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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
Bridgend County Borough Council
Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

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Dyddiad/Date: Wednesday, 17 July 2024

Dear Councillor,

CABINET

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held Hybrid in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB/ Remotely via Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday, 23 July 2024** at **14:30**.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies for absence from Members.

2. Declarations of Interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008.

3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 24
To receive for approval the minutes of 16/04/2024 and 14/05/2024

4. Corporate Health and Safety Policy 2024 25 - 44

5. Outcomes of Estyn Inspections of schools in Bridgend during Spring Term 2024 45 - 52

6. Learner Travel Policy 53 - 174

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8. Community Asset Transfer - Llangeinor Pavilion & Playing Fields to Llangeinor FC 181 - 304

9. Children Looked After Specialist Support Service (CLASS) 305 - 312

10. Assisted Transport Policy 313 - 326

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20. Urgent Items
To consider any items of business that by reason of special circumstances the chairperson is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency in accordance with paragraph 2.4 (e) of the Cabinet Procedure Rules within the Constitution.

21. Exclusion of the Public
The following item is not for publication as it contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.

If following the application of the public interest test Cabinet resolves pursuant to the Act to consider these items in private, the public will be excluded from the meeting during such consideration.

22. Approval of Exempt Minutes 531 - 532
To receive for approval the exempt minutes of 16/04/2024

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 or tel. 01656 643148 / 643694 / 643513 / 643159.

Yours faithfully
K Watson
Chief Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy

Councillors:	Councillors	Councillors
JC Spanswick	HM Williams	M J Evans
N Farr	E L P Caparros	M Jones
J Gebbie	P Davies	

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2024 AT 14:30

Present

Councillor HJ David – Chairperson

N Farr	W R Goode	J Gebbie	JPD Blundell

Present Virtually

JC Spanswick	HM Williams

Officers:

Alex Rawlin	Corporate Policy & Public Affairs Manager
Carys Lord	Chief Officer - Finance, Performance & Change
Rachel Keepins	Democratic Services Manager
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
Janine Nightingale	Corporate Director - Communities
Kelly Watson	Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Michael Pitman	Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services

Declarations of Interest

Personal

Cllr J P Blundell – Item 12 - School Governor of Bryntirion Comprehensive School
Cllr J Spanswick – item 11 – Grant bidders are members of Brackla Community Council
Cllr J Gebbie – Item 12 School Governor at Mynydd Cynffig primary school

315. Recommendation from the Call-In of cabinet decision - Proposed use of land transaction transfer protocol with Cardiff Capital Region for land at Bryncethin & Brynmenyn

Decision Made	The Chairperson of Subject Overview & Scrutiny Committee presented a report with the recommendations of the Extraordinary Meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 (SOSC 3) held on 26 March 2024, following the Call In by 3 members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and a Scrutiny Chair of the decision of the executive in relation to the Proposed Use of Land Transaction Transfer Protocol with Cardiff Capital Region for Land at Brynmenyn and Bryncethin. The Chairperson of Subject Overview & Scrutiny Committee stated that Members deliberated on the provided reasons (set out in Appendix B to the report) at this this meeting, and concluded with the following 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 (Appendix B) and take them into account during any further deliberation. Cabinet Members thanked the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee 3 for the work that had gone into the the report and the call in process. While not all comments at the meeting were agreed on, this process was important and a written reply will be provided in due course. RESOLVED: Cabinet considered the Recommendations of the Extraordinary meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 in paragraph 3.1 above and sought to provide a written response to the Committee.
Date Decision Made	16 April 2024

316. Park Street Air Quality Action Plan

Decision Made	The Operational Manager for Shared Regulatory Services presented a report which approval for the Air Quality Action Plan for the Park Street Air Quality Management Area and for a decision on whether to approve the final measure of the ‘do something’ scheme - Deny all access onto St Leonards Road from

	Park Street (Measure 18). He provided details on the Park Street AQMA, the trends in Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations and the 2023 updated modelling results from the natural compliance assessment. These were highlighted at section 3 of the report. The Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning & Regeneration was pleased to see that Park Street was now only just over the recommended limit for air quality, which shows that significant improvements have been made over the last year. The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Wellbeing asked if we had any data on how many cars turn in to St Leonard's Road. There are often many cars turning out on to Park Street but less often cars turning from Park Street. The Operational Manager for Shared Regulatory Services explained that he did not have that data to hand but following traffic management assessment we would be able to provide that information should it be needed. RESOLVED: Cabinet • Agreed to the finalisation of the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) (attached as Appendix 1) for submission as a final version to Welsh Government. • Approved the decision not to implement the final measure of the 'do something' scheme – Measure 18 Deny all access onto St Leonards Road, owing to the timescales for TRO consultation, costs and consideration that natural compliance is not likely to be accelerated as a result. This measure will be retained and will be reconsidered dependent on ongoing NO2 monitoring results in the Park Street AQMA.
Date Decision Made	16 April 2024

317. Social Services And Wellbeing Commissioning Strategies 2023-28

Decision Made	The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing presented a report which sought approval from Cabinet in respect of the three Commissioning Strategies that have been developed within the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate (included as Appendix A, Appendix B, Appendix C).

	She explained that the Social Services Directorate had recently reviewed and updated its 'transformation and planning' group structure as outlined in section 3 of the report, where the newly established Planning Groups have overseen the development of the Commissioning Strategies for their respective areas. She added that Commissioning Strategies set out how current services will need to change and develop over the next 5 years, in order to continue to meet the needs of people in the Bridgend County. The Deputy Leader asked in relation to page 216 of the report, she asked for an amendment to points listed in here. She added that she was pleased to see in the commissioning strategy that it was citizen centered with it being accessible and flexible. With the complex needs that children and adults are facing and the support required for them, we need to be flexible and show innovation going forward. The Leader discussed the overspend in some areas and the need for this strategy to be able to prioritize areas. The Group Manager – Commissioning answered further questions made by the Cabinet. RESOLVED: Cabinet: • Noted the contents of this report; and • Approved the three commissioning strategies (Appendix A, Appendix B, Appendix C) for the Directorate to further develop and implement the priority areas and commissioning intentions as set out in each of the three strategies, subject to the following amendment: • BCBC internal services to remodel short- and long-term reactive service and; • An options appraisal to be undertaken
Date Decision Made	16 April 2024

318. Proposals For Procurement Of A Replacement System For Caredirector (WCCIS)

Decision Made	The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing presented a report which sought approval from Cabinet for: • a waiver under Contract Procedure Rule 3.2.12 for another public body to procure an alternative system to replace the social care system for CareDirector (WCCIS) on behalf of the Council;

	• to enter into a Regional Agreement to work collaboratively with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC), Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC) and Vale of Glamorgan Council (VoG) to support the procurement process and implementation of a replacement social care system for CareDirector (WCCIS) She explained that as of January 2026, the existing CareDirector system (WCCIS) will become end of life. It is therefore an essential requirement that all social care users and services are migrated from WCCIS to a new technology within stringent timescales. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing explained the current situation and highlighted the risks and benefits of each provided option in the report. She stated that the preferred option was Option 2. The Deputy Leader asked that an update report be brought back to Cabinet in due course with details on the procurement process as well as the financial position. She also asked that this be placed on the corporate risk register due to the potential impact upon the service. RESOLVED: Cabinet: • Approved a waiver under Contract Procedure Rule 3.2.12 for another local authority to procure a replacement to the CareDirector system (WCCIS) on behalf of the Council; • Delegated authority to the Corporate Director of Social Services and Wellbeing in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy and Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change, to negotiate and agree final terms and to arrange execution of a Regional Agreement with RCTCBC (or another authority if required under Option 2 above) on behalf of the Council, to support the procurement process and implementation of any new system. • noted that an update report will be brought back to update Cabinet regarding the procurement process, the financial position and for approval to award a contract to the successful tenderer. • Agreed to place on the Corporate Risk Register for monitoring
Date Decision Made	16 April 2024

319. Building and Improvement Lines

Decision Made	The Corporate Director Communities presented a report which sought Cabinet approval for the Building

	and Improvement lines outlined in Appendix 1 to be revoked and rescinded and removed from the Register of Local Land Charges and to delegate authority to the Corporate Director – Communities to authorise the revocation of any other historic Building Improvement lines that may be identified in consultation with Legal Services. She stated that it was considered that the historic improvement, building and visibility lines in the Register of Local Land Charges summarised in Appendix 1 are now obsolete by virtue of the changes to road layout or traffic patterns over the years, the powers contained in current Planning Legislation, or there is no prospect of the identified highway improvement being progressed. Further details were at section 3 of the report. The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment explained that the lines were almost 100 years old and therefore it was time to make the necessary changes of removing these from the Local Land Charges Register. The Leader added that it was good to see these were checked against the RLDP to ensure there were no conflicts with the Plan. RESOLVED: Cabinet • Approved that the Building and Improvement lines as outlined in Appendix 1 be revoked and rescinded and removed from the Local Land Charges Register; • Delegated authority to the Corporate Director – Communities to authorise the revocation of any other historic Building Improvement lines that may be identified in consultation with Legal Services.
Date Decision Made	16 April 2024

320. Future Waste Service Options Post 2026

Decision Made	The Corporate Director Communities presented a report which provided Cabinet with the findings of the commissioned report from Eunomia Research and Consulting (Eunomia) on future recycling and waste options from April 2026 and fed back to Cabinet the recommendations and observations following a Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 (SOSC3) meeting which took place on 19th March 2024.

	She explained that to ensure continuity of service post 2026, when the Plan B contract ends, decisions are now required on how the Council will provide the waste service in the future. This may be done via a re-procured service, by bringing the waste services back in-house or the establishment of a Council owned arm's length company or LATCo. This was the topic of discussion at the SOSC3 meeting and their recommendations were highlighted at section 3.11 of the report. The Corporate Director Communities explained that Eunomia Research and Consulting (Eunomia) was commissioned by the Council to undertake a detailed qualitative risk assessment and financial modelling of the commissioning options for future waste collection service delivery. The report, included as Appendix A, examines the comparative cost and key risks and opportunities associated with each of the future commissioning options. Further details were at section 3 of the report. The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment stated that this service was the only one that the Council provides that covers every resident in the County Borough and therefore was an important one to ensure it was delivered properly. He stressed the importance of adhering to a reasonable timeframe as delays could deter contractors given that there were only 5 major contractors in the whole country. He added that if we were to go through the option of re-procurement now, it could be months due to the consultation process and then the contractor starting. The risk associated with this is also great as we could end up with only 1 bidder and then be left with no choice but to go with them, regardless of financial pressures. Further points were made on this and following agreement from Members, amended recommendations were agreed on. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet amended the recommendations as set out in the report and • Noted the contents of this report and the qualitative and financial analysis undertaken by Eunomia. • do not proceed with a procurement exercise for a new waste contract post April 2026 and that further work be undertaken on the LATCO and In-House models. • Agreed that a further report will be brought for Cabinet approval on the details of that waste collection service, prior to a public consultation in the summer of 2024.

	• Agreed that a subsequent report will be brought for Cabinet with more detailed examination of how the LATCO model works in other parts of the country where they are operating a waste service. • Noted the intent to move to a new rolling fleet replacement programme for waste service vehicles from 2024. This will need to be through a separate report to Council for approval for inclusion in the Council's capital programme.
Date Decision Made	16 April 2024

321. Porthcawl Grand Pavilion Levelling Up Fund Project Update

Decision Made	The Corporate Director Communities presented a report which provided an update to Cabinet on progress made and decisions taken in relation to the design, procurement and programme of the Porthcawl Grand Pavilion project. She explained that following the approved LUF bid of £17,998,316 towards the redevelopment of the Grand Pavilion Porthcawl, design work has been progressing well and a review of the work which has informed the RIBA stage 3 designs and LUF application has been completed. A Grand Pavilion Programme Manager has been appointed to oversee the programme and support the delivery of the project. Further background was at section 3 of the report. She added that following the review, Purcell had incurred additional costs related to the design changes, at a total cost of £80,418.56. Approval was therefore sought for the continued suspension of the requirements of the Council's CPRs and approval to appoint AWEN to procure services on behalf of the Council for the additional service requirement and associated costs. The Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning & Regeneration explained that while he did not like to suspend the Contract Procedure Rules, as they were there for good reason, it was clear that doing so here would ensure the security of the project to be delivered on time and on budget. The Deputy Leader asked for confirmation that this project was in the financial envelope. The Corporate

	Director Communities confirmed this was the case. RESOLVED: That Cabinet • Noted that progress has been made in connection with the design of the project, procurement, communications and any future activity. • Agree to the further suspension of the Council's CPR's to allow AWEN to procure the remainder of the RIBA Stage 4 design work for the Grand Pavilion with Purcell's Architects at an additional value of up to £80,418.56. • Noted that a report will be presented to Cabinet to award the main contract in due course. • Continue to explore alternative funding opportunities for the project • Seek confirmation from UK Government that funding can be spent up until March 2023.
Date Decision Made	16 April 2024

322. Strategic Development Plan (SDP) Initial Resourcing Approach

Decision Made	The Corporate Director Communities presented a report which sought approval from Cabinet to delegate authority to the Strategic Planning and Transportation Manager to act as the Corporate Joint Committee Liaison Officer in regard to regional spatial planning for the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR). She explained that The CJC Liaison Officer role is critical to ensure strategic alignment at a regional and local level and will be the regional lead in discussions and negotiations with Welsh Government (WG), as regards spatial planning. The role would be on a temporary basis with the remit being highlighted at section 3 of the report. The Deputy Leader asked what work this Officer currently did, and what impact would this position have on other Council services. The Corporate Director Communities explained that the current Officer heads the Strategic Transport and Planning team with his main role to date being the implementation of the LDP. There was still significant work to be done in order to fully embed our LDP but at this stage we feel that we have the capacity for the Officer to undertake the role of the CJC Liaison Officer.

	RESOLVED: That Cabinet: Delegated authority to the Strategic Planning and Transportation Manager to act as the Corporate Joint Committee Liaison Officer in regard to regional spatial planning. Noted that the CJC Liaison Officer will provide update reports to Cabinet about the progress of the Strategic Development Plan and any changes to the role of CJC Liaison Officer, should it change, so that any impact to the Council can be considered.
Date Decision Made	16 April 2024

323. Allocations Under Town And Community Council Capital Grant Scheme 2024-25

Decision Made	The Corporate Director Communities presented a report which sought Cabinet approval to allocate capital funding to Town and Community Councils to develop projects in line with the recommendations contained within this report from the Town and Community Council (T&CC) Capital Grant scheme for 2024-25. She explained that T&CC's were made aware of the grant scheme in October 2023 and the Council had received a total of 5 applications. She advised that based on the assessments set out in table 2 of the report, it was recommended that the T&CC's applications listed in table 3 of the report were approved. The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment highlighted that it was pleasing to see the scheme taken advantage of, but hoped to see a few more T&CC's applying for the fund. He hoped that we could go out again for further rounds of applications and see more take advantage. He added that it was a shame to see a good application from Coity Higher, but it was refused because it lacked accessibility which was important for future development of play areas. There were further examples of this and the Cabinet Member asked that some advice and guidance be given to T&CC's prior to their applications to ensure they were taking the right steps and securing funding. RESOLVED: Cabinet Approved the allocation of capital funding within the existing Capital Programme of £38,124.50 under the

	T&CC Capital Grant scheme 2024-25 to develop projects in line with the specific applications detailed at Table 3. Approved a second round of the T&CC Capital Grant to be made available in the 2024-25 financial year to enable T&CCs to have the opportunity to access the remaining funding of £181,061.50 for projects aligning to corporate priorities and themes.
Date Decision Made	16 April 2024

324. School Modernisation Programme Bryntirion Comprehensive School - Four-Classroom Block - Highway Works

Decision Made	The Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People presented a report which sought Cabinet approval for the following recommendations to be made to Council: • to vire £141k of capital budgets detailed in this report for the purpose of active travel/highway improvements associated with the delivery of a four-classroom block at Bryntirion Comprehensive School; and • include a scheme for active travel/highway improvements in respect of Bryntirion Comprehensive School in the capital programme with a budget of £141k. He highlighted the other projects that the £141k were originally earmarked for no longer required work on. These were set out at section 3.3 of the report. The estimated cost of the project for Bryntirion Comprehensive School was £121k which allowed a £20k contingency. The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Wellbeing asked why no funding from Welsh Government was provided for this. The Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People explained that as it was outside of the school curtilage, they would not provide funding. The Cabinet Member for Education asked for clarification that the money taken from the other schemes were not going to cause a detriment to those. The Corporate Director confirmed there were no detriment to the other schemes and provided details on this.

	RESOLVED: Cabinet recommended to vire £141k of capital budgets detailed in this report for the purpose of active travel /highway improvements associated with the delivery of the four-classroom block at Bryntirion Comprehensive School; and recommended to include a separate scheme for active travel/highway improvements in respect of Bryntirion Comprehensive School in the capital programme, with a budget of £141k.
Date Decision Made	16 April 2024

325. Corporate Plan / Delivery Plan For 2024 / 25

Decision Made	The Corporate Policy and Public Affairs Manager presented a report which proposed a draft 1-year Corporate Plan Delivery Plan for 2024-25 for Cabinet approval.
	
	She explained that in order to prepare the updated delivery plan, Directorate Management Teams (DMTs) reviewed the 2023-24 Corporate Plan Delivery Plan (CPDP) and provided findings to CMB. Further changes were then made and incorporated in the plan. The Plan now consisted of:
	
	• 7 wellbeing objectives
	• 42 aims, supported by:
	  ○ 84 commitments
	  ○ 88 performance indicators
	
	The Leader was pleased to see the inclusion of additional performance indicators around domestic abuse and how victims were supported. He noticed in the EIA there was a reference to the impact on pregnant women and maternity which was listed as 'no impact'. Given the roll out of the flying start program he believed reference should be made to the positive impact on this.
	
	RESOLVED: Cabinet
	
	Approved the proposed draft Corporate Plan Delivery Plan for 2024-25 as set out in Appendix 1.
	
	Considered the proposed work of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to support the Corporate

	Performance Team looking at how best to measure service user perspectives as part of the Council's performance management framework.
Date Decision Made	16 April 2024

326. Amendment to the Scheme of Delegation of Functions

Decision Made	The Chief Officer Legal & Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy presented a report which sought Cabinet approval to amend the Council's Scheme of Delegation of Functions in relation to the establishment, alteration and removal of pedestrian crossing facilities in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act – Section 23. She explained it was not necessary to make an order to implement the proposals and therefore it is considered that a new paragraph is appropriate to accurately to reflect this requirement. This was set out in section 3.1 of the report. The Deputy Leader asked for confirmation whether this affected the process when dealing with contentious applications. The Chief Officer Legal & Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy stated that this did not affect that process as there has to be a statutory consultation process for applications etc. This report dealt with the Delegated Powers side of it, which would be at the end of process following consultations. RESOLVED: Cabinet approved the amendment to the Scheme of Delegation of Functions as set out in paragraph 3.1 of this report.
Date Decision Made	16 April 2024

327. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	16 April 2024

328. Exclusion of the Public

Decision Made	RESOLVED: The following item was not for publication as it contained exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 14 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007. Following the application of the public interest test, Cabinet resolved pursuant to the Act to consider this item in private, with the public being excluded from the meeting during such consideration.
Date Decision Made	16 April 2024

329. Redstart Joint Venture - Procurement Update

Decision Made	This decision was exempt
Date Decision Made	16 April 2024

The meeting closed at 19:00

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 14 MAY 2024 AT 14:30

Present

Councillor HJ David – Chairperson

JC Spanswick N Farr W R Goode J Gebbie
HM Williams

Present Virtually

JPD Blundell

Apologies for Absence

None

Officers:

Alex Rawlin	Corporate Policy & Public Affairs Manager
Rachel Keepins	Democratic Services Manager
Carys Lord	Chief Officer - Finance, Performance & Change
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
Janine Nightingale	Corporate Director - Communities
Kelly Watson	Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Michael Pitman	Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Anya Richards	Group Manager - Communications and Public Affairs

Declarations of Interest

None

330. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the minutes of the 12/03/2024 as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	14 May 2024

331. Outcome of the Consultation on the Draft Strategic Equality Plan Objectives 2024 - 2028

Decision Made	The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change presented a report which informed Cabinet of the outcome of the draft Strategic Equality Plan objectives 2024-2028 consultation and to seek approval of the Strategic Equality Plan and Objectives 2024-2028 for publication. She explained that the Plan had been developed to demonstrate the Council's commitment to meeting the Equality Act 2010, the Plan was attached at Appendix B. The consultation report attached at Appendix A set out in detail the views expressed by those who participated. She highlighted the stats relating to the responses from various sources including social media and the GovDelivery model. The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Wellbeing welcomed the report and stated that it was important that we engaged with our workforce as the majority of them would also be residents of Bridgend. She asked various questions around how the information was gathered from various groups as indicated in 3.1 of the report, these were answered by the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change as well as the Consultation, Engagement and Equalities Manager. The Cabinet Member Housing, Planning and Regeneration stated that in a news report yesterday it was noted that a Minister who is dubbed Westminster's 'Minister for Common Sense' wished to ban rainbow lanyards and staff groups should be left at the door of employment. He was very proud to be part of an organization that did not support this and rather supported and embraced diversity among its staff. RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the outcome of the consultation and approve the Strategic Equality Plan and Objectives 2024-2028 attached as Appendix B for publication.

Date Decision Made	14 May 2024

332. Fees and Charges Policy

Decision Made	The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change presented a report which sought approval from Cabinet for an updated Fees and Charges Policy. She explained that as part of the budget setting process for the years ahead the Council committed to the following principle: • The Council will seek to recover the cost of services via fees and charges where it is able to do so. As such all services were encouraged to aim for full cost recovery, except where there was a conscious decision not to, consistent with Council priorities. The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change stated that the last financial year proved difficult particularly with the inflation levels fluctuating drastically. This has prompted a change in the Policy to provide a more flexible approach to cost recovery. The Fees and Charges Policy has been updated and a tracked changes version attached at Appendix A, with a clean version attached at Appendix B. The Cabinet Member Resources stated that it was a vital part of the Council's income standing at around £40 million. He explained that while full cost recovery was a starting point, legislation would be guiding much of what we do, this would include social care fees and planning fees among others which were out of the control of BCBC. RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the updated Fees and Charges Policy at Appendix B.
Date Decision Made	14 May 2024

333. Renewal of the Regional Internal Audit Service Partnership Agreement

Decision Made	The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change presented a report which sought approval from Cabinet to the proposals listed at section 1 of the report.

	She explained that in January 2024 the host authority, Vale of Glamorgan, was notified by RCTCBC that the Council had decided not to continue in the Partnership from April 2024. Despite RCTCBC not being involved with the Partnership moving forward, the management of the service has determined that this will not hinder achieving the Partnership's ambitions and objectives. She added that the remaining s151 Officers have suggested that the Partnership should move forward on a longer term agreement basis and the option considered is a continual agreement to include a formal partner review at least every five years. These proposals were discussed and agreed by the Governance and Audit Committee on 18th April 2024 The Cabinet Member Resources stated that in Bridgend we have had success with regional services where there is a synergy and an improvement in service. The track record between Bridgend Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council has been very successful and wished to continue this arrangement. He added that any other Local Authorities who wished to join this service should get in contact. RESOLVED: that Cabinet approved: The renewal of the existing Regional Internal Audit Service (RIAS) Partnership Agreement, with the Vale of Glamorgan Council continuing as host authority, to reinforce business resilience. That three of the original partners continue with the arrangement and sign a new Partnership Agreement - the partners being Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil Councils. That the Partnership Agreement runs continually with a formal partner review built in every five years. The proposal to allow additional partners to join the RIAS as equal partners subject to RIAS Board approval. That the approval of the final terms of agreement for the RIAS is delegated to the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy.
Date Decision Made	14 May 2024

334. Terms Of Reference For Standing Advisory Council On Religious Education (SACRE)/Standing Advisory Council (On Religion Value And Ethics) (SAC)

Decision Made	The Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People presented a report which informed Cabinet that ratification is needed for the revised terms of reference for Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)/Standing Advisory Council (on Religion Value and Ethics) (SAC) ((refer to Appendix 1) He explained that the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 Act sets out 'Religion, Values and Ethics' (RVE) as one of the mandatory subjects which spans the 3 to 16 learning continuum. Until the roll-out of the Curriculum for Wales is completed in all schools and settings, there is a need to have both SACRE and SAC. SACRE will completely cease to exist once the Curriculum for Wales has completed its roll-out RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the content of this report and ratifies the revised terms of reference.
Date Decision Made	14 May 2024

335. Proposed Changes In Council Requirements Regarding Cultural Services

Decision Made	The Corporate Director Social Services & Wellbeing presented a report which identified the proposed reductions in Council investment into a range of cultural services which is delivered through the partnership with Awen Cultural Trust (Awen) and the related reductions in services that will need to be considered in order to achieve the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) budget reduction proposals approved by Council when the budget was approved on the 28th February 2024. Table 1 provided the opening hours and footfall for 2022-23 and 2023-24, while Table 2 provided information on some of the headline performance figures for the past two financial Years. Further details were at section 3 of the report. She highlighted that the change in operating hours that had been proposed could go against the changes within the Strategy. Therefore a proposed amendment was made to the recommendations at section 9 of the report.

	The Deputy leader expressed her concerns on the books on wheels services and when we carry out the equality impact assessment it will highlight various issues that will need to be addressed. She stated that last year herself and Cllr Farr met with St Brides Minor Community Councillor and they did not wish continue paying for the books on wheels service as they were struggling with the cost, therefore this will also have an impact on budgets. She added that utilizing a digital resource with regards to the libraries may also be beneficial. The Leader added that it was important to undertake the consultation and reflect on the responses accordingly. RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the revised recommendation as set out below: To approve the issue of the immediate legal notices required to enact contract changes with Awen to remove the subsidy to Bridgend Youth Theatre and reduce the book fund by £50,000 in 2024-25 and to progress the required public engagement in relation to the development of the strategy for community hubs, library and cultural services in the County Borough which will be the subject of a future Cabinet report.
Date Decision Made	14 May 2024

336. Proposed Dates for meetings of Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Equalities and Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting

Decision Made	The Chief Officer Legal & Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy presented a report which sought approval for the programme of meeting dates for Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Equalities and Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting for the municipal year 2024–2025. She highlighted the proposed dates as set out in section 3 of the report and stated that these would be placed in calendars subject to the approval of the Programme of Meeting report at full Council. RESOLVED: that Cabinet approved the programme of meeting dates for Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Equalities and Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting, as outlined in paragraph 3.1 of this report.

Date Decision Made	14 May 2024

337. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	14 May 2024

Members of the Cabinet gave words of considerable praise to Councillor Huw David, as this was his last meeting of Cabinet before stepping down as Leader of the Council.

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this link

The meeting closed at 15:40

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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**23 JULY 2024**
Report Title:	**CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY 2024**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE**
Responsible Officer:	**ROBIN DAVIES GROUP MANAGER – BUSINESS SUPPORT**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.**
Executive Summary:	**The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act (HASWA) 1974, section 2 (3) requires employers with more than five employees to have arrangements in place for managing health and safety. This is achieved through the creation and approval of a Corporate Health and Safety Policy.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the new Corporate Health and Safety Policy.

2. Background

2.1 The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act (HASWA) 1974, section 2 (3) requires that, as an employer with more than five employees, the council must document its general approach, commitment, and arrangements for managing health and safety. This is achieved through the creation and approval of a Corporate Health and Safety Policy.

2.2 In addition, the council must maintain and revise this policy on a regular basis to ensure it remains relevant and to reflect any changes in management or organisational arrangements.

2.3 The council's current Health and Safety Policy, originally approved in 2017, has been reviewed by the Corporate Health and Safety Unit (CHSU) and endorsed by the Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group to better reflect current organisational and operational arrangements and to provide clarity of existing roles and responsibilities.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 The current Corporate Health and Safety Action Plan includes a commitment to review the Corporate Health and Safety Policy to ensure it encompasses the council's current undertakings and any foreseeable future activities.

3.2 The proposed draft policy has been shared with the Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group for comment and feedback, including trade unions. These were principally minor typographical changes and clarification of arrangements for fire safety management. These have been included in the new Corporate Health and Safety Policy 2024.

3.3 Following approval by Cabinet it is intended that the policy will be communicated to all staff through all existing communication channels.

3.4 The CHSU will review the policy on a regular basis and, where there is any significant change, the policy will be proposed for amendments accordingly.

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

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

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

5.1 **Long-term**

The Corporate Health and Safety Policy sets out how the council discharges its statutory duty in relation to health and safety under relevant legislation as an employer.

Prevention

Health and safety is an important aspect of the council's business. This policy ensures that health and safety matters are at the forefront of our business and that as an employer, we aim to prevent work-related death, injury and ill-health.

Integration

Health and safety practice is integrated across all services, through service delivery mechanisms. Strong and active leadership, employee involvement, and assessment and review are fundamental principles of how health and safety is integrated within the organisation.

Collaboration

The council works in conjunction with key stakeholders such as schools, and unions to ensure that health and safety is adequately considered and addressed.

Involvement

Staff are actively engaged with in order to understand and address health and safety matters and concerns across services and with schools.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no climate change implications as a result of this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding or corporate parenting implications as a result of this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the new Corporate Health and Safety Policy 2024.

Background documents

None

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Bridgend County Borough Council

Corporate Health and Safety Policy 2024-2027

Contents

1. Manual issue and control
2. Health and safety policy statement
3. Scope and application
4. Health and safety management system
5. Structure and responsibilities
6. Arrangements
7. Glossary

1. Manual issue and control

1.1 All documents will be held electronically by Bridgend County Borough Council and as such all documents within the health and safety management system will be available and accessible to all via the intranet.

1.2 The revision and issue status of the health and safety management system is summarised in the table below:

Section number	Revision number	Date issued	Changes made and reason for change	Approved by

3.1 The health and safety management system is maintained and updated by the Corporate Health and Safety Unit (CHSU).

2. Health and safety policy statement

2.1 Our vision is to work together to improve lives across the Bridgend County Borough.

2.2 The council's Well-being Plan outlines how to improve well-being in Bridgend. It also shows how the plan will help us meet the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act's seven wellbeing goals:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales

- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of more cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales

Statement of intent

2.3 We are committed to providing and maintaining a healthy and safe working environment for all our employees and ensuring our work does not adversely affect the health and safety of other people such as service users, visitors, contractors and members of the public. Our employees are our most important asset, and we will therefore aim to promote their good health and wellbeing as well as prevent injuries and ill-health. We will comply with relevant legislation and management standards to effectively manage all significant risks associated with our activities, workplaces, equipment and facilities.

2.4 The organisation is committed to the continual improvement of its health and safety performance and recognises the health and safety management system as a core management function. The management system will effectively and efficiently meet changing business, legislative and regulatory needs. This will be achieved through proactive implementation of a health and safety risk management system.

2.5 The council has adopted the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) guide on health and safety management (that is, HSG65) as the model for its health and safety management systems and will measure itself against this model. This framework helps the council ensure that health, safety and wellbeing issues are addressed and identify areas for further improvement. The council will monitor, evaluate and review the effectiveness of these systems.

2.6 The council will widely promote its health and safety policy to demonstrate its commitment to the health and safety of its employees, service users and those it comes into contact with. The council will use its health and safety framework to review the implementation of its policy providing continual improvement and promote a positive health and safety culture.

3. Scope and application

Organisation details

3.1 The Corporate Management Board, led by the Chief Executive, oversees the strategic running of the council. Approximately 6000 council staff (including schools) are employed to deliver or commission the delivery of services within Bridgend. The council also works in partnership with other bodies to deliver services.

3.2 The council has reviewed it working practices to improve the work-life balance of staff while continuing to provide services to its residents and visitors. Part of this approach has been to approve a new Hybrid Working Policy and there have also been changes in the way parts of the council operate through collaboration with our partners.

3.3 The CHSU is based within the Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate. The unit provides assistance on health, safety and wellbeing matters arising from all the council's activities.

Scope

3.4 This policy outlines the council's plan to satisfy health and safety requirements and legal obligations.

3.5 This is a 'controlled' document. However, 'uncontrolled' copies can be distributed to any interested party upon approval of the CHSU.

3.6 This document is intended to describe the core elements of the management system and relevant interactions.

Application

3.7 This health and safety management system is intended to directly meet the requirements of the following legislation and regulations:

Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

3.8 This Act requires organisations to have a health and safety policy which should include:

- Statement of intent (that is, the health and safety mission).
- Organisation (that is, the structure, roles and responsibilities).
- Arrangements (that is, procedure and guidance).

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

3.9 These regulations require organisations to have arrangements for undertaking effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of the preventive and protective health and safety measures.

HSG65 Successful Health and Safety Management

3.10 This guidance outlines the management system requirements for implementing the arrangements required within Regulation 5 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

3.11 This 'plan, do, check, act' approach will provide the mechanism for managing other legislative, regulatory and policy requirements (for example, risk assessment).

Enforcement

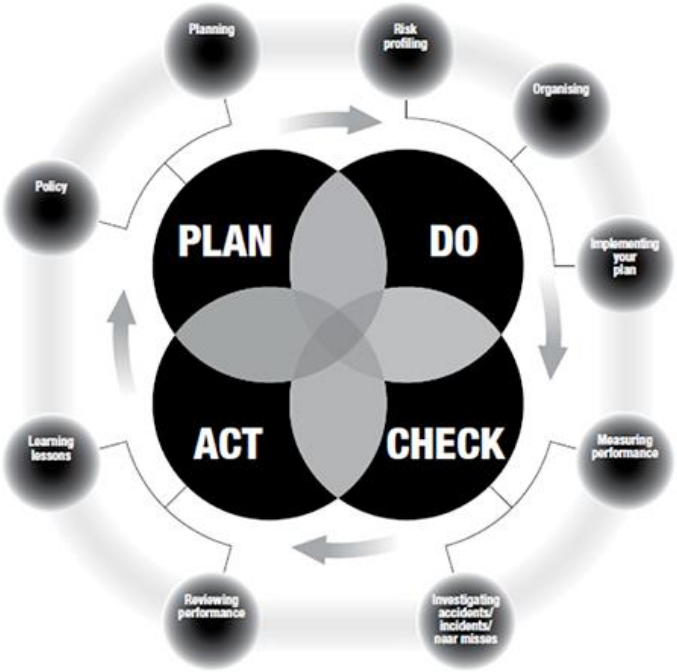
3.12 The HSE is the enforcing body for local authorities including Bridgend County Borough Council. The HSE has the 'right of access' and where health and safety failings are identified, the HSE can take enforcement action which may include a fee for intervention. Further information can be found on the HSE website.

4. Health and safety management system

System structure

4.1 The council will comply with all legal requirements and maintain appropriate health and safety management systems, arrangements and organisational structures to ensure adequate health and safety for all those affected by its undertakings.

- As previously stated, the council has adopted HSG65, as the model for its health and safety management systems and will measure itself against this model.
- The council will monitor, evaluate and review the effectiveness of these systems.
- The council will adopting a sensible risk management approach to ensure attention is focused on the issues that really matter.
- Other parts of the council may comply with other health and safety standards that is, ISO 45001 for operational purposes.



Health and safety procedures

4.2 Related policies, guidance/information and procedures within the health and safety management system can be accessed on the council's health and safety webpages. However, some areas (for example, fire, asbestos, legionella, and radon), may be managed by a separate council team (for example, Corporate Landlord).

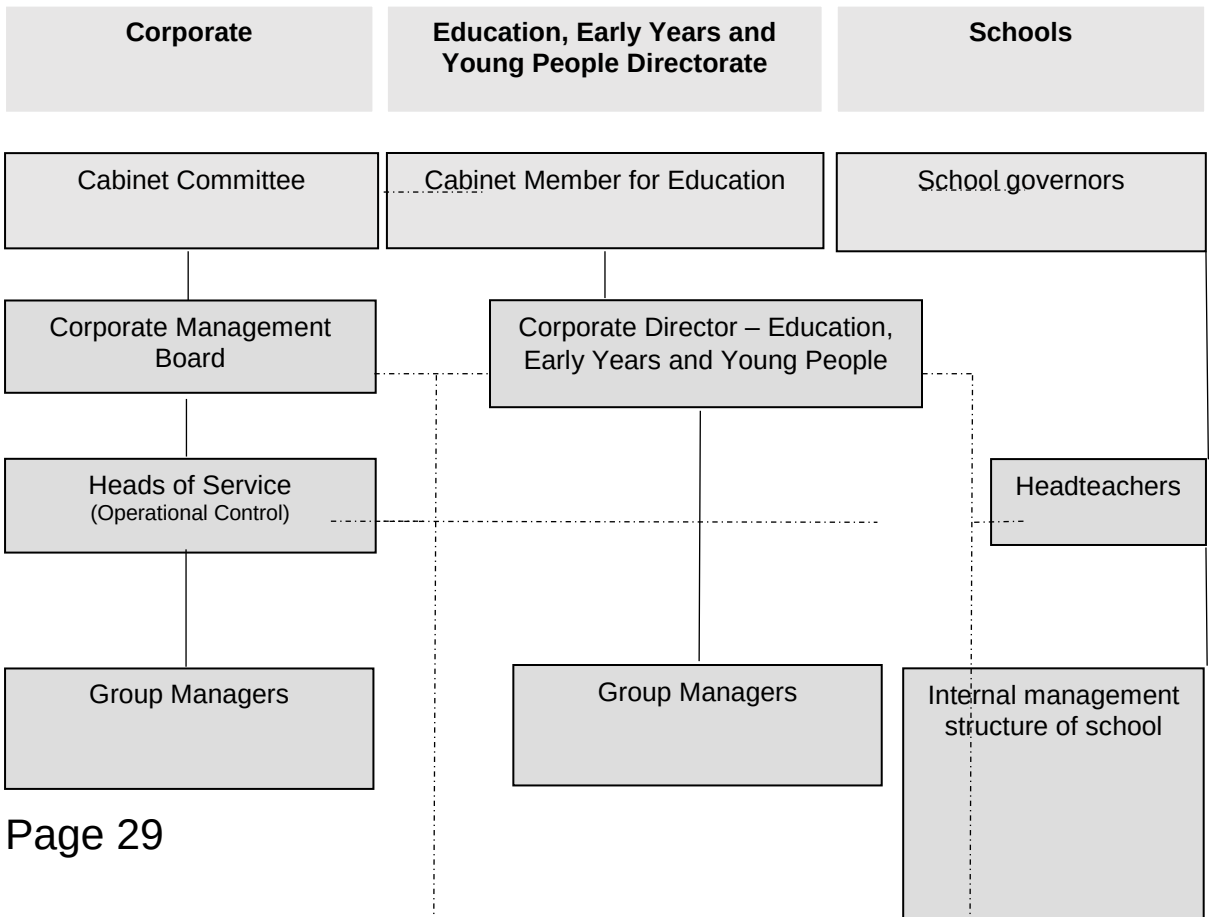
4.3 Managers/supervisors/headteachers should check with the relevant teams (for example, Human Resources for employee wellbeing) for the most up-to-date related policies, guidance/information and procedures.

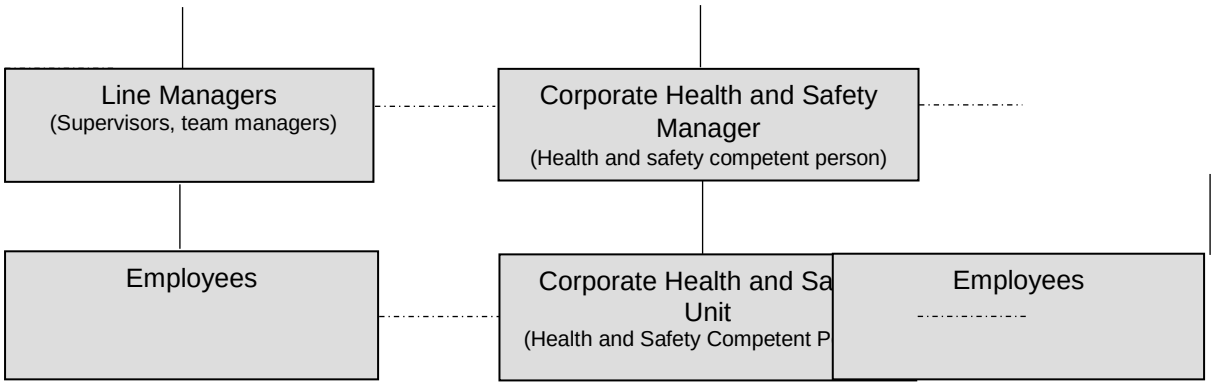
4.4 All schools are encouraged to use the council's procedures to support their health and safety performance, which provides processes, forms and guidance. However, schools are able to operate their own management system (that is, policy, risk assessment and procedures) providing that it meets the expected standards of legislative and best practice requirements. Schools should ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, the availability of such documents for council officers and for enforcement purposes.

5. Structure and responsibilities

General structure

5.1 The structure within the council that supports the continual improvement of health and safety management showing direct (full line) and in-direct (broken) lines of communication is summarised in the chart below:





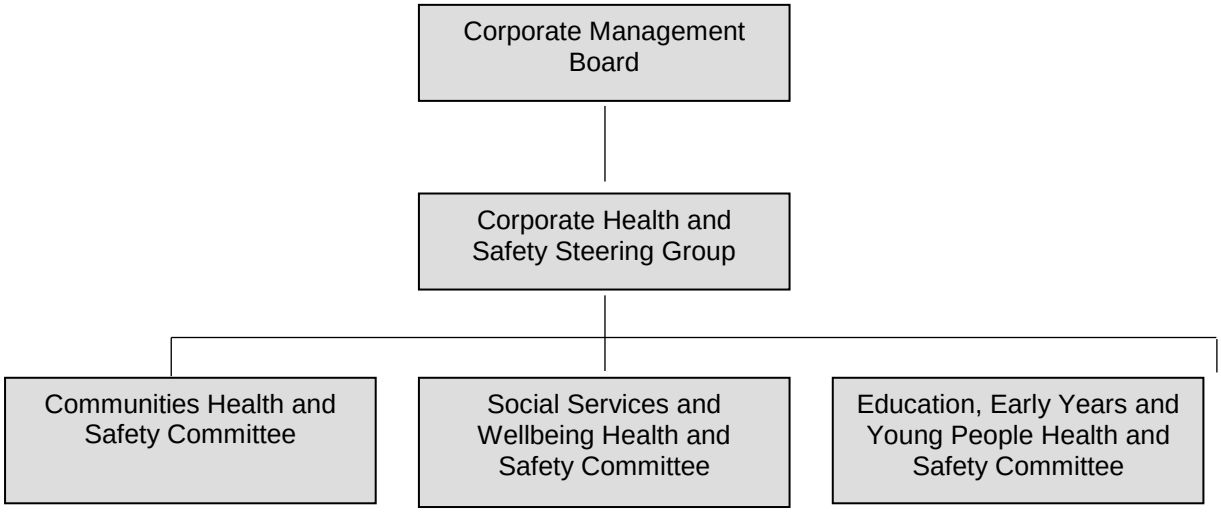
5.2 The chart indicates the arrangements for escalation to a higher level of management to resolve any conflict between health and safety issues and service delivery considerations but also for information to be disseminated where required. A more detailed structure outlining the management reporting lines for each directorate and service will be available on the Intranet.

5.3 Health and safety roles and responsibilities are summarised in job descriptions and refer to the health and safety management arrangements.

5.4 Collaborative working is a key priority for the council. Any collaborative project proposals will need to consider the specific health and safety arrangements for both parties and agree the role and responsibilities for that post, services or the employees that it works within.

Health and safety committee's structure

5.5 In line with the Health and Safety (Consultation with Employees) Regulations 1996, health and safety committees are in place to promote lines of communication from all levels of the workforce including senior management, management, workplace representatives and the corporate health and safety unit. Individual directorate health and safety steering groups report into the Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group. The Chief Executive's Directorate will form part of the Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group. The chart below shows the main lines of communication.



General responsibilities

5.6 The general health and safety roles and responsibilities of management and employees are outlined below:

Elected members

- Ensure that suitable resources and strategic direction are available to discharge the council's health and safety responsibilities.
- Monitor the overall performance of the council's health and safety management systems.
- A member of Cabinet will be identified to undertake the role of 'champion' and lead in this area.

The Chief Executive

- Maintain overall responsibility for all matters regarding the health, safety and wellbeing of all employees and others who may be affected by the council's undertakings.
- Will be accountable to Cabinet for the council's health, safety and wellbeing performance, overall policy compliance and review processes.
- Will ensure health, safety and wellbeing as an agenda item at regular meetings of the corporate management team.
- Address any health, safety and wellbeing issues identified by the corporate management board, the health, safety and wellbeing champion or the corporate health and safety manager.
- Ensure that the Corporate Health and Safety Policy, subordinate policies and associated documents are regularly reviewed and updated as and when necessary.
- Ensure that health, safety and wellbeing reports are prepared for presentation to members as required.
- Ensure the resource needs for the health, safety and wellbeing statutory obligations are identified for consideration by Cabinet.
- Attend any mandatory health, safety and wellbeing training identified for their job role and any health, safety and wellbeing training identified through training need analysis.
- The Chief Executive may choose to delegate health, safety and wellbeing delivery to corporate directors but retains ultimate responsibility.

Corporate Management Board (CMB)

- Provide strategic direction and oversight of corporate health and safety policies, strategies and priorities.
- Ensure that robust health and safety management systems, arrangements and organisation exist in each directorate.
- Monitor the overall performance of the council's health and safety management systems.

- Support the Chief Executive in meeting health and safety responsibilities for the council as a whole.

Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate (responsible for health and safety functions)

The Corporate Director, Education, Early Years and Young People is responsible for health and safety and will undertake the following functions/responsibilities:

- Act as 'champion' for health and safety and make representations to CMB with regard to information, feedback and reports from the Corporate Health and Safety Manager and team members.
- Make representations to the Chief Executive/CMB with regard to any resource implications relating to health and safety.

Directors, heads of service and group managers (including headteachers)

- Responsibility for all matters regarding health and safety within the directorate/school/service area under their control.
- Allocate duties and responsibilities for health and safety within their directorate/school/service area.

Managers and supervisors (including headteachers)

Managers, supervisors and headteachers are responsible for health and safety within their schools/service areas including:

- The dissemination of this policy to staff, ensuring its promotion and implementation by providing leadership, support and advice on health and safety issues.
- The identification of health and safety training needs of staff and link with relevant teams where appropriate (for example, Learning and Organisational Development, CHSU, and Corporate Landlord).
- Provide training, information, instruction and supervision to new and existing employees to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, their health and safety whilst at work.
- Complete risk assessments and safe systems of work (involving staff in this process) where significant risk has been identified, ensuring they are communicated to relevant people and implemented.
- Where applicable, provide and maintain adequate, suitable and sufficient personal protective clothing and equipment at no cost to employees.
- Monitor accidents/incidents.
- Investigate accidents/incidents and where necessary ensure remedial action is implemented to prevent recurrence.

Trade union safety representatives

- Be formally appointed by their respective trade union before undertaking the role of trade union safety representative.

- Independently investigate workplace incidents, near misses, complaints and potential hazards, presenting the findings to the manager and the CHSU.
- Undertake independent inspections of the workplace, presenting the findings to the manager and CHSU.
- Represent employees, if necessary, when dealing with the HSE inspectors or other regulatory bodies.
- Attend health and safety meetings, in order to represent members.

Employees (including agency staff)

All employees (including those in a management role) have a legal duty to take reasonable care of their own health and safety, and must:

- Co-operate with their managers and supervisors on health and safety matters.
- Not interfere with anything provided to safeguard their health and safety.
- Ensure their own safety and that of other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions.
- Work in accordance with any information, instructions and training provided.
- Report all health and safety concerns to a responsible person (for example, the line manager, building manager, and headteacher), without delay.
- Familiarise themselves with the content of this policy and other associated policies/procedures.

Health and safety steering groups

- In pursuance of the Health and Safety (Consultation with Employees) Regulations 1996, the council has established a Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group (CHSSG). There are also additional health and safety steering groups for each directorate. The CHSSG and directorate steering groups must meet a minimum of twice a year. Where required, a committee can meet more frequently to deal with specific issues.
- Separate terms of reference are in place for the CHSSG and directorate committees.
- Notes of meetings will be made available on request to council employees and trade unions.

CHSU

It will be the responsibility of members of the CHSU to:

- Provide professional advice and support on all health and safety matters.
- Maintain information relating to accidents/incidents and produce statistics for the relevant meetings and committees.
- Investigate certain types of accidents/incidents and liaise with managers/supervisors/headteachers to ensure appropriate control measures have been put in place to prevent further occurrences.
- Undertake health and safety audits within service areas and support managers in implementing recommendations.
- Undertake health and safety inspections.

- Report certain types of accidents to the HSE in line with the Reporting Of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013.
- Produce an annual report on health and safety performance to the Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group.
- Provide and/or facilitate appropriate health and safety related training to council employees and volunteers (for example, risk assessment training).
- Develop policies, procedures and guidance relating to specific health and safety matters.
- Where necessary, support managers/headteachers to undertake risk assessments, display screen equipment assessments and new and expectant mother/pregnant worker risk assessments.
- Monitor health and safety performance against the relevant policy, approved code of practice, bets practice and UK legislation.
- Consult with designated trade union safety representatives and enforcing authorities whenever appropriate.
- Stop any activity or operation which, in their professional opinion, poses an immediate and serious risk to persons or property (including situations of potential risk).
- Consult and work with the council's partners to improve health and safety in the workplace.
- Undertake specific health and safety risk assessment where required.

5.7 It is important to note that specific roles and responsibilities within the health and safety management system (for example, fire safety management, manual handling, and occupational health) are covered by specific teams and/or external contractors (for example, Corporate Landlord).

5.8 This policy is applicable to schools where the council is the employer. It can also be adopted by other schools where the governing body is the employer.

6. Arrangements

Health and safety compliance

6.1 Managers/supervisors/headteachers are required to take reasonable steps to ensure they are health and safety compliant in relation to their undertakings. Building compliancy forms an essential part of this process and therefore managers/supervisors/headteachers are required to take reasonable steps to ensure their building are compliant with the current UK legislation. This may require working with other council services (that is, Corporate Landlord), to achieve compliance.

Risk assessments

6.2 Managers/supervisors/headteachers are to ensure risk assessments are undertaken in order to identify potential hazards, evaluate the associated risks and implement control measures to minimise the risks. All relevant employees must be involved in the risk assessment process. These assessments must be documented (for example, using the council's risk assessment forms) and

formally communicated to their staff. Training in undertaking risk assessments can be provided by the corporate health and safety unit.

6.3 It is the responsibility of the relevant manager/supervisor/headteacher to ensure that any recommendations requirement/action plan made to reduce health and safety risks within their area of responsibility are implemented, enforced and monitored to ensure effectiveness. Risk assessments must be reviewed annually, or sooner should they become out of date (for example, changes to work practices, new/revised legislation).

6.4 The completion/implementation of risk assessments will be monitored by health and safety advisors/officers via the audit process. They will be randomly checked, and advice/support given to implement any recommendations.

Information, training, instruction and supervision

6.5 Relevant, job specific health and safety training is mandatory for staff at all levels (advice available from the corporate health and safety unit).

6.6 Information on health and safety will be provided to all new employees (as part of their induction) by managers/supervisors/headteachers and appropriate records kept. This should cover the basics such as details of the nominated first aider(s) for the site, and fire safety arrangements.

6.7 All new employees must attend corporate induction (except school-based staff who will receive similar within their school).

6.8 Line managers will ensure that job specific health and safety training (and refresher) is identified, arranged and monitored, including the maintenance of appropriate records (for example, working in confined spaces, lone working, and manual handling).

6.9 There are a number of e-learning modules on the intranet that staff are able to access.

6.10 Risk assessment training will be provided for managers, supervisors and headteachers with records kept.

6.11 Health and safety advice is available from the CHSU.

Communication and consultation

6.12 This policy will be available on the staff intranet and disseminated to staff by managers/ supervisors/headteachers.

6.13 Information relating to health and safety will be communicated to staff (and other stakeholders) in a variety of ways, including but not limited to:

- Bridgenders;

- formal health and safety meetings;
- the council's internal corporate health and safety web pages;
- team meetings (health and safety to be a standard agenda item);
- trade unions; and
- direct e-mail.

6.14 Consultation with staff on health and safety issues, will take place primarily through the directorate health and safety steering groups. Where appropriate, such matters will also be considered by the Joint Consultative Forum. Staff will also be consulted directly, particularly if a specific member or group of staff is, or could be, affected by a particular issue.

Employee competency

6.15 Managers, headteachers and supervisors will ensure all employees have suitable and sufficient training, experience, knowledge and ability to undertake their duties safely.

Safe plant and equipment

6.16 Managers/headteachers/supervisors will ensure arrangements are in place for regular maintenance and inspection regimes of equipment at the required frequencies.

6.17 Defective equipment (for example, tools and personal protective equipment) must be reported to the appropriate person (for example, line manager) and taken out of service until it is safe to use.

6.18 All employees will use work equipment provided by the council in accordance with the training and instructions they receive.

6.19 Employees will make reasonable checks of equipment prior to use. These processes will be monitored by health and safety officers via the audit process.

Safe handling and use of substances

6.20 Substances hazardous to health must be risk assessed under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 1992 (as amended).

6.21 Managers/supervisors/headteachers are responsible for ensuring completion of COSSH risk assessments in all areas of operation for which they have responsibility, using the using a suitable and sufficient template. They must ensure that all actions identified are implemented and ensure all relevant employees are informed about the assessments.

6.22 Employees can request safety data sheets for all substances purchased from the council's stores department.

Accidents/incidents (near misses)/first aid and work-related ill-health

6.23 All accidents, incidents and cases of work-related ill-health must be reported in accordance with the council's accident/incident reporting procedure.

6.24 All accidents, incidents and cases of work-related ill-health will be investigated by the relevant manager/supervisor/headteacher and recorded on the appropriate accident form. This should include, where required, implementing recommendations to prevent a recurrence. Cases of stress should be referred to occupational health and an appropriate risk assessment completed.

6.25 All serious accidents/incidents will be investigated by the manager with support from the CHSU.

6.26 Managers/persons responsible for buildings will ensure that the required number of first aiders have current qualifications that adequate facilities are provided and maintained (first aid boxes) and that suitable notices are displayed informing employees of the arrangements. First aiders will receive up-date training, as necessary.

6.27 The CHSU will advise on first aider requirements and types of training. They will also monitor that service areas have suitable and sufficient arrangements in place.

6.28 Following completion of risk assessments and implementation of control measures, managers/supervisors/headteachers must identify staff that require health surveillance) - for example, those exposed to asbestos, hazardous substances, noisy environments, vibrating tools, and night workers.

6.29 Managers/headteachers must refer these staff to Human Resources who will refer them to the council's occupational health service provider for the appropriate health surveillance to be undertaken. The results of any health surveillance fitness to work/restrictions will be shared with the relevant manager and the records kept by the council's occupational health service provider.

Fire safety management

6.30 The council's Fire Officer will ensure as far as reasonably practicable, that adequate arrangements are in place across the council in relation to Fire Safety Management, the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and the Fire Safety Act 2021 (Wales). The Fire Safety Act 2021 clarifies the parts of a premises that are covered by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (or 'the Fire Safety Order' or 'FSO').

6.31 Premises responsible person (PRP), premises, managers, managers and headteachers must comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 ensuring a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment has been completed with recommendation actioned.

6.32 PRPs/premises managers/managers/headteachers responsible for buildings will ensure that fire management systems are implemented, including an appropriate fire strategy, emergency procedure/evacuation plans, personal emergency evacuation plans (PEEPS) and the provision of equipment for the evacuation of persons with disabilities. A copy of the assessment will be kept on site for inspection by the fire service.

6.33 For corporate buildings, the council's Fire Officer will engage with the PRP and where required appoint fire co-coordinators/fire wardens and will ensure that suitable and sufficient site-specific training is provided in line with their duties. The council's Fire Officer is responsible for actively monitoring and reviewing these arrangements.

Monitor, review and evaluation

6.34 Measuring health and safety performance will be undertaken by the CHSU using active and reactive monitoring and will form the basis for the content of the council's health and safety annual report and periodic reports to CMB.

6.35 Active monitoring provides feedback on performance before risks result in injury, ill-health or other damage and will include:

- Progress made towards specific health and safety plans, objectives and targets.
- Regular and systematic inspections (including fire risk assessments) of premises, plant and equipment.
- Health and safety auditing to ensure compliance with relevant health and safety policies and to drive continuous improvement.
- Environmental monitoring and health surveillance to check the effectiveness of health control measures and detect the early signs of harm to health.
- Regular feedback to CMB and Cabinet.
- Production of the health and safety annual report.
- Updates to health and safety service plan.

6.36 Reactive monitoring includes gathering data about health and safety failures in order to learn from mistakes and improve the risk management systems and their effectiveness. This will include:

- Gathering data about accidents, cases of ill-health (including sickness absence figures), property damage and other incidents.
- Investigations.
- Learning from insurance claims.
- Learning from HSE notices.

Supporting documentation

6.37 Reference should also be made to other council health and safety policies, strategies, procedures and guidance included on the Intranet. Staff who do not have access to the Intranet may obtain copies from their line manager.

7. Glossary

Accident - undesired event giving rise to death, ill-health, injury, damage or other loss.

Audit - systematic examination to determine whether activities and related results conform to planned arrangements and whether these arrangements are implemented effectively and are suitable for achieving the council's policy and objectives.

Continual improvement - process of enhancing the occupational health and safety management system, to achieve the improvements in overall health and safety performances in line with the organisation's occupational health and safety policy.

Hazard - source or situation with a potential for harm in terms of human injury or ill-health, damage to property, damage to the workplace environment, or a combination of these.

Hazard identification - process of recognising that a hazard exists and defining its characteristics.

Incident/ near miss - event that gave rise to an accident or had the potential to lead to an accident.

Interested parties: individual or group concerned with or affected by the occupational health and safety performance of the council.

Non-conformance - any deviation from work standards, practices, procedures, regulations, and management system performance that could either directly or indirectly lead to injury or illness, property damage to the workplace environment, or a combination of these.

Objectives - goals in terms of occupational health and safety performance that the council sets itself to achieve.

Health and safety - conditions and factors that affect the wellbeing of employees, temporary workers, contractor personnel or and any other person in the workplace.

Occupational health and safety management system - part of the overall management system that facilitates the management of the occupational health and safety risks associated with the business of the council. This includes the council's structure, planning activities, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes and resources for developing, implementing, achieving, reviewing and maintaining the council's occupational health and safety policy.

Organisation - company, operation, firm, enterprise, institution or association, or part thereof, whether incorporated or not, public or private, that has its own functions and administration.

Performance - measurable results of the occupational health and safety management system, related to the council's control of health and safety risks, based on its occupational health and safety policy and objectives.

Risk - combination of the likelihood and consequence(s) of a specified hazardous event occurring.

Risk assessment - overall process of estimating the magnitude of risk and deciding whether or not the risk is tolerable.

Safety - freedom from unacceptable risk of harm (ISO/IEC Guide 2).

Tolerable risk - risk that has been reduced to a level that can be endured by the organisation having regard to its legal obligations and its own occupational health and safety policy.

Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**23 JULY 2024**
Report Title:	**OUTCOMES OF ESTYN INSPECTIONS OF SCHOOLS IN BRIDGEND DURING SPRING TERM 2024**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE**
Responsible Officer:	**SUE ROBERTS GROUP MANAGER SCHOOL SUPPORT**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**There is no impact on the Council's policy framework or procedure rules.**
Executive Summary:	**This report contains information about the inspection of one infant school and four primary schools that took place between January 2024 and March 2024. The report also provides an update about the progress Croesty Primary School has made since their core inspection.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the outcomes of the Estyn inspection visits during spring term 2024 to:

- Betws Primary School;
- Blaengarw Primary School;
- Brackla Primary School;
- Cefn Glas Infant School; and
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

1.2 The report will also inform Cabinet of the outcome of the Estyn review meeting with Croesty Primary School.

2. Background

2.1 All five schools that were inspected during spring term 2024 were previously inspected during the period of May 2014 to November 2017 under the old Estyn inspection framework.

2.2 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Estyn had suspended inspections across all schools for a one-year period.

2.3 During the spring and summer terms 2022, Estyn piloted inspection arrangements that support renewal and reform in education in Wales. The new inspection reports will no longer include summative gradings, but instead will detail how well providers are helping a child to learn.

2.4 Croesty Primary School was previously inspected in November 2022 and, following this inspection, Estyn decided to work with the local authority to review the school's progress.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 During spring term 2024 Estyn visited four schools in Bridgend, who were all inspected using the new approach. The full text of these reports is available on the Estyn website: www.estyn.gov.uk.

Betws Primary School

3.2 Betws Primary School was inspected by Estyn in January 2024 and the report was published on 3 April 2024.

3.3 Estyn noted the following as strengths of the school:

- Wellbeing has a high focus in the life of the school and is a particular strength. Leaders identify early any pupils who are at risk of not engaging in their learning and provide effective intervention strategies to address their needs. As a result, most are happy, well behaved, and ready to learn.

- The acting executive headteacher has developed a vision for collaborative working across the federation that is effective and beneficial to both schools. She demonstrates professional values and sets high expectations for leadership, provision, pupil outcomes and their wellbeing across the two schools.

- Outdoor learning is a strength. Nearly all pupils enjoy beneficial opportunities to learn through forest school sessions where they develop important skills such as teamwork and problem-solving, whilst also improving their wellbeing.

- Provision for pupils identified as having additional learning needs (ALN) is strong and early interventions are a strength of the school. The ALN Co-ordinator works well across the federation and with external agencies to ensure that there is effective identification, tracking and support for individual pupils.

3.4 Betws Primary School's Estyn inspection report included the following recommendations:

Recommendation number	Recommendation
Recommendation 1	Use evaluation processes more effectively to inform school improvement work.

Recommendation 2	Ensure that pupils develop and use their writing and numeracy skills progressively and to the standard they are capable of during their time at school.

3.5 Estyn inspectors concluded that the school is making sufficient progress and no follow-up action is required.

3.6 The local authority, along with Central South Consortium, will support the school in drawing up an action plan to show how the recommendations will be addressed.

Blaengarw Primary School

3.7 Blaengarw Primary School was inspected by Estyn in January 2024 and the report was published on 3 April 2024.

3.8 Estyn noted the following as strengths of the school:

- Relationships between pupils, staff and parents are a strength of the school. Pupils show kindness to each other and extend a warm welcome to visitors. They are appreciative of the support they receive from staff to promote their wellbeing.

- The provision for developing pupils' oracy skills in English is a particular strength. A range of experiences and activities ensure that pupils build on their confidence as they progress through the school.

- Outdoor learning is a strength across the federation. Nearly all pupils enjoy beneficial opportunities to learn through forest school sessions where they develop important skills such as teamwork and problem-solving while also improving their wellbeing.

- The ALN Co-ordinator provides strong support across the federation and has a clear strategic overview of pupils' needs across Blaengarw Primary School.

3.9 Blaengarw Primary School's Estyn inspection report included the following recommendations:

Recommendation number	**Recommendation**
Recommendation 1	Use evaluation processes more effectively to inform school improvement work.
Recommendation 2	Improve teaching to ensure that pupils receive the right level of challenge and develop positive attitudes to their learning.
Recommendation 3	Improve provision to develop pupils' writing, Welsh language and digital skills and ensure that they have opportunities to use the full range of skills in their work across the curriculum.

3.10 The local authority, along with Central South Consortium, will support the school in drawing up an action plan to show how the recommendations will be addressed. Estyn will work with the local authority to review the school's progress and the school will be subject to an Estyn follow-up review approximately one year after the report was issued.

Brackla Primary School

3.11 Brackla Primary School was inspected by Estyn in January 2024 and the report was published on 3 April 2024.

3.12 Estyn noted the following as strengths of the school:

- Throughout the school, pupils develop their reading skills well. As they move through school many pupils read more challenging texts with fluency and develop strong comprehension skills for their age. Pupils enjoy talking about the books they have read. Throughout the school, pupils' strong reading skills support their ability to work independently effectively.

- Outdoor learning is a strength of the school. The school's outdoor leader prepares stimulating experiences for the pupils, from which they develop confidence, self-esteem, perseverance, and strong creativity skills.

- Teachers have developed spaces within classrooms, corridors and other rooms into exciting break out areas. This allows pupils to follow their own interests related to the topics. This develops their independence and collaboration skills exceptionally well.

- The headteacher provides excellent leadership. She is supported by a highly effective leadership team. They create a welcoming, happy school community with wellbeing at the centre. Along with other senior leaders, they have worked collaboratively with staff to develop a clear vison.

3.13 Brackla Primary School's Estyn inspection report included the following recommendation:

Recommendation number	**Recommendation**
Recommendation 1	Improve the quality of feedback to ensure that pupils understand what they do well and what they need to do to improve.

3.14 Estyn inspectors concluded that the school is making sufficient progress and no follow-up action is required.

3.15 The local authority, along with Central South Consortium, will support the school in drawing up an action plan to show how the recommendations will be addressed.

Cefn Glas Infant School

3.16 Cefn Glas Infant School was inspected by Estyn in February 2024 and the report was published on 1 May 2024.

3.17 Estyn noted the following as strengths of the school:

- The standard of reading across the school is strong. Most pupils in the reception classes learn to recognise letters and their sounds rapidly. As they move through the school most pupils gain effective phonic skills, enabling them to decode unfamiliar words confidently. By Year 2, most pupils are developing fluency well, and many read with appropriate expression.

- Pupils' wellbeing and attitudes to learning are a clear strength of the school. There are warm and purposeful working relationships between staff and pupils and, as a result, pupils feel safe and settle quickly. They show pride in their school and enjoy having a voice in how and what they learn.

- The school places a strong emphasis on providing a rich and varied range of visits and visitors that widen and enrich pupils' experiences well. These support pupils' understanding of the curriculum and help to engage pupils in their learning.

- Leaders establish highly effective relationships with families and the wider school community. The school provides worthwhile opportunities for parents to learn more about their child's education and increase their capacity to support their child's learning.

3.18 Cefn Glas Infant School's Estyn inspection report included the following recommendations:

Recommendation number	Recommendation
Recommendation 1	Ensure that provision for independent learning enables pupils to apply and develop skills effectively.
Recommendation 2	Ensure that older pupils develop their digital skills effectively.

3.19 Estyn inspectors concluded that the school is making sufficient progress and no follow-up action is required.

3.20 The local authority, along with Central South Consortium, will support the school in drawing up an action plan to show how the recommendations will be addressed.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

3.21 St Mary's Catholic Primary School was inspected by Estyn in February 2024 and the report was published on 1 May 2024.

3.22 Estyn noted the following as strengths of the school:

- School leaders and staff have put considerable thought into the development, design and planning of the school's curriculum over time. This process has been supported effectively by pupils, parents and governors.

- The positive relationships between pupils and adults are a strength of the school that is valued greatly by all pupils and parents. Staff place a high priority on pupils' wellbeing. They ensure that the school provides a nurturing environment in which pupils feel safe, happy, and cared for.

- Working closely with governors and other leaders, the headteacher has established and communicated a purposeful vision for the school, based on providing pupils with the best opportunities to learn. Leaders place the strong Roman Catholic ethos of the school at the heart of its vision and these principles underpin all aspects of its aims and strategic objectives.

- Staff maximise the use of the school's outdoor learning areas and the locality to offer authentic learning experiences to pupils. For example, pupils learn about and experience bee-keeping and growing vegetables in the allotment area. They harvest the honey to sell and use the vegetables to cook healthy meals. Teachers' skilful use of the outdoors enriches learning, particularly for the youngest pupils.

3.23 Estyn also invited the school to prepare a case study on its work in relation to the provision of high-quality learning experiences for their youngest pupils.

3.24 St Mary's Catholic Primary School's Estyn inspection report included the following recommendations:

Recommendation number	**Recommendation**
Recommendation 1	Improve teachers' skills and confidence in the teaching of Welsh to improve the progress that pupils make.
Recommendation 2	Improve self-evaluation processes to identify clearly the strengths and areas for improvement in teaching.

3.25 Estyn inspectors concluded that the school is making sufficient progress and no follow-up action is required.

3.26 The local authority, along with Central South Consortium, will support the school in drawing up an action plan to show how the recommendations will be addressed.

Croesty Primary School

3.27 Croesty Primary School was inspected by Estyn in November 2022 and the report was published on 3 February 2023. At that time, Estyn inspectors concluded that the school was not making sufficient progress and that the school would be subject to a follow-up review.

3.28 The Croesty Primary School report included the following recommendations:

Recommendation number	Recommendation
Recommendation 1	Improve strategic leadership, evaluation work and improvement processes.
Recommendation 2	Ensure that teaching and the provision for skills build effectively on prior learning and support pupils in all classes to make progress in line with their ability.
Recommendation 3	Develop feedback and assessment for learning, so that pupils can clearly identify what they need to do to improve their work.
Recommendation 4	Strengthen the governance of the school to ensure that the governing body develops its role as a critical friend with the capacity to hold the school to account.

3.29 The local authority, along with Central South Consortium, supported the school in drawing up an action plan to show how the recommendations would be addressed and held regular progress review meetings over the course of the year.

3.30 On 25 March 2024, Estyn conducted a follow-up review of the school's progress and judged that Croesty Primary School had made sufficient progress in addressing the recommendations from the section 28 inspection.

3.31 The school has been removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn review and there will be no further monitoring activity in relation to this inspection.

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

5. Wellbeing of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Wellbeing Objectives

5.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment provides a comprehensive summary of the outcomes expected from the implementation of the service.

Long-term	Supports the improvement of standards and outcomes in schools.
Prevention	Development of post-inspection action plans or refinement of school improvement plans helped to ensure that recommendations identified are addressed and acted upon to secure school improvement, preventing standards from slipping. The local authority and Central South Consortium will continue to monitor the school's progress.
Integration	Monitoring and acting upon school inspection reports is key to ensuring that outcomes for schools are achieved thus helping to support a successful economy**.**
Collaboration	The local authority works closely with schools, Estyn and with Central South Consortium to deliver the wellbeing objectives related to school improvement. The local authority receives the school inspection reports from Estyn and this informs the work conducted by Central South Consortium to deliver the support for school improvement services.
Involvement	This area of work involves all stakeholders in school improvement. Schools work closely with Improvement Partners from Central South Consortium to refine their improvement plans or post-inspection action plans and to identify strategic support from the local authority, Central South Consortium and elsewhere (as required) reflecting the diversity of stakeholders involved in aspects of school improvement.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no climate change implications arising directly from this information report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding or corporate parent implications arising directly from this information report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this information report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet notes the contents of this report.

Background documents

None.

Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**23 JULY 2024**
Report Title:	**LEARNER TRAVEL POLICY**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE**
Responsible Officer:	**ROBIN DAVIES GROUP MANAGER STRATEGY, PERFORMANCE AND SUPPORT**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**The is no effect on the policy framework and procedure rules**
Executive Summary:	**This is a report on the outcomes of the public consultation exercise regarding proposed changes to the local authority's current Home-to-School/College Transport Policy.**

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- report on the outcomes of the consultation exercise approved by Cabinet regarding the proposed changes to the local authority's current Home-to-School/College Transport Policy;
- seek Cabinet's decision on whether or not it should progress with any of the proposals; and
- identify how the proposals would contribute to the overall savings target as part of the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

2. Background

2.1 The Council's statutory responsibilities in relation to home to school/college transport are set out in the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 (the Measure).

2.2 The Measure states that local authorities must:

- assess the travel needs of learners in their authority area;
- provide free home to school transport for learners of compulsory school age attending primary school who live two miles or further from their nearest suitable school;

- provide free home-to-school transport for learners of compulsory school age attending secondary school who live three miles or further from their nearest suitable school;
- assess and meet the needs of 'looked after' children in their authority area;
- promote access to Welsh-medium education;
- promote sustainable modes of travel; and
- where learners are not entitled to free transport, local authorities have the power to provide transport on a discretionary basis.

2.3 In Bridgend, the term 'nearest suitable school' applies to the local English-medium 'catchment school', the nearest Welsh-medium school or the nearest voluntary aided faith school of the relevant denomination. Pupils admitted to special schools are considered on an individual basis.

2.4 Section 2 of the Measure requires local authorities to assess the travel needs of all learners under the age of 19 who receive education or training and who are ordinarily resident in the local authority's area. This includes those who have reached the age of 19 but started a course when under the age of 19 and continue to attend that course.

2.5 However, there is no statutory duty in the Measure to provide free transport for the following learners:

- Those who are not of statutory school age, and this includes Nursery pupils as well as Post-16 learners; or

- Those who, by parental preference, attend a voluntary aided (VA) school, where the school is not the nearest suitable school.

2.6 The Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance 2014 (the operational guidance) was published in June 2014. This guidance includes statutory provisions which local authorities must consider in undertaking their responsibilities under the Measure. This guidance includes statutory guidance on risk assessing walked routes to school.

2.7 The Measure also provides guidance on circumstances in which local authorities may choose to make their own discretionary arrangements.

2.8 The Learner Travel Policy is closely aligned with the local authority's 'School Admissions Policy' although it does not form part of the admission arrangements. Nevertheless, the Council's Home-to-School/College Transport Policy will be a material consideration in respect of the choice of school for many parents and is therefore detailed in the local authority's Admissions Policy, which is the 'Starting School Booklet' for parents, which is revised annually in line with the relevant School Admissions Policy.

2.9 In September 2015, Cabinet determined changes to the local authority's Home-to-School/College Transport Policy in order to meet MTFS savings identified from 2016-2017 to 2019-2020. The policy change and corresponding MTFS budget reduction proposals were implemented in September 2016. However, initial savings were predicated on the full implementation of a change to statutory distances of 2 miles for primary school-age children from the previous 1.5 miles and 3 miles for

secondary school-age children (including Post-16 learners) from the previous 2 miles. No change was proposed to the Nursery eligibility of 1.5 miles. On implementing the policy change Cabinet determined to protect the entitlement of all pupils currently benefitting from home-to-school transport at the former distances until they moved schools or moved from one phase of education to another. Furthermore, protection was provided for siblings of children already in receipt at the former distances, where they too would benefit from free transport at the same distance.

2.10 Cabinet was not minded to remove the discretionary arrangements for Post-16 learners, who would therefore continue to benefit from home-to-school/college transport at the 3-mile distance.

2.11 The 'in-receipt' and the 'sibling rule' entitlement has meant that, year-on-year, the number of pupils the policy change has applied to, is relatively small. However, parents have challenged this inequality and have been critical of its intention, especially as children without siblings are disadvantaged.

2.12 Parents who have been aggrieved that their child has been at detriment in comparison with their peers (that is, a child without siblings in the same school, entering their statutory education in Reception, or transitioning from primary education into secondary education in Year 7) have typically challenged the safety of walked routes to school in order to address this inequality. Without sufficient formal assessments under the requirements of the operational guidance, it has been difficult for the local authority to contest much of the challenge on the availability of walked routes to school.

2.13 Without adequate assurances that routes considered as available by the local authority had followed the procedure outlined in the aforementioned operational guidance, the local authority was not be able to fully implement its policy decision made in September 2015.

2.14 Therefore, in August 2017, the local authority agreed to progress the formal assessments of walking routes in accordance with the operational guidance. These formal assessments did not include all possible walked routes, as such an assessment would be unfeasible, but included an assessment of all major arterial routes across the county borough from the main residential areas to local schools. Routes that were generally considered as 'well-travelled' as part of the 'public realm' (for example, modern streets through new or mature residential estates where sufficient pavements/footways were present with good street lighting, were considered to be 'available' as per the operational guidance, or as per previous assessments undertaken by the local authority). More recent investment in active travel, in particular the significant increase in financial investment of £70m across Wales by Welsh Government has allowed the local authority to implement the necessary changes on Bridgend roads to facilitate active travel. For example, the widening of footways along sections of the A48 and A473 for shared use facilities, with vegetation clearance, additional traffic signs and street lighting improvements have meant that more of the urban realm has been considered to be 'available' to learners to walk to school.

2.15 The physical assessments of the main routes were progressed by an independent consultant. Physical assessments were undertaken before routes were deemed

available, taking into consideration the statutory provisions contained within the Operational Guidance. An officer of the local authority was appointed to progress statutory consultations with schools, learners and parents, to ensure that their views were heard as part of the assessment and engagement process.

2.16 Twelve reports were produced covering the following geographical areas/school catchments:

- Abercerdin Primary School
- Blaengarw Primary School
- Brynteg School
- Bryntirion Comprehensive School
- Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen
- Cynffig Comprehensive School
- Garw Valley
- Maesteg School
- Nantymoel Primary School
- Ogmore Vale Primary School
- Pencoed Comprehensive School
- Porthcawl Primary School

2.17 All assessments undertaken fully followed the statutory requirements outlined in the aforementioned operational guidance.

2.18 Section 5 of the local authority's current Home-to-School/College Transport Policy identifies the local authority's response to the identification of available routes and states that in determining the comparative safety of a walking route where routes are reviewed, 'provision may be withdrawn where for example, identified hazards have been mitigated against'. This will then be classed as an identified and available safe walking route. Parents will be given at least one term's advance notice of the withdrawal of transport and any withdrawal will normally be implemented to coincide with the start of an academic year.

2.19 Following these assessments officers identified that the impact of fully implementing the available walking route assessments on those learners currently benefitting from free home-to-home-to-school transport, where routes had previously been challenged by parents as 'unsafe', would be significant. However, maintaining this legacy provision and not withdrawing free home-to-school transport for those learners where there are available walking routes to school has created significant inequality across Bridgend. In some parts of the county, pupils who are able to walk to school on a route identified as 'available' are still in receipt of home-to-school transport where they reside under the statutory and policy distances of two miles for primary school pupils and three miles for secondary school pupils respectively, whereas in other parts of the county, pupils living within the same distances are not eligible for free home-to-home-to-school transport and walk to school.

2.20 Therefore, in July 2019, Cabinet agreed to undertake a full 12-week public consultation on a new set of proposals that would both address the inherent inequality in the current Home-to-School/College Transport Policy (principally the 'sibling rule' and 'in-receipt' protection) and to provide sufficient savings to support the £1.869m of budgets savings made since 2014.

2.21 The public consultation took place over a 12-week period from 14 October 2019 to 5 January 2020.

2.22 Five proposals were detailed in the public consultation document and are summarised as follows:

Proposal 1
Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from an available walking route to school, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary school-age pupils and three miles for secondary school-age pupils.

Proposal 2
Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than 8 passengers.

Proposal 3
Removal from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport.

Proposal 4
To stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over, who go to school or college other than those pupils who attend a Welsh-medium sixth form at a school within Bridgend or who wish to pursue a faith-based education in a sixth form at a voluntary aided school within Bridgend.

Proposal 5
To stop providing free transport for nursery-age pupils (aged three and four-years-old).

2.23 In August 2020 Welsh Government announced its review of learner travel in Wales and there was high expectation that the review would potentially amend the current statutory distances in new legislation. Therefore, when Cabinet considered the outcome of the 2019-2020 consultation in September 2020, it determined to accept proposal 3 above only and to defer any decision on the remaining proposals pending the outcome of Welsh Government's review.

2.24 However, the outcome of Welsh Government's review did not progress as expected, and there have been no changes to the Measure. The statutory distances remain unchanged, although five recommendations were made by Welsh Government as follows:

2.25 Recommendation 1
Update Learner Travel: Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance document to align with legislative changes; promote and strengthen collective responsibility across local government, schools, parents and learners; and improve consistency of delivery across Wales.

2.26 Recommendation 2
Commission a piece of work to update the All-Wales Travel Behaviour Code, resources for schools and update to accompanying statutory guidance.

2.27 Recommendation 3
Promote best practice, resources and collaboration across local authorities.

2.28 Recommendation 4
Explore options to develop a match-funded grant programme to seed-fund independent travel training.

2.29 Recommendation 5
Increase opportunities for active travel and use of public transport network.

2.30 Therefore, given that the learner transport budget has been under significant financial pressure for many years, new proposals to support MTFS budget reductions have progressed to public consultation, which were approved by Cabinet in March 2024.

2.31 Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013

2.32 The council needs to have due regard to the Welsh Government's Active Travel Action Plan for Wales and the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.

2.33 This responsibility includes actions to changing the way we travel, the need for fewer cars on our roads, and more people using public transport, walking or cycling.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 In March 2024 Cabinet determined to progress a 12-week public consultation on five proposals as follows:

- Withdrawal of legacy transport for all learners benefitting from an identified and available (safe) walking route to school, to fall in line with the statutory distances of 2 miles for primary age pupils and 3 miles for secondary age pupils.
- Removal of legacy 'sibling' protection for pupils.
- Removal of all transport for nursery pupils (excluding pupils attending their nearest suitable Welsh-medium or faith school).
- Removal of all Post-16 transport (excluding pupils attending the following schools:
    - Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd
    - Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School.
    - The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School
- The offer to parents/carers of pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) the option of a 'personal transport budget' providing a mileage allowance of £0.45/mile.

3.2 The outcome of the consultation is as follows and is detailed in the Consultation Report (see Appendix 2) and in the thematic 'Emerging Themes' summary (see Appendix 3). However, the main issues from the responses are summarised below.

3.3 Proposal 1 - Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from an identified and available (safe) walking route to school in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary school pupils and three miles for secondary school pupils

3.4 There were four main areas of concern relating to this proposal (for a full breakdown see consultation report in Appendix 2).

- 70.5% of all respondents did not agree with the proposal while 29.5% did agree.
- 62.8% of pupils did not agree with the proposal while 37.2% did.
- 73.1% of parents did not agree with the proposal while 26.9% did.

3.5 The main areas of feedback in respect of concerns regarding the implementation of this policy proposal (see Appendix 2 for a full breakdown) were as follows:

3.6 **Safety and wellbeing** - in particular, pupils being required to walk to school along routes they perceive as unsafe with lots of traffic and poor lighting, especially in the winter months. Increased exposure to anti-social behaviour and the impact on health, both physical and mental, of the journey to school. The impact on a pupil's ability to learn after such a potentially long journey, especially for secondary school pupils walking up to six miles per day.

3.7 **Cost** – a significant proportion of responders felt that the options available as alternatives to home-to-school transport (other than walking to school), were that many did not have a family car, that families were already finding the cost-of-living difficult and that public transport options had been reduced over many years and especially more recently, and that the cost of public transport was a distinct barrier to getting their child to school safely.

3.8 **Environment** – many responders stated that the proposal would likely have a negative impact on the environment close to schools and this was primarily because it was highly unlikely that younger pupils would walk to school and there would therefore be more cars on local roads and the consequential impact on the local environment. Some responders also identified the net zero carbon agenda as important considerations and the impact on this ambition.

3.9 **Social impact** – the current policy arrangement facilitates many families to go to work and any change or reduction in eligibility may mean some families not being able to do so.

3.10 Proposal 2 - Removal of 'sibling' and 'in-receipt' protection for pupils

3.11 There was some confusion regarding this proposal in that many responders as impacting siblings of different ages misinterpreted it. However it is important to clarify that it is proposing to remove the 'sibling' and 'in receipt' eligibility from the current policy, so all pupils are equally eligible for home-to-home-to-school transport based on the statutory distances. Therefore, there would not be a situation where one sibling retains eligibility where another pupils loses such eligibility if this proposal were accepted and if both siblings lived together at the same address.

3.12 A summary of the outcome of the consultation responses was as follows:

- 47.9% of all respondents did not agree with the proposal while 52.1% did agree.
- 35.8% of pupils did not agree with the proposal while 64.2% did.
- 50.6% of parents did not agree with the proposal while 49.4% did.

3.13 The main areas of feedback in respect of concerns regarding the implementation of this policy proposal (see Appendix 2 for a full breakdown) were as follows:

3.14 **Social Impact** – principally that all siblings should be able to travel together. That if siblings travel at different times this could affect families and that siblings are important for support and helping younger pupils transition into higher stages of education.

3.15 **Safety and wellbeing** – that younger children are often supported by older siblings on home-to-school transport. There was also concern expressed over more vehicles and congestion outside schools and how unsafe the roads may be, especially at pick-up and drop-off time. The impact on health, both physical and mental of the journey to school and pupils' ability to learn after such a potentially long journey, especially for secondary school pupils, was also raised.

3.16 **Cost** – a significant proportion felt that the options available as alternatives to home-to-school transport (other than walking to school), were that many did not have a family car, that families were already finding the cost-of-living difficult and that public transport options had been reduced over many years and more recently, and that the cost of public transport was a distinct barrier to getting their child to school safely.

3.17 **Expectation** – As well as identifying the unfairness of the policy in general, some respondents identified that there should be some protection in respect of this proposal for existing pupils if this is brought in.

3.18 Proposal 3 - Removal of all transport for Nursery pupils (excluding Welsh-medium and faith-based education)

3.19 There was significant discontent with this policy proposal, in particular that responders strongly disagreed that there should be protection for pupils seeking a Welsh-medium or faith-based education.

- 57.5% of the respondents did not agree with the proposal while 42.5% did agree.
- 53.3% of pupils did not agree with the proposal while 46.7% did.
- 58.3% of parents did not agree with the proposal while 46.7% did.

3.20 The other main areas of feedback in respect of concerns regarding the implementation of this policy proposal (see Appendix 2 for a full breakdown) was a mix for and against the continuation of this policy arrangement, as follows:

3.21 **Social impact** – That this would negatively impact some working parents. However, this needs to be seen in the context that currently only 19 Nursery pupils would lose their eligibility, a figure that the wider public would be unaware of. However, many other responders suggested that eligibility should be removed for all Nursery pupils or should at least be means tested.

3.22 **Safety** – There were concerns raised that pupils of such a young age should not be being transported as this was unsafe and that walking children of such a young age to school was also unsafe.

3.23 **Cost** – Many responders suggested that the money spent on non-statutory Nursery transport would be better used to prevent other home-to-school transport cuts being made, while others proposed that this policy eligibility supports working families and to remove it would negatively impact those families' ability to work.

3.24 **Expectation** – Responses ranged from a suggestion that a change of policy would present a barrier to working families, to the acknowledgement that nursery education is voluntary and should at least be needs assessed/means tested.

3.25 Proposal 4 - Removal of all Post-16 transport (excluding Welsh-medium and faith-based education)

- 69.8% of all respondents did not agree with the proposal while 30.2% did agree.
- 58.8% of pupils did not agree with the proposal while 41.2% did.
- 70.9% of parents did not agree with the proposal while 29.1% did.

3.26 The main areas of feedback in respect of concerns regarding the implementation of this policy proposal (see Appendix 2 for a full breakdown) was a mix for and against the continuation of this policy arrangement, as follows:

3.27 **Distance** – there was concern expressed that the distances from many parts of Bridgend to Bridgend College in particular was significant and would likely impact on the choice of sixth form versus further education at college. The policy proposal was seen likely to impact those not living in close proximity to their nearest English-medium sixth-form or college, so pupils of similar academic potential living in different parts of the county would be impacted differently as a result of this policy proposal. For some living very close to their schools, the impact would be minimal, for others living some distance away, the impact would be significant.

3.28 **Responsibility** – feedback from some pupils identified that they accepted their own responsibility as emerging young adults, for the journey to school, to access their place of education. However, others responded by suggesting that such a policy change would likely mean fewer young people taking up sixth-form or further education, as the lack of transport would be a barrier.

3.29 **Welsh-medium and faith-based education** – there was significant feedback that the protection of Welsh-medium and faith-based education afforded by this proposal would be inequitable. Other feedback pointed to lack of protection for other faiths other than Christianity.

3.30 **Cost** – the costs to families was considered to be significant if this policy offer was removed. With the feeling that lo-income families would suffer the most, it was clear that with not all families having access to a private motor car, the impact on those pupils and their families would be significant. Others pointed to the recent changes to public transport in Bridgend and the now more reduced availability and increased costs of public transport.

3.31 **Expectation** – Many responders suggested that without other choices being available children could be deprived of their education.

3.32 **Environmental** – many responders identified the potential for significant local impact in respect of additional traffic movements and parking issues around schools.

3.33 Proposal 5 - The offer to parents/carers of pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) the option of a 'personal transport budget'

- 52.6% of all respondents did not agree with the proposal while 47.4% did agree.
- 48.4% of pupils did not agree with the proposal while 51.6% did.
- 54.1% of parents did not agree with the proposal while 45.9% did.

3.34 There was considerable confusion regarding this policy proposal. A significant proportion of responders assumed that this was a mandatory proposal and that either the local authority was forcing this policy arrangement on parents, or that the local authority would charge parents 45 pence per mile for the provision of school transport for their child. Very few responders understood this was only an offer, and if parents rejected the offer of a personal transport budget, their child's current eligibility and associated transport provision for free home-to-school transport, would not be impacted. Those that did understand the proposal were generally supportive and understood it was not mandatory.

3.35 Those who did understand the offer did not object to it and many suggested it as an offer only it was a generally positive offer by the local authority.

3.36 Assessment of the impact of the policy proposals

3.37 It is clear that the current home-to-school/college transport policy is complicated.

3.38 The policy has been subject to change but not consistently applied due to:

- nuances in policy (sibling rule and 'already in-receipt' retention of eligibility);
- historic insecurities in up-to-date assessments of availability of walking routes (now resolved);
- nursery transport provided at 1.5 miles and over;
- primary school transport - a mix of over 1.5- and 2-miles eligibility (dependent on local challenges over the availability of walked routes to school, as well as the 'sibling' and 'in-receipt' rules); and
- secondary school transport - a mix of over 2- and 3-miles eligibility (dependent on local challenges over the availability of walked routes to school as well as the 'sibling' and 'in-receipt' rules).

3.39 Some historic anomalies also exist where there is no eligibility under any previous or current policy, but transport is provided for pupils in those areas (for example, North Cornelly to Cynffig Comprehensive School) and therefore for many years, there has been a legitimate expectation that such an arrangement will continue.

3.40 Assessment of impact of the implementation of the following proposals

- **Proposal 1** - Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from an available walking route to school, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary school-age pupils and three miles for secondary school-age pupils.

- **Proposal 2** - Removal of 'sibling' and 'in-receipt' protection for pupils.

3.41 The majority of all school transport provided to learners in both primary and secondary schools is provided by 'big bus' transport. A 'big bus' is defined as having 22 or more seats. These two proposals have been assessed together, as they primarily impact pupils on big bus (coach) transport.

3.42 Some 3260 Bridgend pupils travel to school on a 'big bus' (June 2024).

3.43 Big bus transport is provided for 22 schools (12 primary schools and 10 secondary schools). The 12 primary schools are largely Bridgend's 8 Welsh-medium and Catholic primary schools (along with 3 English-medium primary schools in Bridgend and to out-of-county bilingual/Welsh-medium schools).

3.44 Big bus transport is provided to Dolau Primary School, Tonyrefail Community School and Ysgol Llanhari in Rhondda Cynon Taf because of the eligibility for pupils to attend these schools under the local authority's previous and current Schools Admission Policy and arrangements. Although some of these arrangement ended with effect from 2020 for new admissions, pupils admitted to Dolau Primary School and Ysgol Llanhari prior to this date are still eligible until they finish their education. Transport to Tonyrefail Community School continues in line with current School Admission policy arrangements for pupils previously attending Abercerdin Primary School.

3.45 Table 1 below identifies the numbers of pupils on 'big bus' transport in June 2024 and the estimated impact on eligible pupils travelling if proposals 1 and 2 were implemented. The estimated reductions in pupil number concern pupils of statutory school age only. The impact on Post-16 pupils in sixth forms is not included at this time and is considered later in this report under proposal 4.

3.46 Cohorts of learners and their address/geographical location can vary dramatically year-on-year and such an analysis is therefore meant to be representative only. However, a large number of learners benefitting from transport currently are predicted to lose their eligibility if these two policy proposals were to be implemented. This is because there are a large number of primary and secondary school pupils in some schools where they live between the former 1.5- and 2-mile distance for primary eligibility and the 2- and 3-mile distance for secondary eligibility implemented in 2016, for example, Brynteg School and Cynffig Comprehensive School. These pupils have retained eligibility even though they do not meet the current policy distance criteria. Many of these pupils have benefitted from the 'sibling protection' inherent in the current policy. For other secondary schools, the change is insignificant, for example, Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen, as the majority of learners travelling from the valley communities travel much further distances already and remain eligible for free home-to-home-to-school transport under local policy and the requirements of the Measure.

3.47 Table 1 below provides an estimate of this impact based on known cohorts of learners.

Table 1 – Number of pupils on big buses June 2024 and estimated reduction following the implementation of Proposals 1 and 2

		Proposals 1 and 2	
Primary School	**Eligible pupils (June 2024)**	**Estimated eligible pupils (September 2025)**	**Estimated percentage reduction in pupil numbers (following the implementation of proposals 1 and 2) based on 2023-2024 cohort of pupils**
Welsh-medium school			
Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr	35	25	28.6%
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr	208	157	24.5%
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon y Cymoedd	123	122	0.8%
Ysgol Cynwyd Sant	106	59	44.3%
Dolau Primary School	5	5	0.0%
Faith school			
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	89	48	46.1%
St Mary's and St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	24	21	12.5%
St Robert's Roman Catholic Primary School	46	37	19.6%
English-medium school			
Coety Primary School	8	0	100.0%
Coychurch (Llangrallo) Primary School	19	19	0.0%
Ogmore Vale Primary School	71	71	0.0%
Pencoed Primary School	40	40	0.0%
Secondary School	**Eligible pupils (June 2024)**	**Estimated eligible pupils (September 2025)**	**Estimated percentage reduction in pupil numbers (following the implementation of proposals 1 and 2)**
Welsh-medium school			
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	628	578	8.0%
Ysgol Llanhari	22	22	0.0%
Faith school			
Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School	493	446	9.5%
English-medium school			
Brynteg School	67	0	100.0%
Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen	800	800	0.0%
Cynffig Comprehensive School	103	0	100.0%
Maesteg School	114	2	98.2%
Pencoed Comprehensive School	118	111	5.9%

Porthcawl Comprehensive School	25	9	64.0%
Tonyrefail Community School	81	81	0.0%

3.48 As can be seen in Table 1 above, there would be a significant impact on the number of pupils eligible for free home-to-school transport attending the following schools:

- Brynteg School
- Cynffig Comprehensive School
- Maesteg School
- Ysgol Cynwyd Sant
- Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School

3.49 The impact on pupils attending schools on smaller vehicles such as minibuses and taxis would be more limited, as these pupils tend to live in parts of school catchment areas where there are no available walking routes. For example, in farms or other geographically distant parts of the county, or where the community is small and geographically isolated such as pupils living in Coytrahen travelling to Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen or pupils in Heol Y Cyw travelling to either Pencoed Primary School or Pencoed Comprehensive School.

3.50 If Cabinet are minded not to implement these policy proposals, it must determine a point in time by which the assessed routes become considered as available. Whereas the sibling rule and in receipt policy elements would remain in the policy, if Cabinet are minded to not accept any of the proposals in section 9 of this report, Cabinet must accept the identification by local authority officers of the available walked routes to school utilising Welsh Government guidance and therefore approve their implementation as an operational procedure. If these routes are not implemented, parents/carers or pupils, could continue to challenge whether any walked route is available. This is partially why, as is identified in Table 1 above, a significant proportion of learners in the schools are currently eligible for free home-to- school transport and who will lose that eligibility if these proposals are accepted by Cabinet. Therefore, the options available to Cabinet in respect of policy proposals 1 and 2 are detailed in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Proposals 1 and 2 – Policy elements options

Policy element	Option
Implementation of walking route assessments identifying all routes now considered to be 'available' and all pupils are only eligible where they attend their nearest suitable English-medium (catchment), Welsh-medium or faith school and reside over the statutory distances of 2 miles for primary school pupils and 3 miles for secondary school pupils.	1.1 Full implementation from September 2025
	1.2 Removal from policy but a delay in implementation of the change of eligibility to coincide with the end of the pupil's current phase of education (that is, primary or secondary).
	1.3 No change to policy
Sibling protection and in receipt rule	2.1 Removal from policy from September 2025

	2.2 Removal from policy but a delay in implementation of the change of eligibility to coincide with the end of the pupil's current phase of education (that is, primary or secondary).
	2.3 No change to policy

- **Proposal 3 -** Removal of all transport for Nursery pupils (excluding Welsh-medium and faith-based education)

3.51 Education for nursery pupils at age 3 or 4 is non-statutory.

3.52 The local authority has a statutory duty to promote the Welsh language, and this is enshrined in the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

3.53 The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 identifies that local authorities are required to assess the travel needs of learners under the age of five but there is currently no legal duty to provide free or assisted transport arrangements for nursery learners.

3.54 As home-to-school transport for nursery pupils is non-statutory, the local authority provides this by discretion.

3.55 There are currently (June 2024) 38 Nursery pupils on dedicated free home-to-school transport and 19 Nursery pupils on mixed age group vehicles of taxi or minibus size. The cost of running the dedicated Nursery transport vehicles is shown in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Dedicated Nursery pupil numbers and contract prices (June 2024)

School	Number of Nursery pupils	Daily contract price	Annual price
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon y Cymoedd	15	£415	£71,250
Ysgol Cynwyd Sant	7	£160	£30,400
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	13	£335	£63,650
St Robert's Roman Catholic Primary School	2	£120	£22,800
Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr	1	£69	£13,110
Total	**38**	**£1,099**	**£208,810**

3.56 As all the pupils identified in Table 3 above attend either Welsh-medium or faith schools, the current proposal would not remove this eligibility and therefore, there would not be any significant efficiency savings from this proposal or any impact on those families/pupils benefitting from this policy arrangement. There may be some efficiencies linked to the remaining 19 pupils where a small number attend English-

medium schools and occupy space on taxis and minibuses with pupils of statutory school age, although given the cohort of Nursery pupils changes annually, it is difficult to quantify the extent of any actual efficiency savings at this time. Nevertheless it is possible that through the removal of eligibility for these pupils and a reduction in size or consolidation to a smaller number of vehicles that there could potentially be a small reduction in cost of possibly £30k per annum.

3.57 Therefore, it is important to note that there is unlikely to be any significant efficiency savings year-on-year as a result of this proposal, as the majority of pupils making use of Nursery home-to-home-to-school transport, attend either Welsh-medium or faith schools.

3.58 It is likely that this policy offer may positively impact the take-up of Welsh-medium Nursery places, given that the attendance at these schools would be facilitated by free home-to-home-to-school transport, while in English-medium schools there would be no such offer for Nursery pupils. Such a policy arrangement would support the local authority's desire to grow Welsh-medium education in line with its Welsh-in-Education Strategic Plan 2022 -2032 ambitions and the local authority's statutory duty to support and promote the Welsh language under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

3.59 Therefore, the options available to Cabinet in respect of policy proposal 3 are detailed in Table 4 below:

Table 4: Policy proposal 3 – Policy options

Option	Policy options
3.1	Removal of transport for Nursery pupils (excluding Welsh-medium and faith schools) from September 2025
3.2	No change to policy

- **Proposal 4 - Removal of all transport for Post-16 learners (excluding Welsh-medium and faith-based education)**

3.60 An outcome from the consultation identified this proposal as the most contentious of all the proposals, as the impact is likely to be significant.

3.61 There are currently 1,451 pupils studying in Year 12 and 13 in secondary schools in Bridgend. There are currently 275 pupils currently benefitting from eligibility for free home-to-school transport. However, 24 attend secondary schools in other local authority areas. This is shown in Table 5 below:

Table 5: Post-16 pupil numbers at secondary schools benefitting from free home-to-school transport – June 2024

School	Post-16 pupil numbers on school transport
Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School	74
Brynteg School	1
Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen	91
Pencoed Comprehensive School	11
Porthcawl Comprehensive School	3

Tonyrefail Community School	12
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	71
Ysgol Llanhari	12
Total	**275**

3.62 Therefore, this policy proposal would see the removal of all of the learners identified in Table 5 above from transport, other than those attending Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, Ysgol Llanhari and Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School. Therefore 118 pupils would lose their eligibility for free home-to-home-to-school transport, although the actual number may change as the Post-16 cohort of learners at the point the policy is proposed to be implemented in September 2025, will be different to that used for this analysis in June 2024.

3.63 Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) provides £40/week support to families who are eligible, to support a young person's continuing education. In Wales, a family's income must be below £20,817 or less, or £23,077 or less, if there are other dependent children in the household who qualify for child benefit, to be eligible for EMA. If a household income is over £23,078 or more, there is no eligibility for EMA.

3.64 Pupils also raised similar issues regarding the insufficiency of public transport in the area, the potential negative impact the change will have on their life outside of school, as well as questioning how sufficient the current school facilities are in supporting the introduction of the proposal (for example, locker spaces, coat drying areas and facilities to support active travel to and from school).

3.65 Further details on all the consultation responses are available in Appendix 2.

3.66 Pupils attending sixth forms utilise the same buses as those learners of statutory school age. However, students attending Bridgend College benefit from a free pass for use on public transport bus services across Bridgend.

3.67 Students are required to register their passes electronically on a termly basis. As can be seen in Table 6 below, the maximum number of students registering a pass for Bridgend College gradually falls from 712 at the start of the college year (autumn term), to 460 at the end of term 3 (summer term). This means that, at most, 712 students are accessing public transport to access Bridgend College.

3.68 Table 6 – Current cost of providing free transport to Post-16 students at Bridgend College

Term	Number of registered bus passes (termly)	Cost of passes
Autumn term	712	£138,202.81
Spring term	549	£73,870.01
Summer term	460 (at June 2024)	£69,453.00
Total		**£212,072.82**

3.69 Tables 7-10 below shows the dynamic utilisation of the passes. There have been 75,425 uses of the passes provided to students since the beginning of the college

year starting September 2023. It is important to note that each student must register a new pass for each of the three terms in the college year.

3.70 There is a higher use of passes early and mid-week than at the end of the week although students do benefit from weekend use of the passes. The majority of students use the passes regularly and 83% use their passes at least twice daily. There is a significant reduction in the use of passes from the start to the end of the college year from 49% of journeys being made in Term 1 (autumn term) compared to 30.6% in term 2 (spring term) and 20.4% in term 3 (summer term).

3.71 The use of Welsh Government's 'mytravelpass' that reduces the cost to the local authority by students by one-third is disappointing, as only 12.6% of journeys were made by students using a mytravelpass. This was following heavy encouragement by the local authority on the provision of the passes to students of the financial benefits to the local authority of one-third savings against each journey made.

3.72 Table 7 – Daily split of college passes use

Day	Percentage use
Monday	20%
Tuesday	21%
Wednesday	22%
Thursday	18%
Friday	13%
Saturday	4%
Sunday	2%

3.73 Table 8 – College passes daily usage

Daily usage	Percentage use
Used more than twice	17%
Used twice	43%
Used once	40%

3.74 Table 9 – Termly college pass usage (including passes registered with 'mytravelpass')

Term	Percentage usage
Term 1	44.8%
Term 1 (with mytravelpass)	4.2%
Term 2	25.3%
Term 2 (with mytravelpass)	5.3%
Term 3	17.3%
Term 3 (with mytravelpass)	3.1%

3.75 Table 10 – Bus service use

Bus Service	No. of journeys	Percentage usage	Route details

Bridgend & Maesteg 68	1471	2.0%	Bridgend - Cefn Glas (Circular) via Bryntirion - Cefn Glas - Ystrad Fawr
Bridgend & Maesteg 69	695	0.9%	Bridgend - Cefn Glas (Circular) via Ystrad Fawr - Cefn Glas - Bryntirion
Bridgend & Maesteg 70	3721	4.9%	Cymmer - Bridgend via Maesteg
Bridgend & Maesteg 71	6334	8.4%	Cymmer - Bridgend via Maesteg
Bridgend & Maesteg 72	5883	7.8%	Bridgend - Blaengarw
Bridgend & Maesteg 73	1684	2.2%	Bridgend - Blaengarw
Bridgend & Maesteg 74	8918	11.8%	Bridgend - Nantymoel via Sarn - Bryncethin - Blackmill - Ogmore Vale
Bridgend 63	26763	35.5%	Cardiff City Centre - Radyr via Llandaff - Danescourt - Morganstown
Bridgend 64	2356	3.1%	Bridgend - Talbot Green
Bridgend 76	2806	3.7%	Bridgend - Bettws via Sarn - Ynysawdre
Cymru Clipper X1	1708	2.3%	Swansea - Bridgend
Cymru Clipper X2	11166	14.8%	Porthcawl - Cardiff
Cymru Clipper X3	144	0.2%	Port Talbot - Maesteg
Other	1776	2.4%	Other routes

3.76 If this proposal were implemented, no student attending Bridgend College would be eligible for free transport and, therefore, a potential 712 students would lose their entitlement to free public bus services. As identified in paragraph 3.69 above, there have been 75,425 journeys using the bus services identified in Table 10 above from September 2023 to June 2024. There is, at this time, no indication that the sustainability of public buses services would be impacted by the removal of this funding from the transport operators. However, although there is an expected efficiency of at least £212k annually for the local authority, given the significance of the number of journeys to Bridgend College let alone those utilising transport to sixth forms, this proposal is likely to significantly increase the number of private journeys to school and college on our roads, increase local road congestion and impact the local environment around both Bridgend College campuses and schools.

3.77 Furthermore, although there would be an immediate efficiency saving to the local authority, there would likely be a corresponding impact on the numbers of young people not choosing further education. This is because the more geographically distant someone is away from Bridgend College, the likely higher the cost of transport would be. Although the local authority would be unable to sell a pass to a student on the basis of the negotiated contract price currently in place with public transport providers, a student could still benefit from the one-third reduction in the cost of a fare if they had subscribed to Welsh Government's 'Mytravelpass Cymru' and would also potentially benefit from the aforementioned EMA allowance of £40/week if they were from an eligible household.

3.78 The cost of an annual season ticket for learners travelling with First Cymru is £290/annum for students age16-21 showing a valid 'Mytravelpass'. Although EMA allowance can theoretically cover this cost, for some learners where the household earning is above the threshold for benefits as identified in paragraph 3.63 above,

such a daily cost may still influence the ability of a family to support their child's further education.

3.79 It could be considered that on this basis, those students living outside of Bridgend town area, in the valleys communities to the north and towns and villages to the west of the county borough, would be disproportionately impacted by the removal of free transport provision for Post-16 learners. This is turn could significantly increase the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), at a time when the local authority has made significant progress in reducing the number of NEET to 1.4% (2023-2024) of Year 11 leavers from schools in Bridgend, below the all-Wales average of 2%.

3.80 The impact on Bridgend College should also be taken into consideration. There may be a potential significant decrease in the take-up of further education places which in turn could affect the financial viability of the college or the viability of many of its courses as a result.

3.81 Therefore, the options available to Cabinet in respect of policy proposal 4 are detailed in Table 11 below:

3.82 Table 11: Policy proposal 4 – Policy options

Option	Policy options
4.1	Removal of transport for Post-16 sixth-form pupils and college students (excluding those attending Welsh-medium and faith schools) to be implemented from September 2025.
4.2	No change to policy

- **Proposal 5 - The offer to parents/carers of pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) the option of a 'personal transport budget'.**

3.83 Some direct payments are already made to parents of pupils with ALN where the local authority, in collaboration with parents, have determined it is in the child's best interest that they transport their own child to school. As reported to Cabinet in March 2024 it is difficult for the local authority to quantify any efficiency savings as a result of this proposal. However, the local authority is often faced with difficulties in sourcing appropriate transport provision for some pupils with ALN and for some pupils the cost is excessive when transport is eventually sourced. For example, currently the most expensive taxi journey for a single child with additional learning needs is currently £295/day (£56k/annum) in a private taxi. If the parent of this child were able and willing to transport their child to school by way of an example only, the costs to the local authority would be significantly less. In this example, a saving of £210 per day (£40k) would be possible.

3.84 It is important to reiterate that this would be an offer only and there would be no change to eligibility or provision of school transport for their child from any parent/carer rejecting this offer.

3.85 There is also the possibility that this proposal could invoke additional costs due to the potential need to maintain some contracts even though there may be less pupils using them. Therefore, while there may be some efficiency savings these are not guaranteed. However, the proposal could potentially create large numbers of

vacant seats that would be available to support the transport needs of other pupils with statutory eligibility for free home-to-school transport.

3.86 It is important to note that any personal tax implications would be the responsibility of any parents/carers wishing to accept this offer.

3.87 Summary of potential impact of the implementation of the policy proposals

3.88 In determining any combination of the policy proposals Cabinet should be minded to consider, in particular, the following:

- The potential positive impact on parents/carers seeking a Welsh-medium education or a faith-based education in lieu of an English-medium education and the support that these policy proposals bring to the local authority's statutory duty to promote the Welsh language under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 ambitions.

- The potential impact on Post-16 pupils, in particular those attending English-medium sixth forms and Bridgend College and the potential increase in young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) as the lack of free transport could be a significant barrier to these pupils continuing beyond Year 11.

- The potential impact on school attendance and educational outcomes as a result of more children walking to school, in particular in inclement weather and their readiness to learn.

- The potential impact on the local environment around schools, in particular, congestion, parking, noise, air quality and road safety as a result of more private vehicle movements

- The potential lack of suitable public transport as an alternative to local authority provided free home-to-school transport, especially in the harder to reach valley communities and in the west of the county.

- The potential financial impact on families if they become responsible for transporting their own child to school, including the impact on their ability to maintain their own employment commitments as 'working families'.

- A potential future skills shortage if more young people do not progress into further and higher education.

- The impact of a greater burden on other public services and the welfare state if more young people become NEET.

- The disproportionate distances to some English-medium schools as a result of the geographic distribution of schools across Bridgend and many outlying small communities (for example, Heol-y-Cyw and Glynogwr),

3.89 Feedback to the Cabinet from Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 held on 18 July 2024

3.90 Due to the timing of this report and that of the meeting of Scrutiny on 18 July 2024, verbal feedback will be provided by the chair of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 to this meeting of Cabinet on any recommendations which are consistent with their challenge and support role in light of the proposals and the consultation responses.

3.91 Implementation of policy changes

3.92 If Cabinet are minded to change the policy in line with any combination of the above five proposals, the earliest a policy change could come into force would be September 2025. This is because the local authority is required to publish its policy and arrangements by 1 October in the year preceding the school year in which the changes will come into force, in accordance with the Learner Travel Information Regulations 2009.

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

4.1 A full equality impact assessment (EIA) has been carried out as part of the development of this policy proposal. The full EIA considers the impact of the strategy, policy or proposal on the nine protected characteristics, the socio-economic duty and the use of the Welsh language.

4.2 Age is the only likely negatively impacted group with a protected characteristic. This is because there is potential that the proposals will impact those of non-statutory school age more than those of statutory school age. In particular those, in English-medium schools in Nursery and in Post-16 education. However, there will also be some impact on pupils of statutory school age also.

4.3 Areas of socioeconomic disadvantage may be impacted more that those less disadvantaged, as these geographic areas are typically less well served by public transport with greater distances to travel to reach a place of education. Therefore, families in these areas may incur increased transport costs, which may place greater financial strain on families and households than in other parts of Bridgend.

4.4 The removal of the free college bus pass for college students will incur potentially significant additional costs for young people. The consultation feedback indicates that enrolment numbers and attendance rates for young people attending college from these areas is at risk of decreasing with potentially more young people becoming NEET.

4.5 Children and young people in these areas, whether attending school or college, may also be reliant on public transport. Its availability, timings and capacity have changed in recent years since the pandemic and there are now more limited and less frequent public bus services throughout much of Bridgend, especially in the valley communities and West of the borough.

4.6 However, the proposed removal of the ‘sibling rule’ removes any inequality that has impacted communities in the past from the current Home-to-School/College Transport Policy.

4.7 The local authority has sought to protect those pupils seeking or already benefitting from a faith-based education.

4.8 The local authority supports diversity and the choice of education. Having faith schools offers a good choice for parents/carers and pupils seeking a faith-based education.

4.9 The preservation of free home-to-school transport, in particular for pupils attending faith schools, may lead to a greater number of parents/carers considering a faith-based education for their child, as geographical distance is often a significant barrier for parents considering faith-based education. Therefore the local authority considers that this policy proposal positively impacts on those families seeking a faith-based education.

4.10 The full EIA is attached as Appendix 4.

4.11 A Welsh Language Impact Assessment has also been completed as part of this duty and is included as Appendix 5.

4.12 The local authority has sought to protect the Welsh-language in proposing the retention of free home-to-school transport for Nursery and Post-16 pupils attending Welsh-medium schools. It is hoped this will encourage and promote Welsh-medium education in Bridgend schools.

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

Long-term Ongoing reliance on the local authority to provide free home-to-school transport where this is not supported by national policy will have a significant impact on the ability of the local authority to support and sustain other critical services long-term. National government policy supports active travel and the reduction in the reliance on vehicular transport. Benefits include the reduction in emissions, less dependence on fossil fuels and improvements to health and wellbeing.

Prevention The proposal to remove elements of discretionary transport is not taken lightly. However, there are current tensions in respect of the inequity in the current policy and the requirement of the local authority to maintain support for and to promote the Welsh-language. The proposal, therefore, is to address the inequity in the local authority's Home-to-School/College Transport Policy, to support and promote the Welsh language, to support faith-based education and to ensure that further budget efficiencies are available at a time of significant financial and operational pressure on public services.

Integration The local authority has a strategic role in facilitating the attendance of pupils to school where they are eligible for free home-to-school transport or where it is provided under the discretion of the local authority.

Collaboration The local authority works closely with schools and pupils to ensure that the needs of learners are taken into consideration in the identification and delivery of transport services.

Involvement The local authority intends to involve all sectors of society in consulting on its proposals. This will involve sufficient time and resources to fully identify, understand and respond to the issues identified for individuals and their communities.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 The impact of climate change is considered significant at a national and local level Therefore, one of our biggest challenges faced by the Council is preparing for and tackling the impact of climate change. The steps to meet this challenge are complex and interconnected. However, it is important that we are committed to reducing carbon emissions by changing the way we deliver services either ourselves or via third-party providers. We must embed energy saving and carbon reduction into everything we do.

6.2 The local authority can make an important contribution to tackling the Welsh Government declared climate and nature emergencies. This includes the goods and services we buy or commission and in our work with local, regional and national partners.

6.3 The proposals contained in this report will likely significantly reduce the number and frequency of dedicated transport funded by the local authority. However, it is unlikely to impact the number or frequency of transport provided by public transport service operators. Nevertheless, there is a strong likelihood that the number and frequency of local car journeys will increase as the eligibility of pupils attending schools and students attending further education colleges decreases. The reduction in local authority commissioned transport, mostly buses, taxis and minibuses will not likely offset the potential increase in journeys undertaken by parents/carers to ensure that their children are transported to school safely.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 The proposed policy changes contained in this report could potentially impact children and young people looked after by the local authority. This is because the same age and distance criteria apply to children looked after as to children who are not looked after. However, if the Council determines that a child looked after should attend a school other than the nearest suitable school, then transport will be provided in accordance with the Council's agreed policy on walking distances and available walking routes. Where a child looked after by the local authority does not meet the distance criteria, consideration of their eligibility for free home-to-school transport will be made on case-by case basis.

8. Financial Implications

8.1. The pressure on the home-to-school/college transport budget is significant. The potential efficiency savings associated with this public consultation are shown in Table 12 below.

8.2. The learner transport budget has been under significant financial pressure for many years. Home-to-school/college transport spend has increased from £6.021m at the end of 2020-2021 to £10.4m at end of 2023-2024. The budget has also increased, from £5.86m in 2020-21 to £9.819m in 2024-2025, but this is still not sufficient to meet the rising costs.

8.3. Therefore, while there has been additional annual budget growth, this has only addressed the additional costs brought about primarily through increased contractor prices, changes to eligibility for pupils and additional costs associated with transporting pupils with ALN and those looked after by the local authority. Since the pandemic, the transport market has been depressed with significantly higher prices year-on-year. Even with the significant increase in the budget between 2020-2021 and 2024-25, there is still a projected overspend of £1.2m at the end of the 2024-2025 financial year.

8.4. The Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024-25 to 2027-28 includes an indicative budget reduction proposal in respect of home-to-school/college transport of £792,000 for 2025-26. Should this not be realised then alternative savings proposals will be required.

8.5. Table 12 below identifies the potential savings associated with each of the five policy proposals being put forward for consideration.

Table 12 - Approximate annual savings for learner transport policy proposals

Proposal	**Potential annual savings**
Withdrawal of legacy transport for all learners benefitting from an identified and available (safe) walking route to school, to fall in line with the statutory distances of 2 miles for primary school-age pupils and 3 miles for secondary school-age pupils.	£200k
Removal of legacy 'sibling' protection for pupils.	£300k
Removal of all transport for nursery pupils (excluding pupils attending their nearest suitable Welsh-medium or faith school).	£30k
Removal of all Post-16 transport (excluding pupils attending the following schools: • Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd; • Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School; and	£500k

• The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School.	
The offer to parents/carers of pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) the option of a 'transport budget' providing a mileage allowance of £45p per mile	Unknown. Dependent on take-up of offer.
Total potential savings	**£1.03m**

9. Recommendation

9.1. It is recommended that Cabinet makes a determination on which of the following five proposals it wishes to progress:

- Proposal 1 - Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from an identified and available (safe) walking route to school in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary school pupils and three miles for secondary school pupils.

- Proposal 2 - Removal of the 'sibling' and 'in-receipt' protection for pupils.

- Proposal 3 - Removal of all transport for Nursery pupils (excluding Welsh-medium and faith-based education).

- Proposal 4 - Removal of all Post-16 transport (excluding Welsh-medium and faith-based education).

- Proposal 5 - The offer to parents/carers of pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) the option of a 'personal transport budget'.

Background documents

None

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Bridgend County Borough

Learner Travel

Consultation Document

Date of issue: **10 April 2024**

Action required: Responses by **3 July 2024**

Tel: (01656) 643 664

Email: consultation@bridgend.gov.uk

Web: www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation

Learner Travel Consultation Document

Overview

This consultation is to invite views on potential changes to the travel arrangements for pupils and college learners, and how any proposed changes to the Home-to-School/College Transport Policy will affect you and your family.

How to respond

This consultation period will begin on the **10 April 2024** and close on the **3 July 2024**. You can respond or ask further questions in the following ways:

Tel: (01656) 643 664
Email: Consultation@bridgend.gov.uk
Online: https://beinvolvedbridgend.uk.engagementhq.com/learner-travel-survey
Post: Communications, Marketing and Engagement, Bridgend County Borough local authority, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB. Alternative formats are also available upon request.

Data protection

Information provided by you on this form will be used to inform a future decision by Cabinet on proposed changes the current Home-to-School/College Transport Policy.

The Council will take all reasonable precautions to ensure confidentiality and to comply with data protection legislation. Your information may be shared with relevant service areas for the purposes of future policy development. Your information will be retained in accordance with the Council's Data Retention Policy.

You have a number of rights under data protection legislation. You may also withdraw your consent and ask us to delete your personal information at any time by contacting us. Further information about this is available on our website or you may contact the Data Protection Officer.

If you are dissatisfied with the manner in which we process your personal data, then you have the option to make a complaint to the Data Protection Officer and the Information Commissioner's Office.

Legal and Regulatory Services
Email: foi@bridgend.gov.uk
Address: Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

Information Commissioner's Office – Wales
2nd Floor, Churchill House
Churchill Way
Cardiff
CF10 2HH

Tel. 0330 414 6421
Email: wales@ico.org.uk

Related documents

Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008.
Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.
Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance June 2014

For more information on consultations in Bridgend County Borough or how to join our Citizens' panel.

Visit: www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation

Why is the local authority consulting on proposed changes to its Home-to-School/College Transport Policy?

Bridgend County Borough Council is currently facing unprecedented pressures on its budget which will result in the need to make significant budget reductions over the next four years. This is set against a backdrop of a projected overspend of £1.157M for home-to-school transport in 2023-2024. As one of the most generous learner travel policy offers in Wales, there is a proposed £792k saving for 2025-26 in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The local authority takes pride in the services it provides to its citizens and wants to continue to do as much as possible to support families in a difficult financial climate.

Budget pressures however, means that the local authority must review all of the services that it provides.

Local Authorities in Wales need to ensure that they are providing home-to-school transport where the law says they have a duty to do so. Local authorities can also provide transport on a discretionary basis.

The local authority's current Home-to-School/College Transport Policy sets out how the local authority provides home-to-school and home-to-college transport.

The local authority's current policy came into effect on 1 September 2016. The local authority is now seeking the views of the public and other stakeholders on proposed changes to the current policy.

This consultation is to invite views on potential changes to the travel arrangements of school pupils and students attending further education colleges.

The local authority must consider if it can continue to provide the current assistance beyond what it is required to do by law.

The review of the local authority's current Home-to-School/College Transport Policy contributes to the local authority's wider budget strategy by making the most efficient use of resources.

Home-to-school transport falls into two categories, as follows:

Statutory

- The arrangements the local authority needs to make by law, to enable free travel for those learners who are entitled.

Discretionary

- The arrangements made through choice by the local authority.

At present, the local authority has a legal duty to provide free transport to school for:

- all pupils receiving statutory primary education (aged 5-11) living two miles or further from home to their nearest suitable school, or where there are no suitable/available walking routes, even if the distance is less than those stated;
- all pupils receiving statutory secondary education (aged 11-16) living three miles or further from home to their nearest suitable school or where there are no suitable/available walking routes, even if the distance is less than those stated;
- all pupils who attend a specialist provision and cannot walk to school because of their additional learning need / special education need, disability or where there are no suitable/available walking routes, even if the distance is less than those stated above.

There are currently no requirements to provide free home-to-school transport for learners who:

- are not of statutory school age - this includes Nursery pupils as well as Post-16 pupils;
- are not attending their nearest suitable school.

At present, the local authority provides free transport on a **discretionary basis** for:

- all pupils attending nursery school (age 3-4) living 1.5 miles or more from their nearest suitable school, or where there are no suitable/available walking routes, even if the distance is less than those stated;
- all post-16 learners (age 16-18) who live over three miles to either their nearest suitable school (sixth-form) or to the nearest college that provides the course they wish to study and are studying their first course of full-time study.
- learners attending their nearest voluntary-aided (faith) school and the distance criteria of two miles for primary age pupils and three miles for secondary age pupils is met.
- learners attending their nearest Welsh-medium school and with the distance criteria of two miles for primary age pupils and three miles for secondary age pupils is met.
- Pupils who were the siblings of pupils eligible at the former distances of 1.5 miles for primary age pupils and two miles for secondary age pupils, prior to the policy change in September 2016 and attend the same school, also receive free home-to-school transport under the same distances.
- Pupils who were already in receipt of free home-to-school transport at the former distances of 1.5 miles for primary age pupils and two miles for secondary age pupils prior to the policy change in September 2016, continue to benefit from free-home-to-school transport under the former distances. This arrangement continues until they leave or move schools or transition from one phase of education to another, for example, from primary to secondary education.

Active travel

Bridgend County Borough Council needs to pay due regard to the Welsh Government's Active Travel Action Plan for Wales and the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. The action plan aims to address congestion and encourage people to walk and cycle more often. The Active Travel Action Plan sets out the actions that the Welsh Government and its partners will take to encourage more people to walk and cycle for more journeys. It is hoped that this will not only improve the health of our young people, but also improve the health and well-being of those who live and work in the area.

What will it mean if we do not make this change?

The council takes pride in the services it provides to its citizens and wants to continue to do as much as possible to support families in a difficult financial climate. However, the savings associated with the following proposals are needed because the budget pressures for the next four years are significant and unprecedented. The learner travel arrangements currently provided by Bridgend County Borough Council are amongst the most generous to be found in Wales.

The consultation process

An important part of the process, when considering any change, is to gauge the views of the public and other stakeholders. The purpose of this consultation document is therefore to outline the **proposed** changes. This document has been prepared to provide stakeholders with information about the new proposals to allow stakeholders the opportunity to have their say.

Following the conclusion of the consultation period all comments received will be presented to the local authority's Cabinet and all views expressed will be considered when the Cabinet make any decision.

If it is decided to implement the proposals, these will come into effect on the **1 September 2025.**

If it is decided not to go ahead with the proposal, it may be that an alternative proposal may be sought.

The table below sets out the timetable for the consultation:

What	When
Consultation begins	**10 April 2024**
Consultation ends	**3 July 2024**
Proposed implementation date for new policy	**1 September 2025**

(Please note that any response received after the consultation has ended will not be considered)

Who is being consulted

- The public
- Learners and their parents/carers
- Schools and colleges
- Careers Wales
- RhAG
- Welsh Government
- Diocesan authorities
- Councillors
- Regional AMs
- Local MPs
- The First Minister
- Town and community councils
- Neighbouring councils
- Estyn
- School governing bodies
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board
- The Bridgend School Admissions Forum
- Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equalities Forum (BCCEF)
- The Police and Crime Commissioner
- Bridgend Youth Council

How to respond

The local authority is asking the public and other stakeholders to answer the questions and provide their views via an on-line survey. The local authority is able to provide paper copies of the survey and in accessible formats, on request. Please e-mail your request to consultation@bridgend.gov.uk or Tel. (01656) 642617

You can also respond by sending paper survey forms to:

Post: Communications, Marketing and Engagement,
Bridgend County Borough Council,
Raven's Court, Wing 3,
Brewery Lane, Bridgend, CF31 4AP

The outcomes of the consultation will be reported to the Cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council. If there is a decision not to proceed, that will be the end of this proposal and an alternative proposal may be sought.

If any of the proposals are accepted by Cabinet the earliest the change(s) will come into effect is 1 September 2025.

Events

For those consultees who wish the take the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed new policy, consultation drop-in events will be held. You **must** book to attend one of these events **no later than 18 May 2024**, by either using the following link or by e-mailing consultation@bridgend.gov.uk or Tel. (01656) 643664.

These dates may be subject to change and registered attendees will be notified of any changes.

Venue	Time	Date
Maesteg School	18:00	23/05/2024
Pencoed Comprehensive School	18:00	10/06/2024
Porthcawl Primary School	18:00	14/06/2024
Bridgend College, Cowbridge Road	18:00	20/06/2024

The proposals

Proposal 1

Withdrawal of legacy transport for all learners benefitting from an identified and available (safe) walking route to school, to fall in line with the statutory distances of two miles for primary school-age pupils and three miles for secondary school-age pupils.

This would mean that from September 2025 pupils who are currently receiving free home-to-school transport, even though they reside less than the statutory distances of 2 miles for primary school pupils and 3 miles for secondary school pupils, and where the local authority has identified an available walking route, this provision will now be removed.

Proposal 2

Removal of 'sibling' and 'in-receipt' protection for pupils.

The change would mean that pupils whose siblings passed down to them the more generous eligibility under the former policy distances of 1.5 miles miles for primary school pupils and 2 miles for secondary school pupils, would lose this eligibility from September 2025. All pupils will therefore only be eligible where they live over 2 miles for primary school pupils and 3 miles for secondary school pupils or where there is no available walking route to school.

Proposal 3

Removal of all transport for Nursery pupils

Home-to-school transport for Nursery pupils is non-statutory. The local authority provides this by discretion. Nursery transport is currently provided to pupils residing over 1.5 miles from their home to their nearest suitable school.

The current proposal seeks to remove this discretion, given that Nursery education is non-statutory. Nevertheless, it is important to identify the local authority's duty to support Welsh-medium education and also faith-based education. Therefore, for Nursery pupils attending Welsh-medium schools and faith schools, it is proposed that the provision will be retained.

Proposal 4

Removal of all Post-16 transport

There is no statutory duty to provide free transport for Post-16 learners to schools or colleges. Pupils attending sixth forms in secondary schools benefit from transport from home to their nearest suitable school, under the same distance criteria as pupils of statutory school age (that is, those

living more than 3 miles from home to the nearest suitable (catchment) school receive free home-to-school transport).

Similarly, those attending further education colleges receive free home-to-college transport to the closest college offering the first course of their choice as full-time study if they live over 3 miles from home-to-college.

It is therefore proposed to remove this provision, but acknowledging the disproportionate impact that such a proposal would have on Welsh-medium and faith-based education, this proposal does not apply to those pupils attending secondary Welsh-medium and faith school sixth forms.

Proposal 5

The offer to parents/carers of pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) the option of a 'transport budget' providing a mileage allowance of £45p per mile.

As some pupils often have very complex needs, in particular, those with medical conditions, it has become more difficult for the local authority to source suitable transport.

If this proposal was implemented parents/carers of pupils with ALN would be offered the (current) Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) mileage rate of 45p per mile for the journey to and from school (for journeys up to 10,000 miles).

It is proposed that this offer would apply to all pupils with ALN on special taxis and minibuses equally, regardless of the likelihood of this proposal invoking a saving to the local authority.

It is important to note that any personal tax implications would be the responsibility of any parents/carers wishing to accept this offer.

Summary of proposals

The following table shows examples of what the proposed changes may mean if approved:

Transport for Post-16 pupils/learner		
Pupil/learner type	**Current arrangement**	**Proposed arrangement** (from September 2025)
Post-16 learner (English-medium) Attending Bridgend College or the nearest	Free home-to-college transport provided over three miles from college or where there is no available walking route. This is normally provided	No home-to-college transport provided.

Transport for Post-16 pupils/learner		
Pupil/learner type	**Current arrangement**	**Proposed arrangement** (from September 2025)
college offering the first course of full-time study.	via a public service bus pass).	
Post-16 learner (English-medium) Attends sixth form at: • Brynteg School • Pencoed Comprehensive School • Cynffig Comprehensive School • Porthcawl Comprehensive School • Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen • Maesteg School • Bryntirion Comprehensive School	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school, or where there is no available walking route. This is normally provided via a contracted school bus, minibus, or taxi.	No home-to-school transport provided.
Post-16 learner (Welsh-medium) Attends sixth form at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school, or where there is no available walking route.	No change.
Post-16 learner (faith-based education) Attends sixth form at Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School or Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School.	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school, or where there is no available walking route.	No change.

Transport for Post-16 pupils/learner		
Pupil/learner type	**Current arrangement**	**Proposed arrangement** (from September 2025)
Post-16 learner with additional learning needs (ALN) in specialist provision	Free home-to-school transport provided if over three miles from school, or where there is no available walking route. Free home-to-school transport also provided at the discretion of the local authority based on the individual needs of learner.	Free home-to-school transport provided at the discretion of the local authority following an assessment of the needs of the individual learner.
Post-16 learner with ALN not in a specialist provision	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route.	Free home-to-school transport provided at the discretion of the local authority following an assessment of the needs of the learner.

School transport for secondary school pupils		
Pupil/learner type	**Current arrangement**	**Proposed arrangement** (from September 2025)
Secondary school pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium, and faith-based education) Age 11-16 Attends a secondary school which is their nearest suitable school, and they live over three miles from the school or there is no available walking route exists.	Free home-to-school transport is provided. Free transport is provided to the siblings of pupils who previously had protection under the former Learner Travel Policy of eligibility for free transport over two miles from home to their nearest suitable school.	Removal of the 'sibling rule' so all pupils are equally eligible (that is, where they live over three miles from their nearest suitable school).

School transport for primary school pupils		
Learner type	**Current arrangement**	**Proposed arrangement** (from September 2025)
Primary school pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium, and faith-based education) Age 5-11 Attends a primary school which is their nearest suitable school, and they live over two miles from the school or no available walking route exists.	Home-to-school transport is provided. Free transport is provided to the siblings of pupils who previously had protection under the former Learner Travel Policy of eligibility for free transport over 1.5 miles from home to their nearest suitable school.	Removal of the 'sibling rule' so all pupils are equally eligible (that is, where they live over 2 miles from their nearest suitable school).

Transport for Nursery pupils		
Learner type	**Current arrangement**	**Proposed arrangement** (from September 2025)
Nursery pupil (English-medium) Age 3-4 Attends nursery school which is their nearest suitable school, and they live over 1.5 miles from the school or no available walking route exists.	Home-to-school transport is provided.	No home-to-school transport provided.
Nursery pupil (Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 3-4	Home-to-school transport is provided.	No change.

Transport for Nursery pupils		
Learner type	**Current arrangement**	**Proposed arrangement** (from September 2025)
Attends nursery school which is their nearest suitable school, and they live over 1.5 miles from the school or no available walking route exists.		

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Learner Travel
Consultation Findings Report

Date of issue: **July 2024**

Tel: (01656) 643643

Email: consultation@bridgend.gov.uk

Web: www.bridgend.gov.uk

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1. Executive summary

Bridgend County Borough Council is currently facing unprecedented pressures on its budget which will result in the need to make significant budget reductions over the next four years. This is set against a backdrop of a projected overspend of £1.2m for home-to-school transport at the end of the 2024-2025 financial year. As one of the most generous learner travel policy offers in Wales, there is a proposed £792k saving for 2025-2026 in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The local authority's current policy came into effect on 1 September 2016. Bridgend County borough council has recently undertaken a 12-week consultation between **10 April 2024** and **3 July 2024** to seek the views of the public and other stakeholders on five proposed changes to the current policy.

In total, there were **1,308 responses** to the survey, including online, paper and completions received by email. Four public consultation sessions were carries out during the live period, in addition to four pupil/youth sessions.

2. Purpose of Report

This report is to present an overview of the consultation process and detailed analysis of responses and feedback received on the five proposed changes to the Home-to-School/College Transport Policy.

3. Overview

This consultation follows the report submitted to Cabinet on 12 March 2024 which sought agreement to undertake a consultation with relevant stakeholders outlining a range of options for proposed changes in the current learner travel policy.

The consultation consisted of a public survey which 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. Public consultation sessions were held across the county borough, along with pupil/youth engagement sessions. The learner travel consultation document was available to download from the consultation project page, as well as on the council's website.

4. Methodology

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. Respondents could choose to answer all or some questions. All survey responses offered the option of anonymity.

Details of the consultation were sent to the following stakeholders.

- The public
- Learners and their parents/carers
- Schools and colleges
- Careers Wales
- RhAG
- Welsh Government
- Diocesan authorities
- Councillors
- Regional AMs
- Local MPs
- The First Minister
- Town and community councils
- Neighbouring councils
- Estyn
- School governing bodies
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board
- The Bridgend School Admissions Forum
- Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equalities Forum (BCCEF)
- The Police and Crime Commissioner
- Bridgend Youth Council

From the list above, responses were received from Estyn, shown in Appendix 1, and RhAG, shown in appendix 2.

Four public consultation meetings took place, along with four pupil / youth sessions to invite questions and concerns from identified stakeholders. Comments and views gathered from these sessions are shown in Appendix 3 and 4.

Stakeholders in attendance	Venue	Date
Public	Maesteg School	23/05/2024
Public	Pencoed Comprehensive School	10/06/2024
Public	Porthcawl Primary School	14/06/2024
Public	Bridgend College, Pencoed Campus	20/06/2024
Pupils Year 7-12	Maesteg School	07/06/2024
Pupils – Year 7-10	Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen	21/06/2024
Pupils	Brynteg School	26/06/2024
Youth	Bridgend Youth Council	12/06/2024

Public sessions were held in the evening hours from 6pm-8pm, and pupil sessions were held during school hours.

5. Marketing and engagement methods

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

5.1. Social media

The Home-to-School/College Transport consultation information was posted bilingually to the council's corporate Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn channels throughout the consultation period to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage people to share their views on the proposals.

The council currently has 14,805 followers on its English Twitter account and 389 on its Welsh Twitter account, 20,667 followers on its English Facebook page and 271 on the Welsh Facebook page, 3,409 followers on Instagram and 5,097 followers on LinkedIn. While content is most likely to be seen by these users, it is also displayed to users who are not connected to the accounts through sharing.

During the consultation period, the local authority posted 31 times across English and Welsh social media channels.

Reach	Impressions	Link clicks	Engagement
87,423	105,170	58	7,436

As shown in the table above, this content reached 87,423 people, generated 105,170 impressions (number of times the content was viewed) and generated 7,486 engagements (including likes, comments, and shares) across our social media platforms. A full social media analysis is shown in appendix 5.

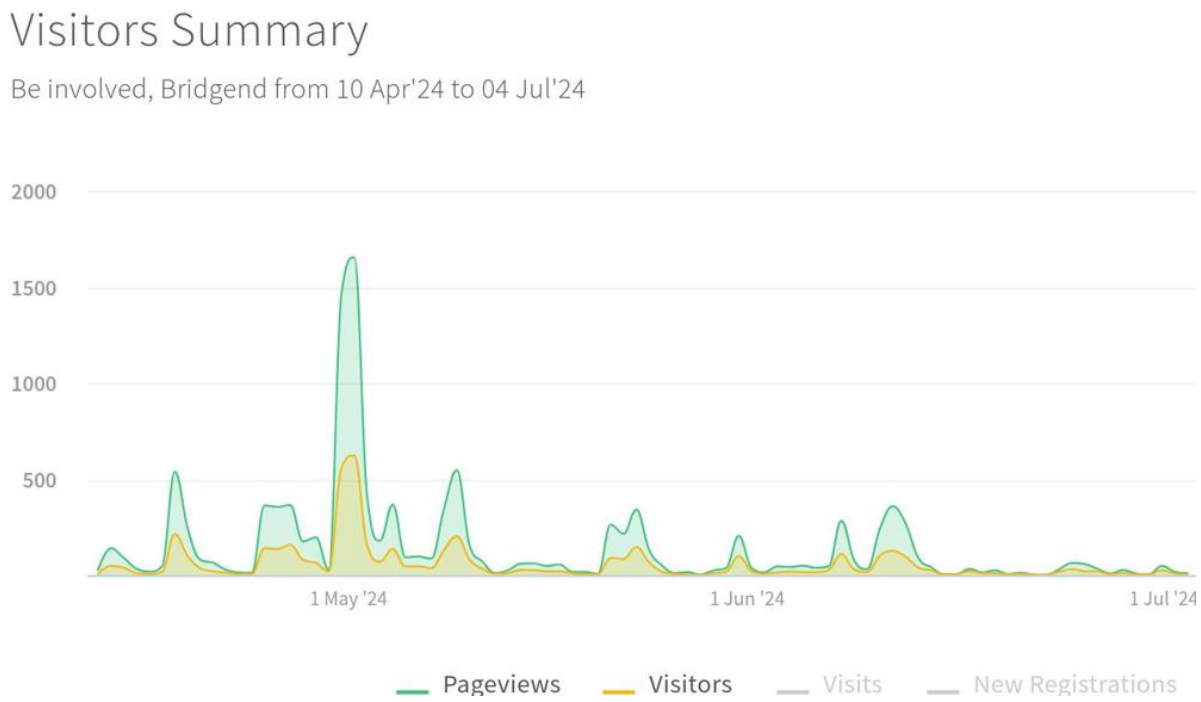
5.2. Engagement HQ

Engagement HQ is a digital engagement platform that supports 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.

The following graph provides an overview of visitors to the Learner travel project page on Engagement HQ.



The table below highlights visits to the Engagement HQ project page for the Learner travel consultation.

Aware visitors	3,963
Informed visitors	2,769
Engaged visitors	1,315
Visits referred from social media	1008
Visits referred from council's website	153
Visitors from search engine	125
Direct	3041

Aware visitors: A visitor that has made at least one single visit to the site or project page, and is therefore 'aware' of the project, but has not clicked anything or participated in the survey.

Informed visitors: An informed visitor has taken the 'next step' from being aware and clicked on something, for example, viewed key dates, a document, or clicked on the survey.

Engaged visitors: These are visitors that have engaged with the project by submitting a response to the learner travel consultation or booked onto one of the public engagement sessions.

5.3. GovDelivery

GovDelivery is a digital communications tool that is used by the council, to send messages directly to residents' and staff email inboxes in the language of their choice.

5.3.1. Weekly Residents bulletin:

There are currently 35,143 English language subscribers and 283 Welsh language subscribers from Bridgend County Borough to the weekly Residents' Bulletin.

Throughout the live period details of the learner travel consultation were included in GovDelivery resident bulletins which contains 10 weekly news stories and updates. Residents then have the opportunity to click through to the online survey to become an engaged visitor.

Four resident bulletins were sent out featuring the learner travel consultation, which included links to the strategy and online survey.

The weekly news roundup generated 340 total link clicks to learner travel survey (335 English, 5 Welsh).

5.3.2. Standalone bulletin

A standalone bulletin focused only on the learner travel consultation was issued six-

weeks into the consultation (half-way) to encourage participation and increase awareness.

The standalone bulletin generated 123 total link clicks to the survey (122 English, 1 Welsh).

5.3.3. Staff Bulletin

There are currently 5,233 staff signed up to our staff bulletin.

Details of the learner travel consultation were shared in our weekly staff bulletin twice throughout the period of the consultation, which included links to the survey and proposals.

The staff bulletin generated a total of 37 link clicks to the learner travel survey.

5.4. Media and Publicity

Two media releases were issued regarding the learner travel consultation:

Cabinet agree to public consultation- 20 March 2024: https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/proposed-changes-to-the-home-to-schoolcollege-transport-policy-are-set-to-go-to-public-consultation/

Issued on 11 April 2024 to mark the launch of the consultation: https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/public-asked-to-share-their-views-on-proposed-changes-to-home-to-school-and-college-transport/

Reminders were also included in our weekly news round-up on four occasions. This was also sent to our press mailing list as well as the Council Leader and Cabinet Members.

Examples of external coverage:

Herald Wales- https://www.herald.wales/south-wales/bridgend/consultation-launched-to-review-home-to-school-transport-services/

Bridgend Local- https://bridgend-local.co.uk/2024/07/01/last-chance-reminder-to-have-your-say-on-proposed-changes-to-school-transport/

Glamorgan Gazette Newspaper 28 March (page 5) and brief mention on side of front cover. https://www.pressreader.com/uk/glamorgan-gazette/20240328/page/1

6. Response Rate

There were **1,308** responses in total to the survey, 1,305 responses were submitted through the online survey, **1** paper copy was received, and **2** responses were submitted via email.

Engagement events were used to inform citizens and raise awareness of the consultation. The sessions provided an opportunity for individuals to gain further information regarding the proposals, and also receive additional support to complete the online survey.

7. Questions and analysis - consultation Survey

7.1. Language used to complete the survey.

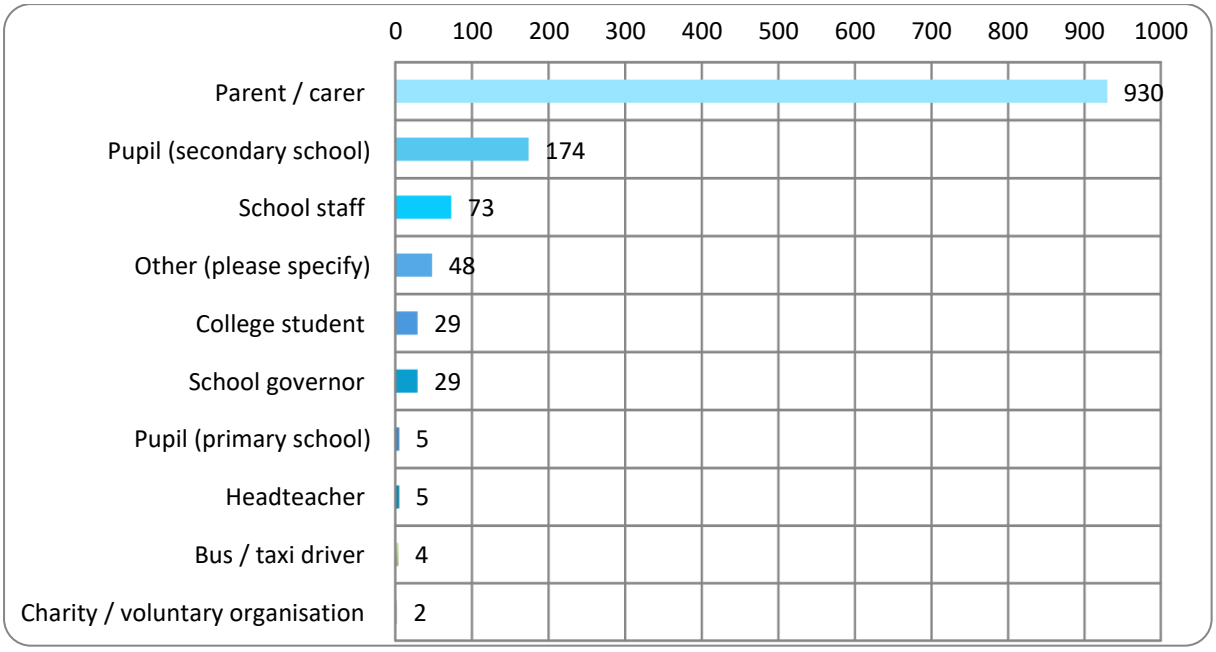
Respondents to the consultation survey were initially asked in which language they would like to complete the survey. Overall, 99.7% of respondents selected English with 0.3% selecting Welsh.

Language	#	%
English	**1302**	**99.7%**
Welsh	3	0.3%
Total	**1306**	**100.0**

8. Survey Questions and Analysis:

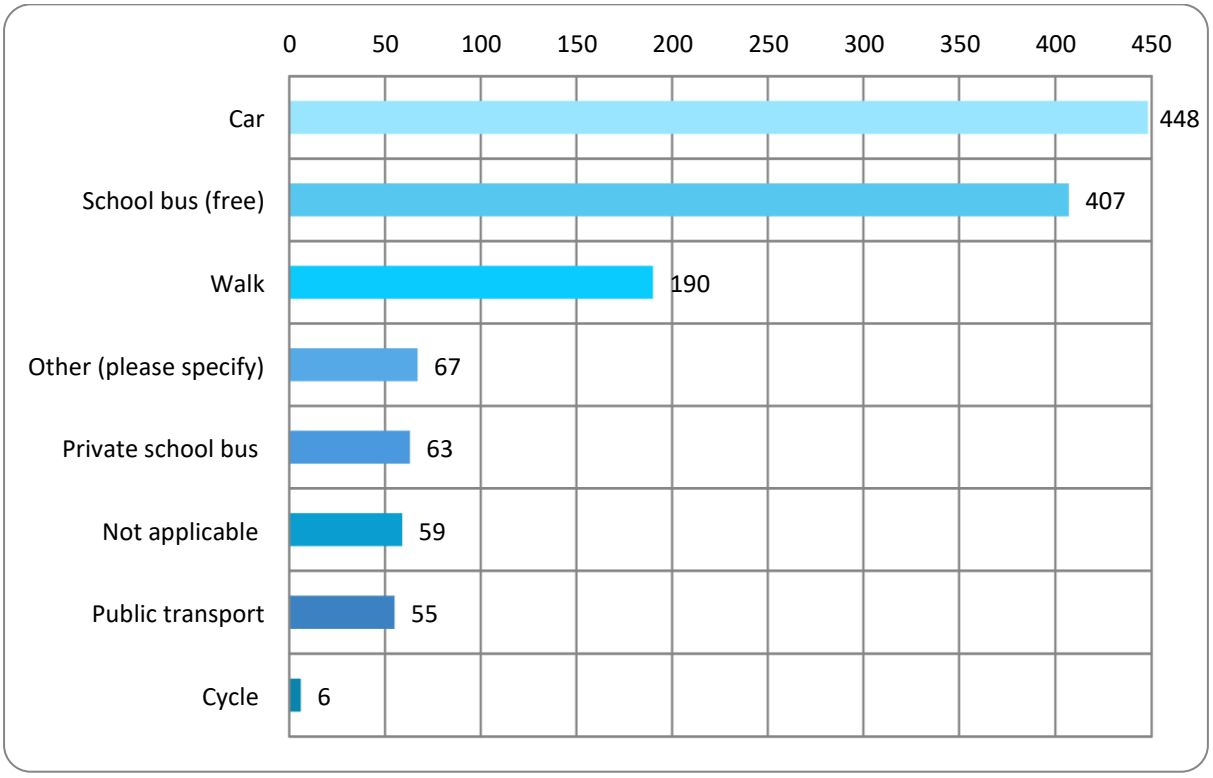
This section outlines and analyses the questions asked in the survey. All questions were optional, so participants could choose to answer all or some questions.

Please tick the option that best describes you:



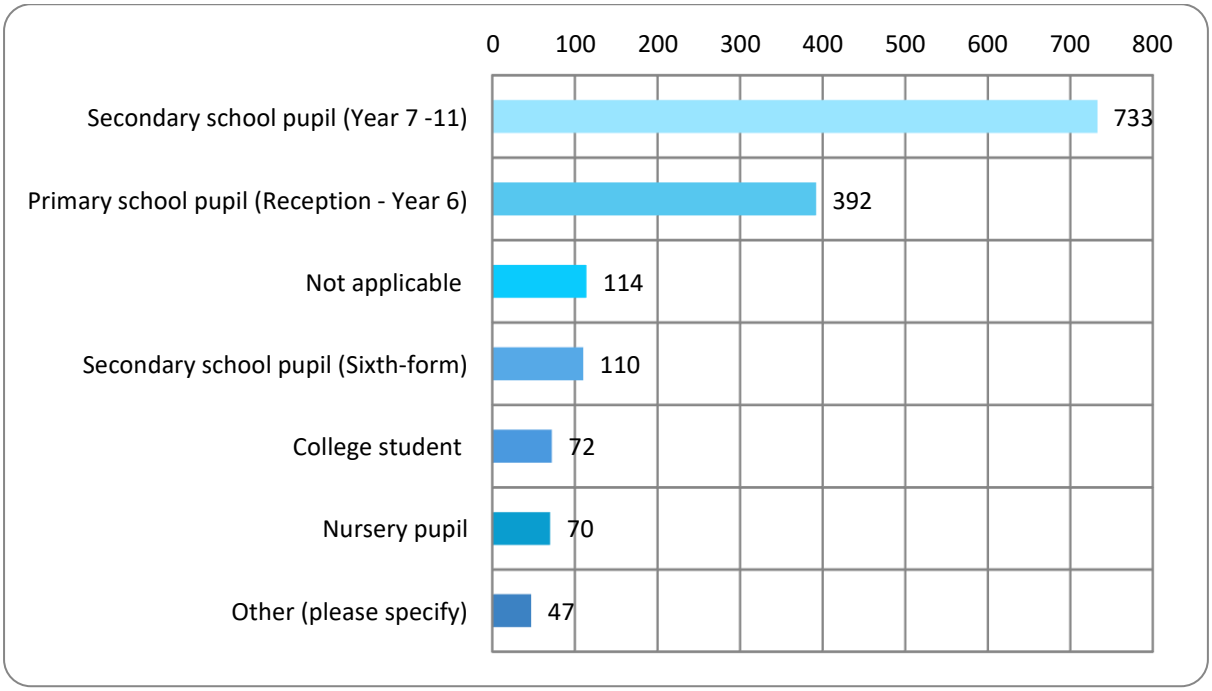
As shown above, 71.6% (930) of respondents to the survey were a parent / carer. Secondary school pupils are accountable for 13.4% of responses, followed by 5.6% being school staff.

How do you, or your children travel to school/college?



As shown above, 34.6% of respondents currently travel to school/college by car, followed by 31.4% travelling on a school bus (free). 14.7% of respondents currently walk to school.

Please tick the option(s) that best describes you/your children:

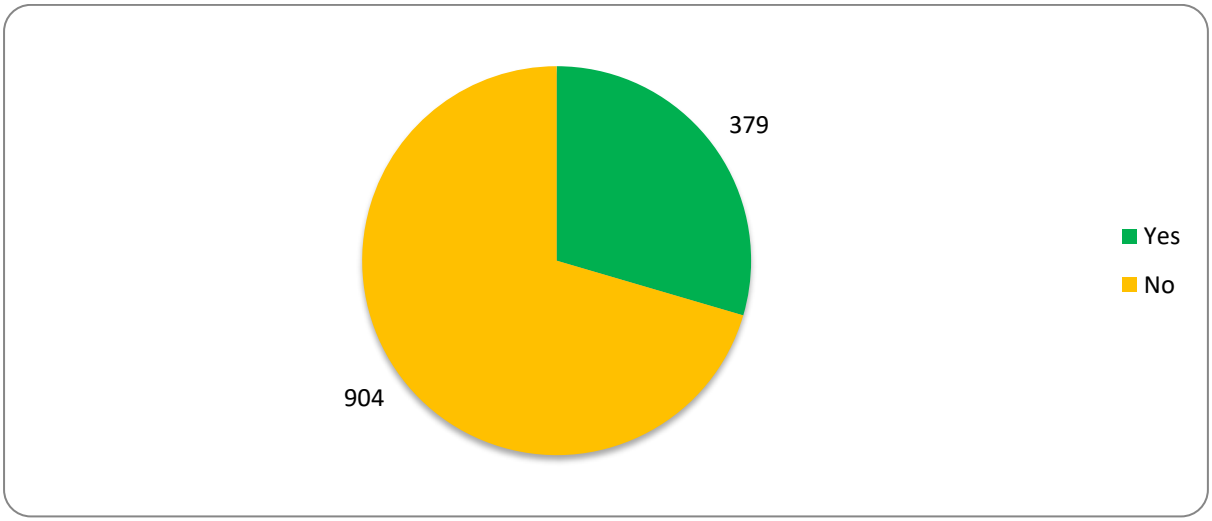


As shown above, 57.1% of respondents currently have a child attending secondary school, whereas 30.5% have a child attending primary school.

Proposal 1:

Withdrawal of discretionary transport for all pupils who live within the statutory distances of two miles of their nearest suitable primary school, or three miles of their nearest suitable secondary school, and can walk to school safely using an available walking route.

Do you agree with proposal 1?



As shown above, 70.5% of respondents disagree with proposal 1, whereas 29.5% of respondents agree with the removal of all legacy transport within the statutory distances.

If no, please provide reasons for your response:

Responses received for this question are themed into the table below:

Aspect	Issues raised
Time	• Too long to walk, especially in bad weather. • May effect pupils' ability to learn.
Distance	• Too far to walk, especially for younger children. • Public transport options need to improve. • Children are more likely to be late walking long distances. • Public transport times do not line up with school hours and does not stop close enough to the school.
Responsibility/social impact	• The current policy supports families going to work.
Safety and wellbeing	• Children will be unsafe. • Walking routes are often not safe. • Roads are busy/unsafe. • Lighting on walking routes in the winter months is poor. • Walking in cold/wet weather could cause physical and mental health issues. • Increased exposure to anti-social behaviour and crime (for example drugs). • Limited options outside schools for parents/carers to safely drop-off children.
Faith-based education	• There should not be preferential treatment for faith-based education.
Welsh-medium education	• There should not be preferential treatment for Welsh-medium education.
Cost	• Public transport is expensive and there will be additional costs for pupils/families. • Many families do not have access to a private car. • The council should make other internal savings. • Many families are already suffering financial hardship, and this would add to the burden.
Environment	• There will be a negative impact on the environment. • Children won't walk that far so the impact will be on more travel and an increased environmental impact. Net zero carbon targets will unlikely be met.

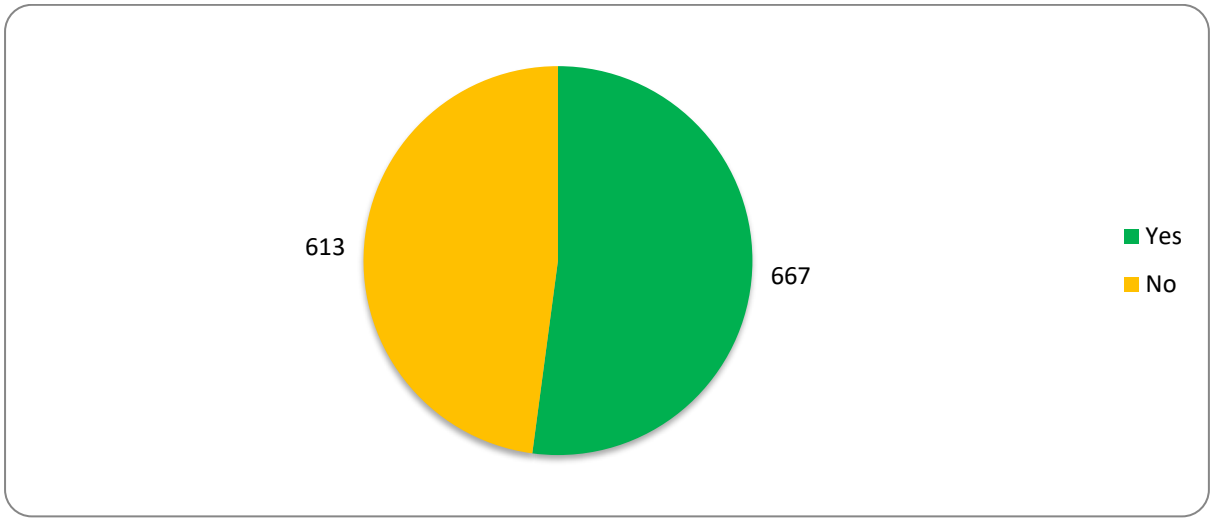
Additional learning needs (ALN)	• Pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) should be supported with transport.
Attendance/attainment	• Attendance/attainment will be negatively impacted.

Proposal 2:

Removal of the current 'sibling' protection for pupils.

Some pupils still benefit from the pre. 2015 policy eligibility of over 1.5 miles for primary school pupils and 2 miles for secondary school pupils passed on to them by their older siblings. They are still able to 'pass on' this eligibility to their younger siblings.

To remove the unfairness caused by the current 'sibling protection' provision, do you agree that this should be removed?



As shown above, 52.1% of respondents agree with proposal 2, whereas 47.9% of respondents disagree with the removal of the current 'sibling' protection for all pupils.

If no, please provide reasons for your response:

Responses received for this question are themed into the table below:

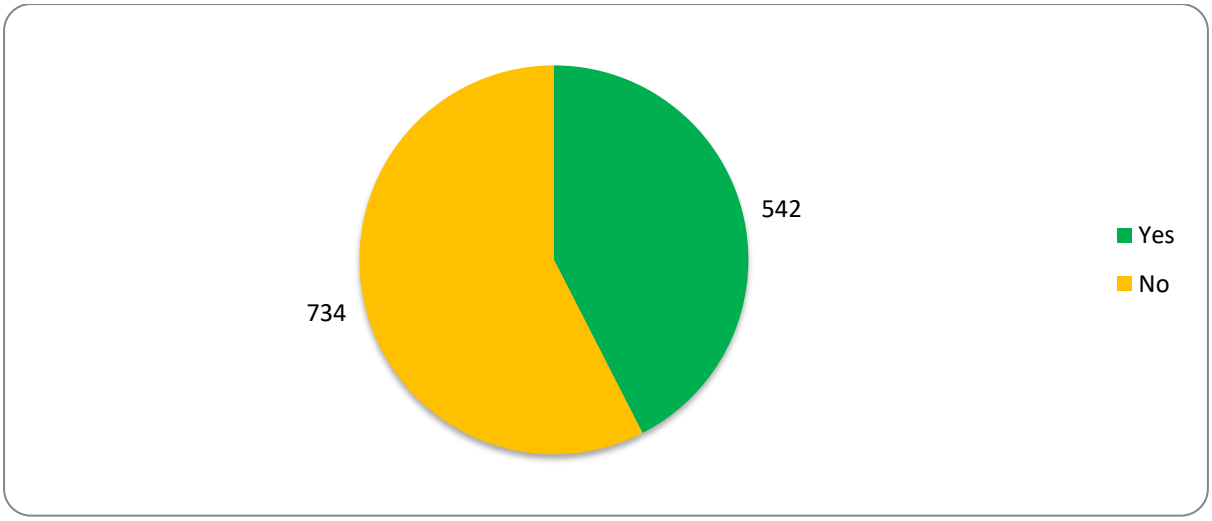
Aspect	Issues raised
Distance	• Too far for many younger pupils to walk to school while their older sibling is on the school bus. • The distance thresholds should be dropped for all pupils
Responsibility/social impact	• Siblings should have the same entitlement and travel together. • I work and won't be able to get my children to school.

	• Having an older sibling alongside supports the transition of younger pupils. • This will complicate life for families. • Difficult for parents to take children to different schools for the same start time
Safety and wellbeing	• Young pupils should be permitted to travel with older siblings to support their anxiety. • Far more vehicles at drop-off and pick up time outside schools. • Safety and welfare are paramount. This is unfair. • Children's mental health is deteriorating. • Safety should be prioritised over money. • Road safety concerns
Cost	• Any saving should be found elsewhere. • Some families a suffering financial hardship already. • This would mean I would have to give up work.
Environment	• There will be more cars on the roads. • Increase in congestion and traffic will affect the whole borough.
Attendance/attainment	• This may prevent siblings attending the same school. • This would create barriers for children's learning. • Drive down attendance
Expectation	• This should never have happened. • Both siblings should have transport • The older distances were fairer. • Families should have transitional protection to this proposal. • Unfair that something previously provided is taken away

Proposal 3:

Removal of all transport for Nursery pupils. This excludes pupils attending their nearest suitable Welsh-medium or faith school (and is subject to them living over 1.5 miles, or where there is no available walking route).

Do you agree with proposal 3?



As shown above, 57.5% of respondents disagree with proposal 3, whereas 42.5% of respondents agree with the removal of transport for nursery children.

If no, please provide reasons for your response.

Responses received for this question are themed into the table below:

Aspect	Issues raised
Time	• Small children walking to school in bad weather.
Distance	• Little children cannot be expected to walk such a distance.
Responsibility/social impact	• This should be removed for all. • This should be means tested. • Makes it difficult for parents to work. • Targets and impacts the most vulnerable children
Safety and wellbeing	• Safety is paramount. • Pupils this age should not be going on a bus alone. • Nursery age children are too young. • There are no safe walking routes.
Faith-based education	• There should not be preferential treatment for faith-based education. • This is discriminatory to the English language. • It should be all pupils or none.
Welsh-medium education	• There should not be preferential treatment for Welsh-medium education. • This is discriminatory to the English language. • It should be all pupils or none.
Cost	• Stop this and put the money into other transport for pupils.

	• This supports working families. • They are not of statutory school age. • This does not need to be funded
Environment	• There will be more cars on the roads with more pollution and congestion around schools. • No parking and safe drop off areas
Additional learning needs (ALN)	• There should be special dispensation/eligibility for pupils with ALN and looked after children.
Attendance/attainment	• How does this support the 'National Mission'? • It will reduce attendance; parents will take children out of nursery.
Expectation	• This will present barriers for parents. • Nursery is voluntary. • Nursery pupils require transport. • It should be needs assessed.

Proposal 4:

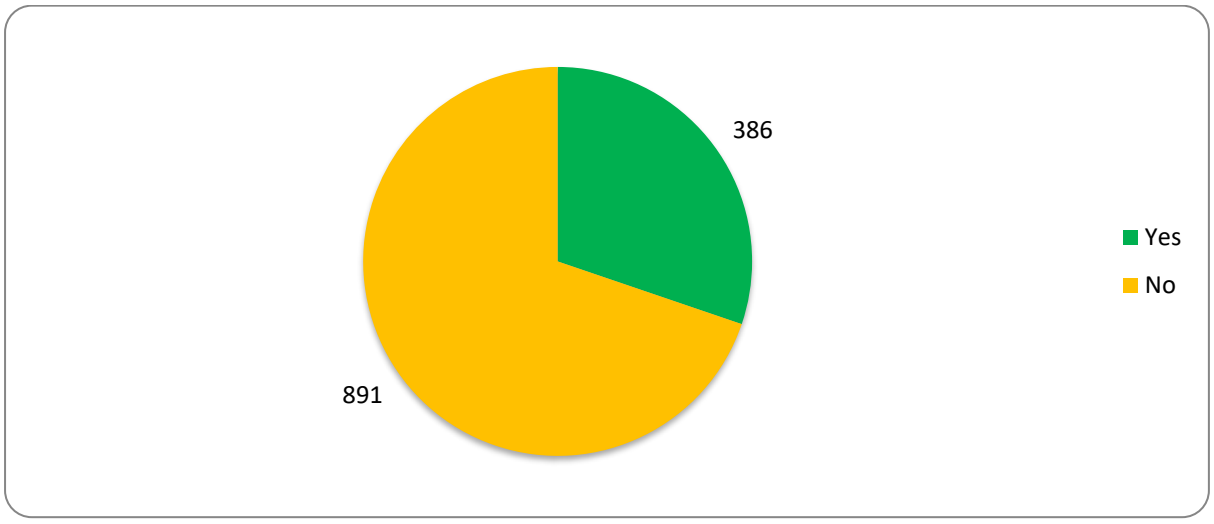
Removal of all Post-16 transport, excluding pupils attending the following Welsh-medium and faith schools (and living over three miles from the school or where there is no available walking route) :

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd

Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School

The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School.

Do you agree with proposal 4?



As shown above, 69.8% of respondents disagree with proposal 4, whereas 30.2% of respondents agree with the removal of transport for post-16 pupils.

If no, please provide reasons for your response.

Responses received for this question are themed into the table below:

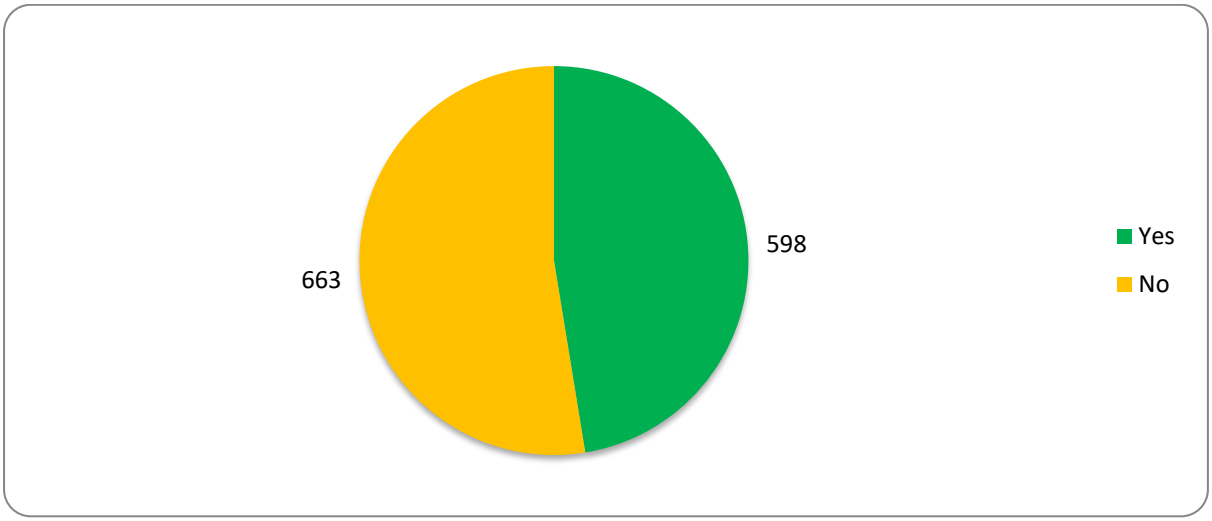
Aspect	Issues raised
Distance	• Most Post-16 journeys are longer. • Pupils at the top of the valleys will suffer more. • It's too far especially in the winter months. • It would be too far to college from many learners (Porthcawl for example)
Responsibility	• This will be a barrier to young people's education. • More sixth formers will drop-out of school.
Safety and wellbeing	• Safety and weather will be an issue. • There should be encouragement for post-16 pupils to learn. • Not enough safe routes to school/college
Faith-based education	• There should not be preferential treatment for faith-based education. • It should be all schools or none. • Some pupils of alternative faiths to Christianity do not have the same option of a faith-based education
Welsh-medium education	• There should not be preferential treatment for Welsh-medium education. • It should be all schools or none.
Cost	• This will be a financial burden on families. • Children are leaving education to work because of the cost of living. • Cost for public transport will result in young people missing out on further education. • Low-income families need to be prioritised. • Not all families have access to a private car
Environment	• This will mean more cars on our roads and outside schools. • No parking at schools for pupils
Additional learning needs (ALN)	• ALN should be supported as travel for many of them is harder. • The most vulnerable pupils will be the hardest hit
Attendance/attainment	• Young people will be deprived of their education. • Not all schools have the same subject offer. • Attendance will suffer in general. • Pupils eligible for free school meals will suffer more and may not pursue post-16 education.
Expectation	• This should be based on needs. • There aren't many other options for pupils. • Some pupils may hold back progressing their education. • We should support further and higher education and encourage it.

	• Maybe if public transport was more reliable

Proposal 5:

The offer to parents/carers of pupils with additional learning needs the option of a 'personal transport budget' providing a mileage allowance of 45p per mile where they would normally be eligible for free home-to-school transport.

Do you think this is a reasonable proposal?



As shown above, 52.6% of respondents disagree with proposal 5, whereas 47.4% of respondents agree with the option to provide a mileage allowance for parents/carers of pupils with ALN.

If no, please provide reasons for your response.

Responses received for this question are themed into the table below:

Aspect	Issues raised
Cost	• Some parents do not have access to a car. • 45p/mile would not cover costs (including public transport/taxis)
Environment	• Will likely increase the number of cars on our roads and at and outside schools. • Would not help congestion. • Need safe drop off areas at schools
Expectation	• It is unlikely to be feasible for working families. • It would restrict families with their ability to work. • It would be good to have flexibility but there are risks.
Responsibility / Social impact	• Families with multiple children to get to school would struggle with this.

Please leave any further comments regarding this proposal below:

Comments received for this question are themed into the table below:

Aspect	Issues raised
Environmental impact	• More traffic and congestion • Increase in air pollution. • More active travel routes need to be introduced
Attendance / attainment	• Negative impact on school attendance and education • Detrimental effect on future generations
Safety and wellbeing	• Child safety should be a priority. • Not enough safe routes for walking
Financial	• Budget savings should be sourced from other services. • Families will struggle financially
Additional Learning Needs (ALN)	• School transport is relied on by the vulnerable
Faith-based education	• There should not be preferential treatment for faith-based education. • It should be all schools or none.
Welsh-medium education	• There should not be preferential treatment for Welsh-medium education. • It should be all schools or none.
Expectation	• All pupils should have access to school transport. • System needs an over-haul. • Free school transport needs to be offered on case-by-case basis
Distance	• 3-mile rule needs to be revisited. • Distance is too long for children to walk twice a day.

9. Conclusion

Bridgend County Borough Council consulted on five proposed changes to the current Home-to-School/College Transport Policy.

During the 12-week consultation period, face-to-face engagement sessions were held with stakeholders to provide opportunity for questions and concerns to be raised, as well as provide support and encouragement to complete the survey.

Overall, the responses received shared similar views and concerns regarding child safety and wellbeing, environmental concerns, social and economic impact, and the effect on young people's attendance and education. Many shared the view that there should not be preferential treatment for Welsh-medium education and Faith-based education.

9.1. Equality Impact Assessment and Welsh Language Impact Assessment

An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening assessment was completed to identify any negative impacts of the proposed changes to the Home-to-School/College Transport Policy. A full EIA has been produced and will accompany the report to Cabinet. A full Welsh Language Impact Assessment has also been produced and will also accompany the report to Cabinet.

10. Appendices

Appendix 1: Learner travel statutory consultees response: Estyn

Changes to home-to-school/college transport provision

Thank-you for sending us a copy of your proposal, setting out the local authority's intention to consult on changes to home-to-school/college transport provision.

While Estyn has a statutory role in considering proposals put forward under the School Organisation Code (2018), changes to a local authority's transport policy, such as you propose, do not fall under that legislation. As a result, Estyn do not need to be consulted in this case. We are grateful that you have informed us of the proposed change but will not be providing a formal response.

Appendix 2: Learner travel statutory consultees response: RhAG

RhAG
Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg
Parents for Welsh Medium Education

Parents for Welsh Education's response to Bridgend County Borough Council's consultation

1 July 2024

RhAG wishes to thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Council consultation.

Bridgend County Borough on the proposals in the **Learner Travel consultation document**

It is frustrating and very unfortunate that it is the lack of funding that is driving this consultation. The consultation document sets this out at a very early stage. The Learner Travel (Wales) Bill 2008 states that assessing transport need should be the basis of Local Authority travel policy and it is extremely disappointing that, although the county has assessed the need a number of times in the not-too-distant past and has responded repeatedly to the need – rightly on the whole, that further review is taking place again.

At first glance, therefore, I welcomed the County's protection of the Welsh medium provisions of post 16 and in the Nursery period in this proposal.

We are also very aware of the importance of ensuring robust and thorough processes when it comes to any consultation process with the public, so that any proposal has the best chance of being put in place when the proposal comes with sound and rational support.

In researching the consultation document, itself, and the online questionnaire, it became clear to us that there was no Welsh Language Impact Study or indeed an Equality Impact Study as part of the public consultation package. This is inconsistent with other past county consultations, and this concerned us as the consultation in our view did not provide the consulate with sufficient information about the background and early assessment of the Council on the potential impacts these changes would be – positive or negative, have them on the public and more specifically on the cohorts of children who would be affected by this policy change. This gap in our view disturbed Gunning's second principle namely:

2. That there is enough information to give 'intelligent consideration’.

The information provided must be relevant to the consultation and must be available, accessible, and easy to interpret for consulates to provide an informed response.

The Gunning principles were coined by Stephen Sedley QC in a 1985 court case involving a school closure consultation (R v London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning). Sedley defined consultation as legal only when these four principles are met:

https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/The%20Gunning%20Principles.pdf

In addition, we wish to refer the County to a recent ruling.

WELSH LANGUAGE TRIBUNE

Case No: TYG/22/01

CBC

NEATH PORT TALBOT

(Appellant)

v.

WELSH LANGUAGE COMMISSIONER

(Respondent)

https://tribiwnlysygymraeg.llyw.cymru/sites/welshlanguage/files/2023-10/penderfyniad-nptcbc-0923.pdf

The judgment makes clear the need to make **conscientious consideration** of the impact on the Welsh language under Standards 91,92 and 93 which are similar to the Gunning principles. Paragraphs 118 and 119 of the judgment state as follows:

To that extent, the Tribunal accepts the definition adopted by the Commissioner when it states that it expects a conscientious effort on the part of the Council to consider the effects of its proposal on the Welsh language in all the ways required by the appropriate Standards, 91, 92 and 93.

Such an interpretation is consistent with Gunning's fourth principle in relation to consultation set out in section 3.1 of the School Organisation Code (2018), although in relation to a slightly later stage in the consultation process, namely that the consultation process "should ensure that the product of the consultation is conscientiously considered when the final decision is made".

Without initially presenting the assessment to the public, this compromises the credibility of public responses as a result of the lack of a full assessment of the impact on the Welsh language. Opportunities have been missed here to set the context for the county's reasons for protecting Welsh-medium services.

An impact assessment would have been able to include details of the Strategic Plan

Welsh in Education of the County as well as including details of Part 10 of the Travel Bill setting out the need to promote Welsh language education.

10 Promoting access to education and training through the medium of Welsh
All local authorities and Welsh Ministers must promote access to education and training through the medium of Welsh when they exercise functions under this Bill.

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2008/2/pdfs/mwa_20080002_we.pdf

An impact assessment on the proposals one by one would also have given the public the opportunity to better understand the potential impacts – both positive and negative so that a fuller response could be offered. Er enghraiift in proposal 4 it is stated:

It is proposed, therefore, that this provision be removed. ***But recognising the disproportionate impact such a proposal would have on Welsh medium*** *and faith education, this proposal does not apply to those pupils attending sixth forms in Welsh-medium secondary schools and faith-based secondary schools*.

Explaining the basis of the ***disproportionate impact would*** have been beneficial here to strengthen the rationale for protecting coverage.

10. RhAG communicated three times with the Local Authority Transport officer to enquire about seeing the impact assessment. The officer's reply was that there was no obligation to produce a Welsh Language Impact Assessment. This is extremely inconsistent with previous Council consultations as we have had to complain two times to the Welsh Language Commissioner's Officer about a lack of Welsh language impact assessments and on the first occasion, the Commissioner's Office

found Bridgend County Borough Council failed standards 91,92 and 93. I refer to the case of CS098, Kenfig Mountain School where the report states:

*The Council must therefore **include information within the consultation document about how the decision will affect** the opportunities for public use of Welsh and not treat Welsh less favourably than English.*

It must therefore be asked why Bridgend County Borough Council - on the advice of their solicitors, decided not to create an impact assessment to accompany this consultation contrary to past consultations?

Protecting the Welsh language is quite an achievement as it is. Welsh language standards are there to ensure that the Welsh language receives all fairness and yet, in this case, the Local Authority has chosen to ignore previous advice.

It is also a great disappointment that Bridgend County Borough Council has not learned from the recent Tribunal case which clearly demonstrates the need to improve the practice of consultation processes according to the Welsh Language Standards to comply with the following standards:

91 Policy Making

*When you publish a consultation document relating to a policy decision, that document must **consider** and seek views as to the effects (whether positive or adverse) that the policy decision under consideration would have on -*

(a) opportunities for persons to use Welsh, and (b) not treat Welsh less favourably than English.

92 Policy Making

*When you publish a consultation document relating to a policy decision, that document must **consider** and seek views as to how the policy under consideration could be formulated or modified so that it would have positive effects, or more positive effects, on -*

(a) opportunities for persons to use Welsh, and (b) not treat Welsh less favourably than English.

93 Policy Making

*When you publish a consultation document relating to a policy decision, that document must **consider** and seek views as to how the policy under consideration could be formulated or modified so that it would not have adverse effects, or as it would have less adverse effects, on -*

(a) opportunities for persons to use Welsh, and (b) not treat Welsh less favourably than English.

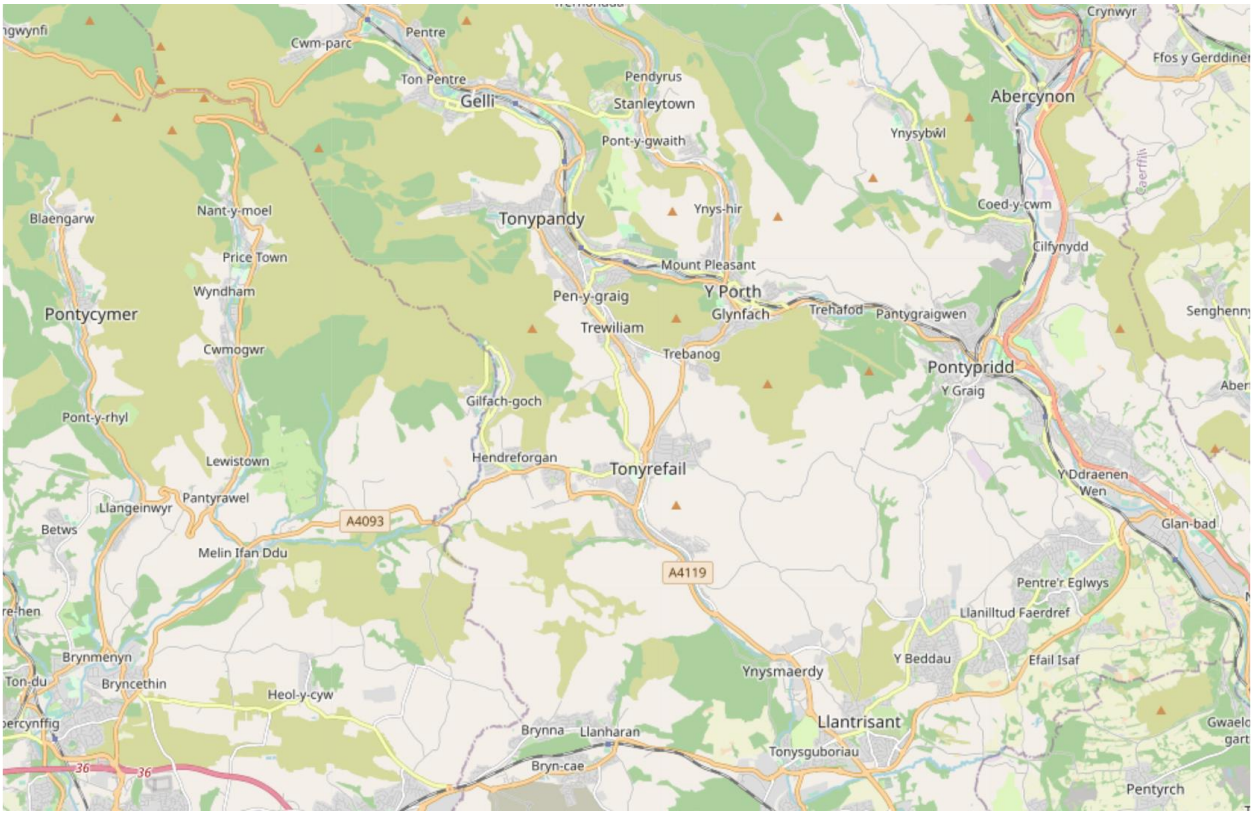
Although this consultation is not about school arrangements, it is about far-reaching changes to education circumstances and therefore the same principles should be considered when planning a consultation and provide a sound basis for this policy change.

11. Although this consultation does not propose any change to the last transport policy change which is not to offer free transport across the county boundaries to Welsh schools - although there are arrangements for English schools, we here must take the opportunity to apply for the county to reconsider this policy change stating that the transport proposal needs to be balanced for those pupils who are taking place

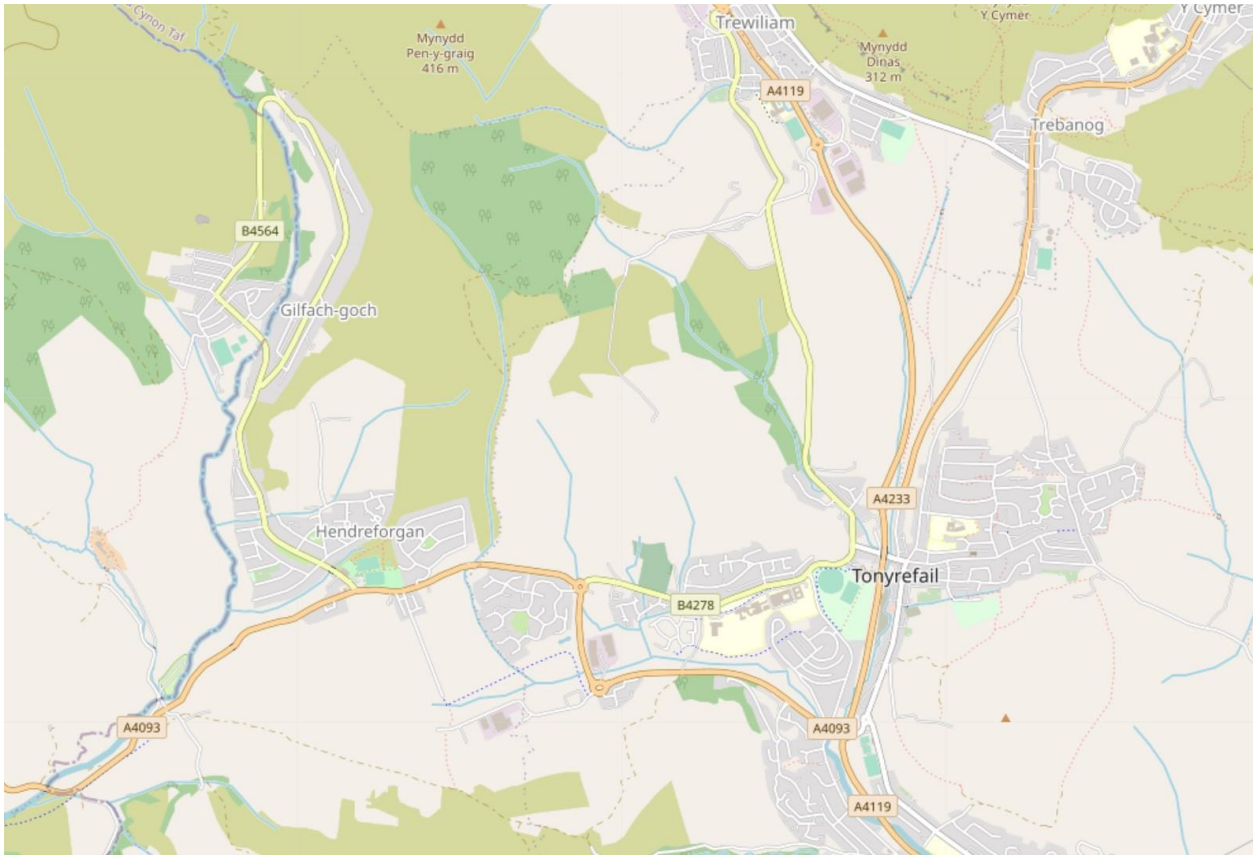
live in border areas and live in communities where the Nearest Welsh Primary School closer in a county across the border. The Local Authorities commit to the universal ideal of achieving a Million Welsh Speakers by 2050, on behalf of **every** child in the county, wherever they live, while having a policy that supports the child rather than imposing geographical barriers.

We wish to present to you once again, the situation of the families of the community of Gilfach-goch which is at the northern end of the county. We have raised the case of these families before with you and have received no recognition of this community's challenge to accessible and equal access to Welsh language education.

Below you will find a map of the north of the county adjoining Rhondda Cynon Taf. You'll find Tonyrefail in the middle and to the west are the villages of Hendreforgan and to the north, Gilfach-goch.



Taking a closer look at the communities of Gilfach-goch below, you will see that the county boundary goes straight through the village, which is the blue line. Following the last policy change, the families west of the blue line, no longer have the right to free transport to their nearest Welsh school, Ysgol Gymraeg Tonyrefail, which is just over a mile across the border. Yet the same families are entitled to transport to English-medium education from the same streets. We ask the county to respect the unique geographical nature of this area and offer these children free transport to primary and as they continue their Welsh language education journey to secondary school, to Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari, as the policy allows for English medium pupils. It is not the families who should be responsible for filling the County's schools, but it is the County that should be ensuring adequate growth for filling **all** schools with the children of their local communities, rather than delivering children across the county to schools outside their neighbourhoods.



12.Conclusion - we welcome this policy change and note with disappointment that not all the opportunities were taken to provide residents and county stakeholders with a complete and balanced picture of why the change was made. We hope that the decision to go ahead with this policy change will be on a rational basis and that the lack of an Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment will not replace the attempt to change the policy. We hope you will also consider our request for a Gilfach-goch community as well. From what we see no community is affected to the same extent as this village. I would be keen to have a further conversation with you about this matter.

We look forward to continuing to work together positively to make this progress a reality.
Thanks again for the opportunity to respond.

Appendix 3: Public Engagement session

Maesteg School Learner Travel session

20 attendees

Proposal 1 and 2:

- Who determines the safe walking routes?
- Why is three miless so important, seems like a penalty to people coming from the most deprived areas? Weather is always bad does not depend on the season. Bridgend can choose differently to the guidance from Welsh Government.
- Council tax has increased so why can't this be provided. Places from Porthcawl are provided according to a recent email.
- We need the option of being able to buy seats on buses.
- If we pay, would that cover the extra cost trying to be saved by the council?
- Houses are being built in Llangynwyd and this increases the number of children walking to school - departments need to talk to each other.
- Compromises children's health walking to school
- The council has been consulting on this since 2019/2020 you do what you want you do not listen; you're doing this as a tick box exercise.
- Walking to school from the valleys is too far for children.
- No evidence of safe routes. Parents should be given the safe routes plans and leeway should be given to the valley areas.
- Parents/pupils struggle to identify where there is a safe route in this area at busy times. Public transport is appalling at the best of times, which may be decreased. There is no other transport for children.
- The government says where there is no safe route. The local authority has not complied with it. I have spoken to children; they have not been consulted and would not feel safe walking.
- We are paying to transport three children five times a week at £15. Public transport is £5 a day. Costs do not way up. It is cheaper for parents to buy a place on a bus.
- Carbon issues, this does not line up with your Carbon Net Zero plans.
- There will be a need to reschedule public buses to get the children to school at an appropriate time.
- Effects the children and their education.
- Schools need to provide facilities for children to dry and hang coats. Pupils are carrying this about all day with them.
- Parents are being punished as child will not walk 3.5 miles. Attendance is suffering as they cannot get to school.
- Why are we not looking for more innovating ways for money. The local authority is dragging its feet on ways to save more money.
- Parents are working/ cannot afford. Children walking to school whilst their classmates on the bus is heart breaking.

- What happens if a child gets injured on the walk to school which is classed as 'safe'. So many bad stories in the news. It is putting children the most vulnerable at risk.
- Moral duty and personal duties - when this is removed there will be extra pressure on parents, grandparents and so on. This adds more pressure onto the elderly to take grandchildren to school.
- The current policy supports working parents.

Comments on Welsh-medium education / Faith-based schools

- Do not agree with the difference in provisions between Welsh language / faith-based schools.
- Most of the county's council tax goes to those children in Welsh medium or faith-based education transport, when ours will need to walk. Most children go to English-medium, so this seems unfair.
- Seems contradictory to Welsh language schools. We're trying to encourage Welsh speaking and get even less.
- English schools are closer, so people will choose to walk to them rather than go to Welsh schools.
- Welsh speakers have two choices of what school to go to, they choose to go to a school further away from their catchment area.
- Reinstate all transport down the expense and take the money away from something less effecting. Fund everyone!

Proposal 4

- Being from one of the most deprived areas, it's not fair on opportunities for children when it gets to post-16. People in Bridgend are closer to schools than in the valley areas.
- Children are not given any scope to get out of the valley and get jobs.
- Children are not going to come to school if they need to pay their way.
- There is no public transport at appropriate times. Transport and schools need to be talking to each other.
- Parents apply to send to faith schools to get free transport. Costs will increase as more transport is required.
- Children being impacted by financial decisions.
- Children have more chances of success when they are at school.
- Increase council tax / adjust budgets to cover the costs. Children need to get to school.
- It's cruel for children to lose the opportunity to reach their potential and dreams. All children need the transport.

Proposal 5

- Not all ALN will get the transport, you have to fight for that. Really frustrating.
- Why do you need to reapply for ALN each year?

- How much would it save the council if one parent is paid the 45p. Is it justifiable?
- One parent taking a couple of ALN children.
- Pay parents with ALN but not others. Every child deserves the right to get to school ALN or not.
- Why are BCBC paying 45p when HRMC says 42p.
- How do you know that child is getting to school when you're paying that parent.

Pencoed Comprehensive School Learner Travel Session

3 Members of the public:

Concerns raised:

- Different ages of children should be considered, for example: A 5-year-old walking that distance is a lot different than a 9-year-old.
- Single parents will be affected greatly as many rely on school transport in order for them to arrive at work on time.
- Parents would be happy to pay towards costs if this enabled the service to continue.

Proposal 3

- There is a potential of parents pulling children out of Welsh-medium nursery when it comes to starting primary school.
- Students that attend an alternative college if the course is not available at the chosen collage are currently supported, I would query if this would continue?
- People may send the children to Welsh/faith schools to take advantage of still having school transport.
- If this came into effect half way through a student's education, parents cannot make an informed choice. Shouldn't be allowed to take place half way through the collage A/Level course, as it could put extra pressure on parents/students.
- This goes against the other Welsh Government initiative of school attendance campaigns and children going onto further education.

Proposal 5

- Traffic around schools is a hazard, traffic management and carbon emissions more extensive.
- Could parents have an alternative arrangements and fund aside from BCBC (Lindsay explained that in some other local authorities' parents have gone down this route privately).
- There is public concern identified around taking up this option, but not using it all the time but still having the allowance.

- This may not be a cost savings - it could end up costing the authority more.
- There is a danger that parents changing their mind part way through and deciding to use the transport which would result in them losing their place.
- Will increase traffic, carbon, and congestion.
- Financial impacts will be felt by the schools.
- Proposal 5 is very open-ended was the main concern from the group.
- Concerns around the availability of public transport if this is the only option for children.

Porthcawl Primary School Learner Travel Session

2 members of the public:

Proposal 1:

- Safe walking routes: new traffic lights at Pyle – there is no crossing, yet this is classed as a safe walking route. Narrow walk ways and no pedestrian crossing. Kids need to walk the other side of Cornelly. Pyle Road (Marlas Bridge)
- Traffic volume will increase because of everyone dropping their children to school.
- Some parents do not get on with the school, so parents then have chosen another school and then drive to those schools.
- There is lots of choice in primary schools but just one or two comprehensive schools
- Parents pay X amount to provide a bus for comprehensive school kids rather than each individual parent driving to Porthcawl Comp for example.
- Schools should provide welcome packs, and with all walking routes available for the children.

Proposal 2:

- Does the current child still have the transport?
- Agree with the fairness of the proposal, neighbours get transport when others on the same street don't.

Proposal 3:

- Prejudicial for Welsh schools and faith schools above English-medium schools.
- Transport provision does affect the choice of education chosen for the child.
- Should English-medium schools that are strong in Welsh language be included in the protection, for example, Afon y Felin Primary School?

Proposal 4:

- Utilise the provision of public transport – free bus pass.
- Will this still be provided for young people with ALN?

- Young people with ALN should be provided at all ages.
- Neurodiverse should also be included.
- Not every child has access to a car and learning to drive to get to school / college.
- Suggestion of doing a survey on Post-16 learners that would need school transport, identify areas that do not need it.
- Have you considered a single parent family; income will be a lot lower than a double income family. They may struggle to afford use of public transport.

Proposal 5:

- There is a misunderstanding of proposal. We are not asking parents to pay for the provision of transport.

Bridgend College, Pencoed Campus Learner Travel session

2 members of public / staff members

- Concern on financial wellbeing, on families and students – there is already a struggle to get students to college.
- Will impact students living in deprived areas the most.
- Negative impact on Post-16 education and future career prospects.
- Understanding of the need for the cuts and proposals.
- Education and awareness are needed to support the reasons around the protection of Welsh-medium education and Faith-based school transport.
- Agreement that the sibling protection causes unfairness between families living in the same area.

Appendix 4: Pupil Engagement sessions

Maesteg School Learner Travel session:

56 Pupils – Age 11-17.

Proposal 1:

- Disabled access to school: All pupils should be entitled to safely get to school.
- Cost implications – Over £100 per week, per family from Llan.
- Service bus times do not line-up with school hours and does not stop close enough to the school.
- Adds pressure on parents and grandparents to provide lifts to school.
- Parents are fined for children not attending school, however there are no ways to get the children there. Parents have to bear the cost of public transport.
- One pupil changing schools due to school transport issues.
- Unfairness and lack of compromise on who is entitled, pupils in the same street are entitled but some aren't.
- Increase in traffic around the school, encourages a car per student.

- Emergency services would not be able to get through the traffic.
- Increase in traffic around Maesteg in general.
- Unsafe with more cars driving to school.
- Climate emergency – not in line with carbon net zero proposals.
- Swansea Council provide transport under 3 miles. Why can't Bridgend?
- Unsafe to be walking 6 miles a day to and from school.
- Pupils feel intimated by the roads and public.
- Taxis are difficult to get, unavailable and very costly.
- Suggestion of a paid school bus system – people still pay but at is discounted cost than public transport and bus is provided by BCBC.
- Rights of the child to get to education.
- Detrimental to pupils' education
- Cost of lighting for pathways versus transport
- More air pollution
- Cost of clothing and shoes for walking to school – people in poverty affected.
- Walking to and home from school in dark is dangerous and unsafe.
- More likely to be late and impact on attendance from walking.

Proposal 2: Removal of Sibling protection

- One pupil has moved in with grandparents to qualify for school transport.
- Why the removal of sibling protection now
- Where is the money going to go – does it go to salaries?
- What are these savings going to be used for?
- What are the chances of saving the school buses?
- Will council tax go down if this is being removed?
- Pupils need to be protected and supported when walking distances to school. Older siblings help with their younger siblings.
- This will hugely affect school attendance.
- More pupils will be turning up late to school.
- Traffic already causes pupils to be late, this will make the issue worse.
- More cars, air pollution is a worry.
- What are the safe routes – from Caerau?
- You have to walk on the main roads from Llan.
- Pupils are legally obliged to get to school, yet no provision is in place.

Proposal 4: Post 16 education

- Impact decisions to further education – more people likely to leave school and impact on attitude to learning.
- High expense of public transport / driving
- Increase of vehicles on the road – no parking facilities at schools – dangerous for other pupils
- Transport to get to exams.
- Has a detrimental impact on future career prospects.

CCYD School Learner Travel session:

11 pupils – Year 7-10

Proposal 1:

- Seasonal issues are a concern with poor weather in the winter.
- If we are late for school, we get into trouble.
- If we are injured, will travel be available for recovery time?
- Attendance will be impacted.
- Three miles is a long distance to walk and get to school on time – it's not fair.
- Pupils will need to wake up earlier.
- Being a few metres away from others getting transport is unfair.
- Empty buses passing people walking.
- Not fair on parents having to provide transport.
- Road safety – more children on the road and more incidents.
- Afterschool clubs will be impacted.
- Effect on learning and education – outside in the winter, more prone to catching a cold. Awake earlier and tired in school.
- There are more English pupils who use public transport than Welsh. This will affect English-medium schools.
- In favour of saving Welsh transport to protect culture.

Proposal 2:

- Agree with proposal 2.
- Proposal makes sense for equality for all pupils.
- When people move house, their new distance should be checked.

Proposal 3: Nursery

- Unequal just because you study Welsh.
- If you take it away for English, take it away for everyone.
- We don't want to lose our cultural identity (Welsh)
- Effects parents' employment

Proposal 4: Post 16

- We need to be taking responsibility for our own decisions
- it's our decision to stay in further education so we need to take responsibility to get there.
- Sixth-formers use the same buses as the ones in Year 11. What's the difference than using the same buses as you did through school?
- Provide a cheaper public bus pass.
- Some will be losing out on their education because of where they live rather than their ability.

- Learners would need to get on two public service buses to reach some schools.
- Getting learners to school in the first place is hard enough regardless on transport.
- This really affects pupils in deprived areas.
- This would mean that pupils who live closer to the school will have more opportunities of furthering their education than those who live further away.
- Sixth-formers could pay towards a bigger school transport bus.
- This affects pupils' future opportunities.

Brynteg School Learner Travel session:

23 pupils' Year 7-10

Proposal 1:

- From Pen-y-Fai no school transport is provided.
- Some struggle to get to school as parents are not able to provide transport.
- Causes a worry to get to school.
- Roads are not safe to walk on.
- There will be an increase in traffic and road safety.
- There will be more congestion and air quality issues
- Some qualify for transport as they live over three miles from school yet others a street behind do not.
- Give spaces on empty buses to pupils who may not be eligible
- Select students in nearby streets to fill buses for fairness even if they are not eligible.
- Cost of getting pupils to school is high.

Proposal 2:

- Families struggle to get multiple children to different schools.
- When the older sibling leaves, they should then lose the 'sibling protection'.

Proposal 3:

- Have the same budget offer for ALN for sixth form and nursery transport.

Proposal 4:

- This presents a barrier to further education.
- Families should have the option to ask for support on an individual basis.

Proposal 5:

- How will this be regulated and monitored?
- Sensible option
- Have the same budget offer for ALN for sixth form and nursery transport.

Youth Council Learner Travel session

3 Youth council members:

- Not providing transport for most college students (Post-16) would be detrimental and a large barrier to attend college and sixth-form.
- Having to drive is potentially more dangerous, expensive, and worse for the environment.
- Buses are very expensive and not affordable on 16-18 minimum wage even with a bus pass.
- Young people may feel discouraged to attend further and then higher education and get more qualifications.
- This added more barriers for attending education.
- Will increase the emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA) and not in education employment or training (NEET) populations.
- Not everyone has money for fuel, public transport and to walk everywhere can be difficult in different weather.

Appendix 5: Social Media Analysis

Facebook/Instagram/LinkedIn	Insights	Welsh insights
16 April Have your say! We've launched a public consultation on proposed changes to the home-to-school and college transport arrangements, which if approved will help us save just over £1 million as we continue to face the impact of national financial pressures. As part of the new proposals, all pupils of statutory school-age will only be eligible for free transport if they live outside of the statutory distances of two miles of a primary school, or three miles of a secondary school. Welsh-medium and faith schools will not be affected. Legacy 'sibling' protection for pupils will be removed along with transport for nursery pupils (excluding those attending their nearest suitable Welsh-medium or faith school) and post-16 transport to all schools and colleges, excluding pupils attending the following schools: Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd; Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School; The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School. Another proposed change is the offer of a 'personal transport budget' to parents or carers of pupils with	**Impressions: 28,179** **Reach: 24,917** **Engagement: 4,151**	**Impressions: 58** **Reach: 35** **Engagement: 1**

additional learning needs (ALN). A 'budget' of 45p per mile will be offered to provide financial support to parents or carers on an individual basis, giving them the opportunity to arrange their own transport to school for their child if they wish. To have your say on these proposal, please visit our website: 📎 https://beinvolvedbridgend.uk.engagementhq.com/learner... The consultation will close on Wednesday 3 July 2024.		

Twitter		Welsh insights
Thursday 18 April 📣 We've launched our consultation on proposed changes to the home to school/college transport policy 🚌 Have your say - complete the online survey 📎 https://beinvolvedbridgend.uk.engagementhq.com/learner-travel-survey	**Impressions: 493** **Engagements: 15** **Link clicks: 13**	**Impressions: 15** **Engagement: 1** **Link clicks: 1**
Saturday 20 April Take part in our consultation on proposed changes to home to school/college transport in #Bridgend County Borough. We want to hear your views. Complete the online survey 📎 https://beinvolvedbridgend.uk.engagementhq.com/learner-travel-survey	**Impressions: 995** **Engagements: 16** **Link clicks: 11**	**Impressions: 21** **Engagement: 0** **Link clicks: 0**

Facebook/Instagram/LinkedIn		Welsh insights
23 April We've launched our consultation on proposed changes to our home to school/college transport policy 🚌	**Impressions: 17,918** **Reach: 16,949**	**Impressions: 0** **Reach: 0** **Engagement: 0**

📣 There are a number of ways you can have your say: 📞 (01656) 643 664 📩 consultation@bridgend.gov.uk 📎 https://beinvolvedbridgend.uk.engagementhq.com/learner-travel-survey ✉ Communications, Marketing and Engagement, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB. 📆 Closing date: 3 July 2024	**Engagement: 1,225**	

Twitter		Welsh insights
Wednesday 24 April Take part in our consultation to #haveyoursay on proposed changes to the home to school/college transport policy in #Bridgend County Borough. 📎 https://beinvolvedbridgend.uk.engagementhq.com/learner-travel-survey	**Impressions: 1,718** **Engagements: 27** **Link clicks: 16**	**Impressions: 41** **Engagement: 2** **Link clicks: 2**

Facebook/Instagram/LinkedIn		Welsh insight
Tuesday 30 April Come along to one of our public consultation events to have your say on the proposed changes to our home to school/college transport policy: 📆 23 May - Maesteg Comprehensive School 📆 10 June - Pencoed Comprehensive School 📆 14 June - Porthcawl Comprehensive School	**Impressions: 6, 531** **Reach: 5,604** **Engagement: 172**	**Impressions: 28** **Reach: 27** **Engagement: 3**

20 June - Bridgend College, Cowbridge Road Campus. All events start at 6pm. You will need to register your place, please visit: {insert link} If you cannot make these events, you still take part in our consultation online in the following ways: (01656) 643 664 consultation@bridgend.gov.uk https://beinvolvedbridgend.uk.engagementhq.com/learner-travel-survey Communications, Marketing and Engagement, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB. Closing date: 3 July 2024		

Twitter		Welsh insights
Thursday 9 May Have your say on the proposed changes to our home to school/college transport policy in our public engagement event @MaestegSchool on 23 May at 6pm. Book your place today: https://beinvolvedbridgend.uk.engagementhq.com/learner-travel-survey/surveys/event-sign-up-form-2 #haveyoursay #Maesteg. Closing date: 3 July 2024	**Impressions: 1,343** **Engagements: 14** **Link clicks: 4**	**Impressions: 53** **Engagement: 3** **Link clicks: 1**

Twitter		Welsh insights
Monday 13 May	**Impressions: 0**	**Impressions: 0**

Have your say on the proposed changes to our home to school/college transport policy in our public engagement event @PencoedComp on 10 June at 6pm. 📎Book your place today: https://beinvolvedbridgend.uk.engagementhq.com/learner-travel-survey/surveys/event-sign-up-form-2 #haveyoursay #Pencoed. Closing date: 3 July 2024 #haveyoursay 📎	**Engagement: 0** **Link clicks: 0**	**Engagement: 0** **Link clicks: 0**

Facebook/Instagram/LinkedIn		**Welsh insights**
Monday 20 May We're holding public engagement sessions across the county borough to gather your views on the proposed changes to our home to school/college transport policy 🚌 📆23 May - Maesteg Comprehensive School 📆10 June - Pencoed Comprehensive School 📆14 June - Porthcawl Primary School 📆 20 June - Bridgend College, Pencoed Campus ⏰ All events start at 6pm. You will need to register your place, please visit: https://beinvolvedbridgend.uk.engagementhq.com/learner... If you cannot make these events, you still take part in our consultation online in the following ways: 📞(01656) 643 664 📩consultation@bridgend.gov.uk 🔗 https://beinvolvedbridgend.uk.engagementhq.com/learner... ✉️Communications, Marketing and Engagement, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB. 📆Closing date: 3 July 2024	**Impressions: 32,383** **Reach: 28,097** **Engagement: 1,462**	**Impressions: 513** **Reach: 466** **Engagement: 6**

Twitter		**Welsh insights**

Wednesday 5 June Have your say on the proposed changes to our home to school/college transport policy in our public engagement event @PencoedComp on 10 June at 6pm. 🖇Book your place today: #haveyoursay #Pencoed. Closing date: 3 July 2024🖇http://beinvolvedbridgend.uk.engagementhq.com/learner-travel-survey	**Impressions: 1,626** **Engagements: 34** **Link clicks: 7**	**Impressions: 67** **Engagement: 1** **Link clicks: 1**
Friday 7 June Have your say on the proposed changes to our home to school/college transport policy in our public engagement event @Porthcawl Junior School on 14 June at 6pm. 🖇Book your place today: https://beinvolvedbridgend.uk.engagementhq.com/learner-travel-survey/surveys/event-sign-up-form-2 #haveyoursay #Porthcawl. Closing date: 3 July 2024🖇http://beinvolvedbridgend.uk.engagementhq.com/learner-travel-survey	**Impressions: 498** **Engagements: 6** **Link clicks: 3**	**Impressions: 0** **Engagement: 0** **Link clicks: 0**

Facebook/Instagram/LinkedIn		**Welsh insights**
Tuesday 25 June Last chance to have your say in our home to school/college transport consultation! 🗣 📣 There are a number of ways you can have your say: 📞 (01656) 643 664 📩 consultation@bridgend.gov.uk 🖇 https://beinvolvedbridgend.uk.engagementhq.com/learner-travel-survey ✉ Communications, Marketing and Engagement, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB. 📆 Closing date: 3 July 2024	**Impressions: 11,277** **Reach: 10,350** **Engagement: 280**	**Impressions: 26** **Reach: 26** **Engagement: 0**

Twitter		Welsh insights
28 June 📣Last chance to have your say in our home to school/college transport consultation. Have your say - complete the online survey: 📎	**Impressions: 879** **Engagements: 8** **Link clicks: 2**	**Impressions: 13** **Engagement: 0** **Link clicks: 0**
Facebook/Instagram/LinkedIn		
Tuesday 2 July Our consultation on proposed changes to home to school/college transport in #Bridgend County Borough closes tomorrow! 🗣️Don't miss your chance to have your say! Complete the online survey 🔗 https://beinvolvedbridgend.uk.engagementhq.com/learner... 📞(01656) 643 664 📥consultation@bridgend.gov.uk ✉️Communications, Marketing and Engagement, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB. 📆Closing date: 3 July 2024	**Post reach: 948** **Post impressions: 901** **Engagement: 54**	**Impressions: 4** **Reach: 4** **Engagement: 0**
Twitter		
2 July ‼ Last chance to have your say in our home to school/college transport consultation. Consultation closes tomorrow - 3 July! 📎	**Impressions: 429** **Engagements: 5** **Link clicks: 2**	**Impressions: 5** **Engagement: 0** **Link clicks: 0**

Learner travel consultation

10 April 2024 to 3 July 2024

Emerging themes

Proposal 1 - Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from an available walking route to school, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary age pupils and three miles for secondary age pupils.

Aspect	Issues raised
Time	• Too long to walk, especially in bad weather. • May effect pupils' ability to learn.
Distance	• Too far to walk, especially for younger children. • Public transport options need to improve. • Children are more likely to be late walking long distances. • Public transport times do not line up with school hours and does not stop close enough to the school.
Responsibility/social impact	• The current policy supports families going to work.
Safety and wellbeing	• Children will be unsafe. • Walking routes are often not safe. • Roads are busy/unsafe. • Lighting on walking routes in the winter months is poor. • Walking in cold/wet weather could cause physical and mental health issues. • Increased exposure to anti-social behaviour and crime (for example drugs). • Limited options outside schools for parents/carers to safely drop-off children.
Faith-based education	• There should not be preferential treatment for faith-based education.
Welsh-medium education	• There should not be preferential treatment for Welsh-medium education.
Cost	• Public transport is expensive and there will be additional costs for pupils/families. • Many families do not have access to a private car. • The council should make other internal savings. • Many families are already suffering financial hardship, and this would add to the burden.
Environment	• There will be a negative impact on the environment. • Children won't walk that far so the impact will be on more travel and an increased environmental

	impact. Net zero carbon targets will unlikely be met.
Additional learning needs (ALN)	• Pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) should be supported with transport.
Attendance/attainment	• Attendance/attainment will be negatively impacted.

Proposal 2 - Removal of legacy 'sibling' protection for pupils.

Aspect	Issues raised
Distance	• Too far for many younger pupils to walk to school while their older sibling is on the school bus. • The distance thresholds should be dropped for all pupils
Responsibility/social impact	• Siblings should have the same entitlement and travel together. • I work and won't be able to get my children to school. • Having an older sibling alongside supports the transition of younger pupils. • This will complicate life for families. • Difficult for parents to take children to different schools for the same start time
Safety and wellbeing	• Young pupils should be permitted to travel with older siblings to support their anxiety. • Far more vehicles at drop-off and pick up time outside schools. • Safety and welfare are paramount. This is unfair. • Children's mental health is deteriorating. • Safety should be prioritised over money. • Road safety concerns.
Cost	• Any saving should be found elsewhere. • Some families a suffering financial hardship already. • This would mean I would have to give up work.
Environment	• There will be more cars on the roads. • Increase in congestion and traffic will affect the whole borough.
Attendance/attainment	• This may prevent siblings attending the same school. • This would create barriers for children's learning. • This would drive down attendance
Expectation	• This should never have happened. • Both siblings should have transport • The older distances were fairer. • Families should have transitional protection to this proposal.

	• Unfair that something previously provided is taken away

Proposal 3 – Removal of all transport for nursery pupils (excluding pupils attending their nearest suitable Welsh-medium or faith school).

Aspect	Issues raised
Time	• Small children walking to school in bad weather.
Distance	• Little children cannot be expected to walk such a distance.
Responsibility/social impact	• This should be removed for all. • This should be means tested. • Makes it difficult for parents to work. • Targets and impacts the most vulnerable children
Safety and wellbeing	• Safety is paramount. • Pupils this age should not be going on a bus alone. • Nursery age children are too young. • There are no safe walking routes.
Faith-based education	• There should not be preferential treatment for faith-based education. • This is discriminatory to the English language. • It should be all pupils or none.
Welsh-medium education	• There should not be preferential treatment for Welsh-medium education. • This is discriminatory to the English language. • It should be all pupils or none.
Cost	• Stop this and put the money into other transport for pupils. • This supports working families. • They are not of statutory school age. • This does not need to be funded
Environment	• There will be more cars on the roads with more pollution and congestion around schools. • No parking and safe drop off areas
Additional learning needs (ALN)	• There should be special dispensation/eligibility for pupils with ALN and looked after children.
Attendance/attainment	• How does this support the ‘National Mission’? • It will reduce attendance; parents will take children out of nursery.
Expectation	• This will present barriers for parents. • Nursery is voluntary. • Nursery pupils require transport. • It should be needs assessed.

Proposal 4 – Removal of all Post-16 transport (excluding pupils attending the following schools:

- **Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd;**
- **Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School; and**
- **The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School.**

Aspect	Issues raised
Distance	• Most Post-16 journeys are longer. • Pupils at the top of the valleys will suffer more. • It's too far especially in the winter months. • It would be too far to college from many learners (Porthcawl for example)
Responsibility	• This will be a barrier to young people's education. • More sixth-formers will drop-out of school.
Safety and wellbeing	• Safety and weather will be an issue. • There should be encouragement for Post-16. pupils to learn. • Not enough safe routes to school/college
Faith-based education	• There should not be preferential treatment for faith-based education. • It should be all schools or none. • Some pupils of alternative faiths to Christianity do not have the same option of a faith-based education
Welsh-medium education	• There should not be preferential treatment for Welsh-medium education. • It should be all schools or none.
Cost	• This will be a financial burden on families. • Children are leaving education to work because of the cost of living. • Cost for public transport will result in young people missing out on further education. • Low-income families need to be prioritised. • Not all families have access to a private car
Environment	• This will mean more cars on our roads and outside schools. • No parking at schools for pupils
Additional learning needs (ALN)	• ALN should be supported as travel for many of them is harder. • The most vulnerable pupils will be the hardest hit
Attendance/attainment	• Young people will be deprived of their education. • Not all schools have the same subject offer. • Attendance will suffer in general. • Pupils eligible for free school meals will suffer more and may not pursue Post-16 education.
Expectation	• This should be based on needs. • There aren't many other options for pupils.

	• Some pupils may hold back progressing their education. • We should support further and higher education and encourage it. • Maybe if public transport was more reliable

Proposal 5 – The offer to parents/carers of pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) the option of a 'transport budget' providing a mileage allowance of £45p per mile

Aspect	Issues raised
Cost	• Some parents do not have access to a car. • 45p/mile would not cover costs (including public transport/taxis)
Environment	• Will likely increase the number of cars on our roads and at and outside schools. • Would not help congestion. • Need safe drop off areas at schools
Expectation	• It is unlikely to be feasible for working families. • It would restrict families with their ability to work. • It would be good to have flexibility but there are risks.
Responsibility / Social impact	• Families with multiple children to get to school would struggle with this.

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Equality Impact full assessment form

When complete, this form must be signed off and retained by the service area. The Full EIA should be recorded as complete on share point (your business manager has access to share point). Where a full EIA is needed this should be included as an appendix with the relevant cabinet report and therefore available publicly on the website.

Equality impact full assessment form

Name of project, policy, function, service or proposal being assessed:	Home-to-School/College Transport Policy consultation

At this stage you will need to re-visit your initial screening template to inform your consultation and refer to guidance notes on completing a full EIA

Consultation

	Method	Action Points
Who do you need to consult with (which equality groups)?	Parents/carers Pupils/college learners Stakeholders	Public engagement sessions Use of social media Online survey Work with schools and Bridgend College to engage with pupils/students. Stakeholders identified and sent details of the consultation for comment.
How will you ensure your consultation is inclusive?	Full public consultation made available on the local authority website. The consultation used plain English to maximise	The public consultation was made available in online and paper format in both Welsh and English with alternative formats by request.

	Method	Action Points
	understanding and encourage participation. To encourage engagement the consultation was available online or in other formats by request. Information about the consultation was shared via social media channels on a variety of platforms. Engagement events for parents and carers held in two secondary schools, one primary school and Bridgend College. Engagement events with pupils held via Bridgend Youth forum, Maesteg School and Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen. Workshops arranged outside of working hours (that is 6-8pm) to encourage participation for working parents/carers to attend.	The consultation document and survey were made available on the local authority website and details of the consultation were shared on a number of social media channels/platforms. Parents and carers contacted via schools to attend consultation events. Letters sent to all parents/carers in Bridgend schools. Letters sent to all statutory consultees and stakeholders. Letters sent to all elected members.

	Method	Action Points
What consultation was carried out? **Consider any consultation activity already carried out, which may not have been specifically about equality but may have information you can use**	A full 12-week public consultation was carried out from 10 April 2024 to 3 July 2024.	

Record of consultation with people from equality groups

Group or persons consulted	Date/venue	Feedback/areas of concern raised	Action Points
Consultation events:	Maesteg School Pencoed Comprehensive School Porthcawl Primary School Bridgend College Maesteg School pupils Bridgend Youth Council pupils took part in engagement sessions in the Council Chamber Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen	Availability of safe routes to school. Weather conditions will impact. Not providing transport for most college students (Post-16) presents a barrier to attend college and sixth-form. Having to drive is potentially more dangerous, expensive and worse for the environment. Service buses are very expensive and not affordable. If they don't transport- young people may discouraged to attend higher education and getting more qualifications. Adds more barriers for attending education and will increase the 'emotionally based school avoidance' and 'not in education, employment or training' population. Not everyone has money for fuel, public transport.	Consider feedback from learners on all proposals to produce Cabinet report and recommendations
Parent and Carer Engagement sessions:	Parent and carer engagement sessions took place in:	The most common feedback from parents and carers as a result of the consultation responses are summarised below: • Public transport options need to improve.	Consider feedback from parents and carers on all proposals to produce Cabinet

A total of 97 parents took part in engagement sessions in comprehensive school across the county borough	Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School Bridgend College Brynteg Comprehensive Bryntirion Comprehensive Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen Cynffig Comprehensive Maesteg High School Pencoed Comprehensive Porthcawl Comprehensive Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	• The proposals would create barriers for children's learning. • Walking routes are often not safe. Safety should be prioritised over money. Roads are busy and unsafe • Lighting in the winter months is poor. • Too long to walk, especially in bad weather and walking in cold/wet weather could cause physical and mental health issues. • Increased exposure to anti-social behaviour and crime (for example drugs). • Limited options outside schools for parents/carers to safely drop-off children. • There should not be preferential treatment for faith-based education. • There should not be preferential treatment for Welsh-medium education. • Public transport is expensive and there will be additional costs for pupils/families. • Many families do not have access to a private car. • The council should make other internal savings. • Many families are already suffering financial hardship and this would add to their burden. Low-income families need to be prioritised. • Children won't walk that far so the impact will be on more travel and an increased environmental impact. Net zero carbon targets will unlikely be met. • Pupils with additional learning needs should be supported with transport. • Attendance/attainment will be negatively impacted.	report and recommendations

		• Too far for many younger pupils to walk to school while their older sibling is on the school bus. • The distance thresholds should be dropped for all pupils. • Siblings should travel together. • Having an older sibling alongside supports the transition of younger pupils. • This will complicate life for families. • Young pupils should be permitted to travel with older siblings to support their anxiety. • This may prevent siblings attending the same school. • The older distances we far fairer • Families should have transitional protection to the proposals. • Unfair that something previously provided is taken away. • Little children cannot be expected to walk such a distance. Nursery pupils require transport. • This should be means tested. • This is discriminatory to the English language. • Stop this and put the money into other transport for pupils. • There will be more cars on the roads with more pollution and congestion around schools. • There should be special dispensation/eligibility for pupils with additional learning needs and looked after children. • How does this support the ‘National Mission’? • Most Post-16 journeys are longer. • Pupils at the top of the valleys will suffer more. • It would be too far to college from many learners (Porthcawl for example). • This will be a barrier to young people’s education.	

		• More sixth-formers will drop-out of school. There should be encouragement for Post-16 pupils to learn. • Some pupils of alternative faiths to Christianity do not have the same option of a faith-based education. • Children are leaving education to work because of the cost of living. • The most vulnerable pupils will be the hardest hit. • Young people will be deprived of their education. • Not all schools have the same subject offer. • Attendance will suffer in general. • Pupils eligible for free school meals will suffer more and may not pursue Post-16 education. • We should support further and higher education and encourage it. • As a personal transport budget, 45p/mile would not cover costs (including public transport/taxis).	

Assessment of Impact

Based on the data you have analysed, and the results of consultation or research, consider what the potential impact will be upon people with protected characteristics (negative or positive). Include any examples of how the policy helps to promote equality. If you do identify any adverse impact you **must seek legal advice as to whether, based on the evidence provided, an adverse impact is or is potentially discriminatory, and identify steps to mitigate any adverse impact – these actions will need to be included in your action plan.**

	Impact or potential impact	Actions to mitigate
Gender	There is no evidence to suggest that there will be any disproportionate impact based on gender. The most recent Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) data (2024) shows that the school population is made up of 48.6% female and 51.4% male.	N/A
Disability	Children and young people who have a disability or additional learning need attending mainstream education would be assessed individually for transport on a discretionary basis under the requirements of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008	The local authority allows parents/carers to apply for discretionary home-to-school transport provision if there are short-term medical issues that present a barrier for a pupil/student to access their school or other learning environment.
Race	Pupils are treated equally as eligibility is based on distance and the choice of school.	There is no evidence to suggest that there will be a disproportionate impact upon learners based on race or ethnicity. Any learners who require additional support can, under the new proposals apply for discretionary transport and will be considered on an individual basis.
Religion and belief	Learners attending faith schools (primary and secondary) will maintain home-to school-transport in line with the current policy arrangements. Therefore, there will be a neutral or potentially positive impact upon faith-based education as the result of this proposal.	The local authority supports diversity and the choice of education. Having faith schools offers a good choice for parents/carers and pupils seeking a faith-based education, especially at pre-school and Nursery. The preservation of free home-to-school transport in particular for

		pupils attending faith schools may lead to a greater number of parents/carers considering a faith-based education for their child as geographical distance is often a significant barrier for parents considering faith-based education.
Sexual Orientation	There is no evidence to suggest that there will be any disproportionate impact based on sexual orientation as eligibility is based on distance and the choice of school.	NA
Age	There is a potential that the proposals will impact those of non-statutory school age more than those of statutory school age. In particular those, in English-medium schools. The catchment areas of Cynffig Comprehensive, Maesteg Comprehensive and Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen in particular, include areas of socioeconomic disadvantage. Therefore, families in these areas will likely incur transport costs that may place greater financial strain on families and households than in other parts of Bridgend. The removal of the free college bus pass for college students will incur potentially significant additional costs for young people. The consultation feedback	Work with local transport providers and Welsh Government to preserve funding to support public service bus contracts especially in the more geographically restricted valley communities.

	indicates that enrolment numbers and attendance rates for young people attending college from these areas is at risk of decreasing with potentially more pupils not in education, employment or training. Children and young people in these areas, whether attending school or college, may also be reliant on public transport. Its availability, timings and capacity have changed in recent years since the pandemic and there are now more limited and less frequent public bus services throughout much of Bridgend, especially in the valley communities. The removal of the 'sibling rule' removes any inequality that has been the current policy in communities in the past.	
Pregnancy & Maternity	There is no evidence to suggest that there will be any disproportionate impact based on pregnancy and maternity.	NA
Transgender	There is no evidence to suggest that children and young people who are transgender or gender neutral will be disproportionately impacted by the proposals.	NA
Marriage and Civil partnership	There is no evidence to suggest that there will be any disproportionate impact based on marriage and civil partnerships.	NA

Welsh language	Learners attending Welsh-medium schools (primary and secondary) will maintain home-to-school transport in line with the current policy arrangements. Therefore, there may be either a neutral or positive impact upon Welsh-medium education. For Nursery provision, parents may choose to send their child to a Welsh-medium school based on the availability of free home-to-school transport. Likewise, they may determine that the availability of free home-to-school transport at Post-16, may mean a more attractive offer of the continuum of education, that is from Nursery, through statutory education, to Post-16. Whereas free home-to-school transport will not be available to support this continuum of education for pupils attending English-medium schools. There is therefore potential for the option of Welsh-medium education to be a more attractive offer for parents and this therefore supports the local authority's desire and statutory responsibility to promote and grow the Welsh language.	Work with the Bridgend Welsh Education Forum and schools to ensure promotion of Welsh-medium education, especially at pre-school and Nursery and to ensure the offer of free home-to-school transport to support the continuum of Welsh-medium education is understood as a positive option for parents.

Equality Impact assessment Action Plan

It is essential that you now complete the action plan. Once your action plan is complete, please ensure that the actions are mainstreamed into the relevant Service Development Plan.

Action	Lead Person	Target for completion	Resources needed	Service Development plan for this action
Monitor admissions to faith schools (primary)	Group Manager (Strategy, Performance and Support)	Three years	Pupil Services	Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate Business Plan
Monitor admissions to Welsh-medium schools	Group Manager Schools	Three years	Pupil Services	Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate Business Plan
Monitor the number for discretionary applications for home-to-school transport	Group Manager (Strategy, Performance and Support)	Three years	Pupil Services	Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate Business Plan
Develop and continue to monitor school data (PLASC) for all protected characteristics	Group Manager (Strategy, Performance and Support)	Three years	Pupil Services	Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate Business Plan
Work with Welsh Government and schools to promote opportunities for funding for young people for transport (Post-16)	Group Manager (Strategy, Performance and Support)	One year	Pupil Services	Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate Business Plan

Work with transport providers in relation to routes to school, particularly for Post-16 learners	Group Manager (Strategy, Performance and Support)	One year	Passenger Transport Team	Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate Business Plan

Please detail the name of the independent person (someone other than the person undertaking the EIA) countersigning this EIA below:

Countersigned:	Role:	Date:
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director (Education, Early Years and Young People)	10/06/2024

Please outline how and when this EIA will be monitored in future and when a review will take place (max. three years):

Monitoring arrangements:	Date of Review:
This EIA will be monitored on an annual basis in line with the Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate's self-evaluation processes.	January 2026

Details of person completing the Full EIA:

Name:	Role:	Date:
Robin Davies	Group Manager (Strategy, Performance and Support)	07/06/2024

Publication of a Full EIA and feedback to consultation groups

It is important that the results of this impact assessment are published in a user-friendly accessible format.

It is also important that you feedback to your consultation groups with the actions that you are taking to address their concerns and to mitigate against any potential adverse impact.

When complete, this form must be signed off and retained by the service area. The Full EIA should be recorded as complete on share point (your business manager has access to share point). Where a full EIA is needed this should be included as an appendix with the relevant cabinet report and therefore available publically on the website.

If you have queries in relation to the use of this toolkit please contact the Equalities Team on 01656 643664 or equalities@bridgend.gov.uk

Stage 1 – Information Gathering **NOTE:** As you complete this tool you will be asked for **evidence to support your views**. Please see Welsh Language Impact Assessment Guidance for more information on data sources.	
Proposal Name:	Home-to-School/College Transport Policy
Department	Education, Young People and Early Years
Service Director	Lindsay Harvey (Corporate Director - Education, Young People and Early Years)
Officer Completing the WLIA	Robin Davies (Group Manager - Strategy, Performance and Support)
Email	Robin.davies@bridgend.gov.uk
Phone	01656 754881
Brief Description	The proposal changes to the current Home-to-School/College Transport Policy.
Date	01/03/2024
Please outline who this proposal affects? (Service Users, Employees, Wider Community)	Service users
What are the aims of the policy, and how do these relate to the Welsh Language?	To implement a revised Home-to-School/College Transport Policy. There revised policy provides protection for pupils attending Welsh-medium schools to ensure the local authority is meeting its statutory duty under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032
Who will benefit / Could the policy affect Welsh language groups? If so, list them here.	The policy proposals do not change the current eligibility of pupils attending Welsh-medium schools in the borough. Rather, the proposed changes to the proposed eligibility for English-medium

	pupils could make the option of a Welsh-medium education more attractive for parents/carers, for their child. The local authority's statutory duty to support and promote the Welsh language is contained in the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and is also enshrined in the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008.
Current linguistic profile of the geographical area(s) concerned	The 2021 Census figures regarding the Welsh language show a decrease in the percentage of Welsh speakers across Wales to 17.8%. In Bridgend – the percentage of the population who can speak Welsh decreased from 9.7% to 9.2%. N Numerically, this was a reduction from 13,103 members of the public being able to speak Welsh at the 2011 census to 13,043 in 2021.
Other relevant data or research	To support Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers' strategy, Welsh Government has set Bridgend County Borough Council a target to increase the percentage of learners taught through the medium of Welsh from c.8% to between 14% - 18% by 2032 (based on Pupil Level Annual School Census data of Year 1 pupils 2019-2020). This is in accordance with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations 2019. Currently, in Welsh-medium schools in Bridgend, there are 162 pupil places available for Reception pupils. The local authority has set a target of 300 Reception places being available for Welsh-medium pupils by the end of the plan period, which is an additional 138 additional pupil places. The 300 Reception places equate to ten forms of entry, and the aim is to ensure those places are filled.

	This Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 sets out the local authority's vision for the next ten years to increase and improve the planning of Welsh-medium education. It will build on progress made during our previous WESP (2017-2022) and set out the actions we will take to achieve our targets. These include: • increasing Welsh-medium sessional childcare places (creating potential for 176 additional sessional sessions) by establishing four new Welsh-medium childcare hubs through the childcare offer capital grant; • increasing the number of Welsh-medium Nursery school places, through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme by expanding two of our Welsh-medium schools during the first five years of the plan; • taking forward commitments made in Cabinet to establish a one-form-entry Welsh-medium provision in Porthcawl and a one-form-entry provision in Bridgend South-East which would be subject to Cabinet approval; • scoping/exploring options to relocate and expand Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd to a 3-19 school; • developing a clear and robust programme for delivering Welsh-medium latecomer provision, so that learners entering the Welsh-medium sector at a later stage (Key Stage 2 or Key Stage 3) are able to follow a course of intensive immersion learning before continuing on their education journey in a Welsh-medium school; and • continuing to work collaboratively with our Welsh Education Forum and relevant sub-groups to continually review and improve how we provide our parents and guardians with

	information about Welsh-medium education and the opportunities it brings to becoming bilingual.

Stage 2 – Impact Assessment

In this section you need to consider the impact, the evidence and any action you are taking for improvement. This is to ensure that the opportunities for people who choose to live their lives and access services through the medium of Welsh are not inferior to what is afforded to those choosing to do so in English, in accordance with the requirement of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

Please note there is a separate impact assessment for Equality and Socio-Economic duty that must also be completed for policy proposals. Remember that effects that are positive for some groups could be detrimental to others - even among Welsh language groups. Consider the effects on different groups. For example, a proposal may be beneficial to Welsh learners, but not to Welsh speakers.

Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?

	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	**Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.**	**What evidence do you have to support this view?**	**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?**
Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language e.g. staff, residents and visitors The rights of Welsh speakers and learners to use Welsh when dealing with the council and for staff to use Welsh at Work	Neutral but potentially positive	All correspondence issued in relation to the operation of the Council's Home to School/College Transport Policy will continue to be published in Welsh with the Welsh appearing first. The consultation on the policy proposals was provided bilingually and face-to-face meetings	At present (June 2024) 26% of primary school pupils eligible for big bus transport (as the main transport mechanism offered by the local authority) are transported to Welsh-medium schools and 61% are transported to Welsh-medium secondary schools. Following the implementation of this policy if accepted by Cabinet, this is estimated to increase to 31% for primary school pupils and to be	Ensure all correspondence and information on the local authority's home-to-home-to-school transport contracts is available bilingually. Encourage school transport operators to appoint Welsh-speaking staff where possible on school transport services, especially to

		were held with the public and offered bilingually. All bus passes provided to pupils are provided bilingually. The policy proposals seek to maintain the status quo regarding the home-to-school transport offer for pupils attending Nursery education, statutory education and Post-16 education, in that pupils attending their nearest suitable Welsh-medium school are able to benefit from free home-to-school transport where they live over the policy distances of 1.5 miles for Nursery pupils, 2 miles for primary school pupils and 3 miles for secondary school pupils. For pupils attending English-medium schools the policy proposal does	maintained at 61% for secondary school pupils.	those serving our Welsh-medium schools

		not support Nursery or Post-16 pupils with home-to-school transport. Therefore, there is greater potential for parents/carers to consider a Welsh-medium education for their child given the stronger home-to-school transport policy offer. With pupils continuing to travel together on school transport buses to their nearest Welsh-medium schools, this will continue to allow the communal use of the Welsh language on the journey to and from school amongst pupils.		
Stage 2 – Impact Assessment **Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?**				
	Does the proposal have any positive,	**Describe why it will have a positive/negative or**	**What evidence do you have to support this view?**	**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or**

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>negative or neutral impacts?</td><td>neutral impact on the Welsh language.</td><td></td><td>better contribute to positive impacts?</td></tr>
<tr><td>Numbers and / or percentages of Welsh speakers

e.g Welsh-Medium Education / Study Opportunities. Links with the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy / BCBC Five Year Welsh</td><td>Neutral but potentially positive</td><td>The local authority has four Welsh-medium primary schools and one Welsh-medium secondary school.

The policy proposals seek to maintain the status quo regarding the home-to-school transport offer for pupils attending Nursery education, statutory education and Post-16 education, in that pupils attending their nearest suitable Welsh-medium school are able to benefit from free home-to-school transport where they live over the policy distances of 1.5 miles for Nursery pupils, 2 miles for primary school pupils and 3 miles for secondary school pupils.

For pupils attending English-medium schools</td><td>The numbers of full-time Nursery places currently applying being applied for in Welsh-medium schools in Bridgend is higher than at Reception. This is potentially to do with the closer proximity of English-medium primary schools of which there are 40 in the borough against the 4 Welsh-medium primary schools (see table below for September 2024 intake)

<table><tr><th>School</th><th>First choice Full-time Nursery applications</th><th>First choice Reception applications</th></tr><tr><td>Ysgol Cynwyd Sant</td><td>42</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr</td><td>56</td><td>41</td></tr><tr><td>Ysgol Gyradd Gymraeg Calon y Cymoedd</td><td>21</td><td>18</td></tr></table></td><td>As the local authority has a generous policy offer for Nursery transport of eligibility over 1.5 miles against that of Reception of 2 miles, this may influence choice of Welsh-medium education at Nursery but may greater influence the choice of English-medium education at Reception.

The proposed policy aims to address this risk by providing the offer of transport for Nursery pupils to Welsh-medium schools over 1.5 miles from home, to school, but not to English-medium schools. This may ensure early commitment by parents/carers of their child accessing a Welsh-medium Nursery place with greater likelihood of</td></tr>
</table>

		the policy proposal does not support Nursery or Post-16 pupils with home-to-school transport. Therefore, there is greater potential for parents/carers to consider a Welsh-medium education for their child given the stronger home-to-school transport policy offer. Therefore, this policy proposal encourages education through the medium of Welsh and may therefore increase the overall numbers of pupils in our Welsh-medium schools. This will support the targets set by Welsh Government and contained within the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032	**Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr**	23	18	that child remaining in Welsh-medium education. In terms of adherence to the Welsh Language Measure, the Council must treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English. The new policy proposes a positive treatment of the Welsh language by supporting pupils at both Nursery and Post-16 where no support for English-medium pupils would be available.

	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Opportunities to promote the Welsh language e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work and in the community Actively encourage and promote the use of our services in Welsh to see an increase in demand over time.	Neutral or potentially positive	The local authority believes that the policy proposals create the right conditions for new pupils of all ages to embrace the Welsh language from Nursery through to Post-16 education. The more generous offer for home-to-school transport provision offered by the policy is not expected to discourage parents from applying for Welsh-medium school places. Rather, the policy proposals seek to provide a strong Welsh-medium school transport offer to ensure the take up and continuum of Welsh-medium education.	The local authority has monitored over many years the loss of Welsh-medium pupils to English-medium schools due to the proximity of those schools and the equivalent policy offer for home-to-school transport. While numbers are relatively small, there is broad agreement among Bridgend's Welsh Education Forum members that if a Welsh-medium Nursery pupil is lost to an English-medium school, the likelihood of that pupil re-entering Welsh-medium education in the future is significantly reduced. Therefore, the improved home-to-school transport policy offer for Nursery pupils in particular, supports the continuum of Welsh-medium education through Nursery, into statutory education and then into Post-16 where there would also be a strong policy offer favouring Welsh-medium education but not those pupils wishing to pursue an English-medium education.	The local authority works with WEF partners to support the delivery of its communication strategy promoting the Welsh language and the benefits of a Welsh language education. Significant progress has been made since the inception of the WEF. The local authority will continue to look to support and communicate the importance of Welsh language and Welsh-medium education with WEF partners under the auspices of local authority's WESP 2022-2032. The local authority will monitor any future amendments to the

		This helps ensure that the local authority is able to meet its duty under the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 to promote Welsh-medium education. In addition, the introduction of the proposal may result in potential growth in demand for Welsh-medium school places as the critical home-to-school transport support for non-statutory Nursery pupils living over 1.5 miles ensures that the risk of these pupils drifting into English-medium schools due to a comparable is mitigated against. If these benefits are realised through the implementation of this policy offer, this would potentially positively		Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 by Welsh Government following its review of its learner travel policy and arrangements. However, it is unclear what, if any, recommendations made will directly impact the Welsh language. However Welsh Government has stated that in making the recommendations, they have been developed to align with current legislative commitments and financial constraints. The actions set out by Welsh Government will be overseen by a cross-departmental working group to ensure full engagement with the range of policy colleagues with an interest in this cross portfolio issue including

		impact on the local authority's WESP targets and its desire to increase the number of Welsh language speakers in Bridgend and to grow Welsh-medium education and Welsh language opportunities throughout the borough.		transport, education, Welsh language, health and rural affairs. Local authority officers did consider further supporting Welsh-medium pupils accessing their nearest school through a further reduction in the policy distance for Nursery, pupils of statutory school age and for Post-16 pupils when considering a range of policy options. However, as the rationale for the policy change has been to progress required Medium-term financial efficiencies and reduce overall home-to-home-to-school transport spend, it was not possible to propose a policy offer that would likely significantly increase the cost to the local authority of the

				provision of free home-to-school transport.
Stage 2 – Impact Assessment Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?				
	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	**Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.**	**What evidence do you have to support this view?**	**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?**
Compliance with the Council's Statutory Welsh Language Standards e.g increasing or reducing the Council's ability to deliver services through the Medium of Welsh.	Positive	The consultation exercise and this Welsh Language Impact Assessment have been completed to achieve and assist with compliance with the Council's Statutory Welsh Language Standards and responsibilities.	The policy proposal would not apply equally to Welsh-medium and English-medium pupils. Pupils in Nursery and Post-16 Welsh schools would maintain eligibility for free home-to-home-to-school transport but those in English-medium schools would not retain any eligibility.	Greater promotion of Welsh-medium schools across the Borough. Promotion of the home-to-school transport policy offer available for those wishing to consider a Welsh-medium education for their child.

Consider the rights of Welsh speakers to use Welsh when dealing with the Council and for staff to use Welsh at Work		With particular reference to Standard 90 (as applicable to the Council), this states: When you (the Council) formulate a new policy, or review or revise an existing policy, the council must consider how the policy could be formulated (or how an existing policy could be changed) so that the policy decision would not have adverse effects, or so that it would have decreased adverse effects, on - (a) opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and (b) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.		
Treating the Welsh language, no less favourably than the English language	Neutral or potentially positive	The new policy proposes a positive treatment of the Welsh language by supporting pupils at both Nursery and Post-16 where no support for	At present (June 2024) 26% of primary school pupils eligible for big bus transport (as the main transport mechanism offered by the local authority) are transported to Welsh-medium schools and 61% are	Greater promotion of Welsh-medium schools across the Borough. Promotion of the home-to-school transport policy

		English-medium pupils would be available.	transported to Welsh-medium secondary schools. Following the implementation of this policy if accepted by Cabinet, this is estimated to increase to 31% for primary school pupils and to be maintained at 61% for secondary school pupils. Only Post-16 pupils attending Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd would be eligible for free school transport in future and those attending the only faith secondary school in Bridgend, that is Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School.	offer available for those wishing to consider a Welsh-medium education for their child

Stage 3 - Strengthening the proposal Having listed actions in section 2 which may mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts – please record below which ones you will imbed into the policy proposal and who will be responsible for them. Also consider is the proposal necessary? Would it be possible to meet demand without any new developments? Could other existing provision be used? Where should the development be?		
What are you going to do?	**When are you going to do it?**	**Who is responsible?**

The Council will continue to adhere to The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, and work towards achieving the goals of Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 vision by promoting the Welsh language.	Ongoing	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People
Continue to promote Welsh-medium education with WEF partners	Ongoing	WESP Co-ordinator
If the policy is approved by Cabinet we will promote the home-to-school transport policy offer for those wishing to consider the benefits of a Welsh-medium education for their child.	From October 2024 to August 2025	School Transport Team Schools WEF partners

If ways of reducing the impact have been identified but are not possible to implement, please explain why. Give sufficient detail of data or research that has led to your reasoning.

What was identified?	**Why is it not possible?**
n/a	n/a

Stage 4 – Review

Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA) Tool

For all policy proposals, whether it is a Significant Key Decision or not, you are required to forward this assessment to Welsh Language services – WLS@bridgend.gov.uk and the Consultation and Engagement team – consultation@bridgend.gov.uk in the first instance for some initial guidance and feedback. It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in sustainable Welsh language considerations wherever possible. Please ensure you update the relevant sections below in collaboration with the relevant departments.		
Welsh Language Services Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following Welsh Language Services feedback
Consultation Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consultation

Stage 5 – Monitoring, Evaluating and Reviewing How and who will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the proposal?
If the policy proposals are accepted following the public consultation and approval by Cabinet, the local authority will monitor the impact of the revised policy on the take-up of Welsh-medium places at each statutory admission round, through the monitoring of in-year transfer admissions to Welsh-medium schools compared to English-medium schools and to the number of pupils on local authority provided home-to-school transport. The local authority will continue to monitor and evaluate the effect of its Home-to-School Transport Policy in relation to both its duty to promote Welsh-medium education under the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 and its impact and effect on the Bridgend WESP 2022-2032 with WEF partners. This will be conducted through the collection and analysis of relevant data, engagement with key stakeholders and reporting through the Council's democratic processes such as our Scrutiny committees. The progression of our WESP target in particular the increase in the number of Year 1 pupils taught through the medium of Welsh in Bridgend, will in particular, be an important metric in any future evaluation.

Stage 6 – Summary of Impacts for the Proposal Provide below a summary of the impact assessment, to include some of the main positive and negative impacts along with an overview of actions taken since the impact assessment to better contribute to more positive impacts.

The proposal seeks to introduce revision to the current Home-to-School Transport Policy namely maintain eligibility for Welsh-medium pupils at Nursery and at Post-16 for free local authority provided home-to-school transport while removing this eligibility for those pupils attending English-medium schools.

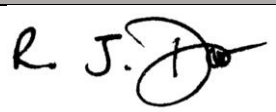
The eligibility distance for Nursery is maintained at 1.5 miles from home, to school. For pupils of statutory school age, the distances are the same as the statutory distances laid down in the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008.

The local authority will continue to accept parental choice providing mainstream English, Welsh and faith school places.

Any policy change can only be implemented from September 2025 at the earliest.

The assessment has identified that there is a possibility that as the policy proposals maintain the current policy offer for Welsh-medium pupils it will therefore have at least a neutral impact on parents/carers considering a Welsh-medium education for their child. However, it is hoped that the policy offer will go further and promote the Welsh-language, increasing the take-up of the Welsh-medium education as the offer of free home-to-school transport for English-medium pupils at Nursery and at Post-16 is removed.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="4">Stage 7 – Sign off</td></tr>
<tr><td>Name of Officer completing WLIA</td><td>Robin Davies</td><td>Service Director name:</td><td>Lindsay Harvey (Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Position</td><td>Group Manager (Strategy Performance and Support)</td><td rowspan="2">I recommend that the proposal: (Highlight decision)</td><td>Is implemented with no amendments</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2"></td><td><s>Is implemented taking into account the mitigating actions outlined</s></td></tr>
</table>

			~~Is rejected due to disproportionate negative impacts on the Welsh language~~
Signature		Service Director Signature	
Date	01/03/2024	Date	01/03/2024

Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**23 JULY 2024**
Report Title:	**WASTE SERVICES ROLLING FLEET REPLACEMENT SCHEME**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES**
Responsible Officer:	**ZAK SHELL, HEAD OF OPERATIONS – COMMUNITY SERVICES**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**There is no impact on the policy framework and procedure rules.**
Executive Summary:	**A decision was made under the urgency provisions in the Council's Scheme of Delegation approving the purchase of five new recycling vehicles. However the deadline to place the orders stated in the Delegated Power report has now passed. In addition, the cost for the purchase of the vehicles, along with the cost for refurbishing 3 other vehicles, is above the values set out in the Delegated Power report, and also exceeds the available funding limit. Subject to Council approving the updated capital programme report on 24th July 2024, which will include additional funding for these vehicles, Cabinet approval is sought to purchase five vehicles and refurbish three existing recycling vehicles.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 Due to the urgent nature and need to move ahead with fleet investment, an initial £980,500 for year one fleet procurement via our service contractor Plan B Ltd, was approved via a delegated power decision (DP) (CMM-SS-24-024) on the 19th June 2024. It was noted in the DP that orders needed to be placed by 30th June. Unfortunately, due to delays in final prices being received from the manufacturer, the orders were not placed by this deadline. This report seeks Cabinet approval to place the orders planned, past the approved date of the 30th June.

1.2 Further to ongoing negotiations with the vehicle supplier via Plan B, it became apparent that original quotations provided did not include costings of livery or the camera systems required for the vehicles. This has resulted in an increased cost for the five vehicles of £56,000. Subject to Council approving the capital programme report on 24th July 2024, Cabinet approval is sought to purchase the vehicles for the increased value.

1.3 The original DP also referred to the need to refurbishment the existing recycling fleet. However the cost of refurbishment was not included at this stage for approval. The cost of the refurbishment of the existing fleet is in the order of £30,000 per vehicle. Subject to Council approving the capital programme report on 24th July 2024, Cabinet approval is also sought to refurbish the first three existing recycling vehicles only. A further report will be presented to full Council later in the year for approval of funding in the Council's overall Capital Programme for the remaining recycling vehicles that require refurbishment.

1.4 The Council's current services contract with Plan B Management will need to be amended to reflect Council ownership of the five new vehicles and approval is sought to delegate authority to the Corporate Director – Communities in consultation with the Chief Officer Finance, Housing and Change and the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy to negotiate any amendments and to execute any documents on behalf of the Council to implement such changes.

1.5 As mentioned in previous reports, an ongoing programme of vehicle refurbishment and a plant and equipment replacement programme related to the delivery of the waste and recycling service is required. The capital requirement for this ongoing programme will be presented to full Council later in the year for consideration for inclusion the Council's overall Capital Programme.

2. Background

2.1 A future waste services options post 2026 report was agreed by Cabinet on the 16th April 2024. This report considered the findings of the commissioned report from Eunomia Research and Consulting Ltd (Eunomia) on future recycling and waste options from April 2026, following the two-year contract with Plan B Management Solutions which ends 31st March 2026.

2.2 In the meeting, Cabinet noted the contents of this report and the qualitative and financial analysis undertaken by Eunomia.

2.3 Cabinet considered the three options of bringing the servicing in-house, setting up a LATCo and re-procurement. Cabinet concluded that a procured contract would not be the future method of service delivery and further information was requested with regard to the LATco and in-house models. This will be the subject of a future Cabinet report.

2.4 Cabinet noted the intent to move to a new rolling fleet replacement programme for waste service vehicles from 2024. It was acknowledged that this would need to be through a separate report to Council for approval for inclusion in the Council's capital programme.

2.5 Further to a report to Cabinet of 16th April 2024 where, amongst other items, the benefits to moving to a rolling waste and recycling fleet and plant replacement programme were explored, further draft reports to Cabinet and Council on the subject were prepared. The intention was to take these to June's Cabinet and Council meetings and, subject to approval, move ahead with investment in the fleet to improve reliability and public service in the area.

2.6 However due to the pre-election period in June, Cabinet and Council meetings were cancelled resulting in the above reports not being able to be presented for consideration. Due to the urgent nature and need to move ahead with the fleet investment, spend of £980,500 for year one fleet procurement, to be administered via our service contractor Plan B Ltd, was approved under the urgency provisions in the Council's Scheme of Delegation via DP report reference CMM-SS-24-024, on 19th June 2024.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 Historically, since 2003, the authority has procured contracts with third party contractors for the provision of waste and recycling services. This has resulted in new vehicles and plant being provided by the incumbent contractor as part of this service approximately every seven years, being paid for from the annual revenue contribution by the Communities Directorate

3.2 A significant disadvantage of this situation is that all of the vehicles and plant typically become less reliable in their latter operational years and reach end of life at the same time. This has resulted in issues with service and reliability including increasing the risk that collections do not take place on the expected days.

3.3 In the report to Cabinet of 16th April 2024 it was acknowledged that the local authority was best placed to provide the capital for all vehicle and plant to be utilised for the service due to preferential borrowing rates meaning that the local authority would own the vehicles and plant.

3.4 The Eunomia report presented to Cabinet on 16th April 2024 also identified, that when in contract with a service provider, it would be financially beneficial for the contractor to undertake the purchasing of the vehicles and plant on the authority's behalf to use their buying power to leverage lower vehicle prices. The urgent DP reflected this advice and gave approval for Plan B Management Solutions to purchase 5 new recycling vehicles .

4.0 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. As this report does not deal with changes to how

the waste services are operationally provided to the public. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts because of this report.

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

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

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no adverse climate change implications.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding or corporate parent implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 Irrespective of whether the vehicles, plant and equipment used for the delivery of the waste service is purchased periodically or on a rolling program, directly purchased or via a contractor, ultimately the Council will and always has been responsible for the overall cost of the fleet.

8.2 The total purchase cost from new for all plant and equipment and vehicles currently utilised in the delivery of the waste and recycling service is in the region of £12.4 million based on traditionally diesel-powered vehicles (note, current ULEV vehicles are currently in the region of twice the cost of traditional diesel-powered vehicles).

8.3 From initial discussions with the current contractor, the move to a rolling fleet replacement system over a seven-year period, would require an initial investment of circa £1.126 million in year one which includes the purchase of 5 vehicles and refurbishment of an additional 3 recycling vehicles currently in use on the contract.

8.4 On 19th June 2024, and an urgent Delegated Power Authority (CMM-SS-24-024) was approved for spend of £980,500 for the purchase of 5 vehicles.

8.5 The additional increased cost for livery and camera systems of £56,000 and the refurbishment costs in the region of £90,000 have increased this sum to £1,126,500. This is a higher cost than was approved in the urgent Delegated Power report and exceeds the available budget. Therefore, the funding of the replacement vehicles and refurbishment of current vehicles will be considered as part of the capital programme report being presented to Council (subject to Cabinet's approval of this report) on the 24th July. Subject to Cabinet approval of the recommendations set out below, should Council be minded not to approve the additional capital funding request, the

Directorate will rely on the approved budget limit previously authorised under the urgent DP to purchase and refurbish vehicles.

8.6 Any ULEV vehicles purchased in future years would be dependent on availability of relevant grant support.

9. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet: -

9.1 Approves the placement of an order for 5 new recycling vehicles with Plan B Management Solutions, which will be further subject to approval of the revised capital programme by Council on 24th July 2024 .

9.2 Approves the placement of an order with Plan B Management Solutions for the first 3 existing recycling vehicles to be refurbished, which will be further subject to approval of the revised capital programme by Council on 24th July 2024.

9.3 Delegates authority to the Corporate Director – Communities in consultation with the Chief Officer Finance, Housing and Change and the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy to negotiate any amendments to the current contract for waste services with Plan B Management Ltd and to execute any documents on behalf of the Council to implement such changes.

Background documents None

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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**23 JULY 2024**
Report Title:	**LLANGEINOR PLAYING FIELDS**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES**
Responsible Officer:	**ZAK SHELL, HEAD OF OPERATIONS - COMMUNITY SERVICES**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**There is no impact on the policy framework or procedure rules.**
Executive Summary:	**This report summarises the proposal to lease Llangeinor Playing Fields and Pavilion to Llangeinor Football Limited for a period of 35 years and allow consideration of a funding package under the Council's Community Asset Transfer Fund to enable the demolition of the existing pavilion and building of a replacement sports changing pavilion, leveraging external funding from the Cymru Football Foundation.** **The report outlines the facilities available (which are currently closed due to health and safety concerns), the club's proposals to replace the current building and manage the playing fields and pavilion for the benefit of the club members and the wider community.** **The report recommends that the business case provided and the CAT Fund requests be approved in the sum of £160,000.00.**

1. Purpose of Report

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

(1) Consider the business case prepared in accordance with the Council's Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Policy document to support the leasing of the pavilion and football pitch, other green spaces and car park at Llangeinor Playing Fields to Llangeinor Football Limited.

(2) Assess and, where appropriate, approve the funding package requested by Llangeinor Football Limited under the Council's CAT Fund to support proposals to undertake the demolition of the existing, obsolete, pavilion and the building of a replacement sports changing pavilion upon the completion of a proposed long-term 35-year lease for the majority of the site.

2. Background

2.1 CAT Funding

2.1.1 The Council originally set aside capital funding of £1 million during 2014-15 in the capital programme for works to refurbish pavilions, to encourage CATs and assist in ensuring that assets become sustainable. The scope for this funding was subsequently widened to also include building works undertaken on other Council facilities such as community centres and public toilets, to support the CAT process and ensure that as many buildings as possible could be kept open and provide long-term community benefits.

2.1.2 Under the revised CAT protocol approved by Cabinet on 25 July 2017, funding applications up to £50k from the £1 million CAT Fund can be approved by the CAT Steering Group with sums in excess of this threshold being required to be referred to Cabinet for approval.

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

(1) A commitment to replenishing the £1M CAT Fund as and when necessary, subject to the availability of finite capital resources, to encourage transfers and meet demand particularly where value for money can be clearly demonstrated post CAT;

(2) Extending the CAT Fund to include the maintenance of playing fields so that pitch and drainage surveys can be undertaken along with capital grants to enable pitch improvements and self-management and thereby increasing the chances of long-term sustainable CATs by:

- Developing a programme of sports pitch improvement and drainage capital grants valued at £5,000 to £25,000 per playing surface to ensure that prioritised sites are fit for purpose based upon independent condition assessments.

- Establishing pitch maintenance equipment grants to provide capital funding valued from £5,000 up to £10,000 for Town and Community Councils (T&CCs) and sports clubs who complete transfers to assist with the purchase of equipment to enable the self-management of associated green spaces.

2.1.4 Cabinet / Corporate Management Board (CCMB) recommended on 5th October 2021 that the CAT Fund should be topped up by £500,000 and this was approved by Council and included in the Capital Programme in June 2022. Further top up of £480,000 was approved by Council and included in the Capital Programme on 19th July 2023.

2.1.5 Cabinet and the CAT Steering Group has, to date, allocated funding totalling £1,770,628.96 from the £1.98 million CAT Fund. Of this, £1,242,542.90 has been spent and £528,086.06 is committed.

2.2 Llangeinor Playing Fields – Facilities & Usage

2.2.1 The facilities at Llangeinor Playing Fields, Bettws Road, Llangeinor, Bridgend CF32 8PG, (see Site Plan at Appendix A) is located 5 miles (8 km) from the centre of Bridgend town and includes the following:

(1) *Pavilion:* (see Pavilion Plan at **Appendix B**), A changing pavilion, constructed circa 1950 of traditional brick and render construction under a corrugated asbestos roof. Internally, the property consists of 4 no. changing rooms with shower facilities and a function room. The condition of the pavilion is extremely poor, and it is currently closed due to the costs associated with the repairs necessary to allow it to be reopened.

(2) *Playing Fields:* 1 x football pitches. Used solely by Llangeinor Football.

(3) *Clubhouse*: Clubhouse was built in 1981 and extended in 1986. This has been leased to the Trustees of Llangeinor Football Club for many years and the current lease is for 10 years from 22 July 2014 at a peppercorn rent. This lease also includes the various structures erected by the club (dugs outs, stand, pitch paths and spectator barriers).

(4) *Scancis (MUGA) Mini Pitch*: Built in 2007 by the Council, with funding from UEFA. This is currently maintained by the Council with the Trustees of Llangeinor Football Club being responsible for managing bookings and keeping the surface clean.

(5) *Children's Playground*: A small children's playground (LEAP) was developed in 2009 which is to be excluded from the CAT and is scheduled for refurbishment via the playground refurbishment programme being undertaken by the Green Spaces team.

2.3 Llangeinor Playing Fields - Pavilion

2.3.1 The pavilion has been subject to three independent condition surveys in recent years. Oakleaf undertook a survey in June 2016 which concluded that the property was in a poor condition. Backlog building works having a total value of £68,000 were highlighted under Priority 1 (Urgent to prevent immediate closure) and Priority 2 Essential, i.e., within 2 years) and additional maintenance estimated to cost £100,000 within a 3–5-year period was also highlighted in the survey. (See Condition Survey at **Appendix C**). Construction industry costs have increased considerably since this survey was undertaken, circa. 42%, due to market conditions and inflation.

2.3.2 The Oakleaf Survey identified the following priority works. None of these works have been undertaken to date and its condition has since deteriorated further, to the extent that it was closed by the Green Spaces Section on 17 February 2022 on health and safety grounds.

- Roof was in a poor condition and would require repair or replacement.
- Windows were dated and would require repair or replacement.
- Hot and cold-water plant was dated.
- Lighting throughout was dated.
- Electric heaters were also dated.
- Sanitaryware and decoration were dated throughout.

2.3.3 Faithful+Gould undertook a survey in February 2020 which also concluded that the building was in poor condition. Backlog building works having a total value of £85,654.03 were highlighted under Category C (Poor with major defects) and Category D (Bad; life has expired or risk of imminent failure) and additional maintenance estimated to cost £10,991.43 over a 5 Year period was also highlighted in the survey (see Condition Survey at **Appendix D**).

2.3.4 The Faithful+Gould condition survey identified that the building was in a poor condition both internally and externally and concurred with the Oakleaf findings although it was suggested that the majority of the items listed would require replacement rather than repair. However, some of the costs in this survey appear very low, for example the costs associated with the replacement of the roof is costed at £14,652.00 (compared to £48,000 in the Oakleaf 2016 survey).

2.3.5 The latest condition survey was undertaken by Roger North Long & Partners in July 2022. This did not include costs but concluded that the building was generally dated and in a poor state of repair and they did not consider the pavilion was economically viable to refurbish. (See Condition Survey at **Appendix E**).

3. Current situation/ proposal

3.1 The Club

3.1.1 Llangeinor has a history of football going back to before the Second World War when football was played at Pandy Woods. The move to Llangeinor Playing Fields came after a brief spell playing on Llangeinor Common. Llangeinor Football offers football playing and social opportunities to adults and children with 9 active football teams currently established within the Club. 5 of these provide opportunities for local youngsters under the age of 16. Current membership stands at 141 (60% adults / 40% juniors) with player registrations (despite the club currently having no changing facilities) gradually recovered post Covid. The club is an FAW and SWFA member and seeks to widen participation particularly women and girls, fully supporting the FAW's mission to create better 'Environments For Her. A link to the FAW website is included https://faw.cymru/news/environments-for-her/ which provides some further information on this.

3.1.2 To facilitate the asset transfer, the management committee agreed in 2019 to become incorporated. Llangeinor Football Limited (Company No: 12121000) was incorporated on 24 July 2019 and although currently not trading, its 5 directors run the club in the 'unincorporated association' form. Once an asset transfer date has been agreed upon, Llangeinor Football Limited will begin trading. The change in status was required to conform to the Council's CAT Policy document that ensures that community groups finalising CATs must have a legal status demonstrating limited liability.

3.1.3 The main objects of the company are: “to promote, encourage and provide facilities for the playing of football and other sports and games.

3.2 The Project

3.2.1 Llangeinor Football submitted an expression of interest for the Llangeinor Playing Fields site on 25th July 2017 which was approved by the Council’s Community Asset Transfer Steering Group on 18th August 2017. The scope of the project has, however, changed significantly over the intervening period due to the condition of the pavilion.

3.2.2 Llangeinor Football believes that football is for everyone and has identified the path to success: -

- Provide a pitch and pavilion that will be both attractive to existing and new users and designed for efficient and convenient operations for all. Due to the current closure of the existing changing rooms, the club’s senior teams are forced to play away from Llangeinor Playing Fields incurring additional expenses and reducing income-generating opportunities at Llangeinor clubhouse post matches.
- Market the facilities to help build a solid base of loyal users and maximising pitch and pavilion to both help the community and increase the club’s turnover.
- Supporting new structures and opportunities to accelerate the growth of women's & girls’ football to reach its full potential.
- Work in partnership with schools and community organisations, making environmental improvements to make the most of Llangeinor Park’s woodland walks, active travel routes, and central location.

3.2.3 The Club will seek to develop the Llangeinor Playing Fields site in stages with further enhancements planned subject to additional external funding being secured.

3.2.4 The Stage 1 proposal that Llangeinor Football Limited is seeking funding under the CAT Fund is for:

(1) Pitch maintenance equipment to enable the self-management of pitch and other green spaces and associated essential improvements, and

(2) The demolition of existing and construction of new changing room facilities in the same location.

which Cabinet are being requested to consider as part of the CAT approval process set out in 3.2, as they fall over the £50,000 threshold.

3.3 Business Case

3.3.1 Llangeinor Football Limited have prepared detailed business and financial plans outlining their proposals to replace the pavilion and to provide assurance on the viability and sustainability of the project. The plans have been prepared with assistance from a Business Adviser from the Wales Co-Operative Centre under the Council’s CAT Business Support contract and this support contract may also be used

to engage with third parties, i.e. external funders (see Copy of the Business and Financial Plan at Appendix F).

3.3.2 The Business and Financial plan submitted by Llangeinor Football Limited have been reviewed by the Finance Department and are considered to demonstrate the financial viability of the project being proposed in the short and medium term in accordance with the CAT Policy document.

3.3.3 The self-management of the facilities under a proposed 35-year lease is seen by Llangeinor Football Limited as safeguarding the longevity and financial sustainability of the Llangeinor Playing Fields site for future generations. In particular, it allows external funding to be secured to enable the demolition of the existing pavilion and the building of a replacement sports changing pavilion.

3.4 Project Funding

3.4.1 Llangeinor Football Limited have submitted the undermentioned funding application to the CAT Fund.

Purpose of Funding	Total Cost*	CAT Fund Request*	Other Funding*
Pitch Maintenance Equipment	£10,685.52	£10,000.00	£685.52
Changing Pavilion	£435,485.00	£150,000.00	£285,485.00*
Total	**£446,170.52**	**£160,000.00**	**£286,170.52**

** This includes £280,000 of funding already confirmed by the Cymru Football Foundation towards the project.*
*** Amounts shown are exclusive of VAT as Llangeinor Football Limited are VAT registered*

3.4.2 The funding applications have been reviewed alongside the business and financial plans by the Finance Department in the first instance and by members of the CAT Steering Group.

3.5 Replacement Pavilion

3.5.1 The condition survey undertaken by Oakleaf (June 2016) estimated that the cost of the building works required to be undertaken to the existing pavilion, over the following 5-year period, to be £168,000 (excluding preliminaries, contingency and professional fees). None of the works identified have been undertaken and allowing for the increase in build costs, this would equate to some approximately £235,000 at today's costs.

3.5.2 However, the pavilion is at the end of its original build life and its design, particularly the internal layout, does not meet modern requirements. In addition, even if the building fabric was refurbished, it is likely that further significant funding would be needed to remodel it to bring it in line with current design guidelines.

3.5.3 As a result, the existing pavilion is considered to be uneconomical to reopen and investment is better served through redevelopment. Conditional planning consent was granted on 30 October 2023 for the demolition of the existing changing facilities and the erection replacement single storey changing facilities new single storey changing facilities (Planning Reference P/22/832/FUL refers) (see Plan of Proposed Building at **Appendix G**). The intention is to create a new energy and space efficient building to:

- Accommodate home and away changing facilities for training and match days to secure the future viability of the club and the wider site.
- Provide high-quality, functional, and attractive changing facilities to retain existing members and attract new participants, particularly women and girls (who currently make up just 1% of club membership).
- Create a comfortable environment with adequate privacy for users with a diverse range of abilities to feel safe and secure. In particular a more female-friendly and welcoming space including positive imagery and separate changing facilities for female referees.
- Improve accessibility. The proposed development is accessed via a level threshold and the layout is simply arranged from the central lobby. The layout has been carefully considered with regard to the needs of all users with a diverse range of abilities.
- Designs are in line with Cymru Football Foundation (Changing Room Guidance / Football Foundation Changing Accommodation). Each changing room will have an en-suite cubicle shower and lavatory provision.

3.5.4 The project provides an opportunity to provide new inclusive changing facilities to retain and attract new football club members and protect the long-term future of the playing fields for formal sports use.

3.5.5 A procurement exercise was undertaken by the club, which resulted in the submission of tenders from three local contractors:

Contractor	Cost Excluding VAT	VAT	Total Cost
Company A	£667,192.25		£667,192.25
Company B	£387,041.00		£387,041.00
Company C	£466,312.00		£466,312.00

3.5.6 Llangeinor Football have reported and applied for a total project value of £435,484 (exclusive VAT), which incorporates the building work based on the lowest tender return of £387,041.00 (excluding VAT), plus an amount for professional fees at 12% of the build contract being £46,444.00 (excluding VAT) plus £2,000.00 (excluding VAT) for Building Regulations Approval. As previously highlighted Llangeinor Football are VAT registered.

3.5.7 Llangeinor Football are advising that it is their intention to proceed on the basis of the lowest tender submitted by Company B in the sum of £387,041.00 (excluding VAT). The Council has completed a cost verification exercise using the Building Cost Information Service Construction Data based upon a pavilion of this size, construction type and location using up to date independently verified and regionally adjusted construction costs. The resultant exercise has returned a forecasted project value average of £397,650 for the pavilion build, excluding demolition, groundworks and

fees. Based upon this exercise The Council recommends an award at the lowest tender return demonstrates significant value and is deemed a very competitive quote for the completion of the project as a whole.

3.6 Present Position

3.6.1 Llangeinor Football have undertaken the self-management of their clubhouse for many years by virtue of a number of leases, the most recent of which was granted in 10 years from 22 July 2014. The Club wish to complete the proposed 35-year lease for the wider site which will enable them to demolish the existing pavilion, which is not currently operational, and replace it with a modern, fit for purpose, building subject to Cabinet approving their funding application in the sum of £150,000. The Club have already secured £280,000 towards the overall costs of the project from the Cymru Football Foundation Fit-For-Future Facilities Fund

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

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

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

5.1.1 The Council is committed to promoting sustainable development and to discharge our duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The required Assessment Template has been completed and a summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is outlined below in respect of the proposed CAT of the Llangeinor Playing Fields:

Long-term	Supports the priorities identified by Llangeinor Football in response to current and future needs of the area and the wider local community, and in particular the participation of women and girls.
Prevention	Ensures the facilities to be leased can continue to be used by the football club and the wider community and promote healthier lifestyles and general well-being.
Integration	Enables Llangeinor Football to work in partnership with the FAW, Cymru Football Foundation, other sports clubs /

	users and the wider community to meet local needs in a more holistic way.
Collaboration	The proposals have been developed and will be delivered through a strong partnership between the Council, FAW, Cymru Football Foundation and Llangeinor Football
Involvement	The proposals will be delivered in close partnership with Llangeinor Football and range of local stakeholders.

5.2 Corporate Well-Being Objectives Implications

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

- Supporting a successful sustainable economy – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.

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

- Smarter use of resources – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 The proposed project at Llangeinor Playing Fields, will enable the existing poorly performing building (in terms of both thermally poor building fabric and inefficient plant and machinery) to be replaced with a new energy and space efficient building. If the project is approved, this will be of benefit to the climate change agenda by saving energy and reducing the carbon footprint.

There is also potential to carry out additional, renewable energy, works to the pavilion but these will not be progressed at this stage.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding or corporate parent implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 Unallocated funding of £209,371.04 is presently available under the CAT Fund based upon the original allocation of £1 million and top-ups of £500,000 and £480,000 approved by Council in January 2022 and July 2023 respectively with total funding of £1,770,628.96 already earmarked or expended (see paragraph 3.12)

8.2 The proposed lease of the pavilion, football pitch, other green spaces and car park at the Llangeinor Playing Fields to Llangeinor Football Limited will achieve revenue savings for the Council, but the estimated annual revenue savings, which are unlikely to exceed £5,000 (in respect of football pitch maintenance only) being readily quantifiable. It is more difficult to quantify the savings to the capital and revenue budgets for the pavilion as this would depend on what actions are taken with regards to the existing pavilion. However, either significant spend would be needed to refurbish the pavilion to enable it to be brought back into use with ongoing revenue implications or it would need to be demolished and the functionality of the site reduced for formal sports use.

8.3 Llangeinor Football have already obtained tenders for the proposed replacement to the pavilion which is estimated to cost £435,485 based upon the Schedule of Work and Returned Tender Analysis. The Council can be assured that any reimbursement for building works are independently verified by an independently appointed Quantity Surveyor based upon a review of the valuation and work before any funding is released. As the works are being jointly funded by the Cymru Football Foundation, they will also undertake their own due diligence on the project and will provide this information to The Council prior to any payments being made against the project.

8.4 If approved by Cabinet, the allocation of £150,000 towards the cost of demolishing the existing pavilion and replacing it with a modern, fit for purpose, building essential pavilion at Llangeinor Playing Fields together with £10,000 for the associated pitch maintenance equipment will reduce the balance of unallocated funding in the CAT Fund to £49,371.04. BCBC's allocation will not exceed the allocated maximum value of £150,000.00 in regards to the pavilion replacement.

8.5 Cabinet has previously indicated that the CAT Fund should be replenished to encourage CATs, subject to the availability of finite capital resources, so that assets can be developed and safeguarded for future generations, particularly where value for money can be clearly demonstrated. It is intended that a report highlighting the outcomes and benefits already achieved under the CAT programme will be submitted for consideration to the Cabinet, along with a business case under the Change Management Fund and Capital Programme to request additional funding where deemed appropriate. Any additional requests for Capital funding would have to seek approval from Council.

9. Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is requested to:

9.1 Approve the business case (business and financial plans) submitted by Llangeinor Football Limited to support the leasing of the Pavilion, football pitch, other green spaces (excluding the children's playground) and car park at the Llangeinor Playing Fields, under the Council's CAT programme, by demonstrating the financial viability and sustainability of the project.

9.2 Approve the funding request under the CAT Fund submitted by Llangeinor Football Limited towards the cost of purchasing Pitch Maintenance Equipment in the sum of £10,000.

9.3 Approve the funding request under the CAT Fund submitted by Llangeinor Football Limited towards the cost of demolishing the existing pavilion and replacing it with a modern, fit for purpose building in the sum of £150,000 and which would take the full funding package for the transfer under the CAT Fund to £160,000.
It should be noted that the BCBC contribution of £150,000.00 in respect of the pavilion is deemed as a contribution to the larger Cymru Football Foundation funded project, at a total project value of £435,485. BCBC's contribution is a capped maximum amount and will only be provided when the CAT transfer is completed, and the Cymru Football Foundation project funding is initiated.

Background documents

Revised CAT Policy Document (July 2019)

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Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Form

This document is a multi-purpose tool ensuring the appropriate steps are taken to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty Equality Impact Assessment legislation and to demonstrate that we have shown due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage when taking strategic decisions under the Socio-economic Duty. It also ensures consideration of the Welsh Language Standards.
Click here to access more information and guidance to help you complete this EIA.

- **This assessment should be carried out during the formation stage of your policy or proposal. Any negative impact identified will support you to devise engagement strategies for further evidence gathering.**
- **If you are undertaking a full public consultation as part of your policy or proposal this form should be completed before the consultation begins and used as a tool to inform your consultation questions and engagement activities.**
- **All sections and all questions require a response and must not be left blank even if they are 'not applicable' or 'subject to further consultation'.**

Name of project, policy, function, service or proposal being assessed:	Llangeinor Playing Fields and Pavilion
Brief description and aim of policy or proposal:	Proposed Community Asset Transfer of the pavilion and football pitch, other green spaces and car park at Llangeinor Playing Fields to Llangeinor Football Limited with the demolition of the existing, obsolete, pavilion and the building of a replacement sports changing pavilion in partnership with the Cymru Football Foundation, who have committed £280,000 of funding towards the project.
Who is responsible for delivery of the policy or proposal?	Llangeinor Football Limited – proposed Tenant of the site
Date EIA screening completed:	15 July 2024
Does this policy or proposal relate to any other policies? (please state)	Revised CAT Policy Document (July 2019)
Who is affected by this policy (e.g. Staff, residents, disabled people, women only?)	All Users of the Playing Fields and Sports Pavilion
Is the policy related to, influenced by, or affected by other policies or areas of work (internal or external)? *Note: Consider this in terms of statutory requirements, local policies, regional (partnership) decisions, national policies, welfare reforms.*	National and Local Planning Policies; Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and The Socio Economic Duty have all been considered as part of the assessment of the planning application the replacement pavilion. FAW's mission to create better 'Environments For Her.

If this is a review or amendment of an existing policy, has an EIA been carried out? Please include date of completion:	Not applicable
If an EIA exists, what new data has been collected since its completion?	Not applicable

Assessment of Impact

Protected characteristics

Is it possible that any aspect of the policy or proposal will have a positive or negative impact on people from different groups in different ways?

***Please note: If you identify a negative impact for any protected characteristics you will need to undertake further evidence gathering to complete a full EIA.**

	Please place an X in the relevant box			Explanation of impact
	Positive impact(s)	Negative impact(s)	No impact	
Gender	X			The existing pavilion is in a poor condition and dated both in terms of the building fabric and its functionality. The replacement pavilion will deliver a comfortable environment with adequate privacy for all users, with a diverse range of abilities, to feel safe and secure. In particular the pavilion will provide a more female-friendly and welcoming space including positive imagery and separate changing facilities for female referees.
Disability	X			In a Disability Access Audit undertaken in 2011, the existing pavilion was graded a Grade D (Inaccessible, major expense required) Although the pavilion is a single storey building on a level site, it had no accessible toilet or shower facilities and a new ramped access was required to replace stepped entrance route to main front door. The proposed replacement pavilion will include disabled WC/shower facilities and adequate entrances/exits/hallways for disabled access.
Race			X	
Religion and belief			X	

Sexual Orientation			**X**	
Age	**X**			The replacement pavilion will deliver a comfortable environment with adequate privacy for all users, with a diverse range of ages and abilities, to feel safe and secure, particularly in relation to young people.
Pregnancy & Maternity	**X**			Limited impact but the replacement pavilion will deliver a much more comfortable environment with adequate privacy for all users.
Transgender			**X**	
Marriage and Civil partnership			**X**	

Socio-economic impact

Is it possible that any aspect of the policy or proposal will have a positive or negative impact on people or communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?

***Please note: If you identify a negative socio-economic impact you will need to undertake further evidence gathering to complete a full EIA.**

	Please place an X in the relevant box			**Explanation of impact**
	Positive impact(s)	**Negative impact(s)**	**No impact**	
Socio-economic disadvantage	**X**			Llangeinor is ranked 606 (of 1909) the most deprived ward within Wales. 30%-50% category. Llangeinor (and neighbouring wards) has particular issues around health and skills. Llangeinor Football has an opportunity to influence and address some of these issues i.e. new volunteering opportunities, skills development, and better recreational space. Llangeinor Football Limited are seeking to supporting the local economy by using local tradespeople, creating new employment opportunities, and volunteer placements where possible. In addition, as a result of the proposed asset transfer, Llangeinor Football will no longer be reliant

				on the Council. for the provision of some recreational facilities. The intension is to ensure a viable and sustainable future for this community asset that works for all parties. The proposed asset transfer and redevelopment of the pavilion will enable the site to continue to be used for formal sports use. Without this investment, it is likely the existing pavilion will be permanently closed, with the site then utilised as informal open space only.

Welsh Language

Is it possible that any aspect of the policy or proposal will have a positive or negative impact for persons to use the Welsh language and in treating the Welsh language less favourably than the English language?

***Please note: If you identify a negative impact for persons to use the Welsh language and in treating the Welsh language less favourably than the English language you will need to undertake further evidence gathering to complete a full EIA.**

	Please place an X in the relevant box			**Explanation of impact**
	Positive impact)s)	**Negative impact(s)**	**No impact**	
Will the policy or proposal impact on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language			**X**	
Will the policy or proposal treat the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language			**X**	

<u>Public Sector Equality Duty</u>

The Public Sector Equality Duty consists of a general equality duty and specific duties, which help authorities to meet the general duty.

The aim of the general equality duty is to integrate considerations of the advancement of equality into the day-to-day business of public authorities. In summary, those subject to the equality duty, must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a characteristic and those who don't
- Foster good relations between people who share a characteristic and those who don't

How does this policy or proposal demonstrate you have given due regard to the general equality duty?

The proposal will add value to user's experience of the recreation facility and facilitate the football club's ambitions to provide enhanced, inclusive, more useable playing facilities to the club and wider users of the facility.

Procurement and partnerships

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requires all public authorities to consider the needs of protected characteristics when designing and delivering public services, including where this is done in partnership with other organisations or through procurement of services. The Welsh Language Standards also require all public authorities to consider the effects of any policy decision, or change in service delivery, on the Welsh language, which includes any work done in partnership or by third parties. We must also ensure we consider the Socio-economic Duty when planning major procurement and commissioning decisions to consider how such arrangements can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage.

Will this policy or proposal be carried out wholly or partly by contractors or partners?

	Please place an X in the relevant box:
Yes	**X**
No	

If yes what steps will you take to comply with the General Equality Duty, Welsh Language Legislation and the Socio-Economic Duty in regard to procurement and/or partnerships?

	Steps taken to ensure compliance:
General Equality Duty	**The CAT & Pavilion Business Plan and CAT Support Fund Application approval process will consider this.**
Welsh Language legislation	**It is not considered that Welsh Language Legislation will have any impact on this project.**
Socio-economic duty	**The CAT & Pavilion Business Plan and CAT Support Fund Application approval process will consider this.**

What have you decided to do?

Record of decision based on assessment of impact on protected characteristics, socioeconomic impact and Welsh Language. Please place an X in the relevant box.

If you identify negative impact on one, some or all protected characteristics, socioeconomic duty or Welsh Language you will MUST complete a full EIA.

Impact identified	Next steps:	Please place an X in the relevant box:
No negative impact identified	Screen out: carry on with the policy or proposal	**X**
One or more negative impact identified	Complete full EIA to gather more evidence on potential negative impacts	
Please explain the reasons for this decision. If you have 'screened out' you must include information and evidence to justify your decision.		

Approval:

Date EIA screening completed:	17 July 2024
Approved by (Head of Service):	
Date of approval by HoS:	**16/07/2024**

If this screening has identified that a full EIA is needed, who will carry out the full EIA?	Not applicable
If this screening has identified that a full EIA is needed when will the Full EIA be completed by (Date):	Not applicable

When complete, this form must be retained by the service, a copy should also be sent to **equalities@bridgend.gov.uk**

The EIA screening should be referenced and summarised in the relevant cabinet report for this policy. Where a full EIA is needed this should be included as an appendix with the cabinet report and therefore available publically on the website.

Llangeinor

Recreation Ground

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UPRN - 20023
LLANGEINOR PAVILION
SITE PLAN
16/02/12

Total internal floor area 170m²
Site area 42,664m²

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100m
Scale in metres

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

BRIDGEND
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
ICT & PROPERTY

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES
Civic Offices, Angel Street,
BRIDGEND CF31 4WB

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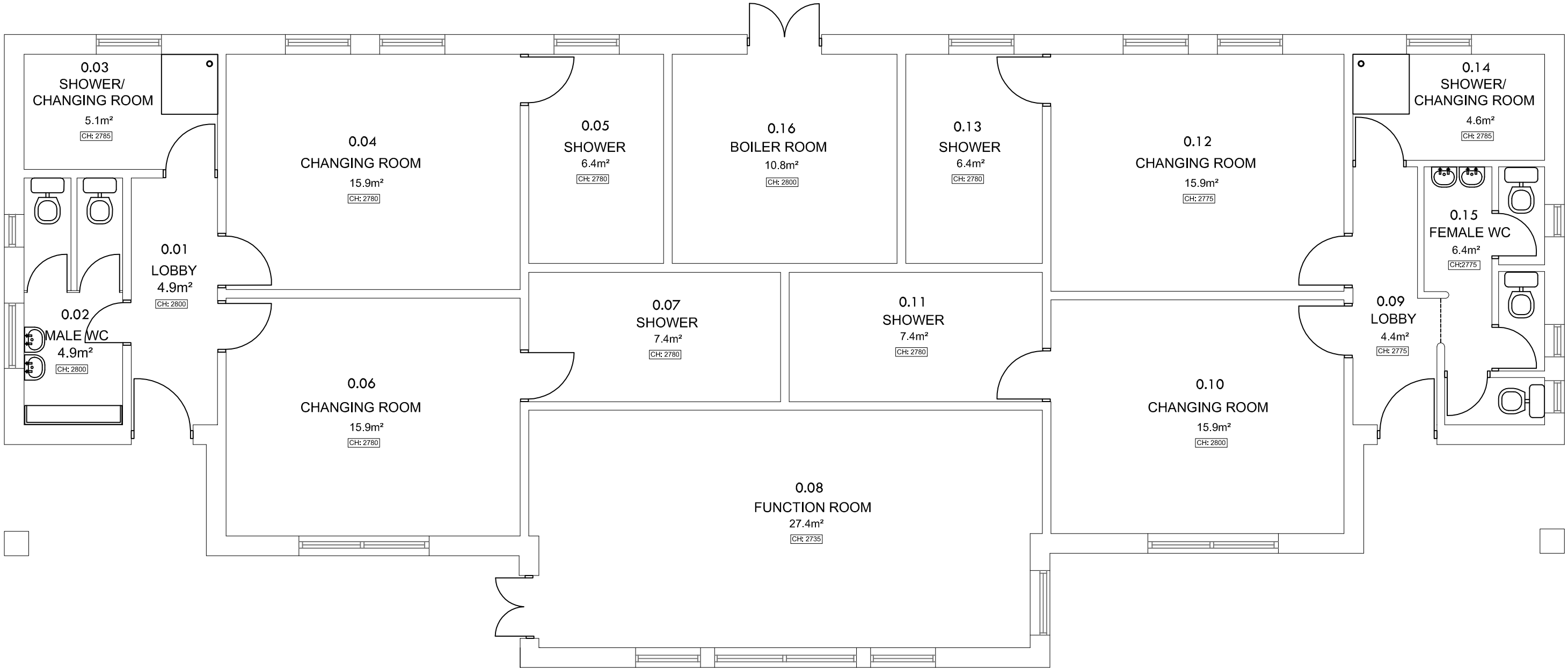

UPRN - 20023
LLANGEINOR PAVILION
BLOCK 1
GROUND FLOOR PLAN
21/01/12

KEY

Room Use / Name:	FUNCTION ROOM
Room Area:	27.4m²
Cellng Helght:	CH: 2735
Room No.	0.08

* Room No. should be prefixed by UPRN and Block No. to read 20023.1.0.08

0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0 4.5 5.0m

Scale in metres

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

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
BRIDGEND
County Borough Council

BRIDGEND
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
ICT and PROPERTY
ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES
Civic Offices, Angel Street,
BRIDGEND CF31 4WB

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BUILDING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The intended use of this document is for Asset Management purposes. The survey was not invasive nor measured. Due to the broad-brush nature of the appraisal, this information is only indicative with regard to future maintenance budgets and should not be used for tendering or preparation of repair schedules. Regard has been taken of published cost guidelines and relate to the physical fabric which only reflects the costs of statutory compliance where such information has been supplied to the surveyor.

Property Name	**Llangeinor Playing Fields**		
Address:	**Bettws Road, Llangeinor Bridgend**		
Post Code:	**CF32 8PG**		
Directorate	**Playing Fields / Recreation Grounds**	**Property UPRN:**	**20023**
Building contact	**Gareth Evans**	**Tel no.**	**1656642720**
Date of Survey:	**07/06/2016**	**Name of Surveyor/s:**	**Haydn Harris**

Overall Condition Gradings

A	→	Good/performing as intended and operating efficiently
B	→	Satisfactory (performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration)
C	→	Poor (exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended)
D	→	Bad (life expired and/or risk of imminent closure)

Overall Priority Gradings

1	→	Urgent to prevent immediate closure
2	→	Essential, i.e. within 2 years
3	→	Desirable, i.e. within 3 to 5 years
4	→	Long term, i.e. 5-10 years. For planned, cyclical and forecasted works

Individual Block Priority Costs (£) → Costs applied to individual block assessments within the overall priority

Block name	**BLOCK 1**						**Sub Total**
Grade	**C**						
Priority 1	£44,000						£44,000.00
Priority 2	£24,000						£24,000.00
Priority 3	£100,000						£100,000.00
Priority 4	£19,000						£19,000.00
	£187,000	**£0**	**£0**	**£0**	**£0**	**£0**	**£187,000.00**

Block name							**Sub Total**
Grade							
Priority 1							£0.00
Priority 2							£0.00
Priority 3							£0.00
Priority 4							£0.00
	£0	**£0**	**£0**	**£0**	**£0**	**£0**	**£0.00**

Block name							**Sub Total**
Grade							
Priority 1							£0.00
Priority 2							£0.00
Priority 3							£0.00
Priority 4							£0.00
							£0.00

	Priority			
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**
Totals:	£44,000.00	£24,000.00	£100,000.00	£19,000.00

OVERALL ASSET CONDITION GRADING	**C**	**CONDITION ASSESSMENT TOTAL COST**	**£187,000**

General Summary

Assets on the site that require priority action are:

The roof is in a poor condition and will require repair or replacement.
The windows are dated and will require repair or replacement.
The hot and cold water plant is dated.
Lighting throughout is dated.
Electric heaters are also dated.
Sanitaryware and decoration are dated throughout.

Ref	Major Element	Sub-Element	Constructive Element	Condition	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Comments
1.0	**External Roof**								
1.1	Roofs	Flat roofs	Structure						
1.2	Roofs	Flat roofs	Coverings and insulation						
1.3	Roofs	Flat roofs	Drainage						
1.4	Roofs	Flat roofs	Roof lights						
1.5	Roofs	Flat roofs	Fascia & Soffit						
1.6	Roofs	Pitched roofs	Structure	D	30,000.00				Timber construction with asbestos corrugated roof. Exposed rafters are rotted and significantly deteriorated. Cost allows to replace the roof.
1.7	Roofs	Pitched roofs	Coverings and insulation	D	10,000.00				Asbestos corrugated covering in poor condition with significant damage and deterioration. Cost allows for asbestos removal and disposal.
1.8	Roofs	Pitched roofs	Drainage	C		4,000.00			Plastic gutters and downpipes. Dated and damaged in areas. Complete replacement required.
1.9	Roofs	Pitched roofs	Roof lights						
1.10	Roofs	Pitched roofs	Fascia & Soffit	C		4,000.00			Timber fascia and soffits in very poor condition and some temporary repairs made. Complete replacement required.
1.11	Roofs	Other roof types	Coverings						
					40,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	0.00	
			Element grade	C			**Element cost**	48,000.00	
2.0	**Floors and stairs**								
2.1	Floors and stairs	Ground floor	Structure	B		2,000.00			Concrete flooring - some cracking and damage noted.
2.2	Floors and stairs	Ground floor	Screed and finish	C			10,000.00		Lino covering noted to be dated. The kitchen has no covering and has a rug cover over uneven concrete. Tiles noted to be in a good order. Cost to upgrade flooring where necessary.
2.3	Floors and stairs	Upper floors	Structure						
2.4	Floors and stairs	Upper floors	Screed and finish						
2.5	Floors and stairs	Staircases	Structure						
2.6	Floors and stairs	Staircases	Treads and risers						
2.7	Floors and stairs	Staircases	Soffit finish						
2.8	Floors and stairs	Other floor types	All parts						
					0.00	2,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	
			Element grade	C			**Element cost**	12,000.00	
3.0	**Ceilings**								
3.1	Ceilings	Ground floor	All parts	D	4,000.00		4,000.00		Ceilings are boards and in a poor condition. The store ceiling has collapsed. Cost allows for repair of the collapsed ceiling and redecoration/repair elsewhere.
3.2	Ceilings	Upper floors	All parts						
					4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	
			Element grade	D			**Element cost**	8,000.00	
4.0	**External walls, doors and windows**								
4.1	External walls, windows and doors	Walls	Structure	B					Brick with plaster render. No structural damage noted.
4.2	External walls, windows and doors	Walls	External linings / finishes	C			4,000.00		Sections of the plaster render have detached and have been painted over. Other sections are loose and falling off. Cost allows for repairs.
4.3	External walls, windows and doors	Walls	Internal linings / finishes	C			2,000.00		Plaster walls have a number of cracks and are in need of repair.
4.4	External walls, windows and doors	Windows and doors	Framing	C			2,000.00		Door frames are generally tired and in poor condition.
4.5	External walls, windows and doors	Windows and doors	Doors	C			3,000.00		Generally dated and some damage noted.
4.6	External walls, windows and doors	Windows and doors	Windows	C		8,000.00			Steel frame windows with single glazing. Cills are timber and completely rotten for most windows.
4.7	External walls, windows and doors	Windows and doors	Glazing	C					Dated single glazing replacement allowed for in 4.6
4.8	External walls, windows and doors	Windows and doors	Ironmongery	B					Dated but functional.
					0.00	8,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	
			Element grade	C			**Element cost**	19,000.00	

Ref	Major Element	Sub-Element	Constructive Element	Condition	Priority				Comments
					1	2	3	4	
5.0	**Internal walls, doors and windows**								
5.1	Internal walls and doors	Walls and partitions	Structure	C		2,000.00			Plaster walls noted to have some damage.
5.2	Internal walls and doors	Walls and partitions	Linings / finishes	C					Damaged plaster walls, costs allowed for in 5.1.
5.3	Internal walls and doors	Doors and glazed screens	Framing/doors	C			2,000.00		Door frames are generally tired and in poor condition.
5.4	Internal walls and doors	Doors and glazed screens	Glazing	C			3,000.00		Generally dated and some damage noted.
5.5	Internal walls and doors	Doors and glazed screens	Ironmongery	B					Dated but functional.
					0.00	2,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	
			Element grade	C			Element cost	7,000.00	
6.0	**Sanitary services**								
6.1	Sanitary services	Toilets	Fittings	C			20,000.00		Dated and in need of refurbishment.
6.2	Sanitary services	Toilets	Waste plumbing	B					Functional - no defects noted.
6.3	Sanitary services	kitchens	Fittings	C			10,000.00		Dated and in need of refurbishment.
6.4	Sanitary services	kitchens	Waste plumbing	B					Functional - no defects noted.
					0.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00	
			Element grade	C			Element cost	30,000.00	
7.0	**Mechanical services**								
7.1	Mechanical services	Heating	Distribution						
7.2	Mechanical services	Heating	Controls						
7.3	Mechanical services	Hot and cold Water	Storage tanks and equipment	C				15,000.00	HWS Calorifier x 4 & CWSTs in a reasonable but dated condition and may require replacement within the maintenance schedule.
7.4	Mechanical services	Hot and cold Water	Distribution	B				3,000.00	No defects noted - TMVs are dated. Cost allows for maintenance or replacement.
7.5	Mechanical services	Boilers	All parts						
7.6	Mechanical services	Burners	All parts						
7.7	Mechanical services	Flues	All parts						
7.8	Mechanical services	Heat emitters	All parts	C			5,000.00		Electric ceiling and wall heaters dated and in poor condition.
7.9	Mechanical services	Insulation	All parts						
7.10	Mechanical services	Oil storage	All parts						
7.11	Mechanical services	Pumps	All parts	C					HWS pumps are dated - cost allowed for in 7.3
7.12	Mechanical services	Stokers	All parts						
7.13	Mechanical services	Swimming pool plant	All parts						
7.14	Mechanical services	Gas installation	All parts						
7.15	Mechanical services	Ventilation	All parts						
7.16	Mechanical services	Air conditioning	All parts						
7.17	Mechanical services	Other	All parts						
					0.00	0.00	5,000.00	18,000.00	
			Element grade	C			Element cost	23,000.00	

Ref	Major Element	Sub-Element	Constructive Element	Condition	Priority				Comments
					1	2	3	4	
8.0	**Electrical services**								
8.1	Electrical services	Control gear	All parts	C		500.00			Distribution boards on site are in good order. 1No. Crabtree Polestar is dated and in poor condition in the disabled toilet.
8.2	Electrical services	Power	Wiring	B					In reasonable condition where observed.
8.3	Electrical services	Power	Fittings	B					In reasonable condition where observed.
8.4	Electrical services	Lighting	Wiring	B					In reasonable condition where observed.
8.5	Electrical services	Lighting	Fittings	C			9,000.00		Lighting generally dated (includes emergency lighting).
8.6	Electrical services	Fire alarms	All parts						
8.7	Electrical services	Intruder alarms	All parts						
8.8	Electrical services	Lightning protection	All parts						
8.9	Electrical services	Communications systems	All parts						
8.10	Electrical services	Bonding	All parts						
8.11	Electrical services	Conduit and trunking	All parts						
8.12	Electrical services	Earthing	All parts	B					In good order.
8.13	Electrical services	Generators	All parts						
8.14	Electrical services	Insulation	All parts						
8.15	Electrical services	Main switch	All parts	B					In good order.
8.16	Electrical services	Exterior lighting	All parts	B				1,000.00	Bulkhead lighting - in reasonable condition but dated.
8.17	Electrical services	Power accessories	All parts						
8.18	Electrical services	ventilators	All parts	C			5,000.00		All extract fans noted to be dated (10No.).
8.19	Electrical services	Water heaters	All parts	C		500.00			In poor condition - Heatrae Sadia Hyco Express.
8.20	Electrical services	Other electrical	All parts	C			6,000.00		Pitch floodlighting in a dated and poor condition.
8.21	Electrical services	Lifts and hoists	All parts						
					0.00	1,000.00	20,000.00	1,000.00	
			Element grade	C			**Element cost**	22,000.00	
9.0	**Redecorations**								
9.1	Redecorations	External	All locations						
9.2	Redecorations	Internal	All locations	C			15,000.00		Generally required throughout.
					0.00	0.00	15,000.00	0.00	
			Element grade	C			**Element cost**	15,000.00	
10.0	**Fixed furniture and fittings**								
10.1	Fixed furniture and fittings	Teaching	Science						
10.2	Fixed furniture and fittings	Teaching	Technology						
10.3	Fixed furniture and fittings	Teaching	Other						
10.4	Fixed furniture and fittings	Non-teaching	Kitchen						
10.5	Fixed furniture and fittings	Non-teaching	Other						
					0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
			Element grade				**Element cost**	0.00	

11.0	**External areas**								
11.1	External areas	Roads and car parks	All parts	**B**					**In reasonable condition.**
11.2	External areas	Paths	All parts	**C**		**3,000.00**			**Some paving slabs have lifted.**
11.3	External areas	Soft landscaping	All parts						
11.4	External areas	Walls, fences and gates	All parts						
11.5	External areas	Drainage	All parts						
11.6	External areas	Mains services	All parts						
11.7	External areas	Boundary walls	All parts						
11.8	External areas	Fencing	All parts						
					0.00	**3,000.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	
			Element grade	**C**			**Element cost**	**3,000.00**	

Ref	**Major Element**	**Sub-Element**	**Constructive Element**	**Condition**	**Priority**				**Comments**
					1	**2**	**3**	**4**	
12.0	**External areas**								
12.1	Playing fields	Hard surfaces	Fitments						
12.2	Playing fields	Hard surfaces	Other						
12.3	Playing fields	Soft surfaces	Fitments	**B**					**In good order.**
12.4	Playing fields	Soft surfaces	Other						
					0.00	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	
			Element grade	**B**			**Element cost**	**0.00**	

		Priority			
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**
Overall block grade:	**C**	**Totals:**	£44,000.00	£24,000.00	£100,000.00	£19,000.00

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FAITHFUL+GOULD

Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group

Bridgend Estates Surveys

Llangeinor Pavillion Summary Report

Bridgend County Borough Council

28/02/2020

Notice

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

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

Document history

Revision	Purpose description	Origin-ated	Checked	Reviewed	Authorised	Date
Rev 1.0	Draft	CW	CW	SJ	ST	28/02/2020
Rev 2.0	Final	CW	CW	SJ	ST	10/03/2020

Client signoff

Client	Bridgend County Borough Council
Project	Bridgend Estates Surveys
Job number	5183482
Client signature / date	

Contents

1.0 – Introduction

2.0 – Survey Summary

Appendices

- Photo Schedule
- Condition Data
- Floor Plans

1. Introduction

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

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

The survey was undertaken on 26/02/2020. We did not open up any areas that were not readily accessible and did not take any samples for later testing.

2. Survey Summary

2.1. Introduction

The survey was undertaken on 26/02/2020, by Ceri Watts (Building Surveyor) and Phil Gomez (Mechanical Engineer). The weather at the time of the survey was overcast with dry spells.

2.1.1. General Property Description

The changing rooms are a single block, which is cavity construction, with rendered external walls and exposed brick at ground level. There is a fibre cement roof covering which is assumed asbestos due to its age and appearance with upvc rainwater goods fixed to timber fascias. Windows are single glazed steel framed units with doors being steel plated timber.

2.2. Condition Description

2.2.1. Fabric

The block is in a poor condition both internally and externally. Internal walls are flaking and areas of mould to most ceilings throughout the block. Ceramic tile areas to the showers have been patch replaced but are overall in a poor condition. The screed finish to the right hand side of the building has worn away but is in a reasonable condition to the left hand side. Sanitary ware, while appears to be functioning is aged and will need replacing within the next few years.

Externally, the building is in a poor state of repair. The roof is aged and is assumed to be of asbestos containing material. The condition poses a risk to health and should be changed. Rainwater goods are defective, particularly to the front elevation. The brickwork at low level, while generally satisfactory, appears to have some bricks missing which will need to be replaced to avoid water ingress issues internally. The render to the building is in a very poor condition. Render has blown and come away to several areas to all elevations. The rest of the render has cracks where it has blown. It would be recommended to tap test the remaining render and remove all loose sections to avoid falling debris until full works can be arranged.

2.2.2. Building Services

Heating is provided to the shower room and changing room via electrical convector heaters which appear in poor condition and at the end of anticipated life cycle; replacement is recommended in the short term. Hot and cold water is distributed through copper pipework which appears aged and was found to be damaged within some areas of the building; full replacement is recommended in the short term. Hot water is provided by 2 calorifiers with electrical immersion heaters and were found to be in poor condition with insulation detached from both cylinders. The immersion heating elements appear to have been replaced recently; however, replacement of both calorifiers is recommended in the short term due to age and poor condition. The cold water storage tank within the loft space is uninsulated and mounted directly above the calorifiers which may present a legionella risk; replacement is recommended in the short term due to age and condition. Further consideration should be given to removal of the cold water tank and converting the system to mains pressure fed with cold water booster pump if necessary.

Power is provided to the building via an original main isolator and original sub isolators to original HRC and modern MCB type distribution boards. Switchgear and HRC boards are in very poor condition and beyond anticipated life cycle; replacement should be completed in the short term. MCB distribution boards and RCDs are in satisfactory condition. Some electrical rewiring appears to have been carried out within the plant room, although the majority of the electrical wiring system appears in poor condition and beyond anticipated life cycle; replacement is recommended in the short term. Luminaires consist of pendant and bulkhead fittings with

tungsten lamps which appear in poor condition throughout the building; replacement is recommended in the short term. An external bulkhead discharge luminaires appears in satisfactory condition.

2.3. Grounds Description

The changing rooms are situated on the site of the adjacent playing area. There is a concrete area to the front of the building used as parking for visitors to both the building and the park found to be in a satisfactory condition.

2.4. Key Works Undertaken

No key works have been undertaken since the building was constructed.

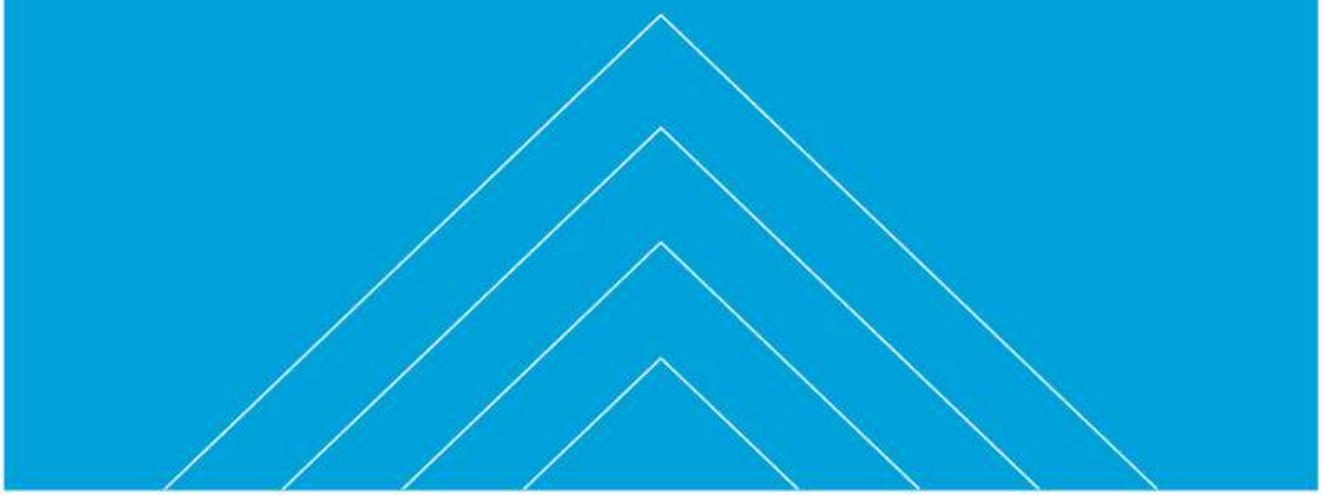
2.5. Further Investigations Required

No further investigations required.

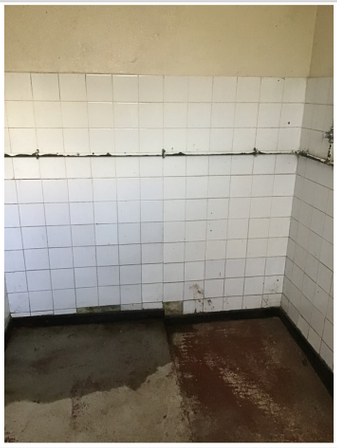
2.6. Cost Summary

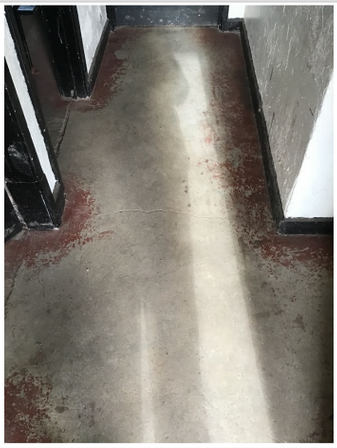
Element Type	Backlog Costs (Total C and D items)	5 Year Total Cost (excl. Backlog)
Roofs	£ 14,652.00	£ 0.00
Floors and stairs	£ 5,629.43	£ 5,629.43
Ceilings	£ 0.00	£ 0.00
External walls, windows and doors	£ 27,951.38	£ 0.00
Internal walls and doors	£ 3,832.80	£ 3,962.00
Sanitary services	£ 0.00	£ 1,400.00
Mechanical services	£ 11,941.60	£ 0.00
Electrical services	£ 17,381.79	£ 0.00
Redecorations	£ 4,265.03	£ 0.00
Fixed furniture and fittings	£ 0.00	£ 0.00
Total	**£ 85,654.03**	**£ 10,991.43**

Appendices



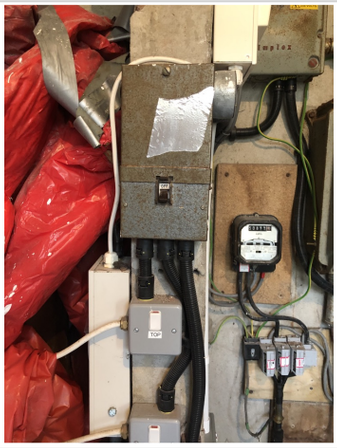
Appendix A – Photo Schedule

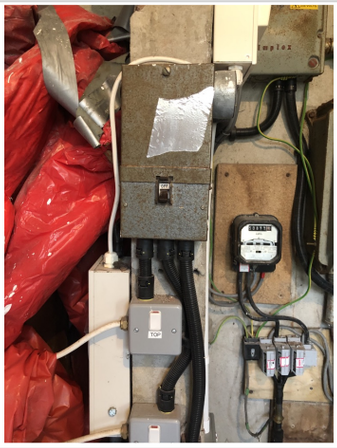
Block / Element Block 1 - Finished **Description** Ceilings in a poor condition throughout. **Ref** Photo 27-02-2020 11.02.27.jpg	
Block / Element Block 1 - Ceramic Tiles **Description** Tiles are in a poor condition. Several areas have been repaired/replaced **Ref** Photo 27-02-2020 11.08.09.jpg	
Block / Element Block 1 - Finished **Description** Walls throughout are in a poor condition with flaking or marked paintwork throughout. **Ref** Photo 27-02-2020 11.08.44.jpg	

Block / Element Block 1 - Other **Description** Screed finish has worn away to rooms to the right half of the block **Ref** Photo 27-02-2020 11.04.37.jpg	
Block / Element Block 1 - Fibre Cement **Description** Asbestos containing material in a poor condition **Ref** Photo 27-02-2020 11.14.07.jpg	
Block / Element Block 1 - UPVC Gutters and **Description** All rainwater goods in a poor condition throughout. **Ref** Photo 27-02-2020 11.14.59.jpg	

Block / Element Block 1 - Timber Fascia/Soffit **Description** Fascias and soffits in a poor condition throughout **Ref** Photo 27-02-2020 11.16.06.jpg	
Block / Element Block 1 - Steel Casement **Description** Windows throughout are in a very poor condition. Windows appear original. **Ref** Photo 27-02-2020 11.17.22.jpg	
Block / Element Block 1 - Solid Core Timber Steel **Description** Doors are in a poor condition **Ref** Photo 27-02-2020 11.35.21.jpg	

Block / Element Block 1 - Render **Description** Render has blown in several places with cracks to the remaining. **Ref** Photo 27-02-2020 11.36.22.jpg	
Block / Element Block 1 - Brick **Description** Repairs to brickwork where bricks have been removed. **Ref** Photo 27-02-2020 11.37.56.jpg	
Block / Element Block 1 - Luminaires **Description** Original luminaires beyond anticipated life cycle. Renew in the short term **Ref** IMG_4423.JPG	

Block / Element Block 1 - Lighting Wiring & **Description** Original lighting wiring and accessories at the end of anticipated life cycle. Renew in the short term **Ref** IMG_4409.JPG	
Block / Element Block 1 - Small Power Wiring & **Description** Original small power wiring and accessories at the end of anticipated life cycle. Renew in the short term **Ref** IMG_4397.JPG	
Block / Element Block 1 - Electric Heater **Description** Electrical convector heaters beyond anticipated life cycle. Renew in the short term **Ref** IMG_4421.JPG	

Block / Element Block 1 - Isolator **Description** Main and sub main isolators beyond anticipated life cycle. Renew in the short term **Ref** IMG_4396.JPG	
Block / Element Block 1 - Mains Cabling **Description** Original main cable beyond anticipated life cycle. Renew in the short term **Ref** IMG_4397.JPG	
Block / Element Block 1 - Distribution Board **Description** Original HRC type distribution boards beyond anticipated life cycle. Renew **Ref** IMG_4396.JPG	

Block / Element Block 1 - LTHW Calorifier **Description** Calorifiers at the end of anticipated life cycle. Renew **Ref** IMG_4400.JPG	
Block / Element Block 1 - Cold Water Tank **Description** Cold water storage tank at the end of anticipated life cycle. Renew in the short term **Ref** IMG_4401.JPG	

Appendix B – Condition Data

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

Condition Grading of Element

A – Good and operating efficiently

B – Satisfactory but with minor deterioration

C – Poor with major defects

D – Bad; life has expired or risk of imminent failure

Priority

Priority 1 - Little to no outstanding works required, continued maintenance will enhance the serviceable life.

Priority 2 - Potentially work may be required within three to five years that will prevent deterioration of the fabric or services and/or address a low risk to the health and safety of occupants and/or remedy a minor breach of legislation.

Priority 3 - Essential work required within two years that will prevent serious deterioration of the fabric or services and/or address a medium risk to the health and safety of occupants and/or remedy a less serious breach of legislation.

Priority 4 - Urgent work that will prevent immediate closure of premises and/or address an immediate high risk to the health and safety of occupants and/or remedy a serious breach of legislation.

PPM Data

BlockElement	Condition	Rating	RSL	Measurement	BoQ	Unit	Unit Rate	Cost	Image Reference	Comments
Ceilings										**Identified item total:** £3,992.50 **Backlog cost total (C/D):** £0.00
Block 1 - Plaster Board	B	3	10	100	PA	m2	25	£3,992.50		
Electrical Services										**Identified item total:** £20,371.28 **Backlog cost total (C/D):** £17,381.79
Block 1 - Luminaires	C	1	1	100	PA	M2	20.768	£3,316.65	IMG_4423.JPG	Original luminaires beyond anticipated life cycle. Renew in the short term
Block 1 - Lighting Wiring & Accessories	C	1	1	90	PA	M2	33.2288	£4,775.98	IMG_4409.JPG	Original lighting wiring and accessories at the end of anticipated life cycle. Renew in the short term
Block 1 - Small Power Wiring & Accessories	C	1	1	90	PA	M2	25.96	£3,731.23	IMG_4397.JPG	Original small power wiring and accessories at the end of anticipated life cycle. Renew in the short term
Block 1 - Lighting Wiring & Accessories	B	4	20	10	PA	M2	33.2288	£530.66		
Block 1 - Small Power Wiring & Accessories	B	4	20	10	PA	M2	25.96	£414.58		
Block 1 - Bulkhead Fitting	B	3	7	1	COUNT	Nr	311.52	£311.52		
Block 1 - Earth Bonding - Secondary	B	3	20	20	PA	M2	10.384	£331.66		
Block 1 - Isolator	C	1	1	3	COUNT	Nr	903.408	£2,710.22	IMG_4396.JPG	Main and sub main isolators beyond anticipated life cycle. Renew in the short term
Block 1 - Mains Cabling	C	1	1	100	PA	LM	80.9952	£874.75	IMG_4397.JPG	Original main cable beyond anticipated life cycle. Renew in the short term
Block 1 - Distribution Board	C	1	1	2	COUNT	Nr	986.48	£1,972.96	IMG_4396.JPG	Original HRC type distribution boards beyond anticipated life cycle. Renew
Block 1 - Distribution Board	B	4	20	1	COUNT	Nr	986.48	£986.48		
Block 1 - Earth Bonding - Primary	B	3	20	50	PA	M2	5.192	£414.58		
External Walls, Windows & Doors										**Identified item total:** £29,773.88 **Backlog cost total (C/D):** £27,951.38
Block 1 - Steel Casement	C	2	1	15	PF	m2	1057.5	£21,414.38	Photo 27-02-2020 11.17.22.jpg	Windows throughout are in a very poor condition. Windows appear original.
Block 1 - Solid Core Timber Steel Plated	C	3	1	4	COUNT	nr	1128	£4,512.00	Photo 27-02-2020 11.35.21.jpg	Doors are in a poor condition
Block 1 - Render	C	2	1	60	PF	m2	25	£2,025.00	Photo 27-02-2020 11.36.22.jpg	Render has blown in several places with cracks to the remaining.

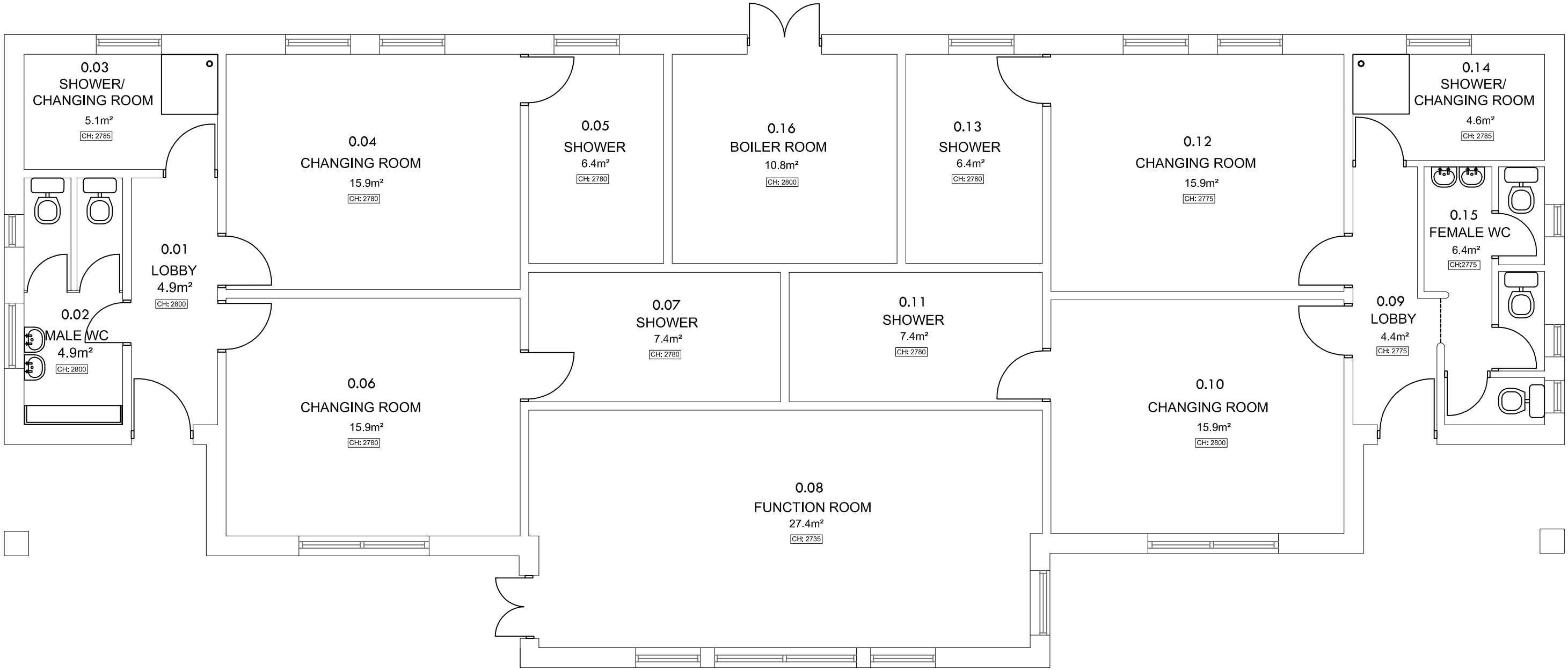
Block 1 - Brick	B	3	15	15	PF	m2	90	£1,822.50	Photo 27-02-2020 11.37.56.jpg	Repairs to brickwork where bricks have been removed.
Floors and Stairs									**Identified item total:**	**£11,258.85**
									Backlog cost total (C/D):	**£5,629.43**
Block 1 - Other	B	3	3	50	PA	m2	70.5	£5,629.43		
Block 1 - Other	C	2	1	50	PA	m2	70.5	£5,629.43	Photo 27-02-2020 11.04.37.jpg	Screed finish has worn away to rooms to the right half of the block
Internal Walls and Doors									**Identified item total:**	**£11,788.43**
									Backlog cost total (C/D):	**£3,832.80**
Block 1 - Ceramic Tiles	C	2	1	30	PA	m2	80	£3,832.80	Photo 27-02-2020 11.08.09.jpg	Tiles are in a poor condition. Several areas have been repaired/replaced
Block 1 - Render/Plaster	B	3	10	85	PA	m2	25	£3,393.63		
Block 1 - Timber Skirting	B	3	8	60	PP	m	20	£600.00		
Block 1 - Hollow Core Timber	B	3	3	14	COUNT	nr	283	£3,962.00		
Mechanical Services									**Identified item total:**	**£11,941.60**
									Backlog cost total (C/D):	**£11,941.60**
Block 1 - Electric Heater	C	1	1	2	COUNT	Nr	1038.4	£2,076.80	IMG_4421.JPG	Electrical convector heaters beyond anticipated life cycle. Renew in the short term
Block 1 - LTHW Calorifier	C	2	1	2	COUNT	Nr	3634.4	£7,268.80	IMG_4400.JPG	Calorifiers at the end of anticipated life cycle. Renew
Block 1 - Cold Water Tank	C	2	1	1	COUNT	Nr	2596	£2,596.00	IMG_4401.JPG	Cold water storage tank at the end of anticipated life cycle. Renew in the short term
Redecoration									**Identified item total:**	**£4,265.03**
									Backlog cost total (C/D):	**£4,265.03**
Block 1 - Finished	C	2	1	100	PA	m2	17.23	£2,751.63	Photo 27-02-2020 11.02.27.jpg	Ceilings in a poor condition throughout.
Block 1 - Finished	C	2	1	55	PA	m2	17.23	£1,513.40	Photo 27-02-2020 11.08.44.jpg	Walls throughout are in a poor condition with flaking or marked paintwork throughout.
Roofs									**Identified item total:**	**£14,652.00**
									Backlog cost total (C/D):	**£14,652.00**
Block 1 - Fibre Cement	D	1	1	100	PA	m2	60	£9,582.00	Photo 27-02-2020 11.14.07.jpg	Asbestos containing material in a poor condition
Block 1 - UPVC Gutters and downpipes	C	3	1	100	PP	lm	45	£2,250.00	Photo 27-02-2020 11.14.59.jpg	All rainwater goods in a poor condition throughout.
Block 1 - Timber Fascia/Soffit	C	2	1	100	PP	lm	56.4	£2,820.00	Photo 27-02-2020 11.16.06.jpg	Fascias and soffits in a poor condition throughout

Sanitary Services

Identified item total: **£3,400.00**
Backlog cost total (C/D): **£0.00**

Block 1 - WC Suite	B	3	10	5	COUNT	nr	400	£2,000.00		
Block 1 - Wash Hand Basin	B	3	5	4	COUNT	nr	350	£1,400.00		

Appendix C – Floor Plans



UPRN - 20023
LLANGEINOR PAVILION
BLOCK 1
GROUND FLOOR PLAN
21/01/12

KEY

Room Use / Name:	FUNCTION ROOM
Room Area:	27.4m²
Cellng Helght:	CH: 2735
Room No.	0.08

* Room No. should be prefixed by UPRN and Block No. to read 20023.1.0.08

0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0 4.5 5.0m

Scale in metres

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

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
BRIDGEND
County Borough Council

BRIDGEND
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
ICT and PROPERTY

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RRB/TR/545-22

REPORT

In Respect Of:-

Llangeinor Football Club, Bettws Road, Bridgend CF32 8PG

Front Elevation

Roger North Long and Partners

Chartered Surveyors

RICS

Date of Inspection

21 July 2022

Date of Report

19 August 2022

Weather Conditions

Overcast and dry at time of survey.

Inspecting Surveyor

Richard R Bond BSc (Hons) MRICS
Chartered Building Surveyor
RICS Registered Valuer

Instructed by

Llangeinor Football Club
Bettws Road
Bridgend
CF32 8PG

Instructed Surveyors

Roger North, Long & Partners
Unit 5 Neptune Court
Vanguard Way
Cardiff CF24 5PJ
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10.00 SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS

1.00 INSTRUCTIONS

We have been instructed to carry out an inspection of the subject property and to prepare a Condition Report.

This report has been prepared following a single visit to the property and we have not exposed any parts of the structure for examination and therefore cannot confirm that these such parts are free from defect.

2.00 THE PROPERTY

The property comprises of a single storey detached build used to provide a changing room and club house facility for the village football club.

The property has been subject to very little if any maintenance works in recent years.

3.00 CONSTRUCTION

The roofs are of a pitched design and assumed steel truss construction, overlaid with a fibre cement profile sheet covering. A fibre cement trim is provided to ridge and eaves capping details. The rainwater goods predominantly consist of UPVC. The external elevation walls comprise of a masonry cavity construction finished with both a facing brick and decorated render. Windows are predominantly of a single glazed steel crittall frame type. Doors are of a timber and steel crittall incorporating single glazed units.

Internally the ceilings and walls have been finished with a decorated plater, fibre cement lining board and render. The walls are of a solid construction. The floor is of a solid cast concrete construction.

Mains gas, electricity, water and drainage are provided to property.

Hot water and central heating are provided by means of a gas fired combination boiler with the heating system to pressed steel wall mounted panel radiators.

4.00 ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation is arranged upon a single storey and briefly comprises:-

Ground Floor: 2 No WC's, 2 No referee shower/changing rooms, 4 No changing rooms in total, stores, bar/reception area and shower area.

5.00 EXTERNALLY

5.01 Roofs

The roof is of a pitched design and assumed steel truss construction. The roof has been weathered with a fibre cement covering that is likely to contain a low content of asbestos. Single skin GRP rooflights are provided in areas. Fibre cement capping trims are provided to ridge and gable.

The covering is dated and subject to numerous areas of damage due to both general age and impact.

Internally there are several areas of water ingress where the roof has been damaged.

We noted evidence of a build-up of debris particularly within the valley gutter details at changing roof pitches.

The roof is beyond reasonable repair and will require removal and upgrading with new. Works involving removal of coverings will need take into consideration likely asbestos containing materials to roof sheet and capping trims.

Photograph showing part view of the left hand side front roof slope. Impact damage along with previous patch repairs noted.

Photograph showing view of the front right corner gable where the fibre cement trim to eaves has been removed/missing.

Photograph showing part view of the right side of roof to front. Previous patch repairs and impact damage noted.

Photograph showing part view of the rear left corner roof. Previous patch repairs undertaken with a GRP sheet covering. Moss growth and scaling of the roof covering noted.

Photograph showing one area where water ingress was noted to the front reception room.

5.02 Chimney Stacks & Flashings

There are no chimney stacks serving subject property. We are unable to confirm the material used to provide the weathering to the valley gutters. However ingress of water was noted internally indicating that there are issues with the gutter linings.

Elsewhere trims/details provided to roof are of a fibre cement material. The fibre cement is likely to contain a low level content of asbestos.

In several areas these trims to gables were noted to be missing.

Complete renewal of guttering linings and trims will be necessary in conjunction with upgrading of the roof coverings.

5.03 Rainwater Goods

The rainwater goods comprise of a more modern UPVC guttering.

The rainwater goods do not appear to include for downpipes and the gutter end caps have been removed to enable the discharge of rainwater.

The rainwater goods are subject to extensive vegetation growth / debris that affect the effective discharge of rainwater.

Upgrading of rainwater goods to include introduction of downpipes will be necessary.

Photograph showing part view of rear elevation where UPVC guttering was noted subject to extensive debris and vegetation growth.

5.04 Foundations & Main Walls

The foundations to the property have not been exposed for examination and their size, depth and condition are not known.

From our external inspection the external walls are free from any significant movement that would indicate that the property is structurally unstable. However we noted numerous areas of cracking that would be consistent with general settlement

and potential evidence of corrosion of wall tie fixings and/or structural members forming openings.

We also noted that the render finishes to external walls are subject to extensive cracking and are hollow and de-bonded in numerous locations.

We would also note that the construction of the walls is generally dated and would offer very limited performance in regards to U-Values.

Replacement of render to all elevations and wall ties will be necessary as a minimum repair. Where possible uValue to walls should be improved to ensure improved performance in relation to thermal efficiency.

Photograph showing part view of the front elevation to left side. Cracking noted around structural members forming openings and also extensive cracking, de-bonding of the render finishes.

Photograph showing part view of front elevation where extensive cracking/de-bonding of the render was noted above windows.

Photograph showing view of the left side gable elevation. Extensive cracking and de-bonding of render noted in several locations.

Photograph showing extensive vegetation growth to rear elevation. Also cracking, hollow and de-bonded sections of render noted.

Photograph showing view of the right side gable elevation. Extensive cracking, hollow and de-bonded sections of render noted.

5.05 Damp Proof Course & Sub Floor Ventilation

There was no visible evidence that the building has been constructed with the benefit of a damp proof course.

Internally however the walls at low level were generally free from any low level rising damp. Some isolated areas of low level damp were noted to the front reception/bar room only at time of inspection.

The ground floor is of a solid concrete construction and therefore sub floor ventilation is not required.

5.06 Window Frames & External Joinery

The external joinery to property comprises of a timber fascia board to part front and rear elevations. The timber fascia board is in a poor decorative condition and subject to extensive timber decay.

The windows are predominantly of a single glazed steel crittall type. The windows are dated in parts boarded over with glazing damaged. The frames are in a very poor decorative condition.

Photograph showing typical example of the window condition.

The doors to the property also comprise of a single glazed steel crittall frame type with a more standard timber door elsewhere.

The external doors are consistent with the window condition and are in a poor order and condition throughout.

Complete replacement of external joinery, windows and doors will be necessary.

Photograph showing example of the poor condition of the steel crittall single glazed doors to front reception room.

Photograph showing example of the condition to the timber door sets to rear store/boiler room.

5.07 External Decorations

The external decorations comprise of a paint finish to timber joinery, windows / doors and render finishes.

The external decorations have been maintained to a very poor standard in recent times and as a result these elements of the build are in a very poor order and condition.

Upgrading of decorations and building elements previously painted will be necessary.

6.00 INTERNALLY

6.01 Internal Walls

The internal walls are predominantly of a solid masonry, finished with a decorated render and plaster skim. Wall tile and wash board finishes are provided to shower room areas.

The internal walls are free from any significant structural cracking or distortion of openings.

However, extensive areas of hairline cracking, de-bonding and contamination of plaster were noted throughout.

Wall tile finishes where provided are generally dated and subject to extensive staining and discolouration.

Large areas of internal wall plaster will require hacking off and replacement with new. Wall tiles finishes should be upgraded or at least overhauled.

Photograph showing example of uneven surface finishes and de-bonded paint coatings along with low level contamination of plaster to internal walls.

Photograph showing example of extensive contamination and de-bonded decorations to walls to changing room to left side of property.

Photograph showing extensive contamination of plaster and de-bonding of paint coatings. Also extensive staining and discolouration noted to walls.

Photograph showing extensive de-bonding of decorative coatings along with black mould growth to wall finishes.

6.02 Ceilings

The ceilings are predominantly of a decorated fibre cement boarding that is highly likely to contain asbestos.

The ceilings in most parts are subject to extensive staining and discolouration and black mould growth.

Where a plaster finished ceiling would appear to have been provided to the front reception/bar room area, water ingress caused by a roofing defect has caused extensive damage.

Upgrading of ceilings and extensive preparation prior to decoration will be required throughout. Fibre cement ceilings will likely require removal under strict working methods to include air testing upon completion.

Photograph showing view of a fibre cement ceiling subject to extensive de-bonding of decorative finishes.

Photograph showing example of water damage to ceiling to the front reception/bar room area.

Photograph showing extensive staining, black mould growth and discolouration to ceiling to changing room to right side of property.

6.03 Fireplaces, Flues & Chimney Breasts

There are no fireplaces, flues or chimney breasts.

6.04 Floors

The floor is of a solid cast insitu concrete finished with a proprietary coating.

The floor is subject to undulations and was noted to be cracking in numerous locations.

The decorative proprietary coating was also noted to be subject to debonding and was generally faded and discoloured.

Repairs to floors and redecoration will be required throughout as a minimum requirement.

Photograph showing example of undulations and cracking to the flooring to changing room area.

Photograph showing typical example of a crack within flooring.

Photograph showing example of a proprietary floor coating that is subject to deterioration and de-bonding.

6.05 Rising & Penetrating Dampness

The walls were tested internally with the aid of an electric moisture meter.

Some isolated areas of high moisture meter readings were noted particularly to the front reception/bar room area. elsewhere the walls at low level were free from any significant low level moisture.

Water was noted to be penetrating the upper areas of property causing extensive damage to ceilings and the building elements immediately below where the water ingress has occurred.

6.06 Internal Joinery

The internal timber joinery comprises of a timber skirting, architraves, door linings and a flush faced hollow core door. The timber joinery is generally dated, subject to impact damage, extensive wear and deterioration particularly at lower levels.

The ironmongery to doors is also in poor order and will require extensive overhaul/upgrading or consideration to replace with new.

Photograph showing typical example of a door to base to one of the changing rooms.

Fitted kitchen units are provided to the reception/bar room area. The units are subject to extensive damage, deterioration and are beyond economical repair.

Photograph showing example of the poor condition and order to the fitted kitchen units.

6.07 Internal Decorations

The internal decorations have been maintained to a very poor standard in recent times.

Extensive preparation of the internal building elements and redecoration is required.

6.08 Woodworm, Dry Rot & Other Timber Defects

There was no evidence of any outbreak of dry rot at time of inspection.

Some isolated areas of wood boring insect infestation and also wet rot to external exposed timbers was noted.

Timbers where subject to decay and wood boring insect infestation will require attention.

6.09 Insulation

The building is generally dated and as a result the construction of the property incorporates very little provision for insulating materials.

7.00 SERVICES

7.01 Electricity

Mains electricity is connected. The incoming main, distribution board and fuse board are located within understair cupboard.

The wiring circuits have not been tested and a visual inspection only has been undertaken.

From our visual inspection the wiring where accessible is noted to be of a UPVC sheathed cable. It is good practice for domestic wiring to be tested every 10 years and upon change of ownership.

Enquiries should be made with the vendor regarding past testing of the wiring circuits and the availability of up to date test reports.

Should the wiring circuits not have been tested more recently or no test reports be available, then we would recommend that the wiring circuits are inspected and tested by an NICEIC registered electrician and attended to as deemed necessary in accordance with the electrician’s recommendations.

From our visual inspection we would anticipate that a complete require or extensive upgrading of the electrical installation will be required.

7.02 Gas

We are unable to confirm if mains gas is currently connected to property.

7.03 Cold Water, Plumbing & Sanitary Fittings

The sanitaryware to toilets and shower areas is of a very basic standard and is generally in poor condition and order.

Upgrading of sanitary ware will be necessary.

7.04 Hot Water & Central Heating

There is limited provision for hot water and heating within property.

The current system is extensively dated and in need of upgrading.

7.05 Soil Drainage

It is assumed that the drains connect to the mains sewer.

There was no indication at time of inspection that the soil drainage is not in a satisfactory working order.

We would anticipate that an inspection of the drainage system will be required by a specialist and clearing of rainwater gullies undertaken before downpipes are provided to rainwater goods.

8.00 OUTBUILDINGS

There are no immediate outbuildings serving the subject property.

9.00 THE SITE

The immediate surroundings to property are of a tarmacadam and cast insitu concrete hard standing.

Tarmacadam finishes are generally subject to some deterioration to include breaking up particularly around inspection chambers and also vegetation growth.

Concrete paving slabs to front elevation are subject to some general undulations and eroded pointing.

10.00 SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS

Llangeinor Football Club, Bettws Road, Bridgend CF32 8PG, comprises of a single storey purpose built changing room and clubhouse facility forming part of the sports club facility.

The building is of a typical design and style for its age and type.

The building is generally dated and in a poor state of repair.

We would not consider the property to be economically viable to refurbish and would recommend consideration to take down and rebuild new.

The new build footprint should be smaller than the existing using modern materials and building methods to provide a more cost effective and thermally efficient facility.

pp Roger North, Long & Partners

Richard R Bond BSc (Hons) MRICS
Chartered Building Surveyor

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Llangeinor Football Limited

Company No: 12121000

5 Year Business Plan

Llaneinor Changing Pavilion Development & Community Asset Transfer

May 2024

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Purpose of the Plan

Llangeinor Football Limited's brief for the business plan was *'to develop and assess the feasibility of a new changing pavilion at Llangeinor, plus asset transfer implications of additional grass pitch at Llangeinor Playing Field and Lewistown Playing Field'.*

The club's overall vision is to improve experiences and environments enabling participation growth for the club and its members. The results would allow the club and its partners to make a more informed decision on whether to pursue asset transfer of these sites from Bridgend C.B.C. and if so, how.

The plan includes consultation with key stakeholders, and a review of impact, technical and organisational issues. Proposals are subject to the scrutiny and agreement of Bridgend C.B.C. Community Asset Transfer Steering Group. The plan may also be used to engage the support of external funders such as the Cymru Football Foundation.

1.2 The Project

The project consists of 4 components:

a) A new Llangeinor Changing Pavilion (replacing the condemned changing room) by Autumn 2024.
b) Upgrade (by summer 25) and self-management of the Llangeinor Playing Field by autumn 2024.
c) Upgrade and self-management of Lewistown Playing Fields by March 2027.
d) Upgrade and self-management of Llangeinor MUGA by March 2027.

All components are subject to a 35-year community asset transfer lease from Bridgend C.B.C. and external capital funding i.e. Bridgend C.B.C. C.A.T. Fund and Cymru Football Foundation. The foundation of the funding ask is around improving the quality of and access to facilities in a deprived community.

'Permission for Development' (ref: P/22/832/FUL) for the new build changing pavilion was granted on 2nd November 2023, subject to conditions. Before submission, various drawings and surveys concluded with Roger North Long & Partners Surveyors (Cardiff) providing overall project management. The building work costs submitted by the lowest tenderer were within the range of initial budget estimates of £365,000 - £400,000 plus VAT.

1.3 The Business Case

The business case pivots on the transformation of a derelict football changing room plus the associated self-management of grass pitches. Llangeinor Football Limited's core running costs are estimated to increase by approximately £10,000 per annum after changing the pavilion build and self-maintenance

of the single grass pitch at Llangeinor Park. Running costs are partly offset by increased football participation (resulting in greater clubhouse income), a reduction in external pitch hire, and a higher degree of community/volunteer support for routine pitch maintenance tasks. Llangeinor Football Limited aim to ensure the longevity and financial sustainability of the various community assets for future generations, catering to modern footballing demands. Financial projections show that the project is financially viable:

Financial Projections: Llangeinor Football Limited									
Project Developments			*New Changing Pavilion & Llangeinor Playing Field (self managed)*			*MUGA & Lewistown CAT*			
	Pre CAT		Post CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT			
Financial Year	**23/24**		**24/25**	**25/26**	**26/27**	**27/28**			
Income £:	**Year 1**		**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**Year 4**	**Year 5**	*Notes*	all costs exc VAT	
Football Income:									
Subscriptions	12,628		13,259	13,922	13,922	14,618	*5% growth p.a.*		
Other Football Income	1,160		1,218	1,279	1,279	1,343	*5% growth p.a.*		
		13,788							
Llangeinor Rental Income:									
Pitch Hire	0		-	-	-	-	Llangeinor Teams Only		
Pavilion Hire	0		-	-	-	-	Llangeinor Teams Only		
		0							
Clubhouse Income:									
Takings	207,560		217,938	228,835	240,277	252,290	5% increase p.a.		
		207,560							
Other Income:									
Raffle	264		290	319	351	387	10% increase p.a.		
Social Events	6,485		6,809	7,150	7,507	7,883	5% increase p.a.		
Donations / Other	11,434		7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	no revenue grants		
		18,183							
Total Income		**239,531**	**239,515**	**251,505**	**263,336**	**276,521**			
	Pre CAT		Post CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT	Post CAT			
	23/24		**24/25**	**25/26**	**26/27**	**27/28**			
Expenditure £:	**Year 1**		**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**Year 4**	**Year 5**			
Clubhouse Costs:									
Stock / Supplies	102,535		107,662	113,045	118,697	124,632	5% increase p.a.		
Staff Costs	45,491		46,628	47,794	48,989	50,214	2.5% increase p.a.	inc NI	
Heat Power and Light	16,070		17,677	19,445	21,389	23,528	10% increase p.a.		
Repairs and Renewals	5,843		6,135	6,442	6,764	7,102	5% increase p.a.		
Cleaning	3,279		3,443	3,615	3,796	3,986	5% increase p.a.		
Telephone	589		618	649	682	716	5% increase p.a.		
Fees, TV and Licences	6,101		6,406	6,726	7,063	7,416	5% increase p.a.		
Refuse Collection	1,913		2,009	2,109	2,215	2,325	5% increase p.a.		
Insurances	1,563		1,641	1,723	1,809	1,900	5% increase p.a.		
Sundry Expenses	2,957		3,105	3,260	3,423	3,594	5% increase p.a.		
Bands and Entertainment	6,630		6,962	7,310	7,675	8,059	5% increase p.a.		
		192,971							
Changing Pavilion Costs:									
Cleaning Materials	0		600	630	662	695	5% increase p.a.	estimate	
Insurance	0		850	893	937	984	5% increase p.a.	estimate	
Water	0		1,850	1,943	2,040	2,142	5% increase p.a.	estimate	
Heat Power Lights	0		1,900	2,090	2,299	2,529	10% increase p.a.	estimate	
Repairs & Maintenance	0		250	263	276	289	5% increase p.a.	estimate	
		0		-	-	-			
				-	-	-			
Pitch Costs:				-	-	-			
Llangeinor Regular Maintenance	0		3,600	3,780	3,969	4,167	32 cuts per year - half outsource		
Llangeinor End of Season Renovation	0		1,250	1,313	1,378	1,447			
Lewistown Pitch & Shared Pavilion Regular Maintenance	0		-	-	-	1,800	24 cuts per year - half outsource		
Lewistown End of Season Renovation	0		-	-	-	1,103			
MUGA	0		-	-	-	250	Low maintenance option		
		0							
Football Costs:									
Senior Fees, Fines, Refs & Purchases	13,427		14,098	14,803	15,543	16,321	5% increase p.a.		
Junior Fees, Fines, Refs & Purchases	3,502		3,677	3,861	4,054	4,257	5% increase p.a.		
Pitch Hire & Training	4,017		2,500	2,625	2,756	2,894	winter 3G training only post CAT		
		20,946							
Finance Costs:									
Bank Charges	937		984	1,033	1,085	1,139	5% increase p.a.		
Professional Fees	2,174		2,283	2,397	2,517	2,643	accountancy		
Credit Card Processing	2,158		2,266	2,379	2,498	2,623	5% increase p.a.		
Consultancy Fees (Build) & Cash contribution	11,445		4,861	-	-	-			
		16,714							
Total Expenditure		**230,631**	**243,255**	**250,127**	**262,515**	**278,753**			
Surplus (Deficit) Pre Tax		**8,900**	**- 3,740**	**1,379**	**822**	**- 2,232**			
Balances b/f		**20,034**	**16,294**	**17,673**	**18,495**	**16,263**			
*cash in bank opening: £11,134									

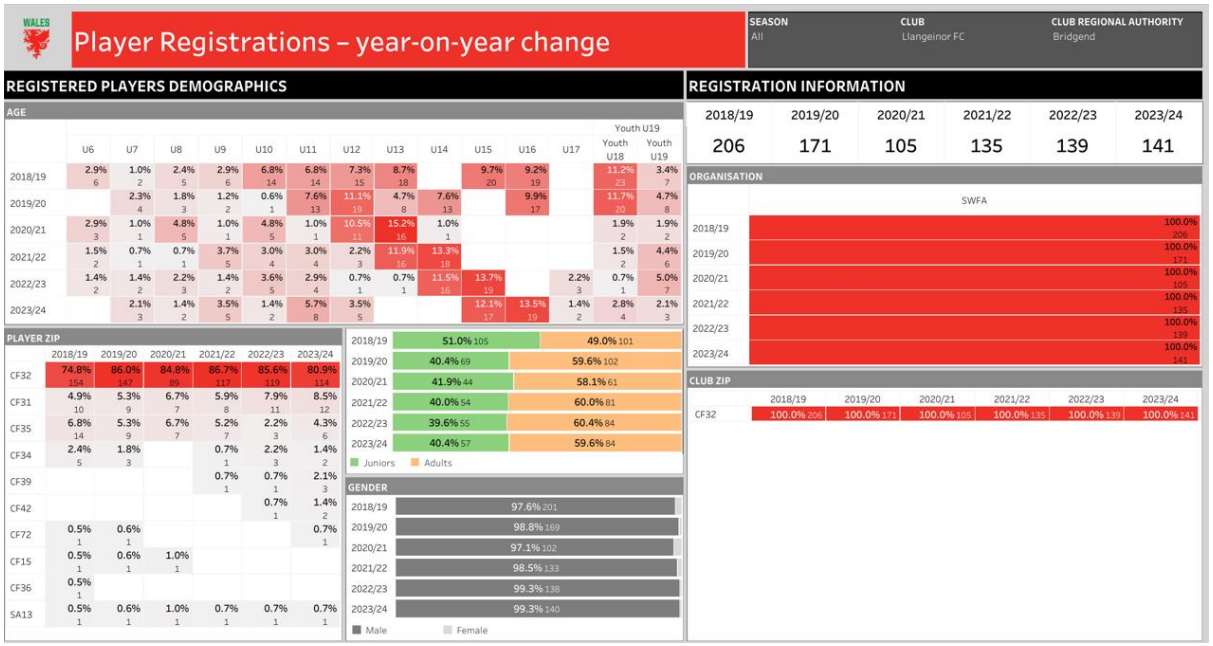
2. The Llangeinor Project

2.1 The Club

Llangeinor has a history of football going back to before the Second World War when football was played at Pandy Woods. The move to Llangeinor Park came after a brief spell playing on Llangeinor Common. The club's primary source of income & expense is its clubhouse which sits adjacent to the changing room and single grass pitch.

Llangeinor Football offers football playing and social opportunities to adults and children with 9 active football teams currently established within the Club. 5 of these provide opportunities for local youngsters under the age of 16. Current membership stands at 141[1] (60% adults / 40% juniors). The club is an FAW and SWFA member, operates for a financial year, and is VAT-registered.

Player registrations (despite the club having no changing room) have gradually recovered post Covid:



Notably, Llangeinor Football directly invested in the region of £20k in the field, clubhouse, and pre-construction asset transfer costs over the last few years to improve facilities demonstrating commitment to the project.

To facilitate the asset transfer, the management committee agreed in 2019 to become incorporated. Llangeinor Football Limited (Company No: 12121000) was incorporated on 24 July 2019 and although currently not trading, its 5 directors run the club in the 'unincorporated association' form.

Once an asset transfer date has been agreed upon, Llangeinor Football Limited will begin trading.

[1] *FAW Comet Player Registration Data (Dec 2023)*

The senior team operates in the 5th tier of Welsh football.

FAW Male Adult Pyramid (South Wales FA):

Tier 1: Cymru Premier	
Tier 2: Cymru South	
Tier 3: Ardal South East	
Tier 4: South Wales Alliance League	
Tier 5: South Wales Alliance Division 1 West:	**Llangeinor FC**
Tier 6: Bridgend & District Premier	
Tier 7: Bridgend & District Division 1	
Tier 8: Bridgend & District Division 2	

2.2 Values and Mission

Llangeinor Football believes that football is for everyone and has identified the path to success:-

- Providing a pitch and pavilion that will be both attractive to existing and new users and designed for efficient and convenient operations for all. Notably, due to a lack of changing rooms, the club's senior teams are forced to play away from Llangeinor Playing Field incurring additional expenses and reducing income-generating opportunities at Llangeinor clubhouse post matches.
- Marketing the facilities to help build a solid base of loyal users and maximising pitch and pavilion to both help the community and increase the club's turnover.
- Fully support the FAW's mission to create better 'Environments For Her'. In practice, this means supporting new structures and opportunities to accelerate the growth of women's & girls' football to reach its full potential. See Football Development Plan.
- Working in partnership with schools and community organisations, making environmental improvements to make the most of Llangeinor Park's woodland walks, active travel routes, and central location.

2.3 The Existing Changing Rooms (Condemned)

The Changing Pavilion comprises a single storey detached building. The property has been subject to very little if any maintenance work in recent years. Building condition surveys (annex) commissioned in 2020 (Faithful & Gould) & 2022 (Roger North Long & Partners).

Surveyors Overall Opinion (Roger North Long & Partners, July 2022):

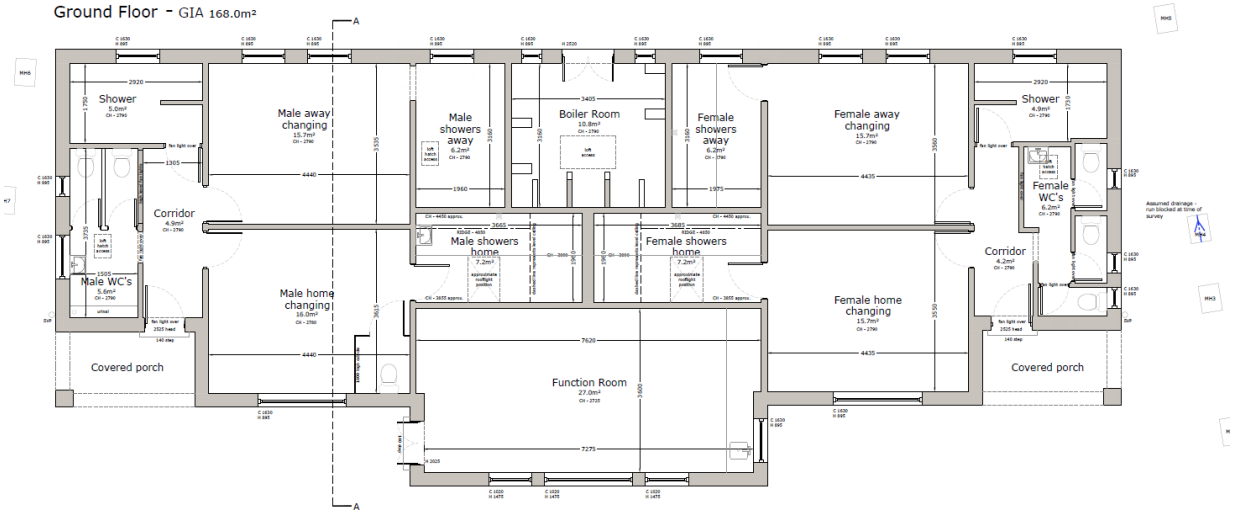
"Llangeinor Football Club, Bettws Road, Bridgend CF32 8PG, comprises of a single storey purpose-built changing room and clubhouse facility forming part of the sports club facility. The building is of a typical design and style for its age and type. The building is generally dated and in a poor state of repair. We would not consider the property to be economically viable to refurbish and would recommend consideration to take down and rebuilding new. The new build footprint should be smaller than the existing using modern materials and building methods to provide a more cost-effective and thermally efficient facility."

The Pavilion is now in a state of requiring a fundamental makeover to bring it back to a modern functional building where children and adults alike can shower and change hygienic conditions.

"Internally there are several areas of water ingress where the roof has been damaged. The roof is beyond reasonable repair and will require removal and upgrading with new. Works involving the removal of coverings will need to take into consideration likely asbestos containing materials to roof sheets and capping trims. The condition of the Pavilion is very poor; render blown/horizontal cracking likely caused by tie failure, climbing weeds to the rear elevation, and the roof and walls. The existing also contains a good deal of asbestos as part of the building fabric which is degrading. The corrugated roof is leaking therefore mould growth is prevalent and wall finishes are shedding. The existing layout isn't easily navigated, the number of rooms/doors are restrictive and there is no level access into the building."

The Bridgend Local Development Plan and supplementary planning guidance highlighted:
Policy COM9: Provision of Community Buildings "Sites for new community buildings have been identified and will be permitted at the following locations: COM9(7) Llangeinor Sports Ground."

The existing accommodation is arranged upon a single storey and briefly comprises:-



2.4 Llangeinor Park Playing Field

Llangeinor Park Playing Field (CF32 8PG) is held in trust by Bridgend C.B.C as part of its leisure provision within the county.

Llangeinor Football is the sole user of the playing field and pay £3,700 (to Bridgend C.B.C.) for the season (23/24). There is no floodlighting and limited storage facility for maintenance equipment (container). Currently, only basic and limited maintenance work is undertaken by Bridgend C.B.C. including pitch cutting and line marking about games.

The Pavilion lies within a central location which can be accessed by the local community on foot via public footpaths and within easy access to public transport routes. Vehicle access is via Station Road with ample on-site car parking. The path between Bryngarw Country Park and Blaengarw, route 884 of the National Cycle Network runs along the disused railway line to the west of Llangeinor Recreation Ground.

Oolong Sports Pitch Consultancy was commissioned to undertake a pitch assessment report (9th November 2023) for Llangeinor Football to assess the quality of the existing grass pitch and to propose improvement works.

Summary *"The condition of the football pitch is typical of a sports field when regular, targeted maintenance work has been neglected. The field has limited drainage capacity or infiltration rate which is the ability of surface water to drain through the surface to the underlying soils. The ground is compacted which contribute to the poor ground conditions encountered. The absence of any pitch*

drainage prevents these soils recovering from rainfall events and as a consequence, muddy conditions can prevail during heavy rainfall."

2.5 The Clubhouse

The Clubhouse was built in 1981 and extended in 1986. It provides the Club with its primary source of income through social activities and events. The Club owns the freehold for this portion of land with a 10-year operating lease in place from Bridgend C.B.C. that expires in 2024. Llangeinor Football Limited will incorporate the Clubhouse in a new whole site 35 year lease.

2.7 The Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)

The MUGA provides an important open-access space to play for the community. The MUGA is maintained by Bridgend C.B.C. as part of their play provision. The long-term aim is for Llangeinor Football to self-manage and upgrade the facility (subject to external funding i.e. Sport Wales, Cruyff Foundation). Llangeinor Playing Field also contains a children's playground, however, this will not be part of the asset transfer and the responsibility of maintenance will be retained by Bridgend C.B.C.

2.6 Lewistown Playing Field

Llangeinor Football Club utilize Lewistown Playing Field and changing room to facilitate some of the club's senior and junior sides. Valley Ravens R.F.C. has expressed an interest in working with Llangeinor Football to asset transfer the top field (rugby), whilst improving the 'bottom' pitch (football) and the (shared) changing rooms. Discussions are still in their infancy and subject to a separate Community Asset Transfer arrangement from Bridgend C.B.C. Based on current timings, this is expected to be completed in 2026, and thus estimates are reflected in the financial forecast.

3. Project Management

3.1 The Board

The Club is governed by 4 directors drawn from the membership, elected at the AGM.

- LOOSMORE, Angela
- DAVIES, Paul
- JONES, Mark Henry Graham
- MCGRAIL, Brendan Myles

The directors have a broad range of skills to support the project as identified above, voluntarily, with the aim of keeping costs as low as possible. The project has attracted widespread support, particularly from residents and politicians. The primary market is limited to local club members/users.

3.2 Role of Volunteers

The club has a strong existing volunteer base, many of whom are flexible in terms of timing and involvement. Others bring specific skills and knowledge. The Club is therefore confident that it has sufficient volunteer manpower to manage the project. The intention is that grass pitch cutting, line marking, and pavilion cleaning are largely undertaken by a cooperative of different club volunteers trained to utilise professional machinery and equipment. An electric mower (rather than diesel) will be secured via the Bridgend C.A.T. Grass Maintenance Equipment Grant Fund (max £10,000).

3.3 Policies and Procedures

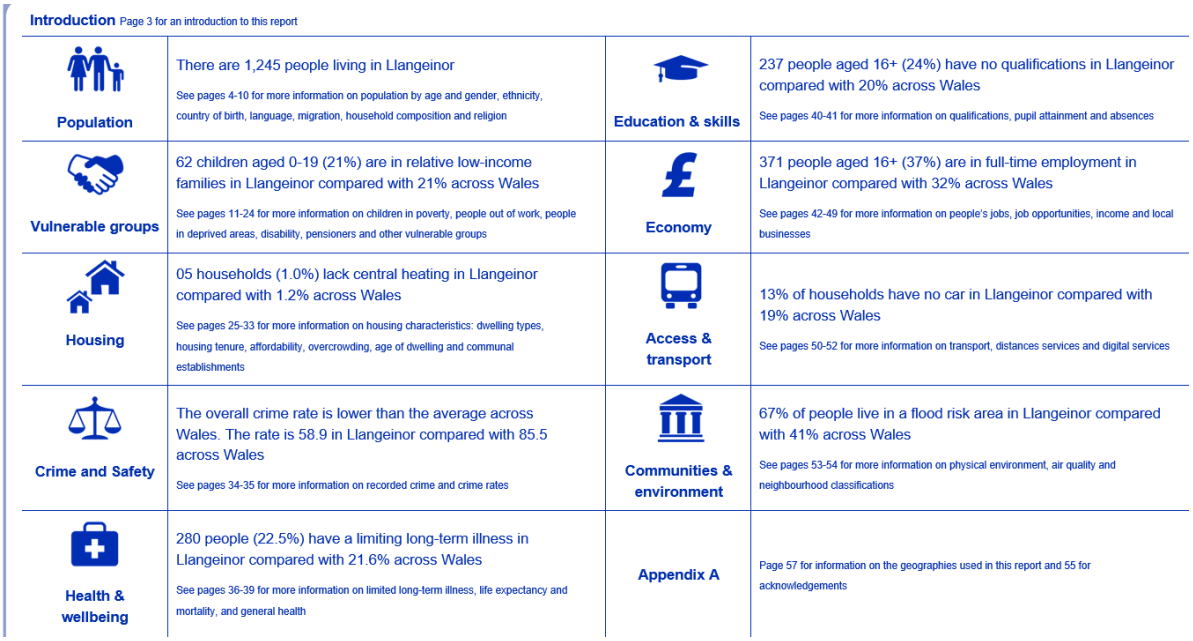
The Club has already recognised that additional policies, procedures, and systems are required to support the increased responsibility that is a result of asset transfer. These include amendments to existing public liability policies, mandatory compliance testing at the new changing pavilion, and adequate training/supervision of volunteers utilizing pitch maintenance equipment and any hazardous materials. Safeguarding remains a key principle for the club and its members as participation numbers and interest grow.

3.4 The Area

Llangeinor ranked 606 (of 1909) the most deprived ward within Wales. 30%-50% category. Notably, the ward (and a fair proportion of Llangeinor Football players) reside in neighboring wards:

Neighbouring Llangeinor Wards	**Ward**	**WIMD Rank (of 1909) most deprived**	**Category (areas of deprivation)**
Directly North	Pontycymmer 2	406	20-30%
Directly South	Ynysyawdre 1	431	20-30%
Directly East	Blackmill 2	392	20-30%
Directly West	Bettws	143	10%

Llangeinor (and neighbouring wards) has particular issues around health and skills. Llangeinor Football has an opportunity to influence and address some of these issues i.e. new volunteering opportunities, skills development, and better recreational space.



Introduction Page 3 for an introduction to this report

Population	There are 1,245 people living in Llangeinor See pages 4-10 for more information on population by age and gender, ethnicity, country of birth, language, migration, household composition and religion	**Education & skills**	237 people aged 16+ (24%) have no qualifications in Llangeinor compared with 20% across Wales See pages 40-41 for more information on qualifications, pupil attainment and absences
Vulnerable groups	62 children aged 0-19 (21%) are in relative low-income families in Llangeinor compared with 21% across Wales See pages 11-24 for more information on children in poverty, people out of work, people in deprived areas, disability, pensioners and other vulnerable groups	**Economy**	371 people aged 16+ (37%) are in full-time employment in Llangeinor compared with 32% across Wales See pages 42-49 for more information on people's jobs, job opportunities, income and local businesses
Housing	05 households (1.0%) lack central heating in Llangeinor compared with 1.2% across Wales See pages 25-33 for more information on housing characteristics: dwelling types, housing tenure, affordability, overcrowding, age of dwelling and communal establishments	**Access & transport**	13% of households have no car in Llangeinor compared with 19% across Wales See pages 50-52 for more information on transport, distances services and digital services
Crime and Safety	The overall crime rate is lower than the average across Wales. The rate is 58.9 in Llangeinor compared with 85.5 across Wales See pages 34-35 for more information on recorded crime and crime rates	**Communities & environment**	67% of people live in a flood risk area in Llangeinor compared with 41% across Wales See pages 53-54 for more information on physical environment, air quality and neighbourhood classifications
Health & wellbeing	280 people (22.5%) have a limiting long-term illness in Llangeinor compared with 21.6% across Wales See pages 36-39 for more information on limited long-term illness, life expectancy and mortality, and general health	**Appendix A**	Page 57 for information on the geographies used in this report and 55 for acknowledgements

Source: Community Insight (2023)

This proposal is linked to Bridgend C.B.C.'s Corporate Priorities:

- Supporting a successful economy. Supporting the local economy by using local tradespeople, creating new employment opportunities, and volunteer placements wherever possible.
- Making smarter use of resources. By completing the C.A.T. process, Bridgend C.B.C. will be able to reduce its annual expenditure by transferring the costs of maintaining a grass pitch and pavilion.
- Helping people to become more self-reliant. As a result of the asset transfer, Llangeinor Football will no longer be reliant on Bridgend C.B.C. for the provision of some recreational facilities. The end goal is to ensure a viable and sustainable future for this community asset that works for all parties.

5.3 Competition

A number of football clubs exist in the nearby vicinity such as Bettws F.C, Garw BGC, Carn Rovers. All suffer from inadequate facilities. The FAW has also highlighted Bridgend as a priority area for increasing participation. There is latent demand for football in Bridgend. More and better football facilities are to be welcomed by all clubs.

4. Renovation & Improvement Plans

The project consists of 4 components:

a) A new Llangeinor Changing Pavilion (replacing the condemned changing room) by autumn 2024.
b) Upgrade (by summer 25) and self-management of the Llangeinor Playing Field by autumn 2024.
c) Upgrade and self-management of Lewistown Playing Fields by March 2027.
d) Upgrade and self-management of Llangeinor MUGA by March 2027.

4.1 The Changing Pavilion

The existing changing room building is uneconomical to reopen and investment is better served through redevelopment.

Thus, planning permission was submitted on 19/12/2022 for new single-storey changing facilities to replace the existing dilapidated building at The Pavilion, Llangeinor FC, Llangeinor Park, Bettws Road. CF32 8PG.

The aim is to create a new energy and space efficient building to:

- Accommodate home and away changing facilities for training and match days to secure the future viability of the club.
- Provide high-quality, functional, and attractive changing facilities to retain existing members and attract new participants, particularly women and girls (who currently make up just 1% of club membership).
- Create a comfortable environment with adequate privacy for users with a diverse range of abilities to feel safe and secure. In particular a more female-friendly and welcoming space including positive imagery and separate changing facilities for female referees.
- Create and operate a thermally efficient building to maintain their facilities.
- Removal of the existing building and replacing it with a new build.

The proposed development is accessed via a level threshold and the layout is simply arranged from the central lobby (flexible partitioned for additional storage space). The layout has been carefully considered with regard to the needs of all users with a diverse range of abilities.

Designs are in line with Cymru Football Foundation (Changing Room Guidance / Football Foundation Changing Accommodation). For example, the size of the changing area for grassroots football will be 22sq metres (minimum for grassroots football recommended 16 sq metres - including bench space) but excluding toilets, shower areas, and entrance/lobby areas. Each changing room will have an en-suite cubicle shower and lavatory provision.

Plans have been shared and adapted with the Cymru Football Foundation technical advisor as

consideration to future-proof the facility.
The proposed development will be of white render and brick, with soldier course banding detail that frames the windows and openings. The proposed development will have a positive visual impact on the recreation ground and the wider area.

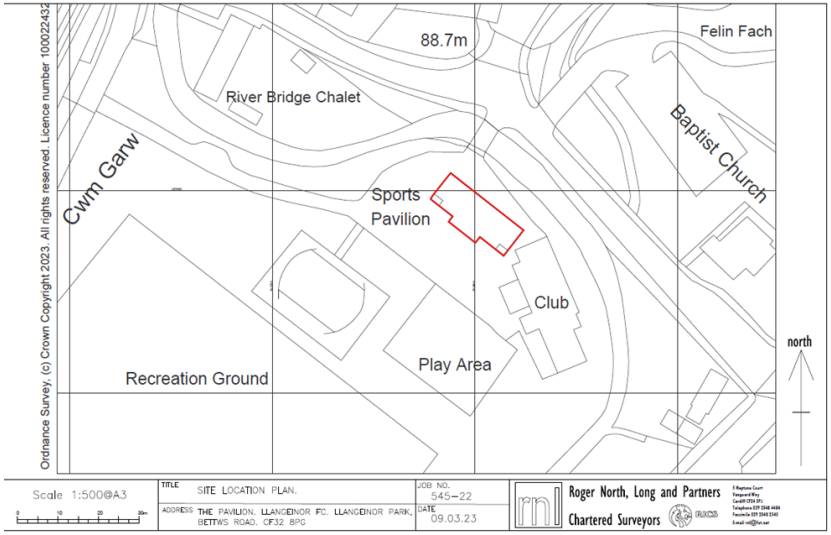
The proposed development will create a slightly smaller footprint than the existing one. The existing Pavilion is approximately 168m2 and the proposed GIA is approx. 150m2. The proposed development will be sited on the existing footprint albeit 1.9m shorter in length, creating a larger void between the proposed and the Club House to aid future maintenance.

The changing areas are designed with closed sightlines at the entrance to prevent views from the circulation area. Doors and windows numbers have been minimised and externally mounted security shutters provided.

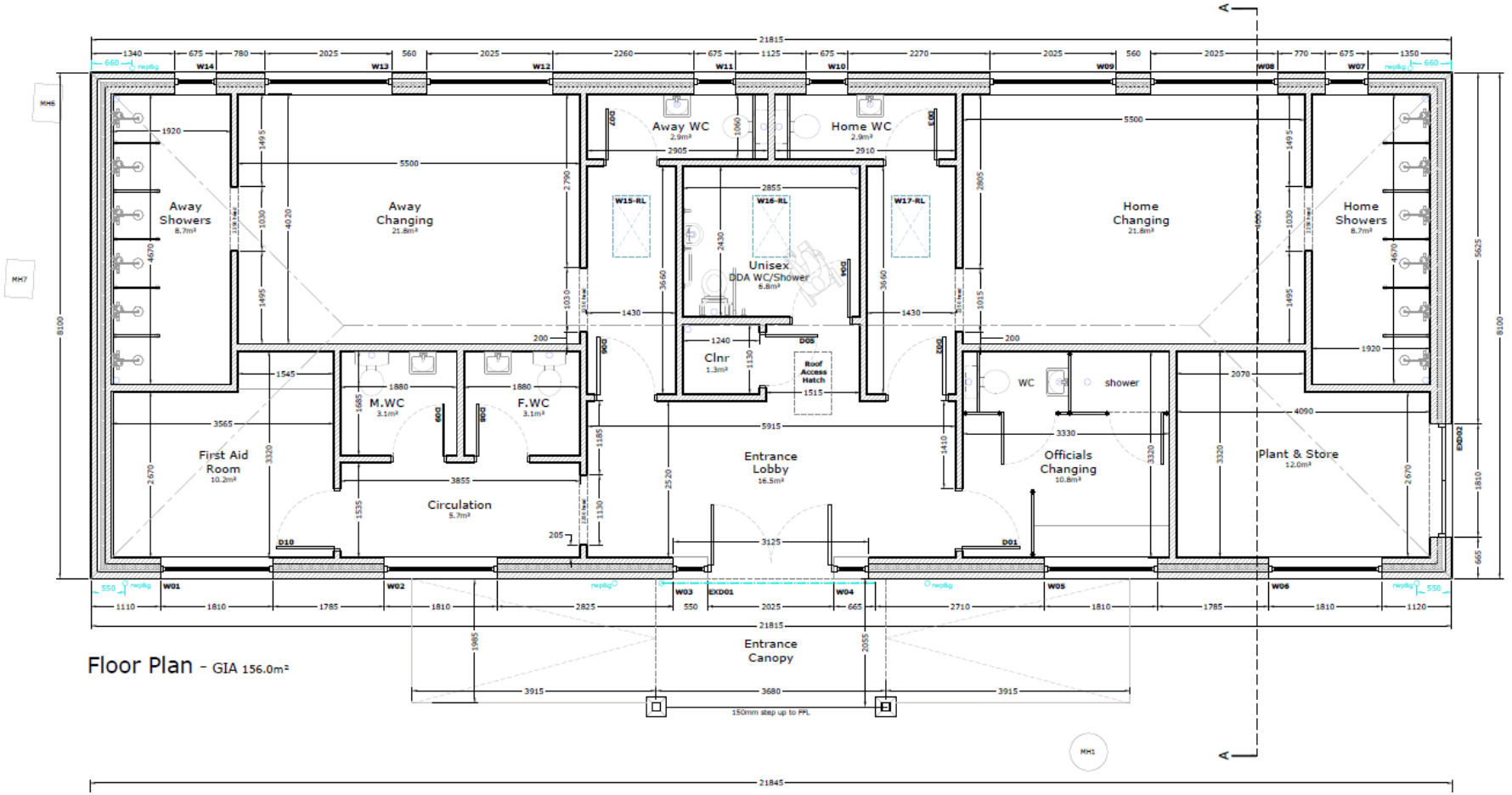
The proposed development will not generate any additional access and parking requirements above those already generated by the existing Pavilion and Club House. Car parking facilities are of a good standard which can accommodate approx. 20 cars. External lighting to provide safe and secure routes from the footpath and car parking.

Since planning submission, two further ecological surveys have been undertaken and found nothing that should hinder proposed developments.

Changing Pavilion Visual

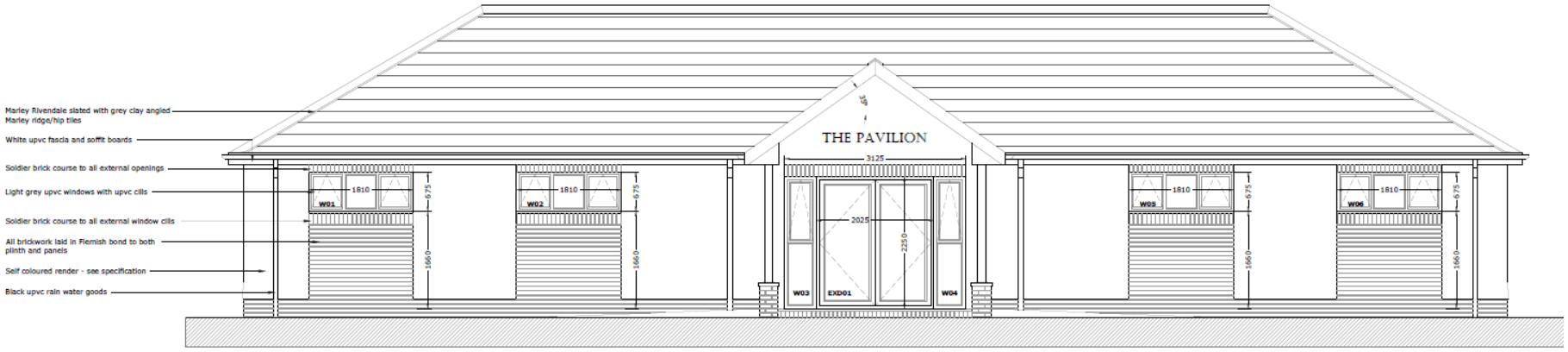


Site Location Plan



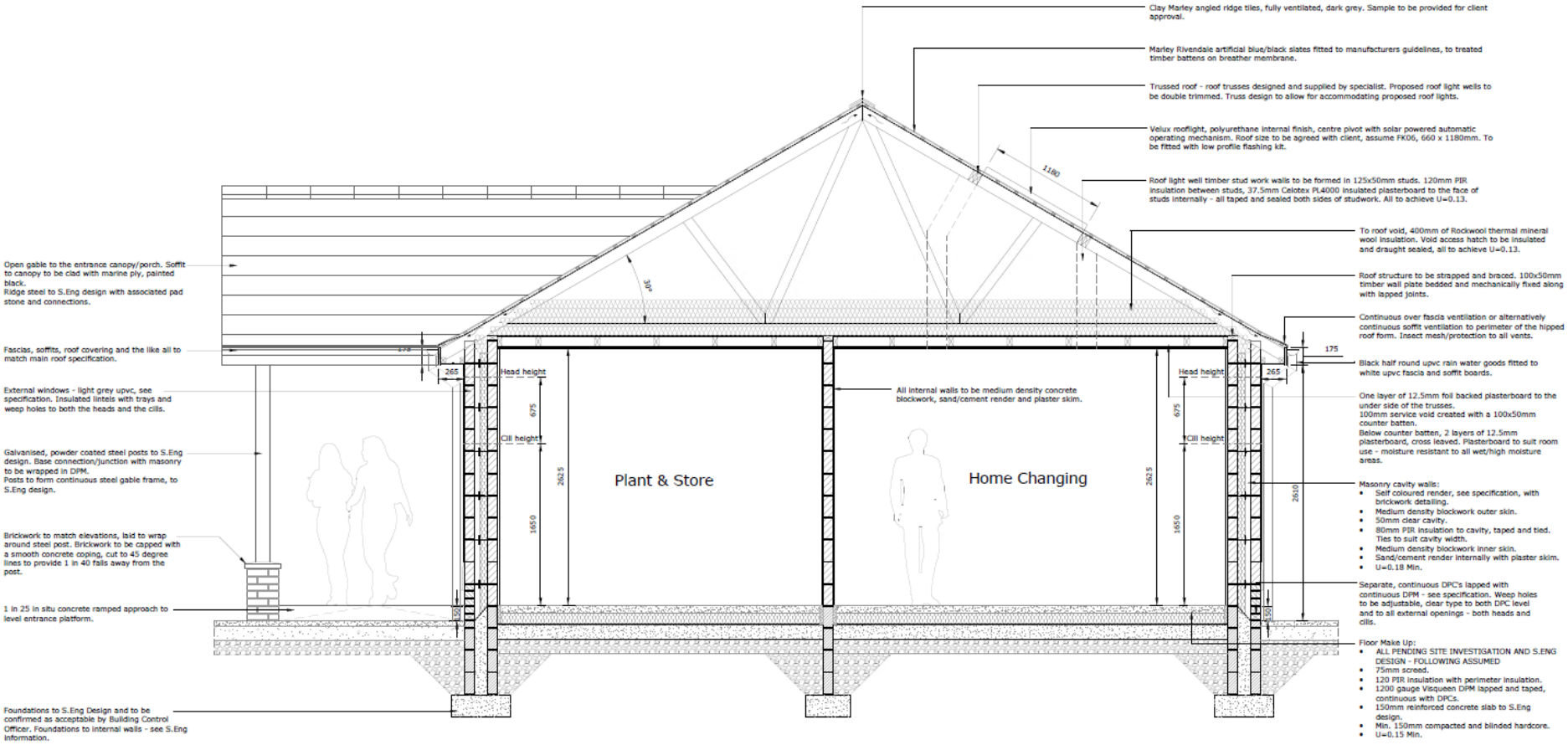
Floor Plan - GIA 156.0m²

Ground Floor Layout (Changing Pavilion)



Front Elevation

Proposed Front Elevation (Changing Pavilion)



Proposed Section View (Changing Pavilion)

4.2 The Llangeinor Pitch

Improvements dictated by Performance Quality Standard (PQS) pitch survey and further technical surveys:

Indicative improvements to pitch area (6 000m2)

- Undertake selective weed control and scarification to remove vegetative debris
- Improve the field drainage by installing a comprehensive primary and secondary drainage system
- Re-establish the grass sward and undertake surface management operations
- Optimise the soil chemistry status
- Produce a targeted maintenance programme

Any capital improvement works will need a specialist sports pitch contractor to undertake the work and is likely to be time-bound. Thus, by Autumn 24 the club will begin self-management of the grass pitch utilising professional machinery supplied via the Bridgend CAT Fund (equipment) grant. This will allow a more detailed investigation in regards to pitch capital improvement – outlined below – with targeted improvements to be completed by Summer 25:

9. Costings

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

(Estimated new development area of 5 000m²)

Item	Description	Estimated cost (£)
1	Selective weed control and scarification	2k
1	Installation of primary drainage system	20 - 24 k
2	Surface cultivation and establishment	10 -12 k
3	Installation of secondary drainage [1]	10 k
4	Annual maintenance	2 - 4 k
	Total	44 – 52 k

The need for secondary drainage can be considered after the surface establishment has been achieved and the drainage performance assessed.

Suitable ground conditions need to exist before any intrusive improvement works can be undertaken. This generally means commencement early spring or autumn when the ground is likely to be workable and grass establishment possible. Some clubs chose to undertake capital improvement work immediately after the end of season. There may be some constraints as to working on the fringes of the open season as this could disrupt the home fixture programme but this may be managed accordingly. Some operations would be weather dependent.

5. Financial Position

5.1 Current Financial Position

The Club is operating on a positive stable financial basis. Its activities are self-financing, with income generated through clubhouse operations, football activities, fundraising, and sponsorship to cover its outgoing running costs. Annual returns illustrate the financial sustainability of the football club. Llangeinor Football uses SAGE accounting software and benefits from the services of a professional accountant.

P&L Report Yearly	2020 / 2021	2021 / 2022	2022 / 2023
Total Sales	£112,445	£189,236	£239,531
Gross Profit / Loss	£57,966	£85,825	£110,090
Net Profit / Loss	£12,891	£14,949	£9,906

Governance and regulation are managed by the directors; all policies and procedures for current activities are in place and reviewed annually. The FAW 'Club Cymru' portal is used as a source of information to ensure all regulatory requirements are met and the appropriate policies and procedures are in place i.e. safeguarding, fair play, and code of conduct.

5.2 Project Finances

There are both short and medium-term capital cost implications to the project.

The capital build costs for the new changing pavilion have been through a competitive tender exercise via Roger North Long & Partners Chartered Surveyors. See appendix: *'Demolition of Existing and Construction of New Changing Room Facilities Tender Report'* (8th February 2024).

Tenders received were as follows:

Tender Value (Excluding VAT)

[redacted] £667,192.25
[redacted] **£387,041.00 (revised May 2024)**
[redacted] £466,312.00

Recommendation: *'We conclude that the lowest tender figure submitted by* [redacted] *is bona fide and compliant. We would also note that they are local to the area and this has likely reflected in the lower costs submitted due to reduced travel and use of local labour.'*

The renewable energy quotation (£15,782 inc VAT) will not be progressed at this stage.

Statutory fees for Building Regulation Approval will be charged separately with costs anticipated as circa £2,000 plus VAT.

The tender costs include general making good of the external car park and provision for both stepped/ramped access into the new building only.

Roger North Long & Partners Chartered Surveyors fees for overseeing the works will be charged as a percentage of 12% of the total cost of the works.

Advanced payment from funders will be required.

Changing Pavilion Capital Costs	Costs exc VAT	Contractor
Demolition of Existing and Construction of New Changing Room Facilities	£387,041	[redacted]
Project management costs 12% of total build costs (£387,041 above)	£46,444	Roger North Long & Partners Chartered Surveyors
Statutory fees for Building Regulation Approval will be charged separately with costs anticipated as circa £2,000 plus VAT.	£2,000	Roger North Long & Partners Chartered Surveyors
Total Costs	£435,485	

5.3 Funding: Capital Improvements

Llangeinor Football seeks direct grant funding to support the capital development, principally via Bridgend C.B.C.'s C.A.T. Fund and Cymru Football Foundation Fit-For-Future Facilities Fund (changing pavilion – 2023/24).

Primary Funding Source	Theme	Project Phase	Ask	Deadline
Cymru Football Foundation Fit-For-Future Facilities Fund	Football	Changing Pavilion	£280,000	March 24 - Successful
Bridgend CBC C.A.T. Fund (Pavilion)	Community Asset	Changing Pavilion	Build costs £150,000	Submission – 10/5/24
Club Own Funds	Self-Management	Changing Pavilion	Build costs & Fees £5,485	Confirmed
Bridgend CBC C.A.T. Fund (Pitch Maintenance Equipment)	Community Asset	Llangeinor Pitch	£10,685.52 (£10,000 BCBC – Rest Club Funds)	Submission – 10/5/24

Other Funding Sources	Theme	Project Phase	Ask	Deadline
Bridgend CBC Town & Community Council Fund	CAT / Community	Surrounds	Capital contribution	From April 24
Bridgend CBC Nature & Spaces Funding	Community	Surrounds	Capital contribution	Open
Welsh Government Community Facilities Fund	CAT	All	Capital contribution	Open
Windfarm	Place	All	Match contribution	Open
Sport Wales Crowdfunder	Sport	All	Match contribution	Open

5.4 Financial Projections

Llangeinor Football currently pays £5,500 per annum to Bridgend for pavilion/pitch rental (Llangeinor and Lewistown). This being £3,700 for Llangeinor and £1,800 for Lewistown. Post asset transfer a saving will be made.

Llangeinor Football recently installed cost-saving measures to reduce the utility supply costs at its clubhouse and intends to further reduce pitch maintenance costs by sharing grass-cutting costs with other clubs in the area.

Llangeinor Football Limited will ultimately be responsible for ongoing additional revenue costs – circa £10,000 p.a – post transfer of changing pavilion and grass pitch (first-year post CAT). The club will work to generate increased revenue from new income streams derived from the revamped pavilion to cover additional running costs, but principally costs will be absorbed by the club through greater football participation and usage.

The day-to-day operational cash flow requirements will be managed within the Club's ongoing working capital. The cash flow requirements of the capital refurbishment will be managed by the Club directly in conjunction with Roger North Long Partners.

A detailed breakdown is provided in the 5-year Financial Plan. Key points include:

- Pitch and pavilion leased from Bridgend C.B.C. on a 35-year lease at £1 peppercorn rent / discretionary rates.
- Costs are subject to annual inflationary increases.
- Phased approach to asset transfer.
- Pitch maintenance reliant on some volunteer input.
- No external hire arrangements i.e. other clubs.

6. SWOT & Risk Analysis

6.1 SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
• Planning permission secured. • Usage (club) in place. • Club own funds. • Good links with key stakeholders. • Support from politicians. • FAW input ongoing. • Funding ask aligns with levelling up objectives and FAW investment priorities.	• Existing condemned building. • Local demographics limit off-field growth. • Possible asbestos issues. • Limited ground-keeping knowledge and experience. • Pitch usage is limited to 1 club.
OPPORTUNITIES	**THREATS**
• Club participation growth (see football development plan). • Transformation of the MUGA. • A host of clubhouse improvements. • Lewistown ground developments. • Access to new funding opportunities. • Expression of interest from volunteers.	• Capital funding not secured. • Other local clubs with similar aspirations. • 3G pitches dominate winter training.

6.2 Risk Mitigations Based on SWOT Analysis

Mitigations have been considered based on weaknesses and threats identified in the SWOT analysis. The risk of non-delivery is mitigated by the following factors:

- Ongoing commitment to the asset transfer.
- Stable financial position and reserve, with potential to underwrite / match fund elements of the ongoing revenue costs.
- Track record of successfully undertaking general maintenance and improvements to facilities the club does have responsibility for.

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Failure to secure any sufficient capital grant funding for the pavilion	Redevelopment reliant on securing grant funding	Llaneginor Football to make applications to key funding organisations (as highlighted). Where there is a shortfall, design changes will be considered.

Health and safety and property management issues	Operational issues potentially leading to liability and reputational damage	Review Health and Safety policy and procedures, particularly in light of the COVID challenges. Some maintenance tasks may need to be subcontracted to ensure appropriate H&S.

7. Conclusion

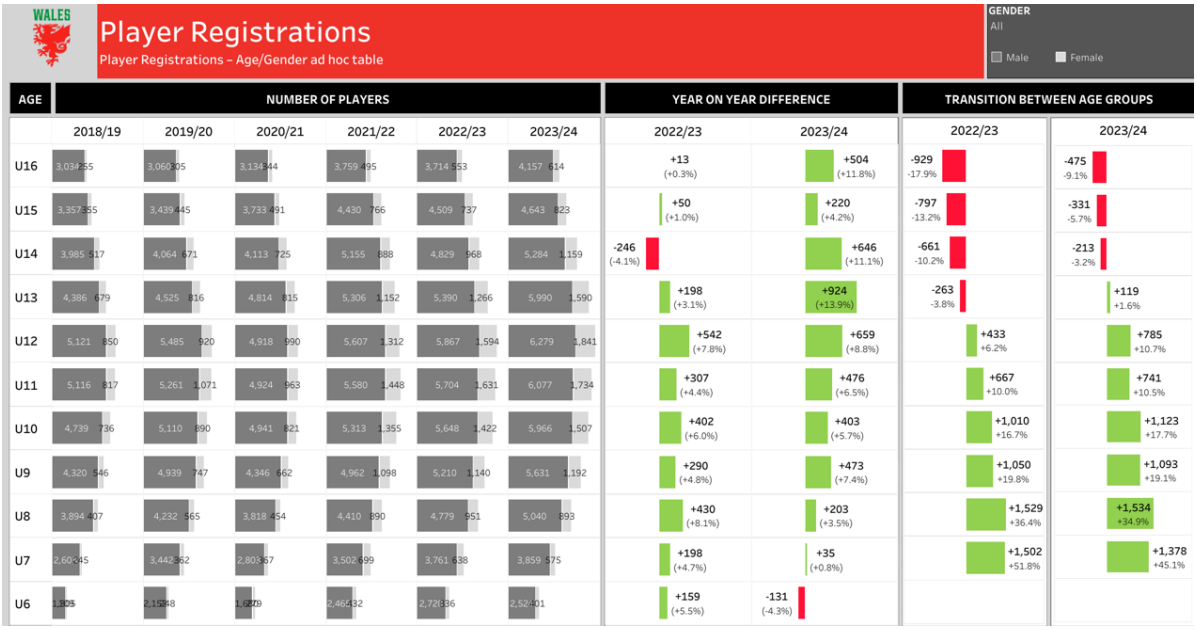
The project provides an opportunity to provide new inclusive changing facilities to retain and attract new football club members. The current eyesore will be replaced with a thermal efficient, aesthetically pleasing building creating a better place to play.

This document has been prepared with support from the Bridgend C.B.C. C.A.T. project & The Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

Appendix: Llangeinor Football 3-Year Football Development Plan

The Shared Vision over the next 3 seasons is:

- To further align playing activities and operations providing a clear progression pathway from mini, junior, youth to senior level.
- To develop an environment where football can be played at all ages from U6 to 60+, regardless of gender or ability.
- To gain FAW 'bronze' club accreditation by 2024/25 (currently standard).
- To work in partnership with Bridgend County Borough Council to complete the asset transfer and improve facilities at Llangeinor Playing Fields and Lewistown Playing Fields.
- To be recognised as one of the leading clubs in Bridgend.
- To host a local centre of excellence / development centre to cater for high quality training and coaching provision to nurture international players of the future.
- To develop a broader audience that includes families and female footballers as well as cyclists and walkers using the local trails.
- To provide a varied and extensive social programme that enables players, committee and supporters to enjoy the social side as well as providing much-needed funding for the club.



CLUB DEVELOPMENT TABLE

	Current Season 2023/24	Year 1 2024/25	Year 2 2025/26	Year 3 2026/27
No of teams	Llangeinor FC **9**	Llangeinor FC **10**	Llangeinor FC **12**	Llangeinor FC **15**
The club development table is a summary of the number of teams Llangeinor FC wishes to retain and develop within the different categories of football over the period of the Development Plan. *R = Squad / Team Retained from previous year*	1st Team 2nd Team 3rd Team Sunday League U16s U15s U11s U9s U8s	1st Team - R 2nd Team - R 3rd Team - R Sunday - R U18s -R U16s - R U12s - R U10s - R U9s - R U8s – New	1st Team - R 2nd Team - R 3rd Team - R Sunday - R U18s - R U16s - New U13s - R U11s - R U10s - R U9s - R U8s - New FAW Huddle - New	1st Team - R 2nd Team - R 3rd Team - R Sunday - R U18s – R U16s - New U14s - R U12s - R U11s - R U10s - R U9s - R U8s - New FAW Huddle / Girls football team – New Walking Football - New Informal Turn Up & Play Activity (MUGA) - New

GROWTH & RETENTION

Aim: To provide people of all ages and abilities the opportunity to play football.

	Objective	Achievement Targets	Timescale	Responsibility
1	Retain all existing teams; quarterly Team Manager / Coach meetings to include squad numbers review.	All existing teams retained.	Year 1 and annually	Coaches Team Managers / Volunteer Coordinators
2	Work with FAW Club Developer / Participation Officer and local primary & secondary schools to recruit new players to squads – focussing on the male & female game.	Work with two Schools per year providing taster sessions (max 4 sessions) at the school.	Year 2 and annually	Coaches Volunteer Coordinator FAW Participation Officer
3	Increase female participation; develop a new girls section via the FAW Huddle programme..	Huddle programme / retain and grow each year.	Year 2 – Own Huddle Year 3 – Huddle / new girls section	New Women & Girls position Football Development Committee Team Managers FAW Participation Officer
4	Ensure all youth players have a realistic pathway to continue playing open age football.	Create an additional U18s team. Links between youth and seniors.	Year 1	Club Secretary / Coaches
5	Establish new mini and youth teams (backfill) & increase number of players at each age group until capacity.	As Club Development Table	As Club Development Table	Club Secretary Coaches

RAISING STANDARDS

Aim: To ensure that all people can play football in a high quality, safe environment that is free from abuse.

	Objective	Achievement Targets	Timescale	Responsibility
1	To achieve and retain FAW Trust 'Bronze' Standard Club accreditation.	Meet FAW Club Accreditation Guidelines.	Year 1	Club Secretary
2	To support The Show Racism the Red Card campaign.	1 SRTRC briefing per year and 1 match focus per year. Promotional materials displayed throughout.	Year 1 and annually	Secretary Club Welfare Officer Managers Players
3	To ensure that every player, parent and coach signs the 'Code of Conduct' and display latest versions in clubhouse. To adopt a zero tolerance of abuse towards referees	Lead Discipline Tables for Affiliated Leagues Reduce number of incidents of abuse towards referees and deal with all matters firmly and in line with the recommended sanctions	Year 1 and annually	Club Committee Team Managers Players Parents
4	To follow all FAW guidelines and procedures regarding club welfare and work with the Welsh / Bridgend league to ensure Club Welfare Officer receives up to date training.	All FAW guidelines and procedures followed Workshop attended	Year 1 and annually	Secretary / Club Welfare Officer / Team Managers
5	To seek recognition for hard work of all volunteers.	1 annual volunteer and player awards evening	Year 1 and annually	Club Welfare Officer Team Managers

BETTER PLAYERS & COACHES

Aim: To raise the playing standards of players within the club & to support the development of coaches to create better players.

	Objective	Achievement Targets	Timescale	Responsibility
1	To set a standard that all coaches attain at least FAW Football Leaders Award (across mini, junior, youth and senior sections. Currently: A Licence – X0 B Licence – X1 C Certificate – X1 FAW Football Leaders – X4 Safeguarding – All Coaches 1st Aid – All Coaches Goalkeeping – X0	Coaching modules completed	Year 1 – All coaches at least Football Leader qualified Year 2 – 2 x C Licence & Year 3 – 1 x B Licence	Football Development Committee / Training Coordinator Team Managers / Coaches
2	Have an B licence coach assigned / attached to the club overseeing and mentoring other coaches.	Nominated lead coach to attend FAW B licence course	Year 3	Training Coordinator / Football Development Committee Coach
3	Increase number of C Licence coaches assigned to the Women and Girls Section	C licence coach to work with new Women & Girls sections	Year 3	Football Development Committee Coaches
4	To have one C Licence goalkeeper coach; assigned to support all levels	Nominated lead to attend FAW C Licence goalkeeper coaching course.	Year 3	Coaches
5	To nominate talented players and support opportunities to attend trials	At least 1 boy and 1 girl nominated and encouraged to attend Centre of Excellence trials (Regional teams or local development teams).	Year 1 and annually	Team Managers / Coaches

6	To ensure that coaches enhance skill development training via FAW National Coaching Conference	CPD opportunity. Retain coaching qualification.	Year 1 and before qualification expiry date.	Team manager / coaches
7	To ensure all coaches assigned to FAW Huddle attend an FAW Huddle training course	At least 2 coaches	Year 2	Coach
8	Assign / appoint a new female Football Development Officer	Oversee all female football sections	Year 2	Football Development Committee
9	To host externally operated 'Football Performance Centre'	Centre operating; income generation	Year 3	Football Development Committee

RUNNING THE GAME

Aim: To provide structure, management and leadership to successfully deliver a football development plan and club's shared vision.

	Objective	Achievement Targets	Timescale	Responsibility
1	Ensure limited company compliance; explore CASC status; business plans are implemented.	Companies House returns submitted	Annually	Secretary & Company Directors
2	To establish a coaches support group to offer help and guidance to discuss issues such as coaching methods & squad numbers.	Support group established and meet on a quarterly basis	Year 1 and annually	Football Development Committee Secretary Team Managers
3	To keep football records up to date via Comet System.	All players, coaches and volunteer details kept up to date	Ongoing	Secretary Volunteer Coordinator

VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT

Aim: To create, develop and support an effective volunteer workforce within the club.

	Objective	Achievement Targets	Timescale	Responsibility
1	To recruit and select a Volunteer Coordinator to support the recruitment and development of volunteers.	Volunteer Coordinator appointed; Club Register to monitor the details and qualifications of all volunteers	Year 1 and annually	Secretary
2	To ensure all coaches and volunteers have valid FAW Emergency 1st Aid & Safeguarding qualifications	All valid Renew when necessary	Year 1 and annually	Volunteer Coordinator Coaches Team Managers
3	To increase and retain the number of female coaches.	1 new female football leaders 1 new female C licence	Year 2 and annually 1 female coach Year 3 – C Licence	Female Football Development Officer Volunteer Coordinator

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

Aim: To provide members with high quality and appropriate facilities and to obtain long term lease of Llangeinor Playing Fields and Lewistown Playing Fields (in order to improve facilities) through Asset Transfer.

	Objective	Achievement Targets	Timescale	Responsibility
1	Secure long term lease of Llangeinor Playing Fields and pavilion through Asset Transfer from BCBC.	5 year financial forecast accepted by BCBC CAT Steering Group.	Year 1 full lease	Club Secretary Bridgend CBC CAT process
2	Secure long term lease of Lewistown Playing Fields and pavilion through Asset Transfer from BCBC.	5 year financial forecast accepted by BCBC CAT Steering Group.	Year 3 – condition survey	Club Secretary Bridgend CBC CAT process
3	To maximise the use of the MUGA available and improve condition.	Reduce outgoings for youth training	Year 3	Club Secretary
4	To erect spectator stand on main field	Secure funding and fundraising	Year 3	Committee / Volunteers

PROMOTION / COMMUNITY

Aim

- **To promote and market football opportunities available**
- **To increase the profile of the club throughout the local community and to be a football club that is trusted by, and embedded in, the community.**

	Objective	Achievement Targets	Timescale	Responsibility
1	To advertise success & ensure social media platforms and / or website is maintained.	To run annual presentation / award nights	Year 1 and annually	Marketing / media officers Club Secretary
2	To improve communication with players and coaches (internal comms)	Squad management adopted by all sections	Year 2 and annually	Football Development Committee Team Managers
3	To host a fun day to help promote, fundraise and offer facilities to the local communities.	Link with schools Support Local Community	Year 2	Club Secretary / Committee
4	To hold weekly Park Runs and / or Cycle Trail club for members of the local community.	Income generation plus illustration of wider community use / health benefits of Llangeinor Playing Fields.	Year 2	Volunteer Coordinator
5	Continue to create links with Pencoed college to provide coaching opportunities or work placements for students.	1 student volunteer per year	Year 2 and annually	Club Committee
6	Establish a new 'community informal sport' Football 5ives / Kicks session for teenagers on MUGA. Helping reduce antisocial behaviour.	Turn Up & Play session for boys & girls. Use for recruitment of players or as a stepping stone into Club football.	Year 3	Link with local sports development team
7	To relaunch walking football sessions/team	10 regular participants	Year 3	Club Committee

Appendix: Letters of Support

S.Rhodes

Chairman and safety officer for Team wooly sheep

16 Porth street

Porth

Cf39 9RT

vacdrs@aol.com

To who it may concern

We at TWS are the leading drone racing club, based in Miskin in Wales. We use llanginor FC facilities to host our British qualifying races for the British drone racing association (BDRA) we normally have 36 pilots and their family's from all parts of the UK plus spectators, in all 150 persons. These at the moment are held on one day as the bathroom facilities are not designed to cater for the numbers, we would hold two day races if we knew that the facilities could handle the 70 pilots and the associated increase in families and spectators. We hope that this could be something the team at llanginor FC work on and achieve.

Sincerely

Steve Rhodes

Laura Lewis <lauralewis486@yahoo.co.uk> chairman@llangeinorfc.wales Sun 2

Support for Changing room facilities

I have worked at Tynyrheol Primary School for over 6 years and during this time we have often used Llangeinor Football field for numerous school events. The closure of the changing room and pavilion facilities has had a great impact on the frequency that we are able to use the playing field and surrounding area.

In the past we would regularly use the playing fields for PE lessons, to host inter school sporting events and the PTFA would hold our annual summer fete at the venue. However, since the closure of the changing rooms we have been unable to do this due to lack of storage and access to toilet facilities. This is a great shame and means that the children often miss out.

The school also uses the area around the playing fields to run forest school sessions. Again the lack of changing room facilities makes this a logistical nightmare. If the children require the toilet when we are on site we have no option but to walk back to school, often meaning that the sessions are cut short. If toilet facilities were accessible at the venue the school would be able to run more frequent and successful forest school sessions. Forest school sessions held on a regular weekly basis have been shown to improve mental health and well-being of those who attend.

We are extremely lucky to have Llangeinor playing fields within walking distance of the school but it is a great shame that currently we are unable to use it to it's full potential due to lack of facilities. We feel that the upgrade and improvement to the changing rooms would have a major positive impact for the children of Tynyrheol Primary School, improving both mental health and well-being of our pupils. It would also enable the PTFA to once again hold school events that often bring the community together.

Many thanks,
Laura Lewis
(On behalf of Tynyrheol Primary School)

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

nialewis98@yahoo.com chairman@llangeinorfc.wales Sun 21:54

Email of support (changing room facilities)

I am writing this email in support of Llangeinor FC's application for funding for the changing rooms and pavilion facilities.

My name is Nia Lewis, I am a 15 year old local resident in Llangeinor, who regularly uses Llangeinor playing field for training purposes. I currently play football for FAW South Academy and have been lucky enough to be selected to represent the Welsh National team at under 15, 16 and 17 level. Most recently I was involved in the Welsh Women's under 17 squad in the Euro Qualifiers round 1 where we secured promtion into group A.

Having a field that I can use locally for additional training outside of my club sessions, especially during the off season, is extremely import to me. While Llangeinor Playing field is a great venue for this it has become more difficult for me due to lack of changing room and storage facilities. Currently I have to use my bike to transport my training equipment to the playing field. I often carry a large kit bag with my own set of nets, cones, ladders, footballs, weights, resistance bands etc to the field in order to do my individual training.

Llangeinor FC have been a huge support to me during my football journey, not only because I am a local resident it was also my 1st grassroots club. While the club and it's members continue to support me they are unfortunately unable to help with the issue of storing my training equipment at this current time due to lack of facilities.

If the changing rooms and pavilion area in Llangeinor were upgraded this would have a tremendous impact on me. I wouldn't need to load up multiple kit bags with equipment every time I wanted to train or use my bike to get everything there. Having access to changing rooms and storage would mean that I could simply turn up grab my stuff and carry out my drills.

In order to progress my football career I need to have access to adequate facilities and improvements to the changing room facilities would greatly help me and the local community.

Many thanks,

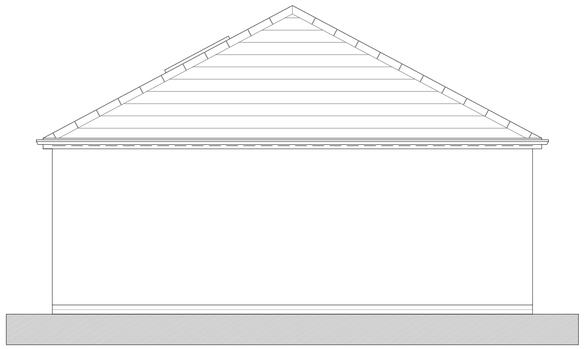
Nia Lewis

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

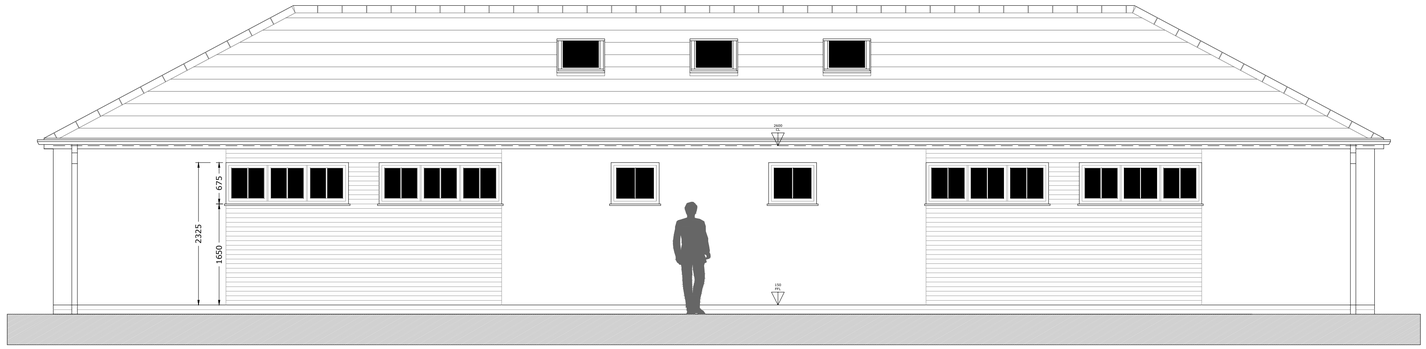
Annex:

- Tender Report
- [redacted] Construction Cost Plan
- Building Condition Survey
- Site Drawings & Visuals

RECEIVED IN PLANNING
19/12/2022

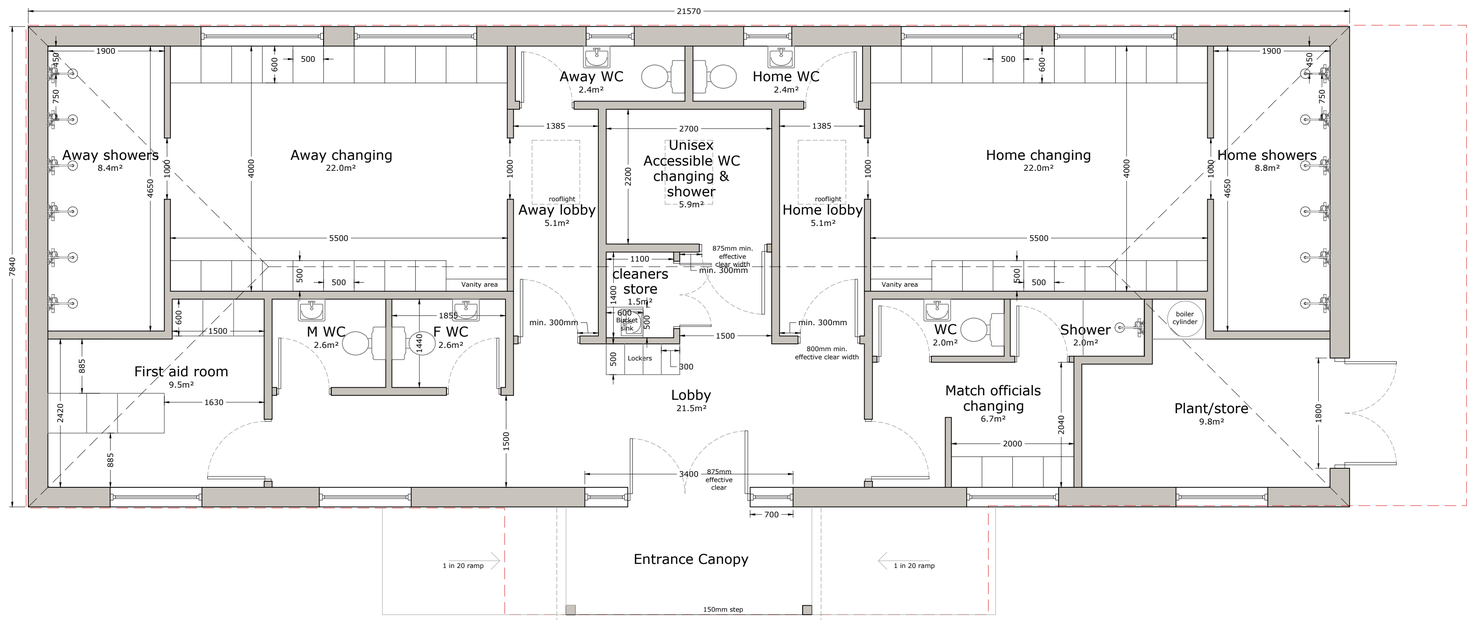


Side Elevation

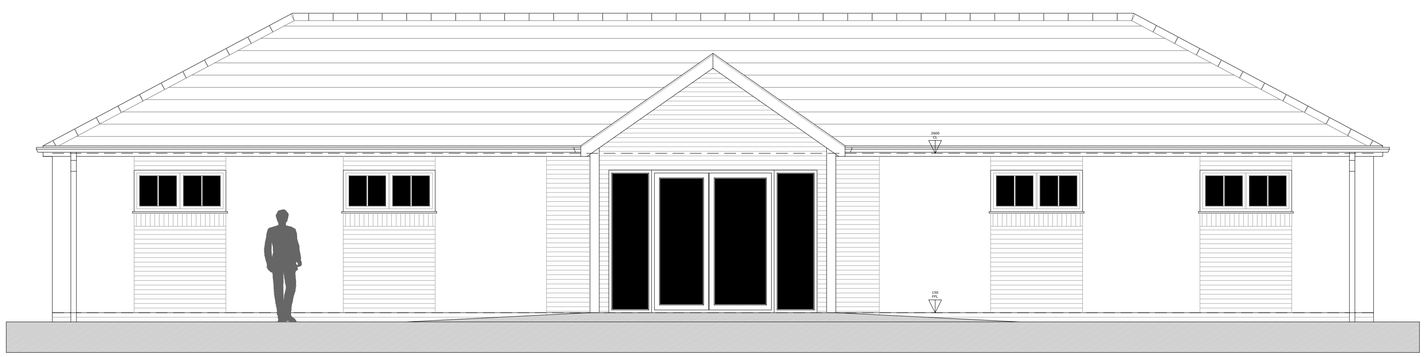


Rear Elevation

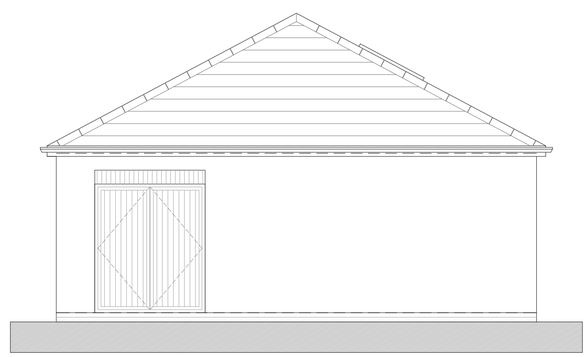
Ground Floor - GIA 150m²



Red dashed line represents existing footprint.



Front Elevation



Side Elevation

Scale 1:50@A1

0 1.0 2.0 3.0m

REVISION/ISSUE

TITLE SKETCH FLOOR PLAN AND ELEVATIONS.

ADDRESS THE PAVILION. LLANGEINOR FC. LLANGEINOR PARK, BETTWS ROAD. CF32 8PG

JOB NO. 055–06–22

DATE 30.11.22

Roger North, Long and Partners
Chartered Surveyors RICS
5 Neptune Court
Vanguard Way
Cardiff CF24 5PJ
Telephone 029 2048 4484
Facsimile 029 2048 2545
E-mail rnl@fut.net

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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**23 JULY 2024**
Report Title:	**CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER SPECIALIST SUPPORT SERVICE**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING**
Responsible Officer:	**Pete Tyson – Group Manager, Commissioning**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules**
Executive Summary:	**This report seeks authorisation for Bridgend County Borough Council to enter into a Regional Collaboration Agreement within Cwm Taf Morgannwg region and requests approval to be part of the re-commissioning of a Children Looked After Specialist Support Service (previously known as Multi Agency Permanence Support Service – MAPSS). The service provides a specialist therapy-led provision to care experienced children, including children who have a plan for adoption pre and post support, providing support to children who display complex emotional and behavioural needs to support placement stability and achieve positive outcomes.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval:

- for a waiver under Contract Procedure Rule 3.2.12 for Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (RCTCBC) to procure the Children Looked After Specialist Support Service (CLASS), including entering into a contract on behalf of the Council and note that approval to award any contract will be sought via the Council's Scheme of Delegation following the conclusion of the procurement and evaluation process;
- for BCBC to enter into a regional collaboration agreement with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council for the provision of CLASS;

- to delegate authority to the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change and Section 151 Officer, and Chief Officer - Legal, HR and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy, to agree the terms of the regional collaboration agreement and any ancillary agreements and to arrange execution of those agreements on behalf of the Council
- to delegate authority to the Head of Children's Social Care to represent and make decisions for BCBC as part of the Regional Project Board.

2. Background

2.1 Evidence demonstrates that a significantly higher proportion of care experienced children suffer emotional, behavioural and mental health difficulties and have shown poorer mental health than children in the general population. Care experienced children and young people are presenting with increasingly complex and challenging emotional and behavioural needs, which in many cases can lead to them experiencing multiple foster and/or residential care placement breakdowns.

2.2 To support stability and meet the needs of care experienced children, a regional bid was submitted to the Regional Integration Fund (RIF) to develop a Multi Agency Permanence Support Service (MAPSS). A procurement exercise was led by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTBC) and supported by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.

2.3 A 3-year contract was awarded to a specialist provider commencing on 3rd January 2022. The service undertakes a robust assessment to identify a child's therapeutic needs and support them and their wider network to stabilise complex emotional and behavioural needs, in order to promote placement stability, improve self-management and coping strategies and providing a suite of therapies to prevent placement or adoption breakdown. In addition to the direct support with care experienced children the service has provided consultations to foster carers and residential staff on how to provide trauma informed care and delivered a range of workshops/training to carers and professionals on pertinent topics to upskill and develop the workforce.

2.4 The contract has supported a total of 157 children and their families in Bridgend. This includes children in foster, residential, adoptive and special guardianship placements all of which have differing needs. The most reported presenting difficulties were with anxiety, aggression, school difficulties and defiance.

2.5 Feedback from families and professionals is positive. Young people have commented that they have felt it has benefitted them. Parents and carers have reported the service has supported their children to make positive change with several commenting that their children have made considerable progress with the interventions provided. Carers have reported enjoying the

training and now have the knowledge and skills to implement strategies provided.

2.6 Historically, Bridgend had been one of the highest-ranking local authorities in Wales for the average number of annual placement moves per child. In March 2023 10.8% (43 children) experienced 3 or more placements in the previous 12 months. However, more recent data (March 2024) has evidenced a notable reduction from 10.8% to 6.2% of children, which highlights the success of a combination of approaches which include MAPSS intervention.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 This service was originally known as a Multi Agency Permanence Support Service (MAPSS) but due to the service not operating on a multi-agency basis the name has since been reviewed and amended to Children Looked After Specialist Support Service (CLASS).

3.2 The existing contract is due to expire on 2nd January 2025 with no option to extend further. The collaboration agreement between the region will also cease when the contract expires.

3.3 The impact of the contract ceasing would lead to increased stability issues and escalation of needs, which could result in a greater amount of high cost out of county residential placements being made. A typical residential placement cost is £5,631 per week and therefore the service is key in terms of tertiary prevention for those children at the edge of residential.

3.4 The Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs) advise that a waiver from the requirement for the Council to go out to tender is required:

"Where goods, services and works are procured by another public body on behalf of the Council …." CPR 3.2.12

Approval must be obtained from Cabinet, if the value of the contract is over £100,000 (CPR 3.2(a)).

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council will act as lead authority for procurement of the service. Approval to award a contract will be sought under the Council's scheme of delegation once the procurement process had been completed. The value of the contract for the region means that it will be above the threshold of £663,540 including VAT for Light Touch Services and will therefore need to be procured in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

3.4 The term of the new contract will be fixed term for two years and three months (3rd January 2025 to 31st March 2027) with an option to extend on an annual basis for a further four years, subject to approval and available funding.

3.5 Robust performance measures shall be included in the tender documents to assess the short, medium and long term outcomes in order to demonstrate achievement and value for money.

3.6 The collaboration agreement between the region will be reviewed and where necessary updated, working with colleagues in legal services to ensure as a region we collaborate effectively and offer support to the Service Provider in such a way that they may deliver the Service fully in accordance with the particulars of the Service Specification. RCTCBC will enter into a contract with the successful provider and will make contract payments on behalf of BCBC. The collaboration agreement and the Regional Project Board will ensure that appropriate finance and governance arrangements are in place between the authorities for the service.

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

4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council acting as lead authority for the procurement and there is no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

4.2 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. An initial Equality Impact Assessment screening has been undertaken and there are no direct equality implications as a consequence of this report.

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

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

Long Term. Social Services is demand led and the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) focusses on sustainable prevention and wellbeing outcomes for the future. There is a requirement to meet the needs of people in the longer term and, because of rising demographics and increasing complexity, the remodelling and transformation of services

continues to be a priority. The Children Looked After Specialist Support Service (CLASS) promotes secure attachment as a means of helping children and young people and their carers maintain placements (living and educational) so that they can feel safe enough to develop supportive attachments/relationships, and opportunities for positive growth and resilience in the future.

Prevention. Children Looked After Specialist Support Service (CLASS) will facilitate and support developing a shared understanding of the child's needs and their carer's difficulties, to determine how best to intervene and respond to achieve positive outcomes and avoid the needs of young people escalating further.

Integration. The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) requires local authorities to work with partners, this contract involves a strong focus on integration, to ensure care and support for children and young people is seeming less and where necessary the provider is actively working within a multi-agency platform, enabling children and people to remain linked to their communities.

Collaboration. The strategic planning and local delivery of integrated support and services are developed and agreed on a regional basis in order to provide the best possible intervention to people. Collaborating will help inform and support the regions vision in supporting children, and young people and families to have a full range of integrated services for children, young people and families with complex needs.

Involvement. The key stakeholders are the people who use social care. There is considerable engagement including surveys, stakeholder meetings, feedback forms and the complaints process. The provision of accessible information and advice helps to ensure that the voice of adults, children and young people is heard.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no specific climate change implications arising directly from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 The Children Looked After Specialist Support Service (CLASS) service supports care experienced children and young people with complex and challenging presentations by supporting positive attachments and de-escalating behaviours, minimising the risks to themselves and others.

7.2 The service is aligned to the local authority's Corporate Parent Strategy and the national Corporate Parenting Charter – A Promise for Wales. The service is aimed specifically at those children and young people that the region has corporate parenting responsibility for, providing them with access to the right support in accordance with their needs. The service aims to improve

emotional mental health and wellbeing and supports stability within placements enabling care-experienced children and young people to have the same life chances as every other young person in Wales.

7.3 The voice of the child and young people is paramount and will be central to the service and reflected through assessment, intervention and the review process. The tender documents ensure that the provider must have mechanisms in place for the child's voice to be heard, providing opportunities to feedback regarding the quality of support.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 For the first year of the service (January 2025 to December 2025) Regional Integrated Funding (RIF) of £594,492 (90% of the annual contract value) has already been secured. An additional funding application for the remaining 10% (£66,054) has been made to the Regional Children and Young Person's Board, and this will be considered on 30th July 2024. Noting that RIF funding for the remaining 10% is yet to be confirmed, the annual contract value (for the region) in Year 1 will be £594,492 as a minimum, or £660,546 as a maximum, pending the decision on the funding application.

8.2 For the second year of the service (January 2026 to December 2026) local authorities will be required to contribute 10% match funding in line with the RIF financial model. BCBC will need to contribute proportionately towards the 10% along with RCT and Merthyr. This equates to £20,000 for BCBC and should the workforce grant be available from January 2026 it will be used to support this contribution. If the Workforce Grant is not available core budget will be utilized.

8.3 The annual budget for the Children Looked After Specialist Support Service (CLASS) across the region is estimated within the region of £594,492 (worst case) - £660,546 (best case) if the additional 10% is secured via the Regional Children and Young Person's Board or from local authority contributions, over the life time of the contract (2 years, 3 months) the contract the value will total a minimum of £1,337,607 or a maximum of £1,486,230.

8.4 If the Regional Integration Fund is reduced or ceased post 2026/27, appropriate provisions will be written into the contract with the service provider to end the arrangement, or to allow amendments to reduce provision/funding, leaving minimal financial risk to the local authority.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Approves BCBC entering into a regional collaboration agreement with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council for the provision of CLASS;
- Delegates authority to the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing in consultation with the Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change and

Section 151 Officer and Chief Officer - Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy, to agree the terms of the regional collaboration agreement and any ancillary agreements and to arrange execution of those agreements on behalf of the Council.

- Approves a waiver under Contract Procedure Rule 3.2.12 for Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (RCTCBC) to procure the Children Looked After Specialist Support service (CLASS) including entering into a contract on behalf of the Council and note that approval to award any contract will be sought via the Council's Scheme of Delegation following the conclusion of the procurement and evaluation process; and
- Delegates authority to the Head of Children's Social Care to represent and make decisions for BCBC as part of the Regional Project Board.

Background documents:
None

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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**23 JULY 2024**
Report Title:	**ASSISTED TRANSPORT POLICY**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING**
Responsible Officer:	**JOE BOYLE POLICY OFFICER – SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**There is no effect upon the Policy Framework or Procedure Rules.**
Executive Summary:	**This report outlines the process undertaken to develop the draft Assisted Transport Policy and seeks Cabinet approval to commence a public consultation.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to begin a public consultation process on the draft Assisted Transport Policy (**Appendix 1**) in order to support service provision across services in the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate.

2. Background

2.1 Given the current financial position that the Council finds itself in, work has been undertaken across each Directorate in order to identify areas of potential financial savings.

2.2 The provision of funded transport to access an assessed and eligible need is something that has been occurring within Adults Services for an extended period of time. As set out in legislation, only where an assessed and eligible need requires specific transport should funded transport be provided. The aim of the policy is to enable the Directorate to appropriately meet the transport needs of individuals to access a service to meet their assessed need, by ensuring that all transport options are assessed before providing Assisted Transport as a last resort.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 Relevant members of the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate were engaged and provided support in the drafting of the policy content for each aspect of Adults and Children's Services where relevant.

3.2 Although the policy has been designed and written with Adults services primarily in mind, the principles of the policy may be applied to situations within Children's Services where required such as supporting work undertaken within the Child Disability and Transition (CDT) and 16+ teams. As such the policy may be applicable to certain Children's Services Social Work Teams. .

3.3 The Assisted Transport Policy has been developed in order to provide a policy standpoint behind the assessment of transport needs of individuals who are accessing a Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) provided service away from their home. This policy does not remove the ability to provide assisted and funded transport in order to access a service within the community, but it does place the requirement on services to ensure that an assessment takes place in order to identify the most suitable method of transport to ensure that the individual can access the service to support their assessed need.

3.4 The policy will not cover assistance to travel to and from education establishments, which are found in the BCBC Home to School Transport Policy.

3.5 It is proposed that a consultation process take place for 12 weeks on the draft Assisted Transport Policy which will consist of both online feedback, and physical feedback received from target audiences at both public consultation meetings, and through the option of written responses. The target audience for this consultation will be the individuals that access services provided by BCBC in order to meet an assessed need, along with their family members and/or individuals with responsibility for them. Following the consultation period, the finalised policy will be reported back to Cabinet for approval and implementation.

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

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

4.2 However, a full EIA will accompany any recommendations to Cabinet following the conclusion of the consultation.

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.

Involvement	This policy has been informed by the review of relevant legislation and guidance, along with meetings and discussions with relevant members of the Directorate.
Long term	This policy provides services with a framework to ensuring that all possible methods for individuals transport to access services are identified prior to the additional provision of funded transport.
Prevention	The policy sets out to prevent the misallocation of funding for transport where appropriate alternatives are available for individuals.
Integration	The policy once approved will be integrated into the Social Service and Wellbeing Directorate and its service provisions.
Collaboration	The policy has been developed collaboratively by working groups involving staff from across the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There is no direct impact on Climate Change through the implementation of this policy.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no Safeguarding or Corporate Parenting implications related to the implementation of this policy. As a part of the assessment process, suitability and appropriateness of transport options will be assessed in order to ensure the safety and safeguarding of the individual concerned. As previously stated, the policy is not removing the option of Assisted Transport, but ensuring all other options are assessed prior to the implementation of Assisted Transport.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 It is anticipated that through the implementation of the Assisted Travel policy that this will have some positive impact upon directorate finances, through reduced spend, however the amount cannot currently be estimated. As this report is seeking approval to commence the consultation process for the Assisted Travel policy, there will be costs associated with the consultation process such as Welsh Language translation and venue hire, which will be met through existing Social Services and Wellbeing budgets.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve the commencement of a public consultation on the Assisted Transport Policy noting that the finalised policy will be reported back to Cabinet for approval and implementation.

Background documents

None

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Bridgend County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
www.bridgend.gov.uk

Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate

Adult Social Care

Assisted Transport Policy

Updates, Revisions and Amendments		
Version	**Details of Change**	**Date**
1	**Creation of Policy document**	**June 2024**

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3	Aims of the Policy	
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6	Ineligibility for transportation	
7	Practical Guidance	
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9	Assessing Risk	
10	Review and Termination of Service	
11	Appeals and Complaints	
12	Principles for charging	
13	Review	
14	Resources	

1. Introduction

1.1 Bridgend County Borough Council ('the Council') is committed to promoting independence across all areas of service provision and seeks to ensure as many people live and travel as independently as possible within their own communities.

1.2 This policy has been developed to provide a strategic approach to delivering transport that is consistent, transparent, and clearly outlines the framework through which the Council provides transport services. The policy applies to all adults aged 18 years and above who access community services away from their home which is provided by the Council as part of a Care and Support Plan, but the principles of the policy may also be applicable to relevant Children's Social Care teams as required.

2. Legal and regulatory framework

2.1 The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 is the legislative framework that sets out the Council's duty to assess an individual's need for care and support services. The Council will have a duty to meet that need if the need cannot be met by the person's own resources or community resources.

2.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 outlines principles and ways of working which include the responsibility for ensuring sustainable developments for individuals to connect with their local communities and the needs of the present being met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This links directly to the well-being principles underpinning this policy.

3. Aims of the policy

3.1 The aim of this policy is to reflect local and national priorities and complements the Council's approach to delivering Adult Social Care. The policy is underpinned by the Council's Plan for Adult Social Care 2020 – 2025, and adheres to key principles of :

- Empowering service users and carers
- Promoting independence
- Better responses

4. Policy statement

4.1 This policy outlines how the Council will ensure a consistent and equitable way of supporting individuals in the provision of Adult Social Care Assisted Transport.

4.2 This policy sets the criteria that will be used to assess how adults access transport to community services identified in a Care and Support Plan and

provided by the Council. This policy does not cover accessing a post-16 educational setting and the Council's Home to School or College Transport Policy should be consulted for further information relating to this. The Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate will not meet any additional costs associated with the transport of learners to and from post-16 education settings.

4.3 The overriding principle of this policy is that the decision to provide transport is based on needs, risks and outcomes and on promoting independence. The Council is committed to promoting independence across all areas of service provision and seeks to ensure that people live as independently as possible within their own communities and continue to access services and support in ways which meet their needs.

4.4 The need for transport is not an eligible need in its own right, but a means of accessing care and support services required to meet assessed need. Sometimes, the Council needs to provide transport to attend a service to meet the assessed needs of the person, but this is a separate assessment to the need for the service itself. This policy rests upon a general assumption and expectation that people's own strengths and abilities will enable them to travel to access services and/or support, with the benefit of relevant training and support where applicable. Use of the resources available to them both as individuals and from the wider community will be fully assessed and taken into account when determining whether or not there is a need for the provision of transport.

4.5 Funded transport will only be provided if, in the opinion of the Council following an assessment process, it is the only reasonable way to allow the person to safely access an eligible service within the community. All appropriate alternative means of transport available (for example personal vehicles, taxi funded via Mobility Allowance, vehicles obtained under the Motability Scheme, or public transport, including voluntary community transport schemes), will be considered and it will be presumed that the individual can and will use these as a first option, unless individual assessment demonstrates otherwise.

4.6 Individuals who have the physical and cognitive ability to travel to a community activity, either independently or with assistance from available family, friends, or support providers will generally be expected to do so, rather than via Council funded transport. Staff from Adult Social Services will signpost individuals to appropriate transport options in order to promote the independence of that person.

4.7 People who qualify for concessionary travel (i.e. bus passes) will be assisted to apply for and use these as and when appropriate according to assessed needs and abilities, with support from a relevant and appropriate individual (social worker or family member for example) to apply if needed. Where access to a companion bus pass would enable the person to travel by means of public transport, this will be considered for their carer/companion. The constraints of concessionary travel will also be taken into account during the assessment.

4.8 If eligible, the provision of transport will be agreed from a designated pick up and return point within the Bridgend boundary. Trips that do not form part of an agreed Care and Support Plan will be the responsibility of the individual (or their family / carer).

5. Assessing need for transport

5.1 Assessment for assisted transport will only be considered where the person is eligible for a community service provided by the Council in order to meet an assessed eligible need as identified within their Care and Support Plan and in accordance with legislation. The assessment of transport needs must be part of the overall assessment of a person's outcomes and needs and will be considered at any subsequent Care and Support Plan review(s). For the purposes of this policy 'eligible need' does not include attending an educational setting as set out at Section 4.2.

5.2 In completing this assessment, emphasis will be placed on the person's strengths and capabilities and focus on solutions that enable them to do things for themselves. The assessment will aim to establish whether it is safe and reasonable to expect the person, or their representative, to make transport arrangements. As part of the assessment, all transport options will be examined, and the outcomes will be identified and evidenced.

5.3 The need for, and purpose of, transport must be clearly stated on an individual's assessment and resulting Care and Support Plan.

5.4 Provision of assisted transport will only be considered to enable people to travel to and from services they are assessed as needing to meet their social care needs following a Care Assessment. Any transport provided will be appropriate for that need, will provide value for money and be cost effective.

5.5 When assessing eligibility for transport and feasibility of different ways to access provision of services, the following factors will be considered:

- Access to existing transport
- Access to mobility allowance or other funds provided to meet mobility needs
- Assessment of mobility
- Assessment of ability to travel independently
- Identification of appropriate transport provision for those eligible
- Potential outcome of a travel training programme

5.6 If it is established during the assessment process that the person can travel to a community activity that meets their outcomes, either independently or with available assistance from family, friends or support providers, the Council will not provide transport, or pay for travel costs. However, this does not prevent people using their own resources to pay for transport should they choose to do so.

6. People will normally not be eligible for transport if...

6.1 They have the physical and/or cognitive ability to travel to a community activity, either independently or with assistance from available family, friends or support providers.

6.2 They have their own vehicle, access to a family vehicle or a Motability vehicle which they drive themselves.

6.3 They have a Motability vehicle of which they are themselves not normally the driver and a driver is available.

6.4 Where the individual has access to a family/household vehicle, consideration will be made regarding whether it is reasonable to expect the person's family and friends network to help them travel to the location of the service/activity.

6.5 They are in receipt of the Mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) / Personal Independence Payment (PIP), the purpose of which is to assist those who have mobility problems, and which it is reasonable to expect to be used to facilitate transport to the service/activity. They will only generally be eligible for funded transport if they are assessed as incapable of independent travel or if the mobility element of the benefit is already fully and reasonably utilised to fund their other mobility needs, due to distance from services, the nature of the disability, wheelchair type, carer support requirements, etc. As part of the full financial assessment, the Council will also help maximise their access to any benefits they may be entitled to.

6.6 They live in a registered care home or other setting where their care needs are funded by the Council, e.g. residential care, supported living schemes (such as those for people with a learning disability or younger adults with mental health disorders), or shared lives placements, as the cost of the placement should cover the full range of support needs, including transport, to attend community activities. If the individual is assessed as having the ability to travel independently, or with minimal intervention, the service /other setting will make provision to support independent travel if they are responsible for transport arrangements.

7. Practical guidance

7.1 Based on the above principles / criteria, the following guidance will be applied when identifying the need for assisted transport but each case shall be determined on its own merit during the assessment process:

- Where a person is able to walk, use assisted mobility (motorised scooter, wheelchair/aids) either independently or with available support from family, friends, support worker, volunteer, etc. to get to a local community service and it is reasonable for them to do so, transport will not be provided.
- Where a person can use public transport, voluntary transport, or community transport either independently or with reasonable support (available family,

friend, carer, support worker, etc.) to get to and from community activities, transport will not be provided.

- Where people contribute towards the provision of a shared community vehicle, this should be expected to be used to transport them to community activities under the assessment of need.
- Where a person has access to a vehicle, for example belonging to themselves their carer, or their support provider the assessment of need will take account of this. The assessment will need to consider whether the vehicle can be used to access community activities.
- Where feasible and reasonable, carers who have transport will be asked to assist in supporting travel arrangements to services.
- Where it is identified in a carer's assessment that not providing transport would place an unreasonable responsibility on a carer then assisted transport may be considered under an assessment of need.

7.2 In all other circumstances, transport will only be provided to help meet an assessed need that cannot be met by the person themselves, having explored all alternatives. The transport provided will then be appropriate for that need, will provide value for money and be cost effective.

7.3 All requests for assisted transport will be considered by relevant service or team managers across the Directorate.

7.4 Transport to attend an assessed health need service (hospital, physiotherapy, doctor appointments, etc) will not be provided by the Council. An individual can seek an assessment from the NHS via their GP for transport services to the appointment they are required to attend.

8. Single occupancy

8.1 If the individual has been assessed as having challenging behaviour they will have a risk management plan to manage safety, which specifies why a single occupancy taxi or any other vehicle provided under contract by the Council is necessary. A risk assessment will be undertaken by the social worker or assessor. Single occupancy will also be available when it proves to be a more cost effective means of transport for the Council.

8.2 When an assessment or review is carried out for services, an assessment for transport services should be undertaken at the same time. For single occupancy taxis/vehicles to be used, relevant managers must approve that the above criteria has been met and a risk assessment must be completed.

8.3 The requirement for the support of an escort should be considered / agreed at the same time.

9. Assessing risk

9.1 If a person accessing services is eligible to receive assisted transport as part of their assessed need, staff should risk assess the suitability of the vehicle to be used and consider any pertinent mobility or behavioural issues, the wheelchair size and type (if applicable), whether a passenger assistant (escort) is required, any medical issues and any other information that may affect the environment or way in which the person is transported.

9.2 The social worker should refer to the risk assessments completed by professionals in relation to the individual when undertaking the review / assessment.

9.3 Individuals should be informed that not all wheelchairs are suitable for transport purposes and encouraged early on to purchase those that meet the criteria.

10. Review and termination of service

10.1 The continuation of the provision of assisted transport and/or passenger assistants/escorts will be reviewed, along with other elements of the care package, at least annually. If a person's circumstances change then a re-assessment will be undertaken.

10.2 In the event that the proposed removal of transport results from the assessment/review, the individual will be supported through an agreed time limited transition period to ensure any identified risks are mitigated and alternative arrangements can be made.

10.3 If an individual has been assessed as able to make their own transport arrangements but declines to do so, and as a result is unable to attend the service for which they have an assessed eligible need, this will be viewed as the person declining the service(s).

10.4 Where a person has declined a service which they are eligible for, the assessor will evaluate whether the person has the capacity to make this decision. If the decision is being made on behalf of another person, the assessor will check whether they feel the decision is being made in the best interests of the person who is eligible for the service(s) in accordance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) and Best Interest Process, more information from which can be found here and here.

11. Complaints / Appeals procedure

11.1 Should a person who accesses services or their carer be unhappy with the outcome of any assessment of their transport needs, , they should refer to the Council's Social Services Complaints Policy. This process has a clear route of appeal and timescales for handling complaints.

11.2 Individuals and/or their carers should be provided with information explaining how to complain about Social Services in Bridgend, which is available in

accessible formats and different languages. The leaflet and details of the complaints procedure can also be accessed online via the Council's website www.bridgend.gov.uk. The dedicated Social Services Complaints telephone number is (01656) 642253, or via email: socialservicescomplaints@bridgend.gov.uk

12. Principles of charging for transport

12.1 Under Part 4 and 5 Code of Practice (Charging and Financial Assessment) issued under section 145 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, a local authority must not charge for transport to a day service where the transport is provided as part of meeting a person's assessed needs.

13. Review of the policy

13.1 The policy reflects the Council's current position and will be reviewed every 2 years.

14. Resources

Blue badge scheme

Contact Adults Social Care

Contact Children's Social Care

Concessionary travel bus pass

Motability scheme

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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**23 JULY 2024**
Report Title:	**SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS TO MANAGE MONEY POLICY**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING**
Responsible Officer:	**JOE BOYLE POLICY OFFICER – SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.**
Executive Summary:	**This report outlines the process undertaken to develop the Supporting Individuals to Manage Money Policy.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval of the Supporting Individuals to Manage Money Policy (**Appendix 1**) in order to support Direct Care service provision across the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate.

2. Background

2.1 It is a regulatory requirement under the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 (RISCA) for Direct Care services to have a policy in place detailing how it will provide support to individuals receiving care and support to manage their financial affairs.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 Relevant members of the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate were engaged and provided support in the drafting of the policy content.

3.2 Under regulation 28 of RISCA, it is the responsibility of a direct care service to have a policy and procedure in place to cover supporting individuals to manage their money.

3.3 In writing the policy, the current financial safeguarding processes for each service area have been consulted in order to provide the framework for which this policy is based upon.

3.4 The policy covers both Adults and Children's services and sets out the processes that are required to be undertaken for each area in order to support financial security for the people we support.

3.5 At recent Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) inspections it was highlighted that services were in need of developing this policy.

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

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

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.

Involvement	The policy has been informed by the review of relevant legislation and guidance, along with meetings and discussions with relevant members of the Directorate.
Long term	The policy provides services with a framework to support ensuring that individuals who access services are supported to manage their money.
Prevention	The policy sets out to prevent the mismanagement of individual's personal funds.
Integration	The policy will be integrated into the Social Service and Wellbeing Directorate's Direct Care Services.
Collaboration	The policy has been developed collaboratively by working groups involving staff from across the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There is no direct impact on Climate Change through the implementation of these policies.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 The policy will enhance the Council's ability to discharge its statutory duties under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. There are no direct Corporate Parent implications due to these policies implementation.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial resource implications arising from the implementation of these policies.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve the Supporting Individuals to Manage Money Policy.

Background documents

None

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Bridgend County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
www.bridgend.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Supporting Individuals to Manage Money Policy

Social Services and Wellbeing

June 2024

Updates, Revisions and Amendments		
Version	Details of Change	Date
1	Creation of policy	Jun 2024

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1. Introduction

1.1 This document provides the policy position for the operation of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) regulated social care services for individuals supported across the county. These include but are not limited to:

- Adults' residential settings
- Children's residential settings
- Domiciliary Support at Home and Supported Living services

1.2 Individuals supported by regulated services in Bridgend are encouraged to manage their own finances (taking into account their age, capacity and understanding when making decisions about spending their own money).

1.3 People will require support on an individual basis to help them develop the knowledge and skills required to manage their personal finances successfully and make informed choices. Staff have a key role in supporting them to manage their finances and prioritise their spending where required.

1.4 Children and young people may also need more assistance to understand and access appropriate financial institutions such as banks, building societies and savings schemes. All children and young people should be encouraged to open a savings account and subsequently a bank account to help them prepare for the future.

1.5 In residential settings an individual's personal money must be stored securely and only accessed by authorised personnel. Where appropriate all individuals will be offered the facility to store their money in individually named lockable boxes in a safe or lockable cupboard/cabinet; where appropriate this could be in the individual's bedroom to promote independence.

1.6 This policy is to be read in conjunction with the relevant service specific guidance and handbooks relating to financial safeguarding practices associated with the service.

2. Corporate Appointees

2.1 Where a person has been assessed to lack capacity to manage their money and financial affairs in accordance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005, BCBC would wherever possible encourage a family member or close friend to manage the persons financial affairs. If there is no one available or willing to do this, in certain circumstances BCBC will become a Corporate Appointee for the individual. A Corporate Appointee does not have any legal authority to access pre-existing personal bank accounts for the individual, so these must not be used where a Corporate Appointee is in place. BCBC will only become a Corporate Appointee to manage an individual's finances where their only source of income is through benefits and they do not hold any capital

or assets, as otherwise the appointment of a Deputy will be required for the individual . If access is needed to a person's pre-existing personal bank accounts and there is no one available or willing to apply to become a Deputy, BCBC may apply for a Panel Deputy via the Court of Protection. As set out in section 10, individuals supported by the Support at Home team remain responsible for managing their finances and no support is provided by BCBC in this service.

2.2 For people that possess capital or assets other than the receipt of benefits and are supported to manage their financial affairs by the Financial Assessments and Safeguarding team, appropriate accounts are organised with the Corporate Bank for BCBC.

2.3 Where an individual's only source of financial income is through the receipt of benefits, where they own no capital or assets, an appropriate Client Manager Trustee account will be set up to support the individual. If an appropriate account is not available through the Corporate Bank, a Client Manager Trustee account is set up with an alternative provider. All considerations must be taken into account when setting up this account including any potential cost impacts to the individual.

2.4 Requests must be sent by the service manager or their delegated staff member to the Financial Assessments and Safeguarding Team for relevant accounts to be opened.

2.5 This may happen in both adult and children's services. In children's residential services, this will only happen where the child or young person's family/guardian is not able to act as their Appointee. For young people BCBC would only apply to act as Appointee if the young person is in receipt of disability benefits, such as Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment.

2.6 Bank cards are not currently issued on Client Manager Trustee Accounts.

2.7 Direct Debits and Standing Orders can be set up from these accounts. Requests to set these payments up must be made to the Financial Assessments and Safeguarding Team for organisation. The Finance Safeguarding Team will then support staff to complete the necessary forms to action this.

2.8 For an individual to access money from their Client Manager Trustee Account, a chequebook will be issued. Only nominated individuals are able to be signatories on these accounts and will issue cheques that are able to be cashed when money is required for the individual. The name of the individual is to be written on the front of the chequebook and stored in a safe, lockable cupboard/drawer when not in use.

2.9 Staff members nominated as signatories are required to have signed the relevant customer mandate. Any requirements to change or add signatories must follow the associated Change to Signatories process as set out in the service specific guidance.

2.10 Should an individual leave the provision of care and support services by BCBC, the Corporate Appointee may need to end. Discussions will need to occur with the Finance Safeguarding team regarding the arrangements moving forward.

2.11 Interest is paid on these accounts. Any notifications of charges relating to individual's accounts must be forwarded on to the Financial Assessments and Safeguarding Team for investigation and resolving.

2.12 Where the Financial Assessment and Finance Safeguarding team are managing a person's financial affairs a bank account with the Corporate Bank will be opened as part of this process.

3. Cash Handling

3.1 Where individuals have cash and valuables and are supported by Direct Care, Learning Disability, Mental Health and Supported Living Services, they have the right to keep and store these in their own rooms. This applies to both adult and children's services. Where they retain this right, the individual must be provided with a safe or lockable cupboard to store these items. Individuals supported by Support at Home services remain responsible for storing their own cash and valuables.

3.2 Where an individual lacks capacity and is assisted to manage their finances the service is required to keep a record of all cash and valuables belonging to the person.

3.3 Where the safekeeping of cash and/or valuables are the responsibility of the service they must be stored in a locked safe or lockable cupboard. Where multiple individuals' monies and valuables are stored by the service, these must be stored separately, securely and be identifiable within the safe or locked cupboard.

3.4 Where an individual requires support to manage their finances a Cash and Saving Transaction Record (CSTR) must be maintained, completed and signed by staff for auditing purposes.

3.5 Staff should never take an individual's Cash and Savings Transaction Records (CSTR) or valuables or money home with them. Disciplinary procedures may be followed if required.

3.6 Receipts are to be obtained following all transactions and kept on file for the individual. Where a receipt is not obtainable, a "Record of Expenditure" form must be completed, and the associated process followed.

4. Financial Misappropriation

4.1 Staff will never, under any circumstances, personally benefit from any expenditure incurred on behalf of the individual. This includes the use of store loyalty cards. The service manager or delegated individual are responsible for undertaking checks to ensure that only loyalty cards in the name of the individual are used.

4.2 Any instances where staff are suspected to have used personal loyalty cards or to have benefited from the expenditure incurred by a person they support will be referred to financial safeguarding and safeguarding referrals made. Disciplinary procedures may also be followed if required.

4.3 Any discrepancies identified must be reported to the manager or the staff member in charge immediately.

4.4 Certain financial documentation will require authorisation by one or more named individuals. At no point will any member of staff be requested to pre-sign a blank or incomplete financial document.

5. Benefit Entitlement, Collection of and Payment of Charges

5.1 Individuals supported by BCBC direct care services remain able to claim benefits where they are entitled to them. Identification of the relevant benefits applicable for the individual must be completed during the initial assessment and the commencement of service.

5.2 Individuals receiving benefits in residential settings will have them paid into their relevant Client Manager Trustee Account where BCBC are the Corporate Appointee, where BCBC are not the Corporate Appointee the individual will receive the benefit to their personal account. Where individual cases are managed by the Finance Safeguarding Team, where they receive benefits but are not supported by a residential setting, (domiciliary services) the benefits will be paid into their relevant Corporate Bank account.

5.3 It is the responsibility of the service manager or their nominated individual to ensure that appropriate records are maintained and held securely.

5.4 Individuals that handle their own finances may still require support of staff to ensure the benefits they receive are correct. Any changes to benefits they receive requires a notification to the relevant financial charging team to ensure all relevant adjustments are made.

5.5 Assessments must be made in relation to the level of care and support being provided to the person, in order to identify the required supporting payments to be made by the individual.

6. Financial Assessments and Safeguarding Team

6.1 BCBC's Financial Assessment and Safeguarding Team will undertake visits to services at regular intervals to conduct the appropriate audit processes.

6.2 Any and all authority staff that request to view and inspect the financial documents at any given service must produce their ID. Where they do not do this, access to this documentation will not be allowed.

6.3 During safeguarding visits, staff are given an opportunity to discuss any matters that are of concern to them regarding financial matters. This offer is actively encouraged at any time throughout the year as per the processes set out in the associated service specific documentation.

7. Safety and Security

7.1 All controlled stationary such as cheque or paying in books must be stored securely at all times when not in use. This includes storage in a lockable cabinet.

7.2 Where financial information is held the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation 2016 will be followed.

7.3 As previously stated, where cash and/or valuables are held for an individual we support, this must be done securely in a safe or locked cabinet.

7.4 Any items that require depositing into finance, the Finance Safeguarding Team are to be contacted so that the appropriate, secure arrangements can be made.

8. Mental Health Crisis Breathing Spaces

8.1 Where an individual BCBC support, or an individual supported elsewhere is also in receipt of Mental Health Crisis treatment, they may be eligible for a Mental Health Crisis Breathing Space (MHCBS).

8.2 A MHCBS is a debt respite scheme. It provides protections for people who are resident in England and Wales who are in problem debt. The protections include pausing enforcement action and contact from creditors and freezing interest and charges on their debts. A standard breathing space is available to anyone in problem debt who accesses debt advice and meets the eligibility criteria and conditions.

8.3 An Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) must certify that the individual is in receipt of mental health crisis treatment in order for this breathing space to be accessed to support the individual. The MHCBS provides stronger protections to the individual in receipt.

8.4 Further guidance and support for AMHPs can be found at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1161571/Guidance_on_mental_health_crisis_breathing_space_judgment_edits_final.pdf.

9. Children's Services Specifics

Allowances

9.1 Each individual supported by regulated residential services will have a set allowance for:

1 Personal Allowance
2 Activity Money
3 Clothing
4 Personal Needs

9.2 These allowances are set annually and will vary according to the age of the child/young person. Some allowances are paid to children/young people on a weekly basis, whereas other allowances are monthly.

9.3 A Personal Allowance should be a stated amount of money and the children/young person should be aware of this amount and be allowed to use this in whatever way they choose, with appropriate adult support and guidance. Supervision should be given to younger children, they should be encouraged to discuss how their money is being spent, supported to understand basic budgeting skills and making choices whilst experiencing money handling at a very young age. Older children should be encouraged to start taking more responsibility for budgeting, which could include buying their own mobile phone top-ups, paying for personal toiletries or funding activities. Saving for a larger item or trip could become part of the child's care plan and saving could be targeted for this purpose. As the young person starts to move towards independence then they could be encouraged to be purchasing goods for this purpose too.

9.4 Children/young people will also have an allowance for birthdays and Christmas presents.

9.5 If a child/young person chooses not to spend any of their allocated money, this is saved for them to use at a later date. Staff have a role to education the children/young people

in their care about how to manage their money and how to budget, and to encourage them to save for the future.

9.6 Independent Living Allowances – As part of a child/young person development through adolescence it is important for them to be provided with opportunities to develop skills that will assist them as they prepare for adult life. Each child/young person will be supported to develop an understanding of budgeting their money to cover essentials such as food, household bills, travel costs etc. They will be allocated a weekly allowance to practice this with the support from staff, so they are more prepared for the reality of living in supported accommodation or independently. These allowances are set to match those that young people would be entitled to if they are accessing further education or training courses.

Deductions of Allowances and Financial Responsibilities of Children and Young People

9.7 There may be instances where deductions are made from a child/young person's social allowances as a form of reparation. These may include:

- Deductions towards any damage intentionally caused by the child/young person to the home's property as a form of reparation. The deduction amount would be agreed with the young person up to a maximum of two-thirds of their weekly allowance
- Court Fines – If a court directs that a child/young person is to pay fines from their allowances, then deductions will be made according and paid directly to the court. If the court imposes such deductions or fines, not more than two thirds of a child/young person's allowance may be taken in any week.
- Deductions for mis-spending money provided for other purposes. For example, if a child/young person fails to attend school after being given money for a bus fare and dinner money and then returns to the home having spent these funds on something else.

9.8 Any deductions will be agreed with the child/young person, social worker and parent/carer. For example, a contribution towards a ticket to a concert/sporting event that the young person has requested to attend and be purchased on their behalf. Any deductions from a child/young person's personal money must be fully and accurately recorded in the child/young person's individual file. Any deduction must be signed by the member of staff making the deduction and the child/young person outlining the rationale for the decision.

Restrictions of Personal Money

9.9 There may be occasions where, due to concerns around risk taking behaviour, that the personal allowance is withheld from a child/young person for a period of time. This is only to be implemented in situations where there is significant concern of the child/young person and may include:

- Being at risk of harm due to misusing their money to purchase alcohol or substances
- Being at risk of being targeted by other children/young people and having their money taken from them by a third party.
- Using their money to enable them to abscond and meet up with people who may put them at risk.
- Using money to purchase weapons or other items which could cause significant harm to themselves or others.

9.10 Restrictions on access to personal money must be agreed by the home manager, social worker and the child/young person's parent/carer where appropriate and documentation must be completed outlining the rationale for the decision.

9.11 If personal money is withheld from the child/young person, they will still be able to purchase items they want or need, but will do so with supervision from staff, rather than having the money in hand. This process must be time-limited and be reviewed by the home manager and social worker based on the presenting risks.

9.12 When it is agreed that money is withheld, it must be recorded in the child/young person's financial records. All allowances that are withheld are saved for the child/young person until the period has expired and they are able to spend their money as normal.

Recording of all Personal Money

9.13 All money belonging to an individual child/young person must be clearly recorded on the designated form in the young person's individual file. Each allowance should be recorded on a separate sheet to make it easier for a child/young person to track their money.

9.14 Any record relating to a child/young person's money must be signed and dated by the staff member responsible for this. When children/young people use some of their money they must also sign and date the record to confirm they have taken money from their allowance. The remaining balance must be entered by the relevant staff member supporting the child/young person.

9.15 All financial records within the home, including children/young people's personal allowances are to be monitored and authorised by the home manager.

9.16 If a child moves to a new placement, then their money will move with them. Copies of receipts of any expenditure should be provided to the child/young person's social worker and then saved in the child/young person's electronic record for future reference.

10. Adults Services Specifics

Domiciliary Services – Support at Home

10.1 BCBC Support at Home services do not currently provide any support to individuals in managing their money or financial affairs. This responsibility remains with the individual in their own home. Where an assessment on capacity has taken place, in accordance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005, this responsibility remains with either the family member(s) or individual that holds the delegated authority for the person whom BCBC support.

10.2 Support at Home services retain the right and ability to support an individual with their money, depending on receipt of a relevant assessment that identifies this need. In this instance, the same process and approach utilised in Supported Living services will be used.

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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**23 JULY 2024**
Report Title:	**HOUSING SUPPORT GRANT UPLIFT**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING AND CHANGE**
Responsible Officer:	**RYAN JONES STRATEGIC HOUSING COMMISSIONING MANAGER**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**There is no impact on the policy framework or procedure rules – the uplifts requested in the report fall within Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) Contract Procedure Rules.**
Executive Summary:	**BCBC has received an uplift in Housing Support Grant (HSG) funding from Welsh Government of £610,661 for 2024-25.** **The Member of the Senedd has allocated this additional funding with the very clear expectation that this should be used to address pay pressures across the sector in the first instance and assist commissioners in supporting providers to deliver on Welsh Government's broader commitment to Fair Work and the Real Living Wage.** **Following notification of the uplift engagement has taken place with all commissioned providers supported by the HSG. This report details and asks for Cabinet approval to uplift contracts to achieve Welsh Government's expectations of the use of the uplift.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- Update Cabinet with regards to commissioning arrangements, following an uplift in Welsh Government (WG) Housing Support Grant (HSG) funding for 2024-25.

- Seek approval from Cabinet to uplift relevant contracts to ensure commissioned providers can address pay pressures and that no Housing Support Grant funded contracts are in a deficit.

- Delegate authority to the Head of Partnerships and Housing in consultation with the Chief Officer Finance, Housing and Change and the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy to negotiate terms for the modification of certain contracts to give effect to Cabinet approved uplifts and to arrange execution of appropriate documentation

- Notes that the remainder of the contract modifications will be approved in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation

2. Background

2.1 The Housing Support Grant (HSG) is an early intervention grant programme to support activity which prevents people from becoming homeless, stabilises their housing situation, or helps potentially homeless people to find and keep accommodation.

2.2 Following the publication of the indicative Welsh Government budget for 2024-25 Local Authorities were given an indicative HSG allocation and were required to submit to Welsh Government their Delivery Priorities, Stakeholder Engagement, Spend Plan and Annex A: Homelessness Statutory Duties, from their annual HSG Delivery Plan. An offer of grant was then made, following the publication of the final Welsh Government budget.

3. Current situation/ proposal

3.1 For 2024-25 Welsh Government provided an additional £13 million uplift across Wales, distributed in line with the existing Housing Support Grant distribution formula. For Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) this means an uplift of £610,661. BCBC's total HSG allocation for 2024-25 is £8,572,183.86.

3.2 Welsh Government have confirmed that whilst HSG budget allocations are on an annual basis, the increased HSG allocation to Local Authorities should be treated as the new baseline for HSG funding.

3.3 The Member of the Senedd has allocated this additional funding with the very clear expectation that this should be used to address pay pressures across the sector in the first instance and assist commissioners in supporting providers to deliver on Welsh Government's broader commitment to Fair Work and the Real Living Wage. This is in acknowledgement of the importance and value of the workforce and to support the sector in achieving the Real Living Wage.

3.4 In Bridgend 72% of HSG funding is used to commission services via third sector providers. Commissioning arrangements are undertaken in line with BCBC's Contract Procedure Rules.

3.5 Following notification of the uplift and expectations, engagement has taken place with HSG commissioned providers on a one to one basis. Through engagement we have sought to understand the position with regards to providers' current funding, in

particular whether funding is sufficient to ensure contracts are not in a deficit position.

3.6 Following this work it has been established that whilst some contracts are adequately funded, a number of contracts are in a financial deficit to varying degrees.

3.7 Where a contract deficit has been identified targeted work has been undertaken to ensure this is a genuine position and to explore all options to resolve, including maximising all funding streams and restructuring staff teams.

3.8 To ensure no HSG commissioned contracts are in a deficit position, uplifts to six support providers are proposed. All uplifts will be effective from 01st April 2024 and in place for the remaining lifetime of the contract.

3.9 The majority of the uplifts can be approved via the Council's existing Scheme of Delegation, however there are uplifts to two providers, the Wallich and Llamau for which Cabinet's approval is required in line Contract Procedure Rule 3.6:

3.6 Approval to any modification of an existing Contract or Framework Agreement must be obtained….:

(a) from the Appropriate Body where the value of the modification of a Contract or Framework Agreement exceeds £100,000;

3.10 BCBC's Contract Procedure Rules state that a contract may be modified in the certain circumstances, including the following scenarios:

Firstly, under CPR 3.3.6:

Where the value of the modification is below both of the following values:—

(i) the relevant applicable financial thresholds contained in the Regulations, and

(ii) 10% of the initial Contract Value for service and supply Contracts and 15% of the initial Contract Value for works Contracts,

provided that the modification does not alter the overall nature of the Contract or Framework Agreement.

Where several successive modifications are made, the value shall be the net cumulative value of the successive modifications and the updated figure shall be the reference figure when the Contract includes an indexation clause.

Secondly, under CPR 3.3.3:

Where all of the following conditions are fulfilled:

(i) the need for modification has been brought about by circumstances which the Council having been duly diligent could not have foreseen;

(ii) the modification does not alter the overall nature of the Contract;

(iii) any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original Contract or Framework Agreement.

For the purpose of the calculation of the price the updated figure shall be the reference figure when the Contract includes an indexation clause.

3.11 The detail of the contracts requiring modification via Cabinet approval is set out below:

Provider	Contract	Initial Contract Value	Annual Value of modification	Total Value of modification (to end of contract)	% increase to Initial Contract Value
Llamau	Young Persons Services Under 18	£1,663,821.60	£118,995.56	£317,321.49	19.07%
Wallich	Young Persons 18-25	£2,986,231.12	£45,146.90	£120,391.73	4.03%
Wallich	Temporary Supported Accommodation	£3,025,000	£23,544.03	£105,948.14	3.50%

3.12 As may be seen from the table above, the value of the modification of each contract with the Wallich is below 10% and therefore approval is sought under CPR 3.3.6. For the proposed modification to the contract and for Llamau, approval is sought under CPR 3.3.3, on the basis that need for contract uplifts has largely been impacted by the unpredictable high levels of inflation, there is no modification to the overall nature of any contract and no increase exceeds 50% of the original contract value. In relying on the ground in CPR 3.3.3 for approval, the Council will be obliged to publish a modification notice in accordance with the requirements of CPR 3.5

Where the Council has modified a Contract in accordance with Rule 3.3.2 or Rule 3.3.3 the Council is required to send a notice to that effect, in accordance with Regulation 51 of the Regulations for publication. Such a notice shall contain the information set out in Regulation 72.4 of the Regulations.

3.13 The total annual value of the uplifts detailed in the table at 3.11 is £187,686.49 and £543,661.36 to the end of the respective contractual periods. The remaining modifications are each of a value below £100,000 and therefore will be dealt with under the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

3.14 The total value of the proposed uplifts, including the above and those to be approved separately via the Scheme of Delegation is £274,605.92 per annum. The remainder of HSG uplift funding not required to increase contracts (£336,055.08 per annum) will be allocated in accordance with existing processes, with governance via a cross directorate Lead Forum, Chaired by the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change.

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

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

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

5.1 Housing Support Grant funded services are key to tacking homelessness, which is a Welsh Government priority. The report contributes to the following goals within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

- A prosperous Wales – Reducing homelessness supports a prosperous Wales by reducing cost to the public purse. An uplift in funding with ensure that funding for services is sustainable, to ensure ongoing service delivery.
- A resilient Wales – Services aim to prevent and relieve homelessness, increasing the resilience of both individuals supported and the general structures in place to support the goal of achieving a position where homelessness in Wales is rare, brief and non-recurrent. Increased funding for services includes the general resilience of funding arrangements in place, improving staff retention and recruitment.
- A Wales of cohesive communities – Preventing individuals from becoming homeless will support cohesive communities.
- A globally responsive Wales – Homelessness is an issue across the globe. These strategic documents set out the approach Bridgend will take to support Wales in in efforts around this agenda.

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

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 The prevention and relief of homelessness supports the agenda around climate change. A key priority is to increase BCBC's affordable housing supply to meet demand, with the intention of informing affordable housing schemes to meet these needs.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

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

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The cost of the contract uplifts to be approved by Cabinet is detailed at 3.11. The total annual cost of the proposed uplifts at 3.11 is £187,686.49 per annum and £543,661.36 to the end of the contractual periods. There are a number of smaller uplifts that will be approved through the delegated powers process. All uplifts will be funded via BCBC's Housing Support Grant allocation.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Note the contents of this report;
- Approves the modification of contracts detailed in this report under Contract Procedure Rules 3.3.3 and 3.3.6 to ensure commissioned providers can address pay pressures and that no Housing Support Grant funded contracts are in a deficit.
- Delegates authority to the Head of Partnerships and Housing in consultation with the Chief Officer Finance, Housing and Change and the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy to negotiate terms and arrange execution of appropriate documentation for the modification of these contracts
- Notes that the remainder of the contract modifications will be approved in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation

Background documents
None

Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**23 JULY 2024**
Report Title:	**REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2023-24**
Report Owner/ Corporate Director:	**CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING AND CHANGE**
Responsible Officer:	**JOANNE NORMAN GROUP MANAGER – BUDGET MANAGEMENT**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**As required by section 3 (budgetary control) of the Financial Procedure Rules, Chief Officers in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member are expected to manage their services within the approved cash limited budget and to provide the Chief Finance Officer with such information as is required to facilitate and monitor budgetary control.**
Executive Summary:	• **The net revenue budget for 2023-24 was £342.334 million. The overall outturn at 31st March 2024 was a net over spend of £7.054 million.** • **The overall over spend on the Council budget is primarily due to ongoing pressures within the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate and in respect of Home to School Transport, Homelessness and Legal Fees.** • **The budget approved for 2023-24 included budget reduction proposals totalling £2.608 million. At 31st March there was a shortfall on the savings target of £246,000, or 9.43% of the overall reduction target.** • **During 2023-24 Directorates drew down funding from specific earmarked reserves. The final draw down from revenue reserves was £12.186 million. An additional £6.952 million of other earmarked reserves also needed to be unwound to meet the in-year over spend, along with the transfer of £102,000 from the Council Fund.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with an update on the Council's revenue financial position for the year ended 31st March 2024.

2. Background

2.1 On 1st March 2023, Council approved a net revenue budget of £342.047 million for 2023-24 based on the provisional local government settlement received from Welsh Government (WG) in December 2022. The Welsh Government announced its final local government settlement on 28th February 2023 which included an increase in the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) for the Council of £287,106, increasing the net revenue budget for 2023-24 to £342.334 million. The reasons for this increase were outlined in a report to Council on 15th March 2023, but were mainly in respect of the transfer into the final local government settlement of the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) SCAPE grant.

2.2 As part of the Performance Management Framework, budget projections are reviewed regularly and reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis. The delivery of agreed budget reductions is also kept under review and reported to Cabinet as part of this process.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 Summary financial position at 31st March 2024

3.1.1 The Council's net revenue budget and final outturn for 2023-24 is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1- Comparison of budget against actual outturn at 31st March 2024

Directorate/Budget Area	Original Budget 2023-24 £'000	Current Budget 2023-24 £'000	Final Outturn Q4 2023-24 £'000	Final Over / (Under) Spend 2023-24 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend Qtr 3 2023-24 £'000
Directorate					
Education and Family Support	137,488	145,861	147,214	1,353	1,139
Social Services and Wellbeing	92,791	99,386	111,213	11,827	12,584
Communities	30,545	34,382	34,502	120	249
Chief Executive's	24,003	25,410	25,949	539	1,265
Total Directorate Budgets	**284,827**	**305,039**	**318,878**	**13,839**	**15,237**
Council Wide Budgets					
Capital Financing	7,203	7,142	3,064	(4,078)	(2,909)
Levies	9,189	9,189	9,181	(8)	(9)
Apprenticeship Levy	650	750	831	81	38
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	16,054	16,054	15,566	(488)	(451)
Insurance Premiums	1,363	1,363	764	(599)	(125)
Repairs & Maintenance	670	460	0	(460)	(40)
Pension Related Costs	430	430	457	27	27
Other Corporate Budgets	21,948	1,907	2,153	246	(1,481)
Total Council Wide Budgets	**57,507**	**37,295**	**32,016**	**(5,279)**	**(4,950)**
Net Council Tax Collection			**(1,506)**	**(1,506)**	**0**
Transfers from Earmarked Reserves			**(6,952)**	**(6,952)**	**0**
Transfer from Council Fund			**(102)**	**(102)**	**0**
Total	**342,334**	**342,334**	**342,334**	**0**	**10,287**

3.1.2 The overall outturn at 31st March 2024 is a net over spend of £7.054 million comprising £13.839 million net over spend on directorates and a net under spend of £5.279 million on Council wide budgets. The outturn position also takes into account additional council tax income collected over budget of £1.506 million during the financial year.

3.1.3 Further detail is provided on the more significant under and over spends and movements since quarter 3 in section 3.3.

3.1.4 The main financial pressures during 2023-24 were in the service areas of Social Services and Wellbeing (SSWB), Home to School Transport (HtST), Homelessness and Legal Fees.

3.1.5 In 2022-23, the SSWB Directorate experienced pressures of work to meet statutory duties against a backdrop of an exponential increase in demand in children's social care, and an increase in the number of independent residential placements in Children's Services, along with pressures in learning disabilities and older persons' residential placements. Budget growth of £8.174 million was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2023-24, £2.480 million of which was to address the implementation of the Real Living Wage for care workers. The SSWB Directorate continues to see an increase in demand and this budget growth was insufficient to meet that increase, with the outturn showing a £11.827 million over spend in 2023-24. A 3 year sustainability plan to improve outcomes for Children and Family Services in Bridgend was approved by Council on 20th September 2023, with an immediate budget virement of £1 million approved for Children's services. Council also agreed the additional use of up to £2.5 million of earmarked reserves in 2023-24 to support the service whilst a more permanent funding solution was sought. This has been drawn down in full in 2023-24 or the social services outturn position would have been £14.327 million. A recurrent budget of £2.5 million was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) budget setting process in February 2024 to provide this as a permanent budget to Children's Services in 2024-25.

3.1.6 There has also been an over spend on Home to School Transport of £1.780 million in 2023-24. Several retendering exercises on HtST took place in 2022-23 with market conditions not being favourable, due to high levels of inflation and shortage of drivers and escorts. These procurement exercises resulted in generally higher costs across many contracts. Further HtST contracts were subject to retender exercises in 2023-24, and higher costs continued to be experienced. Budget growth of £1.2 million was approved by Council as part of the MTFS budget setting process in February 2024, and as this budget area can be volatile with small changes in demand resulting in relatively high costs being incurred, this budget will require close monitoring during 2024-25.

3.1.7 Budget growth of £2.192 million was approved by Council as part of the MTFS budget setting process in February 2021 with a further £700,000 approved in March 2023, to continue the commitment to focus support for homeless individuals. However, the Council has seen a significant increase in the provision of temporary accommodation, from 601 households and 965 individuals between April 2022 to March 2023, to 659 households and 1,034 individuals between April 2023 and March 2024. There is an over spend on Housing & Homelessness of £240,000 in 2023-24.

3.1.8 Legal fees continued to be a pressure in 2023-24, specifically in relation to public and private law childcare cases, along with an increase in the volume of complex cases that have required King's Counsel. The net over spend in Legal, Democratic and Regulatory services is £553,000. Budget growth of £300,000 was approved by Council as part of the MTFS budget setting process in February 2024 towards the increase in legal fees for children's services.

3.1.9 Going forward there are increased pressures on council tax collection and an increase in eligibility for council tax support through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (see paragraph 3.3.5) due to the continuing cost of living crisis.

3.1.10 A budget pressure of £550,000 was approved by Council in February 2024 to mitigate emerging pressures in 2024-25 which will be allocated in line with need and reported through quarterly monitoring reports.

Budget virements/technical adjustments

3.1.11 There have been a number of budget virements and technical adjustments between budgets since the quarter 3 Revenue Forecast was presented to Cabinet in January 2024.

3.1.12 The main virements and technical adjustments since quarter 3 are outlined below:

Budget Virement

Service vired from / to	Amount
Balance of one-off contribution from Communities Directorate to Corporate Contingency. £400,000 originally vired in quarter 2 to fund demolition works at Brackla car park based on estimated costs. Tenders now received with reduced contribution required from Corporate Contingency in this financial year.	£289,034

Technical Adjustment

Service vired from / to	Amount
Allocation of funding retained centrally in respect of Soulbury pay award for 2022 and 2023 – confirmed in December 2023.	£60,270
Allocation of corporately held funding for Feasibility works in line with spend.	£127,500
Allocation of corporately held funding for Revenue minor works in line with spend.	£82,116

Budget Reduction Proposals

3.2 Monitoring of Budget Reduction Proposals

Prior Year Budget Reductions

3.2.1 As outlined in previous monitoring reports during the year, there were still £280,000 of outstanding prior year budget reduction proposals that had not been met in full. Directors have been working to realise these savings during the 2023-24 financial year. The position at year end is summarised in **Appendix 1** with a summary per directorate provided in Table 2.

Table 2 – Outstanding Prior Year Budget Reductions

	Total Budget Reductions Required	Total Budget Reductions Achieved	Shortfall
DIRECTORATE /BUDGET REDUCTION AREA	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Social Services and Wellbeing	115	115	0
Communities	165	0	165
TOTAL	**280**	**115**	**165**

3.2.2 Table 2 shows that of the £280,000 prior year budget proposals outstanding, £115,000 have been realised, leaving a shortfall of £165,000. Proposals still not achieved include:

- COM 2 – Re-location of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle (£60,000 shortfall). The new site opened during quarter 4, however the timing of the opening meant that the saving could not be implemented in 2023-24. The majority of the saving will now be made in 2024-25 once the exit terms of the lease have been finalised. The service will endeavour to meet any shortfall in the saving through one-off efficiencies in 2024-25 to deliver a balanced budget position.
- COM 3 – change the composition of household food waste bags (£35,000 shortfall). The budget reduction proposal was delayed until the outcome of national research had been completed to ensure any potential changes in legislation did not impact on this proposal. The new waste contractors from 1st April 2024 have been advised of the change of composition, therefore the saving will be made in full during 2024-25.
- COM 4 – remove Business in Focus from running Enterprise Centres in Bridgend (£20,000 shortfall). The review of Business in Focus continues to be explored to identify operating efficiencies with a view to restructuring the management agreement with Business in Focus to deliver this saving in full in 2024-25.
- COM 5 – commercially let a wing of Ravens Court to a partner organisation of business (£50,000 shortfall). Demand for office space at this time is limited and the re-letting market is extremely challenging therefore the Council has

been unable to rent a wing of Ravens Court as anticipated. Discussions are ongoing with a number of parties in relation to the available accommodation at Ravens Court moving forward.

Budget Reductions 2023-24

3.2.3 The budget approved for 2023-24 included budget reduction proposals totalling £2.608 million, which is broken down in **Appendix 2** and summarised in Table 3 below. The year end position is that £2.362 million has been achieved, leading to an overall shortfall on the savings target of £246,000, or 9.43% of the overall reduction target.

Table 3 – Monitoring of Budget Reductions 2023-24

	Total Budget Reductions Required	Total Budget Reductions Achieved	Shortfall
DIRECTORATE /BUDGET REDUCTION AREA	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Education and Family Support	40	0	40
Schools	2,118	2,118	0
Social Services and Wellbeing	0	0	0
Communities	375	169	206
Chief Executive's	75	75	0
TOTAL	**2,608**	**2,362**	**246**

3.2.4 The most significant budget reduction proposals not achieved in full are:-

- EDFS1 – Delegation of school transport responsibilities to The Bridge Pupil Referral Unit (£40,000 shortfall). During 2023-24, officers investigated the practicalities and implications of this bespoke transport arrangement. It was determined that without capital investment in a bespoke vehicle and additional staff resources the proposal could not be delivered. Since September 2023, the approach taken in relation to supporting Post-16 learners with college passes has been changed, with the £40,000 budget reduction now anticipated to be made on the Post-16 transport budget.
- COM1 – closure of each of the Community Recycling Centre sites for one weekday per week (£46,000 shortfall). Public consultation on this proposal was undertaken between 30th June and 12th September 2023, with the outcome reported to Cabinet on 21st November 2023, when the proposal was approved. A marginal saving was made in 2023-24, with the full saving being realised in 2024-25.
- COM 2 – Charging Blue Badge Holders for parking (£40,000 shortfall). The traffic management team were engaged in the introduction of the default national speed limit (20mph) in built up areas, and therefore the saving proposal was not achieved in 2023-24 due to the processes required to introduce any change. The Traffic and Transport team is currently depleted due to unplanned staff absences and it is currently envisaged the project will advance in Autumn 2024. Shortfalls against this savings target will be met through one-off efficiencies in 2024-25 to deliver a balanced budget position.
- COM5 – commercially let two wings of Ravens Court to a partner organisation or business (£120,000 shortfall) – Demand for office space at this time is limited and

the re-letting market is extremely challenging, therefore the Council was unable to let two wings of Ravens court as anticipated. Discussions are ongoing with a number of parties in relation to the available accommodation at Ravens Court moving forward.

3.2.5 As outlined in the MTFS reports to Cabinet and Council, MTFS Principle 7 states that "Savings proposals are fully developed and include realistic delivery timescales prior to inclusion in the annual budget. An MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency Reserve will be maintained to mitigate against unforeseen delays". An MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve was established in 2016-17. This reserve has been used to meet specific budget reduction proposals in previous years on a one-off basis pending alternative measures. It has not been used in 2023-24 to mitigate shortfalls as service areas were committed to identifying alternative one-off under spends in the service areas affected. This approach has also enabled the MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve to be maintained going into 2024-25 where the level of savings required to be made is £13.045 million in 2024-25, compared to £2.608 million in 2023-24, and therefore at much higher risk of not being achieved in full.

3.3 Commentary on the financial position at 31st March 2024

Financial position at 31st March 2024

A summary of the financial position for each main service area is attached in **Appendix 3** to this report and comments on the most significant variances are provided below.

3.3.1 Education and Family Support Directorate

The net budget for the Directorate for 2023-24, including school delegated budgets, was £145.861 million and the actual outturn was £147.214 million, following draw down of £649,000 from earmarked reserves, resulting in an over spend of £1.353 million. The main variances are:

EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT DIRECTORATE	Net Budget £'000	Actual Outturn £'000	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
Learner Support	6,984	8,179	1,195	17.1%
Family Support	3,602	3,100	(502)	-13.9%
Home to School Transport	8,625	10,405	1,780	20.6%
Catering Services	2,195	1,539	(656)	-29.9%
Education Directorate Support Unit	661	490	(171)	-25.9%
Integrated working	786	712	(74)	-9.4%
Corporate health and safety	411	286	(125)	-30.4%

Schools' delegated budgets

Total funding delegated to schools in 2023-24 was £123.603 million (including Post-16 grant funding of £7.475 million), along with £1.761 million one-off earmarked reserve (EMR) funding for energy budgets.

The schools' delegated budget is reported as balanced in any one year as any under spend or over spend is automatically carried forward, in line with Welsh Government legislation, into the new financial year before being considered by the Corporate Director - Education and Family Support in line with the 'Guidance and Procedures on Managing Surplus School Balances' as set out in the Financial Scheme for Schools.

The year-end position for 2023-24 was:-

- Net overall school balances totalled £6.898 million at the start of the financial year. During 2023-24 school balances decreased by £4.493 million to £2.405 million at the end of the financial year, representing 1.92% of the total funding allocated in 2023-24.
- Out of a total of 59 schools, there are 21 schools with a deficit balance (20 primary and 1 special school) and 20 schools (13 primary and 7 secondary) that have balances in excess of the statutory limits (£50,000 primary and £100,000 for secondary and special schools) in line with the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010. These balances will be analysed in line with the Council's agreed 'Guidance and Procedures on Managing Surplus School Balances'.
- Council approved an MTFS efficiency savings target against School Delegated Budgets of 3% in 2024-25, with an indicative 2% for 2025-26 and 1% thereafter. The 3% target in 2024-25 equates to £3.441 million, therefore the school delegated budgets will require close monitoring throughout 2024-25. The Financial Scheme for Schools requires schools to obtain permission from both the Corporate Director – Education and Family Support and the Section 151 Officer to set a deficit budget. Schools with deficits of greater than £50,000 in a primary school or greater than £150,000 in a secondary or special school are requested to attend termly support and challenge meetings with senior Local Authority officers. In addition, any unplanned deficits that occur within the financial year due to unforeseen circumstances must be reported as soon as they become known to the school.
- A summary of the position for each sector and overall for 2023-24 is provided below:-

	Balance brought forward	**One off EMR funding**	**Funding allocated in 2023-24**	**Total Funding available**	**Actual Spend**	**Balance at year end**
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Primary	2,875	1,364	54,159	58,398	58,115	283
Secondary	3,734	208	57,729	61,671	59,083	2,588
Special	289	189	11,715	12,193	12,659	-466
Total	**6,898**	**1,761**	**123,603**	**132,262**	**129,857**	**2,405**

Central Education and Family Support Directorate budgets

Learner Support

- There is a net over spend of £1.195 million in Learner Support budgets.
- This firstly relates to an over spend of £627,000 on the inter-authority recoupment budget due to an increase in demand for Bridgend pupils in out of county placements as there are insufficient spaces at Heronsbridge and Ysgol Bryn Castell. The increase in out of county placements has been sustained in 2023-24, increasing from 16 in Summer 2022, up to 21 for Summer 2023, 22 in Autumn 2023 and 21 in Spring 2024.
- There has also been an increase in demand for additional learning needs (ALN) support at schools resulting in an over spend of £570,000, in particular sensory support and communication, complex medical needs, and relationship support. The number of pupils supported in 2022-23 was 174 increasing to 277 in 2023-24. In addition to the increase in demand, there has been an overall reduction in Welsh Government grants supporting ALN spend from £835,584 in 2022-23 to £425,383 in 2023-24.
- Council approved £500,000 of additional funding as part of the MTFS 2024-25 to 2027-28 for learning support to meet the costs of increased demand for Bridgend pupils in out of county placements and for increased demand for additional learning needs support at schools as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- Adult Community Learning (ACL) has also over spent by £135,000 in 2023-24 which is primarily due to Welsh Government changing the grant terms and conditions resulting in already committed in-year expenditure no longer being eligible and unable to be claimed. In addition, the Medium Term Financial Strategy approved by Council in February 2024 included a budget reduction proposal to remove the core funding for the ACL provision from 2024-25, therefore any future spend in this service area will need to be in line with grant terms and conditions to avoid any over spend in 2024-25.

Family Support

- The under spend of £502,000 primarily relates to in-year receipt of additional grant funding (£131,000) and maximisation of the Children and Communities Grant (£190,000) in quarter 4. The two additional grants are the Youth Endowment Fund (£262,000 – 18 months from September 2023 to March 2025) and the Turnaround grant (£59,000 – two years, ending March 2025).
- The remaining under spend is due to staff vacancies as a result of the selective recruitment freeze in 2023-24 and has supported over spends in other service areas within the directorate. A review of the Family Support budgets is currently underway, with a revised structure to be implemented in the first half of 2024-25.

Home-to-school transport (HtST)

- The revenue outturn report for 2022-23 highlighted a £1.316 million over spend on the HtST budget. This was primarily as a result of retendering exercises that had taken place, which had been impacted by unfavourable market conditions. This had subsequently resulted in higher costs across many contracts in line with difficulties associated with the aftermath of the pandemic, namely the shortage of drivers and escorts and increased fuel costs internationally.
- The over spend on the HtST budget increased by £464,000 in 2023-24 up to £1.780 million. Actual spend increased from £9.508 million in 2022-23 up to £10.405 million in 2023-24, therefore the pressure was partly mitigated by an in year allocation from the central price inflation budget. The main reason for the increased

over spend is that further retendering exercises took place in September 2023 for Special School contracts resulting in an increase of £698,000 compared with 2022-23, highlighting that market conditions are still predominantly unfavourable for HtST contracts.

- Council have approved a £1.2 million budget pressure for 2024-25 as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy which will contribute to the increased costs of HtST that have continued to be experienced in 2023-24.
- Bridgend County Borough Council launched a full public consultation on proposed changes to the home-to-school and college transport arrangements in April 2024 which are expected to make just over £1 million in budgetary savings for the local authority. The Medium Term Financial Strategy approved by Council in February 2024, includes an indicative £792,000 budget reduction proposal on the HtST budget in 2025-26.

Catering Services

- Catering Services has an under spend of £656,000 in 2023-24.
- £237,000 of this under spend is due to a one-off receipt of a working balance from Paypoint who administered Free School Meal holiday vouchers on behalf of the authority until the end of the May 2023 half term holiday. The deposit was held open until quarter 3 of 2023-24 to maximise the number of vouchers that had been issued being redeemed by families.
- Secondly, as reported in quarter 3, Welsh Government announced on 20th December that they had completed their review on the Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) unit rate and had agreed an increase per meal to £3.20 from £2.90 effective from January 2024. However, in recognising the additional costs incurred in delivering the UPFSM offer at pace, additional one-off funding was also released by WG in 2023-24 to cover the period April to December 2023 (£100,000).
- Finally, quarter 4 saw an overall increase in the uptake of school meals and Year 4 also moved over to the UPFSM, resulting in an increase in income of £185,000 in the final quarter of 2023-24.
- Price inflation on food has been particularly volatile in 2023-24, with a recent reduction in food inflationary levels seen. The cost of food purchases will be closely monitored going into 2024-25 to determine whether the inflationary pressures in this area impact on cost recovery in this service area in 2024-25, or whether it will be mitigated by the 30p increase per meal introduced after the February 2024 half-term in line with the Council's Fees and Charges policy.
- The under spend in 2023-24 is not anticipated to be a recurring under spend due to the one off nature of the income and grant funding received. In addition, the increase in roll out of UPFSM should be matched by an equal increase in food and staffing costs to deliver Welsh Government's commitment for all primary school children in Wales to get free school meals by 2024, with Year 6 being the final year for the scheme to be rolled out in Bridgend from September 2024.

Education Directorate Support Unit (EDSU)

- The under spend of £171,000 is due to the selective recruitment freeze in 2023-24. Part of this under spend will be utilised towards the MTFS budget reduction for the EDSU of £63,000 in 2024-25, with consideration given to the balance of the under spend being used to support budget reduction proposals that have been identified as not currently being able to be delivered in full in 2024-25.

Integrated Working

- The under spend of £74,000 relates primarily to staff vacancies as Early Help and Edge of Care services are currently undergoing a review by the Education and Family Support and SSWB directorates. It is anticipated that the revised structure will be implemented early in 2024-25.

Corporate Health and Safety Unit

- The under spend of £125,000 within the Corporate Health and Safety Unit primarily relates to staff vacancies. Part of this under spend will be utilised towards the MTFS budget reduction for the Corporate Health and Safety Unit of £40,000 in 2024-25, with the remaining vacant posts having been, or due to be, recruited to.

3.3.2 **Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate**

The net budget for the Directorate for 2023-24 was £99.386 million and the actual outturn was £111.213 million following draw down of £5.660 million from earmarked reserves, resulting in an over spend of £11.827 million. The over spend looks lower than the projected over spend reported at quarter 3 of £12.584 million due to the full draw down in quarter 4 of the £2.5 million earmarked reserve established in respect of the Children's Services sustainability plan approved by Council in September 2023.

The main reasons for the £11.827 million over spend are:-

- The Directorate has continued to experience both service and financial pressures in meeting statutory duties with a backdrop of a continued exponential increase in demand in Children's social care. There were 11,940 contacts received during 2023-24 compared to 8,334 in 2022-23. This 43.3% increase impacts on the workforce required to assess and safeguard children. Whilst the overall number of care experienced children has reduced, the number of independent residential placements has remained static throughout the year, ending the year at 19. The budget covers between 6-8 placements depending on the unit cost. In addition, there are at any time a small number of placements which are Operating Without Registration (OWR). Given the additional risks of children living in settings without the protection accorded by regulation, these placements are risk managed and have higher staff ratios, which drive up the cost of the service. The 3 year sustainability plan to improve the way that children and families are supported in Bridgend was agreed by Council on 20th September 2023 with an immediate revenue budget virement of £1 million approved for Children's services together with the additional use of up to £2.5 million of earmarked reserves whilst a more permanent funding solution was sought. The £2.5 million earmarked reserve was drawn down in full during quarter 4 against Children's Social Care Commissioning and Social Work and Management and Administration budgets to address the workforce over spends in these areas.
- Council approved £2.5 million recurrent funding as the balance of the £3.5 million budget pressure for Children's Services on the 28th February as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-25 to 2027-28. This permanent budget pressure for 2024-25 replaces the temporary earmarked reserve funding drawn down in 2023-24. Progress is being made with implementing the plan, particularly to progress the steady and safe reduction of agency workforce, through improved retention and recruitment of a permanent workforce, including successful grow your own scheme and international recruits. A new emergency residential assessment service has been opened and this is helping to reduce costs of making additional placements.

However, even one additional placement can have massive budgetary implications meaning, despite progress, spend has been contained, rather than reduced.

- There continues to be pressures in learning disabilities and older people's services driven by the complexity of need. The Social Services Improvement Board is overseeing a number of actions to address the growth in the adult services budget. These include accelerating the work to transform learning disabilities. An independent review highlighted the need to:-
    - Invest to save to 'right size and right price' care packages to support people to live as independently as possible.
    - Support people to retain and regain independence with a target set for 80% of all assessments where long term care and support at home is indicated to go through short term service including enabling and reablement..
    - In relation to the pathways between care and support and preventative services, to maximise the opportunity for people to have wellbeing outcomes met through community connection and resources in their community.

- Further actions for 2024-25 are being developed into a 3 year service and financial strategic plan for adult services to be considered by Cabinet in Autumn 2024 following engagement over the summer period.
- Council approved £1.970 million towards the increased costs of home care for adults with learning disabilities and £1 million towards additional residential/nursing placement costs due to new admissions for older people and older people with mental health needs as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-25 to 2027-28.

The most significant variances for the directorate are :

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING DIRECTORATE	**Net Budget** **£'000**	**Actual Outturn** **£'000**	**Actual Variance Over/(under) budget** **£'000**	**% Variance**
Adult Social Care	65,964	72,864	6,900	10.5%
Prevention and Wellbeing	7,492	7,097	(395)	-5.3%
Childrens Social Care	25,930	31,252	5,322	20.5%

Adult Social Care

There is a net over spend of £6.900 million on the Adult Social Care budget. The most significant variances contributing to this over spend were:

ADULT SOCIAL CARE	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget £'000
Learning Disabilities Home Care	2,288
Homes For Older People	1,792
Learning Disabilities Residential Care	1,078
Assessment and Care Management	812
Learning Disabilities Day Opportunities	760
Mental Health Homecare	591
Older People Direct Payments	281
Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Home Care	231
Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Direct Payments	194
Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Residential/ Nursing	65
Equipment & Adaptions	55
Mental Health Residential Care	(118)
Learning Disabilities Direct Payments	(154)
Mental Health Supported Accommodation	(231)
Older People Home Care	(510)

- Learning Disabilities Home Care – the over spend of £2.288 million is as a result of the number of hours of care covered by home care services having increased along with an increase in the complexity of people's needs – e.g. the need for waking nights required rather than sleep-in. The pressure on this service area has continued in quarter 4, resulting in an increase of £295,000 from the projected over spend of £1.993 million at quarter 3. During quarter 4 the service area benefited from £371,000 of additional funding through the maximisation of the Housing Support Grant. However, whilst a specialist brokerage process commenced in December 2023 to ensure specialist placements across Adult Social Care are strictly commissioned through a rigorous process which supports value maximisation, market competition and scrutiny, the transformation programme achieved cashable savings of £42,000 in 2023-24 with the full effect of these in 2024-25 anticipated to be £209,000. These results are being regularly reported to the Social Services Improvement Board.

- Homes For Older People – the over spend of £1.792 million is mainly due to increased Residential/Nursing placement costs (£1.708 million) which has increased by £596,000 since quarter 3. The service area has seen an increase in demand in 2023-24, as at the start of the 2023-24 financial year there were 416 placements increasing to 455 in quarter 4. All contributions towards residential care are financially assessed in accordance with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 but the average income received each year will vary in total depending on the financial position of the people needing care during the financial year – e.g. if there are a large number of people who have no savings or assets,

and are therefore reliant on the local authority paying their contribution in full, then this will decrease the overall average income received per person.

- Learning Disabilities Residential Care – there is an over spend of £1.078 million which is primarily due to increased costs for existing placements due to changing needs (£1.121 million) which is partially offset by under spends on the Breakaway Respite Service (£43,000) due to staff vacancies. The quarter 3 position was a projected over spend of £811,000 with the increase to quarter 4 being due to 3 new placements (of which 1 was a transition from Children's Services), along with increases in costs for existing placements within the residential and nursing service.

- Assessment and Care Management – there is an over spend of £812,000 which is comparable to the quarter 3 projection of an over spend of £821,000, due to the need to have agency cover due to demands in the system particularly linked to supporting the acute hospital and timely discharges and the complexity of court protection work in learning disabilities. There is a plan which is being implemented to reduce and then eliminate the use of agency social workers in adult social care as the new operating model is implemented.

- Learning Disabilities Day Opportunities – the over spend of £760,000 mainly relates to placement numbers exceeding the available budget for external day services (£500,500). Secondly, whilst the learning disabilities home care budget also has an over spend as people continue not to return to internal day services, new people are taking up the vacant day services placements with increasing numbers of older people with dementia and physical frailty in the service. Thirdly, transport costs are higher (£287,000) due to the service having to hire vehicles on a short term basis as the service continues to experience delays in the delivery of replacement vehicles due to chassis parts being difficult to obtain, which are now planned to be received over the Summer. The delays were originally due to a backlog of orders from Covid but further impacted by the Ukraine war, and are still being experienced so further pressures relating to vehicle hire are expected in the first half of 2024-25. A learning disabilities transformation programme has been established which is focussed on embedding progressive practice, reviewing current high cost care and support packages and cost effective commissioning. There are outcome surgeries and panels to ensure that practice is strength based, a review of day opportunities and commissioning colleagues are undertaking a deep dive into the supported living contract

- Mental Health Home Care – this includes supported living, short breaks and domiciliary care. The over spend of £591,000 is mainly due to increased needs of people with supported living packages of care. The over spend has decreased since quarter 3 by £88,000 due to a net reduction of 2 placements taking the total to 48.

- Older People Direct Payments – there is an over spend of £281,000 across the Direct Payments budgets in this area. The main reason for the over spend is the increasing complexity of cases, however it has decreased from the projected £302,000 over spend reported at quarter 3 due to a net reduction of 12 cases.

- Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Home Care – there is an over spend of £231,000 which has increased since the quarter 3 projected over spend of £101,000 due to an increase in the number of placements from 89 reported at quarter 3 to 119 by the end of quarter 4.

- Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Direct Payments - there is an over spend of £194,000 which is comparable to the £198,000 over spend projected at quarter 3. The over spend relates to an increasing complexity of cases that impact on the average cost of direct payments support.

- Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Residential/Nursing – the over spend of £65,000 is due to higher placement numbers than budget. This is comparable with the quarter 3 projected over spend of £61,000.

- Equipment & Adaptions – the over spend of £55,000 has reduced from the quarter 3 projected over spend of £84,000. The over spend position is because of continuing demand for equipment due to the need to support individuals in line with Welsh Government's rehabilitation and recovery model.

- Mental Health Residential Care – the under spend of £118,000 has decreased from the quarter 3 projected under spend of £185,000. This is due to there being an increase in the number of placements from 40 at quarter 3 to 43 in quarter 4.

- Learning Disabilities Direct Payments – the under spend of £154,000 has improved from the projected under spend at quarter 3 of £112,000. The underlying under spend is due to reimbursements being reclaimed from people using the service where balances in accounts have exceeded the permitted contingency. The increase in under spend since quarter 3 is due to reductions in existing packages of support.

- Mental Health Supported Accommodation – the £231,000 under spend primarily relates to utilisation of Innovation Grant Funding to support staffing budgets in this service area (£262,000).

- Older People Home Care – the £510,000 under spend primarily relates to staffing under spends as a result of the recruitment challenges in the home care sector. Agency staff have been utilised to supplement the workforce where available, however the market is showing an improving picture and it is anticipated that there will be a reduction in the use of agency staff in 2024-25. The under spend also reflects maximisation of the Regional Integrated Fund and Transformation grant funding - £140,000. The under spend has reduced from the projected under spend of £765,000 reported at quarter 3 due to an increase in the number of Independent Domiciliary Care packages which have increased from 560 at quarter 3 to 603 in quarter 4.

Prevention and Wellbeing

- There is an overall under spend of £395,000 within Prevention and Wellbeing. Council approved a budget pressure of £2 million for Adult Social Care as part of the 2023-24 to 2027-28 Medium Term Financial Strategy. £305,000 was allocated to the Local Community Co-ordinators service. Due to delays in recruiting to the posts, there was an under spend of £111,000 on staffing. These posts have now been filled.
- The balance of the under spend relates to maximisation of grant funding opportunities, which mostly took place in quarter 4, including Shared Prosperity Fund (£144,000), Playworks (£16,000), Age Friendly (£25,000) and Children and Communities Grant (£133,000).

Children's Social Care

There is a net over spend of £5.322 million on the Children's Social Care Budget, which is a decrease on the projected net over spend of £7.585 million at quarter 3, due primarily to the full £2.5 million draw down of the Children's Services sustainability earmarked reserve in quarter 4.

The most significant variances contributing to this over spend were:-

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE	Actual Variance Over/(under) Budget – outturn £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) Budget – qtr 3 £'000
Care Experienced Children	5,609	5,329
Commissioning & Social Work	55	2,335
Management & Administration	(34)	196
Other Child & Family Support Services	(123)	(208)
Family Support Services	(185)	(67)

- The over spend of £5.609 million for Care Experienced Children is due to a combination of factors:-

- The Independent Residential Care budget has over spent by £5.345 million which has increased by £110,000 from the quarter 3 projected over spend of £5.235 million. The number of care experienced children in out of authority placements has reduced by 1 since quarter 3 however, there have been increases in agency costs for unregulated placements. The underlying over spend position is due to a number of factors and whilst the overall number of care experienced children has reduced, the number in independent residential placements (19) exceeds the budget which covers between 6-8 placements depending on the unit cost. In addition, there are insufficient foster carer placements to meet needs and children requiring specialist provision sometimes with high staffing ratios to keep them safe and protected.
- Children's Residential Services have an under spend of £384,000 which is comparable with the projected under spend position of £346,000 at quarter 3. In 2023-24 a budget pressure of £684,000 was approved for Children's Services for staffing costs in residential settings. The underlying under spend relates to this growth as there was a delay in the opening of Golygfa'r Dolydd (Meadow's View), the new build children's home. Whilst the service had an increase in Eliminating Profit grant in quarter 4 of £237,284, this was offset by additional spend on both staffing and non-staffing, due to increases in take up of beds in the new residential provision.
- There is a projected under spend on Independent Fostering Agency placements (£322,000) which has decreased slightly since the quarter 3 projected under spend of £344,000 as the number of placements has increased. The underlying under spend is due to other placement options being utilised including Special Guardianship Orders which are projecting an over spend of £476,000.

- Commissioning and Social Work – the over spend of £55,000 has decreased significantly since the projected over spend of £2.295 million at quarter 3 due to a £2.316 million draw down in quarter 4 from the £2.5 million Children's services sustainability EMR against workforce pressures. The underlying over spend prior to draw down of the earmarked reserve is mainly due to having to rely on agency staffing across all the children's social work teams due to the recruitment challenges and the need to operate above historic establishment levels to maintain safe caseloads, although good progress is being made in retaining and recruitment including international recruitment and conversion of some agency workers to permanent contracts. The decision of the Council in relation to the sustainability plan now enables permanent recruitment to progress.

- Management & Administration – the under spend of £34,000 has reduced since the projected over spend of £196,000 at quarter 3 due to a £184,000 draw down in quarter 4 from the £2.5 million Children's services sustainability EMR. The underlying over spend is due to agency workforce ensuring effective management oversight in accordance with inspection findings. All management positions have now been successful recruited to.

- Other Child & Family Support Services – the under spend of £123,000 has reduced from the projected under spend of £208,000 reported at quarter 3 as there was a reduction in the anticipated refund from the Regional Adoption service based on a higher number of children from Bridgend being adopted than was anticipated at quarter 3. The MTFS includes a £250,000 budget reduction proposal against the Bridgend County Borough Council contribution towards the regional Western Bay adoption service, which will require close monitoring to ensure its deliverability.

- Family Support Services – the under spend of £185,000 has increased from the projected under spend of £67,000 at quarter 3. This is due to a combination of a decrease in demand on direct payments (£56,000) and Advocacy services (£60,000) along with maximisation of Housing Support Grant of £17,810, on Domestic Abuse service provision.

3.3.3 **Communities Directorate**

The net budget for the Directorate for 2023-24 was £34.382 million and the actual outturn was £34.502 million following draw down of £2.419 million from earmarked reserves, resulting in an over spend of £120,000.

The Directorate has undertaken work on increasing fees and charges in-year including charges for green and bulky waste collections. Secondly, Corporate Landlord continue to work on several office rationalisation proposals, including Ravens Court and the Innovation Centre and maximising the use of the Civic Offices to enable deliverability of historic and in-year MTFS budget reduction proposals (see 3.2.2 and 3.2.4). Other opportunities are also being explored with service areas to ensure the best use of the corporate estate. Finally, maximising grant funding is an ongoing activity as the Directorate has a number of significant grant allocations, including £23 million over 3 years for the Shared Prosperity Fund.

The main variances are:

COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE	Net Budget £'000	Actual Outturn £'000	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
Climate Change Response	571	440	(131)	-22.9%
Waste Disposal & Collection	10,260	10,054	(206)	-2.0%
Fleet Services	135	618	483	357.8%
Highways Services (DSO)	3,347	3,183	(164)	-4.9%
Engineering Services	214	44	(170)	-79.4%
Traffic & Transportation	871	697	(174)	-20.0%
Corporate Landlord	4,198	4,745	547	13.0%

Climate Change Response

- The under spend of £131,000 in the Climate Change Response budget is primarily due to staff vacancies (£81,000) and subsequent under spend on associated climate change supplies and services budgets (£50,000) as a result of the selective vacancy freeze. Part of this under spend will be utilised towards the MTFS budget reduction for the Climate Emergency Response Programme of £55,000 in 2024-25.

Waste Disposal and Collection

- There is a net under spend on the Waste Disposal and Collection budget of £206,000 which has improved from the projected net under spend of £99,000 reported at quarter 3. The under spend is mainly due to additional income in relation to the joint service provision with the City and County of Swansea for the treatment of the Council's domestic food waste with higher income levels being achieved during 2023-24 (£129,000), however, there are still underlying pressures on the waste budget, including:
    - £60,000 due to the delay in the achievement of the 2022-23 MTFS saving, COM 2 - Re-location of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle resulting in cessation of lease payments at the existing site. The new site opened during quarter 4, however the timing of the opening meant that the saving could not be implemented in 2023-24. The majority of the saving will now be made in 2024-25 once the exit terms of the lease at Tythegston have been finalised.
    - £35,000 due to the delay in the achievement of the 2022-23 MTFS saving, COM 3 – change the composition of Household Food Waste Bags. The budget reduction proposal was delayed until the outcome of national research had been completed to ensure any potential changes in legislation did not impact on this proposal. The new waste contractors from 1st April 2024 have been advised of the change of composition, therefore the saving will be made in full during 2024-25.
    - £50,000 due to the delay in the achievement of the 2023-24 MTFS saving, COM 1 – closure of each of the Community Recycling Centre sites for one weekday per week. Public consultation on this proposal was under taken between 30th June and 12th September 2023, with the outcome reported to Cabinet on 21st November 2023, when the proposal was approved. A marginal saving was made in 2023-24, with the full saving being realised in 2024-25.

- The remaining pressure on the waste budget is due to an increase in subscribers for both the Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP) (£139,000) and Garden Waste (£53,000) collection services. The AHP service has been promoted to further improve the recycling levels achieved in Bridgend which also mitigates the risk of fines imposed by Welsh Government (WG) if local authorities do not meet their recycling targets. It has seen an increase of 6.2% since the start of the 2022-23 financial year. Garden waste subscriptions have increased by 20% over the last two years with the number of subscribers increasing from 6,249 in 2021-22 to 7,536. An annual subscription fee is charged for the service, and the garden waste collected also improves the recycling levels achieved in Bridgend, however it was not a fully cost-recovering service in 2023-24. It is anticipated under the new waste contract from the 1st April 2024 that the service will be fully cost-recovering in line with the Council's Fees and Charges Policy.

Fleet Services

- There is an over spend of £483,000 on Fleet Services which has worsened since the £350,000 over spend projected at quarter 3. As previously reported, the fleet services team operate on a break-even basis with re-charges for work undertaken on directorates, South Wales Police (SWP) and the general public's vehicles, generating income to support staffing and overhead costs. Productivity levels continue to be impacted by long term sickness and ongoing issues with recruitment and retention difficulties. A market supplement has been introduced in line with the corporate Market Supplement Policy following comparisons with neighbouring authorities and remuneration of HGV technicians, which has seen some limited success in filling vacancies. A report outlining options for service operating models to mitigate the budget position of fleet services has been delayed due to officer availability but is now proceeding.

Highways Services

- The under spend of £164,000 within Highways Services is primarily due to core funded staff being utilised to support work on capital schemes. In these cases, the salary costs can be capitalised, thus generating one-off income for the service area. The under spend has reduced from the quarter 3 projected under spend of £250,000 due to additional street lighting maintenance (£45,000) being necessary to be undertaken.

Engineering Services

- There is a under spend on Engineering Services of £170,000. This is primarily due to an increase in the level of fee earning jobs (grant funded/non grant funded projects) and the differing chargeable rates allowed on the schemes.

Traffic and Transportation

- There is an under spend of £174,000 within Traffic and Transport Services. Parking Service is showing an under spend of £173,000. This is primarily due to better than forecast levels of income received in some car parks. This additional income is contributing to running parking services and pressures within the overall transport budget, e.g. Fleet Services, shopmobility service.
- The remainder of the under spend relates to staff vacancies which will be utilised towards the MTFS budget reduction for strategic transport planning of £70,000 in 2024-25.

Corporate Landlord

- There is an over spend of £547,000 against Corporate Landlord. As reported in the 2022-23 outturn report, there are shortfalls in income generated from properties run by the Council that relate to occupancy shortfalls which have continued into 2023-24. It was reported at quarter 1 that there was an underlying shortfall in income at Bridgend Market of £100,000. This increased to £373,000 by quarter 4 primarily due to the identification of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and the subsequent closure of the market and loss of rental income.
- There is also a shortfall in income of £124,000 for the Innovation Centre and £134,000 on Industrial Units, and a strategy is being developed to reduce these income shortfalls in the longer term.
- Corporate Landlord continue to seek to commercially let out wings of Ravens Court to a partner organisation or business. However, at present demand for office space is limited and the re-letting market is extremely challenging. As noted in section 3.2.2 and 3.2.4 the £50,000 target for 2022-23 and the £120,000 target for 2023-24 in relation to this MTFS proposal were not achieved in this financial year which represents a further £170,000 pressure on the Corporate Landlord estates budget. There is also another £73,000 MTFS saving across the estate budgets for 2024-25.
- The over spend has been partially offset by staffing vacancies of £246,000 in line with the selective recruitment freeze.

3.3.4 **Chief Executive's**

The net budget for the Directorate for 2023-24 was £25.410 million and the actual outturn was £25.949 million following draw down of £1.311 million from earmarked reserves, resulting in an over spend of £539,000. This is compared to a projected over spend position of £1.265 million at quarter 3. The main reason for the decrease in projected over spend since quarter 3 is the receipt in quarter 4 of an increase to the 'Discretionary Housing Prevention' grant for homelessness from Welsh Government of £257,000 and an increase in the Ukraine Humanitarian Response grant of £140,000. Without this additional funding, the Housing and Homelessness service would have over spent by £637,000.

The main variances are:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	Net Budget £'000	Actual outturn £'000	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
Legal, Democratic & Regulatory	6,074	6,627	553	9.1%
ICT	4,367	4,284	(83)	-1.9%
Housing & Homelessness	4,177	4,417	240	5.7%
Human Resources/ Organisational Development	2,237	2,110	(127)	-5.7%
Partnerships	2,377	2,255	(122)	-5.1%

Legal, Democratic & Regulatory

- There is a net over spend of £553,000 across Legal, Democratic and Regulatory services, which shows an improved position from the quarter 3 projected net over spend of £718,000. In comparison, the over spend on legal fees for 2022-23 was £417,000, but this was partially offset by an earmarked reserve of £340,000 which was drawn down in that financial year. The remaining earmarked reserve for 2023-24 of £125,000 was drawn down to partially mitigate the over spend position.
- The over spend is primarily due to legal fees continuing to be a budget pressure. The pressures experienced in 2022-23 on public and private law childcare cases, along with an increase in volume of complex cases that have required King's Counsel, are continuing into 2023-24 and the actual spends are based on the number and complexity of cases. Council approved a £300,000 budget pressure for 2024-25 to support the increase in legal fees.
- There is also a net over spend of £9,000 in Regulatory Services (Licencing, Public Health, Pest Control etc) due to under recovery of income, particularly in Taxi Licensing and Environmental Health. This has improved since the quarter 3 projected over spend of £99,000 due to a refund of £74,000 being received in relation to the Shared Regulatory Service that provides regulatory services for Bridgend County Borough Council, Cardiff Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

ICT

- There is a net under spend of £83,000 across ICT budgets. This has improved from the projected net over spend of £39,000 reported at quarter 3 due primarily to earmarked reserve funding being utilised to offset one off software upgrade costs during quarter 4.
- This is partially offset by increased expenditure as a result of rising postage costs and under recoupment of printing recharge income as a result of hybrid working.

Housing & Homelessness

- There is an over spend of £240,000 on Housing & Homelessness. This is compared to the projected over spend position of £538,000 at quarter 3.
- Budget growth of £2.192 million was approved by Council as part of the MTFS Budget setting process in February 2021 to continue the commitment to focus support for homeless individuals providing them with accommodation. An additional budget pressure of £700,000 was approved by Council in March 2022 based on increased numbers of households and individuals supported with accommodation. The core accommodation budget for 2023-24 is £2.722 million.
- For 2023-24, Welsh Government (WG) initially provided grant funding of £898,694 for accommodation under the "No One Left Out" funding stream, and £137,000 for financial assistance for families and individuals experiencing financial difficulties with accommodation under a Discretionary Homelessness Prevention Grant. During quarter 4 WG increased the Discretionary Homelessness Prevention Grant by £257,000. WG also increased the Ukrainian grant funding by £140,000 up to £212,000. The total revised funding received from WG relating to housing and homelessness services for 2023-24 was £1.505 million which is still significantly lower than the total grant allocation of £2.128 million which was received in 2022-23.
- Spend on Homelessness accommodation in 2023-24 totalled £5.092 million, compared with £4.790 million projected at quarter 3. As well as the core accommodation budget (£2.722 million), total WG homelessness accommodation grant funding (£1,174,000) and Ukrainian grant funding (£212,000) the service has

also seen an increase in rental income relating to Housing Benefits claimed by tenants who have been supported with homelessness accommodation (£419,000). The net impact is an over spend on homelessness accommodation of £565,000.

- The accommodation spend is based on increased numbers of households and individuals supported, from 601 households and 965 individuals between April 2022 to March 2023, to 659 households and 1,034 individuals between April 2023 to March 2024. The over spend is also partially due to the average length of stay in temporary accommodation increasing to an average length of stay of 158 days for 2023-24 compared to 96 days for 2022-23. Also the makeup of households in temporary accommodation involves large households and families with disabilities for whom temporary accommodation is difficult to secure and often results in significantly higher costs. The budget will require close monitoring as we move into the new financial year in line with any further changes in support required for homelessness accommodation.
- The projected over spend on accommodation is partially mitigated by the under spend of £133,000 on staff vacancies in line with the selective vacancy freeze and is comparable with the quarter 3 projection of £135,000. The service area plan to fill these vacancies, therefore they will not form part of the MTFS budget reduction to review provision of the Homelessness Service in 2024-25.
- The other area of under spend in Housing relates to the Housing Deposits budget, a fund that is used to support initial set-up costs in temporary accommodation which has a £137,000 under spend.
- To mitigate this over spend on Housing going forward, in the short term the Rapid Rehousing Transitional Plan sets out the intention to work in partnership with key stakeholders to prevent homelessness and to ensure that where prevention is not possible, homelessness is brief and people have access to the support required to live as independently as possible. Secondly, the service is seeking to expand the existing Alternative to Bed & Breakfast Accommodation (ABBA) service which is a partnership working model with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) to reduce the usage of Bed and Breakfast Accommodation through the provision of suitable temporary accommodation units, with linked housing related support, supporting the move into independent accommodation. Finally, the service is undertaking feasibility work with Corporate Landlord to develop a procurement strategy whereby the Council purchases, owns and manages shared accommodation.
- In the medium term, the service is working with RSLs to utilise capital income streams such as the Social Housing Grant to increase suitable housing stock over a 5 year programme. In 2023-24 £3.5 million of transitional capital has been invested, creating an additional 38 units of social housing in the borough. Secondly, in November 2023 Cabinet agreed to join the Welsh Government private rent sector Leasing Scheme with the aim of increasing the supply of suitable, affordable accommodation in the borough and reduce demand on homelessness services.

<u>Human Resources & Organisational Development</u>

- There is a net under spend of £127,000 across Human Resources (HR) & Organisational Development services, which shows an improved position from the projected quarter 3 net under spend of £55,000. This is primarily due to an under spend on the core budget to support the Council's apprenticeship scheme as apprentices have been successfully appointed into full time employment across the Authority. HR will be seeking to recruit additional apprentices in 2024-25, therefore this under spend is not recurring.

Partnerships

- There is a net under spend of £122,000 across Partnership budgets which primarily relates to staff vacancies in line with the selective vacancy freeze. Part of this under spend will be utilised towards the MTFS budget reduction for Partnerships and Customer Services of £216,000 in 2024-25.

3.3.5 **Council Wide budgets**

This section includes budgets, provisions and services which are council wide, and not managed by an individual directorate. The net budget for 2023-24 was £37.295 million and the actual outturn was £32.016 million resulting in an under spend of £5.279 million.

The most significant variances were:-

COUNCIL WIDE BUDGETS	Net Budget £'000	Actual Outturn £'000	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
Capital Financing	7,142	3,064	(4,078)	-57.09%
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	16,054	15,566	(488)	-3.04%
Insurance Premiums	1,363	764	(599)	-43.95
Repairs and Maintenance	460	0	(460)	-100%

Capital Financing

- The under spend of £4.078 million mainly relates to additional interest from current investments due to the higher level of interest rates agreed by the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee. The increase to 4.5% in May 2023 was the highest it has been since 2008, but this has further increased to 5% in June 2023 and 5.25% in August 2023. The rate has remained frozen at 5.25% since August 2023, however indications are that this will start to reduce during 2024.
- It should be noted that this will not be a recurring under spend as the Council approved new Highways and Children's Playground refurbishments in the Capital Programme in March 2023 to be funded from a combination of unallocated capital funding and prudential borrowing and this has not been drawn down in full to date.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

- There is an under spend of £488,000 on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. This is a demand led budget and take-up is difficult to predict. Take-up for 2023-24 is higher than in 2022-23 when the gross spend in this budget area was £14.885 million, although part of this would be as a result of the council tax increase in April 2023. The budget will be closely monitored in 2024-25 following the 9.5% council tax increase in April 2024, as it is possible there could be an additional call on the scheme in view of the impact of the cost of living crisis on personal financial circumstances with the potential for an increase in the number of benefit claimants.

Insurance Premiums

- There is an under spend of £599,000 on Insurance Premiums. This primarily relates to a reduction in the overall fund liability following successful claims repudiated and settled at a lower amount, claims won and an exceptionally low year for claims received. The outturn for 2023-24 is considered to be a one-off under spend, with

the budget not having under spent since 2020-21, however the budget will continue to be reviewed going forward to determine if there are any further permanent budget reduction opportunities.

Repairs and Maintenance

- There is an under spend of £460,000 which is as a result of slippage on some minor works schemes and feasibility studies in 2023-24.

3.3.6 **Council Tax Collection**

- At quarter 3 it was reported that it was still early in the financial year to provide a realistic indication of projected council tax income for 2023-24, and whether the Council was likely to see a reduction in council tax income as more people have suffered financial hardship due to the current cost of living crisis, or whether additional income would be collected from the introduction of council tax premiums on empty properties.
- The outturn for 2023-24 shows additional income of £1.506 million has been collected (+ 1.5%). £516,000 of this is in relation to the premium charge for empty properties, which was implemented on 1st April 2023, with the remainder being a combination of collection of arrears from previous financial years and additional in-year collection Premiums on second homes are being implemented from 1st April 2024.

3.4 Review of Earmarked Reserves

3.4.1 The Council is required to maintain adequate financial reserves to meet the needs of the organisation. The MTFS includes the Council's Reserves and Balances Protocol which sets out how the Council will determine and review the level of its Council Fund balance and earmarked reserves. During 2023-24 Directorates drew down funding from specific earmarked reserves and these were reported to Cabinet through the quarterly monitoring reports. The final draw down from revenue reserves was £12.186 million and is summarised in Table 4 below. A more detailed breakdown of the movement on capital and revenue reserves is outlined in **Appendix 4**.

Table 4 – Draw Down from Earmarked Reserves during 2023-24

	Draw down from Earmarked Reserves 2023-24 £'000
Education & Family Support	649
Social Services & Wellbeing	5,660
Communities	2,419
Chief Executives	1,311
Non-Directorate	2,147
Total	**12,186**

3.4.2 The net over spend position of £7.054 million for 2023-24, as set out in 3.1.2, required the unwinding of £6.952 million of existing earmarked reserves, along with a transfer of £102,000 from the Council Fund (see para 3.4.3) to balance the budget at year end. The main earmarked reserves that were unwound included capital programme reserves and those set aside for other high risk areas, which will reduce the funding available, for example, on capital expenditure going forward. Given the overall over spend position, no new earmarked reserves could be created at year end.

3.4.3 Table 5 below summarises the final position on all revenue useable reserves for the year, including the Council Fund. In addition there are currently £40.222 million of other earmarked reserves funding schemes within the capital programme.

Table 5 – Summary of Movement on Revenue Earmarked Reserves 2023-24

Opening Balance 1 April 2023	Reserve	Movement at Quarter 4			Closing Balance 31 March 2024
		Additions	Reclassification	Drawdown/ Unwound	
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
9,832	Council Fund Balance	**-**	**-**	**(102)**	**9,730**
16,739	Corporate Reserves	3,143	(141)	(9,045)	**10,696**
19,182	Directorate Reserves	3,338	(6,326)	(9,526)	**6,668**
5,703	Equalisation & Grant Reserves	988	(232)	(2,454)	**4,005**
6,898	School Balances	-	-	(4,493)	**2,405**
48,522	Total Earmarked Reserves	**7,469**	**(6,699)**	**(25,518)**	**23,774**
58,354	Total Usable Reserves	**7,469**	**(6,699)**	**(25,620)**	**33,504**

3.4.4 In terms of financial reserves, the Council Fund balance represents 2.84% of the net revenue budget for 2023-24, or 4.30% of the net revenue budget excluding schools. This is a reduction from the 4.84% of the net revenue budget, excluding schools, reported in 2023-24 and is a further movement away from MTFS Principle 9 which states that:-

The Council Fund balance should be set at a prudent but not excessive level. This will normally be maintained at a level of 5% of the Council's net budget, excluding schools.

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

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act 2010, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

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 well-being objectives are designed to complement each other and are part of an integrated way of working to improve well-being for the people of Bridgend. The allocation of budget determines the extent to which the Council's well-being objectives can be delivered. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of the well-being goals or objectives as a result of this report.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 These are reflected in the body of the report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- note the revenue outturn position for 2023-24.

Background documents: Individual Directorate Monitoring Reports

PRIOR YEAR BUDGET REDUCTIONS CARRIED FORWARD INTO 2023-24

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal		Original Reduction and RAG £000	Revised RAG £000	Total amount of saving achieved in 23-24 £000	Reason why not achieved	Proposed Action in 2024-25 to achieve

RAG STATUS KEY	
RED	Not likely to be achieved **at all** in this financial year or less than 25%.
AMBER	Reduction not likely to be achieved in full in financial year but greater than 25%
GREEN	Reduction likely to be achieved in full

SOCIAL SERVICES & WELLBEING

SSW 2 (2022-23)	Remodelling day service provision for older people and learning disability services		115		115	As reported in the 2022-23 Revenue outturn report, some efficiencies were identified, however external factors prevented the achievement of the full savings target.	A review of the budgets within Adult Services was undertaken during quarter 2 to identify replacement savings against the £30,000 shortfall reported in quarter 1. Budget virements were actioned from Adult Services Non-residential income. No further action required.
	Total Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate		**115**		**115**		

COMMUNITIES

COM 2 (2021-22)	Re-location of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle resulting in cessation of lease payments at existing site		60		0	As reported at quarter 3, positive progress was being made with Natural Resources Wales in relation to the licence at the new site in Pyle. The new site opened during quarter 4 (14th March 2024) however the timing of the opening meant that the saving could not be implemented in 2023-24.	The majority of the saving will be made in 2024-25, once the exit terms of the lease have been finalised. The service will endeavour to meet any shortfall in the saving through alternative one off efficiencies in 2024-25 to deliver a balanced budget position.
COM 3 (2022-23)	Change the composition of Household Food Waste Bags		35		0	The budget reduction proposal was delayed in 2023-24 until the outcome of national research had been completed to ensure any potential changes in legislation did not impact on this proposal. The new waste contractors from 1st April 2024 have been advised of the change of composition, therefore the saving will be made in full during 2024-25.	The new waste contractors from 1st April 2024 have been advised of the change of composition, therefore the saving will be made in full during 2024-25.
COM 4 (2022-23)	Remove Business in Focus from running Enterprise Centres in Bridgend		20		0	Rising costs of utilities, general contractor rates and occupational levels/demand impacting on profitability of Business in Focus units and therefore ability to reduce running costs and deliver saving proposal.	Review of Business in Focus operating model continues to be explored to identify operating efficiencies with a view to restructuring the management agreement with Business in Focus to deliver this saving in full in 2024-25.
COM 5 (2022-23)	Commercially let a wing of Ravens Court to a partner organisation or business		50		0	Demand for office space at this time is limited and the re-letting market extremely challenging, therefore unable to rent a wing of Ravens Court as anticipated.	The shared use of space with public sector partners has been accelerated. Discussion are ongoing with a number of parties in relation to the available accommodation at Ravens Court moving forward.
	Total Communities Directorate		**165**		**0**		
	GRAND TOTAL OUTSTANDING REDUCTIONS		**280**		**115**		
	REDUCTIONS SHORTFALL				**165**		

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MONITORING OF 2023-24 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Budget Reductions 2023-24 £'000	Value of saving achieved 2023-24 £'000	Reason why not achieved	Proposed action in 2024-25 to achieve
EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT						
CENTRAL EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT						
EDFS1	Delegate some school transport responsibilities to The Bridge Pupil Referral Unit under a new delivery model to deliver efficiency savings	žMinimal impact anticipated · Alternative service model to be implemented to deliver the identified efficiency · Increased responsibility for school	40	0	During 2023-24 officers investigated the practicalities and implications of a bespoke transport arrangement for the Bridge Alternative Provision. It was determined that without capital investment to purchase a vehicle and additional staff resources that the proposal was not possible to be delivered.	The transport budget for The Bridge has been re-instated to 2022-23 levels. Since September 2023, the approach taken in relation to supporting Post 16 learners with college passes has been changed, with the £40K savings now anticipated to be made on the Post 16 transport budget.
	Total Education and Family Support		**40**	**0**		
SCHOOLS						
SCH1	Efficiency savings against School Delegated Budgets - 2% for 2023-24	žThe annual saving represents a 2% efficiency per annum against individual school budgets · Risk of increased school deficit positions · Implementation will be a matter for individual schools · Potential to result in some teacher and other staff redundancies · If efficiency is made solely from staffing budgets, this could range from a minimum of one teacher in our large primary schools and to five teachers in our larger secondary schools being made redundant over the MTFS period	2,118	2,118	The savings were implemented in 2023-24 and schools budgets reduced accordingly. However, the overall consequential effect on schools is a significant contributory factor in that year end balances have fallen from £6.898 million brought forward from 2022-23 to £2.405 million at the end of 2023-24. There are 21 schools with deficit budget situations (20 Primary and 1 Special).	None required - saving implemented in full in 2023-24.
	Total Schools		**2,118**	**2,118**		
	Total Education & Family Support Directorate		**2,158**	**2,118**		

MONITORING OF 2023-24 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Budget Reductions 2023-24 £'000	Value of saving achieved 2023-24 £'000	Reason why not achieved	Proposed action in 2024-25 to achieve
COMMUNITIES						
COM1	Closure of each of the Community Recycling Centre sites for one weekday per week	The waste contract related items would require both Contract variation negotiations with Kier to confirm the saving levels proposed along with public consultation regarding the reduced levels of service.	50	4	Public consultation on this proposal was under taken between the 30 June and 12 September 2023, with the outcome reported to Cabinet on the 21 November 2023, when the proposal was approved. A marginal saving was made in 2023-24, with the full saving being realised in 2024-25.	None required - 2024-25 will see the delivery of this saving target in full.
COM2	Charging Blue Badge Holders for parking	There are currently a number of measures which assist in providing equitable access, particularly for those who are participants in the Blue Badge Scheme. These include reserved spaces for Blue Badge Holders in Off-Street Car Parks in convenient locations, guidance on the proportion of disabled parking spaces within new parking facilities, some on-street parking provision in town centre locations, the ability to park on double yellow lines for up to 3 hours as long as no obstruction is caused and the Shopmobility scheme operated within Bridgend Town Centre. In providing parking either at ground level or in multi-storey car parks, the Council incurs both capital and ongoing revenue costs which the Council must source from its own funds. The current position is that a concession is applied in Off Street Car Parks for persons displaying a Blue Badge which provides for unlimited parking free of charge.	40	0	The traffic management team were engaged in the introduction of the default national speed limit in built up areas. The saving proposal was not achieved in 2023-24 due to the processes required to introduce any change.	The delivery of this proposal is linked to staffing within the Traffic and Transport section which is currently depleted due to unplanned staff absences. It is currently envisaged that the project will advance in Autumn 2024. Shortfalls against this savings target will be met through one off efficiencies in 2024-25 to deliver a balanced budget position.
COM3	Commercially let two wings of Ravens court to a partner organisation or business	Savings would be predicated on reduction in utilities from not occupying the space and rental income	120	0	Demand for office space at this time is limited and the re-letting market extremely challenging, therefore unable to rent a wing of Ravens Court as anticipated.	The Council continues to engage with the current occupiers of Ravens Court to ensure a prompt relocation and for the building to be closed down allowing full operational savings to be made. No wings were let to external parties during 2023-24 however detailed negotiations are ongoing which will help to deliver the operational savings to meet this proposal during 2024-25.
COM4	Use revenue savings accrued as a result of switching street lighting to LED's across the County	The savings are predicated from reduced energy bills in 22/23 as a result of the LED street lighting roll out. This may be diminished in future years by rising energy costs overall	100	100	Full saving achieved in 2023-24	None required - saving made in full in 2023-24

MONITORING OF 2023-24 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Budget Reductions 2023-24 £'000	Value of saving achieved 2023-24 £'000	Reason why not achieved	Proposed action in 2024-25 to achieve
COM5	Reduction to Highways - Road Marking Budget	This reduction could have an impact on the enforcement of restriction as the remaining funding will be focused on markings that have wider safety implications	10	10	Full saving achieved in 2023-24	None required - saving made in full in 2023-24
COM6	Increase garden waste subscription cost to £46 per household and £42 for pensioners (Currently £41.01 per household or £36.73 for pensioners)	Potential increase in fly tipping. Loss of subscribers	30	30	Full saving achieved in 2023-24	None required - saving made in full in 2023-24
COM7	Increase bulky waste charges from £21.42 for 3 items to £25.	Potential increase in fly tipping.	25	25	Full saving achieved in 2023-24	None required - saving made in full in 2023-24
	Total Communities Directorate		**375**	**169**		

CHIEF EXECUTIVES

CEX1	Reduction of ICT Printing Costs	Due to the increase in working from home across the authority, savings can be found in the ICT Print Strategy area. These savings are in line with the cultural shift towards the paperless office agenda.	40	40	Full saving achieved in 2023-24	None required - saving made in full in 2023-24
CEX2	Efficiency saving target targeting supplies and services budgets across the Chief Executive's Directorate	Limited impact as review has identified small historic under spends against this budget category	35	35	Full saving achieved in 2023-24	None required - saving made in full in 2023-24
	Total Chief Executive's Directorate		**75**	**75**		

	GRAND TOTAL REDUCTIONS		**2,608**	**2,362**
	REDUCTION SHORTFALL			

230	**2,358**
260	**0**
2,118	**250**
2,608	**2,608**

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL	Budget 2023-24 Expenditure Budget £'000	Income Budget £'000	Net Budget £'000	Actual Outturn £'000	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT						
School Delegated Budgets	139,192	(23,064)	116,128	116,128	-	0.0%
Learner Support	8,200	(1,216)	6,984	8,179	1,195	17.1%
Family Support	7,991	(4,389)	3,602	3,100	(502)	-13.9%
Business Support	16,508	(4,418)	12,090	12,912	822	6.8%
Schools Support	1,550	(837)	713	650	(63)	-8.8%
School Modernisation	3,890	-	3,890	3,871	(19)	-0.5%
Vulnerable Groups Support	882	(96)	786	712	(74)	-9.4%
Other Education and Family Support	1,728	(60)	1,668	1,662	(6)	-0.4%
TOTAL EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE	**179,941**	**(34,080)**	**145,861**	**147,214**	**1,353**	**0.9%**
SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING						
Adult Social Care	88,812	(22,848)	65,964	72,864	6,900	10.5%
Prevention and Wellbeing	8,472	(980)	7,492	7,097	(395)	-5.3%
Childrens Social Care	27,061	(1,131)	25,930	31,252	5,322	20.5%
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING	**124,345**	**(24,959)**	**99,386**	**111,213**	**11,827**	**11.9%**
COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE						
Planning & Development Services	2,763	(2,023)	740	740	-	0.0%
Strategic Regeneration	3,056	(1,280)	1,776	1,681	(95)	-5.3%
Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability	7,066	(5,390)	1,676	1,501	(175)	-10.4%
Cleaner Streets and Waste Management	14,505	(1,968)	12,537	12,404	(133)	-1.1%
Highways and Green Spaces	25,575	(12,410)	13,165	13,149	(16)	-0.1%
Director and Head of Operations - Communities	290	-	290	282	(8)	-2.8%
Corporate Landlord	16,246	(12,048)	4,198	4,745	547	13.0%
TOTAL COMMUNITIES	**69,501**	**(35,119)**	**34,382**	**34,502**	**120**	**0.3%**
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S						
Chief Executive Unit	517	-	517	525	8	1.5%
Finance	39,431	(35,194)	4,237	4,272	35	0.8%
HR/OD	2,635	(398)	2,237	2,110	(127)	-5.7%
Partnerships	3,604	(1,227)	2,377	2,255	(122)	-5.1%
Legal, Democratic & Regulatory	7,043	(969)	6,074	6,627	553	9.1%
Elections	186	-	186	209	23	12.4%
ICT	5,501	(1,134)	4,367	4,284	(83)	-1.9%
Housing & Homelessness	12,036	(7,859)	4,177	4,417	240	5.7%
Business Support	1,349	(111)	1,238	1,250	12	1.0%
TOTAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	**72,302**	**(46,892)**	**25,410**	**25,949**	**539**	**2.1%**
TOTAL DIRECTORATE BUDGETS	**446,089**	**(141,050)**	**305,039**	**318,878**	**13,839**	**4.5%**
Council Wide Budgets	**38,269**	**(974)**	**37,295**	**32,016**	**(5,279)**	**-14.2%**
Net Council Tax Income				(1,506)	(1,506)	0.0%
Transfers from Earmarked Reserves				(6,952)	(6,952)	0.0%
Transfer from Council Fund				(102)	(102)	0.0%
NET BRIDGEND CBC	**484,358**	**(142,024)**	**342,334**	**342,334**	**-**	**0.0%**

NB: Differences due to rounding of £000's

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APPENDIX 4

TOTAL MOVEMENT ON REVENUE AND CAPITAL EARMARKED RESERVES AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

		Movement as at 31 March 2024		
Opening Balance 01 Apr 23	**Reserve**	**Net Additions/ Reclassification**	**Draw-down/ unwound**	**Closing Balance 31 Mar 24**
£'000		**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
	Corporate Reserves:			
766	Asset Management Plan	-	(336)	430
1,768	Building Maintenance Reserve	355	(267)	1,856
450	Capital Asset Management & Asbestos Fund	-	(327)	123
631	Capital Feasibility Fund	71	(353)	349
884	Change Management	(308)	(227)	349
2,539	Digital Transformation, ICT & Finance Systems	384	(1,475)	1,448
800	Economic and Future Resilience Fund	-	(300)	500
1,548	Insurance Reserve	-	(719)	829
3,081	Major Claims Reserve	1,000	(3,581)	500
906	MTFS Budget Contingency	1,500	-	2,406
179	Property Disposal Strategy	-	(166)	13
2,893	Service Reconfiguration	-	(1,000)	1,893
294	Welfare Reform Bill	-	(294)	-
16,739	**Total Corporate Reserves**	**3,002**	**(9,045)**	**10,696**
	Directorate Reserves:			
6,558	City Deal Reserve	(6,558)	-	-
11,670	Directorate Issues	4,092	(9,406)	6,356
313	Looked After Children	(127)	-	186
103	Porthcawl Regeneration	-	-	103
272	School Projects Reserve	(272)	-	-
266	Wellbeing Projects	(123)	(120)	23
19,182	**Total Directorate Reserves**	**(2,988)**	**(9,526)**	**6,668**
	Equalisation & Grant Reserves:			
32	Building Control Reserve	-	(32)	-
16	Civil Parking Enforcement	47	-	63
944	HWB Schools Infrastructure	414	(444)	914
3,648	IFRS Grants	404	(1,957)	2,095
153	Legal Fees	(153)	-	-
158	Local Development Plan	-	(21)	137
752	Special Regeneration Fund	-	-	752
-	Rest Bay	44	-	44
5,703	**Equalisation & Grant Reserves:**	**756**	**(2,454)**	**4,005**
6,898	School Balances	-	(4,493)	2,405
43,973	Capital Programme Contribution	9,571	(13,322)	40,222
9,832	Council Fund Balance	-	(102)	9,730
102,327	**TOTAL RESERVES**	**10,341**	**(38,942)**	**73,726**

NB: Differences due to rounding of £000's

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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**23 JULY 2024**
Report Title:	**BUDGET MONITORING 2024-25 – QUARTER 1 REVENUE FORECAST**
Report Owner/ Corporate Director:	**CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING AND CHANGE**
Responsible Officer:	**JOANNE NORMAN GROUP MANAGER – BUDGET MANAGEMENT**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**As required by section 3 (budgetary control) of the Financial Procedure Rules; Chief Officers in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member are expected to manage their services within the approved cash limited budget and to provide the Chief Finance Officer with such information as is required to facilitate and monitor budgetary control.**
Executive Summary:	• **The net revenue budget for 2024-25 is £360.671 million. The overall projected year end position at 30th June 2024 is a net over spend of £9.212 million.** • **The projected over spend is primarily due to ongoing pressures within the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate, the Home to School Transport budget and Housing and Homelessness.** • **The budget approved for 2024-25 included budget reduction proposals totalling £13.045 million. The current position is a projected shortfall on the savings target of £1.850 million, or 14.18% of the overall reduction target.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with an update on the Council's revenue financial position as at 30th June 2024.

2. Background

2.1 On 28th February 2024, Council approved a net revenue budget of £359.725 million for 2024-25 based on the provisional local government settlement received from Welsh Government in December 2023. The Welsh Government announced its final settlement on the 27th February 2024 which included an increase in the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) for the Council of £649,540 along with three grants transferring into the settlement totalling £296,723, increasing the net revenue budget for 2024-25 to £360.671 million. The reasons for this increase were outlined in a report to Council on 13th March, but were mainly in respect of an additional £14.4 million (across Wales) included in the Final Local Government Settlement to support pressures in both social care and education, including teachers' pay.

2.2 As part of the Performance Management Framework, budget projections are reviewed regularly and reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis. The delivery of agreed budget reductions is also kept under review and reported to Cabinet as part of this process.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 Summary financial position at 30th June 2024

3.1.1 The Council's net revenue budget and projected outturn for 2024-25 is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1- Comparison of budget against projected outturn at 30th June 2024

Directorate/Budget Area	Original Budget 2024-25 £'000	Revised Budget 2024-25 £'000	Projected Outturn at Q1 2024-25 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend 2024-25 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend at Qtr 1 2023-24 £'000
Directorate					
Education, Early Years and Young People	143,485	143,485	145,446	1,961	1,699
Social Services and Wellbeing	104,575	104,575	110,655	6,080	11,065
Communities	30,704	30,739	31,489	750	122
Chief Executive's	22,425	22,425	24,775	2,350	(98)
Total Directorate Budgets	**301,189**	**301,224**	**312,365**	**11,141**	**12,788**
Council Wide Budgets					
Capital Financing	7,052	7,052	5,448	(1,604)	(2,125)
Levies	9,635	9,635	9,555	(80)	0
Apprenticeship Levy	750	750	840	90	0
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	16,054	16,054	16,915	861	(262)
Insurance Premiums	1,363	1,363	1,217	(146)	0
Repairs & Maintenance	670	670	670	0	0
Pension Related Costs	430	430	430	0	0
Other Corporate Budgets	23,528	23,493	22,443	(1,050)	(674)
Total Council Wide Budgets	**59,482**	**59,447**	**57,518**	**(1,929)**	**(3,061)**
Total	**360,671**	**360,671**	**369,883**	**9,212**	**9,727**

3.1.2 The overall projected position at 30th June 2024 is a net over spend of £9.212 million comprising £11.141 million net over spend on directorates and a net under spend of £1.929 million on Council wide budgets. A detailed analysis of the more significant projected under and over spends is set out in section 3.3.

3.1.3 The main financial pressures are in the service areas of Social Services and Wellbeing (SSWB), Home to School Transport (HtST), and Housing and Homelessness.

3.1.4 In 2022-23, the SSWB Directorate experienced pressures of work to meet statutory duties against a backdrop of an exponential increase in demand in children's social care, and an increase in the number of independent residential placements in Children's Services, along with pressures in learning disabilities and older persons' residential placements. Whilst budget growth of £8.174 million was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2023-24, £2.480 million of this was to address the implementation of the Real Living Wage for care workers. The SSWB Directorate continued to see an increase in demand and the budget growth was insufficient to meet that increase, with the outturn showing a £11.827 million over spend in 2023-24.

3.1.5 A 3 year sustainability plan to improve outcomes for Children and Family Services was approved by Council on 20th September 2023, with an immediate budget virement of £1 million approved for Children's services. Council also noted the additional use of up to £2.5 million of earmarked reserves in 2023-24 to support the service whilst a more permanent funding solution was sought. This was drawn down in full in 2023-24 and a recurrent budget of £2.5 million was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) budget setting process in February 2024 to provide this as a permanent budget to Children's Services in 2024-25. Progress is being made with implementing the plan, particularly to progress the steady and safe reduction of agency workforce, through improved retention and recruitment of a permanent workforce, including successful frow your own scheme and international recruits.

3.1.6 There continues to be pressures in learning disabilities and older people's services driven by the complexity of need. The Social Services Improvement Board is overseeing a number of actions to address the pressures in the adult services budget, including accelerating the work to transform learning disabilities. Council approved £1.970 million towards the increased costs of home care for adults with learning disabilities and £1 million towards additional residential/nursing placement costs due to new admissions for older people and older people with mental health needs as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-25 to 2027-28.

3.1.7 There is a projected over spend on Home to School Transport (HtST) of £1.277 million. This is despite Council approving £1.2 million in the 2024-25 budget to address increased costs being experienced following re-tenders, mainly as a consequence of a shortage of drivers and increased fuel costs. In 2023-24, a further retendering exercise took place for Special School contracts, which resulted in an increase of £698,000 compared with 2022-23, the full year effect in 2024-25 being £1.197 million, and highlighting that market conditions are still predominantly unfavourable for HtST contracts.

3.1.8 The Council has seen a significant increase in the provision of temporary accommodation from 601 households and 965 individuals between April 2022 to March 2023, to 659 households and 1,034 individuals between April 2023 and March 2024. There is a projected net over spend of £860,000 in this service area. Budget reduction proposals of £645,000 have been approved by Council against Housing and Homelessness budgets in 2024-25, along with a reduction in Welsh Government funding based on grants confirmed to date of £332,000.

3.1.9 It is too early in the financial year to provide a realistic indication of projected council tax income for this financial year, and whether the Council is likely to see a reduction in council tax income over the 2024-25 financial year as more people have suffered financial hardship due to the current cost of living crisis. A 1% reduction in the council tax income collection rate could result in an additional pressure to the Council of around £1 million. Council tax collection rates will be monitored continuously throughout the year and reported accordingly.

Budget virements/technical adjustments

3.1.10 There have been a number of budget virements and technical adjustments between budgets since the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was approved by Council in February 2024. The budget position is reported on the assumption that these virements will be approved.

3.1.11 The main virements and technical adjustments are outlined below:

Budget Virements

Service vired from / to	Amount
Transfer of funding from Corporate Contingency to the Communities Directorate for a Compliance Technician to lead on and coordinate compliance with relevant Health and Safety legislation and best practice guidance, relevant to the activities of the Neighbourhood Services area.	£35,153

Technical Adjustments

Service vired from / to	Amount
Technical adjustment to reflect the reconfiguration of the Adult Social Care social work operating model to transform the organisation, function and remit of social work teams. Technical adjustment reflects that new teams will be dealing with all Adults, and not just Older People Services.	
To:	
Other Adult Services	£3,649,448
From:	
Older People	(£2,842,380)
Adult Physical Disability/ Sensory Impairment	(£700,740)
Adult Learning Disabilities	(£2,060)
Adult Mental Health Needs	(£104,268)
Technical adjustment to re-align budgets to reflect the shift from use of Independent Fostering Agency placements to Special Guardianship Orders, as reported in the 2023-24 outturn revenue monitoring report:-	
Independent Fostering Agency	(£500,000)
Special Guardianship Orders	£500,000

Pay/Price Inflation

3.1.12 Additional funding announced by Welsh Government on 7 February 2024 in respect of social care and education pressures, which amounted to £649,540 for BCBC, and included funding for teachers' pay, has been held centrally in the provisions for pay and prices to mitigate additional costs in these areas as they arise.

3.1.13 When the budget was set very little funding was allocated to directorates for pay and price inflation, as most had not been determined for the forthcoming year. The majority of the provision has been retained centrally within Council wide budgets, to be allocated as further information is known about specific contractual price increases. Amounts released will be reported to Cabinet in future revenue budget monitoring reports in 2024-25.

3.1.14 There are ongoing discussions regarding pay claims for Teachers' pay from September 2024 onwards and National Joint Council (NJC) workers for 2024-25. Even a variance of 1% on the pay settlement of NJC staff alone can result in a swing of required funding of over £1 million per annum.

3.1.15 With regard to the funding of changes to teachers' pensions, in the Final Settlement the Minister for Finance and Local Government re-stated that funding for this is expected to be provided by UK Government during 2024-25 and that she had written to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to press for assurances on the level and timing of this funding. To date no further updates have been given on this funding.

3.1.16 Whilst inflation rates have decreased to 2% compared to 3.8% when the budget was set, there is a risk that there may not be sufficient funding available within these budgets for any unexpected major pay/price inflation increases. With this uncertainty the budget will need to be monitored closely during the remainder of the year.

Budget Reduction Proposals

3.1.17 The net budget for the financial year has been set assuming full implementation of the current year budget reduction requirements across the Council's budget, which amount to £13.045 million. Where proposals to meet this requirement have been delayed or are not achievable directorates have been tasked with identifying alternative proposals to meet their requirements such as vacancy management, or bringing forward alternative budget reduction proposals.

3.1.18 In February 2024 Council approved the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2024-25 to 2027-28. This identified the need to develop recurrent budget reduction proposals, based on the most likely scenario, amounting to £44.882 million over the next four years. Against that background it is essential that expenditure is kept within the overall approved budget and that longer term proposals continue to be developed so that the Council has as much flexibility as possible to meet the challenges which lie ahead.

3.1.19 At year end consideration will be given to any budget over spends to determine whether these should be carried forward as a first call on the directorate budget for the following year. Similarly, consideration will be given to requests from directors to carry forward any planned directorate under spends for specific purposes into the following year, in line with the Council's Reserves and Balances Protocol, as long as these can be met from within the Council's cash limited budget for 2024-25. This is in line with the reports to Cabinet and Council on the MTFS, and the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

3.2 Monitoring of Budget Reduction Proposals

Prior Year Budget Reductions

3.2.1 A report is also being presented to Cabinet on 23rd July 2024 on the Revenue Budget Outturn 2023-24. In the report it was highlighted that there were £280,000 of prior year budget reduction proposals that were not met in full, with a total outstanding balance to be met of £165,000. In addition, of the 2023-24 budget reduction proposals of £2.608 million, it was reported that there was a total outstanding balance to be met of £246,000. Directors have been asked to identify if any of these proposals are still not likely to be achieved in full during the 2024-25 financial year, and to identify mitigating actions that will be undertaken to achieve

them. All remaining outstanding prior year budget reductions are summarised in **Appendix 1** with a summary per directorate provided in Table 2.

Table 2 – Outstanding Prior Year Budget Reductions

	Total Budget Reductions Required	Total Budget Reductions Likely to be Achieved	Shortfall
DIRECTORATE /BUDGET REDUCTION AREA	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Education, Early Years and Young People	40	40	0
Communities	375	220	155
TOTAL	**415**	**260**	**155**

Note: The total budget reductions required in Table 2 represents the full original budget reduction targets.

3.2.2 Table 2 shows that of the £415,000 outstanding reductions, £260,000 is likely to be achieved in 2024-25 leaving a shortfall of £155,000. Proposals still not likely to be achieved include:

- COM 2 2021-22 – Re-location of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle (£60,000). The new site in Pyle opened in quarter 4 of 2023-24. The majority of the saving will be made in 2024-25 once the exit terms of the lease in Tythegston have been finalised.
- COM5 2022-23 (£50,000) and COM3 2023-24 (£120,000) – Commercially let wings of Ravens Court to a partner organisation or business (£50,000). The service is hoping to achieve 50% of the saving in 2024-25 due to delays in implementing the proposal.
- COM2 2023-24 – Charging Blue Badge Holders for parking (£40,000). The delivery of this proposal is linked to staffing within the Traffic and Transport section which is currently depleted due to unplanned staff absences. It is currently envisaged that the project will advance in Autumn 2024.

3.2.3 As outlined in the MTFS reports to Cabinet and Council, MTFS Principle 7 states that *"Savings proposals are fully developed and include realistic delivery timescales prior to inclusion in the annual budget. An MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency Reserve will be maintained to mitigate against unforeseen delays".* An MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve was established in 2016-17. This reserve has been used to meet specific budget reduction proposals in previous years on a one-off basis pending alternative measures. During the financial year, the Section 151 Officer will consider applications from Directorates to the MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve to mitigate some of the shortfalls.

Budget Reductions 2024-25

3.2.4 The budget approved for 2024-25 included budget reduction proposals totalling £13.045 million, which is broken down in **Appendix 2** and summarised in Table 3 below. The current position is that £7.807 million has been achieved to date with an additional £3.388 million likely to be achieved by year end, leading to an overall projected shortfall on the savings target by year end of £1.850 million, or 14.18% of the overall reduction target.

Table 3 – Monitoring of Budget Reductions 2024-25

	Total Budget Reductions Required	Total Budget Reductions Achieved to date	Total Budget Reductions Likely to be Achieved	Shortfall
DIRECTORATE /BUDGET REDUCTION AREA	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Education, Early Years and Young People	1,560	762	1,221	339
Schools	3,441	3,441	3,441	0
Social Services and Wellbeing	2,248	671	1,827	421
Communities	2,460	1,635	2,278	182
Chief Executive's	3,246	1,208	2,338	908
TOTAL	**13,045**	**7,807**	**11,195**	**1,850**

3.2.5 The most significant (> £100,000 shortfall) budget reduction proposals unlikely to be achieved in full are:-

- EDFS2 – Directorate vacancy management factor (£342,000). Current projections indicate a shortfall of £148,000 against this proposal, however the Early Years budget is due to be transferred to SSWB in quarter 2 as part of the Children's Services Sustainability Plan, upon which part of this savings target will also be transferred to the SSWB directorate which will further mitigate this shortfall.
- EDFS9 – Cessation of Adult Community Learning provision (£149,000). The shortfall is due to the timing of the required restructure with further updates to be provided to Cabinet in the quarter 2 monitoring report.
- SCH1 – Efficiency saving against School Delegated Budgets – 3% in 2024-25 (£3.441 million). Whilst the saving is referenced as having been achieved due to the overall reduction in Individual Schools Budget (ISB), as referenced in 3.3.1, the reduced budgets have resulted in total projected deficit balances for schools at year end in excess of £5.1 million. Officers are working with schools to bring this overall deficit down.
- SSW13 – Council to reduce its investment into cultural services (£360,000). Current projections indicate a shortfall of £210,000. Cabinet approved on 14 May 2024 a £50,000 reduction to the book fund and removal of the £15,000 subsidy for the Youth Theatre. Cabinet also approved public engagement over how future savings can be achieved.
- SSW23 – reduction to the contribution towards the regional Western Bay adoption service (£250,000). There is currently a projected shortfall of £129,000 based on

the refund received in 2023-24 which was lower than in previous years due to an increase in the number of adoption placements. Further work is planned over the coming months with the regional service to identify further savings.

- COM23 – Reduce available property maintenance budgets in Corporate Landlord by up to 10% per asset (£100,000). Due to ongoing pressures on the property revenue maintenance budgets, this budget reduction proposal is unlikely to be achieved in 2024-25. The service continues to look at opportunities to effectively use the Council's minor works budget to support ongoing maintenance spend on corporate assets.
- CEX2 – Chief Executive's Directorate vacancy management factor (£510,000). The projected shortfall of £186,000 is based on known vacancies to date. Unplanned vacancies will be added to the projection as the financial year progresses which should further reduce the shortfall.
- CEX21 – Review options for providing accommodation to those who are homeless by reducing reliance on hotel and private provision (£397,000). There is a £205,000 shortfall against this budget reduction proposal. The service area is continuing to work to mitigate the temporary accommodation pressures for single bed units with the aim of reducing the use of the tourism sector to support the required demand.
- CEX22 – Review of ICT Services (£398,000). The projected shortfall of £234,000 is due to further work needed to be carried out the review of the telephony budget across the Council, with updates to be provided to Cabinet in future revenue monitoring reports.

3.2.6 **Appendix 2** identifies the projected amount of saving against these proposals in detail and action to be taken by the directorate to mitigate the shortfall. Directors continue to work with their staff to deliver their proposals or alternatives and this is reflected in the forecast outturn for the year. During the financial year the Section 151 Officer will also consider applications from directorates to the MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve to mitigate some of the shortfalls.

3.2.7 In the longer term, these proposals must be realised or must be met through alternative budget reduction proposals in order to deliver a balanced budget position.

3.3 Commentary on the financial position at 30th June 2024

Financial position at 30th June 2024

A summary of the financial position for each main service area is attached in **Appendix 3** to this report and comments on the most significant variances are provided below.

3.3.1 **Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate**

The net budget for the Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate, including school delegated budgets, for 2024-25 is £143.485 million. Current projections indicate an over spend of £1.961 million at year end. The main variances are:

EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTORATE	Net Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
Learner Support	6,830	7,671	841	12.3%
Early Years and Young People	4,596	4,387	-209	-4.5%
Home to School Transport	9,819	11,096	1,277	13.01%

Schools' delegated budgets

Total funding delegated to schools in 2024-25 is £113.268 million.

The schools' delegated budget is reported as balanced as any under spend or over spend is automatically carried forward into the new financial year before being considered by the Corporate Director - Education and Family Support in line with the 'Guidance and Procedures on Managing Surplus School Balances'.

Total school balances decreased by £4.493 million during 2023-24 to £2.405 million at year end. At the start of 2024-25, projections indicated an overall deficit balance for school delegated budgets of £5.161 million at year end. There are 37 primary schools, 5 secondary schools and 2 special schools (75% of all schools) projecting a deficit balance at year end. The Financial Scheme for Schools requires all deficit budgets to be approved by the Section 151 Officer and the Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People. For deficit budgets in excess of 5% of the school's annual budget share or £10,000 (whichever is the higher), a deficit recovery plan must be submitted to the Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People identifying how the deficit will be recovered. Schools with deficits of greater than £50,000 in a primary school or greater than £150,000 in a secondary or special school attend termly support and challenge meetings with senior Local Authority officers. The Section 151 Officer and the Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People will be reviewing the deficit plans before the end of the Summer term, with challenge meetings commencing in September,

Central Education, Early Years and Young People (EEYYP) Directorate budgets

Learner Support

- There is a projected net over spend of £841,000 in Learner Support budgets. Whilst this is an improvement on the net over spend of £1.195 million in 2023-24, this is primarily due to Council approving £500,000 of additional funding as part of the MTFS 2024-25 for learning support to meet the costs of increased demand for Bridgend pupils in out of county placements and for increased demand for additional learning needs support at schools.
- There continues to be an increase in demand for additional learning needs (ALN) support at schools resulting in a projected over spend of £817,000, in particular in the areas of sensory support and communication, complex medical needs, and relationship support. The number of pupils supported in 2022-23 was 174, increasing to 277 in 2023-24, further increasing to 302 in the Summer term of 2024-25.
- The inter-authority recoupment budget over spent in 2023-24 by £627,000 due to an increase in demand for Bridgend pupils in out of county placements as there were insufficient spaces at Heronsbridge and Ysgol Bryn Castell. The budget has benefited from budget growth referred to above, and also out of county placements are expected to reduce from 21 (Spring 2024) to 19 in the Summer Term. The service area is also projecting a one-off refund of £137,000 from an out of authority placement, where a pupil's circumstances have changed. As a consequence, the inter-authority recoupment budget is currently projecting an under spend of £200,000 although the budget will require close monitoring for the remainder of the financial year.
- There is a projected £202,000 over spend on the Adult Community Learning budget which is primarily due to the shortfall on the Medium Term Financial Strategy saving of £149,000 against the service. The shortfall is due to the timing of the required restructure with further updates to be provided to Cabinet in the quarter 2 monitoring report.

Early Years and Young People

- The projected under spend of £209,000 primarily relates to early implementation of a MTFS saving originally scheduled for 2025-26 – EDFS10 – Reduction in Education Welfare Service (£136,000). The balance is primarily due to staff vacancies being held across the youth service and vulnerable groups budgets which are contributing to the 2024-25 MTFS vacancy management factor of £342,000 for the EEYYP Directorate.

Home-to-school transport (HtST)

- The revenue outturn report for 2023-24 highlighted a £1.780 million over spend on the HtST budget. This was primarily as a result of retendering exercises that had taken place, which had been impacted by unfavourable market conditions which subsequently resulted in higher costs across many contracts in line with shortage of drivers and escorts and increased fuel costs.
- Whilst Council approved a £1.2 million budget pressure for 2024-25 as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy to contribute to the increased costs, further retendering exercises in September 2023 resulted in additional costs on Special School contracts of £698,000 in 2023-24. The full year effect of these contracts has placed an additional £500,000 pressure on HtST budgets in 2024-25.
- The service has also seen an increase in demand for transporting pupils individually due to challenging behaviour and an increase in Statutory ALN pupils requiring

transport provision based on the learner's ALN. Along with a number of contractors handing back contracts and having to re-tender at higher cost, these pressures have added a further projected increase in costs in 2024-25 of £416,000.

- The combination of increased costs for retendering exercises and additional demand has resulted in an overall projected over spend on the HtST budget of £1.277 million in 2024-25.
- Bridgend County Borough Council launched a full public consultation on proposed changes to the home-to-school and college transport arrangements in April 2024 which could make just over £1 million in budgetary savings for the local authority. The Medium Term Financial Strategy approved by Council in February 2024 includes an indicative £792,000 budget reduction proposal on the HtST budget in 2025-26.

3.3.2 **Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate**

The Directorate's net budget for 2024-25 is £104.575 million. Current projections indicate an over spend of £6.080 million at year end compared to the outturn for 2023-24 which saw an over spend of £11.827 million. Council approved budget pressures of £8.330 million for the SSWB Directorate February as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The funded pressures include pay and price increases for commissioned services (£3.36 million), addressing recommended levels of resourcing for Children's Services (£2 million), increased costs of home care for adults with learning disabilities (£1.970 million) and £1 million towards additional residential/nursing placement costs due to new admissions for older people and older people with mental health needs. Despite this growth the Directorate continues to experience the pressures of work to meet statutory duties against a backdrop of an exponential increase in demand and pressures in placements in children's social care and increased complexity of need in adult social care.

As noted in the revenue outturn report, there continue to be pressures in learning disabilities driven by the complexity of need. The Social Services Improvement Board is overseeing a number of actions to address the growth in the adult services budget. Further actions for 2024-25 are being developed into a 3 year service and sustainability strategic plan for adult services to be considered by Cabinet in Autumn 2024 following consultation and engagement over the summer period.

The most significant variances for the directorate are :

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING DIRECTORATE	Net Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
Adult Social Care	70,564	72,908	2,344	3.32%
Prevention and Wellbeing	5,819	6,071	252	4.33%
Childrens Social Care	28,192	31,676	3,484	12.36%

Adult Social Care

There is a net over spend of £2.344 million on the Adult Social Care budget.

The most significant variances contributing to the over spend are:

ADULT SOCIAL CARE	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000
Learning Disabilities Day Opportunities	779
Older People Direct Payments	572
Mental Health Homecare	475
Learning Disabilities Direct Payments	352
Learning Disabilities Residential Care	339
Learning Disabilities Homecare	310
Homes for Older People	214
Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Direct Payments	267
Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Home Care	220
Assessment and Care Management	201
Mental Health Residential Care	(273)
Older People Home Care	(1,034)

- Learning Disabilities Day Opportunities - the projected over spend of £779,000 relates mainly to placement numbers exceeding the available budget for external day services (£518,000) in addition to increased transport costs (£257,000). The quarter one projection is comparable to the £760,000 over spend reported in the outturn report for 2023-24 with the underlying reason continuing to be that whilst the learning disabilities home care budget continues to over spend as people have not returned to internal day services, new people are taking up the vacant day services placements. The service cannot be reduced until alternative models of day time support and occupation have been developed following a review which is underway. As also reported in the revenue outturn report for 2023-24 the service continues to experience higher transport costs than normal due to the service having to hire vehicles on a short term basis as a result of delays in the delivery of new vehicles due to chassis parts being difficult to obtain. These are anticipated to be received over the Summer, but with no firm delivery date provided, the projected over spend has been maintained at a similar level to 2023-24. A new transport policy will be considered by Cabinet in July 2024 and consulted on over the summer months.

- Older People Direct Payments – there is a projected over spend of £572,000 across the Direct Payments budgets in this area. The main reason for the projected over spend is the increasing complexity of cases that impact on the average cost of direct payments support. The projected over spend reflects the current demand level of 99 packages of support and will be monitored closely going forward.

- Mental Health Homecare – this includes supported living, short breaks and domiciliary care. The projected over spend of £475,000 is mainly due to increased needs of people with supported living packages of care (£416,000). There has been a reduction in the projected over spend compared with the £591,000 reported in the outturn report as there are currently 46 placements - 33 in Supported Living and 14 in short breaks & domiciliary care - compared with 48 at 31 March 2024.

- Learning Disabilities Direct Payments – there is a projected over spend of £352,000 based on the current demand for 140 packages of support. In addition the increasing complexity of cases impact on the average cost of direct payments support. In comparison at quarter 1 2023-24 there was a projected £239,000 over spend based on 134 packages. Whilst the outturn for 2023-24 saw a final under spend of £154,000, this was due to the level of reimbursements achieved last year. There is a £250,000 MTFS proposal against the level of Direct Payments Reimbursements (SSW5) in 2024-25 which is anticipated to be achieved in full. Reimbursements over this value will further reduce the pressure on this service area, and updates will be provided to Cabinet in future revenue monitoring reports.

- Learning Disabilities Residential Care – there is a projected over spend of £339,000 which is primarily due to increased costs for existing placements within the residential and nursing service due to changing needs. The projected over spend has decreased from the £1.078 million over spend in 2023-24. This is primarily due to a decrease in placements from 41 in quarter 4 of 2023-24 to 36 currently, and allocation of £599,000 of the Social Care Workforce (SCW) grant in this financial year whereas none of the SCW grant was allocated to this service area in 2023-24.

- Learning Disabilities Homecare – there is a projected over spend of £310,000 which is as a result of the number of hours of care covered by home care services having increased along with an increase in the complexity of people's needs – e.g. the need for waking nights required rather than sleep-in. While the outturn for 2023-24 was a £2.288 million over spend, Council approved £1.970 million of budget growth for this service area in 2024-25 to cover the increased costs of home care for adults with learning disabilities (SSW3).

- Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Direct Payments – The main reason for the projected over spend of £267,000 is the increasing complexity of cases that impact on the average cost of direct payments support. At quarter 1 there are 55cases which is similar to quarter 1 2023-24 where there were 54 cases and a projected over spend of £247,000.

- Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Home Care - there is a projected over spend of £220,000 which is based on the current demand on the service provision, which is 99 packages of support. The projected over spend has reduced from the £231,000 in 2023-24 as the number of placements have reduced from 119 at the end of quarter 4.

- Homes for Older People - In 2023-24 there was a net over spend of £1.792 million against the homes for older people budget mainly due to increasing placement costs. This has now reduced to a projected net over spend of £214,000 in 2024-25 primarily due to Council approving a £1 million budget pressure as part of the MTFS - SSW4 – additional residential/nursing placements costs due to new admissions for older people and an allocation of £110,000 Social Care Workforce grant.

- Assessment and Care Management – there is a projected over spend of £201,000 on directorate wide assessment and care management budgets, a reduction from the 2023-24 over spend of £812,000. The reduced over spend is partly due to a £132,000 allocation of the Social Care Workforce Grant and additional Regional Integrated Fund of £58,000. There continues to be a need for agency cover across this area due to demands in the system particularly linked to supporting the acute hospital and timely discharges and the complexity of court protection work in learning disabilities. A plan to permanently recruit and step down agency in a timely way is being implemented.

- Mental Health Residential Care - The projected under spend of £273,000 is based on 43 placements. 2023-24 saw an under spend of £118,000 in this service area and whilst current placement numbers remain at the same level to those at quarter 4 2023-24, higher overall numbers were seen for the first three quarters of 2023-24. This budget will be closely monitored, and if the under spend is recurring, budget realignment will take place into Mental Health Home Care budgets which are currently projecting an over spend.

- Older People Home Care - The projected under spend of £1.034 million primarily relates to staffing under spends (£764,000) as a result of the recruitment challenges in the home care service sector. Agency staff have been utilised to supplement the workforce where available, and there is positive working with employability to support people into careers in care. Whilst we are seeing an improving recruitment position, currently we have some challenges.

Prevention and Wellbeing

- There is a projected over spend of £252,000 which is mainly due to the following MTFS savings not anticipated to be fully achieved in 2024-25, partially offset by staff vacancies of £101,000:-
    - SSW7 – review opportunities to amend the current energy payment arrangements for the leisure contract - £45,000 shortfall.
    - SSW8 – review the full repairing lease aspect of the Healthy Living Partnership Programme - £20,000 shortfall.
    - SSW13 – Council to reduce its investment into cultural services - £210,000 shortfall.

Children's Social Care

There is a projected net over spend of £3.484 million on the Children's Social Care budget. The most significant variances contributing to this over spend are:-

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE	Actual Variance Over/(under) 2023-24 outturn £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) 2024-25 – qtr 1 £'000
Care Experienced Children	5,609	3,104
Commissioning & Social Work	55	355
Other Child & Family Support Services	(123)	160
Management and Admin	(34)	(178)

- The over spend of £3.104 million for Care Experienced Children has reduced from the £5.609 million reported in the outturn report for 2023-24. It is due to a combination of factors:-

    - The Independent Residential Care budget has a projected over spend of £3.577 million (2023-24 - £5.345 million). This is based on the number of care experienced children in out of authority placements which is currently 24 placements, compared with 26 at the end of 2023-24. The underlying over spend position is due to a number of factors and, whilst the overall number of care experienced children has reduced by 2 since the end of 2023-24, the number in independent residential placements (24) exceeds the budget which covers between 6-8 placements depending on the unit cost. In addition, there continues to be insufficient foster carer placements to meet needs and children requiring specialist provision, sometimes with high staffing ratios to keep them safe and protected. It should be noted that this budget area can be volatile and small changes in demand can result in very high costs being incurred.

    - As reported in 3.1.11 there has been a £500,000 technical adjustment from the Independent Fostering Agency placements budget to the Special Guardianship Orders budget so that budgets correlate more closely with the 2023-24 outturn and with projected demand for 2024-25. There is still a projected under spend of £238,000 on the Independent Fostering Agency budget based on 37 placements. The budget for Special Guardianship Orders is anticipated to break even based on 129 placements.

- Commissioning and Social Work – There is a projected over spend of £355,000. This is partly due to having to continue to rely on agency staffing across all the children's social work teams. Whilst there is good progress in permanent recruitment, and progressive reduction of agency, the ongoing use of agency social workers where there are gaps is partly the reason for the over spend position. The service has benefited from successes in international recruitment, the conversion of agency to permanent, and the ‘grow your own’ social work scheme, but there are transition costs given the detailed induction requirements before international recruits can hold full caseloads. There is also a projected over spend in care and support and placements costs across the service area - the majority of which relate to Care Experienced Children/care support spend such as court ordered drug testing, assessments, reports, travel and therapy costs over which the service has no discretion but to secure against a very limited budget. The service area benefited from full draw down of a £2.316 million earmarked reserve (EMR) from the £2.5 million Children’s Services sustainability EMR against workforce pressures in 2023-24 with the remaining £184,000 being drawn down against Management and Administration budgets. There has been a budget pressure of £2 million approved by Council for 2024-25 to address the recommended levels of resourcing for children's services outlined in the 3 year strategic plan for Children and Families approved by Council in September 2023 and recruitment to these posts has commenced.

- Other Child & Family Support Services – The projected over spend of £160,000 is mainly due to the current projected shortfall on the MTFS budget reduction proposal of £250,000 against the Bridgend County Borough Council contribution towards the regional Western Bay adoption service (see 3.2.5) which was based on the 2023-24 outturn position. Further work is planned over the coming months with the regional service to identify further savings and updates will be provided in future Cabinet reports.

- Management & Administration – there is a projected under spend of £178,000 which is primarily due to staff vacancies in this service area which are contributing to the 2024-25 MTFS vacancy management factor of £255,000 for the SSWB directorate.

3.3.3 **Communities Directorate**

The net budget for the Directorate for 2024-25 is £30.739 million. The current projection is an anticipated over spend of £750,000. The main variances are:

COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE	Net Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
Fleet Services	156	504	348	223.08%
Strategic Regeneration	933	757	(176)	-18.86%
Highways Services (DSO)	8,312	8,212	(100)	-1.20%
Corporate Landlord	2,718	3,318	600	22.1%

Fleet Services

- There is a projected over spend of £348,000 on Fleet services which is an improvement from the £483,000 over spend in 2023-24. The fleet services team operate on a break-even basis with re-charges for work undertaken on directorates, South Wales Police (SWP) and the general public's vehicles, generating income to support staffing and overhead costs. Productivity levels continue to be impacted by long term sickness and ongoing difficulties with recruitment and retention. A market supplement has been introduced for HGV technicians, in line with the corporate Market Supplement Policy, following comparisons with neighbouring authorities, which has seen some limited success in filling vacancies. A report outlining options for service operating models to mitigate the budget position of fleet services has been delayed due to officer availability but is now proceeding and is anticipated in the latter half of the 2024-25 financial year.

Strategic Regeneration

- There is a projected under spend of £176,000 on Strategic Regeneration budgets. This is primarily due to maximisation of the Shared Prosperity Fund (£120,000) with the remainder due to staff vacancies being held to contribute to the 2024-25 MTFS vacancy management factor of £500,000 for the Communities Directorate.

Highways Services

- The projected under spend of £100,000 within Highways Services is primarily due to core funded staff being utilised to support work on capital schemes. In these cases, the salary costs can be capitalised thus generating one-off income for the service area.

Corporate Landlord

- There is a projected over spend of £600,000 against Corporate Landlord which has increased from the £547,000 over spend reported in 2023-24. There are shortfalls in income generated from properties run by the Council that relate to occupancy shortfalls which have continued into 2024-25 and strategies are being developed to reduce these shortfalls in the longer term.
- The shortfall against Bridgend Market of £260,000 is due to the identification of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and the subsequent closure of the market and loss of rental income. Whilst tenants in the new market hall are paying rent and service charges, this is not sufficient to cover full costs.
- There is also a shortfall in income of £120,000 for the Innovation Centre and a strategy is being developed to reduce this income shortfall in the longer term.
- Corporate Landlord continue to seek opportunities for the use of Ravens Court by a partner organisation or business. As noted in section 3.2.2 the £50,000 target for 2022-23 and the £120,000 target for 2023-24 in relation to MTFS proposals to seek to commercially let out wings of Ravens Court were not achieved. In addition, as noted in 3.2.5, there is a further £73,000 MTFS saving across the estate budgets for 2024-25 in relation to office rationalisation. Whilst it is anticipated that 50% of these savings will be met in 2024-25, the shortfall against the savings targets adds a further £121,500 pressure on the Corporate Landlord estates' budget.
- There is also a forecasted over spend of £201,000 on other council run buildings due mainly to increased maintenance costs resulting in COM23 – reduction to property maintenance budgets (£100,000) being unlikely to be achieved in 2024-25.
- Whilst the over spend in Corporate Landlord was partially mitigated in 2023-24 by staff vacancies of £246,000, ongoing vacancies in this service area are contributing to the 2024-25 MTFS vacancy management factor of £500,000 for the Communities Directorate.

3.3.4 **Chief Executive's**

The net budget for the Directorate for 2024-25 is £22.425 million. Current projections anticipate an over spend against this budget of £2.350 million. The main variances are:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	Net Budget £'000	Projected outturn £'000	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
Housing & Homelessness	3,488	4,348	860	24.66%
Legal, Democratic & Regulatory	5,705	6,343	638	11.18%
ICT	3,766	4,108	342	9.08%
Finance	3,783	3,986	203	5.37%
Human Resources/ Organisational Development	1,869	2,006	137	7.33%

Housing & Homelessness

- There is a projected net over spend of £860,000 on Housing & Homelessness which is an increase on the over spend in 2023-24 of £240,000.
- The overall budget for housing and homelessness has been reduced by £645,000 in 2024-25 due to MTFS budget reduction proposals. Appendix 3 highlights that it is anticipated that £440,000 of these are likely to be achieved in 2024-25. 3.2.5 sets out the reason for the shortfall of £205,000 against CEX21 - £397,000 – review of provision of Homelessness Service.
- For 2024-25, Welsh Government (WG) have confirmed grant funding of £915,000 for accommodation under the "No One Left Out" funding stream, £198,000 under a Discretionary Homelessness Prevention Grant and £60,000 Strategic Coordinator grant. The total grant funding confirmed for 2024-25 of £1.173 million is significantly lower than the total grant allocation of £1.505 million received in 2023-24. £986,000 of the grant funding covers homelessness accommodation costs and £127,000 is utilised towards Homeless Spend to Save support, e.g. funding bonds for rental properties.
- Projected spend on Homelessness accommodation in 2024-25 is £4.750 million which is a reduction in the spend in 2023-24 of £5.092 million. As well as the core budget (£2.174 million) and total WG accommodation grant funding (£986,000), the service has also seen an increase in rental income relating to Housing Benefits claimed by tenants who have been supported with homelessness accommodation (£450,000). The net impact is a projected over spend on accommodation of £1.140 million.
- The projected accommodation spend is based on a small increase in numbers of households and individuals supported, with 261 households and 475 individuals in June 2024 compared to 260 households and 469 individuals in June 2023. Measures to support the delivery of CEX21 – review of Homelessness Service, are in the early stages of implementation, e.g. longer term arrangements which are more cost effective, and an increase in the Alternative to Bed & Breakfast service, which again is more cost effective when compared to tourism style units. The

budget will require close monitoring throughout 2024-25 in line with any further changes in support required for homelessness accommodation.

- The projected over spend of £1.140 million on accommodation is offset by projected under spends on the Brynmenyn Homeless Centre (£125,000) due to an increase in Housing Benefit income levels, staff vacancies (£40,000) and maximisation of Supporting People grant (£120,000).

Legal

- There is a projected net over spend of £638,000 across Legal, Democratic and Regulatory services.
- There is a projected over spend on staffing budgets within Legal services of £174,000, which is partly due to the timing of the implementation of the MTFS proposal CEX13 – restructure of Legal Services (£60,000)..
- Regulatory Services (Licencing, Public Health, Pest Control) is projecting a net over spend of £195,000. This is primarily due to the projected under recoupment of income for taxi examination and licence fees (£111,000). Whilst a similar shortfall was experienced in 2023-24 it was offset by a £74,000 refund being received in relation to the Shared Regulatory Service. The balance is due to the projected shortfall on CEX 8 – Charging the public for Pest control Services (£36,000) based on income levels to date.
- The balance of the projected over spend is due to legal fees continuing to be a budget pressure. Whilst Council approved £300,000 to support the increase in legal fees being experienced, the complex cases requiring King's Counsel have continued in 2024-25, and the service area is projecting an over spend of £204,000.

ICT

- There is a projected net over spend of £342,000 across ICT budgets. This is primarily due to the projected shortfall of £234,000 against the MTFS saving CEX 22 – Review of ICT services whilst planned work on a review of telephony budgets across the Council is undertaken. Further updates will be provided to Cabinet in future revenue monitoring reports as this review is implemented.
- As experienced in 2023-24 there continues to be increased expenditure as a result of rising postage costs (£58,000).

Finance

- There is a projected net over spend of £203,000 across Finance. This is primarily due to a projected shortfall on Department for Work and Pension (DWP) subsidy contributions towards housing benefit arrangements (£113,000) in Bridgend. Any Housing Benefit award paid over the subsidy level is borne by the Council as the DWP does not fully fund all Housing Benefit expenditure – for example there are a number of tenancy arrangements whereby the subsidy is limited to historic local housing allowance rates or restricted by rent officer determinations. The balance is mainly due to the shortfall against CEX 25 – staff savings from Finance senior management (£35,000).

Human Resources/Organisational Development

- There is a net projected over spend of £137,000 within Human Resources and Organisational Development. This is primarily due to the timing of the implementation of CEX16 – Restructure of HR Service (£78,000) along with a shortfall on the HR contribution to CEX2 – Directorate Vacancy Management Factor (£56,000).

3.3.5 **Council Wide budgets**

This section includes budgets, provisions and services which are council wide, and not managed by an individual directorate. The net budget for 2024-25 is £59.447 million. Current projections anticipate an under spend against this budget of £1.929 million. The main variances are:-

COUNCIL WIDE BUDGETS	Net Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
Capital Financing	7,052	5,448	(1,604)	-22.75%
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	16,054	16,915	861	5.36%
Other Council Wide Budgets	23,493	22,443	(1,050)	-4.47%

Capital Financing

- The projected under spend of £1.604 million mainly relates to additional interest anticipated from current investments due to the increase in interest rates in 2023-24 currently being sustained in 2024-25 by the Bank of England. The current rate is 5.25%, which has been held since August 2023. Indications are that the rate may stay at this level until there is more certainty that inflation pressures have "subsided sustainably".
- It should also be noted that this will not be a recurring under spend as the Council approved new Highways and Children's Playground refurbishments in the Capital Programme in March 2023 to be funded from a combination of unallocated capital funding and prudential borrowing.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

- There is currently a projected over spend of £861,000 on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. This is a demand led budget and take-up is difficult to predict. The projected take-up for 2024-25 is higher than in 2023-24 when the gross spend in this budget area was £15.566 million, which is as a consequence of the 9.5% increase in council tax in 2024-25. The budget will be closely monitored in 2024-25 as there could be an additional call on the scheme in view of the impact of the cost of living crisis on personal financial circumstances with the potential for an increase in the number of benefit claimants.

Other Council Wide Budgets

- As referred to in paragraph 3.1.13 and 3.1.14, due to the ongoing discussions regarding pay claims and the risk on price inflation increases, at this point in the financial year it is prudent to assume that the majority of Council wide budgets will be fully spent by the year end. Close monitoring of these budgets will be required for the remainder of 2024-25.

3.3.6 **Earmarked Reserves**

Earmarked reserves will continue to be thoroughly reviewed by Corporate Management Board during 2024-25, included assessments of the draw down profile and re-profiling of existing earmarked reserves. Where earmarked reserves are identified to be unwound, these will be used to fund emerging risks for the Council as a whole during 2024-25. Further detail will be provided on the outcome of CMB reviews in future revenue monitoring reports.

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

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act 2010, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

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 well-being objectives are designed to complement each other and are part of an integrated way of working to improve well-being for the people of Bridgend. The allocation of budget determines the extent to which the Council's well-being objectives can be delivered. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of the well-being goals or objectives as a result of this report.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 These are reflected in the body of the report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- note the projected year end revenue position for 2024-25

Background documents: Individual Directorate Monitoring Reports

PRIOR YEAR BUDGET REDUCTIONS CARRIED FORWARD INTO 2024-25

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal		Original Reduction and RAG £000	Total amount of saving likely to be achieved by 24-25 £000	Reason why not achievable	Proposed Action in 2024-25 to achieve

RAG STATUS KEY	
RED	Not likely to be achieved **at all** in this financial year or less than 25%.
AMBER	Reduction not likely to be achieved in full in financial year but greater than 25%
GREEN	Reduction likely to be achieved in full

EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

EDFS1 (2023-24)	Delegate some school transport responsibilities to The Bridge Pupil Referral Unit under a new delivery model to deliver efficiency savings		40	40	During 2023-24 officers investigated the practicalities and implications of a bespoke transport arrangement for the Bridge Alternative Provision. It was determined that without capital investment to purchase a vehicle and additional staff resources that the proposal was not possible to be delivered. The transport budget for The Bridge has been re-instated to 2022-23 levels. Since September 2023, the approach taken in relation to supporting Post 16 learners with college passes has been changed, with the £40K savings now anticipated to be made on the Post 16 transport budget.	No further action required in 2024-25.
	Total Education, Early Years and Young People		**40**	**40**		

COMMUNITIES

COM 2 (2021-22)	Re-location of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle resulting in cessation of lease payments at existing site		60	30	The new site opened during quarter 4 in 2023-24. The timing of the opening meant that the saving could not be implemented in 2023-24.	The majority of the saving will be made in 2024-25, once the exit terms of the lease have been finalised. The service will endeavour to meet any shortfall in the saving through alternative one off efficiencies in 2024-25 to deliver a balanced budget position.
COM 3 (2022-23)	Change the composition of Household Food Waste Bags		35	35	The budget reduction proposal was delayed in 2023-24 until the outcome of national research had been completed to ensure any potential changes in legislation did not impact on this proposal. The new waste contractors from 1st April 2024 have implemented the change of composition, therefore the saving will be made in full during 2024-25.	No further action required. The new waste contractors from 1st April 2024 have implemented the change of composition, therefore the saving will be made in full during 2024-25.
COM 4 (2022-23)	Remove Business in Focus from running Enterprise Centres in Bridgend		20	20	Review of Business in Focus operating model continues to be explored to identify operating efficiencies with a view to restructuring the management agreement with Business in Focus to deliver this saving in full in 2024-25.	None required - 2024-25 will see the delivery of this saving target in full.
COM 5 (2022-23)	Commercially let a wing of Ravens court to a partner organisation or business		50	25	The service are hoping to achieve 50% of the savings in 2024-25 due to delays to implementing the proposal.	The service will endeavour to meet any shortfall in the saving through alternative one off efficiencies in 2024-25 to deliver a balanced budget position.
COM 1 (2023-24)	Closure of each of the Community Recycling Centre sites for one weekday per week		50	50	Public consultation on this proposal was held between 30 June and 12 September 2023, with the outcome reported to Cabinet on 21 November 2023, when the proposal was approved. A marginal saving was made in 2023-24 with the full saving being realised in 2024-25.	None required - 2024-25 will see the delivery of this saving target in full.
COM 2 (2023-24)	Charging Blue Badge Holders for parking		40	0	The traffic management team were engaged in the introduction of the default national speed limit in built up areas. The saving proposal was not achieved in 2023-24 due to the processes required to introduce any change.	The delivery of this proposal is linked to staffing within the Traffic and Transport section which is currently depleted due to unplanned staff absences. It is currently envisaged that the project will advance in Autumn 2024. Shortfalls against this savings target will be met through one off efficiencies in 2024-25 to deliver a balanced budget position.

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal		Original Reduction and RAG £000	Total amount of saving likely to be achieved by 24-25 £000	Reason why not achievable	Proposed Action in 2024-25 to achieve
COM 3 (2023-24)	Commercially let two wings of Ravens court to a partner organisation or business		120	60	The service are hoping to achieve 50% of the savings in 2024-25 due to delays to implementing the proposal.	The service will endeavour to meet any shortfall in the saving through alternative one off efficiencies in 2024-25 to deliver a balanced budget position.
	Total Communities Directorate		**375**	**220**		
	GRAND TOTAL OUTSTANDING REDUCTIONS		**415**	**260**		
	REDUCTIONS SHORTFALL			**155**		

MONITORING OF 2023-24 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2024-25 £'000	Value achieved to date 2024-25 £'000	Value Likely to be Achieved 2024-25 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE (FORMERLY EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT)						
CENTRAL EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE						
EDFS1	Reduction in staff mileage budgets	During the pandemic, most meetings were arranged virtually, instead of in person. This arrangement has continued in part with hybrid working, although there are clear cases where in-person meetings are essential. The result is that spend on mileage is less than pre-pandemic levels, and budgets can be reduced accordingly with limited impact on service provision, but positive benefits for achieving net carbon zero.	18	5	18	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
EDFS2	Directorate Vacancy Management Factor	The introduction of an average 3% vacancy factor across the directorate - excluding schools, front-line services and grant-funded and income-generating posts. Recruitment has been an issue across the Council in recent years and there have been underspends in many services which cannot recruit to vacant posts. This target will need to be managed carefully and reviewed to ensure it is achievable.	342	49	194	Current projections indicate a partial saving should be achieved in 2024-25. Early Years budget to be transferred to Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate (SSWB) in quarter 2 as part of the Children's Services Sustainability Plan, upon which part of this savings target will also be transferred to the SSWB directorate which will further mitigate the shortfall.
EDFS7	Income generation opportunities within the Music Service	Interest in developing a training function for schools provided by the Bridgend Music Service but this has not been costed and at a time when schools are looking to manage their service level agreements (SLAs) very carefully, this might not be possible. The national music service grant is subsidising this at the moment.	3	3	3	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
EDFS8	Increase price of school meals by 30p (saving is limited due to the roll out of the universal primary free school meals (UPFSM) initiative)	The cost of school meal in Bridgend is currently one of the lowest in Wales. It is anticipated that an increase of 30p per meal would still see Bridgend as being in the bottom quartile of school meal cost across Wales. It is worth noting that there may be a decline in the take-up of a school meal following previous price increases and this may negate any savings.	30	8	30	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
EDFS9	Cessation of Adult Community Learning (ACL) provision	This would result in staff redundancies. There could be alternative options available via external partners. This saving could lead to the partnership being weakened. There will also be a loss of presence felt within local communities.	149	0	0	The shortfall is due to the timing of the required restructure with further updates to be provided to Cabinet in the quarter 2 monitoring report.

MONITORING OF 2023-24 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2024-25 £'000	Value achieved to date 2024-25 £'000	Value Likely to be Achieved 2024-25 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
EDFS11	Reduction in contribution to Central South Consortium	Welsh Government is currently reviewing school improvement arrangements in Wales. The review is due to report in late spring/early summer 2024. We would look to reduce some of the central administrative functions rather than frontline services (improvement partners/principal improvement partners).	35	35	35	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
EDFS12	Educational Psychology Service - Reduction in equipment, mileage and staff	This may result in educational psychologists not using latest test materials for their assessments which may mean results are invalid. This could also result in a potential reduction in in-person visits to schools and an increase in online sessions. This could result in the local authority being unable to meet its statutory duties under legislation, as the statutory role of educational psychologists could not be met due to reduced capacity. The local authority could be open to legal and tribunal challenge due to missed timescales and failure to meet its statutory duties. Unidentified needs of learners and significant placement breakdowns could lead to an increase in out-of-county specialist placements requested at additional cost.	38	10	38	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
EDFS13	ALN Statutory Team - reduction to staffing structure	The local authority could be unable to meet its statutory duties. The local authority could be open to legal and tribunal challenge due to missed timescales.	17	5	17	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
EDFS14	Early Years ALN, Cognition and Learning and Complex Medical and Motor Impairment - review of pay grades, reduction in staffing numbers	There could be a reduction in training offered to schools. The team may be unable to oversee the Observation and Learning Resource Centres at the current level. The early identification of needs of pupils may not be identified as quickly as desired. Schools may not have expertise to support pupils and needs escalate.	50	9	50	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
EDFS15	The Bridge Alternative Provision - staffing reductions and charging schools for hospital education	The setting may be unable to offer pupils the option to continue their studies through the medium of Welsh (previous Estyn recommendation). There could be insufficient staff to pupil ratios which could have potential safeguarding risks and limit the number of pupils The Bridge is able to accommodate.	81	21	81	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
EDFS16	Learner Support - staffing reductions	There is a statutory requirement to support young people with additional learning needs up to the age of 25. This saving could result in schools being unable to effectively manage additional learning provision, therefore potentially causing more local authority individual development plans which could cost the local authority more. This could result in an increased risk of tribunals.	16	4	16	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
EDFS17	School Modernisation budgets - review of staffing and non-staffing budgets	This could result in challenges in respect of site maintenance. This could also impact on the delivery of some capital projects.	22	22	22	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.

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EDFS18	Sensory Team - Hearing and visual impairment - review of staffing and non staffing budgets	This could result in a failure to meet statutory duties for hearing impaired (HI) and visually impaired (VI) learners. Learners with a HI and VI may be unable to access visits and in class support, modified resources and the school curriculum. This could result in the Learning Resource Centre not being staffed fully.	35	9	35	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
EDFS19	Communication and Relationships Team - Referrals only accepted for pupils who are at risk of permanent exclusion and placement breaking down. No longer completing observations for the ND Pathway	This could result in schools not following the local authority graduated response due to waiting times of support being implemented. Pupils placed on reduced timetables while schools await action plans could increase. This could result in pupils not progressing on the Neurodevelopmental Pathway due to specialist teachers being unable to complete professional recommendations.	142	0	100	No savings have been achieved to date because of the increased demand placed on service and the secondment of the manager.
EDFS20	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) - reduction in translation services and review of staffing	This could result in a less co-ordinated approach to increasing Welsh-medium education and seeking opportunities to engage in activities through the Welsh-medium. WESP Coordinator to translate which would impact the ability to meet targets set within the WESP and could lead to a failure in meeting Welsh Government targets to increase Welsh-medium education.	10	10	10	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
EDFS21	School Music Service - cease payments of all Four counties ensemble financial commitments, cease all hire of vehicles for concerts etc	No offer of collaborative Four Counties activities to learners.	7	7	7	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
EDFS23	Reduction in Catering Services maintenance budget	This could mean a reduction in the purchase of replacement equipment for kitchens and an inability to comply with new refuse legislation from April 2024 for food recycling. This could have an impact on the local authority's resilience to maintain school kitchens effectively.	154	154	154	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
EDFS24	Review of staffing structure within the Education Directorate Support Unit (EDSU)	This could result in several challenges within the directorate's business function arm including the ability to coordinate correspondence, respond to Welsh Government requests and support administrative activity.	63	63	63	Two vacant posts in this service area contributed £72K in savings - £9K above target. This £9K has been used to contribute to EDFS26
EDFS25	Review of staffing structures and non-staffing budgets within the Corporate Health and Safety Unit (CHSU)	This could result in less specialist health and safety support available across the organisation and may require the local authority to purchase additional external support if required at a later date.	40	40	40	One vacant post in this service area contributed saving that are £9K above target. This £9K has been used to contribute to EDFS26
EDFS26	Review of staffing structure within Pupil Services	This could result in the directorate having less ability to discharge statutory functions (that is, school admissions, child performance licensing, chaperone licensing, child employment and the appointment of local authority governors).	18	18	18	See comments under EDFS24 and EDFS25
EDFS27	Review of staffing structures within Early Help	This could result in increased referrals to statutory services such as Social Care, and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). This could result in reduced support for learners, parents and carers.	132	132	132	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.

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EDFS28	Youth Support - redistribution of resources including the provision of a mobile youth support facility	This could result in a lack of appropriate spaces for young people to socialise can lead to them becoming isolated which in turn has a negative impact on their emotional wellbeing and mental health. This impact could be mitigated by the use of the new mobile youth provision vehicle.	26	26	26	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
EDFS29	Early Years and Childcare Team - reduction to project delivery budget (for example, training and grants available to childcare settings)	This could result in reduced training opportunities for the sector and the possibility of the team being unable to meet statutory requirements.	14	14	14	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
EDFS30	Edge of Care Services - staffing restructure	This could result in a reduction of services to children and families.	84	84	84	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
EDFS31	Youth Justice Service - review of staffing and non-staffing budgets	Loss of external provision could mean that the Bridgend Youth Justice Service would need to deploy an alternative operating model which may result in a decreased offer to young people.	34	34	34	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
	Total Education, Early Years and Young People		**1,560**	**762**	**1,221**	

SCHOOLS

SCH1	Efficiency savings against School Delegated Budgets - 3% in 2024-2025 then 2% for 2025-26 and 1% thereafter.	It is important to note that some of this impact may be mitigated by the financial support provided to schools from the local authority in assisting schools to meet cost pressures in relation to pay and pensions, and energy. Further to discussion with headteachers, the following potential impacts have been identified: 1. Risk of increased school deficit positions; 2. Potential to result in some teacher and other staff redundancies; 3. Increase in class sizes; 4. Loss of interventions; 5. Increase in staff absence; 6. Low staff morale; 7. Increased workload; 8. Reduced curriculum offer; 9. Reduced leadership/strategic thinking time; 10. Potential inability to meet statutory requirements; 11. Decrease in adult support in classrooms; 12. Increase in pupil exclusions; 13. Decline in standards; 14. Reduction in ability maintain school buildings; 15. Limited extra-curricular activity; 16. Increase in referrals for behaviour support; 17. Reduced support for learners with additional needs; 18. Reduction in professional learning opportunities; 19. Loss of expertise due to teachers and senior leaders leaving the profession.	3,441	3,441	3,441	Savings achieved due to overall reduction in Individual Schools Budget (ISB). However, reduced budgets have resulted in total projected deficit balances for schools at year end in excess of £5.1m.
	Total Schools		**3,441**	**3,441**	**3,441**	

	Total Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate		**5,001**	**4,203**	**4,662**	

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SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING						
SSW1	Reduction in staff mileage budgets	During the pandemic most meetings were arranged virtually, instead of in person. This arrangement has continued in the main since then with hybrid working, although there are clear cases where in-person meetings are essential, with the result that spend on mileage is less than pre-pandemic levels, and budgets can be reduced accordingly with no impact on service provision, but positive benefits for achieving net carbon zero.	128	32	128	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
SSW2	Directorate Vacancy Management Factor	The introduction of an average 3% vacancy factor across the directorate - excluding front line services and grant funded and income generating posts. Recruitment has been an issue across the Council in recent years and there have been underspends in many services which cannot recruit to vacant posts. This target will need to be managed carefully and reviewed to ensure it is achievable.	255	64	255	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
SSW3	Non Residential Charges Income Generation	Review of the service pricing model and increasing unit costs with a view to generating additional income. Based on unit cost increase of 7.5%. Services are provided to vulnerable adults following an assessment of need. There is risk that individuals will cancel care packages and not have their needs met which could result in higher packages of care required in the future cost and/or an increase in debt recovery. Welsh Government has set a maximum charge of £100 per week that can be charged to an individual for non-residential care, so for those people already paying the maximum amount no additional income will be generated. In terms of flat rate charges such as Transport and Meals, no additional income can be generated under the current regulations.	75	18	75	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
SSW4	Remodelling Day Opportunities	As part of the wider prevention and wellbeing agenda the service is reviewing all daytime opportunities to create environments in vibrant and compassionate communities that offer a wide and diverse opportunity. This will enable the department to review how the localised community hubs are operated and managed. This will include transport arrangements, management structures and overall operation and service that is delivered. The review will include a rebalance of who operate day time services in Bridgend but could reduce the numbers attending and /or a reduction in current service provision.	200	0	200	Plans are in place and full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
SSW5	Direct Payments Reimbursements	Invest to save proposal approved to fund a staff member to manage individual direct payment cases and action surplus fund reclaims to reduce overall spend. The savings target is net of the costs of implementing this proposal.	250	30	250	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.

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SSW7	Review opportunities to amend the current energy payment arrangements for the leisure contract	A formal review and extension of contract could enable a change to how energy is paid for within the partnership with a positive impact on costs. Halo currently pay their energy bills directly but if BCBC were to pay there is greater economies of scale and potential tax savings. It would likely need a contract extension and review of the contract to justify such a change.	45	0	0	Advice received as to steps required to amend the partnership agreement to support the savings proposal. Update report required for Cabinet to seek approval for required changes
SSW8	Review the full repairing lease aspect of the Health Living Partnership Programme contract and opportunities to invest differently or less within the leisure estate	The poor condition and need for investment of the leisure assets was a key driver in the development of the healthy living partnership and there have been improvements and scheduled maintenance at all venues since 2012. Council may wish to review how much funding it wishes to be spent on asset repairs and maintenance and whether the full repairing lease can be reviewed. Some small reductions may be possible by reviewing options for investment. The impact would be increased pressure on the capital/minor works programme to cover repair and replacement requirements and potentially not all investment needs would be met. The contractual implications of the outcome of the review will need to be considered.	50	0	30	Contract negotiation required to implement saving proposal in development.
SSW9	Review the operating costs of leisure facilities	The operating costs of the leisure buildings have progressively improved since 2012 and as such the financial savings from building closures have reduced. A review of opening hours will deliver some efficiencies in 2024. A broader leisure strategy is being developed which will inform the remodelling of leisure in the county borough for future years.	30	0	30	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
SSW11	BCBC to waive protections on concessionary pricing and discounted rates for the more vulnerable in leisure settings	These categories of user have been developed in line with the terms of the leisure contract seeking to support our most vulnerable by reducing cost as a barrier to accessing services that support wellbeing. There has been success in this and large numbers of people benefit from concessions including the means tested access to leisure scheme. This subsidy could be removed but risks would include levels of participation reducing and also related income. Many of the beneficiaries in this category are means tested. This may challenge the socio economic duty. These individuals are part of communities which have the lowest mortality rates and the highest burden of chronic disease in the county borough.	15	0	15	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
SSW13	Council to reduce its investment into cultural services including the availability of buildings, services or resources relating to its libraries, supported employment, community venues and arts programmes	Will include consideration of a reduction in library opening hours, library resources, community centres, supported employment for people with disabilities, arts activity and resources (for BCBC to determine) and other services or venues managed on behalf of the Council. It will be for Council to determine the contractual changes it requires and the related changes to the partnership agreement. For some services there will potentially be the need for public engagement or consultation.	360	65	150	Cabinet report in May 2024 approved £50K reduction to book fund and removal of £15K subsidy for the Youth Theatre, along with public engagement over how future savings can be achieved.

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SSW14	Dual use facilities operated in partnership with schools to increase income generation in line with fees and charging policy	Sites are operated on a shared usage basis with management agreements. They benefit schools during the day and community beyond. In a number of instances external investment has developed facilities. An opportunity to increase charges and deliver a small saving. Operating costs have increased in recent times and no uplift. We would be looking to increase charges by a further 10%.	8	2	8	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
SSW15	BCBC to withdraw or reduce its commitment to older persons strategy, ageing well in Bridgend and becoming an age friendly community	This would see a reduction to the older persons strategy budget which would limit BCBC to lead on Age Friendly Communities workstreams going forward. This is currently in the corporate plan. If agreed, this would require the policy to be changed. The grant to Cruse is also currently funded from this cost centre so a £20k reduction applicable overall.	15	15	15	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
SSW17	BCBC consider efficiency savings from Third Sector Contracts - bereavement services	Annual grant payment which is a small contribution to larger scale service providing bereavement support for a range of circumstances. Will have been in demand during the pandemic period in particular. Would remove an important support service for those experiencing bereavement.	5	4	4	Notice served covering a 10 months saving in 2024-25.
SSW18	BCBC consider efficiency savings from Third Sector Contracts - dementia services	Annual grant payment, for which we are currently reviewing the specification, its need and how services to support people awaiting or receiving diagnosis fit within overall support available locally and regionally. Numbers of people experiencing dementia predicted to grow and reducing the resource would create demand for alternative support or services.	57	47	47	Notice served covering a 10 months saving in 2024-25.
SSW19	BCBC consider efficiency savings from Third Sector Contracts - stroke services	The service is commissioned by health, where BCBC made a 20% funding contribution. This reduction would impact directly on people who receive these services. The individual impact assessments are in development.	20	20	20	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
SSW21	Reduction to the Healthy Living Partnership Management Fee from 2024-25	The saving will be achieved due to re-profiling the management fee and successfully securing funding from other sources to undertake improvement works/maintenance works that HALO would have otherwise undertaken. Extending the contract would support further potential for savings (SSW6). £164k of this saving relates to Management Fee and £36k relates to Leisure Client budget.	200	200	200	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
SSW22	BCBC consider efficiency savings from Third Sector Contracts - substance misuse services	This is an annual grant payment, which has the potential to be ceased. An impact assessment will need to be completed as no new referrals from BCBC have been made this year, there is a potential that people receiving this service will need ongoing care and support and result in higher packages.	34	28	28	Notice served covering a 10 months saving in 2024-25.

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SSW23	Reduction of the BCBC contribution towards the regional Western Bay adoption service	Based on the recent levels of refunds experienced since 2020-21, a reduction appears reasonable. The main risk is that the service may have an increase in cases where children should be placed for adoption and this will increase the usage of the regional service and associated costs.	250	0	121	The value likely to be achieved is based on the refund in 2023-24 which was lower than in previous years due to an increase in the number of adoption placements. Further work is planned over the coming months with the regional service to identify further savings and updates will be provided in future Cabinet reports
SSW24	SCWDWP Training Reductions 1. Reduction in use of external venues for training delivery. 2. Increase offer of hybrid learning opportunities e.g., on-line resources, e-learning and on-line training. 3.External training courses / conferences to be supported only where there is an identified need that cannot be met by in-house resources. 4. Use of internal staff to facilitate training workshops. 5. Reduce the impact of non-attendance at training by introducing a non-attendance charge.	Insufficient availability of internal venues suitable to hold training events. Certain training requires physical attendance and specialist resources. Requires ICT equipment and skills to access on-line activities. External trainers bring specialist knowledge and skills that internal trainers could not replicate.	50	50	50	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
SSW25	Review of support staffing structure	Redundancy costs would have to be paid, risks in service delivery and compliance agenda which could result in poor regulatory judgements.	55	55	55	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
SSW26	Increasing Charges for in-house care homes	Aim for full cost recovery on in-house care home charges	140	35	140	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
SSW27	Reduction of contribution to BAVO SLA by 10%	Financial pressure on BAVO and reduced service provision for citizens of Bridgend	6	6	6	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
	Total Social Services and Wellbeing		**2,248**	**671**	**1,827**	

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COMMUNITIES						
COM1	Reduction in staff mileage budgets	During the pandemic most meetings were arranged virtually, instead of in person. This arrangement has continued in the main since then with hybrid working, although there are clear cases where in-person meetings are essential, with the result that spend on mileage is less than pre-pandemic levels, and budgets can be reduced accordingly with no impact on service provision, but positive benefits for achieving net carbon zero.	34	8.5	34	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
COM2	Directorate Vacancy Management Factor	The introduction of an average 5% vacancy factor across the directorate - excluding front line services and grant funded and income generating posts. Recruitment has been an issue across the Council in recent years and there have been underspends in many services which cannot recruit to vacant posts. This target will need to be managed carefully and reviewed to ensure it is achievable.	500	125	500	The directorate has made 25% savings to date and current projections show the full saving should be achievable in 2024-25. The basis of the projection is that current vacancies would need to be held for the remainder of the financial year. Close monitoring of this target will be required to ensure this is sustainable and quarterly updates provided to Cabinet.
COM3	Increase garden waste subscription cost to £50 per household and £45 for pensioners (Currently £46 per household or £42 for pensioners)	Potential increase in fly tipping. Loss of subscribers especially as it is the second year the subscription has been increased. Increase would not result in full cost recovery under the current contract, but recyclable tonnages contribute to an improved recycling level against Welsh Government targets to reduce the likelihood of penalties.	13	13	13	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
COM4	Increase bulky waste charges from £25 for 3 items to £30	Potential increase in fly tipping especially as it is the second year the charge has been increased. Increase would not result in full cost recovery under the current contract, but recyclable tonnages contribute to an improved recycling level against Welsh Government targets to reduce the likelihood of penalties.	10	2.5	10	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
COM5	Removal of revenue budget used to fund the Council's Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD) capital contribution	When the CCRCD was approved by the Council it was agreed that the Council's capital contribution (circa £11.3m) would be funded from revenue contributions and a recurrent budget pressure of £598k was included in the 2017-18 revenue budget. The total funding required is now almost complete which will enable the revenue budget to be reduced accordingly.	598	598	598	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
COM6	Increase fees on Bereavement services, i.e. burial charges by 20%	Income target has been based on historic income levels achieved and the application of a 20% increase to current charges. There is a risk to achieving the income target if there is a reduction in burials compared with the last two years if they return to pre-pandemic levels, or if relatives seek alternative services from neighbouring authorities.	96	24	96	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.

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COM7	Review of charging mechanism for the Major Projects Team within Corporate Landlord (Architects) to ensure full cost-recovery	Fees to be aligned to industry standard charge out rates to ensure continued competitive rates reflective of the fair and reasonable costs of providing the service compared to an outsourced solution. Such charge out rates to factor in total costs of the major projects team as a whole. Schemes within the capital programme that are using the services of the Major Projects Team will see an increase in the rates charged to them.	97	0	97	Whilst it is anticipated the full saving should be achieved in 2024-25, it is too early in the financial year to recognise savings to date as saving is based on overall annual productivity of the team.
COM9	Cessation of Shopmobility Scheme	Non statutory service and has ceased since October 2022 following the closure of Brackla 1 Car Park.	21	5	10	Staff consultation required to implement saving proposal. Full saving should be achieved from October 2024.
COM10	Review of Porthcawl Marina berthing fees with a view to it operating on a full cost recovery basis	This would involve a review of the berth fees and other operational costs to enable full cost recovery.	32	8	32	Fees and Charges increased from 1 April 2024. Operational costs being reviewed to ensure budget reduction proposal is met in full.
COM11	Cessation of the Parks & Playing Fields Development Fund	In the MTFS 2020-21 to 2023-24 Council approved £75,000 of funding, for a period of two financial years, to support voluntary sports clubs based within the county of Bridgend. This funding period has now come to an end so the funding will be removed.	75	75	75	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
COM12	Removal of non-staffing budget within Economic Development	Budget previously used to support delivery of events, pop up business schools e.g. "rebel business school". The reduction in budget will impact on the economic support able to be provided by BCBC for similar events in the future. Will now source external grant funding for this initiative.	13	13	13	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
COM13	Reduce the budget available for the Climate Emergency Response Programme, including ULEV implementation	The Climate Emergency Programme will have to be remodelled. This will impact on the Welsh Government's net zero 2030 target and will now require additional grant funding from external sources or joint working with partners to achieve our ambitious targets.	55	55	55	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
COM14	Office Rationalisation to include closing Raven's Court and the Innovation Centre and sharing accommodation in Civic Offices with the MASH and SWP.	Opportunity to close underused buildings & save running costs. Also to increase close working relations with South Wales Police and MASH and utilise largely unused area of the Civic Offices. Will also be an opportunity to cover 190K of unrealised savings on accommodation from previous years.	73	0	36.5	The service are hoping to achieve 50% of the savings in 2024-25 due to delays to implementing the proposal.
COM15	Reduce weed spray from 3 times to 2 times a year, reversal to former MTFS cut.	Will impact on the perceived visual amenity of the Borough, need to look at this with grass cutting and through biodiversity measures.	12	12	12	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
COM17	Removal of Sponsorship for Major Events Fund	Removal of ability to sponsor major Event in 2024/2025 & receive the benefits that accrue from the global marketing opportunities that events provides. Will need to focus increased marketing activities through partnerships in future years.	25	25	25	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
COM18	Reduction in County Wide Strategic Regeneration Funds	Will significantly impact regeneration initiatives & remove the ability to match fund external grants and undertake feasibility studies, parking studies etc. Will impact on both by restricting the ability to match fund external grant schemes and provide regeneration opportunities in our towns centres and valleys. No town centre management activities funded in the future, including summer fayres & events.	300	300	300	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.

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COM19	Reduction in size of strategic regeneration team to release core funding	Redundancy and restructure required. Will reduce the capacity of the team to deliver regeneration schemes, will involve cessation/ omitting of projects and reprioritisation of work. Corporate Plan Obj's 2 & 3 will be impacted by the reduced resourcing so a reduction in the regeneration that can be achieved and the resulting economic benefits. Following commitment will be at risk of not be realised: 1. Deliver a regeneration strategy for the Ogmore and Garw Valleys. 2. Develop funding bids for our valleys, to enhance the economy and stimulate new job opportunities 3. Deliver a commercial property enhancement grant for all valleys high streets, to make them look better and bring properties back into commercial use. 4. Redevelop Bridgend Central Station, including improving the front public area with a transport interchange at the rear, providing links between bus services and trains, in partnership with Welsh Government and Network Rail.	42	42	42	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
COM22	Removal of Trainee Surveyor Post (Currently Vacant)	Reduction in number of posts within the structure will impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of the service area. Removal of succession planning. Will impact posts around it who will have to pick up functions of this role. Possible impact on line manager grade and partial service restructure required	33	33	33	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
COM23	Reduce available property maintenance budgets in Corporate Landlord by up to 10% per asset	Risk to safety and statutory building compliance. Reduction of maintenance activity counter productive for long term asset operation. This reduction would be limited to assets where non essential maintenance items can be removed. Will have a resulting negative affect on teams delivering maintenance functions with reduction in volume of orders, but these reductions have been taken previously and could be taken again if required	100	0	0	Due to ongoing pressures on the property revenue maintenance budgets the budget reduction proposal is unlikely to be achieved in 2024-25. The service will continue to look at opportunities to effectively use the Council's minor works budget to support ongoing maintenance spend on corporate assets.
COM26	Cessation of provision of hard copy recycling calendar to all residents	Item is non-provisional so negotiation would be required with the contractor. Portal allows residents to check their collection day online but may cause some issues for those without access to internet.	45	45	45	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
COM28	Letting of former Woodmat Property, Brynmenyn Estate	Would maximise income but result in loss of use of asset for future depot or CRC relocation. Also, Loss of significant power supply at site for future ULEV charging facilities	35	0	0	Ongoing opportunities being sought to achieve this budget reduction proposal, but let not agreed by end of quarter 1. Projections will be updated throughout the financial year as opportunities continue to be sought.
COM29	Removal of Estimator & Cost Control Manager – DLO (Currently Vacant)	Removal of post would require supervisor to undertake duties of cost control.	45	45	45	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
COM30	Switch Waste collection vehicles from HVO fuel to Diesel	Green deliverability as implementation is straightforward. But would represent a backwards step environmentally switching from green vegetable derived fuel back to a fossil fuel, albeit in WG Co2 reporting mechanisms minor variance.	136	136	136	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.

MONITORING OF 2023-24 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2024-25 £'000	Value achieved to date 2024-25 £'000	Value Likely to be Achieved 2024-25 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
COM31	Release of 2 x vacant strategic transport planning posts	No further work on statutory active travel programme and on development of active travel network and other highway infrastructure improvements impacting viability and future development. Council will not be able to fulfil the Local Development Plan policy requirements and loss of S106 contributions Inability to commit to planning performance agreements for large scale schemes/development resulting in a loss of financial contributions No submission of bids for future transport funding under Levelling Up Fund or Shared Prosperity Fund No further work on current Bridgend strategic transport priorities Failure to comply with statutory duties under the Active Travel Act and national planning policy.	70	70	70	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
	Total Communities Directorate		**2,460**	**1,635**	**2,278**	

CHIEF EXECUTIVES

CEX1	Reduction in staff mileage budgets	During the pandemic most meetings were arranged virtually, instead of in person. This arrangement has continued in the main since then with hybrid working, although there are clear cases where in-person meetings are essential, with the result that spend on mileage is less than pre-pandemic levels, and budgets can be reduced accordingly with no impact on service provision, but positive benefits for achieving net carbon zero.	18	5	18	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
CEX2	Directorate Vacancy Management Factor	The introduction of an average 3% vacancy factor across the directorate - excluding front line services and grant funded and income generating posts. Recruitment has been an issue across the Council in recent years and there have been underspends in many services which cannot recruit to vacant posts. This target will need to be managed carefully and reviewed to ensure it is achievable.	510	107	324	Current projections indicate a partial saving should be achieved in 2024-25. Unplanned vacancies will be added to the projection as the financial year progresses to reduce the shortfall.
CEX3	Removal of the security patrols at Brynmenyn House - Homelessness hostel	There have been significant challenges since Covid-19. Numerous Community Safety Partnership meetings have been held with ward Councillors and local residents. The security, alongside additional CCTV cameras and lighting, have been part of a package of measures to support the community cohesion. The removal / reduction of the service, would reduce visibility and ability to react to situations, and potentially increase police presence, as these were reduced due to the presence of the security.	150	150	150	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
CEX4	Efficiency saving target targeting supplies and services budgets within Housing Solutions	Limited impact as review has identified small historic under spends against this budget category	35	35	35	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
CEX5	Increase Rental income budget at Brynmenyn House - Homelessness hostel	Limited impact as proposal reflects income levels consistently achieved since the Covid-19 pandemic.	63	63	63	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.

MONITORING OF 2023-24 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2024-25 £'000	Value achieved to date 2024-25 £'000	Value Likely to be Achieved 2024-25 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
CEX6	Staffing saving in Finance Section	Staff saving in finance section achieved through removal of vacant posts and potential restructuring. This will place additional pressure on remaining staff, putting deadlines for grant returns and accounts closure at risk, impacting on levels of grant income achievable.	71	71	71	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
CEX7	Reduced contribution to the Regional Internal Audit Service (RIAS)	Requirement for Head of Internal Audit to provide an annual audit opinion on the Council's control environment in relation to governance, risk management and internal control, which may be more difficult if less audit work undertaken. Consultation on the budget also required with other RIAS partners.	27	27	27	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
CEX8	Charging the public for Pest Control Services	Look to implement a full cost recovery model for this service	67	9	31	Based on income achieved to date in quarter 1, it is projected the saving will be partly achieved, however this will be closely monitored as we progress through the year
CEX9	Reduction of ICT Printing costs	Due to the increase in working from home across the authority, savings can be explored in the ICT Print Strategy areas when the printing framework contract is considered for renewal in January 2024. The tender will be designed to be in line with the cultural shifts towards the paperless office agenda.	5	5	5	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
CEX10	Amend the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Policy to only recheck every three years for employees governed by the Care Standards Act 2000, not for all employees who require a DBS.	This approach is being followed in neighbouring authorities, but the impact will be that the employees (outside the Care Standards Act 2000) will only have a DBS on appointment.	30	7	27	Updated policy has been approved by Council and implemented from 1 May 2024.
CEX11	Increase in various Registrars income budgets	Limited impact as proposal reflects income levels consistently achieved since the Covid-19 pandemic.	50	50	50	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
CEX12	Increased income from Registrars' Ceremonies	Increasing the fees charged for Marriages and other ceremonies by 15%. We are currently charging below the Welsh average. The increased cost could potentially reduce demand, however the Registrar's fee is a small percentage of the overall cost of the average wedding budget. It is also an essential requirement for a wedding and it is therefore anticipated that this increase in fee will have minimal impact on demand.	43	11	43	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
CEX13	Restructure of Legal Services	Reduction in capacity, reduction in service delivery, and impact on staffing levels. If the whole saving is agreed this will be the equivalent of 4 posts.	154	62	94	The restructure of Legal Services has been completed. There is a shortfall for 2024-25 due to residual salary costs of posts removed from the structure, however the savings will be made in full from 2025-26.

MONITORING OF 2023-24 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2024-25 £'000	Value achieved to date 2024-25 £'000	Value Likely to be Achieved 2024-25 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
CEX14	Reconfiguration of Business Support	Significant reduction in business support management and resilience, creating a single point of failure. Business Support is pivotal to managing the central business support to the Chief Executive, Communities and Education and Family Support Directorates. It will create a significant capacity risk in day-to-day management and add to workload pressure and stress down through the structure. The reconfiguration will look at making additional savings across the teams, but this will impact on such things as providing management information to services, particularly Corporate Landlord, supporting Legal Services accreditation to LEXEL, the ability to support minute taking of HR disciplinary and other such investigations, family support services, Youth Justice Services and performance management.	160	0	105	Shortfall in savings target due to timing of implementation of restructure, mitigated partly by under spends on vacant posts. Saving will be achieved in full by 2025-26.
CEX15	Increase income generated from legal fees for property transactions, S106 Agreements and Highway Agreements	Currently the Service charge a set fee of £2k for the S106 process and highway agreements are based on a percentage of the estimated cost of the works for a highway scheme which is currently 1%. An estimate figure of potential increase in income has been given but this is subject to take up of the service and could be more or less.	20	5	20	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
CEX16	Restructure of HR Service	Reduction in capacity, reduction in service delivery, and impact on staffing levels. If the whole saving is agreed this will be the equivalent of 7 posts.	289	32	211	Phase 1 of the HR service restructure has been completed. There is a shortfall for 2024-25 due to residual salary costs of posts removed in the restructure. Phase 2 is due to commence later in the year.
CEX17	Household Canvas - Reduction / Limited Canvass Door Knocking	Will focus on poor response areas but will draw criticism from Electoral Commission.	9	9	9	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
CEX18	Restructure of Procurement Team	Reduction in capacity, reduction in service delivery, and impact on staffing levels. If the whole saving is agreed this will be the equivalent of 2 posts.	62	0	62	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
CEX19	Restructure of Democratic Services	Reduction in capacity, reduction in service delivery, and impact on staffing levels. If the whole saving is agreed this will be the equivalent of 2 posts.	96	0	80	Restructure is in progress. Shortfall due to timing of implementation of restructure, however full saving should be achieved in 2025-26
CEX20	Restructure of Corporate Policy and Public Affairs Team	Service could not expand and develop as proposed. Graduates could assist until their contract expires (Nov 2024)	45	45	45	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
CEX21	Review of provision of Homelessness Service	Review the options for providing accommodation to those who are homeless by reducing reliance on hotel and private provision	397	192	192	Service area is continuing with the work to reduce the temporary accommodation pressures for single bed units with the aim of reducing the use of the tourism sector.
CEX22	Review of ICT Services	Review the contract for telephony services to commence from April 2024. Review the use of teams in the Authority to reduce software costs. Consider partnership working to support and enhance the ICT provision	398	0	164	Further work to be carried out on a review of the telephony budget across the Council. Update to be provided to Cabinet in future revenue monitoring reports.
CEX23	Review the provision of Partnerships and Customer Services	Reduction in capacity, reduction in service delivery, and impact on staffing levels. Review input from partners where appropriate	216	62	216	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.

MONITORING OF 2023-24 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2024-25 £'000	Value achieved to date 2024-25 £'000	Value Likely to be Achieved 2024-25 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
CEX24	Reduce subsidy to Citizens Advice Bureau by 10%	Financial pressure on CAB and reduced service provision for citizens of Bridgend	22	22	22	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
CEX25	Staff savings from Finance senior management team	This will require a restructure of the Finance senior management team, and potential redundancies, reducing senior leadership capacity and knowledge and experience, at a time of increasing focus and pressure on council finances. This will place additional pressure on remaining staff.	70	0	35	Shortfall in savings target due to timing of implementation of restructure. Saving will be achieved in full by 2025-26.
CEX26	Increase in Finance income budgets	Increase in charges to the Finance Section's clients, including schools and other services / organisations where the finance team provide support e.g. Consortium of Local Authorities in Wales (CLAW).	28	28	28	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
CEX27	Restructure of the Council's Benefits and Assessment Team	This will require a restructure and potential redundancies. This would be exacerbated by annual reductions to the Housing Benefits Administration Grant, which is £20k in 2024-25. The impact will be longer times taken to process housing benefits and council tax reduction claims, and undertake assessments, and more likelihood of error and fraud.	90	90	90	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
CEX28	Reduction of staffing in the Council Tax section	This proposal will mean the reduction of staffing, resulting in additional pressure on remaining staff, delays in processing council tax queries, and the real likelihood of reductions in the amount of council tax income being collected. The team is already dealing with additional work as a result of the introduction of council tax premiums for empty properties and the forthcoming introduction of premiums for second homes.	63	63	63	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
CEX29	Reduction to the Shared Regulatory Service budget	Reduction in capacity, reduction in service delivery, and impact on staffing levels. Service has been asked to identify savings by three partner Councils and decision will be made by Joint Committee.	58	58	58	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
	Total Chief Executive's Directorate		**3,246**	**1,208**	**2,338**	

CORPORATE/COUNCIL WIDE

CW1	Increased income receivable from investments and loans	No impact in the short term as current income is significantly higher than budget. However, if interest rates fall below pre-pandemic levels then the level of income will fall. The council's cashflow is managed carefully to ensure security, liquidity and yield, so funding is not placed at risk. As reserves are drawn down there will be less funding available for investing and this level of income may not be achievable.	90	90	90	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
	Total Corporate/Council Wide		**90**	**90**	**90**	

MONITORING OF 2023-24 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2024-25 £'000	Value achieved to date 2024-25 £'000	Value Likely to be Achieved 2024-25 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
	GRAND TOTAL REDUCTIONS		13,045	7,807	11,195	
	REDUCTION SHORTFALL				1,851	
			6,415	3,256	5,770	
			2,243	2,691	3,505	
			4,387	7,098	3,770	
			13,045	13,045	13,045	

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL	Budget 2024-25 Expenditure Budget £'000	Income Budget £'000	Net Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE (FORMERLY EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT)						
School Delegated Budgets	134,570	(21,302)	113,268	113,268	-	0.0%
Learner Support	7,835	(1,005)	6,830	7,671	841	12.3%
Early Years and Young People	8,729	(4,133)	4,596	4,387	(209)	-4.5%
Strategic Performance and Support	17,032	(4,428)	12,604	13,774	1,170	9.3%
Schools Support	1,399	(838)	561	612	51	9.1%
Sustainable Communities For Learning	3,874	-	3,874	3,906	32	0.8%
Other Education and Family Support	1,812	(60)	1,752	1,828	76	4.3%
TOTAL EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT	**175,251**	**(31,766)**	**143,485**	**145,446**	**1,961**	**1.4%**
SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING						
Adult Social Care	95,082	(24,518)	70,564	72,908	2,344	3.32%
Prevention and Wellbeing	6,750	(931)	5,819	6,071	252	4.33%
Childrens Social Care	29,312	(1,120)	28,192	31,676	3,484	12.36%
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING	**131,144**	**(26,569)**	**104,575**	**110,655**	**6,080**	**5.8%**
COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE						
Planning & Development Services	2,251	(1,619)	632	632	-	0.0%
Strategic Regeneration	1,976	(1,043)	933	757	(176)	-18.9%
Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability	5,741	(4,328)	1,413	1,371	(42)	-3.0%
Cleaner Streets and Waste Management	14,720	(1,789)	12,931	12,985	54	0.4%
Highways and Green Spaces	24,729	(12,896)	11,833	12,141	308	2.6%
Director and Head of Operations - Communities	279	-	279	285	6	2.2%
Corporate Landlord	15,206	(12,488)	2,718	3,318	600	22.1%
TOTAL COMMUNITIES	**64,902**	**(34,163)**	**30,739**	**31,489**	**750**	**2.4%**
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S						
Chief Executive Unit	489	-	489	501	12	2.5%
Finance	39,067	(35,284)	3,783	3,986	203	5.4%
HR/OD	2,267	(398)	1,869	2,006	137	7.3%
Partnerships	3,330	(1,227)	2,103	2,173	70	3.3%
Legal, Democratic & Regulatory	6,854	(1,149)	5,705	6,343	638	11.2%
Elections	176	-	176	152	(24)	-13.6%
ICT	5,025	(1,259)	3,766	4,108	342	9.1%
Housing & Homelessness	11,409	(7,921)	3,488	4,348	860	24.7%
Business Support	1,157	(111)	1,046	1,158	112	10.7%
TOTAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	**69,774**	**(47,349)**	**22,425**	**24,775**	**2,350**	**10.5%**
TOTAL DIRECTORATE BUDGETS	**441,071**	**(139,847)**	**301,224**	**312,365**	**11,141**	**3.7%**
Council Wide Budgets	60,421	(974)	59,447	57,518	(1,929)	-3.2%
NET BRIDGEND CBC	**501,492**	**(140,821)**	**360,671**	**369,883**	**9,212**	**2.6%**

NB: Differences due to rounding of £000's

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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**23 JULY 2024**
Report Title:	**CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN 2023-24 AND QUARTER 1 UPDATE 2024-25**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING AND CHANGE**
Responsible Officer:	**HUW POWELL CAPITAL ACCOUNTANT**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**Paragraph 3.5.3 of the Financial Procedure Rules requires that the Chief Finance Officer shall report quarterly to Cabinet and Council with an update on the Capital Strategy and the Prudential Indicators. This report fulfils that requirement. There is no impact on the policy framework or procedure rules.**
Executive Summary:	• **The report provides an update on the capital programme outturn position for 2023-24, the quarter 1 spend and projected spend for 2024-25 as at 30 June 2024, the revised capital programme for 2024-25 to 2033-34 and the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2024-25.** • **Appendix A shows the budgets and spend for the individual schemes in 2023-24.** • **Appendix B shows the budgets, spend to date and projected year end spend as at 30 June 2024 for the individual schemes in 2024-25.** • **Appendix C shows the revised capital programme for 2024-25 to 2033-34.** • **Appendix D provides details of the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2024-25.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) 'The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities' (2021 edition)

requirement to report performance against all forward looking indicators on a quarterly basis.

- Provide an update to Cabinet on the capital programme outturn for 2023-24 **(Appendix A)**.
- Provide an update to Cabinet on the capital programme position for 2024-25 as at 30 June 2024 **(Appendix B)**.
- Seek agreement from Cabinet to present a report to Council for approval of a revised capital programme for 2024-25 to 2033-34 **(Appendix C)**.
- Ask Cabinet to note the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2024-25 **(Appendix D)**.

2. Background

2.1 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 as amended, contain detailed provisions for the capital finance and accounting controls, including the rules on the use of capital receipts and what is to be treated as capital expenditure. They modify accounting practice in various ways to prevent adverse impacts on authorities' revenue resources.

2.2 As well as the legislation, the Council manages its Treasury Management and Capital activities in accordance with the following associated guidance: -

- CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice
- CIPFA's The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities
- Welsh Government (WG) revised Guidance on Local Authority Investments

2.3 The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities requires Local Authorities to have in place a Capital Strategy which demonstrates that the Authority takes capital expenditure and investment decisions in line with service objectives and properly takes account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability, and affordability. To demonstrate that the Council has fulfilled these objectives, the Prudential Code sets out a number of Indicators that must be set and monitored each year. The Council's Capital Strategy 2024-25, incorporating the Prudential Indicators for 2024-25, was approved by Council on 28 February 2024.

2.4 On 1 March 2023 Council approved a capital budget of £69.045 million for 2023-24 as part of a capital programme covering the period 2023-24 to 2032-33. The programme was last updated and approved by Council on 28 February 2024.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 Capital Programme Outturn 2023-24

The original budget approved by Council on 1 March 2023 has been revised and approved by Council during the year to incorporate budgets brought forward from 2022-23 and any new schemes and grant approvals during 2023-24. The revised programme for 2023-24, approved by Council on 28 February 2024 totalled £49.714 million, of which £27.279 million was to be met from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) resources, including capital receipts, revenue contributions from earmarked reserves and borrowing, with the remaining £22.435 million coming from external resources.

3.1.2 **Appendix A** provides details of the individual schemes within the capital programme, showing the budget available in 2023-24 compared to the actual spend. Since the last report presented to Council on 28 February 2024 there have been a few minor amendments to the 2023-24 programme. The main changes are:

- New approvals of £0.829 million, as a result of additional Welsh Government grant funding of £0.371 million for School Maintenance (in addition to an additional revenue contribution of £0.030 million) and £0.030 million for Unadopted Roads, £0.143 million contribution from Coychurch Crematorium and £0.285 million revenue/earmarked reserve contributions as a result of revised expenditure profiles across a number of schemes.

- These additions are offset by reductions of £1.065 million in the programme, including £0.062 million for the Community Focused Schools scheme, £0.033 million for the Flying Start Extension and £0.893 million for Telecare. These are as a result of some items of expenditure on the schemes being deemed to be revenue in nature, and so expenditure as well as the equivalent amount of funding was transferred to revenue. The Digital Transformation budget has also been reviewed and reduced by £0.064 million.

- £2.371 million of funding has been brought forward from 2024-25 to reflect revised spend profiles.

This brings the revised budget for 2023-24 to £51.849 million.

3.1.3 Total expenditure as at 31 March 2024 was £31.813 million which, after slippage of £19.453 million into 2024-25, and adjustments to grant funded schemes of £0.548 million, results in a total under spend of £0.035 million. Slippage has arisen for a number of reasons, including delays in starting projects due to the need to undertake more detailed survey works, supply chain issues and ongoing discussions with funding bodies and other general programme delays.

3.1.4 Slippage forecast to be spent in 2024-25 of £19.453 million is required, the main schemes being:

- £2.429 million School Capital Maintenance Grant. There have been a number of delays on the individual projects within the scheme due to capacity issues, plus an additional £0.371 million was awarded by Welsh Government in March 2024 for use in 2023-24 which increased the available budget. The remaining budget is being slipped forward for use in 2024-25.

- £0.547 million Flying Start Extension Nantymoel. The Flying Start provision for Nantymoel was originally intended to be located at Nantymoel Primary but following site investigation work the site was deemed to be unsuitable, which has resulted in the scheme being delayed. A second site has now been identified within Nantymoel and site investigation and design works are now underway at the new location.

- £0.948 million Porthcawl Metro Link. Due to delays encountered by sub-contractors in procuring materials for the roof and guttering system, the scheme wasn't completed by the end of 2023-24, therefore £0.948 million has been

slipped for use in 2024-25. The main contractor has advised that the handover date to the Council will be the end of July 2024.

- £0.607 million Shared Prosperity Framework. The Shared Prosperity Fund is working with local businesses, providing funding to assist with capital works and refurbishments. Due to delays with the legal and procurement processes, works being funded from the Shared Prosperity Fund were delayed until these processes were finalised. Grant payments will be made to the recipients once the work has been completed, which means the majority of grant payments will now be made in 2024-25.

- £0.530 million Homelessness and Housing. To respond to increasing numbers of housing and homelessness cases, Valleys to Coast (V2C) secured £2.1 million of grant funding from Welsh Government to support a refurbishment programme to bring back into use 35 long term empty properties, or 'voids', which required significant investment. In July 2022 Council approved match funding of £530,000 to support this work and V2C confirmed that the properties would be available to the Council for nomination rights and to support those individuals and families in temporary accommodation. Due to technicalities with the Welsh Government funding V2C were unable to utilise the funding for the properties originally identified. It is therefore requested that the allocation be refocused in 2024-25 to fund other works undertaken by V2C to manage voids and to bring houses back into use. It has been confirmed that these works have been completed and nomination rights for the upgraded homes were given to BCBC.

- £1.066 million Affordable Housing. The Council was successful in purchasing one property in March 2024 and the remaining budget has been slipped to 2024-25 to purchase additional properties, with the council currently in the process of completing the purchase of a second property.

- £0.573 million Corporate Capital Fund. This is an annual allocation of funding of £200,000, approved in 2019, and intended to be used to provide, amongst other things, match funding for new grant schemes, ICT and equipment replacement and to meet unanticipated pressures. Allocation of this funding is subject to Corporate Management Board approval. This will be monitored during 2024-25 and, if it is deemed that it is not needed in part or full, an element of this budget could be allocated to other capital schemes.

- £2.765 million Minor Works. Due to delays in completing a number of minor works schemes across all directorates, funding has been slipped for use in 2024-25.

3.2 Capital Programme Quarter 1 Update 2024-25

3.2.1 This section of the report provides Members with an update on the Council's capital programme for 2024-25 since the budget was last approved by Council and incorporates any new schemes and grant approvals. The revised programme for 2024-25 currently totals £82.082 million, of which £43.944 million is met from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) resources, including capital receipts, revenue contributions from earmarked reserves and borrowing, with the remaining £38.138 million coming from external resources, including Welsh Government General Capital Grant. Table 1 below shows the capital programme for each Directorate from the February 2024 approved Council position to Quarter 1:

Table 1 – Capital Programme per Directorate 2024-25

Directorate	Approved Council February 2024 £'000	Net Slippage to / (from) 2023-24 £'000	New Approvals/ (Reductions) £'000	Slippage to future years £'000	Revised Budget 2023-24 £'000
Education & Family Support	58,564	6,115	1,118	(48,151)	17,646
Social Services and Wellbeing	503	731	(395)	-	839
Communities	48,138	7,188	1,759	-	57,085
Chief Executive's	2,881	2,504	132	-	5,517
Council Wide	451	544	-	-	995
Total	**110,537**	**17,082**	**2,614**	**(48,151)**	**82,082**

3.2.2 Table 2 below summarises the current funding assumptions for the capital programme for 2024-25. The capital resources are managed to ensure that maximum financial benefit for the Council is achieved. This may include the realignment of funding to maximise government grants.

Table 2 – Capital Programme 2024-25 Resources

CAPITAL RESOURCES	£'000
BCBC Resources:	
Capital Receipts	18,421
Earmarked Reserves	15,605
Unsupported Borrowing	5,244
Supported Borrowing	3,937
Other Loans	160
Revenue Contribution	577
Total BCBC Resources	**43,944**
External Resources:	
S106	2,695
Grants	35,443
Total External Resources	**38,138**
TOTAL RESOURCES	**82,082**

3.2.3 **Appendix B** provides details of the individual schemes within the capital programme, showing the budget available in 2024-25 compared to the projected year end spend at 30 June 2024. There are currently no projected under or over spends on any of the schemes at year end.

3.2.4 However, a number of schemes have been identified as requiring slippage of budget to future years (2025-26 and beyond).

Highways/Other Offsite Works Band B Schools (£3.300 million)
The highways budget in relation to Band B schemes will be expended once works have been designed and commissioned. It is anticipated that costs will be incurred in future years and will align to the revised Band B programme. Therefore £3.300 million has been slipped to 2025-26.

Heronsbridge Replacement (£22.029 million)
The Royal Institute of British Architecture (RIBA) Stage 2 has concluded. A revised outline business case will be submitted to Welsh Government, and confirmation of Welsh Government and BCBC funding will be required in order to progress the scheme. Therefore £22.029 million has been slipped to 2025-26.

Mynydd Cynffig Replacement (£9.008 million)
The scheme is being progressed through RIBA Stage 3. Confirmation of the total funding of the scheme will be required in order to progress and £9.008 million is being slipped to 2025-26.

Y G Bro Ogwr Replacement (£9.791 million)
The scheme is being progressed through RIBA Stage 2. Confirmation of the total funding of the scheme will be required in order to progress and £9.791 million has been slipped to 2025-26.

Bridgend West Mutual Investment Model (MIM) (£1.995 million)
Confirmation of the total funding of the scheme will be required in order to progress and £1.995 million has been slipped to 2025-26.

Land Purchase Band B (£2.028 million)
The programmes for Heronsbridge School and Bridgend West Mutual Investment Model (MIM) have slipped, and land will be acquired to deliver the projects in line with revised programmes once they are confirmed. Therefore £2.028 million has been slipped to 2025-26.

3.2.5 There are a number of amendments to the capital programme for 2024-25, such as new and amended schemes, since the capital programme was last approved, including:

Schools Minor Works (£0.175 million)
The Council has been awarded £0.175 million from Welsh Government's Voluntary Aided Urgent Repair Programme, which will allow flat roof and window replacement works to commence at St Mary's Catholic Primary School. The total cost of the works will be £0.250 million, with the Council's £0.075 million contribution being funded from the Schools Minor Works budget.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Grant (£0.913 million)

Welsh Government has awarded the Council £0.913 million to optimise learning environments for disabled children and young people and those with additional learning needs, to increase accessibility, promote inclusive practice, support learning and pupil wellbeing. This will support the objectives of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act (ALNET) and ALN reform, to create a unified bilingual system for supporting children and young people from 0 to 25 with ALN, and the delivery of the Curriculum for Wales in school settings.

Flying Start Extension – Nantymoel Primary (£0.030 million)

The Council were awarded £0.580 million in October 2023 to provide a new build Flying Start childcare facility at Nantymoel Primary School. After initial site investigation works at the school it was deemed the site was unsuitable. A second site in Nantymoel has since been identified and site investigation and design works are now underway at the new location. As a result, Welsh Government have awarded the Council an additional £0.030 million for the project to fund the additional cost of conducting two site investigations.

Flying Start Highways (£0.036 million)

As stated above, the site of Nantymoel Flying Start provision has now been identified and as part of the site investigation and feasibility work, technical officers have identified that there will be a need for highways works to be undertaken to improve pedestrian safety as well as associated traffic orders at an estimated cost of £0.036 million. Welsh Government have given approval for £0.014 million of the Flying Start Extension to part fund this work, with £0.022 million to be funded by the Council. The Council's contribution will be vired from the Welsh Medium Childcare Highways budget, as the builds at Ogmore and Bettws are now complete and no further expenditure is expected.

Parks/Pavilions/Community Centres Community Asset Transfers (£0.167 million)

The Council have been awarded £0.167 million from Sport Wales Court Collaboration funding to refurbish sports courts at Maesteg Welfare Park and Caedu Park. The total cost of the refurbishments will be £0.223 million, and the Council will fund the balance of £0.056 million from the existing Community Asset Transfers budget.

Coychurch Crematorium Works (£0.075 million)

As the work on the Flower Court is now complete, the only planned capital work at Coychurch Crematorium this financial year is for the improvement of pathways within the grounds. The addition of £0.075 million will be funded from the Crematorium's accumulated balance.

Road Signs 20 mph Default Speed (£0.328 million)

Welsh Government have awarded the Council £0.328 million to support the implementation of the 20 mph default speed limit on restricted roads across the County Borough, which came in to force on 17 September 2023.

Fleet Vehicles (£0.179 million)

There have been a number of adjustments to the fleet budget as follows:

- Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen had intended on purchasing a new minibus, and a revenue contribution of £0.042 million was included within the Fleet Vehicles budget.

The school have now made the decision not to purchase a new minibus, and therefore £0.042 million has been removed from the programme.

- The existing fleet of waste vehicles is experiencing reliability issues which is having a significantly detrimental impact to service delivery. Due to what can be a long lead time for the purchase of waste and recycling vehicles, approval was given via a delegated power dated 14 June 2024 for Plan B to procure a number of replacement vehicles, up to a total value of £0.981 million. The installation of CCTV cameras and livery have increased the total cost of the vehicles to £1.037 million. Refurbishment of three existing vehicles is also required, at a cost of £0.090 million, giving a total cost for waste vehicles of £1.127 million.

  Of the current £1.702 million Fleet Vehicles budget £0.754 million has already been committed and orders placed for 2 Whale tankers and 3 minibuses. There is currently an uncommitted budget of £0.906 million for fleet vehicles and therefore an additional £0.221 million is required to meet the balance of funding required for the waste vehicles. The additional budget will be funded by a virement of £0.146 million from the Waterton Depot Upgrade scheme, with the balance of £0.075 million funded from prudential borrowing as follows.

	£ million
Budget Requirement:	
New Waste Vehicles	1.037
Waste Vehicle Refurbishment	0.090
Whale Tankers and Minibuses	0.754
Total Budget	**1.881**
Funded by:	
Current Budget	1.702
Removal of CCYD Minibus	(0.042)
Prudential Borrowing	0.075
Virement form Waterton Depot	0.146
Total Funding	**1.881**

Coal Tip Safety (£0.067 million)

Following a further grant funding application submitted by officers, an additional £0.067 million has been awarded by Welsh Government for the Coal Tip Safety scheme, which brings the total capital funding available for the scheme to £0.457 million.

Maesteg Town Hall (£0.250 million)

The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) have awarded the Council £0.250 million for the Maesteg Town Hall scheme, to assist in addressing the additional costs incurred due to dry rot and time extensions. Council approval was given in November 2023 to vire £1.174 million from the Waterton Upgrade scheme to Maesteg Town Hall to fund the additional costs being incurred, with the understanding that any funding received from NLHF would result in the equivalent amount being returned to the Waterton Upgrade budget. Therefore, £0.250 million will be vired back to the Waterton Upgrade budget.

Low Carbon Heat Grant (£0.799 million)

The Council have been awarded a total £0.799 million from Welsh Government's Energy Service to replace existing fossil-fuelled heating and Domestic Hot Water

(DHW) provision with low-carbon alterative Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) systems at Bryn Y Cae Residential Care Home and Bridgend Resource Centre. Rooftop solar panels will also be installed at both sites to aid the decarbonisation of the buildings. The Council will be providing match funding of £0.290 million for the project, which will be funded by a virement from the 2030 Decarbonisation budget.

Bryncethin Depot (£0.040 million)
An additional £0.040 million of Salix interest free loan funding has been made available for the installation of solar panels and LED lighting at Bryncethin Depot.

Disabled Facilities Grant (£0.132 million)
Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership Board have awarded the Council £0.132 million from their Housing with Care Fund to support independent living in the community for residents with care and support needs. The funding will help provide intermediate care settings in the community so that people who need care, support and rehabilitation can return to living independently or maintain their existing independence.

In addition to the above schemes, one scheme has had their funding reduced and one scheme has been removed from the capital programme. These are shown as negative approvals:

Telecare (£0.395 million)
After reviewing the expenditure in 2023-24, the Telecare scheme has been deemed to be revenue in nature and therefore the budget for 2024-25 has been removed from the capital programme and is now included in the revenue budget.

3.2.6 A revised Capital Programme is included as **Appendix C.**

3.3 Prudential and Other Indicators 2024-25 Monitoring

3.3.1 The Capital Strategy is intended to give an overview of how capital expenditure; capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future sustainability. To this end a number of prudential indicators were included in the Capital Strategy which was approved by Council. In line with the requirements of the Prudential Code, the Chief Finance Officer is required to establish procedures to monitor both performance against all forward-looking prudential indicators and the requirement specified.

3.3.2 In February 2024, Council approved the Capital Strategy for 2024-25, which included the Prudential Indicators for 2024-25.

3.3.3 **Appendix C** details the actual indicators for 2023-24, the estimated indicators for 2024-25 set out in the Council's Capital Strategy and the projected indicators for 2024-25 based on the revised Capital Programme. These show that the Council is operating in line with the approved indicators.

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 five ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The well-being objectives are designed to complement each other and are part of an integrated way of working to improve well-being for the people of Bridgend. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of the well-being goals or objectives as a result of this report.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 These are reflected within the report where relevant to specific schemes.

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 These are reflected within the report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- notes the Council's Capital Programme Outturn for 2023-24 **(Appendix A)**.
- notes the Council's Capital Programme 2024-25 Quarter 1 update to 30 June 2024 **(Appendix B)**
- agrees that the revised Capital Programme **(Appendix C)** be submitted to Council for approval.
- notes the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2024-25 **(Appendix D)**.

Background documents

None

Bridgend County Borough Council

APPENDIX A

CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT **2023-24 OUTTURN REPORT**

		Budget 23-24 (Council Feb 24) £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage from 2024-25 £'000	Revised Budget 2023-24 £'000	Total Expenditure 2023-24 £'000	Over / (Under) spend £'000	Slippage to 2024-25 £'000	Impact on Grant Funding £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
	Education & Family Support										
1	HIGHWAYS SCHEMES BAND B SCHOOL	100				100	-	(100)	100		
2	HERONSBRIDGE REPLACEMENT	500				500	333	(167)	167		
3	MYNYDD CYNFFIG REPLACEMENT	398				398	397	(1)	1		
4	Y G BRO OGWR REPLACEMENT	127				127	123	(4)	4		
5	YSGOL GYFYN GYMRAEG LLANGYNWYD	100				100	3	(97)	97		
6	GATEWAY TO THE VALLEYS SECONDARY SCHOOL	32		(32)		-	-	-	-		
7	GARW VALLEY SOUTH PRIMARY PROVISION	70				70	9	(61)	61		
8	PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL BAND A	53				53	2	(51)	51		
9	GARW VALLEY PRIMARY HIGHWAYS WORKS	30		(30)		-	-	-	-		
10	PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL HIGHWAYS WORKS	56				56	-	(56)	56		
11	ABERCERDIN PRIMARY HUB	277				277	-	(277)	277		
12	BRYNTEG COMPREHENSIVE ALL WEATHER PITCH	402		108		510	472	(38)	38		
13	CHILDRENS DIRECTORATE MINOR WORKS	255		(5)		250	63	(187)	187		
14	SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY	68				68	12	(56)	56		
15	SCHOOL MODERNISATION	386		(45)		341	5	(336)	336		
16	PENCOED PRIMARY CLASSROOM EXTENSION	102				102	38	(64)	64		
17	COETY PRIMARY SCHOOL EXTENSION	144				144	12	(132)	132		
18	BRYNTIRION COMPREHENSIVE SIX CLASSROOMS	100				100	20	(80)	80		
19	BRYNTIRION COMP HIGHWAYS			141		141	7	(134)	134		
20	EUCATION S106 SCHEMES	169				169	-	(169)	169		
21	MYNYDD CYNFFIG PRIMARY SCHOOL MOBILES	79		(79)		-	-	-	-		
22	SCHOOLS CAPITAL MAINTENANCE GRANT	4,629	401	(108)		4,922	2,493	(2,429)	2,429		
23	WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - BETTWS	-		5		5	5	-	-		
24	WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - OGMORE	65		40		105	105	-	-		
25	WELSH MEDIUM - HIGHWAYS	22				22	-	(22)	22		
26	FREE SCHOOL MEALS	2,535	(3)			2,532	2,123	(409)	409		
27	COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS	924	(62)			862	714	(148)	148		
28	ALN CAPITAL GRANT	928				928	612	(316)	316		
29	YSGOL GYMRAEG BRO OGWR MOBILE CLASSROOMS	249				249	35	(214)	214		
30	PORTHCAWL WELSH MEDIUM SEEDLING SCHOOL	20				20	-	(20)	20		
31	FLYING START CHILDCARE	185				185	173	(12)	-	(12)	
32	FLYING START EXTENSION - NANTYMOEL PRIMARY	580	(33)			547	-	(547)	547		
33	ICT SCHOOL EQUIPMENT BRYNTEG I PADS	96				96	96	-	-		
34	YOUTH SERVICE VEHICLE	75				75	75	-	-		
	TOTAL Education & Family Support	**13,756**	**303**	**(5)**	**-**	**14,054**	**7,927**	**(6,127)**	**6,115**	**(12)**	**-**
	Social Services and Wellbeing										
35	BRYN Y CAE - UPGRADE HFE'S	40				40	-	(40)	40		
36	TY CWM OGWR	41				41	18	(23)	23		
37	WELLBEING MINOR WORKS	110		150		260	48	(212)	212		
38	BAKERS WAY MINOR WORKS	10				10	-	(10)	10		
39	CHILDRENS RESIDENTIAL HUB	444				444	370	(74)	74		

		Budget 23-24 (Council Feb 24) £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage from 2024-25 £'000	Revised Budget 2023-24 £'000	Total Expenditure 2023-24 £'000	Over / (Under) spend £'000	Slippage to 2024-25 £'000	Impact on Grant Funding £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
40	TELECARE TRANSFORMATION	893	(893)			-	-	-	-		
41	TY CWM OGWR RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME HCF	41				41	38	(3)	-	(3)	
42	BREAKAWAY	100				100	2	(98)	98		
43	COMMUNITY CENTRES	197				197	30	(167)	167		
44	BRYNGARW HOUSE	8				8	-	(8)	8		
45	YSGOL BRYN CASTELL HARD COURT	99				99	-	(99)	99		
	TOTAL Social Services & Wellbeing	**1,983**	**(893)**	**150**	**-**	**1,240**	**506**	**(734)**	**731**	**(3)**	**-**
	Communities										
	Street Scene										
46	COMMUNITY PLAY AREAS	106				106	55	(51)	51		
47	PARKS/PAVILIONS/OTHER COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS	1,019				1,019	650	(369)	369		
48	ABERFIELDS PLAYFIELDS	11				11	-	(11)	11		
49	COYCHURCH CREM WORKS	802	143			945	945	-	-		
50	REMEDIAL MEASURES - CAR PARKS	135				135	-	(135)	135		
51	CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT CAR	38				38	18	(20)	20		
52	20 MPH DEFAULT SPEED	1,089				1,089	865	(224)		(224)	
53	ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES	38				38	32	(6)	6		
54	HIGHWAYS STRUCTURAL WORKS	385		(38)	27	374	374	-	-	-	
55	CARRIAGEWAY CAPITAL WORKS	250		1		251	251	-	-	-	
56	CARRIAGEWAY & FOOTWAYS RENEWAL			45		45	45	-	-	-	
57	HEOL MOSTYN JUNCTION	168				168	-	(168)	168		
58	PROW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT STRUCTURES	68	(10)			58	57	(1)		(1)	
59	HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE GRANT	1,000		19		1,019	1,019	-	-		
60	REPLACEMENT OF STREET LIGHTING	400	45			445	445	-	-		
61	RIVER BRIDGE PROTECTION MEASURES	22				22	-	(22)	22		
62	COMMUNITIES MINOR WORKS	484	35	200		719	157	(562)	562		
63	ULEV TRANSFORMATION FUND 2	299				299	276	(23)	23		
64	FLEET TRANSITION-ULEV	220				220	65	(155)	155		
65	NET ZERO CARBON FLEET	264				264	117	(147)	147		
66	PORTHCAWL METRO LINK	3,778				3,778	2,830	(948)	948		
67	PENPRYSG ROAD BRIDGE	13				13	-	(13)	13		
68	RESIDENTS PARKING BRIDGEND TOWN CENTRE	109				109	-	(109)	109		
69	FLEET VEHICLES	279		29	598	906	906	-	-		
70	AHP WASTE	6				6	2	(4)	4		
71	CORNELLY CEMETERY EXTENSION	217				217	27	(190)	190		
72	PORTHCAWL CEMETERY EXTENSION	177				177	13	(164)	164		
73	S106 HIGHWAYS SMALL SCHEMES	42				42	3	(39)	39		
74	UNADOPTED ROADS	53	30	(27)		56	56	-	-		
75	TONDU WASTE DEPOT UPGRADE FIRE	17				17	-	(17)	17		
76	PUFFIN CROSSING KENFIG HILL	14				14	8	(6)	6		
77	YNYSAWDRE TO BRYNCETHIN ATR	784				784	629	(155)		(155)	
78	COAL TIP SAFETY	200				200	-	(200)	200		
79	TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPLACEMENT	299				299	9	(290)	290		
	TOTAL Streetscene	12,786	243	229	625	13,883	9,854	(4,029)	3,649	-380	0

		Budget 23-24 (Council Feb 24) £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage from 2024-25 £'000	Revised Budget 2023-24 £'000	Total Expenditure 2023-24 £'000	Over / (Under) spend £'000	Slippage to 2024-25 £'000	Impact on Grant Funding £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
	Regeneration & Development										
80	EU CONVERGANCE SRF BUDGET	436				436	-	(436)	436		
81	COSY CORNER (PRIF)	1,430				1,430	1,417	(13)			(13)
82	PORTHCAWL REGENERATION PROJECT	420				420	304	(116)	116		
83	ECONOMIC STIMULUS GRANT	484		(67)		417	-	(417)	417		
84	COASTAL RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM	764				764	554	(210)	210		
85	ARBED PHASE 1 CESP	273			987	1,260	1,260	-	-		
86	BRIDGEND HEAT SCHEME	-				-	-	-	-		
87	MAESTEG TOWN HALL CULTURAL HUB	2,452				2,452	2,079	(373)	373		
88	TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND	232				232	63	(169)	169		
89	PORTHCAWL TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE	124				124	-	(124)	124		
90	BRDGND BUS SUP NETWORK		5	67		72	72	-	-		
91	COMM PROP ENHANCEMENT FUND	134				134	-	(134)	134		
92	CWM TAFF NATURE NETWORK	209				209	165	(44)		(44)	
93	URBAN CENTRE PROPERTY ENHANCE	562				562	101	(461)	461		
94	2030 DECARBONISATION	400				400	85	(315)	315		
95	SHARED PROSPERITY FRAMEWORK	989				989	382	(607)	607		
96	BRILLIANT BASICS	110				110	-	(110)		(88)	(22)
97	LOCAL PLACES FOR NATURE	115				115	94	(21)		(21)	
98	PORTHCAWL GRAND PAVILION	537			268	805	805	-	-		
	TOTAL Regeneration & Development	9,671	5	-	1,255	10,931	7,381	(3,550)	3,362	(153)	(35)
	Corporate Landlord										
99	CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND	273				273	-	(273)	273		
100	RAVENS COURT	446				446	-	(446)	446		
101	DDA WORKS	82		150		232	26	(206)	206		
102	MINOR WORKS	1,497		(595)		902	-	(902)	902		
103	FIRE PRECAUTIONS MINOR WORKS	110		100		210	133	(77)	77		
104	BRYNCETHIN DEPOT FACILITIES	151				151	74	(77)	77		
105	EVERGREEN HALL	89	170			259	230	(29)	29		
106	INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES	47				47	-	(47)	47		
	TOTAL Corporate Landlord	2,695	170	(345)	-	2,520	463	(2,057)	2,057	-	-
	TOTAL Communities	**25,152**	**418**	**(116)**	**1,880**	**27,334**	**17,698**	**- 9,636**	**9,068**	**- 533**	**- 35**
	Chief Executive										
107	MANDATORY DFG RELATED EXPEND	2,561		(114)	435	2,882	2,882	-	-	-	
108	TARGET HARDENING GRANTS	-		92		92	92	-	-	-	
109	EMERGENCY REPAIR LIFETIME GRANT	-		128		128	128	-	-	-	
110	COMFORT SAFE & SECURITY GRANTS	-		14		14	14	-	-	-	
111	HOUSING RENEWAL AREA	315		(245)	27	97	97	-	-	-	
112	EMPTY HOMES GRANTS-GRANTS ONLY	-		124		124	124	-	-	-	
113	ENABLE GRANT	270		1		271	271	-	-	-	
114	HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING	530				530	-	(530)	530	-	
115	HEALTH & WELLBEING VILLAGE	480				480	-	(480)	480	-	
116	AFFORDABLE HOUSING	1,444				1,444	378	(1,066)	1,066	-	
117	LEASING SCHEME WALES	26				26	-	(26)	26	-	
	TOTAL Housing/Homelessness	5,626	-	-	462	6,088	3,986	(2,102)	2,102	-	-

		Budget 23-24 (Council Feb 24) £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage from 2024-25 £'000	Revised Budget 2023-24 £'000	Total Expenditure 2023-24 £'000	Over / (Under) spend £'000	Slippage to 2024-25 £'000	Impact on Grant Funding £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
118	ICT INFRA SUPPORT	766				766	371	(395)	395		
119	DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	180	(64)			116	14	(102)	102		
120	CCTV SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT	38				38	-	(38)	38		
121	ICT DATA CENTRE REPLACEMENT	1,260				1,260	1,022	(238)	238		
122	HWB SCHOOLS IT	380				380	289	(91)	91		
	TOTAL ICT	2,624	(64)	-	-	2,560	1,696	(864)	864	-	-
	TOTAL Chief Executive	**8,250**	**(64)**	**-**	**462**	**8,648**	**5,682**	**(2,966)**	**2,966**	**-**	**-**
	Council Wide Capital Budgets										
123	CORPORATE CAPITAL FUND	573				573	-	(573)	573		
124	UNALLOCATED	-		(29)	29	-	-	-	-		
		573	-	(29)	29	573	-	(573)	573	-	-
	GRAND TOTAL	**49,714**	**(236)**	**-**	**2,371**	**51,849**	**31,813**	**(20,036)**	**19,453**	**(548)**	**(35)**

Bridgend County Borough Council

APPENDIX B

CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT **QUARTER 1 TO 30 JUNE 2024**

		Budget 24-25 (Council Feb 24) £'000	2023-24 Slippage b/f £'000	New Approvals and Adjustments £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage to Future Years £'000	Revised Budget 2024-25 £'000	Total Expenditure to Date £'000	Projected Spend £'000	Over / (Under) Spend £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
	Education & Family Support										
1	HIGHWAYS SCHEMES BAND B SCHOOL	3,300	100			(3,300)	100	7	100	-	
2	HERONSBRIDGE REPLACEMENT	23,200	167			(22,029)	1,338	-	1,338	-	
3	MYNYDD CYNFFIG REPLACEMENT	9,294	1			(9,008)	287	29	287	-	
4	Y G BRO OGWR REPLACEMENT	10,198	4			(9,791)	411	68	411	-	
5	BRIDGEND WEST MIM	1,995				(1,995)	-	-	-	-	
6	YSGOL GYFYN GYMRAEG LLANGYNWYD	-	97				97	-	97	-	
7	LAND PURCHASE BAND B SCHOOLS	2,028				(2,028)	-	-	-	-	
8	GARW VALLEY SOUTH PRIMARY PROVISION	-	61				61	-	61	-	
9	PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL BAND A	-	51				51	-	51	-	
10	PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL HIGHWAYS WORKS	-	56				56	-	56	-	
11	ABERCERDIN PRIMARY HUB	-	277				277	-	277	-	
12	BRYNTEG COMPREHENSIVE ALL WEATHER PITCH	-	38				38	-	38	-	
13	CHILDRENS DIRECTORATE MINOR WORKS	-	187	175			362	-	362	-	
14	SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY	-	56				56	-	56	-	
15	SCHOOL MODERNISATION	-	336				336	-	336	-	
16	PENCOED PRIMARY CLASSROOM EXTENSION	798	64				862	5	862	-	
17	COETY PRIMARY SCHOOL EXTENSION	1,506	132				1,638	7	1,638	-	
18	BRYNTIRION COMPREHENSIVE SIX CLASSROOMS	1,580	80				1,660	-	1,660	-	
19	BRYNTIRION COMP HIGHWAYS	-	134				134	-	134	-	
20	EUCATION S106 SCHEMES	-	169				169	-	169	-	
21	SCHOOLS CAPITAL MAINTENANCE GRANT	-	2,429				2,429	78	2,429	-	
22	WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - BRIDGEND	550					550	-	550	-	
23	WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - OGMORE	-					-	(19)	-	-	
24	WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - PORTHCAWL	550					550	-	550	-	
25	WELSH MEDIUM - HIGHWAYS	-	22		(22)		-	-	-	-	
26	FREE SCHOOL MEALS	1,035	409				1,444	141	1,444	-	
27	COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS	2,180	148				2,328	14	2,328	-	
28	ALN CAPITAL GRANT	-	316	913			1,229	56	1,229	-	
29	YSGOL GYMRAEG BRO OGWR MOBILE CLASSROOMS	-	214				214	-	214	-	
30	PORTHCAWL WELSH MEDIUM SEEDLING SCHOOL	350	20				370	2	370	-	
31	FLYING START EXTENSION - NANTYMOEL PRIMARY	-	547	30	(14)		563	3	563	-	
32	FLYING START HIGHWAYS				36		36	-	36		
	TOTAL Education & Family Support	**58,564**	**6,115**	**1,118**	**-**	**(48,151)**	**17,646**	**391**	**17,646**	**-**	**-**
	Social Services and Wellbeing										
33	BRYN Y CAE - UPGRADE HFE'S	-	40				40	-	40	-	
34	TY CWM OGWR	-	23				23	-	23	-	
35	WELLBEING MINOR WORKS	-	212				212	16	212	-	
36	BAKERS WAY MINOR WORKS	-	10				10	-	10	-	
37	CHILDRENS RESIDENTIAL HUB	-	74				74	-	74	-	
38	TELECARE TRANSFORMATION	395		(395)			-	-	-	-	

		Budget 24-25 (Council Feb 24) £'000	2023-24 Slippage b/f £'000	New Approvals and Adjustments £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage to Future Years £'000	Revised Budget 2024-25 £'000	Total Expenditure to Date £'000	Projected Spend £'000	Over / (Under) Spend £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
39	BREAKAWAY	-	98				98	1	98	-	
40	COMMUNITY CENTRES	-	167				167	12	167	-	
41	BRYNGARW HOUSE	-	8				8	-	8	-	
42	YSGOL BRYN CASTELL HARD COURT	-	99				99	-	99	-	
43	OGMORE VALLEY LIFE CENTRE	108					108	-	108	-	
	TOTAL Social Services & Wellbeing	**503**	**731**	**(395)**	**-**	**-**	**839**	**29**	**839**	**-**	**-**
	Communities										
	Street Scene										
44	COMMUNITY PLAY AREAS	2,800	51				2,851	27	2,851	-	
45	PARKS/PAVILIONS/OTHER COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS	400	369	167			936	109	936	-	
46	ABERFIELDS PLAYFIELDS	-	11				11	-	11	-	
47	CITY DEAL	1,190					1,190	-	1,190	-	
48	COYCHURCH CREM WORKS	-		75			75	18	75	-	
49	REMEDIAL MEASURES - CAR PARKS	-	135				135	-	135	-	
50	CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT CAR	-	20				20	-	20	-	
51	20 MPH DEFAULT SPEED	-		328			328	-	328	-	
52	ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES	-	6				6	(2)	6	-	
53	PENCOED TECH PARK ACT TRAVEL	-					-	(41)	-	-	
54	HIGHWAYS STRUCTURAL WORKS	521	(27)				494	(50)	494	-	
55	CARRIAGEWAY CAPITAL WORKS	250					250	(30)	250	-	
56	CARRIAGEWAY & FOOTWAYS RENEWAL	-					-	(252)	-	-	
57	HEOL MOSTYN JUNCTION	-	168				168	-	168	-	
58	PROW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT STRUCTURES	65					65	1	65	-	
59	HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE GRANT	1,000					1,000	(184)	1,000	-	
60	REPLACEMENT OF STREET LIGHTING	400					400	6	400	-	
61	RIVER BRIDGE PROTECTION MEASURES	-	22				22	-	22	-	
62	COMMUNITIES MINOR WORKS	-	562				562	(4)	562	-	
63	ULEV TRANSFORMATION FUND 2	-	23				23	-	23	-	
64	FLEET TRANSITION-ULEV	-	155				155	10	155	-	
65	NET ZERO CARBON FLEET	-	147				147	-	147	-	
66	PORTHCAWL BUS STATION CCRMETRO	-	948				948	405	948	-	
67	PENPRYSG ROAD BRIDGE	-	13				13	-	13	-	
68	RESIDENTS PARKING BRIDGEND TOWN CENTRE	-	109				109	-	109	-	
69	FLEET VEHICLES	2,300	(598)	33	146		1,881	-	1,881	-	
70	AHP WASTE	-	4				4	-	4	-	
71	CORNELLY CEMETERY EXTENSION	-	190				190	5	190	-	
72	PORTHCAWL CEMETERY EXTENSION	-	164				164	35	164	-	
73	S106 HIGHWAYS SMALL SCHEMES	-	39				39	2	39	-	
74	UNADOPTED ROADS	380					380	(3)	380	-	
75	TONDU WASTE DEPOT UPGRADE FIRE	-	17				17	-	17	-	
76	PUFFIN CROSSING KENFIG HILL	-	6				6	(2)	6	-	
77	YNYSAWDRE TO BRYNCETHIN ATR	-					-	(20)	-	-	
78	COAL TIP SAFETY	190	200	67			457	-	457	-	
79	TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPLACEMENT	-	290				290	-	290	-	
	TOTAL Streetscene	9,496	3,024	670	146	0	13,336	30	13,336	0	0
	Regeneration & Development										

		Budget 24-25 (Council Feb 24) £'000	2023-24 Slippage b/f £'000	New Approvals and Adjustments £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage to Future Years £'000	Revised Budget 2024-25 £'000	Total Expenditure to Date £'000	Projected Spend £'000	Over / (Under) Spend £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
80	EU CONVERGANCE SRF BUDGET	-	436				436	-	436	-	
81	COSY CORNER (PRIF)	-						(73)	-	-	
82	PORTHCAWL REGENERATION PROJECT	2,500	116				2,616	9	2,616	-	
83	ECONOMIC STIMULUS GRANT	-	417				417	16	417	-	
84	COASTAL RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM	-	210				210	2	210	-	
85	EWENNY ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	3,493	-				3,493	-	3,493	-	
86	ARBED PHASE 1 CESP	2,791	(987)				1,804	19	1,804	-	
87	BRIDGEND HEAT SCHEME	3,265	-				3,265	-	3,265	-	
88	MAESTEG TOWN HALL CULTURAL HUB	1,174	373	250	(250)		1,547	439	1,547	-	
89	TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND	50	169				219	4	219	-	
90	PORTHCAWL TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE	-	124				124	-	124	-	
91	COMM PROP ENHANCEMENT FUND	-	134				134	-	134	-	
92	URBAN CENTRE PROPERTY ENHANCE	614	461				1,075	32	1,075	-	
93	2030 DECARBONISATION	400	315		(290)		425	4	425	-	
94	SHARED PROSPERITY FRAMEWORK	4,614	607				5,221	113	5,221	-	
95	LOCAL PLACES FOR NATURE	110					110	-	110	-	
96	PORTHCAWL GRAND PAVILION	10,631	(268)				10,363	28	10,363	-	
97	LOW CARBON HEAT GRANT	-	-	799	290		1,089	-	1,089		
	TOTAL Regeneration & Development	29,642	2,107	1,049	- 250	-	32,548	609	32,548	-	-
	Corporate Landlord										
98	CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND	500	273				773	-	773	-	
99	RAVENS COURT	-	446				446	-	446	-	
100	DDA WORKS	-	206				206	(8)	206	-	
101	MINOR WORKS	1,130	902				2,032	-	2,032	-	
102	FIRE PRECAUTIONS MINOR WORKS	-	77				77	18	77	-	
103	BRYNCETHIN DEPOT FACILITIES	400	77	40			517	50	517	-	
104	WATERTON UPGRADE	6,970	-		104		7,074	-	7,074	-	
105	EVERGREEN HALL	-	29				29	60	29	-	
106	INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES	-	47				47	-	47	-	
	TOTAL Corporate Landlord	9,000	2,057	40	104	-	11,201	120	11,201	-	-
	TOTAL Communities	**48,138**	**7,188**	**1,759**	**-**	**-**	**57,085**	**759**	**57,085**	**-**	**-**
	Chief Executive										
107	MANDATORY DFG RELATED EXPEND	1,750	(435)	132			1,447	531	1,447	-	
108	DISCRETIONARY HOUSING GRANTS	200					200	-	200	-	
109	HOUSING RENEWAL AREA	100	(27)				73	15	73	-	
110	ENABLE GRANT	270					270	21	270	-	
111	HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING	-	530				530	-	530	-	
112	HEALTH & WELLBEING VILLAGE	-	480				480	-	480	-	
113	AFFORDABLE HOUSING	-	1,066				1,066	-	1,066	-	
114	LEASING SCHEME WALES	161	26				187	-	187	-	
	TOTAL Housing/Homelessness	2,481	1,640	132	-	-	4,253	567	4,253	-	-
115	ICT INFRA SUPPORT	400	395				795	18	795	-	
116	DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	-	102				102	-	102	-	
117	CCTV SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT	-	38				38	-	38	-	

		Budget 24-25 (Council Feb 24) £'000	2023-24 Slippage b/f £'000	New Approvals and Adjustments £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage to Future Years £'000	Revised Budget 2024-25 £'000	Total Expenditure to Date £'000	Projected Spend £'000	Over / (Under) Spend £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
118	ICT DATA CENTRE REPLACEMENT	-	238				238	56	238	-	
119	HWB SCHOOLS IT	-	91				91	2	91	-	
	TOTAL ICT	400	864	-	-	-	1,264	76	1,264	-	-
	TOTAL Chief Executive	**2,881**	**2,504**	**132**	**-**	**-**	**5,517**	**643**	**5,517**	**-**	**-**
	Council Wide Capital Budgets										
120	CORPORATE CAPITAL FUND	200	573				773	-	773	-	
121	UNALLOCATED	251	(29)				222	-	222	-	
		451	544	-	-	-	995	-	995	-	-
	GRAND TOTAL	**110,537**	**17,082**	**2,614**	**-**	**(48,151)**	**82,082**	**1,822**	**82,082**	**-**	**-**

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024-2034

APPENDIX C

		Date Approved	Improvement Priority	Total 2024-2034			2024-25						FUTURE YEARS									CUMULATIVE
				Total Cost	BCBC Funding	External Funding	Council Feb 24 2024-25	2023-24 Slippage b/f	New Approvals / Reductions	Virement	Slippage	Revised 2024-25	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034	Total 2023 - 2034
				£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education & Family Support																						
1	Highways / Other Offsite Works Band B Schools	20/21	IP3	3,400	3,400	-	3,300	100			(3,300)	**100**	3,300									**3,400**
2	Heronsbridge Replacement	22/23	IP3	34,171	7,550	26,621	23,200	167			(22,029)	**1,338**	32,028	805								**34,171**
3	Mynydd Cynffig Replacement	22/23	IP3	12,317	4,163	8,154	9,294	1			(9,008)	**287**	11,740	290								**12,317**
4	Y G Bro Ogwr Replacement	22/23	IP3	15,001	5,381	9,620	10,198	4			(9,791)	**411**	14,248	342								**15,001**
5	Bridgend West MIM	22/23	IP3	1,995	623	1,372	1,995				(1,995)	**-**	1,995									**1,995**
6	Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	21/22	IP3	97	97	-		97				**97**										**97**
7	Land Purchase Band B	21/22	IP3	2,028	2,028	-	2,028				(2,028)	**-**	2,028									**2,028**
8	Garw Valley South Primary Provision	14/15	IP3	61	61	-		61				**61**										**61**
9	Pencoed Primary School - Band A	14/15	IP3	51	51	-		51				**51**										**51**
10	Pencoed School Highways Works	16/17	IP3	56	56	-		56				**56**										**56**
11	Abercerdin Primary School Hub	21/22	IP3	277	277	-		277				**277**										**277**
12	Brynteg Comprehensive School All Weather Pitch	21/22	IP3	38	38	-		38				**38**										**38**
13	Schools Minor Works	RECURRENT	IP3	362	187	175		187	175			**362**										**362**
14	Schools Traffic Safety	16/17	IP3	56	56	-		56				**56**										**56**
15	School Modernisation	14/15	IP3	336	336	-		336				**336**										**336**
16	Pencoed Primary School - Classroom Extension	22/23	IP3	862	862	-	798	64				**862**										**862**
17	Coety Primary School - Extension	22/23	IP3	1,638	1,638	-	1,506	132				**1,638**										**1,638**
18	Bryntirion Comprehensive School - New Teaching Block	22/23	IP3	1,660	391	1,269	1,580	80				**1,660**										**1,660**
19	Bryntirion Comprehensive School Highways	23/24	IP3	134	134	-		134				**134**										**134**
20	Education S106 Schemes	16/17	IP3	169	-	169		169				**169**										**169**
21	School's Capital Maintenance Grant	19/20	IP3	2,429	2,397	32		2,429				**2,429**										**2,429**
22	Welsh Medium Childcare Provision - Bridgend	19/20	IP3	550	-	550	550					**550**										**550**
23	Welsh Medium Childcare Provision - Ogmore	19/20	IP3	-	-	-						**-**										**-**
24	Welsh Medium Childcare Provision - Porthcawl	19/20	IP3	550	-	550	550					**550**										**550**
25	Welsh Medium Childcare Provision - Highways Schemes	19/20	IP3	-	-	-		22		(22)		**-**										**-**
26	Free School Meals	22/23	IP3	1,444	409	1,035	1,035	409				**1,444**										**1,444**
27	Community Focused Schools	22/23	IP3	2,328	69	2,259	2,180	148				**2,328**										**2,328**
28	ALN Capital Grant	22/23	IP3	1,229	316	913		316	913			**1,229**										**1,229**
29	Y G Bro Ogwr Mobile Classrooms	22/23	IP3	214	-	214		214				**214**										**214**
30	Porthcawl Welsh Medium Seedling School	22/23	IP3	370	370		350	20				**370**										**370**
31	Flying Start Extension - Nantymoel Primary	23/24	IP3	563		563		547	30	(14)		**563**										**563**
32	Flying Start Highways	24/25	IP3	36	22	14				36		**36**										**36**
Total Education and Family Support				**84,422**	**30,912**	**53,510**	**58,564**	**6,115**	**1,118**	**-**	**(48,151)**	**17,646**	**65,339**	**1,437**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**84,422**
Social Services and Well-being																						
Adult Social Care																						
33	Bryn Y Cae	19/20	IP2	40	40			40				**40**										**40**
34	Ty Cwm Ogwr Care Home	21/22	IP3	23	23			23				**23**										**23**
35	Wellbeing Minor Works	RECURRENT	IP2	212	212			212				**212**										**212**
36	Bakers Way	17/18	IP2	10	10	-		10				**10**										**10**
37	Children's Residential Accommodation Hub	18/19	IP2	74	74	-		74				**74**										**74**
38	Telecare Transformation Project	22/23	IP2	-	-	-	395		(395)			**-**										**-**
39	Breakaway	23/24	IP2	98	-	98		98				**98**										**98**
Culture												**-**										
40	Community Centres	20/21	NONPTY	167	167			167				**167**										**167**
41	Bryngarw House	20/21	NONPTY	8	8			8				**8**										**8**
42	Ysgol Bryn Castell Hard-Court	22/23	IP3	99	-	99		99				**99**										**99**
43	Ogmore Valley Life Centre	23/24		108	11	97	108					**108**										**108**
Total Social Services and Well-being				**839**	**545**	**294**	**503**	**731**	**(395)**	**-**	**-**	**839**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**839**
Communities																						
Street Scene																						
44	Community Children's Play Areas	20/21	IP2	2,851	2,851	-	2,800	51				**2,851**										**2,851**
45	Parks/Pavilions/Community Centres CAT	14/15	IP3	936	716	220	400	369	167			**936**										**936**
46	Aber Playing Fields	19/20	NONPTY	11	11	-		11				**11**										**11**
47	Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	17/18	IP1	7,691	7,691	-	1,190					**1,190**	1,244	940		1,039	1,648	1,630				**7,691**
48	Coychurch Crem Works	RECURRENT	NONPTY	75	-	75			75			**75**										**75**
49	Remedial Measures - Car Parks	17/18	IP3	135	135	-		135				**135**										**135**
50	Civil Parking Enforcement	17/18	IP3	20	20	-		20				**20**										**20**
51	Road Signs 20mph Default Speed	22/23	IP2	328	-	328			328			**328**										**328**
52	Road Safety	14/15	IP1	6	6	-		6				**6**										**6**
53	Pencoed Tech Park Act Travel	20/21	IP1	-	-	-																
54	Highways Structural Works	RECURRENT	IP3	3,554	3,554	-	521	(27)				**494**	340	340	340	340	340	340	340	340	340	**3,554**
55	Carriageway Capital Works	RECURRENT	IP3	2,500	2,500	-	250					**250**	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	**2,500**
56	Carriageway & Footway Renewal	1	IP3	-	-	-						**-**										**-**
57	Road Safety Improvements - Heol Mostyn	19/20	IP1	168	168	-		168				**168**										**168**
58	Prow Capital Improvement Programme	15/16	IP3	65	-	65	65					**65**										**65**
59	Highways Refurbishment	19/20	IP3	1,000	1,000	-	1,000					**1,000**										**1,000**
60	Replacement of Street Lighting Columns/ River Bridge Protection Measures	RECURRENT	IP3	4,000	4,000	-	400					**400**	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	**4,000**
61	River Bridge Protection Measures	16/17	IP1	22	22	-		22				**22**										**22**
62	Communities Minor Works	RECURRENT	IP3	562	562	-		562				**562**										**562**
63	Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle Transformation Fund 2	22/23	IP1	23	-	23		23				**23**										**23**
64	Fleet Transition Ultra Low Emmissions Vehicles	21/22	IP1	155	-	155		155				**155**										**155**
65	Net Zero Carbon Fleet	21/22	NONPTY	147	147	-		147				**147**										**147**
66	Porthcawl Metro-Link (CCR)	21/22	IP1	948	948	-		948				**948**										**948**
67	Penprysg Road Bridge - LTF/CCR	19/20	IP1	13	13	-		13				**13**										**13**
68	Residents Parking Bridgend Town Centre	14/15	IP1	109	109	-		109				**109**										**109**
69	Fleet Vehicles	14/15	IP3	1,881	1,881	-	2,300	(598)	33	146		**1,881**										**1,881**
70	AHP Waste	19/20	IP3	4	4	-		4				**4**										**4**
71	Extension to Cornelly Cemetery	18/19	NONPTY	190	190	-		190				**190**										**190**
72	Extension to Porthcawl Cemetery	18/19	NONPTY	164	164	-		164				**164**										**164**
73	S106 Highways Small Schemes	14/15	IP3	39	-	39		39				**39**										**39**

		Date Approved	Improvement Priority	Total 2024-2034			2024-25						FUTURE YEARS									CUMULATIVE
				Total Cost	BCBC Funding	External Funding	Council Feb 24 2024-25	2023-24 Slippage b/f	New Approvals / Reductions	Virement	Slippage	Revised 2024-25	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034	Total 2023 - 2034
				£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
74	Unadopted Roads	14/15	IP2	380	380	-	380					**380**										**380**
75	Fire Suppression System Tondu Waste Depot	21/22	NONPTY	17	17	-		17				**17**										**17**
76	Puffin Crossing Kenfig Hill	22/23	IP3	6	6	-		6				**6**										**6**
77	Ynysawdre to Bryncethin ATR	23/24	IP2	-		-						**-**										**-**
78	Coal Tip Safety	23/24	NONPTY	457		457	190	200	67			**457**										**457**
79	Traffic Signal Replacement (Coity Castle Pub Gyratory)	23/24		290	290			290				**290**										**290**
Regeneration & Development																						
80	Special Regeneration Funding	17/18	IP1	436	436	-		436				**436**										**436**
81	Cosy Corner (PRIF)	21/22	IP1	-	-	-						**-**										**-**
82	Porthcawl Regeneration	20/21	IP1	2,616	2,616	-	2,500	116				**2,616**										**2,616**
83	Economic Stimulus Grant	19/20	IP1	417	417	-		417				**417**										**417**
84	Coastal Risk Management Programme	20/21	IP1	210	210	-		210				**210**										**210**
85	Ewenny Road Industrial Estate	21/22	IP1	3,493	-	3,493	3,493					**3,493**										**3,493**
86	CESP/Arbed Phase 1	21/22	NONPTY	2,233	855	1,378	2,791	(987)				**1,804**	429									**2,233**
87	Bridgend Heat Scheme	16/17	IP1	3,265	2,276	989	3,265					**3,265**										**3,265**
88	Maesteg Town Hall Cultural Hub	17/18	IP1	1,547	1,297	250	1,174	373	250	(250)		**1,547**										**1,547**
89	Town & Community Council Fund	RECURRENT	IP3	669	669	-	50	169				**219**	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	**669**
90	Porthcawl Townscape Heritage Initiative	14/15	IP1	124	124	-		124				**124**										**124**
91	Commercial Property Enhancement Fund	21/22	IP1	134	134			134				**134**										**134**
92	Urban Centre Property Enhancement	19/20	IP1	1,075		1,075	614	461				**1,075**										**1,075**
93	2030 Decarbonisation	RECURRENT	IP3	2,825	2,825		400	315		(290)		**425**	400	400	400	400	400	400				**2,825**
94	Shared Prosperity Fund	22/23	IP1	5,221		5,221	4,614	607				**5,221**										**5,221**
95	Local Places for Nature	23/24	IP1	110		110	110					**110**										**110**
96	Porthcawl Grand Pavilion	22/23	NONPTY	19,193	2,000	17,193	10,631	(268)				**10,363**	8,830									**19,193**
97	Low Carbon Heat	24/25		1,089	290	799			799	290		**1,089**										**1,089**
Corporate Landlord																						
98	Capital Asset Management Fund	18/19	IP3	773	773	-	500	273				**773**										**773**
99	Raven's Court	18/19	IP3	446	446			446				**446**										**446**
100	DDA Works	14/15	NONPTY	206	206	-		206				**206**										**206**
101	Minor Works Asset Management	RECURRENT	IP3	12,202	12,202	-	1,130	902				**2,032**	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	**12,202**
102	Fire Precautions	14/15	NONPTY	77	77	-		77				**77**										**77**
103	Bryncethin Depot Facilities	14/15	IP3	517	517	-	400	77	40			**517**										**517**
104	Waterton Upgrade	18/19	IP3	7,074	7,074	-	6,970			104		**7,074**										**7,074**
105	Evergreen Hall	19/20	IP3	29	29	-		29				**29**										**29**
106	Investing in Communities	19/20	IP3	47	47	-		47				**47**										**47**
Total Communities				**94,775**	**62,905**	**31,870**	**48,138**	**7,188**	**1,759**	**-**	**-**	**57,085**	**13,073**	**3,510**	**2,570**	**3,609**	**4,218**	**4,200**	**2,170**	**2,170**	**2,170**	**94,775**
Chief Executive's																						
Housing / Homelessness																						
107	Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG)	RECURRENT	IP2	17,197	17,065	132	1,750	(435)	132			**1,447**	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	**17,197**
108	Discretionary Housing Grants	RECURRENT	IP2	2,000	2,000		200					**200**	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	**2,000**
109	Housing Renewal / Empty Properties	RECURRENT	IP1	973	973	-	100	(27)				**73**	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	**973**
110	Enable Grant	16/17	IP2	270	-	270	270					**270**										**270**
111	Homelessness and Housing	22/23	IP2	530		530		530				**530**										**530**
112	Health and Wellbeing Village	21/22	IP1	480	-	480		480				**480**										**480**
113	Affordable Housing	23/24	IP1	1,066	530	536		1,066				**1,066**										**1,066**
114	Leasing Scheme Wales	23/24		1,402	-	1,402	161	26				**187**	305	370	108	108	108	108	108			**1,402**
ICT																						
115	Investment in ICT	RECURRENT	IP3	4,395	4,395	-	400	395				**795**	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	**4,395**
116	Digital Transformation	22/23	IP3	102	102	-		102				**102**										**102**
117	Replacement CCTV	21/22	IP3	38	38	-		38				**38**										**38**
118	ICT Datacentre Replacement	22/23	IP3	238	238			238				**238**										**238**
119	HWB Schools IT	21/22	IP3	91	91	-		91				**91**										**91**
Total Chief Executive's				**28,782**	**25,432**	**3,350**	**2,881**	**2,504**	**132**	**-**	**-**	**5,517**	**2,755**	**2,820**	**2,558**	**2,558**	**2,558**	**2,558**	**2,558**	**2,450**	**2,450**	**28,782**
Council Wide Capital Budgets																						
120	Corporate Capital Fund	RECURRENT	NONPTY	2,573	2,573		200	573				**773**	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	**2,573**
121	Unallocated	RECURRENT	NONPTY	12,663	12,663	-	251	(29)				**222**		1,203	1,434	1,434	1,434	1,434	1,834	1,834	1,834	**12,663**
Total Council Wide Capital budgets				**15,236**	**15,236**	**-**	**451**	**544**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**995**	**200**	**1,403**	**1,634**	**1,634**	**1,634**	**1,634**	**2,034**	**2,034**	**2,034**	**15,236**
Total Expenditure				**224,054**	**135,030**	**89,024**	**110,537**	**17,082**	**2,614**	**-**	**(48,151)**	**82,082**	**81,367**	**9,170**	**6,762**	**7,801**	**8,410**	**8,392**	**6,762**	**6,654**	**6,654**	**224,054**
Expected Capital Resources																						
General Capital Funding																						
General Capital Funding - General Capital Grant				28,568	28,568	-	4,043					**4,043**	2,725	2,725	2,725	2,725	2,725	2,725	2,725	2,725	2,725	**28,568**
General Capital Funding - Supported Borrowing				39,298	39,298	-	3,937					**3,937**	3,929	3,929	3,929	3,929	3,929	3,929	3,929	3,929	3,929	**39,298**
Capital Receipts - Schools				2,951	2,951	-	1,883	222			(1,883)	**222**	2,729									**2,951**
Capital Receipts - General				20,845	20,845	-	11,943	7,797			(1,541)	**18,199**	2,125	521								**20,845**
Earmarked Reserves				35,087	35,087	-	22,353	5,014	(339)		(11,423)	**15,605**	14,225	940		1,039	1,648	1,630				**35,087**
Revenue Contribution				577	577	-	110	565	(98)			**577**										**577**
Prudential Borrowing (Directorate Funded)				3,644	3,644	-	3,816	(247)	75			**3,644**										**3,644**
Prudential Borrowing (Corporately Funded)				3,900	3,900	-	3,900				(2,300)	**1,600**	2,300									**3,900**
SALIX Interest Free Loan - WG				160	160			120	40			**160**										**160**
Sub-Total General Capital Funding				**135,030**	**135,030**	**-**	**51,985**	**13,471**	**(322)**	**-**	**(17,147)**	**47,987**	**28,033**	**8,115**	**6,654**	**7,693**	**8,302**	**8,284**	**6,654**	**6,654**	**6,654**	**135,030**
External Funding Approvals																						
WG - Other				15,852	-	15,852	11,334	991	2,312			**14,637**	305	370	108	108	108	108	108			**15,852**
WG - 21st Century Schools				45,718	-	45,718	30,383	604			(30,987)	**-**	45,033	685								**45,718**
WG - Enable Grant				270	-	270	270					**270**										**270**
WG - Integrated Care Fund (ICF)				480	-	480		480				**480**										**480**
WG - Welsh Medium Capital Grant				1,314	-	1,314	1,100	214				**1,314**										**1,314**
Westminster				18,115	-	18,115	10,490	(322)				**10,168**	7,947									**18,115**
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (HCF)				230	-	230		98	132			**230**										**230**
S106				2,744	-	2,744	1,318	1,394			(17)	**2,695**	49									**2,744**
Cardiff Capital Region (CCR)				3,493	-	3,493	3,493					**3,493**										**3,493**

	Date Approved	Improvement Priority	Total 2024-2034			2024-25						FUTURE YEARS									CUMULATIVE
			Total Cost	BCBC Funding	External Funding	Council Feb 24 2024-25	2023-24 Slippage b/f	New Approvals / Reductions	Virement	Slippage	Revised 2024-25	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034	Total 2023 - 2034
			£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Transport Grant			-	-	-						-										-
Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)			250	-	250			250			**250**										**250**
Sport Wales			363		363	97	99	167			**363**										**363**
Other			195	-	195	67	53	75			**195**										**195**
Sub-Total External Funding Approvals			**89,024**	**-**	**89,024**	**58,552**	**3,611**	**2,936**	**-**	**(31,004)**	**34,095**	**53,334**	**1,055**	**108**	**108**	**108**	**108**	**108**	**-**	**-**	**89,024**
Total Funding Available			**224,054**	**135,030**	**89,024**	**110,537**	**17,082**	**2,614**	**-**	**(48,151)**	**82,082**	**81,367**	**9,170**	**6,762**	**7,801**	**8,410**	**8,392**	**6,762**	**6,654**	**6,654**	**224,054**
Funding Shortfall/(Surplus)			**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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APPENDIX D

PRUDENTIAL AND OTHER INDICATORS 2023-24 and 2024-25

The Prudential Indicators are required to be set and approved by Council in accordance with CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

Table 1 shows the 2023-24 actual capital expenditure, the capital programme approved by Council on 28 February 2024 and the projected capital expenditure for the current financial year which has incorporated slippage of schemes from 2023-24 together with any new grants and contributions or changes in the profile of funding for 2024-25.

Table 1: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Expenditure

	2023-24 Actual £m	2024-25 Estimate (Council Feb 24) £m	2024-25 Projection £m
Council Fund services	31.813	110.537	82.082
Right of Use Assets	0.00	3.149	3.149
TOTAL	**31.813**	**113.686**	**85.231**

All capital expenditure must be financed, either from external sources (government grants and other contributions), the Council's own resources (revenue, reserves and capital receipts) or debt (the 'net financing requirement' - borrowing, leasing and Private Finance Initiative). The planned financing of the expenditure has been projected as follows:

Table 2: Capital financing

	2023-24 Actual £m	2024-25 Estimate (Council Feb 24) £m	2024-25 Projection £m
External sources	18.677	62.595	38.138
Own resources	7.420	36.289	34.603
Net Financing Requirement	5.716	14.802	9.341
TOTAL	**31.813**	**113.686**	**82.082**

The net financing requirement is only a temporary source of finance, since loans and leases must be repaid, and this is therefore replaced over time by other financing, usually from revenue which is known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). As well as MRP, the Council makes additional voluntary revenue contributions to pay off Prudential or Unsupported Borrowing. The total of these are shown in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Replacement of debt finance

	2023-24 Actual £m	2024-25 Estimate (Council Feb 24) £m	2024-25 Projection £m
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	3.298	3.385	3.385
Additional Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP)	2.273	2.788	2.295
Total MRP & VRP	**5.571**	**6.173**	**5.680**
Other MRP on Long term Liabilities	0.929	1.148	1.148
Total Own Resources	**6.500**	**7.321**	**6.828**

The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces by the MRP amount within the year. Based on the above figures for expenditure and financing, the Council's actual CFR is as follows based on the movement on capital expenditure during the year:

Table 4: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement

	2023-24 Actual £m	2024-25 Estimate – Capital Strategy £m	2024-25 Projection £m
Capital Financing Requirement			
Opening CFR excluding PFI & other liabilities	162.600	170.246	162.745
Opening PFI CFR	13.903	12.974	12.974
Total opening CFR	**176.503**	**183.220**	**175.719**
Movement in CFR excluding PFI & other liabilities	0.145	5.333	3.513
Movement in PFI and other long term leases CFR	(0.929)	2.148	2.148
Total movement in CFR	**(0.784)**	**7.481**	**5.661**
Closing CFR	**175.719**	**190.701**	**181.380**
Movement in CFR represented by:			
Net financing need for year (Table 2 above)	5.716	14.802	12.490
Minimum and voluntary revenue provisions	(5.571)	(6.173)	(5.681)
MRP on PFI and other long term leases (Table 3)	(0.929)	(1.148)	(1.148)
Total movement	**(0.784)**	**7.481**	**5.661**

The capital borrowing need (Capital Financing Requirement) has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure. This is known as Internal Borrowing. Projected levels of the Council's total outstanding debt, which comprises of borrowing, PFI and Other Long Term Liabilities, are shown below compared with the Capital Financing Requirement:

Table 5: Prudential Indicator: Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement

	2023-24 Actual £m	**2024-25 Estimate (Council Feb 24) £m**	**2024-25 Projection £m**
Debt (incl. PFI & leases)	**117.676**	**118.049**	**118.049**
Capital Financing Requirement	**175.719**	**190.701**	**178.231**

Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short-term. As can be seen, the Council expects to comply with this in the medium term.

The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower "operational boundary" is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

Table 6: Prudential Indicators: Authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt in £m

	2023-24 Actual £m	**2024-25 Estimate (Council Feb 24) £m**	**2024-25 Projection £m**
Authorised limit – borrowing	170.000	170.000	170.000
Authorised limit – other long term liabilities	30.000	25.000	25.000
Authorised Limit Total	**200.00**	**195.000**	**195.000**
Operational boundary – borrowing	130.000	120.000	120.000
Operational boundary – other long term liabilities	25.000	20.000	20.000
Operational Boundary Limit Total	**155.000**	**140.000**	**140.000**
Total Borrowing and Long Term Liabilities	**117.676**	**118.049**	**118.049**

Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue, offset by any investment income receivable. The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants

Table 7: Prudential Indicator: Proportion of financing costs to net revenue stream

	2023-24 Actual £m	2024-25 Estimate (Council Feb 24) £m	2024-25 Projection £m
Capital Financing Central	5.658	7.519	7.519
Other Financing costs	4.220	4.735	4.735
TOTAL FINANCING COSTS	**9.878**	**12.255**	**12.255**
Proportion of net revenue stream	2.89%	3.58%	3.58%

This shows that in 2024-25, it was forecast that 3.58% of the Council's net revenue income will be spent on paying back the costs of capital expenditure. The current projection is anticipating it will be 3.58%.

The net revenue stream is calculated as the income from Welsh Government Revenue Settlement Grant plus Council Tax and NNDR, less Police and Community Council precepts.

The table below shows the Prudential Indicator of estimates of net income from commercial and service investments to net revenue stream.

Table 8: Prudential Indicator: Net Income from Commercial and Service Investments to Net Revenue Stream

	2023-24 Actual £m	2024-25 Estimate £m	2024-25 Projection £m
Net Revenue Budget	343.841	360.671	363.436
Income from Commercial Investments	0.459	0.459	0.459
% Ratio	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%

The income receivable from the commercial property portfolio is not deemed to be a financial resilience risk in terms of being 'disproportionate' to the Council's overall income.

Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**23 JULY 2024**
Report Title:	**TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2023-24**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING AND CHANGE**
Responsible Officer:	**NIGEL SMITH, GROUP MANAGER – CHIEF ACCOUNTANT**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**Paragraph 22.5 of the Financial Procedure Rules requires the Chief Finance Officer to prepare an annual report to Council summarising borrowing and investment activity and indicating compliance with any statutory or Council approved guidelines.**
Executive Summary:	**The report outlines the Treasury Management activity for the year 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024.** **As at 31 March 2024 the Council had £99.61 million of long term debt, £5 million of short term borrowing, £12.97 million of other long term liabilities and £50 million of investments. The overall net debt position was £67.58 million.** **The average interest rate for debt was 4.78% (including £5 million short term borrowing but excluding Salix borrowing which is interest free). For investments during the year, it was 4.50%.** **The Council has a manageable maturity structure of borrowing, with its current debt repayable at various points over the next 30 years, the first repayment being due in March 2025.** **The Council is required to set and report against Treasury Management Indicators, details of which are included in Appendix A. These show that the Council operated within the approved limits throughout the year.** **The Council has complied with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management Code and Welsh Government Investment Guidance.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to

- comply with the requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice' (the TM Code) to report an overview of treasury activities for the preceding financial year.

- report the actual Treasury Management Indicators for 2023-24.

2. Background

2.1 Treasury Management is the management of the Council's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Council is exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are therefore central to the Council's prudent financial management.

2.2 Treasury risk management at the Council is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 edition (the TM Code), which requires the Council to approve a Treasury Management Strategy before the start of each financial year and, as a minimum, a semi-annual and annual treasury outturn report. The TM Code also requires the Council to set a number of Treasury Management Indicators, which are forward looking parameters, and enable the Council to measure and manage its exposure to treasury management risks, and these are included in the report. Welsh Government (WG) guidance issued in November 2019 on Local Authority Investments requires the Council to approve an Investment Strategy before the start of each financial year. This report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the TM Code and the Welsh Government Guidance.

2.3 In 2021 CIPFA published an updated version of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code). The Prudential Code includes a requirement for Local Authorities to provide a Capital Strategy, which is a summary document approved by full Council covering capital expenditure and financing, treasury management and non-treasury investments. The definition of investments in the revised Prudential Code covers all the financial assets of the Council as well as other non-financial assets which the authority holds primarily for financial return. The Council's Capital Strategy 2023-24 complied with CIPFA's requirement and included the Prudential Indicators along with the details regarding the Council's non-treasury investments. The Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy should be read in conjunction with each other as they are interlinked, as borrowing and investments are directly impacted upon by capital plans, and both were approved together by Council on 1 March 2023.

2.4 The Council's treasury management advisors are Arlingclose. The current services provided to the Council include:

- advice and guidance on relevant policies, strategies and reports
- advice on investment decisions
- notification of credit ratings and changes
- other information on credit quality
- advice on debt management decisions
- accounting advice

- reports on treasury performance
- forecasts of interest rates
- training courses

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 External Context – Economic Background

3.1.1 At the commencement of the 2023-24 financial year the rate of UK inflation (CPI) was at 8.7%. Over the year there was a steady decline in the figure, standing still between months on a few occasions with a slight upturn of 0.1% between November 2023 and December 2023, finally ending the year at 3.2%. This still, however, exceeded the Bank of England's target of 2%.

3.1.2 At the start of the financial year the Bank Rate was 4.25%. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) then increased Bank Rate to 5.25% in August 2023 with a 3-way split in the Committee's voting as the UK economy appeared resilient in the face of the dual headwinds of higher inflation and interest rates. Bank Rate was however maintained at 5.25% through to March 2024. The vote at the March 2024 MPC meeting was 8-1 in favour of maintaining rates at this level, with the single dissenter preferring to cut rates immediately by 0.25%. Although financial markets shifted their interest rate expectations downwards with expectations of a cut in June, the MPC's focus remained on assessing how long interest rates would need to be restrictive in order to control inflation over the medium term.

3.1.3 In response to an improving outlook for credit markets, in January 2024 Arlingclose moved away from its previous temporary stance of a 35-day maximum duration for bank investments and increased its advised recommended maximum unsecured duration limit on all banks on its counterparty list to 100 days.

3.2 Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) Lending Facility Advice, Revised CIPFA Codes

3.2.1 The Council continues to undertake its duties in line with the current guidance for the PWLB lending facility which was significantly revised by HM Treasury in August 2021. Authorities that are purchasing or intending to purchase investment assets primarily for yield, or financial return, will not be able to access funding from the PWLB except to refinance existing loans or externalise internal borrowing. Acceptable use of PWLB borrowing includes service delivery, housing, regeneration, preventative action, refinancing and treasury management.

3.2.2 The Council's treasury management activities are undertaken in line with CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance and CIPFA's Treasury Management Code. To comply with the Prudential Code authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return. The Prudential Code also states it is not prudent for local authorities to make investment or spending decisions that will increase the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the authority. Existing commercial investments are not required to be sold, however, authorities with existing commercial investments who expect to need to borrow should review the options for exiting these investments.

3.3 Treasury Management Outturn 2023-24

3.3.1 The Council has complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements during 2023-24. The Treasury Management Strategy 2023-24 was approved by Council on 1 March 2023 with the half year report presented to Council on 18 October 2023. Quarterly reports were also presented to Cabinet and the Governance and Audit Committee for scrutiny during 2023-24.

3.3.2 A summary of the treasury management activities is shown in the Treasury Management Outturn report to 31 March 2024 at **Appendix A**. The Council's external debt and investment position at 31 March 2024 is shown in Table 1 below, and more detail is provided in **Appendix A** within Section 3: External Debt and Investment Position and Section 4: Borrowing and Section 5 Treasury Investments. As with the previous year, no long-term borrowing has been taken out in 2023-24 and no debt rescheduling has been undertaken as there has been no opportunity to make significant savings. However, should the opportunity arise to reschedule any loans at a preferential rate, this would be done.

Generally, the Council has experienced favourable cash flows which have continued to provide surplus funds for investment and the balance on investments held at 31 March 2024 was £50 million, with an average interest rate of 5.02%. During the end of the year the Council had to borrow short term for cashflow purposes. The total balance of investments has decreased compared to those at 31 March 2023, when the balance held was £74.50 million, at an average interest rate of 2.55%.

Table 1: Council's external debt and investment position as of 31 March 2024

Investments for Treasury Purposes	Principal as at 31/03/2023 £m	Principal as at 31/3/2024 £m	Average Rate 31/3/2024 %
External Long Term Borrowing			
Public Works Loan Board	77.62	77.62	4.70
Lender's Option Borrower's Option	19.25	19.25	4.65
Salix Loans (interest Free)	3.06	2.74	NIL
Short Term Borrowing	NIL	5.00	6.6
Total External Long Term Borrowing	**99.93**	**104.61**	**4.78***
Other Long Term Liabilities			
Private Finance Initiative**	13.90	12.97	
Other Long Term Liabilities	0.23	-	
Total Other Long Term Liabilities	**14.13**	**12.97**	
Total Gross Debt	**114.06**	**117.58**	
Investments for treasury management purposes			
Debt Management Office	7.50	NIL	NIL
Local Authorities	53.00	44.00	5.22
Money Market Funds (instant access)	NIL	0.00	NIL
Banks	14.00	6.00	3.57
Total Treasury Investments	**74.50**	**50.00**	**5.02**
Net Debt	**39.56**	**67.58**	

* Excluding Salix loans which are interest free
** (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg 10 years remaining term

3.3.3 The £19.25 million in Table 1 above relates to Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) loans which have a maturity date of 2054 though these may be rescheduled in advance of this maturity date. The LOBO rate and term may vary in the future depending on the prevailing rates at one of the bi-annual trigger points (these being July and January) and, therefore, the Council being given the option to accept the increase or repay the loan without incurring a penalty. Whilst interest rates have increased significantly since the start of 2022, they have more recently plateaued at 5.25% and expectations are of a gradual reduction during the latter part of 2024. Current expectations are that the lender is unlikely to exercise this option in the near future.

3.3.4 The Total Other Long Term Liabilities figure of £12.97 million at 31 March 2024 is the Council's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg. At 31 March 2024 there were no Other Long-Term Liabilities.

3.3.5 Both the CIPFA Code and Welsh Government Guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return. Investment decisions are made by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from Fitch, Moody's or Standard and Poor's to ensure that this lies within the Councils' agreed minimum credit rating.

3.3.6 The Council defines high credit quality as organisations and securities having a credit rating of A- (A3 for Moody's) or higher and the Council does not invest in any organisation below this level. Schedule A shows the equivalence table for credit ratings for Fitch, Moody's, and Standard and Poor's and explains the different investment grades.

3.3.7 There are no long-term investments (original duration of 12 months or more) outstanding as at 31 March 2024. All investments at 31 March 2024 are short term deposits including instant access and notice accounts.

3.3.8 The Treasury Management Code requires the Council to set and report on a number of Treasury Management Indicators. The indicators either summarise the expected activity or introduce limits upon the activity. Details of the estimates for 2023-24 set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy compared to the actual at 31 March 2024 are shown in the Appendix and these show that the Council operated within the approved limits throughout the year.

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

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

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

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 The Climate Change implications were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the environment because of this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 The Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting implications were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon Safeguarding and Corporate parenting because of this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The financial implications are reflected within the report and **Appendix A**.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Note the treasury management activities for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024
- Note the Treasury Management Indicators for the period ending 31 March 2024 against those approved in the Treasury Management Strategy 2023-24.

Background documents

None

Appendix A

Treasury Management Outturn Report to 31 March 2024

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
BRIDGEND
County Borough Council

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Treasury management activities are the *'management of the organisation's borrowing, investments and cash flows, including its banking, money market and capital market transactions, the effective control of the risks associated with those activities, and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.'* (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (2021) (CIPFA TM Code).

The definition of 'Investments' includes:

- Treasury Management investments (held for the prudent management of financial affairs), and
- non-Treasury Investments, undertaken as part of a Capital Strategy either in the course of provision of services; or made for commercial reasons purely to make a financial gain. These are managed outside of normal treasury management activity.

The Council carries out its treasury management function in accordance with the CIPFA TM Code and the legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA TM Code and Welsh Government Guidance.

The Council has an integrated Treasury Management Strategy where borrowing and investments are managed in accordance with best professional practice, which is assessed either from internal expertise or consultation with our external advisers. The Council will look to borrow money if needed to either meet short term cash flow needs or to fund capital schemes approved within the capital programme. Therefore, any actual loans taken are not generally associated with particular items of expenditure or assets.

The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to Cabinet, and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Section 151 Officer. The Governance and Audit Committee are responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and policies and regular reports will be presented to the Committee for their consideration.

2.0 ECONOMIC CONTEXT

At the start of the 2023-24 financial year the rate of UK inflation (CPI) was at 8.7%. Over the year there was a steady decline in the figure, standing still between months on a few occasions with a slight upturn of 0.1% between November 2023 and December 2023, finally ending the year at 3.2%. This was still above the Bank of England's 2% target. The latest core measure of CPI i.e. excluding food and energy, rose by 4.7% in the 12 months to March 2024.

The UK economy entered a technical recession in the second half of 2023, as growth rates of -0.1% and -0.3% respectively were recorded for July 2023 to Sept 2023 and October 2023 to December 2023. Over the 2023 calendar year GDP growth only

expanded by 0.1% compared to 2022. Of the recent monthly data available, the Office for National Statistics reported a rebound in activity with the economy expanding 0.2% in January 2024. The forecast from the first Quarter of 2024 (January 2024 to March 2024 predicted growth of 0.6%, in June 24 this figure turned out to be higher at 0.7%. While the economy may somewhat recover in Q1 2024, the data suggests that prior increases in interest rates and higher price levels are depressing growth, which will continue to bear down on inflation throughout 2024.

Labour market data provided a mixed message for policymakers. Employment and vacancies declined, and unemployment rose to 4.3% May to July 2023. The same month July 2023, saw the highest annual growth rate of 8.5% for total pay (i.e. including bonuses) and 7.8% for regular pay growth (i.e. excluding bonuses). Thereafter, unemployment began to decline, falling to 3.9% (3mth/year) in January 2024 and pay growth also edged lower to 5.6% for total pay and 6.1% for regular pay, but remained above the Bank of England's forecast at that point.

Having begun the financial year at 4.25%, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) increased Bank Rate to 5.25% in August 2023 with a 3-way split in the Committee's voting as the UK economy appeared resilient in the face of the dual headwinds of higher inflation and interest rates. Bank Rate was maintained at 5.25% through to March 2024. The vote at the March MPC meeting was 8-1 in favour of maintaining rates at this level, with the single dissenter preferring to cut rates immediately by 0.25%. Although financial markets shifted their interest rate expectations downwards with expectations of a cut in June, the MPC's focus remained on assessing how long interest rates would need to be restrictive in order to control inflation over the medium term.

In the Bank's quarterly Monetary Policy Report released in August 2023 the near-term projection for services price inflation was revised upwards, goods price inflation was widespread across products, indicating stronger domestic inflationary pressure with second-round effects in domestic prices and wages likely taking longer to unwind than they did to emerge. In the February 2024 quarterly Monetary Policy Report the Bank's expectations for the UK economy were positive for the first half of 2024, with a recovery from the mild recession in second half of 2023 being gradual. Headline CPI was forecast to dip below the 2% target quicker than previously thought due to declining energy prices, these effects would hold inflation slightly above target for much of the forecast horizon.

Following this MPC meeting, Arlingclose, the authority's treasury adviser, maintained its central view that 5.25% remains the peak in Bank Rate and that interest rates will most likely start to be cut later in the second half of 2024. The risks in the short-term are deemed to be to the downside as a rate cut may come sooner than expected, but then more broadly balanced over the medium term.

Sentiment in financial markets remained uncertain and bond yields continued to be volatile over the year. During the first half of the year, yields rose as interest rates continued to be pushed up in response to rising inflation. From October they started declining again before falling sharply in December as falling inflation and dovish central bank attitudes caused financial markets to expect cuts in interest rates in 2024.

When it emerged in January that inflation was stickier than expected and the Bank of England and the US Federal Reserve were data dependent and not inclined to cut rates soon, yields rose once again, ending the period some 50+ basis higher than when it started.

Over the financial year, the 10-year UK benchmark gilt yield rose from 3.44% to peak at 4.75% in August, before then dropping to 3.44% in late December 2023 and rising again to 3.92% (28th March 2024). The Sterling Overnight Rate (SONIA) averaged 4.96% over the period to 31st March.

In response to an improving outlook for credit markets, in January 2024 Arlingclose moved away from its previous temporary stance of a 35-day maximum duration and increased its advised recommended maximum unsecured duration limit on all banks on its counterparty list to 100 days.

Earlier in the period, S&P ratings agency revised the UK sovereign outlook to stable and upgraded Barclays Bank to A+. Moody's also revised the UK outlook to stable, Handelsbanken's outlook to negative, downgraded five local authorities, and affirmed HSBC's outlook at stable while upgrading its Baseline Credit Assessment. Fitch revised United Overseas Bank (UOB) and Bank of Montreal (BMO) outlooks to stable.

In the final quarter of the financial year, Fitch revised the outlook on the UK sovereign rating to stable from negative based on their assessment that the risks to the UK's public finances had decreased since its previous review in October 2022, the time of the mini- budget.

Heightened market volatility is expected to remain a feature, at least in the near term, and credit default swap levels will be monitored for signs of ongoing credit stress. As ever, the institutions and durations on the Authority's counterparty list recommended by Arlingclose remain under constant review.

3.0 EXTERNAL DEBT AND INVESTMENT POSITION

The Council's external debt and investments at 31 March 2024 is set out in Table 1 below. The Council held £99.61 million of Long Term Borrowing comprising:

- Public Works Loan Board (PWLB - UK government) at fixed rates and duration
- Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) which may be rescheduled ahead of their maturity of 22 July 2054 (no call was made in January 2024)
- £2.74 million of Salix interest-free loans

The Council borrowed £5 million for short-term cash flow purposes, for a period of 2 months, from 22nd March 2024.

As at 31st March 2024 the Council had £50 million of investments for treasury management purposes and £4.99 million of investments for commercial purposes.

Table 1: Council's external debt and investment position as of 31 March 2024

Investments for Treasury Purposes	Principal as at 31/03/2023 £m	Principal as at 31/03/2024 £m	Average Rate 31/03/2024 %
External Long Term Borrowing			
Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)	77.62	77.62	4.70
Lenders Option Borrowers Option (LOBO)	19.25	19.25	4.65
Salix Loans (Interest Free)	3.06	2.74	NIL
Short Term Borrowing	NIL	5.00	**6.6**
Total External Borrowing	**99.93**	**104.61**	**4.78***
Other Long Term Liabilities			
Private Finance Initiative**	13.90	12.97	
Other Long Term Liabilities	0.23	-	
Total Other Long Term Liabilities	**14.13**	**12.97**	
Total Gross Debt	**114.06**	**117.58**	
Investments for treasury management purposes			
Debt Management Office	7.50	NIL	NIL
Local Authorities	53.00	44.00	5.22
Money Market Funds (instant access)	NIL	NIL	NIL
Banks	14.00	6.00	3.57
Total Treasury Investments	**74.50**	**50.00**	**5.02**
Net Debt	**39.56**	**67.58**	

Investments for Commercial Purposes	Fair Value as at 31/03/2024 £m	Actual return 31/03/2024 £m
Investments	4.990	0.459

** Excluding Salix loans which are interest free and Short Term borrowing*
*** (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg 10 years remaining term*

The current profile of repayment of the Council's long-term debt is set out in the Liability Benchmark chart below. The table assumes that the Public Works Loan Board and Lender's Option Borrower's Option loans will be repayable on their maturity date. However, although shown as maturing in 2054 the £19.25 million of Lender's Option Borrower's Option loans may be rescheduled at their next maturity date of 22 July 2024.

PWLB lending criteria requires that the Council does not invest purely for financial return if it wishes to access any new PWLB borrowing. The CIPFA TM Code sets out that it is not prudent for local authorities to invest for financial return.

All borrowing by the Council is as a single pool of debt rather than having loans specific to individual schemes. Where a Council finances capital expenditure by debt, it must put aside revenue to repay that debt in later years, known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The MRP set aside for 2023-24 was £6.5 million, including MRP on supported and unsupported borrowing and the PFI for Maesteg School.

Liability benchmark

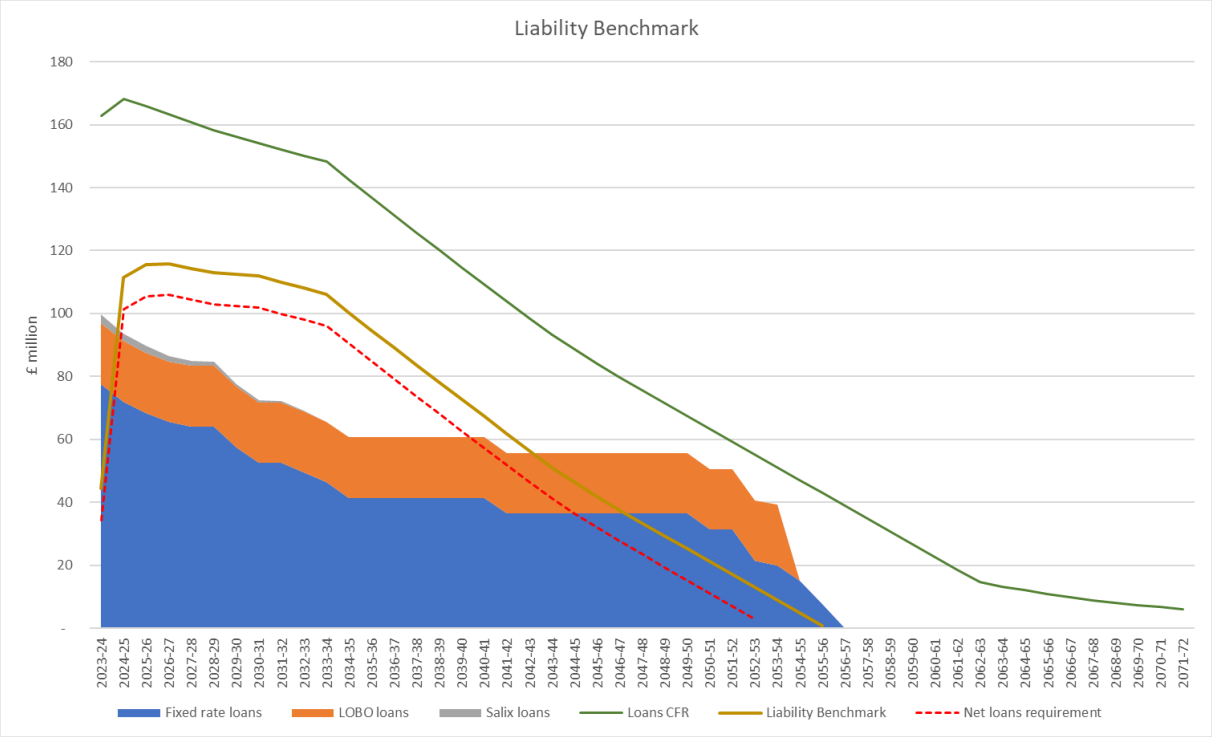
The liability benchmark is a tool which helps to assess the lowest level of borrowing the Council needs, taking into account available cash resources to fund capital expenditure in the short term. A minimum level of investments is factored into the calculation, set at £10 million, which are held as reasonably liquid to ensure the Council has available cash resources to meet day-to-day cash flow requirements. Forecast borrowing needs are based on capital expenditure estimates and available useable reserves. The underlying need to borrow to fund capital expenditure (known as the Capital Financing Requirement or CFR) is the amount of capital expenditure which is not funded via grants, capital receipts or contributions from revenue and earmarked reserves.

Table 2 below shows the Capital Financing Requirement and the calculation of the liability benchmark. It is important to note that the graph is based on the current approved capital programme and the borrowing associated therewith. Any new schemes which require debt financing will increase the CFR and loans requirement.

Table 2: Liability benchmark

	31 March 2023 actual £m	31 March 2024 estimate (TMS) £m	31 March 2024 actual £m	31 March 2025 forecast £m	31 March 2026 forecast £m
Capital Financing Requirement	176.21	184.81	175.72	183.26	179.66
Less: Other debt liabilities	(13.90)	(12.97)	(12.97)	(15.12)	(13.90)
Loans Capital Financing Requirement	***162.31***	***171.83***	***162.75***	***168.14***	***165.77***
Less: Balance Sheet Resources	(139.06)	(84.14)	(128.35)	(66.81)	(60.25)
Plus: Liquidity allowance	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Liability Benchmark	**33.25**	**97.69**	**44.40**	**111.33**	**115.51**

The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future, and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. The liability benchmark itself represents an estimate of the cumulative amount of external borrowing the Council must hold to fund its **current** capital plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level to manage day-to-day cash flow.



It is forecast that the Council may need to consider borrowing long term in 2024-25 although this is based on a number of assumptions including the forecast capital programme expenditure and the level and use of reserves.

The Section 151 Officer will monitor and update the liability benchmark assumptions on an on-going basis and report any significant changes within the treasury management monitoring reports to Cabinet, Governance and Audit Committee and Council as appropriate. This could be as a result of changes in the level of usable reserves at year end, slippage within the Capital Programme or changes within the working capital assumptions which may affect the Council's need to take new long-term borrowing.

4.0 BORROWING

As at 31 March 2024 the Council held £99.61 million of Long-Term Borrowing, £96.87 million of which is fixed long term loans as part of its strategy for funding previous years' capital programmes.

The Council has previously raised the majority of its long-term borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). This was the source of funding the last time the Council took long-term borrowing of £5 million in March 2012. The Council will however consider long term loans from other sources including banks, pension funds and other local authorities if appropriate. The Council will also investigate the possibility of issuing bonds and similar instruments, in order to lower interest costs and reduce over-reliance on one source of funding in line with the CIPFA TM Code.

The Council has loans from PWLB maturing within the next 3 financial years that it will need to repay. As noted above the Council may need to take out new borrowing, which may in part replace these maturing PWLB loans. The value of the loans due to be repaid over the next 3 years is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Value of PWLB maturing debt

	2024-25 £ million	2025-26 £ million	2026-27 £ million
Value of maturing debt	5.580	3.709	2.790

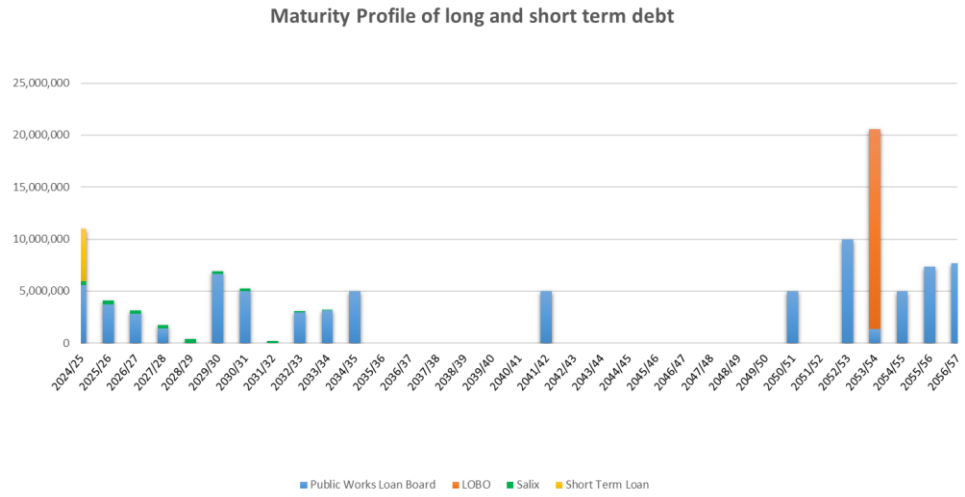
Maturity structure of borrowing

The maturity structure of borrowing indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk with respect to the maturity of the Council's external borrowing. The limits are set to avoid having large amounts of debt maturing in a short space of time. and is the amount of projected borrowing maturing in each period as a percentage of total projected borrowing. Where the maturity date of borrowing is unknown, as in the case of LOBO loans, the maturity should normally be determined by reference to the earliest date at which the lender can require repayment. The £19.25 million of LOBO loans has therefore been included in the 'Under 12 months' category. The table also includes short-term borrowing of £5 million in March 2024.

Table 4: Maturity Structure of Borrowing

Maturity structure of borrowing	Upper limit	lower limit	£ million	As at 31 March 2024
Under 12 months	50%	0%	24.64	23.56%
12 months and within 24 months	25%	0%	8.74	8.35%
24 months and within 5 years	25%	0%	6.20	5.93%
5 years and within 10 years	40%	0%	15.50	14.82%
10 years and within 20 years	50%	0%	13.14	12.56%
20 years and above	60%	25%	36.38	34.78%

As can be seen from the table the maturity structure remains within the limits approved as part of the Treasury Management Strategy 2023-24. The following chart provides the maturity profile of the Council's long-term debt.



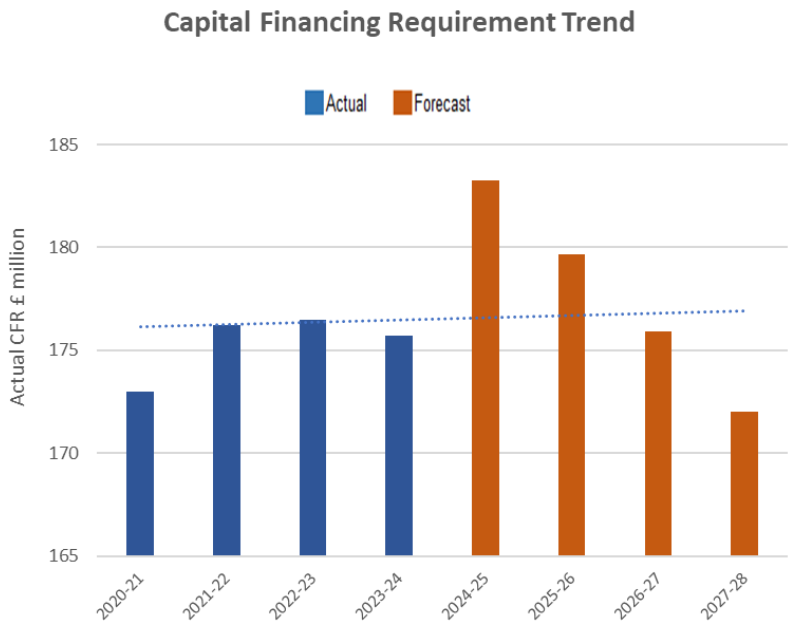
None of the LOBO loans have had to be repaid during the period to 31 March 2024. All the LOBO loans are subject to the lender having the right to change the rate of interest payable during the financial year at either of two trigger points in January and July, with the Council having the right to refuse the change, triggering early repayment and the need to re-finance. This is a manageable risk should repayment be needed during the current financial year as the Council has sufficient funds available in the short term, though would need to consider future borrowing to replace the repaid loans, in line with net loans requirement and liability benchmark in Table 2.

Table 5: LOBO loans

Commencement date	Loan value £m	Potential repayment date	Option frequency	Full term maturity
22 January 2004	4.00	22 July 2024	6 months	22 January 2054
22 January 2004	5.00	22 July 2024	6 months	22 January 2054
22 January 2004	10.25	22 July 2024	6 months	22 January 2054

In accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy, the Council is internally borrowing, which is when it uses temporary cash balances it holds in the short term instead of undertaking external borrowing. The level of internal borrowing as at 31 March 2024 was £58.14 million. This is shown by the Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) net of its external level of debt including other long term debt liabilities. The Council's CFR as at 31 March 2024 was £175.72 million, external borrowing £104.61 million and other long term debt liabilities of £12.97 million, which is the PFI Maesteg School scheme.

The chart below shows the trend in the CFR based on **current** capital commitments within the approved capital programme. The CFR is anticipated to increase in the current year assuming capital expenditure is incurred as currently anticipated. The CFR in future years shows a reduction, however, this is on the assumption of no new schemes which require debt financing. If new schemes requiring debt financing are added, the CFR will continue to increase.



5.0 TREASURY INVESTMENTS

The Council holds treasury investments as a result of temporary cash balances arising from its day-to-day activities. The management of the day-to-day cash requirements of the Council is undertaken in-house with advice from Arlingclose, the Council's Treasury Management advisors. This may involve temporary borrowing to meet cash-flow needs or temporary lending of surplus funds. Investment balances can fluctuate daily and arise as a result of a range of circumstances, including timing differences of revenue and capital cash flows, reserves and other balances held for future use.

Investments are made in institutions approved by Council as part of its Treasury Management Strategy and in accordance with investment guidelines issued by the Welsh Government. As part of the Markets and Financial Instruments Directive II, the Council elected for 'professional' status, which covers national and regional governments and public bodies. The categories of investments the Council can invest in can be changed with any proposed changes being presented to Council for approval.

Treasury investments are made primarily on the basis of ensuring security of the funds invested, whilst managing liquidity, and only then considering a commensurate return on the investment. As at 31 March 2024 the Council held £50 million of investments, with a weighted average return of 5.02.% (£64.50 million at 4.35% as at 31 December 2023). Table 6 below shows the investment profile as at 31 March 2024.

Table 6: Investments by counterparty type

Investment Category	Balance 1 April 2023 £m	Investments made in period £m	Investments repaid in period £m	Balance 31 March 2024 £m	Weighted interest rate 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 %
Government DMO	7.50	349.90	(357.40)	0.00	5.04
Local Authorities	53.00	44.00	(53.00)	44.00	4.30
Money Market Funds	-	129.60	(129.60)	NIL	4.98
Banks (fixed maturity dates)	3.00	27.00	(30.00)	NIL	4.92
Banks (instant access/notice accounts)	11.00	71.70	(76.70)	6.00	3.89
TOTAL	**74.50**	**622.20**	**(646.70)**	**50.00**	**4.50**

The following should be noted:

- During the period to 31 March 2024 all investments made were in line with the approved counterparties within the Treasury Management Strategy.
- Investments are diversified over a number of organisations across different sectors, demonstrating a diversified investment portfolio.
- All investments are in sterling and are rated A- and above as per the approved criteria or with a public body.
- The weighted average rates are for all investments made during 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

The overall interest receivable from treasury investments for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 was £5.108 million. Although interest rates are expected to have reached their peak, the returns on new investments may vary as there will be a time lag on the overall average rates for existing investments until historic investments mature and monies are reinvested. The Council will continue to take a cautious approach to investing to ensure as its primary concern the security of any investments made. The risk of default for investments held is considered negligible.

All investments longer than 364 days will be made with a cautious approach to cash flow requirements and advice from the Council's Treasury Management advisors will be sought as necessary. The Treasury Management Strategy 2023-24 reduced the maximum duration for new investments to local authorities from 25 years (as grouped with other government agencies) to 2 years. All investments as at 31 March 2024 were short term of less than one year duration.

Table 7: Sums invested for periods longer than a year

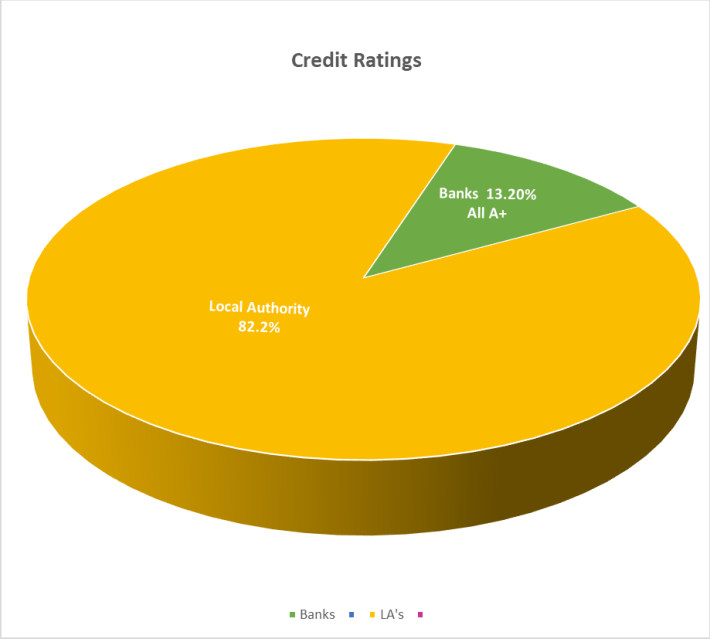
Price risk indicator	TMS 2023-24 £m	Actual £m	Full term maturity
Limit on principal invested beyond financial year end	15	NIL	NIL

The below table details the Council's investments by counterparty and maturity profile.

Table 8: Investments by maturity

Counterparty Category	Instant Access £m	Deposits maturing within 1 month £m	Deposits maturing within 2-3 months £m	Deposits maturing within 4-12 months £m	Deposits maturing after 12 months £m	TOTAL £m
Government DMO	-	-	-	-	-	-
Local Authorities	-	5.00	4.00	35.00	-	44.00
Money Market Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Banks	6.00	-	-	-	-	6.00
Total	**5.50**	**7.00**	**18.00**	**34.00**	**-**	**50.00**

The pie chart below summarises the distribution of the Council's investments by credit ratings. Most local authorities do not have credit ratings but are considered secure investment counterparties. Although the council did not have deposits with the Government DMO at 31 March 2024 it did use the facility during the period. The DMO is the UK government and rated AA.



6.0 INTEREST RATE EXPOSURES

The Council is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Council, depending on how variable and fixed interest rates move across differing financial instrument periods. Short term and variable rate loans expose the Council to the risk of short-term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the Treasury Management indicator below.

The following Table is based on investments at 31 March 2024.

Table 9: Interest Rate Exposure

Interest rate risk indicator	£ million
One year revenue impact of a 1% rise in interest rates	(0.307)
One year revenue impact of a 1% fall in interest rates	0.500

It is important to note that this is an indicator, not a limit. It is calculated at a point in time on the assumption that maturing loans and investments would be replaced at rates 1% higher or lower than they are currently, and that the treasury investment and borrowing portfolios remain unchanged over the next 12 months, which in practice is not the case. The figure for the 1% fall in interest rates indicator is not the same figure as the 1% increase (but reversed) as the borrowing relates to variable LOBO loans where it is assumed that the lender would only exercise their option if there was an increase in interest rates. All other borrowing does not have a rate reset in the next year and is with the PWLB at fixed rates.

A comparison of interest expenditure and income due for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 is shown below.

Table 10: Interest

	01 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 £ million
Interest expenditure payable on long term borrowing	4.528
Other Interest expenditure payable	1.353
Total Interest Payable	5.881
Interest income received in period	(5.108)
Net interest cost	0.773

7.0 NON-TREASURY INVESTMENTS

The Council recognises that investment in other financial assets and property primarily for financial return, taken for non-treasury management purposes, requires careful investment management. Such activities include investments in subsidiaries and investments in property. A schedule of the Council's existing non-treasury investments (currently limited to owned property) is set out in Table 11 below. Recent PWLB guidance requires that local authorities should review their investment portfolio if they wish to secure PWLB borrowing but does not require the local authority to sell existing investment assets. This category covers non-financial assets held primarily or partially to generate a profit, primarily investment property. These assets are valued on an annual basis to reflect market conditions and the current value at the time they are valued, otherwise known as Fair Value, which provides security of their value and continued benefit to the Council.

Table 11: Non-treasury investments

Non-treasury investments	£ million
Bridgend Science Park - Units 1 & 2	3.170
Waterton Cross Land	0.560
Brynmenyn Industrial Estate Plot 53	0.675
Village Farm Plots 32,119 & 120	0.385
Tyrewise Bridgend	0.200
Total at Fair Value	**4.990**
Annual return 2023-24	**0.459**

The Council considers that the scale of its investment properties is proportionate to the resources of the Council as the investment represents less than 1% of its total long-term assets. In addition, the value of these investments has increased from the previous year.

In accordance with Welsh Government Investment Guidance, these are be classified as non-treasury investments.

Schedule A – Credit Rating Equivalence Table

Credit Rating Equivalence Table

	Description	Fitch		Moody's		Standard & Poor's	
		Long	Short	Long	Short	Long	Short
INVESTMENT GRADE	Extremely strong	AAA	F1+	Aaa	P-1	AAA	A-1+
	Very strong	AA+		Aa1		AA+	
		AA		Aa2		AA	
		AA-		Aa3		AA-	
	Strong	A+		A1		A+	A-1
		A	F1	A2		A	
		A-		A3		A-	A-2
	Adequate	BBB+	F2	Baa1	P-2	BBB+	
		BBB		Baa2		BBB	
		BBB-	F3	Baa3	P-3	BBB-	A-3
SPECULATIVE GRADE	Speculative	BB+	B	Ba1	Not Prime (NP)	BB+	B
		BB		Ba2		BB	
		BB-		Ba3		BB-	
	Very speculative	B+		B1		B+	
		B		B2		B	
		B-		B3		B-	
	Vulnerable	CCC+	C	Caa1		CCC+	C
		CCC		Caa2		CCC	
		CCC-		Caa3		CCC-	
		CC		Ca		CC	
		C				C	
	Defaulting	D	D	C		D	D

Schedule B – Arlingclose Economic & Interest Rate Forecast – May 2024

	Current	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27
Official Bank Rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	5.25	5.25	5.00	4.75	4.25	3.75	3.25	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Downside risk	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
3-month money market rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	5.40	5.30	5.15	4.80	4.30	3.80	3.30	3.05	3.10	3.10	3.15	3.15	3.15
Downside risk	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
5yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.50	0.75	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	4.04	3.95	3.85	3.75	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.45	3.50	3.55
Downside risk	0.00	0.75	0.85	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
10yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.50	0.75	0.85	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	4.16	4.10	4.05	4.00	3.85	3.75	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.75	3.80	3.80
Downside risk	0.00	0.75	0.85	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
20yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.50	0.75	0.85	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	4.60	4.50	4.40	4.35	4.25	4.25	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.25	4.30	4.35
Downside risk	0.00	0.75	0.85	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
50yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.50	0.75	0.85	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.95	3.85	3.85	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.85	3.90	3.95
Downside risk	0.00	0.75	0.85	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

• The Bank of England is now biased towards reductions in Bank Rate, and the upcoming data will determine the timing of the start of the easing cycle and its extent. The UK economy started the year stronger than expected, and wage growth, core and services inflation remain high, so there remains uncertainty around the start of the cycle, but it will be a surprise not to see one cut this summer.

• In May, the MPC continued its dovish tilt. Another committee member, Dave Ramsden joined Swati Dhingra in voting for a rate cut. For the remaining seven members the focus remains on the persistence of inflation, specifically in wages and services.

• UK GDP growth rebounded in Q1 2024 after the technical recession in H2 2023. Survey data suggests that this recovery continued in April, but the UK economy remains relatively weak, with GDP only 0.2% higher in Q1 compared to a year ago and consumer spending barely growing.

• Employment has started to decline, although vacancy levels stabilised suggesting that demand for new labour remains relatively resilient. Anecdotal evidence suggests lower pay growth, and we expect unemployment to rise, which will lead to some deterioration in consumer sentiment. Household and business spending will therefore

remain relatively soft. Stronger demand in Q1, however, raises some upside risks to this view.

• Inflation rates will move lower over the next 12 months. The headline CPI rate for April will be at or below the 2% target. There are upside risks from geo-political issues and now stronger domestic activity. With policymaker fears around the persistence of underlying inflationary pressure, particularly services inflation, we believe Bank Rate will remain unchanged until August and initially reduce slowly.

• The MPC minutes suggest that some committee members may not need to see much more evidence on falling inflation before changing their minds, so there is certainly a chance of an earlier rate cut in June.

• We expect that the continuation of restrictive monetary policy will bear down on activity and will require substantial loosening in 2025 to boost activity and inflation.

• Global bond yields will remain volatile and investors' positioning for the timing of US monetary loosening will continue to influence movements in gilt yields. Moreover, there is a heightened risk of fiscal policy, credit events and/or geo-political events causing substantial volatility in yields.

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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**23 JULY 2024**
Report Title:	**TREASURY MANAGEMENT QUARTER 1 REPORT 2024-25**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING AND CHANGE**
Responsible Officer:	**NIGEL SMITH GROUP MANAGER – CHIEF ACCOUNTANT**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**Para 22.5 Financial Procedure Rules require that the Chief Finance Officer shall report quarterly to the Cabinet, summarising borrowing and investment activity and indicating compliance with any statutory or Council approved guidelines together with a half yearly and an annual report to Council.**
Executive Summary:	**The report provides an update of Treasury Management activity for the quarter 1 period 2024-25, to 30 June 2024. As at 30 June 2024 the Council had £96.87 million of long term debt, £2.71 million of Salix loans (interest free), £15.87 million of other long term liabilities and £50.35 million of investments. The overall net debt position is £65.10 million. The average interest rate for debt as at 30 June 2024 was 4.69%. For investments it was 5.19%. The Council has a manageable maturity structure of borrowing, with its current debt repayable at various points over the next 30 years, the first repayment being due in March 2025. The Council is required to set and report against Treasury Management Indicators, details of which are included in Appendix A. These show that the Council is operating within its approved limits. The Council has complied with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Welsh Government Investment Guidance during the period.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Cabinet on the treasury management activities for the quarter ending 30 June 2024.

2. Background

2.1 Treasury Management is the management of the Council's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Council is exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are therefore central to the Council's prudent financial management.

2.2 Treasury risk management at the Council is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 edition (the TM Code), which requires the Council to approve a Treasury Management Strategy before the start of each financial year, and, as a minimum, a semi-annual and annual treasury outturn report. The TM Code also requires the Council to set a number of Treasury Management Indicators, which are forward looking parameters, and enable the Council to measure and manage its exposure to treasury management risks, and these are included throughout this report. Welsh Government (WG) guidance issued in November 2019 on Local Authority Investments requires the Council to approve an Investment Strategy before the start of each financial year. This report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the Welsh Government Guidance.

2.3 In 2021 CIPFA published an updated version of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code). The Prudential Code includes a requirement for Local Authorities to provide a Capital Strategy, which is a summary document approved by full Council covering capital expenditure and financing, treasury management and non-treasury investments. The definition of investments in the revised Prudential Code covers all the financial assets of the Council as well as other non-financial assets which the authority holds primarily for financial return. The Council's Capital Strategy 2024-25 complied with CIPFA's requirement and included the Prudential Indicators along with the details regarding the Council's non-treasury investments. The Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy should be read in conjunction with each other as they are interlinked, as borrowing and investments are directly impacted upon by capital plans, and both were approved together by Council on 28 February 2024.

2.4 The Council's treasury management advisors are Arlingclose. The current services provided to the Council include:

- advice and guidance on relevant policies, strategies and reports
- advice on investment decisions
- notification of credit ratings and changes
- other information on credit quality
- advice on debt management decisions
- accounting advice
- reports on treasury performance
- forecasts of interest rates
- training courses

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 External Context – Economic Background

3.1.1 UK headline consumer price inflation (CPI) continued to decline over the quarter. It fell from an annual rate of 3.2% in March to 2.0% in May, in line with the Bank of England's target. The core measure of inflation, however, only declined from 4.2% to 3.5% over the same period, which, together with stubborn services price inflation at 5.7% in May, helped contribute to the Bank of England maintaining Bank Rate at 5.25% during the period, a level unchanged since August 2023.

3.1.2 Data released during the period showed that the UK economy had emerged from the technical recession at the end of 2023 to expand by 0.7% (upwardly revised from the initial estimate of 0.6%) in the first quarter of the calendar year. Monthly Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data showed zero growth in April following an expansion of 0.4% in the previous month.

3.1.3 Arlingclose, the authority's treasury adviser, maintained its central view that 5.25% is the peak in Bank Rate and that interest rates will most likely be cut during the second half of 2024.

3.2 Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) Lending Facility Advice, Revised CIPFA Codes

3.2.1 The Council continues to undertake its duties in line with the current guidance for the PWLB lending facility which was significantly revised by HM Treasury in August 2021. Authorities that are purchasing or intending to purchase investment assets primarily for yield, or financial return, will not be able to access funding from the PWLB except to refinance existing loans or externalise internal borrowing. Acceptable use of PWLB borrowing includes service delivery, housing, regeneration, preventative action, refinancing and treasury management.

3.2.2 The Council's treasury management activities are undertaken in line with CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services Code. To comply with the Prudential Code authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return. The Prudential Code also states it is not prudent for local authorities to make investment or spending decisions that will increase the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the authority. Existing commercial investments are not required to be sold, however, authorities with existing commercial investments who expect to need to borrow should review the options for exiting these investments.

3.3 Treasury Management update for period 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024

3.3.1 The Council has complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements during the first quarter of 2024-25. The Treasury Management Strategy 2024-25 was approved by Council on 28 February 2024. The Outturn Report for the year ending 31 March 2024 is presented as a separate report to Cabinet on 23 July 2024 and Council on 24 July 2024.

3.3.2 A summary of the treasury management activities is shown in the Treasury Management Quarterly report to 30 June 2024 at **Appendix A**. The Council's external debt and investment position at 30 June 2024 is shown in Table 1 below, and more detail is provided in **Appendix A** within Section 3: External Debt and Investment Position, and Section 4: Borrowing and Section 5 Treasury Investments. As with the previous year, no long-term borrowing has been taken out in 2024-25 and no debt rescheduling has been undertaken as there has been no opportunity to make significant savings. However, should the opportunity arise to reschedule any loans at a preferential rate, this would be done.

The Council continues to experience favourable cash flows which has provided surplus funds for investment and the balance on investments held at 30 June 2024 was £50.35 million, a slight increase from 31 March 2024 of £50 million, with an average interest rate of 5.19% (5.02% as at 31 March 2024). The Council had to borrow short term for cash flow purposes during March 2024, which was repaid in May 2024.

Table 1: Council's external debt and investment position at 30 June 2024

Investments for Treasury Purposes	Principal as at 31/03/2024 £m	Principal as at 30/06/2024 £m	Average Rate 30/06/2024 %
External Long Term Borrowing			
Public Works Loan Board	77.62	77.62	4.70
Lender's Option Borrower's Option	19.25	19.25	4.65
Salix Loans (interest Free)	2.74	2.71	NIL
Short Term Borrowing	5.00	NIL	NIL
Total External Long Term Borrowing	**104.61**	**99.58**	**4.69***
Other Long Term Liabilities			
Private Finance Initiative**	12.97	12.72	
Other Long Term Liabilities	NIL	3.15	
Total Other Long Term Liabilities	**12.97**	**15.87**	
Total Gross Debt	**117.58**	**115.45**	
Investments for treasury management purposes			
Debt Management Office	NIL	NIL	NIL
Local Authorities	44.00	35.00	5.23
Money Market Funds (instant access)	NIL	12.00	5.24
Banks	6.00	3.35	4.61
Total Treasury Investments	**67.58**	**50.35**	**5.19**
Net Debt	**39.56**	**65.10**	

* Excluding Salix loans which are interest free
** (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg 9.75 years remaining term

3.3.3 The £19.25 million in Table 1 above relates to Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) loans which have a maturity date of 2054 though these may be rescheduled in advance of this maturity date. The LOBO rate and term may vary in the future depending on the prevailing rates at one of the bi-annual trigger points (these being July and January) and, therefore, the Council being given the option to accept the increase or repay the loan without incurring a penalty. Whilst interest rates have increased significantly since the start of 2022, they have more recently plateaued at 5.25% and expectations are of a gradual reduction during the latter part of 2024.

Current expectations are that the lender is unlikely to exercise this option in the near future.

3.3.4 The Total Other Long Term Liabilities figure of £15.87 million at 30 June 2024 includes £12.72 million for the Private Finance initiative (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg and £3.15 million right of use assets brought onto the balance sheet as at 1 April 2024 in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 16 – Leases.

3.3.5 Both the CIPFA Code and Welsh Government Guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return. Investment decisions are made by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from Fitch, Moody's or Standard and Poor's to ensure that this lies within the Councils' agreed minimum credit rating.

3.3.6 The Council defines high credit quality as organisations and securities having a credit rating of A- (A3 for Moody's) or higher and the Council does not invest in any organisation below this level. Schedule A shows the equivalence table for credit ratings for Fitch, Moody's, and Standard and Poor's and explains the different investment grades.

3.3.7 There are no long-term investments (original duration of 12 months or more) outstanding as at 30 June 2024. All investments at 30 June 2024 are short term deposits including instant access and notice accounts.

3.3.8 The Treasury Management Code requires the Council to set and report on a number of Treasury Management Indicators. The indicators either summarise the expected activity or introduce limits upon the activity. Details of the estimates for 2024-25 set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy compared to the actual at 30 June 2024 are shown in the appendix and these show that the Council operated within the approved limits throughout the year to date.

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

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

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

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 The Climate Change implications were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the environment because of this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 The Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting implications were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon safeguarding and corporate parenting because of this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The financial implications are reflected within the report and the attached **Appendix A**.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Note the treasury management activities for the quarter ending 30 June 2024.
- Note the Treasury Management Indicators for the period 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024 against those approved in the Treasury Management Strategy 2024-25.

Background documents

None

Appendix A

Treasury Management Quarterly Report to 30 June 2024

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
BRIDGEND
County Borough Council

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Treasury management activities are the *'management of the organisation's borrowing, investments and cash flows, including its banking, money market and capital market transactions, the effective control of the risks associated with those activities, and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.'* (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (2021) (CIPFA TM Code).

The definition of 'Investments' includes:

- Treasury Management investments (held for the prudent management of financial affairs), and
- non-Treasury Investments, undertaken as part of a Capital Strategy either in the course of provision of services, or made for commercial reasons purely to make a financial gain. These are managed outside of normal treasury management activity.

The Council carries out its treasury management function in accordance with the CIPFA TM Code and the legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA TM Code and Welsh Government Guidance.

The Council has an integrated Treasury Management Strategy where borrowing and investments are managed in accordance with best professional practice, which is assessed either from internal expertise or consultation with our external advisers. The Council will look to borrow money if needed to either meet short term cash flow needs or to fund capital schemes approved within the capital programme. Therefore, any actual loans taken are not generally associated with particular items of expenditure or assets.

The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to Cabinet, and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Section 151 Officer. The Governance and Audit Committee are responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and policies and regular reports will be presented to the Committee for their consideration.

2.0 ECONOMIC CONTEXT

UK headline consumer price inflation (CPI) continued to decline over the quarter, falling from an annual rate of 3.2% in March to 2.0% in May, in line with the Bank of England's (BoE) target. The core measure of inflation, however, only declined from 4.2% to 3.5% over the same period, which, together with stubborn services price inflation at 5.7% in May, helped contribute to the BoE maintaining Bank Rate at 5.25% during the period, a level unchanged since August 2023.

Data released during the period showed that the UK economy had emerged from the technical recession at the end of 2023 to expand by 0.7% (upwardly revised from the

initial estimate of 0.6%) in the first quarter of the calendar year. Monthly Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data showed zero growth in April following an expansion of 0.4% in the previous month.

Labour market data continued to provide mixed messages for policymakers, exacerbated by issues the Office for National Statistics is having compiling the labour force survey. In the three months between February and April 2024, unemployment was up, employment fell, while the decline in vacancies slowed and wage growth remained elevated. Unemployment rose to 4.4% (3mth/year) while average regular earnings (excluding bonuses) was 6.0% and total earnings (including bonuses) was 5.9%. Adjusting for inflation, real regular pay rose by 2.3% and total pay by 2.2%. Given how keenly the 'second-round' impact of inflation on wages is watched by the Bank of England, policymakers will likely want to see more downward movement before cutting interest rates.

Having started the financial year at 5.25%, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) maintained Bank Rate at this level throughout the quarter. In line with expectations, at its June meeting, the Committee voted by a majority of 7-2 in favour of maintaining the status quo. The two dissenters preferred an immediate 0.25% reduction in Bank Rate to 5.0%. This continued dovish tilt towards reducing rates meant the Committee increased financial market expectations that the first cut in Bank Rate will likely be in August.

Earlier in May, in addition to an identical MPC rate decision and voting pattern, the Bank Of England (BoE) published the latest version of its Monetary Policy Report (MPR). Within the Report the Committee noted that it expected four-quarter GDP growth to increase over the forecast period, reflecting the declining negative effects of past Bank Rate increases and the predicted downward path of interest rates which should provide support to economic activity. The trajectory of inflation was broadly similar to that in the previous MPR, albeit slightly lower towards the end of the forecast horizon due to the Committee's revised assessment of falling external inflationary pressures from past import price increases. This meant the Committee expected headline inflation to hit the 2% target two quarters sooner than in the February MPR. As was highlighted earlier, inflation data published in June showed that CPI inflation fell to the 2% target in May.

Arlingclose, the authority's treasury adviser, maintained its central view that 5.25% is the peak in Bank Rate and that interest rates will most likely be cut later in second half of 2024. The risks over the medium term are deemed to be to the upside as, while inflation has fallen to target, it is expected to pick up again later in the year and as services price inflation and wage growth are still on the firmer side, the MPC could well delay before delivering the first rate cut.

Sentiment in financial markets showed signs of improvement over the quarter, but bond yields remained volatile. Early in the period yields climbed steadily, but mixed signals from economic data and investors' constant reassessment of when rate cuts might come caused a couple of fairly pronounced but short-lived dips in yields. Towards the end of the quarter yields rose once again and were generally higher than at the start of the period.

Arlingclose maintained its advised recommended maximum unsecured duration limit on all banks on its counterparty list at 100 days.

3.0 EXTERNAL DEBT AND INVESTMENT POSITION

The Council's external debt and investments at 30 June 2024 is set out in Table 1 below. The Council held £99.58 million of Long Term Borrowing comprising:

- Public Works Loan Board (PWLB - UK government) at fixed rates and duration
- Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) which may be rescheduled ahead of their maturity of 22 July 2054 (no call was made in January 2024)
- £2.71 million of Salix interest-free loans

The Council borrowed £5 million for short term cash flow purposes in March 2024, which was repaid in May 2024.

At 30 June 2024 the Council had £50.35 million of investments for treasury management purposes and £4.99 million of investments for commercial purposes.

Table 1: Council's external debt and investment position as of 30 June 2024

Investments for Treasury Purposes	Principal as at 31/03/2024 £m	Principal as at 30/06/2024 £m	Average Rate 30/06/2024 %
External Long Term Borrowing			
Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)	77.62	77.62	4.70
Lenders Option Borrowers Option (LOBO)	19.25	19.25	4.65
Salix Loans (Interest Free)	2.74	2.71	NIL
Short Term Borrowing	5.00	NIL	NIL
Total External Borrowing	**104.61**	**99.58**	**4.69***
Other Long Term Liabilities			
Private Finance Initiative**	12.97	12.72	
Other Long Term Liabilities	NIL	NIL	
Total Other Long Term Liabilities	**12.97**	**12.72**	
Total Gross Debt	**117.58**	**112.30**	
Investments for treasury management purposes			
Debt Management Office	NIL	NIL	NIL
Local Authorities	44.00	35.00	5.23
Money Market Funds (instant access)	NIL	12.00	5.24
Banks	6.00	3.35	4.61
Total Treasury Investments	**50.00**	**50.35**	**5.19**
Net Debt	**67.58**	**61.95**	

Investments for Commercial Purposes	Fair Value as at 31/03/2024 £m	Anticipated return 31/3/2025 £m
Investments	4.990	0.459

** Excluding Salix loans which are interest free and Short Term borrowing*
*** (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg 9.75 years remaining term*

The current profile of repayment of the Council's long-term debt is set out in the Liability Benchmark chart below. The table assumes that the Public Works Loan Board and Lender's Option Borrower's Option loans will be repayable on their maturity date. However, having a final maturity date in 2054 the £19.25 million of Lender's Option Borrower's Option loans can be called bi-annually., It is unlikely they will need be rescheduled at the 22 July 2024 maturity date which would be the next available date for consideration.

PWLB lending criteria requires that the Council does not invest purely for financial return if it wishes to access any new PWLB borrowing. The CIPFA TM Code sets out that it is not prudent for local authorities to invest for financial return.

All borrowing by the Council is as a single pool of debt rather than having loans specific to individual schemes. Where a Council finances capital expenditure by debt, it must put aside revenue to repay that debt in later years, known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The forecast MRP for 2024-25 is £7.321 million, which includes supported and unsupported borrowing and the PFI for Maesteg School.

Liability benchmark

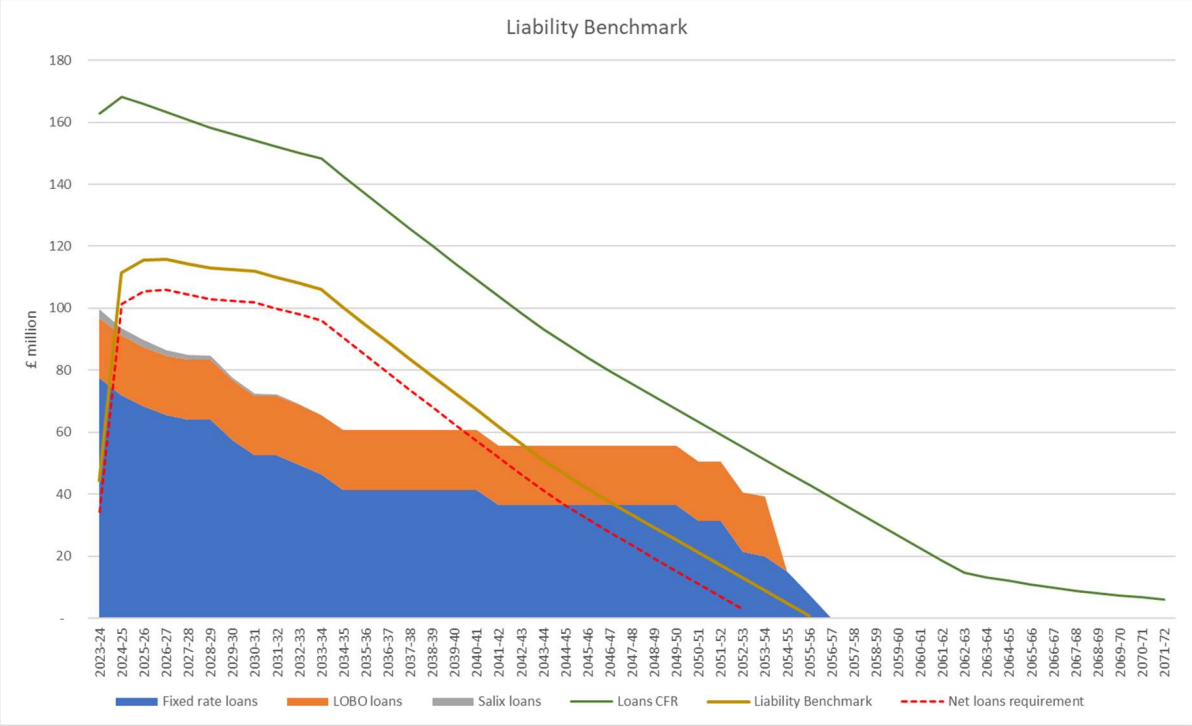
The liability benchmark is a tool which helps to assess the lowest level of borrowing the Council needs, taking into account available cash resources to fund capital expenditure in the short term. A minimum level of investments is factored into the calculation, set at £10 million, which are held as reasonably liquid to ensure the Council has available cash resources to meet day-to-day cash flow requirements. Forecast borrowing needs are based on capital expenditure estimates and available useable reserves. The underlying need to borrow to fund capital expenditure (known as the Capital Financing Requirement or CFR) is the amount of capital expenditure which is not funded via grants, capital receipts or contributions from revenue and earmarked reserves.

Table 2 below shows the Capital Financing Requirement and the calculation of the liability benchmark. It is important to note that the graph is based on the current approved capital programme and the borrowing associated therewith. Any new schemes which require debt financing will increase the CFR and loans requirement.

Table 2: Liability benchmark

	31 March 2024 actual £m	31 March 2025 estimate (TMS) £m	31 March 2025 forecast £m	31 March 2026 forecast £m	31 March 2027 forecast £m
Capital Financing Requirement	175.72	183.22	183.26	179.66	175.91
Less: Other debt liabilities	(12.97)	(15.12)	(15.12)	(13.90)	(12.58)
Loans Capital Financing Requirement	***162.75***	***168.10***	***168.14***	***165.76***	***163.33***
Less: Balance Sheet Resources	(128.35)	(58.52)	(66.81)	(60.25)	(57.44)
Plus: Liquidity allowance	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Liability Benchmark	**44.40**	**119.58**	**111.33**	**115.51**	**115.89**

The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future, and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. The liability benchmark itself represents an estimate of the cumulative amount of external borrowing the Council must hold to fund its **current** capital plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level to manage day-to-day cash flow.



It is forecast that the Council may need to borrow long term in 2024-25 although this is based on a number of assumptions including the forecast capital programme expenditure and the level and use of reserves.

The Section 151 Officer will monitor and update the liability benchmark assumptions on an on-going basis and report any significant changes within the treasury management monitoring reports to Cabinet, the Governance and Audit Committee and Council as appropriate. This could be as a result of changes in the level of useable reserves at year end, slippage within the Capital Programme or changes within the working capital assumptions which may affect the Council's need to take new long-term borrowing.

4.0 BORROWING

As at 30 June 2024 the Council held £99.58 million of Long-Term Borrowing, £96.87 million of which is fixed long term loans as part of its strategy for funding previous years' capital programmes.

The Council has previously raised the majority of its long-term borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). This was the source of funding the last time the Council took long-term borrowing of £5 million in March 2012. The Council will however consider long term loans from other sources including banks, pension funds and other local authorities if appropriate. The Council will also investigate the possibility of issuing bonds and similar instruments, in order to lower interest costs and reduce over-reliance on one source of funding in line with the CIPFA TM Code.

The Council has loans from PWLB maturing within the next 3 financial years that it will need to repay. Whilst at present it is anticipated that the Council will have resources to repay these loans, it will be dependent on the level of cash resources available. The value of the loans due to be repaid over the next 3 years is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Value of PWLB maturing debt

	2024-25 £ million	2025-26 £ million	2026-27 £ million
Value of maturing debt	5.580	3.709	2.790

The £5.58 million for 2024-25 is due for repayment on 31 March 2025. As noted above the Council may need to borrow during 2024-25 which may, in part, replace this maturing PWLB loan.

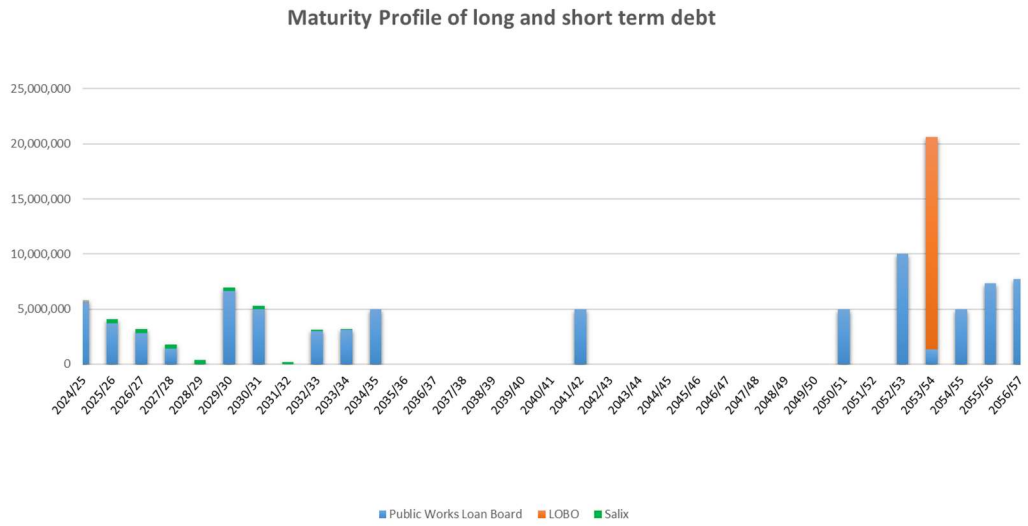
Maturity structure of borrowing

The maturity structure of borrowing indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk with respect to the maturity of the Council's external borrowing. The limits are set to avoid having large amounts of debt maturing in a short space of time. It reflects the amount of projected borrowing maturing in each period as a percentage of total projected borrowing. Where the maturity date of borrowing is unknown, as in the case of LOBO loans, the maturity should normally be determined by reference to the earliest date at which the lender can require repayment. The £19.25 million of LOBO loans has therefore been included in the 'Under 12 months' category. This table also reflects the PWLB repayable in 2024-25.

Table 4: Maturity Structure of Borrowing 2024-25

Maturity structure of borrowing	Upper limit	lower limit	£ million	As at 30 June 2024
Under 12 months	50%	0%	25.23	25.33%
12 months and within 24 months	25%	0%	4.10	4.12%
24 months and within 5 years	25%	0%	5.36	5.38%
5 years and within 10 years	40%	0%	18.51	18.59%
10 years and within 20 years	50%	0%	10.00	10.04%
20 years and above	60%	25%	36.38	36.54%

As can be seen from the table the maturity structure remains within the limits approved as part of the Treasury Management Strategy 2024-25. The following chart provides the maturity profile of the Council's long term debt.



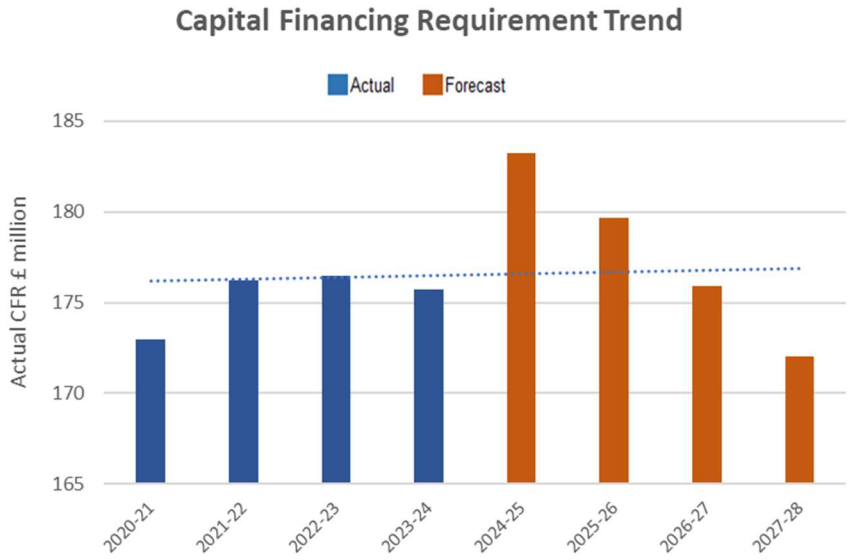
All the LOBO loans are subject to the lender having the right to change the rate of interest payable during the financial year at either of two trigger points in January and July, with the Council having the right to refuse the change, triggering early repayment and the need to re-finance. This is a manageable risk should repayment be needed during the current financial year as the Council has sufficient funds available in the short term, but would, however, need to consider taking out new debt to replace these loans during the financial year. It is considered unlikely that these loans will be called at the July call date.

Table 5: LOBO loans

Commencement date	Loan value £m	Potential repayment date	Option frequency	Full term maturity
22 January 2004	4.00	22 July 2024	6 months	22 January 2054
22 January 2004	5.00	22 July 2024	6 months	22 January 2054
22 January 2004	10.25	22 July 2024	6 months	22 January 2054

In accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy, the Council is internally borrowing, which is when it uses temporary cash balances it holds in the short term instead of undertaking external borrowing. The current level of internal borrowing is £62.96 million as at 30 June 2024. This is shown by the Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) net of its external level of debt including other long term debt liabilities. The Council's current forecast CFR as at 31 March 2025 is £183.26 million, external borrowing is £93.71 million and other long term debt liabilities forecast to be £15.12 million, which is primarily the PFI Maesteg School scheme plus the lease commitments of right of use assets, which have to brought onto the balance sheet from 1 April 2024 under International Financial Reporting Standard 16 (IFRS16).

The chart below shows the trend in the CFR based on **current** capital commitments within the approved capital programme. The CFR is anticipated to increase in the current year assuming capital expenditure is incurred as currently anticipated. The CFR in future years shows a reduction, however, this is on the assumption that there will be no new schemes which require debt financing. If new schemes requiring debt financing are added, the CFR will continue to increase.



5.0 TREASURY INVESTMENTS

The Council holds treasury investments as a result of temporary cash balances arising from its day-to-day activities. The management of the day-to-day cash requirements of the Council is undertaken in-house with advice from Arlingclose, the Council's Treasury Management advisors. This may involve temporary borrowing to meet cash-flow needs or temporary lending of surplus funds. Investment balances can fluctuate daily and arise as a result of a range of circumstances, including timing differences of revenue and capital cash flows, reserves and other balances held for future use.

Investments are made in institutions approved by the Council as part of its Treasury Management Strategy and in accordance with investment guidelines issued by the Welsh Government. As part of the Markets and Financial Instruments Directive II, the Council elected for 'professional' status, which covers national and regional governments and public bodies. The categories of investments the Council can invest in can be changed with any proposed changes being presented to Council for approval. Treasury investments are made primarily on the basis of ensuring security of the funds invested, whilst managing liquidity, and only then considering a commensurate return on the investment. As at 30 June 2024 the Council held £50.35 million of investments, with a weighted average return of 5.19% (£50 million at 5.02% as at 31 March 2024).

Table 6 below shows the investment profile as at 30 June 2024.

Table 6: Investments by counterparty type

Investment Category	Balance 1 April 2024 £m	Investments made in period £m	Investments repaid in period £m	Balance 30 June 2024 £m	Weighted interest rate 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024 %
Government DMO	0.00	87.50	(87.50)	0.00	5.19
Local Authorities	44.00		(9.00)	35.00	5.21
Money Market Funds	NIL	50.60	(38.60)	12.00	5.23
Banks (fixed maturity dates)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Banks (instant access/notice accounts)	6.00	12.50	(15.15)	3.35	4.08
TOTAL	**50.00**	**150.60**	**(150.25)**	**50.35**	**5.13**

The following should be noted:

- During the period to 30 June 2024 all investments made were in line with the approved counterparties within the Treasury Management Strategy.
- Investments are diversified over a number of organisations across different sectors, demonstrating a diversified investment portfolio.
- All investments are in sterling and are rated A- and above as per the approved criteria or with a public body.
- The weighted average rates are for all investments made during 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024.

The overall interest receivable from treasury investments for the period 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024 was £0.882 million. Although interest rates are expected to have reached their peak, the returns on new investments may vary as there will be a time lag on the overall average rates for existing investments until historic investments mature and monies are reinvested. The Council will continue to take a cautious approach to investing to ensure as its primary concern the security of any investments made. The risk of default for investments held is considered negligible.

All investments longer than 364 days will be made with a cautious approach to cash flow requirements and advice from the Council's Treasury Management advisors will be sought as necessary. All investments as at 30 June 2024 were short term of less than one year duration.

Table 7: Sums invested for periods longer than a year

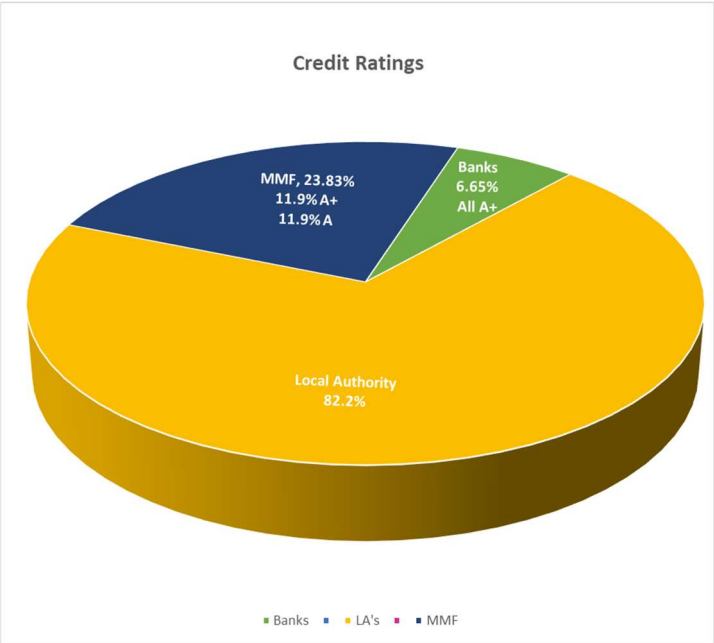
Price risk indicator	TMS 2024-25 £m	Actual £m	Full term maturity
Limit on principal invested beyond financial year end	15	NIL	NIL

The below table details the Council's investments by counterparty and maturity profile.

Table 8: Investments by maturity

Counterparty Category	Instant Access £m	Deposits maturing within 1 month £m	Deposits maturing within 2-3 months £m	Deposits maturing within 4-12 months £m	TOTAL £m
Government DMO	-	-	-	-	-
Local Authorities	-	15.00	-	20.00	35.00
Money Market Funds	12.00	-	-	-	12.00
Banks	3.35	-	-	-	3.35
Total	**15.35**	**15.00**	**-**	**20.00**	**50.35**

The pie chart below summarises the distribution of the Council's investments by credit ratings. Most local authorities do not have credit ratings but are considered secure investment counterparties. Although the Council did not have deposits with the Government DMO at 30 June 24 it did use them during the period. These are the UK government and rated AA.



6.0 INTEREST RATE EXPOSURES

The Council is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Council, depending on how variable and fixed interest rates move across differing financial instrument periods. Short term and variable rate loans expose the Council to the risk of short-term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the Treasury Management indicator below.

The following Table is based on investments at 30 June 2024.

Table 9: Interest Rate Exposure

Interest rate risk indicator	£ million
One year revenue impact of a 1% rise in interest rates	(0.201)
One year revenue impact of a 1% fall in interest rates	0.394

It is important to note that this is an indicator, not a limit. It is calculated at a point in time on the assumption that maturing loans and investments would be replaced at rates 1% higher or lower than they are currently, and that the treasury investment and borrowing portfolios remain unchanged over the next 12 months, which in practice is not the case. The figure for the 1% fall in interest rates indicator is not the same figure as the 1% increase (but reversed) as the borrowing relates to variable LOBO loans where it is assumed that the lender would only exercise their option if there was an increase in interest rates. All other borrowing does not have a rate reset in the next year and is with the PWLB at fixed rates.

A comparison of interest expenditure and income due for the period 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024 is shown below.

Table 10: Interest

	01 April 2024 – 30 June 2024 £ million
Interest expenditure payable on long term borrowing	0.039
Interest income received in period	(0.882)
Net interest cost	(0.843)

7.0 NON-TREASURY INVESTMENTS

The Council recognises that investment in other financial assets and property primarily for financial return, taken for non-treasury management purposes, requires careful investment management. Such activities include investments in subsidiaries and investments in property. A schedule of the Council's existing non-treasury investments (currently limited to owned property) is set out in Table 11 below. Recent PWLB guidance requires that local authorities should review their investment portfolio if they

wish to secure PWLB borrowing but does not require the local authority to sell existing investment assets. This category covers non-financial assets held primarily or partially to generate a profit, primarily investment property. These assets are valued on an annual basis to reflect market conditions and the current value at the time they are valued, otherwise known as Fair Value, which provides security of their value and continued benefit to the Council.

Table 11: Non-treasury investments

Non-treasury investments	£ million
Bridgend Science Park - Units 1 & 2	3.170
Waterton Cross Land	0.560
Brynmenyn Industrial Estate Plot 53	0.675
Village Farm Plots 32,119 & 120	0.385
Tyrewise Bridgend	0.200
Total at Fair Value	**4.990**
Anticipated annual return 2023-24	**0.459**

The Council considers that the scale of its investment properties is proportionate to the resources of the Council as the investment represents less than 1% of its total long-term assets. In addition, the value of these investments has increased from the previous year.

In accordance with Welsh Government Investment Guidance these are be classified as non-treasury investments.

Schedule A – Credit Rating Equivalence Table

Credit Rating Equivalence Table

	Description	Fitch		Moody's		Standard & Poor's	
		Long	Short	Long	Short	Long	Short
INVESTMENT GRADE	Extremely strong	AAA	F1+	Aaa	P-1	AAA	A-1+
	Very strong	AA+		Aa1		AA+	
		AA		Aa2		AA	
		AA-		Aa3		AA-	
	Strong	A+		A1		A+	A-1
		A	F1	A2		A	
		A-		A3		A-	A-2
	Adequate	BBB+	F2	Baa1	P-2	BBB+	
		BBB		Baa2		BBB	
		BBB-	F3	Baa3	P-3	BBB-	A-3
SPECULATIVE GRADE	Speculative	BB+	B	Ba1	Not Prime (NP)	BB+	B
		BB		Ba2		BB	
		BB-		Ba3		BB-	
	Very speculative	B+		B1		B+	
		B		B2		B	
		B-		B3		B-	
	Vulnerable	CCC+	C	Caa1		CCC+	C
		CCC		Caa2		CCC	
		CCC-		Caa3		CCC-	
		CC		Ca		CC	
		C				C	
	Defaulting	D	D	C		D	D

Schedule B – Arlingclose Economic & Interest Rate Forecast – June 2024

	Current	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27
Official Bank Rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	5.25	5.00	4.75	4.25	3.75	3.25	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Downside risk	0.00	0.00	-0.25	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.75	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
3-month money market rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	5.40	5.15	4.80	4.30	3.80	3.30	3.05	3.10	3.10	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15
Downside risk	0.00	0.00	-0.25	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.75	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
5yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.75	1.00	1.10	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	3.95	3.90	3.70	3.50	3.45	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.45	3.50	3.55	3.55
Downside risk	0.00	-0.75	-0.90	-0.90	-0.95	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
10yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.80	0.90	0.95	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	4.09	4.05	4.00	3.80	3.75	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.75	3.80	3.80	3.80
Downside risk	0.00	-0.75	-0.90	-0.90	-0.90	-0.95	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
20yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.75	0.85	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	4.55	4.45	4.40	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.25	4.30	4.35	4.35
Downside risk	0.00	-0.75	-0.85	-0.90	-0.95	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
50yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.75	0.85	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	4.16	4.05	4.00	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.85	3.90	3.95	3.95
Downside risk	0.00	-0.75	-0.85	-0.90	-0.95	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00

• The Bank of England appears to be on the verge of loosening monetary policy, after a group on the MPC saw the last no change decision as finely balanced. However, the news about wage growth, core and services inflation has been on the stronger side, so a plethora of rates cuts in 2024 remains unlikely, as Bank Rate remains restrictive to bear down on inflationary pressure.

• In June, the MPC continued its dovish tilt. Two members voted for a rate cut, but it appeared that some of the remaining seven were close to joining them.

• UK GDP growth stagnated in a rain-affected April, but other data suggests that, while not strong, growth rebounded in May. However, activity appears to be ebbing somewhat after the more robust activity growth in Q1.

• While wage growth remained strong, buoyed by significant increases in minimum wage, labour market data for April suggested that the market was loosening, with employment and vacancies down, and unemployment up. Anecdotal evidence has suggested lower pay growth for some time, and we expect the weaker labour market situation to hasten that outcome.

• On the other hand, consumer sentiment has improved and is feeding into spending – May's retail sales data indicated robust underlying demand despite the weather-related volatility. Stronger demand in Q1 therefore raises some upside risks to our view.

• Inflation rates will move lower over the next 12 months. The near-term path is less certain due to recent developments in commodity and energy markets, but we expect higher interest rates to dampen activity and this in turn to dampen inflation through the

supply chain. There are upside risks from geo-political issues and stronger domestic activity. With continued policymaker fear around the persistence of underlying inflationary pressure, particularly services inflation, we believe Bank Rate will initially reduce slowly.

• We expect that the continuation of restrictive monetary policy will bear down on activity and will require substantial loosening in 2025 to boost activity and inflation.

• Global bond yields will remain volatile and investors' positioning for the timing of US monetary loosening will continue to influence movements in gilt yields. Moreover, there is a heightened risk of fiscal policy, credit events and/or geo-political events causing substantial volatility in yields.

• The MPC held Bank Rate at 5.25% in June.

• The MPC will cut rates to stimulate the UK economy but will be reluctant to do so significantly until it is sure there will be no lingering second-round effects. We see rate cuts from Q3 2024 to a low of around 3% by late 2025.

• The balance of risks around Bank Rate lie to the upside; the Bank could hold rates until September or even Q4, and the developing upside risks to inflation could limit the extent of monetary easing.

• Long-term gilt yields have dipped a little following softer US data. Arlingclose's central case is for yields to be volatile around a relatively narrow range, reflecting the likelihood for monetary loosening in the Eurozone, UK and US.

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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**23 JULY 2024**
Report Title:	**REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES, JOINT COMMITTEES AND CABINET COMMITTEES**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**
Responsible Officer:	**RUTH RONAN, SENIOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**There will be no effect on the policy framework and procedure rules.**
Executive Summary:	**To appoint and nominate the requisite number of elected members to outside bodies and Joint Committees and Cabinet Committees. This is required on an annual basis.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet's approval for the appointment of Members to Joint Committees, Cabinet Committees and the nomination of Members to outside bodies. A list is appended to this report at **Appendix 1**.

2. Background

2.1 The Authority is represented on a number of outside bodies and Joint Committees as listed in **Appendix 1**.

2.2 Outside bodies are external organisations and partnerships which have requested that the Council appoint a representative to them. Outside bodies have separate governance structures to the Council. Appointments to outside bodies can be an important mechanism within the County Borough for: community leadership, partnership and joint working and knowledge and information sharing. The appointment of County Borough Councillors to serve on outside bodies is intended to be a mutually beneficial act for both the Council and the bodies listed. The implications associated with the appointments are considered to be positive.

2.3 With regard to making appointments, the Cabinet should first consider whether it is appropriate for an appointment to be of a specific office holder either by reference to the constitution of the outside body concerned or in the light of any other circumstances as Cabinet may determine.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 It is proposed that Members be appointed for a term of one year except where earlier revocation of appointment is appropriate.

3.2 It is proposed that where Cabinet nominates on the basis of a Member's role within the Authority the appointment be attached to the role and not to the individual Member, e.g. Scrutiny Chair, Cabinet Member.

3.3 All appointments are made with the assumption that appointees represent Bridgend County Borough Council. Should any appointee cease to be a Bridgend County Borough Councillor, they will cease to represent this Authority and are expected to relinquish their appointments as necessary.

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

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

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

5.1 The following is a summary of the implications to show how the 5 ways of working have been used to formulate the recommendation:

- Long-term - The approval of this report will assist in the long term planning of the business of the Council by the continuation of effective relationships with other organisations.
- Prevention - Continued and relevant representation supports the Council by enhancing its current and future relationships.
- Integration - The report supports all the well-being objectives.
- Collaboration - This report supports partnership working with other organisations both locally and regionally.
- Involvement - This report will maintain a relationship with other organisations through effective partnership working.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no climate change implications associated with these appointments.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding implications associated with these appointments.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications associated with these appointments.

9. Recommendation

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to: -

Appoint the requisite number of Members to the Joint Committees, Cabinet Committees and other outside bodies as listed in **Appendix 1**.

Background documents

None.

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APPENDIX 1

JOINT COMMITTEES -CABINET

SERIAL	ORGANISATION	REQUIRED REPRESENTATION	CURRENT/PROPOSED REPRESENTATION
a.	Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee	One Cabinet Member and five other County Borough Councillors	1. Cabinet Member – Climate Change & the Environment 2. Cllr John Spanswick 3. Cllr Simon Griffiths 4. Cllr Eugene Caparros 5. Cllr Heidi Bennett 6. Cllr Heather Griffiths
b.	Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee	One Cabinet Member and one other County Borough Councillor	1. Cabinet Member – Education & Youth Services 2. Cllr Elaine Winstanley
c.	Capita Glamorgan Ltd. Joint Venture Committee	Two Cabinet Members and three other County Borough Councillors	1. Cabinet Member – Climate Change & the Environment 2. Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member Social Services, Health & Wellbeing 3. Chairperson – Scrutiny Subject Committee 3 4. Cllr Richard Granville 5. Cllr Hywel Williams

d.	Central South Consortium Joint Education Committee	Cabinet Member – Education, and Regeneration	1. Cabinet Member – Education & Youth Services
e.	Margam Crematorium Joint Committee	Two County Borough Councillors	1. Cllr Paul Davies 2. Cllr Mike Kearn
f.	Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee	One Cabinet Member and one other County Borough Councillor	1. Cabinet Member – Resources 2. Cllr Maxine Lewis
g.	Cabinet Committee - Equalities	All Cabinet Members plus ten County Borough Councillors	1. Leader 2. Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member Social Services, Health & Wellbeing 3. Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economic Development & Housing 4. Cabinet Member - Climate Change & the Environment 5. Cabinet Member – Finance and Performance 6. Cabinet Member – Education & Youth Services 7. Cabinet Member – Resources 8. Cllr A Berrow 9. Cllr. R. Goode 10. Cllr P Ford 11. Cllr D Hughes 12. Cllr M Lewis 13. Cllr J Llewellyn-Hopkins 14. Cllr R Penhale-Thomas 15. Cllr A Wathan 16. Cllr Amanda Williams 17. Cllr E Winstanley
h.	Cabinet Committee – Corporate Parenting	All Cabinet Members plus five County Borough Councillors	1. Leader 2. Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member Social Services, Health & Wellbeing 3. Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economic Development & Housing 4. Cabinet Member - Climate Change & the Environment 5. Cabinet Member – Finance and Performance 6. Cabinet Member – Education & Youth Services 7. Cabinet Member – Resources 8. Cllr F Bletsoe 9. Cllr J Pratt 10. Cllr T Thomas 11. Cllr A Wathan 12. Cllr Amanda Williams

OUTSIDE BODIES -CABINET

SERIAL	ORGANISATION	REQUIRED REPRESENTATION	CURRENT/PROPOSED REPRESENTATION
1.	Adoption Panel	1 Member	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member Social Services, Health & Wellbeing
2.	National Joint Committee for the National Adoption Service and Foster Wales	1 Member	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member Social Services, Health & Wellbeing
3.	South Wales Aggregates Working Party	1 Member	Cabinet Member - Climate Change & the Environment
4.	The Alliance (formerly Coalfields Communities Campaign)	1 Member	Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economic Development & Housing
5.	Bridgend Care Partnership	3 Members	1. Leader 2. Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member Social Services, Health & Wellbeing 3. Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economic Development & Housing
6.	Bridgend Care and Repair	2 Members	1. Cllr M Kearn 2. Cllr Amanda Williams
7.	Bridgend & Maesteg Citizens Advice Bureau	2 Members	1. Cllr PA Davies 2. Cabinet Member - Resources
8.	Bridgend County Tourism Destination Management Group	1 Member	Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economic Development & Housing
9.	Bridgend Public Service Board	1 Member (plus 1 substitute)	Leader Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economic Development & Housing
10.	Bridgend Town Hall Trust	4 Members	1. Cllr Ian Williams 2. Cllr Freya Bletsoe 3. Cllr Timothy Woods 4. Cllr Steve Bletsoe
11.	Bridgend Youth Justice Management Board	1 Member	Cabinet Member – Education & Youth Services
12.	Cardiff International Airport Consultative Committee	2 Members	Cabinet Member – Climate Change & the Environment Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economic Development & Housing

SERIAL	ORGANISATION	REQUIRED REPRESENTATION	CURRENT/PROPOSED REPRESENTATION
13.	C.L.A.W. (Consortium of Local Authorities in Wales)	1 (or 2) Member(s) (Most Councils have 1)	Cabinet Member – Resources
14.	Coity Wallia Board of Conservators	2 Members	1. Cllr Paula Ford 2. Cllr Melanie Evans
15.	Community Safety Partnership	One Member	Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economic Development & Housing
16.	Cwm Taf Regional Partnership Board	Leader and two other members	1 Leader 2 Deputy Leader Cabinet Member – Social Service, Health & Wellbeing 3 Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economic Development & Housing
17.	Fostering Panel	1 Member	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member – Social Services, Health & Wellbeing
18.	Four Counties Youth Music Steering Group	1 Member	Cabinet Member – Education & Youth Services
19.	Glamorgan Heritage Coast Advisory Panel	1 Member	Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economic Development & Housing
20	Local Access Forum	1 Member	Councillor R Granville
21.	PATROL - Adjudication Joint Committee	1 Member	Cabinet Member – Climate Change & the Environment
22.	Joint Council for Wales	1 Members	Cabinet Member – Resources
23.	Coastal Partnership	1 Member	Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economic Development & Housing
24.	SACRE	5 Members	1. Cabinet Member – Education & Youth Services 2. Cllr Martin Hughes 3. Cllr Elaine Winstanley 4. Cllr Jeff Tildesley 5. Cllr Johanna Llewelyn-Hopkins

SERIAL	ORGANISATION	REQUIRED REPRESENTATION	PROPOSED REPRESENTATION
25.	Swansea Bay Port Health Authority	2 Members	1. Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economic Development & Housing 2. Cllr Richard Williams
26.	Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association	1 Member	Cllr Martyn Jones
27.	University of Swansea Court of Governors	1 Member	Cllr Martyn Jones
28.	South Wales Valuation Tribunal - Appointments Committee	2 Members	Cllr Jane Gebbie Cllr Hywel Williams
29	WLGA Council	3 Members (two substitutions)	Leader Deputy Leader Cabinet Member – Resources **Voting – En Bloc**
30.	WLGA Executive Board	1 Member	Leader
31.	South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee	1 Member	Leader
32.	South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regional Sub-Committee	1 Member	Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economic Development & Housing
33.	South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Strategic Development Sub-Committee	1 Member	Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economic Development & Housing
34.	CCR Energy Strategic Steering Group	1 Member	Cabinet Member – Climate Change & the Environment

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Meeting of:	**CABINET**
Date of Meeting:	**23 JULY 2024**
Report Title:	**CABINET, COUNCIL AND OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES FORWARD WORK PROGRAMMES**
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	**CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES, HR AND CORPORATE POLICY**
Responsible Officer:	**MARK GALVIN – SENIOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER - COMMITTEES**
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	**There is no impact on the policy framework and procedure rules.**
Executive Summary:	**The report is required in order to outline the planned programme of items proposed to be considered at Cabinet, Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings in the coming months. The publishing of this report will benefit the public in terms of them being made aware of such key items of business in advance.**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for items to be included on the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 October 2024 and for Cabinet to note the Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees' Forward Work Programmes for the same period.

2. Background

2.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Forward Work Programme will be prepared by the Monitoring Officer to cover a period of four months except when ordinary elections of councillors occur.

2.2 The Forward Work Programme will contain matters which the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Committees and full Council are likely to consider. It will contain information on:

(a) the timetable for considering the Budget and any plans, policies or strategies forming part of the Policy Framework and requiring Council approval, and which body is to consider them;

(b) the timetable for considering any plans, policies or strategies which are the responsibility of the Cabinet;

(c) the work programme of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, to the extent that it is known.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 The proposed Forward Work Programmes for the above period are appended to the report, as follows:

- Cabinet - **Appendix 1**
- Council - **Appendix 2**
- Overview and Scrutiny Committees - **Appendix 3**

3.2 Following consideration by Cabinet, the Forward Work Programmes will be published on the Council's website.

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

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no climate change implications arising from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding or corporate parent implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- Approve the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 October 2024 at **Appendix 1**;
- Note the Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees' Forward Work Programmes for the same period, as shown at **Appendix 2** and **Appendix 3** of the report, respectively.

Background documents

None.

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CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME - 1 JULY 2024 TO 31 OCTOBER 2024

Date	Title of Report	Contact Officer
23 Jul 24	Children Looked After Specialist Support Service (CLASS)	Claire Marchant Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing Tel: 01656 643241 Email: Claire.Marchant@bridgend.gov.uk
23 Jul 24	Assisted Transport Policy	Claire Marchant Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing Tel: 01656 643241 Email: Claire.Marchant@bridgend.gov.uk
23 Jul 24	Supporting Individuals to Manage Money Policy	Claire Marchant Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing Tel: 01656 643241 Email: Claire.Marchant@bridgend.gov.uk
23 Jul 24	Budget Monitoring 2024-25 – Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast	Carys Lord Chief Officer – Finance Performance and Change

Date	Title of Report	Contact Officer
		Tel: 01656 643302 **Email:** **Carys.Lord@bridgend.gov.uk**
23 Jul 24	**Treasury Management – Quarter 1 2024-25**	**Carys Lord** **Chief Officer – Finance** **Performance and Change** **Tel: 01656 643302** **Email:** **Carys.Lord@bridgend.gov.uk**
23 Jul 24	**Housing Support Grant Uplift**	**Carys Lord** **Chief Officer – Finance** **Performance and Change** **Tel: 01656 643302** **Email:** **Carys.Lord@bridgend.gov.uk**
23 Jul 24	**Revenue Budget Outturn 2023-24**	**Carys Lord** **Chief Officer – Finance** **Performance and Change** **Tel: 01656 643302** **Email:** **Carys.Lord@bridgend.gov.uk**
23 Jul 24	**Treasury Management Outturn Report 2023-24**	**Carys Lord** **Chief Officer – Finance** **Performance and Change** **Tel: 01656 643302** **Email:**

Date	Title of Report	Contact Officer
		Carys.Lord@bridgend.gov.uk
23 Jul 24	Capital Programme Outturn 2023-24 and Quarter 1 Update 2024-25	Carys Lord Chief Officer – Finance Performance and Change Tel: 01656 643302 Email: Carys.Lord@bridgend.gov.uk
23 Jul 24	Waste Services Rolling Fleet Replacement Scheme	Janine Nightingale Corporate Director Communities Tel: 01656 643241 Email: Janine.nightingale@bridgend.gov.uk
23 Jul 24	Llangeinor Playing Fields	Janine Nightingale Corporate Director Communities Tel: 01656 643241 Email: Janine.nightingale@bridgend.gov.uk
23 Jul 24	Corporate Health and Safety Policy 2024	Lindsay Harvey Corporate Director – Education and Family Support Tel: 01656 642612 Email: Lindsay.harvey@bridgend.gov.uk

Date	Title of Report	Contact Officer
23 Jul 24	Learner Travel Policy	Lindsay Harvey Corporate Director – Education and Family Support Tel: 01656 642612 Email: Lindsay.harvey@bridgend.gov.uk
23 Jul 24	Outcomes of Estyn Inspections of Schools in Bridgend during Spring Term 2024	Lindsay Harvey Corporate Director – Education and Family Support Tel: 01656 642612 Email: Lindsay.harvey@bridgend.gov.uk
23 Jul 24	Cabinet, Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees Forward Work Programmes	Kelly Watson Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy Tel: 01656 643248 Email: kelly.watson@bridgend.gov.uk
23 Jul 24	Representation On Outside Bodies, Joint Committees and Cabinet Committees	Kelly Watson Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy Tel: 01656 643248 Email: kelly.watson@bridgend.gov.uk

Date	Title of Report	Contact Officer
24 Sep 24	**Proposal to consult on changes to Bridgend County Borough Council's Nursery Education Policy**	**Lindsay Harvey Corporate Director – Education and Family Support Tel: 01656 642612 Email: Lindsay.harvey@bridgend.gov.uk**
24 Sep 24	**Proposal to consult on the Closure of Tynyrheol Primary School**	**Lindsay Harvey Corporate Director – Education and Family Support Tel: 01656 642612 Email: Lindsay.harvey@bridgend.gov.uk**
24 Sep 24	**Proposal to consult on the merger of Bryntirion Infants School, Cefn Glas Infants School and Llangewydd Junior School**	**Lindsay Harvey Corporate Director – Education and Family Support Tel: 01656 642612 Email: Lindsay.harvey@bridgend.gov.uk**

Date	Title of Report	Contact Officer
24 Sep 24	Future Waste Service Post 2026	Janine Nightingale Corporate Director Communities Tel: 01656 643241 Email: Janine.nightingale@bridgend.gov.uk
24 Sep 24	Grand Pavilion Procurement	Janine Nightingale Corporate Director Communities Tel: 01656 643241 Email: Janine.nightingale@bridgend.gov.uk
24 Sep 24	Redstart Joint Venture extension	Janine Nightingale Corporate Director Communities Tel: 01656 643241 Email: Janine.nightingale@bridgend.gov.uk
24 Sep 24	Parc Afon Ewenni – Refurbishment of the Highways Depot	Janine Nightingale Corporate Director Communities Tel: 01656 643241 Email: Janine.nightingale@bridgend.gov.uk

Date	Title of Report	Contact Officer
24 Sep 24	PSPO Dog Fouling	Janine Nightingale Corporate Director Communities Tel: 01656 643241 Email: Janine.nightingale@bridgend.gov.uk
24 Sep 24	SRS Annual Report and Business Plan	Kelly Watson Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy Tel: 01656 643248 Email: kelly.watson@bridgend.gov.uk
23 Oct 24	Extension of the Healthy Living Partnership	Claire Marchant Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing Tel: 01656 643241 Email: Claire.Marchant@bridgend.gov.uk

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COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – 1 JULY 2024 TO 31 OCTOBER 2024

Date	Title of Report	Contact Officer
24 Jul 24	Revenue Budget Outturn Report 2023-2024	Carys Lord Chief Officer - Finance, Performance and Change Tel: 01656 643302 Email: Carys.Lord@bridgend.gov.uk
24 Jul 24	Treasury Management Outturn Report – 2023-2024	Carys Lord Chief Officer - Finance, Performance and Change Tel: 01656 643302 Email: Carys.Lord@bridgend.gov.uk
24 Jul 24	Capital Programme Outturn 2023-24 & Quarter 1 Report 2024-25	Carys Lord Chief Officer - Finance, Performance and Change Tel: 01656 643302 Email: Carys.Lord@bridgend.gov.uk
24 Jul 24	Waste Services Rolling Fleet Replacement Scheme	Janine Nightingale Corporate Director Communities Tel: 01656 643241

Date	Title of Report	Contact Officer
		Email: **Janine.nightingale@bridgend.gov.uk**
24 Jul 24	**Redundancy Payment**	**Kelly Watson** **Chief Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy** **Tel: 01656 643248** **Email:** **Kelly.Watson@bridgend.gov.uk**
25 Sep 24	**Annual Report - Standards Committee**	**Kelly Watson** **Chief Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy** **Tel: 01656 643248** **Email:** **Kelly.Watson@bridgend.gov.uk**
25 Sep 24	**Annual Report – Democratic Services Committee**	**Kelly Watson** **Chief Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy** **Tel: 01656 643248** **Email:** **Kelly.watson@bridgend.gov.uk**
25 Sep 24	**Schedule of Remuneration**	**Kelly Watson** **Chief Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy** **Tel: 01656 643248** **Email:**

Date	Title of Report	Contact Officer
		Kelly.watson@bridgend.gov.uk
25 Sep 24	**Director of Social Services Annual Report**	**Claire Marchant Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing Tel: 01656 642251 Email: claire.marchant@Bridgend.gov.uk**
23 Oct 24	**Capital Programme Update Quarter 2 2024-2025**	**Carys Lord Chief Officer - Finance, Performance and Change Tel: 01656 643302 Email: Carys.Lord@bridgend.gov.uk**
23 Oct 24	**Treasury Management Half Year Report 2023-24**	**Carys Lord Chief Officer - Finance, Performance and Change Tel: 01656 643302 Email: Carys.Lord@bridgend.gov.uk**

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APPENDIX 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – 1 JULY 2024 31 OCTOBER 2024

Date	Title of Report	Scrutiny Committee	Contact Officer
8 July	- **Draft Adult Strategic Plan** - **Delayed Pathways of Care**	**Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2**	**Claire Marchant** Corporate Director Social Services & Wellbeing Tel: 01656 643248 Email: Claire.marchant@bridgend.gov.uk
8 July	- **Corporate Parenting Champion** - **Draft Forward Work Programme Update**	**Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2**	**Kelly Watson** Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy Tel: 01656 643248 Email: Kelly.watson@bridgend.gov.uk
16 July	- **Valleys Regeneration**	**Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3**	**Janine Nightingale** Corporate Director Communities Tel: 01656 643241 Email: Janine.Nightingale@bridgend.gov.uk

16 July	- **Corporate Parenting Champion** - **Draft Forward Work Programme Update**	**Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2**	**Kelly Watson** Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy Tel: 01656 643248 Email: Kelly.watson@bridgend.gov.uk
18 July	- **Home to School / College Transport**	**Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1**	**Lindsay Harvey** Corporate Director – Education and Family Support Tel: 01656 642612 Email: Lindsay.harvey@bridgend.gov.uk
18 July	- **Corporate Parenting Champion** - **Draft Forward Work Programme Update**	**Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2**	**Kelly Watson** Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy Tel: 01656 643248 Email: Kelly.watson@bridgend.gov.uk
25 July	- **Revenue Budget Outturn 2023-24** - **Budget Monitoring 2024-25 – Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast**	**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee**	**Carys Lord** Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change Tel: 01656 643249. Email: carys.lord@bridgend.gov.uk

25 July	- **Quarter 4 Performance 2023-24** - **Corporate Self-Assessment 2023-24**	**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee**	**Mark Shephard** Chief Executive Tel: 01656 643380 Email: mark.shephard@bridgend.gov.uk
25 July	- **Appointment of Chairperson** - **Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination** - **Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Nominations** - **Draft Forward Work Programme Update**	**Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2**	**Kelly Watson** Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy Tel: 01656 643248 Email: Kelly.watson@bridgend.gov.uk
9 September	- **Director of Social Services Annual Report 2023/24**	**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee**	**Claire Marchant** Corporate Director Social Services & Wellbeing Tel: 01656 643248 Email: Claire.marchant@bridgend.gov.uk
9 September	- **Strategic Workforce Plan** - **Corporate Plan Targets** - **Digital Strategy Review**	**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee**	**Mark Shephard** Chief Executive Tel: 01656 643380 Email: mark.shephard@bridgend.gov.uk

	- **Scrutiny Annual Report**		
16 September	- **Annual Review of Education and Early Years and Young People Strategic Plan**	**Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1**	**Lindsay Harvey** Corporate Director – Education and Family Support Tel: 01656 642612 Email: Lindsay.harvey@bridgend.gov.uk
23 September	- **Substance Misuse**	**Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2**	**Claire Marchant** Corporate Director Social Services & Wellbeing Tel: 01656 643248 Email: Claire.marchant@bridgend.gov.uk
30 September	- **Housing Update**	**Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3**	**Carys Lord** Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change Tel: 01656 643249. Email: carys.lord@bridgend.gov.uk
24 October	- **Budget Monitoring 2024-25 – Quarter 2 Revenue Forecast** - **Performance Management Improvement Plan**	**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee**	**Mark Shephard** Chief Executive Tel: 01656 643380 Email: mark.shephard@bridgend.gov.uk

By virtue of paragraph(s) 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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