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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 / 643147 / 643694

Gofynnwch am / Ask for:

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Monday, 20 November 2023

Dear Councillor,

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3

A meeting of the 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, 27 November 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 - 6
To receive for approval the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the 02/10/2023
4. Strategic Transport Projects 7 - 20

Invitees

Councillor John Spanswick – Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment
Councillor Rhys Goode - Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration

Janine Nightingale - Corporate Director, Communities
Jonathan Parsons - Group Manager Planning & Development Services
Kwaku Opoku-Addo – Strategic Transportation Planning Team Leader

5. Forward Work Programme Update 21 - 38
6. Urgent Items
To consider any item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Part 4 (paragraph 4) of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person

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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 Kearn
W J Kendall

Councillors

J E Pratt
G Walter
I Williams
MJ Williams

Agenda Item 3

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 - MONDAY, 2 OCTOBER 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 ON MONDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2023 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor P Davies – Chairperson

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

Apologies for Absence

N Clarke

Officers:

Meryl Lawrence	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Jessica Mclellan	Scrutiny Officer
Janine Nightingale	Corporate Director – Communities

53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Norah Clarke

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Jonathan Pratt, William Kendall and Mike Kearns declared personal interests as Members of the Development Control Committee and advised that if the Committee started discussing the planning application, that would make it a prejudicial issue and they would then declare a prejudicial interest and leave the meeting.

Councillor Melanie Evans declared a personal interest as a representative of the Coity Wallia Board of Conservators, and advised that if discussions started to include the planning application it could result in her declaring a prejudicial interest and leaving the meeting.

55. CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION: HYBONT PROJECT GATEWAY REVIEW

The Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny presented the report the purpose of which was to enable the Committee to scrutinise the decision of Cabinet of 19 September 2023 in relation to the report on HyBont Project Gateway Review.

She advised that:

- In accordance with Section 7.23 of the Council's Constitution, which states that 3 Members of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and a Scrutiny Chair, are needed for a decision to be called in, a Notice of Call-In had been received from 4 Members and a Chair, requesting that the Executive decision made by Cabinet on the 19 September 2023 be Called-In.
- The role of Scrutiny Committees in calling in a decision was:
 - To test the merits of the decision;
 - To consider the process by which the decision has been formulated;

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- To make recommendations (to support the decision, change aspects of the decision, or to invite the decision-making person or body to reconsider);
 - To suggest further steps before a decision is made (but not to try to carry out those steps in place of the decision-making person or body);
 - To come to a view in a relatively short time scale, so as not to compromise the speed and efficiency of the decision-making process.
- The recommendation of the report asked the Committee to consider the Call-In of the Cabinet decision of 19 September 2023 relating to HyBont Project Gateway Review and to determine whether it wished to, either:
- a) refer the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns, or;
 - b) decide not to refer the matter back to the Cabinet.

The Chairperson clarified the Members of the Committee and the Members not on the Committee who had supported the Call In.

The Chairperson invited the Members who had supported the Call In to speak on the reasons for the Call In.

Members stated the main reasons for the Call-In included:

- Lack of professional curiosity, challenging or questioning of the assumptions made in the report.
- No consideration of alternative options in either the report or the Cabinet's deliberations.
- Insufficient financial information to make an informed decision as to whether the project still represented a good return on investment.
- The land issues were not addressed.
- There was no discussion of how money spent to date could be recovered or whether alternative funding could be sought.
- The decision contradicts the Council's Net Zero Carbon 2030 Strategy in that financial considerations were given greater weight than carbon reduction to counter the climate emergency.
- The decision required further scrutiny.

The Chairperson invited any other Members who had supported the Call-In to speak and then invited any other Members of the Committee to ask questions or comment.

Detailed discussions between Members, Cabinet Members and Officers included:

- The lack of budget to fund the necessary technical due diligence to completion to verify whether the proposed project was effective, deliverable and would produce the benefits proposed.
- The inability to share the costs of legal due diligence due to the advice being specific to Bridgend and legally privileged.
- The balance of risk and reward and whether there had been due consideration given to trying to understand the prospect of a return before withdrawal.
- Potential future fleet costs for hydrogen, inflationary pressures, whether there could be potential financial benefits to the project and whether there was an option to reach out to other local authorities.
- Any implications from the withdrawal from the Memorandum of Understanding made between the Council and partners.
- Clarification that no decision had yet been made on the land.

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- Consideration given to the potential carbon reduction and the potential future benefits of the Heat network and hydrogen production.
- Council had reduced its carbon by at least 40m tonnes (38%) and 70% of Council's carbon footprint came from procurement.
- Officer time on the project to date and the impact of withdrawal on Bridgend's capacity to continue with other projects.

The Chairperson advised that Members of the Committee who wanted to ask questions had all spoken, so as there were no further questions for the invitees, thanked them for their attendance and they left the meeting.

The Chairperson invited Members of the Committee, having regard to whether it was satisfied with the responses, whether it wished to:

- a) Refer the decision back to the Cabinet for reconsideration, setting out the reasons and rationale for the request;
- or
- b) Decide not to refer the matter back to the Cabinet.

RESOLVED: Following its examination of the decision, and having regard to the above, the Committee decided not to refer the matter back to the Cabinet for reconsideration.

The meeting closed at 18:21

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Meeting of:	SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3
Date of Meeting:	27th NOVEMBER 2023
Report Title:	STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PROJECTS
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES
Responsible Officer:	JONATHAN PARSONS – GROUP MANAGER PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	The report content has no direct effect upon the policy framework and procedure rules.
Executive Summary:	<p>This report will provide the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 with an overview of the Council’s current and potential future strategic transport projects that will go forward for any future phases of Metro or other initiatives .</p> <p>The projects identified will also form the basis of Bridgend strategic transport priorities in discussions with Welsh Government (WG), Transport for Wales (TFW) and Network Rail (NR).</p>

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update of the Council’s current and potential future strategic transport projects in respect of schemes to go forward for any future phases of Metro or other national, regional and local funding applications.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) through its Metro programme, together with Welsh Government (WG), provide the principal funding mechanism for large strategic transport projects within the region. Current funded projects include the Porthcawl Metrolink bus facility, which is under construction and the Council’s active travel programme which together represent a substantial investment in strategic transportation in Bridgend. Active travel schemes rely primarily on WG funding (managed by Transport for Wales) and the programme is prioritised separately as part of the regular active travel network map approval process.
- 2.2 Other transport infrastructure projects (including active travel and highway improvements) may be funded by developer contributions (through Section 106 planning agreements), by other grant funding initiatives and on occasions support from within the Authority. Future funding opportunities may also come forward through the UK Government’s Levelling Up Fund (LUF) and Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF).

- 2.3 Cabinet approved a previous list of strategic transport schemes in December 2021 and the updated schedule of current schemes as outlined below in October 2023. It is essential that a list of schemes is agreed in order that they may be submitted as part of any current or future transport funding bids and also in the event that surplus funding is available from Welsh Government towards the end of the financial year. A recognised and approved list of schemes is also necessary when identifying projects that could be promoted when seeking developer contributions through Section 106 planning (S106) agreements relating to infrastructure improvements.
- 2.4 The identified projects will also be promoted with the related public transport bodies i.e., Welsh Government (WG), Transport for Wales (TFW), Network Rail (NR), and the UK Government when discussing rail and public transport priorities.
- 2.5 It should be noted that these schemes represent the main strategic transport projects currently underway or being proposed for future advancement and do not necessarily include other projects or schemes/enhancements that may come forward or are negotiated through the normal development or planning processes.
- 2.6 The Committee are also advised that the schemes outlined below, with the exception of the Porthcawl Metrolink and the Active Travel programme, do not currently have any approved capital or revenue funding. The ability to progress these projects will therefore be dependent on the necessary resources, funding and budget being secured. It should also be noted that with any scheme that comes forward there will likely be a future maintenance liability as well as potential impacts on existing infrastructure. As such schemes will be developed in consultation with the relevant internal teams and officers.

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 The current and proposed schemes as approved by Cabinet are listed below in no particular order and have been included in terms of their compliance with national, regional, and local policies as outlined below.

- 3.1.2 National policy includes Future Wales 2040 - The National Plan (FW2040)

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/future-wales-the-national-plan-2040.pdf>

Llybyr Newydd - The Wales Transport Strategy 2021 (WTS),

https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-03/llwybr-newydd-wales-transport-strategy-2021-full-strategy_0.pdf

Planning Policy Wales 11(PPW11).

https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-11_0.pdf

Regional and local policy comprises:

The Bridgend Local Development Plan 2013 (LDP),

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-control/development-planning/existing-bridgend-local-plan-2013/introduction-to-ldp/>

Replacement Bridgend Local Development Plan (RLDP),

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-control/development-planning/replacement-bridgend-local-development-plan-2018-to-2033/>

Bridgend Local Transport Plan (LTP),

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/4087/bridgend-ltp-wg-approved-version-may-2015-2030.pdf>

Cardiff Capital Region (CCR), Regional Transport Authority (RTA), South-East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SEWCJC) priorities.

<https://www.cardiffcapitalregion.wales/the-city-deal/>

- 3.1.3 The report of the independent panel appointed by Welsh Government entitled 'The Future of Road Investment in Wales i.e. 'The Roads Review' is of relevance.

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-02/the-future-road-investment-wales.pdf>

This report together with the Welsh Government response sets out the current national policy towards new road building and improvement in Wales.

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/pdf-versions/2023/2/2/1676385038/welsh-government-response-roads-review.pdf>

- 3.1.4 The inclusion of each scheme should be based on criteria outlined in the strategies highlighted above. Consideration must therefore be given to the impacts that the following schemes will have on delivering local and regional economic, environmental and safety objectives as well as allocation in the LTP, LDP and compliance with regional and national policy aims and objectives. It should also be noted that a Regional Transport Plan will be prepared in 2024.

3.2 **Strategic Transport Schemes currently in progress**

- 3.2.1 The following schemes are those that already have capital funding and/or current funding from Welsh Government / CCR.

3.3 Active Travel Programme

- 3.3.1 The Active Travel Programme is an ongoing multi-million project that is funded through Welsh Government and subject to an annual bidding process. Bids for schemes are submitted annually and are approved on the basis that they are delivered during the current financial years and it is not always possible that projects can undergo feasibility, detailed design and implementation within the timescales allowed. As such projects may have to be phased over several years i.e. year 1 - feasibility work, year 2 - design and finally year 3 implementation. The Active Travel programme is the largest ongoing strategic transport commitment and is considered as being essential to encouraging a 'modal shift' from reliance on private motor vehicles.
- 3.3.2 The funding is separated into those that cover specific projects and other projects that may fall into 'core' schemes. The programme is subject to strict scrutiny by Welsh Government and quarterly spending returns are required. Some approved funding may be rolled over to subsequent years by agreement and surplus funds are occasionally offered out to local authorities to develop schemes.
- 3.3.3 Active Travel funding also requires that the route be included in the Active Travel Network Map (ATNM), which was approved on 3rd August 2022 by Welsh Government. The map may be viewed online:-
- <https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/active-travel-network-maps/>
- 3.3.4 The ATNM combines the Existing Routes Map (ERM) and Integrated Network Map (INM) required by the Active Travel (Wales) Act. Existing Routes are those that meet the requirements of the Active Travel design guidance and are audited by Sustrans and other authorised third parties collaboratively. Some routes might not fully comply with the guidance but may still get funds from other funding sources for construction. Future Routes are routes that are planned for future developments and continuous improvement of the network. The location and details are indicative and subject to changes as schemes develop. The delivery of these routes depends on the level of available funding and the complexity of planning and design required for larger and more complex routes.
- 3.3.5 The current Active Travel work programme comprises the following schemes:-
- Ynysawdre Active Travel scheme (only capital project for 2023/24 – works to be completed by the end of the financial year 2023/24). The scheme seeks to provide an active travel design compliant traffic-free shared use active travel route from Ynysawdre (Lon Derw) to the National Cycle Network. The route will be approximately 430m long running generally east-west and is intended to enhance active travel connections for between Brynmenyn Primary School, Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen and the wider network. The entire route is identified in the Council's approved Integrated Network Map (INM), which includes consultation with local residents and stakeholders. The scheme offers not only an enhanced access to the local schools, but improved connections to nature and the nearby Bryngarw

Country Park, whereby there are ongoing studies to provide a missing active travel connection to the Garw Valley.

- South Cornelly ATR (Pyle Phase 2): Funding has been granted to complete design and prepare Tender documentation. The scheme aims to provide an active travel route (ATR) starting at the Heol-Y-Splot/A4229 roundabout, along Porthcawl Road and the B4283 to North Cornelly. The route forms part of a wider strategy to develop and implement an ATR between Pyle to Porthcawl.
- A48 ATR scheme: Feasibility studies of the active travel route identified along the A48 between Picton Court roundabout and Laleston roundabout. Further funding will be required for detailed design and implementation.
- School Active Travel Enhancements: Feasibility and design work for active travel routes along Merlin Crescent. to enhance active travel provision for journeys to Bryntirion Comprehensive School and for other local journeys. Implementation will be subject to a future successful bid application.
- Brackla to Bridgend (Merthyr Mawr Bridge): this relates to the design of an active travel route utilising the under pass to Merthyr Mawr Road and redesign of the footbridge over the River Ogmore leading from Church Road to Angel Street. Further funding will be required for route implementation.
- Active Travel Route Monitoring (Data Collection): To install cycle counters at 6 locations to collect user data.
- Active Travel Pedestrian & Cyclist Improvements: To carry out an audit of pedestrian crossing points at areas of concern and with reference to the County Borough-wide active travel consultation in 2021. The audit will identify the most critical pedestrian crossing deficiencies and provide, re-locate or improve them on a priority order basis. The implementation of the scheme will be subject to future funding bids.
- Bridgend Town Centre Access Enhancements: Develop feasibility and design for an active travel link from Bridgend Railway station to Cheapside, to further enhance connectivity and improve links the relocated Bridgend College campus when complete. This is also identified as part of the wider Bridgend Railway Station enhancement as described below.
- Dock Street, Porthcawl: Commence a feasibility study into enhanced active travel links between the Metro-Link and Porthcawl town centre along Dock Street, to promote Active Travel and improve connectivity and permeability for pedestrians and cyclists. This scheme will be crucial to the future use of the Porthcawl Metrolink.

- Pencoed to Rhondda Cynon Taff boundary (RCT) - Cross-border link: This relates to the provision of a seamless continuation of safe active travel routes from Pencoed to RCT. Further funding will be required for full design and implementation.
- Maesteg to Bridgend (Llynfi Valley): Llynfi Valley – Maesteg, Garth, Llangynywd and Cwmfelin. Feasibility for providing a north-south active travel route will enhance connectivity for the residents of the Llynfi valley. The proposed route will link into the National Cycle Network (NCN) and complement proposals to build a passing loop on the railway line at Tondy to increase frequency on the existing railway line.
- Pyle to Porthcawl (Phase 2): The scheme will comprise a Toucan Crossing (Pyle to Porthcawl Phase 2) on A4229 at the northern end of South Cornelly and another Toucan Crossing on the A4229 at the southern end of South Cornelly.
- Bridgend to Porthcawl: Providing active travel route along A4106 Bridgend Road between Porthcawl and Bridgend. The proposal is for scheme development funding to progress the outcome of WelTAG 2 study completed in 2023. If the scheme is proven feasible then future funding applications could be made for a full design and implementation.
- Garw Valley Community Route: This relates to an upgrade program for the NCN route between Bryngarw House and Pontycymer.
- Active Travel Safety Enhancements: The access barrier auditing work has already been undertaken. This work included Technology Drive and all the existing routes in Bridgend, Pyle and Porthcawl. A total of 56 barriers have so far been identified. By the end of current financial year routes in Pencoed and Maesteg will also be audited.
- Penyfai to Bridgend: Scheme development to undertake a feasibility study into active travel route options from Pen-Y-Fai to Bridgend via the NCN (alongside Tondy Road).
- Bridgend (Coity Gyratory) to Designer Village: Options analysis and feasibility design for an Active Travel Link between the Princess of Wales Hospital to Bridgend Town Centre.

3.4 **Porthcawl Metrolink**

- 3.4.1 This is a current CCR Metro project and comprises a new purpose-built, enclosed bus facility located at the Salt Lake site on Porthcawl sea front linking to the South Wales Metro. Planning permission for the scheme was secured in May 2022 (Ref: P/21/1110/BCB) and the project is well advanced. Work commenced in July 2023 and the facility is planned for completion in mid-2024. Active travel grant funding has also been awarded to commence a feasibility study into enhanced

active travel links between the Metrolink and Porthcawl town centre along Dock Street (see Active Travel programmer above).

3.5 Proposed Strategic Transport Projects

3.5.1 The following projects are put forward for approval as part of any future applications to the CCR Metro Programme, Levelling Up Fund, or other funding opportunities as well as the basis for discussion with other outside transport bodies on national and regional strategic transport priorities. There is currently no specific funding or budget in place for these schemes.

3.6 Brackla Halt Railway Station

3.6.1 This is a longstanding proposal for a new station facility on the South Wales mainline between Bridgend and Pencoed and serving the large residential area of Brackla and Coychurch as well as Bridgend Industrial Estate. It will also serve future land use developments proposed to the south of the A473 as detailed in the Replacement LDP.

3.6.2 As well as the station, a car park has been constructed (although not in use) and a new active travel bridge is being considered that would form an essential link between Brackla and Bridgend Industrial Estate. This bridge may also be pursued through the current active travel programme independently of the new station proposals. It is envisaged that a new station would form part of the South-East Wales Metro along with the existing local Pyle, Bridgend and Pencoed stations.

3.6.3 There are no current TFW proposals to take this project further and it is not identified as a priority within the CCR transport programme, however, the station has not been removed from the South Wales Metro map and there is some S106 funding available to look at the feasibility of the active travel bridge and connections within the area as part of wider active travel enhancements.

3.7 Bridgend Railway Station enhancement

3.7.1 This is a Regeneration led project, which aims to improve access and enhance park and ride options, active travel, a bus interchange facility, and an active travel link to Cheapside. This is significant part of the Bridgend Town Centre Masterplan but could also be considered as a strategic transport project in itself alongside the Town Centre Access Enhancements project described above. The project would also look at the feasibility of enhanced bus connections and infrastructure within the town centre.

3.8 Ewenny Road (Maesteg) Interchange

3.8.1 The Ewenny Road Interchange was identified as part of the WeITAG Stage 2 study into the Maesteg line enhancement project currently undertaken by TFW. An internal feasibility bid has previously provided funding to carry out preliminary feasibility studies to complement the WeITAG (Welsh Government Transport Appraisal Guidance) process. The scheme is expected to include a park & ride facility, electric vehicle charging facility, bus stops, covered cycle parking and taxi rank adjacent to the existing Ewenny Road rail station.

- 3.8.2 The interchange is also directly adjacent to the Ewenny Road regeneration site, a major mixed use residential and commercial scheme with a planning application currently being considered. The interchange would provide an excellent opportunity to further develop transit orientated development (TOD). The principle of TOD is to provide residential and other development around public transport hubs as a way of reducing reliance on the private car and encouraging 'modal shift'.
- 3.8.3 The project would initially take the proposal to design stage but with suitable funding could be fully implemented. Furthermore, the facility, which would have transport benefits to the whole Llynfi Valley, has sufficient critical mass to be pursued independently of any future regeneration plans for the adjoining, former industrial site. The WeITAG study is still being considered but enhancements to the Llynfi Valley line remain a priority for TFW.

3.9 **Ford Branch Line**

- 3.9.1 The branch line opened to serve the Ford Engine factory at Waterton but is no longer in use following the plant's closure in 2020. The rail head is located within the plant itself but the associated level crossing across the A48 has been closed. The track bed remains on the line, which crosses into the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough (VOG). Whilst it will require significant upgrading, the reopening of the line as a heavy rail or light rail tram train alternative with connection to Bridgend and VOG lines could still be developed.
- 3.9.2 The former Ford engine plant is currently on the market and prospective purchasers are seeking alternative uses. It is not clear whether the use of the rail link will be utilised in future proposals but the opportunity to consider use of the line as a relatively unique transport feature will be promoted through any future discussions with potential developers.

3.10 **Heol Simonston / Coychurch Road Junction Improvements**

- 3.10.1 The improvement of the Heol Simonston / Coychurch Road junction has long been identified as a key project. Although not identified as a specific priority in the LDP or LTP, there is a significant local congestion problem at this location. The key issue in this project is to overcome highway safety issues generated by traffic congestion at this pinch point as well as the provision of active travel links between the residential areas to the north of the railway line and key employment sites to the south.
- 3.10.2 One of the main constraints in the area is the railway bridge over the B4181 Coychurch Rod/Heol Simonston, which carries the mainline railway line which narrows considerably at this point. The bridge is also a Grade II Listed Building due to its architectural and historic interest as part of the original Victorian railway. Notwithstanding the important heritage issues which would need to be overcome, work to replace the bridge and realign the road would be a considerable undertaking with a very high financial and operational cost and as such other options are being considered.
- 3.10.3 A feasibility study of the junction was originally undertaken in 2007 to assess the suitability of the Heol Simonston / Coychurch Road Junction for the incorporation of a roundabout. The purpose of the scheme was to accommodate increased traffic

flows generated from the Coed Castell Development off Coychurch Road and improve the operation of the existing junction. Several options were considered at the time.

3.10.4 It should also be noted that since the 2007 study there has been significant changes to legislation and national policy i.e. The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013, which places a duty on local authorities to prioritise walking and cycle routes over car-based transport along with the recent Welsh Government Roads review, which impacts on the amount of national funding is available for new road schemes. These changes in legislation and policy direction will significantly influence any future scheme(s) coming forward. Although some S106 funding is available to undertake feasibility for active travel solutions within the locality (see active travel schemes above), no funding to design, complete or undertake any works has been identified as of yet. Internal resourcing issues will also impact on the progress of the project, however, options and alternatives will be reconsidered and Members will be updated in due course.

3.11 Junction 36 (M4)

3.11.1 A number of assessments and reports (e.g. the Welsh Government 'pinch point' study) have been undertaken over recent years and have evidenced that Junction 36 has reached its operational capacity limit and there are significant queue lengths on all of the six junction approaches during peak periods. A WelTAG Stage 2 report commissioned by WG was undertaken to consider the efficiency, capacity and congestion issues that impact on this key node's ability to perform its strategic function. This situation will restrict future growth in the north of the County Borough and disadvantage those who are most affected by this major constraint to movement.

3.11.2 The provision of a safe, attractive, and extensive active travel network will improve local accessibility, giving residents the opportunity to walk and cycle to nearby services and facilities, whilst improved access to public transport services will enable residents to travel to employment opportunities further afield. Whilst these measures will increase sustainable transport use which will help release some capacity at J36 they are unlikely to fully resolve the problems due to the current physical constraints and as such major infrastructure intervention will be required.

3.11.3 However, the recent WG Roads Review report has halted any further progress on motorway junction improvement to improve traffic congestion. Without any significant changes to the current junction infrastructure this national approach has a corresponding impact on any proposal for bus and active travel enhancement. Without significant infrastructure investment any future active travel improvements at the junction could further exacerbate congestion and as such would be limited to improving connectivity within the surrounding area.

3.11.4 It is noted that the current activities at J36 including the Designer Outlet, hotels, superstore, restaurant, and cinema, is a significant employer within the County Borough and as such any improvements in active travel to and from the facilities could encourage modal shift and use of active travel with a corresponding benefit in reducing car-based congestion.

3.12 Metro Enhancement Framework (MEF)

3.12.1 A Metro Enhancement Framework (MEF) has been prepared to enable Welsh Government, Transport for Wales, and the Cardiff Capital Region Transport Authority to start developing the pipeline of future transport projects that can be delivered to further complement the existing commitments being delivered as part of the Metro and Metro Plus programme. As part of the MEF, Transport for Wales have appointed Arcadis to prepare a WelTAG Stage one study. Its purpose is to help identify areas and 'transport corridors' where transport solutions could address the Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFGA) goals. Thirteen transport corridors were initially identified across the South Wales Metro area and scored against a set of 14 criteria.

3.12.2 The highest scoring corridors to be progressed within this study were Maesteg / Porthcawl / Bridgend to Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. These corridors demonstrate the existing and future social, environmental, cultural, and economic challenges and the areas include the Ewenny Road Interchange and the Porthcawl Metrolink described above.

3.13 Penprysg Road Bridge

3.13.1 This project is a longstanding strategic land use and transport commitment for the Council as evidenced in proposed, current and previous development plans and the LTP. At present there is a moratorium in place on the development of Pencoed north of the crossing due to traffic congestion caused by an inadequate, narrow road bridge combined with the regular closing of the level crossing restricting north-south access. A working group has been set up comprising local representatives, politicians, Council officers, UK government, TFW and Network Rail. The project involves the replacement of the sub-standard Penprysg Road bridge, closure of Pencoed Level Crossing and its replacement with a fully accessible active travel bridge. It is also considered that the project will bring economic, environmental and public realm enhancements to the centre of Pencoed once the level crossing has been removed. It should be noted that any further frequency of services along the mainline could lead to further congestion issues if the frequency of level crossing closure is increased.

3.13.2 Using funds from the CCR Metro Plus project, a WelTAG Stage 2 study was carried out in August 2020, working with Network Rail and other partners, to try and find a long-term solution to this problem. The WelTag Stage Two study concluded that a combination of two options should be progressed to WelTAG Stage 3. This would see the provision of a new active travel bridge over the railway, adjacent to the station, and the permanent closure of the level crossing. The bridge would be fully accessible and compliant with the Equality Act. To facilitate the level crossing closure, Penprysg Road Bridge would also be rebuilt as a two-lane carriageway to increase its capacity in both directions. The new bridge would also be compatible with any future line electrification proposals. A public consultation exercise took place in late 2021 and there is widespread local support for the project. Network Rail (NR) which controls the line and track infrastructure are also supportive of the closure of the level crossing on rail safety grounds.

- 3.13.3 Recently as part of a TFW project, Pencoed was appraised and developed to WeITAG Stage 2 at programme-level via a Bridgend-Pontyclun study. TFW will be developing a project-level WeITAG Stage 2 Outline Business Case focusing on Pencoed and Llanharan Interchanges alone. This will include further optioneering (the potential for do minimum – intermediate – high ambition options) as well as commensurate concept design development for the preferred option.
- 3.13.4 However, this TFW exercise does not include any design development for the Penprysg Level Crossing scheme and replacement road bridge. Whilst the current design is predicated on the Level Crossing Closure coming to fruition, it is likely that the do-minimum and intermediate ambition options will also explore scenarios where the level crossing closure does not come to fruition soon, but which do not impinge on its subsequent development in the future, should funding prospects improve. Alongside the business case, optioneering and design development on the Interchanges at Pencoed and Llanharan, TFW will also be looking to develop Station Network Plans for both Pencoed and Llanharan, assessing first-and-last mile routes between the interchanges and key trip attractors/conurbations in the areas.
- 3.13.5 The project was identified by Cabinet as the transport project bid under the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF) programme and a bid for £25 million was submitted in August 2022. However, as it could not be adequately demonstrated that the project could be delivered within the funding timeframe, unfortunately, the bid was unsuccessful. Whilst a large amount of essential feasibility work has been undertaken since 2020, there is still considerable work to be undertaken including developing a sound economic case as well as undertaking a full technical design. The project is not currently supported by any regional funding programme, however, future funding options are still being considered.
- 3.14 Pyle Railway Station Relocation and Park and Ride.**
- 3.14.1 The existing station at Pyle was developed as part of the revitalisation of local railway infrastructure in the early 1990s. However, it has significant land and infrastructure constraints that impact on current and future park and ride enhancements and therefore a relocation further east will be required if the facility is to be expanded into a strategic regional facility. An initial feasibility study has already been carried out in 2020, which indicated that the relocated station would cost around £20 million (at that time).
- 3.14.2 This scheme is intended to enhance the public transport accessibility profile of the strategic development land at Pyle included as part of the RLDP. This site comprises of approximately 2000 houses and associated commercial and educational development. Existing communities along the Pyle-Porthcawl corridor will benefit and there is further opportunity for a park and ride facility to service Porthcawl. Currently, there are active travel links being developed in the area and relocating the Pyle railway station would facilitate the integration of land use and multi-modal transport as well as promoting transit orientated development. (TOD)
- 3.14.3 The moving of Pyle Railway Station is a large-scale engineering undertaking for which there is no current funding to progress design or land acquisition. As such the project could also include exploring interim measures to improve the facilities at the current station in conjunction with TFW.

3.15 Rapid Bus Infrastructure

- 3.15.1 Rapid bus systems refer to bus-based public transport, which is designed to have better capacity and be more efficient than conventional bus routes that use the normal highway infrastructure. They typically include roadways that are dedicated to buses, giving priority to buses at intersections/junctions and where buses may interact with other traffic. These systems could be utilised more flexibly in areas that are not well served by rail and provide faster bus journeys from residential to commercial centres and employment bases.
- 3.15.2 The project would look at feasibility of introducing these systems in the Garw and Ogmore Valleys as part of the South-East Wales Metro as well as a review of the current rail stations in the Valley Gateway area that could be utilised for enhanced park & ride and interchange facilities. In the Pyle to Porthcawl travel corridor this project could include dedicated bus lanes and/or bus gates at congested junctions and be developed to complement and enhance the Metrolink bus facility in Porthcawl.
- 3.15.3 The emphasis for future bus related schemes would be on the use of ultra-low emission vehicles to meet carbon reduction targets. However, the development of this project will be dependent on the available bus resource and operator constraints going forward.

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

6. Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 There are no Climate Change Implications arising from this report, however, the development of active travel routes and public transport options also aims to reduce dependency on carbon intensive transport options.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 There are no Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 The work on the Porthcawl Metrolink project has been funded by the Welsh Government Local Transport Fund which is administered under the Cardiff City

Region's Metro Programme. The Active Travel programme is similarly funded through Welsh Government grants. As such these projects already form part of the capital programme.

- 8.2 Any future approved schemes will be subject to separate funding bids. Potential sources of funding for future technical work and construction include Section 106 planning contributions, Welsh Government grants, UK Government grants, Cardiff Capital Region Metro and City Deal initiatives.
- 8.3 The Council will need to fully explore future funding options and at this stage any match funding requirements or financial commitments from the Council on individual projects is unknown. Future reports will be brought to Cabinet with updates on funding bids. Any future capital schemes will need to be presented and approved by Council for inclusion in the Capital Programme.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 It is recommended that Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 notes the report.

Background documents

None

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Agenda Item 5

Meeting of:	SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3
Date of Meeting:	27 NOVEMBER 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 meetings 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 meetings;
- 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

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
Strategic Transport Projects	Transport Planning Future Priorities	<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment; Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration;</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Corporate Director, Communities; Group Manager Planning & Development Services; and Strategic Transportation Planning Team Leader</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> <p><u>Officers</u> Chief Executive Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change Corporate Director Communities</p>

APPENDIX A

Monday 26 February 2024 at 4.00pm		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Future Waste Services Work Stream post 2026 (Provisional)		<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Leader of the Council; Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment;</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Corporate Director, Communities Head of Operations - Community Services</p> <p><u>External</u></p>

Monday 22 April 2024 at 4.00pm		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
<p>Levelling Up Fund Porthcawl Pavilion</p> <p>Shared Prosperity Fund</p>	Progress update for year 2 of 3 year plan.	<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Wellbeing</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Corporate Director Communities Head of Operations - Community Services</p> <p>Group Manager - Strategic Regeneration</p> <p>Group Manager - Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability</p> <p><u>External</u></p>

Future Item to be scheduled:

Audit Wales - Springing Forward Asset Management Inspection report – Action Plan

Potential Items

- Update on Heat Network projects
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- 2030 Net Zero Carbon
- Porthcawl Regeneration Update
- Transforming Towns
 - Masterplans (Bridgend Town Centre and other Town masterplans)
 - Tourism (attracting tourism, including capacity for mobile accommodation)
 - Transport Plan Porthcawl
 - Maesteg Town Centre
- Housing (Affordable; Accessible; Social; Energy efficiency housing; Registered Social Landlords.)
- Play areas / opportunities
- Emerging Valleys Regeneration Strategy

Member Briefing sessions

- Infrastructure Delivery including specifically condition of the highways / potholes
- Corporate Joint Committees Regional Responsibilities
- Communities Directorate Target Operating Model (TOM)

Information reports

- Electric charging points update on position within the three phases currently and ongoing.
- Position update on Community Asset Transfers (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 mechanisms for managing risk and allowing projects to commence where Grant Funding had been agreed in principle, but not yet formalised.	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
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.
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	Corporate Director for Communities / Scrutiny	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 19 September 2023.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
		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.		
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 on leadership of certain service provisions. The Members requested that the outcome of this discussion be provided back to Committee as an information report.	Corporate Director for Communities / Democratic Services Manager	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 19 September 2023.
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	Corporate Director for Communities	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 19 September 2023.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
		(WLGA) which they intend to share in the next Budget Research and Evaluation Panel (BREP).		
25 Sept 2023	Homelessness Strategy	The Committee recommended to strengthen the Strategy in terms of support for veterans and Armed Services personnel.	Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change / Head of Partnerships	Recommendations circulated requesting response.
25 Sept 2023	Homelessness Strategy	The Committee recommended to maximise effectiveness of the Strategy, that the strategic priority objectives be reviewed to ensure that they are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timebound) and set out in the Action Plan and the timescales be broken down further detailing the year and month in which each action is planned to be achieved, so that progress can be clearly measured.	Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change / Head of Partnerships	Recommendations circulated requesting response.
25 Sept 2023	Homelessness Strategy	The Committee recommended that the Strategy be made more user friendly and as easy to navigate as possible.	Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change / Head of Partnerships	Recommendations circulated requesting response.
25 Sept 2023	Homelessness Strategy	The Committee requested a route map setting out the broad working practice model of what happens when someone presents as homeless, including the stages, timescales and type of services offered and where appropriate, average timescales for rehousing.	Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change / Head of Partnerships	Recommendations circulated requesting response.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
2 Oct 2023	Call In of Cabinet Decision: Hybont Project Gateway Review	The Committee concluded that the Decision would not be referred back to Cabinet.	-	Complete.

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