23 on 1 March 2022, they provided indicative all-Wales uplifts to AEF for 2023-24 and 2024-25 of 3.5% and 2.4% respectively. However, they did state that these figures were indicative and dependent on both their current estimates of non-domestic rates income over the multi-year settlement period, and the funding provided to them by the UK Government through the 2021 comprehensive spending review. This was also before the impacts of the conflict in Ukraine and the cost of living crisis took hold.
- 4.2.4 The UK Government announced a mini-budget on 23 September 2022, to try to address the economic challenges. This was subsequently followed by a number of updates, changes and new announcements during October 2022, in a bid to steady the financial markets. Then, on 17 November 2022 the Chancellor announced his Autumn Statement, against the backdrop of inflation at a 40-year high and the ongoing cost-of-living and cost-of-energy crisis for people, public services and businesses.
- 4.2.5 In his Statement the Chancellor said that the government would deliver a plan to tackle the cost-of-living crisis and rebuild the UK economy, with his priorities being stability, growth and public services. He stated that forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) showed that the economy would grow by 4.2% this year, with higher energy prices explaining the lower-than-expected growth forecasts. The Chancellor said that, in respect of public spending, government spending will continue to increase in real terms every year for the next five years but at a slower rate, and that “public spending discipline” must be shown through a “challenging period”. He said that departments will need to make efficiencies. However, overall spending will “continue to rise in real-terms” for the next five years.
- 4.2.6 In response to the Autumn Statement the Welsh Government Finance Minister said that it would mean that people are paying more for less. She also said the Statement confirms that the country is in deep recession, and that the Statement *‘doesn’t even come close to providing the funding needed to protect public service budgets against the immense challenges caused by record inflation’*. She indicated that *‘Inflation has eroded the Welsh Government’s budget to worrying levels and local authorities and NHS organisations are reporting significant shortfalls in funding as a result of inflation, pay pressures and rising energy costs. The Chancellor’s statement today fails to address this significant funding gap’*.
- 4.2.7 Welsh Government announced their draft budget on 13 December 2022, and the provisional local government settlement on 14 December 2022. The final local government settlement is not due to be announced until the end of February 2023, so the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the budget for 2023-24 are proposed on the basis of the provisional settlement.
- 4.2.8 The Welsh Government draft budget set out updated revenue and general capital spending plans for 2023-24, alongside planned allocations for 2024-25. The Minister indicated that the budget was to be used to “support the Wales of today and shape the Wales of tomorrow.” She stated that it had been one of the hardest budgets since the start of devolution and that difficult decisions had been made to maximise support for public services and for people and businesses most affected by the cost-of-living crisis and the recession. This included investing an additional £165 million in NHS Wales to help protect frontline services, along with an additional £227 million for local government to help

safeguard the services delivered by councils. This included recurrent funding of around £70 million to enable local authorities and health boards in Wales to ensure social care workers continue to receive the real living wage, which will increase from the current rate of £9.90 an hour to £10.90 an hour, by June 2023. The uplift is intended to support recruitment and retention, as well as delivering the Real Living Wage in social care. Funding is also being provided to support Wales' ongoing humanitarian response to the war in Ukraine.

- 4.2.9 The budget will also tackle inequality and invest in future generations through an additional £320 million to continue a long-term programme of learning and education reform. This includes 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.
- 4.2.10 To support businesses which are struggling to cope with the impacts of high inflation and surging energy costs, £140 million has been provided for 2023-24 in additional non-domestic rates relief to businesses in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors, to support 75% rates relief, a rise from the 50% relief provided in 2022-23.
- 4.2.11 In terms of capital investment the Minister indicated that Welsh Government had received a limited capital settlement from the Spending Review in 2021, and received no further capital funding in the Autumn Statement in November 2022. The impact of high levels of inflation had also eroded what could be afforded within existing budgets. However, within the draft budget were allocations of £50 million of additional social care capital and a total capital investment of £1.8 billion in respect of Wales' response to the climate and nature emergency, as well as £900 million of capital funding to improve the quality of school buildings through the 21st century schools' programme, now called the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.

4.3 Welsh Government Provisional Local Government Settlement 2023-24

- 4.3.1 Councils received their provisional settlements from Welsh Government on 14 December 2022. The headline figure is an overall increase, after adjusting for transfers, of 7.9% across Wales and, for Bridgend, a reported increase of 7.7% in Aggregate External Finance (AEF), or £17.5 million. The settlement includes funding to enable local authorities to continue to meet the additional costs of paying the Real Living Wage to social care workers. Further funding was included within the provisional settlement as a result of budget consequential, following spending decisions made in relation to education in England in the Autumn Statement. There are not intended to be any significant changes in the final settlement, which will be announced at the end of February 2023.
- 4.3.2 The Minister for Finance and Local Government stated: *'I know local government has been facing significant pressures and has sought to recognise the impact of inflation on the living standards of those who work in local government as well as the broader community. I hope that this increased Settlement enables you to continue to deliver the services your communities need as well as supporting national and local ambitions for the future.'*
- 4.3.3 The Minister also stated that *'This Settlement 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'*

- 4.3.4 Looking forward, the indicative all-Wales core revenue funding allocation for 2024-25 is £5.69 billion – equating to an uplift of £169m (3.1%).
- 4.3.5 In terms of capital funding the Minister stated that the settlement that WG received from the UK Government was disappointing and is not sufficient to meet their ambitions to invest in Wales' future, with the overall capital budget 8.1% lower in real terms than the current year. Following a review of their capital budgets, general capital funding for local government for 2023-24 has been confirmed at £180 million and will remain at £180 million for 2024-25. She stated that *'Even as we meet the challenges posed by inflation, we must not lose sight of the need to maintain our focus on responding to the climate and nature emergency and contributing to the Net Zero Wales plan we have developed together. Separately I am providing £20 million capital in each year to enable authorities to respond to our joint priority of decarbonisation.'* No indications have been given for 2025-26 or beyond.

4.4 Settlement Implications for 2024 to 2027

- 4.4.1 As mentioned above, when the provisional local government settlement was announced, the Minister for Finance and Local Government indicated that the potential local government settlement for 2024-25 could be an average increase in funding of 3.1%. However it was stated that this figure is indicative and is dependent on the Welsh Government's current estimates of non-domestic rates income and the funding provided by the UK Government.

4.5 Transfers into and out of the 2023-24 Revenue Settlement

- 4.5.1 The provisional settlement does not include any transfers of funding from Welsh Government into the Revenue Support Grant (RSG).

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 2022-23 figures, and some are yet to be finalised. Funding for Free School Meals during school holidays has ended, but there are allocations of £70 million in 2023-24 and £90 million in 2024-25 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 2022-23 figure at an all-Wales level, including the Social Care Workforce Grant, which remains at £45 million across Wales for both 2023-24 and 2024-25, there are changes to the Children and Communities Grant, as a result of changes to some of the programmes within the overall grant, some of which will be separate grants going forward e.g. Communities for Work Plus. There is also an increase in the grant to support proposals relating to eliminating profit from the care of looked after children – from £7.6 million in 2022-23 to £15.5 million in 2023-24 and £19.3 million in 2024-25. No information is yet available on the level of the Sustainable Waste Management Grant. Welsh Government has advised that the specific information will be updated for the final settlement.
- 4.6.3 Until more detailed information is made available from Welsh Government on some of these significant grants, which fund a range of important and key services within the Council, it is prudent not to allocate all additional funding in the budget, mindful that some funding may be needed to sustain these core services.

4.7 Current Year (2022-23) Financial Performance

4.7.1 The in-year financial position as at 31 December 2022 is shown below.

Table 1- Comparison of budget against projected outturn at 31 December 2022

Directorate/Budget Area	Original Budget 2022-23 £'000	Revised Budget 2022-23 £'000	Projected Year end spend Q3 2022-23 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend 2022-23 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend Qtr 2 2022-23 £'000
Directorate					
Education and Family Support	131,430	138,068	138,863	795	(217)
Social Services and Wellbeing	78,434	85,076	94,497	9,421	7,499
Communities	28,995	31,013	30,680	(333)	(526)
Chief Executive's	21,895	23,498	22,326	(1,172)	(658)
Total Directorate Budgets	260,754	277,655	286,366	8,711	6,098
Council Wide Budgets					
Capital Financing	7,329	7,203	6,481	(722)	(438)
Levies	8,177	8,210	8,226	16	0
Apprenticeship Levy	650	650	650	0	0
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	16,054	16,054	14,885	(1,169)	(900)
Insurance Premiums	1,363	1,363	1,236	(127)	(138)
Repairs & Maintenance	670	670	470	(200)	(200)
Pension Related Costs	430	430	430	0	0
Other Corporate Budgets	24,087	7,279	1,501	(5,778)	(989)
Total Council Wide Budgets	58,760	41,859	33,879	(7,980)	(2,665)
Total	319,514	319,514	320,245	731	3,433

4.7.2 The overall projected position at 31 December 2022 is a net over spend of £731,000 comprising £8.711 million net over spend on directorates and a net under spend of £7.980 million on Council wide budgets. The overall position has slightly improved since quarter 2, but there are still significant directorate budget pressures, particularly in social services and wellbeing, which is currently showing an over spend of £9.4 million. The quarter 3 revenue budget monitoring report is also being presented to Cabinet on 17 January, providing details on the reasons for the main over and under spends. Whilst there is currently an under spend on 'Other Council Wide Budgets' the current level of inflation is significantly higher than experienced in recent years, and is putting pressure on all services. We do not yet know whether further funding will need to be allocated from this budget to support services for the remainder of the financial year.

4.7.3 The projected over spend on the Council budget at quarter 3 still significantly masks the underlying budget pressures in some service areas that were reported in 2021-22 and still persist in 2022-23. The main financial pressures are in Social Services and Wellbeing and Homelessness.

4.8 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023-24 to 2026-27

- 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 2023-24 to 2026-27 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 2022-23, 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 2023-2027 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 2022-23 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 2023-24 draft Revenue Budget, shown in Table 6 below, assumes a 6% increase in council tax for 2023-24, which is less than the rate of inflation, and is required to enable the Council to meet the considerable financial challenges that the Council faces going forward, not least the potential significant pay and price increases, along with the unprecedented number of unavoidable service pressures facing the Council as it tries to support its most vulnerable residents. Going forward an assumed annual increase of 4.5% has been included for 2024-2027.

4.11 MTFS Resource Envelope

- 4.11.1 The published provisional 2023-24 Aggregate External Finance (AEF) figure is an increase of 7.7% for Bridgend. In the MTFS 2022-23 to 2024-25, it was stated that the Council would continue to work towards a most likely scenario in its planning assumptions for 2023-24 of an annual 0% change in AEF and an assumed increase in council tax of 4.5% for 2023-24 to 2024-25, recognising the ongoing uncertainty around our funding in future years. However, as stated above, as a result of the unprecedented challenges facing the Council, it is proposed to increase council tax by 6% for 2023-24.

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 current economic uncertainties, particularly in respect of levels of inflation, 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 Going forward, for 2024-25 Welsh Government has given an indicative increase of 3.1% but said that this is dependent on current estimates of non-domestic rates income and any 2024-25 UK budgets. Given that the published figure is an average, and the settlement often includes new responsibilities on local authorities, we have assumed slightly lower figures in our assumptions. However, for 2025-26 onwards, and given the level of funding uncertainty in future years, as well as unknown pay and price increases, the original 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

	2023-24 % Change	2024-25 % Change	2025-26 % Change	2026-27 % Change
Best Scenario	+7.7%	+2.5%	+1.0%	+1.0%
Most Likely Scenario	+7.7%	+2%	0%	0%
Worst Scenario	+7.7%	+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

	2023-24 £'000	2024-25 £'000	2025-26 £'000	2026-27 £'000	Total £'000
Best Scenario	3,256	462	3,960	3,737	11,415
Most Likely Scenario	3,256	1,711	6,521	6,324	17,812
Worst Scenario	3,256	4,210	9,045	8,823	25,334

4.12 Managing within the MTFs Resource Envelope

4.12.1 Whilst we have been able to restrict the amount of budget reductions for 2023-24, over the period of the MTFs the financial forecast for 2023-2027 is predicated on £17.8 million of 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, which is difficult to predict going forward following the unprecedented increases in energy costs, food and fuel costs over recent months, which are anticipated to continue. The consumer price index (CPI) rate recently rose above 11% in the 12 months to October 2022, a 40-year high, and has hovered around that rate since.
- 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, potential additional responsibilities arising from UK government's proposed new Protect Duty, 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 2022) in line with the Council's Fees and Charges Policy, approved by Cabinet in October 2021, unless determined otherwise.
- Increases in staffing costs, including a confirmed 10.1% increase in the Real Living Wage (from £9.90 to £10.90 per hour), a 9.7% increase in the national living wage from April 2023 (from £9.50 to £10.42), along with the impact of staff pay increases in both 2022-23 and 2023-24. These include the full year effect of the teachers' pay increase of September 2022 (5% increase), the unknown teachers' pay increase in September 2023 and increases for non-teachers for 2023-24, which are still to be determined.
- Partially offsetting this is the reversal of the April 2022 increase in the Council's employer National Insurance Contributions following the introduction of the Health and Social Care Levy. Following the change in Prime Minister for the UK in September 2022 it was announced that the 1.25% National Insurance Contributions (NICs) increase, introduced in April 2022, would be reversed from 6 November 2022. The saving to the Council from this is estimated to be in the region of £2.2 million across both BCBC and commissioned staff. This will be used to offset other pressures elsewhere within the budget.

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 £17.8 million. It shows that £6.7 million of budget reduction proposals have already been identified over the period of the MTFS, including the full £3.256 million required for 2023-24. 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 £11.1 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 2023-24 to 2026-27

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
2023-24	130	260	2,866	3,256	0	3,256
2024-25	65	0	1,251	1,316	395	1,711
2025-26	0	0	1,059	1,059	5,462	6,521
2026-27	0	0	1,059	1,059	5,265	6,324
Total	195	260	6,235	6,690	11,122	17,812
Percentage of total required	1%	1%	35%	38%	62%	100%

4.13.2 Table 4 illustrates the difficult position that the Council finds itself in financially over the life of the MTFS. For 2024-27 only 24% 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 future years, 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 2024-25, 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 2023-24 to 2026-27

	2023-24 £'000	2024-25 £'000	2025-26 £'000	2026-27 £'000	Total £'000	%
Smarter Use of Resources	2,503	1,059	1,059	1,059	5,680	85%
Managed Service Reductions	544	25	0	0	569	9%
Collaboration & Service Transformation	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Policy Changes	209	232	0	0	441	7%
Total Identified	3,256	1,316	1,059	1,059	6,690	100%

4.13.5 The table shows that over 80% 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 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 budget consultation was launched on 19 December 2022 and will run until 22 January 2023. The aim of the consultation is to seek views on the priority areas for residents, in order to enable us to review and prioritise the budget and make Bridgend 'Fit for the Future'. It is recognised that budget planning for 2023-24 is more uncertain than ever before, and that the Council is facing even more cost pressures than experienced in previous years, as a result of the cost of living crisis, conflict in Ukraine and worsening economic circumstances. We need to know what has worked well, and where we need to continue to make changes or improvements to ensure that the Council is able to deliver sustainable and effective services for the next five to ten years. The consultation includes an online survey, attendance at engagement events, a social media / web campaign and via the Authority's Citizens' Panel, and targets a range of stakeholders.

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

- Prioritising council services
- Council tax levels
- How the council has performed over the past 12 months
- What should our future priorities be
- Digitalisation of council services

4.14.3 The results will be collated and presented to Cabinet on 7 February 2023 in order to further inform final decisions on the MTFS.

4.15 2023-24 Draft Revenue Budget

4.15.1 The following table shows the draft revenue budget for 2023-24.

Table 6 – Draft Revenue Budget 2023-24

	Revised Budget 2022-23	Inter-Directorate Transfers (Pensions / Nat. Insurance)	Pay / Prices	Budget Pressures	Budget Reduction Proposals	Opening Revenue Budget 2023-24	Potential In-Year Allocations for Pay and Prices *	Potential Final Budget 2023-24
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Service Directorate Budgets:								
Central Education & Family Support	27,507	-91	144	200	-171	27,589	1,500	29,089
Schools	110,420	-461	1,915	0	-2,118	109,756	7,100	116,856
Education and Family Support	137,927	-552	2,059	200	-2,289	137,345	8,600	145,945
Social Services & Wellbeing	84,956	-393	54	8,174	0	92,791	3,700	96,491
Communities	31,013	-115	22	0	-892	30,028	3,900	33,928
Chief Executives	23,489	-112	1	700	-75	24,003	800	24,803
Total Directorate Budgets	277,385	-1,172	2,136	9,074	-3,256	284,167	17,000	301,167
Council Wide Budgets:								
Capital Financing	7,203					7,203		7,203
Levies	8,210			637		8,847		8,847
Repairs and Maintenance	670					670		670
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	16,054					16,054		16,054
Apprenticeship Levy	650					650		650
Pension Related Costs	430					430		430
Insurance Premiums	1,363					1,363		1,363
Other Council Wide Budgets	7,549	1,172	13,909	1,000		23,630	-17,000	6,630
Total Council Wide Budgets	42,129	1,172	13,909	1,637	0	58,847	-17,000	41,847
Net Budget Requirement	319,514	0	16,045	10,711	-3,256	343,014	0	343,014

* Actual amounts will depend upon final agreed pay awards and inflationary increases / contractual increases

4.15.2 The proposed net budget for 2023-24 will be funded by:

Table 7 – Net Budget Funding

	£	%
Revenue Support Grant	202,269,300	58.97
Non-Domestic Rates	47,625,526	13.88
Council Tax Income	93,118,888	27.15
Total	343,013,714	100%

4.16 Council Tax Implications

4.16.1 Based on the proposed budget of £343.014 million, there will be a 6% increase in council tax for 2023-24. This is lower than the rate of inflation but is required to enable the Council to meet the significant and unprecedented budget pressures that it is facing, to enable it to set a balanced budget, including higher than anticipated pay, price and service pressures. It takes into account the better than anticipated settlement, but is mindful of the ongoing pressures still facing the Council.

4.16.2 As mentioned above, council tax only provides around 27% of the Council's funding. The majority of funding comes from Welsh Government, via the Revenue Support Grant and the Council's share of non-domestic rates. An increase in council tax of 1% therefore only provides around £870,000 of additional funding.

4.17 Non-Domestic / Business Rates Revaluation 2023

4.17.1 The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) regularly reassess and update the rateable values of all business properties, usually every five years. The last revaluation took place in April 2017, with the next scheduled for April 2023 to factor in the economic impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. The main purpose of revaluation, and the associated setting of the multiplier, is to adjust the liability of properties relative to others within the nondomestic rates (NDR) tax-base. This ensures the rates liability is spread fairly between ratepayers and is based on up-to-date rental values. At each revaluation, all properties are assigned a new rateable value. The multiplier is then reset by the Welsh Government to ensure the NDR tax-base can broadly generate the same level of funding after revaluation as before. All the revenue raised from non-domestic rates in Wales is used to fund local government services and revaluation helps to ensure that a stable funding stream is maintained for this purpose.

4.17.2 The VOA has updated the rateable values of all business and other non-domestic, property in England and Wales, based on property values as at 1 April 2021, and these will take effect from April 2023. The financial impact of the revaluation on Council buildings needs working through as there will be transitional arrangements in place to support ratepayers. The Welsh Government has announced that it will provide all ratepayers whose liability is increasing by more than £300, as a consequence of revaluation, with transitional relief. Any increase in non-domestic rates liability as a result of revaluation will be phased in over two years. A ratepayer will pay 33% of their additional liability in the first year (2023-24) and 66% in the second year (2024-25), before reaching their full liability in the third year (2025-26). The Welsh Government has also announced that, due to the current economic climate, it will also freeze the non-domestic rates multiplier for 2023-24. In terms of the financial impact on the Council, the Council does not retain the rates that it collects. Rates collected are paid into a central pool and are then redistributed by the Welsh Government to local authorities across Wales to pay for services.

4.18 Pay, Prices and Demographics

4.18.1 Pay awards for teachers, National Joint Council (NJC) and Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) staff for 2022-23 have recently been agreed. They included an increase of 5% on all teachers' pay scales and allowances, and a flat rate increase of £1,925 on all NJC and JNC Chief Officer and Chief Executive pay points. In relation to future pay awards, the Minister for Education and Welsh Language has said that he is mindful to accept the Independent Welsh Pay Review Body's recommendations for a 3.5% uplift for teachers from September 2023, although this will be kept under review and revisited if there is a significant change in economic conditions compared with the current forecasts. The NJC unions have begun consulting their members on the 2023 pay claim which they aim to lodge in January, and further details will follow on this. No proposals have yet been submitted in respect of pay increases for JNC officers. With so much uncertainty it is difficult to determine what the pay pressure will be in 2023-24.

4.18.2 Within the 2022-23 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 applied to in-house and externally commissioned staff. In March 2022 Bridgend

County Borough Council was officially recognised as a Real Living Wage accredited employer by the Living Wage Foundation, and all BCBC-employed staff, including social care staff, were paid at the level of the Real Living Wage. The additional funding provided by Welsh Government was used to increase the rates for those externally commissioned social care services for the 2022-23 financial year. In September 2022 it was announced by the Real Living Wage Foundation that the Real Living Wage would increase by 10.1%, from £9.90 to £10.90 per hour. The rate was to be implemented as soon as possible, but by 14 May 2023 at the latest, and this will be included in calculations of new rates for commissioned social care services from April 2023. Additional funding has been included in the provisional settlement by Welsh Government for this purpose.

- 4.18.3 Funding for price inflation has 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. As mentioned above, Welsh Government has already announced that there will be no increase in the business rates multiplier for next year.
- 4.18.4 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.
- 4.18.5 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. Wales, as a whole, has an ageing population. In Bridgend, the older people's population size has increased by over 8% in the last 5 years, resulting in increased pressure on a number of service areas, including residential care, home care and the assessment and care management teams.

4.19 Non-Teachers' Pensions

- 4.19.1 The Council has received the provisional results of the triennial actuarial valuation of the Local Government Pension Fund as at 31 March 2022. The valuation shows that, based on the performance of the fund at that time, the employer's contributions required by the authority from April 2023 for the next three years is a potential reduction from the current 19.8% to a proposed 19.4%. This is based on high asset performance in the fund, specifically gains on investments, changes to membership and financial assumptions, since the last valuation. The impact of this is a potential reduced cost of employer's contributions of £352,000 per annum, the budget for which has been top-sliced from directorate budgets and centralised, to be used to fund some of the unavoidable budget pressures that the Council is facing.

4.20 School Delegated Budgets

- 4.20.1 School budgets were again protected from the proposed 1% annual efficiency target for 2022-23. However, despite the better than anticipated provisional settlement for 2023-24, given the unprecedented level of pressures facing the Council in 2023-24 and beyond, and the uncertainty around Council budgets for future years, it was felt to be almost impossible not to include a 2% efficiency in school budgets (£2.118 million) for 2023-24, given that school budgets account for around a third of net revenue expenditure.

- 4.20.2 There are a significant number of pressures on school delegated budgets for 2023-24 and beyond, not least the full year cost of the teachers' pay award for April to August 2023, new pay award for teachers from September 2023, which is currently estimated to be at least 3.5%, non-teachers' pay award from April 2023 and rising inflation, particularly in respect of energy costs. Whilst schools will need to mitigate the 2% efficiency saving, to contribute towards the corporate budget reduction target, this will be more than offset by the significant funding that will be provided to them during 2023-24 to offset these additional pay and price pressures, which could reach £9 million based on current estimates.
- 4.20.3 It should be noted that the 1% efficiency target is maintained for schools for 2024-25 and beyond, in recognition of the pressures stated above, potentially lower future budget settlements and mounting external pressures across Council services.

4.21 Budget Pressures

4.21.1 During 2022-23 a number of unavoidable service budget pressures have arisen for 2023-24 and future years, and they are detailed in **Appendix A**. The total of the budget pressures identified for 2023-24 is £10.711 million, but there are already additional pressures identified for future years, of at least a further £3.2 million. A number of these 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.

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

- Costs associated with supporting and protecting our most vulnerable residents, especially children.
- Continuing costs arising from the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.
- Increased demand on our homelessness budget.
- Increases in the older persons' population, which place additional pressures on adult social services.
- Longer term costs resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Increased costs of commissioned services in the social care sector following the 10.1% increase in the Real Living Wage, and in general following the 9.7% increase in the National Living Wage announced by the UK government.

4.22 Budget Reduction Proposals

4.22.1 Budget reduction proposals of £3.256 million for 2023-24 have been identified from service budgets to achieve a balanced budget, detailed in **Appendix B**.

4.23 Council Wide Budgets

4.23.1 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.

4.23.2 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 2023-24 the levy on Bridgend, and consequently its council tax payers, is proposed to be £8,181,420, an increase of £637,388 or 8.45% from 2022-23. This is as a result of unavoidable pay and price increases and demographic increases. It equates to an increase of approximately 0.7% in the council tax for the County Borough. The final budget is subject to approval by the Fire and Rescue Authority at its budget meeting in February 2023 so the final increase may change.

4.24 Fees and Charges

4.24.1 In general, fees and charges will be increased by CPI (as at December 2022), 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 requirements outlined in the Council's Fees and Charges Policy. A full list of all fees and charges for 2023-24 will be published on the Council's webpages once the budget has been approved for 2023-24.

4.25 Council Reserves

4.25.1 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 2022 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 March 2023.

Table 8 – Earmarked Reserves

Opening Balance 1 April 2022 £'000	Reserve	Movement as at Quarter 3			Closing Balance 31 Dec 22 £'000
		Net Additions/ Reclassification £'000	Draw-down £'000	Unwound £'000	
	Corporate Reserves:				
45,994	Capital Programme Contribution	1,115	-	-	47,109
4,725	Asset Management Reserves	105	(563)	(34)	4,233
6,310	Major Claims & Insurance Reserves	(575)	-	-	5,734
3,593	Service Reconfiguration	-	-	-	3,593
2,543	Change Management/Digital Transformation	-	(209)	(30)	2,304
2,000	Economic and Future Resilience Fund	-	-	-	2,000
65,165	Total Corporate Reserves	644	(772)	(64)	64,973
	Directorate Reserves:				
841	Education & Family Support	-	-	-	841
8,870	Social Services & Wellbeing	-	(1,681)	-	7,189
4,244	Communities	(644)	(59)	(68)	3,474
4,139	Chief Executives	-	(605)	(13)	3,522
18,095	Total Directorate Reserves	(644)	(2,344)	(81)	15,025
	Equalisation & Grant Reserves:				
3,283	Education & Family Support	-	(1,465)	-	1,818
350	Social Services & Wellbeing	-	-	-	350
3,800	Communities	-	(500)	-	3,300
1,812	Chief Executives	-	(128)	-	1,683
-	Cross Directorate	-	-	-	-
9,245	Equalisation & Grant Reserves:	-	(2,094)	-	7,151
14,228	School Balances	-	-	-	14,228
106,732	TOTAL RESERVES	0	(5,210)	(144)	101,378

4.26 Capital Programme and Capital Financing Strategy

4.26.1 This section of the report deals with the proposed Capital Programme for 2022-23 to 2032-33, 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 2023-24, which provides General Capital Funding (GCF) for 2023-24 of £180 million across Wales and of £8.008 million for the Council for 2023-24, of which £3.951 million is un-hypothecated supported borrowing, with the remaining £4.057 million provided through general capital grant. This is in line with previous forecasts. An indicative figure of £180 million for 2024-25 has also been provided on an all-Wales basis, in addition to £20 million each year for Local Government Decarbonisation.

4.26.2 The original budget approved by Council on 23 February 2022 has been further revised and approved by Council during the year to incorporate budgets brought forward from 2021-22, slippage into 2023-24 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 regeneration, decarbonisation, homelessness and digitalisation.

4.26.3 There are also other financial pressures arising as a result of the impact of the war in Ukraine and cost of living crisis, which are being seen in existing tender prices, and will continue to do so for some time going forward, placing pressure on the capital programme overall, including:

- Increased prices of materials, as a result of higher inflation rates, sometimes up to 25% higher than previously estimated;
- Supply chain difficulties leading to higher prices and delays in schemes being completed;
- Inability to recruit to key posts, both within the Council and companies we contract with, resulting in higher wages and overall contract costs;
- Additional requirements on schemes to achieve Welsh Government's Net Zero commitments, which includes an aim of collectively achieving net zero across the Welsh public sector by 2030. This will lead to changes in the way we design and manage our assets, which will likely result in increased costs.

4.26.4 Following 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 2022 and any further changes will be included in the updated capital programme presented to Council for approval in January 2023 or the capital programme to be included in the final MTFS to be approved by Council in March 2023.

4.26.5 The capital programme contains a number of annual allocations that are met from the total general capital funding for the Council. The only amendment proposed is to include an additional annual allocation of £400,000 per annum to support the decarbonisation agenda. This will enable works to be undertaken to support decarbonisation across the county borough and provide match funding for any external capital bids. Decisions on how this funding is allocated will be via the 2030 Decarbonisation Programme Board. The proposed allocations are shown in Table 9 below.

Table 9 – 2023-24 Proposed Annual Allocations of Capital Funding

	Proposed 2023-24 £'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
2030 Decarbonisation	400
Total	5,220

4.27 Capital Receipts

4.27.1 The disposals strategy for the period to 2030 is currently being drafted and it is anticipated that the majority of the receipts will emanate from Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration and Ewenny Road (Maesteg) sites, which will be the focus of the disposal programme in the future. Good progress is being made on two of these projects, most notably with the recent completion of the sale of 2 acres at Porthcawl Salt Lake to Aldi Stores, which produced a significant capital receipt for the Council. Capital receipts are subject to the exchange of contracts, so it is prudent not to commit them until we have a contractual agreement.

4.28 Prudential (Unsupported) Borrowing

4.28.1 Total Prudential Borrowing taken out as at 1 April 2022 was £47.608 million, of which £22.640 million was outstanding. It is estimated that the total borrowed will increase to £54.532 million by the end of this financial year.

4.28.2 Future prudential borrowing could include an estimated £2 million towards the costs of highways refurbishment, £1.236 million towards the cost of fleet vehicles replacement, £2.3 million towards the costs of highways schemes for 21st Century Band B schools and £0.972 million towards the Bridgend Smart System and Heat Programme.

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 current 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outlining the impact of a number of different funding scenarios (Best, Most Likely and Worst) to provide an element of flexibility to the Council.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in preventative measures to reduce the burden on more costly statutory services.
Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savings generated from collaboration and integrated working.
Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explicit links between the Corporate Plan, the Capital Strategy, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Medium Term Financial Strategy
Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 2023-24 to 2026-27 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 2023-24 and beyond.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet submits for consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Committees the 2023-24 annual budget and development of the MTFS 2023-24 to 2026-27, as set out in this report, prior to presenting a final version for approval by Council in March 2023.

Carys Lord

CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE (SECTION 151 OFFICER)

January 2023

Contact Officer: Deborah Exton
Deputy Head of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer

Telephone: 01656 643604

Email: deborah.exton@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address: Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Background documents: Individual Directorate Monitoring Reports
Provisional Local Government Revenue and Capital Settlements
2023-24

BUDGET PRESSURES 2023-24 TO 2026-27

			2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Ref	Directorate	Pressure	£000	£000	£000	£000
EFS1	Education and Family Support	Revenue to support the Annual Service Payments for the School Modernisation Programme Band B Bridgend West Schemes under the Mutual Investment Model.		478	342	
EFS2	Education and Family Support	Education Welfare Officer / Attendance Support Worker - additional members of staff. Workload has trebled since 2019 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and additional resource is required to manage the demand to increase attendance and ensure children / young people are safeguarded.	200			
SSW1	Social Services & Wellbeing	Implications of Real Living Wage (RLW) uplifts on commissioned contracts within Social Services and Wellbeing, based on announced increase to RLW from £9.90 in 2022 to £10.90 in 2023	2,480	2,406		
SSW2	Social Services & Wellbeing	Increased Pressure on Mental Health budget due to long term impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic	161			
SSW3	Social Services & Wellbeing	Additional Social Work Support Officers, who provide critical support to the social work teams throughout the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate, carrying out administrative tasks and freeing up the professional Social Workers to focus on key activities.	242			
SSW4	Social Services & Wellbeing	Increased pressure on Learning Disabilities budget due to long term impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic	758			
SSW5	Social Services & Wellbeing	Children's Residential & Out of County Budget Pressures - additional staffing required in BCBC Residential settings, coupled with increased pressure on out of county residential budget	1,403			
SSW6	Social Services & Wellbeing	Additional permanent resource required in the Information, Advice & Assistance Team to support the Care Inspectorate Wales inspection report.	700			
SSW7	Social Services & Wellbeing	Family Group Conferencing budget pressure, previously funded by one-off funding and grant	140			
SSW8	Social Services & Wellbeing	Appointment of permanent Deputy Head of Children's Services to provide support in terms of managing the Information, Advice and Assistance Service and providing support to the Head of Children's Services	105			
SSW9	Social Services & Wellbeing	Increased pressure on the Direct Payments budget for Children's Services	118			

			2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Ref	Directorate	Pressure	£000	£000	£000	£000
SSW10	Social Services & Wellbeing	Appointment of permanent Responsible Individual for Children's Residential Care Services in accordance with the requirements of the Regulation and Inspection of Care (Wales) Act (2016) (RISCA)	67			
SSW11	Social Services & Wellbeing	Pressures in Adult Social Care service, including demographic pressures, increased demand, particularly in respect of learning disabilities and direct payments, and increased costs of commissioned services	2,000			
CEX1	Chief Executives	Housing & Homelessness Accommodation - based on increased numbers of households and individuals supported with accommodation	700			
CW1	Council Wide	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 2023 so the final increase may change .	637			
CW2	Council Wide	To mitigate emerging pressures, details for which are yet to be finalised. To be allocated in line with need and reported through quarterly monitoring reports.	1,000			
	Total Budget Pressures		10,711	2,884	342	0

Budget Reduction Proposals 2023-24 to 2026-27

Ref.	Links to 7 Wellbeing Goals	Categories	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Budget 2022-23 £'000	Total Budget Reduction 2023-2027 as % of 2022-23 Budget	2022-23 Budget Reductions £'000	Indicative 2023-24 £'000	Indicative 2024-25 £'000	Indicative 2025-26 £'000	Indicative 2026-27 £'000
------	----------------------------	------------	---------------------------	--	----------------------	---	---------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

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	PC	Removal of home-to-college transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Full 12-week consultation would be required with a full academic year required before policy is implemented post policy change. •Parent groups, learners and others likely to be opposed to policy change. •Negative media coverage. •Reputational risk to local authority. •Risk to financial viability of Bridgend College. Some courses may cease if numbers of pupils reduce. •Possible increase in the number of young people not engaged in education, employment or training (NEET). •Impact on local road infrastructure around schools as more pupils chose private motor vehicles rather than public transport. •The most deprived may lose out the most and may chose not to consider post-16 education. •Reduction in vehicles required by local authority may increase the risk for some transport operators, effectively forcing them out of the market. This would then impact the ability of the local authority to contract transport services to meets its statutory transport requirements. •Therefore, there is a risk that transport operators would increase their costs against these contracts to compensate. 	323	100%	0	131	192		
EFS5	A more equal Wales	SUR	Delegate some school transport responsibilities to The Bridge Pupil Referral Unit under a new delivery model to deliver efficiency savings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Minimal impact anticipated. •Alternative service model to be implemented to deliver the identified efficiency. •Increased responsibility for school 	127	31%	0	40			
			Total Education and Family Support				171	192	0	0	

SCHOOLS

SCH1	A more prosperous Wales	SUR	Efficiency savings against School Delegated Budgets - 2% for 2023-24, assume 1% 2024-25 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The annual saving represents a 2% (then 1% per annum) 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 one teacher in our larger primary schools and up to five teachers in our larger secondary schools being made redundant over the MTFs period. 	£105.9m - ISB Budget	5% total (2% then 1% per annum)		2,118	1,059	1,059	1,059
			Total Schools				2,118	1,059	1,059	1,059	

			Total Education & Family Support Directorate				2,289	1,251	1,059	1,059
--	--	--	---	--	--	--	-------	-------	-------	-------

Budget Reduction Proposals 2023-24 to 2026-27

Ref.	Links to 7 Wellbeing Goals	Categories	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Budget 2022-23 £'000	Total Budget Reduction 2023-2027 as % of 2022-23 Budget	2022-23 Budget Reductions £'000	Indicative 2023-24 £'000	Indicative 2024-25 £'000	Indicative 2025-26 £'000	Indicative 2026-27 £'000
------	----------------------------	------------	---------------------------	--	----------------------	---	---------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

COMMUNITIES

COM1	A Wales of cohesive communities	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.	279	100%		279			
COM2	A Wales of cohesive communities	SUR	Closure of each of the Community Recycling Centre sites for one weekday per week	The waste contract related items would require both Contract variation negotiations with Kier to confirm the saving levels proposed along with public consultation regarding the reduced levels of service.	1,506	3%		50			
COM3	A more equal Wales	PC	Charging Blue Badge Holders for parking	There are currently a number of measures which assist in providing equitable access, particularly for those who are participants in the Blue Badge Scheme. These include reserved spaces for Blue Badge Holders in Off-Street Car Parks in convenient locations, guidance on the proportion of disabled parking spaces within new parking facilities, some on-street parking provision in town centre locations, the ability to park on double yellow lines for up to 3 hours as long as no obstruction is caused and the Shopmobility scheme operated within Bridgend Town Centre. In providing parking either at ground level or in multi-storey car parks, the Council incurs both capital and ongoing revenue costs which the Council must source from its own funds. The current position is that a concession is applied in Off Street Car Parks for persons displaying a Blue Badge which provides for unlimited parking free of charge.	N/a - new income target			40	40		
COM4	A prosperous Wales	SUR	Commercially let two wings 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	N/a - new income target			120			
COM5	A healthier Wales	PC	Removal of support to RNLI for Lifeguards at Porthcawl Beaches	This reduction will have a serious impact on public safety at our beaches & coastline and continuation of a service would be dependent on RNLI fully funding the operatives and or reduction in service provision.	51	75%		38			
COM6	A Wales of cohesive communities	SUR	Use revenue savings accrued as a result of switching street lighting to LED's across the County.	The savings are predicated from reduced energy bills in 22/23 as a result of the LED street lighting roll out. This may be diminished in future years by rising energy costs overall.	1,097	9%		100			
COM7	A Wales of cohesive communities	MSR	Reduction to Highways - Road Marking Budget	This reduction could have an impact on the enforcement of restriction as the remaining funding will be focused on markings that have wider safety implications.	75	13%		10			

Budget Reduction Proposals 2023-24 to 2026-27

Ref.	Links to 7 Wellbeing Goals	Categories	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Budget 2022-23 £'000	Total Budget Reduction 2023-2027 as % of 2022-23 Budget	2022-23 Budget Reductions £'000	Indicative 2023-24 £'000	Indicative 2024-25 £'000	Indicative 2025-26 £'000	Indicative 2026-27 £'000
Page 287 COM8	A Wales of cohesive communities	MSR	Removal of waste enforcement team that have been appointed in 2021 to tackle household and commercial waste issues i.e. fly tipping	This is predicated on removing the entire team that is funded via the Public Realm and using this revenue to support savings. This will have a detrimental impact on the cleanliness of the authority and its ability to tackle issues such as fly-tipping and non compliance with legislation by commercial premises around their waste management responsibilities. This would remove our ability to carry out enforcement action in areas such as Wildmill and could potentially see increased residual waste tonnages requiring disposal as resident may not compile with restrictions around residual waste, impacting on our recycling performance	200	100%		200			
COM9	A Wales of cohesive communities	MSR	Increase garden waste subscription cost by £5.00 per annum (Currently £41.01 per household or £36.73 for pensioners)	Potential increase in fly tipping. Loss of subscribers	155	19%		30			
COM10	A Wales of cohesive communities	MSR	Increase bulky waste charges from £21.42 for 3 items to £25.	Potential increase in fly tipping.	110	45%		25	25		
			Total Communities Directorate					892	65	0	0

CHIEF EXECUTIVES

CEX1	None	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%	0	40			
CEX2	None	SUR	Efficiency saving target targeting supplies and services budgets across the Chief Executive's Directorate	Limited impact as review has identified small historic under spends against this budget category	35	100%	0	35			
			Total Chief Executive's Directorate					75	0	0	0

GRAND TOTAL REDUCTIONS								3,256	1,316	1,059	1,059
ESTIMATED BUDGET REDUCTION REQUIREMENT (MOST LIKELY)								3,256	1,711	6,521	6,324
REDUCTION SHORTFALL								0	395	5,462	5,265

130	65	0	0
260	0	0	0
2,866	1,251	1,059	1,059
3,256	1,316	1,059	1,059

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Project Description (key aims):

Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023-24 to 2026-27

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	<p>3. How does your project / activity deliver economic, social, environmental & cultural outcomes together?</p> <p>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 its current and draft well-being objectives. The development of the Corporate Plan and MTFS are both the responsibility of Cabinet and the Corporate Management Board.</p>
Collaboration	<p>4. How does your project / activity involve working together with partners (internal and external) to deliver well-being objectives?</p> <p>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.</p>
Involvement	<p>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?</p> <p>A full budget consultation was launched on 19 December 2022 and will run until 22 January 2023. The aim of the consultation is to seek views on the priority areas for residents, in order to enable us to review and prioritise the budget and make Bridgend ‘Fit for the Future’. It is recognised that budget planning for 2023-24 is more uncertain than ever before, and that the Council is facing even more cost pressures than experienced in previous years, as a result of the cost of living crisis, conflict in Ukraine and worsening economic circumstances. We need to know what has worked well, and where we need to continue to make changes or improvements to ensure that the Council is able to deliver sustainable and effective services for the next five to ten years. The consultation includes 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.</p> <p>Respondents are asked to share their views on a range of areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritising council services • Council tax levels • How the council has performed over the past 12 months • What should our future priorities be • Digitalisation of council services

The results will be collated and presented to Cabinet on 7 February 2023 in order to further inform final 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)?
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>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.</p> <p>The MTFS is aligned with the Corporate Plan to achieve the Council's current well-being objectives:</p> <p>Funding is targeted in line with these priorities and in line with the 13 MTFS Principles.</p>
<p>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).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>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.</p>

	<p>people get involved in local issues and recognise the importance of green space in wellbeing and as a prevention factor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>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.</p>
<p>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).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, 	<p>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.</p>

	<p>older people and other equality groups. Focus on increasing income and reducing the skills gap.</p>	
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>Compliance with the Welsh Language act and specific Welsh Language Standards will be monitored as part of the annual report.</p>

	skills are beneficial to businesses and in increasing demand.	
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	20/12/2022

This page is intentionally left blank

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

17 JANUARY 2023

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS - LONG TERM EMPTY HOMES AND SECOND HOMES – OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- update Cabinet on the outcome of the consultation exercise in respect of charging a council tax premium on long term empty homes and second homes.
- seek a recommendation from Cabinet on how they wish to proceed with the proposed introduction of a premium in light of the consultation feedback; and
- subject to the above, recommend the proposed way forward to full Council, with authorisation granted for the Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change to implement as necessary.

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 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 Council tax collected from local residents makes up approximately 27% of the funding for the Council’s net revenue budget, which supports the achievement of all of the Council’s well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 A report was presented to Cabinet on 15 November 2022 outlining the discretionary powers that Councils have had since April 2017, under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014,

to be able to charge higher amounts (a premium) of up to 100% on top of the standard rate of council tax on long-term empty homes and second homes. In March 2022 the Welsh Government (WG) announced that this maximum premium would be increased to 300% from April 2023. Whether to charge a premium on long term empty homes and second homes (or both) is therefore a decision to be made by each Council, and must be made by full Council.

3.2 Welsh Government (WG) has provided guidance to support local authorities in determining whether or not to charge a premium, and have provided a range of factors which can help local authorities in making that decision, including:

- Numbers and percentages of long-term empty homes or second homes in the area;
- Distribution of long-term empty homes or second homes and other housing throughout the authority and an assessment of their impact on property values in particular areas;
- Potential impact on local economies and the tourism industry;
- Patterns of demand for, and availability of, affordable homes;
- Potential impact on local public services;
- Potential impact on the local community;
- Other measures that are available to authorities to increase housing supply;
- Other measures that are available to authorities to help bring empty properties back into use.

3.3 The discretion given to local authorities to charge a premium is intended to be a tool to help local authorities to:

- * bring long-term empty homes back into use to provide safe, secure and affordable homes; and
- * support local authorities in increasing the supply of affordable housing and enhancing the sustainability of local communities.

3.4 In February 2019 Council resolved to remove the discretionary discount on empty homes, and approved a new level of 100% Council Tax payable for specified categories of property which have been empty for more than 6 months. No consideration was given as part of that decision to charge a premium on empty homes. With regards to second homes, the Council has not awarded a discount on these types of properties since April 2000, neither has it charged a premium.

3.5 The Welsh Government guidance outlines a number of exceptions where premiums cannot be charged on empty homes and second homes, and more detail is available on each one within the guidance:

Classes of Dwelling	Definition	Application
Class 1	Dwellings being marketed for sale – time-limited for one year	Long Term Empty Homes and Second Homes
Class 2	Dwellings being marketed for let – time-limited for one year	
Class 3	Annexes forming part of, or being treated as part of, the main dwelling	
Class 4	Dwellings which would be someone's sole or main residence if they were not residing in armed forces accommodation	
Class 5	Occupied caravan pitches and boat moorings	Second Homes
Class 6	Seasonal homes where year-round occupation is prohibited	
Class 7	Job-related dwellings	

Welsh Government has recently consulted on some changes to their guidance, to reflect changes to the maximum council tax premiums, as stated above, the letting criteria and a proposed extension to the exceptions to the premiums under Class 6. Once finalised this revised guidance will apply with immediate effect.

Premiums for Long Term Empty homes

- 3.6 A long-term empty dwelling is defined as a dwelling, which is both **unoccupied** and **substantially unfurnished** for a continuous period of at least **one year**.
- 3.7 In determining the length of time a dwelling has been empty, no account can be taken of any period before 1st April 2016. In addition, the furnishing or occupation of a dwelling for one or more periods of six weeks or less during the year will not affect its status as a long-term empty dwelling. In other words, a person cannot alter a dwellings status as a long-term empty dwelling by taking up residence or installing furniture for a short period.
- 3.8 The council tax system already provides a number of specific exemptions from council tax. The exempt groups are set out in the Council Tax (Exempt Dwellings) Order 1992. There are a number of exemptions in place for unoccupied dwellings, such as, for example:
- where the resident is in long-term residential care or hospital,
 - where a dwelling is being structurally repaired (for up to one year),
 - where the resident has died (for up to six months after grant of probate or letters of administration).

A dwelling that is exempt from council tax is not liable for a premium. However, where a dwelling becomes no longer eligible for an exemption, but remains unoccupied, it will become liable for the premium. In the case of an empty home, it will be liable for a premium after it has been empty for a continuous period of one year.

- 3.9 Where a Council makes a determination to charge a premium on long-term empty

dwellings, it may specify different percentages (originally up to 100 per cent but from 1st April 2023 this can be up to a maximum of 300 per cent) for different dwellings based on the length of time that they have been empty.

- 3.10 The report to Cabinet in November included a table which showed the position across Wales for 2022-23 in respect of those authorities that charge an empty property premium, plus the percentage premium applied and the number of properties affected. This is replicated below:

	Long Term Empty Homes Premium				
	25%	50%	75%	100%	Total
Isle of Anglesey	0	0	0	324	324
Blaenau Gwent	0	0	0	0	0
Bridgend	0	0	0	0	0
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0
Cardiff	0	826	0	0	826
Carmarthenshire	0	0	0	0	0
Ceredigion	579	0	0	0	579
Conwy	0	398	0	0	398
Denbighshire	0	516	0	0	516
Flintshire	0	588	0	0	588
Gwynedd	0	0	0	1019	1019
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0	0	0	0
Monmouthshire	0	0	0	0	0
Neath Port Talbot	0	0	0	0	0
Newport	0	0	0	0	0
Pembrokeshire	129	89	0	246	464
Powys	0	665	0	0	665
Rhondda Cynon Taf	0	0	0	0	0
Swansea	0	0	0	1079	1079
Torfaen	0	0	0	0	0
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0	0	0	0
Wrexham	0	260	0	0	260
Total Wales	708	3342	0	2668	6718

- 3.11 In addition, the report outlined the position across Bridgend, highlighting that in October 2022 there were 701 long term empty properties, and it showed the distribution of these across the county borough and the length of time they had been empty. This table is also replicated below.

Parish	12-18mths	18-24mths	2-3yrs	3-5yrs	5-10yrs	> 10yrs	Total over 12 months
Brackla	5	1	3	5	2	5	21
Bridgend	15	8	14	19	15	11	82
Cefn Cribwr	3	0	2	1	2	4	12
Coity Higher	6	6	6	6	4	2	30
Coychurch Higher	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Coychurch Lower	2	1	0	1	3	0	7
Cynffig	4	3	5	0	5	5	22
Garw	18	5	5	4	17	5	54
Laleston	3	8	4	1	6	3	25
Llangynwyd Lower	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Llangynwyd Middle	4	0	2	1	2	2	11
Maesteg	31	16	27	15	35	33	157
Merthyr mawr	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Newcastle Higher	4	4	1	1	3	1	14
Ogmore Valley	15	7	7	13	25	18	85
Pencoed	3	5	6	4	6	3	27
Porthcawl	20	18	14	20	25	21	118
St Brides Minor	1	1	5	2	4	2	15
Ynysawdre	5	5	0	1	3	1	15
Total	139	89	102	96	159	116	701

- 3.12 Bridgend's Empty Property Strategy was approved by Cabinet in December 2019. The purpose of the Strategy was to seek to reduce empty properties across the County Borough and help contribute towards increasing the availability of housing for sale or for rent. A proposal to charge a council tax premium on empty properties is in line with the aims of this Strategy.

Premiums for Second Homes

- 3.13 A second home is defined as a dwelling that is not a person's sole or main residence and is substantially furnished. These dwellings are referred to in the Local Government Finance Act (LGFA) 1992 as dwellings occupied periodically but they are commonly referred to as "second homes".
- 3.14 The report to Cabinet presented Welsh Government data on the position across Wales in terms of those authorities that charge a council tax premium on second homes, plus the percentage premium applied and the number of properties affected:

	Second Homes Premium				
	25%	50%	75%	100%	Total
Blaenau Gwent	0	0	0	0	0
Bridgend	0	0	0	0	0
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0
Cardiff	0	0	0	0	0
Carmarthenshire	0	0	0	0	0
Ceredigion	1642	0	0	0	1642
Conwy	1050	0	0	0	1050
Denbighshire	0	384	0	0	384
Flintshire	0	177	0	0	177
Gwynedd	0	0	0	3746	3746
Isle of Anglesey	0	2149	0	0	2149
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0	0	0	0

	Second Homes Premium				
	25%	50%	75%	100%	Total
Monmouthshire	0	0	0	0	0
Neath Port Talbot	0	0	0	0	0
Newport	0	0	0	0	0
Pembrokeshire	0	0	0	3794	3794
Powys	0	1074	0	0	1074
Rhondda Cynon Taf	0	0	0	0	0
Swansea	0	0	0	1284	1284
Torfaen	0	0	0	0	0
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0	0	0	0
Wrexham	0	0	0	0	0
Total Wales	2692	3784	0	8824	15300

- 3.15 Currently Bridgend County Borough Council has 72 properties which are classed as second homes that pay a 100% charge. Of these, approximately 74% are owned by people who do not live in Bridgend County Borough. Under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, in order for a premium to apply to dwellings occupied periodically (second homes), a billing authority must make its first determination under section 12B **at least one year** before the beginning of the financial year to which the premium relates. This means that in order to charge a premium from 1st April 2024, a billing authority must make a determination before 1st April 2023.
- 3.16 Where a Council makes a determination to charge a premium on second homes, this can be up to a maximum of 300 per cent from April 2023.
- 3.17 At the meeting in November, Cabinet resolved to initiate a consultation exercise on the proposed use of the discretionary power in respect of long term empty homes and second homes. The proposal was that a premium of 100% be charged on both long term empty homes and second homes for an initial period of 2 years, with a proposal that this be increased to 200% from year 3. Following the consultation, should Council agree to charge a premium on long term empty homes and second homes, it was proposed that the premium for long term empty homes is introduced and effective from 1st April 2023, while the premium for second homes would be effective from 1st April 2024 (in line with the requirements of the Act).

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 A public consultation ran for a four week period from 16 November to 14 December on the Council's website. In addition all affected homeowners were contacted in writing to advise them of the proposed changes, and the consultation, and to direct them to it.

4.2 Outcome of consultation

A copy of the full consultation report is attached at **Appendix A**. The headlines from the consultation are as follows:

1. There were 167 responses to the consultation
2. 51% of respondents selected YES, they agree with the proposal to introduce a council tax premium on long-term empty properties at 100% for those that have been empty longer than a year, rising to 200% after 2 years. 42% selected NO, they do not agree with the proposal.

The top three comments identified for this proposal are as follows: **13 respondents** mentioned there should be an exemption for homes under renovation / making homes habitable. **11 comments** highlighted there needs to be an understanding why the homes are empty, and it should be individually assessed / not one rule for all. **8 comments** referred to the timescale and delays with granting of Probate, therefore this should be considered as unable to do anything with the property.

3. 53% of respondents selected NO, they do not agree with the proposal to charge a premium in respect of second homes which would be 100% for all properties classified as a second home under Class B of the Council Tax (Prescribed Class of Dwelling) (Wales) Regulations 1998, rising to 200% from year 3. 40% selected YES, they do agree with the proposal.

The top three themes identified in respect of this proposal are: **9 comments** mentioned that the proposal would cause financial hardship. **8 comments** highlighted there are a small amount of second homes within Bridgend. **7 comments** stated the proposal is unreasonable.

4. In terms of timescales for implementing, 52% of respondents stated that they do not think the timescales are reasonable, whereas 45% of respondents stated that they did think they are reasonable.

4.3 Should the Council determine to charge a premium on this type of property then notice of the decision must be published at the minimum in a local newspaper, but it is recommended that this is published more widely, within 21 days of that decision but there is no requirement for the Council to provide a prescribed period of notice before charging a premium. The Council would write to each home owner, once a decision is made, to advise them of the forthcoming change thereby providing as much advance notice as possible.

4.4 Options available to Cabinet are to:

- recommend to full Council that the proposed 100% council tax premiums are implemented from 1st April 2023 for long term empty homes, and 1st April 2024 for second homes, with these both increasing after 2 years.
- determine not to recommend the implementation of a council tax premium on either long term empty homes or second homes to Council, or both.

- recommend the implementation of a council tax premium on either long term empty homes or second homes to Council, or both, but with different implementation dates or percentage premiums.

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 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.

6.2 A number of mechanisms are available to support people in paying their council tax, not least the council tax reduction scheme which supports people on low incomes to pay their council tax.

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 proposals support the sustainable development principle by seeking to support an increase in the supply of affordable housing and enhancing the sustainability of local communities

8. Financial implications

8.1 The charging of a 100% premium on long-term empty dwellings and second homes would raise additional revenue through council tax collection. This is estimated at a maximum of £1 million (based on the full year impact of a 100% premium, once both premiums are implemented (April 2024), and based on the current 97.5% collection rate at average Band D council tax rates). However, this is unlikely to be the case, given the likely much lower collection rates for these types of properties, the need to identify and apply the exceptions set out in paragraph 3.5, and the fact that around 17% of properties have been empty for over 10 years and for these properties there are often problems in determining ownership / responsibility for payment.

8.2 In line with the WG guidance, the local authority is permitted to retain any additional funds generated by implementing the premium. Authorities are encouraged to use any additional revenue generated to help meet local housing needs, in line with the policy intentions of the premiums. It is proposed that the extra funding generated would support the Council's Empty Property Strategy and Homelessness Strategy, and will be used to support budget pressures in these areas through the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- note the outcome of the consultation and determine how they wish to proceed;
- subject to the above, make a recommendation to Council on the preferred option to go forward;
- also subject to the above, and any decision made by Council, authorise the Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change to implement any changes.

Carys Lord
CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE
January 2023

Contact Officer: Deborah Exton
Deputy Head of Finance

Telephone: (01656) 643604

E-mail: deborah.exton@bridgend.gov.uk

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

Background Documents: Welsh Government 'Guidance on the Implementation of the Council Tax Premiums on Long-Term Empty Homes and Second Homes in Wales' January 2016

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX A

Long-term Empty Homes and Second Homes

Consultation Report

Date of issue: January 2023

Contents

1. Overview.....	2
2. Introduction	2
3. Marketing and engagement methods	2
3.1. Marketing	2
3.1.1. Social Media	2
3.1.2. Gov Delivery	2
3.1.3. Media and Publicity	3
4. Response Rate	3
5. How effective was the consultation?	4
6. Consultation Survey	4
6.1. Language used to complete the survey.....	4
7. Survey Questions and Analysis.....	4
8. Conclusion	10
8.1. Equality Impact Assessment	10
8.2. Summary	10
9. Appendices.....	11

1. Overview

A public consultation on Long-term empty homes and second homes within Bridgend County Borough was undertaken over a 4-week period, from 16th November to 14th December 2022.

In total, there were 167 responses to the consultation. The online survey received a total 166 completion, with an additional 1 email response.

2. Introduction

The public survey was available to complete online through a link on the consultation page of the council's website. Paper copies of the consultation were also available, which could be sent directly to residents upon request.

Surveys were available in standard and large print formats: both were available in English and Welsh Language. The content of the page remains online.

Respondents could choose to answer all or some questions. All survey responses offered the option of anonymity. The council's standard set of equality monitoring questions were also included within the survey, in line with recommended good practice for all public-facing surveys carried out by the council.

3. Marketing and engagement methods

3.1. Marketing

This section details methods used to raise the profile of the consultation and encourage participation.

3.1.1. Social Media

The council runs the following social media accounts: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

The public consultation was posted bilingually to the council's corporate Twitter and Facebook channels throughout the consultation period, to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage citizens to share their views on the strategy.

The council currently has over 18K Facebook followers and 14.6K followers on its English Twitter account, and 358 on its Welsh Twitter account. 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	Likes	Comments	Shares
25 th November 2022	0	0	1
27 th November 2022	18	7	11
3 rd December 2022	5	1	0

Twitter	Likes	Comments	Retweets
23 rd November 2022	1	0	1

3.1.2. Gov Delivery

GovDelivery is a digital communications tool that was implemented by the local authority in June 2020, to send messages directly to residents' email inboxes in the language of their choice.

There are currently 35,711 English language subscribers and 248 Welsh language subscribers from Bridgend County Borough to the weekly update emails.

Details of the public consultation were included in Gov Delivery bulletins throughout the duration of the live period.

The table below shows when details were included in bulletin as well as the number of click through links in both English and Welsh language.

Date	English Link Clicks	Welsh Link Clicks
17 TH November 2022	48	0

3.1.3. Media and Publicity

A press release was issued on 15th November stating the consultation was launching on 16th November, to raise awareness and encourage participation.

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/consultation-approved-to-increase-council-tax-on-second-homes-and-long-term-empty-properties/>

3.1.4. Postal Letters

Letters were sent out directly to affected residents, in both English and Welsh language informing them of the proposal. The letters included a QR code which residents could scan to easily access the survey.

A copy of the empty properties and second homes letter can be found in Appendix 1 and 2 of the report.

3.1.5. Google Analytics

The table below shows the number and source of page views to the Empty Homes and Second Homes consultation page.

Source	Number of page views
Direct	257
Google	62
Facebook	46
Bing	4
Bridgend	3
LinkedIn	3
Walesonline.co.uk	1
Yahoo	1
Gov.co.uk	1
Public.govdelivery.com	1
Planning.bridgend.gov.uk	1
Democratic.bridgend.gov.uk	1
Bridgend-self.achieveservice.com	1

4. Response Rate

In total there were 167 responses, 166 were from the online survey, and 1 response was received via email, which is shown in Appendix 3 of the report.

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. Consultation Survey

6.1. Language used to complete the survey.

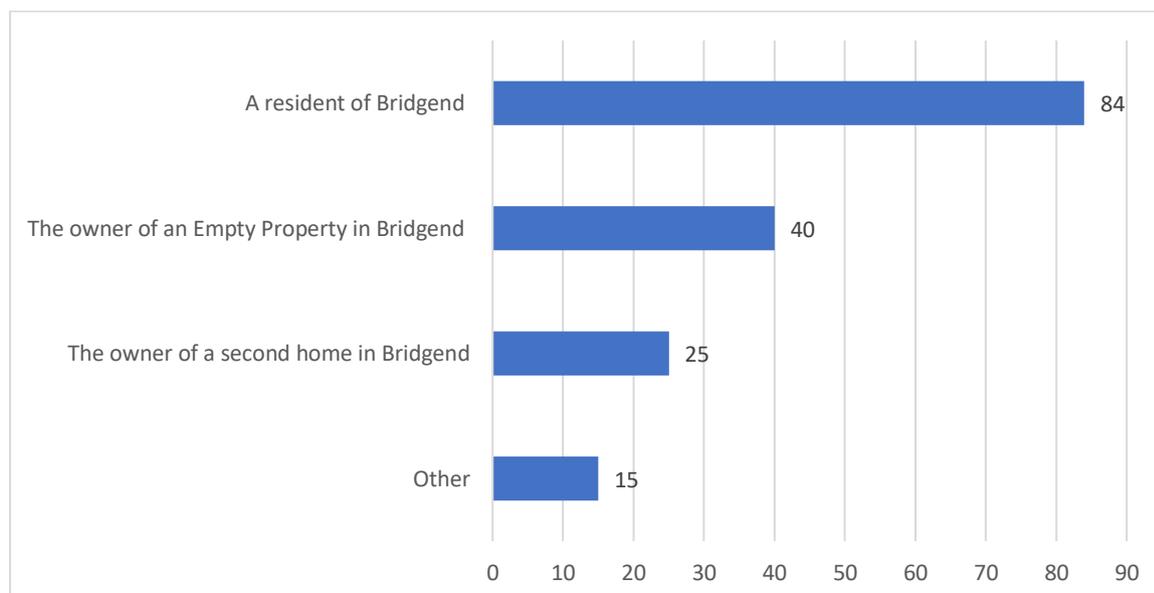
Respondents to the consultation survey were initially asked in which language they would like to complete the survey. Overall, 100% of respondents selected English with 0% selecting Welsh.

Language	#	%
English	167	100%
Welsh	0	0%
Total	167	100%

7. Survey Questions and Analysis

This section outlines and analyses all questions asked in the online survey.

Are you replying to the questionnaire as:

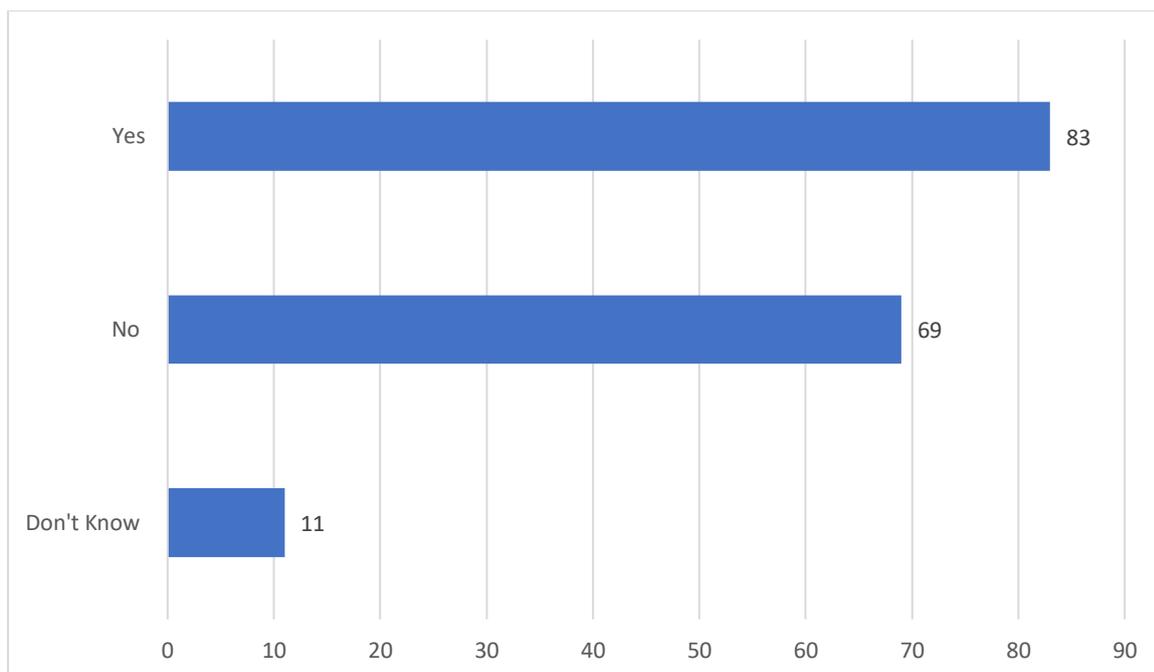


As shown in the graph above, **84 respondents (51%)** confirmed they were replying as a resident of Bridgend. **40 respondents (24%)** stated they were replying as the owner of an Empty Property within Bridgend. Another **25 respondents (15%)** were responding as an owner of a second home in Bridgend. **15 respondents (9%)** selected other.

Proposal:

It is proposed that a Council Tax Premium is introduced on long-term empty properties at 100% for those which have been empty longer than 1 year. This premium charge will be payable from 1 April 2023 for properties meeting the criteria that have been vacant for more than 12 months prior to this date. The level of premium would then increase to 200% for those properties after 2 years.

Do you agree with this Proposal?



As shown above, 83 respondents (**51%**) selected Yes, they agree with the proposal. Whereas **69 respondents (42%)** stated No, they do not agree with the proposal. **11 respondents (7%)** selected Don't Know.

If you have any comments, please insert them below:

Responses to this question are themed into the table below.

Theme	Number of Respondents
Should be an exemption for homes under renovation / making homes habitable	13
Need to understand why the homes are empty / should be individually assessed / Not one rule for all	11
Probate process and timescales should be considered as unable to do anything with the property	8
No funds to restore the property / make usable	7
Planning permission delays should be considered in timescale	4
Should be exemptions for properties on the market	4
Should not be pressured to sell or rent a second home / property	4
Empty homes should be used for the homeless and those in unsuitable housing.	3
Long overdue / Positive change	3
Should be exemption for properties where owners are in Hospital / Care Home.	3
If bills are paid, owners should be able to do what they wish	3
Empty homes do not utilise / benefit from council facilities e.g., Refuse Waste	3
Goes against the Council helping people during financial crisis	3
BCBC should be supporting residents to bring back these homes / not penalising	4
Do not consider 1 year as long term	2
Significant buildings should be targeted, i.e., Glamorgan Care Home, Porthcawl Hotel	2

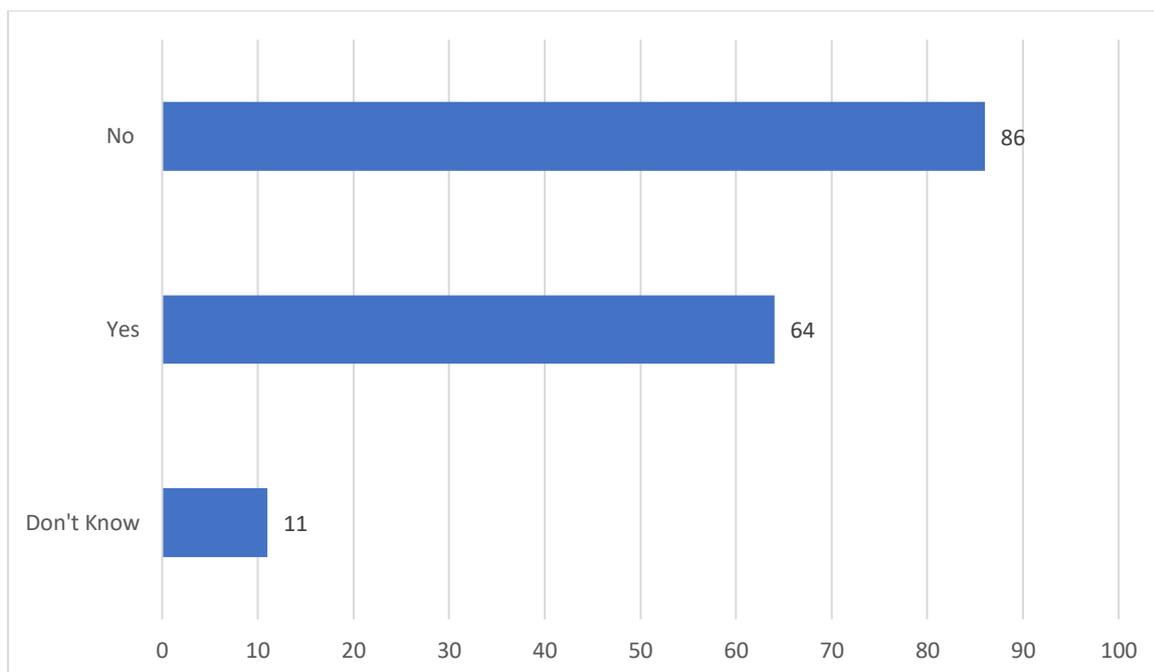
Premium is too high	2
Causes unnecessary increased anxiety during financial crisis	2
Greedy Council	1
Seems Lenient as huge shortage for affordable housing	1
Timescale should be 18 months minimum	1
Timescale should be 6 months rather than a year	1
Compulsory purchase properties empty for a long period to rent / housing schemes	1
How will this be monitored	1
BCBC should have better management of their finances	1
Second homes/ holiday lets should be excluded from the proposal as they support local economy	1
Received a letter when property is not empty	1
Homes being used for temporary accommodation should be exempt	1
Premium should be 200% after one year and continue to increase	1
1 year period should start at the introduction of this to give property owners notice	1
Proposal is not retrospective	1
Will this include dilapidated commercial properties in Bridgend Town Centre?	1
Should be 25% after a year, raising by 15% after that	1
After a year of notice, compulsory purchase should come into force	1
Second homes rarely used should be taxed	1
Not enough notice for owners to act	1
Council should make saves elsewhere to provide affordable housing	1
Council Tax in Bridgend is amongst highest in Wales	1
Unsure what is classified as a second home	1

93 respondents provided a comment for this question. As shown in the table above, the top three comments identified are as followed: **13 respondents** mentioned there should be an exemption for homes under renovation / making homes habitable. **11 comments** highlighted there needs to be an understanding why the homes are empty, and it should be individually assessed / Not one rule for all. **8 comments** referred to the timescale and delays with granting of Probate, therefore this should be considered as unable to do anything with the property.

Proposal:

It is also proposed to charge a premium in respect of second homes and that this should be 100% for all properties classified as a second home under Class B of the Council Tax (Prescribed Class of Dwelling) (Wales) Regulations 1998. The level of premium would then increase to 200% for those properties from year 3.

Do you agree with this proposal?



161 respondents provided a response for this question. As shown in the graph above, **86 respondents (53%)** stated No, they do not agree with the proposal. **64 respondents (40%)** selected Yes; they do agree with the proposal. **11 respondents (7%)** selected they Don't Know.

If you have any comments, please insert them below:

Responses to this question are themed into the table below.

Theme	Number of Responses
Proposal would cause financial hardship	9
Small amount of second home owners in Bridgend	8
Unreasonable proposal	7
Reasonable proposal	6
Second homes/holiday lets should be excluded from the tax hike	5
Second home owners feel scrutinised by the proposal	5
The proposal increases council tax by too much.	4
Improvements to Empty houses	2
The proposal should only apply to tourist areas (e.g. - Porthcawl)	2
Owners trying to sell should not be classified as second home owners.	2
Increase to 100% only	2
More evidence needed to support the proposal	2
Properties should be individually assessed	2
No improvements	1
Longer time period should be considered before tax rise	1
Increase the proposal to ensure that first time buyers have more options	1
The owners are already paying council tax elsewhere in the UK	1
Consultation should be meaningful	1
Proposal should be trialled to identify implications	1
Proposal should be implemented at 200% initially	1

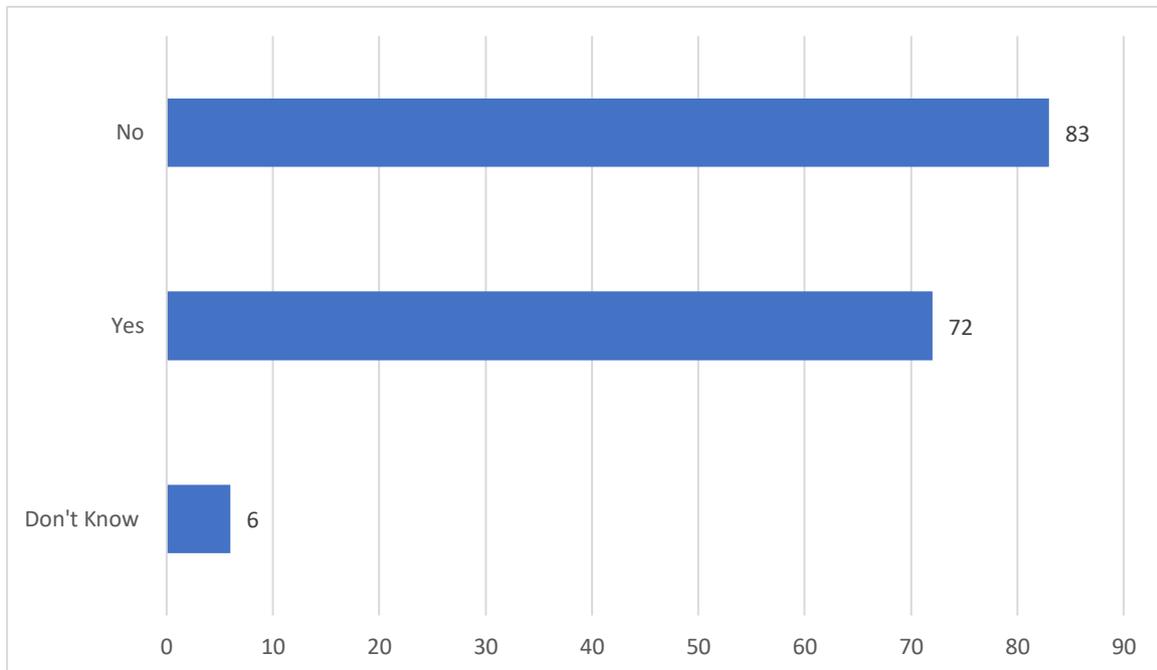
Need to consider the balance between taxing second home owners to improve economy and being sympathetic to first time buyers.	1
Bridgend already has a high council tax rate	1
Comment irrelevant to the questions	13

78 respondents provided a comment for this question. The top three themes identified in the table above are as followed: **9 comments** mentioned that the proposal would cause financial hardship. **8 comments** highlighted there are a small amount of second homes within Bridgend. **7 comments** stated the proposal is unreasonable.

Proposal:

It is proposed that the premium for long term empty properties is introduced and effective from 1st April 2023, while the premium for second homes would be effective from 1st April 2024 (in line with the requirements of the Act).

Do you think that this is a reasonable timescale?



161 respondents provided a response for this question. As shown in the graph above, **83 respondents (52%)** stated No, they do not think this is a reasonable timescale. **72 respondents (45%)** selected Yes; they think this is a reasonable timescale. **6 respondents (4%)** selected they Don't Know.

If you have any comments, please insert them below:

Responses to this question are themed into the table below.

Theme	Number of Respondents
Not enough notice for property owners to Sell / make homes habitable	19
Disagreement with taxing of Second Homes at a premium	5
Both should be introduced in 2024 / treated the same	5

Proposal to cause financial hardship	5
Implement proposal as soon as possible	4
Probate / legal issues and delays with inherited properties	3
Empty properties need to individually accessed / Understand why properties are empty	2
Second homes bring money into the area / attract tourism	2
Both proposals to be implemented by 2023.	1
Timescale should not be backdated	1
Enough time to sell the house	1
Second Homes should be rented out to support economy	1
The premium should be applied to empty shops and buildings in Bridgend Town Centre	1
No further comments from respondent	1
Property is occupied	1
Disagree as home under renovation	1
Empty Properties with no attempt to sell should be taxed	1
Properties on the market should be exempt	1
Owners should not be pressure to sell / rent out second homes	1
Timescale of proposals are confusing	1
Plans to retire to second home / use at future date	1
Proposal has had negative impact on well-being	1
Proposal has been rushed	1
Second home is used seasonally due to seasonal demand	1
Comment irrelevant to question	8

69 respondents provided a response for this question. The top four themes identified in the table above are as followed: **19 comments** highlighted the proposal does not give enough notice for property owners to sell / make homes habitable. **5 comments** stated they disagree with the tax premium on second homes. **A further 5 comments** mentioned both proposals should be introduced at the same time / treated the same. **5 comments** referred to the proposal causing financial hardship to owners.

8. Conclusion

The local authority has powers available to charge council tax premiums through the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

The proposal would help to bring empty homes back into use to provide safe, secure, and affordable homes and would also support the council to improve the sustainability of local communities.

The report provides a summary of the findings, a wide range of comments were received regarding the proposal to increase council tax on second homes and long-term empty properties. All feedback will be circulated to the responsible officers so that as much feedback as possible can be considered for the process.

8.1. Equality Impact Assessment

The equality impact assessment will be completed alongside the proposal to increase Council Tax on Second Homes and Long-term empty properties.

8.2. Summary

Information from this consultation will be used to inform the decision of increasing the council tax charge for owners of second homes and long-term empty properties.

Information will also be shared with cabinet on Tuesday 17th January 2023.

9. Appendices

9.1. Appendix 1: Postal letter to residents – Empty properties premium

November 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposal to charge a Council Tax premium for Empty Properties

Bridgend's Empty Property Strategy was approved by Cabinet in December 2019. The purpose of the Strategy was to seek to reduce empty properties across the County Borough and help contribute towards increasing the availability of housing for sale or for rent. A proposal to charge a council tax premium on empty properties is in line with the aims of this Strategy.

One of the objectives of the strategy is to use a range of interventions to ensure all types of empty homes are targeted and enable them to be brought back into use. This includes considering Council Tax Premiums for long term empty properties and second homes.

There are approximately 2,000 long term empty properties across the County Borough, over 236 of which have been empty for 5 years or more.

Since the 1st April 2017, Councils in Wales have been able to charge a higher amount (a 'premium') of up to 100% on top of the standard rate of council tax which is payable on properties which have been empty for a period of 12 months or more (known as "long-term empty properties"). The level of premium allowed to be charged has been increased by Welsh Government to 300% effective from 1st April 2023.

In line with this, the Council is now consulting on a proposal to introduce a Council Tax Premium on long-term empty properties at 100% for those which have been empty for between one and three years, rising to 200% for properties which have been empty for more than three years. It is proposed that the premium is introduced from 1st April 2023. It is also proposing to introduce a Council Tax Premium on second homes at 100% from 1st April 2024 and 200% from 1st April 2026.

The table below sets out how the premium will be applied on all long-term empty properties in the County Borough:

Length of Time Property has been Empty	Current Council Tax Liability	Proposed Council Tax Liability
0 – 6 Months	Nil	Nil
7 – 12 Months	100%	100%
1 – 3 Years	100%	200%
3 Years +	100%	300%

Please note that there are certain exceptions to the payment of Council Tax Premiums that may apply to your specific circumstances. Further information on these can be found on the BCBC website.

We are writing to you as you are currently liable for the council tax payable on an empty property in Bridgend and we would like your views on the proposal.

Please have your say by completing the questionnaire at www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/consultations/. Or by scanning the QR code below.



The consultation period will run from Wednesday 16th November 2022 to Wednesday 14th December 2022.

Yours sincerely,

BCBC Consultation Team

Empty properties letter – Welsh Language

Tachwedd 2022

Annwyl Syr/Madam

Cynnig i godi premiwm y Dreth Gyngor ar Eiddo Gwag

Cymeradwywyd Strategaeth Eiddo Gwag Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr gan y Cabinet ym mis Rhagfyr 2019. Diben y Strategaeth oedd ceisio lleihau nifer yr eiddo gwag ledled y Fwrdeistref Sirol a helpu i gyfrannu at gynyddu argaeledd tai ar werth neu i'w rhentu. Mae cynnig i godi premiwm y dreth gyngor ar eiddo gwag yn unol â nodau'r Strategaeth hon.

Un o amcanion y strategaeth yw defnyddio ystod o ymyriadau i sicrhau bod pob math o gartrefi gwag yn cael eu targedu a'u bod yn cael eu haildefnyddio. Mae hyn yn cynnwys Premiymau'r Dreth Gyngor ar eiddo gwag tymor hir ac ail gartrefi.

Mae tua 2,000 o eiddo gwag tymor hir ledled y Fwrdeistref Sirol, ac mae dros 236 ohonynt wedi bod yn wag ers 5 mlynedd neu fwy.

Ers 1 Ebrill 2017, mae Cyngorau yng Nghymru wedi gallu codi symiau uwch ('premiwm') o hyd at 100% ar ben cyfradd safonol y dreth gyngor sy'n daladwy ar eiddo sydd wedi bod yn wag am 12 mis neu fwy (a elwir yn "eiddo gwag tymor hir").

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cynyddu lefel y premiwm y caniateir ei chodi i 300%, a fydd yn dod i rym o 1 Ebrill 2023.

Yn unol â hyn, mae'r Cyngor bellach yn cynnal ymgynghoriad ar gynnig i gyflwyno Premiwm y Dreth Gyngor 100% ar eiddo gwag tymor hir sydd wedi bob yn wag am rhwng blwyddyn a thair blynedd, gan godi i 200% ar gyfer eiddo sydd wedi bod yn wag am hirach na thair blynedd. Cynigir bod y premiwm yn cael ei gyflwyno o 1 Ebrill 2023. Mae hefyd yn cynnig cyflwyno Premiwm y Dreth Gyngor o 100% ar ail gartrefi o 1 Ebrill 2024 a 200% o 1 Ebrill 2026.

Mae'r tabl isod yn nodi sut fyddai'r premiwm yn cael ei gymhwyso ar yr holl eiddo gwag tymor hir yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol:

Y Cyfnod y mae'r Eiddo wedi bod yn Wag	Atebolrwydd y Dreth Gyngor Presennol	Atebolrwydd y Dreth Gyngor Arfaethedig
0 – 6 Mis	Dim	Dim
7 - 12 Mis	100%	100%
1 - 3 Blynedd	100%	200%
3 Blynedd +	100%	300%

Noder, mae rhai eithriadau penodol i'r taliad Premiwm y Dreth Gyngor a all fod yn berthnasol i'ch amgylchiadau penodol chi. Mae rhagor o wybodaeth am yr eithriadau hyn ar gael ar wefan CBS Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr.

Rydym yn ysgrifennu atoch gan eich bod ar hyn o bryd yn atebol am y dreth gyngor sy'n daladwy ar eiddo gwag ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr, a hoffem ofyn am eich barn ar y cynnig.

Rhannwch eich barn drwy gwblhau'r holiadur yn <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/cy/fy-nyngor/ymgyngoriadau/>. Neu drwy sganio'r cod QR isod.



Bydd y cyfnod ymgynghori'n para o ddydd Mercher 16 Tachwedd 2022 tan ddydd Mercher 14 Rhagfyr 2022.

Yn gywir,

Tîm Ymgynghori CBS Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

9.2. Appendix 2: Postal letter to residents - Second homes

English:

November 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposal to charge a Council Tax premium for Second Homes

Bridgend's Empty Property Strategy was approved by Cabinet in December 2019. The purpose of the Strategy was to seek to reduce empty properties across the County Borough and help contribute towards increasing the availability of housing for sale or for rent. A proposal to charge a council tax premium on empty properties is in line with the aims of this Strategy.

One of the objectives of the strategy is to use a range of interventions to ensure all types of empty homes are targeted and enable them to be brought back into use. This includes considering Council Tax Premiums for long term empty properties and second homes.

The number of second homes across the County Borough is increasing rapidly and has more than doubled over the past four years. There are 72 second homes in the County Borough.

These are properties that are:

- (a) *not the sole or main residence of an individual;*
- (b) *furnished; and*
- (c) *the occupation of which is not prohibited by law for a continuous period of at least 28 days in the relevant year.*

Since the 1st April 2017, Councils in Wales have been able to charge a higher amount (a premium) of up to 100% on top of the standard rate of council tax which is payable on properties which are classed as "second homes". The level of premium allowed to be charged has been increased by Welsh Government to 300% effective from 1st April 2023

The Council is therefore proposing to introduce a Council Tax Premium on all second homes at 100%, effective from 1st April 2024 rising to 200% from 1st April 2026.

We are writing to you as you are currently liable for the council tax payable on a property considered to be a second home in Bridgend borough and we would like your views on the proposal.

Please have your say by completing a questionnaire at www.bridgend.gov.uk/currentconsultation. Or by scanning the QR code below.



The consultation period will run from Wednesday 16th November 2022 to Wednesday 14th December 2022.

Yours Sincerely,

BCBC Consultation Team

Welsh Language:

Tachwedd 2022

Annwyl Syr/Madam

Cynnig i godi premiwm y Dreth Gyngor ar Ail Gartrefi

Cymeradwywyd Strategaeth Eiddo Gwag Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr gan y Cabinet ym mis Rhagfyr 2019. Diben y Strategaeth oedd ceisio lleihau nifer yr eiddo gwag ledled y Fwrdeistref Sirol a helpu i gyfrannu at gynyddu argaeledd tai ar werth neu i'w rhentu. Mae cynnig i godi premiwm y dreth gyngor ar eiddo gwag yn unol â nodau'r Strategaeth hon.

Un o amcanion y strategaeth yw defnyddio ystod o ymyriadau i sicrhau bod pob math o gartrefi gwag yn cael eu targedu a'u bod yn cael eu haildefnyddio. Mae hyn yn cynnwys Premiymau'r Dreth Gyngor ar eiddo gwag tymor hir ac ail gartrefi.

Mae nifer yr ail gartrefi ledled y Fwrdeistref Sirol yn cynyddu'n gyflym, ac mae wedi mwy na dyblu dros y pedair blynedd ddiwethaf. Mae yna 72 o ail gartrefi yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol.

Mae'r rhain yn eiddo lle mae'r canlynol yn berthnasol:

- (a) *nid yw'n brif breswylfa i unrhyw un;*
- (b) *mae wedi'i ddodrefnu; a*
- (c) *nid yw meddiant ohono wedi'i wahardd yn ôl y gyfraith am gyfnod parhaus o 28 diwrnod neu fwy yn ystod y flwyddyn berthnasol.*

Ers 1 Ebrill 2017, mae Cynghorau yng Nghymru wedi gallu codi symiau uwch ('premiwm') o hyd at 100% ar ben cyfradd safonol y dreth gyngor sy'n daladwy ar eiddo sydd wedi'u nodi fel "ail gartrefi". Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cynyddu lefel y premiwm y caniateir ei chodi i 300%, a fydd yn dod i rym o 1 Ebrill 2023

Oherwydd hynny, mae'r Cyngor yn cynnig cyflwyno Premiwm y Dreth Gyngor o 100% ar yr holl ail gartrefi o 1 Ebrill 2024, gan gynyddu i 200% o 1 Ebrill 2026.

Rydym yn ysgrifennu atoch gan eich bod ar hyn o bryd yn atebol am y dreth gyngor sy'n daladwy ar eiddo sy'n cael ei ystyried i fod yn ail gartref ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr, a hoffem ofyn am eich barn ar y cynnig.

Rhannwch eich barn drwy gwblhau'r holiadur yn www.bridgend.gov.uk/currentconsultation. Neu drwy sganio'r cod QR isod.



Bydd y cyfnod ymgynghori'n para o ddydd Mercher 16 Tachwedd 2022 tan ddydd Mercher 14 Rhagfyr 2022.

Yn Gywir,

Tîm Ymgynghori CBS Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

9.3. Appendix 3: Email Response.

CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO: Proposal to charge a Council Tax premium for Empty Properties

Dear,

I have already completed the online survey form responding to this consultation, and I have previously written via Cllr. Martyn Jones to complain that the letter informing me about the consultation was undated, but arrived at my home 10 days after the consultation period had commenced. I have therefore had less time than I would have liked to complete research into the implications of this proposal, and into the widely varying ways in which other borough or county councils are tackling these issues.

CONSULTATION RESPONSE BY JOHN COLES:

I have framed this consultation response in the form of a formal report, and trust that some of the issues I raise will be valued as having been carefully considered.

1.00 - BACKGROUND AND LOCUS STANDI:

1.01 - The respondent is classified by the borough council as the owner of an 'Empty Property' but this is an incorrect classification.

1.02 - The respondent and his wife are co-owners of a house used for high quality furnished short-term self-catering holiday accommodation. The property was carefully designed to meet the increasing demand for character 'destination' accommodation, and was developed as a direct response to the borough council's 'Destination Action Plan 2018-2022'. He and his wife therefore have a vested interest in this consultation as stakeholders.

1.03 - Under the remit of RentSmart Wales, the respondent is both a Registered Accommodation Provider, and certified to hold a Landlord License.

1.04 - The respondent submits that furnished short-term accommodation provides a local service by providing for visitors with a direct and / or indirect local connection to the Bridgend area, as well as as making a strong 'value added' contribution to the local economy.

1.05 - The respondent therefore argues that it is both counter-productive, and contrary, to charge such properties a premium on council tax because to do so will merely discourage activities which the council is endeavouring to encourage and support through other stated policies.

2.00 - ACCURACY OF DATA:

2.01 - As has been stated, the respondent believes that he has been incorrectly categorised as owning an 'Empty' property.

2.02 - This is despite previous requests not to list the property as 'Empty'. The exact criteria used by the borough council are not known by the respondent, but it would appear that if the Registration Officer receives no data of occupants for a specific property, then that property

will be listed as 'Empty' on the Electoral Role. This is merely one way in which a property can become categorised as 'Empty'. This can lead to erroneous classification.

2.03 - There are many other ways in which a property can become listed incorrectly, and it has been noted that in other borough or county council empty property strategies it is openly acknowledged that it is a very complex matter giving properties the correct classification.

2.04 - There would appear to be at least five categories of homes affected by the council's proposals:

a) Empty, unfurnished, properties. There are many reasons why a home is empty - e.g: deceased owner and difficulty contacting heirs; probate problems such as legal challenges; property bought as long-term investment; owner in long-term medical care, owner unable to afford extensive costs of upgrading to habitable standards, etc..

b) Second homes - category 1 (furnished, used by the owners primarily for their own use, and not necessarily solely for holidays). Examples would be where family commitments require residence at one location, but employment commitments require week-day residence at another location.

c) Second homes - category 2 (furnished, used by the owners for holidays).

d) Holiday homes - (used by the owners for holidays, but also let to other visitors from time to time).

e) Furnished and serviced accommodation specifically run as a business designed for Short Term visitor lettings (for example, via AirBnB.com) and meeting the criteria for Furnished Holiday Lettings defined by HMRC in Guidance note HS253 (2021)

2.05 - This matters. It matters, because the owners of property may be penalised by being charged a premium from either April 2023, or April 2024, and any such charges should (if imposed, and at the very least) be levied on the correct classification of data, and take into account the extent to which such properties either add to, or detract from, local needs and economy.

2.06 - The BCBC 'Empty Property Strategy 2019 - 2023' clearly states (page 5, "National Definition of an empty property") that: "The following properties are excluded from this definition - a second or holiday home" and yet now, it would appear that the proposal is being carried forward to levy a premium on such homes.

2.07 - This raises serious questions about forward planning and makes it impossible for owners to plan ahead.

3.00 - THESE COUNCIL TAX PREMIUM PROPOSALS MAY CONTRADICT OTHER EXISTING BCBC POLICY AIMS AND AMBITIONS:

3.01 - The BCBC 'Destination Action Plan' 2018 - 2022 clearly states:

Paragraph 1.1.2 Support the development / enhancement of high quality serviced accommodation.

- *The development of small scale visitor accommodation will be supported where opportunities arise, particularly in the Valleys through the Valleys Task Force, unless there are identified planning policy constraints.*

Paragraph 1.1.3 Support the development / enhancement of high quality self-catering accommodation.

Support will be provided to:

- *The letting of second homes and redundant farm buildings for holiday cottages.*

3.02 - We moved to Blangarw, at the head of the Garw Valley, because of the exceptional beauty of the location, and the many accessible walking and cycling routes. As an award-winning artist, the ambition was to offer practical holidays incorporating art and photography tuition.

3.03 - Relying on the Bridgend Borough Development Plan, and the Bridgend Destination Action Plan (see above), we purchased an additional property with beautiful views of the Nantir Valley, and direct access to walking and cycling opportunities, with the specific aim of meeting the ambition stated in Paras 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 (*above*).

3.04 - Our development of a high quality premises for short term holiday and other lets (see 3.05 below) has already achieved 'Superhost' standard, and has been successful in demonstrating a demand for such accommodation.

3.05 - In the first 12 months of letting through AirBnB we have exceeded even the forthcoming, revised, usage criteria. We have been advertised as available for 365 days of the year, and have achieved 184 nights occupancy (verifiable through our AirBnB records). We know that the three other cottages in the Garw Valley - which have all been developed and marketed within the last two years or so - have also achieved similar success.

3.06 - My own AirBnB records indicate that approximately 50 percent of our guests have a direct or indirect connection with the Valley, and their reasons for staying in the short-term self-catering include:

- Engineers working on highly specialised local survey work for Network Rail, and requiring a very quiet location for daytime sleep because their work was all at night, when no trains were running;
- A local software developer seeking a quiet location in which to develop a new, locally based, but worldwide focused, tuition portal;
- A Welsh-born professional theatre director producing the December 2021 Christmas Show for Awen, rehearsing at the Workman's Hall, just around the corner;
- Grandparents visiting grandchildren and family in the next street;
- Grandchildren and family visiting Blaengarw families for a major family celebration.
- Builders renovating an empty house in the next street (which is now 'for sale' with a Valleys-based agent);
- A single woman who had purchased a property at Blackmill, and was waiting for completion;

- A woman from the USA seeking to rekindle a relationship from long ago with a person in the Valley.
- A mother and daughter from Scotland with an appointment for specialist consultancy in Bridgend.
- A punk rock band from Sheffield, recording with a Bridgend-based recording studio for a new album.

3.07 - In addition, by developing a 'character' property, featuring artisanal antiques / artefacts, and offering a series of walks based around the mining heritage of the valley, we have attracted many people from within a 150 mile radius (West Country, Midlands, Greater London) who value our cottage as a 'Destination' in it's own right as a relaxing and characterful weekend stress-buster.

3.08 - All the people listed above, and - indeed - all our many guests, are '**Added Value**' for the Bridgend area. **This is an important issue that should be considered in this Consultation**, because far from being a drain on local resources, they bring 'new money' from England, Scotland, the USA, which they spend locally in shops, attractions, and food establishments.

3.09 - My AirBnB account currently tells me that searches for accommodation in the Blaengarw area have increased by 71 percent since the same time last year. That figure has resulted primarily from the investment and marketing that we local accommodation providers have put in, and way exceeds the 2 percent overall growth targeted by the council's own Destination Management Plan.

3.10 - Our own investment in the development to achieve this kind of growth and occupancy has all been private money. I am sure that the same applies to the other three AirBnB self-catering cottages in the Garw Valley. It is grossly unfair to now threaten to penalise those of us seeking to promote the Valley, in line with council policy, by charging us a premium council tax levy as currently proposed.

4.00 - PERSUASION NOT ENFORCEMENT:

4.01 - Many of the most successful programmes aimed at bringing 'Empty Homes' back in to use have started from a basis of 'Persuasion not Enforcement'. For example, Peterborough (regarded as a leader in this field).

4.02 - The Welsh Government 'Empty Homes Good Practice Guidance' states (Paragraph 21):

*"Not all empty homes need action. It is essential that authorities decide where they should target their main activities through careful analysis, sifting the information they collect to develop systems which identify priorities. For example, there would be little point in targeting transactional empty properties which are empty for good reason. This would also apply to properties that are not causing a nuisance, are in good repair, and would not be suitable to address local housing need. An authority will also need to set realistic timescales as part of any action plan to tackle the problems. Consideration will need to be given to the way in which action should be approached i.e. **persuasion and agreement** before **enforcement**. It is also extremely important to keep in mind the human rights issues associated with forcing owners to release empty homes and the statutory provisions that must be met when contemplating enforcement measures like EDMOs and CPO."*

[N.B. Bold type as used by the original guidance notes]

4.03 - My own AirBnB has already been targeted by the finance department as an 'Empty Home' subject to a 100 percent council tax premium as from three and a half months time. Not only is that based upon incorrect data, but it flies in the face of the Welsh Government Good Practice Guidance (see above) because **'enforcement'** is being given priority over both **'persuasion'** and **'agreement'**.

4.04 - It is suggested that this is a 'sledgehammer to crack a nut' policy, which does NOT meet the criteria as suggested in the Good Practice Guidance to *"set realistic timescales as part of any action to tackle the problems."*

4.05 - A council tax premium applies to the 'empty property' and not to the owner. It will not be lifted until the property has been brought to a 'habitable state' (which, effectively, also means a 'mortgageable state'). So, if (for example) an owner of an 'empty property' cannot afford the extensive costs of bringing a typical Valleys terraced house back to a 'habitable state' then the property will be blighted in terms of saleability.

CASE STUDY:

We viewed a 2 bedroom terraced house on 'The Strand', Blaengarw. The owners (from the Home Counties) had owned the place for around a year, and made a pretty-pretty job of the bedroom with fancy paintwork, but the electrics were ancient and literally falling out of the ceiling and walls with exposed conductors *[I am City & Guilds qualified, and a former professional theatre chief electrician. I do know what I am looking at]*. The downstairs toilet / bathroom in a single skin extension was running with water, and the roof and ceiling had collapsed. The kitchen was in a similar state of collapse. Floors and walls were damp to waistlevel, and the central heating had rusted away. The owners were asking for offers over £50,000 but even the estate agent showing us around said, "You need to realise that the money you put in to this may be more than the resale value."

In fact, resale value after renovation would have been approximately £70,000 at the time. If we had purchased at £50,000, a full plumbing / central heating installation at around £15,000, plus re-wire at around £7,000 would already have taken our costs £2,000 over the resale value, to say nothing of rebuilding costs associated with the kitchen and bathroom plus kitchen and bathroom appliances, which made this a totally uneconomic proposition.

4.06 - The example above is fairly typical of deceased properties, which are often those sold at auction because they are non-mortgageable. Given the level of renovation costs associated with such properties, trying to sell an 'empty property' PLUS a 100 percent premium attached can make such a sale impossible. Seriously - who would want to buy it?

4.07 - BCBCs own 'Empty Property Strategy 2019 - 2023' recognises this problem on Page 9: "The value of an empty property will be a factor in whether it can be brought back into use, as there may well be little or no equity to obtain funding to carry out repair works on the property."

4.08 - It is therefore suggested that merely implementing a policy of punitive measures being launched with almost immediate effect (1st April 2023) BEFORE engaging with owners to

develop a positive strategy is likely to be counter-productive.

4.09 - It would seem from desk research that many forward looking councils conform to similar guidelines to those outlined by the Welsh Government. In other words, the prospect of council tax premiums is held as a 'last resort' if owners fail to engage. Before that, specialist departments within the councils will do all in their power to help with funding and encouragement. For example, some councils offer loan funding. The owner pays a percentage of the cost of essential renovation, the council cover the rest. The property is then let to social tenants through a housing association or social landlord for 5 years and then reverts to the owner who can let privately, or sell as a renovated property.

5.00 - NOTICE PERIODS:

5.01 - Even if the council decides to proceed with the proposal to charge 100 percent premium on properties which have been empty for between 1 and 3 years, and 200 percent for properties which have been empty for more than 3 years, it is essential that owners are given sufficient notice in order to take realistic steps towards remedying the situation.

5.02 - It should be noted that the Welsh Government 'Empty Homes Good Practice Guidance' specifically says (quote): *"An authority will also need to set realistic timescales as part of any action plan to tackle the problems."*

5.03 - By implementing the proposal as in (5.01 above) it is strongly suggested that the council is NOT setting 'realistic timescales' and that very few - if any - owners of 'Empty Properties' will be able to either renovate to habitable standards, offer to the rental market, or sell their properties within the three months or so before the implementation date of 1st April.

5.04 - If the council is not prepared to follow Welsh Government good practice guidance, it is suggested that the proposal as it stands is clearly punitive, and merely aimed at fundraising, rather than representing a genuine desire to be constructive in bringing 'Empty Properties' back into the market as part of a genuine strategy to work together with owners to address housing concerns within the borough.

5.05 - In terms of 'second homes / holiday homes' it is suggested that it is grossly unfair to penalise owners who have endeavoured to meet the ambitions of the council's own Destination Management Plan, and who have added considerable 'Added Value' by bring 'new money' into the borough.

5.06 - It should be recognised by the council that this policy is being introduced at a time when owners of both 'empty properties' and 'second / holiday homes' have, and are being, impacted by a veritable storm of factors which affected, and will continue to affect, income and disposable funds with which to meet occupancy figures, or to carry out major renovations.

- Covid lockdowns from March 2020 impacted severely on the ability to renovate properties, with a virtually complete shut-down of builder's merchants, massive shortages of basic materials such as sand and cement, and a total shut-down of

delivery services.

- Travel bans made it illegal to travel to collect construction materials or to visit second homes.
- Those same travel bans created a severe reduction in income for the operators of self-catering holiday homes, on which overall overheads (council tax, water rates, broadband and communications costs, insurance etc) continued to be payable.
- During that period (March 2020 to December 2021) and ongoing since, the price of building materials has dramatically increased. For example, Cement doubled in price, the cost of roofing batten increased around threefold.

5.07 - The country is now entering a period of severe economic recession. Those of us operating self catering accommodation are already seeing a major downturn in bookings for 2023 which will make it much harder to meet the new occupancy levels from April 2023 (which are approximately 250 percent higher than current levels), and property prices are predicted to decrease considerably whilst renovation costs have, and are, increasing.

6.00 - CONCLUSION:

6.01 - It is submitted that this proposal to introduce council tax premiums from 1st April 2023 and 1st April 2024, should be reconsidered (see 6.04 below).

6.02 - It is suggested that before implementing punitive council tax premiums, the core of the strategy in respect of Empty Homes should be to engage with, and persuade owners to bring their properties back into habitable or economic use. BCBCs own strategy document acknowledges the problems, and the Welsh Government have established detailed Good Practice Guidance which should surely be followed.

6.03 - Short-Term Holiday Lets (known by HMRC as 'Furnished Holiday Lettings) provide a valuable local resource, at no cost to the council, by renovating sub-standard premises, and providing accommodation for both new visitors, and temporary accommodation for those with a direct or indirect connection with the borough. They bring financial 'Added Value' to the borough by bringing in 'new money' (rather than merely re-circulating existing money) and, as long as they can demonstrate that they are in compliance with government legislation, it is counter-productive to levy a punitive council tax premium on their owners - no other business which is trying to operate commercially to make a profit would be treated like this.

6.04 - It is suggested that the council's own list of empty homes, holiday homes, and furnished holiday lettings should be updated prior to imposing a Council Tax Premium which could be levied incorrectly if current information is out of date or incorrect. It is a basic human right that taxes are levied fairly and based on correct information.

REFERENCES:

Empty Property Strategy 2019 - 2023 - Bridgend County Borough Council (2019)

Empty Homes Tools - Welsh Local Government Association (undated)

Consultation on planning legislation and policy for second homes and short-term holiday lets
- Welsh Government, (September 2022)

Destination Management Plan 2018 - 2022 - Bridgend County Borough Council (March

2018)

Destination Action Plan 1018 - 2022 - Bridgend County Borough Council (March 2018)

Empty Homes Good Practice Guidance - Welsh Government (2010)

Local Taxes for Second Homes and Self-Catering Accommodation, Consultation Response -
PropertyMark (November 2021)

Statutory Instrument 1998 No. 105 The Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings)
(Wales) Regulations 1998 amended by 2004 N. 452(W.43) The Council Tax (Prescribed
Classes of Dwellings) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004

Summary of Approaches to Empty Homes adopted by Local Authorities in Wales - Shelter
Cymru

Guidance HS253 Furnished Holiday Lettings - HM Government Revenue and Customs
(2021) (Updated 6th April 2022)

Empty Homes Strategy - Peterborough City Council (May 2017)

Empty Properties - Council Tax Exemptions - Neath Port Talbot Borough Council

c.c.

Cllr. Martyn Jones

Cllr. Heather Griffiths

Cllr. Maxine Lewis

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

This page is intentionally left blank

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

17 JANUARY 2023

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

PLAY SUFFICIENCY DUTY, ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN TO SECURE SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITIES IN BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- inform Cabinet of the statutory duty on all local authorities to secure a sufficient quantity and quality of play opportunities for children and young people in relation to Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the statutory guidance produced by Welsh Government in July 2014;
- seek comment, observations and approval on the three-year assessment conducted during 2021-22 and the proposed action plan for 2022-24 which is required in relation to the statutory matters established by Welsh Government in relation to play sufficiency.

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 Welsh Government commenced the first part of the statutory duty relating to play sufficiency, under Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 requiring local authorities to assess the sufficiency of local opportunities, in accordance with regulations subsequently published in 2012.

- 3.2 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has conducted and submitted play sufficiency assessments and action plans as required by Welsh Government during each cycle and this report presents the fourth cycle of assessment and action planning.
- 3.3 The assessment process requires a review of baseline positions and progress that has been made in relation to the areas of focus that have been established by Welsh Government. The assessment provides a higher level overview of progress made and issues identified and the process is designed to utilise available information, relevant evidence, and engagement approaches to help identify areas for improvement and priorities for action.
- 3.4 The definition and scope of “play” is broader than might be anticipated in this context and inclusive of areas such as recreational activity, schools’ activities and clubs, junior and youth clubs, leisure, sporting activities, cultural and arts activities, youth provision, events, freely chosen play and holiday activities. It is also broad in its consideration of all the places and spaces that could add value and support the securing of play sufficiency.
- 3.5 It is notable that the Authority is required to ‘secure’ rather than be fully responsible for the delivery of play sufficiency and this approach has been positively evidenced in previous phases of assessment by working collaboratively with partners and stakeholders. The growing focus on utilising co-production based approaches is important in the context of play sufficiency.
- 3.6 The information gathered via the assessment process is used to indicate and highlight the priorities that can be identified for the forthcoming three-year period (with annual action plans) and annual reporting requirements. The play sufficiency assessment and identified priorities is also intended to connect to the Public Service Board and Wellbeing plans within the assessment process.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The issues/ matters that have needed to be considered within the assessment and action plan relate to the Welsh Government framework can be found in the assessment report and are as follows: -
 - a) Population
 - b) Providing for diverse needs
 - c) Space available for children to play
 - d) Supervised provision
 - e) Structured recreational activities
 - f) Access to space/ provision
 - g) Securing and developing the play workforce
 - h) Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas

- 4.2 The scale and volume of the issues/ matters and the range of issues that are needed to be covered highlights the importance of a 'One Council' approach and the need for collaboration and capacity building with stakeholders and partners.
- 4.3 The key responsibilities that would apply in relation to play sufficiency for BCBC would be as follows: -
- a) To secure sufficient play opportunities in the County Borough, so far as is reasonably practical, having regard to its assessment and action plans
 - b) To publish information about play opportunities and keep the information published up to date
 - c) To have regard to children and young people with diverse needs, including those living with disabilities or additional needs
 - d) To commit to work within and across the Council, with partner organisations, with children and their families and communities to ensure that children and young people have access to sufficient play
 - e) To monitor play sufficiency and support the lead Corporate Director, Cabinet Member who is "champion" for play sufficiency and the designated lead for managerial and delivery functions of play sufficiency reporting and requirements
 - f) To ensure the play sufficiency assessments form part of the local needs assessments linked to the Bridgend Wellbeing Plan, co-ordinated by the Public Service Board and to be integrated throughout the planning cycle
 - g) To ensure that children and young people participate in the planning for play and the monitoring of play provision as part of developing citizen engagement and scrutiny procedures
 - h) To review budgets of relevant policy areas that affect children's play opportunities and maximise their benefit for play and contribution to wellbeing planning
 - i) To consult with parents, the local community, and any other interested stakeholders on the development of play opportunities and development of child and play friendly communities
 - j) To develop and implement an annual play action plan showing continuous improvement in securing opportunities contributing to high level Authority plans
- 4.4 The 2019-2022 Play Sufficiency assessment and action planning cycle was significantly disrupted at a National level by the pandemic and national restrictions being applied across Wales. The impact is recognised in the assessment described below:-

- a) Recent engagement with young people in Bridgend suggests 30-40% of young people may have been negatively impacted by the pandemic in terms of their physical, mental, social and emotional wellbeing and also their motivation to re-engage in community opportunities
- b) Many of the places and spaces that young people would have traditionally used prior to the pandemic were curtailed and many face a challenging period of rebuilding (e.g. leisure, culture, community halls, youth venues)
- c) Digital engagement and opportunities, during this period, will have replaced 'face to face' activity and connecting with peers and friendship groups for long periods of time with young people spending extended time within their home space
- d) Extra-curricular activity opportunities will also have been curtailed for long periods in line with restrictions and also the opportunities to build skills and confidence in key areas (e.g. school swimming programmes, national standards cycling, physical literacy programmes and fundamentals)
- e) Additional support will have been available for some vulnerable young people but confidence in re-engaging in opportunities will have also been impacted

4.5 Although this has been a challenging period it also encouraged a range of new approaches and also support from funded programmes: -

- a) New programmes and activities were commenced for care experienced children and young people with safeguarding concerns during holiday periods and as a partnership between service areas.
- b) Programmes supporting children and young people with disabilities developed digital approaches, family opportunities and home visits and a networking approach was developed with community groups and organisations and support for programme development.
- c) Family Active Zone resources and packs were created to support whole household wellbeing activities within or near their homespace with positive results. This included supply of equipment and online activities/challenges and guidance promoting the importance of family time to support sufficient play.
- d) Programmes to provide wellbeing and respite support for young carers have emerged and seen growth with a young carers network being progressively built. The network has been supporting planning of activities that meet identified needs.
- e) The 'Summer of Fun' and 'Winter of Wellbeing' investments by Welsh Government has supported more young people and more community partners to

develop opportunities close to home in partnership with BAVO including a focus on disability, Welsh language, disadvantage and supporting the resilience of community groups.

- f) The opportunities for youth groups ,in particular ,to expand services and opportunities has seen growth including collaborating as a network and recognising that the play sufficiency duty extends to 17 years of age. For some young persons funded initiatives support has extended to 24 years of age.

4.6 The assessment and action plan that have been produced are provided at **Appendix 1** but some of the key themes that will need focus are provided below: -

- a) It will be important for the Council to recognise how play sufficiency can help support community Covid recovery for children and young people as a 'One Council' approach. The Council may benefit from establishing a more formal leadership approach that involves all relevant contributors within a "One Council" approach but working collaboratively with stakeholders and key partners.
- b) The Council cannot deliver play sufficiency in isolation from partners and stakeholders will have a role in helping to secure it and also longer term development and ownership of local opportunities. The duty on the Council is to secure sufficient quantity and quality of play by working creatively with others and showing ongoing improvement via such collaborative approaches.
- c) Whilst good progress has been made supporting many people with diverse needs, there remains scope to build on this base with partners and progress further. There is a focus within the play sufficiency assessment framework on children and young people with additional needs, young carers, residents of rural areas, children of differing cultural backgrounds, gypsy travellers and LGB (lesbian, gay and bisexual) children to be considered.
- d) One of the challenges resulting from the legacies of the pandemic is that whilst there is a need to focus on diverse needs and related inequalities in regard to play sufficiency there is also a more universal need for such opportunities and support to enhance wellbeing of far larger numbers of young people in general with challenges to their overall wellbeing. The opportunities that young people will want to engage with may need to be designed differently and with young people as part of a co-production approach in some cases.
- e) The Council is showing commitment to larger scale improvements of children's play which has the potential to contribute to specific aspects of the overall play sufficiency duty. When taking this work forward, considerations will need to include reviews of the accessibility of locations, their strategic purpose including play destinations, their ability to support inclusive play recognising additional and diverse needs (including physical, learning and sensory), play value

assessment to maximise the impact of assets and space, unmet need and ensuring community engagement.

- f) Having seen the positive response from communities in recent years to lead on the development of community opportunities, and more localised opportunities, this could, following review, see the Council developing a facilitatory role in some instances and a delivery role where needed or most appropriate.
- g) Ensuring that the Council's larger leisure and cultural partnerships with Halo Leisure and Awen continue to develop appropriate opportunities with, and for, young people and families including support to reduce or remove price as a barrier to participation. Similarly, to ensure that opportunities are inclusive and recognise diverse needs.
- h) The economic climate and cost of living increase will increase the importance of low cost or no cost opportunities for the most needy being available. As part of the Council's socio economic duty this will need to be recognised when investment into play sufficiency is considered and recognising that play in its broadest sense is the right of every child.
- i) The Council will need to review its capacity to sustain a workforce of sufficient quantity and quality to meet its play sufficiency responsibilities in terms of service delivery but potentially leadership also. This will potentially require the creation of a leadership group with Lead Cabinet Member and Lead Corporate Director representation. The play sufficiency duty is broad and across all policy areas including education and schools, town and country planning, traffic and transport, early years plans, family policy and initiatives, inter-generational policies and health and safety.
- j) The role of a play sufficiency leadership group would include an overview of key areas of focus and also development of a performance framework that would indicate whether progress or gains were being made. The responsibilities would need to span across directorates as part of a "One Council" approach but also include external partners and key stakeholders. Examples of areas of focus could include school swimming attainment, participation in low cost or no cost opportunities, for people with diverse needs, infrastructure developments and improvements, workforce development and raising awareness of play sufficiency and its objectives.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 An equality impact assessment was conducted in line with the original assessment in 2014 but this has been reviewed in response to the challenges of the pandemic

and more recent information that has been gathered. The 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. The Play Sufficiency assessment framework is a national one produced by Welsh Government and inherently designed to increase focus on reducing the impact of poverty and inequality on children and young people, particularly those with diverse needs. The pandemic has created a need to recognise that a larger number of children and young people are now also in need of support.

- 6.2 The play sufficiency duty comes as part of the Welsh Government’s anti-poverty agenda which recognises that children and young people can have a poverty of experience, opportunity and aspiration, and that this kind of poverty can affect children from all social, cultural and economic backgrounds. As such, the Play Sufficiency Duty connects well with the Socio Economic duty and a focus on removing barriers to reduce disadvantage.

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

- 7.1 The Wellbeing goals identified within the Act have been considered in the preparation of this report

Long Term	The play sufficiency commitment is a long-term Welsh Government aspiration that is embedded within regulations. It aims to redesign infrastructure, opportunities and engagement to better support children and families
Prevention	As part of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 there is a recognition of the contribution of play to the wellbeing of children, young people and young adults and also the broader support for family and household resilience
Integration	The focus on diverse needs will encourage a cross Council and cross sector approach to developing and sustaining opportunities that meet needs. There are a broad range of opportunities for partners to contribute to play sufficiency
Collaboration	Play Sufficiency requires the Council to secure sufficient opportunities and the Council can achieve this by working collaboratively with communities and partners
Involvement	Working with children and young people and communities to co-design and co-produce appropriate and sufficient play opportunities is an integral part of the duty and also our approach

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 Any financial implications will apply across directorates, and it is uncertain as to how much can be absorbed within existing core revenue budgets. In recent years, Welsh Government have provided a range of funding support schemes but there is no confirmation of future or ongoing investment.

- 8.2 The resourcing of play sufficiency delivery and governance has also received short term support via an earmarked reserve, and this may need to be reviewed in due course.
- 8.3 The resourcing of sufficient services, opportunities or place based developments will need to be considered as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy whilst recognising the financial pressures that apply alongside other statutory requirements.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 Cabinet is recommended to review the detail of the play sufficiency statutory duty and the scope of services that are contributing to creating a 'play friendly' society as identified within the play sufficiency assessment and provide observations and comments on the 2022-2025 assessment and the action plan that has been developed as an initial response to the findings of the assessment.
- 9.2 Cabinet is recommended to approve the play sufficiency assessment and action plan in line with the national requirements regarding play sufficiency.

Claire Marchant
Corporate Director- Social Services and Wellbeing
December 2022

Contact officer: Andrew Thomas
Group Manager, Prevention and Wellbeing

Telephone: (01656) 642692

Email: andrew.r.thomas@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Background documents:

None

Play Sufficiency Assessment Form



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Name of Local Authority: *Bridgend County Borough Council*

Name of responsible officer: *Andrew Thomas*

Job title: *Group Manager – Prevention and Wellbeing*

Date of completion: *22nd June 2022*

Please note that the Play Sufficiency Assessment must be received by the Welsh Government by 30 June 2022



Conducting the Assessment – Play Sufficiency Assessment

As well as establishing a baseline of provision, the Play Sufficiency Assessment will enable the following:

- Identification of gaps in information, provision, service delivery and policy implementation
- Support the establishment of evidence to give an indication of distance travelled in relation to play sufficiency
- Highlight potential ways of addressing issues relating to partnership working
- The input and involvement of all partners increasing levels of knowledge and understanding
- A monitoring system which will involve and improve communication between professionals
- The identification of good practice examples
- Increased levels of partnerships in assessing sufficient play opportunities
- The identification of actions for the Securing Play Sufficiency Action Plan which accompanies the Play Sufficiency Assessment

A template has been produced to support a corporate appraisal of the matters that need to be taken into account as set out in the Statutory Guidance. The indicators listed within each matter are provided as sample indicators which should be amended to meet local issues as appropriate.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment must demonstrate that the Local Authority has taken into account and assessed the matters set out in The Play Sufficiency Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2012 and Statutory Guidance.

As well as providing baseline information, the Assessment can include examples of current practice that the Local Authority wishes to highlight.

Local Authorities might consider structuring the Play Sufficiency Assessment in the following way and as a minimum address all the identified sections.

Principle Statement

Since the commencement of the play sufficiency duty on local authorities under the Children and Families measure (2010), Bridgend County Borough Council and our many partners have recognised the value and importance of play. The value that play opportunities, activities and places or spaces for play bring to our local population and many communities is of significant importance. The aspiration to ensure that Bridgend is a 'play friendly' county and that such an aspiration is shared by our many partners and stakeholders has become stronger. In order to secure a sufficient quantity and quality of play across the County Borough, a collaborative approach will be required. We have been progressively building such an approach and the challenges brought by the pandemic for the wellbeing of children and young people will have strengthened our resolve. At a national level, the negative impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable of children and young people has been identified, but the restrictions on normal childhood activities will have had more

universal impact also. The importance of rebuilding 'Play Friendly' Bridgend was identified by Bridgend County Borough Council in May 2021, and this will result in enhancements to play infrastructure and play opportunities. The investment support provided by Welsh Government for capital schemes, the Summer of Fun, the Winter of Wellbeing programmes, and Holiday Playworks have helped to support community Covid recovery. This, in turn, has created supportive wellbeing opportunities for children, young people and families. Throughout the pandemic a 'One Council' and One County' approach has been developing and this has received significant support from communities and the broader third sector. By working in this way, play sufficiency assessment and action planning can help achieve our wellbeing objective of developing healthier and more resilient communities.

Context

This assessment represents the fourth review of play sufficiency within Bridgend County Borough and reflects on the phases of investment and partnership working that had been developing pre- pandemic. It also explores some of the challenges that Covid 19 has brought but also the resources and opportunities to apply innovation and to think and act differently. The investments received from Welsh Government have helped support improved and accessible play spaces, including partnership working with Town and Community Councils linked to the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) programme. Our partnership with Town and Community Councils continues, including plans to support holiday playworks programmes as part of the next action plan. The new approaches and investments, particularly 'Summer of Fun' and 'Winter of Wellbeing' have seen new delivery partnerships evolve including community groups, sports clubs and organisations, cultural and leisure activity providers and a network of 'Youth Matters' organisations supporting opportunities from earlier years through to adolescence. An area of particular growth has been ensuring opportunities are available to the most vulnerable including children and young people with disabilities or additional needs, looked after children, young carers and young people who are a safeguarding concern. Evaluation is being progressed on the impact of play support on trauma impacted young people. The pandemic has required changes in approach and there has also been a recognition that a number of geographically spread opportunities delivered by a larger network of providers has merit.

During the most recent years there have been challenges relating to national restrictions, sustainability of venues, the ability to attract a workforce to deliver services coupled with varying levels of caution and public engagement. The former close partnership working, and development plans created with schools, has needed to relax whilst ensuring Covid safe environments and core educational needs have been prioritised. Conversely the demand within communities to engage in activities and utilise places and spaces has progressively grown with the Summer of 2021 being a noticeably busy period. Whilst activities such as school swimming have, for a period, proven logistically difficult to mobilise, other school-based opportunities such as National Standards Cycling Training have seen growth and higher levels of demand.

The methodology for conducting this play sufficiency assessment is as follows: -

At a corporate level, the **Cabinet Member for Wellbeing of Future Generations** role has remained the champion for the play sufficiency duty, providing consistency and a strong voice for play across all areas when policy changes are being considered.

The **Corporate Director for Social Services and Wellbeing** remains the strategic lead amongst corporate directors for play sufficiency although this is a cross cutting and 'One Council' matter with particular relevance for both the Communities and Education directorates. This leadership has ensured that the needs of the most vulnerable are considered in both assessment and action planning. The responsible officer is the **Group Manager-Prevention and Wellbeing** who has helped to coordinate all three previous assessments. The approach to assessment continues to be conducted using internal resources where possible with an objective of progressively increasing engagement across policy areas and whole Council ownership. The Group Manager is supported by reporting **Wellbeing Managers** who coordinate the allocated matters and conduct assessment with colleagues and partners.

The assessment has recognised national data and insight, particularly in relation to the impact of the pandemic and supplemented this with a range of primary research or engagement with young people and partners. Not all the benchmarkable data used in previous assessments is available yet due to differing timelines (e.g., national school sport survey) and previous data may now be outdated. Similarly, the population needs assessments and engagement on the next Wellbeing Plan are being progressed at a regional level, but timelines are also not aligned. Within Bridgend, the key issues identified via play sufficiency assessment will need to be shared with PSB when the Wellbeing Plan has been drafted. The need to recognise play sufficiency, the related matters and potential impact are recognised by PSB and implicit in planning.

The development of the 'Building Resilient Communities' plan in partnership with BAVO and the CVC has been successful and includes the development of an investment platform into third sector delivery partners. This has helped to understand the capacity and aspiration with the third sector to support play sufficiency

In all phases of play sufficiency assessment, it has been an ongoing challenge to maintain group approaches, engagement and commitment due to the diverse matters in scope.

Partnership working

Bridgend County Borough Council recognises its role as a strategic lead for play sufficiency, to directly deliver some services or provide assets but most importantly to secure sufficient quantity and quality of play by collaborative working with

partners and communities. It is recognised that the strength of play sufficiency will be based on such collaborative effort and the brokering of increased partnership working opportunities.

The key partners that are involved in the development and delivery of play sufficiency matters are as follows: -

Primary Schools

Partnership agreements, delivery of initiatives, whole school training and wellbeing plans, engagement with young people and evaluation of impact

Secondary Schools

Partnership agreements, delivery of initiatives, support for leadership pathway, programmes supporting young people's rights, engagement with young people, capturing of data, wellbeing evaluations, community access to facilities.

Special Education Schools

Curricular and extracurricular activity development, connections to community opportunities and support, community access to facilities, links to disability play and disability sport programmes.

BAVO (CVC)

Engaging with third sector organisations, promotion of programmes and opportunities, managing third sector funding, monitoring quality and safety criteria, volunteer development programmes.

Halo Leisure

Engagement with communities, co-production of opportunities, inclusive programme development, marketing and promotion of local and national initiatives, holiday playworks delivery and engagement, low cost and no cost activities, national free-swimming initiative.

Town and Community Councils

Engagement with local communities, support for holiday playworks, review of local priorities, support for community asset transfers, promotion of opportunities.

Sport Wales

Annual partnership agreement with BCBC, investment into key staff and co-ordination, community investment programmes, sharing of learning and insight, evaluations of progress and impact.

BCBC Highways and Transportation

Walking and cycling strategy, programme development and creation of safe routes/ active travel programmes. WG national standards cycling development at levels 1 and 2 with schools plus road safety intervention.

BCBC Childcare and Early Years Team

Childcare sufficiency assessment, quality control of providers including holiday play, joint working on investment planning, training and development programmes for partners and workforce.

BCBC Social Care – Children’s Services

Professional support and referrals. Co-production of targeted support opportunities. Identification of transport and broader support needs. Vulnerable hub activities linked to holiday playworks. Support for carers including short breaks/ respite.

Awen Cultural Trust

Library based activities, children and families’ programmes. Bryngarw inclusive play destination management, natural environment and Valleys Regional Park initiatives, disability play opportunities, cultural events, youth theatre programme.

BCBC Disabled Children’s Team

Support and referral of young people with additional needs, siblings, and carers. After school activities and holiday playworks. Whole household support approaches.

BCBC Parks and Playing Fields

Operation of play space and playground infrastructure, playing fields, coordination of user groups, community events, capital investments into play assets. Assets identified in corporate asset plans.

BCBC Early Help Team

Support for third sector youth groups, connecting with youth focused organisations, alternative youth support programmes including school-based support and holiday interventions.

BCBC Education

Support for schools, planning and performance, asset development including school modernisation, school swimming and school sport, school travel plans, distribution of investments, cluster networks, headteacher meetings, wellbeing improvement groups.

Welsh Language Opportunities

Established partnership working with Urdd and Menter Bro Ogwr, Welsh medium activities, engagement, youth programmes, primary and secondary school support, events, holiday playworks.

Higher Education

Support for partner engagement, impact and evaluation frameworks, capturing learning and insight, wellbeing evaluations.

Community Clubs and Associations

Development planning, support for investment needs, increasing inclusivity, delivery partnerships, service level agreements, training and development.

Bridgend Inclusive Network Group (BING)

Umbrella partner championing inclusion. Engagement. Asset reviews. Delivery partnership and collaborative programmes. Third sector training.

Bridgend Youth Matters

Network of 22 Youth organisations. Co-production of opportunities. Delivery partners. Engagement and insight. Targeted support.

The afore mentioned partners are involved in the development, delivery and/ or planning of play sufficiency matters. There has been a growing focus on creating networks and collaborative effort including face to face and digital feedback over the past 2 years. This 'bottom up' approach has been committed to by BCBC in previous phases also to highlight the importance of community and partner ownership of play sufficiency.

Consultation and participation

Bridgend has utilised a mixed method approach to consulting and engaging with local people and organisations to support the preparatory work for play sufficiency assessment.

- Bridgend was not able to deliver its 'Play Your Part' survey with 8-11 year olds in 2020 but this was conducted in 2021 with 138 responses across 8 locations. 67% indicated there were enough opportunities within their local community and 51% stated that they could do most of their favourite things based on where they live. Notably, 51% spent 4 hours a day or more on-screen time.
- Despite ongoing restrictions faced by schools, engagement with primary schools identified 37 primary schools wanting to support national standards cycling programmes which is a growth on pre pandemic rates. During the past year 974 young people have engaged in the programme at levels 1 and 2.
- Bridgend worked with Sport Wales to review the National Free Swimming. Initiative local delivery with 49 households engaging. Key messages focused on increasing awareness of opportunities, improving accessibility for some users and groups, and improving online booking processes.
- Bridgend has identified wellbeing concerns for young people of secondary school age. A larger scale wellbeing survey has been conducted with 10 secondary schools and including Welsh medium education. A projected total of 4.3k responses are anticipated. Key findings will focus on physical and mental wellbeing factors, the impact of the pandemic, activities engaged within, places and spaces utilised and risk factors. This will support identifying the role of play sufficiency in covid recovery planning.
- Through closer working with youth groups, engagement with the Bridgend Youth Matters network has developed including joint planning and co-production of play opportunities. There are 21 groups supporting this

approach. 295 young people aged 10 to 25 years have been engaged in 'drop in' engagement sessions.

- The Bridgend Inclusive Network Group (BING) has been created and enabling a collective voice and collaborative working. Co-production of plans and activities for children and young adults who are differently able. The network includes 15 sports clubs, 11 local charities, 10 national charities with local services/ projects, 6 not for profit organisations and 3 Health or BCBC lead groups.
- An increased focus on young carers has been developed. 10 'drop in' sessions for young carers held to feedback and shape activity opportunities. 173 young carers engaged across 8 secondary schools between 11-18 years. Young Carers consultation also held on Young Carers card development. 15 young carers engaged in focus groups.
- Care experienced children were provided with one-to-one consultations and co-design of activities and opportunities. 6 young people across three settings engaged. Key findings included the barriers that care experienced children face and input to co-produce activity offers as part of a vulnerable hub programme. Additional engagement on developing spaces at care settings to support young people.
- Vulnerable young people, known to social care, including looked after children, foster care and those who were a safeguarding concern have been engaged. 39 children have supported evaluation of activities and opportunities.
- Families and households have been engaged in evaluating opportunities to improve family activities, health and wellbeing and recognising the importance of home space and environment. 744 individuals completed the baseline survey. Good responses on community play spaces available with playgrounds, open spaces and gardens high contributors.
- Active Young Peoples Department coordinated a family's wellbeing survey with a focus on the 0-3 year population and thoughts on existing and future provision. There were 189 respondents and key findings included the priorities that families saw to improve health and wellbeing, the family activities that were most important to them and the barriers identified in relation to attending activities.
- In terms of partner and stakeholder engagement an exercise involving 8 organisations was progressed on whether the right support was being offered and value added to partner priorities. Key findings included 100% of partners rating 5 out of 5 for support received. Partners identified on average the support saved them 20 hours of work per month
- A Nex-Gen steering group has been created to maximise engagement that includes 16 partners involving education, third sector, community.

A regular schedule of themed review is in place.

- A bespoke survey for children living with disabilities, parents, and carers was developed and distributed across networks. This has included both the Discovery Days programmes including young people with more complex needs and the Bridgend Inclusive Network Group (BING). In both instances bespoke and inclusive approaches have needed to be developed to ensure participants can engage. There remain methodology-based challenges to overcome.
- Town and Community Councils have been long standing partners and supporters of play and opportunities for children and young people. A survey was distributed to these organisations but with only 5 responses received early May from Cornelly, Pencoed, Porthcawl, Laleston and Pyle. The dialogue and engagement with Town and Community Councils will continue as part of the play sufficiency assessment process.
- BCBC and local schools will also be supporting the National School Sport Survey to support the structured recreational aspects of play sufficiency, involving primary, secondary and special schools. This information will not be available until later in the year. BCBC has identified that the survey approach and the required sample for special schools may be problematic for young people with additional needs and this may impact on the availability of some related data.
- The population needs assessment has also been conducted regionally and supported by Co-production Wales. In regard to play sufficiency a number of themes have emerged and been highlighted in regards to Public Service Board. These include the need for more doorstep/local play opportunities to be considered, the roles of the third sector or partners in managing places and spaces and the issue that transport plays in creating a barrier for many people. Also, a specific issue raised regarding children of service families and supporting awareness and access.
- The Bridgend Public Service Board conducted a Green and Open space survey in 2020 attracting 585 completions. The survey highlighted the importance of the natural environment and green spaces to local people including usage by families and children to support play sufficiency objectives of improving the quantity and quality of play opportunities.

Maximising resources

Bridgend County Borough Council is focused on the need for collaborative approaches and making best use of all resources if we are to secure a sufficient quantity and quality of play across the County Borough. During the 2021-22 financial year, there have been significant increases in resources available from Welsh government but there will be a reduction in scale for subsequent years and

this should be anticipated. Within Bridgend the following developments have been progressive and can be seen as positive indicators of partner contributions towards play sufficiency.

- The support of Town and Community councils for supporting low cost or no cost school holiday activities has been retained with 8 partners and there is an opportunity to influence others to invest in similar opportunities.
- There has been 'in kind' support via children's social services to support targeted holiday activity programmes for children and young people known to social care. The potential for impacting on trauma is being reviewed.
- Resource has been retained to coordinate play and early years activities although current resources are being utilised mainly to support opportunities for children and young people with additional needs.
- There is a need for additional leadership resource for play sufficiency in its broadest sense and implementation of strategy and action plans. This will need to be considered by the Council if full benefits are to be realised.
- The use of 'Summer of Fun' and 'Winter of Wellbeing' programmes has helped to identify a broader network of third sector delivery partners to support future programmes or initiatives.
- Leisure and cultural venues are now embedding activities and opportunities within place-based programmes inclusive of holiday support and opportunities.
- The Community Asset Transfer programme is supported by a lead officer, a corporate project workstream, business and development planning support and potential capital investment contributions.
- Bridgend is playing a leadership role for Valleys Regional Park that is increasing investment into outdoor spaces and activities. Bryngarw Park is a play destination and has enhanced its accessible resources including sensory.
- The Council has committed to supporting improvements in play infrastructure including fixed play installations with an indicative value of £1.3 million.
- Bridgend have commenced working with Play Wales on developing play friendly streets pilot approaches and also community access to school-based play assets beyond the school day.
- Working with primary schools and Welsh Government play capital investment, there are now 23 play and activity pods. 'Scrap store' approaches are proving problematic but will be important for future development.

- Both leisure and cultural trust partnership have secured investment into accessible play infrastructure via ICF programmes. This includes outdoor play resources and swimming pool access pods.
- The disabled children's social services team invests 10k per annum into referral-based holiday programmes that also support carer respite. Off site visits are included but an objective to utilise more local opportunities where possible and reduce journeys.
- Welsh Government investment continues into national standard cycling programmes with schools. During 2021-22 there are 37 schools engaged in the programme, indicating a growth in demand.
- Childcare, early years programmes and registered holiday play provision are managed by the Childcare and Early Years Team but investments into training are reaching broader community partners.
- Welsh Government legacy investments are being utilised to support targeted community initiatives, development of youth organisations and a volunteering/ leadership pathway for young people.
- Healthy and Active Fund investment has been supporting approaches with looked after children and foster carers. Approaches are being developed to invest in low-cost leisure access for the most vulnerable of young people and households.
- Sport Wales partnership agreement has continued including annual investment into workforce, programme costs and partner initiatives. The National Free-Swimming Initiative continues to provide free access to activities. Targeted support being connected to community groups.

The core staffing and revenue budget for play development within the prevention and wellbeing services remains small but the afore mentioned initiatives are indicative of continued growth and commitment from partners. The Council will need to review how the strategic drive for play sufficiency and coordination of available resources is best managed. For 2022-24 additional resource to support co-ordination has been identified via an earmarked reserve.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment and local Well-being Plans

The 2017 wellbeing plan had referenced both childcare provision and play provision and identifying 213 providers of childcare on the Family Information Service database. The plan also identified that Bridgend CBC conducts Play Sufficiency assessments that establish a baseline of play provision in Bridgend and provide an opportunity to engage with local citizens, in particular, children and young people.

The previous plan does not reference any specific issues or priorities identified in the action plan but play sufficiency clearly connects to the strategic themes. These had included 'Best start in life', "Supporting communities to be safe and cohesive", "To reduce social and economic inequalities" and "To support healthy choices in a healthy environment". In this sense, play sufficiency can be seen as a contributor to broader strategic objectives but its contribution will not have been prominent in the focus and evaluation of the Public Services Board.

There is an opportunity to improve on this position during the next phase of the Wellbeing Plan although the timelines are not necessarily helpful. The 3 year play sufficiency assessment is to be completed by the end of June 2022. The draft Wellbeing Plan assessment was published on the 14th Feb 2022 although the two public service boards across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg footprint will continue working on the Wellbeing Plan from April onwards. This provides an opportunity to provide input into the Wellbeing plan with initial discussions already taking place on what this might look like.

The joint working across the region on the Wellbeing Plans is a positive development, as is the support being received via Co -production Wales in regard to involvement activities. The draft wellbeing assessment for the region has been put out to consultation based on the identified themed priorities. It is fair to state that play sufficiency is not identifiable as a specific component of the draft assessment although there is a clear line of sight to many of the play sufficiency matters. There is clear emphasis on use of the natural environment and Bridgend can evidence 67% of accessible green space. The practical use of such space by residents of disadvantaged communities is identified as an opportunity but also a challenge to achieve. There is a focus on developing healthy rivers and a recognition of the coastline as a resource. The capacity of such resources to support family time and activities such as cycling is identified. The identified aspiration of an increase in low cost or no cost activities for young people such as free swimming is identified and a recognition of more opportunities for the vulnerable and some gaps in provision (e.g., wheeled sports). As we emerge from the pandemic the increased importance of space for people to socialise is recognised and developing activities in community places and spaces. The broader opportunity to support carers and young people generally particularly in relation to mental wellbeing is identified. Based on the content of the draft wellbeing assessment, play sufficiency will be able to contribute in the following ways: -

The Play Sufficiency Assessment and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act

In July 2019, Bridgend County Borough Council reviewed the three wellbeing objectives to refocus them more tightly around the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFGA). Based on the act there is a duty on Bridgend County Borough Council to carry out sustainable development. The Council also has to show how it has applied the sustainable development principle through the five ways of working (long term, prevention, integration, collaboration and involvement).

At this time, the Council redefined its second wellbeing objective (WB2) to 'Helping people to be more healthy and resilient'. This has included repositioning

the aim 'to develop more active, healthy and resilient communities, by working in partnership with the third sector, town and community councils and community groups'. A key driver for the change had been the review by Wales Audit Office of the "Active Bridgend" plan that would include play sufficiency approaches and matters. The focus of the play sufficiency duty on local authorities to secure sufficient quantity and quality of play aligns well to the new wellbeing objective.

Beyond this, the Council and its partners can be seen to be progressively developing the 5 ways of working to secure play sufficiency: -

Long term	BCBC is committing investment into play infrastructure and community asset transfer of play assets. Consideration of community access in design of 21 st century schools. Long term leisure and cultural partnerships.
Prevention	Broad range of programmes and opportunities under development targeting vulnerable groups and preventing needs escalating. Cross directorate approaches including health, social care, education.
Integration	Inclusive approaches to developing opportunities and co-production with people with lived experiences. Development of community led networks to support and develop sufficient opportunities. Play across all policy areas.
Collaboration	'One Council' approach continues to progress and develop. Partnership working with Town and Community Councils on place-based and programme-based developments. Growth is evidenced in delivery-based partnerships.
Involvement	Continued use of engagement and co-production work on resources. Programmes and opportunities. Bridgend engages locally, regionally, and nationally on play sufficiency

Monitoring Play Sufficiency

This section should identify the lead director and lead member for children and young people's services. It should also describe the Play Monitoring Group or equivalent. Along with a list of members, please describe how the group has been facilitated and the benefits and challenges of the group.

The following roles will be important in the monitoring of play sufficiency: -

Lead Director	Claire Marchant (Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing)
Director Support	Janine Nightingale (Corporate Director – Communities)

	Lindsay Harvey (Corporate Director – Education and Family Support)
Cabinet Lead	Cllr Rhys Goode– Cabinet member for Wellbeing of Future Generations
Lead Officer	Andrew Thomas – Group Manager- Prevention & Wellbeing Play Sufficiency

The play sufficiency assessment and action plan will be reported to Cabinet and progress made against related action plans will be reviewed by Scrutiny. A report on rebuilding leisure, culture and wellbeing opportunities including play was presented to scrutiny on 2nd February 2022

The integration of play sufficiency into the Public Service Board Wellbeing plan is challenged by differing timelines although the key findings and actions of assessment will be shared with PSB during the draft wellbeing plan phase.

The Council will also identify how play sufficiency matters and actions could be integrated within the Councils corporate performance assessment (CPA) processes from 2023 onwards.

Should additional leadership resource be forthcoming then a further attempt will be made to establish a play sufficiency overview group and to overcome the obstacles previously encountered.

At a sub-regional network, Bridgend will continue to engage in regional forums or workshops, sharing learning, insight and progress being made with Play Wales, Sport Wales and Welsh Government.

Insights from the Coronavirus

This section should discuss the impact the Coronavirus has had on the local authority's ability to progress Play Sufficiency Actions.

It has been a challenging 2 year period for local children and young people and for many of the delivery partners that we would traditionally work with.

The local engagement exercises conducted with children and young people have indicated challenges for fundamental wellbeing which may prove a barrier for engagement going forward. This has been more prevalent than might have originally been anticipated. The larger scale engagement exercise with secondary school children indicates that 30-40% of young people may have been negatively impacted by the pandemic in Bridgend.

The need to develop digital approaches to delivering services and opportunities has escalated in pace and has highlighted that there is a need to continue to support the workforce in making best use of such approaches. The response to digital activity has been mixed particularly for some of our more vulnerable groups.

There has been a noticeable increase in step up by community groups and a corresponding increase in networking and delivery. In some ways the smaller, more locally relevant opportunities have proven effective.

The levels of parental and public caution have varied throughout the pandemic and their support for children to engage in opportunities. In particular this has impacted where family holidays or short breaks have been planned and parents have minimised risks to plans being curtailed.

Service areas and partners have been making centralised resources more widely available using digital approaches and this has been a more efficient approach.

Access to venues and face to face activities or indeed workforce development opportunities has faced disruption in particular relating to school sites. The need to ensure venues have remained covid safe has been paramount.

When face to face opportunities have been able to operate, risk assessment has reduced the volumes of participants. In some instances, advance booking requirements, particularly where digital will have impacted negatively on those who are less skilled digitally.

The ability to share resources between people and activities and levels of supervision have become increasingly challenging. In particular, it has proven more difficult to recruit seasonal workforce to operate programmes such as Summer of Fun and Winter of Wellbeing. The volume of applicants coming from educational backgrounds had reduced in particular, potentially due to a challenging year at school sites.

Some well-established activities such as primary school “play pods” had ceased and the availability of scrap resources to support play opportunities has become more scarce. New approaches and opportunities are having to be explored.

The proposed developments with Play Wales and supported by PHW have needed to be paused. These would include broader community use of school sites for play and also play friendly streets. There had been interest previously that will need to be rebuilt.

Work with young ambassadors and development of fun activity campaigns has proven successful with positive examples of peer engagement emerging-the “mile a day in March” and mental wellbeing campaigns proving particularly successful.

For long periods the management focus of Councils had needed to prioritise the pandemic response. This will have impacted the strategic drive for original play sufficiency plans. The subsequent Summer of Fun and Winter of Wellbeing investments have been valued by people and communities but drawn heavily on a small co-ordination resource.

Structured recreational activity has performed better and been early to restart where appropriate governance arrangements in place. This has been more achievable in outdoor settings than indoor although both have rebuilt positively.

In terms of aquatics there is now a challenge of children who will not have attended primary school swimming sessions. Although activity has now resumed, previous data would suggest this will be particularly impacting on our most disadvantaged communities and households in terms of low or non-swimming ability. This makes the aspiration of “every child a swimmer” more challenging.

Children with additional needs/disabilities were provided with digital opportunities during the stay at home restrictions but not accessible for all households. New approaches to support whole household and sibling activities emerged as a positive.

The larger scale investments from Welsh Government saw new approaches emerge using large numbers of third sector delivery partners. This worked well with investment managed via the CVC, but resources may be smaller going forward.

The pandemic has also seen an increased focus on youth groups and the Bridgend Youth Matters network in particular, resulting in the age groups of beneficiaries extending upwards and inter-generational activity increasing.

Extra-curricular activity and after school programmes were curtailed for extended periods and there is a mixed picture and a need to progressively rebuild.

The Family Active Zone programme developed innovative approaches to test the importance of home space and whole family engagement opportunities.

New programmes for our most vulnerable young people emerged through the pandemic including care experienced children, young carers and young people who are a safeguarding concern.

Cultural activities and venues have seen most restrictions and for longer periods of time which has impacted the design of some programmes. There has been positive work developing with libraries particularly for young children and families.

Criteria

This section contains the “matters that need to be taken into account” as set out under section 10 of the Statutory Guidance.

The Criteria column: sets out the data that needs to be available and the extent to which Local Authorities meet the stated criteria.

The RAG status column: provides a drop down box, whereby the Local Authority can show its assessment of whether that criterion is fully met; partially met; or not met. These have been given Red, Amber Green markers, which appear as words in the drop

down boxes. (In the “RAG status column”, Double click on the word STATUS – this will bring up drop-down form fields options, use the arrow down key until the status required RED, AMBER or GREEN- is at the top then press ok)

Red, Amber Green (RAG) status is a tool to communicate status quickly and effectively.

Criteria fully met.	Fully met
Criteria partially met.	Partially met
Criteria not met.	Not met

The 2022 column enables the local authority to indicate the direction of travel with the insertion of arrows.

The Evidence to support strengths column: should be used to provide the reason for the chosen criteria status and how the evidence is held.

The Shortfall column: should be used to explain the areas in which the Local Authority does not fully meet the criteria.

The Identified Action for Action Plan column: should be used to show the Local Authority action planning priorities for that Matter.

The Comments section: asks some specific questions for each matter that should enable you to give a clear overview of how the Local Authority complies with the intention and implementation of this matter as set out fully in the Statutory Guidance. It also provides the opportunity to identify challenges and how they might be overcome.

Matter A: Population

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should provide an overview of population and demographic data used locally to plan for play provision.

Information should also be included regarding:

- Ages of children
- First language Welsh speaking children
- Cultural factors (such as other language)
- Gypsy Traveller children
- Disabled children

What has changed in terms of population and demographic trends since Play Sufficiency Assessment 2019?

The 2018 population base figures show that across the region there will a slight increase in the overall population although a slight decrease is anticipated within Bridgend of 1% between 2021 and 2043. The birth rate is declining across CTM (12% in Bridgend). The mid-year data for Bridgend 2020 indicates 26,185 young people aged 0 to 15 years. These are spread out with 13291 in the north, 5197 in the west and 11385 in the east. Overall population density is increasing in Bridgend by 7.5%. The percentage of ethnic minority groups in the CTM area is lower than the Wales average. Bridgend has seen an increase in 2020 similar to Wales. There were 745 children receiving care and support by the local authority in 2020. The Bridgend Families First programme has been providing targeted support including parenting interventions, lifestyle and behaviours programmes and family resilience support. There is positive take up of structured parenting courses in Bridgend. There is an identified gap in services for 13-17 year olds in the wellbeing assessment relating to youth provision, particularly in poorer areas. There were 4198 people living in Absolute Low Income. The PLASC data highlights the number of children and young people who are eligible for free school meals. This data also identifies 3176 children or young people with additional needs/disabilities. Bridgend has identified that 21% of its population needs to speak Welsh by 2050. PLASC identifies 4630 (20%) Welsh speaking children and young people although 15% of those speaking Welsh are not identified as fluent.

How has/will the Local Authority use its population data to plan for sufficient play opportunities locally?

Through internal discussions the challenges of using core datasets whilst being useful would benefit from having the gaps understood. The PLASC data provides the most available set of information on children and young people but potentially more reliable for ages 5-16 years. For earlier years children particularly those not attending a setting, there is no equivalent data set. The data can be collated to identify and track overall population numbers but can also be used at individual school levels to identify children and young people in catchment area. The

reliance on schools inputting accurate and detailed information is critical and cannot be guaranteed. Whilst ethnicity may be being captured for example this may not include detail such as gypsy traveller/Roma via PLASC. Using school catchments can help identify indicative populations such as at lower super output areas. The PLASC data is capturing Welsh speakers as a first language and those who have a different first language requiring additional support. It does not currently identify the detail of the other language or cultural factors. In regard to disability, the PLASC returns will have a change in format and additional learning needs will be captured differently going forward. This will not support any approach to analyse trends. There is hard information on young people attending special education (Heronsbridge school, Ysgol Bryn castell and the Bridge Alternative) and potentially those being specifically supported in mainstream school establishments. The daffodil Cymru web resource provided by social care Wales helps project populations with differing disabilities that can support planning for targeted opportunities and inclusion/integration. Discussions have also identified that children and young people not attending school are not captured via PLASC e.g., home schooled, school leavers beyond 16 years. EYCT are utilising birth rate data to support planning.

Have there been challenges?

Whilst PLASC data will be of value regarding large percentages of the overall population there will be a need to identify other tools that can be used to identify specific demographic groups. The data from the 2011 census is outdated. The ONS data will support the planning of play sufficiency in relation to population and household estimates, but this is not anticipated to be released until early summer 2022. The release of further data on ethnicity, disability will be part of a staggered release beyond that. For Bridgend it will be important to collate the most pertinent information for internal planning for play sufficiency but also to share with key partners to support their planning also.

How can these be overcome?

During the year there will be an opportunity to collate all relevant data including the most recent data sets and to help make them available across the Council and also to external partners to support planning.

RAG Status for Matter A

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
There is data broken down by Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)	GREEN	GREEN	PLASC data-by school catchments. Census Data -2022		Improve the usable data on children and young people to improve planning for play sufficiency.
There is up to date data for ages:		AMBER	Census data 2022 will be supportive.		
0-3	GREEN	AMBER	Census Data-2022 EYCT information Birth rate data		
4-7	GREEN	AMBER	PLASC Data	Not all 4 year olds accounted for via PLASC.	
8-12	GREEN	GREEN	PLASC Data		
13-15	GREEN	GREEN	PLASC Data		
16-17	GREEN	AMBER	PLASC Data	Not all 16 and 17 year olds accounted for via PLASC	

<p>There is an up to date recorded number of disabled children in each age group</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>PLASC Data Statswales Daffodil Cymru Pupil roll at Special Schools. Social Care caseload</p>	<p>This information may be an incomplete picture. Not all types of disability covered PLASC approach changing regarding ALN.</p>	<p>Recognise current data sets have issues to be overcome.</p>
<p>There is up to date information regarding the number of children for whom Welsh is their first language or attend Welsh medium schools</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>PLASC Data Statswales PLASC Data Stats Wales</p>		
<p>There is up to date information regarding other recorded cultural factors, including other language, and gypsy traveller children</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>PLASC Data Daffodil Cymru</p>	<p>Ethnicity may be covered via PLASC but may not be detailed.</p>	

Matter B: Providing for Diverse Needs

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should present data about how the Local Authority and partners aim to offer play opportunities that are inclusive and encourage all children to play and meet together.

RAG Status:

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
B1	The play requirements of children living in isolated rural areas are understood and provided for	AMBER	AMBER	RDP identifies 21 wards (45% of residents) Active 4 Life programmes delivered in rural catchments. Play your Part surveys captured in rural areas. 2022 school surveys can be post code analysed.	More specific evaluation needed on rural areas, particularly those most isolated.	Data to be broken down at locality levels.
B2	The play requirements of Welsh language speaking children are understood and provided for	AMBER	GREEN	Development roles supported via Urdd to engage Welsh speaking children. Urdd and Menter Bro Ogwr supported to operate term time and holiday opportunities.		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Page 363

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Partnership working with YGG Llangynwyd and feeder primary schools.</p> <p>Survey data gathered to support planning-2022 school survey,</p> <p>National school sport survey</p>		
B3	The play requirements of children from different cultural background are understood and provided for	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Data has remained limited on children with different cultural backgrounds.</p> <p>Stats Wales data available on young people by ethnic groups.</p> <p>2022 schools survey begins to identify cultural background, postcode etc</p>	Specific data is limited. Opportunity to build on this from recent data capture.	Data to be broken down based on cultural backgrounds and postcodes where appropriate.
B4	The play requirements and support needs of disabled children are understood and provided for.	GREEN	AMBER	<p>Plasc data identifying disability/additional needs by school.</p> <p>Social care referrals and All About Me planning forms completed with families.</p>	<p>New data will need robust analysis and compared/contrasted where possible.</p> <p>Primary, person and family centred data is complex to capture.</p>	Collate all related data. Share with key partners and stakeholders.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Page 364

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Disability surveys conducted with children, young people and families and identified in core school survey.</p> <p>Disability sport programme operating in partnership with third sector groups/associations.</p> <p>BING inclusive network providing advocacy and training across third sector.</p> <p>Discovery and after school club programmes managed by BCBC.</p> <p>Parent/carer led projects supported by available investments-WOW/SOF.</p>		
B5	Play projects and providers have access to a range of resources which support inclusion	AMBER	GREEN	<p>Play pod resources and training for schools expanding.</p> <p>Scrap store model linked to community recycling under review.</p> <p>AYP digital resources and web information supporting partner planning and delivery</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Community partners accessing play training supported by CEYT.</p> <p>WG investments being distributed in partnership with BAVO/CVC.</p> <p>BCBC providing inclusion training for seasonal staff including partners.</p> <p>FAZ programme providing resources and training for family/home based play.</p> <p>TCC,s supported to deliver holiday opportunities in disadvantaged communities/free access.</p> <p>BCBC marketing and communications team promoting local opportunities including partner operated activity.</p> <p>BING support and information for inclusive practice.</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Page 366

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				Play packs developed to support partner activity programmes.		
B6	There is a well-known and agreed mechanism which is used to identify the need for separate provision for disabled children	AMBER	GREEN	<p>Social care referral processes.</p> <p>All About Me forms to support planning.</p> <p>Integrated opportunities to support choice and inclusion where appropriate.</p> <p>Disability after school club sessions and discovery days holiday opportunities.</p> <p>Disability specific Free Swimming opportunities increasing.</p> <p>Free Leisure Access cards for children with additional needs known to social care.</p>		
B7	Access audits for all play provision as described in the guidance are undertaken	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Access requirements fully considered regarding After School Club and Discovery Days.</p> <p>Vulnerable programmes consider accessibility in partnership with</p>	Developments that have supported improved access have been reliant on WG investments.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>social care (transport, support, funding)</p> <p>Targeted third sector groups to ensure investment can reach the most needy.(e.g., WOW,SOF)</p> <p>Facility improvements progressed to improve access, planning supported by BING.</p> <p>Active 4 Life workforce supported to enable inclusion and integration.</p>		Review core resources and target external investments.
B8	Designated play space is provided and well maintained on gypsy traveller sites	N/A	N/A	<p>Currently no gypsy traveller sites. LDP identifies the potential need for 2 small family based sites.</p> <p>Development would be subject to Councils standard planning process.</p>		
B9	The requirements of young carers are understood and provided for	AMBER	GREEN	<p>Young Carer Engagement has been significant.</p> <p>Consultation conducted by Dynamix highlighted challenges faced.</p>	<p>Future engagement of young carers at primary school ages.</p> <p>Young adult carers focus on youth, play,</p>	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Over 200 young carers engaged across secondary schools, developing a network.</p> <p>Young carer activities and holiday programmes being supported.</p> <p>New young carer ID card developed-linking to activity based opportunities.</p>	recreational needs.	Continue engagement and co-production based approaches with young carers and young adult carers.
B10	The requirements of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) children are understood and provided for	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Continues to be an area for improvement. Limited focus has been given to LGB children being understood and having play needs met.</p> <p>Developmental work commenced with BING including awareness training, links with Pride sport Cymru LGBTQ friendly sessions commenced with 2 groups. More focus and understanding needed in this area.</p>	More work needed with third sector partners to build knowledge, capacity and opportunities.	<p>Further develop partnership working across third sector.</p> <p>Support training for the third sector and development of resources.</p>

Providing for Diverse Needs

How has data been used (or how will the data be used) to address the barriers that children with diverse needs face in accessing inclusive and accessible opportunities for playing?

The pandemic has required new data to be gathered and more depth in understanding of its impact, particularly in regard to the most vulnerable children and young people. The schools survey will allow more postcode and cultural factors to be identified and also impact of disability. Bridgend is interested in capturing data on baseline wellbeing in particular and its fundamental role in enabling or hindering engagement and participation. Specific data has been gathered from children of secondary school age but with broader targeted engagement also of Welsh speakers, families of children with additional needs, young carers, young people and families.

There is evidence of practical development work including projects taking place and the data and engagement that is being progressed can support a co-production approach going forward. The development of Bridgend Inclusive Network Group (BING) has the potential to add real value in this context. As the data is further refined it is intended to be shared with key stakeholders and partners to inform broader strategic planning e.g., Public Service Board. The data and engagement will help to identify where an inclusive approach is appropriate or where a more bespoke opportunity may need to be available

Have there been challenges?

It has been a difficult time for conducting engagement due to the levels of restrictions. For a number of children and young people using digital approaches to capturing feedback and views has not been effective and there has been a need to wait until face to face meetings could be resumed. Simultaneously, there have been some challenges in securing the support of partner organisations, particularly schools, as they have had to prioritise other matters. The design and capacity of community opportunities have also been through several phases of change in line with the restrictions and also new approaches being taken by providers and activity deliverers.(e.g., digital activity, on-line booking procedures, restricted numbers etc).For some of our most vulnerable this would have had negative unintended consequences. The additional investments received via Welsh Government have mitigated the short term negativity

How can these be overcome?

It has been important to capture information that is valuable both to the play sufficiency assessment but also to those partners supporting data capture. It will be important to ensure that partners remain sighted on relevant data to support their own reviews and plans and opportunities to contribute to play sufficiency. Going forward it will become equally important to pool and share available learning and insight and to become smarter at capturing pertinent data whilst avoiding saturation of requests to partners. In this context, more targeted and qualitative approaches may be useful in adding some depth to evaluation, rather than single, larger scale surveys.

--

Matter C: Space available for children to play: Open Spaces and Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

The Local Authority should recognise that all open spaces within their area are potentially important areas where children can play or pass through to reach other play areas or places where they go.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

Open Spaces

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
C1	The Local Authority has undertaken an Open Space Assessment (OSA) that maps areas that are used, or might be used for playing as listed in the Statutory Guidance	GREEN	GREEN	<p>Planning leading replacement LDP including relevant assessments and policies.</p> <p>Outdoor sports and children’s play space audit conducted (2017-18)</p> <p>Open spaces for play identified on BCBC website.264 play spaces identified (69.14 ha)</p>	Replacement LDP still to be completed.	Ensure play sufficiency matters recognised in LDP

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Page 372

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
C2	The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible Greenspace Study that maps areas that are used for playing	GREEN	GREEN	<p>Accessible Greenspace study completed as part of replacement LDP.</p> <p>Outdoor sports and children's play spaces audit 2017-18.</p>		<p>Identify strategic approaches to improving accessibility at open spaces to achieve most impact.</p>
C3	The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all open spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety	AMBER	AMBER	<p>The area plans identify open spaces including accessibility and potential for improvement.</p> <p>There are a high volume of areas. Potential for community regeneration and partnership working explored.</p>	<p>There are mixed levels of accessibility identified and high remedial costs in some cases.</p>	
C4	The Local Authority has developed its own Open Space Standards in accordance with the advice and requirements of Planning Policy Wales	GREEN	GREEN	<p>LDP Policy Com 11 is applicable setting out open space standards based on Fields in Trust standards.</p> <p>Identification of children's play areas and recreational space on BCBC website.</p>		
C5	The Local Authority undertakes and actions play value assessments in public open space	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Play value assessments have been historically conducted. This has mainly been at equipped sites.</p>	<p>No internal capacity to determine play value. Former</p>	<p>Work with Play Wales to enhance play value awareness and</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
					<p>resource no longer in place.</p> <p>Play value needing more consideration alongside technical considerations.</p>	<p>considerations within BCBC and also key stakeholders.</p>
C6	<p>Brownfield sites owned by the Local Authority are assessed for the potential for the site to be reclaimed to provide for children's play</p>	GREEN	GREEN	<p>BCBC Asset management plan and area plans.</p> <p>BCBC Asset disposal policy. (Community regeneration)</p> <p>Corporate property database.</p> <p>Community asset transfer policy</p>	<p>There is potential to be more joined up in asset planning within localities.</p> <p>Some area plans in need of update.</p> <p>New database to support overall asset review and planning.(in progress)</p>	<p>Service level plans to be developed alongside Asset Management Plan refresh.</p>

Outdoor Unstaffed Designated Play Spaces

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
C7	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all designated play space as described in the Statutory Guidance	GREEN	GREEN	BCBC website identifies 264 different play spaces including playgrounds across 8 localities. Outdoor Sports and Childrens play space audit 2017 (previously conducted in 2009)	Details of condition, sufficiency and accessibility in need of updated review in coming years.	
C8	The Local Authority assesses play spaces for play value and potential to increase in play use as set out in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	AMBER	Play value assessments conducted at 69 sites. This however has not progressed since the previous assessment and during the pandemic.	Play value not duly considered in planning for play space improvements. No internal capacity to assess play value.	Explore how a core or retained resource can be used to support play value considerations in planning and assessment. Training Considerations.
C9	The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all designated play spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety	GREEN	AMBER	There are historical audits linked to asset records. In many cases access is identified as in need of improvement	The opportunity to improve access needs more general consideration when	Access improvement to be a consideration in all

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
					improving play space.	refurbishments or new developments.
C10	The Local Authority has developed and agreed a new fixed play provision standard	GREEN	GREEN	<p>LDP Policy Com 11 sets out open space standards based on FIT standards.</p> <p>BCBC has differentiated between playgrounds (equipped), children's play areas (unequipped grass areas) and recreational space.</p> <p>Fixed play provision is assessed for sufficiency, suitability and accessibility.</p>	<p>The asset related information may benefit from being refreshed.</p> <p>More focus needed on accessibility.</p>	Update asset related information.
C11	The Local Authority undertakes and actions play space assessments in designated play spaces	GREEN	AMBER	<p>LDP replacement plan.</p> <p>Accessible green space study.</p> <p>Play value assessments.</p> <p>Outdoor sports and children's play space audit 2017.(Updated in 2021)</p>	Asset related information will need to be refreshed.	

C12	The Local Authority has introduced smoke-free playgrounds The local authority complies with The Smoke-free Premises and Vehicles (Wales) Regulations 2020 that requires playgrounds in Wales to be smoke-free.	GREEN	GREEN	BCBC playgrounds have been smoke free for an extended period.		
C13	The Local Authority has removed 'no ball games' signs to encourage more children playing in the community	AMBER	AMBER	Partners in housing associations are predominantly responsible for such signage.	Social landlords supported to understand play sufficiency and play friendly environments.	Engage with valleys to coast and town and community councils to enhance awareness of play sufficiency.
C14	The Local Authority has erected signs, such as Play Priority Signs to encourage more children playing in the community	AMBER	RED	BCBC invested in play priority signage in phase 2 of the duty. Appetite to install such signage in non-obvious venues was limited.	There is potential for revisiting this objective by working with partners e.g., play Wales/play friendly streets initiative.	Consider play priority zone signage linked to play friendly streets with Play Wales.
C15	The Local Authority includes a recognition of the importance of playing fields to children's play when any disposal decisions are made	GREEN	GREEN	BCBC Asset Disposal policy. Community asset transfer policy and support.		
C16	The Local Authority includes children and their families in any consultations regarding decisions to dispose of	GREEN	GREEN	UDP Statutory consultation is conducted via the planning application process.		

	playing fields			<p>Disposal of public space would need to have due regard to WBFGA.</p> <p>Community asset transfer supporting community control of playing fields and pavilions with protections in place.</p>		
C17	The Local Authority refers to guidance around creating accessible play space when refurbishing or developing new playgrounds	GREEN	AMBER	<p>BCBC has progressively used WG investment to improve accessibility to play spaces.</p> <p>BCBC planning to invest into capital improvements including accessibility enhancements.</p> <p>Strategic play destination emerging at Bryngarw linked to VRP for more complex needs to be met.</p>	<p>Awareness of the guidance on creating accessible play spaces to be increased.</p> <p>Increased partnership working with Town and Community Councils will be required.</p> <p>A strategic approach needed to develop a diverse range of accessible opportunities.</p>	Accessibility to be a core consideration when developing or enhancing play space

Open Spaces

How has the Local Authority ensured collaboration between Open Space Assessments / Green Infrastructure Strategies and Play Sufficiency Assessments to improve spaces for play?

There has been cross directorate engagement on the development of the play sufficiency assessment including colleagues from planning and parks and playing fields. The redevelopment of the Local Development Plan and the related policies will help to bring synergy in approach across these areas. The wellbeing plan population assessment has identified the importance of the natural environment and open space to local people and the need for low cost or no cost opportunities for children and young people. There are a number of older reference documents that support the play sufficiency assessment that will need a refresh and linked to a review of the Asset Management plan. The BCBC website has clearly collated the range of spaces to play by type and by locality which is supportive of many play sufficiency matters. The pandemic has heightened public awareness and usage of open spaces and although Bridgend can evidence an overall surplus of provision there are notable deficits in every sub area across the County Borough.

Have there been challenges?

The high volume of open spaces and variations in quality or scale make play sufficiency assessment a challenge. Similarly, the issue of accessibility is more challenging in terms of natural environment as opposed to built environment.

How can these be overcome?

The focus on increasing use of open spaces will be a feature of the wellbeing plan and will be a common focus for many partners and stakeholders. It will require a collaborative approach and the role of the Council may be to secure play sufficiency for the longer term in some instances. This may involve use of processes such as community asset transfer with supporting resources. This may particularly apply to parks and playing fields whilst wanting to secure and protect community access and multi-use visits.

Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

How has the local authority considered all issues of accessibility in play space development?

There is more that can be done in this context although progress continues to be made. Where Welsh Government capital has been made available accessible features have been increased in fixed playgrounds. In particular, investment at Bryngarw Park is creating a play destination where more complex requirements can be supported. A wheelchair accessible swing, roundabout and more recently trampoline

have been installed. This final item has been supported by the local health board and BCBC have supported sensory installations also. During 2021, accessible features were installed at Pyle and Coychurch as part of phased developments and linked to Community Asset Transfer. Investments have included signage, accessible seating and tables for young people or adults accompanying them. There is scope to do more development of this kind. Over the next 18 months BCBC are set to invest in capital play infrastructure providing a real opportunity to improve accessibility. There is strong partnership working with Bridgend Inclusive Network Group who can support planning and engagement where appropriate. Bridgend runs a range of disability specific and integrated opportunities and as such has good connections to people with lived experience.

Have there been challenges?

The current asset reports identify issues such as condition, suitability, sufficiency and accessibility but would benefit from a refresh exercise and a consideration as to what improvements might be now possible and up to date to meet needs and expectations. Where new developments have been planned, Bridgend have struggled to secure tenders and there has been a shortage of resources and workforce reported. Fundamentally there is a need for Bridgend to improve its understanding of what would be involved in developing the most accessible assets that can support the best experiences for children and young people. This is one area where it will be important to engage those who are the intended beneficiaries from more accessible play infrastructure to understand needs

How can these be overcome?

There will need to be a cross council approach to improving the accessibility of play space and engaging those with knowledge and lived experience in helping to shape the way forward. Similarly, using such approaches for the workforce to enhance its knowledge and understanding of accessibility and how it can best be developed. It will need involvement of partners and stakeholders beyond those who are skilled in constructing and operating play space to achieve best results and include co-production and engagement with people with lived experience. Also, the need to be clearer on how all of the play sufficiency matters when combined impact on the quality and quantity of experience.

Matter D: Supervised provision

The Local Authority should aim to offer a range of supervised play provision.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

Playwork provision

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
D1	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all supervised playwork provision as described in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Early Years and Childcare team (EYCT) maintain records of accredited holiday and childcare programmes and related opportunities.</p> <p>EYCT provide support for registered and non-registered providers-standards, operations, training.</p> <p>Focus on establishing CIW registration to support</p>	Some providers find it challenging to meet standards and remain economically viable.	Ongoing support from the EYCT to focus on providers becoming registered with CIW

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>sustainable investment and support.</p> <p>BCBC maintains records of its core activities and those of contracted partners or activity providers.</p>	<p>Generally restricted to holiday periods and based on structured activities.</p>	
D2	The Local Authority offers playwork provision which offers a rich play environment as described in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	AMBER	<p>EYCT providing support to after school and holiday childcare providers. Play work is integrated in service provision.</p> <p>BCBC and partner providers generally delivering play and structured recreation.</p> <p>Disability play and recreational support opportunities proving effective.</p>	<p>BCBC not generally delivering registered play work provision.</p>	<p>Review registration potential for disability after school club and discovery programmes.</p>
D3	The Local Authority ensures that partners offering playwork provision are supported to offer rich play environments as described in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Funding and investment support for registered providers for after school and holiday providers</p> <p>Sharing of central resources to support providers has increased</p>	<p>Grants are generally available for registered providers only.</p> <p>Need to further develop digital</p>	<p>Focus maintained on ensuring registered provision remains key to childcare and early years provision.</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Page 383

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
					platforms to support partners.	
D4	Staffed playwork provision that the Local Authority provides meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	AMBER	AMBER	<p>The local authority tends to deliver multi activity exemption based programmes.</p> <p>Programme management resource is in place.</p> <p>Key partnerships e.g., leisure, cultural have related contracts with specified requirements.</p>	Seasonal activity offers rely on seasonal recruitment and restrict capacity.	Identify opportunities to retain and develop a play workforce for longer periods.
D5	Staffed playwork provision that the Local Authority funds meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	GREEN	GREEN	<p>EYCT commits resource to support providers to become registered with CIW.</p> <p>BCBC tends to offer seasonal exemption based activity.</p> <p>Larger contracted partners have specified standards to meet.</p> <p>Third sector partner providers screened in partnership with third</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Page 384

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				sector/CVC and other related National Governing Body standards for structured activity.		
D6	Staffed playwork provision that the Local Authority's partners provide meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	AMBER	GREEN	Funded provision within the After School and holiday club sector for children met by the local authority grants are all registered with CIW and meet the NMS.		
D7	Staffed playwork provision across the Local Authority works to a recognised quality assurance programme	GREEN	GREEN	<p>Funded provision within the After School and Holiday club sector for children met by the local authority grants schemes are all registered with CIW and meet the NMS.</p> <p>BCBC directly operated programmes comply with the CIW exemption criteria.</p> <p>EYCT support providers to implement quality schemes e.g., healthy snacks</p>		
D8	The Local Authority prioritises quality issues when engaging with/ commissioning the private sector to deliver	GREEN	GREEN	Funded provision within the After School and Holiday club sector for children met by the local authority grants		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	recreational activities for children.			<p>schemes are all registered with CIW and meet the NMS.</p> <p>EYCT offer a quality assessment in relation to NMS that is used across the non-maintained education sector and other provisions.</p> <p>Partnership agreements are robust with key stakeholders and delivery partners.</p>		

<p>D9</p>	<p>The Local Authority provides council premises and space free of charge to organisations which provide free (at the point of access) playwork provision for children</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>Rent free support or peppercorn rates provided in many cases by schools/venues for after school clubs and holiday providers.</p> <p>Schools supporting the benefits of wrap around care arrangements.</p> <p>Some arrangements are more commercial and charges applicable.</p> <p>BCBC providing free holiday usage of venues for programmes supported by Town and Community Councils.</p>	<p>There are diverse arrangements in place based on the venue occupier.</p> <p>Increase use of Community Asset Transfer will make this more difficult to achieve potentially.</p> <p>Venues are struggling to rebuild viability and community usage.</p>	<p>Maintain current levels of support for holiday activity programmes.</p>
-----------	--	--------------	--------------	---	--	--

Structured recreational activities for children

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Page 387

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
D10	Local authority sport, physical activity, and active recreation plans are contributing to increasing free play and recreational activities	GREEN	GREEN	<p>Active Bridgend plan in place and reviewed annually with Sport Wales. Positive assurance on impact.</p> <p>WAO review of Active Bridgend plan in relation to WBFGA and sustainability-Related action plan developed.</p> <p>Community network development plans co-produced with third sector groups.</p> <p>Disability Sport plan aligned to FDSW investment and themed priorities.</p> <p>Annual service development planning with Halo Leisure. Children and young people outcome focus in place.</p> <p>Bridgend supports National School Sport Survey with Sport Wales utilising data to inform partner plans. SHRN</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>data also being utilised across partnerships. Bridgend ranked highly in 2022.</p> <p>Nex Gen Vision plan created with partners and stakeholders. Identifies key workstreams responding to engagement of young people.</p>		
D11	The sports agenda contributes to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children	GREEN	GREEN	<p>Active 4 Life holiday programmes offer free structured activities during school holidays.</p> <p>Access to Leisure scheme supporting households most in need to access recreation.</p> <p>Welsh Medium extra-curricular and community programmes supported via Urdd partnership.</p> <p>Investments evidenced into community owned networks linked to increased</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>inclusivity e.g., Bridgend Inclusive Network Group.</p> <p>Sport Wales investment supporting Active Young People programmes, school based partnerships and community based opportunities. Quarterly reporting process in place.</p> <p>Aquatics plan including free swimming investment and targeted support for more vulnerable individuals.</p> <p>Partnership working and investment into community clubs including asset transfer, concessionary rates and support to secure external resources.</p> <p>Quest excellent rating achieved for Quest Active Communities and partnership working.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Sports leadership and volunteering pathway supporting 36k of volunteer hours per annum</p> <p>Community use of school assets linked to 21st century schools and supporting community clubs and associations. BCBC has a dual use service.</p>		
D12	The cultural and arts agenda, is contributing to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Place based support for children’s activities linked to Awen cultural trust.</p> <p>Valleys Regional Park supporting outdoor activities and links with Outdoor Partnership.</p> <p>BAVO supporting third sector groups to access investment via WG and BCBC funding opportunities.</p> <p>Library facilities regularly supporting youth, family and early years activities.</p>	Restrictions have impacted on some cultural activities and opportunities for extended periods.	Support the rebuilding of cultural opportunities in libraries, theatres, cultural venues and opportunities delivered by community organisations.

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Summer and Winter reading challenge operated including launch events.</p> <p>Awen developing youth music and wellbeing initiatives.</p> <p>Bridgend youth theatre programme supported by Awen</p>		<p>Identify opportunities to further strengthen partnership working with Bridgend Youth Matters organisations.</p>
D13	The Local Authority Youth Service provides for children's opportunities for leisure and association	AMBER	AMBER	<p>BCBC supporting formal youth service provision at 3 locations.</p> <p>Partnership working with Bridgend Youth Matters organisations and related investment via SOF and WOW.</p> <p>Core support evidenced for youth groups via network and early help services.</p> <p>Partnership working evidenced with National</p>	<p>Formal youth provision was disrupted for extended periods.</p> <p>Additional investment needed to grow activities across third sector groups.</p> <p>Opportunities for differently able young people to be supported.</p>	<p>Target additional resources to expand pilot projects that have proven successful- e.g., Ascent</p> <p>BCBC to invest in additional youth provision at up to 5 locations including additional staff.</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>youth organisations e.g., Action for Children, Boys and Girls Clubs of Wales, YMCA. Action for Children.</p> <p>Targeted support programmes including Youth Hub for learning disabilities, Vulnerable Hub for Care Experienced, with partners.</p> <p>Get on Track programme in partnership with Dame Kelly Holmes trust.</p> <p>Targeted programmes and Network Groups being supported including; Family Active Zone, Girls Network, Young Carers and Young Adult Carers networks, Ascent programme.</p>		

Supervised play provision

Where the Local Authority has assessed settings as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessments (CSAs), how have these settings been assessed in respect of the quality of play opportunities they provide and offer?

The childcare sufficiency assessments have reviewed the number and range of services provided, number and type of child places filled across childcare ,day-care, out of school care and more. The EYCT supports providers to establish and retain registration for all aspects required by the National Minimum Standards. This would include standard 7:opportunities for play and learning. Staff from the CEYT will help providers to deliver on the aspiration of the regulation to empower service users and encourage lifestyle choices. As per the targeted outcomes there is a review of planning and providing play activities to support development. The use of resources and also indoor and outdoor environments are considered and where there are opportunities to build positive relationships with both parents and children. The standards are used appropriately by setting and recognising open access play or out of school provision variations in standards.

The EYCT team support workforce development and building of skills, knowledge and confidence including play opportunities. More recently the training available has been made available for parent carers from community organisations who are starting to include play in community activity offers. This has been well received with mentoring via a play trainer.

The EYCT provides support to registered providers including training and standards and encourages increases in registered provision as this will enable grant funding that can support ongoing improvement to play environment. Funded provision of After School and Holiday clubs by EYCT are all registered with CIW and meet NMS.

How has provision that is not part of the CSA been assessed in respect of the quality of play opportunities they provide and offer?

Play and Early Years officer co-ordinates BCBC provision and has completed holiday scheme co-ordination training. A Play Wales qualified play trainer is utilised to support seasonal training, risk management and planning of play programmes. Participants are provided with the opportunities to determine the activities, participate and express choice.

Inclusive opportunities are also supported where appropriate and supported by workforce development sessions. Where activities are structured and fall under exemption criteria appropriate risk management is put in place with full consideration of National Governing Body requirements. This would generally be applicable for sport and creative activity programmes.

More recently programmes that support our more vulnerable young people who are trauma affected have been developing in partnership with social care professionals, particularly where there are safeguarding concerns. These programmes are fully reviewed with participants in terms of programme design, activity choices, resources to improve future planning.

Have there been challenges?

The pandemic has created challenges for both planning and delivering programmes or services with ongoing restrictions proving a challenge. The types of controls and risk management approaches will no doubt have made some opportunities less flexible and also reduced the numbers of young people that have been supported.

One of the more significant challenges has been the recruitment of seasonal delivery staff and this has been a common challenge across leisure, culture and hospitality sector.

The additional resources made available by Welsh Government have been valued by communities but resources to co-ordinate a high volume of delivery partners has been limited.

How can these be overcome?

Explore ways of packaging roles throughout the year to support retention and minimise recruitment pressures.

Further develop partnership working with BAVO and ways of investing into community providers for non-registered provision.

Develop closer working on play provision across Council departments including understanding of standards

Matter E: Charges for play provision

The Local Authority should consider which play opportunities involve a charge and the extent to which the Local Authority takes these charges into account in assessing for sufficient play opportunities for children living in low income families as set out in the Statutory Guidance.

RAG status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
E1	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in low income families	GREEN	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PLASC data supported by primary and secondary schools contributing to area assessments. ▪ Prevalence of free school meals (3 year average) identifiable ▪ Census data and population estimates by super output area and age groups (2022). ▪ Data relating to means tested eligibility concessionary schemes ▪ Pupil deprivation grant data 	Data could be better used by partners and place-based planning approaches	Raise awareness of data with partners
E2	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in areas of deprivation	GREEN	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Census data and population estimates by super output area and age groups (2022) ▪ PLASC data can be utilised based on school catchment areas ▪ Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation data particularly 0-16 year group 	Gaps can be identified in some geographical areas	Target further engagement with community partners

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WIMD data on employment related benefits and limiting long term illness 		
E3	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in rural areas	GREEN	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PLASC data by schools, catchment and clusters Rural Development plan, demographic profiles including workless households 18 eligible wards. 19% of populations 16 years and under 		
E4	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of disabled children and those with particular needs.	GREEN	AMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PLASC data identifies SEN (School Action Plus/ Statemented) Children's Social Services supporting 240 children and young people English as Additional Language recorded by BCBC Additional learning needs recorded by BCBC/ School action plans Play and Disability sport programmes monitoring community participation 	Data is changing within PLASC	Review impact of PLASC data changes.
E5	The Local Authority records the availability of no cost provision	AMBER	AMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCBC seasonal web/ media information Active 4 Life programme data and summary reports for partners Halo Leisure Free Swimming reports BCBC disability programme data School based extracurricular participation reports (AYPD) Welsh Language Provider information Holiday playworks, Summer of Fun and Winter of Wellbeing information 	Much of recent activity has related to Welsh Government investments	<p>Work with CVC to encourage applications for sources of investment</p> <p>Utilise Holiday Playworks resources to</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
						expand scope and reach
E6	The Local Authority records the provision of no cost / low cost premises used for play provision	AMBER	AMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active 4 Life programmes providing 'no cost' access to venues ▪ Disability programmes provided with free access to school premises ▪ Investments being used to support 'no cost' access for targeted groups to swimming pools (FSI) ▪ Play providers utilising their own/ local facilities at no cost 	Venue operators are under pressure and will need to rebuild stability	Encourage inclusion of venue costs in plans to fund programmes
E7	The Local Authority records the provisions where grants or subsidies are available for play providers	AMBER	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welsh Government investments have enabled grant investment platform for third sector via BAVO (Playworks, Summer of Fun, Winter of Wellbeing) ▪ Investments being made via larger leisure and cultural trust partnerships ▪ Reporting via scrutiny ▪ Active promotion of available funding sources via CVC and BCBC 		
E8	The Local Authority provides subsidised transport for children travelling to play opportunities	RED	AMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No general resource for transport subsidy but Disability Play providing transport support ▪ Social Care Vulnerable programmes supporting transport ▪ Grant funded delivery programmes have included support for transport. 	No general transport subsidy in place	Continue targeting of resources to support transport

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
						needs where feasible

Charge for play provision

How is the Local Authority ensuring that children have access to no or low-cost provision?

- BCBC continue to work in partnership with Town and Community Councils to support free holiday opportunities
- Via the childcare and early years team, training has started to be supported amongst community partners
- New collaborative working and network-based approaches have been developing to maximise value (e.g., Bridgend Inclusive Network Group)
- The larger scale partnerships such as Halo Leisure and Awen Trust have core annual resources that can be used to reduce cost barriers
- Via the Welsh Government investments of 2021-22 a new range of low-cost delivery partners' have been able to be identified
- Home and family-based activities and resources are being developed on an ongoing basis (e.g., Family Active Zone)

Have there been challenges?

Beyond national restrictions and impact on young people some of the challenges have been positive. The timescales to utilise investment and the scale of funding have caused logistical issues, but the support has been much appreciated by communities. It has been difficult to provide supportive partners with the details they would normally be provided with to invest in programmes due to uncertainty. The risk assessments have also limited the numbers of beneficiaries and demand has been high in some instances. Where digital approaches have been delivered it has been recognised that this is not universally available and those who are most digitally included will have benefitted more.

How can these be overcome?

Going forward there will be a need to work closely with local communities and potential deliverers, including volunteers to secure low cost and no cost opportunities across the County Borough. In the absence of larger scale investments there will be a need for pooling of resources where possible. Also working closely with partners who are most connected to the more vulnerable young people.

Matter F: Access to space/provision

The Local Authority should consider all the factors that contribute to children’s access to play or moving around their community.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
F1	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of the number of 20 mph zones/school safety zones in residential areas	GREEN	GREEN	20mph zones are recorded as they are maintained through Traffic orders School drop off zones recorded New WG regulations on 20 mph zones scheduled.		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Page 400

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
F2	The Local Authority has an identified mechanism for assessing the impact of speed reduction and other road safety measures on the opportunity for children to play outside in their communities	GREEN	GREEN	<p>Traffic Surveys conducted</p> <p>Evidence of speed checks</p> <p>Road Safety Wales and ONS data</p> <p>Safe routes in communities developed.</p> <p>Casualty records utilised in reviews.</p>		
F3	The Local Authority has a plan(s) to reduce the negative effect of busy roads and junctions through the introduction of speed reduction measures and provision of safe crossing points/routes for pedestrians and cyclists	GREEN	GREEN	<p>Road safety plan is part of the Bridgend Local Transport Plan 2015 - 2030</p> <p>Active Travel network plans.</p> <p>Active Travel Plans and walking and cycling strategy</p> <p>Safe routes to school</p> <p>SEWTA priorities for road safety grants</p>		
F4	The Local Authority has a plan(s) to improve walking and	GREEN	GREEN	Bridgend walking and cycling strategy.		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Page 401

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	cycle access to parks, outdoor play facilities and local leisure centres from residential areas			<p>LDP being updated, planning documents and policies.</p> <p>Kerbcraft training evidence.</p> <p>Installation of new active travel infrastructure on key routes.</p> <p>Sustrans partnership</p>		
F5	There is potential for the Local Authority to take further action to reduce traffic speed and improve road safety to promote play opportunities	GREEN	GREEN	<p>Road safety plan is part of the Bridgend Local Transport Plan 2015 - 2030</p> <p>Traffic management orders</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Page 402

F6	The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to support delivery of cycling training for children to national standards	GREEN	GREEN	<p>A structured programme of cycle training to level 1 and Level 2 national standards is provided from WG Road safety grant funding Records are available</p> <p>Balance ability programme supported by Sport Wales</p> <p>Kerbcraft training records</p>		
F7	The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to provide pedestrian safety training for children	GREEN	GREEN	<p>Road safety plan is part of the Bridgend Local Transport Plan 2015 - 2030</p> <p>Kerbcraft training records.</p>		
F8	The Local Authority has an accessible and well-known way of arranging temporary road closures, to support more children to play outside their homes	RED	AMBER	<p>Some work took place however there is no specific mechanism of advice on road closures. Traffic team receive requests and assess. Broader issues considered</p> <p>Traffic orders can be put in place but not broadly used.</p> <p>Pilot project with Play Wales on safer streets commenced but paused</p>	Play friendly streets development work paused due to pandemic	Review the opportunities to restart play friendly streets approaches with PHW/Play Wales.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Page 403

F9	The Local Authority refers to <i>Manual for Streets</i> when considering new developments and changes to the highway network/urban realm	GREEN	GREEN	<p>Manual for Streets and manual for streets 2 is available to engineers and relevant Officers</p> <p>Design manual for roads and bridges is also used.</p> <p>Active Travel Act Design Guide is used</p> <p>Place making charter.</p>		
F10	The Local Authority works to nationally recognised good practice guidelines when developing walking and cycling facilities	GREEN	GREEN	<p>Bridgend Walking and Cycling strategy.</p> <p>Active travel bids, maps and investment.</p> <p>Active Travel Act Design Guide is used.</p> <p>LDP/redevelopment</p>		
F11	The Local Authority uses child pedestrian road accident casualty data to inform the location and design of interventions which help children get around independently in their communities	GREEN	GREEN	<p>Active Travel Act Design Guide is used</p> <p>Road Safety delivery plan</p> <p>Casualty records reviewed/RTA rates.</p>		

F12	The Local Authority considers children’s needs to access play opportunities when making decisions about public transport planning and expenditure	AMBER	AMBER	Public Travel plans are part of the Local Transport plan Route assessments conducted with young people. All age groups engaged in community access planning.	Delays in completing accurate consultation due to covid 19. Public transport is no longer subsidised by local authority.	Need to ensure local community opportunities are available.
F13	The requirements of disabled children are understood and provided for within traffic and transport initiatives	AMBER	AMBER	Follow guidance for Inclusive Mobility from WG. Other support infrastructure considered-shelters, kerbing, lighting. Targeted programmes include transport needs	Greater engagement with young people with additional needs.	Identify impact of transport on participation levels of young people with disabilities.

Information, publicity and events:
For children and families to take part in play opportunities, recreational activities and events it is necessary for them to know what is available in their area.

F14	The Local Authority has a clearly identified section on its website which gives information about play opportunities as described in the Statutory Guidance (play areas, play provision, clubs and their accessibility)	GREEN	GREEN	Council Website has been redeveloped. Full details of parks, playing fields and outdoor facilities. Playgrounds mapped and listed by area and type plus recreational spaces. Links to leisure and cultural trust partnerships. Website connects to Dewis on Community opportunities/ playgroups. Play Sufficiency section in place		
-----	---	-------	-------	--	--	--

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Page 405

F15	The Local Authority provides information on access to play opportunities and contact for support if required	GREEN	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Play Sufficiency contact identified on website ▪ Leisure and cultural trust partners directly promote opportunities ▪ Web and social media used in promotion campaigns ▪ Family Information Service provides details of playgroups, holiday clubs, nurseries and childcare 	Some details may need to be updated post pandemic	Progressively update information on Dewis with Community partners
F16	The Local Authority supports and publicises events which encourage play opportunities and events for children and families	GREEN	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council use of website, specific focus periods e.g., school holidays covered ▪ Evidence of media releases and advertorials ▪ Facebook advertising campaigns ▪ Partner promotional campaigns e.g., BAVO, Halo, Awen 		
F17	The Local Authority publicises information which contributes to positive community attitudes to play	GREEN	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regular web-based information ▪ Social media resources available in-house ▪ Progress reports to Town and Community Councils ▪ Press and media release ▪ National campaigns e.g., play day promoted 	Imagery may need to be updated	Rebuild resources of appropriate imagery
F18	The Local Authority publicises information and support for parents to help them encourage their children to play	GREEN	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FAZ Active at Home resources and evaluation ▪ Family Information Service web information and resources ▪ Food, Fun and Active Play for Tiny Tots online promotions 	Navigation between all related elements can be difficult	Review web content and related links

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Page 406

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital engagement opportunities developed e.g., disability AYP Central resources distributed via schools, partners Young Ambassadors campaigns / programmes 		
F19	The Local Authority widely uses on-site signposting to safeguard and promote play	AMBER	AMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCBC site content generally positive and broad Content may be laid out by service areas rather than thematically Growth in signposting activity and promotion by key partners 	Information available could be more cohesive across service areas	Review opportunities to synthesise what is available on play sufficiency pages on BCBC website
F20	The Local Authority engages with the media to encourage the positive portrayal of children playing in the local area	GREEN	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCBC web information Press releases and supporting imagery Specific seasonal campaigns e.g., Schools Out Publicity via contracted partners and delivery networks Support for WG in regional or national communications 		

Access to space/provision

How has the Local Authority ensured collaboration to ensure children can move around their communities to increase access to opportunities for playing?

The strategic plans to support Active Travel and to develop safe routes have involved consultation, engagement and partnership working with key stakeholders. This has helped to secure a broad range of investments to improve infrastructure within and between communities. There is also evidence of strong partnership working with Sustrans and a range of BCBC services to mobilise increased use of active travel opportunities. In particular there are 37 schools now engaged in the National Standards cycling programmes and demand is showing growth. There has been initial engagement on play friendly streets, but this has been hampered by the pandemic.

Have there been challenges?

The pandemic has created challenges to progressing some of the above work but there will be opportunities to once again take this forward. The expansion of 20mph restrictions in streets may also support the play friendly streets agenda. The issues of securing resources to develop or maintain streets, highways and lighting plus supporting infrastructure for people with additional needs will be a national issue faced by highways and transport departments. The pandemic coupled with further supply chain issues is pertinent in this context. Despite the challenges the pandemic will have encouraged more people to be outdoors and to engage in walking and cycling to navigate local communities. This presents opportunities also.

How can these be overcome?

The key area for focus will be ensuring that Council services and representatives who are skilled and knowledgeable on transport, highways and active travel have the opportunities to connect and contribute to the play sufficiency agenda and related planning and implementation. Areas of particular focus would include maximising usage of any active travel assets being created, supporting the development of street play initiatives within communities, and helping to work with vulnerable groups to reduce transport as a barrier to engaging in opportunities or utilising places and spaces.

Information, publicity, events

How has the Local Authority positively used information to support access to play provision?

The development of the new BCBC website has improved the volume and range of information contributing to play sufficiency that is featured. There is a solid level of place-based detail via parks and playing fields sections and family information services have good levels of information on childcare, play and holiday activities. There have been initial challenges with new website formats, but holiday programme information is now simpler to access. BCBC can evidence promoting core services and opportunities but also those of a network of delivery partners that has been a new development. The Summer of Fun, in particular has highlighted the value of an engaging brand to attract interest. Social media-based promotion and advertising has seen growth and proven cost effective. The opportunities to utilise the resources of leisure and cultural partners has been a positive development also.

Have there been challenges?

It has been a challenge to balance the desire to raise awareness of opportunities alongside restrictions on the numbers that have been able to be supported. In some instances, time has been short to develop programmes or approaches that can be promoted. The restrictions on activities and in particular, gatherings has resulted in advance booking requirements which may have had adverse effects for those who are more digitally excluded or most in need.

How can these be overcome?

Being able to support a broader number of smaller and more local opportunities has shown some merit and involved partners in promoting opportunities. Where digital information is connected to on-line signposting (e.g., Dewis) it will need to be current. More targeted approaches to maximise impact will be explored alongside the more universally accessible opportunities.

Matter G: Securing and developing the play workforce

The Local Authority should provide information on the organisational structure of the policy area which manages the play agenda and the play workforce.

RAG status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

Note – These criteria are specifically about Playwork: Playwork is a highly skilled profession that enriches and enhances play. It takes place where adults support children’s play but it is not driven by prescribed education or care outcomes. This includes both open access and out of school childcare settings.

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
G1	The Local Authority keeps up to date information regarding the playwork workforce across the Local Authority (this should include the number of playworkers, playwork management structure, qualification levels, training opportunities and volunteers)	GREEN	GREEN	EYCT Management structure in place and development staff structure. EYCT identifies registers of providers and staff qualifications. Play and early years manager co-ordinates seasonal provision and disability programmes. Full employment records		

				<p>maintained including qualifications.</p> <p>Group Manager- prevention and wellbeing co-ordinates play sufficiency requirements. Support from wellbeing managers on programme delivery and development including partners.</p> <p>Key partnerships and contracts required to maintain workforce records e.g., Halo, Awen.</p> <p>Partnership working with BAVO requests workforce details for externally funded programmes.</p>		
--	--	--	--	---	--	--

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Page 412

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
G2	The Local Authority supports all of the workforce to achieve the qualification level required by the Welsh Government's National Minimum Standards	AMBER	AMBER	<p>EYCT subsidises training opportunities for registered providers.</p> <p>CIW mandatory training remains available to childcare workforce.</p> <p>Diverse range of CPD opportunities.</p> <p>Partnership with Agored Cymru continues to support play work 1,2 and 3 training.</p> <p>Holiday programme co-ordination training supported for exempt activities</p>	Workforce for play and holiday activities generally seasonal and recruited for short periods	Develop staff retention approaches and related ongoing training.
G3	The Local Authority has a staff development budget ring fenced for play, including playwork	AMBER	AMBER	<p>EYCT have ring fenced budget for training via RSG and also the Childcare and Play grants.</p> <p>Annual service budgets allocate resources for seasonal training</p>	Budgets are not generally ring fenced beyond EYCT but are allocated to support work with children and young people.	Identify overall resources available to support workforce development.

				<p>requirements-holiday provision.</p> <p>Core budget in place to support management related training to support play sufficiency leads.</p> <p>Key partners-leisure and cultural trusts -have training budgets.</p>		
G4	There is a comprehensive range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities available for playworkers in the area	AMBER	AMBER	<p>EYCT can support workforce development via RSG and childcare and play grant.</p> <p>Investment has supported play staff and some community partners-inclusability.</p> <p>Particular focus on the play work sector</p> <p>Disability programmes invest in workforce competency to support play programmes and care needs.</p>	<p>Holiday programmes run by BCBC do not have regular staff structures at operational levels to develop.</p> <p>Some staff return regularly and progressively build knowledge and experience.</p>	Develop staff retention approaches and related workforce development.

<p>G5</p>	<p>Training is available for volunteers and parents to develop their knowledge on skills in playwork</p>	<p>RED</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>Some progress has been made but smaller scale developments.</p> <p>Work with BING is supporting more inclusive practice across third sector.</p> <p>Family Active Zone resources supporting parent and family led programmes.</p> <p>Mentoring support for parent carers developing disability play opportunities</p>	<p>EYCT funding is limited and targeted at prioritise. childcare workforce. Formal play training can be high cost.</p> <p>Where WG investment is available investment into training has been possible-but reliant on external resources.</p>	<p>Identify opportunities to pool resources to create training opportunities for volunteers and parents.</p>
-----------	--	------------	--------------	--	--	--

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Page 415

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
G6	The Local Authority includes playwork within its Workforce Development strategies	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Childcare sufficiency assessment.</p> <p>EYCT have structured support for providers via RSG and Childcare and Play grant.</p> <p>Play work training supported for senior play team staff</p>	Casual staff have limited access to workforce development opportunities.	Formalise the training matrix for seasonal and casual staff.
G7	The Local Authority supports partners to deliver appropriate training to community groups, parents and volunteers	AMBER	AMBER	<p>EYCT works with a range of colleagues to increase training across the sector.</p> <p>Agored Cymru play work training delivered including third sector organisations</p>	Limited number of third sector /community partners delivering play currently.	<p>Work with BAVO to identify levels of need/demand.</p> <p>Secure and utilise additional external investment.</p>

Note – these criteria are about the Play workforce: This encompasses anyone employed whose role has an impact on children playing – those who may either directly facilitate their play, design for playing, or those with the power to give permission for children to play, or not.

G8	The Local Authority has undertaken a comprehensive training needs analysis for the play	AMBER	AMBER	EYCT understand the levels of play work training across the early	Numbers of training places is a challenge	Secure additional training opportunities where possible.
----	---	-------	-------	---	---	--

	workforce as defined in the toolkit glossary and above			years and childcare sector. Seasonal and holiday recruitment requests recognised qualifications in sport, play, arts, youth work.		
G9	The Local Authority takes action to expand the variety of learning and development opportunities that are offered to staff	AMBER	AMBER	Training support offered by AYP to school staff. Play integrated in leadership pathway for youth volunteers. Medical support, communication training for disability play staff. Holiday activity scheme training for senior staff	Staff are generally casual or seasonal.	Ensure digital and online resources are signposted and available for staff to access.
G10	There is a comprehensive range of CPD opportunities for a range of professionals who work with children	AMBER	AMBER	EYCT develops increased training for the sector. Comprehensive training available for CIW registered providers. Diverse range of CPD opportunities supported.	Seasonal and casual staff have less workforce development.	As above

				Structured sport, recreation and cultural training offered to support exempt activities.		
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
G11	Training awareness sessions are available for professionals and decision makers whose work impacts on children's opportunities to play	AMBER	AMBER	Play Wales safe streets programme. Play Wales schools access programme. Play Wales play sufficiency summary sessions. Opportunities offered to Town and Community Councils	A new rollout of awareness sessions will be required post June 22.	Schedule play awareness sessions

Securing and developing the play workforce

How has the Local Authority met the requirement to undertake or secure the managerial and delivery functions necessary to achieve sufficient play opportunities

BCBC has ensured that play sufficiency is the responsibility of a corporate director and that the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing of Future Generations has a leadership and advocacy role for Play Sufficiency.

The Group Manager for Prevention and Wellbeing has lead responsibility for conducting the play sufficiency assessment and engaging colleagues and directorates across the organisation.

There is a specific management and delivery resource regarding the Early Years and Childcare team. BCBC has a Wellbeing Manager-Play and Early Years who manages internally operated programmes, mainly seasonal and holiday exempt opportunities.

How has the Local Authority ensured it understands and provides for the workforce development needs of the play workforce (as defined in *Wales: A Play Friendly Country and above*)?

There is now closer working and dialogue between the EYCT team and Prevention and Wellbeing services to connect childcare sufficiency and play sufficiency considerations. An example would be shared delivery of Summer of Fun programmes. Also, where activity provision has been needed for Holiday Hunger programmes. The majority of investment support for workforce development is managed by EYCT based on RSG investment and the childcare and play grant. The childcare sufficiency assessment in particular helps identify the workforce development needs of providers.

There are annual service development planning processes conducted with leisure and cultural trust partners including workforce planning and considerations.

Whole school training approaches have been developed to support the play in schools and activity/play pod programmes.

How has the Local Authority ensured it understands and provides the playwork workforce (as defined in *Wales: A Play Friendly Country and above*)?

EYCT conducts its sufficiency evaluations with providers to understand training requirements inclusive of play work. A resource is in place to plan and support a measured amount of play work training for registered providers.

Beyond this BCBC only retains a wellbeing manager for play and early years to co-ordinate holiday, seasonal and disability programmes. This includes recruitment, training and deployment aspects.

Have there been challenges?

The key challenge post pandemic is similar to that experienced during the pandemic. Beyond EYCT, the workforce needed to operate seasonal and holiday programmes is difficult to recruit and employment for short periods only. This limits the ability to develop the skills, knowledge and capacity of a core workforce.

How can these be overcome?

There needs to be a way of “bolting” roles together that allows people to have more security and continuity of employment albeit across a range of relevant programmes or roles. The current approach of seasonal recruitment is high maintenance and cost and does not create a legacy for play across the County.

Matter H: Community engagement and participation.

The Local Authority should consult widely with children, their families and other stakeholders on their views on play provision. It should also promote wide community engagement in providing play friendly communities.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
H1	The Local Authority promotes initiatives to engage relevant groups in enhancing play	GREEN	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town and Community Council partnership agreements/ play programmes Third sector play providers and youth network engaged via BAVO/ CVC 		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Page 420

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	opportunities for children in its area.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partnership agreements with primary and secondary schools supporting play sufficiency ▪ Nex Gen Youth Network -Bringing partners together to support planning ▪ Community Asset Transfer – Workstream increasing partner collaboration ▪ Local and National surveys utilised to support assessment 		
H2	<p>The Local Authority promotes community engagement in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - making space available and suitable for play - organising play events - positive attitudes towards children and play - training on the importance of play. 	GREEN	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Play and activity pod spaces with primary schools ▪ Accessible play space projects with Town and Community Councils and local communities ▪ Play and activity roadshow events with both universal and targeted participation ▪ Development of networking approaches to promote inclusive opportunities (e.g., BING) ▪ Natural play space development linked to Valleys Regional Park (Bryngarw Park) ▪ National Play Day celebrations annually involving key partners 		

Community engagement and participation.

How has the Local Authority effectively used existing mechanisms for children’s participation and family consultation processes with regards to play?

- ‘Play your Part’ surveys conducted via Active 4 Life programmes for 8-11 years
- Families engaged in reviewing the delivery of free swimming opportunities across Bridgend
- Bridgend Inclusive Network Group developed and supported to engage with parent carers and children with additional needs
- Children looked after and those who are a safeguarding concern engaged via vulnerable hub project development
- Bridgend Youth Matters network group engaged in joint development of youth and young adult opportunities
- Young Carers consulted on current opportunities, barriers and aspirations
- Families engaged in evaluating family activities, resources and use of home space and local opportunities
- Family wellbeing survey for 0-3 years age groups conducted with partner schools
- National School Sport survey will not be progressed until summer term
- Young people with disabilities or additional needs engaged and their households

Have there been challenges?

The participation and consultation has never been more important but partners, particularly schools, have faced other pressures. The timing of some exercises must also be viewed in the macro context regarding the phase of the pandemic and levels of public caution which will have influence on feelings and responses. An array of information has been gathered but it will take time to synthesise and further ongoing dialogue.

How can these be overcome?

It will be important to share data and findings with partners and the broader community to highlight the challenges that have been faced and those that will need to be addressed. Linking this information to Public Service Board and development plans also important

Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas

The Local Authority should examine all its policy agendas for their potential impact on children’s opportunities to play and embed targets and action to enhance children’s play opportunities within all such policies and strategies.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
I1	There is a named person on the Local Public Service Board who champions children’s play and ensures that the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan contribute to and are incorporated within the Well-being Plan	GREEN	AMBER	BCBC Leader of Council and Chief Executive, Mark Shephard are members of PSB	Need to review who will champion play sufficiency within PSB from July 22 onwards.	Identify champion for play sufficiency
I2	The Well-Being Plan recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities	GREEN	AMBER	Due to timelines, the Wellbeing Plan will not have been completed and will be in draft format only. Draft plan connects to many play sufficiency matters.	Play sufficiency assessment will not have contributed to draft Wellbeing Plan	Learning and insight from play sufficiency shared with PSB at draft stage

Education and schools

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
13	Schools ensure that children are provided with a rich play environment for breaks during the school day	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Partnership agreements with schools include play/recreation.</p> <p>Volume of play and activity pods increasing/WG supported.</p> <p>Whole school training approaches linked to wellbeing planning.</p> <p>Schools supported to develop play policies.</p> <p>Peer led young leader programmes supporting activities.</p> <p>Schools engaging with Ambassador led activities and campaigns.</p>	<p>Not applicable consistently in all settings.</p> <p>Different approaches in some settings based on maintaining Covid safe environments</p>	Progressively expand the volume of schools utilising play within partnership plans.
14	Schools provide play opportunities during out of teaching hours	GREEN	GREEN	School partnership agreements.		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Page 425

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Family Active Zone programmes supported.</p> <p>Fundamentals programmes.</p> <p>Play and activity pod training and sessions.</p> <p>Extra-curricular activity identified in progress reporting.</p> <p>National and local survey data identifies school based activity.</p>		
15	Schools provide access to school grounds for playing out of school times	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Sustainable Communities for Learning programme/developments designed to support community use. (School modernisation programme and principles/cabinet reports)</p> <p>Formal dual use/community use arrangements at most secondary schools.</p>	<p>Pandemic has paused some planned progress.</p> <p>Access more established at secondary school locations</p>	Restart partnership working with Play Wales on community use of school grounds

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Community use of some primary school assets.</p> <p>Partnership working with Play Wales on community access to school grounds. Formalised community access at both Heronsbridge and YBC</p> <p>Welsh Government capital grants for community focused schools.</p> <p>Support for schools/timetabling and playground design supporting community access</p>	<p>Yard space improvements needed at YBC. Potential relocation of Heronsbridge school</p>	<p>Ensure play sufficiency considered in potential relocation of Heronsbridge school.</p> <p>Identify additional resources to support programmes.</p>
16	Schools encourage children to walk and cycle to school	AMBER	AMBER	<p>National standards cycling programmes delivered directly by BCBC.</p> <p>Levels 1 and 2 programmes accessed by schools.</p>	<p>Demand has grown during the pandemic and may continue.</p> <p>Delivering level 2 programmes require additional resources.</p>	<p>Identify resource to deliver Welsh medium programmes.</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Safe routes to school promoted.</p> <p>Sustrans promoting Bikeability programme with schools.</p> <p>WG Kerbcraft programme delivered by BCBC with local schools.</p> <p>National campaigns promoted and supported e.g., National walk to school week.</p>	<p>Ability to deliver Welsh medium programmes due to staffing.</p>	<p>Continue to expand digital approaches to supporting partners and providing guidance/resources.</p>
17	<p>The Local Authority offers guidance to ensure schools understand and ensure that regular outdoor play is not curtailed</p>	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Nex Gen wellbeing network established with stakeholders and partners.</p> <p>Play Wales working with BCBC on school related play programmes.</p> <p>Nex Gen website makes resources available including training and guidance for schools and teachers.</p>	<p>Digital support and availability of resources has commenced but can be expanded subject to resources.</p> <p>The former links with scrap stores needs to be reviewed to maintain play opportunities</p>	<p>Maintain networking approaches and sharing of resources and good practice, learning and insight.</p> <p>New scrap store approaches to be investigated linked to recycling and sustainable communities.</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				AYP offering Planning for Improvement workshops-high levels of engagement-training, resources, guest presenters and networking.		

Town and Country Planning

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
18	The Local Development Plan recognises and addresses the outdoor play needs of children of various age groups and abilities	GREEN	GREEN	LPA is preparing the 2018-33 replacement local development plan. Full suite of policies seeking to facilitate new POS and retain existing POS and GI. Bridgend Local Development Plan Green Infrastructure Audit Outdoor play and sports audit.		

Traffic and Transport

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
19	The local Transport Plan recognises the importance of local streets, roads and walking and cycling route in	GREEN	AMBER	Safe routes to schools investments and links to national standards cycling/active travel plans.	In regards to a connection to “play sufficiency” the links	Play sufficiency contribution recognised in any future short-term plans within the longer-term strategy.

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	offering play opportunities for children of different ages and abilities			<p>HIA of Bridgend Local Transport Plan 2015-30.</p> <p>Bridgend Local Transport plan 2015-30 targeting “encouraging safer, healthier and sustainable travel.</p> <p>Links between Local Travel Plan and other policy areas e.g., LDP, Education are explicit.</p>	could be more explicit.	
I 10	The local Transport Plan identifies ways of assessing and addressing the needs of all groups including those which are often marginalised.	AMBER	AMBER	<p>LTP identifies transport barriers and implications for demographic groups.</p> <p>Targeted exploration of public transport, community transport, taxis as innovative responses.</p> <p>Development of coherent and co-ordinated active travel networks-multi modal transport corridors.</p>	<p>More focus needed on close to home opportunities to reduce journeys.</p> <p>Community transport will have capacity issues.</p> <p>Transport more imperative for some young people e.g., disability, rural communities.</p>	Needs of targeted population groups beyond work or schools purposes to be understood and supported. (i.e., ability to navigate local communities.)

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Accessibility of opportunities identified as potential challenges.</p> <p>Kerbcraft, Bike It and Cycle training identified as interventions to support infrastructure use.</p> <p>Bridgend walking and cycling strategy.</p> <p>5.7.2 identifies that the LTP complies with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child-all children and young people have the right to be healthy and safe.</p>		

Early Years Plans

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
I 11	Early Years and Flying Start plans and services recognise the importance of play and contribute to the provision of rich play opportunities for younger children	GREEN	GREEN	<p>Flying Start support offered in 12 community hub locations.</p> <p>Facilities designed to support deep, ongoing and rich play experiences.</p> <p>Play is integral to the Flying Start offer-staff holding play qualifications or supported to attain these.</p> <p>Level 3 play work training for early years staff evidenced/also cross sector availability.</p> <p>Social media promotes play and playful childhoods resources.</p> <p>Opportunities for adventurous/risky play and training for workforce and parents on benefits.</p>	The structure of required training programmes could increase the emphasis on play work in similar mode to child development.	Identify ways of increasing focus on play work within the Early Years and Flying Start workforce nationally.

Family policy and initiatives

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
I 12	Family support initiatives provide up to date information and support for parents to enable them to support their children to play	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Family Information Services now centralised via the BCBC customer service team.</p> <p>Partnership working and information sharing with EYCT.</p> <p>Digital information and resources promoted-web, Facebook.</p> <p>Communities supported to develop information networks e.g., BING, Nex-Gen.</p>	There is potential challenges to maintaining awareness of all information via a centralised approach.	<p>Review communication pathways to maximise impact of any central information management.</p> <p>Explore use of libraries as customer information points in respect to signposting.</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Seasonal opportunities promoted centrally and via partners.</p> <p>Key partnerships e.g., Halo Leisure and Awen Trust have core marketing and information sharing channels also.</p>		Develop 3-year plans and connections to broader resources beyond Families First.
I 13	The local implementation of the Families First programme recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Education and family support teams are supported by the former Families First programme.</p> <p>Early Years and Childcare team included in this support, promoting play work and opportunities.</p> <p>IAA provided to support families regarding play opportunities.</p> <p>Legacy investments supporting children and young people's programmes, youth opportunities, volunteering,</p>	Reliant on annual funding cycles which restricts planning.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				young carers and disability opportunities.		
I 14	Plans to reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities	AMBER	GREEN	<p>Active Bridgend planning including care experienced children, children and young people who are a safeguarding concern, young people with disabilities and young carers.</p> <p>Trauma informed programmes developed by children's social services and prevention/wellbeing.</p> <p>Early Help service includes joint screening of police notices where there are child welfare concerns. Young people connected to support and opportunities.</p> <p>Holiday Hunger programmes led by Education and Early Help/EYCT teams.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
		AMBER	GREEN	<p>Healthy and Sustainable preschool scheme (HSPSS) supports a clear vision of play-information and strategy support for parents.</p> <p>HENRY scheme being developed in partnership with PHW.</p>		

Inter-generational policy and initiatives

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
I 15	There are a range of play based approaches to inter-generational activity	AMBER	GREEN	Broad range of approaches can be evidenced		
I 16	There is a creative approach to inter-generational activity which encourages better interaction between children of different ages	GREEN	GREEN	<p>Free swim to age 16 years.</p> <p>Bridgend Youth Matters network extending age groups 8-18 plus.</p> <p>Roadshows/activity days are multi-generational.</p> <p>Family activity sessions including siblings.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				Disability play is multi-generational including families and siblings.		

Health and Safety						
LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
I 17	The Health and Safety policies explicitly recognise the value of children being able to experience risk and challenge	AMBER	AMBER	<p>EYCT comply with National Minimum Standards and guidelines to deliver play (standard 7)</p> <p>Providers supported to gain and retain registration by meeting NMS.</p> <p>New corporate risk management matrix applied in 2022.</p> <p>Existing risk assessments and session plans support risk and challenge.</p> <p>HSE guidance made available to delivery partners.</p>	<p>Former risk assessments for community programmes will need review and align to risk evaluation matrix.</p> <p>The pandemic has introduced higher levels of controls on activities than previous</p>	Joint development of approach clarifying corporate position on risk and challenge developed with Health and Safety colleagues.
I 18	The Health and Safety policies and procedures incorporate the risk-benefit approach to health and safety assessments as recommended by the	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Positive current examples where this is evidenced.</p> <p>Play service session planning.</p>	A formal corporate position on risk-benefit is yet to be established in	A formal corporate position needs to be established on risk benefit and HSE guidance.

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Health and Safety Executive (HSE)			<p>AYP risk assessments.</p> <p>All About Me forms and developing personalised support.</p> <p>Vulnerable hub programmes and risk management approaches.</p>	regard to play sufficiency	
I 19	The Local Authority offers the provision of insurance through the Local Authority scheme to all third sector play providers and community councils	RED	AMBER	<p>There are some arrangements in place of this nature.</p> <p>Halo leisure sites</p> <p>Awen trust sites</p> <p>BCBC owned but community run community centres.</p> <p>Town and community councils can access the policies</p>	Insurance not provided for broader third sector.	Review with BAVO how the third sector works regarding collective insurance arrangements.

Play within relevant policy and implementation agendas

Please use this section to highlight successes of collaboration across policy areas to improve play opportunities. New regional approaches are being conducted to develop the population needs assessment and wellbeing plan across the three local authorities and the Cwm Taf Morgannwg health board footprint. The timelines will not align with the play sufficiency assessment but will be able to contribute at draft stage.

Following the forthcoming elections there will be an opportunity to review how play sufficiency can be best connected into PSB mechanisms and considerations. The assessment is identifying many of the contributors to play sufficiency matters.

It has been a difficult period to progress play sufficiency with schools, but activities are cautiously resuming, and schools are supporting the establishment of a wellbeing and lifestyle baseline that can help policy considerations across areas. Play sufficiency is also now centrally considered within performance management within education and family support services. There has also been good use of digital approaches to create and share resources. There has been a growth in engagement regarding schools' national standards cycling that supports active travel. The replacement LDP is in progress and identifying the importance of play needs of children and young people. There is an identification in the assessment as to how the Local Travel Plan connects with the LDP and other local policies. Early Years and childcare team have evidenced strong approaches and support for the sector inclusive of play work. The additional investments that have been available have promoted greater internal collaboration and also partnership working with the third sector. There is good evidence of work to centralise family-based information and also other community led approaches, particularly more targeted approaches. In regard to supporting the more vulnerable children and young people good progress has been made and there is also evidence of pooling the anti-poverty resources that have been made available by government. The additional support has seen an increase in opportunities for youth age groups up to 24 years and new partnerships with community owned youth organisations.

Have there been challenges?

It has proven difficult to get engagement in regard to the wellbeing plan development, but the opportunity remains at draft planning stage. In regard to educational aspects there is much good work that has progressed, and some innovation has been sparked. It is likely that the picture may be inconsistent as schools will naturally prioritise educational matters in the short to medium term. Working with headteachers and clusters on a way forward will be important. The return of school swimming has been significantly impacted for logistical reasons and may have created a broad gap in ability across whole year groups, particularly in regard to more disadvantaged communities. Work commenced with Play Wales on creating play friendly schools and play friendly streets in association with public health has needed to be paused as restrictions hindered any progress.

Review of the local travel plan identifies clear links to the role of transport in supporting play sufficiency although its role in contributing to play sufficiency could be more explicit. The large volumes of additional investment whilst being welcomed have had time and other resource limitations to use to most effect. That said, some interesting new partnerships have emerged, and new population groups have been reached. Effective management of information and sharing with communities might be one of the most significant gains but it brings challenges in terms of maintaining currency and staff awareness.

Where targeted programmes have been developing across policy areas, they have required new approaches and a shared commitment to working in different ways. The results have been worth it and evaluation of impact will need to continue as alternative ways of supporting young people. The partnership working with youth groups has been challenging to mobilise in short periods of time, but engagement has been positive. This adds to the inter-generational aspect of local play sufficiency. The pandemic has created an atmosphere of caution for many people and communities that has been reflected in risk management approaches. There will be a need to ensure play sufficiency plays an active role in community covid recovery.

How can these be overcome?

Any data emerging from the play sufficiency assessment will benefit from being shared with key stakeholders and across policy areas. This will be particularly true in regard to education/schools who will be able to utilise the data to support whole school planning in regard to wellbeing. Where gaps and challenges are identified a collaborative response from partners will be important. Play Wales can play an important role in this respect in rebuilding partner engagement and awareness. There is the potential to work with communities and third sector to create more locally available opportunities that minimises the need for extensive journeys and contributes to carbon reduction plans. Similarly, there are strong plans for walking and cycling infrastructure development and a related need to nudge or encourage young people to use these approaches as part of a generational change. The third sector have been supportive both in terms of helping to distribute and account for investment and also to deliver community programmes. This approach needs to be part of a broader conversation on ways of cross sector working. There are opportunities to establish communication channels and approaches between partners that improve the effectiveness of centralised approaches to promote and manage information. For some of the more targeted approaches there will be a need to view these less as short term externally funded projects and more as high value opportunities that need ongoing investment and support. It will be important to ensure that a focus on youth activity and the role of the third sector continues during the next 3 years of this plan. In regard to community covid recovery it will be helpful for BCBC to promote the risk and challenge aspects of play as identified by HSE and to review and formalise an internal position on this.

Conclusion

This section should identify the key priorities for the Local Authorities in accordance with the regulations and described in the Statutory Guidance.

From a governance perspective there will be a need to identify the leadership approach for play sufficiency going forward and a formalised commitment to a “One Council” approach to developing sufficient quantity and quality of play across the County Borough. Beyond this the matters that contribute to play sufficiency need to be connected to the Wellbeing Plan and an increased awareness of play sufficiency at PSB level. Bridgend has identified its aspiration to be a “Play Friendly County”, and this will require a collaborative approach both internally and externally.

Bridgend will retain a delivery aspect for play opportunities particularly in relation to supporting the more vulnerable and redressing imbalances in access to opportunities. Beyond this Bridgend will need to work collectively and pool resources to secure sufficient play for children and young people. This will connect with town and community councils and the third sector in particular. The broad volume of partners have been identified through the assessment.

Whilst consultation and engagement with children, young people and families has been a feature of the assessment there are opportunities for a more long-term conversation with people and communities on the future of play. There is also a need to connect the various resources and investments to best effect, although there are positive approaches currently identified. The assessment has the potential to be a more living process that runs through the three-year period, including new data and insight, and securing more engagement in the process from stakeholders.

Most recently the additional investments via Welsh Government in terms of Summer of Fun and Winter of Wellbeing have helped establish new partnerships across the third sector particularly in relation to youth activities. There will be a challenge to work collectively in similar manner in regard to future opportunities.

In terms of monitoring progress there is an opportunity to weave play sufficiency and its components into Corporate Performance processes to encourage more regular scrutiny and overview. Play sufficiency has the potential to add value to approaches aimed at stimulating community covid recovery and bringing people back together again. This is particularly true for children and young people whose wellbeing will have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. There will be a need to rebuild community opportunities and to support community anchor organisations and place-based activities and opportunities.

Bridgend has good base population data but also some gaps in what would support planning for play sufficiency internally and externally. There will need to be a focus on centralising relevant data and making it more meaningful at a locality level where possible. This is particularly true for targeted population groups who are underrepresented.

There has been positive progress in terms of focus on diverse needs, but this focus may need to increase, with a particular focus on barriers and accessibility for some population groups.

In terms of open spaces and play facilities, the replacement LDP will establish the policies to support play sufficiency. The mapping of assets and sharing information has seen improvements. The focus on Community Asset Transfer will see more play space and facilities managed differently and the need for shared understanding of play value, accessibility and suitability will become more critical. This is aligned to plans to invest in play infrastructure and the opportunity to make significant gains in terms of quality aspects. There will be a need to increase awareness and understanding in terms of national guidance on play value and accessibility in particular.

The Early Years and Childcare Team provides strong support to providers including meeting National Minimum Standards. Beyond this, the Bridgend offer is based on programmes that meet exemption criteria with a focus on holiday periods. The forthcoming holiday play works investment via Welsh Government offers support to expand this approach, and to look externally also. More training and support opportunities for community partners is one area for consideration

In terms of structured recreation, the partnerships with Halo and Awen have supported play sufficiency, and this will become more embedded in annual service development planning. The Active Bridgend plan is supported by Sport Wales and continues to support school and community activities and development programmes. Sport Wales will however be introducing new investment principles, the impact of which are not as yet fully understood. Similarly, Disability Sport Wales will reduce their direct investment into local authorities which may create localised challenges. There are opportunities for growth in relation to creative and cultural activity and also youth development programmes. The wellbeing plan draft assessment is identifying an expressed need for low cost and no cost activity opportunities by children and young people. This has been a core focus within Bridgend and will remain with such an approach encouraging targeting of resources whilst recognising the need for more universal access also.

Bridgend has commenced work with Play Wales on developing play friendly streets, but this was paused during the pandemic. Connected to this is the aspiration to make more places and spaces child friendly and suitable to support play and recreation. The investments into infrastructure to support young people and families to navigate their communities without car journeys will need to connect to programmes such as national standards cycling and nudging campaigns e.g., walk to school weeks.

In terms of sharing information BCBC has been developing a more centralised role and has the potential through its communications and marketing team to raise awareness of core and partner activities. Progress is being made in this respect. In regard to targeted interventions more direct marketing and promotional approaches will be needed via network groups that are being built.

Where BCBC directly delivers seasonal or holiday programmes the recruitment, training and deployment requirements can be high cost and high maintenance for management and alternative approaches may benefit from being explored across the Council, identifying a workforce that can more flexibly support a broad range of Council led programmes. Similarly, the partnership working with BAVO to invest into community delivery can be strengthened and better supported. Again, workforce development both internally and externally will be a key component but subject to resource being available.

Principles of co-production and working with people with lived experience have been evidenced in the creation and design of opportunities but more can be done going forward, particularly where facilities or venues are being enhanced. Developing a community commitment to securing play sufficiency is relevant in this context.

Our work with schools has always been a strength and connected to partnership working agreements. Continued investment into whole school planning and training, resources such as play pods and working with Play Wales on community access schemes align to the action plan. Similarly, investing in the skills and knowledge of young ambassadors/volunteers to offer peer led activities will remain important. The key challenge will be to ensure the above areas are not disparate and have the ability to be conjoined within overall governance approaches.

Way forward

The play sufficiency assessment has reviewed progress since the previous assessment whilst also recognising the impact of the pandemic. Whilst there are areas of regression, in many instances there has been progress made, and some examples of innovative approaches and development of new partnerships. The focus of this next phase of action planning will need to be on securing sufficient quantity and quality of play by working in partnership. This applies within the local authority as much as it does in terms of external relationships. The assessment has been conducted in association with the various directorates across the Council and also by engaging with children, young people and partners as described within the community engagement section of the assessment. The leadership of this assessment has been provided via the Prevention and Wellbeing service but there is an opportunity to embed play sufficiency more within the policy functions of the local authority and in terms of key strategic partnerships such as Public Service Board and Regional Programme Board where a wellbeing impact can be attributed to this work.

There has been significant additional resource available during 2021-22 via Welsh Government support but the principle of making best use of resources going forward will grow in importance. As the pandemic continues to ease, there will be a need to have greater governance and oversight of play sufficiency and use of core and external investments across the Council.

Whilst there are data sets available they will benefit from being collated into usable formats to support planning internally and externally.

There has been progress made in supporting children and young people with diverse needs but not in all categories and more work can be undertaken to support what is required with people with lived experience. This is set alongside the broader challenge of more universal support being needed to maintain or improve wellbeing.

Again, there has been good progress in identifying the various play places and spaces available across the county borough and the updated LDP will be sighted on deficiencies. Where fixed play infrastructure is to be enhanced the rationale will need to be clearly understood alongside the focus on play value and accessibility. Similarly, a recognition of how play space is suitable for young people up to 17 years of age and the ability to safely navigate their way within communities will be important

The investments into Welsh Government programmes have engaged more third sector partners and community groups in developing and delivering opportunities and this would benefit from being continued. For summer 2022 additional resource will remain available but this may

change in subsequent years. The local authority may wish to review its role as a deliverer or facilitator of opportunities going forward. EYCT offer robust support for childcare providers and similar support may benefit from being developed in regard to play sufficiency.

The structured opportunities through core partnerships with Halo Leisure and Awen Cultural Trust offer opportunities to reach more people and diversify the traditional approaches that have been taken, particularly for targeted population groups. There will be a need to ensure youth activities and also opportunities for young adults are duly considered. For the Council, the internal resources to lead such work are small and the workforce retained to directly deliver programmes are seasonal. Alternative models may offer advantages and will need to be reviewed.

There is good evidence of a range of low cost and no cost opportunities, and this is an area being identified within the Wellbeing Plan consultation as important, reducing cost as a barrier to engagement and participation.

There are positive examples of planning and policy in regard to active travel, walking and cycling and schools-based programmes. There is an opportunity however to increase awareness of the links and connections to play sufficiency. Earlier work on play friendly streets with Play Wales has the potential to be restarted.

There has been positive evidence of sharing of information and presenting play in a positive light. Some of this has been seasonal, reflecting the programmes that have been directly operated, but this picture is changing and an opportunity exists to promote throughout the year, including opportunities run by partner organisations or commissioned providers.

As the local authority works more closely with providers and delivery partners the emphasis may need to increase on supporting workforce development. Currently, EYCT will have an external focus but this may not be mirrored in terms of community play development. As previous, the Councils internal play workforce is small and seasonal and high cost to maintain. Where there is targeted work on supporting specific population groups the Council can evidence a more structured approach and investment into staff.

Play sufficiency has an important role in bringing people and communities together as part of broader community covid recovery planning and approaches. This can be in a variety of formats including activity days, roadshows, events and these provide further opportunities to engage with young people and families to inform service development planning or design of places and spaces.

The Council, most importantly, will have a role in providing leadership for play sufficiency and supporting partners to work collaboratively and secure its future. It will be important that the key policy areas do not work in isolation and connect to deliver maximum impact. Whilst good practice can be seen within policy areas the opportunity exists to develop this further by working across policy areas as “One Council” working together with its partners.

Signed: Andrew Thomas.....
Date: 20th June 2022.....

A. R. Thomas



Actions to be taken to address the issues / shortcomings recorded in the Play Sufficiency Assessment

Proposed actions for the period of 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2024

Matter	Priorities	Targets	Links to other Matters	Resources,	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)
Statutory Guidance-policy framework	Increase awareness and develop a “One Council” approach to play sufficiency.	Develop a steering mechanism across directorates for play sufficiency.	Matter I	Core	N/A.
Matter A: Population	Improve the usable data on children and young people to improve planning for play sufficiency	Bring together the diverse data that supports play sufficiency planning at a) County level b) Local levels (including rural areas) Include review of census data released in 2022 Recognise changes in approach via PLASC and maintain sight of alternative data capture approaches that might emerge	Matter B Matter D Matter H Matter I	Coordination costs Production of data	BCBC earmarked Covid reserve
Matter B:	Develop new approaches to engagement and data	Deliver an engagement exercise and capture data regarding children with different cultural backgrounds	Matter A Matter D Matter G	Consultation Exercise	BCBC earmarked Covid reserve

<p>Providing for diverse needs</p>	<p>capture to inform action planning</p>	<p>Further engage young people with disabilities/ additional needs recognising diversity and whole household considerations</p> <p>Review opportunities for BCBC disability focused programmes to better connect young people into community opportunities</p> <p>Continue engagement with Young Carers and Young Adult Carers and influence partners and providers to develop supportive offers</p> <p>BCBC to engage and ensure that the requirements of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) children are understood and provided for</p>	<p>Matter I</p>	<p>Consultation Exercise</p> <p>BCBC Leisure and Cultural Partnership resources</p> <p>BCBC Leisure and Cultural Partnership resources</p> <p>Consultation Exercise</p>	<p>BCBC earmarked Covid reserve</p> <p>Social Care recovery investment</p> <p>Social Care recovery investment</p> <p>BCBC earmarked Covid reserve</p>
<p>Matter C: Space available for children to play</p>	<p>Ensure accessibility is considered to maximise the value of open spaces</p> <p>Consider Play Value in relation to the design, development or</p>	<p>Identify the levels of accessibility at open spaces and the remedial costs to improve accessibility</p> <p>Play Value training/ awareness raising for key BCBC staff and stakeholders. Schedule of play</p>	<p>Matter B Matter F Matter I</p>	<p>Access audits at identified sites Staffing costs</p> <p>Awareness sessions</p>	<p>Use of core resources (following relevant training)</p> <p>BCBC earmarked reserve (New)</p>

	operation of open spaces	value assessment needs to be established			
<p>Matter C:</p> <p>Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces</p>	<p>Play Value and accessibility to be key areas of focus in play space development</p>	<p>Identify the most effective approach to BCBC integrating play value assessment into all refurbishment or new play space development</p> <p>BCBC to identify accessibility needs for play spaces, including those that may be subject to asset transfer</p> <p>Play value and accessibility training developed for key BCBC staff and stakeholders</p> <p>BCBC fixed play investments to include Play Value and accessibility in procurement related specifications (in particular for new developments or significant enhancements)</p>		<p>Play Value training Support for procurement approaches</p> <p>Play Wales Training and awareness sessions</p> <p>Play Wales Training and awareness sessions</p> <p>Technical support for specification or evaluation</p>	<p>BCBC earmarked Covid reserve (New)</p> <p>BCBC earmarked reserve (New)</p> <p>BCBC earmarked reserve (New)</p> <p>BCBC earmarked reserve (New)</p>
<p>Matter D:</p> <p>Supervised provision</p>	<p>Early Years and childcare providers to continue to meet standards</p>	<p>EYCT to utilise WG resources to support providers to gain and retain registered status and related support</p>	<p>Matter A</p> <p>Matter B</p> <p>Matter E</p> <p>Matter F</p> <p>Matter G</p>	<p>WG and core investments</p>	<p>Exiting funding stream</p>

	<p>Multi Activity activities programmes developed to deliver play value and comply with exemption criteria.</p> <p>Ensure quality issues are prioritised when engaging providers to deliver opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mapping of annual activity opportunities and links to local/ national investment streams (e.g., holiday Playworks) ▪ Ensure understanding by providers of requirements and standards ▪ Review whether a more sustainable approach to retaining a play workforce is feasible as opposed to short term seasonal recruitment <p>Review and further develop the partnership approach with BAVO to invest into third sector providers and grow a provider network</p>	<p>Matter I</p>	<p>Coordination staffing costs</p> <p>Review exercise conducted (commissioned)</p> <p>Grant investment review Establish cross sector approach/ platform</p>	<p>Existing core resources</p> <p>BCBC earmarked reserve (New)</p> <p>Welsh Government investments / coordination (existing)</p>
<p>Matter D: Structured recreational activities</p>	<p>Ensure that the Active Bridgend Plan considers Play Sufficiency matters</p>	<p>Include Play Sufficiency matters in consultation and engagement on long term Active Bridgend planning</p> <p>Continue to operate ‘low cost’ and ‘no cost’ opportunities in leisure</p>	<p>Matter A Matter B Matter E Matter F Matter G Matter I</p>	<p>Sport Wales annual partnership plan investment</p> <p>Halo management fee</p>	<p>Sport Wales (existing funding stream)</p>

	<p>Ensure the Cultural and Arts agenda contributes to recreational activities for children</p> <p>Ensure youth opportunities provide for children's opportunities for leisure and association</p>	<p>settings for young people with Halo/BCBC</p> <p>Play Sufficiency considered in Awen Trust service development plans</p> <p>Utilise WG investments to support cultural and creative recreational activities</p> <p>Further progress partnership working with Bridgend Youth Matters third sector organisations</p> <p>BCBC youth service provision continued and expanded including Youth Hub at Central Bridgend</p> <p>Targeted youth interventions developed and expanded subject to resources (e.g., Get on Track, Ascent)</p> <p>Vulnerable Hub programmes provided to support children and</p>		<p>linked to service planning</p> <p>Programme development and delivery costs</p> <p>Provider delivery costs</p> <p>5 additional youth offers and staff plus digital youth engagement</p> <p>Programme development and delivery costs</p> <p>Programme development and delivery costs</p>	<p>Welsh Government All Wales Play Opportunities grants (existing funding stream)</p> <p>All Wales Play Opportunities grants (existing funding stream)</p> <p>BCBC core investment</p> <p>WG Legacy investment (existing funding stream)</p> <p>Social Care recovery funding (New)</p>
--	---	---	--	---	---

		young people with disabilities, care experienced children, young carers, safeguarding concerns			WG Play Opportunities grants (existing funding streams)
Matter E: Charges for play provision	<p>BCBC and partners are better informed to plan opportunities and secure investments for 'low cost' or 'no cost' opportunities</p> <p>BCBC recognise the challenges for venue operators to rebuild services and activities</p> <p>BCBC to recognise that community led opportunities may prove more cost effective and support local activity</p> <p>BCBC to recognise that transport may need inclusion in project planning for targeted programmes</p>	<p>Key data and local evidence based priorities to be shared as 'One Council' and with partners to secure investment</p> <p>Venue costs to be included within grants/ investments into play to support 'low cost' or 'no cost' access</p> <p>BCBC to further progress work with BAVO to support third sector to secure grant or project investment</p> <p>Transport to be integrated where needed for programmes supporting disability, care experienced, young carers, disadvantage</p>	<p>Matter A Matter B Matter C Matter F Matter I</p>	<p>No additional costs to previous</p> <p>All Wales Play Opportunities grants – Summer of Fun, Holiday Playworks</p> <p>BAVO project development support</p> <p>No additional costs. Integrated in other costs presented</p>	<p>Not applicable</p> <p>All Wales Play Opportunities grants – Summer of Fun, Holiday Playworks 300k</p> <p>All Wales Play Opportunities grants (overhead costs) (Existing funding stream)</p> <p>Not applicable</p>

<p>Matter F: Access to space/provision Traffic and transport</p>	<p>Continue to encourage children, young people and households to use Active Travel options</p> <p>Work with partners and communities to develop safer and play friendly streets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver next phases of the walking and cycling strategy ▪ Engage with communities and stakeholders to develop safe routes and active use of infrastructure ▪ Deliver WG plans to increase 20 mph zones in residential areas ▪ Work with Play Wales/ PHW on development of play friendly streets/ community ownership of play ▪ Review mechanisms for traffic orders/ temporary road closures and implications 	<p>Matter A Matter B Matter C Matter D Matter F Matter H Matter I</p>	<p>Annual plan delivery costs – National standards</p> <p>BCBC to target WG investment for strategic schemes (annual submissions)</p> <p>BCBC to identify costed plan based on WG requirements</p> <p>Play Wales coordination and support. Funding by PHW Resources via AWPOG</p> <p>Staffing resources only.</p>	<p>National standards cycling (WG) (existing funding stream)</p> <p>Welsh Government (existing funding stream)</p> <p>BCBC core and WG investment (existing funding stream)</p> <p>Public Health Wales (existing funding stream)</p> <p>Not applicable</p>

	<p>Recognise the barrier that transport can create for vulnerable groups</p>	<p>Establish greater engagement with young people and young adults with additional needs identifying barriers faced</p>		<p>No additional costs</p> <p>Integrate focus on transport within engagement exercise. No additional costs</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Matter F: Access to space/provision Information, publicity and events</p>	<p>Ensure information on other databases is current, post pandemic</p> <p>Improve the profile of Play Sufficiency and key aspects within NBCBC web and media</p> <p>Increase BCBC advocacy for play and impact on wellbeing of young people</p>	<p>Review content on Dewis and update. Work with BAVO and info- engine data to update</p> <p>Re-think how Play Sufficiency can be found on BCBC web and connections to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessment and action plan ▪ Other links to services contributions to Play Friendly Bridgend ▪ Support communities and third sector groups to capture and share impact – digital stories, case studies 	<p>Matter A Matter B Matter C Matter D Matter E Matter F Matter I</p>	<p>Existing staffing resources – no additional costs</p> <p>Web review and potential design of micro site</p> <p>Resource of cameras, podcast equipment for loan scheme to capture evidence and impact</p>	<p>Not applicable</p> <p>BCBC earmarked reserves (New)</p> <p>No identified funding source currently</p>

	Utilise branding to increase awareness of 'low cost' and 'no cost' opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help promote community and partner opportunities being supported by play investments <p>Connect local opportunities to national media, websites and branding e.g., Summer of Fun, Holiday Playworks, National Free Swimming initiative</p>		Existing marketing and communications, staffing resources and media platforms	BCBC earmarked reserves (New)
Matter G: Securing and developing the workforce	<p>Develop staff retention approaches and related ongoing training</p> <p>Identify overall resources available to support workforce development</p>	<p>Review whether non-seasonal recruitment approaches can be justified and add more value</p> <p>Identify whether commissioned support options offer any advantages over direct provision</p> <p>Links expanded between EYCT, Wellbeing and key partners on the overall resources available to develop workforce</p>	Matter B Matter D Matter H Matter I	<p>Internal review utilising core resources. No additional resource</p> <p>Market test provider interest in delivering services on behalf of BCBC/ TCC's</p> <p>Internal staff collaboration to maximise best use of resources Welsh Govt investment</p>	<p>Not applicable</p> <p>BCBC earmarked reserve (New)</p> <p>All Wales Play Opportunity grants (existing funding streams)</p>

	<p>Identify the levels of interest amongst the third sector to build capacity or grow services</p> <p>Develop a range of resources to increase knowledge and confidence regarding play sufficiency</p>	<p>Identify resources that can support the development of volunteers and parents</p> <p>Work with BAVO to increase understanding of community levels of interest</p> <p>Develop digital and online resources and make available to play workforce</p> <p>Develop awareness resources and sessions to support decision makers</p>		<p>Community navigator and network building roles to support community engagement</p> <p>AYPD staff resources linked to Nex Gen web</p> <p>Develop new and additional content</p>	<p>Regional integration funding (New)</p> <p>Prevention and Wellbeing core resources (existing funding stream)</p>
<p>Matter H: Community engagement and participation</p>	<p>Continue partnership working with Town and Community Councils</p>	<p>Complete the information sharing that has commenced with TCC's as part of Play sufficiency assessment</p>	<p>Matter A Matter B Matter C Matter F Matter I</p>	<p>Staffing costs as core contribution</p> <p>TCC investments into Active 4 Life programmes</p>	<p>TCC contributions (existing funding stream) BCBC and WG play capital (existing funding stream)</p>

	<p>Bringing population groups together to potentially co-produce and own play opportunities</p> <p>Broader the engagement on Play Sufficiency beyond current levels</p> <p>Synthesise the data and feedback that has been gathered as part of the Play Sufficiency assessment</p>	<p>Establish network groups to support engagement and ongoing dialogue to support planning</p> <p>Utilise the citizens panel mechanism to secure feedback</p> <p>Work with larger partners to support engagement of broader population</p> <p>Collate the various sets of information gathered and include in subsequent reports to cabinet, PSB, third sector</p>		<p>Network group project support costs</p> <p>Existing BCBC consultation and engagement resources No additional costs</p> <p>Consultancy support for larger scale wellbeing survey evaluation</p>	<p>Welsh Government All Wales Play Opportunities grant (existing funding stream)</p> <p>Not applicable</p> <p>Play Sufficiency support grant (WG) (existing funding stream)</p>
<p>Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas</p>	<p>Raise awareness and understanding of Play Sufficiency and opportunities to offer support</p>	<p>New cabinet member to be appointed as Play Sufficiency champion</p> <p>Reporting on assessment, issues and progress made to cabinet and scrutiny</p>	<p>Matter A Matter B Matter C Matter F Matter H Matter I</p>	<p>Core staffing resources</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

	<p>Connect Play Sufficiency issues and actions into the PSB and Wellbeing Plan</p> <p>Utilise play to support wellbeing of young people in educational settings</p> <p>Develop digital approaches to support partners to deliver Play Sufficiency</p> <p>Recognise the connection of traffic and transport policy to Play Sufficiency</p> <p>Review how Playwork can be better supported within broader early years an childcare support programmes</p>	<p>Data from engagement to be shared with PSB</p> <p>Presentation on assessment, issues and key actions shared with PSB</p> <p>Re-establish partnership working and agreements with Schools</p> <p>Play Sufficiency matters integrated into whole school planning</p> <p>Nex Gen web resources centralised, and access provided for partner use</p> <p>E learning approaches further developed</p> <p>Highlight the contribution that traffic and transport can make in any short term plans linked to the longer term strategy</p> <p>Develop closer working between EYCT and wellbeing in relation to use of investments</p> <p>Increase support for play in holiday childcare settings</p>		<p>Core staffing resources</p> <p>Project development costs</p> <p>E learning resource development</p> <p>Core staffing resource No additional cost</p> <p>Utilise holiday Playworks to support play in childcare settings</p>	<p>Not applicable</p> <p>Sport Wales partnership agreements</p> <p>BCBC earmarked reserve (New)</p> <p>Not applicable</p> <p>Holiday Playworks (existing funding stream)</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---

	<p>Reduce risks in the centralised approach to managing 'Family Support' initiative information</p> <p>Corporate position on risk benefit in regard to Play Sufficiency required</p>	<p>Increase awareness amongst BCBC and partners as to how 'Family Support' information is centrally managed/Opportunities to share .</p> <p>Provide details as to how relevant information can be up streamed</p> <p>New risk evaluation matrix to be considered in regard to HSE risk benefit and play guidance</p>		<p>Core staffing resource No additional cost</p> <p>Core staffing resource No additional cost</p>	<p>Not applicable</p> <p>Not applicable</p>
--	--	--	--	---	---

Note-original budgets and funding profiles to be reviewed following inflationary increases and implications to costs/services.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

17 JANUARY 2023

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide an update to Cabinet on the mandated National Transfer Scheme for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and Young people (UASC).
- Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Social Services and Wellbeing to modify a current contract, in accordance with rule 3.3.3 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
- Delegate authority to the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing in consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change and Section 151 Officer, and Chief Officer – Legal & Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy to agree the terms of the regional agreement (SLA) and any ancillary agreements, as required

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 November 2021, Welsh Government took steps to mandate the National Transfer Scheme (NTS), to ensure all children and young people are transferred promptly to local authorities to be cared for, and there is a fairer, more equitable distribution of unaccompanied children across Local Authorities.

- 3.2 As part of the mandate scheme, the Home Office undertook a modelling exercise to determine each Region/Local Authorities maximum allocation, taking into account wider pressures relating to looked after children and the supported asylum population.
- 3.3 The Home Office advised the Cwm Taff Morgannwg region that its maximum allocation is 91 unaccompanied children, which equates to 29 children for Bridgend.
- 3.4 The Home Office operates a rota, which stipulates each Local Authorities 'turn' to accept children. Two children are required to be placed in Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) care between January - March 2023, although the duration of the mandatory period is unknown.
- 3.5 To date, BCBC have successfully placed 6 children, utilising our supported accommodation and independent foster agencies (IFA's). However, placements in these environments are limited and capacity is outweighed by demand.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 At present, BCBC does not have sufficient capacity within existing Supported Accommodation contracts to accommodate young people coming through the NTS. Placement sufficiency across fostering and residential care is also limited, and even further challenged when placing this unique cohort of young people.
- 4.2 Due to the nature of the NTS, there is a level of uncertainty over the age and care and support needs of this cohort of children, therefore we will need to parallel plan and continue to source foster and potentially residential placements which may be costly if specialist placements are needed.
- 4.3 A Registered Social Landlord (Hafod) recently approached BCBC with the offer of a 3 bedroom property. The location is central to town/Bridgend College and ideal for young people. Dewis Ltd (existing contracted Supported Accommodation support provider) is experienced and well placed to deliver support to unaccompanied children, and has the ability to mobilise an additional service within required timescales.
- 4.4 The service needs a static staff team based in the home at pertinent times during the day/evening to support young people in line with their support needs. The current Supported Accommodation contract in place with Dewis only allows a 10% modification, which doesn't cover these requirements for UASC – where a contract modification of 36% is required to help BCBC meet the UASC requirements identified in section 3 of this report.
- 4.5 Rule 3.3.3 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules provides that procured contracts may be modified without the requirement for a new procurement procedure where all of the following conditions are fulfilled:
- The need for modification has been brought about by circumstances which the Council having been duly diligent could not have foreseen;
 - the modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract;
 - any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract.

- 4.6 As set out above the need for the modification has been brought about by the introduction of the NTS mandate following the procurement of the Supported Accommodation contract with Dewis which set new service requirements which could not have reasonably been foreseen when the contract was originally procured. The proposed modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract. It would entail the provision of additional services of a similar nature provided on the same terms as originally procured. The proposed modification is limited to a 36% increase in the initial contract value and so would not increase the value of the contract in excess of 50% of the original contract value.
- 4.7 In accordance with CPR 3.5 if Cabinet approve the modification, this will be referred to the Corporate Procurement Team who will publish notice of the modification in accordance with Regulation 51 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 4.8 In respect of the wider requirements (i.e. to address the total amount of 91), the region has committed to developing services to support the accommodation and care of this vulnerable cohort of children and young people. BCBC officers have worked with regional partners to develop a regional Supported Accommodation service via the 4c's (national children's fostering and residential services) Framework block contract arrangements, and a provider has been secured (Avisant) through this arrangement. Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC will act as Lead Authority which permits BCBC to use one bed under this arrangement.
- 4.9 A Service Level Agreement between the region will be established to set out how the regional partners shall work together and offer support to the service provider to deliver the service fully. The terms of this agreement will be developed and agreed in consultation and agreement with the Chief Officer of Legal & Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy and Section 151 Officer.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There is no effect on the Council's policy framework and procedure rules

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 An initial 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 is listed below:

Long-term	Young people are enabled to take control and responsibility to live independently without intervention from the local authority. Children are supported by their carers to reach their full potential.
------------------	--

Prevention	The focus of the service is to prevent unaccompanied children becoming homeless and to successfully transition into adulthood and live independently.
Integration	The service is a multi-agency partnership where integration is key to good service delivery arrangements.
Collaboration	Collaboration is a key approach by placing young people at the centre of their support. Working with the network around the child working towards positive wellbeing outcomes.
Involvement	Participation and engagement arrangements will be strengthened as part of this working arrangement.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The Home Office provides funding as set out below:

- a lump sum payment of £15k per child if children are placed by 28 February 2023
- a standard on-going weekly payment of £1,001 per child (under the age of 18)

8.2 If 3 young people under the age of 18 are placed via the NTS for the 10-month (43 week) period specified from 1 February 2023 to 30 November 2023, BCBC will receive a total payment of £174k, as broken down below:

- lump sum payment of £45k (3 children x £15k)
- total standard payment of £129k (3 children x £1,001 per child x 43wks)

8.3 The quoted contact value provided by the existing Supported Accommodation provider (Dewis Ltd) to support the 3 children for the 10-month period equates to £97k (support costs only). This will be fully funded by the Home Office payment.

8.4 The existing Supported Accommodation contract with Dewis Ltd is due to end 1 December 2023, and the total contract value of the existing contract is £592k. The modification of 36% being sought equates to a total of £213k, providing contractual scope for the £97k costs detailed above, as well as providing extra scope to support an additional 3 to 4 children (of the total 29 allocated to BCBC), should the need arise between now and the service being recommissioned.

8.5 The UASC service will be recommissioned during 2023 (for contracts to commence 1 December 2023) via a competitive procurement process, which will be carried out in accordance with the Council's Contract Procurement Rules.

8.6 In addition to the support costs and commissioned support arrangements, it is also proposed that the set-up costs, housing management costs and rent (which are yet to be confirmed) are also funded by the Home Office funding.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Delegate authority to the Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing to modify the existing Supported Accommodation contract with Dewis in order to provide additional services up to the value of £213k in accordance with rule 3.3.3 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules
- Delegate authority to the Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing in consultation with the Chief Officer, Finance, Performance and Change and Section 151 Officer, and Chief Officer - Legal, HR and Regulatory Services to agree the terms of and enter into a regional supported accommodation service agreement (SLA) and any ancillary agreements, as required

Claire Marchant
Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate
February 2022

Contact officer: Laura Kinsey
Head of Children's Services

Telephone: (01656) 642314

Email: laura.kinsey@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Background documents: None

This page is intentionally left blank

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

17 JANUARY 2023

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 paragraph 4.1.

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 current vacancies for local authority governor positions on school governing bodies (see paragraph 4.1 and Appendix A).

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 For the three current local authority governor vacancies at the three schools in the table below, all applicants met the approved criteria for appointment as a local authority governor and there was no competition for these vacancies. Therefore, the recommended appointments are as follows:

Name of applicant	School
Ms Laura Sampson	Caerau Primary School
Mr Kevin Pascoe	Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School
Cllr Ross Penhale-Thomas	Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd

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 at paragraph 4.1.

Mr Lindsay Harvey
Corporate Director – Education and Family Support

17 January 2023

Contact officer: Dawn Davies
Principal Officer – Business Strategy and Performance

Telephone: (01656) 642694

Email: Dawn.Davies@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Education and Family Support Directorate
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Background documents

None

Appendix A

The following table represents current and future local authority governor vacancies (up to the end of March 2023) subject to the approval of the recommended appointments in paragraph 4.1.

Name of school	Number of current and future vacancies	Latest date for submission of an application
Afon y Felin Primary School	1 (current)	13 January 2023
Archdeacon John Lewis Church in Wales Primary School	1 (vacant from 20 February 2023)	13 January 2023
Brackla Primary School	1 (current)	13 January 2023
Bryntirion Infant School	1 (current)	13 January 2023
Caerau Primary School	1 (current)	13 January 2023
Cefn Glas Infant School	1 (current)	13 January 2023
Corneli Primary School	1 (vacant from 20 February 2023)	13 January 2023
Coychurch (Llangrallo) Primary School	1 (current)	13 January 2023
Ffaldau Primary School	2 (current)	13 January 2023

Garth Primary School	1 (current)	13 January 2023
Litchard Primary School	2 (current)	13 January 2023
Llangewydd Junior School	2 (current)	13 January 2023
Maes yr Haul Primary School	1 (current)	13 January 2023
Mynydd Cynffig Primary School	1 (current)	13 January 2023
Ogmore Vale Primary School	1 (vacant from 20 February 2023)	13 January 2023
Pîl Primary School	1 (current)	13 January 2023
Plasnewydd Primary School	2 (current)	13 January 2023
St Robert's Roman Catholic Primary School	2 (current)	13 January 2023
Tondu Primary School	1 (current)	13 January 2023
Tremains Primary School	1 (current)	13 January 2023
Tynyrheol Primary School	2 (current)	13 January 2023

Ysgol Bryn Castell	1 (vacant from 20 February 2023)	13 January 2023
Ysgol Cynwyd Sant	2 (current)	13 January 2023
Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr	1 (current)	13 January 2023
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon y Cymoedd	1 (current)	13 January 2023
Bryntirion Comprehensive School	1 (vacant from 20 February 2023)	13 January 2023
Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen	1 (current)	13 January 2023
Cynffig Comprehensive School	1 (current) 1 (vacant from 20 February 2023)	13 January 2023 13 January 2023
Pencoed Comprehensive School	1 (current) 1 (vacant from 20 February 2023)	13 January 2023 13 January 2023

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

17 JANUARY 2023

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

UNREASONABLE BEHAVIOUR / VEXATIOUS COMPLAINANT POLICY

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Cabinet the revised Unreasonable Behaviour or Vexatious Complainant Policy for approval.

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.
 - **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 Most of the contact the Authority has with members of the public (customers) is positive. However, in a minority of cases the contact is not positive and customers pursue their requests for a service or complain in a way that is unreasonable. This can have a negative impact on the way that their complaint is handled and on the Authority's ability to provide services to other customers.
- 3.2 Having a policy to deal with unreasonable customer behaviour and vexatious requests helps officers to understand clearly what is expected of them, what options are available and who can authorise these actions. It can also be shared with customers and help manage their expectations and explain that certain behaviours will not be tolerated.
- 3.3 It is recommended that a customer should be given an opportunity to moderate their behaviour and in particular with persistent complaints any actions should be proportionate to the nature and frequency of the complainant's current contacts.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 Cabinet approved the Unreasonable Behaviour and / or Vexatious Complainants Policy on 22 January 2019 as a day one requirement. However, unreasonable behaviour towards representatives of the Council is not limited to complaints and can arise more generally from service interaction with the public that results in actual or threatened violence or abuse.
- 4.2 The policy (attached as **Appendix 1**) has been revised to recognise that whilst the Council will continue to respond openly and transparently to complaints and concerns, it has a clear set of values and will not tolerate unreasonable or abusive behaviour towards its staff, Elected Members or any third party. The policy gives examples of what this behaviour might be, the actions the Council may take to address this and the process through which a complainant can challenge this decision.
- 4.3 Almost all complaints are reasonable but unfortunately there are a small number of complainants whose behaviour has become unreasonable that it takes a disproportionate amount of officer time to manage contact with them. Examples of the type of unreasonable behaviour that officers currently deal with are:
- Complainants contacting multiple officers and Members via email and telephone multiple times with the same issue, without allowing the Council an opportunity to look into the issue;
 - Complainants using rude and aggressive language in emails and over the telephone with officers.
- 4.4 In order to deal with this excessive contact effectively, the worst cases are allocated a single point of contact within the Council. In the last 12 months, three complainants have been deemed as vexatious, which represents 0.9% of all corporate complaints received. One of the complainants, over a three month period called the Council in excess of 2500 times. The issues they have raised have all been responded to previously, but they persisted in contacting the Council and presented as threatening towards members of staff through swearing at them, making demands and stating that they felt like “smashing up” the Civic. This takes up a considerable amount of Officer and Member time and does not result in any improvement to services, which is the point of the complaint process.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There is no effect 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. 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 arising from this report.

8.2 Dealing with vexatious complainant behaviour is resource intensive and detracts resources from serious issues, through unreasonable demands on the Council. A robust policy will enable these complainants to be managed more effectively.

9. Recommendation

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the revised Policy attached as **Appendix 1**.

Kelly Watson
Monitoring Officer
19 December 2022

Contact Officer: Laura Griffiths, Group Manager Legal and Democratic Services

Telephone: (01656) 643135

E-mail: laura.griffiths@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address Legal and Democratic Services
Level 4,
Civic Offices,
Angel Street,
Bridgend,
CF31 4WB

Background Documents: None

This page is intentionally left blank

Bridgend County Borough Council



Unreasonable Behaviour or Vexatious Complainant Policy

Unreasonable Behaviour or Vexatious Policy

1. Policy objective

- 1.1** This policy and procedure sets out how Bridgend County Borough Council will deal with unreasonable customer behaviour or vexatious complainants when dealing with officers and Elected Members of Bridgend County Borough Council. It applies to all members of the public (customers) in their interaction with the Council. This approach gives a clear message to the public that any violent, abusive or threatening behaviour towards any Council employee or Elected Member is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
- 1.2** Council employees and Elected Members have the right to work in a safe environment. The Council expects its staff and Elected Members to be treated with courtesy, dignity and respect. We are strongly committed to equality and diversity and have a zero tolerance approach towards any harassment or victimisation in any form whatsoever of our employees / Members. As part of this, we also expect our customers to respect legal protections that employees / Members have under the Equality Act 2010. The Council will take appropriate action that is available, including a referral to South Wales Police wherever it proves necessary to do so.
- 1.3** The Council is committed to dealing with all complaints fairly and impartially, and to making our services of a high quality and as accessible as possible.
- 1.4** Most of the contact that the Council has with customers is positive. However, there may be occasions when customers act in an unreasonable or unacceptable manner. In some cases the frequency and the nature of their contact with the Council can hinder the consideration of their own or other people's enquiries. In some instances the sheer number or nature of their inquiries lead them to be considered as 'persistent' or 'vexatious' in their dealings with staff.
- 1.5** This policy explains the Council's:
- Definition of unreasonable customer behaviour
 - Definition of vexatious request
 - Process for dealing with customers who behave in an unreasonable way
 - Process for dealing with vexatious requests
- 1.6** This policy should only be used in exceptional circumstances after all reasonable measures have been taken to try to resolve the complaints under the council's corporate complaints procedures.

2 Definitions

Unreasonable Customer Conduct

- 2.1** It is difficult to produce a comprehensive list of the actions that would be deemed unreasonable customer conduct. Ultimately it will be a matter for the Council's Complaints Officer and Monitoring Officer to decide whether a particular customer's actions or behaviour are inappropriate, having regard to the circumstances of each

case. Examples of conduct which may be considered unreasonable are listed below but the list is not exhaustive:

- Acts or threats of violence or aggression by an individual toward staff, Elected Members or any third party. Where the behaviour is so extreme that it threatens the immediate safety and welfare of staff the Council may report the matter to the police or consider taking legal action. In such cases, the Council may not give the complainant prior warning;
- Persistent failure to show respect in dealings with staff or Elected Members, or acting in a threatening or abusive way. Examples of such behaviour include shouting, verbal abuse, unsubstantiated allegations, derogatory remarks, inflammatory statements;
- Malicious, unwarranted or defamatory comments or making remarks which are related to any protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010;
- Hindering objective consideration of an enquiry or operation of a service by the nature or frequency of contact with the Authority;
- Attempting to pursue any matter, having exhausted all stages of the corporate or other statutory complaints procedure. This will include where the substance of a complaint is the same as that originally made;
- Contacting the Council through different routes about the same issue in a persistent manner. This may include other parties, such as Elected Members or the Ombudsman;
- Excessive demands on the time and resources of officers with the expectation of an immediate response;
- Being unable to identify the precise issue a customer wants the Council to deal with or investigate despite the Council having taken reasonable steps to assist the Customer with this task;
- Focusing on a trivial matter to an extent which is out of proportion to its significance and continue to focus on this point. It is recognised that determining what is 'trivial' can be subjective and careful judgments will be used in applying this criteria;
- Changing the substance of a complaint or continually raising new issues or seeking to prolong contact;

Vexatious requests

2.2 The Council defines this as any request which is likely to cause distress or disruption, without any proper or justified cause. Examples would include:

- High volume of correspondence, or combining requests with accusations and complaints;
- Requests for information that has already been provided, or to reconsider issues that have already been dealt with;
- When compliance with the request would impose significant burden on the Council in terms of expense and negatively impact on the Council's ability to provide service to others.

3. Strategy for dealing with Unreasonable behaviour or vexatious requests

3.1 If an officer of the Council is of the opinion that a customer's actions or behaviour are unreasonable or to classify a request as vexatious, they shall, in the first instance discuss this with their line manager in order to consider any informal steps that can be followed to resolve the concerns. Every effort will be made to satisfy

the request or resolve the issue that has been made. For complaints, this will include exhausting both stages of the Council's complaints procedure.

3.2 In the event that no informal steps are appropriate or informal attempts to resolve the concerns do not work, the Service will note the comments, and a decision to classify a customer's behaviour as unreasonable or a request as vexatious, will be considered by an Appropriate Officer on an individual basis in consultation with the Complaints Officer and Monitoring Officer. Each case will be viewed individually and decided on its merits. However, a customer may be deemed to have unreasonable behaviour or be vexatious if previous or current contact with them shows that they meet the criteria, dependent upon degree.

3.3 The "Appropriate Officer" to determine action to be taken will depend upon the circumstances of each case provided that no officer may undertake the role of "Authorising Officer" if he/she has had an involvement in the complaint. This may be a Service Manager, Head of Service or Complaints Officer acting on behalf of the Chief Executive.

3.4 The Appropriate Officer in consultation with the Complaints Officer and Monitoring Officer will determine what action to take including:

- (a) Restricting the manner in which the customer may contact the council;
- (b) The times at which the customer may contact the council;
- (c) Restrict contact through a designated officer;
- (d) Notify the customer that the Council has responded fully to the points raised and has tried to resolve the complaint but there is nothing more to add and continuing contact will serve no useful purpose and advise them to contact the Ombudsman;
- (e) Withdraw contact with the customer either in person, by telephone, by email or any combination of these, provided at least one form of contact is maintained. The Council shall not, without the consent of the Monitoring Officer, withdraw or not provide any services to which the customer or his/her family are entitled to receive;
- (f) Inform the customer that the Council reserves the right to pass the matter to the Council's legal services which may result in legal action against the customer;
- (g) Removal from the Council officers by a senior manager or the police if the behaviour is considered to be a public nuisance offence;
- (h) Other suitable options will be considered in light of the customer's circumstances.

3.5 The Appropriate Officer will write to the customer to:

- (a) Detail the action that will be taken and why as outlined at paragraph 3.4
- (b) Explain what this means in terms of contact with the Council
- (c) Advise how long any restrictions will be in place and when they will be reviewed
- (d) Enclose a copy of this policy

3.6 The Monitoring Officer shall maintain a central register of decisions relating to the above.

4. Review

4.1 Any restriction imposed shall be subject to a regular review and the timing of such reviews will be notified to the customer. Reviews will be based on the individual

circumstances of the case but could typically be for a period of 6 months, dependent on the severity of the situation.

5. Social Media

- 5.1** The Council will remove, without notice, offensive or abusive posts from its social media channels. Additionally, the Council reserves the right to take any action it considers necessary where derogatory comments are made about officers of the Council.

6. New complaints

- 6.1** New complaints from individuals whose behaviour has previously been deemed unreasonable or their complaints vexatious will be treated on their merits. Restrictions imposed in respect of an earlier complaint will not automatically apply to a new matter. An Appropriate Officer will decide if any restrictions which have been applied before are still appropriate and if necessary in relation to the new complaint or request.
- 6.2** However, persistent unreasonable behaviour, or exceptionally unreasonable behaviour may result in a refusal of future contact on any matter.

7. Monitoring Arrangements

- 7.1** Information will be presented quarterly to the Corporate Management with details of customers who have been categorised as vexatious or have unreasonable behaviour.

This page is intentionally left blank

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

17 JANUARY 2023

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

INFORMATION REPORT FOR NOTING

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the Information Report for noting that has 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 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 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 Report

The following Information Report has been published since the last meeting of Cabinet:-

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date Published</u>
Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000	11 January 2023

4.2 Availability of Document

The document has been circulated to Elected Members electronically via Email and placed on the Bridgend County Borough Council website. They are available from the above 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 document listed in this report.

K Watson

Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy

11 January 2023

Contact Officer: Mark Galvin
Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees

Telephone: (01656) 643147

Chief Executives Directorate,
Bridgend County Borough Council,
Civic Offices,
Angel Street,
Bridgend

Email: cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk

Background documents: None.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

INFORMATION REPORT TO CABINET

17 JANUARY 2023

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide 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 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 For local authorities, 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).

3.3 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.

3.4 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 A** 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 effect 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 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 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
13 December 2022

Contact Officer: Laura Griffiths, Group Manager Legal and Democratic Services

Telephone: (01656) 643135

E-mail: laura.griffiths@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address Legal and Democratic Services
Level 4,
Civic Offices,
Angel Street,
Bridgend,
CF31 4WB

Background Documents: None

This page is intentionally left blank

Bridgend County Borough Council

Policy on Directed Surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources under the
Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Contents

- 1 Introduction to RIPA 2000
- 2 Types of Surveillance
- 3 Authorisation of Surveillance
Necessity and Proportionality
Duration
Renewals
Cancellations
Reviews
- 4 Drive-bys
- 5 CCTV
- 6 Internet and Social Networking Sites
- 7 Covert Human Intelligence Source (CHIS)
- 8 Collaborative Working
- 9 Record Management
- 10 General Considerations

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 to RIPA 2000

- 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 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 they would be regarded as objective if they oversee their 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' - the 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 they 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 they 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.

Collaborative Working

- 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 Court 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.

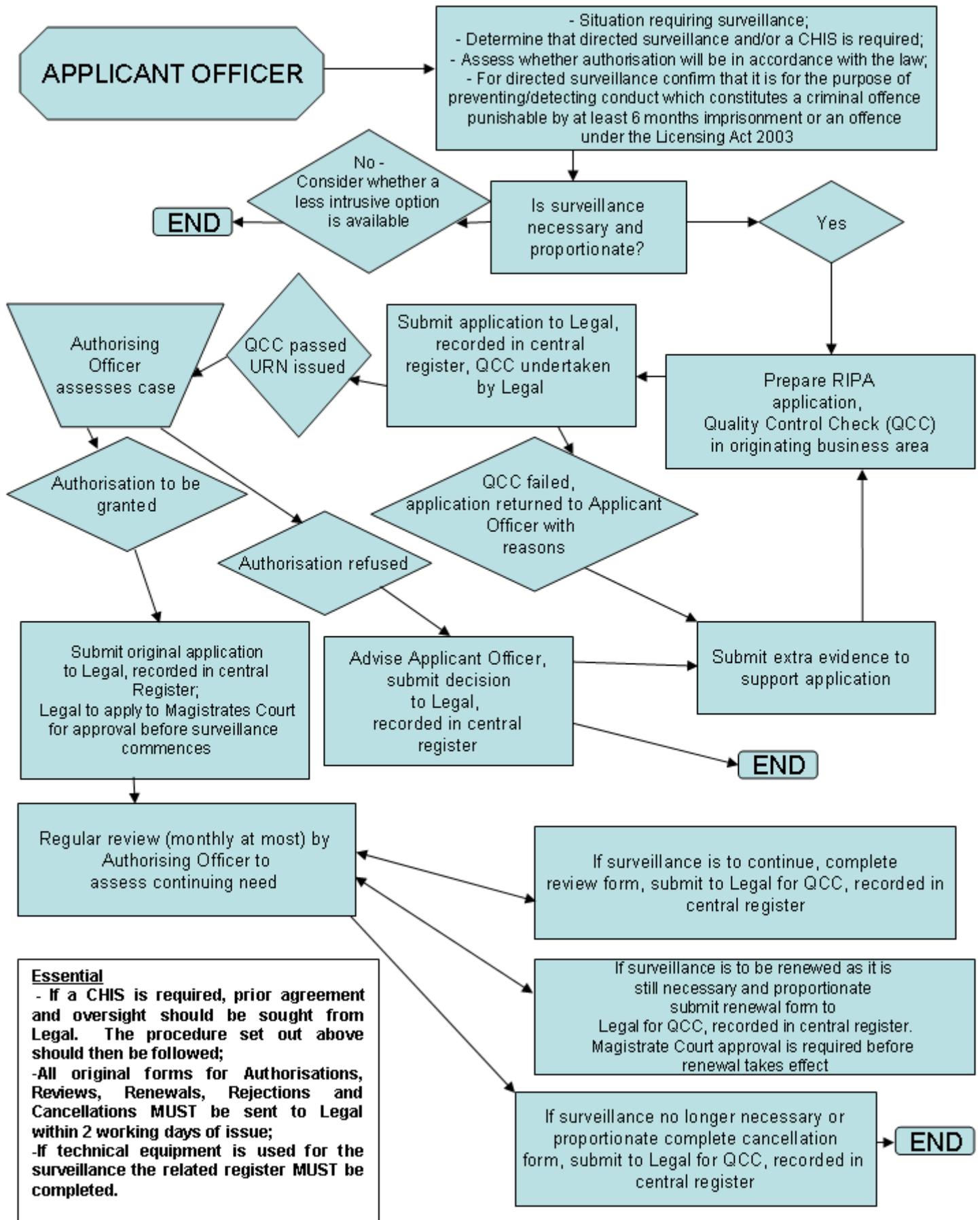
Senior Responsible Officer

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.

<u>Post</u>	<u>Directorate/Department</u>
Chief Executive	Chief Executive
Head of Partnership Services	Chief Executive
Head of Operations – Community Services	Communities

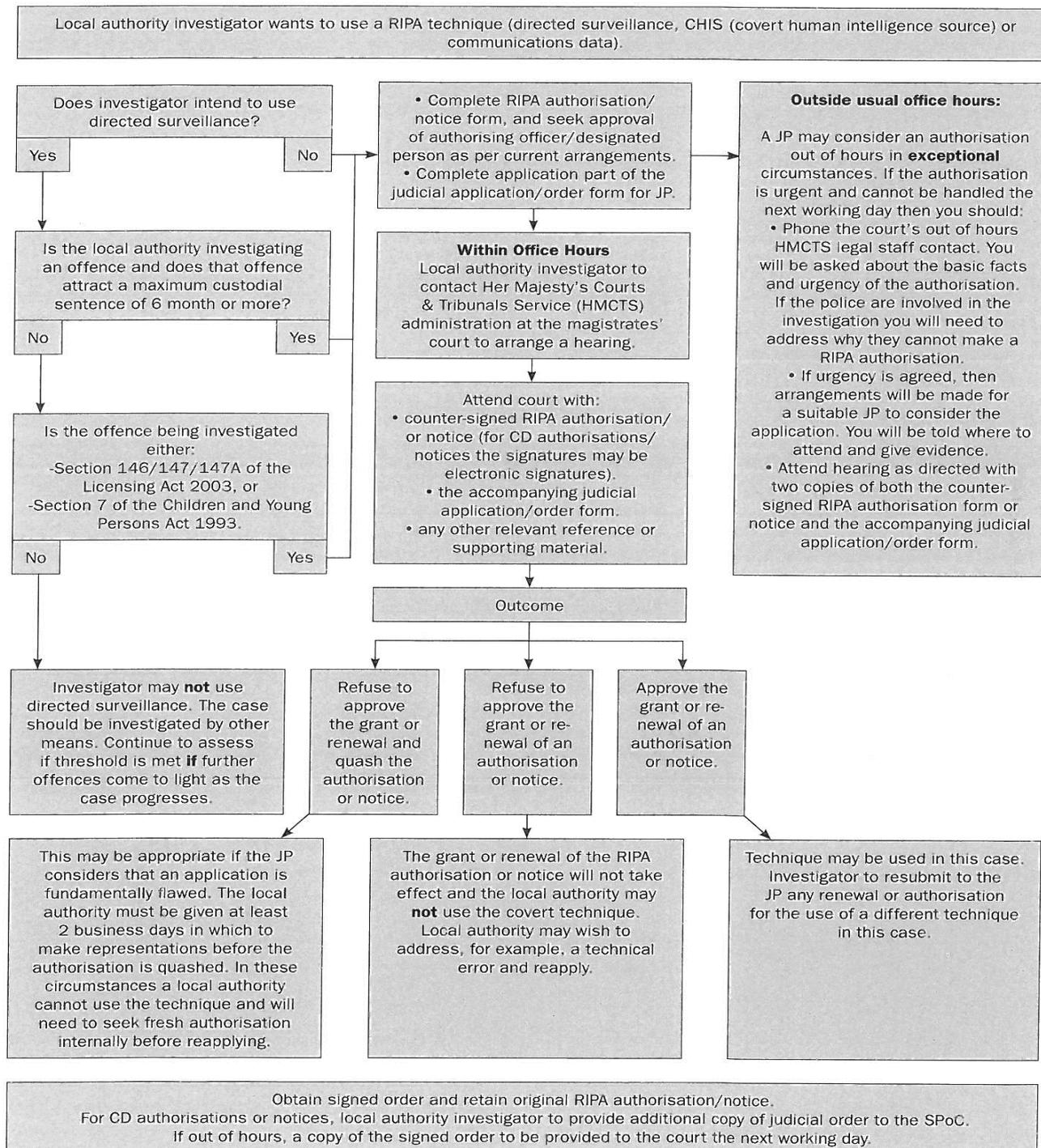
RIPA AUTHORISATION FLOW CHART



Essential

- If a CHIS is required, prior agreement and oversight should be sought from Legal. The procedure set out above should then be followed;
- All original forms for Authorisations, Reviews, Renewals, Rejections and Cancellations MUST be sent to Legal within 2 working days of issue;
- If technical equipment is used for the surveillance the related register MUST be completed.

LOCAL AUTHORITY PROCEDURE: APPLICATION TO A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE SEEKING AN ORDER TO APPROVE THE GRANT OF A RIPA AUTHORISATION OR NOTICE



This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank