

# Public Document Pack

## Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

### Bridgend County Borough Council



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

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

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



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

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 /  
643694 / 643513

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

**Dyddiad/Date:** Wednesday, 10 July 2024

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 **Tuesday, 16 July 2024 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 meeting of the 22/04/24.
4. Valleys Regeneration Strategy 7 - 54

#### Invitees:

Councillor Neelo Farr – Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing

Janine Nightingale - Corporate Director, Communities

Delyth Webb – Group Manager, Strategic Regeneration

Ieuan Sherwood – Group Manager, Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability

5. Conclusions and Recommendations
6. Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination Report 55 - 58
7. Cabinet Response to Committee's Recommendations made on the Call In of the cabinet decision in relation to the proposed use of land transaction transfer protocol with Cardiff Capital Region for land at Brynmenyn and Bryncethin. 59 - 64

**By receiving this Agenda Pack electronically you will save the Authority approx. £01.64 in printing costs**

8. Forward Work Programme Update

65 - 82

9. Urgent Items

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

**Note: 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 would like to view this meeting live, please contact [cabinet\\_committee@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk) or tel. 01656 643148 / 643694 / 643513 / 643159.**

Yours faithfully

**K Watson**

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

Councillors:

S J Bletsoe  
JPD Blundell  
N Clarke  
RJ Collins

Councillors

C Davies  
P W Jenkins  
MJ Kearn  
W J Kendall

Councillors

J E Pratt  
G Walter  
I Williams  
MJ Williams

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 - MONDAY, 22 APRIL 2024

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 HELD REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY, 22 APRIL 2024 AT 16:00

Present Virtually

Councillor P Davies – Chairperson

S J Bletsoe  
P W Jenkins

N Clarke  
I Williams

C Davies  
MJ Williams

M J Evans

Apologies for Absence

MJ Kearn and W J Kendall

Officers:

Janine Nightingale  
Ieuan Sherwood  
Paul Smith

Corporate Director – Communities  
Group Manager – Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability  
Decarbonisation Programme Manager

Meryl Lawrence  
Lucy Beard

Senior Democratic Services Officer – Scrutiny  
Scrutiny Officer

Invitees:

Alasdair Wilcock

Director of Maple Cone

Declarations of Interest

None.

**70. Approval of Minutes**

Decision Made	<u>Resolved:</u> That the minutes of a meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 dated 25
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	September 2023, 19 March 2024 and 26 March 2024.
Date Decision Made	22 April 2024

Decision Made	<p><u>Resolved:</u> Following consideration of the report and detailed discussion with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers the Committee made the following comments and recommendations:</p> <p>The Committee discussed in detail the activity undertaken as part of the European Regional Development funded Caerau Heat Scheme project that had closed, including the creation of the Minewater Heat Toolkit and the recommendations evaluated by an external evaluator, the financial implications and total eligible cost of the scheme which had been approved by the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Having discussed the Caerau Heat Scheme report, Members felt there was an opportunity to strengthen the processes for management of future Research and Development projects. The Committee recommended that some research be undertaken of best practice processes for the management of Research and Development projects, including the management of finances and gateway protocols, to incorporate and strengthen the processes for any future projects of this type.</li> <li>2) Members felt it was important to keep moving forward, and while understanding that not all demonstrator projects would be successful, from the public’s perspective the Authority had to be responsible with the funding provided, so it was imperative to build on lessons that had been learned, where money is spent and explore where things could be done differently. Members acknowledged the toolkit created by the Authority following the Caerau Heat Scheme project and the lessons learned to share with others. The Committee recommended “that due consideration should be given to the financial risks, constraints and pressures for each and every similar type of project”, be added to the lessons learned.</li> </ol> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <p>The Committee requested the following additional information:</p> <p>Members discussed the financial implications, what the final cost of the scheme had been spent on over the life of the project and requested the break down / summary of the funding spent on the project, that the Corporate Director of Communities had advised could be shared with Members.</p>
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Date Decision Made	22 April 2024
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**Information Report for Noting - Quarter 3 Performance 2023/24**

Decision Made	<u>Resolved:</u> The Committee acknowledged the publication of the information report on Quarter 3 Performance 2023-24.
Date Decision Made	22 April 2024

**73. Forward Work Programme Update**

Decision Made	<p><u>Resolved:</u> The Committee considered and noted the Forward Work Programme Report and its appendices, agreeing that there was a need to consider key priorities for future items.</p> <p>Members also resolved that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Having regard to the length of time since last scrutinising Highways, the Committee requested that a report be added to the Forward Work Programme to include; repairs and maintenance, road resurfacing and potholes, network management, management of utilities, and the development of internal metrics for repairs, closing referrals, etc.</li> <li>b) Members requested a report to be provided on Progress on Empty homes in the County Borough, including the number, the Empty Homes Policy and Grants available and agreed to this being discussed at the next Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 work planning meeting with a view to whether the topic could be incorporated within the Housing report scheduled for the 30 September 2024.</li> <li>c) Following a briefing with Valley to Coast which was attended by some of the Committee members, members requested an opportunity to have a further discussion with Valley to Coast regarding operational practices.</li> <li>d) Members referred to a Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) report to Governance and Audit Committee in January, when it was agreed that the next DFG report would be reported to a Scrutiny Committee to be determined. Members felt that the positive earlier report had been contradicted by the Performance</li> </ul>
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	<p>Indicators reported in the Quarter 3 Performance 2023-24 Information Report noted by this Committee meeting and the Committee requested that next DFG report be reported to SOSC 3 for consideration.</p> <p>e) Concern was expressed regarding sickness levels in the Authority and its effect on decision-making in the Communities Directorate should sickness continue to increase, in particular the impact of sickness levels moving forward on whether to procure or explore bringing services in house. The Chair and Scrutiny Officer agreed to discuss in the next work planning meeting as either the item would be within the remit of this Committee or an overarching Authority report to a Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>
Date Decision Made	22 April 2024

**74. Urgent Items**

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	22 April 2024

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#) for Part One and this [link](#) for Part Two.

The meeting closed at 17.53.

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>16 JULY 2024</b>
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>VALLEYS REGENERATION STRATEGY</b>
<b>Report Owner / Corporate Director:</b>	<b>CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>DELYTH WEBB GROUP MANAGER STRATEGIC REGENERATION</b>
<b>Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:</b>	<b>There is no effect upon the policy framework and procedure rules.</b>
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<b>The report sets out the current position with the drafting of a Regeneration Strategy for the Valleys. The outcome of the consultation process to inform the strategy is summarised and the full report included at Appendix 1. The report also provides an update on current investment and project development in the Valleys as requested by the Committee.</b>

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on a Regeneration Strategy for our Valleys, and how progress is being made against the economic regeneration initiatives and projects set out under the Corporate Plan objective - A County Borough with thriving valleys communities.
- 1.2 The report also provides the Committee with an update on the outcome of the public consultation process concluded during February 2024 to support the development of a Regeneration Strategy for the Valleys ('the Strategy').

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The 2023-2028 Corporate Plan introduced a new objective to demonstrate a commitment to support the County Borough's Valleys Communities. Key commitments within this objective relate to providing vehicles to support Regeneration activity and investment in our Valleys and to develop a Regeneration Strategy for the Valleys.
- 2.2 The Corporate Plan also sets out a variety of commitments which will contribute to the regeneration of the environment and economy of the communities of the Llynfi, Garw and Ogmore Valleys.

2.3 A Regeneration Strategy will provide an overarching framework identifying key challenges and ensuring considered and deliverable priorities are set. It will enable projects and investment to be delivered that will make a difference to the Valley communities.

### **3. Current situation / proposal**

3.1 The Council has commissioned consultants, Mott Macdonald, to produce a Valleys Regeneration Strategy for the upper valleys of Ogmores, Garw and Llynfi. They have been working with officers to ensure that the views of our communities have been sought which will help to shape the strategy, and that the issues and challenges they have identified are accounted for when shaping priorities. The Strategy is due to be completed by March 2025.

3.2 Public consultation took place between 4th January 2024 and 4th February 2024. Local ward Members and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration were also invited to participate in a discussion with Mott Macdonald to support the work. The consultation survey aimed to gain views from as many different people and businesses as possible about what their ideas, options and priorities are.

3.3 Nine public engagement events were held throughout the consultation period, to encourage residents and members to share their views on the consultation. Posters were produced including details of the event which were shared via the Council's social media and distributed at key venues throughout the consultation areas and with relevant stakeholders.

3.4 Public consultation sessions were held at the following venues:

- Betws Life Centre
- Evanstown/Gilfach Goch Bowls Club
- Llangynwyd Village Hall
- Employability Bridgend Hub, Maesteg
- Noddfa Chapel, Caerau
- Blaengarw Workmen's Hall
- Garw Valley Life Centre
- The MEM Boys and Girls Club, Nantymoel
- Ogmores Valley Life Centre

3.5 These sessions were led by the Consultants on behalf of the Council. A total of 65 people attended the engagement sessions, providing the consultants with verbal information and opinions.

3.6 Details of the consultation were also shared with the following stakeholders:

- All schools within the Strategy focus areas.
- All Town and Community Councils within the Strategy focus areas.
- The Bridgend Employability Network, which is made up of key workers from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Job Centre Plus, BAVO, Careers Wales, Llamau, Age Concern, Citizen's Advice, Employability Bridgend, Multiply, Valleys 2 Coast, Hafod and many more.
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board.



- Bridgend County Borough Council departments including Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability, Planning, Highways, Heads of Service, Conservation, Equalities, Schools, Wellbeing.
- Local service providers including South Wales Police, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Transport for Wales, Awen Cultural Trust, Cwm Taf Morgannwg Local Health Board.

3.7 In total there were 498 submissions to the public consultation. 479 responses were submitted through the online survey, and 19 responses were submitted as paper copies.

3.8 The headline responses from the on-line consultation were as follows, with the full consultation report appended to this report as **Appendix 1**.

- 55.1% of respondents (269) travel out of the valleys daily to access work, facilities, and services.
- 36.1% of respondents (176) visit the village centre/local facilities weekly.
- The majority of respondents (438) live in the area(s).
- 120 respondents visit the village centre/local facilities between 5pm-7pm.
- 113 respondents state they visit the village centre/local facilities between 11am-1pm.
- The most popular mode of transport around the local area(s) is by car (423).
- 68.6% of respondents (313) think there are underused buildings within the area.
- 51.6% of respondents (220) think there are areas of underused land within the area.
- 87.6% of respondents (364) were not responding to the consultation as a representative of a business, service, or group.

3.9 A range of key priorities for the strategy to respond to were identified through the consultation process, and in discussion with local members, most notably:

- A very strong sense of local identity and community pride, and a feeling that the community should be at the heart of the valleys' identity and regeneration.
- A strong sense of pride in the valleys' landscapes and enthusiasm for making the countryside more accessible for the community and for visitors.
- A high level of community activity and volunteering, but more support is needed from the Council and other partners.
- Socio-economic issues are a key concern for the community. Regeneration must offer opportunities to benefit the deprived communities including better access to jobs and education.
- Public transport is seen as being of very poor quality and unreliable, including poor frequency and lack of evening services, particularly in the Garw and Ogmore Valleys.
- Vacant buildings and the general unattractiveness of the environment were highlighted as issues in the community survey.
- There is an aspiration for more events, culture and entertainment, including places to socialise in the evening and places to eat and drink.
- Long-term lack of investment in community facilities and open spaces is a concern for local people.

- 3.10 Alongside the consultants, officers have thoroughly reviewed the findings and will ensure that the primary outcomes will be incorporated and addressed in the draft Strategy.
- 3.11 It is set out clearly within the financial section of this report that there is no corporate or directorate budget ringfenced for the delivery of the priorities which will be set out in the Strategy. Therefore, the views of Scrutiny Committee Members are being sought on the direction and shape that the Strategy could take with this in mind.
- 3.12 Set out below is an update on those commitments already made within the Corporate Plan which will dovetail with the Strategy. This should help to guide the views of Members on the detail and level of commitment that the Council could provide to the public.
- 3.13 The Council has committed to the Valleys Properties Improvement grant ( currently supported by the Shared Prosperity Fund), in the Corporate Plan. This grant will support commercial property improvements to regenerate and improve the district centres and local service centres of the Garw, Llynfi and Ogmore Valleys (Bettws North, Bettws South, Blackmill, Blaengarw, Caerau, Nantymoel and Pontrhydydyff).
- 3.14 The purpose of the Valleys Properties Improvement grant is:
1. To enhance commercial frontages and bring vacant commercial floor space back into beneficial use.
  2. To convert vacant upper-floor space into new residential accommodation above commercial units, including internal and external works to bring vacant space back into use for residential purposes.
- 3.15 The grant has a generous intervention rate of up to 80% of eligible costs, up to a maximum grant award of:
- £30,000 for occupied properties,
  - £49,999 for properties that have been vacant for more than 6 months.
- 3.16 To date one project has works underway. Five more applications are currently being processed with new applications having been received for a further three projects. There has been significant interest in the grant from community owned venues.
- 3.17 Despite this, up-take of the grants has been slow as many properties have been empty for a long time. Therefore, the cost of bringing them back into use is high, even with the grant funding.
- 3.18 The Valleys Properties Improvement Grant has supported a condition survey, architectural assessment and concept designs for Bethania Chapel, Cwm Ogwr, to understand potential future uses for the building and how the building could deliver aspirations emerging from consultation during the Regeneration Strategy. This has given the owners the opportunity to understand how they could progress bringing the chapel back into use and its potential opportunity for community use.
- 3.19 Business Development Grants which support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to diversify, decarbonise and grow have also been awarded to eight business in the Valleys, totaling £175k, supported by the Shared Prosperity Fund.

- 3.20 In relation to the development of funding bids for the Valleys to enhance the economy and stimulate new job opportunities, a package of projects has been developed and submitted to the Cardiff Capital Region, City Deal Northern Valleys' initiative. To benefit the Garw Valley a package of projects concentrated around Parc Calon Lan is proposed, and if successful this could include investment into a combination of the following projects:
- Pump track re-development.
  - Work hub building & energy systems installation.
  - Refurbishment of existing mountain bike trails.
  - New mountain bike trail.
  - Improved footpaths.
  - Wi-Fi installation.
  - Interpretation Signs Design & Boards.
  - General Park / Route Signage.
- 3.21 Similar enhancements have also been proposed at Bedford Park. However, this sits outside the area defined covered within this report.
- 3.22 Work is also progressing to increase the amount of land and premises available for businesses, which includes industrial starter units in the Valleys. An additional bid has been made to the Northern Valleys' initiative to create 20 new 500sq ft industrial units at Penllywngwent Industrial Estate in Ogmore Vale. This, if supported by the fund, could draw in a grant of over £5m.

#### **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 This report provides an update on positive progress made in relation to commitments supporting Corporate and Wellbeing objective Three, A County Borough with thriving valleys communities.
- 5.2 The report contributes to the following goals within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:
- Long-term - The Strategy will provide a framework to deliver meaningful short, medium and long term projects in the Valley Communities. Investment will be made with long term vision with a long term vision to support future needs of those, living in, working in, and visiting the Valleys.
  - Prevention - The Strategy will support measures to enable investment in the local economy, provision of support to local business infrastructure and district centres. It

is the Council's responsibility to safeguard and enhance buildings and public realm to ensure they are inspiring.

- Integration - The Strategy will set out key objectives which bring together economic, educational, social, environmental & cultural projects to create an integrated community within the Valleys.
- Collaboration - The Strategy will be developed in collaboration with strategic partners operating key to delivery in the Valleys. Local consultation has taken place and the public response will be utilised to help shape the priorities and local projects.
- Involvement - The Council will require the leadership and engagement of all partners and stakeholders to deliver the various priorities within the Strategy.

## **6. Climate Change Implications**

6.1 There are no adverse Climate Change Implications from this report.

## **7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications**

7.1 There are no safeguarding and Corporate Parenting implications from this report.

## **8. Financial Implications**

8.1 The Valleys Regeneration Strategy has been funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund.

8.2 It has been reported at Cabinet and Corporate Management Board Meetings that there is currently no ringfenced finance in place to deliver or implement the work emulating from the Valleys Regeneration Strategy.

8.3 The on-going work and development of projects identified within this report are largely funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund programme currently being delivered across the County Borough. Against a backdrop of a very difficult financial position, projects in development are in preparation to be submitted to grant funding programmes as and when the appropriate funding stream and opportunities arise.

8.4 There are no direct financial implications for the Council as a result of the recommendations set out in this report. All financial considerations on investment in projects resulting from the Strategy would have to be made on a project by project basis. Any projects requiring BCBC capital match would have to identify the funding source and be approved by Council before being included in the Capital Programme.

## **9. Recommendations**

9.1 The Committee is recommended to accept the above as an update on a Regeneration Strategy and supporting initiatives within the Bridgend Valleys.

9.2 The Committee is recommended to take the opportunity to engage in and support the on-going development of the Regeneration Strategy for Bridgend Valleys. It is recommended that the Committee considers and comments on the consultation responses with any recommendations being reported and incorporated within the Strategy prior to Cabinet endorsement.

## **Background documents**

Corporate Plan 2023 - 2028

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# Valleys Regeneration Strategy

## Consultation Report

**Date of issue:** February 2024



UK Government Wales  
Llywodraeth y DU Cymru

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**LEVELLING  
— UP —**

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## 1. Overview

Bridgend County Borough Council with the support of UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, have commissioned consultants Mott Macdonald to produce a Valleys Regeneration Strategy for the upper valleys of the Ogmore, Garw and Llynfi.

To ensure our strategy reflects on priorities of the people living, working, and visiting the valleys a public consultation was undertaken between 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

In total, there were **498 responses** to the public consultation, including online and paper completions.

## 2. Introduction

A public survey was available to complete online through a link on the consultation page of the council's website. Paper copies of the consultation were also available, which could be sent directly to residents upon request.

Surveys were available in Welsh and English Language; alternative copies were available upon request.. Respondents could choose to answer all or some questions. All survey responses offered the option of anonymity.

## 3. Marketing and engagement methods

Details of the consultation were shared with the following stakeholders:

- All schools within the Strategy focus areas.
- All Town and Community Councils within the Strategy focus areas.
- The Bridgend Employability Network, which is made up of key workers from DWP Job Centre Plus, BAVO, Careers Wales, Llamau, Age Concern, Citizen's Advice, Employability Bridgend, Multiply, Valleys 2 Coast, Hafod and many more.
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board.
- BCBC departments including Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability, Planning, Highways, Heads of Service, Conservation, Equalities, Schools, Wellbeing.
- Local service providers including South Wales Police, south Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Transport for Wales, Awen Cultural Trust, Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

Posters were also distributed to a range of venues across the valleys, including:

- GP surgeries
- Community Centres/Village Halls
- Libraries
- Post Offices
- Newsagents

### 3.1. Marketing

This section details methods used to raise the profile of the consultation and encourage participation.

#### 3.1.1. Social media

The council runs the following social media accounts: Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn.

The public consultation was posted bilingually to the council's corporate Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn channels throughout the consultation period, to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage citizens to share their views on the strategy.

The council currently has 14,766 followers on its English Twitter account and 373 on its Welsh Twitter account, 20,087 followers on its English Facebook page and 262 on the Welsh Facebook page, 3,335 followers on Instagram and 7298 followers on LinkedIn and 209 subscribers on YouTube.

The table below shows the total level of engagement with social media posts promoting the consultation during the live period. Figures include both English and Welsh social media posts.

<b>Impressions</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Link clicks</b>
39,750	107	98	345

#### 3.1.2. Engagement HQ

Engagement HQ is a digital engagement platform that was implemented by the local authority in December 2022, to support the council's online consultation and engagement activities. The platform is available in both English and Welsh Language.

The online survey was published using Engagement HQ, with the link available on the consultation page of the council's website.

# Visitors Summary

Be involved, Bridgend from 04 Jan'24 to 04 Feb'24



The above image shows an overview of visitors to the Valleys regeneration consultation project page on Engagement HQ.

The table below shows a highlight of traffic to the Engagement HQ project page for the Valleys Regeneration consultation.

Aware visitors	1,259
Informed visitors	856
Engaged visitors	496
Visits referred from social media	674
Visits referred from council's website	44
Visitors from search engine	22
Direct	425
Referrals	247

### 3.1.3. Media and Publicity

A press release was issued as part of the weekly-round up on 6 January 2024, to raise awareness and encourage participation.

Cllr Huw David (Leader of Bridgend Council) also shared in his regular update emails to his list of contacts which include local councillors, MP's, MS's.

### 3.1.4. Gov Delivery

GovDelivery is a digital communications tool that was implemented by the local authority in June 2020, to send messages directly to residents' email inboxes in the language of their choice.

There are currently 35,143 English language and 283 Welsh language users who have subscribed to receive the council’s weekly update emails.

The Valleys Regeneration Consultation was included in the resident’s bulletin on 4 January 2024 , which included links to the strategy and online survey.

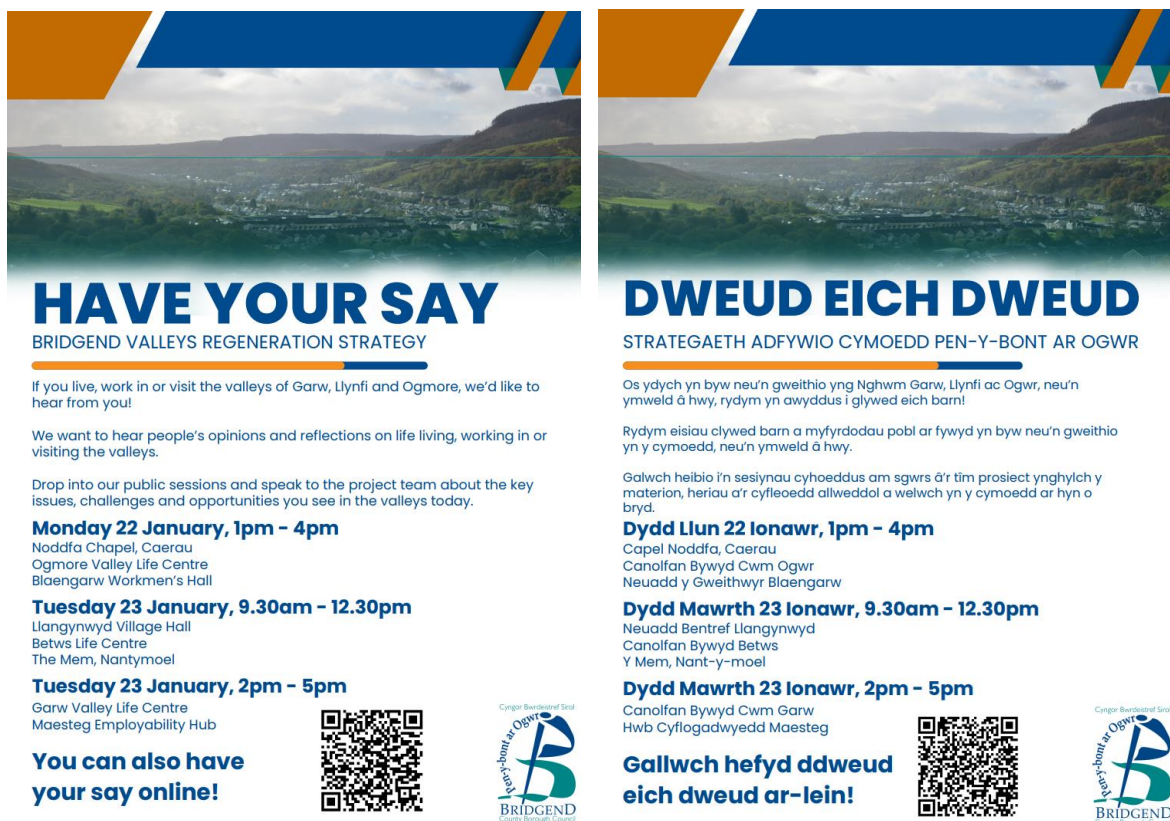
The table below shows when details were included in bulletin as well as the number of click through links to the survey in both English and Welsh language.

Date	Total English clicks	Total Welsh clicks
4 January 2024	212	0

### 3.2. Engagement Events

Nine public engagement events were held throughout the consultation period,, to encourage residents and members to share their views on the consultation.

The posters below were produced including details of the event which were shared via the council’s social media, and distributed at key venues throughout the consultation areas and with relevant stakeholders (section 3)



Public consultation sessions were held at the following venues:

- Betws Life Centre
- Evanstown/Gilfach Goch Bowls Club
- Llangynwyd Village Hall
- Employability Bridgend Hub, Maesteg

- Noddfa Chapel, Caerau
- Blaengarw Workmen's Hall
- Garw Valley Life Centre
- The MEM Boys and Girls Club, Nantymoel
- Ogmore Valley Life Centre

A total of **65** people attended the engagement sessions.

#### 4. Response Rate

In total there were **498** submissions to the public consultation. **479** responses were submitted through the online survey, and **19** responses were submitted as paper copies.

#### 5. How effective was the consultation?

The data collection methods, which include the online survey and a paper survey were developed using plain English to maximise understanding. These response methods were designed to give a consistency to the survey across multiple platforms.

#### 6. Headline figures

- 205 respondents selected to comment on the Garw Valley.
- 184 respondents selected to comment on the Llynfi Valley.
- 148 respondents opted to comment on the Ogmore Valley.
- 55.1% of respondents (269) travel out of the valleys daily to access work, facilities, and services.
- 36.1% of respondents (176) visit the village centre/local facilities weekly.
- The majority of respondents (438) live in the area(s).
- 120 respondents visit the village centre/ facilities between 5pm-7pm.
- 113 respondents state they visit the village centre/facilities between 11am-1pm.
- The most popular mode of transport around the local area(s) is by car (423).
- 68.6% of respondents (313) think there are underused buildings within the area.
- 51.6% of respondents (220) think there are areas of underused land within the area.
- 87.6% of respondents (364) were not responding to the consultation as a representative for business, service, or group.

## 7. Questions and analysis - consultation Survey

### 7.1. Language used to complete the survey.

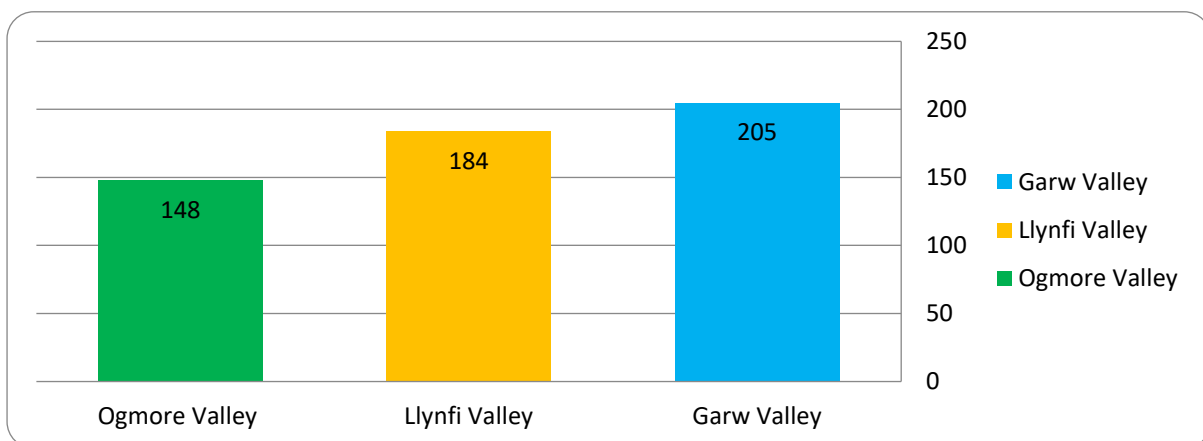
Respondents to the consultation survey were initially asked in which language they would like to complete the survey. Overall, 99.6% of respondents selected English with 0.4% selecting Welsh.

Language	#	%
English	496	99.6%
Welsh	2	0.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 8. Survey Questions and Analysis:

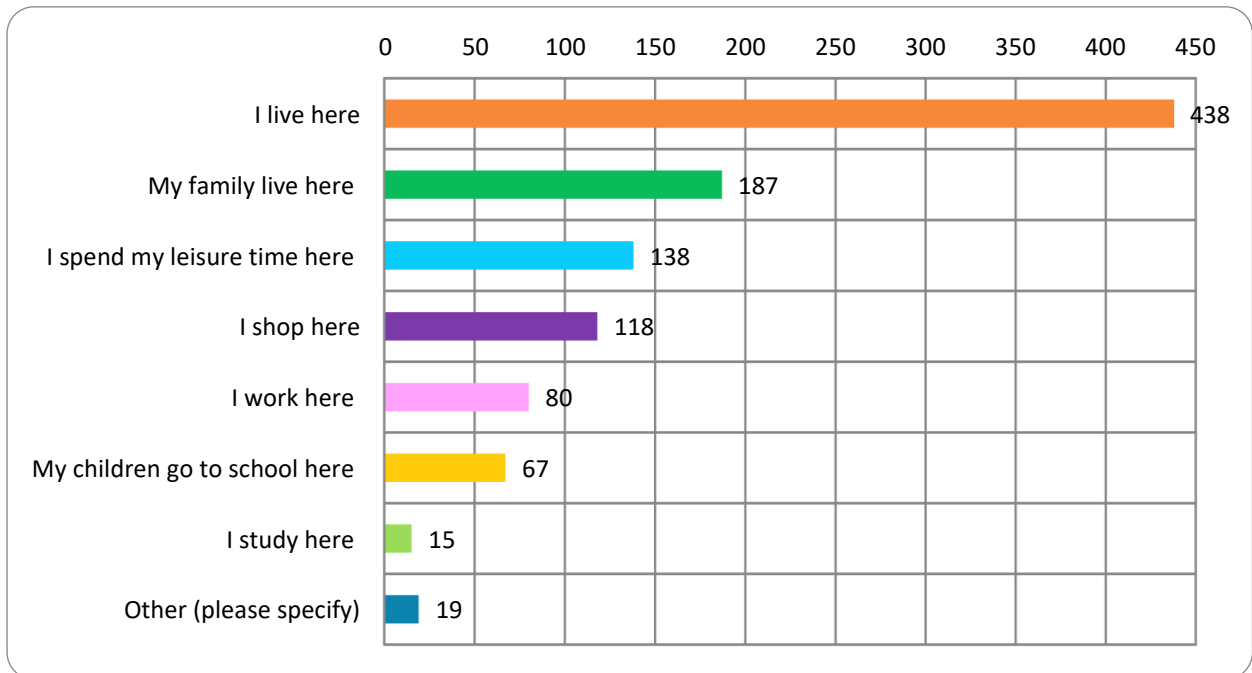
This section outlines and analyses all questions asked in the online survey. All questions were optional, so participants could choose to answer all or some of the questions.

What area would you like to comment on?  
(Tick all that apply)



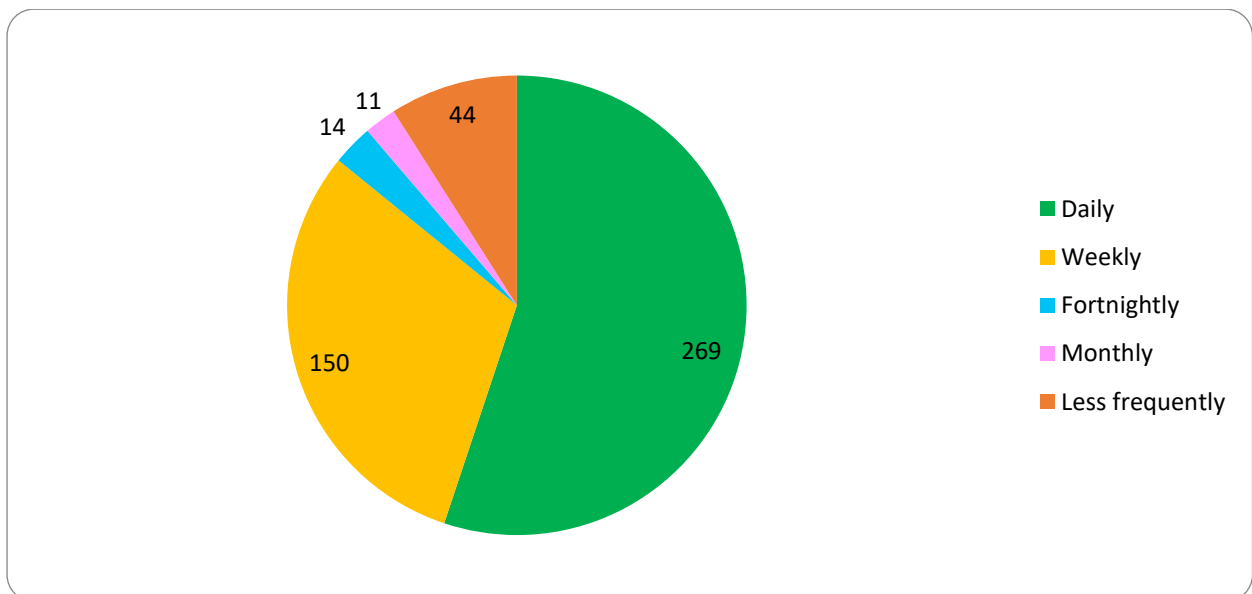
As shown above, 205 respondents selected to comment on the Garw Valley, 184 selected the Llynfi Valley and 148 opted to comment on the Ogmore Valley. Respondents were able to select all the Valleys that apply to them.

What is your connection to the area?  
(Tick all that apply)



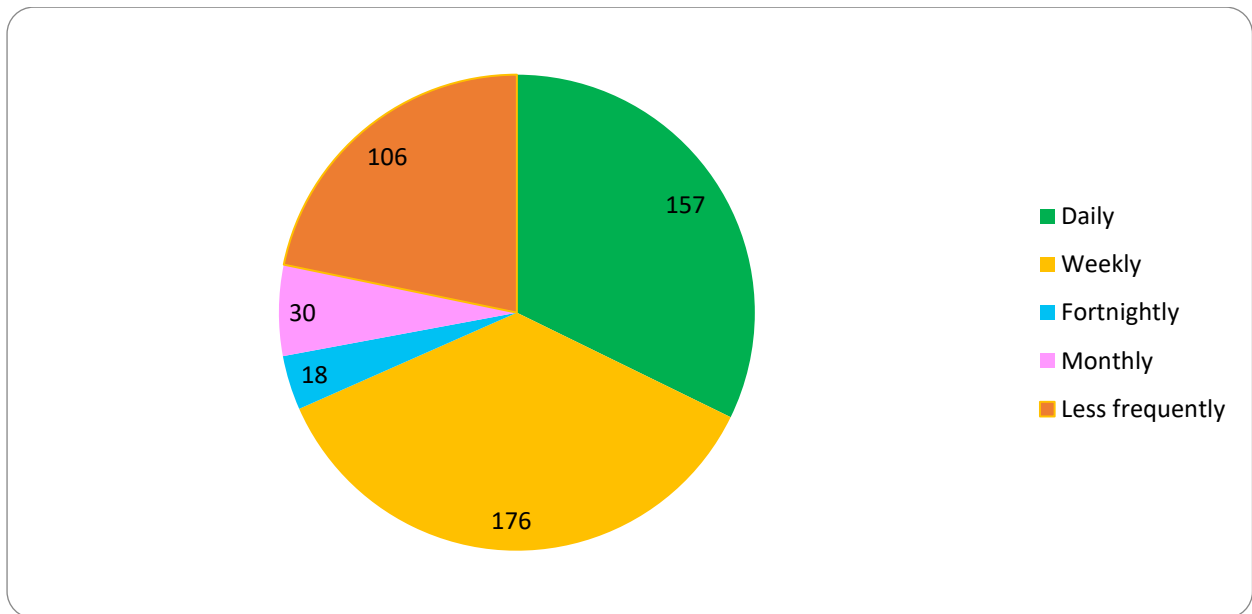
As shown above, the majority of respondents (438) live in the area(s). 187 respondents have family living in the area(s), and 138 respondents state that they spend their leisure time at the area(s). Respondents were able to select all the options relevant to them.

How often do you travel out of the Valleys area to access work, facilities, and services?



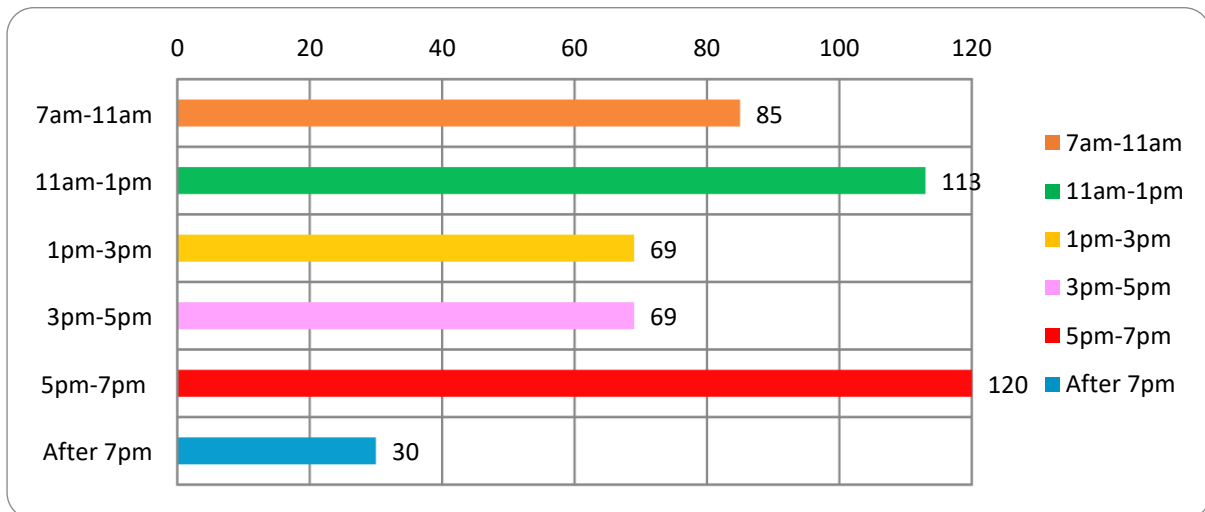
As shown above, 55.1% of respondents (269) travel out of the valleys daily to access work, facilities, and services. 30% of respondents (150) travel out of the area weekly, and 9% (44) travel less frequently.

How often do you visit the village centre/local facilities?



As shown above, 36.1% of respondents (176) visit the village centre/local facilities weekly, where as 32.2% (157) visit daily. 21.8% of respondents (106) state that they visit less frequently and 6.2% (30) visit monthly. Only 3.7% of respondents (18) selected that they visit the centre/local facilities fortnightly.

What times of the day do you visit the village centre/local facilities?

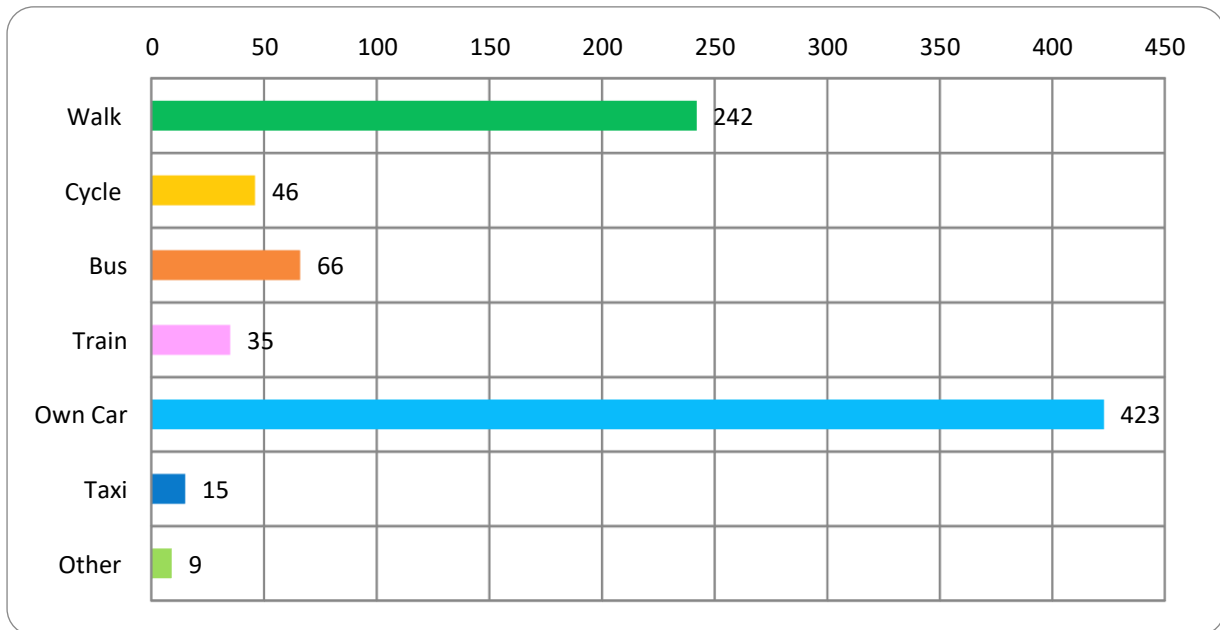


This question was a multiple choice, allowing respondents to select the times relevant to them.

As shown above, 120 respondents visit the village centre/ facilities between 5pm-7pm. 113 respondents visit between 11am-1pm, and 85 respondents visit between 7am-11am. 69 respondents visit the centre/facilities, and further 69 respondents visit between 3pm-5pm. Only 30 respondents visit the village centre / local facilities after 7pm.



What modes of travel do you frequently use to travel to, from and around the local area?



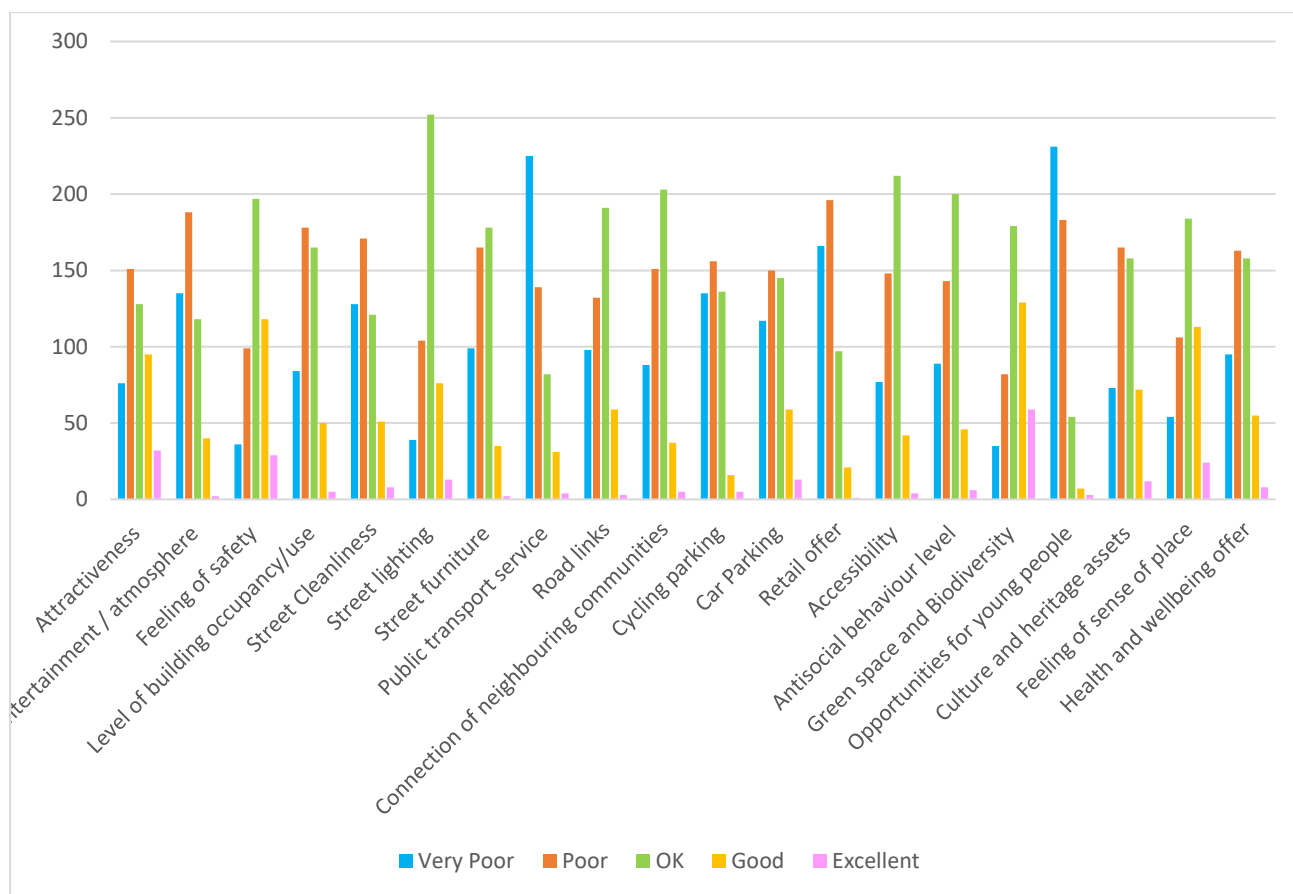
This question was a multiple choice, allowing respondents to select the times relevant to them.

As shown above, the most popular mode of transport around the local area is by car (423). Although 242 respondents walk to, from and around the local area. 66 respondents rely on the bus service, and 46 respondents' cycle to, from and around the area. 35 respondents selected they travel by train and 15 respondents use a Taxi. 9 respondents selected other.

Respondents that selected other were asked to specify their mode of transport. Comments are displayed below:

Work van	2
Motorbike	1
Assisted mobility services	1
I never drove till I moved here at 35yo!!!! And now I've had to take my test! So, I'm able to keep any type of employment as we have a pathetic bus service in this valley Why don't we have a turnaround bus from the valley to the pines then you can jump on another bus to Bridgend if needed	1
Lifts in car from family	1
Befriender	1
Car. As husband disabled	1

What do you think about the following elements within the area(s)?



As shown in the graph above, the top three elements with the highest rating are as follows; 252 respondents rate the street lighting within the area as OK. 231 respondents feel opportunities for young people are very poor. 225 respondents rated public transport service as very poor.

Rates for each element are shown in appendix A.

Are there any other elements you'd like to comment on?

Respondents were given the opportunity to comment on any other elements, comments received are themed into the table below.

Limited and unreliable public transport	39
Cycle tracks need improving / safety	23
Litter / fly tipping is an issue	20
Poor sporting facilities	16
Pot holes / poor roads and pavements	15
Too many vacant and neglected buildings / areas	15
Not enough diversification of stores/food outlets	15
Dog fouling / More dog bins and signs	14
No opportunities or provision for the Youth	14
No elements to comment on	11
Lack of changing rooms / Toilet facilities – Ogmores RFC	10
Garw valley is neglected / underused	10

Childrens parks / green areas are not maintained	9
Illegal parking	7
More bins	7
Anti-social behaviour	7
Street maintenance is needed	6
Valleys are run down	6
20mph	5
Maintenance of over grown grass verges and weeds	4
Lack of funding for surgeries / Access to GPs	4
No employment / training opportunities	4
Wind turbines cause visual and noise pollution	4
Unsafe car parking - Maesteg / Llynfi Valley	3
Drugs are an issue	3
Much less investment to valley areas	3
Too much traffic / speeding through the village	3
Recycling collection is unreliable	2
Maesteg Town hall is over due	2
Poor street lighting	2
Background paper 8 regarding the new LDP J36 / Junction over stretched	2
Need more police presence	2
Better housing development is needed	2
Travel links are poor	2
Multiple walking routes / Countryside views	2
Do not support 15-minute cities proposal	2
Parking permits needed for some streets as home owners struggle to park.	1
Maesteg station car parking controlled by Asda	1
Restricted parking in town centre – Llynfi Valley	1
Pedestrian routes needed in and out of Llynfi Valley	1
No safe cycle routes out of the Llynfi Valley	1
Maesteg Town centre is poor	1
One Petrol station monopolising the area - Maesteg	1
Motorbikes damaging countryside	1
Speed awareness signs	1
No public toilets	1
Reassess school transport provision	1
Limited library open times	1
Better gym / leisure centre opening hours	1
Ewenny Road Ind Est is wasted	1
More development of green space is needed	1
Farm animals escaping is an issue – Blaengarw	1
Halo 3G pitch is poor and not maintained	1
Lack of road signs for speed limits	1
Streets do not meet accessibility requirements	1
No post office	1

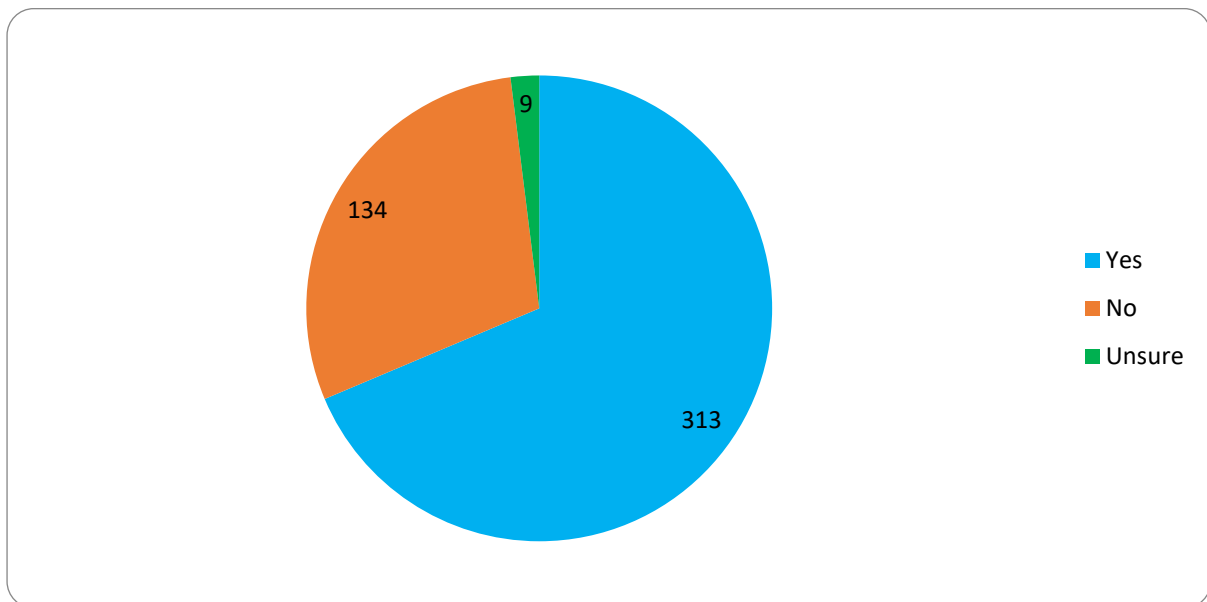
As shown, the top three themes identified from this question are as followed; 39 respondents feel there is limited and unreliable transport within the area. 20 respondents mentioned that Litter and fly tipping is an issue, 23 respondents highlighted that cycle tracks need improving and to be made safer for cyclists.

Are there any other services you would like to see available in the area(s)? Please specify:

Improved public transport	78
More diverse shops / food outlets	34
More opportunities for the Youth	30
More sporting facilities	13
More police presence	13
More community hubs / groups	10
Improved cycling infrastructure	9
Street, paths, and parks maintenance	9
More bins / litter pickers	8
Better access to public services	8
Changing rooms - Ogmores Rugby field	7
Swimming pool	7
Childcare opportunities	6
Better taxi services	6
More fitness and wellbeing services	5
More entertainment facilities - Cinema, music etc	5
More children / baby classes	5
Improved road / pavement maintenance	4
Make use of Maesteg Hospital for minor injuries	4
Visible traffic enforcement	4
3G /4G Pitch	4
Improve outdoor areas and walking routes	4
Facilities for co-working spaces	3
Petrol station	3
Utilise empty stores	3
Further education / training opportunities	3
Encourage small local businesses	3
More support and opportunities for seniors / elderly	3
Better social housing / housing developments	3
Make existing services dependable	3
Improved recycling collection service	3
Employment opportunities	2
Promotion of road safety	2
Skate parks	2
Cycle path to and from Maesteg	2
Prevention of anti-social behaviour	2
Improved access to library service	2
Better park facilities	2
Smaller bus services to the Valley to reduce costs	1
Local pubs	1
Chiropractors	1

Utilise community centre for groups and services	1
Bigger gym facilities in Ogmore	1
75 bus service re-established	1
Shelter homes	1
Supermarkets	1
More car parking	1
Accessible public transport for disabled people	1
Dog wardens	1
Local community events and markets	1
Education / crime prevention for younger people	1
Post office	1
Activities for children during school holidays	1
Private carers covering the Valley areas	1
More History of the valley displays	1
Recycling plant	1
School transport to reduce congestion	1
Free cash points	1
Free parking at train stations	1
Bank	1
More valley investment	1
Volunteer transport	1
New rugby pavilion	1
New school that was proposed	1

Are there any buildings that you think are underused?



As shown above, 68.6% of respondents (313) think there are underused buildings within the area. 29.4% of respondents (134) selected no, and 9 respondents state they were unsure.

If yes, please state the addresses/business names:

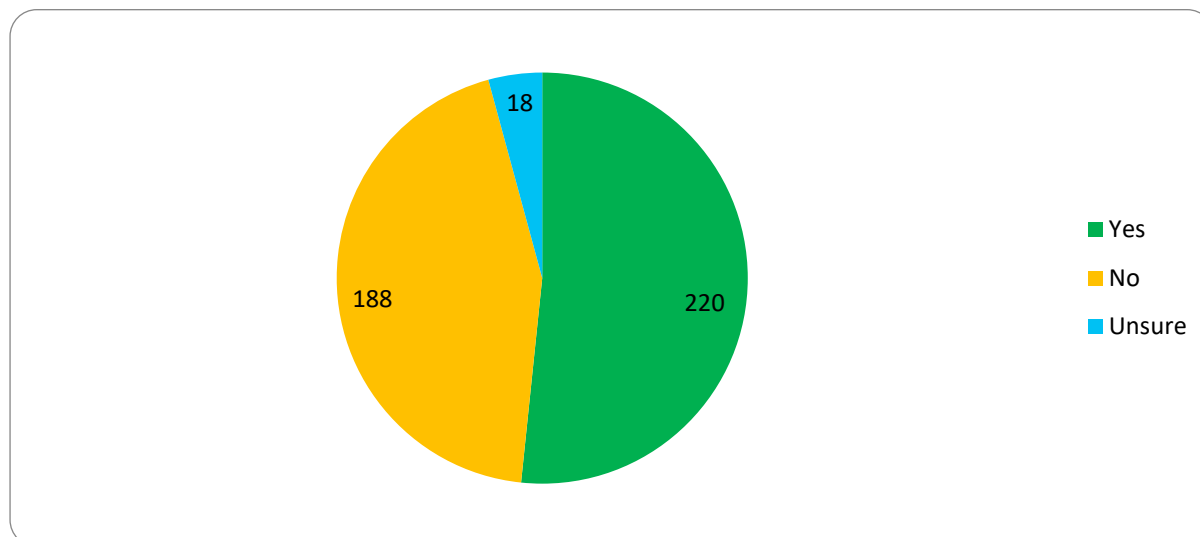
Respondents that selected yes for the previous question were asked to provide further details of the location for any underused buildings. Comments are shown in the table below.

Commercial Street Maesteg	36
Royal Hotel, Pontycymer	20
Old Family Value, Maesteg	17
Old Petrol station, Ogmores Vale	14
Empty Commercial Properties	14
Blaengarw Working Men's Hall	13
Oxford Street, Pontycymer	12
Old Opticians (Randall's, Randall Davies), Maesteg	12
All Chapels	9
The Star, Maesteg	9
Old Wilko's Building, Maesteg	8
Taravella's, Maesteg (Building at bottom of Neath Road)	8
High Street	7
Maesteg Town Hall	7
Old Post office	5
Old HSBC, Maesteg	5
Garw Life Centre	4
Katie Street, Blaengarw	4
Bettws Life Centre	3
The Richard Price Centre, Llangeinor	3
The Prince, Maesteg	3
Ogmores Vale RFC Changing rooms	3
Community Centre	3
Shops in Pontycymer	3
Nantylfyllon Miner's Institute (Miner's Libraries)	3
Abandoned Garage as entering Ogmores Vale	2
Bowrington Arcade, Maesteg	2
Talbot Street, Maesteg	2
Halo Life Centre should be community Hub	2
The Vic	2
Bethania Chapel	2
Scout Hall, Ogmores	2
Life Centre	2
Properties in Neath Road (No.44?)	2
Bethnal Church Unit	1
Tabernacle Chapel	1
Empty shops, Strand Blaengarw	1
The Royal Pub	1
Evanstown community centre	1
Café, 13 Katie Street	1
Flats by Ogmores Vale Primary	1
Shops on Ogmores High Street	1
Flats leading to Wyndham	1

The Lodge	1
Former Rock on Picton Street	1
Empty commercial properties, Ogmore	1
Blackmill Community Centre	1
Caerau Road	1
Blackmill Village	1
Pub on Bridgend Road	1
Blaen Caerau Road	1
Church in Meadow Street	1
Housing by Ogmore Primary School	1
Tennis Courts	1
Blaengarw Community Centre	1
Bettws Community Centre	1
The Strand	1
Llan Village Hall	1
Empty Homes in Caerau	1
Llangeinor football field	1
Caerau Church Hall	1
Llynfi Lodge	1
Old shop, Lewistown	1
Maesteg Sports Centre	1
Chapel opposite boxing club	1
Maesteg Welfare Park	1
Charity Shops	1
Mem Boys Club	1
Closed Hotel	1
Closed toilets, Nantymoel	1
Nantymoel High Street	1
Sports Centre	1
North Hall	1
88 Picton Street	1
Blaengarw RFC	1
The Centre, Pontycymer	1
Old Catholic Church, Caerau	1
The Old post office	1
All Maesteg	1
Court House, Station Street	1
Beethoven's, Castle Street Maesteg	1
Coytrahen Community centre	1
Old Garage, Cemetery Road	1
Abandoned buildings	1
Old Hairdressers, Picton Street Nantyfflon	1
Tylagwn Chapel	1
Old Hotel Pontycymer	1
Empty houses	1
Bryant Centre	1

As shown above, the top three locations for underused buildings were Commercial Street, Maesteg (36), followed by Royal Hotel, Pontycymer (20), and the Old Family Value building in Maesteg (17).

Are there any areas of land you think are underused?



As shown, 51.6% of respondents (220) think there are underused land within the area. 44.1% of respondents (188) selected no, and 4.2% (9) respondents state they were unsure.

If yes, please state the location:

Respondents that selected yes for the previous question were asked to provide further details of the location for any used land. Comments are shown in the table below.

Old Revlon Site, Maesteg Ewenny Rd	45
Carn football field, Garw	13
Ogmore Park / Rugby Field - No changing rooms	13
Old Washeries Site, Ogmore	9
Marshy land at western side of the Planka (rugby and football fields), Ogmore	7
Blaengarw Rugby Club	5
Land from over grown bushes	3
Cycle track, Garw	3
Parc Calon Lan	3
Ffaldau Colliery / Pub	3
Disused Petrol station, Ogmore	3
Football field Blaengarw	2
Old Cadets, Victoria Street Pontycymer	2
BMX track in Caerau	2
Maesteg Welfare Park	2
Green space between River Street and Bridge Street - Maesteg	2
Playing fields	2



Cabbage patch, Garw	2
Coegnant Colliery site, Llynfi	2
Old nursery land at top of Park Avenue.	2
Green spaces not used for walking, Garw	1
The old church near Bryn Bedw, the old school in King Edward Street, Garw	1
Park Street Swing Park, Garw	1
Marian Street Park, Garw	1
Lawrence Park football field, Garw	1
Garnwen mountain	1
Castle Street, Llynfi	1
Underground Car park Aldi - Maesteg	1
Church in St Jones Street, Ogmore	1
Car park in Calon lan	1
Visitor Centre, Parc Calon Lan, Garw	1
Blackmill sheep fields	1
Opposite David St, Blaengarw	1
All 3 lakes and surrounding areas, Garw	1
Green space between the Forge and Tesco - Maesteg	1
Old Aber school - Ogmore Vale	1
Old Berwyn site, Nantymoel	1
The brownfield area in front of Victoria Street, Garw	1
Area in front of Gwendoline Street Blaengarw	1
The Cycle Path from Pontycymer to Brynmenyn	1
Community Park near Llangynwyd fields	1
The Strand Pocket Park, Blaengarw	1
Garw Valley	1
Behind City Road, Garw	1
Crown Park, Llynfi	1
Land by Ogmore industrial estate	1
High Street	1
The royal pub (Bridgend rd., Pontycymer)	1
The Square Blaengarw - broken steps and seats	1
Running track by Blaengarw Primary	1
The Courts, Garw	1
Old Lewistown Football Club	1
Old Bergen Centre land, Ogmore	1
Green behind Victoria St + the old Brewers Garages site, Llynfi	1
Area by Leisure Centre, Garw	1
Coytrahen playing fields	1
Old School building - Land Hill view, Garw	1
Pontycymer Square	1
Betws Fields	1
Llangynwyd Rangers has an area big enough to host an all-surface pitch	1
Green area by the lake by David Street. Garw	1
Evanstown forestry could be developed for recreational use.	1
Area by children's play park and further along towards top of Nantymoel	1
Abercerdin playing fields - poorly maintained	1

Allotments in cemetery road. Ogmore	1
Underground Car park Aldi - Maesteg	1
CF32 8EB	1
All of the playing fields. Lighting and Astro turf or all-weather flooring would encourage more sports activities. Ogmore	1

As shown above, the top three locations for underused land were the Old Revlon Site, Ewenny Road Maesteg (45), followed by Carn Football Field (13), and Ogmore Park / Rugby Field (13).

What do you think would make the area better?

Improved public transport links and facilities	52
Regular maintenance of roads / pathways	40
Improved cycling / walking routes	27
Better facilities and activities for Children & Youth	26
More diverse Shops / Food outlets in town	25
Regular bin emptying / street cleaning	19
More sporting facilities	19
Investment and development	15
Entertainment facilities and community activities	14
Changing rooms in Ogmore RFC	12
Prevent littering / fly tipping	10
More outdoor seating areas	10
Utilise vacant properties	9
Support for local businesses	9
Plant more trees / protect green spaces	9
Improve education / employment opportunities	8
3G / 4G Sports pitch	8
More police presence	8
Public safety – Street lights	8
Generate tourism / more attractions	7
Better quality affordable housing	7
More parking	6
Finish Maesteg Town Hall	5
Better refuge / recycling collection service	4
More leisure facilities – Gym and swimming pool	4
Celebrate / promote local history	3
Improved accessibility	3
Replace coop with supermarket	3
Stop drug use	3
More CCTV	2
Promotion of valley walks / countryside	2
More bins	2
Roads back to 30mph	2
Restriction on loud exhausts from cars	2
Parking at train stations – Ewenny and Garth	2
Enforcement of illegal parking	2

Better contact with local councillors	2
Accessible swimming pool	2
Retail Park / outlet on Ewenny Road Industrial Estate	1
Accessible leisure facilities	1
Maesteg Welfare Park has potential – Café, toilets	1
Support for surgeries	1
Traffic management at school hours – Cwmfelin	1
Speeding control on bend from Ogmere to Lewistown	1
More EV charging points	1
Solar panels	1

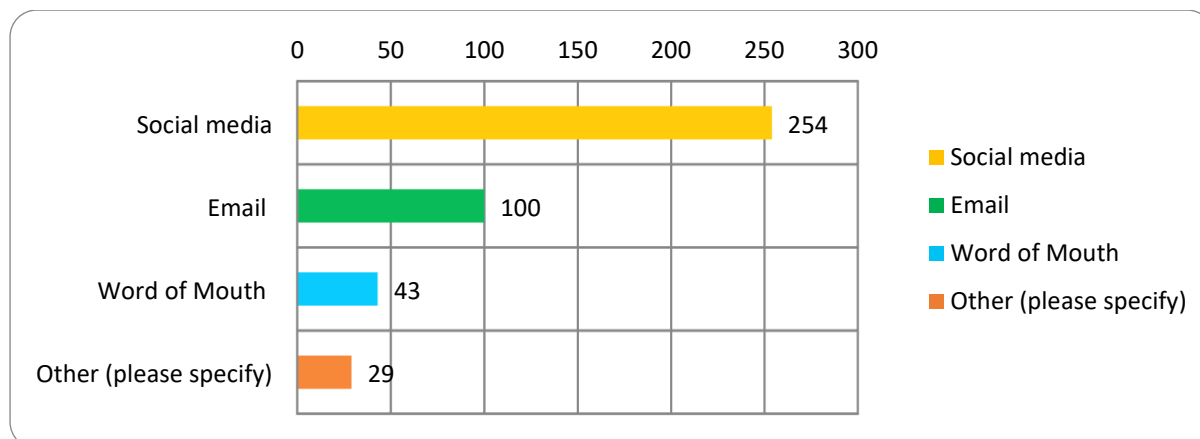
As shown above, the top three themes mentioned to make the area better are as followed; 52 respondents suggested making improvements to public transport links and facilities. 40 respondents highlighted that regular maintenance of roads and public pathways would make the area better. 27 respondents feel that there should be improvements to cycling and walking routes throughout the area.

## Part 2 - About yourself

What is your post code:

344 respondents provided a post code for this question. A list of post codes can be found in appendix B.

Where did you find out about this consultation?

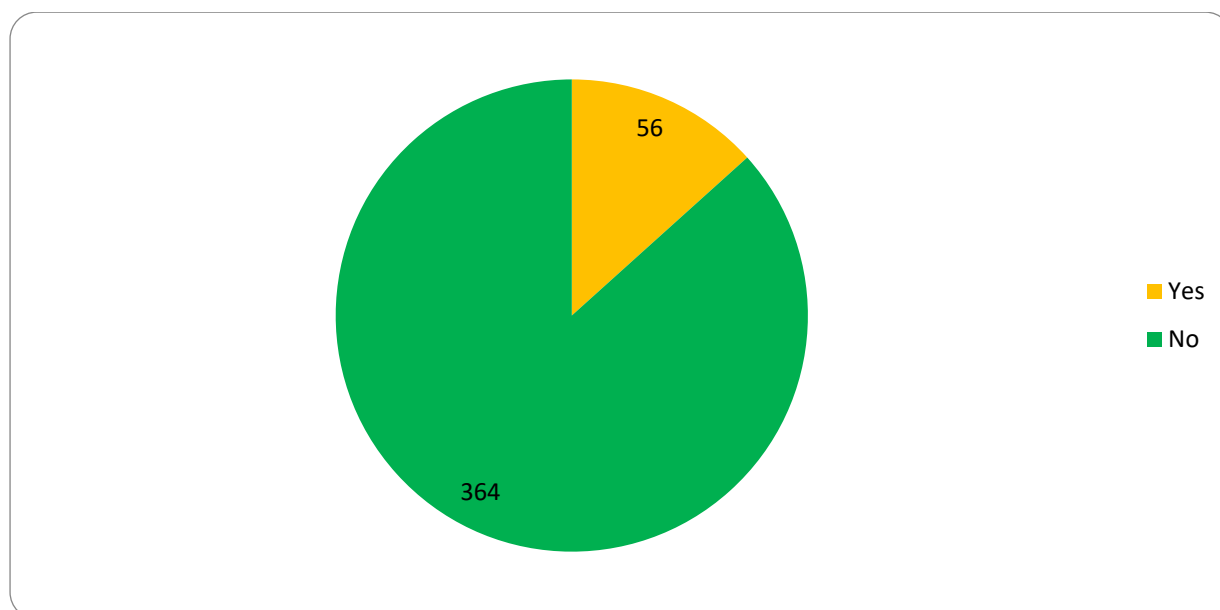


As shown above, 59.6% of respondents (254) found out about this consultation via social media. 23.5% respondents (100) were informed via email, and 10.1% of respondents (43) heard via word of mouth. 6.8% of respondents (29) selected other.

Those respondents that selected other were asked to specify where they were informed about the consultation. Comments are shown in the table below.

School	7
Family member / friends	5
BCBC website	5
Public consultation	2
Club Secretary	2
Leaflet	2
Betws Life Centre	1
Bridgenders	1
Coffee morning	1
Links through work	1
Facebook	1
WhatsApp group	1

Do you represent a local business, service provider or community group?



As shown, 13.3% of respondents (56) responded to this consultation representing a local business, service, or community group. 87.6% of respondents (364) were not responding as a representative for business, service, or group.

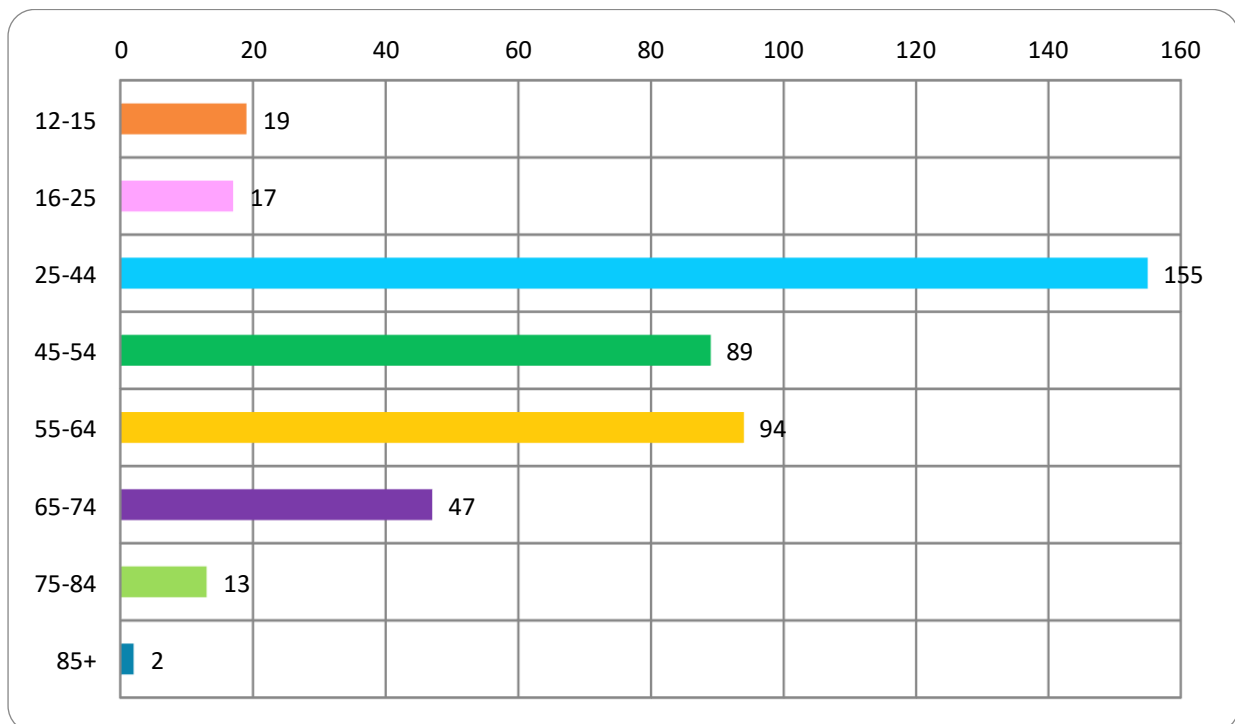
If yes, please specify:

Those respondents that stated they were responding representing a business, service, or community group were asked to specify. Comments are shown in the below table.

Ogmore vale RFC	5
Awen cultural trust	4
Llan rangers football club	4
Carn rovers football club	2
Caerau men's shed.	2
Abilitynet	1
Bavo	1
Blaengarw RFC	1
Blaengarw workmen's hall	1
Caerau environmental group	1
Cardiff city supporters' group	1
Chair of governors Betws /Blaengarw primary federation	1
Church	1
Fudgey's health and fitness club	1
Garw valley cafe owner	1
Gelli'r onn farm t/a garw valley pedigree highlands (livestock farm)	1
Garw valley heritage society.	1

I run my own flooring company and sponsor all the sports around the valley.	1
Committee of a local club	1
Invest local caerau (member)	1
Libraries	1
Llangynwyd community association (village hall)	1
Local farm	1
Maesteg comprehensive school	1
Maesteg ukulele club	1
NHS	1
Noddfa youth & community project	1
Ogmore valley ravens	1
Ogmore valley community council	1
Ogmore valley local history society	1
Our Welsh caravan & camping	1
Peniel church	1
Rugby club	1
School	1
St brides' community council	1
Tanio	1
Tondu and aberkenfig community association	1
Valley ravens Pontycymer rugby	1
Zenrs ltd	1
Member of caerau dementia friendly support group.	1

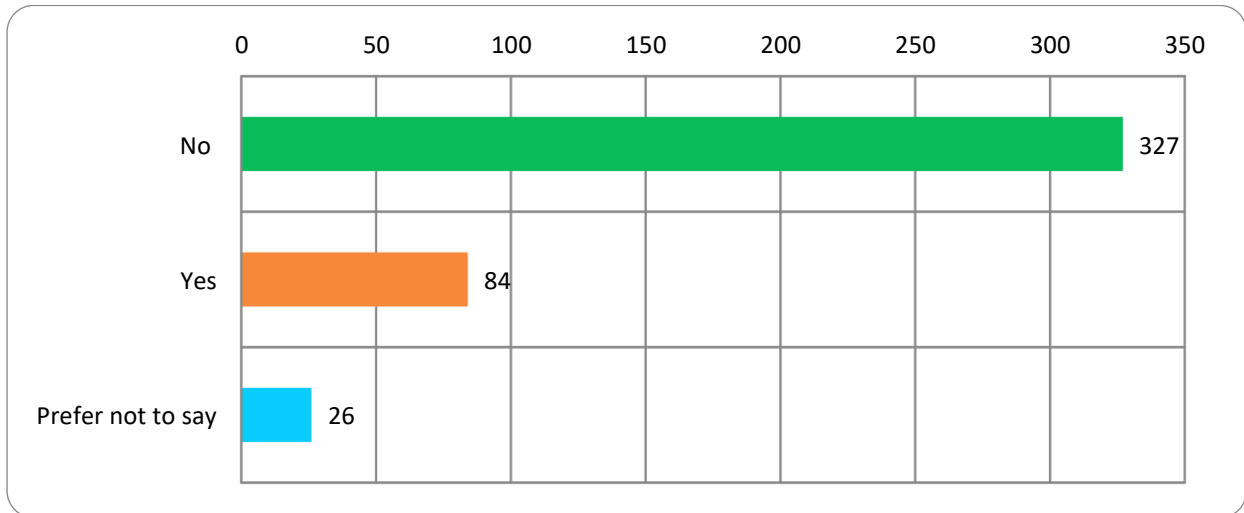
What is your age group?



As shown above, 35.6% (155) of respondents were from the age category 25-44. 21.6% of respondents (94) were aged between 55-64, and 20.4% (89) were between

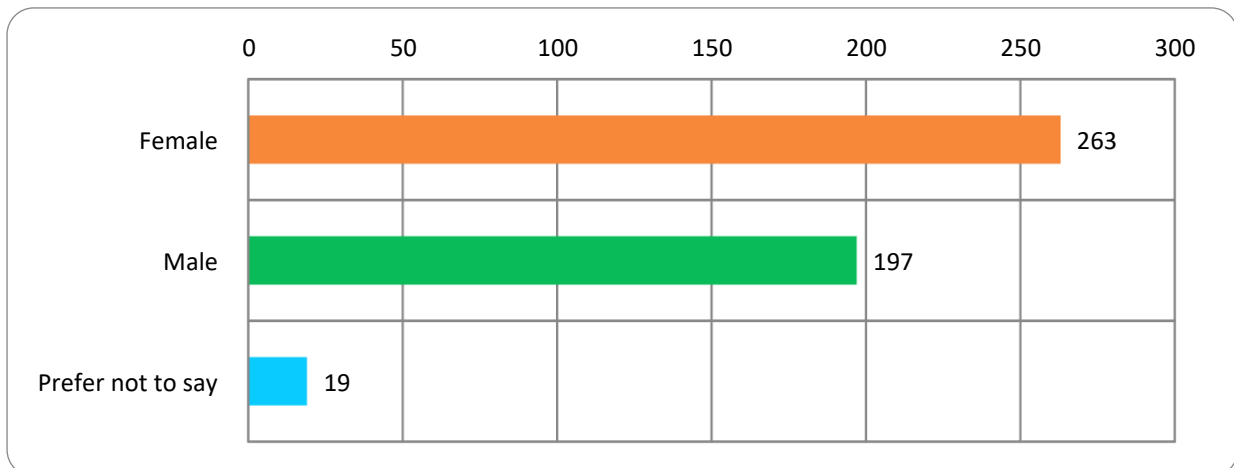
45-54. A further 10.8% of respondents (47) were aged between 65-74. 4.4% of respondents were between the age category of 12-15, and 3.9% (17) were 16-25. 3% of respondents (13) were 75-84, and only 0.5% (2) were aged 85+.

Do you consider yourself to have a long-term disability or condition?



As shown above, 74.8% of respondents (327) do not consider themselves to have a long-term disability or condition. 19.2% of respondents stated they do have a long-term disability or condition, whereas 5.9% of respondents (26) would prefer not to say.

What is your gender?



As shown above, 54.9% of respondents (263) were female, and 41.1% of respondents (197) were male. 4% of respondents (19) would prefer not to say.

## 9. Conclusion

Bridgend County Borough Council with the support of UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, have commissioned consultants Mott Macdonald to produce a Valleys Regeneration Strategy for the upper valleys of the Ogmore, Garw and Llynfi.

To ensure our strategy reflects on priorities of the people living, working, and visiting the valleys a public consultation was undertaken between 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

The consultation received a total of 498 responses to the online survey, which was supported by public engagement events held throughout the consultation period.

The consultation document was available in both Welsh Language and English Language. Respondents were able to select online or request paper surveys in all formats.

### 9.1. Equality Impact Assessment

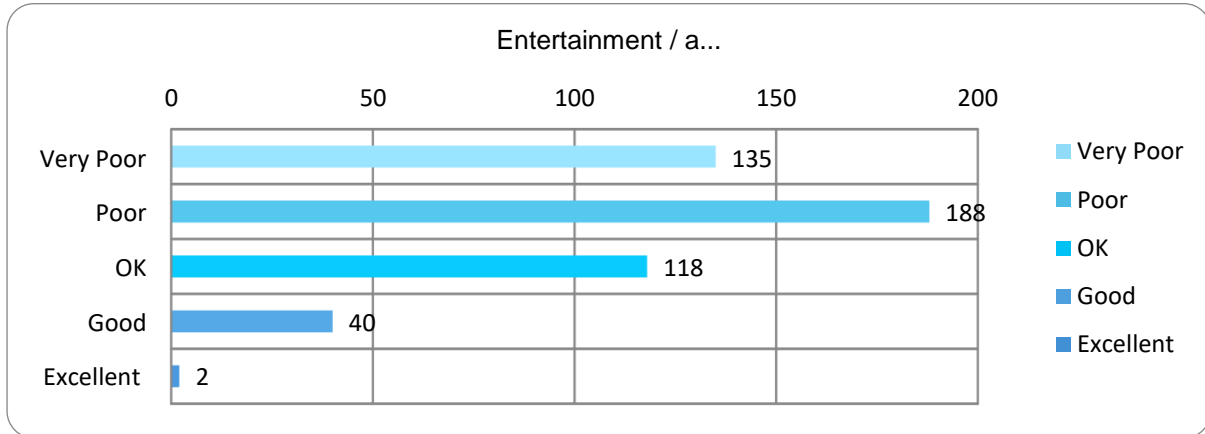
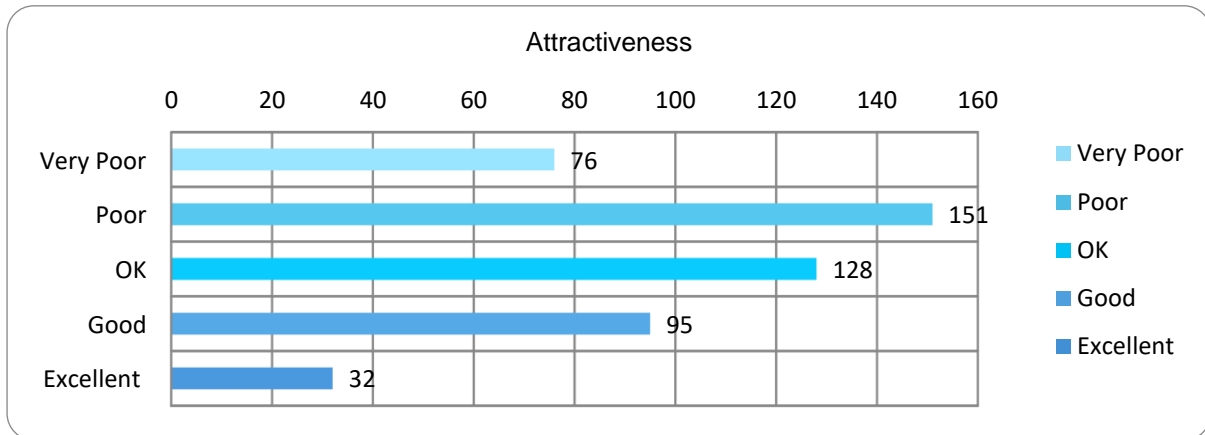
An initial Equality Impact Screening assessment was completed to identify any negative impacts of the Valleys Regeneration strategy and was presented to cabinet alongside the strategy.

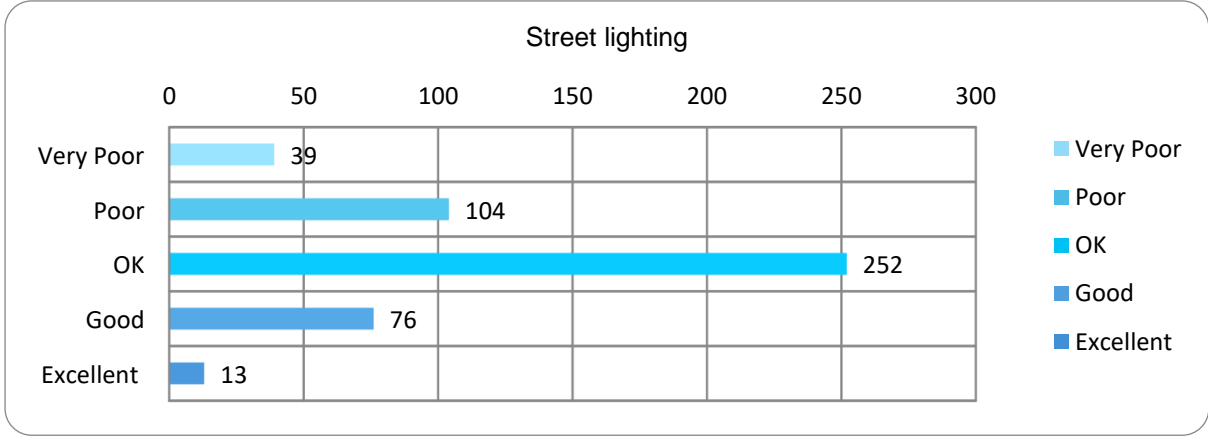
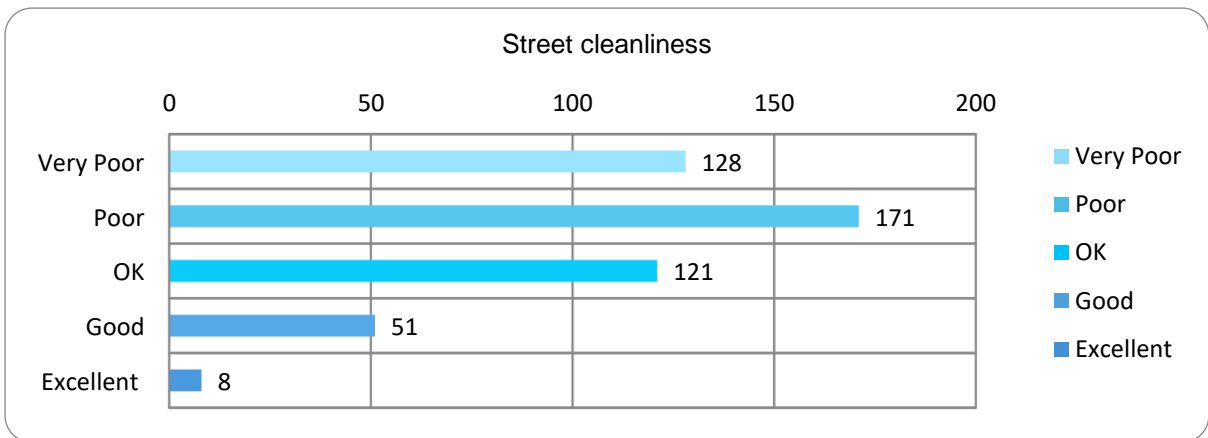
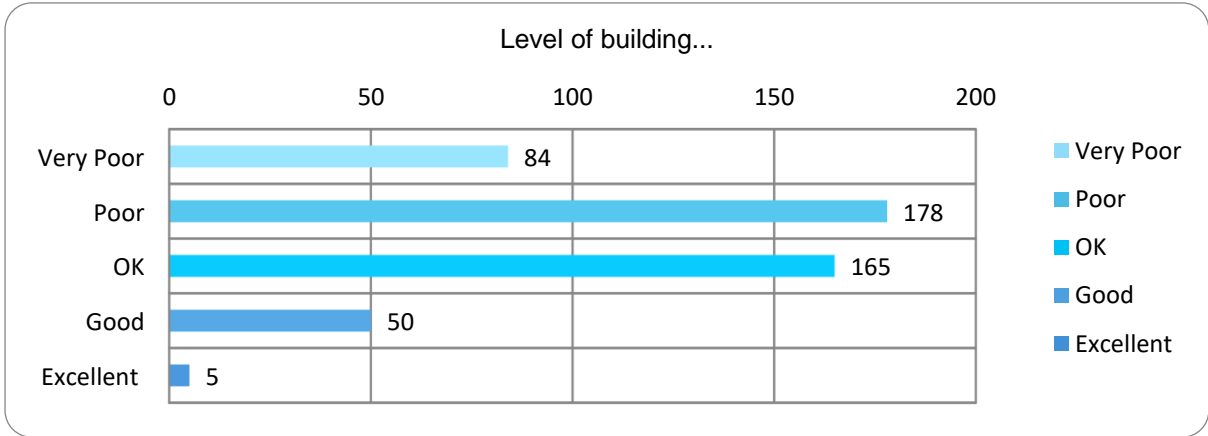
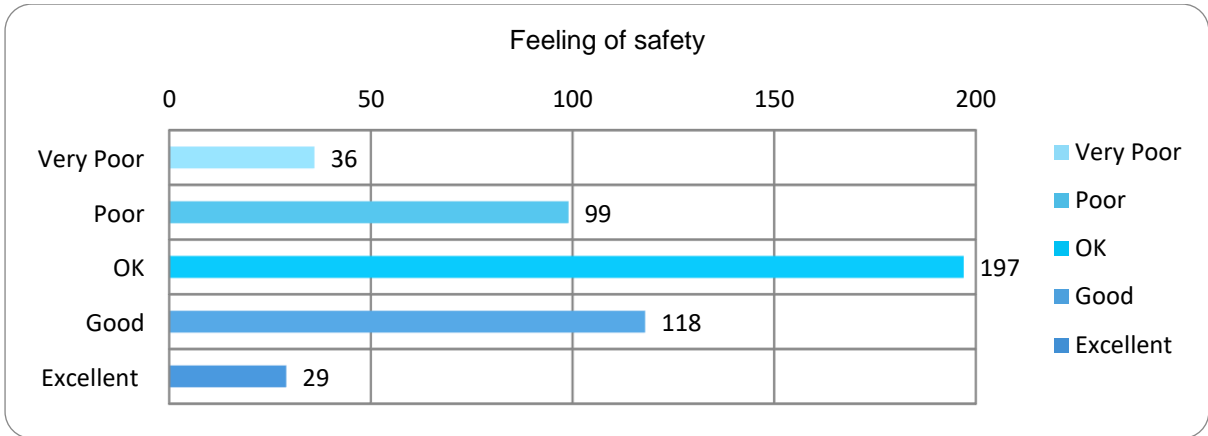
This is an information report; therefore, it is not necessary to carry out an EIA in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

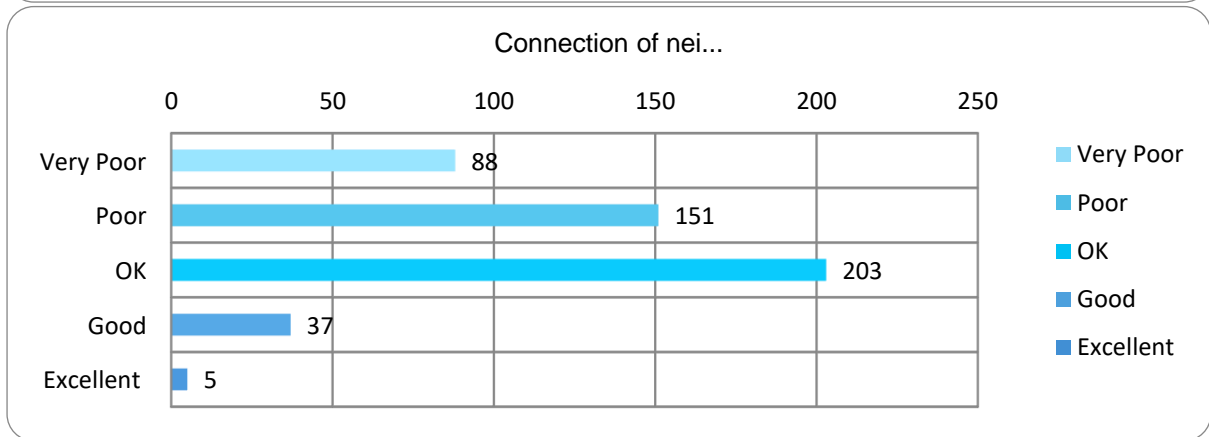
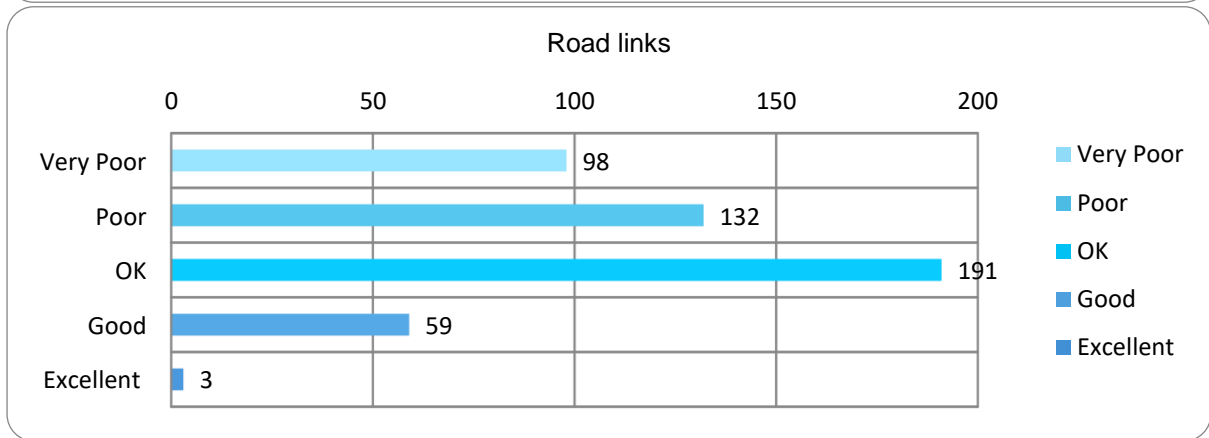
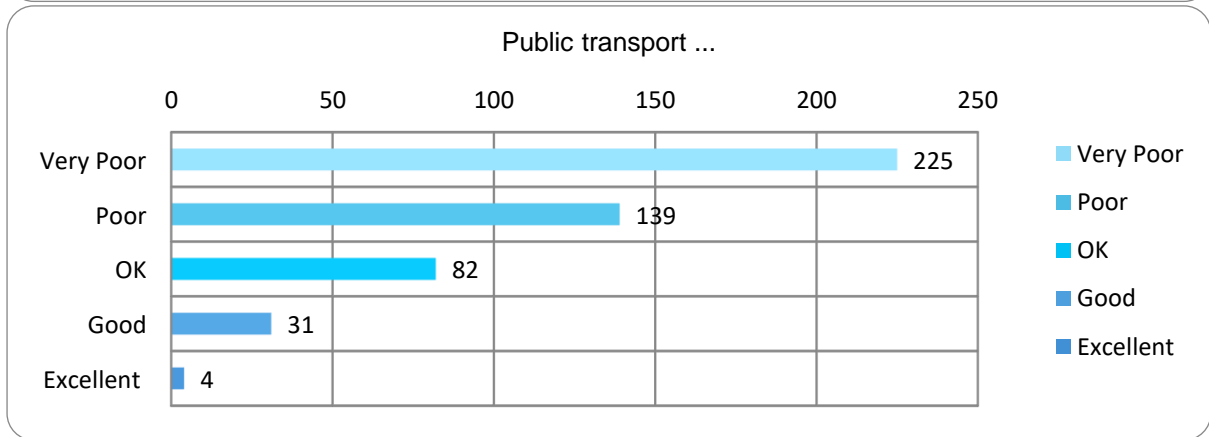
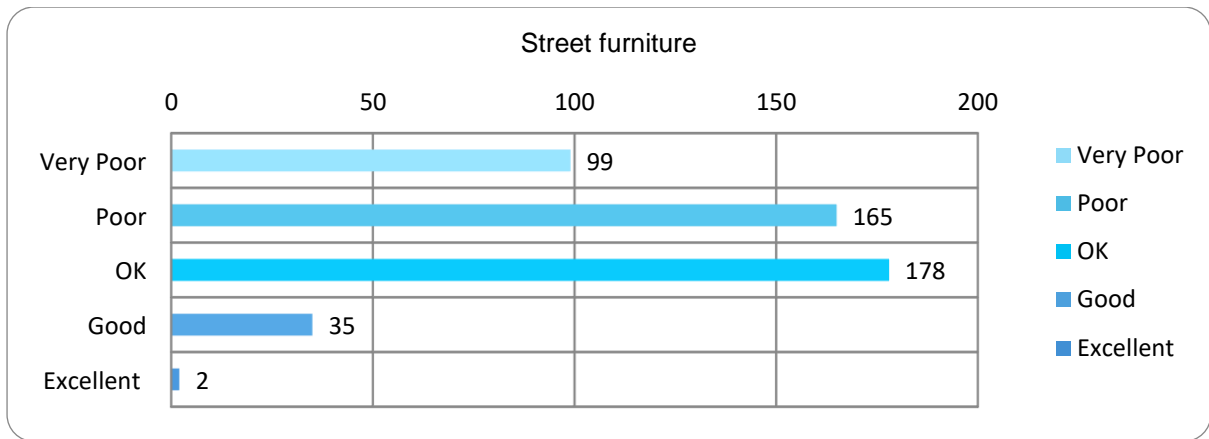


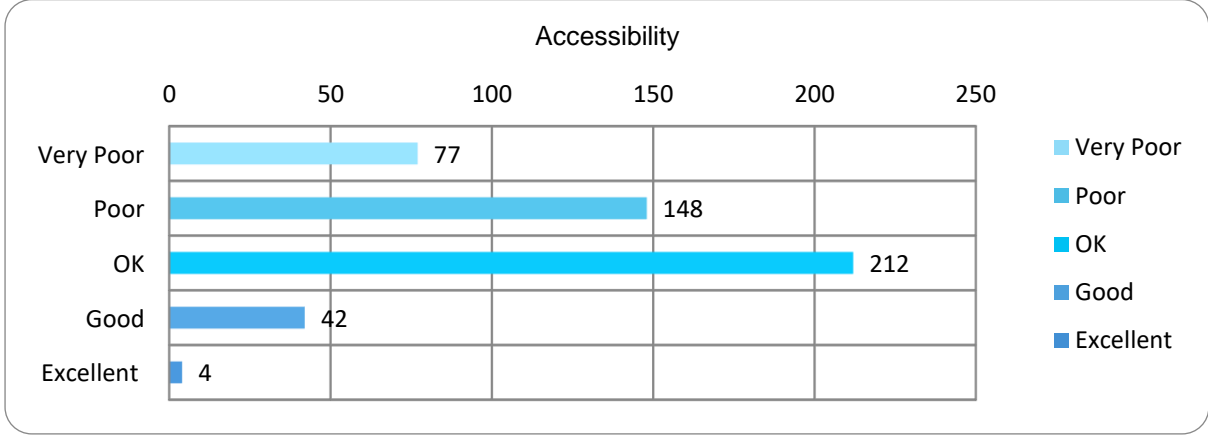
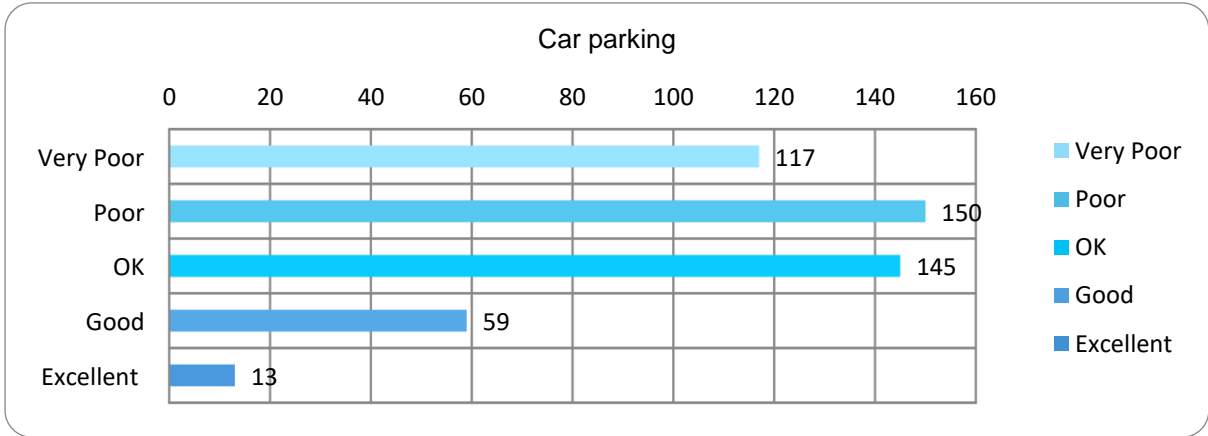
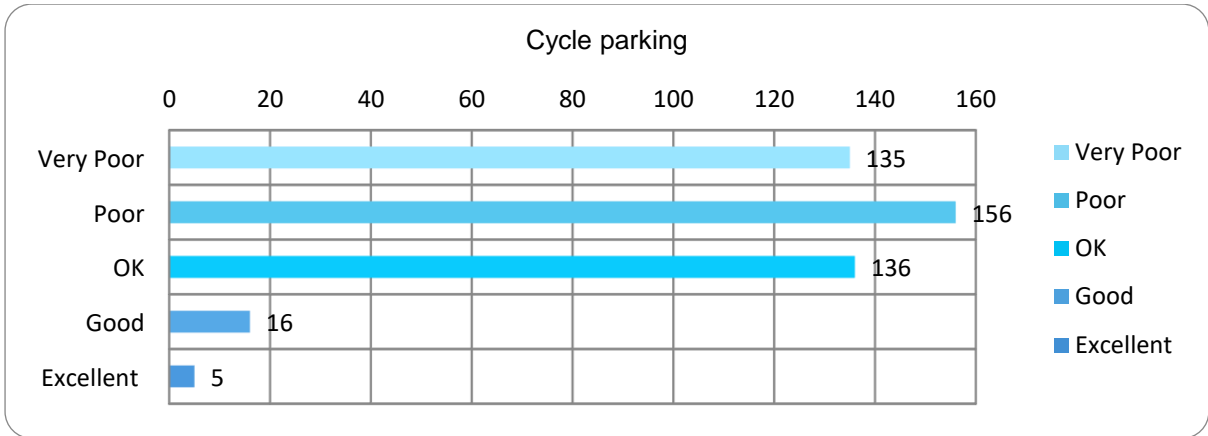
## 10. Appendices

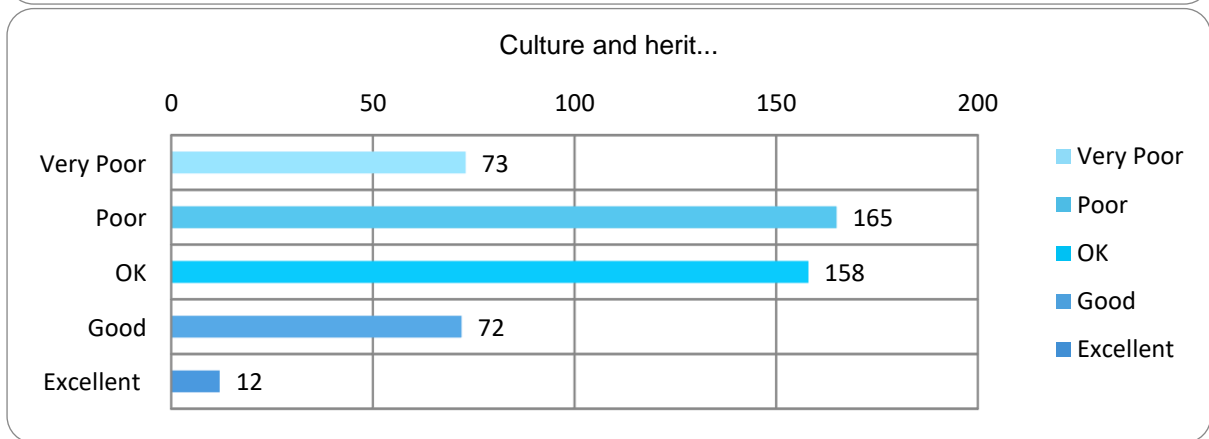
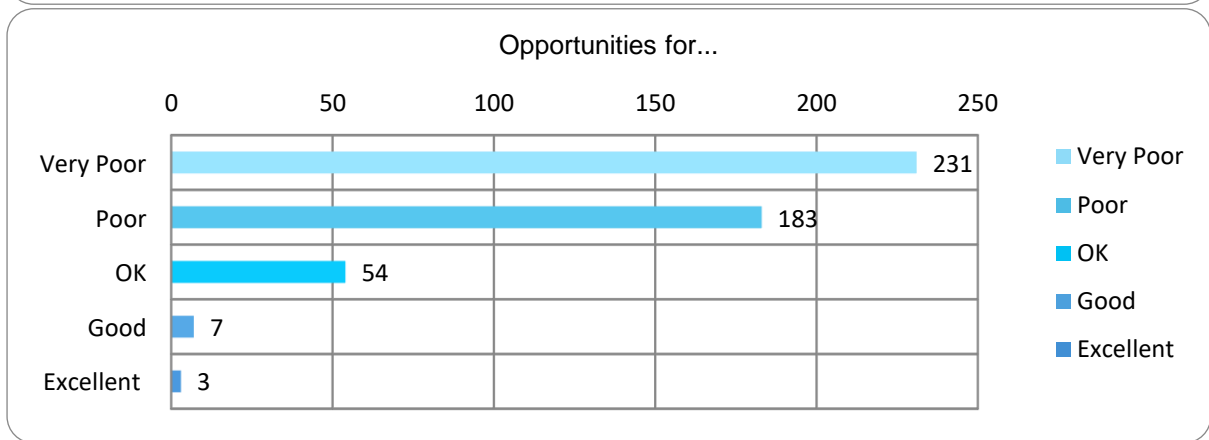
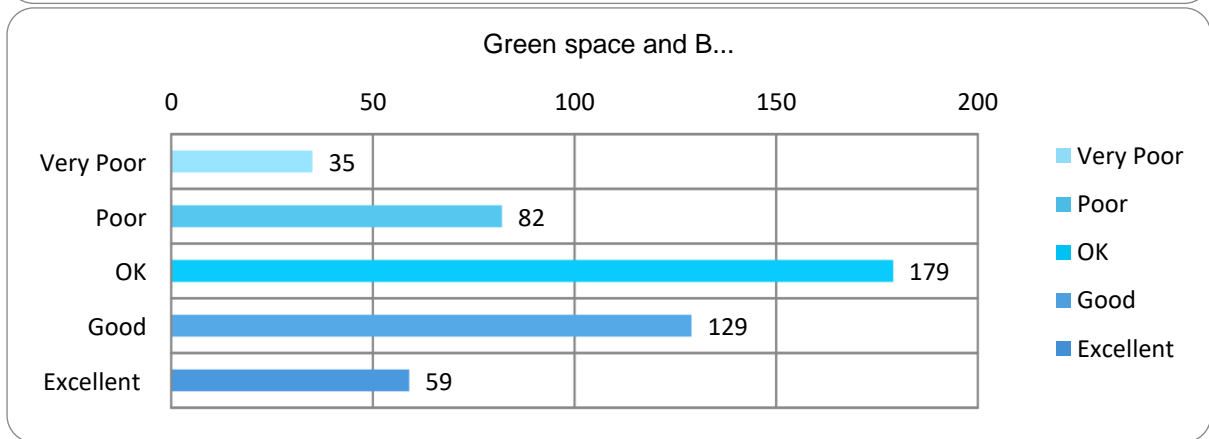
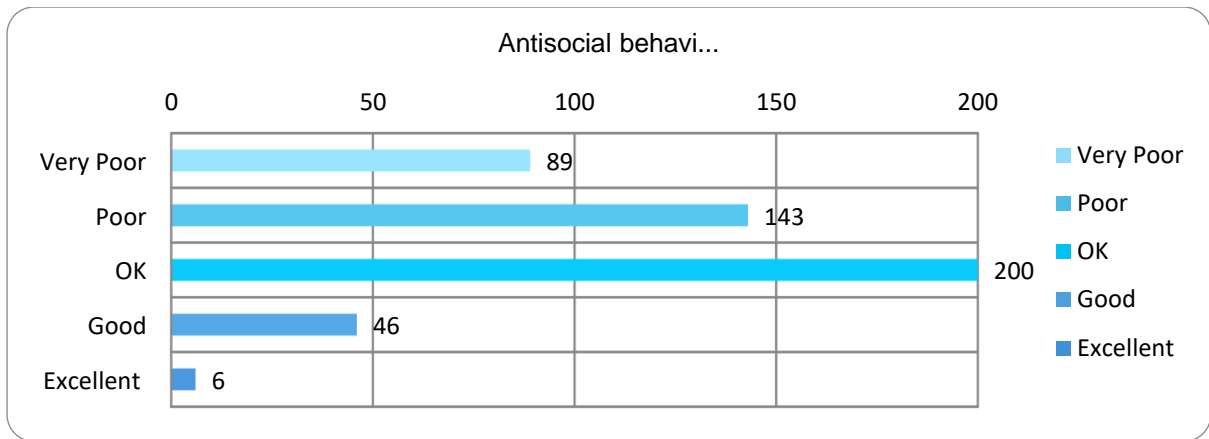
Appendix A - What do you think about the following elements within the area(s)?



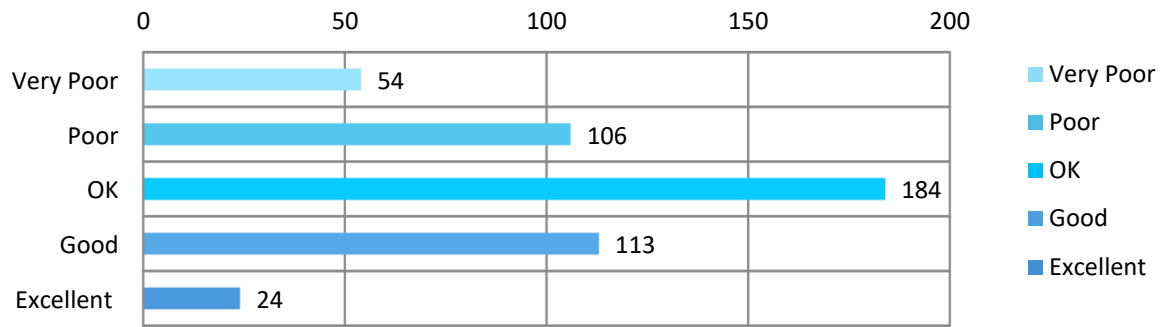




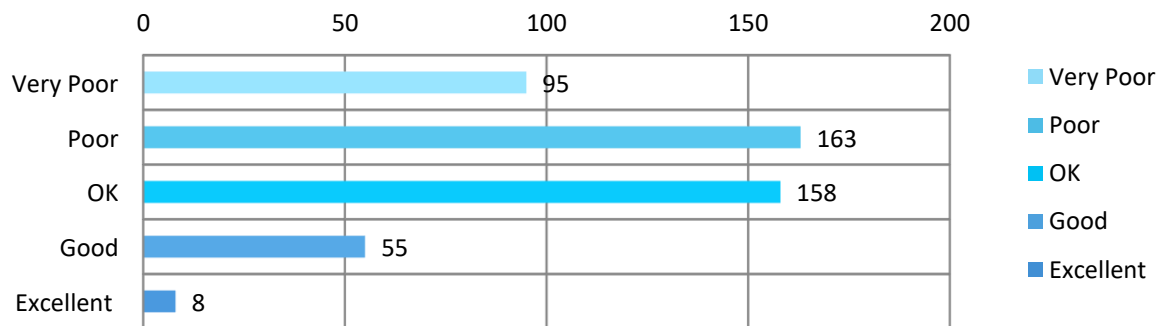




### Feeling a sense o...



### Health and wellbe...



## Appendix B – What is your post code?

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CF32 7HE	3
CF32 7NY	3
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CF328NG	3
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CF34 0DJ	3
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CF34 9GH	3
CF31	2
CF32 7DG	2
CF32 7DT	2
CF32 7ES	2
CF32 7EU	2
CF32 7HA	2
CF32 7HF	2
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CF349PA	2

CF398RR	2
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CF31 4GF	1
CF31 4RA	1
CF31 7ET	1
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CF426TW	1
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MAESTEG	1
SA13	1
SA13 2EB	1

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# Agenda Item 6

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>16 JULY 2024</b>
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION NOMINATION</b>
<b>Report Owner / Corporate Director:</b>	<b>CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL &amp; REGULATORY SERVICES, HR &amp; CORPORATE POLICY</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>MERYL LAWRENCE SENIOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER – SCRUTINY</b>
<b>Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:</b>	<b>The work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees relates to the review and monitoring 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.</b>
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>In order to further develop and enhance the Council’s Corporate Parenting role with its partners, a Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting comprising all Members of Cabinet was established by Cabinet on 4 November 2008.</b></p> <p><b>The Committee is being asked to nominate one Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee at meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.</b></p>

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request the Committee to nominate one Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee at meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 In order to further develop and enhance the Council's Corporate Parenting role with its partners, a Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting comprising all Members of Cabinet was established by Cabinet on 4 November 2008.
- 2.3 The inaugural meeting of the Cabinet Committee was held on 27 November 2008 where it was agreed that the Cabinet Committee will meet quarterly. The terms of reference for the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting are:
- to ensure that care experienced children and young people are seen as a priority by the whole of the Authority and by the Children and Young People's Partnership;
  - to seek the views of children and young people in shaping and influencing the parenting they receive;
  - to ensure that appropriate policies, opportunities and procedures are in place;
  - to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Authority in its role as Corporate Parent against Welsh Government guidance.
- 2.4 At its inaugural meeting, the Cabinet Committee requested that a Corporate Parenting "Champion" be nominated from each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to become permanent invitees to the Cabinet Committee.

## **3. Current situation / proposal**

- 3.1 The Committee is requested to nominate one Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee at meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.
- 3.2 The role of the Corporate Parenting Champion is to represent their Overview and Scrutiny Committee, partaking in discussions with Cabinet over items relating to care experienced children and young people.
- 3.3 It is also suggested that in this role each Champion considers how all services within the remit of Scrutiny affect care experienced children and young people and encourage their own Committee to bear their Corporate Parenting role in mind when participating in Scrutiny.



3.4 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee by advising them of the ongoing work of the Cabinet Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.

#### **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 establishment of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee demonstrates the Authority’s long-term commitment to improving and strengthening their role as Corporate Parents to care experienced children and young people.
- Prevention – The Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee are preventative in their nature and ensure that appropriate policies, opportunities and procedures are in place for all care experienced children and young people.
- Integration – This report supports all the Well-being Objectives.
- Collaboration – All Members are Corporate Parents and this report supports collaborative working with Cabinet and Members of Scrutiny and emphasises the role of Corporate Parents for all Elected Members.
- Involvement – Corporate Parent Champions provide practical support and guidance to care experienced children and young people to ensure they achieve their well-being goals.

5.2 Nomination of a Corporate Parenting Champion assists in the achievement of the following of the Council’s 7 Wellbeing Objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-**

##### **1. A County Borough here we protect our most vulnerable**

Seeking for children in public care, the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. All Members have a level of responsibility for care experienced children and young people in Bridgend.

#### **4. A County Borough where we help people meet their potential**

Being ambitious for care experienced children and young people and encouraging and supporting their learning and development to fulfill their potential, whether through education, training or employment and ensuring that care experienced children and young people are seen as a priority by the whole of the Authority and by the Children and Young People's Partnership.

#### **6. A County Borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community**

Seeking the views of children and young people in shaping and influencing the parenting they receive, supporting voice, choice and control in all aspects of Corporate Parenting through a children's rights approach.

#### **7. A County Borough where we support people to live healthy and happy lives**

Taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

### **6. Climate Change Implications**

6.1 There are no Climate Change Implications arising from this report.

### **7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications**

7.1 The Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting addresses any impact on children or young people within the care of the Authority, under the Council's responsibility as a Corporate Parent. 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.

### **8. Financial Implications**

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **9. Recommendation**

9.1 The Committee is asked to nominate one Member of the Committee as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee at meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

### **Background documents**

None.

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>16 JULY 2024</b>
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>CABINET RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS MADE ON THE CALL IN OF THE CABINET DECISION IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED USE OF LAND TRANSACTION TRANSFER PROTOCOL WITH CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION FOR LAND AT BRYNMENYN AND BRYNCETHIN</b>
<b>Report Owner / Corporate Director:</b>	<b>CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL &amp; REGULATORY SERVICES, HR &amp; CORPORATE POLICY</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>MERYL LAWRENCE SENIOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER - SCRUTINY</b>
<b>Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:</b>	<b>The work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees relates to the review and monitoring 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.</b>
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<b>On 26 March 2024, an Extraordinary meeting of the Committee considered the Call in of a Cabinet decision made on 12 March 2024 in relation to the report on the Proposed Use of Land Transaction Transfer Protocol with Cardiff Capital Region for Land at Brynmenyn and Bryncethin. Following its examination of the decision, the Committee concluded that the Decision would not be referred back to Cabinet for reconsideration but made Recommendations to Cabinet. The Committee's Recommendations were formally reported to Cabinet on 16 April 2024. The Cabinet Response is attached to this report as Appendix A, for the Committee's information.</b>

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Committee with the Cabinet response to the Recommendations made by an Extraordinary meeting of the Committee on the Call-In of the Decision of Cabinet of 12 March 2024, in relation to the report on the Proposed Use of Land Transaction Transfer Protocol with Cardiff Capital Region for Land at Brynmenyn and Bryncethin, submitted to Cabinet on 16 April 2024. The Cabinet response is attached as **Appendix A**.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, 3 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and a Scrutiny Chair, requested that the Executive decision made by Cabinet on 12 March 2024 be Called-In.
- 2.2 The Committee considered the proposed decision by Cabinet including the reasons for the decision, taking into account whether the decision is in line with corporate priorities and policies.
- 2.3 The role of Councillors exercising Overview and Scrutiny is, amongst other things, to ensure that the development of the Council's policies and the way they are being implemented reflect the needs and priorities of local Communities in the County Borough. As such, in holding the Cabinet to account for the efficient exercise of the executive function, the Overview & Scrutiny process aims to strengthen accountability for the decisions and performance of Bridgend County Borough Council.

## 3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 An Extraordinary meeting of the Committee considered the Call In on 26 March 2024 and, following its examination of the decision, and detailed discussions with the Leader, Cabinet Members and Officers invited, the Committee concluded that the Decision would not be referred back to Cabinet for reconsideration but made the following Recommendations to Cabinet:

Recommendations:

1. That Cabinet consider receiving a further report at the appropriate time on further information including the length of the lease and the terms of the value of the lease.
  2. That Cabinet note the concerns raised in the Committee as contained in the Notice of Call-In and take them into account during any further deliberation.
- 3.2 The Committee's Recommendations were formally reported to Cabinet on 16 April 2024.
  - 3.3 The Cabinet Response to the Committee's recommendations is formally presented in **Appendix A** to this report, for the Committee's information.

#### **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 An assessment under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has been made and is outlined in Section 5 of the Cabinet report dated 12 March 2024.

#### **6. Climate Change Implications**

- 6.1 There are no Climate Change Implications arising from this report.

#### **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 financial implications are outlined in Section 8 of the Cabinet report dated 12 March 2024.

#### **9. Recommendation**

- 9.1 The Committee is recommended to note the Cabinet response to the Recommendations made by the Committee on the Call-In of the Decision of Cabinet on 12 March 2024, in relation to the report on the Proposed Use of Land Transaction Transfer Protocol with Cardiff Capital Region for Land at Brynmenyn and Bryncethin, submitted to Cabinet on 16 April 2024, which is attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

**Background documents:** None.

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<u>Date of Cabinet</u>	<u>Report Title</u>	<u>Cabinet Decision</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>	<u>Written Response</u>
16 April 2024	Call In of Cabinet Decision: Proposed Use of Land Transaction Transfer Protocol with Cardiff Capital Region for Land at Brynmenyn and Bryncethin	Cabinet considered the Recommendations of the Extraordinary meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 and sought to provide a written response to the Committee.	<p>At the Extraordinary Meeting of SOSC 3 on 26 March 2024:</p> <p>Following examination of the decision, and detailed discussions with the Cabinet Members and Officers invited, the Committee concluded that the Decision would not be referred back to Cabinet for reconsideration but made the following Recommendations to Cabinet, to be reported to a future Cabinet meeting:</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Cabinet consider receiving a further report at the appropriate time on further information including the length of the lease and the terms of the value of the lease.</li> <li>2. That Cabinet note the concerns raised in the Committee as contained in the Notice of Call-In and take them into account during any further deliberation.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agreed – should the Option Agreement for the land at Brynmenyn and Bryncethin be taken forward by BCBC and CCR, then a report outlining the details of the agreement will be presented to Scrutiny.</li> <li>2. Noted.</li> </ol>

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# Agenda Item 8

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>16 JULY 2024</b>
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE</b>
<b>Report Owner / Corporate Director:</b>	<b>CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL &amp; REGULATORY SERVICES, HR &amp; CORPORATE POLICY</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>MERYL LAWRENCE SENIOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER – SCRUTINY</b>
<b>Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:</b>	<b>The work of the Overview &amp; 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.</b>
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<p><b>The Council’s Constitution requires the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to develop and implement a Forward Work Programme for the Committee.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>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 Programmes for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees will be reported to the next meeting of COSC.</b></p>

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Present the Committee with the Forward Work Programme updated at the previous Committee meeting (**Appendix A**) for discussion and consideration;
- 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 3.6 of this report;
- d) Present the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet (**Appendix B**) to track responses to the Committee's recommendations made at previous meetings;
- 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 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC), with the comments from each respective Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SOSC), following consideration in this cycle of Committee meetings.

## 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 15 May 2024, the standing statutory reports to Scrutiny Committees 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 Forward Work Programme.
- 3.2 The Forward Work Programmes 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 January 2025, 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 2025.
- 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.
- 3.5 The Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programmes will be reported to the next meeting of COSC, with the comments from each respective Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee for coordination and oversight of the

overall Forward Work Programme. The SOSC Forward Work Programmes will be included in the standing Forward Work Programme Update report from then on with any feedback from each SOSC meeting included.

### Identification of Further Items

- 3.6 The Committee are 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

- 3.7 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.

- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 The Forward Work Programme for the Committee is attached as **Appendix A** for the Committee's consideration.
- 3.11 The Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committee's recommendations made at 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 in **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 3.6 of this report.
- d) Note the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet in **Appendix B** to track outstanding responses to the Committee's recommendations made at 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 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC), with the comments from each respective Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SOSC), following consideration in this cycle of Committee meetings.

### **Background documents**

None.

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**2024-25 Draft Forward Work Programme**  
**Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3**

<b>Monday 16 July 2024 4.00pm</b>		
<b>Report Topic</b>	<b>Information Required / Committee's Role</b>	<b>Invitees</b>
Valleys Regeneration Strategy	<p>The development of a commercial property enhancement grant for the Valley high streets to make them look better and bring properties back into commercial use.</p> <p>The development of funding bids for Valleys to enhance the economy and stimulate new job opportunities.</p> <p>The increase in the amount of land and premises available for businesses including industrial starter units, in the Valleys.</p> <p>Accessibility for people from the Valleys to wider public transport.</p>	<p><b><u>Cabinet Members</u></b> Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing</p> <p><b><u>Officers</u></b> Corporate Director Communities</p> <p><b><u>External</u></b></p>

<b>Monday 30 September 2024 4.00pm</b>		
<b>Report Topics</b>	<b>Information Required / Committee's Role</b>	<b>Invitees</b>
Housing Update	<p>Affordable; Accessible; Social; Energy efficiency housing; Registered Social Landlords</p> <p>Progress on Empty homes in the County Borough, including the number, the Empty Homes Policy and Grants available – as requested by Members of SOSC 3 at 22 April meeting.</p>	<p><b><u>Cabinet Members</u></b> Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration</p> <p><b><u>Officers</u></b> Corporate Director Communities</p> <p><b><u>External</u></b></p>

**APPENDIX A**

<b>Monday 2 December 2024 4.00pm</b>		
<b>Report Topics</b>	<b>Information Required / Committee's Role</b>	<b>Invitees</b>
Future Waste	Setting out of future direction. What is going to be done. How the future service will look. Outcome of consultation.	<p><b><u>Cabinet Members</u></b> Leader of the Council Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment</p> <p><b><u>Officers</u></b> Corporate Director Communities Head of Operations - Community Services</p> <p><b><u>External</u></b></p>

<b>Monday 20 January 2025 4.00pm</b>		
<b>Report Topics</b>	<b>Information Required / Committee's Role</b>	<b>Invitees</b>
Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2028-29		<p><b><u>Cabinet Members</u></b> Leader of the Council 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><b><u>Officers</u></b> Chief Executive Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change Corporate Director Communities</p>

<b>Monday 17 February 2025 4.00pm</b>		
<b>Report Topics</b>	<b>Information Required / Committee's Role</b>	<b>Invitees</b>
Maesteg Town Hall Review  Or	Lessons Learned - COSC delegated the Lessons Learned report to SOSC 3 to consider, when the project has been	<p><b><u>Cabinet Members</u></b> Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Wellbeing</p>

Valley to Coast	completed. (Possible information report or member briefing)	<b>Officers</b> Corporate Director Communities  <b>External</b>
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Monday 7 April 2025 4.00pm		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Climate Change Decarbonisation	Update on progress and future priorities given current and future budget implications  Electric charging points update	<b>Cabinet Members</b> Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment  <b>Officers</b> Corporate Director Communities  <b>External</b>

**Member Briefing sessions**

- Infrastructure Delivery - including specifically condition of the highways in include; repairs and maintenance, road resurfacing and potholes, network management of utilities, and the development of internal metrics for repairs and closing referrals – all Members Briefing
- Corporate Joint Committees Regional Responsibilities – all Members Briefing
- Communities Directorate Target Operating Model (TOM)
- Porthcawl Regeneration Update – October / November all Members Briefing

**Information reports**

- Audit Wales 'Springing Forward Asset Management Inspection Report' – including associated Action Plan
- Community Transfers (CAT) - Position Update
- Update on the Shared Prosperity Funding (how grants are progressing in terms of spend, who the recipients are, feedback on the process) - November / December

**Potential Items**

- Heat Network projects Update
- Capital Programme – COSC / BREP
- Valley to Coast – operational practices

**Items requested in previous meeting 22 April 2024**

- Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) report
- Sickness levels in the Authority and its effect on decision-making in the Directorate

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**Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3**

**RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING ACTION SHEET 2023-2024**

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
19 March 2024	Future Waste Service Options	<p>The Committee discussed in detail the three service delivery options in the report and the findings of the commissioned report from Eunomia on future recycling and waste options from April 2026. Having heard from Officers and the Eunomia consultants Members were interested to understand more regarding the option of a Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo), whether it was viable and could be a benefit. They discussed the ability to create funds within a LATCo and whether an offer of an affordable package of waste collection for businesses could provide the potential, to offer the same pension scheme and terms and conditions as Bridgend County Borough Council staff, by offsetting the cost with the potential additional revenue streams. Members expressed concern that staff should not be disadvantaged with regard to the Local Government Pension Scheme.</p>	Corporate Director of Communities	<p><b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 20 June 2024.</p>	<p><a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32955/FutureWasteServiceOptionsDraftRecommendationsofSOSC319March2024.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32955/FutureWasteServiceOptionsDraftRecommendationsofSOSC319March2024.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32956/SOSC319March2024RecommendationsResponses.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32956/SOSC319March2024RecommendationsResponses.pdf</a></p>

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
		<p>1. While understanding that there were no guarantees of success and the model selected would not be operated until 2026 so would not be a quick fix, the Committee recommended the LATCo model be explored further with the Authority looking at how it could be developed and grown over future years, which as the LATCo developed could help provide a part solution to the long term issue of annual revenue difficulties.</p>			
<p>19 March 2024</p>	<p>Future Waste Service Options</p>	<p>2. Members also discussed the findings with regards to the qualitative assessment and the in-house position. Noting the assessment had identified the market conditions to be favourable at present with a low probability of high risk in both operational and implementation and no difference in quality of service, however there was a financial risk based on the pension contributions, but there</p>	<p>Corporate Director of Communities</p>	<p><b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 20 June 2024.</p>	<p><a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32955/FutureWasteServiceOptionsDraftRecommendationofSOSC319March2024.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32955/FutureWasteServiceOptionsDraftRecommendationofSOSC319March2024.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32956/SOSC319March2024Reco">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32956/SOSC319March2024Reco</a></p>

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
		<p>was also an opportunity to control, shape and develop that service. On that basis the Committee recommended that bringing the waste collection service in-house should also be explored in further detail.</p>			<p><a href="#">mmendationsResponses.pdf</a></p>
<p>19 March 2024</p>	<p>Future Waste Service Options</p>	<p>3. Members agreed that they were looking for the best decision and best fit for the Council and its residents and to contribute to this decision, the Committee recommended that a report be submitted to Cabinet either with the recommendations or shortly after, including a case study of best practice where these types of operations had been proven and were operating successfully, to demonstrate how they could potentially also work for Bridgend County Borough Council.</p>	<p>Corporate Director of Communities</p>	<p><b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 20 June 2024.</p>	<p><a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32955/FutureWasteServiceOptionsDraftRecommendationsofSOSC319March2024.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32955/FutureWasteServiceOptionsDraftRecommendationsofSOSC319March2024.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32956/SOSC319March2024RecommendationsResponses.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32956/SOSC319March2024RecommendationsResponses.pdf</a></p>

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
26 March 2024	Call-In of Cabinet Decision: Proposed Use of Land Transaction Transfer Protocol with Cardiff Capital Region for Land at Brynmenyn and Bryncethin	<p>The Committee concluded that the Decision would not be referred back to Cabinet for reconsideration but made the following Recommendations to Cabinet, to be reported to a future Cabinet meeting:</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Cabinet consider receiving a further report at the appropriate time on further information including the length of the lease and the terms of the value of the lease.</li> <li>2. That Cabinet note the concerns raised in the Committee as contained in the Notice of Call-In and take them into account during any further deliberation.</li> </ol>	Cabinet	The Recommendations have been reported to the meeting of Cabinet on Tuesday, 16 April 2024 requesting Cabinet to consider them and provide a written response to the Committee.	Response being reported to SOSC 3 meeting on 16 July 2024
22 April 2024	Caerau Heat Scheme	Having discussed the Caerau Heat Scheme report, Members felt there was an opportunity to strengthen the processes for management of future Research and Development projects. The Committee recommended that some research be undertaken of best practice processes for the management of Research and Development	Corporate Director of Communities	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 8 July 2024.	



Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
		<p>projects, including the management of finances and gateway protocols, to incorporate and strengthen the processes for any future projects of this type.</p>			
<p>22 April 2024</p>	<p>Caerau Heat Scheme</p>	<p>Members felt it was important to keep moving forward, and while understanding that not all demonstrator projects would be successful, from the public’s perspective the Authority had to be responsible with the funding provided, so it was imperative to build on lessons that had been learned, where money is spent and explore where things could be done differently. Members acknowledged the toolkit created by the Authority following the Caerau Heat Scheme project and the lessons learned to share with others. The Committee recommended “that due consideration should be given to the financial risks, constraints and pressures for each and every similar type of project”, be added to the lessons learned.</p>	<p>Corporate Director of Communities</p>	<p><b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 8 July 2024.</p>	
<p>22 April 2024</p>	<p>Caerau Heat Scheme</p>	<p>Members discussed the financial implications, what the final cost of the scheme had been spent on over the lift of the project and requested the break down/summary on the funding spent on the</p>	<p>Corporate Director of Communities</p>	<p>Recommendations circulated requesting response – to be provided.</p>	

**APPENDIX B**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Response</b>
		project, that the Corporate Director of Communities had advised could be shared with Members.		Information to be shared with Committee.	