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Bridgend County Borough Council



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

*Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg.
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Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate

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

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Thursday, 17 October 2024

Dear Councillor,

CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held Hybrid in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB on **Thursday, 24 October 2024** at **10:00**.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008 (including whipping declarations)
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 16
To receive for approval the minutes of 25/07/24 and 09/09/24.
4. Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board (PSB) and Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) 17 - 22

Invitees:

Mark Shephard - Chief Executive
Kirsty Williams - Partnership and Community Safety Partnership Manager
Helen Hammond - Public Services Board Officer.
Stephanie Davies - Partnership Support and Data Assistant.

5. Budget Monitoring 2024-25 - Quarter 2 Revenue Forecast 23 - 66

Invitees:

Councillor John Spanswick – Leader.
Councillor Jane Gebbie - Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing.
Councillor Hywel Williams - Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance.

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Councillor Martyn Jones - Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services.
Councillor Paul Davies - Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment.
Councillor Eugene Caparros / Councillor Melanie Evans - Cabinet Member for Resources (Job Share).
Councillor Neelo Farr - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing.

Mark Shephard - Chief Executive.
Carys Lord - Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change.
Lindsay Harvey - Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People.
Claire Marchant - Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing.
Janine Nightingale - Corporate Director – Communities.
Kelly Watson - Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy.

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

7. Forward Work Programme Update 67 - 102

8. Urgent Items

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

Note: 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:

F D Bletsoe
JPD Blundell
HJ David
RM Granville

Councillors

S J Griffiths
GH Haines
M L Hughes
RL Penhale-Thomas

Councillors

T Thomas
A Williams
AJ Williams
E D Winstanley

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024 AT 10:00

Present

Councillor F D Bletsoe – Chairperson

RM Granville

Present Virtually

JPD Blundell
T Thomas

HJ David
A Williams

S J Griffiths
AJ Williams

RL Penhale-Thomas
E D Winstanley

Apologies for Absence

GH Haines and M L Hughes

Claire Marchant - Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing

Invitees

Councillor John Spanswick
Councillor Jane Gebbie
Councillor Eugene Caparros
Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Melanie Jayne Evans
Councillor Neelo Farr

Leader
Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing
Cabinet Member for Resources (Job Share)
Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment
Cabinet Member for Resources (Job Share)
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing

Mark Shephard
Carys Lord
Lindsay Harvey
Janine Nightingale

Chief Executive
Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change
Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People
Corporate Director - Communities

Jackie Davies
Paul Miles
Martin Morgans
Kate Pask

Head of Adult Social Care
Group Manager - Human Resources and Organisational Development
Head of Performance and Partnership Services
Corporate Performance Manager

Officers:

Lucy Beard
Stephen Griffiths
Michael Pitman

Scrutiny Officer
Interim Scrutiny Officer/ Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services

Declarations of Interest

Cllr F D Bletsoe – Agenda Item 5 – Personal – School Governor - Heronsbridge School.
Cllr HJ David – Agenda items 5,6,7,8 and 9 – Prejudicial – previously Leader of the Cabinet taking decisions up to May 2024.
Cllr JPD Blundell – Agenda Items 5,6,7 and 8 – Prejudicial – previously Member of the Cabinet taking decisions up to May 2024.
Cllr AJ Williams – Agenda Items 5, 6 and 7 – Personal – School Governor - Coity Primary School.
Cllr ED Winstanley – Agenda Items – 6, 7 and 8 – Personal – Employment - Awen Cultural Trust.

Cllr J Gebbie – Agenda item 5 – Personal – School Governor - Mynydd Cynffig Primary School.

114. Appointment of Chairperson

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Cllr F D Bletsoe was appointed Chairperson.
Date Decision Made	25 July 2024

115. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 21 March 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record.
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Date Decision Made	25 July 2024
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Revenue Budget Outturn 2023-24

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Following detailed consideration and discussions with Cabinet Members and Officers, the Committee made the following recommendations and requests for additional information:</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee recommended that in addition to achieving substantial savings in revenue spending, consideration needed to be given to new controls on, and reprioritisation of, capital spending and whilst there might be value in introducing a moratorium on new capital projects, it was important not to lose opportunities for grant funding, the opportunity to invest in school projects, or funding necessary works. 2. The Committee recommended that given the sizeable deficit for Homelessness, consideration be given to a need for a different approach, including a counterintuitive injection of capital, to bring the budget back on track. 3. Members expressed concern regarding whether the Five Point Action Plan was an adequate response to the current situation and recommended that an update on the actions for the five points to date be reported for scrutiny at a future meeting of COSC. <p><u>Additional Information</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Members discussed that the budgetary situation required a careful evaluation of the reserves available to the Council and that whilst the Council had been prudent in building up reserves in the past, they are a finite resource in the current circumstances, and it was imperative to minimise the extent to which the Council is dependent on reserves to achieve a balanced budget this year. The Committee requested a breakdown of the current situation with the reserves from the Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change. 5. Members discussed that it was becoming more and more difficult to separate the revenue and capital budgets because there are pressures in both and a decision in one impacts the other. The Committee requested details of the current situation with capital projects from the Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change, including those that are contractually committed and therefore not available to be reprioritised.
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Date Decision Made	25 July 2024
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17. Budget Monitoring 2024-25 - Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>Following consideration of the report with Cabinet Members and Officers the Committee made the following recommendations and requests for additional information:</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Given the budget outturn for 2023-24 and the emerging revenue forecast for 2024-25, the Committee recommended that there needed to be an urgent evaluation of the robustness of the current budget-setting process. 7. Given the imperative to avoid having to issue a Section 114 notice in the future, the Committee recommended that consideration be given to the appointment of ‘internal commissioners’ to manage budgets in particular directorates. 8. The budget deficits in schools - 75% are in deficit and the total amount is just over £5 million – are a corporate risk for the Council. As school governors are volunteers, and given their substantial responsibilities, there needed an enhancement of the support offered to them. As such, Members recommended the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. There was an urgent need to explore the required skill set and training needs of school governors. b. Whether ways could be found to enhance the support provided to school governors by utilising individuals who have had professional leadership roles in schools and therefore understand what can and cannot be done. c. That consideration should be given to extending an invitation to school governors to observe and on occasion contribute to meetings of SOSC 1. d. That the Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People should provide a briefing to school governors (like that provided to head teachers) to help them understand the wider context of their role in a difficult budgetary situation.
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	<p>9. Given the corporate risk associated with the budgetary situation in schools, the Committee recommended that there was an urgent need to consider the status of this issue as part of the Risk Register and whether the Regional Internal Audit Service (RIAS) should be requested to investigate it.</p> <p>10. Given the Council will receive at most a cash flat settlement (representing a 3% reduction in the revenue budget) from the Welsh Government this year, Members recommended that the Chair write to the Welsh Government to express their concerns about this and to request more information on their future approach to local government finance.</p> <p><u>Additional Information</u></p> <p>11. The Committee requested that case studies of the value of early intervention in adult and children’s care be circulated to members of the Committee.</p> <p>12. The Committee requested an all-member briefing on Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 that requires local authorities to make arrangements to promote co-operation with their relevant partners and others, in relation to adults with needs for care and support, carers and children.</p>
Date Decision Made	25 July 2024

121. Quarter 4 Year-End Performance 2023-24

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>Following consideration of the report with Cabinet Members and Officers the Committee made the following general comments and recommendations:</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>13. The Committee recommended that in light of the serious budget situation, there was a need to consider as a matter of urgency the appropriate balance between achieving sustainable cost savings and performance.</p>
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	<p>14. The Committee expressed that staff sickness, issues with recruitment and early retirement remained a risk for the Council, especially where lean staffing and sickness absence combine, and recommended that consideration be given to the combined impact of these in order to avoid leading to potentially serious service shortcomings.</p> <p>15. The Committee recommended that there was a need to produce a positive narrative about performance where there is good news.</p> <p>16. The Committee recommended that there was an urgent need for the Cabinet and Senior Officers to carry out a deliberate, ruthless and strategic exercise to identify the most important priorities – while eliminating or postponing less important ones.</p> <p>17. The Committee recommended that the number of well-being objectives, and the associated performance indicators, needed to be revised and that there was a need for a very limited list of priorities to guide decision-making.</p>
Date Decision Made	25 July 2024

119. Self-Assessment 2023/24

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>Following consideration of the report with Cabinet Members and Officers the Committee made the following recommendations:</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>18. Given that there were a number of performance indicators within the first well-being objective, Protecting our Most Vulnerable, for which performance is unsatisfactory or not very good, the Committee recommended that they needed to be addressed as a key priority.</p> <p>19. The Committee recommended that given some of the PIs – in respect of homelessness, for example - came from the Welsh Government and were no longer fit for purpose due to legislative changes, that it would be appropriate for officers to approach the Welsh Government to consider if they could be revised, and the outcome should be shared with Members at a future meeting.</p>
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	20. The Committee recommended that Cabinet Members be invited to the next meeting of the Committee on 9 September 2024, to provide an overview of their strategic approach and priorities for the coming year.
Date Decision Made	25 July 2024

120. Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That Councillor Alex Ulberini-Williams be nominated to represent the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee as an Invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.
Date Decision Made	25 July 2024

121. Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Nominations

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That Members expressed concerns about the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board (PSB) and Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC). Whilst acknowledging their responsibilities under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act to hold the PSB to account and stating that there was merit in ensuring that there was a collaborative approach with other local authorities, the output of the PSB needed to be looked at as there appeared to be very little which is substantive for the JOSC to scrutinise. It was agreed that no Members would be nominated at this meeting and that Officers would convey the Committee's concerns and explore what improvements could be made to make it worthwhile for Members to participate on the JOSC.
Date Decision Made	25 July 2024

122. Forward Work Programme Update

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>The Committee approved its Forward Work Programme in Appendix A and noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committees' Recommendations made at previous meetings in Appendix B.</p> <p>That as advised, the Forward Work Programmes for the three Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>That performance of Disabled Facilities Grants needed to be addressed with a degree of urgency and a report be requested.</p> <p>The review of the Five Point Action Plan be requested to be reported to a future meeting of COSC.</p>
Date Decision Made	25 July 2024

123. Urgent Items

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>None</p>
Date Decision Made	25 July 2024

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

The meeting closed at 13:48.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON MONDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 10:00

Present

Councillor JPD Blundell – Chairperson

HJ David

RM Granville

E D Winstanley

Present Virtually

M L Hughes
RL Penhale-Thomas

T Thomas

A Williams

AJ Williams

Apologies for Absence

F D Bletsoe, S J Griffiths and GH Haines

Invitees:

Councillor John Spanswick
Councillor Jane Gebbie
Councillor Hywel Williams
Councillor Eugene Caparros
Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Melanie Jayne Evans
Councillor Neelo Farr

Leader
Deputy Leader/ Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing
Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance
Cabinet Member for Resources (Job Share)
Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment
Cabinet Member for Resources (Job Share)
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing

Claire Marchant
Jackie Davies
David Wright
Sophie Moore
Debbie Morgan

Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Head of Adult Social Care
Family Support Services Manager
Group Manager - Prevention and Wellbeing
Group Manager - Business Strategy, Performance & Improvement

Officers:

Kelly Watson	Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy
Rachel Keepins	Democratic Services Manager
Lucy Beard	Scrutiny Officer
Stephen Griffiths	Interim Scrutiny Officer/ Democratic Services Officer - Committees

Declarations of Interest

Councillor E D Winstanley – Item 5 – Personal - An employee of Awen Cultural Trust.

124. Appointment of a Chairperson

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Councillor JPD Blundell was appointed as Chairperson for the meeting.
Date Decision Made	9 September 2024

125. Verbal Presentation by Cabinet Members of an Overview of their Strategic Direction and Priorities for the Coming Year

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The Committee noted the verbal statement from the Leader regarding Cabinet’s strategic direction and priorities for the coming year.
Date Decision Made	9 September 2024

126. Information Report - Corporate Plan Targets 2024/25

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Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>The Committee noted the report and made the following recommendation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee recommended that any changes to the Corporate Plan, Targets or Priorities after the draft Plan had been scrutinised, should be reported to the Committee for consideration. In addition, Members agreed to send any queries about the report to the Scrutiny team to take forward with Officers.
Date Decision Made	9 September 2024

127. Director of Social Services Annual Report 2023/24

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>Following consideration of the report and detailed discussion with a Cabinet Member and Senior Officers the Committee made the following recommendations and requests for additional information:</p> <p>General Recommendations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The Committee recommended that all reports submitted to the Committee should include a strengthened and enhanced focus on the financial implications of service proposals and developments. <p>Additional Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. A number of projects had been funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund and the Committee requested more detailed information, including the amount of funding that had been received and the potential impact on those areas within the social services part of the budget for pathways towards employment, education and training. 4. The Committee requested that the Community Resource Team Package of Care Delays (PoCD) report, to be considered by Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 on 23 September 2024, be circulated to Members of the Committee.
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	<p>5. The Committee requested that the Recovery Plan considered by the Social Services Improvement Board be circulated to Members of the Committee.</p> <p>6. Members discussed daytime opportunities for residents with learning disabilities and the prospect for using grants to support a new model for their delivery and the committee requested that the Review of Daytime Opportunities be reported to a future meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2.</p>
Date Decision Made	9 September 2024

128. Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 & 2023/24

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>Following consideration of the report the Committee made the following comment and recommendations:</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>7. The Committee expressed concern about the number of call-ins reported in the Annual Report and strongly supported the priority highlighted for a focus on pre-decision Scrutiny going forward ahead of any major decisions to Cabinet. It was acknowledged that Forward Work Programme planning, and communication is paramount for this to succeed.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>8. The Committee recommended that where reports cover issues that cross service boundaries, consideration is given to communicating with all Scrutiny Members regarding this so that they have the opportunity to engage via their fellow members sitting on the Committee and/or observe the meeting.</p> <p>9. The Committee recommended that the Annual Report should include comparative data on the number of call ins in previous years.</p> <p>10. The Committee recommended that consideration be given to ensuring that more external representatives are invited to attend scrutiny meetings.</p>
Date Decision Made	9 September 2024

129. Forward Work Programme Update

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Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following consideration of the report the Committee made the following recommendations: 11. The Committee recommended that consideration be given to the arrangements for the Scrutiny Committee meetings in January 2025 to consider the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 - 2028-29, to ensure that Members are able to direct their questions to the appropriate Committee to contribute fully and avoid duplication.
Date Decision Made	9 September 2024

130. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	9 September 2024

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

The meeting closed at 12:46.

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Meeting of:	CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	24 OCTOBER 2024
Report Title:	CWM TAF MORGANNWG PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD (PSB) AND JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (JOSC)
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL & REGULATORY SERVICES, HR & CORPORATE POLICY
Responsible Officer:	MERYL LAWRENCE SENIOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER - SCRUTINY
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	The work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees relate to the review and monitoring of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend. Any changes to the structure of the Scrutiny Committees and the procedures relating to them would require the Bridgend County Borough Council Constitution to be updated.
Executive Summary:	<p>This report revisits the Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) Public Services Board (PSB) Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) which is within the remit of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and requests the Committee to consider the information in the report and the presentation.</p> <p>Following the above consideration, the Committee is asked to consider nominations to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2024-25, for 5 Members from this Committee (as the Scrutiny Committee designated to scrutinise the work of the PSB as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015) and 1 substitute Member to attend when one of the core Members are not available, based on the political balance of the Committee as far as practical, as set out in paragraph 3.4 below.</p>

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is:

- a) To consider information in the report and a presentation from Officers who support the Public Services Board in response to the issues raised by the Committee in its meeting held on 24 July 2024.
- b) Following consideration of the information in the report and presentation, to ask Members of the Committee to consider nominating to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2024-25 municipal year, 5 Members from this Committee (as the Scrutiny Committee designated to scrutinise the work of the PSB as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015) and 1 Substitute member.

2. Background

- 2.1 Joint scrutiny arrangements and Terms of Reference for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee were agreed by Council on 19 July 2023, to ensure effective scrutiny arrangements are in place to scrutinise the established single Public Service Board (PSB) for Cwm Taf Morgannwg.
- 2.2 For the 2023-24 municipal year, Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC) (as the Scrutiny Committee designated to scrutinise the work of the Public Service Board as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015 and based on the political balance of this Committee as far as practical), nominated five members of the Committee to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) for the 2023-24 municipal year and one substitute Member from the Committee to attend the JOSC when one of the core Members are not available.
- 2.3 At the meeting of COSC on 25 July 2024, Members expressed concerns about the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board (PSB) and Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC). Whilst acknowledging their responsibilities under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act to hold the PSB to account, and stating that there was merit in ensuring that there was a collaborative approach with other local authorities, the output of the PSB needed to be looked at as there appeared to be very little which is substantive for the JOSC to scrutinise.
- 2.4 Consequently it was agreed that no Members would be nominated for the 2024/25 municipal year at that meeting and that Scrutiny Officers would convey the Committee's concerns and explore what improvements could be made to make it worthwhile for Members to participate on the JOSC.

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 Following the meeting on 25 July 2024, Scrutiny Officers fed back to the Officers who supported the CTM PSB JOSC and the newly elected Chair of the JOSC attended the next meeting of the PSB to convey this Committee's concerns and explore what improvements could be made and be fed back to this Committee.
- 3.2 Subsequently, a Member Development Session was held on 15 October 2024 in which Officers who support the Public Services Board presented an Introduction to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and the role of the Public Services Board as background and in preparation of reporting back to the Committee on 24 October 2024. The Session was also open to all Members to attend as refresher training.
- 3.3. Officers who support the Public Services Board will be attending the meeting of COSC on 24 October 2024 to present feedback in response to the issues raised by the Committee and the following summary response has been provided for inclusion:

"We thank former Bridgend Members of JOSC for providing their views, a summary of which was shared at the September meetings of both JOSC and PSB. JOSC has an important role to act as a critical friend to the PSB and we value their commitment to scrutinise the work of the Board, not just on the delivery of the Well-being Plan but on the ways of working, notably 'involvement' and 'collaboration' as agreed would be a priority.

Our Annual Report, shared with JOSC on 4th June, shows the range of activity of the PSB. Whilst this activity does not produce the kind of measurable outputs Members may be more familiar with scrutinising, this activity is the foundation for achieving the Objectives set out in the PSB Well-being Plan. As we move into year two, and in light of WG decisions to not fund a national project, we are also working with Data Cymru to develop a data system that can support our shared understanding of well-being in Cwm Taf Morgannwg and monitor impact.

PSB made a commitment to undertake an annual Board review, and the one undertaken this summer included feedback from JOSC alongside input from PSB member surveys, discussion, and a workshop. The review highlighted the unique position of the PSB to promote collaboration between the broad range of senior leaderships and bodies that can seek joint solutions to underlying issues that impact across our organisations. Findings of this review and recommendations were shared back to the PSB in September and are included in the [12 September 2024 PSB meeting Agenda pack](#). This includes the production of a forward work programme, also included in the pack.

Balancing the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act to take a long-term view and adopt preventative approaches whilst facing

such a period of unprecedented and urgent demand on resources is a significant challenge. JOSC members bring an important voice from their communities and can help the PSB to negotiate this challenge, and it is vital that JOSC membership reflects the whole of the area that the PSB is working to serve. We would be keen to hear from Members on their views of the right way to go about this and work together to achieve our vision of a more equal Cwm Taf Morgannwg.”

3.4 Following consideration of the information in the report and presentation, Members of the Committee are asked to consider nominating to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for the 2024-25 municipal year, 5 Members from this Committee (as the Scrutiny Committee designated to scrutinise the work of the PSB as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015) and 1 Substitute member to attend when one of the core Members are not available, based on the political balance of the Committee as far as practical, as follows:

- 3 Members from Labour;
- 1 Member and 1 Substitute Member from Bridgend County Independents;
- 1 Member from Democratic Alliance.

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

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

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

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

- Long Term – The establishment of the Joint Scrutiny Arrangements will enable the Authority’s long-term commitment to effective scrutiny of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB.
- Prevention – The PSB Wellbeing Assessment and Plan will be preventative in nature and progress will be scrutinised effectively.

- Integration – The proposed arrangements are for integrated joint scrutiny by three Local Authorities of the integrated partnership arrangements of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board.
- Collaboration – This report supports collaborative working with other Local Authorities and partners to effectively scrutinise the PSB.
- Involvement – The joint arrangements will enable effective scrutiny of the wellbeing assessment, plan and progress and promote the involvement of stakeholders, partners in scrutiny activity.

5.2 The proposed arrangements will assist in the achievement of the Council's 7 Well-being Objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**, listed below:

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

6. Climate Change Implications

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

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

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

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 The committee is recommended to:

- a) Consider the information in the report and presentation from Officers who support the Public Services Board, in response to the issues raised by the Committee in its meeting held on 24 July 2024;

- b) Nominate to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for the 2024-25 municipal year, 5 Members from this Committee (as the Scrutiny Committee designated to scrutinise the work of the Public Services Board as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015) and 1 Substitute member to attend when one of the core Members are not available, based on the political balance of the Committee, as follows:
 - 3 Members from Labour;
 - 1 Member and 1 Substitute Member from Bridgend County Independents;
 - 1 Member from Democratic Alliance.

Background documents

None.

Agenda Item 5

Meeting of:	CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	24 OCTOBER 2024
Report Title:	BUDGET MONITORING 2024-25 – QUARTER 2 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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The net revenue budget for 2024-25 is £360.671 million. The overall projected year end position at 30th September 2024 is a net over spend of £6.797 million, a £2.415 million improvement on the projected net over spend of £9.212 million reported at quarter 1.• 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 £1.455 million, or 11.15% of the overall reduction target.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the Council's revenue financial position as at 30th September 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 September 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 September 2024

Directorate/Budget Area	Original Budget 2024-25 £'000	Revised Budget 2024-25 £'000	Projected Outturn Q2 2024-25 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend 2024-25 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend Qtr 1 2024-25 £'000
Directorate					
Education, Early Years and Young People	143,485	144,525	146,232	1,707	1,961
Social Services and Wellbeing	104,575	105,631	110,087	4,456	6,080
Communities	30,704	32,017	32,633	616	750
Chief Executive's	22,425	22,690	24,712	2,022	2,350
Total Directorate Budgets	301,189	304,863	313,664	8,801	11,141
Council Wide Budgets					
Capital Financing	7,052	7,052	5,446	(1,606)	(1,604)
Levies	9,635	9,635	9,558	(77)	(80)
Apprenticeship Levy	750	750	836	86	90
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	16,054	16,054	16,763	709	861
Insurance Premiums	1,363	1,363	1,228	(135)	(146)
Repairs & Maintenance	670	670	670	0	0
Pension Related Costs	430	430	430	0	0
Other Corporate Budgets	23,528	19,854	18,873	(981)	(1,050)
Total Council Wide Budgets	59,482	55,808	53,804	(2,004)	(1,929)
Total	360,671	360,671	367,468	6,797	9,212

- 3.1.2 The overall projected position at 30th September 2024 is a net over spend of £6.797 million comprising £8.801 million net over spend on directorates and a net under spend of £2.004 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 grow your own scheme and international recruits.
- 3.1.6 There continues to be pressures in learning disabilities, mental health 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 £539,000. 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 £539,000. The service has also seen an increase in demand for transporting pupils individually due to challenging behaviour and an increase in Additional Learning Needs (ALN) pupils requiring transport provision based on the learner's needs assessment. However, the overall projected over spend has decreased from the £1.277 million at quarter 1 due to in-year tenders

issued with price caps for submission for providers, resulting in a significant cost saving for the service area.

- 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. 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. There is a projected net over spend of £654,000 in this service area which has improved from the projected over spend of £860,000 reported at quarter 1. The key factor in this reduction is the purchase of Houses in Multiple Occupation enabling a reduction in the use of more expensive options such as tourism style properties.
- 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 continue to suffer financial hardship due to the ongoing 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 are 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.
- 3.1.11 The main virements and technical adjustments are outlined below:

Budget Virements

Service vired from / to	Amount
Transfer of funding from Chief Executives Directorate to Communities Directorate for Business Support Officer (Energy)	£31,104

Technical Adjustments

Service vired from / to	Amount
Transfer of inflationary uplifts not confirmed when the Medium Term Financial Strategy was agreed that are held centrally until evidence of the uplift is provided by the service areas (detailed in paragraph 3.1.13).	£3,568,223
Allocation of funding retained centrally in respect of Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) pay award 2024-25 for Chief Officers.	£59,324

Pay/Price Inflation

- 3.1.12 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 was retained centrally within Council wide budgets, to be allocated as further information was known about specific contractual price increases. Amounts released during quarter 2 are shown in 3.1.11, and include £1.127 million energy uplift for corporate and leisure services buildings. £0.719 million energy uplift for school buildings, £0.446 million increase to waste collection and recycling budgets, £0.278 million increase to Homes for Older People budgets and £0.200 million increase to Home to School Transport in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- 3.1.13 Welsh Government have recently consulted with unions on their proposed 5.5% pay offer for teachers from September 2024 onwards and there are ongoing discussions on 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.
- 3.1.14 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, although we do expect to hear what funding will be available in the next quarter.
- 3.1.15 Whilst inflation rates have decreased to 2.2% (August 2024) 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

- 3.1.16 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.
- 3.1.17 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.
- 3.1.18 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 was 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	244	131
TOTAL	415	284	131

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, £284,000 is likely to be achieved in 2024-25 leaving a shortfall of £131,000. 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 timing of the opening meant that exit terms of the lease are being finalised in 2024-25. Once these have been finalised the full saving will be made.
- 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 has been depleted due to unplanned staff absences. A staff member has commenced work on this proposal. It will require a full order making process which typically takes 12 – 18 months.

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 whether any draw down from the MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve is required 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 £8.864 million has been achieved to date with an additional £2.726 million likely to be achieved by year end, leading to an overall projected shortfall on the savings target by year end of £1.455 million, or 11.15% 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	868	1,347	213
Schools	3,441	3,441	3,441	0
Social Services and Wellbeing	2,248	1,098	1,802	446
Communities	2,460	1,769	2,378	82
Chief Executive's	3,246	1,598	2,532	714
Corporate/Council Wide	90	90	90	0
TOTAL	13,045	8,864	11,590	1,455

3.2.5 The most significant (> £100,000 shortfall) budget reduction proposals unlikely to be achieved in full are:-

- EDFS9 – Cessation of Adult Community Learning provision (£149,000). The shortfall is due to the timing of the required restructure which is now underway. Further updates will be provided to Cabinet in the quarter 3 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 £4.709 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 £265,000. On 14th May 2024 Cabinet approved 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. Maximisation of the Shared Prosperity Fund in 2024-25 has mitigated this shortfall in the short term.
- SSW23 – reduction to the contribution towards the regional Western Bay adoption service (£250,000). There is currently a projected shortfall of £119,000. Further work is planned over the coming months with the regional service to identify further savings.
- CEX2 – Chief Executive’s Directorate vacancy management factor (£510,000). The projected shortfall of £182,000 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.
- CEX22 – Review of ICT Services (£398,000). There is currently a projected shortfall of £234,000 against this proposal, Further work is needed to be undertaken to review the telephony budgets 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.

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 September 2024

Financial position at 30th September 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 £144.525 million. Current projections indicate an over spend of £1.707 million at year end. The main variances are:

EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Learner Support	6,830	8,222	1,392	20.4%
Early Years and Young People	4,598	4,352	(246)	-5.4%
Home to School Transport	10,019	10,557	539	5.4%

Schools' delegated budgets

Total funding currently delegated to schools in 2024-25 is £113.993 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, Early Years and Young People in line with the 'Guidance and Procedures on Managing Surplus School Balances'.

At the start of 2024-25 projections indicated an overall deficit balance for school delegated budgets of £5.161 million at year end. At quarter 2 this has reduced to a projected deficit of £4.709 million. There are 38 primary schools, 5 secondary schools and 2 special schools (76% 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 have reviewed the deficit plans submitted, with schools being invited to challenge meetings over the Autumn term.

Central Education, Early Years and Young People (EEYYP) Directorate budgets

Learner Support

- There is a projected net over spend of £1.392 million in Learner Support budgets which has increased from the projected over spend of £841,000 reported at quarter 1.
- The projected over spend is despite the Council approving £500,000 of additional funding as part of the MTFS 2024-25 for learner 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 £1.419 million, an increase of £602,000 from the projected over spend of £817,000 at quarter 1. The projected over spend remains 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 and 309 in the Autumn term of 2024-25. The increase in projected over spend is primarily due to additional one to one support provided to Bridgend pupils in Bridgend schools to prevent pupils being placed in more costly out of authority placements. The additional numbers for prevention of additional out of authority placements have steadily increased to 34 in quarter 2.
- 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, in addition to out of county placements reducing from 21 (Spring 2024) to 19 in the Summer term, with a further reduction to 14 expected in the Autumn term. The service 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 £282,000 (£200,000 projected under spend at quarter 1).
- There is a projected £199,000 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 3 monitoring report.

Early Years and Young People

- The projected under spend of £246,000 has increased from the £209,000 projected under spend reported in quarter 1. This primarily relates to early implementation of a MTFS saving originally scheduled for 2025-26 – EDF510 – Reduction in Education Welfare Service (£136,000), combined with 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 £539,000 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 ALN pupils requiring transport provision based on the learner's needs assessment. 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 £244,000.
- However, the overall projected over spend has decreased to £539,000 from the £1.277 million projected over spend reported at quarter 1. This reduction is primarily due to in-year tenders issued, with a price cap for submissions for providers, resulting in a significant cost saving for the service area.
- 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. In July 2024 Cabinet considered the outcome of this public consultation and approved 4 out of the 5 proposals. In September 2024 Cabinet approved a revised Home to School Transport Policy, for implementation from September 2025. It is estimated that over £1m of recurring budget reductions can be made from the current home to school transport budget in 2026-27, with a partial saving towards this in 2025-26.

3.3.2 **Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate**

The Directorate's net budget for 2024-25 is £105.631 million. Current projections indicate an over spend of £4.456 million at year end compared to the quarter 1 over spend of £6.080 million. The detailed narrative below sets out the main service areas where projections have improved, including direct payments, adult services assessment and care management, homes for older people, prevention and wellbeing and children and families commissioning and social work budgets.

The outturn for 2023-24 was an over spend of £11.827 million. Council approved budget pressures of £8.330 million for the SSWB Directorate in February 2024 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 quarter 1 report, there continue to be pressures in learning disabilities driven by the complexity of need. There is also significant pressure in children's residential placements where the need for care experienced children to be cared for in independent residential homes (20) exceeds the available budget. The Social Services Improvement Board is overseeing a number of actions to address the service and financial pressures evident in the children and families and adult services budgets. Good progress is being made at the end of the first year of

the 3 year strategic plan for children and families approved in September 2023. 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 that took place over the summer period.

It should also be noted that this year's budget is underpinned by significant investment of non-recurring grants including Eliminating Profit (£1.5 million) and Shared Prosperity Fund (£600,000) along with Social Care Workforce Grant (£2 million).

The most significant variances for the directorate are :

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Adult Social Care	71,352	73,280	1,928	2.70%
Prevention and Wellbeing	6,433	6,140	(293)	(4.55)%
Childrens Social Care	27,845	30,666	2,821	10.13%

Adult Social Care

There is a net over spend of £1.928 million on the Adult Social Care budget an improvement of £416,000 from the £2.344 million over spend projected at quarter 1.

The most significant variances contributing to the over spend are:

ADULT SOCIAL CARE	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget
	£'000
Learning Disabilities Day Opportunities	679
Mental Health Homecare	679
Learning Disabilities Homecare	457
Learning Disabilities Residential Care	438
Older People Direct Payments	369
Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Home Care	329
Physical Disability/Sensory Equipment	266
Older People Supported Accommodation	201
Learning Disabilities Direct Payments	110
Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Direct Payments	56
Assessment and Care Management	(13)
Mental Health Residential Care	(17)
Mental Health Supported Accommodation	(164)
Homes for Older People	(252)
Older People Home Care	(772)

- Learning Disabilities Day Opportunities - the projected over spend of £679,000 relates mainly to placement numbers exceeding the available budget for external day services (£519,000) in addition to increased transport costs (£160,000). The underlying reason for the projected over spend continues to be that whilst the learning disabilities home care budget continues to over spend as people have not returned to internal day services, older 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. The projected over spend on transport costs has reduced by £100,000 since quarter 1 due to a reduction in projected costs for external transport following an extensive review by the service. In addition, since quarter 1 three new vehicles have become operational enabling a reduction in the number of vehicles hired on a short term basis. A new transport policy went to Cabinet in July 2024 and is currently out for consultation which is due to finish at the end of October with a follow up report then to be taken to Cabinet in the coming months.
- Mental Health Homecare – this includes supported living, short breaks and domiciliary care with the service experiencing increased needs of people with supported living packages of care. The projected over spend of £679,000 has increased from the quarter 1 projected over spend of £475,000 mainly due to 2 new supported living placements, one of which was an appropriate step down from a fully health funded 24 hour community mental health hospital, and the other being a step down from a residential placement into supported living which achieved an overall cost saving of £22,000 per annum. In quarter 2 there has also been a transfer of 2 placements from Domiciliary Care (£186,000).
- Learning Disabilities Homecare – there is a projected over spend of £457,000 compared to £310,000 at quarter 1. This is mainly due to increases in staffing costs due to having to cover staff sickness. In addition, the projected costs of external home care increased by £85,000 compared with quarter 1. This is due to 5 new placements that have been commissioned through applying the methodology of the Commissioning for Complex Needs (CFCN) assessment process. The new placements are costed at an average weekly cost of £325, whereas without the methodology of CFCN the average cost would have been £920.
- Learning Disabilities Residential Care – there is a projected over spend of £438,000 compared to £339,000 at quarter 1. The underlying reason for the projected over spend is due to increased costs for existing placements within the residential and nursing service due to changing needs. Quarter 2 also saw an increase of 1 specialist placement from a 24 hour hospital setting and 1 residential placement moving from home.
- Older People Direct Payments – there is a projected over spend of £369,000 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 has reduced by £203,000 since quarter 1 due to a detailed review being undertaken in quarter 2 of all direct payment cases, with packages being removed from projections where activity had ceased for longer than six months, along with increases in account reimbursements.

- Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Home Care - there is a projected over spend of £329,000, which is based on the current demand on the service provision, which is 107 packages of support. The projected over spend has increased since the quarter 1 projected over spend position of £220,000 which was based on 99 packages of support.
- Physical Disability/Sensory Equipment – there is a projected over spend of £266,000. This is partly due to an increase in the expected contribution to the community equipment pooled fund (£84,000) with the remainder being due to increases in demand for small works and adaptations and aids to daily living. This is a fluctuating demand led budget which varies month by month and will be closely monitored.
- Older People Supported Accommodation – there is a projected over spend of £201,000. This projected over spend is based on the current number of placements which have increased from 40 at quarter 1, to 42 at quarter 2.
- Learning Disabilities Direct Payments – there is a projected over spend of £110,000 across the Direct Payments budgets in this area. The main reason for the projected over spend is the increasing complexity of cases which impact on the average cost of direct payments support. The projected over spend has reduced since quarter 1 by £242,000 due to a detailed review being undertaken in quarter 2 of all direct payment cases, with packages being removed from projections where support has ceased for longer than six months, along with a £90,000 Social Care Workforce Grant allocation confirmed since quarter 1.
- Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Direct Payments – there is a projected over spend of £56,000 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 has reduced since quarter 1 by £211,000 due to a detailed review being undertaken in quarter 2 of all direct payment cases, with packages being removed from the projections where support has ceased for longer than six months along with increases in account reimbursements.
- Assessment and Care Management – there is a projected under spend of £13,000 on directorate wide assessment and care management budgets, a reduction from the quarter 1 projected over spend of £201,000. The reduction in projected spend is primarily due an increase of £50,000 in Social Care Workforce Grant allocated along with a reduction of £87,000 in projected agency costs. 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 – There is a projected under spend of £17,000. The projected under spend has reduced since the quarter 1 projected under spend of £273,000 due to an increase in placement numbers from 43 placements to 44 placements at quarter 2 (specialist placement from a fully health funded 24 hour hospital setting), and an increase in contributions for clients whose package of care are shared with Health.

- Mental Health Supported Accommodation – The projected under spend of £164,000 primarily relates to projected under spend on staffing budgets. The projected under spend has increased from the £73,000 reported at quarter 1 mainly due to staff vacancies being held for the short term.
- Homes for Older People – There is a projected under spend of £252,000 compared to a projected over spend of £214,000 at quarter 1. Since quarter 1 there has been an increase in projected client contributions for internal residential homes. 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 savings or assets and are therefore not reliant on the local authority paying their contribution in full, then this will increase the overall average income received per person. Secondly, as noted in section 3.1.12, there has been an allocation from the central price inflation budget to this service area during quarter 2 which has also improved the projections by £278,000 as the increased costs experienced by the service had been built into the quarter 1 projections. The quarter 2 projection also includes an allocation of £110,000 from the Social Care Workforce Grant.
- Older People Home Care – There is a projected under spend of £772,000, a reduction from the quarter 1 projected under spend of £1.034 million. The under spend still primarily relates to projected under spends on staffing budgets as a result of the recruitment challenges in the internal 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. Since quarter 1 there has also been an increase in projected client contributions of £257,000 for the internal Homecare service. However, this has been offset by a projected over spend on external domiciliary care placements due to complexities of people’s needs and increased packages of support.

Prevention and Wellbeing

- There is a projected under spend of £293,000 compared to a projected over spend of £252,000 at quarter 1. This is mainly due to maximisation of grant funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund (£450,000) which has been confirmed since quarter 1.
- The following MTFs savings are not anticipated to be fully achieved in 2024-25:
 - SSW7 – review opportunities to amend the current energy payment arrangements for the leisure contract - £45,000 shortfall.
 - SSW13 – Council to reduce its investment into cultural services - £265,000 shortfall.

Children’s Social Care

There is a projected net over spend of £2.821 million on the Children’s Social Care budget compared with the projected net over spend of £3.484 million at quarter 1. The most significant variances contributing to this over spend are:-

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE	Projected Variance Over/(under) 2024-25 – qtr 2 £'000
Care Experienced Children	2,953
Commissioning & Social Work	131
Other Child & Family Support Services	(72)
Management and Admin	(105)

- The over spend of £2.953 million for Care Experienced Children has reduced from the £3.104 million reported at quarter 1. It is due to a combination of factors:-
 - The Independent Residential Care budget has a projected over spend of £3.473 million (quarter 1 - £3.577 million). This is based on the number of care experienced children in independent residential placements which is currently 20 placements. The underlying over spend position is due to the number in independent residential placements (20) exceeding the budget which covers between 6-8 placements depending on the unit cost. In addition there continues to be insufficient in-house 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.
 - There is a projected under spend of £117,000 on the Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) budget based on 35 placements (37 placements at quarter 1). This is due to alternative, lower cost, placement options being utilised, including Special Guardianship Orders. It should be noted however, that some of the children in costly independent residential provision would ideally be with foster carers who can manage complex needs. There is insufficient capacity in-house and in IFA's which means that some children's needs are being met in a higher tier of service.
- Commissioning and Social Work – There is a projected under spend of £72,000 which has significantly improved since the quarter 1 projected over spend of £355,000. The projected over spend at quarter 1 was partly due to having to continue to rely on agency staffing across all the children's social work teams. Good progress continues to be made in relation to permanent recruitment, and significant reduction in the use of agency across all social work teams, improving the projections in this budget area. The service has benefited from successes in international recruitment, the conversion of agency to permanent, and the 'grow your own' social work scheme. There remains a projected over spend in care and support and placement costs across the service area (£325,000), the majority of which relate to Care Experienced Children/care support spend such as court mandated drug testing, assessments, reports, travel and therapy costs over which the service has no discretion but to secure against a very limited budget. In total the service has received budget pressures of £3 million (£1m in 2023-24 and an additional £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 £131,000 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 £105,000 which has reduced from the projected under spend of £178,000 at quarter 1 due to two posts being appointed to during quarter 2. The underlying projected under spend is primarily due to other 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 £32.017 million. The current projection is an anticipated over spend of £616,000. The main variances are:

COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Fleet Services	156	616	460	294.87%
Development Control	(111)	(39)	72	64.86%
Strategic Regeneration	937	744	(193)	-20.6%
Waste Collection & Disposal	11,177	11,249	72	0.64%
Highways Services (DSO)	3,273	3,143	(130)	-3.97%
Corporate Landlord	3,056	3,334	278	9.1%

Fleet Services

- There is a projected over spend of £460,000 on Fleet services which has worsened from the £348,000 projected at quarter 1, and is now more in line with 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 have been further impacted since quarter 1 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 only seen limited success in filling vacancies. A review outlining options for service operating models to mitigate the budget position of fleet services has been delayed due to officer availability and is anticipated to proceed in the latter half of the 2024-25 financial year.

Development Control

- The projected over spend in Development Control of £72,000 is primarily due to the anticipated slippage of significant developments into 2025-26. Fee income is

subject to considerable fluctuations between years, depending on number and of types of applications.

Strategic Regeneration

- There is a projected under spend of £193,000 on Strategic Regeneration budgets. This is primarily due to maximisation of the Shared Prosperity Fund (£170,000) 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.

Waste Collection and Disposal

- There is a net projected over spend on the Waste Disposal and Collection budget of £72,000. The main underlying pressures on the waste budget include:-
 - The delay in the achievement of the 2022-23 MTFS saving, COM 2 – Relocation of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle resulting in cessation of lease payments at the existing site. Whilst the new site opened in quarter 4 of 2023-24 the timing of the opening meant that the full saving could not be achieved in 2024-25 as the exit terms of the lease needed to be finalised (£60,000 shortfall).
 - Increase in subscribers for the Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP) service (£66,000). The AHP service has been promoted to further improve the recycling levels achieved in Bridgend which also mitigates the risk of fines imposed by WG if local authorities do not meet their recycling targets. It has seen an increase of 35% since the start of the 2022-23 financial year.

Highways Services

- The projected under spend of £130,000 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 income for the service area.

Corporate Landlord

- There is a projected over spend of £278,000 against Corporate Landlord which has decreased from the £600,000 over spend projected at quarter 1.
- At quarter 1 there was a forecasted over spend of £201,000 on other council run buildings, mainly due to increased maintenance costs resulting in COM23 – reduction to property maintenance budgets (£100,000) being unlikely to be achieved in 2024-25. This projection has improved to a break even position since quarter 1 as the service is seeking to utilise the minor works budget where possible to support key maintenance of council run buildings.
- There are still 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 £285,000 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.

- 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 £22.690 million. Current projections anticipate an over spend against this budget of £2.022 million. This is a reduction of £328,000 from the quarter 1 projected over spend of £2.350 million. The main variances are:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	Net Budget	Projected outturn	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Housing & Homelessness	3,489	4,143	654	18.74%
Legal, Democratic & Regulatory	5,764	6,376	612	10.62%
ICT	3,794	4,127	333	8.78%
Finance	3,881	4,060	179	4.61%
Human Resources/ Organisational Development	1,871	1,920	49	2.6%

Housing & Homelessness

- There is a projected net over spend of £654,000 on Housing & Homelessness which is a reduction on the projected over spend of £860,000 reported at quarter 1 of £246,000.
- The overall budget for housing and homelessness has been reduced by £645,000 in 2024-25 due to MTFS budget reduction proposals. Appendix 2 highlights that it is anticipated that all of these are now likely to be achieved in 2024-25.
- 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 at quarter 2 is £4.5 million, a reduction of £250,000 since the £4.750 million reported at quarter 1. The key factor in this reduction is the purchase of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) stock as well as utilising an existing BCBC property with the opening of Maple Tree House (previously Children's Residential Home), enabling a reduction in the use of more expensive options such as tourism style properties.

- 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 £890,000.
- 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. The projected accommodation spend for 2024-25 is based on supporting 260 households and 434 individuals as at September 2024 which is a decrease compared to the 284 households and 523 individuals supported as at September 2023.
- Measures to support the delivery of CEX21 – review of Homelessness Service, are in the early stages of implementation but are projected to meet the saving in full. Longer term arrangements are more cost effective. There has also been an increase in the use of 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 £890,000 on accommodation is offset by projected under spends on the Brynmenyn Homeless Centre (£135,000) due to an increase in Housing Benefit income levels, staff vacancies (£40,000) and maximisation of Supporting People grant (£124,000).

Legal

- There is a projected net over spend of £612,000 across Legal, Democratic and Regulatory services, a reduction of £26,000 since quarter 1.
- There is a projected over spend on staffing budgets within Legal services of £77,000, 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 £165,000. This is primarily due to the projected under recoupment of income for taxi examination and licence fees (£84,000). 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 £181,000 (£204,000 projected over spend at quarter 1).

ICT

- There is a projected net over spend of £333,000 across ICT budgets which has reduced by £9,000 since quarter 1. This is primarily due to the projected shortfall of £234,000 against the MTFS saving CEX 22 – Review of ICT services, with a planned review of telephony budgets across the Council due to take place during quarter 3. 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 £179,000 across Finance, a reduction of £24,000 since quarter 1. This is primarily due to a projected shortfall of £158,000 on Department for Work and Pension (DWP) subsidy contributions towards housing benefit payments (£113,000 at quarter 1) 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 £49,000 within Human Resources and Organisational Development which has improved since the quarter 1 projected over spend of £135,000. The underlying projected over spend is due to the timing of the implementation of CEX16 – Restructure of HR Service (£86,000) which has been partly mitigated by an increase in projected under spends on overall HR staffing budgets.

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 £55.808 million. Current projections anticipate an under spend against this budget of £2.004 million. The main variances are:-

COUNCIL WIDE BUDGETS	Net Budget	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Capital Financing	7,052	5,446	(1,606)	-22.77%
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	16,054	16,763	709	4.41%
Other Corporate Budgets	23,493	22,443	(1,050)	-4.47%

Capital Financing

- The projected under spend of £1.606 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. A 5.25% interest rate was held from August 2023 to July 2024. Interest rates were cut from 5.25% to 5% in August 2024 with suggestions that interest rates could be cut more quickly if price rises remain under control.
- 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 £709,000 on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme which has reduced from the £861,000 projected over spend at quarter 1. 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. Cases will continue to be reviewed closely during the year to ensure that only those entitled to receive support continue to do so.

Other Corporate Budgets

- As referred to in paragraph 3.1.12 and 3.1.13, 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.

3.4 Earmarked Reserves

3.4.1 The cumulative revenue draw down by directorates is £1.696 million as shown in Table 4 below. The majority of the draw down from earmarked reserves takes place in the later stages of the financial year, especially on capital and grant funded schemes. In addition, school balances are not adjusted until the year end – an overall draw down in year of £7.114 million from school balances is currently projected, which would leave a negative balance to be managed by the Council

3.4.2 A thorough review of earmarked reserves will be undertaken by Corporate Management Board during quarter 3 of 2024-25, including an assessment of the draw down profile and re-profiling of existing earmarked reserves. The assessment will also include identifying earmarked reserves that can be unwound in order to fund emerging risks for the Council as a whole in 2024-25 onwards. It should be noted, however, that the net over spend position of £7.054 million for 2023-24 already necessitated the unwinding of £6.952 million of existing earmarked reserves to balance the budget at year end, leaving less capacity to do this again in 2024-25.

Table 4 – Usable Revenue Earmarked Reserves (Excluding Council Fund) – Quarter 2

Opening Balance 01 Apr 24	Reserve	Net Additions/ Reclassification	Draw- down	Unwound	Closing Balance 30 Sep 24
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Corporate Reserves:				
2,772	Asset Management Reserves	(30)	(140)	-	2,603
1,330	Major Claims & Insurance Reserves	-	-	-	1,330
1,893	Service Reconfiguration	-	-	-	1,893
1,794	Change Management/Digital Transformation	(538)	(253)	(85)	919
500	Economic and Future Resilience Fund	-	-	-	500
2,406	Other Corporate Reserves	-	-	-	2,406
10,695	Total Corporate Reserves	(568)	(393)	(85)	9,650
	Directorate Reserves:				
811	Education & Family Support	-	(129)	-	682
2,676	Social Services & Wellbeing	506	(645)	-	2,537
1,442	Communities	-	-	-	1,442
1,740	Chief Executives	520	(476)	-	1,785
6,668	Total Directorate Reserves	1,027	(1,251)	-	6,444
	Equalisation & Grant Reserves:				
1,278	Education & Family Support	(914)	-	-	363
90	Social Services & Wellbeing	-	-	-	90
2,359	Communities	4	(30)	-	2,333
279	Chief Executives	-	(23)	-	256
4,005	Equalisation & Grant Reserves:	(910)	(52)	-	3,043
2,405	School Balances	-	-	-	2,405
23,774	TOTAL RESERVES	(451)	(1,696)	(85)	21,542

3.4.3 In addition to the usable revenue reserves in Table 4, there are currently £40.762 million of other earmarked reserves funding schemes within the capital programme.

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 The Committee is recommended to consider 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
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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	0	The new site opened during quarter 4 of 2023-24. The timing of the opening meant that exit terms of the lease are being finalised in 2024-25. Once these have been finalised, the full saving will be made.	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	89	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.	A staff member has commenced work on this proposal. It requires a full order making process which is typically 12-18 months. Progress will be determined by this process and updates will continue to be provided to Cabinet.
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	244		

GRAND TOTAL OUTSTANDING REDUCTIONS			415	284		
REDUCTIONS SHORTFALL				131		

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MONITORING OF 2024-25 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

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
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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	7	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	153	320	The Directorate has implemented a very strict regime of vacancy management, and this has resulted in significant savings. Holding vacancies has also increased pressure on existing staff and in some areas exacerbated waiting lists for services. The projected saving at quarter 2 is £320,000, however the Head of Service anticipates additional savings before year end in order to achieve the full saving proposal.
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 process is underway for cessation of the ACL service with the outcome of the consultation process to be finalised in quarter 3 of 2024-25.

MONITORING OF 2024-25 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

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.

MONITORING OF 2024-25 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

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
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. The interim manager is reviewing the service, and a further update will be provided in quarter 3.
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 EDF26
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 EDF26
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 EDF24 and EDF25
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.

MONITORING OF 2024-25 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

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
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	868	1,347	

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 £4.709m at quarter 2.
	Total Schools		3,441	3,441	3,441	
	Total Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate		5,001	4,309	4,788	

MONITORING OF 2024-25 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

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
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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	64	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	128	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	38	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	54	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	250	250	Full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.

MONITORING OF 2024-25 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

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
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	50	Contract negotiation required to implement saving proposal in development, however full saving should be achieved in 2024-25.
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	95	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. Maximisation of Shared Prosperity Fund will mitigate the shortfall against this proposal in 2024-25.

MONITORING OF 2024-25 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

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
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	4	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.
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	131	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

MONITORING OF 2024-25 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

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
SSW24	<p>SCWDWP Training Reductions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in use of external venues for training delivery. Increase offer of hybrid learning opportunities e.g., on-line resources, e-learning and on-line training. External training courses / conferences to be supported only where there is an identified need that cannot be met by in-house resources. Use of internal staff to facilitate training workshops. Reduce the impact of non-attendance at training by introducing a non-attendance charge. 	<p>Insufficient availability of internal venues suitable to hold training events.</p> <p>Certain training requires physical attendance and specialist resources.</p> <p>Requires ICT equipment and skills to access on-line activities.</p> <p>External trainers bring specialist knowledge and skills that internal trainers could not replicate.</p>	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	70	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	1,098	1,802	

MONITORING OF 2024-25 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

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
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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	17	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	250	500	The directorate has made 50% 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.

MONITORING OF 2024-25 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

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
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. There have been delays due to staff absence, however the process has commenced to review job roles. Consultation is due to commence shortly, with further updates for Cabinet in quarter 3.
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.

MONITORING OF 2024-25 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

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
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.
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	100	Full saving should 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.
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 2. Projections will be updated throughout the financial year as opportunities continue to be sought.

MONITORING OF 2024-25 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

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
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.
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	1,769	2,378	

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	10	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	189	328	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.

MONITORING OF 2024-25 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

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
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.
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	6	31	Based on income achieved to date in quarter 2, 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	2	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	13	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	22	50	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 2024-25 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

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	100	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	203	203	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	35	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	30	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	199	397	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 2024-25 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

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	1,598	2,532	

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 2024-25 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

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	8,864	11,590	

	REDUCTION SHORTFALL				1,455	
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6,415	3,456	6,317
2,243	4,054	3,058
4,387	5,535	3,670
13,045	13,045	13,045

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL	Budget 2024-25			Projected Outturn	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	Expenditure Budget	Income Budget	Net Budget			
	£'000	£'000	£'000			
EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE						
School Delegated Budgets	135,295	(21,302)	113,993	113,993	-	0.0%
Learner Support	7,835	(1,005)	6,830	8,222	1,392	20.4%
Early Years and Young People	8,731	(4,133)	4,598	4,352	(246)	-5.4%
Strategic Performance and Support	17,272	(4,428)	12,844	13,310	466	3.6%
Schools Support	1,399	(838)	561	612	51	9.1%
Sustainable Communities For Learning	3,940	-	3,940	3,906	(34)	-0.9%
Other Education and Family Support	1,819	(60)	1,759	1,837	78	4.4%
TOTAL EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT	176,291	(31,766)	144,525	146,232	1,707	1.2%
SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING						
Adult Social Care	96,023	(24,670)	71,353	73,281	1,928	2.70%
Prevention and Wellbeing	7,466	(1,033)	6,433	6,140	(293)	-4.55%
Childrens Social Care	28,965	(1,120)	27,845	30,666	2,821	10.13%
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING	132,454	(26,823)	105,631	110,087	4,456	4.2%
COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE						
Planning & Development Services	2,253	(1,619)	634	725	91	14.4%
Strategic Regeneration	2,082	(1,145)	937	744	(193)	-20.6%
Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability	13,714	(12,253)	1,461	1,435	(26)	-1.8%
Cleaner Streets and Waste Management	15,161	(1,773)	13,388	13,532	144	1.1%
Highways and Green Spaces	25,385	(13,131)	12,254	12,570	316	2.6%
Director and Head of Operations - Communities	287	-	287	293	6	2.1%
Corporate Landlord	15,544	(12,488)	3,056	3,334	278	9.1%
TOTAL COMMUNITIES	74,426	(42,409)	32,017	32,633	616	1.9%
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S						
Chief Executive Unit	489	-	489	502	13	2.7%
Finance	39,165	(35,284)	3,881	4,060	179	4.6%
HR/OD	2,269	(398)	1,871	1,920	49	2.6%
Partnerships	3,388	(1,227)	2,161	2,259	98	4.5%
Legal, Democratic & Regulatory	6,909	(1,145)	5,764	6,376	612	10.6%
Elections	176	-	176	154	(22)	-12.5%
ICT	5,053	(1,259)	3,794	4,127	333	8.8%
Housing & Homelessness	11,410	(7,921)	3,489	4,143	654	18.7%
Business Support	1,181	(116)	1,065	1,171	106	10.0%
TOTAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	70,040	(47,350)	22,690	24,712	2,022	8.9%
TOTAL DIRECTORATE BUDGETS	453,211	(148,348)	304,863	313,664	8,801	2.9%
Council Wide Budgets	56,782	(974)	55,808	53,804	(2,004)	-3.6%
NET BRIDGEND CBC	509,993	(149,322)	360,671	367,468	6,797	1.9%

NB: Differences due to rounding of £000's

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Agenda Item 7

Meeting of:	CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	24 OCTOBER 2024
Report Title:	FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL & REGULATORY SERVICES, HR & CORPORATE POLICY
Responsible Officer:	MERYL LAWRENCE SENIOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER – SCRUTINY
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	The work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Council’s Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend. Any changes to the structure of the Scrutiny Committees and the procedures relating to them would require the Bridgend County Borough Council Constitution to be updated.
Executive Summary:	<p>The Council’s Constitution requires the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to develop and implement a Forward Work Programme for the Committee.</p> <p>The Council’s Constitution also provides for each Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee to propose items for the Forward Work Programme having regard for the Council’s Corporate Priorities and Risk Management framework, for the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to have oversight and refer any cross-cutting topics to a Committee or Research and Evaluation Panel.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to consider and agree its Forward Work Programme, identify any specific information it wishes to be included in and any invitees they wish to attend for the reports for the next two Committee meetings, identify any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the criteria set out in the report, note the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet for this Committee and the Forward Work Programmes for each of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees.</p>

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Present the Committee with the Forward Work Programme attached as **Appendix A** for consideration and approval;
- b) Request any specific information the Committee identifies to be included in the items for the next two meetings, including invitees they wish to attend;
- c) Request the Committee to identify whether there are presently any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 3.6 of this report;
- d) Present the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet for this Committee attached as **Appendix B** to track responses to the Committee's recommendations made at previous meetings;
- e) Present the Forward Work Programmes for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees attached as **Appendices C, D and E** following consideration in their respective Committee meetings.

2. Background

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

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

Best Practice / Guidance

2.3 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny's (CfGS) Good Scrutiny Guide recognises the importance of the forward work programme. In order to 'lead and own the process', it states that Councillors should have ownership of their Committee's work programme, and be involved in developing, monitoring and evaluating it. The Good Scrutiny Guide also states that, in order to make an impact, the scrutiny workload should be coordinated and integrated into corporate processes, to ensure that it contributes to the delivery of corporate objectives, and that work can be undertaken in a timely and well-planned manner.

2.4 Forward Work Programmes need to be manageable to maximize the effective use of the limited time and resources of Scrutiny Committees. It is not possible to include every topic proposed. Successful Scrutiny is about looking at the right topic in the right way and Members need to be selective, while also being able to demonstrate clear arguments for including or excluding topics.

2.5 The CfGS's guide to effective work programming 'A Cunning Plan?' makes the following reference to the importance of good work programming:

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

3. Current situation / proposal

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Draft Forward Work Programme

- 3.1 Following the approval of the schedule of Scrutiny Committee meeting dates at the Annual Meeting of Council on 15 May 2024, the standing statutory reports to this Scrutiny Committee of: the Corporate Plan, the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Budget, Performance and Budget Monitoring, etc. have been mapped to the appropriate timely meeting dates into a draft Forward Work Programme.
- 3.2 The draft outline Forward Work Programme for each Scrutiny Committee have been prepared using a number of difference sources, including:
- Corporate Risk Assessment;
 - Directorate Business Plans;
 - Previous Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme report topics / Minutes;
 - Committee / Member proposed topics;
 - Policy Framework;
 - Cabinet Work Programme;
 - Discussions with Corporate Directors;
 - Performance Team regarding the timing of performance information.
- 3.3 There are items where there is a statutory duty for Policy Framework documents to be considered by Scrutiny, e.g., the MTFS including draft budget proposals scheduled for consideration in January 2025, following which the Committee will coordinate the conclusions and recommendations from each of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees in a report on the overall strategic overview of Cabinet's draft Budget proposals to the meeting of Cabinet in February 2025.
- 3.4 An effective Forward Work Programme will identify the issues that the Committee wishes to focus on during the year and provide a clear plan. However, at each meeting the Committee will have an opportunity to review this as the Forward Work Programme Update will be a standing item on the Agenda, detailing which items are scheduled for future meetings and be requested to clarify any information to be included in reports and the list of invitees. The Forward Work Programme will remain flexible and will be revisited at each COSC meeting with input from each Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee reported and any updated information gathered from Forward Work Programme meetings with Corporate Directors.
- 3.5 The Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee Draft Forward Work Programmes will be reported to the next meeting of COSC, with the comments from each respective Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee for coordination and oversight of the overall Forward Work Programme. The SOSC Forward Work Programmes will be included in the standing Forward Work Programme Update report from then on with any feedback from each SOSC meeting included.

Identification of Further Items

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

Recommended Criteria for Selecting Scrutiny Topics:

PUBLIC INTEREST:	The concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen for scrutiny;
ABILITY TO CHANGE:	Priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically influence, and add value to;
PERFORMANCE:	Priority should be given to the areas in which the Council is not performing well;
EXTENT:	Priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or large parts of the County Borough, or a large number of the Authority's service users or its population;
REPLICATION:	Work programmes must take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered to avoid duplication or wasted effort.

Reasons to Reject Scrutiny Topics:

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

Corporate Parenting

- 3.7 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a local authority towards care experienced children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the 'Corporate Parent', therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for care experienced children and young people in Bridgend.

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

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

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

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

- 5.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 Ways of Working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the 5 Ways of Working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:
- Long-term - The approval of this report will assist in the planning of Scrutiny business in both the short-term and in the long-term on its policies, budget and service delivery.
 - Prevention - The early preparation of the Forward Work Programme allows for the advance planning of Scrutiny business where Members are provided an opportunity to influence and improve decisions before they are made by Cabinet.
 - Integration - The report supports all the wellbeing objectives.
 - Collaboration - Consultation on the content of the Forward Work Programme has taken place with the Corporate Management Board, Heads of Service and Elected Members.

- Involvement - Advanced publication of the Forward Work Programme ensures that stakeholders can view topics that will be discussed in Committee meetings and are provided with the opportunity to engage.

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

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

6. **Climate Change Implications**

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

7. **Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications**

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

8. **Financial Implications**

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. **Recommendation**

9.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Consider and approve the Forward Work Programme for this Committee in **Appendix A.**
- b) Identify any specific information the Committee wishes to be included in the items for the next two meetings, including invitees they wish to attend.

- c) Identify whether there are presently any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 3.6 of this report.
- d) Note the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet in **Appendix B** to track outstanding responses to the Committee's recommendations made at previous meetings;
- e) Note the Forward Work Programmes for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees attached as **Appendices C, D and E** following consideration in their respective Committee meetings.

Background documents

None.

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Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee
2024-25 Forward Work Programme

Monday 25 July 2024 at 10.00am

Report Topics	Any Specific Information Requested	Invitees
Revenue Budget Outturn 2023-24		<u>All Cabinet Members</u> <u>Officers</u> Chief Executive; Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change; Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People; Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing; Corporate Director – Communities; and Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy
Budget Monitoring 2024-25 – Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast		As above
Quarter 4 Performance 2023-24		As above plus: Head of Partnership Services Corporate Policy and Public Affairs Manager; Corporate Performance Manager;
Corporate Self-Assessment 2023-24		As above plus: Corporate Policy and Public Affairs Manager; Corporate Performance Manager.
Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination		N/A
Nominations to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements following Transition to a Single Public Services Board (PSB) for Cwm Taf Morgannwg		N/A

Monday 9 September 2024 at 10.00am

Report Topics	Any Specific Information Requested	Invitees
Verbal Presentation by Cabinet Members of an Overview of their Strategic Direction and Priorities for the Coming Year		<u>All Cabinet Members</u>
Information Report - Corporate Plan Targets 2024/25		N/A

APPENDIX A

Director of Social Services Annual Report 2023/24		<p><u>Cabinet Member</u> Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing.</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing. Head of Adult Social Care Head of Children and Family Services. Group Manager - Prevention and Wellbeing. Group Manager – Commissioning. Group Manager - Business Strategy, Performance & Improvement.</p>
Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 & 2023/24		N/A

Thursday 24 October 2024 at 10.00am

Report Topics	Any Specific Information Requested	Invitees
Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board (PSB) and Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC)	Update from PSB Officers in response to COSC comments form 24 July 2024	<u>PSB Officers</u>
Budget Monitoring 2024-25 – Quarter 2 Revenue Forecast		<p><u>All Cabinet Members</u></p> <p>Chief Executive; Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change; Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People; Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing; Corporate Director – Communities; and Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy</p>

Monday 16 December 2024 at 10.00am

Report Topics	Any Specific Information Requested	Invitees
Quarter 2 Performance Report 2023-24		<p><u>All Cabinet Members</u></p> <p><u>Officers</u> Chief Executive; Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change; Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People; Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing; Corporate Director – Communities; Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy; Corporate Policy and Public Affairs Manager; Corporate Performance Manager; and Head of Partnership Services</p>

APPENDIX A

Wednesday 15 January 2025 at 10.00am

Report Topics	Any Specific Information Requested	Invitees
Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2028-29 and Budget Proposals		<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Leader of the Council; Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing; Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance;</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Chief Executive; Chief Officer Finance, Housing and Change; Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy;</p> <p>Deputy Head of Finance; Head of Partnership Services; and Finance Manager – Social Services & Wellbeing / Chief Executive’s Directorate</p>

Tuesday 28 January 2025 at 10.00am

Report Topics	Any Specific Information Requested	Invitees
Scrutiny Recommendations on Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2028-29 and Draft Budget Consultation Process		<p><u>Cabinet Member</u> Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance</p> <p><u>Officer</u> Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change</p>
Capital Strategy 2025-26 onwards		<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Leader of the Council; Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance;</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Chief Officer Finance, Housing and Change; and Group Manager – Chief Accountant</p>
Budget Monitoring 2024-25 – Quarter 3 Revenue Forecast		<p><u>All Cabinet Members</u></p> <p><u>Officers</u> Chief Executive; Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change; Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People; Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing; Corporate Director – Communities; and Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy</p>

APPENDIX A

Monday 17 March 2025 at 10.00am		
Report Topics	Any Specific Information Requested	Invitees
Corporate Plan Delivery Plan Refresh 2024-25		<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Leader of the Council; Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance;</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Chief Executive; Chief Officer Finance, Housing and Change; and Corporate Policy and Public Affairs Manager</p>
Quarter 3 Performance Report 2023-24		<p><u>All Cabinet Members</u></p> <p><u>Officers</u> Chief Executive; Chief Officer - Finance, Performance and Change; Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing; Corporate Director – Communities; Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy; Corporate Policy and Public Affairs Manager Corporate Performance Manager; Head of Partnership Services.</p>

Reports to be Scheduled		
Report Topics	Any Specific Information Requested	Invitees
Five Point Action Plan	Update on implementation and actions to date	TBC
Digital Strategy Review	Potentially Autumn 2024	TBC
Review Progress of Disabled Facilities Grants – <i>To be reviewed following receipt of Briefing report</i>	Updated Briefing Paper to be provided in first Instance and then to be scheduled for COSC or a SOSC if required.	TBC
Engagement and Participation Strategy Action Plan	Update to be provided within 12 months	TBC
Workforce Strategy Monitoring Action Plans	To monitor progress / implementation of Action Plans	<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Leader of the Council; Deputy Leader of Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing; Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance;</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Chief Executive; Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy; Group Manager – Human Resources Organisational Development</p>
Disabled Facilities Grants	Information report	N/A
Cessation of Ukrainian Refugee Host Sponsorship	Information report	N/A

CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING ACTION SHEET 2024-25

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
25 July 2024	Revenue Budget Outturn 2023-24	The Committee recommended that in addition to achieving substantial savings in revenue spending, consideration needed to be given to new controls on, and reprioritisation of, capital spending and whilst there might be value in introducing a moratorium on new capital projects, it was important not to lose opportunities for grant funding, the opportunity to invest in school projects, or funding necessary works.	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Revenue Budget Outturn 2023-24	The Committee recommended that given the sizeable deficit for Homelessness, consideration be given to a need for a different approach, including a counterintuitive injection of capital, to bring the budget back on track.	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Revenue Budget Outturn 2023-24	Members expressed concern regarding whether the Five Point Action Plan was an adequate response to the current situation and recommended that an update on the actions for the five points to	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
		date be reported for scrutiny at a future meeting of COSC.			
25 July 2024	Revenue Budget Outturn 2023-24	<p>Members discussed that the budgetary situation required a careful evaluation of the reserves available to the Council and that whilst the Council had been prudent in building up reserves in the past, they are a finite resource in the current circumstances, and it was imperative to minimise the extent to which the Council is dependent on reserves to achieve a balanced budget this year.</p> <p>The Committee requested a breakdown of the current situation with the reserves from the Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change.</p>	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Revenue Budget Outturn 2023-24	<p>Members discussed that it was becoming more and more difficult to separate the revenue and capital budgets because there are pressures in both and a decision in one impacts the other.</p> <p>The Committee requested details of the current situation with capital</p>	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change.	Circulating for response.	

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
		projects from the Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change, including those that are contractually committed and therefore not available to be reprioritised.			
25 July 2024	Budget Monitoring 2024-25 - Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast	Given the budget outturn for 2023-24 and the emerging revenue forecast for 2024-25 the Committee recommended that there needed to be an urgent evaluation of the robustness of the current budget-setting process.	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Budget Monitoring 2024-25 - Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast	Given the imperative to avoid having to issue a Section 114 notice in the future, the Committee recommended that consideration be given to the appointment of 'internal commissioners' to manage budgets in particular directorates.	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Budget Monitoring 2024-25 - Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast	The budget deficits in schools - 75% are in deficit and the total amount is just over £5 million – are a corporate risk for the Council. As school governors are volunteers, and given their substantial responsibilities, there needed an enhancement of the support	Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services/ Corporate Director - Education, Early	Circulating for response.	

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
		<p>offered to them. As such, Members recommended the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. There was an urgent need to explore the required skill set and training needs of school governors. b. Whether ways could be found to enhance the support provided to school governors by utilising individuals who have had professional leadership roles in schools and therefore understand what can and cannot be done. c. That consideration should be given to extending an invitation to school governors to observe and on occasion contribute to meetings of SOSC 1. d. That the Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People should provide a briefing to school governors (like that provided to head teachers) to help them understand the wider 	<p>Years & Young People</p>		

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
		context of their role in a difficult budgetary situation.			
25 July 2024	Budget Monitoring 2024-25 - Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast	Given the corporate risk associated with the budgetary situation in schools, the Committee recommended that there was an urgent need to consider the status of this issue as part of the Risk Register and whether the Regional Internal Audit Service (RIAS) should be requested to investigate it.	Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services/ Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change/ Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Budget Monitoring 2024-25 - Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast	Given the Council will receive at most a cash flat settlement (representing a 3% reduction in the revenue budget) from the Welsh Government this year, Members recommended that the Chair write to the Welsh Government to express their concerns about this and to request more information on their future approach to local government finance.	Chair/ Scrutiny	Being actioned	
25 July 2024	Budget Monitoring 2024-25 - Quarter 1	The Committee requested that case studies of the value of early intervention in adult and children's	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for	Circulating for response.	

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
	Revenue Forecast	care be circulated to members of the Committee.	Social Services, Health and Wellbeing/ Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing		
25 July 2024	Budget Monitoring 2024-25 - Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast	The Committee requested an all-member briefing on Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 that requires local authorities to make arrangements to promote co-operation with their relevant partners and others, in relation to adults with needs for care and support, carers and children	Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Quarter 4 Year-End Performance 2023-24	The Committee recommended that in light of the serious budget situation, there was a need to consider as a matter of urgency the appropriate balance between achieving sustainable cost savings and performance.	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Quarter 4 Year-End Performance 2023-24	The Committee expressed that staff sickness, issues with recruitment and early retirement remained a risk for the Council,	Chief Executive/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
		especially where lean staffing and sickness absence combine, and recommended that consideration be given to the combined impact of these in order to avoid leading to potentially serious service shortcomings.			
25 July 2024	Quarter 4 Year-End Performance 2023-24	The Committee recommended that there was a need to produce a positive narrative about performance where there is good news.	Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Quarter 4 Year-End Performance 2023-24	The Committee recommended that there was an urgent need for the Cabinet and Senior Officers to carry out a deliberate, ruthless and strategic exercise to identify the most important priorities – while eliminating or postponing less important ones.	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Quarter 4 Year-End Performance 2023-24	The Committee recommended that the number of well-being objectives, and the associated performance indicators, needed to be revised and that there was a need for a very limited list of priorities to guide decision-making.	Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	

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Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
25 July 2024	Self-Assessment 2023/24	Given that there were a number of performance indicators within the first well-being objective, Protecting our Most Vulnerable, for which performance is unsatisfactory or not very good, the Committee recommended that they needed to be addressed as a key priority.	Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Self-Assessment 2023/24	The Committee recommended that given some of the PIs – in respect of homelessness, for example - came from the Welsh Government and were no longer fit for purpose due to legislative changes, that it would be appropriate for officers to approach the Welsh Government to consider if they could be revised, and the outcome should be shared with Members at a future meeting.	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Self-Assessment 2023/24	The Committee recommended that Cabinet Members be invited to the next meeting of the Committee on 9 September 2024, to provide an overview of their strategic approach and priorities for the coming year.	Scrutiny/ Cabinet.	Cabinet members attended COSC on 9 September 2024.	Actioned

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
9 September 2024	Information Report - Corporate Plan Targets 2024/25	<p>The Committee recommended that any changes to the Corporate Plan, Targets or Priorities after the draft Plan had been scrutinised, should be reported to the Committee for consideration.</p> <p>In addition, Members agreed to send any queries about the report to the Scrutiny team to take forward with Officers.</p>	<p>Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy</p> <p>Scrutiny</p>	Circulating for response.	
9 September 2024	Director of Social Services Annual Report 2023/24	<p>The Committee recommended that all reports submitted to the Committee should include a strengthened and enhanced focus on the financial implications of service proposals and developments.</p>	CCMB	Circulating for response.	
9 September 2024	Director of Social Services Annual Report 2023/24	<p>A number of projects had been funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund and the Committee requested more detailed information, including the amount of funding that had been received and the potential impact on those areas within the social services part of the budget for pathways towards employment, education and training.</p>	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing/ Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing/ Corporate	Circulating for response.	

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
			Director - Communities		
9 September 2024	Director of Social Services Annual Report 2023/24	The Committee requested that the Community Resource Team Package of Care Delays (PoCD) report, to be considered by Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 on 23 September 2024, be circulated to Members of the Committee.	Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing/ Scrutiny.	Circulating for response.	
9 September 2024	Director of Social Services Annual Report 2023/24	The Committee requested that the Recovery Plan considered by the Social Services Improvement Board be circulated to Members of the Committee.	Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing/ Scrutiny.	Circulating for response.	
9 September 2024	Director of Social Services Annual Report 2023/24	Members discussed daytime opportunities for residents with learning disabilities and the prospect for using grants to support a new model for their delivery and the committee requested that the Review of Daytime Opportunities be reported to a future meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2.	Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing/ Scrutiny.	Circulating for response.	

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
9 September 2024	Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 & 2023/24	The Committee recommended that where reports cover issues that cross service boundaries, consideration is given to communicating with all Scrutiny Members regarding this so that they have the opportunity to engage via their fellow members sitting on the Committee and/or observe the meeting.	Scrutiny	To be actioned by Scrutiny, in conjunction with Scrutiny Chairs.	Ongoing
9 September 2024	Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 & 2023/24	The Committee recommended that the Annual Report should include comparative data on the number of call ins in previous years.	Scrutiny	Included in the Scrutiny Annual Report. Agreed at Council on 25 September 2024.	Actioned
9 September 2024	Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 & 2023/24	The Committee recommended that consideration be given to ensuring that more external representatives are invited to attend scrutiny meetings.	Chairs/ Scrutiny	The Scrutiny Annual Report was strengthened to include as a priority Scrutiny Committees will continue to strive to increase the number of external Invitees to Scrutiny Committees for related reports as part of their forward work programmes.	Ongoing

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
9 September 2024	Forward Work Programme Update	The Committee recommended that consideration be given to the arrangements for the Scrutiny Committee meetings in January 2025 to consider the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 - 2028-29, to ensure that Members are able to direct their questions to the appropriate Committee to contribute fully and avoid duplication.	Chairs / Scrutiny	To be actioned by Scrutiny, in conjunction with Scrutiny Chairs.	Ongoing

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1
2024-25 Forward Work Programme

18 July 2024 at 11.00am		
Report Topic	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Home-to-School/College Transport Policy	<p>Outcome of the HTST policy public consultation.</p> <p>To include aspects relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe routes to schools • Implications of revised LDP • School catchment areas • Pupils' admission numbers • New school builds 	<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services.</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Corporate Director for Education, Early Years and Young People. Head of Education and Family Support Group Manager (Strategy, Performance and Support)</p> <p><u>CSC</u></p> <p><u>Headteacher Nominees</u> Headteacher Maesteg Comprehensive Headteacher Nottage Primary</p> <p><u>External</u></p>

Monday 16th September 2024 at 11.00am –		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate Strategic Plan 2023-26 Update	<p>To include update on ALN and Budget implications from 2024-25</p>	<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services.</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Corporate Director for Education, Early Years and Young People.</p> <p><u>CSC</u></p> <p><u>Headteacher Nominees - TBA</u></p> <p><u>External</u></p>

Monday 18 th November 2024 at 11.00am		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Nursery TBC	Pre Decision	<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services.</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Corporate Director for Education, Early Years and Young People.</p> <p><u>CSC</u></p> <p><u>Headteacher Nominees - TBA</u></p> <p><u>External</u></p>

Thursday 16 th January 2025 at 11.00am		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2028-29	Pre Decision	<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services.</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Corporate Director for Education, Early Years and Young People.</p> <p><u>CSC</u></p> <p><u>Headteacher Nominees - TBA</u></p> <p><u>External</u></p>

Monday 3 rd March 2025 at 11.00am –		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Behaviour, Attendance and Exclusions	<p>Committee requested the following invitees be invited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secondary school headteachers - Invitation be sent to Ysgol Bryn Castell - A member within the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision team that specifically deals with and supports children with behavioural difficulty. 	<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services.</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Corporate Director for Education, Early Years and Young People.</p> <p><u>CSC</u></p> <p><u>Headteacher Nominees - TBA</u></p> <p><u>External</u></p>

Thursday 8 th May 2025 at 11.00am		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Safeguarding		<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services.</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Corporate Director for Education, Early Years and Young People.</p> <p><u>CSC</u></p> <p><u>Headteacher Nominees - TBA</u></p> <p><u>External</u></p>

Members briefing sessions.

- Reporting of exam results - Session to be held to update Members on recommencing of reporting exam results.
- Leadership and Safeguarding – How they are being audited.
- Secondary School meal Provision - Either an information report or a briefing session arranged as soon as possible to further explore issues raised by Members on this subject. Members have also requested more visits to schools, focusing on secondary school meal provision in this instance, and the capacity of the catering service to meet this need.
- New Estyn Inspection Framework
- Governing Bodies – Support and funding. Invitation to be extended to representatives and the Governors Association

Information reports to be provided.

- English Language School's catchment areas / capacity
- Appointment of Local Education Authority (LEA) governors – Policy and rules - Criteria and procedure for the appointment and removal of local authority school governors'
- Corporate performance

Potential Items to be scheduled.

- ALN Provision and Implementation Update
- Review of school improvement services
- Review of post inspection plan
- School mergers
- School Modernisation update
- Update on UPFSM Rollout (to include pupils' views and be invited to meeting)
– possibly taken up by BREP
- Delegated budgets, monitor the implications of any proposed reduction to school delegated budget – on school budgets, staffing structures, redundancies, and any resulting impact on pupils – possibly taken up by BREP

Scrutiny Panel

- Potential research and evaluation panel comprising a few members of the Committee to consider the subject of Governing Body support and funding in more detail with any recommendations reported back to the main committee.

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2
2024-25 Forward Work Programme

Monday 8 July 2024 at 10.00am		
Report Topic	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Building on Strengths, Improving Lives – A Three-Year Plan for Sustainable Care and Support for Adults in Bridgend County Borough Council.	<p>Pre-decision.</p> <p>The purpose of the report is to provide Members of the Committee with an opportunity to scrutinise the three-year plan for sustainable care and support for adults in Bridgend County Borough Council.</p>	<p><u>Cabinet Member</u> Deputy Leader/ Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing.</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing; and the Head of Adult Social Care; and Head of Adult Social Care; Social Work Lead in Adult Social Care; Group Manager - Direct Care Provider Services; Group Manager - Integrated Cluster Network Service; Group Manager - Learning Disability, Mental Health, and Substance Misuse.</p>
Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination Report	To nominate one Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee at meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting in addition to the Chairperson of SOSOC 2 who is automatically appointed.	N/A
Draft Outline Forward Work Programme		N/A

Monday 23 September 2024 at 10.00am		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Community Resource Team Package of Care Delays (PoCD)	To consider the current issues being experienced in the County Borough and specifically how the Authority is working with the Health Service to support individuals who require support at home including reablement care when discharged from hospital.	<p><u>Cabinet Member</u> Deputy Leader/ Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing.</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing.</p> <p>Head of Adult Social Care Social Work Lead in Adult Social Care Integrated Community Services Manager – Reablement</p> <p>Clinical Service Group Manager - Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board</p>
Proposal to extend the Term of the Healthy Living Partnership with GLL / HALO Leisure	<p>Pre-decision.</p> <p>The report offers Members the opportunity to scrutinise the benefits of an extension to the existing healthy living partnership agreement with GLL/Halo Leisure. The current agreement is due to end in March 2027 and the report will provide information on the legal and procurement considerations that the Council may need to make. The report will identify how the current partnership has delivered on outcomes for the Council and supported its wellbeing objectives whilst improving the leisure facilities and delivering financial savings. The report will identify the reasoning as to why an extended relationship may be a cost-effective way forward for the Council in comparison to alternatives.</p>	<p><u>Cabinet Member</u> Deputy Leader/ Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing.</p> <p>Group Manager - Prevention and Wellbeing</p>

Thursday 14 November 2024 at 10.00am		
Theme/ Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Substance Misuse	To evaluate the effectiveness of the current arrangements and to provide an opportunity for Members to advise on future developments.	<p><u>Cabinet Member</u> Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing.</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing; and the Head of Adult Social Care; and service users/ partners – Police and Health colleagues - TBD.</p>
Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report 2023-24	To include an update on Child Exploitation, placement sufficiency, and staffing challenges.	<p><u>Cabinet Member</u> Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing.</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing; and the Head of Adult Social Care; Head of Children's Social Care; Group Manager, IAA & Safeguarding; Team Manager – Older People - Mental Health.</p>

Friday 17 January 2025 at 10.00am		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2028-29 and Budget Proposals		<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Leader of Council; Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing; Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance; Cabinet Member for Resources (Job Share).</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Chief Executive; Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing; Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change; Chief Officer - Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy; Head of Adult Social Care; Head of Children's Social Care; Deputy Head of Finance; and Finance Manager – Social Services & Wellbeing / Chief Executive's Directorate.</p>

Thursday, 13 March 2025 at 10.00am		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Library and Cultural Services	Pre-decision.	<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Leader of Council; Deputy Leader/ Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing; Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance; Cabinet Member for Resources (Job Share).</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Chief Executive; Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing.</p>

Thursday, 1 May 2025 at 10.00am		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
TBD		<p><u>Cabinet Member</u></p> <p><u>Officers</u></p>

Briefings and Workshops:

Briefings/ Workshops: TBD		
Topic	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
The Elimination of Private Profit from the Care of Looked After Children	<p>The Welsh Government introduced legislation, The Health and Social Care (Wales) Bill, on 20 May 2024. Amongst a number of aims, the Bill contains provisions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restrict the making of profit by providers of children's homes services, secure accommodation services and fostering services for looked after children. • require local authorities to submit a sufficiency plan to Welsh Ministers in respect of accommodation for looked after children, and to take all reasonable steps to secure sufficient accommodation provided by not-for-profit entities, either within or near to its areas to meet their needs. <p>The aim is to ensure that public money invested in accommodation for care experienced children is not extracted as profit, but instead is reinvested back into the system to support sustainable and better outcomes, services and professional development.</p> <p>The initial briefing for all Members, and the subsequent Workshop for Members of SOSC 2, will explore what this could mean for the future care of children in the Borough.</p>	Members and officers for the Briefing and Workshop – TBD.
The Replacement System for CareDirector (WCCIS)	<p>The Committee requested a briefing on COR-2024-01 on the Corporate Risk Assessment: The threat to business continuity if the Council is unable to procure and implement major ICT systems which support critical services such as a replacement system for CareDirector (WCCIS). CareDirector is a Cloud-based case management solution for social care organisations that supports integrated working across health and social care.</p>	Members and officers for the Briefing and Workshop – TBD.

Other Items:

15 April postponed reports:

- A 3 Year Sustainability Plan to Improve Outcomes for Children and Family Services in Bridgend: Year 1 Report on Progress – 2023/24 - updated version to be provided as an Information Report during 2024-25.

Reports requested by the Committee:

- Progress on the Learning Disability Transformation Programme – 6 monthly updates to be provided during 2024-25.
- Direct Payments – TBD.

Other Potential Items:

Pre-decision:

- Assisted Transport Policy Consultation
- Day Opportunities Review
- Accommodation Based Service Review

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

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

Monday 30 September 2024 4.00pm		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Future Waste	<p>Setting out of future direction. What is going to be done. How the future service will look. Outcome of consultation.</p>	<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change Head of Partnerships</p> <p><u>External</u></p>

APPENDIX E

Monday 2 December 2024 4.00pm		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
<p>Housing and Homelessness Update</p> <p>And</p> <p>Information Report: Update on the Shared Prosperity Funding</p>	<p>Affordable; Accessible; Social; Energy efficiency housing; Registered Social Landlords</p> <p>Progress on Empty homes in the County Borough, including the number, the Empty Homes Policy and Grants available – as requested by Members of SOSC 3 at 22 April meeting.</p> <p>The Committee requested the above to also include churches and chapels – asked for by Members of SOSC 3 at 16 July meeting.</p> <p>How grants are progressing in terms of spend, who the recipients are, feedback on the process.</p>	<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Leader of the Council Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Corporate Director Communities Head of Operations - Community Services</p> <p><u>External</u></p>

Monday 20 January 2025 4.00pm		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2028-29</p>		<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Leader of the Council Deputy Leader of Council and Cabinet Member of Social Services and Health Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Legal Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Chief Executive Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change Corporate Director Communities</p>

Monday 17 February 2025 4.00pm		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
<p>Maesteg Town Hall Review</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Valleys to Coast</p>	<p>Lessons Learned - COSC delegated the Lessons Learned report to SOSC 3 to consider, when the project has been completed. (Possible information report or member briefing)</p>	<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Wellbeing</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Corporate Director Communities</p> <p><u>External</u></p>

Monday 7 April 2025 4.00pm		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
<p>Climate Change Decarbonisation</p>	<p>Update on progress and future priorities given current and future budget implications</p> <p>Electric charging points update</p>	<p><u>Cabinet Members</u> Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment</p> <p><u>Officers</u> Corporate Director Communities</p> <p><u>External</u></p>

Member Briefing sessions

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

Information reports

- Audit Wales 'Springing Forward Asset Management Inspection Report' – including associated Action Plan

Potential Items

- Scrutinise the regeneration of Bridgend Town Centre
- Sickness levels in the Authority and its effect on decision-making in the Directorate
- Members requested that the Porthcawl Regeneration and Pavilion Update, be scheduled for the February meeting alongside the Maesteg Town Hall report.
- Major parks in the Borough