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Bridgend County Borough Council



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Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 /
643694

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Tuesday, 19 September 2023

Dear Councillor,

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3

A meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 will be held Hybrid in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB / remotely via Microsoft Teams on **Monday, 25 September 2023 at 16:00.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008 (including whipping declarations).
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 8
To receive for approval the minutes of the meeting of the 20 02 23
4. Housing Support Programme Strategy (Homelessness Strategy) 2022-2026 9 - 48
Invitees

Councillor Rhys Goode - Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration

Carys Lord - Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change
Martin Morgans – Head of Performance and Partnerships
Ryan Jones – Strategic Housing Commissioning Manager

Debbie Thomas – Head of Policy and Communications, Crisis Cymru
5. Conclusion / Recommendations
6. Forward Work Programme Update 49 - 64
7. Urgent Items
To consider any item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in

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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: This will be a Hybrid meeting and Members and Officers will be attending in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Angel Street Bridgend / Remotely via Microsoft Teams. The meeting will be recorded for subsequent transmission via the Council's internet site which will be available as soon as practicable after the meeting. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk or tel. 01656 643148 / 643694 / 643513 / .643696

Yours faithfully

K Watson

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

Councillors:

S J Bletsoe
N Clarke
C Davies
P Davies

Councillors

M J Evans
P W Jenkins
MJ Kearns
W J Kendall

Councillors

J E Pratt
G Walter
I Williams
MJ Williams

Agenda Item 3

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 - MONDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2023

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB / REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON MONDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor P Davies – Chairperson

S J Bletsoe	N Clarke	C Davies	M J Evans
P W Jenkins	MJ Kearn	W J Kendall	J E Pratt
G Walter	I Williams	MJ Williams	

Apologies for Absence

Ceri Evans – Director of Business Development at Awen

Officers:

Lucy Beard	Scrutiny Officer
Rachel Keepins	Democratic Services Manager
Meryl Lawrence	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Jacob Lawrence	Principal Regeneration Officer
Jessica Mclellan	Scrutiny Officer
Janine Nightingale	Corporate Director - Communities
Jonathan Parsons	Group Manager Development

Invitees:

Councillor Neelo Farr	Cabinet Member Community Safeguarding and Wellbeing
Councillor John Spanswick	Cabinet Member Climate Change and Environment

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Jonathan Pratt and Neelo Farr declared personal interests as elected members of Porthcawl Town Council.

32. PORTHCAWL REGENERATION

The Corporate Director for Communities introduced the report, the purpose of which was to provide an overview of the Porthcawl Regeneration Programme.

The Chairperson thanked the Corporate Director for Communities and Members discussed the following:

- Confirmation was given by local Porthcawl Members that they had been regularly informed and that they were aware of each stage of the development of Porthcawl regeneration.

- Details and the location of the Sandy Bay area for educational use were identified on plan, whether this be for a new school or an extension of the existing.
- Compulsory purchase orders (CPO) were only issued in extreme instances when an owner of the land cannot be found or where there is a discrepancy. The owners of the Monster Park had requested it went to a CPO and an independent valuation of the land. The value of that land would be paid to those owners and was built into the regeneration programme budget.
- The vision for Porthcawl both as a resort and coastal town; with opportunity for employment and affordable housing.
- The concept built into the strategic sites and in the replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) regarding access to essentials within a 20-minute brisk walk or bike ride from home to be taken into account and incorporated in developments.
- What form of leisure facility would be put in place options being considered including possibly a seasonal summer fair and winter wonderland and within the landowner agreement Sandy Bay and Coney Beach were to be for mixed-use development.
Local Housing need in Porthcawl, the comprehensive housing strategy prepared as a result of the LDP, the identified need for 1100 new homes within Porthcawl within the next 15 years to accommodate growth in the area, including a mixture of homes: rental, affordable homes, social housing and extra care.
- Parking Surveys to determine the parking need in Porthcawl and the feasibility study being undertaken to replace the parking as a result of the Salt Lake Development and the car parking options.
- Porthcawl Resort Investment Focus and Cosy Corner being the last scheme to be funded by Welsh Government and the Visit Wales monies.
- The process and qualifying criteria for the successful application of the food retail store, with a detailed development plan being compiled and agreed by the Development Control Committee for the disposal of the site. Potential retailers were offered the opportunity to meet with Planning Officers and discuss their ideas for the site design before the site tender commenced. Of five tenders received, three did not match the design brief and were discounted, one of which was the highest bidder. The second round was best consideration, and the bid was accepted from Aldi because it passed the design bar and best consideration.
- How the Metrolink Terminus would run effectively and how it would be maintained, bus operating times, the revenue cost of running the facility, whether any revenue income could be produced, as well as incoming revenue from the Cosy Corner retail units.
- The proposal to provide a direct link between Pyle Station and Porthcawl as the nearest station and the proposal to relocate Pyle station would provide additional park and ride facilities.
- Whether there were further aspirations for the Metrolink Bus Terminus and that the authority would contribute where possible to studies by the National Organisation Transport for Wales regarding: Light rail; Potential proposals to move the railway station in Pyle to its previous location, and; subject to relocation of Pyle Station, the potential for putting a link in from that site directly to Porthcawl with a rail tram option.

- Bus Operators services and routes and discussions with the Authority.
- Although there had been fewer buses/coaches travelling into Porthcawl for day trips and, whether potential future need for coach parking could be explored.
- Whether lessons could be learnt from the redevelopment of Maesteg Town Hall for the Porthcawl Pavilion project given some similarities and their listed building status. The Pavilion's place in the town as a venue for: conferencing, shows, and entertainment, and aspirations for a new library.
- Corporate Procurement rules for the tendering process, work tendered off frameworks with agreed rates administered for the region via Cardiff City Council, and financial due diligence, previous experience and information from the contractors examined to ensure they had liquidity.
- Clarification that that the monies generated from the disposal of land would be put into the capital programme to be used for the Porthcawl Regeneration Programme, and as a multimillion pound regeneration it would take 5 -8 years to achieve, so the amount in the Capital Programme would fluctuate.

The Chairperson advised that there were no further questions for the invitees, thanked invitees for their attendance and advised they may leave the meeting.

RESOLVED: Following detailed consideration and discussions with Officers and Cabinet Members, the Committee made the following Recommendations:

1. That the Committee accept the offer from the Corporate Director - Communities to attend a site visit/walk around the Porthcawl Regeneration area.
2. That when seeking to dispose of sites, that the authority utilise the same procurement exercise which was used in the disposal of the Salt Lake site which was described to the Committee as a two-stage approach:
 - 1) Design; and
 - 2) Best consideration.
3. Given the anticipated increased tourism to Porthcawl due to the regeneration and that there were only plans to replace existing car parking spaces not to make additional car parking spaces available, that consideration be given to the prospect of a rise in coach day trips to Porthcawl and to the possible need for the addition of coach parking spaces in the town or surrounding areas and that this be built into the strategy.
4. Concerns were expressed regarding the very limited and infrequent train services at Pyle train station and the Committee highlighted that Bridgend train station not only had more frequent services but was also the changing point for many valley line services. The Committee also noted that the proposed park and ride facility at Pyle train station was no longer proceeding and that an upgrade of the station would not take place in the foreseeable future and, therefore, recommended that it would be more beneficial for the Metrolink to link to Bridgend train station rather than Pyle, until Pyle Station is upgraded.

And the Committee requested:

5. The PowerPoint presentation slides presented at the meeting.
6. That the owners of Coney Beach fairground be asked whether they would provide figures of consumer spend, the number of visitors and the average seasonal footfall to the fair.
7. How much revenue was spent in the town as a result of the fair and how much would be lost, and the economic impact the loss of the fair will have on the town.
8. Due to concerns regarding the lack of sea defences in Newton, a written response in relation to the Shoreline Management Plan for Newton to include detail of whether Officers were searching for grant funding and what is the forward plan.
9. A written response on what schemes originally formed part of the Porthcawl Regeneration Investment Focus, what is their current status and, if there are elements that have not yet been constructed, what the plans are for these.
10. A written response to summarise the source of each of the individual funding streams that fund the various aspects of the Porthcawl Regeneration to include details of what funding comes from the private sector and what funding comes from elsewhere (including any grants).

A confidential briefing to better understand the history of Cosy Corner and why Officers were precluded from responding to some questions in the meeting.

33. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Scrutiny Officer presented the Committee with the Forward Work Programme (FWP) in Appendix A for discussion and consideration, requested any specific information the Committee identified to be included in the items for the next two meetings, including invitees they wished to attend, requested the Committee to identify any further items for consideration on the FWP having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 4.3, asked the Committee to note the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committee's recommendations made at previous meeting in Appendix B and asked the Committee to note that the FWP and Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet for the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee requested that the following items be considered for addition to the Annual Forward Programme at the next Scrutiny Planning Meeting for SOSOC 3:

1. Pedestrian safety in historical villages – active travel and safe routes.

2. Looking at the next phase of the Levelling Up fund and putting bids forward.
3. Information and update on where the Directorate was with Asset and Community Asset Transfer.
4. Electric charging points, where this is currently within the three phases and what happens after phase three is completed. Possible information report that could come under the Net Zero Strategy.
5. Being Six months away from the introduction of the 20 mile an hour speed zones, the Committee would appreciate a general update on progress, which roads had been identified and time scales for signage.
6. The County Strategy / Policy for mobile campervans, caravans and sites to encourage the tourism scene further and build on revenue.

The Committee requested members briefings for SOSC 3 on:

1. Infrastructure Delivery;
2. Waste Provision.

There were no further items identified for consideration on the FWP having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 4.3, and this could be revisited at the next meeting.

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

RESOLVED: That the Committee approved the FWP in Appendix A, subject to the incorporation of the above requests, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet in Appendix B and noted that the FWP, Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet and any updates from the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of COSC.

34. **URGENT ITEMS**

None.

The meeting closed at 18:56

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Agenda Item 4

Meeting of:	SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3
Date of Meeting:	25 SEPTEMBER 2023
Report Title:	HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAMME STRATEGY (HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY) 2022 - 2026
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE
Responsible Officer:	MARTIN MORGANS HEAD OF PARTNERSHIP SERVICES
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon the policy framework and procedure rules.
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- There is a requirement under Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 to carry out a Homelessness Review and then to develop a Homelessness Strategy.- The format of what is now referred to as a Housing Support Programme Strategy is set by Welsh Government.- BCBC has undertaken a review, the findings of which include increasing demands on housing services across the board and a lack of availability of suitable accommodation.- A draft Strategy has been developed and is currently subject to public consultation. The draft Strategy can be seen at Appendix 1 and an associated Action Plan at Appendix 2.- Members of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 are invited to consider and provide comment on the contents of the draft Strategy and Action Plan.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 on the draft Housing Support Programme (HSP) Strategy (Homelessness Strategy)

2022-2026 attached as **Appendix 1** and associated Action Plan attached at **Appendix 2**.

2. Background

2.1 Part 2 of The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 places a duty on the Authority to carry out a Homelessness Review for its area and then formulate and adopt a Homelessness Strategy, based on the results of that review. Any review and strategy must look at the achievement of the following objectives:

- The prevention of homelessness
- That suitable accommodation is and will be available for people who are or may become homeless
- That satisfactory support is available for people who are or may become homeless

2.2 The format of the HSP Strategy is prescribed by Welsh Government and follows the guidance and template documents provided to local authorities.

2.3 An Independent Consultant was commissioned to undertake a review on behalf of the Authority. This offered an impartial and fresh perspective for the Strategy. This review has been one of co-production of the Strategy and all key stakeholder groups were surveyed or interviewed, including people that use, or have used homelessness services. Key statistics were analysed along with a review of relevant local and national policies to identify needs.

2.4 The Homelessness Review has provided the necessary information to draft the Strategy as per Welsh Government guidance. The key messages from the review are:

- The period of 2020/2021 saw the highest level of presentations ever recorded by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), 1,612 presentations, which was likely influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic and the 'All In' approach.
- In 2021/2022 there were 1,290 applications. This is a decrease in applications from the peak in 2020/2021 however, this number is still a marked increase on presentations compared to the figures at the time of BCBC's 2018 Homelessness Review and Strategy. During 2017/2018, 1,032 homelessness presentations were made, which is fewer than 2021/2022.
- The demand for social housing has increased. The number of new applications added to the Common Housing Register has increased significantly from 147 in 2019/2020, to 428 in 2020/2021 - an increase of 191%. 2021/2022 saw an increase of 104%, with 873 applications and, as at the 20th of February 2023, an increase of 14%, with 993 applications.
- The total number of applicants on the Common Housing Register at the end of each year has increased substantially. During 2019/2020 there were 816 applicants, in 2020/2021 that had increased by 81% to 1,477. During 2021/2022

the figure had increased by a further 45% to 2,143. As at 4th July 2023, there are 2629 applicants on the register.

- The use of temporary accommodation has grown exponentially from pre-Covid levels with figures strongly impacted by the 'All In' approach during and post-Covid. The number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of each financial year is as follows:
 - 2018/2019 - 71 households
 - 2019/2020 – 83 households
 - 2020/2021- 167 households
 - 2021/2022 - 199 households
 - 2022/2023 – 253 households
- Single person households consistently make up a significant proportion of applications. In 2020/21 it was 73% of all applications, in 2021/22 single person applications accounted for 68% of all applications.
- The majority of homelessness applications were from the 25 year+ category at 76% in 2020/21 and 75% in 2021/22.
- Applications from 18 – 24 year olds accounted for 22% in both 2020/21 and 2021/22.
- Applications from 16 – 17 year olds reduced from 6% in 2018/19 to 1% in 2020/21 to 3% in 2021/22.
- There is a lack of private rented accommodation available within the Local Housing Allowance rate in Bridgend. An on-line search on Zoopla as at the 4th July 2023 showed the total number of properties to rent was 44. Of those, the search identified no available properties within the Local Housing Allowance rate for any property size, highlighting the significant lack of private properties available to rent at an affordable rate for those reliant on the Local Housing Allowance.

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 On 18th July 2023 Cabinet approved the commencement of a formal public consultation on the draft Strategy and Action Plan as set out at **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2**.
- 3.2 The consultation is currently live and due to end on 12th October 2023. At the end of the consultation period responses will be taken into account and necessary amendments made, with a final Strategy being presented to a future meeting of Cabinet for approval.
- 3.3 The questions asked as part of the public consultation are set out below:
 - Do you agree with the Strategy's aim:

“To work in partnership with stakeholders to prevent homelessness, ensuring that where prevention is not possible, homelessness is rare, brief and unrepeatable. Those who access services will be given the support required to live as independently as possible.”

- Does the Housing Support Programme Strategy clearly explain what challenges the Council faces in delivering homelessness and housing support services?
- Do you agree with the Council’s Strategic Priorities and Objectives as set out in the Strategy?
- Is there anything missing from the Housing Support Programme Strategy that you would like to see included?
- The Action Plan details steps that will be taken to deliver the strategy over a 4 year period. Do you agree with the actions identified?
- Is there anything missing from the Action Plan and what would you like to see included?
- Please use the space to provide any further comments on this draft Housing Support Programme Strategy and the Action Plan

3.4 Members of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 are invited to consider and provide comment on the contents of the documents at **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2**, in the context of the questions set out at paragraph 3.3 above.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

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

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 Tackling homelessness is a Welsh Government priority. The report contributes to the following goals within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

- A prosperous Wales – Reducing homelessness supports a prosperous Wales by reducing cost to the public purse.
- A resilient Wales – Our Housing Support Programme Strategy aims to prevent and relieve homelessness, increasing the resilience of both individuals supported and the general structures in place to support the goal of achieving a position where homelessness in Wales is rare, brief and non recurrent.
- A Wales of cohesive communities – Preventing individuals from becoming homeless will support cohesive communities.
- A globally responsive Wales – Homelessness is an issue across the globe. These strategic documents set out the approach Brdgend will take to support Wales in its efforts around this agenda.

5.2 It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 The prevention and relief of homelessness supports the agenda around climate change. In considering BCBC's housing need, supply and demand and the intention of delivering affordable housing schemes to meet these needs, schemes will be developed in line with Welsh Government planning and standards requirements, which support moves to tackle climate change.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 Homelessness and housing support services play a key role in supporting BCBC's safeguarding agenda, both from an individual perspective with services often supporting vulnerable individuals, known to safeguarding agencies.

7.2 The priorities set out in the Housing Support Programme Strategy reference a need to improve collaboration with key stakeholders, with specific objectives around improving collaboration to implement the national care leavers and accommodation and support framework, a key part of Corporate Parenting implications.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 consider and provide comment on the draft Housing Support Programme Strategy (Homelessness Strategy) 2022-2026 attached at **Appendix 1** and associated Action Plan attached at **Appendix 2**.

Background documents

None

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Bridgend County Borough Council Housing Support Programme Strategy

2022-2026

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1.0 Foreword

We are pleased to present Bridgend County Borough Council's Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022-2026. This strategy outlines the Council's strategic priorities, our objectives and what we, alongside our partners aim to do over the next four years, to tackle homelessness across the county borough.

Since publishing our last homelessness strategy, we have developed and delivered services which have helped to successfully prevent and relieve the homelessness of thousands of households, including safeguarding vulnerable households during the peak of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Our strategy recognises that our services face significant challenges, including the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic. In particular, we have seen an exponential rise in the number of households accessing our services and entering temporary accommodation.

As we exit the direct pressure of the pandemic our local communities are now facing a cost-of-living crisis, which is impacting across all areas of society. With the needs of households becoming more complex and time critical, the demand for affordable housing and support services is unprecedented. This strategy sets out how we will work collaboratively with our partners and third sector services to ensure homelessness is rare, brief and unrepeatable.

The scale of the challenge ahead should not be underestimated. However, with the continued commitment to our strategic priorities and with the development of the new Rapid Rehousing approach to homelessness we hope to make a real change within our community.



Councillor Rhys Goode

Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Purpose of the Strategy

This strategy sets out Bridgend County Borough Council's strategic direction for delivering homelessness and housing related support services for 2022-2026. It encompasses the strategic requirements as set out in Welsh Government's Housing Support Grant Guidance and the statutory requirements for a Homelessness Strategy set out in Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The strategy will have a mid-point review, after 2 years.

This four year strategy replaces the Authority's 'Strategy to Tackle Homelessness in Bridgend County Borough 2018-2022'. It identifies key priorities for Bridgend County Borough Council and its partners, in the delivery of homelessness prevention and other housing related support services. These priorities have been developed following a substantial review of homelessness and housing related support services, the cornerstone of which was a comprehensive needs assessment and stakeholder engagement.

The delivery of the priorities set out in this strategy will support Welsh Government's commitment to making homelessness rare, brief and unrepeatable, with a priority given to homelessness prevention. It supports the ambitions for a transitional shift to a rapid rehousing approach, as specified in Welsh Government's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans. The strategy also sets out how the Local Authority will continue to meet presenting demands as we move through the Covid 19 pandemic.

An action plan and Rapid Rehousing Transitional Plan support the delivery of the strategic priorities set out.

2.2 Legislative and Policy Context

Whilst this strategy sets a single strategic vision for homelessness and housing related support services, it is important that it is considered as part of a wider national and local context.

The development and delivery of this strategy will contribute to the following national legislation and policy:

Ending Homelessness in Wales: A High Level Action Plan 2021-2026

The Action Plan details the work required by the Welsh Government and its partners to end homelessness in Wales. The Action Plan draws on the Welsh Government's Strategy for Preventing and Ending Homelessness and the work of the expert Homelessness Action Group (HAG). The HAG engaged extensively with a wide range of stakeholders, including people who have had personal experiences of homelessness.

Equality Act 2010

This Act legally protects people from discrimination and sets out how all public bodies, including Local Authorities, need to consider discrimination, the needs of people who are disadvantaged or those who suffer inequality when shaping policies, delivering services and within all day-to-day work.

Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and potential future changes relating to 'priority need'

This Act reformed homelessness law and strengthened the duty on Local Authorities to prevent homelessness. The Housing Support Grant links in with Part 2 of the Act as it

funds provisions aimed at preventing homelessness and/or supporting those who are homeless.

The ethos of the legislation is prevention, but true prevention starts far earlier than the 56 days set out in the legislation. The homelessness legislation should be seen as the safety net when all other preventative actions have failed.

Housing Support Grant Practice Guidance

The Housing Support Grant (HSG) is an amalgamation of three existing grants - Supporting People Programme, Homelessness Prevention Grant and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement.

The HSG is an early intervention grant designed to support activity which prevents people from becoming homeless, stabilises their housing situation or helps potentially homeless people to find and keep accommodation. The emphasis is on working together to prevent homelessness and where it cannot be prevented ensuring it is rare, brief and un-repeated. To do this we need to tackle the root cause of homelessness and work to enable people to stay in their own homes longer.

It supports vulnerable people to address the, sometimes, multiple problems they face, such as debt, unemployment, tenancy management, substance misuse, violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence and mental health issues.

The HSG allows a single costed strategy at local level and ensures a continuum of services to most effectively address local need. Whilst services are commissioned at a local level, Welsh Government will continue to develop national programmes to complement.

National Housing Pathway for Ex-Service Personnel

This Housing Pathway is a response to one of the key concerns of serving personnel on leaving the Armed Forces: finding suitable accommodation and knowing where to find help

It ensures practitioners and stakeholders are aware of their responsibilities under the Armed Forces Covenant and the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. In particular, Part 2 which addresses the duties on Local Authorities to provide preventative homelessness services, and also other relevant frameworks and good practice.

In recognition of their service to their country, the Welsh Government believes that every former member of the Armed Forces should have help, if needed, to find suitable accommodation, whether directly on discharge or later in life.

National pathway for homelessness services to children, young people and adults in the secure estate in Wales

The National Pathway is designed to support Local Authorities, Youth Offending Teams and the Wales Community Rehabilitation Company to carry out their responsibilities in respect of providing services to people due to leave the secure estate. The Pathway offers a significant opportunity to help individuals avoid homelessness on release from custody.

Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016

This Act aims to simplify the process of renting a home in Wales and to provide parties with more information about their rights and obligations, giving tenants more security in their tenancy.

This piece of legislation will have a direct impact on the number of households accessing homelessness services as there have been several changes which will benefit tenants. Landlords will no longer be able to issue retaliation eviction notices, one person leaving a joint tenancy no longer automatically ends the tenancy for all and a new succession right for carers has been created.

Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

This Act aims to improve the contribution individuals, and their carers, have in the care and support they receive. By making decisions about their care and support, in equal partnership with professionals, the aim is to improve wellbeing.

Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires Local Authorities to make arrangements to promote co-operation with their relevant partners and others, in relation to adults with needs for care and support, carers and children. The focus on a multi-agency approach will help make sure the principles of voice and control are achieved through the design and operation of services. It also provides Welsh Ministers with regulation making powers in relation to formal partnership arrangements, resources for partnership arrangements (including pooled funds) and partnership boards.

Each local health board, and the local authorities within that local health board area, are required to put in place a partnership arrangement to undertake the population assessment of care and support needs for adults, children and carers.

Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015

The principal objective of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 is to improve the public sector response in Wales to gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence. Public bodies, including Local Authorities, have a responsibility to improve arrangements to promote awareness of, and prevent, protect and support victims of gender-based violence, domestic abuse, sexual violence and modern slavery.

Welsh Government Strategy to End Homelessness 2019

This sets out the strategic approach Welsh Government are taking to prevent and address homelessness in Wales. The overarching pledge is to make homelessness rare, brief and unrepeated.

The policy statement highlights the need to shift energy and resources to preventing homelessness from happening in the first place. Welsh Government are clear, homelessness cannot be prevented through housing alone. The strategy advocates a desire to get a range of public services, not simply housing services, working collaboratively to prevent and alleviate homelessness.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the seven well-being goals

The Act requires public bodies, including Local Authorities in Wales, to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.

It aims to improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action to ensure current and future generations have a good quality of life. Local Authorities need to think about the long-term impact of their decisions.

Prevention is a key focus of the sustainable development principle and this replicates the central aims of the Housing Support Grant.

Locally the development and delivery of this strategy will contribute to the following policies:

- Bridgend County Borough Council Corporate Plan 2023-2028
- Bridgend County Borough Council Older Person's Housing, Care and Support Strategy 2022 – 2027
- Bridgend County Borough Council Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan
- Bridgend County Borough Council Social Housing Allocation Policy
- Bridgend County Borough Council Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate Service Delivery Plan 2020-2025
- Bridgend County Borough Council Rapid Rehousing Protocol
- Bridgend County Borough Council Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2021 to 2026
- Bridgend Public Services Board Well-being Plan
- Cwm Taff Morgannwg VAWDASV Strategy 2022-2026
- BCBC Corporate Parenting Strategy and the need to improve joint working across housing and social services, to meet the needs of care experienced children and young people.

2.3 Vision and Principles

This strategy sets out Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) four year vision for the delivery of homelessness and housing related support services. Our vision for the strategy underpins Bridgend's overall vision to act as "one council working together to improve lives".

Our vision for homelessness and housing support services is:

"To work in partnership with stakeholders to prevent homelessness, ensuring that where prevention is not possible, homelessness is rare, brief and unrepeatable. Those who access services will be given the support required to live as independently as possible."

Our principles are to:

- Work collaboratively with other agencies and regions to prevent and relieve homelessness

- Ensure our services have a person centred and holistic approach, providing the most effective support for service users
- Build resilience within individuals, enabling them to help resolve their own issues
- Utilise resources efficiently, recognising that housing is a scarce resource

Our aims are to:

- Prioritise the prevention of homelessness, ensuring early intervention
- Continue to improve collaboration between the statutory functions within the Local Authority
- Continue to improve working arrangements between the Local Authority and Registered Social Landlords to facilitate co-operation in line with Section 95 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014
- Ensure that support and accommodation options are accessible and available for all service users

3.0 Needs Assessment

3.1 Needs Assessment Process

The Needs Assessment process undertaken as part of the development of this strategy has involved a comprehensive assessment of a range of data sets, which have informed a Statement of Need.

Our needs assessment and Statement of Need has analysed data sets, including population needs, common housing register waiting lists, homelessness statistics and Housing Support Grant outcomes. An analysis of these data sets helps us to understand the current and future needs for homelessness and housing related support services.

3.2 Sets out the key findings, from the Statement of Need

The Population

- The population of Bridgend is increasing and the rate of the increase in Bridgend is higher than the overall Welsh population increase. The population of Bridgend grew 4.5% between 2011 and 2021, compared to a national increase of 1.4% over the same period. The Office for National Statistics predicts that the population of Bridgend will grow by at least a further 3% by 2030.
- The population of Bridgend is ageing. Whilst, as highlighted above, there was an increase in population between 2011 and 2021, many of the younger age groups saw a percentage decrease during this period whilst all age groups beyond the age of 50 saw a percentage increase. In 2021 21% of the population of Bridgend were aged 65 or over.

Homelessness Applications

- Since our 2018-2022 Homelessness Strategy, homelessness applications to BCBC have increased significantly. Applications increased from 1,032 applications in 2017/18 to 1,290 in 2021/22, representing a 25% increase.

- The number of applications received in 2020/21 was the highest annual amount BCBC has ever received, peaking at 1,612.
- The average number of homelessness applications BCBC receives has increased from an average of 908 per year between 2014/15 and 2017/28 to an average of 1,363 between 2018/19 and 2021/22. Applications to the Council have therefore increased significantly.
- Applications from single person households accounts for a significant proportion of all applications and this proportion has increased over the last 4 years. In 2018/19 and 2021/22 single person applications accounted for 61-64% of all applications, whilst in 2020/21 and 2021/22 this percentage increased to 68-73%.
- The majority of homelessness applications are from those aged 25 and over, whilst applications from 16 & 17 year olds have decreased. In 2021/22 applications from individuals of these ages accounted for 3% (34 applicants) of all applications, whilst in 2018/19 they accounted for 6% (78 applicants) of all applications.

Temporary Accommodation

- Temporary accommodation placements by the Council have increased significantly. Between the end of March 2019 and the end of January 2023 there was a 251% increase in temporary accommodation placements. At the end of January there were 249 households in temporary accommodation.
- The most significant increase in temporary accommodation was between 2019/20 and 2020/21 i.e. the first year of the Covid 19 pandemic. This period alone saw a percentage increase of 101% in placements (83 placements at the end of 2019/20 to 167 placements at the end of 2020/21).
- To meet the demand, temporary accommodation stock increased 159% between February 2020 and July 2023. The majority of additional units taken on have been from the tourism sector, such as holiday lets and B&B's. Having not routinely been used at all in February 2020, tourism units now make up 51% of the Council's temporary accommodation capacity.
- The cost of the additional units of accommodation is significant and has increased exponentially. The cost of temporary accommodation to the Council increased by 2196% between 2019/20 and 2021/22. Again the most significant increase in cost in the first year of the Covid 19 pandemic. This period alone saw a percentage increase of 1604% in costs (£135,000 in 2019/20 to £2,300,000 in 2020/21).
- Whilst the majority of temporary accommodation placements last under 6 months, the length of time spent in temporary accommodation has increased, with an increase in the number of households spending 6 – 12 months in placements.

Rough Sleepers

- The number of rough sleepers, compared to the number of homelessness presentations is relatively very low. Between November 2020 and December 2022 the average number of rough sleepers identified at the end of each month was 5. Over the same period there was a range of 1 to 13 identified rough sleepers at any one time.

Private Rent Sector

- According to the Office for National Statistics the number of people privately renting in Bridgend has increased from 12.3% of the population in 2011 to 15.3% in 2021.
- A desktop search of available privately rented properties in July 2023 suggests that there are no properties available to rent at Local Housing Allowance or Universal Credit rates.
- The average private rental costs in Bridgend are vastly in excess of Local Housing Allowance or Universal Credit rates. These challenges are particularly acute for larger family homes, with the average rent for 3 and 4 bedroom properties over double the equivalent Local Housing Allowance rates.

Social Housing and the Common Housing Register

- The number of households on the Council's Common Housing Register increased by 212% between March 2020 and February 2023. As of July 2023, there were 2,629 households on the Common Housing Register.
- The majority of households on the Common Housing Register (59%) are waiting for an allocation of a 1 bedroom property.
- There are more households on the Common Housing Register for 4 and 5 bedroom properties, than there are units of social housing stock across the borough. As such even if all of those in 4 and 5 bedroom social housing properties vacated, enabling an allocation to those on the Common Housing Register, there would still not be enough properties to meet this particular need. In the case of 5 bedroom properties the number of households on the Common Housing Register (34 households) is nearly 6 times as much as the number of 5 bedroom social housing units (6).

Housing Support Grant (HSG)

- The number of households being supported by HSG funded services is increasing. Between 2018 and 2021/22 there was an increase of 31% in the number of households accessing services. In 2021/22 2,970 households were supported by HSG funded services.
- Since 2018 the most common support need of those accessing services has been those requiring support to prevent homelessness. Those over the age of 55 and requiring support has consistently been the second highest support need. Households requiring support with mental health, women experiencing domestic abuse and single persons aged 25-54 are also common support needs of those accessing services.

- The majority of households accessing HSG funded services have more than 1 support need (between 58% and 60%). Between 34% and 45% have more than 2 support needs.
- HSG funded services support households across a range of tenures with those in temporary accommodation supported more than any other tenure type.

Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)

- BCBC VAWDASV services are supporting more individuals deemed to be 'High Risk', with an increase of 91% in referrals of this nature between 2021 and 2022, alone.

Looked After Children in Bridgend

- Since 2018/19 19.1% of care leavers have made a homelessness application (55 individuals). Of these 55 individuals 56.4% have gone on to make more than 1 homelessness application.
- On average, homelessness applications from care leavers accounted for 2.5% of all homelessness applications between 2020 and 2022 and 11.3% of applications from all 18-24 year olds who presented as homeless or threatened with homelessness over the same time period.
- The average age, at the point of a care leavers first application, was 19 years and 7 months. This suggests that individuals are not presenting as homeless directly after leaving care, but on average within the first 2 years of doing so.

3.3 Conclusion

➤ **Demand for homelessness and housing support services has dramatically increased**

All data analysis, including a review of homelessness services, the common housing register and Housing Support Grant funded services, evidences that demand for homelessness and housing support services is increasing. Whilst the population of Bridgend is increasing and at a faster rate than the national average, the level of increase in demand on homelessness and housing related support services is exponential.

Whilst in and around the time of the Covid pandemic we saw an increase in demand for services, it is clear that demands on services are increasing for reasons more broadly, than just the pandemic alone.

Demand was increasing prior to the pandemic and whilst some measures suggest a peak was reached during 2020/21, there remains high demand for services, which significantly outweighs the demands at the time of our last homelessness strategy.

A key demand pressure is from single persons who make up an increasing proportion of all homelessness presentations and demand on the common housing register.

➤ **Temporary Accommodation resources are a particular pressure point**

The key findings relating to demands on temporary accommodation are stark. A 251% increase in placements, 101% increase in available units and 2196% increase in costs all point to an area of service which is under severe pressure.

The extreme increase in costs can largely be attributed to a new reliance on tourism accommodation units, which now account for 51% of all temporary accommodation stock, having previously not been routinely utilised for this purpose.

The dramatic increase in temporary accommodation demand in 2020/21 appears to be a direct result of the 'All In' approach from the Welsh Government. With temporary changes to legislation now being mainstreamed into primary legislation it is not likely that these demands will decrease.

➤ **Support needs of individuals accessing services are significant**

The level of demand for housing related support services has increased over recent years, suggesting that generally the need for support to prevent homelessness and live independently is also increasing.

Whilst improvements to gateway processes and increased provision will play a part in increased numbers being supported, the level of support needs are also significant. The majority of households have more than 1 support need, whilst up to 45% of individuals supported have at least 2 support needs.

Households are presenting with housing related support needs, across all tenures of accommodation.

➤ **There is limited availability of affordable accommodation**

Analysis shows that there is limited availability of accommodation in both the private and social rent sectors, with average private rent costs soaring way above Local Housing Allowance rates and social housing stock not being available to meet increasing demands on the Common Housing Register.

A lack of affordable accommodation in itself has likely had an impact on the demand for homelessness and housing support services as households find it harder to resolve situations themselves, before turning to the Council for support. Equally it is harder for those in temporary accommodation settings to move on.

4.0 Stakeholder Engagement Homeless Review

4.1 Stakeholders Engagement Process

A wide range of stakeholders, operating across the County Borough of Bridgend were engaged as a key part of the Homeless Review process and the development of the Council's Homelessness Strategy 2022-2026.

A wide range of semi-structured individual and group interviews were undertaken with; the front line Housing Solutions, Rehousing and Commissioning Teams (who comprise staff delivering the Housing Department's principal functions), with middle tier managers with operational oversight of and responsibility for service delivery and oversight of and responsibility for service review, scrutiny, development and commissioning. Also with

senior managers who hold the strategic remit for all housing functions and duties across the Authority and also with a local Elected Member, who is also a Cabinet Member.

These interviews were complimented with face to face and telephone semi-structured interviews with a wider range of operational and strategic partners drawn from other Directorates within BCBC, as well as widely from across the statutory and voluntary sectors. Again these interviewees have ranged from front line support staff, through to project managers and those with key strategic responsibility and oversight for service design, delivery, function and evaluation.

A number of face to face and phone interviews were undertaken with service users who have used BCBC's front line housing services which provided direct feedback and an appraisal of the Housing Department's functions, effectiveness and impact, as viewed from a customer perspective.

Finally, wide reaching feedback was also gathered through use of the Survey Monkey online tool, in which questions were asked of stakeholders operating at a strategic and operational level in organisations drawn from across the statutory and voluntary sectors in Bridgend.

Through at least one of the above methods the following organisations have been engaged with:

- Bridgend County Borough Council Housing Solutions & Housing Strategy Team
- Bridgend County Borough Council Senior Management & Cabinet Member for Well-being and Future Generations
- National Probation Service and members of Bridgend MAPPA planning group
- South Wales Police
- V2C Housing Association
- Linc Cymru Housing Association
- Wales & West Housing Association
- Hafod Housing Association
- Bridgend County Borough Council Social Services (both Adult and Children's Services Teams)
- Bridgend County Borough Council Prevention and Wellbeing Team
- Bridgend County Borough Council Education and Family Support Team
- Members of Bridgend Community Safety Partnership
- Bridgend VAWDASV Partnership and members of Bridgend MARAC
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board
- Individuals with lived experience
- The six service providers commissioned by BCBC through the Housing Support Grant funding programme
- Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations
- Bridgend Citizen's Advice Bureau

4.2 Stakeholder Feedback

The feedback gathered from the stakeholders listed above has been invaluable in adding narrative to the Needs Assessment and ultimately developing the Strategic Priorities set out in this strategy. Key messages from the feedback provided are set out below:

From Service Users:

- More hostels with staff providing support was requested, and a problem with the supply of suitable (temporary and permanent) accommodation was identified as a consistent theme.
- Those leaving prison wanted to see better links between prisons and housing officers, as feedback from service users painted a disjointed picture between key agencies working with those being made or facing homelessness on release from prison. Consistent experiences were of planning around addressing housing needs being left until the day of release.
- Some service users felt that communication between them and Housing Department could be better and that those who had waited longest should be prioritised for housing.
- Some service users felt that the 'homeless to housing' process could be quicker, although none were specific about what a shorter timeline could and should look like. Equally, timescales varied for individuals interviewed, from a couple of weeks in the application process to a number of months in other cases. The majority of interviewees understood the impact that Covid had on this.

From professionals across the statutory and voluntary sectors:

- Housing Department staff demonstrated a clear motivation and commitment to their jobs, but staff turnover, recruitment issues and the subsequent use of agency staff have added considerable pressure during a period of unprecedented demand on services (during the Covid pandemic).
- Stakeholders recognised the demands placed on the Housing Department throughout the pandemic, but they wanted Housing Solutions advisors to have a broader knowledge and skill set for working with service users with diverse, and complex needs and of the impact of trauma.
- Housing staff and external stakeholders wanted to establish pathways that supported earlier planning and intervention that prevented homelessness and avoided crisis case management. This was most evident for young people leaving care and those leaving the secure estate.
- The new online Jigsaw application system had been invaluable in managing demand throughout the pandemic as housing staff adopted to new ways of working. However, service users, researchers and professionals described difficulties in using the system. Improvements were also needed to ensure Housing Solutions advisors could store and retrieve information with greater ease.
- Stakeholders acknowledged that more traditional methods of engagement, such as face to face work with service users is still needed by some people. However, the

pandemic has equally shown that many people prefer more remote and flexible methods of support, such as video-call, text messaging and email.

- Stakeholders described the difficulties that some service users experienced with the application and assessment process being conducted online and over the phone and requested a better balance from Housing Solutions advisors with regard to offering face to face assessments.
- There was recognition that across Directorates within the Authority there is a need to develop a better understanding of each other's priorities, pressures and limitations. This could pave the way for developing better pathways, joint working practices and establishing clear expectations of each other's roles.
- From staff across BCBC there was an acknowledgement that there was a significant opportunity for greater collaboration at a strategic level and the development of a joint commissioning strategy, using joint resources and needs analysis to better inform planning and service development.
- A range of stakeholders felt that more could be done within BCBC Education Services and with the core school curriculum to develop children's wider life skills that contribute to primary prevention and equip and prepare children in identifying and addressing housing related issues that can lead to homelessness.
- A number of stakeholders spoke highly of the amount and variety of supported accommodation available within the Borough, but many felt more was needed to ensure options were available so that service users were placed in suitable accommodation. This was most evident for young people leaving care, those with mental health needs, more complex needs, and for people whose needs were of a more persistent nature requiring longer term and for those requiring assistance from 'wet' accommodation and support.
- Many stakeholders commented on a lack of sufficient mental health provision, both in respect of supported accommodation provision and in relation to access to and provision of statutory mental health services.
- Evidence reviewed illustrates that individuals and households accessing homelessness services are presenting with increasing and often multi-faceted support needs. Co-terminus with this there is developing challenges across the provider sector in meeting demand from, and the needs of, those with substance use issues who present with risk behaviour management issues. Increased models of intensive and longer term supported accommodation, for example a 'wet house' or static type housing first service, are examples of how this need could potentially be met.
- Third Sector providers and agencies operating within the public protection and safeguarding arena described joint working with the Housing Department as very good. However, Housing Department staff consistently noted the need for better provision of

information sharing and adoption of risk management procedures from Probation and mental health services, as specific examples.

- Homeless Cell meetings and the multi-agency approach adopted between the assertive outreach service, the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board Complex Needs Outreach Team allied to the range of 'bricks and mortar' accommodation services in meeting the needs of rough sleepers were described as being 'gold standard'.
- The demands on temporary accommodation were noted as presenting a significant challenge, in respect of cost, availability and suitability to the needs of service users. The provision and use of temporary accommodation provision should be reviewed, in line with a Rapid Rehousing Transitional Plan.
- The shift to Rapid Rehousing due to the pandemic was recognised for its effectiveness in driving a coordinated approach to moving people on from temporary accommodation. However, balance was requested to ensure people were also moved on from supported accommodation, with concerns being raised at the length of a person's stay becoming potentially detrimental to their longer term wellbeing.
- RSLs were keen to establish reciprocal agreements that formalised the flexible way they work with each other. There was recognition of the need to review the Social Housing Allocation Policy in light of the permanent transition to Rapid Rehousing, the Common Housing Register, and in meeting the needs of Housing First service users.
- All stakeholders recognised the limited amount of affordable and suitable accommodation across all sectors. There was broad consensus that increased affordable stock across both the social and private housing sectors is vital in preventing and relieving homelessness.
- The level of voids within and among RSL partners was highlighted as being a serious concern, especially whilst such a significant number of people are currently being accommodated by Bridgend CBC in temporary accommodation.
- There are opportunities to utilise a number of funding streams (Housing Support Grant and Social Housing Grant), to respond to these challenges and to develop varied support models. However, despite recent increases in Social Housing Grant, the multi-faceted nature of capital build programmes continued to present challenges in building new homes. Furthermore, innovative responses are needed to tackle the challenges faced in increasing the supply of private sector properties available to the Authority.
- Support providers value and requested consideration be given to reinstating the Providers Forum, as the move towards the 'new normal' continues, following the Covid 19 pandemic.

- The Homeless Cell and Rapid Rehousing Panel meetings developed as part of Bridgend CBC’s homelessness response to the Covid 19 panel are well valued, but there were calls for reviewing the latter in light of the permanent shift towards Rapid Rehousing.
- Partner organisations should ensure steps are taken within their own organisations to support the homelessness agenda, in acknowledgement that homelessness is a cross cutting issue and cannot be tackled by one organisation alone.
- Housing related support services need to continue to be regularly monitored and reviewed to ensure the continued provision of high quality services, that there are opportunities to identify gaps in provision, and to develop greater insight as to what works and doesn’t work when preventing and relieving homelessness.
- The Housing Department’s roles, structure, processes, and training and support should be reviewed to ensure resources, pathways, communication, and consistent wellbeing support to all staff promote more effective and valued service delivery.
- There was broad recognition that there were insufficient opportunities and mechanisms in place to involve people with lived experience in the design, and evaluation of services.
- There is opportunity for the Housing Department to develop and embed a more psychologically informed culture and service offer through embracing the Trauma Informed Practice and Psychologically Informed Environments (PIE 2.0) framework in its commissioning, service delivery and monitoring.
- A common theme from stakeholders was the need to provide more information to the public with regard to the causes, consequences and opportunities to help in tackling homelessness.

5.0 Strategic Priorities

The Local Authority has developed the following strategic priorities, which are set with the ambition of delivering our vision for homelessness and housing related support services. These strategic priorities have been developed following the development of our Statement of Need and stakeholder engagement, as well as national and local legislation and policy.

Strategic Priority	Rationale	Objectives
1. Increase the supply of suitable accommodation to meet the housing needs of applicants	<p>The stark shortage of suitable housing is the biggest challenge the Local Authority faces, with demand significantly outweighing supply.</p> <p>Homelessness applications and demand to the Common</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the supply of suitable social housing, which is available to meet local need. • Increase the availability of suitable private rent sector properties.

	<p>Housing Register have consistently increased over a period of time.</p> <p>The current supply of social housing through RSL partners is insufficient to meet demands.</p> <p>The availability of affordable private rent sector accommodation is low, with market rents outstripping Local Housing Allowance rates.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and encourage the leasing or rental of private sector properties and the continued engagement of Private Rented Sector landlords. • Work with RSL partners to ensure the best use of current stock to meet local need.
<p>2. To implement a Rapid Rehousing Transitional Plan</p>	<p>The Welsh Government has set expectations for Local Authorities to develop and implement a Rapid Rehousing Transitional Plan.</p> <p>A Rapid Rehousing model is intended to support prevention and mitigate the impact of homelessness on households. Successful delivery will be key to managing the impact of increasing demands on homelessness services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work in partnership with stakeholders to implement the various elements as set out in the Rapid Rehousing Transitional Plan. • To prevent homelessness and the need for temporary accommodation. • To reduce the need for temporary accommodation and where needed to reduce the length of time households spend in temporary accommodation • To develop a model based on robust data, with clear evidence of need.

<p>3. Provide an accessible, flexible and responsive service to meet needs, through a skilled and valued workforce</p>	<p>There is a need for continuous improvements to be made to the accessibility of services, ensuring a flexible approach to identified need.</p> <p>There is an opportunity for existing Gateway functions to play a greater role in establishing better pathways, monitoring throughput and performance.</p> <p>People with lived experience should have a meaningful and impactful role in the development and monitoring of services.</p> <p>Better communication and promotion of homelessness prevention services could promote engagement at an earlier stage.</p> <p>There is an acknowledgement that through increased demands and complexity of work there are additional pressures on the workforce, which need to be resolved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that services are accessible to all and response to those with additional needs • Extend and enhance the function and impact of the Gateway. • Improve ongoing engagement with those with lived experience. • Provide clear process and pathway information and raise the profile of current homelessness advice and support services, to encourage take up by individuals in housing need • Ensure sufficient capacity within the workforce to meet presenting demand. • Deliver services through a resilient and skilled workforce, which provides high quality provision and promotes staff wellbeing.
<p>4. To improve collaboration with key stakeholders at a strategic level to improve homelessness prevention</p>	<p>Homelessness is not just a housing issue. Collaboration and partnerships with wider stakeholders have a key role to the successful prevention of homelessness.</p> <p>Improved understanding of wider pressures, priorities and limitations can lead to closer joint working and improved outcomes for individuals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in wider stakeholder ownership of homelessness to support upstream prevention. • Increased sharing of data to identify gaps, with the potential for increased jointly commissioned services.

	<p>A culture of joint shared ownership can improve, planning and commissioning, as well as supporting risk management.</p> <p>Better collaboration can improve corporate priorities, such as implementing the national care leavers and accommodation and support framework.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an organisational culture of enquiry where data analysis and interpretation effectively inform service delivery. • To manage risk through stakeholders coming together to find joint solutions and outcomes • To work with regional partners to explore opportunities for service provision, which meets common needs. • To work with partners, including Social Services colleagues to implement the national care leavers accommodation and support framework. • To explore a range of good quality housing choices for young people and care leavers, which promotes independence, prolonged health and well-being. • Improve joint working across housing and social services, utilising corporate parenting responsibilities.
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<p>5. Enhance and increase the services for those with complex needs</p>	<p>The support needs of those presenting as homeless are significant. Often housing alone cannot address underlying issues preventing someone from securing or maintaining accommodation.</p> <p>There are a cohort of individuals who require intensive support models. These cases are often resource intensive to a range of public services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop services that can effectively support people with highly complex and possibly enduring needs. • Take a multi-agency approach to supporting those with complex needs.
<p>6. Take an assertive, collaborative and multi-disciplined approach to support rough sleepers</p>	<p>Rough sleeping is the sharp end and harshest form of homelessness. The vulnerability and risk posed to rough sleepers is often significant.</p> <p>The reasons as to why people sleep rough are often complex and deep rooted. As such relieving the homelessness of rough sleepers can be challenging and requires resource and multi-agency involvement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To keep the number of rough sleepers low and ensure that where rough sleeping does occur it is rare, brief and non-recurring. • To provide assertive outreach to assist in the accurate identification of and support to rough sleepers • To ensure a multi-agency approach to supporting rough sleeping.

6.0 Impact Assessments

6.1 Impact Assessment Process

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed at 'screening stage'.

6.2 Key Findings

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 development of this strategy.

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.

7.0 Implementing, Monitoring and Reviewing the Strategy

7.1 Working with Partners

The Local Authority cannot effectively implement the priorities in this Strategy alone. Collaboratively working with key partners such as health, social care and criminal justice is vital in order to deliver and optimise the impact of our priorities outlined within the strategy.

We will work collaboratively to implement our Strategy by:

- Ensuring that work is undertaken to develop and improve approaches to collaborative working across Directorates within Bridgend CBC and to ensure that this approach is matched with similar approaches to collaborative and joint working with stakeholders outside the Authority.
- Making best use of the existing strategic and operational relationships across services and sectors in Bridgend that are well founded, long standing, creative and innovative in nature and responsiveness to need. There is a clear synergy in how services interlink across the sector and dovetail with assisting the Authority in meeting wider strategic initiatives.
- Ensuring at an operational level that the Authority builds on the clear evidence of Housing Department staff making frequent and good use of the expertise and experience from other stakeholders and providers brought in to address complex needs achieving positive outcomes for services users.
- Continuing multi-agency and partnership working at an operational level, which was evidenced as being a clear strength of the Housing Department. This approach and practice provide a template for the Authority to deliver on and optimise the impact of the Homelessness Strategy, through a model of joint working with Social Services, Probation and Mental Health services.
- Ensuring that the working relationship with Health continues, as evidenced in the development of the Regional Complex Needs Outreach Team. Contributing to further work with Health Services that has a broader focus for non-medical/clinical issues. The sharing of budgets and joint commissioning could promote more joined up thinking to address overlapping health and community support issues.
- Considering developing relationships and multi-agency working between the Housing Department and other partners through the co-location of services or expertise in a central Hub.
- Establishing focused and appropriate forums, by considering the purpose, membership, and frequency of all current, past and future meetings to ensure appropriate stakeholders are engaged in the forum/meetings most relevant to their roles and functions.

7.2 Funding Sources

Our vision and priorities within this strategy will be funded from grant allocations from the Welsh Government (WG), as well as core internal funding sources where appropriate.

The Housing Support Grant (HSG) will be the main funding stream used to meet our priorities as set out in the strategy.

The Housing Support Grant allocation for Bridgend Council is as follows:

2022-23 - £7,833,509.33

2023-24 - £7,833,509.33

2024-25 - £7,833,509.33

Other applicable grants include the Social Housing Grant and the No One Left Out Grant. Our ambition is to work in collaboration with our partners such as Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) to ensure we jointly utilise all available funding sources to ensure we deliver on jointly agreed priorities. To meet the significant increase in temporary accommodation costs, identified BCBC core funding has been and will be required to meet ongoing demands.

7.3 Monitoring, Reviewing and Evaluation Arrangements

Our strategic priorities will be communicated to partners in order to be implemented effectively. A two pronged, qualitative and quantitative approach to monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan will be adopted.

This will take the form of a RAG traffic light assessment and review process linked up to:

1. BCBC giving due consideration to consulting with stakeholders and partners via an annual update and review using a narrative assessment of performance against priorities and objectives.
2. Consideration being given to engaging with service users through an annual review process, either through existing service user involvement processes utilised by partners and stakeholders, or through the use of an online Survey Monkey style anonymised questionnaire.
3. Identifying tangible KPIs, actions and outputs as detailed in the strategy and/or its action plan and conducting a quantitative assessment conducted at key milestones.

This could be developed into a more comprehensive annual review and report, which again could be disseminated among stakeholders, through existing strategic meeting structures.

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Bridgend County Borough Council Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022-26

Action Plan

Our Housing Support Programme Strategy sets out the Council's strategic direction for delivering homelessness and housing related support services, between 2022 and 2026.

The Strategy sets out six Strategic Priorities, with associated objectives. The six Strategic Priorities are:

Strategic Priority 1: Increase the supply of suitable accommodation to meet the housing needs of applicants

Strategic Priority 2: To implement a Rapid Rehousing Transitional Plan

Strategic Priority 3: Provide an accessible, flexible and responsive service to meet needs, through a skilled and valued workforce

Strategic Priority 4: To improve collaboration with key stakeholders at a strategic level to improve homelessness prevention

Strategic Priority 5: Enhance and increase the services for those with complex needs

Strategic Priority 6: Take an assertive, collaborative and multi-disciplined approach to support rough sleepers

This Action Plan sets out each Strategic Priority and sets specific actions which will be taken forward, with the aim of achieving the priorities and objectives set out.

Strategic Priority 1: Increase the supply of suitable accommodation to meet the housing needs of applicants			
Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timescale (Short term <1 year, Medium term 1-2 years, Long term >3 years)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the supply of suitable social housing, which is available to meet local need. • Increase the availability of suitable private rent sector properties. • Promote and encourage the leasing or rental of private sector properties and the continued engagement of Private Rented Sector landlords. • Work with RSL partners to ensure the best use of current stock to meet local need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with RSL's to utilise capital income streams, such as the Social Housing Grant to increase suitable social housing stock. 	BCBC, RSL's	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wherever possible to work with RSL's to repurpose existing stock to best meet local need. 	BCBC, RSL's	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilise available funding streams, including Empty Property Grants to bring Empty Properties back into use. 	BCBC, Private Sector Landlords	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue and expand on the delivery of a private rent leasing service. 	BCBC, Private Sector Landlords	Short term / Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore schemes which incentivise private sector landlords to make their stock available for use to prevent and relieve homelessness. 	BCBC, Private Sector Landlords	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rekindle a local private landlord forum. 	BCBC, Private Sector Landlords	Medium Term
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue ongoing engagement with RSL's through operational and strategic meetings. 	BCBC, RSL's	Ongoing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop bespoke solutions to meet identified housing needs of those homeless or threatened with homelessness. • To explore new ownership models for affordable housing. 	BCBC, RSL's	Ongoing
		BCBC	Medium Term / Ongoing

Strategic Priority 2: To implement a Rapid Rehousing Transitional Plan			
Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timescale (Short term <1 year, Medium term 1-2 years, Long term >3 years)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work in partnership with stakeholders to implement the various elements as set out in the Rapid Rehousing Transitional Plan. • To prevent homelessness and the need for temporary accommodation. • To reduce the need for temporary accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a 5 year Rapid Rehousing Transitional Plan and ensure that its purpose and role in supporting homelessness is clearly understood by all stakeholders and partners 	BCBC, RSL's, Commissioned Providers	Short term
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review, Appraise and amend if required the Councils Social Housing Allocation Policy, taking into consideration the views of key stakeholders. 	BCBC, RSL's	Medium term
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a programme of monitoring and review is maintained to ensure current housing related support provision is fit for purpose and in line with BCBC's 	BCBC	Ongoing

<p>and where needed to reduce the length of time households spend in temporary accommodation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a model based on robust data, with clear evidence of need. 	<p>Rapid Rehousing Transitional Plan. Consider re purposing or re modelling provision, if required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and agree key data sets, which are frequently monitored and that can inform strategic planning. Take forward the priorities and actions as set out in the Plan. To explore longer term solutions to temporary accommodation including direct ownership by BCBC. 	<p>BCBC, RSL's, Commissioned Providers</p> <p>BCBC, RSL's, Commissioned Providers, Private Sector Landlords</p> <p>BCBC</p>	<p>Medium term</p> <p>Long term</p> <p>Medium term / Ongoing</p>
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<p>Strategic Priority 3: Provide an accessible, flexible and responsive service to meet needs, through a skilled and valued workforce</p>			
Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timescale (Short term <1 year, Medium term 1-2 years, Long term >3 years)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that services are accessible to all and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and enhance the operational elements of the Housing Support Gateway, including exploring the 	<p>BCBC</p>	<p>Medium term</p>

<p>response to those with additional needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extend and enhance the function and impact of the Gateway.• Improve ongoing engagement with those with lived experience.• Provide clear process and pathway information and raise the profile of current homelessness advice and support services, to encourage take up by individuals in housing need• Ensure sufficient capacity within the workforce to meet presenting demand.• Deliver services through a resilient and skilled workforce, which provides high quality provision and promotes staff wellbeing.	<p>possibility for a tailored case management system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure engagement with those with lived experience as part of ongoing monitoring and commissioning exercises for homelessness and housing support services.• Make further enhancements to the housing Jigsaw system to ensure it meets the operational needs of the service and service user.• Ensure staff of both internal and commissioned services receive adequate training and support.• Regularly review staffing structures to ensure sufficient capacity to meet ongoing demand.	<p>BCBC, Commissioned Providers</p> <p>BCBC</p> <p>BCBC, Commissioned Providers</p> <p>BCBC, Commissioned Providers</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Medium term</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
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Strategic Priority 4: To improve collaboration with key stakeholders at a strategic level to improve homelessness prevention			
Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timescale (Short term <1 year, Medium term 1-2 years, Long term >3 years)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in wider stakeholder ownership of homelessness to support upstream prevention. • Increased sharing of data to identify gaps, with the potential for increased jointly commissioned services. • Establish an organisational culture of enquiry where data analysis and interpretation effectively informs service delivery. • To manage risk through stakeholders coming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities for Bridgend Joint Commissioning, where appropriate. • Identify and agree key data sets with partner organisations which can inform performance management and monitoring that can inform future strategic planning. • Identify and meet with appropriate representatives to discuss a fresh approach to strategic level collaboration and agree key personnel and the frequency and format of future meetings. • Explore a multi-disciplinary approach for services that meet the needs of children and young people. 	<p>BCBC, Other Statutory Services</p> <p>BCBC, RSL's, Commissioned Providers, Other Statutory Services</p> <p>BCBC, RSL's, Commissioned Providers, Other Statutory Services</p> <p>BCBC, Commissioned Providers</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Medium term</p> <p>Medium term</p> <p>Medium term</p>

<p>together to find joint solutions and outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work with regional partners to explore opportunities for service provision, which meets common needs. • To work with partners, including Social Services colleagues to implement the national care leavers accommodation and support framework. • To explore a range of good quality housing choices for young people and care leavers, which promotes independence, prolonged health and well-being. • Improve joint working across housing and social services, utilising corporate parenting responsibilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to engage with regional colleagues, including through the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Collaborative Group (RCG) • Engage with Social Services colleagues and RSLs to promote the smooth transition for care leavers, in line with BCBC's Corporate Parenting Strategy. 	<p>BCBC, Members of the RCG</p> <p>BCBC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
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Strategic Priority 5: Enhance and increase the services for those with complex needs			
Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timescale (Short term <1 year, Medium term 1-2 years, Long term >3 years)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop services that can effectively support people with highly complex and possibly enduring needs. Take a multi-agency approach to supporting those with complex needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take an evidenced based approach to identify gaps in service provision building an understanding of the multi-agency response required to respond to needs for this client group. 	BCBC, Support Providers, Other Statutory Services	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To build on the current Housing First, wider complex needs provision, and assessment centre provision to increase the supply of accommodation and support services for those with complex needs. 	BCBC, RSL's, Commissioned Providers	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the development of accommodation models, which provide specialist intensive support, including Wet House provision (long term) 	BCBC, RSL's, Commissioned Providers	Medium / Long term
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build on the current commissioning practice which ensures that those with lived experience have a role in the commissioning of services based on the principles of a co-production model. 	BCBC, Commissioned Providers	Ongoing

Strategic Priority 6: Take an assertive, collaborative and multi-disciplined approach to support rough sleepers			
Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timescale (Short term <1 year, Medium term 1-2 years, Long term >3 years)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To keep the number of rough sleepers low and ensure that where rough sleeping does occur it is rare, brief and non-recurring. To provide assertive outreach to assist in the accurate identification of and support to rough sleepers To ensure a multi-agency approach to supporting rough sleeping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the multi-agency Homelessness Cell meetings and support to coordinate services for identified rough sleepers. 	BCBC, Support Providers, Other Statutory Services	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work proactively with partners to ensure services support an 'all in approach. 	BCBC, RSL's, Commissioned Providers	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review current outreach arrangements, now funded by the Housing Support Grant. 	BCBC, Commissioned Providers	Medium term

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Agenda Item 6

Meeting of:	SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3
Date of Meeting:	25 SEPTEMBER 2023
Report Title:	FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL & REGULATORY SERVICES, HR & CORPORATE POLICY
Responsible Officer:	MERYL LAWRENCE SENIOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER – SCRUTINY
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	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. Any changes to the structure of the Scrutiny Committees and the procedures relating to them would require the Bridgend County Borough Council Constitution to be updated.
Executive Summary:	<p>The Council’s Constitution requires the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to develop and implement a Forward Work Programme for the Committee.</p> <p>The Council’s Constitution also provides for each Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee to propose items for the Forward Work Programme having regard for the Council’s Corporate Priorities and Risk Management framework, for the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to have oversight and refer any cross-cutting topics to a Committee or Research and Evaluation Panel.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to consider and agree its Forward Work Programme, identify any specific information it wishes to be included in and any invitees they wish to attend for the reports for the next two Committee meetings, identify any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the criteria set out in the report, consider the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet and note that the Forward Work Programme and the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be reported to the next meeting of COSC.</p>

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 3.5 of this report;
- d) Present the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet (**Appendix B**) to track responses to the Committee's recommendations made at previous meeting;
- e) Advise that the Committee's updated Forward Work Programme, any feedback from the Committee and the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet will be reported to the next meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC).

2. Background

2.1 The Council's Constitution requires the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to develop and implement a Forward Work Programme for the Committee.

2.2 The Council's Constitution also provides for each Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee to propose items for the Forward Work Programme having regard for the Council's Corporate Priorities and Risk Management framework, for the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to have oversight and refer any cross-cutting topics to a Committee or Research and Evaluation Panel.

Best Practice / Guidance

2.3 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.

2.4 Forward Work Programmes need to be manageable to maximize 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.

- 2.5 The CfGS's 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.'

3. Current situation / proposal

Forward Work Programme

- 3.1 Following the approval of the schedule of Scrutiny Committee meeting dates at the Annual Meeting of Council on 17 May 2023, the standing statutory reports to this Scrutiny Committee of: the Corporate Plan, the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Budget, Performance and Budget Monitoring, etc. have been mapped to the appropriate timely meeting dates into a draft Forward Work Programme.
- 3.2 The draft outline Forward Work Programme for each Scrutiny Committee have been prepared using a number of difference sources, including:
- Corporate Risk Assessment;
 - Directorate Business Plans;
 - Previous Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme report topics / minutes;
 - Committee / Member proposed topics;
 - Policy Framework;
 - Cabinet Work Programme;
 - Discussions with Corporate Directors;
 - Performance Team regarding the timing of performance information.
- 3.3 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 2023 and January 2024, following which 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 2024.
- 3.4 An effective Forward Work Programme will identify the issues that the Committee wishes to focus on during the year and provide a clear plan. However, at each meeting the Committee will have an opportunity to review this as the Forward Work Programme Update will be a standing item on the Agenda, detailing which items are scheduled for future meetings and be requested to clarify any information to be included in reports and the list of invitees. The Forward Work Programme will remain flexible and will be revisited at each COSC meeting with input from each Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee reported and any updated information gathered from Forward Work Programme meetings with Corporate Directors.

Identification of Further Items

- 3.5 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

- 3.6 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a local authority towards care experienced 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 care experienced children and young people in Bridgend.

- 3.7 In this role, it is suggested that Members consider how each item they consider affects care experienced children and young people, and in what way can the Committee assist in these areas.
- 3.8 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee in this by advising them of the ongoing work of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.
- 3.9 The Forward Work Programme for the Committee is attached as **Appendix A** for the Committee's consideration.
- 3.10 The Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committee's recommendations made at the previous meeting is attached as **Appendix B**.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

- 4.1 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.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

- 5.1 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 stakeholders can view topics that will be discussed in Committee meetings and are provided with the opportunity to engage.

5.2 When setting its Forward Work Programme, the Committee should consider how each item they propose to scrutinise assists in the achievement of the Council's 7 Wellbeing Objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** as follows :-

1. A County Borough where we protect our most vulnerable
2. A County Borough with fair work, skilled, high-quality jobs and thriving towns
3. A County Borough with thriving valleys communities
4. A County Borough where we help people meet their potential
5. A County Borough that is responding to the climate and nature emergency
6. A County Borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community
7. A County Borough where we support people to live healthy and happy lives

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 The Committee should consider how each item they scrutinise affects climate change, the Council's Net Zero Carbon 2030 target and how it meets the Council's commitments to protect and sustain the environment over the long term. There are no Climate Change Implications arising from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 The Committee should consider how each item they scrutinise affects care experienced children and young people, and in what way the Committee can assist in these areas. Safeguarding is everyone's business and means protecting peoples' health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect. There are no Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Consider and approve the Forward Work Programme for the Committee 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 whether there are presently any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 3.5 of this report.

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

Background documents

None.

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Forward Work Programme
Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3

Monday 19 June 2023 at 4.00pm

Report Topic	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
<p>Update on the Shared Prosperity Fund</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination Report</p> <p>Draft FWP</p>		<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Corporate Director – Communities Head of Operations – Community Services Group Manger – Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability</p> <p><u>External</u></p>

Tuesday 25 July 2023 at 4.00pm

Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
<p>Update on Communities Directorate Position and Challenges</p>	<p>Extraordinary meeting</p> <p>Reviewing the challenges faced by the Communities Directorate.</p>	<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Leader Deputy Leader of Council and Cabinet Member of Social Services and Health Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Legal Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment Cabinet Member for Education Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Chief Executive Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change Corporate Director, Communities</p> <p><u>External</u> - NA</p>

APPENDIX A

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Monday 25 September 2023 at 4.00pm		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Homelessness Strategy		<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change Head of Performance and Partnerships Strategic Housing Commissioning Manager</p> <p><u>External</u> Head of Policy and Communications, Crisis Cymru</p>

Monday 27 November at 4.00pm		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Future Waste Services Work Stream		<p><u>Cabinet Members</u></p> <p><u>Officers</u></p> <p><u>External</u></p>

Monday 22 January 2024 at 4.00pm		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-25 to 2027-28 and Budget Proposals		<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Leader Deputy Leader of Council and Cabinet Member of Social Services and Health Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Legal Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration</p>

APPENDIX A

		<p><u>Officers</u> Chief Executive Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change Corporate Director Communities</p> <p><u>External</u></p>
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Monday 26 February 2024 at 4.00pm

Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Levelling Up Fund – Porthcawl Pavilion		<p><u>Cabinet Members</u></p> <p><u>Officers</u></p> <p><u>External</u></p>

Monday 22 April 2024 at 4.00pm

Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy or Strategic Transport Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To include information on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council Electric Vehicles - Air Quality Action Plan - Flood Mitigation 	<p><u>Cabinet Members</u></p> <p><u>Officers</u></p> <p><u>External</u></p>

Potential Items

- Housing
 - Affordable
 - Accessible
 - Social
 - Energy efficiency housing
 - Registered Social Landlords

- Emerging Valleys Regeneration Strategy

- Local Biodiversity Action Plan (could this be incorporated with the Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy)

- Porthcawl Regeneration Update

- Transforming Towns
 - Masterplans (Bridgend Town Centre – other masterplans)
 - Tourism (attracting tourism including capacity for mobile accommodation)
 - Transport Plan Porthcawl
 - Maesteg Town Centre
- Play areas / opportunities
- Update on Heat Network

Members briefing session

- Infrastructure Delivery that has an area specifically on the deterioration of the road surfaces and potholes – Looking to schedule in the Autumn.
- Corporate Joint Committees Regional Responsibilities
- Communities Directorate Target Operating Model (TOM)

Information reports to be provided

- Asset Management Audit Wales inspection report – Possibly November
- Electric charging points, where this is currently within the three phases and what happens after phase three is completed.
- Information and update on where the Directorate are with Asset and Community Asset Transfer (CAT)

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3

RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING ACTION SHEET 2023-2024

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
19 June 2023	Update on Shared Prosperity Fund	While the Committee acknowledged that starting a scheme or project before written confirmation of any Government Grant Funding carried some risk, Members reflected on whether the process undertaken by Cabinet and Officers had taken into consideration the risk of the UK Government not permitting the rolling of year 1 funding into year 2. Members therefore recommended that Cabinet consider whether, on balance, starting the process of these projects before funding was received was a justified risk moving forward and also provide reassurance as to how they could ensure it will be considered in future decisions, as the Authority would not want to receive any less than the 8.3% announced by the United Kingdom (UK) Government.	Cabinet Members / Corporate Director of Communities	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 19 September 2023.
19 June 2023	Update on Shared Prosperity Fund	The Committee furthermore recommend that a way of providing short term interim funding (including potentially reserves) for projects that have a high degree of certainty of Grant Funding be explored and consideration be given to	Chief Officer - Finance, Performance & Change / Corporate Director of Communities	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 19 September 2023.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
		mechanisms for managing risk and allowing projects to commence where Grant Funding had been agreed in principle, but not yet formalised.		
19 June 2023	Update on Shared Prosperity Fund	That Members be informed of the outcome, as soon as possible, of whether or not the request made by a number of Authorities to roll over year 1 funding into year 2 had been granted.	Corporate Director of Communities	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 19 September 2023.
19 June 2023	Update on Shared Prosperity Fund	Information that the Director of Communities offered regarding engagement with community groups to establish the level of demand for Bridgend Local Investment Grant Funding and assistance required. This was in response to Members’ concerns regarding responsibilities and reliance on volunteers and organisations to deliver the projects and Officers’ explanations that part of the UKSPF was to build resilience and economic development, targeting communities that may not normally have access to that type of funding.	Corporate Director of Communities	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 19 September 2023.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
25 July 2023	Update on Communities Directorate Position and Challenges	That the Update on Communities Directorate Position and Challenges report be made available to all Committee Members.	Scrutiny	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 19 September 2023.
25 July 2023	Update on Communities Directorate Position and Challenges	The Committee welcomed the proposal of a plan over the next five years to develop a new Target Operating Model (TOM) as explained by the Corporate Director of Communities, of what the Communities Directorate can deliver in alignment with their resources and budget. Looking at all the services they deliver, statutory responsibilities and the communities’ expectations. The Committee recommended that at the opportune time when the Target Operating Model (TOM) draft becomes available it is added to the Forward Work Programme for review by the Committee.	Corporate Director for Communities / Scrutiny	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 19 September 2023.
25 July 2023	Update on Communities Directorate Position and Challenges	That the Town and Community Council Forum consider the current model of partnership working between the Local Authority and the local Town and Community Councils and explore options for better communication, more collaborative working and whether the authority can assist Town and Community Councils take	Corporate Director for Communities / Democratic Services Manager	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 19 September 2023.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
		on leadership of certain service provisions. The Members requested that the outcome of this discussion be provided back to Committee as an information report.		
25 July 2023	Update on Communities Directorate Position and Challenges	The Committee discussed the Communities Directorate operating with a £31m budget allocation in the financial year 2023/2024 and it is representing 9% of the authority's budget. They considered whether any benchmarking had been done in terms of budget per head of population in the authority for Communities versus those of other authorities in South Wales of a similar size. The Chief Executive advised a piece of work had been commissioned through the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) which they intend to share in the next Budget Research and Evaluation Panel (BREP).	Corporate Director for Communities	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 19 September 2023.