

# 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

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*We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please  
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#### 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: Friday, 28 October 2022

Dear Councillor,

### **SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2**

A meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 will be held **remotely - via Microsoft Teams** on **Thursday, 3 November 2022 at 10:00**.

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence  
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest  
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008 (including whipping declarations)
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 4  
To receive for approval the minutes of a meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 of the 11 07 22
4. Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Performance Evaluation Report Of Childrens Social Care Services 23 - 27 May 2022 5 - 38

#### Invitees

Councillor Jane Gebbie - Deputy Leader of Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help

Claire Marchant - Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing  
Jacqueline Davies – Head of Adult Social Care  
Laura Kinsey - Head of Children's Social Care

Tracey Shepherd - Senior Manager - Local Authority Inspection Team - Care Inspectorate Wales

5. Call-In of Cabinet Decision: Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration: Appropriation of Land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay 39 - 102

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## Invitees

Councillor Huw David - Leader of Council  
Councillor Neelo Farr - Cabinet Member for Regeneration

Janine Nightingale - Corporate Director - Communities  
Jonathan Parsons – Group Manager Planning & Development Services  
Zak Shell - Head of Operations - Community Services  
Delyth Webb – Group Manager Strategic Regeneration  
Julian Thomas – Team Leader Regeneration Projects and Approaches  
Jacob Lawrence – Principal Regeneration Officer

6. Conclusions/Recommendations
7. Forward Work Programme Update 103 - 112
8. Urgent Items  
To consider any item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Part 4 (paragraph 4) of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should by reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Note: Please note: Due to the current health and safety requirements this meeting will not be held at its usual location. This will be a virtual meeting and Members and Officers will be attending remotely. The meeting will be recorded for subsequent transmission via the Council's internet site which will be available as soon as practicable after the meeting. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact [cabinet\\_committee@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk) or tel. 01656 643147 / 643148.

Yours faithfully

**K Watson**

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

### Councillors:

S Aspey  
F D Bletsoe  
E L P Caparros  
P Davies

### Councillors

P Ford  
D M Hughes  
M Lewis  
J Llewellyn-Hopkins

### Councillors

RL Penhale-Thomas  
A Wathan  
AJ Williams  
R Williams

Present

Councillor F D Bletsoe – Chairperson

S Aspey	E L P Caparros	P Davies	P Ford
D M Hughes	M Lewis	RL Penhale-Thomas	A Wathan
AJ Williams	R Williams		

Officers:

Lucy Beard	Scrutiny Officer
Meryl Lawrence	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Jessica Mclellan	Scrutiny Officer

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of a meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 dated 21 January 2022 and 2 February 2022 be approved as a true and accurate record.

3. CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION NOMINATION

The Scrutiny Officer presented the report which requested the Committee to nominate one Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

The Chairperson invited nominations, following which it was

RESOLVED: That Councillor Alan Wathan be nominated to represent Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 as an Invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

4. NOMINATION TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD SCRUTINY PANEL

The Scrutiny Officer presented the report, which requested the Committee to nominate one Member to sit on the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel.

The Chairperson invited nominations, following which it was:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Paula Ford be nominated to represent Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 as an Invitee to meetings of the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel.

5. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny presented the Committee with the proposed draft outline Forward Work Programme (Appendix A) for discussion and consideration; requested any specific information the Committee identified to be

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 - MONDAY, 11 JULY 2022

included in the items for the next two meetings, including invitees they wished to attend; requested the Committee to identify any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 4.6; and asked the Committee to note that the proposed draft Forward Work Programmes for the Committee would be reported to a meeting of COSC, following the July cycle of meetings.

The Committee requested the following reports be added to the Forward Work Programme:

1. A report on the delay in care packages for patients in hospitals. The Member acknowledged the pressures that winter would put on local authority and local health services. He welcomed a discussion with local authority and health colleagues regarding step-down care to scrutinise the matter and identify any support needed.
2. Post 18 housing and financial support for Care Experienced Children.

Members of the Committee discussed the following:

The Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny advised that there was the opportunity to have Member development sessions if the Committee felt it would be of merit. Additionally, she reassured Members that there would be continued opportunity to update the Forward Work Programme and advised that there may be emerging items as Members worked through it.

The Chairperson proposed that a glossary of acronyms would assist Members.

There were no requests to include specific information in the item for the next meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee considered and agreed the proposed draft outline Forward Work Programme in Appendix A, subject to the inclusion of the above requested reports, and noted that the proposed draft Forward Work Programmes for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees would be reported to a meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, following the next cycle of SOSC meetings.

### 6. URGENT ITEMS

None

The meeting closed at 10:00

## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2

3 NOVEMBER 2022

#### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

#### CARE INSPECTORATE WALES (CIW) PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT OF CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE SERVICES 23 - 27 MAY 2022

### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to the Committee the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Inspection of Children's Social Care Services Report and to request that the Committee considers the report and comments on the associated Action Plan.

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

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

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

### 3. Background

- 3.1 CIW carried out a performance evaluation inspection of children's services in Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) in May 2022. The purpose of this inspection was to review the local authority's performance in exercising its social services duties and functions in line with legislation, against the following areas:

- People – voice and control
- Prevention
- Well-being
- Partnership and Integration

- 3.2 The scope of the inspection included:

- Evaluation of the experience of children at the point of performance evaluation inspection

- Evaluation of the experience and outcomes people achieve through their contact with services
- Evidence of the local authority and partners having learnt lessons from their recent experiences and actions taken/plans for service development and improvement
- Consideration of how the local authority manages opportunity and risk in its planning and delivery of social care at individuals, operational and strategic levels

3.3 The date of the inspection was the week commencing 23rd May 2022 and the inspection team consisted of a lead inspector and six inspectors.

In advance of the inspection, a range of information/documentation was submitted including:

- Strategy and Structures
- Key Documents and Operational Protocols
- Cabinet/Committee Reports
- Development Work
- Performance Data and Quality Assurance
- Workforce and Supervision information

3.4 The inspection team reviewed the experiences of people's journey through care and support through review and tracking of their social care record. The team reviewed 50 cases, with more detailed case tracking of 10 of these cases. This included interviewing the allocated case worker and their manager. In addition, CIW also sought the views of service users through interviews and focus group meetings with children and young people, parents/carers and other professionals involved.

3.5 CIW also sought the views of staff, people and stakeholders using a range of surveys to gather information and views to inform the inspection.

3.6 CIW confirmed that a report of the findings would be published on their website and provided to the Minister for Health and Social Services along with a media statement.

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

4.1 The CIW inspection report is attached at **Appendix 1**.

#### **Summary of findings**

A summary of the main findings of the inspection in the four main areas including strengths and areas for improvement can be found below:

#### **4.2 People – Strengths**

- Practitioners recognise the importance of ensuring children's voices are heard
- Practitioners generally maintain regular contact/visits to children and families
- The workforce is striving relentlessly to support children and families

- The local authority gives regard to the rights of children to be offered independent professional advocacy
- A corporate parenting and participation officer has been appointed
- Creation of the care experienced children's team
- Workforce well-being, recruitment and retention is a key priority for the local authority

#### **4.3 People – Areas for Improvement**

- Opportunities for children's views to be consistently sought and appropriately recorded need to be strengthened
- Limited evidence of direct work
- Inconsistent use of chronologies and genograms
- Strengthen business support for practitioners
- Variable evidence of management oversight/quality of supervision
- Practice model – implementation of Signs of Safety
- Review of direct payments scheme
- Consistent offer of a carers assessment

#### **4.4 Prevention - Strengths**

- Senior leaders, managers and politicians have an understanding and appreciation of the importance of the purpose and function of early help and preventative services
- Examples of good practice – parenting support and advice
- Service developments – residential, fostering and therapeutic support

#### **4.5 Prevention – Areas for Improvement**

- Opportunities to prevent escalation of need continues to be a challenge for the local authority given the persistently high volume of referrals together with the complexity of needs of children and families, and workforce challenges
- Missed opportunities to thoroughly explore and mitigate risk and a lack of professional curiosity
- Placement sufficiency and support
- Accessibility of information, advice and assistance
- Strengthening of Quality Assurance framework and alignment of performance and quality assurance systems

#### **4.6 Partnerships and Integration - Strengths**

- Positive working relationships with the regional safeguarding board and neighbouring local authorities
- Partners mainly spoke positively in relation to partnership working with BCBC
- Despite the current pressures there is evidence of partnership working to improve policies and systems and mutual understanding of roles and responsibilities within the safeguarding process

#### 4.7 Partnerships and Integration – Areas for Improvement

- Inconsistent thresholds and standards of practice
- The local authority will need to ensure its communication strategy is sufficiently robust to effectively communicate to staff and partners the vision for children’s services and the many developments taking place/planned to take place
- Share learning from audits and reviews with staff and partners

#### 4.8 Wellbeing - Strengths

- Following critical events, the local authority has undertaken relevant reviews and audits
- Action plans have been developed and implemented
- Appointment of deputy head of service and peripatetic team manager
- The recent establishment of a managed care team, over establishment of staffing in the Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) service and additional management support for the IAA service is starting to result in improved timeliness of screening, manageability of caseloads and improved management oversight. These improvements are very recent, and more work is needed to ensure improvements are embedded and sustained
- Timely, well attended strategy discussions and child protection conferences
- Provision of specialist behavioural support for disabled children with complex needs

#### 4.9 Wellbeing - Areas for Improvement

- Further work is required to improve the timeliness of meeting statutory responsibilities
- Facilitation of supervised contact
- Consistent high quality written records
- Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation – strengthen interventions and mapping
- First year of practice – ensure competence and confidence of staff and provide consistent supervision and oversight

### Recommendations and Next Steps

4.10 The self-assessment completed in advance of the performance evaluation inspection largely aligned with the inspection findings. Recognising the strengths, and to ensure timely action to sustainably improve the areas for improvement, Cabinet approved a 3 year strategic plan for children’s services in February 2022. The implementation of the priorities in the plan is being overseen by an Improving Outcomes for Children Board chaired by the Council’s Chief Executive and advised by an independent advisor. There is also a Member’s Advisory Panel as part of the governance comprising of Group Leaders.

4.11 An Action Plan has been developed in response to the recommendations made by CIW and can be found at **Appendix 2**. The actions in the attached plan are cross-referenced with the actions in the 3 year strategic plan to ensure there is alignment



and no duplication of effort. The progress to implement the actions will be overseen by the Improving Outcomes for Children Board and reported to the Member Advisory Panel and Scrutiny. CIW have indicated they will be closely monitoring the Council's performance and progress in achieving the improvements required.

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

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

## **6. Equality Act 2010 implications**

6.1 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 of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how the Authority should work to deliver wellbeing outcomes for people. The following is a summary to show how the five ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been considered in this report:

- Long Term – Social Services is demand led and the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) focusses on sustainable prevention and well-being outcomes for the future. There is a requirement to meet the needs of people in the longer term and, because of rising demographics and increasing complexity, the remodelling and transformation of services continues to be a priority.
- Prevention – one of the four themes within the CIW inspection is Prevention. CIW have identified areas of strength for Prevention in their report. The areas for improvement are also included, and actions for improvement have been addressed within the Action Plan at **Appendix 2**.
- Integration – one of the four themes within the CIW inspection is Partnerships and Integration. CIW have identified areas of strength for Integration and Partnerships in their report. The areas for improvement are also included, and actions for improvement have been addressed within the Action Plan at **Appendix 2**. The SSWBA requires local authorities to work with partners, particularly the NHS and the Police, to ensure care and support for people and support for carers is provided. The report refers to work with statutory partners.
- Collaboration – The collaborative approaches described in the report, are managed and monitored through various strategic and collaborative boards across Directorates and with partners, including the Childrens' Social Care Improving the Outcomes for Children Strategic Board.
- Involvement – the key stakeholders are the people who use social care. There is considerable engagement including surveys, stakeholder meetings, feedback forms and the complaints process. The provision of accessible information and advice helps to ensure that the voice of adults, children and young people is heard.

## **8. Financial implications**

- 8.1 Whilst there are no direct financial implications arising from this inspection report, there are a number of significant pressures, that the Directorate has identified, particularly in the areas of workforce and service provision (placements) in children's social care which will be considered as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and the 2023/24 budget setting process.

## **9. Recommendation**

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Committee considers the CIW report on the inspection of Bridgend's Children's Social Care Services and comments on the associated Action Plan.

**Claire Marchant**  
**CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING**  
**28 October 2022**

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Head of Children's Social Care

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### **Background documents:**

None

## Bridgend County Borough Council

### Report of Performance Evaluation Inspection of Children's Services

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.  
This document is also available in Welsh.

## **Introduction**

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) carried out a performance evaluation inspection of children's services in Bridgend County Borough Council ('BCBC' / 'the local authority') in May 2022.

The purpose of this inspection was to review the local authority's performance in exercising its social services duties and functions in line with legislation, on behalf of Welsh Ministers. We sought to answer the following questions aligned under the principles of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

### **1. People - voice and control**

How well is the local authority ensuring people have a voice, and how well they are assessing the needs of individuals for care and support (including children at risk of abuse or neglect), or support in the case of a carer?

### **2. Prevention**

To what extent is the local authority ensuring escalation of need is prevented whilst ensuring the best possible outcomes for people are achieved?

How well is the local authority keeping under review care and support plans for children, including where it is necessary to meet the child's needs in order to protect them from abuse or neglect?

### **3. Well-being**

To what extent is the local authority ensuring children are protected and safeguarded from abuse and neglect and any other types of harm?

How well is the local authority keeping children safe and promoting well-being in relation to fulfilling statutory responsibilities?

### **4. Partnership and Integration**

How well is the local authority working with partners to ensure children's needs for care and support (including those in need of safeguarding and protection) are met and the impact on outcomes for people?

The scope of the inspection included:

- evaluation of the experience of children at the point of performance evaluation inspection

- evaluation of the experience and outcomes people achieve through their contact with services
- evidence of the local authority and partners having learnt lessons from their recent experiences and actions taken/plans for service development and improvement
- consideration of how the local authority manages opportunity and risk in its planning and delivery of social care at individual, operational and strategic levels

### **Context and Summary**

Like many local authorities across Wales, BCBC has experienced challenges in relation to the provision and delivery of social care. Many of the pressures experienced by the local authority's children's services reflect the national pandemic recovery context including high levels of demand and increased complexity of people's needs. Critical workforce deficits in relation to social work recruitment, retention, and staff absence, had resulted in the loss of experienced staff and a competitive market for and an over reliance on newly qualified and agency social workers.

CIW's assurance check undertaken in April 2021 highlighted some of these pressures and potential service risks, and those findings informed this inspection.

The culmination of these pressures coupled with deficits in some systems and processes, including managerial oversight arrangements, has had a significant adverse impact on the delivery of some children's services in Bridgend County Borough. Concerns were identified in relation to the timeliness of the local authority's Information Advice and Assistance (IAA) service and the ability to meet its statutory responsibilities to promote and protect the well-being of vulnerable children and families.

This inspection was undertaken at a time when senior leaders, managers and politicians had recognised the significant action and resource needed to improve the consistency and quality of children's services and had instigated an internal critical response plan, aligned to the local authority's directorate and corporate risk registers, to oversee the immediate remedial changes needed in relation to the identified deficits in their IAA service. The local authority's response has included the commissioning of a programme of independent quality assurance to provide an assessment of the strengths and areas for development in children's services and to inform practice development, the deployment of a managed care team<sup>1</sup> and re-deployment of staff from across the service/council to provide additional support

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<sup>1</sup> Managed care team comprising of a team of agency workers including social workers, a deputy team manager and team manager who work as a team.

to those teams experiencing the most pressure. Management oversight and decision-making has been strengthened by increased frequency of supervision in priority areas and better collection and scrutiny of performance information data. Planning to reconfigure and improve the resilience and sustainability of the service in the longer term is also actively being taken forward.

In March 2022, the local authority established a Children's Social Care Improving Outcomes Strategic Board, which is chaired by the Chief Executive of the Council and is supported by an independent advisor. The board provides regular oversight, challenge, and direction to enable the delivery of the local authority's strategic plan and areas for development.

The local authority has taken action to instigate immediate learning following recent critical incidents. These incidents have been escalated to Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Safeguarding Board (CTM RSB) who is responsible for overseeing multi-agency Child Practice Reviews (CPRs). CTM RSB implemented an executive steering group to steer a rapid review of safeguarding in Bridgend County Borough. The steering group's purpose has been extended to include an assurance role across the region.

This inspection found there was variation in the quality of services and social work practice provided to children and families. The experiences of children and families have benefitted from more recent decisive improvement activity identified through internal and external audits and reviews. However, until a short time ago, managers were not sufficiently sighted on the extent and impact of the shortfalls in the IAA service. Sustainable progress at pace is now needed across a range of service delivery areas if the local authority is to consistently deliver their core business of reducing risks to and promoting the well-being of children in need of help and protection. The application of effective quality assurance processes will be essential to securing and sustaining improvements and to ensure the timeliness, quality, and consistency of services for children and families. The local authority will need to assure itself of the pace, quality, delivery, and impact of its improvement activity.

### **Key findings**

Key findings and examples of evidence are presented below in line with the four principles of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Details relating to areas for improvements identified in previous CIW reports may also appear in this report to emphasise their relevance and importance at this time. However, previous requirements for improvements, which remain outstanding but not referred to in this report, remain relevant and are not negated by omission here.

### **People**

#### **Strengths:**

Practitioners recognise the importance of ensuring children's voices are heard. We saw examples where language, communication and level of emotional and developmental maturity was considered and explored by practitioners to obtain and facilitate the views of children.

Social care records seen confirmed practitioners generally maintain regular contact/visits to children and families. Some record templates include prompts in relation to whether the child was seen/seen alone, and if not, the reasons for this. We saw some examples of practitioners working consistently and collaboratively with children and families. The workforce is striving relentlessly to support children and families; however, it is clear demand is outstripping available resource.

The local authority gives regard to the rights of children to be offered independent professional advocacy. We saw examples of children being offered access to independent advocacy services. The top three issues for children/young people accessing issue based advocacy are support at meetings, placement issues and contact issues. There are good links between the commissioned advocacy provider and BCBC. The advocacy provider had provided advocacy awareness refresher sessions for practitioners.

A corporate parenting and participation officer has been appointed whose role includes facilitating improved engagement and involvement of care experienced children and young people.

The recent creation of the care experienced children's team is valued by staff and viewed as supporting a better focus on permanency and facilitating professional relationships with children and young people. The configuration of the service is also described as improving the professional priority afforded to care experienced children and young people, with an improved focus on transition, including stronger links between the 16 plus team and disabled children's team. The creation of the care experienced children's team had resulted in a reduction of caseloads of some practitioners based in the locality safeguarding hubs.

Workforce well-being, recruitment and retention is a key priority for the local authority. It has identified and taken action to stabilise and support the workforce and views this as business-critical, underpinning both its ability to meet its statutory responsibilities and to its improvement agenda. It has recently over established its staffing numbers in some teams and is employing agency staff to reduce backlogs and pressures on workloads in the IAA service, resulting in reduced caseloads. Some staff and managers commented they had experienced improvement in the IAA service but described this as very recent, as until recently the locality safeguarding hubs had needed to support the IAA team by taking cases directly from referral to help reduce the IAA backlog of people waiting for information, advice, or assistance. Action has been taken to increase capacity of the independent reviewing officers (IROs).



Senior leaders and managers remain appropriately focused on workforce recruitment and retention. BCBC is currently expanding its approach to recruitment and retention with a focus on 'growing our own' social workers through sponsorship of formal qualification, traineeships, and secondments. This is important in helping to address recruitment issues. Most staff (93%) who completed our staff survey stated they were supported to do their job. 71% stated their workload was manageable. A workforce development plan is in place and there are early indications this is helping to improve recruitment and retention.

**What needs to improve:**

Opportunities for children's views to be consistently sought and appropriately recorded need to be strengthened. We found the quality of recording in relation to capturing the voice of the child and their lived experience was variable and inconsistent. We saw missed opportunities to collate and obtain the child's views, including obtaining the child's views prior to statutory reviews and a lack of consultation with children and young people about their preferences relating to dates and times of statutory reviews. We were told work had commenced to improve recording in relation to siblings. Care must be taken when individual children are part of sibling groups to ensure children's individual voice and lived experience is not lost. In some examples we found an over reliance on parent's views.

There was limited evidence to confirm children had benefitted from direct work to inform ongoing assessment and progress care and support planning. Further work is required to maximise opportunities for direct work to inform assessment and care and support planning. Care experienced children should be supported to understand their life history and the rationale for decisions made about them. Whilst the use of chronologies and genograms has improved, further work is required to ensure consistency and quality of work.

Further work is also required to help ensure people consistently feel listened to and feel they are treated with dignity and respect. We received 93 responses to our people survey (people receiving services or their representatives). 33% felt they were 'rarely' or 'never' treated with dignity and respect. 47% felt they were 'rarely' or 'never' listened to. During our assurance check undertaken in April 2021, we received variable responses from people about their experience of contact with the local authority and how well they felt they had been listened to and respected. This remains an area for improvement.

We saw parents/family members involvement in meetings and assessments. Some parents told us there had been delays in them receiving minutes/documentation following meetings/reviews. The local authority has identified the need to strengthen business support for practitioners to assist with this. It should consider how its systems could be strengthened to ensure information is shared with all relevant parties in a timely manner and there is sufficient oversight in relation to this matter.

There was variable evidence of management oversight in relation to social care records of children. Practitioners described how time restraints and prioritisation of work had adversely impacted on their ability to complete social care records in a timely manner. We found records which had been created sometime after the events. Practitioners must be provided with adequate opportunities and support to enable them to consistently record quality information in a timely manner. Systems for management oversight need to be strengthened to ensure consistent and effective monitoring of adherence to policies and procedures, and timescales in relation to meeting statutory requirements and record keeping.

Records of workload supervision were generally brief with minimal evidence of reflective conversation, clear focus, analysis, actions, and timescales for actions. This may be a recording issue, however, in the absence of evidence to suggest otherwise these were missed opportunities to support practice development and analyse the effectiveness and quality of service provided to children and families.

The local authority identified its quality of practice as too inconsistent and has implemented an appropriate focus on 'getting the basics right' to create a shared supportive culture practitioners need, and to support their confidence and competence. It also aims to support managers in their supervisory responsibilities. BCBC has introduced mandatory back to basics training which is in the process of being rolled out. This training must be delivered as a matter of urgency.

Whilst the local authority had undertaken significant work in relation to implementing an outcome focused model of practice, it identified the pandemic and recruitment and retention issues had made it difficult to embed this model. It has now decided to invest in implementing Signs of Safety<sup>2</sup> as a shared model of practice. This work will take time to embed and will need to be progressed with the engagement of partners to promote a shared approach and understanding of risks, strengths, and safety networks.

Whilst there is a training programme in place, we note very few training courses/sessions are mandatory. Given the workforce pressures there is a risk training will not be prioritised by practitioners. Therefore, it is important systems are in place to ensure staff are suitably knowledgeable and skilled to undertake the tasks they perform, and they are provided with opportunities/capacity to undertake professional development, reflect, and embed learning.

The local authority is reviewing its direct payments scheme to widen the offer. Whilst we saw evidence of the offer of direct payments, we heard how parents felt they had to "*jump through hoops*" to provide evidence to "*justify*" receiving direct payments for

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<sup>2</sup> Signs of Safety approach is a relationship-grounded, safety-organised approach to child protection practice, created by researching what works for professionals and families in building meaningful safety for vulnerable and at-risk children. The approach expands the investigation of risk to encompass family and individual strengths, periods of safety and good care that can be built upon to stabilise and strengthen a child's and family's situation. The approach is designed to be used from commencement through to case closure in order to assist professionals at all stages of the child protection process.

their children. Parents felt the rules around the use of direct payments were “*too strict and not flexible enough to achieve positive outcomes.*” We saw how the lack of availability of personal assistants is a barrier to some children and families accessing support via direct payments. Further work is required to ensure direct payments are seen as an integral part of the care planning process and as an important means, where appropriate, to meet a child’s needs and/or a carer’s need for support. The local authority should ensure there is sufficiency and choice of services for children to make the take up of direct payments a positive and viable option for achieving identified outcomes and not a last resort because of waiting lists or gaps in service provision. Where direct payments are in use, contingency arrangements should be discussed with the child and their parents/carers and include consideration of alternative care and support arrangements, if needed in case of emergencies.

Whilst we saw evidence of completion of carers assessments, some people told us that practice in relation to being offered a carers assessment was inconsistent. The local authority must ensure carer’s assessments are offered, where required. Only through assessment of what matters to carers will practitioners be able to signpost appropriately or provide effective support.

## **Prevention**

### **Strengths:**

Senior leaders, managers and politicians have an understanding and appreciation of the importance of the purpose and function of early help and preventative services. The local authority recognises the significant interface between the delivery of early help and the sustainability of children’s services. It has identified its review of IAA arrangements and thresholds needs to include consideration of early help and preventative services.

We saw examples of how preventative services had assisted families supporting them with parenting, providing advice on practical strategies and relationships. There are examples of services which were able to respond promptly to meet need despite a high level of demand. It is however clear the significant demand for early help and preventative services, is generally outstripping supply and leading to delays.

BCBC continues to develop its in-house residential provision. It is making progress in relation to its remodelling of residential provision including a targeted recruitment campaign for transitional foster carers. To strengthen the therapeutic support for young people, 11 members of staff have commenced a Practical Skills in Applied Behaviour Analysis university course.

### **What needs to improve:**

Despite an understanding of the importance of prevention and early intervention in children’s services, opportunities to prevent escalation of need is a challenge for the

local authority given the persistently high volume of referrals together with the complexity of needs of children and families, and workforce challenges.

Demand for early help services has increased, resulting in waiting lists for several services. For example, as of 22 April 2022 there were 119 referrals waiting to be allocated to the Youth Emotional Mental Health Team, the approximate waiting time was 12 weeks. The aim of early help services is to provide support at the earliest opportunity to prevent issues escalating leading to the need for statutory services. Having to wait for services increases the risk of more children requiring targeted social service interventions. Due to workload pressures and increased demand, the authority is not always able to capitalise on opportunities to support the preventative agenda in a way which reduces demand on care and support services.

At our assurance check undertaken in April 2021, we found families were not always receiving the right service at the right time and further work was required to ensure seamless and co-ordinated services which prevent escalation of need, and which secures the best outcomes for children and families. This continues to be an area for improvement. The local authority must ensure opportunities to support children and families are not delayed. The impact of children and families waiting for support means there is an increased risk their needs will increase and require more intensive support.

We saw some examples where risk indicators were not fully considered resulting in missed opportunities to thoroughly explore risk, including historical concerns and action to mitigate risks. Some assessments/interventions would have been strengthened by a more robust approach in relation to professional curiosity. Although it is important to work optimistically with families, it is also essential to recognise past behaviour can be a predictor of future behaviours. Risk analysis of domestic abuse and/or exploitation requires strengthening, including practitioners having reflective conversations with managers about risk indicators and actions.

There has been a reduction in the number of in-house foster carers and availability of foster placements (particularly for children over 11 years of age). Foster care placement availability and sufficiency is described as a challenge, with the local authority experiencing difficulties in matching some children to appropriate foster care placements. We saw examples of how foster carers were supporting some children with very complex needs. It is important foster carers receive the support they require to enable the continuation of foster placements, where appropriate, and to maintain their own and the child's well-being. Foster carers told us the arrangements for providing foster carers with children's care and support plans had improved, although the quality of information was variable. We found some delays in providing foster carers with relevant information. One foster carer commented *"Bridgend have always provided access to documents we need to complete our work. They have invited us to multi agency meetings. Information sharing around the child has been good. Where I have marked this down is in how timely some of the*

*more in-depth documents are shared such as assessments or background documents. This is usually due to social workers time restraints in being able to access and share documents not because they are unwilling to.”*

When asked how easy it was to make contact with social services, 30% of respondents to our people survey stated, ‘not easy’ and 33% stated ‘very difficult.’ When asked how useful the information, advice and assistance offered by social services was, 63% of the respondents responded either ‘not useful at all’ or ‘not useful.’ 55% of the respondents stated social services did not discuss what support options were available to them, for example from family/friends/community. Further work is required to strengthen the accessibility and provision of information, advice, and assistance.

From January 2022 onwards, the workforce position in the IAA service became more difficult. Once senior managers were aware of the impact of the workforce issues swift action was taken to identify the extent of the issues and implement action to address the shortfalls. Senior managers had recognised the quality assurance framework was not providing an accurate assessment of the throughput or quality of work. Work has commenced to strengthen the quality assurance framework. Whilst the range and scrutiny of performance data is now improving, performance management and quality assurance systems are not yet fully aligned. The local authority has identified this as an area of improvement and have appointed quality assurance and policy roles to address these issues and to review relevant policies and procedures to also ensure the necessary link between quality assurance, policy, and training. Corporate leaders, managers, practitioners, and partners, including early help services, need to routinely and robustly interrogate and utilise such assurance arrangements to understand compliance with statutory requirements, quality of practice and gaps/pressures in service provision.

## **Partnership and Integration**

### **Strengths:**

Positive working relationships with the regional safeguarding board and neighbouring local authorities is ensuring children’s services have a professional support network from which they can draw expertise, knowledge, support, and constructive challenge.

Fortnightly joint operational group meetings were held with partners as part of the response to the critical incident in the IAA service. We heard how these meetings provided challenge from partners but also demonstrated the commitment to partnership working and to making improvements for children and families.

Partners mainly spoke positively in relation to partnership working with BCBC. Some partners described recent improvement in the culture within social services, with improved communication being cited as evidence of this. Partners talked about wanting to be involved and willing to help support improvement.

Despite the current pressures there is evidence of partnership working to improve policies and systems and mutual understanding of roles and responsibilities within the safeguarding process. Arrangements are underway for joint multi-agency training to re-establish relationships and offer guidance on joint working and procedures around strategy meetings and sharing of information and escalation protocols.

Generally, opportunities for partnership working are positively exploited at an operational level. We saw evidence of police, health and education services contributing to safeguarding decisions.

The co-location of some teams with practitioners from different sectors and services helps to facilitate partnership working, where there are opportunities to regularly meet either physically or virtually, and work together.

### **What needs to improve:**

We heard how pressures in the IAA service and workforce challenges had resulted in some tensions in relation to partnership working on an operational level. Some partners felt the quality of partnership working was dependent on individual relationships rather than being well embedded in the service culture. They cited staff turnover and issues in the IAA service, including not being provided with updates following referrals and difficulty in contacting people, as barriers to effective partnership working.

Despite recent improvements, staff and partners indicated some issues relating to inconsistent thresholds and standards of practice remain. The local authority will need to ensure its communication strategy is sufficiently robust to effectively communicate to staff and partners the vision for children's services and the many developments taking place/planned to take place. Further work is required to ensure a shared understanding of thresholds and access to services. It is important key partners are aware of, and where appropriate, involved in service developments. Opportunities for joint training should be maximised.

It is important learning from reviews and audits is shared with staff and partners to identify what works well and what needs to improve to safeguard children.

### **Well-being**

#### **Strengths:**

Following critical events, the local authority has undertaken relevant reviews and audits which have highlighted areas of good practice and areas for improvement. Action plans have been developed and implemented. Systems and tools to support practice are being reviewed and developed.

Since our assurance check in April 2021, a deputy head of children's service has been appointed to strengthen managerial capacity within children's services.

The recent establishment of a managed care team, over establishment of staffing in the IAA service and additional management support for the IAA service is starting to result in improved timeliness of screening, manageability of caseloads and improved management oversight. These improvements are very recent, and more work is needed to ensure improvements are embedded and sustained.

A peripatetic team manager has recently been recruited to enhance management support available to teams, so that practitioners have access to professional advice, guidance, and support prior to attending legal gateway meetings. The peripatetic team manager supports management oversight. Evidence obtained indicates the value of this work in providing assurance, oversight and identification of actions needed.

Where children need protection, strategy discussions are generally timely and attended by relevant professionals. Information is shared to inform decision-making and action to safeguard children. Subsequent child protection enquiries aid the decision-making about next steps. The template for the strategy meetings provides helpful prompts but the record does not always capture the rationale for decision-making.

Initial child protection conferences and review conferences are timely and attended by partners and families. Consistency of chairing arrangements provides continuity. Relevant child protection plans are agreed and reviewed at child protection conferences.

IROs complete monitoring forms after conference reviews highlighting any shortfalls against compliance/practice to enable the follow up of action to be taken.

During our assurance check in April 2021, the provision of specialist behavioural support for disabled children with complex needs was highlighted by some practitioners as an area for improvement. Following the assurance check, action was taken to improve the offer of behaviour management support to parents to assist them in supporting their child and prevent crisis. We heard of how care experienced young people had benefitted from the therapeutic support they had received.

### **What needs to improve:**

Key areas of performance have been impacted by increase in demand and workforce pressures. Performance data indicates there has been a decline in performance in some areas. Further work is required to improve the timeliness of meeting statutory responsibilities in relation to completion of assessments, initial core group meetings, statutory visits and care and support reviews.

We saw examples of monitoring forms completed by IROs that highlighted shortfalls in relation to compliance with statutory responsibilities. Managers need to ensure prompt effective action is taken to address any identified shortfalls. The local

authority should assure itself the systems in place to monitor compliance and practice are informing and making a positive difference to practice and improving outcomes for children and young people.

Facilitation of supervised contact between children and members of their families is sometimes a challenge for the local authority. We saw/heard evidence of family members frustration regarding the short notice provided in to confirming contact arrangements and of contact being unable to take place due to social worker's unavailability to supervise the visit. Social workers described how the task of supervising contact due to unavailability of contact workers was placing additional pressures upon them. The current arrangements in place for supervised contact is clearly adversely impacting on practitioners but more importantly on children and families.

Written records need to be of a consistent high quality so that they provide an accurate accessible audit trail and account of decision-making. They should provide a clear account of the focus and impact of any interventions, a clear analysis of situations including risks and needs, and the daily lived experience of the child, what has/has not worked well, required actions and timescales for actions. We saw examples where children and families would have benefitted from practitioners undertaking more consistent critical thinking about the potential for harm, contingency plans, and the availability of wider support. The quality of information relating to the identification of strengths, barriers and risks was variable in relation to the quality and detail of information contained within social care records.

We saw some examples of records in relation to episodes of children going missing<sup>3</sup> and children at risk of exploitation which were not sufficiently detailed to assure us appropriate action had been taken in a timely way to mitigate risks to children. It was not always evident with whom and what information had been shared and the action taken. The local authority is reviewing its Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal exploitation (CCE) processes as part of its exploitation strategy. A suite of documents has been created, one of which is a direct intervention work programme which is tailored to the child. The local authority is looking at how it can strengthen the consistency and facilitation of the triangulation/mapping of CSE and CCE information. It is important that interventions remain child centred and children at risk of or abused through CSE and / or CCE should receive care, support, and protection in line with statutory guidance and the Wales Safeguarding Procedures.

We found in the locality safeguarding hubs, social workers in the first year of practice held child protection cases and cases in the Public Law Outline (PLO)<sup>4</sup> process.

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<sup>3</sup> The All Wales Practice Guide – *Safeguarding children who go missing from home or care*, defines a child as missing when their whereabouts cannot be established, they will be considered as missing until located and their wellbeing or otherwise confirmed.

<sup>4</sup> PLO process takes place when the local authority is concerned about a child's well-being and unless positive steps are taken to address and alleviate those concerns, the local authority may consider making an application to Court.



While first year of practice social workers did not identify this as a concern, it is important the necessary checks and balances are in place to ensure the competence and confidence of staff undertaking such work. Pivotal to this is good quality consistent supervision and oversight. Due to the shortfalls we noted in supervision records and management oversight, we could not be assured newly qualified social workers are receiving appropriate supervision and that sufficient oversight is provided. The local authority should take steps to assure itself of the supervision and oversight arrangements in place for newly qualified social workers and student social workers.

### **Next Steps**

We expect BCBC to consider the areas identified for improvement within this report and take the required action to address these areas as soon as practicable. CIW will closely monitor the progress and pace of improvement and delivery against the identified action plans through our ongoing performance review activity.

### **Methodology**

#### **Fieldwork**

Most inspection evidence was gathered by reviewing the experiences of children through review and tracking of their social care records. We reviewed 59 social care records and tracked 10 of these.

We spoke with a range of local authority employees.

We spoke with a range of partner organisations, representing both statutory and third sector agencies.

We spoke with children and care leavers, parents/carers and foster carers.

We reviewed a sample of staff supervision records.

We reviewed supporting documentation sent to CIW for the purpose of the inspection.

We administered surveys to staff, partner organisations and people/representatives of people accessing information, advice and or assistance from the local authority.

We observed the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Executive Steering Group meeting, the local authority IAA Critical Incident Gold meeting, the Workforce Project Board meeting, and the Children's Social Care Improving Outcomes Strategic Board meeting.

**Acknowledgements**

CIW would like to thank staff, partners, and people who gave their time to provide their comments and who contributed to this inspection.

## Children's Social Care May 2022 – Care Inspectorate Wales - Performance Evaluation Inspection

### ACTION PLAN

#### PRINCIPLE 1 PEOPLE (Pe)

REF	AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	TIMESCALE	BRAG
Pe1	Opportunities for children's views to be consistently sought and appropriately recorded need to be strengthened	Develop an engagement and involvement framework so children and young people have an opportunity to become meaningfully involved in all aspects of the work of Children's Social Care in Bridgend	Deputy Head of Children's Social Care/Group Manager Case Management and Transition/Corporate Parenting Officer	March 23	
		Finalise and launch recording policy for social workers and managers	Principal Training Officer	Dec 22	
		Audit implementation and impact of recording guidance for social workers	Head of Children's Social Care/Principal Training Officer	March 23	
Pe 2	Limited Evidence of Direct Work	Practice guidance to reflect the need for practitioners when undertaking assessments to focus on the quality of the child's lived experiences	Principal Training Officer	Dec 22	

REF	AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	TIMESCALE	BRAG
		Implementation of Signs of Safety as model of social work practice with focus on direct work with children and families	Head of Children's Social Care/Principal Training Officer/ Principal Officer Social Work Transformation	Dec 22 Onwards	
Pe 3	Inconsistent use of chronologies and genograms	<p>Guidance to teams regarding genogram and chronology software</p> <p>Refresher training to teams on the software and report</p> <p>Review chronology format and underpinning guidance</p> <p>Deliver ongoing programme of training to all new staff</p> <p>Monitor use of chronologies through supervision and audit</p>	<p>Operational Business Support Manager</p> <p>Operational Business Support Manager/Group Manager Locality hubs</p> <p>Operational Business Support Manager/Group Manager Locality Hubs</p> <p>Operational Business Support Manager /Principal Training Officer</p> <p>Operational Business Support Manager /Principal Training Officer</p>	<p>April 22</p> <p>April/May 22</p> <p>May 22</p> <p>Continuous</p> <p>Continuous</p>	
Pe 4	Strengthen business support for practitioners	Implement the Social Work Support Officer Model and significantly increase capacity for practitioners to concentrate on practice rather than administrative functions	Group Manager, Business Strategy, Performance and Improvement/Business Change Programme Manager	Dec 22	

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REF	AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	TIMESCALE	BRAG
Pe 5	Variable evidence of management oversight/Quality of supervision	Supervision policy and accompanying appendices to be reviewed	Principal Training Officer	Dec 22	
		Draft supervision policy to be consulted on and finalised	Principal Training Officer	Dec 22	
		New Supervision Policy Framework to be launched	Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing	Dec 22	
		Supervision training for supervisors and supervisees	Principal Training Officer	Dec 22 Onwards	
		Improvement partner to deliver bespoke management and leadership development programme to support all managers to develop their skills in leadership and management including the development of team culture and practice, performance management and quality assurance and coaching and mentoring	Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing/Head of Children's Social Care /Principal Training Officer	March 23	
		Implement evidence-based mechanisms to ensure that reflective practice is embedded including communities of practice and action learning sets	Head of Children's Social Care /Principal Training Officer	March 23	
		Focus on well-being through implementing a tiered approach to ensure timely and effective trauma informed support to workforce including through	Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing/Human Resources	March 23	

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REF	AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	TIMESCALE	BRAG
Pe 6	Practice model – implementation of Signs of Safety	Launch and set out a detailed implementation plan encompassing for a model of strength-based practice which will have at its core a deep understanding of the dangers and harms to children and effective safety planning to address issues and strongly mitigate risks	Head of Children’s Social Care / Principal Training Officer	Dec 22	
		Principal Officer to be appointed to lead on the project	Head of Children’s Social Care	Dec 22	
		Actions in implementation plan to be progressed	Principal Officer Social Work Transformation	Dec 22 Onwards	
Pe7	Review of direct payments scheme	Explore innovative and creative solutions including the use of direct payments and family help services as part of care and support arrangements in children’s services teams	Deputy Head of Children’s Social Care/Group Manager Commissioning	March 23	
Pe8	Consistent offer of a carers assessment	Undertake engagement exercise with carers to explore how carers assessments can be offered effectively within Bridgend, and address any barriers to participation	Deputy Head of Children’s Social Care/Group Manager Case Management and Transition/Carers Development Officer	March 23	

## PRINCIPLE 2 – PREVENTION (Pr)

REF	AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	TIMESCALE	BRAG
Pr 1	Opportunities to prevent escalation of need continues to be a challenge for the local authority given the persistently high volume of referrals together with the complexity of needs of children and families, and workforce challenges	<p>Undertake a review of integrated family support service and family group conferencing, arrangements within Bridgend with a view to determining if this whole family approach can be expanded for working with more families</p> <p>Develop an updated commissioning strategy for family support services and interventions to ensure the optimal range of commissioned and Council provided services to meet the needs and interventions set out in care and support and child protection plans</p> <p>A Workforce Plan has been developed for Children's Social Care (CSC) areas of development includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of skill mix in CSC to develop workforce plan enhancing roles such as support officers</li> <li>• A revised business case for the Bridgend 'Grow our own Social Work Programme'</li> <li>• International recruitment</li> <li>• Social Work Charter</li> <li>• Enhanced marketing support</li> <li>• Promotion of flexible working and the benefits of local government employment</li> </ul>	<p>Head of Service Education &amp; Family Support/Group Manager Family Support</p> <p>Group Manager Commissioning/Contract Monitoring Officer</p> <p>Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing</p>	<p>March 23</p> <p>March 23</p> <p>March 23</p>	

REF	AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	TIMESCALE	BRAG
Pr 2	Missed opportunities to thoroughly explore and mitigate risk and a lack of professional curiosity	<p>Raise awareness of the need for practitioners to exercise professional curiosity in their practice, applying critical evaluation to any information they receive and maintaining an open mind:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back to Basics Training</li> <li>• Mandatory Professional curiosity training</li> <li>• Signs of Safety Training</li> <li>• Quality Assurance to evidence the impact of training</li> </ul>	Principal Training Officer	March 23	
Pr 3	Placement sufficiency and support	Complete the establishment of the children’s assessment hub at Brynmenyn, reviewing the model to ensure the right multiagency therapeutic input including access to psychological assessments where required	Head of Children’s Social Care/Group Manager Placement and Provider Services	June 23	
		Working with regional partners ensure there is sufficient quantity and quality of flexible provision for children who’s needs cannot be met in standard residential or fostering provision	Head of Children’s Social Care/Group Manager Placement and Provider Services	March 23	
		Develop a commissioning strategy for the provision of accommodation, care and support services for children with disabilities, working closely with education and health partners to ensure integrated models for short and long-term care provision	Deputy Head of Children’s Social Care/Group Manager Placement & Provider Services/Group Manager Commissioning/Contract Monitoring Officer	June 23	



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REF	AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	TIMESCALE	BRAG
		<p>Develop a commissioning strategy with key partners to meet the accommodation, care and support needs of care experienced children and young people and care leavers</p> <p>Work with national and regional partners through the National Fostering Framework to increase the numbers of Bridgend foster families, including carers who have additional skills and experience in caring for children who would otherwise require residential care, or are transitioning from such provision. The work to increase the numbers of Bridgend foster carers should consider the most effective recruitment and retention strategies as well as the range of support for foster carers from the Council.</p> <p>Await outcome of therapeutic fostering and residential care bids to Welsh Government.</p>	<p>Group Manager Placement &amp; Provider Services/Group Manager Commissioning/Contract Monitoring Officer</p> <p>Head of Children's Social Care/Group Manager Placements and Provider Services</p> <p>Head of Children's Social Care/Group Manager Placements and Provider Services</p>	<p>March 23</p> <p>March 23</p> <p>Continuous</p>	
Pr 4	Accessibility of information, advice and assistance	Undertake a review of the MASH /IAA team structure, duties and responsibilities and consideration of the resources required to strengthen these arrangements to ensure that the safest decisions are being made in response to concerns shared with the department and that staff are working in an environment which enables them to be the best practitioners they can be:			

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REF	AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	TIMESCALE	BRAG
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review operating model and resource implications</li>   <li>• Implement IAA focussed improvement plan</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">Deputy Head of Children’s Social Care/Group Manager Safeguarding &amp; IAA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Deputy Head of Children’s Social Care/Group Manager Safeguarding</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ongoing</p>	
Pr 5	Strengthening of Quality Assurance (QA) framework and alignment of performance and quality assurance systems	<p>Commission a programme of independent detailed Quality Assurance to provide a thorough assessment of the strengths and areas for development in Bridgend Children’s Social Care services to inform the practice development programme, and the Council, and partnership quality assurance programmes</p> <p>Directorate QA framework to be reviewed and revised</p> <p>QA framework to be consulted on and finalised and launched</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Head of Children’s Social Care /Principal Training Officer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Principal Training Officer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing/Principal Training Officer/Director</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dec 22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dec 22</p>	

**PRINCIPLE 3 – PARTNERSHIP AND INTEGRATION (Pi)**

REF	AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	TIMESCALE	BRAG
Pi 1	Inconsistent thresholds and standards of practice	<p>Rolling programme of Back to Basics training sessions to be delivered with the intention of building a strong foundation on which we can further develop, enhance, and reflect on Social Work practice within the safeguarding arena.</p> <p>In addition to the Back to Basics Training an overarching training programme will include the following Appreciative Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of risk</li> <li>• Professional curiosity</li> <li>• Working with uncooperative and hostile families</li> <li>• Disguised compliance</li> <li>• Relationship Based Practice / Collaborative Communications (Focus on Safety)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Facilitating Strategy and Core Group Meetings</li> <li>○ Practice of helping Children and Young People – Promoting Participation in Assessment &amp; Planning</li> <li>○ Child Protection Case Conferences</li> <li>○ Working with challenge and recognising the impact of high stress on our responses</li> <li>○ Neglect</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Principal Training Officer</p> <p>Principal Training Officer</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>March 23</p>	

REF	AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	TIMESCALE	BRAG
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coercive Control</li> <li>○ Understanding children and young people's experiences of living within environment where there is domestic violence</li> <li>○ Domestic violence (ref VAWDASV)</li> </ul> <p>Develop a series of practice development plans, where appropriate with partners, for key service areas. The practice development plans will include priorities for policy development, decision making processes, training, and development.</p>	Head of Children's Social Care/Deputy Head of Children's Social Care/Principal Training Officer	March 23	
Pi 2	The local authority will need to ensure its communication strategy is sufficiently robust to effectively communicate to staff and partners the vision for children's services and the many developments taking place/planned to take place	Work through Regional Safeguarding Board structures to ensure most effective partnership arrangements, and ownership of improvements required within Bridgend Social Care services	Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing/Head of Children's Social Care	Continuous	
Pi 3	Share learning from audits and reviews with staff and partners	<p>Ensure that learning from Child Practice Reviews and other in-depth analysis is systematically embedded through learning, training and development and follow up quality assurance and review</p> <p>This will be undertaken through the work of the Regional Safeguarding Board subgroups and development of the operational ways of working within Bridgend Children's Social Care</p>	<p>Group Manager IAA &amp; Safeguarding/Principal Training Officer</p> <p>Group Manager IAA &amp; Safeguarding/Principal Training Officer</p>	<p>Continuous</p> <p>Continuous</p>	

## PRINCIPLE 4 – WELLBEING (W)

REF	AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	TIMESCALE	BRAG
W1	Further work is required to improve the timeliness of meeting statutory responsibilities	Enhance the use of business intelligence within children's social care teams, through live performance dashboards which support safe and effective practice and management oversight and decision making	Group Manager, Business Strategy, Performance and Improvement	March 23	
W2	Facilitation of supervised contact	A review of the current supervised contact arrangements to be undertaken to ensure that it meets the needs of those who require this provision	Group Manager Case Management & Transition/Group Manager Locality Hubs/Contract Monitoring Officer	March 23	
W3	Consistent high quality written records	<p>Review of the recording policy, and the chronology functionality within WCCIS to ensure every child has an up-to-date version on their record</p> <p>Foster carer recording guidance and associated training to be reviewed</p> <p>Audit implementation and impact of recording guidance for social care staff</p>	<p>Policy Officer/ Group Manager, Business Strategy, Performance and Improvement</p> <p>Group Manager Placements and Provider Services</p> <p>Quality Assurance Officer</p>	<p>March 23</p> <p>Dec 22</p> <p>Continuous</p>	

REF	AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	TIMESCALE	BRAG
W4	CSE and CCE – strengthen interventions and mapping	Regional Safeguarding Board subgroup to develop the CSE and CCE tools	Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing/Head of Children’s Social Care	March 23	
		Interim local tool, together with practice guidance notes has been developed	Group Manager Locality Hubs/Group Manager Safeguarding and IAA	Dec 22	
W5	First year of practice – ensure competence and confidence of staff and provide consistent supervision and oversight	Review and re-launch the Newly Qualified Social Worker ‘Supporting your First Three Years in Practice’ framework, to ensure that all Newly Qualified Social Workers are supported through transition from graduate to Newly Qualified Social Worker.	Head of Children’s Social Care/Principal Training Officer	Dec 22	

BRAG STATUS - KEY	
	Action Complete
	Action On Track
	Action Mainly On Track With Some Minor Issues
	Action Not On Track, Not Yet Meeting Performance Targets

## 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  
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Scrutiny Officer

Jessica McLellan  
Scrutiny Officer

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CF31 4WB

**Background documents:** None

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"> <li>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.</li> <li>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)</li> </ol>
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"> <li>1. Noted the work of Shared Regulatory Services to ensure that high standards of animal health and welfare are maintained across the county borough</li> <li>2. Noted and supported the RSPCA campaign to prohibit the practice of giving live animals away as prizes.</li> <li>3. Approved the implementation of a ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on all Bridgend County Borough Council owned land.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>
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"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. Cabinet determined the representation on the Advisory Board;</li> <li>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 &amp; Regulatory Services, HR &amp; Corporate Policy and the Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change.</li> </ol>
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"> <li>1. Noted the information contained in the report and the responsibilities for the Council under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>

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"> <li>• Noted that no objections were received during the public notice period; and</li> <li>• Approved the implementation of the proposal with an opening date of autumn term 2022.</li> </ul>
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"> <li>1. Noted that no objections were received during the public notice period; and</li> <li>2. Approved the implementation of the proposal.</li> </ol>
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"> <li>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;</li> <li>2. Determined to modify the implementation date of the proposal to the beginning of spring term 2026; and</li> <li>3. Gave approval to issue and publish a decision letter, as required by the Code.</li> </ol>



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"> <li>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;</li> <li>2. Gave approval to proceed with the procurement process;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>
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"> <li>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;</li> <li>2. Determined to implement the proposal with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025;</li> <li>3. Gave approval to issue and publish a decision letter, as required by the Code.</li> </ol>

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"> <li>• Noted the Council's Capital Programme 2022-23 Quarter 2 update to 30 September 2022 (Appendix A to the report);</li> <li>• Agreed that the revised Capital Programme (Appendix B) be submitted to Council for approval;</li> <li>• Noted the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2022-23 (Appendix C)</li> </ul>
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None

Title of Report	Treasury Management - Quarter 1 2022-23
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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"> <li>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);</li> <li>2. Approved the revised constitution (at Appendix 1) and constitution guide (Appendix 2 &amp; 3) in relation to the Executive functions;</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>
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"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. Suspended the relevant parts of the Council's CPRs in respect of the requirement as to re-tendering of the proposed contract; and</li> <li>3. Authorised the Group Manager Human Resources and Organisational Development to enter a contract for the Supply of Temporary Workers until 10th May 2024.</li> </ol>
Date Decision Made	18 October 2022

Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.
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Title of Report	Cabinet, Council and Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes
Decision Made	Cabinet: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approved the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the period 1 November 2022 to 28 February 2023 at Appendix 1 to the report;</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>
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'**

<b>Committee:</b> Overview & Scrutiny Committee
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**1. Decision Subject To Call-In:**

<b>Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration: Appropriation of Land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay</b>
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**2. Member(s) of the Committee Wishing to Call the Decision In**

<b>Name</b>
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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 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](mailto:jacob.lawrence@bridgend.gov.uk)

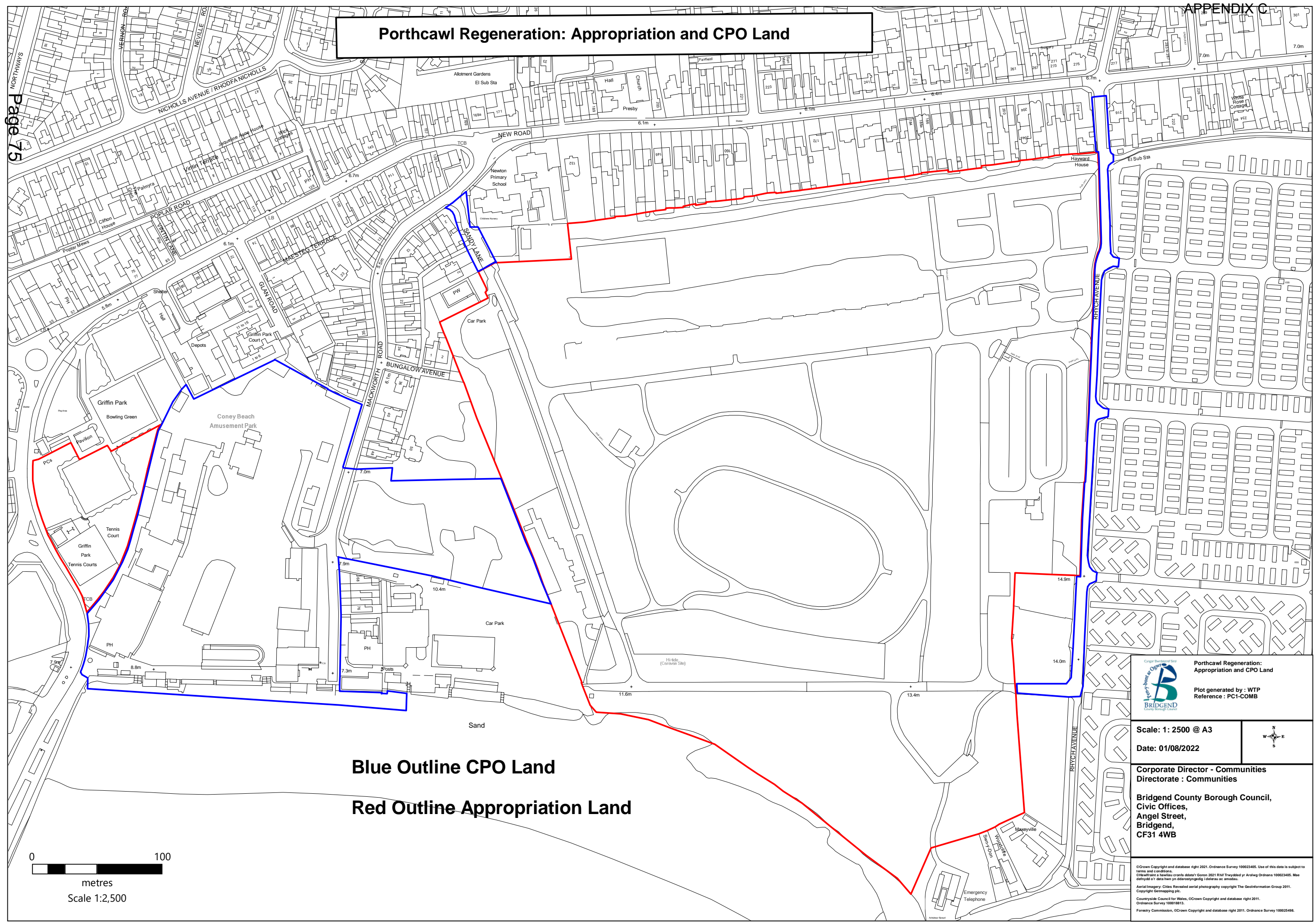
**Postal Address:** Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

**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

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 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 6<sup>th</sup> of June and 13<sup>th</sup> of June, in addition to notices being displayed on land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay from 6<sup>th</sup> of June until 27<sup>th</sup> 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 AND CORPORATE POLICY

#### FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

#### 1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

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

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

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

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

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

### **3. Background**

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

#### Best Practice / Guidance

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

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

#### Forward Work Programme

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Identification of Further Items

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

#### Recommended Criteria for Selecting Scrutiny Topics:

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

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

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

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

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

Reasons to Reject Scrutiny Topics:

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

Corporate Parenting

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

## 6. Equality Act 2010 implications

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

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

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

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

## 8. Financial implications

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

## 9. Recommendations

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

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

Kelly Watson

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

28 October 2022

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**Background documents:** None.

<u>Date of Meeting:</u>	<u>Report Topics:</u>
Mon 11 July 9.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination report;</li> <li>- Nomination to the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel report;</li> <li>- Draft Outline Forward Work Programme.</li> </ul>
Thurs 15 September 10am	<p>Meeting postponed for national period of mourning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <del>Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Performance Evaluation Report Of Childrens Social Care Services 23 - 27 May 2022</del></li> <li>— <del>Summary of Adult Services Inspection Reports</del></li> </ul>
Thurs 3 November 10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <del>Early Intervention to Reduce Care Experienced Children and Key Pressures including Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA), Early Help and Edge of Care.</del></li> <li>— <del>Annual Report – Safeguarding of Children and Adults.</del></li> <li>- Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Performance Evaluation Report Of Childrens Social Care Services 23 - 27 May 2022</li> <li>- Call In of Cabinet Decision: Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration: Appropriation of Land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay</li> </ul>
Thurs 8 December 10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-24 to 2026-27 and Budget Proposals *</li> <li>- Learning Disabilities Action Plan</li> <li>- <b>Annual Report - Safeguarding of Children and Adults.</b></li> <li>- <b>Early Intervention to Reduce Care Experienced Children and Key Pressures including Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA), Early Help and Edge of Care</b></li> <li>- <b>Summary of Adult Services Inspection Reports</b></li> </ul>
Thurs 16 February 10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrated Working with Cwm Taf University Health Board.</li> <li>- <b>Delays in Adult Social Care Packages</b></li> <li>- Support for Young Carers and Adult Carers</li> </ul>
Mon 27 March 10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prevention and Wellbeing, Leisure (Halo) and Cultural Trusts (Awen) and Further Integration with BAVO.</li> <li>- Adult Mental Health</li> </ul>

Date to be scheduled	- <b>Post 18 Housing and Financial Support for Care Experienced Children</b>
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\* If the Budget Settlement is received late as in previous years, the scrutiny of the Draft MTFS and Budget Proposals will need to be moved to a meeting date to be convened after Cabinet in January 2023.

**Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2**

**RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING ACTION SHEET**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
11 July 2022	Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination	Councillor Alan Wathan was nominated to represent Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 as an invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.	Scrutiny / Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy	<b>ACTIONED</b> – Membership of Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee updated and formally reported to Cabinet 19 July 2022.
11 July 2022	Nomination to the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel	Councillor Paula Ford was nominated to sit on the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel.	Scrutiny	<b>ACTIONED</b> – Membership of Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel updated and initial Briefing session arrangements underway.
11 July 2022	Forward Work Programme Update	The Chairperson proposed that a glossary of acronyms would assist Members.	Scrutiny	<b>ACTIONED</b> - response and information circulated to Members.

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