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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Bridgend County Borough Council

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



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

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



Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate
Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 / 643694 / 643513
Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Gwasanaethau Democrataidd

Ein cyf / Our ref:
Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Dydd Mawrth, 11 Tachwedd 2025

Annwyl Cynghorydd,

CABINET

Cynhelir Cyfarfod Cabinet Hybrid yn Siambr y Cyngor - Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, CF31 4WB / o bell drwy Microsoft Teams ar **Dydd Mawrth, 18 Tachwedd 2025 am 14:30.**

AGENDA

1 Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb

Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan Aelodau.

2 Datganiadau o fuddiant

Derbyn datganiadau o ddiddordeb personol a rhagfarnol (os o gwbl) gan Aelodau / Swyddogion yn unol â darpariaethau'r Cod Ymddygiad Aelodau a fabwysiadwyd gan y Cyngor o 1 Medi 2008.

3 Cymeradwyaeth Cofnodion

I dderbyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cofnodion cyfarfod y 21/10/2025

3 - 12

4 Adolygiad Polisi Cyllid Meithrin Cymru Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

13 - 40

5 Gorchymyn Diogelu Mannau Cyhoeddus - Ymgynghoriad Rheoli Cwn

41 - 52

6 Diweddariad Chwarter 2 y Rhaglen Gyfalaf 2025-26

Ffon/Tel: 01656 643643

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Gwefan/Website: www.bridgend.gov.uk

Cyfnwedd testun: Rhowch 18001 o flaen unrhyw un o'n rhifau ffon ar gyfer y gwasanaeth trosglwyddo testun

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



53 - 74

7 Adroddiad Hanner Blwyddyn Rheoli'r Trysorlys 2025-26

75 - 98

8 Adroddiad Cynnydd Blynnyddol Rheoli Ansawdd Aer Lleol 2025

99 - 198

9 Adroddiad Gwybodaeth i'w Nodi

199 - 238

10 Materion Brys

I ystyried unrhyw eitemau o fusnes y, oherwydd amgylchiadau arbennig y cadeirdd o'r farn y dylid eu hystyried yn y cyfarfod fel mater o frys yn unol â pharagraff 2.4 (e) o'r Rheolau Trefn y Cabinet yn y Cyfansoddiad.

11 Gwahardd y Cyhoedd

Nid oedd yr eitemau canlynol yn cael eu cyhoeddi, gan fod eu bod yn cynnwys gwybodaeth eithriedig fel y'i diffinnir ym Mharagraffau 12 o Ran 4 a Pharagraff 21 o Ran 5, Atodlen 12A, Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972, fel y'i newidiwyd gan Orchymyn Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) 2007 (Mynediad at Wybodaeth) (Amrywio).

Os, yn dilyn cymhwyso'r prawf budd y cyhoedd yn y Cabinet yn penderfynu yn unol â'r Ddeddf i ystyried yr eitemau hyn yn breifat, bydd y cyhoedd yn cael eu gwahardd o'r cyfarfod yn ystod ystyriaeth o'r fath.

12 Cymeradwyaeth Cofnodion wedi'u Eithrio

239 - 240

Derbyn cofnodion eithriedig 21/10/2025 i'w cymeradwyo

Nodyn: Bydd hwn yn gyfarfod Hybrid a bydd Aelodau a Swyddogion mynychu trwy Siambr y Cyngor, Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr / o bell Trwy Timau Microsoft. Bydd y cyfarfod cael ei recordio i'w drosglwyddo drwy wefan y Cyngor. Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiwn am hyn, cysylltwch â cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk neu ffoniwch 01656 643148 / 643694 / 643513 / 643159

Yn ddiffuant

K Watson

Prif Swyddog, Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddio, AD a Pholisi Corfforaethol

Dosbarthiad:

Cynghorwr:

E L P Caparros

P Davies

M J Evans

N Farr

J Gebbie

Ffon/Tel: 01656 643643

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Ebost/Email: talktous@bridgend.gov

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Gwefan/Website: www.bridgend.gov

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M Jones
JC Spanswick
HM Williams

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COFNOD O BENDERFYNIADAU CYFARFOD Y CABINET A GYNHALIWYD YN HYBRID YN SIAMBR Y CYNGOR – Y SWYDDFEYDD DINESIG, STRYD YR ANGEL, PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR, CF31 4WB / O BELL DRWY GYFRWNG TIMAU MICROSOFT DDYDD MAWRTH, 21 HYDREF 2025
AM 14:30

Presennol

Y Cyngorydd JC Spanswick – Cadeirydd

N Farr
P Davies

J Gebbie
M J Evans

HM Williams
M Jones

E L P Caparros

Swyddogion:

Jake Morgan
Alex Rawlin
Carys Lord
Claire Marchant
Janine Nightingale
Kelly Watson
Lindsay Harvey
Michael Pitman
Nimi Chandrasena
Gaynor Thomas
Martin Morgans
Kelly Pardon

Y Prif Weithredwr
Rheolwr Polisi Corfforaethol a Pherfformiad
Prif Swyddog – Cyllid, Tai a Newid
Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles
Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – y Cymunedau
Prif Swyddog – Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol, AD a Pholisi Corfforaethol
Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg, y Blynyddoedd Cynnar a Phobl Ifanc
Swyddog Cefnogi Technegol – y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd
Swyddog y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd
Rheolwr Cynladwy ar gyfer Dysgu, yr Adran Addysg
Pennaeth Gweithrediadau dros dro, y Gwasanaethau Cymunedol
Swyddog Polisi Tai – SRS

533. Ymddiheuriadau am Absenoldeb

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	Dim
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	21 Hydref 2025

534. Datganiadau o Fuddiannau

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	<p>Cafodd y datganiadau o fuddiannau canlynol eu gwneud:-</p> <p>Y Cyngorydd Paul Davies – Buddiant Rhagfarnus yn Eitem 11 gan ei fod yn berchen ar eiddo oedd wedi ei gynnwys yng Nghynllun Prydlesu Llywodraeth Cymru</p> <p>Fe wnaeth y Cyngorydd John Spanswick a'r Cyngorydd Neelo Farr ddatgan Buddiant Personol yn eitem 8 gan fod ganddynt berthnasau oedd yn yrwyr tacsï.</p> <p>Fe wnaeth y Cyngorydd Paul Davies ddatgan Buddiant Personol gan fod ganddo drwydded tacsï ond nad oedd yn gweithio yn y maes hwn ar y pryd.</p>
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	21 Hydref 2025

535. Cymeradwyo Cofnodion

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	<p><u>PENDERFYNWYD:</u> Cymeradwyo cofnodion y Cabinet dyddiedig 23 Medi 2025 fel cofnod gwir a chywir.</p>
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	21 Hydref 2025

536. Adolygu Polisi Diogelu Corfforaethol

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	<p>Cyflwynodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd adroddiad am y Polisi Diogelu Corfforaethol diwygiedig i'w gymeradwyo. Mae'r diweddariad yn cryfhau dau faes allweddol yn dilyn archwiliad mewnol:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gofynion hyfforddiant clir, yn cynnwys cwrs adnewyddu bob tair blynedd Protocol diogelu newydd ar gyfer contractwyr <p>Roedd y polisi ynghlwm yn atodiad 1 yr adroddiad</p>
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	<p>Gofynnwyd am gadarnhad bod staff yn ymroi i'r hyfforddiant oedd yn berthnasol i'w swydd gan y nodwyd yn yr adroddiad mai 85.77% oedd y ffigur ar hyn o bryd. Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant fod 100% yn anodd ei gyflawni gan fod yna staff newydd, absenoldeb mamolaeth a salwch i'w hystyried, ond bod yr holl staff yn gweithio i ddod mor agos â phosibl at gwblhau'r holl hyfforddiant a bod hyn yn cael ei fonitro'n fanwl.</p> <p><u>PENDERFYNWYD:</u> Bod y Cabinet yn cymeradwyo'r Polisi Diogelu Corfforaethol wedi ei ddiweddaru oedd ynghlwm yn Atodiad 1 yr adroddiad.</p>
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	21 Hydref 2025

537. Argymhelliad Craffu gan Bwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu y Cymunedau, yr Amgylchedd a Thai

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	<p>Cyflwynodd Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu y Cymunedau, yr Amgylchedd a Thai adroddiad oedd yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth i argymhelliad gan y Pwyllgor ynghylch Trosglwyddo Asedau Cymunedol.</p> <p>Bu'r Pwyllgor yn trafod y cynnydd sylweddol a gynigiwyd o'r blaen yn y taliadau am gael defnyddio caeau a chyfleusterau chwaraeon sy'n eiddo i'r Cyngor ac argymhellodd fod y Cabinet yn ystyried a yw'r polisi'n dal yn gywir ac yn addas i'r diben yn yr hinsawdd ariannol bresennol a bod Grŵp Archwilio Dwfn Cyfarwyddiaeth y Cymunedau yn edrych i mewn i'r polisi o godi tâl.</p> <p>Codwyd y pwyntiau a ganlyn gan Aelodau'r Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem tegwch rhwng y grwpiau oedd wedi ymgymryd â Throsglwyddo Asedau Cymunedol a'r rhai nad oeddent. • Sibrydion am gynnydd o 500%. <p>Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau fod y Swyddogion yn ymrwymedig i adolygu'r polisi a chymryd yr argymhellion Craffu i ystyriaeth ac y byddent yn cyflwyno adroddiad i'r Cabinet maes o law.</p> <p><u>PENDERFYNWYD:</u> Bod y Cabinet wedi ystyried ac yn ymateb i argymhelliad Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu y Cymunedau, yr Amgylchedd a Thai fel a ganlyn:-</p>
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Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	21 Hydref 2025
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538. Asesiad Perfformiad y Panel

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	<p>Cyflwynodd yr Arweinydd adroddiad oedd yn hysbysu'r Cabinet am ganfyddiadau Asesiad Perfformiad y Panel a gynhaliwyd rhwng 16-19 Medi 2025 a gofynnodd am gymeradwyaeth ar gyfer camau nesaf y broses.</p> <p>Ar ddiwedd wythnos y cyfoedion ar y safle, fe wnaethant roi cyflwyniad ynghylch eu canfyddiadau oedd yn mynd i'r afael â'r tri gofyniad perfformiad a'r tri maes ffocws a ddarparwyd gennym. Ers hynny, mae eu hadroddiad terfynol wedi cael ei dderbyn gan y Cyngor. Mae'r adroddiad wedi ei gynnwys yn Atodiad 1 a'r cyflwyniad yn Atodiad 2.</p> <p>Dywedodd y Prif Weithredwr nad oedd aros yr un fath yn ddewis mewn gwirionedd a bod yr argymhellion yn golygu symud "yn gyflym," gyda'r disgwyliad y ceid cynigion penodol ar gyfer cyfarfod y cyngor ym mis Tachwedd.</p> <p><u>PENDERFYNWYD:</u> Bod y Cabinet -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wedi ystyried canfyddiadau Asesiad Perfformiad y Panel y manylwyd arnynt yn Atodiad 1 ac Atodiad 2 yr adroddiad.• Yn cymeradwyo'r camau nesaf wrth ymateb i Asesiad Perfformiad y Panel ym mharagraffau 3.6, 3.7 a 3.8 yr adroddiad.
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	21 Hydref 2025

539. Hunanasesiad 2024/25

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	<p>Cyflwynodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Gyllid a Pherfformiad adroddiad oedd yn gofyn i'r Cabinet gefnogi ac argymhell i'r Cyngor yr hunanasesiad am 2024/25 oedd wedi ei gynnwys yn Atodiad 1 a'r wybodaeth gysylltiedig am berfformiad yn Atodiad 2.</p> <p>Tynnodd sylw at y tabl yn 3.8 o'r adroddiad oedd yn dangos y dyfarniadau ar gyfer 2024/25 gan ddefnyddio'r statws Coch, Ambr, Melyn, Gwyrdd (RAYG).</p>
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	<p>Nododd rai llwyddiannau trawiadol oedd yn cynnwys gwelliannau sylweddol yn y Gwasanaethau Plant, agor Neuadd y Dref Maesteg, tri thraeth Baner Las a bod y gorau yng Nghymru am ailgylchu (73%).</p> <p><u>PENDERFYNWYD:</u> Bod y Cabinet wedi ystyried adroddiad yr Hunanasesiad drafft am 2024/25 yn Atodiad 1, fel y'i cefnogwyd gan y wybodaeth am berfformiad yn Atodiad 2 yr adroddiad, ac yn cymeradwyo ei gyflwyno i'r Cyngor i'w gymeradwyo.</p>
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	21 Hydref 2025

540. Mynediad i Ganol Tref Pen-y-bont at Ogwr

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	<p>Cyflwynodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Adfywio, Datblygu Economaidd a Thai adroddiad oedd yn rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Cabinet am brosiect Mynediad i Ganol Tref Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, yn dilyn galw i mewn y penderfyniad wnaed gan y Cabinet ar 23 Medi 2025.</p> <p>Yn dilyn eu cyfarfod eithriadol ar 3 Hydref 2025, gofynnodd Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu y Cymunedau, yr Amgylchedd a Thai am gymeradwyaeth i gyflwyno Gorchymyn Rheoleiddio Traffig Arbrofol (ETRO) 18 mis yn cynnwys y mesurau canlynol:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• mwy o hyblygrwydd ar gyfer llwytho a dadlwytho;• eithriadau ychwanegol i'r Gorchymynion Rheoleiddio Traffig (TRO) presennol pan fydd y bolardiau amddiffynnol wedi eu codi;• mynediad gwell a pharcio diogel ar gyfer beicio; a• darpariaeth parcio Bathodyn Glas estynedig ar Heol Derwen <p>Cydnabu'r Arweinydd na thynnwyd sylw yn yr adroddiad at y 56% o'r ymatebwyr yn yr astudiaeth oedd yn cefnogi ailgyflwyno traffig a gofynnodd am gywiro hyn.</p> <p>Awgrymodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau welliant i ganiatáu mynediad i dacsis i ganol y dref fel rhan o'r ETRO, yn amodol ar archwiliad diogelwch.</p> <p>Awgrymodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd welliant i argymhelliad 9.3 (awdurdod dirprwyedig i'r Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol i addasu neu ddirymu'r gorchymyn). Mae'r gwelliant yn sicrhau bod yr awdurdod hwn yn cael ei arfer "mewn ymgynghoriad ag aelod y cabinet".</p>
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Derbyniwyd y ddau welliant.

Awgrymodd Aelodau'r Cabinet hefyd y gellid casglu mwy o ddata ar ôl yr ETRO ar ei lwyddiant neu ddiffyg llwyddiant, ac y gellid gwneud gwelliannau pellach yn y dyfodol. Fodd bynnag, nid oedd cyflwyno traffig yn llawn ar hyn o bryd yn addas oherwydd diffyg data, a byddai mesurau llai dros dro er mwyn casglu'r data hwn yn fwy addas.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet:-

1. Yn nodi pryderon Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu y Cymunedau, yr Amgylchedd a Thai yn dilyn penderfyniad 4 Aelod Craffu a Chadeirydd Craffu i alw i mewn benderfyniad y Cabinet ynglŷn â Mynediad i Ganol Tref Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr fel yr amlinellwyd ym mharagraff 3.7 yr adroddiad;
2. Yn dirprwyo awdurdod i Gyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau mewn ymgynghoriad â'r Aelod perthnasol o'r Cabinet i wneud y canlynol:-
 - (i) ceisio ETRO 18 mis ar gyfer ymestyn oriau llwytho a dadlwytho hyd at 11:00 a'i ailgychwyn ar ôl 16:00, gyda hyblygrwydd ychwanegol yn cael ei ganiatáu ar gyfer sefyllfaoedd a digwyddiadau brys;
 - (ii) ceisio ETRO 18 mis i ganiatáu beicio o fewn yr ardal i gerddwyr, yn amodol ar gwblhau'r asesiadau risg diogelwch yn foddhaol;
 - (iii) ceisio ETRO 18 mis ar gyfer trosi baeau tacsï sydd heb eu defnyddio'n ddigonol ar Heol Derwen yn faeau parcio Bathodyn Glas.
3. Yn dirprwyo awdurdod i Gyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau i wneud trefniadau ar gyfer monitro a gwerthuso'r Gorchymyn Rheoleiddio Traffig Arbrofol (ETRO) ac addasu, atal dros dro neu dynnu'r Gorchymyn yn ôl pe bai angen, yn ystod cyfnod yr arbrawf.
4. Yn dirprwyo awdurdod i Gyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau, mewn ymgynghoriad â'r Prif Swyddog - Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol, AD a Pholisi Corfforaethol, i gyflwyno a derbyn cyllid allanol, dyfarnu a sefydlu contractau, cytundebau a dogfennaeth gyfreithiol arall ar ran y Cyngor fel sy'n angenrheidiol i gyflawni'r mesurau.
5. Yn ystod cyfnod yr ETRO, adolygu'r system weithredu bolardiau ar gyfer canol y dref.
6. Yn dirprwyo awdurdod i Gyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau i symud ymlaen gyda'r gwaith o ystyried mynediad a lle parcio newydd i'r rhai sy'n dal bathodyn glas ar hyd Stryd y Frenhines, Dunraven Place a Stryd y Farchnad ochr yn ochr â gweithredu'r ETRO.
7. Yn dirprwyo awdurdod i Gyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau i symud ymlaen gyda'r gwaith o ystyried galluogi mwy o gerbydau i gael mynediad ar hyd Stryd y Frenhines, Dunraven Place a Stryd y Farchnad ochr yn ochr â gweithredu'r ETRO

	<p>8. Yn nodi y cyflwynir adroddiadau pellach i'r Cabinet yn cynnig safbwynt parhaol o ran y Gorchmynion Rheoleiddio Traffig Arbrofol (ETRO) ac ar Brosiectau Prif Gynllun Canol Tref Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr.</p> <p>9. Cynigiodd aelodau'r Cabinet argymhelliad pellach i ddirprwyo awdurdod i Gyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau i wneud gwaith pellach i ganiatáu mynediad i yrwyr tacsï ochr yn ochr â gweithredu'r ETRO.</p>
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	21 Hydref 2025

541. Ailsefydlu Gwasanaeth Bws drwy Mawdlam/Pwll Cynffig

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	<p>Gofynnodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Adfywio, Datblygu Economaidd a Thai am gymeradwyaeth i addasu Contract y Llwybrau Bysiau Cyhoeddus â Chymorth ar gyfer Gwasanaeth Rhif 63 Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr i Borthcawl, er mwyn adfer gwasanaeth bysiau drwy Fawdlam/Pwll Cynffig, a ddaeth i ben ym mis Awst 2019.</p> <p>Roedd y cynnig yn golygu addasu'r Gwasanaeth 63 presennol (Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr-Porthcawl) i ddargyfeirio un bws yr awr drwy'r ardal.</p> <p>Mae'r gost (£64,566) wedi ei thalu drwy grant Llywodraeth Cymru, gan arwain at "ddim cost ychwanegol" i'r cyngor.</p> <p>Gofynnodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Adnoddau pa fesurau lliniaru oedd ar waith i atal y gwasanaeth rhag cael ei ddiddymu eto. Esboniodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Adfywio, Datblygu Economaidd a Thai y bydd Cymru, erbyn 2029, yn symud i system fysiau masnachfaint o dan "un rhwydwaith, un amserlen, un tocyn," fydd yn anelu at ddarparu gwasanaeth mwy dibynadwy.</p> <p><u>PENDERFYNWYD:</u> Bod y Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wedi ystyried cynnwys yr adroddiad a chymeradwyo addasu'r contract presennol ar gyfer Gwasanaeth Rhif 63; • Yn dirprwyo awdurdod i Gyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau, mewn ymgynghoriad â Phennaeth Cyllid a Swyddog Adran 151 a Phrif Swyddog - Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddio, AD a Pholisi Corfforaethol, i gytuno ar delerau a llofnodi unrhyw ddogfennau neu weithredoedd sy'n angenrheidiol i roi'r addasiad ar waith.
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Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	21 Hydref 2025
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542. **Monitro Cyllideb 2025-26 – Rhagolwg Refeniw Chwarter 2**

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	<p>Cyflwynodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Gyllid a Pherfformiad adroddiad oedd yn rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Cabinet am sefyllfa ariannol refeniw'r Cyngor ar 30 Medi 2025.</p> <p>Dywedodd fod Tabl 1 yn darparu cymhariaeth rhwng y gyllideb a'r alldro rhagamcanedig ar 30 Medi 2025, tra roedd Tabl 2 yn tynnu sylw at y Gostyngiadau yn y Gyllideb ar gyfer 2025-26.</p> <p>Nododd fod yr adroddiad yn cyfeirio at <i>danwariant</i> net rhagamcanedig o £5.9 miliwn. Fodd bynnag, nodwyd hyn "yn bennaf oherwydd derbyn nifer o grantiau gan Lywodraeth Cymru". Roedd pwysau'n parhau ar gyllidebau sylfaenol, gyda'r cyfarwyddiaethau yn rhagweld gorwariant o £453,000.</p> <p>Gofynnodd Aelod o'r Cabinet pa mor gadarn oedd y rhagamcan, o ystyried diffyg o 10% wrth gyflawni arbedion a gynlluniwyd, ac atebwyd gan y Prif Swyddog - Cyllid, Tai a Newid.</p> <p><u>PENDERFYNWYD:</u> Bod y Cabinet yn nodi'r sefyllfa ariannol a ragwelid ar gyfer 2025-26.</p>
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	21 Hydref 2025

543. **Strategaeth Cartrefi Gwag 2025-2030**

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	<p>Cyflwynodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Adfywio, Datblygu Economaidd a Thai adroddiad oedd yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cabinet ar gyfer Strategaeth Cartrefi Gwag 2025-2030 oedd ynghlwm fel Atodiad A.</p> <p>Mae'r strategaeth 5 mlynedd newydd yn canolbwyntio ar ymgysylltu cynnar, cymorth ariannol, a gorfodi cryfach er mwyn adfer defnydd cartrefi gwag.</p> <p>Trafodwyd y pwyntiau canlynol:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nid yw'r strategaeth yn cynnwys eiddo masnachol, ond eiddo preswyl yn unig. Y premiwm treth gyngor o 300% ar eiddo gwag a'r rhesymeg <p><u>PENDERFYNWYD:</u> Bod y Cabinet yn cymeradwyo Strategaeth Cartrefi Gwag 2025-2030</p>
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	21 Hydref 2025

544. Eitemau Brys

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	Nid oedd dim eitemau brys
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	21 Hydref 2025

545. Gwahardd y Cyhoedd

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	<p><u>PENDERFYNWYD:</u> Nid yw'r eitem ganlynol i'w chyhoeddi gan ei bod yn cynnwys gwybodaeth eithriedig fel y'i diffinnir ym Mharagraffau 12 o Ran 4 a Pharagraff 21 o Ran 5, Atodlen 12A Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972, fel y'i diwygiwyd gan Orchymyn Llywodraeth Leol (Mynediad at Wybodaeth) (Amrywiad) (Cymru) 2007.</p> <p>Yn dilyn cymhwyso prawf budd y cyhoedd, penderfynodd y Cabinet, yn unol â'r Ddeddf, ystyried yr eitem hon yn breifat, ac felly cytunodd i'r cyhoedd gael eu heithrio o'r cyfarfod yn ystod yr ystyriaeth honno.</p>
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	21 Hydref 2025

546. Rhaglen Moderneiddio Ysgolion – Darpariaeth Uwchradd Gyfrwng Cymraeg

Y Penderfyniad Wnaed	Gan fod hon yn eitem eithriedig mae penderfyniad yr adroddiad yn gyfrinachol ac nid yw ar gael i'w archwilio gan y cyhoedd.
Dyddiad Gwneud y Penderfyniad	21 Hydref 2025

I wyllo dadl bellach a gafwyd ar yr eitemau uchod, cliciwch ar y ddolen [link](#) on

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 17:30.

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Meeting of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	18 NOVEMBER 2025
Report Title:	FOSTER WALES BRIDGEND FINANCES POLICY REVIEW
Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member	CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING / DEPUTY LEADER
Responsible Officer:	JOE BOYLE POLICY OFFICER – SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.
Executive Summary:	This report sets out the approach and actions that have been taken to review the Foster Wales Bridgend Financial Policy following an internal audit of payments relating to Fostering services in February 2025. Actions and recommendations were identified within the final report that required a policy review due to inaccuracies and the need for clarity to be given in sections of the policy to ensure appropriate action is taken towards payments made for foster carers.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for the revised Foster Wales Bridgend Financial Policy (**Appendix 1**) provided by the Social Services and Wellbeing directorate.

2. Background

- 2.1 In February 2025 a Foster Carer Payments internal audit was conducted, with the final report published in April 2025. The purpose of the audit was to provide assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control, governance and risk management arrangements in respect of Foster Care Payments. Audit testing was undertaken in respect of financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- 2.2 Findings from this audit, in respect of the policy, were “All policies and procedural documents should be updated to reflect the current procedures and practices in place for awarding and managing the payment of allowances and fees in respect of fostering”.

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 Following the issuing of the report, a policy review has been undertaken with relevant officers from Children and Family Services being involved throughout the review at the relevant opportunity.
- 3.2 In line with the full findings and recommendations the following actions and amendments have been made to the policy:
- References to Complex Needs Allowances being reviewed every three months by the Accommodation and Permanence panel have been removed as this panel no longer exists. These allowances are now referred to as Additional Needs Allowances and are subject to regular reviews and are agreed on a time-limited basis.
 - Additional needs allowances are agreed by the relevant team manager, on a case by case basis and at the discretion of the local authority.
 - Clarification has been provided throughout the policy as to what is the Foster Care Allowance, Foster Carer Fee, and the Enhanced Allowance Eligibility for Kinship Carers.
 - Processes have been clarified around the identification, investigating and recovery of overpayments, along with the identification of processes and actions to reduce the likelihood of overpayments being made.
 - The policy also now identifies who has the responsibility to waive any repayment where overpayments are found to have happened. This is the Group Manager who has the responsibility for Fostering services.
- 3.3 In addition to this, refinement and clarification has been provided to the policy to ensure the policy discussed relevant topics. Reviews found previous versions held information that was not relevant to a Financial policy, along with the need for further clarification to be given to sections due to muddled and unclear wording leading to confusion experienced by foster carers and social work staff.

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

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

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

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

Involvement	Relevant colleagues from Children and Family Services have been involved in the review of this policy.
Long term	The implementation of this policy sets out to ensure foster carers and social work staff are aware of their rights and responsibilities towards financial payments for foster carers.
Prevention	The policy sets out to prevent poor practice and inaccurate payment processes involving foster carers.
Integration	This policy will be implemented and used across the Foster Wales Bridgend service.
Collaboration	A collaborative process has been undertaken to review this policy along with looking at what is happening on a regional basis as well.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 6.1 There are no Climate Change or Nature Implications as a result of this report or policy.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 The implementation of this policy will enable the Council to further its Corporate Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting responsibilities by supporting and setting out the financial approach for Foster Carers engaged by Bridgend County Borough Council to provide care and support to care experienced children and young people.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct additional financial implications arising from this report or the reviewed policy.

9. Recommendation(s)

- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve the implementation of the reviewed Foster Wales Bridgend Financial policy (**Appendix 1**).

Background documents

None

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Foster Wales Bridgend Financial Policy October 2025

Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate

Updates, Revisions and Amendments		
Version	Details of Change	Date
2	Updated policy to reflect agreement for paid respite provision for 2 weeks and overall increase in allowances by 7% in Cabinet 19.07.22	01.08.22
3	Updated Policy to reflect agreement for additional 5.5% increase in allowances 5 th April 2023 and reflect timescales for eligibility Form F assessments	12.04.23
4	Update policy to reflect revised process for regular respite and complex needs allowance decisions by the Team Manager rather than via Accommodation and Permanence Panel.	23.10.23
5	Removal of specific financial figures contained within policy so not to negate and outdate the policy when new allowances are announced by Welsh Government	13.12.23
6	Changes made to policy following audit recommendations, including guidance around overpayments and related processes, and transitional foster carer criteria.	

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1. Introduction

This policy sets out a clear and comprehensive summary of what payments are made to persons approved by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) as foster carers.

This policy applies to all foster carers approved in accordance with regulation 8 of the Fostering Panels (Establishment and Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2018. It applies to all approved foster carers whether they are related to the child(ren) placed with them (Kinship Foster Carer) or not (General Foster Carer), as well as for long and short-term placements

This policy sets out the payment of basic fostering allowances, fees and enhanced allowances. An allowance is a weekly fund which covers the cost of caring for a fostered child. Allowances vary according to the age and needs of the fostered child.

2. Legal and Regulatory Framework

In the formulation of this policy, the Council has considered case law decisions, the applicable legislation and statutory guidance including:

- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Fostering Services (Wales) Regulations 2003
- The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (Wales) Regulations 2015
- Code of Practice to Part 6 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- The Local Authority Fostering Services (Wales) Regulations 2018
- Fostering Panels (Establishment and Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2018
- R(X) v London Borough of Tower Hamlets [2013] EWHC 480 (Admin); [2013] EWCA Civ 904.

3. Definitions

Foster Carer

A foster carer is a person approved in accordance with the Fostering Services (Wales) Regulations 2003 or the Fostering Panels (Establishment and Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2018. For clarity this refers to both unrelated and related approved foster carers.

General Foster Carer

A General Foster Carer is an individual(s) who is approved to provide foster care to children/young people with whom they have no prior existing relationship.

Kinship Foster Carer (Kinship Carer)

A Kinship Carer is an individual(s) who is approved as a Foster Carer for a child or young person that they have a relationship to. For example a family relative or close friend.

4. Key Principles

- 4.1 This policy applies equally to all BCBC approved foster carers, who are operating under the Fostering Panels (Establishment and Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2018.
- 4.2 All approved BCBC Foster Care households will receive a Foster Child Allowance payment which covers the cost of caring for each child within their care. This allowance amount is dependent on the age of the child/young person. There is a minimum allowance set by Welsh Government. The allowance given to the Foster Carer will be at least the National Minimum Fostering Allowance recommended by Welsh Government.
- 4.3 All general foster carers are entitled to and provided with an additional Foster Carer fee.
- 4.4 All approved kinship foster carers will be eligible to receive an enhanced allowance subject to meeting the defined eligibility criteria as described in section 5.1.
- 4.5 All payments will be made by BACS electronic transfer within two weeks of placement and thereafter on a weekly basis.
- 4.6 Any one-off payments incurred by the foster carer may be reimbursed via their supervising social worker subject to the proper approval and authorisation process.
- 4.7 Foster Child Allowance payments are non-taxable and are specifically for the needs of the child in placement.
- 4.8 Kinship Enhanced Allowances and Foster Carer Fee payments are taxable at a rate determined on an annual basis by HMRC.
- 4.9 Foster Carers will be consulted prior to any major changes to the payment scheme.
- 4.10 All payments will be reviewed on an annual basis or more often should circumstances require.

5. Payment Scheme

The Welsh Government sets out the National Minimum Fostering Allowance for Foster Carers which covers the cost of caring for a child in their home. This has been committed to being reviewed annually, with relevant adjustments made in line with inflation.

All foster carers fostering for Bridgend County Borough Council will receive this allowance, details of which can be found on the Foster Wales Bridgend [webpage](#).

5.1 Eligibility for Kinship Carer's Enhanced Allowances

5.1.1 In order to receive the Kinship Enhanced Allowance, all approved kinship foster carers must be able to demonstrate all of the following:

- a) The required skills, ability and competence to care for the range of children a local authority may need to look after.
- b) A commitment to continued individual professional learning, development of their fostering skills and reflection on practice. They must have attended at least 2 training sessions organised or approved by the local authority in any one year and engaged in regular supervision.
- c) A commitment to co-production with the fostering service through active participation in foster carer support groups, consultation events, the recruitment of new foster carers and the provision of peer support.

5.2 Process

The Kinship Enhanced Allowance eligibility flowchart identifying the process that is followed can be found at **Appendix 1**.

The enhanced allowance assessment has been designed to clearly evidence the applicant's potential to meet the eligibility criteria as detailed in Section 5.1. This ensures a consistent and fair approach and delivery. It can be found at **Appendix 2**.

Following the eligibility assessment being agreed, the applicant will then undergo a Form F assessment to be presented to Panel. Every effort will be made to complete the Form F at the earliest opportunity, however the timescale for a Form F assessment to be completed and presented at Panel is 4-6 months.

5.3 Payment of the enhanced allowance

Payment of the enhanced allowance will commence from the date of recommendation of approval at foster panel following the presentation of the full Form F assessment and ratification by the Agency Decision Maker. The Agency Decision Maker is the Head of Children's Services or their nominated individual with delegated power as set out in the Foster Wales Bridgend Statement of Purpose.

5.4 Caring for children with disabilities

Foster carers for children with disabilities receive allowances at the appropriate rates using the same criteria as applied for carers who look after non-disabled children.

Foster Carers who look after children with disabilities full time who are under the age of 16, may be entitled to receive Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in addition to their fostering allowances. Supervising Social Workers should ensure that all foster carers are assisted in making a claim for DLA to the Benefits Agency. The Foster Carer will be responsible for the DLA and should take steps to ensure they can provide evidence of how this money is spent. It is strongly advised that the money be placed in a separate bank account and that the carer keeps a record of what the money has been spent on and ensures that statements are available to be viewed by the Supervising Social Worker, if required.

Support for Foster Carers providing foster care to children/young people with disabilities is available from Family Link Carers. Family Link Carers offer family-based short break care to disabled children and young people and are paid session payments.

The sessions are made up of 6-hour blocks and carers are paid for each block. A carer will receive payment for a full session where they provide care for between 0-6hrs. Where a carer provides care for 7-12hrs they will receive payment for two sessions and if they provided care for 24 hours this would be 4 sessions etc.

(Note there is no enhancement to the session payments for providing overnight stays).

The Family Link Carer will additionally receive a one-off 'Household Amenity Payment' but only if they provide link care for a child that week. Should carers provide link care for more than 1 child in any given week, they will continue to receive the session payments for each child but only 1 Household Amenity Payment is provided at any time.

5.5 Additional Needs Allowance

Foster carers who support children who require a solo placement or present with additional health or behavioural issues, may receive an Additional Needs Allowance to enable them to support the child's needs. Such circumstances may include but are not limited to:-

- A child's needs requiring a foster carer to make significant adjustments to their working hours over and above reasonable expectations.
- A child being out of education for a significant period or subject to a substantially reduced timetable as a result of additional needs.
- Significant risks posed to the child or placement household from others requiring additional safety measures to be put in place.

Additional Needs Allowances are considered on a case-by-case basis, and at the discretion of the local authority. Additional needs allowances are subject to regular review and are agreed on a time limited basis. Following each Child Looked After (CLA) Review, a specific meeting will be organised to discuss the payment and make a decision as to whether it will continue. A flow chart of the process for agreeing additional needs allowances can be found at **Appendix 3**.

The payment requested should be specific and based on supporting evidence, and the amount provided or agreed to will be variable and considered on an individual basis in accordance with the identified needs and circumstances of the household. Social Workers must explicitly address what other avenues have been explored including whether there is an application for DLA.

All Additional Needs Allowances should be evidenced via the attached proforma and reviewed via the same form. Additional Needs Allowances are agreed by the Team Manager and are subject to regular review. The maximum period an Additional Needs Allowance can be provided for is 12 months unless the need for extended timescales are identified from the outset of provision.

Where additional payments are agreed, a letter will be sent to the foster carer outlining the payment that has been agreed and the date of the next review.

5.6 Parent and Child Placements

Foster Child Allowance will be paid for both the child and the parent who are fostered in a Parent and Child placement.

At the initial placement set-up meeting it must be explicitly clarified what the foster carer will be responsible for providing for, and with, the parent in terms of physical care such as meals, heating, use of washing machine etc. If in receipt of Income Support, the parent will have income to cover their own personal expenses.

If the parent leaves the placement and the child remains, the carer will revert to the appropriate payment for a child of that age.

If the parent is looked after and remains in the placement and the child moves the carer will revert to the appropriate payment for a child or young person of that age.

Any decisions regarding any retaining payments for Parent and Child Foster Carers will be made on a case by case basis by the Group Manager – Provider Services in Children and Family Services.

5.7 When I am Ready

Where a young person has previously been in Foster Care and they enter into the “When I am Ready” (WIR) scheme, this results in changes to financial processes. Further information regarding the WIR Finances can be found in the WIR Financial Arrangements Policy.

5.8 Supported Lodgings

Each Supported Lodgings provider will receive a weekly allowance. This is only paid whilst there is a young person in placement.

More details on the financial processes relating to the Supported Lodgings Service can be found within the Supported Lodgings Policy.

5.9 Initial Clothing Allowance

This allowance is to be paid only in those situations where children are placed in a foster home without adequate basic clothing in line with the amounts set and agreed each year.

- When a child is placed without adequate basic clothing, the foster carer should discuss with their supervising worker what clothing will be required in order to meet the child's basic needs for the first month of placement. An initial payment can then be requested to ensure the carer is able to purchase basic clothing for the child/children.
- Following this, carers would be expected to purchase replacement clothing from the allowances they receive for a child.
- Initial clothing allowance can only be paid during the first 6 months of placement.
- Receipts should be obtained and given to the supervising social worker, who will pass these to the fostering manager. The money will be reimbursed in the next payment.
- The Initial clothing allowance is only payable for new placements not for changes of placement.

5.10 Payments to all carers regardless of approval status

Any additional costs incurred by a foster carer relating to the foster child's care plan will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with funding being confirmed by the relevant group managers.

Costs in relation to mileage in relation to the child for facilitating family time, transporting a child to/from school out of the local areas, or the foster carer's attendance at meetings in relation to the child, or training for the carer. This will be paid at the Council Mileage rate.

Mileage payments are not made for the following - such trips are expected to be covered within the basic fostering allowance:

- Regular health appointments such as GP and dental appointments.
- Out of school activities such as cubs, football practice etc unless further than a 6-mile round trip.
- Family trips and holidays.
- Transport to education within the local area.

Mileage Payments

Mileage payments can only be claimed for the previous 3 monthly periods via the appropriate claim method. Foster Carers must hold, and be able to provide evidence of when requested, business insurance for the vehicle which they plan on claiming mileage for.

5.11 Tax relief for Foster Carers

For the purposes of income tax payment, Foster Carers are classified as self-employed and so are therefore responsible for ensuring they pay the correct amount of tax per each tax year. The introduction of tax relief in 2003, and the subsequent Qualifying Care Relief Scheme, means that Foster Carers do not need to pay any income tax on their "Qualifying Amount".

Tax threshold

There are two elements to the exemption or 'qualifying amount'. There is a 'Fixed amount' set by UK government which is an annual amount each year. There is also an Additional Allowances amount which is calculated for each child/young person fostered per week. There are two different amounts depending on whether the child/young person is under/over the age of 11. More information on the qualifying amounts and tax free thresholds can be found on the Gov.uk website [here](#).

The amounts have been confirmed to increase annually in line with inflation by the Government.

For the purpose of this policy this qualifying amount can be made up of the basic weekly allowance per child, any fee a foster carer receives, and/or any enhanced allowance received by a kinship carer.

Where a Foster Carer's income is below this qualifying amount, this income is tax free. If the total amount received from fostering exceeds the qualifying amount they can either pay tax on:

- Their total amount received less the qualifying amount or
- Their total amount received from foster care minus expenses. This means keeping records of precise expenditure throughout the tax year using receipts.

These tax arrangements are only with regard to income related to the provision of regulated foster care and will not affect any other income they may have (for example income from employment or investment income), which will be taxed in the normal way.

These tax arrangements have no effect their personal allowance. If you are exempt, the full amount of your personal allowance is available to use against other income. Additionally, should the income from Fostering be above the Qualifying Amount, they

are able to use their personal allowance against this additional profit prior to being required to pay any tax, if they do not have any other income from any other employment.

Where there is more than one approved Foster Carer in any household, the fixed annual amount is shared between them.

All Foster Carers are encouraged to consult the HMRC website for more detailed information on taxation of your income. Support can also be provided in ensuring foster carers are aware of their tax implications through the Foster Network.

Parent and baby schemes

HMRC will treat both parent and baby as being in foster care and you will be able to claim a weekly amount for each of them when calculating your qualifying amount.

National Insurance contributions

Foster carers may be entitled to National Insurance Credits (NIC) <https://www.gov.uk/national-insurance-credits/eligibility>

If a foster carer is exempt from paying tax they do not have to pay NICs. Foster carers are encouraged to investigate and explore whether there is any benefit to them and in their interest to pay NICs. The number of years that a foster carer pays NICs may affect benefits they receive in future, for example the state pension.

HMRC treat any taxable profit a foster carer may make from qualifying care as their self-employed earnings when working out whether they need to pay any self-employed National Insurance contributions.

With regard to Class 2 NIC, if a foster carer chooses not to pay Class 2 NIC voluntarily or does not qualify to be treated as having paid Class 2 NIC, they might be eligible to claim credits for Class 3 NIC while they are caring, which preserves your state pension entitlement – [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) has more information on this.

Foster carers pay National Insurance contributions (NICs) to qualify for certain welfare benefits and the State Pension. There are two types of National Insurance for people who are self-employed, depending on their profits: Class 2 and Class 4. Foster carers who register as self-employed are automatically registered for Class 2 NICs. Foster carers will only pay Class 4 NICs if they make a significant profit on their fostering income.

Foster carers have a few options in terms of paying these contributions. The best option will depend on their individual circumstances, including whether they have a full National Insurance record.

Record keeping

Foster Carers will need to keep a record of:

- their total receipts for the year from the local authority, and

- the number of weeks that they care for each child placed with them in the year and the age (or birthday) of each child. A week runs from Monday to Sunday. Count any part of a week as a full week.

If the foster carer is not exempt and they intend to calculate any actual profit from foster care worked out using total income, with separate tax relief for allowable expenses or capital allowances, they will need to keep sufficient records to support their figures. The foster carer will need to keep these records for six years.

Further advice on tax issues

Foster Carers can gain further advice on tax related issues from the local HMRC office by phone or via the internet - see HMRC website for details, on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/qualifying-care-relief-foster-carers-adult-placement-carers-kinship-carers-and-staying-put-carers-hs236-self-assessment-helpsheet/hs236-qualifying-care-relief-foster-carers-adult-placement-carers-kinship-carers-and-staying-put-carers-2022> or contact Tax Aid, a charity which offers free, independent and confidential advice to anyone with a tax question or problem tel: 0845 120 3779. You can visit the Low Incomes Tax Reform Group website:

www.litrq.org.uk/help/lowincome/selfemployed/assessment.cfm#foster

5.12 Foster carers' pension

Foster carers are entitled to 'Home Responsibilities Protection' (HRP). This means the number of years foster carers need to work to qualify for the state pension will be reduced to take into account their years of caring for foster children. This change will increase a foster carers financial security and recognise the importance of the work that they carry out. For more information visit the pensions website at:

www.pensionsservice.gov.uk

5.13 Foster carers' property – Insurance, damages, theft etc.

Where a foster carer's home or property is damaged or items are alleged to have been stolen by the activities of a young person in their care, the foster carer should first report the matter to their supervising social worker. They should then refer to their domestic/car insurance policy and the police if necessary. Where an insurance policy does not provide cover, or the claim is refused, BCBC will consider making a payment depending on the circumstances.

The supervising social worker will need to prepare a report for consideration by the Head of Service. Only the Head of Service, in conjunction with BCBC's Insurance Officers, can agree any compensation.

5.14 Over/Under Payment adjustments

When any additional allowances or payments have been approved, an initial end date for these payments must be entered into the electronic recording system. This is to ensure that no over payments are made to any foster carers. The end date of these

payments must be kept under review in order to ensure the appropriate payments are made.

Where over or under payments occur, the money will be recovered or supplemented as quickly as possible. Where possible this will be completed through an adjustment of the next payment, or a repayment plan being identified.

Where payments to a Foster Carer have ceased due to them no longer providing foster care support to Bridgend, and overpayment has been identified, an invoice will be raised through the SSWB Finance team and issued to the Foster Carer(s) for repayment.

All foster carers have a responsibility to notify their social worker and the Fostering Service by phone or email on the day a child leaves the placement or the next working day.

If a foster carer continues to receive payments after reporting that a child has left their care then they must contact the Fostering Service immediately. Any overpayments must be repaid in full to Bridgend County Borough Council.

Any discussions around waiving the repayment of overpayments must involve and be approved by the Children and Family Services Group Manager for Provider Services.

5.15 Temporary absence from placement (e.g admission to hospital):

Where a foster child is temporarily absent from the foster home, full payments will continue for up to 4 weeks, and further reviews will take place on a weekly basis following this.

5.16 Christmas/Festival and Birthday allowances

No additional payment is made in relation to Christmas/Festival and birthday allowances as an amount is included within the weekly basic fee to pay for this.

5.17 Pocket Money

The following principles should guide the payment of pocket money to care experienced children and young people:

- Having pocket money is good for the child/young person. It gives a sense of independence and a measure of choice in making decisions about how the money is spent.
- Receiving pocket money helps children understand the value of money and is the start of developing budgeting skills.
- Carers must encourage children/young people to open a personal savings account.
- The amount to be paid must be clarified at the outset of a placement and addressed within the placement plan. The rate of pocket money paid should

be kept under review by all concerned. Setting the appropriate level is dependent on close communication between the carer, child/young person and their social worker and your supervising social worker. If a child/young person is not happy with amount paid, it should be clear how they can raise their dissatisfaction.

- Increase pocket money by a fixed amount at each birthday. In many families an understanding may be reached that once a child is old enough to help out with basic household chores, top-ups to pocket money can be arranged in exchange for jobs done. In some foster placements this could be appropriate, especially in long term placements where such an understanding and trust could be built up over time. In shorter term placements this may be less easy to achieve or inappropriate.
- As a child gets older s/he may want more expensive extras which can be reflected in pocket money or be paid for by the carer out of the basic allowance received.
- To promote a child/young person's positive contact with their birth family top-ups to their pocket money will need to be made to enable birthday and Christmas presents to be bought for birth and foster family members.
- It would be unfair if foster children received either more or less than the foster carer's own children where their ages are similar.
- The rate of pocket money paid to young people should be realistic and guidelines can be found on the Foster Wales Bridgend [webpage](#). It is the responsibility of carers and social workers to help ensure the smooth transition to independent living after foster care. It would be unhelpful to this process if a young person's pocket money enabled her/him to enter into a lifestyle which was not possible if they later had to live independently.
- The withholding of pocket money as a punishment is not permissible and alternative acceptable sanctions should be used instead.

5.18 Payments to carers facing an allegation who have children removed as a result

Where carers are subject to an allegation and a child or children placed with them are removed as a result, the carer will continue to receive payments for a period of up to four weeks (for each child) whilst investigations are undertaken. Should an investigation still be ongoing after the four-week period, the situation will be referred to the Head of Service for consideration to continue the payment.

5.19 Holiday allowance

No additional payment is made in relation to holidays as an amount is included within the weekly basic fee to pay for this.

5.20 Respite Payments

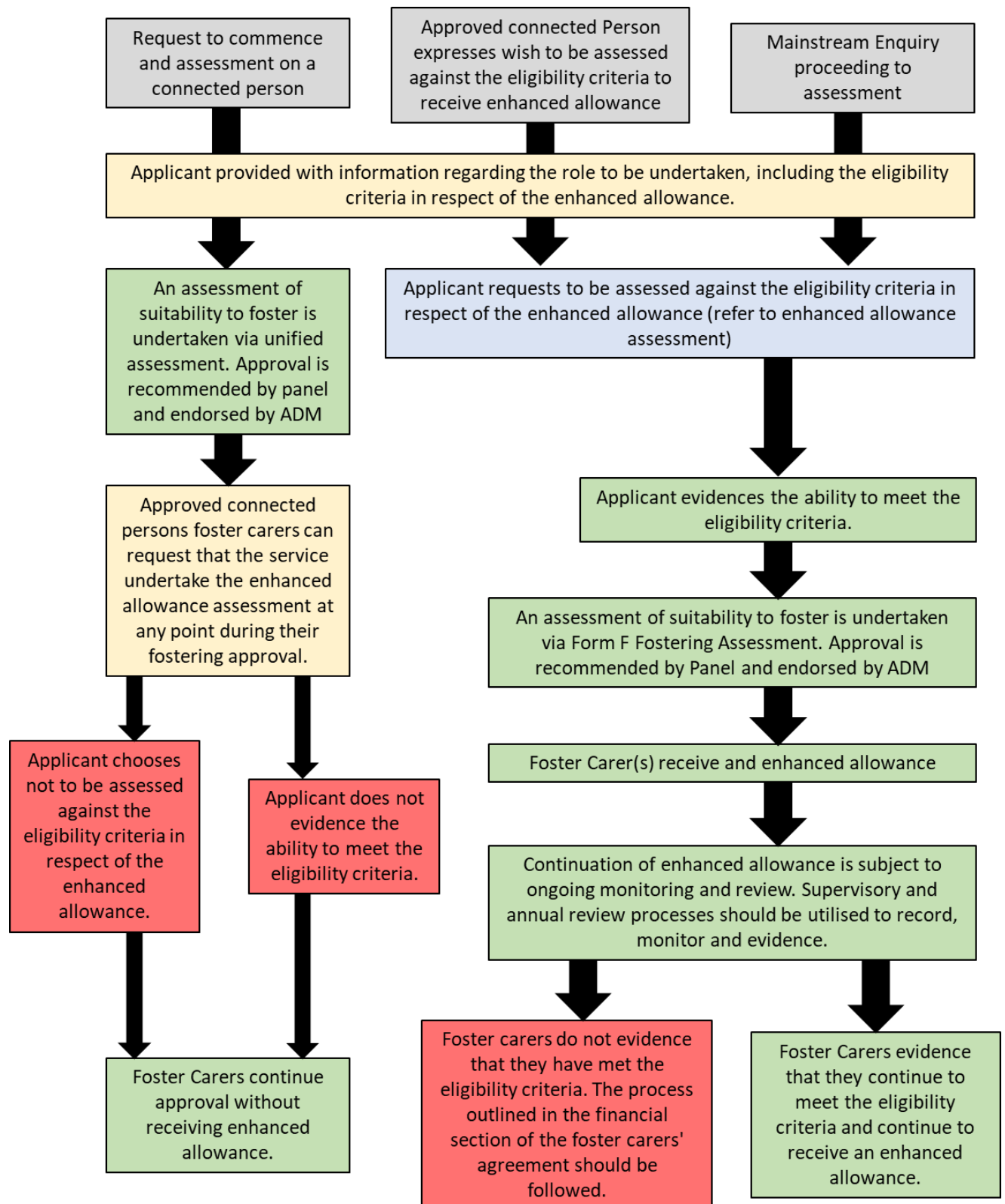
Every fostering household may receive up to 2 weeks (14 nights) per year paid respite. This is to reflect that the role of the foster carer takes place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The 14 nights can be taken as weeks or days and should be discussed and agreed with the Social Worker for the child and foster carers Supervising Social Worker and recorded in the child/young person's care plan. The numbers of days taken as respite will be recorded within carers supervision records.

Where respite is agreed and implemented, payments will cease for any respite used over and above 2 weeks, unless there is a regular respite arrangement in place. This may be implemented in order to support the placement of a child/ren with additional needs, and has been agreed from the outset of provision, and recorded in the Care and Support plan for the child/ren, and is subject to regular review.

It is recognised that there may be scenarios whereby the need for increased and more regular respite is required in order to maintain placement stability and the positive relationships between the child/ren and the foster carer(s). In this instance this will be considered on a case by case basis, and be recorded within the care and support plan, and be subject to regular review.

Those fostering households who do not use respite, may receive a payment in lieu of respite calculated at the end of the financial year.

Appendix 1



Appendix 2

Enhanced Allowance Assessment

Applicant/Foster Carer Name(s):

Eligibility to receive an enhanced allowance is assessed against the following criteria:

To demonstrate the required skills, ability and competence to care for the range of children a local authority may need to look after

- *Understanding of the fostering role. Understanding of task (e.g. working with parents , child protection, safe care, working with social workers, keeping records, letting go (short-term), persevering (long term), coping with difficult behaviour, special needs etc.*
- *Experience of children and young people, knowledge and understanding of wide range of needs and difficulties a child looked after may have experienced and impact on their behaviour and their ability to develop relationships.*
- *What is the applicants' attitude towards families with a range of social difficulties (alcohol / drug misuse / mental health?*
- *Do the applicants have an awareness of the reasons for children being received into Care?*
- *Would applicants engage with parents without judgement?*
- *How do the applicants feel about meeting with birth families and having direct involvement, providing and enabling contact to ensure the best outcome for the child?*
- *Ability to place a range of children*

Applicant(s)/Foster Carer(s) evidence to support this requirement:

Assessors evidence and analysis:

- **A commitment to continued individual professional learning, development of their fostering skills and reflection on practice. They must have attended at least 2 training sessions organized or approved by the local authority in any one year and engaged in regular supervision.**
- *Essential for worker to discuss learning and development framework and pre and post approval expectations.*
- *Any previous transferrable skills and qualifications (use part 1 of the Learning and Development plan if necessary).*
- *Applicants' own experience of education and further learning.*
- *If already connected persons for the LA have applicants met the suggested hours for learning and development and used the learning and development plan?*
- *Potential for continuous learning.*
- *How have applicants demonstrated commitment to personal development previously*
- *Examples of applicant's ability to reflect on practice*
- *Applicants' ability to record and present information (verbal and written)*
- *Applicants' ICT skills*

Applicant(s)/Foster Carer(s) evidence to support this requirement:

Assessors evidence and analysis:

--

To demonstrate a commitment to co-production with the fostering service

- *Evidence of ability to work as part of the team around the child, work with other professionals and contribute to Child Looked After (CLA) reviews.*
- *Evidence of willingness to engage with other foster carers, access peer support etc.*
- *Evidence of applicant's ability to ask for support when necessary*
- *Evidence of willingness to contribute to consultations, have applicants fed back their views through consultations, surveys etc.*
- *Understanding of Fostering role to support recruitment activity*

Applicant(s)/Foster Carer(s) evidence to support this requirement:

Assessors evidence and analysis:

Assessors Summary & Recommendation

***Delete as necessary**

***Individual(s) do not wish to evidence the ability to meet the eligibility criteria**

- I/we understand that this means I/we will not be entitled to an enhanced allowance.
- I/we understand that I/we can request to be assessed against the eligibility criteria in the future in line with the annual review process

Name:

Signature:

Name:

Signature:

***Individual(s) have not evidenced their ability to meet the eligibility criteria at this time**

- I/we understand that this means I/we will not be entitled to an enhanced allowance.
- I/we understand that I/we can request to be re-assessed against the eligibility criteria in the future in line with the annual review process

Name: **Signature:**

Name: **Signature:**

***Individual(s) have evidenced their ability to meet the eligibility criteria at this time**

- I/we understand that this means I/we will be entitled to an enhanced allowance upon completion of a full Form F Fostering Assessment
- I/we understand that I/we will be required to continue to evidence the ability to meet the eligibility criteria in order to receive an enhanced allowance.
- I/we understand that this will be subject to continued review under the local authority policy and procedures.

Name: **Signature:**

Name: **Signature:**

Assessors Name: **Signature:**

Date completed.....

Appendix 3 Additional needs allowance and Regular Respite

Additional need identified by Supervising Social Worker



Proforma completed for the Fostering Team Manager outlining supporting information for the additional needs allowance or regular respite:

- Child's needs
- Impact on carer
- Amount and duration of payment
- Frequency of review



If the Team Manager is in support of the allowance, a letter will be sent to the foster carer outlining the payment or agreement for regular respite and date of review.



In situations where an additional needs allowance has been identified by the Team Manager prior to or during placement searches to enable the placing of the child or young person in a timely manner, this can be agreed via the Group Manager for Placements and Provider Services (or another Group Manager in their absence).

Additional Needs Review:

Name of Carer	
Carer Agency/ LA	
Name of Child/ren	
Date Respite Agreed	
Reason for Additional Needs Payment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>A child's needs requiring a foster carer to make significant adjustments to their working hours over and above reasonable expectations.</i>- <i>A child being out of education for a significant period or subject to a substantially reduced timetable as a result of additional needs.</i>	

- Significant risks posed to the child or placement household from others requiring additional safety measures to be put in place.	
<p>Current circumstances –</p> <p><i>Are the identified reasons for the additional needs payment still evidenced? (feedback from other professionals/ cross referenced with CLA Reviews, Supervision and recordings)</i></p> <p><i>What other supports are considered have been put in place?</i></p> <p><i>Have the foster carer recordings been reviewed?</i></p> <p><i>What is the “Red Amber Green” (RAG) status?</i></p> <p><i>Is the carer evidencing engagement in learning and development activities to better enable them to support the child's needs?</i></p>	
View of Foster Carer	
View of Child's Social Worker	
View of IRO	
Recommendation of the SSW completing review and reasons (evidence to support how the criteria is/not met in accordance with the policy)	
Team Manager approval:	
Actions:	

Respite Needs Review:

Name of Carer	
Carer Agency/ LA	
Name of Child/ren	
Date Respite Agreed	
Reason for Respite:	
<p>Current circumstances –</p> <p><i>Are the identified reasons for the respite still evidenced? (feedback from other professionals/ cross referenced with CLA Reviews, Supervision and recordings)</i></p> <p><i>What other supports are considered have been put in place?</i></p>	

Have the foster carer recordings been reviewed? What is the RAG status?	
Evidence Foster Carer engaged in Learning and Development to better enable them to meet needs of child/ren	
View of Foster Carer	
View of Child's Social Worker	
View of IRO	
Recommendation of the SSW completing review and reasons (evidence to support how the criteria is/not met in accordance with the policy)	
Team Manager approval:	
Actions:	

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Meeting of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	18 NOVEMBER 2025
Report Title:	PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER – DOG CONTROL CONSULTATION
Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member	CORPORATE DIRECTOR: COMMUNITIES CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT
Responsible Officer:	JENNIFER SPARROW – CLEANER STREETS AND WASTE CONTRACT MANAGER
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.
Executive Summary:	The report seeks Cabinet approval to consult on the creation of a new Public Spaces Protection Order relating to Dog Control in Bridgend County.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- To seek Cabinet approval to consult with the Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner and other relevant bodies in relation to the creation of a Public Spaces Protection Order ('PSPO') relating to Dog Control in Bridgend County, and;
- For Cabinet to note that the outcome of the consultation will be reported to Cabinet in due course.

2. Background

2.1 Anti-social behaviour is a broad term to describe the day to day incidents of crime, nuisance and disorder that make many people's lives a misery: from litter and vandalism, to public drunkenness or aggressive dogs, to noisy or abusive neighbours. Such a wide range of behaviours means that responsibility for dealing with anti-social behaviour is shared between a number of agencies, particularly the police, councils and social landlords. The Home Office has reformed the anti-social behaviour powers to give professionals the increased flexibility they need to deal with certain situations.

- 2.2 The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ('the Act') makes provision about anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder. The Act sets out the following 6 new tools for responsible bodies and responsible authorities:
- i. Injunctions
 - ii. Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO)
 - iii. Dispersal Powers
 - iv. Community Protection Notice's (CPN)
 - v. Closure Powers
 - vi. Public Spaces Protection Orders ('PSPO')
- 2.3 The previous PSPO in Bridgend County Borough was enacted on 18 June 2019 and related to the control of alcohol, restriction of access to public space and dog control. It expired on 18 June 2022.
- 2.4 A PSPO is an effective deterrent to deal with particular nuisance or problems in a specified area that is detrimental to the quality of life of the local community.
- 2.5 A PSPO works by imposing conditions on the use of a specified area, which applies to everyone. A PSPO is designed to ensure that residents and visitors can enjoy public spaces without experiencing anti-social behaviour.
- 2.6 In accordance with s60 (2) of the the Act, a PSPO may not have effect for more than 3 years, unless extended under s60 (3) or s60 (4).
- 2.7 The definition of public space is wide and includes any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.
- 2.8 The previous PSPO for Dog Control enabled officers from Bridgend County Borough Council ('BCBC') to give direction in regards to dogs off lead and dogs causing nuisance in a public place. This included dog fouling and other related issues.
- 2.9 The previous PSPO also enabled the Council to take preventative enforcement action in public places. Detailed information is outlined below.
- 2.10 Proposed Dog Control Order
- The proposed order is included at Appendix A.
- 2.11 People who fail to clean up after their dogs on publicly accessible land cause nuisance to others. The presence of dog faeces is a potential hazard to all members of the public, it presents a risk to health, defaces land and has the potential to deface people and their property.
- 2.12 When not properly supervised and kept under control, dogs that are allowed off lead in public areas may cause road traffic accidents and may cause nuisance or injury to members of the public and to other animals.
- 2.12 There are certain locations, which because of their use, dog faeces pose a

particularly high level of concern. These are typically children's play areas, marked sports pitches and school / leisure centre grounds .

- 2.13 The proposed PSPO for dog control relates to all public spaces throughout the borough and imposes the following conditions on the use of that land:-
- a) Person(s) within the Restricted Area will collect and dispose of the faeces of dogs within their control by removing it and depositing the dog faeces in a bag which should be left in a litter bin or taken home
 - b) Person(s) within the Restricted Area who have dogs within their control must carry bags or other suitable means for the collection of dog faeces
 - c) Person(s) within the Restricted Area must, when requested to do so by an Authorised Officer, place dogs in their control on a lead. The Authorised Officer must specify the location and duration.
- 2.14 For clarity, the PSPO relates to **all public spaces**. The PSPO does not restrict dogs from being off lead in specific areas but requires that, if requested by an Authorised Officer, dogs will be placed on a lead.
- 2.15 The PSPO relating to dog control shall not apply to Disabled persons as defined by the Equality Act 2010 where the person suffers from a disability which would prevent them from collecting their dog faeces. The PSPO also shall not apply to a dog trained by a registered charity to assist a person with a disability and upon which a disabled person relies for assistance and a working dog for purposes of law enforcement, military duties, agriculture or statutory emergency services (e.g. search and rescue).
- 2.16 If the PSPO is approved, it will remain in force for the maximum period of 3 years, to be reviewed for variation, discharge or extension at the relevant time in accordance with s60 of the Act.

3. Current situation/ proposal

- 3.1 Before the Council can make, extend or vary a PSPO, there is a procedure set down by statute which must be followed. In particular, a Local Authority must carry out the necessary consultation, the necessary publication and the necessary notification (if any).

Necessary consultation means that a Local Authority must consult with:

- I. the chief officer of police and the local policing body for the police area that includes the restricted area (statutory guidance issued states that this should be done through the chief officer of and the Police and Crime Commissioner but details could be agreed by working level leads)
- II. any community representatives the local authority thinks it is appropriate to consult (community representative means any individual or body appearing to

the authority to represent the views of people who live in, work in, or visit the restricted area). Community representatives could include residents' groups or particular groups of individuals who use a local amenity (e.g. regular users of the park or specific activities such as busking or other types of street entertainment).

- III. the owner or occupier of land within the restricted area (this does not apply to land owned and occupied by the Local Authority and applies only if, or to the extent that, it is reasonably practicable to consult the owner or occupier of the land).

3.2 If approved the statutory consultation will commence in early December 2025 and continue for 12 weeks.

3.3 The Consultation will seek views on the creation of a PSPO regarding dog control in Bridgend County.

3.4 All Town and Community Councils in the areas covered by the PSPO will be notified.

3.5 Specific consultees outlined in the legislation will be contacted directly via letter. These are:

- Elected members as representatives of their constituents
- The South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- The South Wales Police Chief Superintendent for the area
- All town and community councils
- Bridgend Community Safety Partnership
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Bridgend Association of Voluntary Associations (BAVO)
- Bridgend Business Against Crime (BBAC)
- Bridgend Dogs Trust
- The Kennel Club
- Ramblers Cymru

3.6 An on line survey will be available on the BCBC website. This will be promoted via social media platforms to individuals who live in, work in, or visit Bridgend County.

3.7 It is noted that there is some concern from some sports clubs in the County Borough relating to dogs being allowed to access sports pitches. Whilst the proposed PSPO does not look to prohibit dogs from any formal sports areas, a future report will be provided to Cabinet on this for consideration.

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.
- 4.2 Full Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) were carried out when the PSPO's were created in 2018.
- 4.3 A new EIA screening will be carried out when the consultation is completed and the results of that screening reported to Cabinet alongside the consultation report to inform whether a further full EIA is required.

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

- 5.1 The recommendations in this report demonstrate the sustainable development principle by ensuring that by meeting the needs of the present they do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and this is evidenced through the 5 ways of working:
- Long term – the report seeks to address the long term problems associated with anti-social behaviour. These include addressing issues relating to control of dogs.
 - Prevention – working with partners to prevent the negative effects of anti-social behaviour on those living, working or visiting Bridgend County Borough.
 - Integration – the project contributes to the well-being goals: a healthier Wales, a Resilient Wales, and a Wales of Cohesive Communities and to the Well-being objective Supporting communities in Bridgend to be Safe and Cohesive.
 - Collaboration – the initiative is a collaboration between Bridgend County Borough Council Communities Directorate, the Bridgend Community Safety Partnership, South Wales Police and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.
 - Involvement – the consultation with partners, stakeholders, local residents, communities and elected members will inform the decision of whether to extend the PSPOs.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 6.1 The Climate Change and nature implications were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the environment because of this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 The Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting implications were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon Safeguarding and Corporate parenting because of this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 If the creation of the new PSPO is approved, there will be costs associated with signage and promotion of the PSPO in the local press. This will be funded through existing budgets in the Communities Directorate

8.2 The estimated costs for this which will be met from existing budgets within the Communities Directorate are:

Advertising and printing	£4,000
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9. Recommendation(s)

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to give approval to commence a public consultation on the proposal to create a Public Space Protection Order as outlined in paragraph 2.10 of this report.

9.2 Cabinet is recommended to note that the outcome of the consultation will be reported to Cabinet in due course.

9.3 Cabinet note that a future report considering prohibiting dogs from specific areas, such as on formal sports pitches, will be provided in the near future.

Background documents

None.

Bridgend County Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control)

Bridgend County Borough Council ('the Council') hereby makes the following Public Spaces Protection Order ('the Order') in exercise of its powers under Section 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ('the Act') and all other enabling powers:-

1. The Order may be cited as the Bridgend County Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control) **(Insert date here)**
2. The Order shall come into operation on the **(Insert date here)** and will remain in force for a period of 3 years unless varied or discharged or extended by further order under the Council's statutory powers.
3. The Order relates to all public spaces throughout the Bridgend County Borough and is specified on the attached plan ("the Restricted Area"). This is land to which the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 applies and is protected by the making of the Order.

Introduction

4. People who fail to clean up after their dogs on publicly accessible land cause nuisance to others. The presence of dog faeces is a potential hazard to all members of the public, it presents a risk to health, defaces land and has the potential to deface people and their property.
5. When not properly supervised and kept under control, dogs that are allowed off a lead in public areas may cause road traffic accidents and may cause nuisance or injury to members of the public and to other animals.
6. There are certain locations, which because of their use, dog faeces pose a particularly high level of concern. These are typically children's play areas, marked sports pitches and school / leisure centre grounds.
7. The Council is satisfied that the conditions set out in Section 59 (2) of the Act have been met, namely that anti-social behaviour and criminal activities have been carried out within the Restricted Area and that these activities have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, and it is likely that the activities will be carried out within that area and have such an effect.
8. The Council is also satisfied that the conditions set out in Section 59 (3) of the Act have been met, namely, that the effect or likely effect of the activities is, or is likely to be of a persistent or continuing nature and that these activities are unreasonable and justify the restriction imposed by the Order

and that it is in all the circumstances expedient to make the Order for the purpose of reducing crime and/or anti-social behaviour in a public place.

Requirements of the Order

9. The effect of the Order is to impose the following conditions:-
 - a) A requirement for person(s) within the Restricted Area to collect and dispose of the faeces of dogs within their control by removing it and depositing the dog faeces in a bag which should be left in a litter bin or taken home
 - b) A requirement for person(s) within the Restricted Area who have dogs within their control to carry bags or other suitable means for the collection of dog faeces
 - c) A requirement for person(s) within the Restricted Area to place dogs in their control on a lead when requested to do so by an Authorised Officer. The Authorised Officer must specify the location and duration covered by a direction given under Paragraph 6 (C) of the Order
10. Should any of the above requirements not be met, it will constitute an offence as set out in Article 11 below, unless the person(s) can show that there is a reasonable excuse for failing to do so, or, the owner, occupier, or other person with authority or control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to the person(s) failing to do so.

Offences

11. In accordance with Section 67 of the Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, it is an offence for a person without reasonable excuse—
 - (a) to do anything that the person is prohibited from doing by a public spaces protection order; or
 - (b) to fail to comply with a requirement to which the person is subject under a public spaces protection order
12. A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

Fixed Penalty Notices

13. In accordance with Section 68 of the Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, an authorised person may issue a fixed penalty notice to

anyone he or she has reason to believe has committed an offence under section 67 in relation to a public spaces protection order.

14. A fixed penalty notice is a notice offering the person to whom it is issued the opportunity of discharging any liability to conviction for the offence by payment of a fixed penalty to a local authority specified in the notice.
15. Where a person is issued with a notice under this section in respect of an offence—
 - (a) no proceedings may be taken for the offence before the end of the period of 14 days following the date of the notice;
 - (b) the person may not be convicted of the offence if the person pays the fixed penalty before the end of that period.

Exemptions

16. The provisions of the Order do not apply to:-
 - a) A disabled person(s) as defined by the Equality Act 2010 where the person(s) suffers from a disability which would prevent them from complying with the requirements of the Order.
 - b) A dog trained by a registered charity to assist a person with a disability and upon which a disabled person relies for assistance.
 - c) A working dog for purposes of law enforcement, military duties, agriculture or statutory emergency services (e.g. search and rescue).
17. Where a person(s) in charge of a dog wishes to rely upon any of the exemptions set out in the Order, the burden will be on that person to prove that they satisfy the requirements of the exemptions being relied upon.

Appeals

18. Any challenge to the Order must be made in the High Court by an interested person within six weeks of it being made. An interested person is someone who lives in, regularly works in, or visits any of the areas affected by the Order. This means that only those who are directly affected by the restrictions have the power to challenge. The right to challenge also exists where an Order is varied by the Council.
19. Interested persons can challenge the validity of the Order on two grounds: that the Council did not have power to make the Order, or to include

particular prohibitions or requirements; or that a requirement of the legislation was not complied with in relation to the Order.

THE COMMON SEAL OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

xxx

Meeting of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	18 NOVEMBER 2025
Report Title:	CAPITAL PROGRAMME QUARTER 2 UPDATE 2025-26
Report Owner / Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member	CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING AND CHANGE
Responsible Officer:	HUW POWELL CAPITAL ACCOUNTANT
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	Paragraph 3.5.3 of the Financial Procedure Rules requires that the Chief Finance Officer shall report quarterly to Cabinet and Council with an update on the Capital Strategy and the Prudential Indicators. This report fulfils that requirement. There is no impact on the policy framework or procedure rules.
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report provides an update on the quarter 2 spend and projected spend for 2025-26 as at 30 September 2025, the revised capital programme for 2025-26 to 2034-35 and the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2025-26. • Appendix A shows the budgets, spend to date and projected year end spend as at 30 September 2025 for the individual schemes in 2025-26. • Appendix B shows the revised capital programme for 2025-26 to 2034-35. • Appendix C provides details of the actual Prudential and Other Indicators for 2024-25 and projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2025-26.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) 'The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities' requirement to report performance against all forward looking indicators on a quarterly basis.
- Provide an update to Cabinet on the capital programme position for 2025-26 as at 30 September 2025 (**Appendix A**).

- Seek agreement from Cabinet to present a report to Council for approval of a revised capital programme for 2025-26 to 2034-35 (**Appendix B**).
- Ask Cabinet to note the actual Prudential and Other Indicators for 2024-25 and the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2025-26 (**Appendix C**).

2. Background

- 2.1 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 as amended, contain detailed provisions for the capital finance and accounting controls, including the rules on the use of capital receipts and what is to be treated as capital expenditure. They modify accounting practice in various ways to prevent adverse impacts on authorities' revenue resources.
- 2.2 As well as the legislation, the Council manages its Treasury Management and Capital activities in accordance with the following associated guidance: -
- CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice
 - CIPFA's The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities
 - Welsh Government (WG) revised Guidance on Local Authority Investments
- 2.3 The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities requires Local Authorities to have in place a Capital Strategy which demonstrates that the Authority takes capital expenditure and investment decisions in line with service objectives and properly takes account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability, and affordability. To demonstrate that the Council has fulfilled these objectives, the Prudential Code sets out a number of Indicators that must be set and monitored each year. The Council's Capital Strategy 2025-26, incorporating the Prudential Indicators for 2025-26, was approved by Council on 26 February 2025.
- 2.4 On 26 February 2025 Council approved a capital budget of £124.863 million for 2025-26 as part of a capital programme covering the period 2025-26 to 2034-35. The programme was last updated and approved by Council on 23 July 2025 with a revised budget of £156.643 million.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 Capital Programme Quarter 2 Update 2025-26

- 3.1.1 This section of the report provides Members with an update on the Council's capital programme for 2025-26 since the budget was last approved by Council and incorporates any new schemes and grant approvals. The revised programme for 2025-26 currently totals £78.247 million, of which £39.837 million is met from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) resources, including capital receipts, revenue contributions from earmarked reserves and borrowing, with the remaining £38.410 million coming from external resources, including Welsh Government General Capital Grant. Table 1 below shows the capital programme for each Directorate from the July 2025 approved Council position to Quarter 2:

Table 1 – Capital Programme per Directorate 2025-26

Directorate	Approved Council July 2025 £'000	New Approvals/ (Reductions) £'000	Virements £'000	Slippage to future years £'000	Revised Budget 2025-26 £'000
Education, Early Years and Young People (EEYYP)	99,426	2,530	-	(78,414)	23,542
Social Services and Wellbeing	961	75	-	-	1,036
Communities	48,616	3,201	-	(6,101)	45,716
Chief Executive's	5,151	313	500	-	5,964
Council Wide	2,489	-	(500)	-	1,989
Total	156,643	6,119	-	(84,515)	78,247

3.1.2 Table 2 below summarises the current funding assumptions for the capital programme for 2025-26. The capital resources are managed to ensure that maximum financial benefit for the Council is achieved. This may include the realignment of funding to maximise government grants.

Table 2 – Capital Programme 2025-26 Resources

CAPITAL RESOURCES	£'000
<i>BCBC Resources:</i>	
Capital Receipts	11,994
Earmarked Reserves	13,281
Unsupported Borrowing	7,035
Supported Borrowing	3,810
Other Loans	3,385
Revenue Contribution	332
Total BCBC Resources	39,837
<i>External Resources:</i>	
S106	1,770
Grants	36,640
Total External Resources	38,410
TOTAL RESOURCES	78,247

- 3.1.3 **Appendix A** provides details of the individual schemes within the capital programme, showing the budget available in 2025-26 compared to the projected year end spend at 30 September 2025. There are currently no projected under or over spends on any of the schemes at year end.
- 3.1.4 A number of schemes have been identified as requiring slippage of budget to future years (2026-27 and beyond).

Highways/Other Offsite Works Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Schools (£0.900 million)

The highways budget in relation to Band B schemes will be expended once works have been designed and commissioned. It is anticipated that the majority of costs will be incurred in future years and therefore £0.900 million has been slipped to 2026-27.

Héronsbridge Replacement (£37.921 million)

Subsequent to Welsh Government's approval of the revised Outline Business Case and Council's approval of the additional BCBC funding required to deliver the scheme, Cabinet approval was received to tender the project via the South East and Mid Wales Collaborative Construction Framework. The tender process concluded, and Cabinet approval was received to appoint Keir Construction under a professional services contract to complete the design of the school. This work has commenced, and good progress is being made. £37.921 million has been slipped to 2026-27 in order to progress the project, and subject to obtaining the necessary Cabinet and Welsh Government approvals, construct the school.

Mynydd Cynffig Replacement (£13.163 million)

Officers are awaiting the outcome of the planning application for the scheme. The tender process will begin once planning approval has been received and construction will follow. Therefore, £13.163 million has been slipped to 2026-27.

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr Replacement (£14.430 million)

Ecology issues at the Ffordd Cadfan site have impacted on the timeline for delivery of the school. An ecology mitigation strategy has been agreed, and the project will progress through the next stages of development. As a result of the delay, Cabinet approval has been received to modify the school opening date to September 2027 and £14.430 million has been slipped to 2026-27.

Bridgend West (£12.000 million)

Cabinet approvals granted on 24 June 2025 in respect of the scheme were subject to obtaining planning and Welsh Government approvals, including Welsh Government award of grant funding. The planning decision in respect of the Cornelly site, which had originally been anticipated for June 2025, was ultimately issued on 21 August 2025 (since a further consultation was required on school transport entrance arrangements). While the local authority received Welsh Government approval and confirmation of funding on 3 July 2025, it was not possible to award the construction at that time, since planning approval was not in place. The contractor's programme that was submitted as part of the tender process anticipated a start on site date of the first week in August 2025. An August 2025 start date has not been possible due to the planning decision delay. Consequently, it is necessary to slip £12.000 million to 2026-27.

Waste Vehicles (£3.000 million)

Orders for replacement refuse and recycling vehicles will be placed in the coming weeks. Due to the extended lead times for these specialised vehicles, it is anticipated that delivery will take place in Summer 2026. Therefore, £3.000 million has been slipped forward to 2026-27 to fund the new vehicles.

Waterton Upgrade (£3.101 million)

Works have begun on the replacement salt barn at Waterton depot, with works on the vehicle wash facility and refuelling provision expected to commence in 2026-27. The spend on the salt barn in 2025-26 is estimated to be £0.490 million, therefore £3.101 million has been slipped to 2026-27.

- 3.1.5 There are a number of amendments to the capital programme for 2025-26, such as new and amended schemes, since the capital programme was last approved, including:

Héronsbridge Replacement (£0.133 million)

Included in the design stage for the Heronsbridge Replacement scheme is a replacement for the Harwood House residential provision, which is currently located on the existing Heronsbridge site. The Housing with Care Fund has approved funding of £0.133 million for the design and related survey works for the new Harwood House and, following completion of these works, a full business justification case and capital bid will be submitted to the regional Housing with Care Fund for Stage 2 – the construction phase.

School Maintenance Grant (£0.030 million)

Welsh Government have approved an application for Salix loan funding for the installation of solar PV on the sports hall roof at Porthcawl Comprehensive, providing a significant reduction in energy costs for the school. The solar PV will be installed as part of the roof replacement scheme currently being funded from the School Maintenance Grant and will be repaid by the school over 4 years.

Community Focused Schools (£0.910 million)

Welsh Government have awarded the Council £0.910 million from the Sustainable Communities for Learning Community Focused Schools Grant for 2025-26. The funding will be used to support the use of education assets out of normal school hours and will enable schools to build strong partnerships with families, engage with the wider community and collaborate effectively with other sectors and services.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Grant (£0.908 million)

Welsh Government have awarded the Council £0.908 million from the Additional Learning Needs Grant for 2025-26. The purpose of the grant is to optimise learning environments for disabled children and young people, and those with additional learning needs, to increase accessibility, promote inclusive practice, support learning and pupil wellbeing. This will support the objectives of ALNET (Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal) and ALN reform, to create a unified bilingual system for supporting children and young people from 0 to 25 with ALN, and the delivery of the Curriculum for Wales in school settings.

Flying Start Extension – Nantymoel (£0.065 million)

Following the submission of a funding variation request, Welsh Government have awarded the Council an additional £0.065 million from the Childcare and Early Years Capital grant to fund the additional costs of the Flying Start facility in Nantymoel.

Bryntirion Comprehensive 3G Pitch (£0.540 million)

On 22 July 2025, Cabinet approved the upgrading of Bryntirion Comprehensive's existing 2G pitch to a 3G pitch, benefiting both the school and wider community. BCBC will enter into a management agreement with the school for the ongoing management and maintenance of the facility, ensuring it supports our communities and the wellbeing of future generations. The Council have been awarded £0.400 million from Cymru Football Foundation and £0.140 million from Sport Wales for this project. A further £0.200 million has been allocated to the project from the Community Focused Schools grant detailed above, and is shown as a virement in **Appendix A and B**.

Brackla Sports Centre (£0.075 million)

Sport Wales have awarded the Council £0.065 million to replace 2 smaller tarmacadam hard court areas at Brackla Sports Centre with a 2G multi-purpose multi-use games area which can be accessed by the community, local clubs and organisations. It is also planned to upgrade the existing 8 x 1 kw metal halide floodlights with 8 x 500w LED floodlights to increase the lighting level to 150 lux and provide significant energy savings. A revenue contribution from Wellbeing and Prevention will fund the remaining £0.010 million.

Bridgend Bus Station (£0.186 million)

Welsh Government have awarded the Council £0.186 million from the Local Transport Grant to replace the electronic bus information displays at Bridgend bus station. The existing information displays have been non-operational for a number of years, with original providers not willing / able to maintain the ageing systems. The replacement information displays will assist users of the County Borough's bus services and can provide data relevant to rail services, encouraging use of integrated public transport services.

Decarbonisation 2030 (£0.015 million)

Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen currently operates two all-weather pitches equipped with 36 halogen floodlights and these facilities are used extensively by both the school and the wider community. The halogen bulbs are inefficient and have a relatively short life, which is beginning to limit the times the pitches are available for school and community use. A revenue contribution from the school of £0.015 million is being added to the Decarbonisation 2030 budget to part fund the £0.030 million installation of energy efficient LED bulbs, which will reduce maintenance and energy costs at the school.

Grand Pavilion (£1.500 million)

The Arts Council for Wales awarded the Council £1.500 million to support the redevelopment of the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl. This additional funding will allow officers to instruct works within Package C, which will include Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FF&E).

Pride in Place Impact Fund (£1.500 million)

The Council have been awarded a total of £3.000 million from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government's Pride in Place Impact Fund, with £1.500 million allocated for 2025-26 and 2026-27. The funding has been made available to improve community spaces, to enhance the physical environment in public spaces and to revitalise high streets and town centres to encourage economic activity.

Empty Property Enforcement Fund (£0.175 million)

Following Cabinet approval on 22 October 2024, officers have accessed Welsh Government's Transforming Towns Empty Property Enforcement Fund by entering into loan agreements with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, who are the Authority responsible for the management of the enforcement fund. The Council will access a loan of £0.075 million to undertake enforcement action on one long term empty property to bring it back into beneficial use. A second loan of £0.100 million will be accessible to members of the Council's Empty Homes Working Group for tackling problematic long term empty properties across the borough, with a maximum spend at each property of £0.030 million.

Digital Transformation (£0.500 million)

£0.500 million is required for the Digital Transformation scheme, which will enable the Council to continue to renew and upgrade its ICT and communication hardware. The budget will be vired from the unallocated budget within the capital programme.

Hwb Schools IT (0.167 million)

£0.167 million has been added to Hwb Schools IT in relation to a range of planned ICT purchases in 2025-26. These will be funded from an existing earmarked reserve established for the purchase of ICT equipment by schools from their annual ICT SLA contributions.

In addition to the above schemes, two schemes have been removed from the capital programme. These are shown as negative approvals:

Pencoed School Highways Works (£0.056 million)

Following the removal of the Pencoed Primary Classroom Extension scheme, highway improvements are no longer required at the site. Therefore £0.056 million has been removed from the capital programme.

Replacement CCTV (£0.029 million)

The works on replacing and upgrading CCTV is now complete, and the remaining budget of £0.029 million has been removed from the capital programme.

3.1.6 A revised Capital Programme is included as **Appendix B**.

3.2 Prudential and Other Indicators 2025-26 Monitoring

3.2.1 The Capital Strategy is intended to give an overview of how capital expenditure; capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future sustainability. To this end a number of prudential indicators were included in the Capital Strategy which was approved by Council in February 2025. In line with the requirements of the Prudential Code, the Chief Finance Officer

is required to establish procedures to monitor both performance against all forward-looking prudential indicators and the requirement specified.

3.2.2 In February 2025, Council approved the Capital Strategy for 2025-26, which included the Prudential Indicators for 2025-26.

3.2.3 **Appendix C** details the actual indicators for 2024-25, the estimated indicators for 2025-26 set out in the Council's Capital Strategy and the projected indicators for 2025-26 based on the revised Capital Programme. These show that the Council is operating in line with the approved indicators.

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

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

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

5.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The well-being objectives are designed to complement each other and are part of an integrated way of working to improve well-being for the people of Bridgend. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of the well-being goals or objectives as a result of this report.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 These are reflected within the report where relevant to specific schemes.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding and corporate parent implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 These are reflected within the report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- notes the Council's Capital Programme 2025-26 Quarter 2 update to 30 September 2025 (**Appendix A**)
- agrees that the revised Capital Programme (**Appendix B**) be submitted to Council for approval.

- notes the actual Prudential and Other Indicators for 2024-25 and projected indicators for 2025-26 (**Appendix C**).

Background documents

None

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Bridgend County Borough Council

CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT

QUARTER 2 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

APPENDIX A

	Budget 25-26 (Council July 25)	New Approvals and Adjustments	Virement	Slipped (to)/ from Future Years	Revised Budget 2025-26	Total Expenditure to Date	Projected Spend	Over / (Under) Spend	Impact on BCBC Resources
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Education, Early Years and Young People

1	HIGHWAYS SCHEMES BAND B SCHOOL	1,000	-	-	(900)	100	7	100	-	-
2	HERONSBRIDGE REPLACEMENT	39,521	133	-	(37,921)	1,733	18	1,733	-	-
3	MYNYDD CYNFFIG REPLACEMENT	13,390	-	-	(13,163)	227	35	227	-	-
4	Y G BRO OGWR REPLACEMENT	15,155	-	-	(14,430)	725	59	725	-	-
5	BRIDGEND WEST	14,976	-	-	(12,000)	2,976	168	2,976	-	-
6	YSGOL GYFYN GYMRAEG LLANGYNWYD	94	-	-	-	94	2	94	-	-
7	LAND PURCHASE BAND B SCHOOLS	2,026	-	-	-	2,026	-	2,026	-	-
8	GARW VALLEY SOUTH PRIMARY PROVISION	61	-	-	-	61	(4)	61	-	-
9	PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL BAND A	51	-	-	-	51	-	51	-	-
10	PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL HIGHWAYS WORKS	56	(56)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	ABERCERDIN PRIMARY HUB	276	-	-	-	276	3	276	-	-
12	BRYNTEG COMPREHENSIVE ALL WEATHER PITCH	26	-	-	-	26	5	26	-	-
13	EEYYP MINOR WORKS	567	-	-	-	567	393	567	-	-
14	SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY	50	-	-	-	50	-	50	-	-
15	SCHOOL MODERNISATION	333	-	-	-	333	-	333	-	-
17	COETY PRIMARY SCHOOL EXTENSION	2,476	-	-	-	2,476	78	2,476	-	-
18	BRYNTIRION COMPREHENSIVE NEW CLASSROOMS	695	-	-	-	695	651	695	-	-
19	BRYNTIRION COMP HIGHWAYS	66	-	-	-	66	(3)	66	-	-
20	SCHOOLS CAPITAL MAINTENANCE GRANT	4,150	30	-	-	4,180	946	4,180	-	-
21	WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - BRIDGEND	550	-	-	-	550	-	550	-	-
22	WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - PORTHCAWL	550	-	-	-	550	-	550	-	-
23	FREE SCHOOL MEALS	575	-	-	-	575	353	575	-	-
24	COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS	953	910	(200)	-	1,663	145	1,663	-	-
25	ALN CAPITAL GRANT	672	908	-	-	1,580	45	1,580	-	-
26	YSGOL GYMRAEG BRO OGWR MOBILE CLASSROOMS	436	-	-	-	436	267	436	-	-
27	PORTHCAWL WELSH MEDIUM SEEDLING SCHOOL	181	-	-	-	181	120	181	-	-
28	FLYING START EXTENSION - NANTYMOEL PRIMARY	504	65	-	-	569	7	569	-	-
29	FLYING START HIGHWAYS	36	-	-	-	36	-	36	-	-
30	BRYNTIRION COMPREHENSIVE 3G PITCH	-	540	200	-	740	-	740	-	-
TOTAL Education, Early Years and Young People		99,426	2,530	-	(78,414)	23,542	3,295	23,542	-	-

Social Services and Wellbeing

31	BRYN Y CAE - UPGRADE HFE'S	40	-	-	-	40	-	40	-	-
32	TY CWM OGWR	23	-	-	-	23	-	23	-	-
33	WELLBEING MINOR WORKS	242	-	-	-	242	53	242	-	-
34	BAKERS WAY MINOR WORKS	10	-	-	-	10	-	10	-	-
35	CHILDRENS RESIDENTIAL HUB	18	-	-	-	18	4	18	-	-
36	COMMUNITY CENTRES	117	-	-	-	117	(15)	117	-	-

	Budget 25-26 (Council July 25)	New Approvals and Adjustments	Virement	Slipped (to)/ from Future Years	Revised Budget 2025-26	Total Expenditure to Date	Projected Spend	Over / (Under) Spend	Impact on BCBC Resources
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
37 BRYNGARW HOUSE	8	-	-	-	8	-	8	-	-
38 ALL WALES PLAY OPPORTUNITIES	231	-	-	-	231	-	231	-	-
39 BRIDGEND LIFE CENTRE	272	-	-	-	272	-	272	-	-
40 BRACKLA SPORTS CENTRE	-	75	-	-	75	-	75	-	-
TOTAL Social Services & Wellbeing	961	75	-	-	1,036	42	1,036	-	-

Communities

Street Scene

41 COMMUNITY PLAY AREAS	2,361	-	-	-	2,361	38	2,361	-	-
42 PARKS/PAVILIONS/OTHER COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS	1,054	-	-	-	1,054	24	1,054	-	-
43 ABERFIELDS PLAYFIELDS	11	-	-	-	11	-	11	-	-
44 CITY DEAL	175	-	-	-	175	-	175	-	-
45 COYCHURCH CREM WORKS	22	-	-	-	22	-	22	-	-
46 REMEDIAL MEASURES - CAR PARKS	135	-	-	-	135	-	135	-	-
47 CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT CAR	54	-	-	-	54	-	54	-	-
48 20 MPH DEFAULT SPEED	209	-	-	-	209	6	209	-	-
49 ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES	3	-	-	-	3	(2)	3	-	-
50 HIGHWAYS STRUCTURAL WORKS	394	-	-	-	394	92	394	-	-
51 CARRIAGEWAY CAPITAL WORKS	302	-	-	-	302	149	302	-	-
52 PROW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT STRUCTURES	50	-	-	-	50	18	50	-	-
53 HIGHWAYS REFURBISHMENT	1,014	-	-	-	1,014	477	1,014	-	-
54 REPLACEMENT OF STREET LIGHTING	519	-	-	-	519	55	519	-	-
55 RIVER BRIDGE PROTECTION MEASURES	22	-	-	-	22	-	22	-	-
56 COMMUNITIES MINOR WORKS	582	-	-	-	582	22	582	-	-
57 ULEV TRANSFORMATION FUND 2	111	-	-	-	111	-	111	-	-
58 FLEET TRANSITION-ULEV	54	-	-	-	54	21	54	-	-
59 NET ZERO CARBON FLEET	147	-	-	-	147	-	147	-	-
60 PORTHCAWL METRO LINK (CCR)	19	-	-	-	19	(50)	19	-	-
61 RESIDENTS PARKING BRIDGEND TOWN CENTRE	109	-	-	-	109	-	109	-	-
62 FLEET VEHICLES	1,971	-	-	-	1,971	435	1,971	-	-
63 CEMETERIES	314	-	-	-	314	2	314	-	-
64 S106 HIGHWAYS SMALL SCHEMES	35	-	-	-	35	1	35	-	-
65 ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS	67	-	-	-	67	(9)	67	-	-
66 COAL TIP SAFETY	1,795	-	-	-	1,795	65	1,795	-	-
67 GRASS CUTTING EQUIPMENT	101	-	-	-	101	30	101	-	-
68 WASTE VEHICLES	3,000	-	-	(3,000)	-	-	-	-	-
69 HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE LGBI	2,908	-	-	-	2,908	861	2,908	-	-
70 RESILIENT ROADS	494	-	-	-	494	-	494	-	-
71 BRIDGEND BUS STATION	-	186	-	-	186	-	186	-	-
TOTAL Streetscene	18,032	186	-	(3,000)	15,218	2,235	15,218	-	-

	Budget 25-26 (Council July 25)	New Approvals and Adjustments	Virement	Slipped (to)/ from Future Years	Revised Budget 2025-26	Total Expenditure to Date	Projected Spend	Over / (Under) Spend	Impact on BCBC Resources
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Regeneration & Development

72	EU CONVERGANCE SRF BUDGET	436	-	-	-	436	18	436	-	-
73	PORTHCAWL REGENERATION PROJECT	2,827	-	-	-	2,827	153	2,827	-	-
74	ECONOMIC STIMULUS GRANT	315	-	-	-	315	61	315	-	-
75	COASTAL RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM	184	-	-	-	184	19	184	-	-
76	EWENNY ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	3,485	-	-	-	3,485	2,696	3,485	-	-
77	CESP/ARBED PHASE 1	2,123	-	-	-	2,123	50	2,123	-	-
78	BRIDGEND HEAT SCHEME	3,265	-	-	-	3,265	-	3,265	-	-
79	MAESTEG TOWN HALL CULTURAL HUB	61	-	-	-	61	(118)	61	-	-
80	TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND	183	-	-	-	183	8	183	-	-
81	PORTHCAWL TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE	89	-	-	-	89	-	89	-	-
82	COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ENHANCEMENT FUND	134	-	-	-	134	-	134	-	-
83	URBAN CENTRE PROPERTY ENHANCE	650	-	-	-	650	-	650	-	-
84	2030 DECARBONISATION	589	15	-	-	604	205	604	-	-
85	SHARED PROSPERITY FRAMEWORK	3,077	-	-	-	3,077	1,193	3,077	-	-
86	LOCAL PLACES FOR NATURE	367	-	-	-	367	12	367	-	-
87	PORTHCAWL GRAND PAVILION	6,392	1,500	-	-	7,892	555	7,892	-	-
88	PRIDE IN PLACE IMPACT FUND	-	1,500	-	-	1,500	-	1,500	-	-
TOTAL Regeneration & Development		24,177	3,015	-	-	27,192	4,852	27,192	-	-

Corporate Landlord

89	DDA WORKS	198	-	-	-	198	-	198	-	-
90	MINOR WORKS	2,192	-	-	-	2,192	8	2,192	-	-
91	FIRE PRECAUTIONS MINOR WORKS	107	-	-	-	107	36	107	-	-
92	BRYNCETHIN DEPOT FACILITIES	272	-	-	-	272	3	272	-	-
93	WATERTON UPGRADE	3,591	-	-	(3,101)	490	6	490	-	-
94	INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES	47	-	-	-	47	-	47	-	-
TOTAL Corporate Landlord		6,407	-	-	(3,101)	3,306	53	3,306	-	-

TOTAL Communities

48,616	3,201	-	(6,101)	45,716	7,140	45,716	-	-
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Chief Executive

95	MANDATORY DFG RELATED EXPEND	1,750	-	-	-	1,750	924	1,750	-	-
96	DISCRETIONARY HOUSING GRANTS	200	-	-	-	200	6	200	-	-
97	HOUSING RENEWAL AREA	100	-	-	-	100	20	100	-	-
98	ENABLE GRANT	382	-	-	-	382	138	382	-	-
99	HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING	530	-	-	-	530	-	530	-	-
100	HEALTH & WELLBEING VILLAGE	480	-	-	-	480	-	480	-	-
101	AFFORDABLE HOUSING	802	-	-	-	802	353	802	-	-
102	ENFORCEMENT FUND 1	250	-	-	-	250	-	250	-	-
103	ENFORCEMENT FUND 2	22	-	-	-	22	-	22	-	-
104	ENFORCEMENT FUND 3	-	75	-	-	75	-	75	-	-
105	MULTI PROJECT ENFORCEMENT FUND	-	100	-	-	100	-	100	-	-

	Budget 25-26 (Council July 25)	New Approvals and Adjustments	Virement	Slipped (to)/ from Future Years	Revised Budget 2025-26	Total Expenditure to Date	Projected Spend	Over / (Under) Spend	Impact on BCBC Resources
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
TOTAL Housing/Homelessness	4,516	175	-	-	4,691	1,441	4,691	-	-
106 ICT INFRA SUPPORT	452	-	-	-	452	40	452	-	-
107 DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	97	-	500	-	597	-	597	-	-
108 CCTV SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT	29	(29)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
109 ICT DATA CENTRE REPLACEMENT	39	-	-	-	39	-	39	-	-
110 HWB SCHOOLS IT	18	167	-	-	185	76	185	-	-
TOTAL ICT	635	138	500	-	1,273	116	1,273	-	-
TOTAL Chief Executive	5,151	313	500	-	5,964	1,557	5,964	-	-
<u>Council Wide Capital Budgets</u>									
111 CORPORATE CAPITAL FUND	773	-	-	-	773	-	773	-	-
112 UNALLOCATED	1,716	-	(500)	-	1,216	-	1,216	-	-
	2,489	-	(500)	-	1,989	-	1,989	-	-
GRAND TOTAL	156,643	6,119	-	(84,515)	78,247	12,034	78,247	-	-

		Date Approved	Total 2025-2035			2025-26					FUTURE YEARS									CUMULATIVE
			Total Cost £'000	BCBC Funding £'000	External Funding £'000	Council July 25 2025-26 £'000	New Approvals / Reductions £'000	Virement £'000	Slipped (to)/from Future Years £'000	Revised 2025-26 £'000	2026-2027 £'000	2027-2028 £'000	2028-2029 £'000	2029-2030 £'000	2030-2031 £'000	2031-2032 £'000	2032-2033 £'000	2033-2034 £'000	2034-2035 £'000	Total 2024 - 2035 £'000
62	Fleet Vehicles	14/15	1,971	1,971	-	1,971				1,971										1,971
63	Cemeteries	18/19	314	314	-	314				314										314
64	S106 Highways Small Schemes	14/15	35	-	35	35				35										35
65	Unadopted Roads	14/15	67	67	-	67				67										67
66	Coal Tip Safety	23/24	1,795		1,795	1,795				1,795										1,795
67	Grass Cutting Equipment	24/25	101	101		101				101										101
68	Waste Vehicles	24/25	8,000	8,000		3,000			(3,000)	-	6,000	2,000								8,000
69	Highways Maintenance LGBl	25/26	4,847	4,847		2,908				2,908	1,939									4,847
70	Resilient Roads	25/26	494		494	494				494										494
71	Bridgend Bus Station	25/26	186		186		186			186										186
Regeneration & Development										-										-
72	Special Regeneration Funding	17/18	436	436		436				436										436
73	Porthcawl Regeneration	20/21	2,827	2,827	-	2,827				2,827										2,827
74	Economic Stimulus Grant	19/20	315	315	-	315				315										315
75	Coastal Risk Management Programme	20/21	184	184	-	184				184										184
76	Ewenny Road Industrial Estate	21/22	3,485	-	3,485	3,485				3,485										3,485
77	CESP/Arbed Phase 1	21/22	2,123	855	1,268	2,123				2,123										2,123
78	Bridgend Heat Scheme	16/17	3,265	2,276	989	3,265				3,265										3,265
79	Maesteg Town Hall Cultural Hub	17/18	61	38	23	61				61										61
80	Town & Community Council Fund	RECURRENT	633	633	-	183				183	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	633
81	Porthcawl Townscape Heritage Initiative	14/15	89	89	-	89				89										89
82	Commercial Property Enhancement Fund	21/22	134	134		134				134										134
83	Urban Centre Property Enhancement	19/20	1,300		1,300	650				650	650									1,300
84	2030 Decarbonisation	RECURRENT	1,354	1,354		589	15			604	150	150	150	150	150					1,354
85	Shared Prosperity Fund	22/23	3,077	929	2,148	3,077				3,077										3,077
86	Local Places for Nature	23/24	734		734	367				367	367									734
87	Porthcawl Grand Pavilion	22/23	23,874	5,867	18,007	6,392	1,500			7,892	14,782	1,200								23,874
88	Pride In Place Impact Fund	25/26	3,000		3,000		1,500			1,500	1,500									3,000
Corporate Landlord										-										
89	DDA Works	14/15	198	198	-	198				198										198
90	Minor Works Asset Management	RECURRENT	12,362	12,362	-	2,192				2,192	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	12,362
91	Fire Precautions	14/15	107	107	-	107				107										107
92	Bryncethin Depot Facilities	14/15	272	272	-	272				272										272
93	Waterton Upgrade	18/19	3,591	3,591	-	3,591			(3,101)	490	3,101									3,591
94	Investing in Communities	19/20	47	47	-	47				47										47
Total Communities			105,117	70,974	34,143	48,616	3,201	-	(6,101)	45,716	31,196	6,210	6,009	4,986	2,320	2,170	2,170	2,170	2,170	105,117
Chief Executive's																				
Housing / Homelessness																				
95	Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG)	RECURRENT	22,000	22,000	-	1,750				1,750	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	22,000
96	Discretionary Housing Grants	RECURRENT	2,000	2,000		200				200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	2,000
97	Housing Renewal / Empty Properties	RECURRENT	1,000	1,000	-	100				100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	1,000
98	Enable Grant	25/26	382	-	382	382				382										382
99	Homelessness and Housing	22/23	530		530	530				530										530
100	Health and Wellbeing Village	21/22	480	-	480	480				480										480
101	Affordable Housing	23/24	802	530	272	802				802										802
102	Enforcement Fund 1	25/26	250	250		250				250										250
103	Enforcement Fund 2	25/26	22	22		22				22										22
104	Enforcement Fund 3	25/26	75	75			75			75										75
105	Multi Project Enforcement Fund	25/26	100	100			100			100										100
ICT																				
106	Investment in ICT	RECURRENT	4,052	4,052	-	452				452	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	4,052
107	Digital Transformation	22/23	597	597	-	97		500		597										597
108	Replacement CCTV	21/22	-	-	-	29	(29)			-										-
109	ICT Datacentre Replacement	22/23	39	39		39				39										39
110	HWB Schools IT	21/22	185	185	-	18	167			185										185
Total Chief Executive's			32,514	30,850	1,664	5,151	313	500	-	5,964	2,950	2,950	2,950	2,950	2,950	2,950	2,950	2,950	2,950	32,514
Council Wide Capital Budgets																				
111	Corporate Capital Fund	RECURRENT	773	773		773				773										773
112	Unallocated	RECURRENT	27,856	27,856	-	1,716		(500)		1,216	1,428	1,428	3,312	3,312	3,312	3,462	3,462	3,462	3,462	27,856
Total Council Wide Capital budgets			28,629	28,629	-	2,489	-	(500)	-	1,989	1,428	1,428	3,312	3,312	3,312	3,462	3,462	3,462	3,462	28,629
Total Expenditure			300,752	180,602	120,150	156,643	6,119	-	(84,515)	78,247	109,270	46,806	12,271	11,248	8,582	8,582	8,582	8,582	8,582	300,752
Expected Capital Resources																				
General Capital Funding																				
General Capital Funding - General Capital Grant			47,720	47,720	-	4,772				4,772	4,772	4,772	4,772	4,772	4,772	4,772	4,772	4,772	4,772	47,720
General Capital Funding - Supported Borrowing			38,100	38,100	-	3,810				3,810	3,810	3,810	3,810	3,810	3,810	3,810	3,810	3,810	3,810	38,100
Capital Receipts			28,598	28,598	-	23,898	(56)	(167)	(11,681)	11,994	10,178	5,891	535							28,598
Earmarked Reserves			35,411	35,411	-	26,700	138		(13,557)	13,281	8,469	7,841	3,154	2,666						35,411
Revenue Contribution			332	332	-	307	25			332										332
Prudential Borrowing (Directorate Funded)			3,956	3,956	-	3,956				3,956										3,956

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PRUDENTIAL AND OTHER INDICATORS 2024-25 and 2025-26

The Prudential Indicators are required to be set and approved by Council in accordance with CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

Table 1 shows the 2024-25 actual capital expenditure, the capital programme approved by Council on 26 February 2025 and the projected capital expenditure for the current financial year which has incorporated slippage of schemes from 2024-25 together with any new grants and contributions or changes in the profile of funding for 2025-26.

Table 1: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Expenditure

	2024-25	2025-26	2025-26
	Actual	Estimate	Projection
	£m	(Council Feb 25)	£m
Council Fund services	29.331	124.863	78.247
Right of Use Assets	3.837		
TOTAL	33.168	124.863	78.247

All capital expenditure must be financed, either from external sources (government grants and other contributions), the Council's own resources (revenue, reserves and capital receipts) or debt (the 'net financing requirement' - borrowing, leasing and Private Finance Initiative). The planned financing of the expenditure has been projected as follows:

Table 2: Capital financing

	2024-25	2025-26	2025-26
	Actual	Estimate	Projection
	£m	(Council Feb 25)	£m
External sources	20.706	72.610	38.410
Own resources	2.858	38.717	25.607
Net Financing Requirement	9.604	13.536	14.230
TOTAL	33.168	124.863	78.247

The net financing requirement is only a temporary source of finance, since loans and leases must be repaid, and this is therefore replaced over time by other financing, usually from revenue which is known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). As well as MRP, the Council makes additional voluntary revenue contributions to pay off Prudential or Unsupported Borrowing. The total of these are shown in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Replacement of debt finance

	2024-25 Actual £m	2025-26 Estimate (Council Feb 25) £m	2025-26 Projection £m
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	1.200	1.149	1.198
Additional Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP)	1.870	2.243	2.429
Total MRP & VRP	3.070	3.392	3.627
Other MRP on Long term Liabilities	1.159	1.232	1.293
Total Own Resources	4.229	4.624	4.920

The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces by the MRP amount within the year. Based on the above figures for expenditure and financing, the Council's actual CFR is as follows based on the movement on capital expenditure during the year:

Table 4: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement

	2024-25 Actual £m	2025-26 Estimate – Capital Strategy £m	2025-26 Projection £m
Capital Financing Requirement			
Opening CFR excluding PFI & other liabilities	162.745	166.329	165.442
Opening PFI CFR	12.974	14.975	15.652
Total opening CFR	175.719	181.304	181.094
Movement in CFR excluding PFI & other liabilities	(0.981)	13.954	10.603
Movement in PFI and other long term leases CFR	6.356	(1.232)	(1.293)
Total movement in CFR	5.375	12.722	9.310
Closing CFR	181.094	194.026	190.404
Movement in CFR represented by:			
Net financing need for year (Table 2 above)	9.604	17.346	14.230
Minimum and voluntary revenue provisions	(3.070)	(3.392)	(3.627)
MRP on PFI and other long term leases (Table 3)	(1.159)	(1.232)	(1.293)
Total movement	5.375	12.722	9.310

The capital borrowing need (Capital Financing Requirement) has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure. This is known as Internal Borrowing. Projected levels of the Council's total outstanding debt, which comprises of borrowing, PFI and Other Long Term Liabilities, are shown below compared with the Capital Financing Requirement:

Table 5: Prudential Indicator: Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement

	2024-25	2025-26	2025-26
	Actual	Estimate	Projection
	£m	(Council Feb 25)	£m
Debt (incl. PFI & leases)	119.412	103.428	111.849
Capital Financing Requirement	181.094	194.026	190.404

Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short-term. As can be seen, the Council expects to comply with this in the medium term.

The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower "operational boundary" is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

Table 6: Prudential Indicators: Authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt in £m

	2024-25	2025-26	2025-26
	Actual	Estimate	Projection
	£m	(Council Feb 25)	£m
Authorised limit – borrowing	170.000	170.000	170.000
Authorised limit – other long term liabilities	25.000	25.000	25.000
Authorised Limit Total	195.000	195.000	195.000
Operational boundary – borrowing	120.000	140.000	140.000
Operational boundary – other long term liabilities	20.000	20.000	20.000
Operational Boundary Limit Total	140.000	160.000	160.000
Total Borrowing and Long Term Liabilities	119.460	103.428	111.849

Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue, offset by any investment income receivable. The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants

Table 7: Prudential Indicator: Proportion of financing costs to net revenue stream

	2024-25 Actual £m	2025-26 Estimate (Council Feb 25) £m	2025-26 Projection £m
Capital Financing Central	5.142	5.065	6.456
Other Financing costs	0.945	0.869	1.078
TOTAL FINANCING COSTS	6.087	5.934	7.534
Proportion of net revenue stream	1.94%	1.55%	1.99%

This shows that in 2025-26, it is forecast that 1.99% of the Council's net revenue income will be spent on paying back the costs of capital expenditure.

The net revenue stream is calculated as the income from Welsh Government Revenue Settlement Grant plus Council Tax and NNDR, less Police and Community Council precepts.

The table below shows the Prudential Indicator of estimates of net income from commercial and service investments to net revenue stream.

Table 8: Prudential Indicator: Net Income from Commercial and Service Investments to Net Revenue Stream

	2024-25 Actual £m	2025-26 Estimate £m	2025-26 Projection £m
Net Revenue Stream	361.283	383.226	383.226
Income from Commercial Investments	0.459	0.459	0.459
% Ratio	0.13%	0.12%	0.12%

The income receivable from the commercial property portfolio is not deemed to be a financial resilience risk in terms of being 'disproportionate' to the Council's overall income.

Meeting of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	18 NOVEMBER 2025
Report Title:	TREASURY MANAGEMENT HALF YEAR REPORT 2025-26
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING AND CHANGE
Responsible Officer:	NIGEL SMITH GROUP MANAGER – CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	Para 23.5 Financial Procedure Rules require that the Chief Finance Officer shall report quarterly to the Cabinet, summarising borrowing and investment activity and indicating compliance with any statutory or Council approved guidelines together with a half yearly and an annual report to Council.
Executive Summary:	<p>The report provides an update of Treasury Management activity for the half year to 30 September 2025.</p> <p>As at 30 September 2025 the Council had £93.50 million of long term debt, £2.32 million of Salix loans (interest free), £15.12 million of other long term liabilities and £64.95 million of investments. The overall net debt position is £45.99 million.</p> <p>The average interest rate for debt as at 30 September 2025 was 4.73%. For investments it was 3.77%.</p> <p>The Council has a manageable maturity structure of borrowing, with its current debt repayable at various points over the next 30 years, the next repayment being due in March 2026.</p> <p>The Council is required to set and report against Treasury Management Indicators, details of which are included in Appendix A. These show that the Council is operating within its approved limits.</p> <p>The Council has complied with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Welsh Government Investment Guidance during the period.</p>

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Cabinet on the treasury management activities for the half year ending 30 September 2025.

2. Background

- 2.1 Treasury Management is the management of the Council's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Council is exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are therefore central to the Council's prudent financial management.
- 2.2 Treasury risk management at the Council is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 edition (the TM Code), which requires the Council to approve a Treasury Management Strategy before the start of each financial year, and, as a minimum, a semi-annual and annual treasury outturn report. The TM Code also requires the Council to set a number of Treasury Management Indicators, which are forward looking parameters, and enable the Council to measure and manage its exposure to treasury management risks, and these are included throughout this report. Welsh Government (WG) guidance issued in November 2019 on Local Authority Investments requires the Council to approve an Investment Strategy before the start of each financial year. This report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the Welsh Government Guidance.
- 2.3 The CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (2021 Edition) (Prudential Code) includes a requirement for Local Authorities to provide a Capital Strategy, which is a summary document approved by full Council covering capital expenditure and financing, treasury management and non-treasury investments. The definition of investments in the revised Prudential Code covers all the financial assets of the Council as well as other non-financial assets which the authority holds primarily for financial return. The Council's Capital Strategy 2025-26 complied with CIPFA's requirement and included the Prudential Indicators along with the details regarding the Council's non-treasury investments. The Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy should be read in conjunction with each other as they are interlinked, as borrowing and investments are directly impacted upon by capital plans, and both were approved together by Council on 26 February 2025.

2.4 The Council's treasury management advisors are Arlingclose. The current services provided to the Council include:

- advice and guidance on relevant policies, strategies and reports
- advice on investment decisions
- notification of credit ratings and changes
- other information on credit quality
- advice on debt management decisions
- accounting advice
- reports on treasury performance
- forecasts of interest rates
- training courses

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 External Context – Economic Background

- 3.1.1 UK headline consumer price inflation (CPI) increased slightly over the quarter, rising from an annual rate of 3.6% in June to 3.8% in September, well above the Bank of England's 2% target. The core measure of inflation also increased, from 3.4% to 3.5% over the same period.
- 3.1.2 Data released during the period showed the UK economy expanded by 0.3% in the second quarter of the calendar year, following an increase of 0.7% in the first quarter. UK Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was revised upwards to 1.4% year on year in the final version of the Quarter 2 2025 GDP Report.
- 3.1.3 Interest rates during the quarter reduced from 4.25% in May 2025 to 4.00% in August 2025, remaining unchanged when the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee met again in September. Arlingclose, the authority's treasury adviser, maintained its central view that Bank Rate would continue to fall, and a further reduction is expected later in the year.

3.2 Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) Lending Facility Advice, Revised CIPFA Codes

- 3.2.1 The Council continues to undertake its duties in line with the current guidance for the PWLB lending facility which was significantly revised by HM Treasury in August 2021. Authorities that are purchasing or intending to purchase investment assets primarily for yield, or financial return, will not be able to access funding from the PWLB except to refinance existing loans or externalise internal borrowing. Acceptable use of PWLB borrowing includes service delivery, housing, regeneration, preventative action, refinancing and treasury management.
- 3.2.2 The Council's treasury management activities are undertaken in line with CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services Code. To comply with the Prudential Code authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return. The Prudential Code also states it is not prudent for local authorities to make investment or spending decisions that will increase the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the authority. Existing commercial investments are not required to be sold, however, authorities with existing commercial

investments who expect to need to borrow should review the options for exiting these investments.

3.3 Treasury Management update for period 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025

3.3.1 The Council has complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements during the half year period to 30 September 2025. The Treasury Management Strategy 2025-26 was approved by Council on 26 February 2025.

3.3.2 A summary of the treasury management activities is shown in the Treasury Management Quarterly report to 30 September 2025 at **Appendix A**. The Council's external debt and investment position on 30 September 2025 is shown in Table 1 below, and more detail is provided in **Appendix A**. No long-term borrowing has been taken out in the first half of 2025-26.

The balance on investments held at 30 September 2025 was £64.95 million, a very slight increase from the £64 million held at 30 June 2025, with an average interest rate of 3.77% (4.08% as at 30 June 2025). The reduction in average interest rate is as expected given the reduction in the Bank of England base rate.

Table 1: Council's external debt and investment position at 30 September 2025

Investments for Treasury Purposes	Principal as at 31/03/2025 £m	Principal as at 30/09/2025 £m	Average Rate 30/09/2025 %
External Long Term Borrowing			
Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)	77.04	74.25	4.75
Lenders Option Borrowers Option (LOBO)	19.25	19.25	4.65
Salix Loans (Interest Free)	2.51	2.32	NIL
Short Term Borrowing	5.00	NIL	NIL
Total External Borrowing	103.80	95.82	4.73*
Other Long Term Liabilities			
Private Finance Initiative**	11.97	11.43	
IFRS 16 Leases	3.69	3.69	
Total Other Long Term Liabilities	15.66	15.12	
Total Gross Debt	119.46	110.94	
Investments for treasury management purposes			
Debt Management Office	18.00	33.50	3.96
Money Market Funds (instant access)	12.75	23.50	4.06
Banks	6.00	7.95	2.72
Total Treasury Investments	36.75	64.95	3.77
Net Debt	82.71	45.99	

* Excluding Salix loans which are interest free

** (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg 8.5 years remaining term

3.3.3 The £19.25 million in Table 1 above relates to Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) loans which have a maturity date of 2054 though these may be rescheduled

in advance of this maturity date with the lender having the ability to recall the debt at 2 intervals in the year, July and January. Whilst the expectation is that as interest rates fall the lender is unlikely to exercise this option, and it was not exercised on 22 July 2025, there remains some risk that the lender may exercise their option.

- 3.3.4 The Total Other Long Term Liabilities figure of £15.12 million at 30 September 2025 includes £11.43 million for the Private Finance initiative (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg and £3.69 million right of use assets.
- 3.3.5 Both the CIPFA Code and Welsh Government Guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return. Investment decisions are made by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from Fitch, Moody's or Standard and Poor's to ensure that this lies within the Councils' agreed minimum credit rating.
- 3.3.6 The Council defines high credit quality as organisations and securities having a credit rating of A- (A3 for Moody's) or higher and the Council does not invest in any organisation below this level. Schedule A in **Appendix A** shows the equivalence table for credit ratings for Fitch, Moody's, and Standard and Poor's and explains the different investment grades.
- 3.3.7 There are no long-term investments (original duration of 12 months or more) outstanding as at 30 September 2025. All investments at 30 September 2025 are short term deposits including instant access and notice accounts.
- 3.3.8 The Treasury Management Code requires the Council to set and report on a number of Treasury Management Indicators. The indicators either summarise the expected activity or introduce limits upon the activity. Details of the estimates for 2025-26 set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy compared to the actual at 30 September 2025 are shown in **Appendix A** and these show that the Council operated within the approved limits throughout the year to date.

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

- 4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report; therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

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

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

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 6.1 The Climate Change and nature implications were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the environment because of this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 The Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting implications were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon safeguarding and corporate parenting because of this report.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 The financial implications are reflected within the report and attached **Appendix A**.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- Note the treasury management activities for the half year ending 30 September 2025.
 - Note the Treasury Management Indicators for the period 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025 against those approved in the Treasury Management Strategy 2025-26.

Background documents

None



Treasury Management Half Year Report to 30 September 2025

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Treasury Management is the management of the Council's cash flows on a day-to-day basis and is carried out in accordance with legislation and Codes of Practice. The Treasury Management Strategy for 2025-26 was approved by Council on 26 February 2025.
- Inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) continued to stay above the Bank of England's target of 2% at 3.8% in September, a slight rise from 3.6% in June 2025.
- The Bank of England base rate was reduced to 4.0% in August and remained unchanged in their September meeting.
- Total external borrowing at 30 September 2025 was £95.82 million, a slight reduction from the previous quarter of £98.61 million due to repayment of £2.79m long-term Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) borrowing.
- Total investments at 30 September 2025 were £64.95 million, a slight increase from £64 million at the previous quarter.
- Average interest rates on investments as at 30 September 2025 were 3.77%, a reduction from those at 30 June 2025 of 4.08%. This reduction is as expected given the reduction in the Bank of England base rate.
- The Council's investments are diversified across a number of institutions, including Money Market Funds, Debt Management Office and banks. Security of the Council's cash resources is always the primary factor when investing cash resources.
- Based on the approved capital programme the Council may need to borrow long term during 2025-26, however, this is dependent on the actual expenditure incurred on capital projects and the use of earmarked reserves. In the short term the Council uses the cash available from earmarked reserves to finance capital expenditure, known as internal borrowing. This is prudent whilst the Council has resources available, but these will need to be replaced with borrowing as the reserves are used.
- The liability benchmark indicates the Council may need to borrow up to £18 million during 2025-26, but this will be closely monitored during the year to ensure borrowing is taken when necessary.
- The Council has operated within the approved limits set out in the Treasury Management Strategy 2025-26.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Treasury management activities are the *'management of the organisation's borrowing, investments and cash flows, including its banking, money market and capital market transactions, the effective control of the risks associated with those activities, and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.'* (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (2021) (CIPFA TM Code).

The definition of 'Investments' includes:

- Treasury Management investments (held for the prudent management of financial affairs), and
- non-Treasury Investments, undertaken as part of a Capital Strategy either in the course of provision of services, or made for commercial reasons purely to make a financial gain. These are managed outside of normal treasury management activity.

The Council carries out its treasury management function in accordance with the CIPFA TM Code and the legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA TM Code and Welsh Government Guidance.

The Council has an integrated Treasury Management Strategy where borrowing and investments are managed in accordance with best professional practice, which is assessed either from internal expertise or consultation with our external advisers. The Council will look to borrow money if needed to either meet short term cash flow needs or to fund capital schemes approved within the capital programme. Therefore, any actual loans taken are not generally associated with particular items of expenditure or assets.

The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to Cabinet, and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Section 151 Officer. The Governance and Audit Committee are responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and policies and regular reports will be presented to the Committee for their consideration.

2.0 ECONOMIC CONTEXT

UK headline consumer price inflation (CPI) increased slightly over the quarter, rising from an annual rate of 3.6% in June to 3.8% in September, well above the Bank of England's 2% target. The core measure of inflation (excluding energy, food, alcohol and tobacco) also increased, from 3.4% to 3.5% over the same period.

Data released during the period showed the UK economy expanded by 0.3% in the second quarter of the calendar year, following an increase of 0.7% in the first quarter. UK Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was revised upwards to 1.4% year on year in the final version of the Quarter 2 2025 GDP Report.

Labour market data continued to soften throughout the period, with the unemployment rate rising and earnings growth easing. In addition, the employment rate rose while the economic inactivity rate and number of vacancies fell.

Having started the financial year at 4.5%, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) cut Bank Rate to 4.25% in May with a further reduction of 0.25% to 4.00% in August after an unprecedented second round of voting. The final 5-4 vote was for a 0.25% cut, with the majority wanting no change. In September, seven MPC members voted to hold rates while two preferred a 0.25% cut. The committee's views still differ on whether the upside risks from inflation expectations and wage setting outweigh downside risks from weaker demand and growth. The committee is next due to meet on 6 November 2025.

The August Bank of England's Monetary Policy Report highlighted that after peaking in Quarter 3 2025, inflation is projected to fall back to its target of 2% by mid-2027, helped by increasing spare capacity in the economy and the ongoing effects from past tighter policy rates. GDP is expected to remain weak in the near-term while over the medium term outlook will be influenced by domestic and global developments.

Arlingclose, the authority's treasury adviser, maintained its central view that Bank Rate would be cut further as the Bank of England focused on weak GDP growth more than higher inflation. One more cut is currently expected during 2025-26, taking Bank Rate to 3.75%. The risks to the forecast are balanced in the near-term but weighted to the downside further out as weak consumer sentiment and business confidence and investment continue to constrain growth. There is also considerable uncertainty around the autumn Budget and the impact this will have on the outlook.

3.0 EXTERNAL DEBT AND INVESTMENT POSITION

The Council's external debt and investments at 30 September 2025 is set out in Table 1 below. The Council held £95.82 million of Long Term Borrowing comprising:

- Public Works Loan Board (PWLB - UK government) at fixed rates and duration
- Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) which may be rescheduled ahead of their maturity of 22 July 2054 (no call was made in July 2025)
- £2.32 million of Salix interest-free loans

The Council borrowed £5 million from the PWLB in February 2025 over a 16-month period for cash flow purposes and to replace a £5m PWLB long term loan that was repaid on 31 March 2025.

At 30 September 2025 the Council had £64.95 million of investments for treasury management purposes and £4.89 million of investments for commercial purposes.

Table 1: Council's external debt and investment position as of 30 September 2025

Investments for Treasury Purposes	Principal as at 31/03/2025 £m	Principal as at 30/09/2025 £m	Average Rate 30/09/2025 %
External Long Term Borrowing			
Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)	77.04	74.25	4.75
Lenders Option Borrowers Option (LOBO)	19.25	19.25	4.65
Salix Loans (Interest Free)	2.51	2.32	NIL
Short Term Borrowing	5.00	NIL	NIL
Total External Borrowing	103.80	95.82	4.73*
Other Long Term Liabilities			
Private Finance Initiative**	11.97	11.43	
IFRS 16 Leases	3.69	3.69	
Total Other Long Term Liabilities	15.66	15.12	
Total Gross Debt	119.46	110.94	
Investments for treasury management purposes			
Debt Management Office	18.00	33.50	3.96
Money Market Funds (instant access)	12.75	23.50	4.06
Banks	6.00	7.95	2.72
Total Treasury Investments	36.75	64.95	3.77
Net Debt	82.71	45.99	

Investments for Commercial Purposes	Fair Value as at 31/03/2025 £m	Anticipated return 31/03/2026 £m
Investments	4.890	0.458

* Excluding Salix loans which are interest free and Short Term borrowing

** (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg 8 years remaining term

The current profile of repayment of the Council's long-term debt is set out in the Liability Benchmark chart below. The table assumes that the Public Works Loan Board and Lender's Option Borrower's Option loans will be repayable on their maturity date. However, although shown as maturing in 2054, the £19.25 million of Lender's Option Borrower's Option loans may be called sooner than this, the next call date being 22 January 2026.

PWLB lending criteria requires that the Council does not invest purely for financial return if it wishes to access any new PWLB borrowing. The CIPFA TM Code sets out that it is not prudent for local authorities to invest for financial return.

All borrowing by the Council is as a single pool of debt rather than having loans specific to individual schemes. Where a Council finances capital expenditure by debt, it must put aside revenue to repay that debt in later years, known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The forecast MRP for 2025-26 as set out in the Capital Strategy is

£4.624 million, which includes supported and unsupported borrowing, the PFI for Maesteg School and leases recognised on the balance sheet as from 1 April 2024.

Liability benchmark

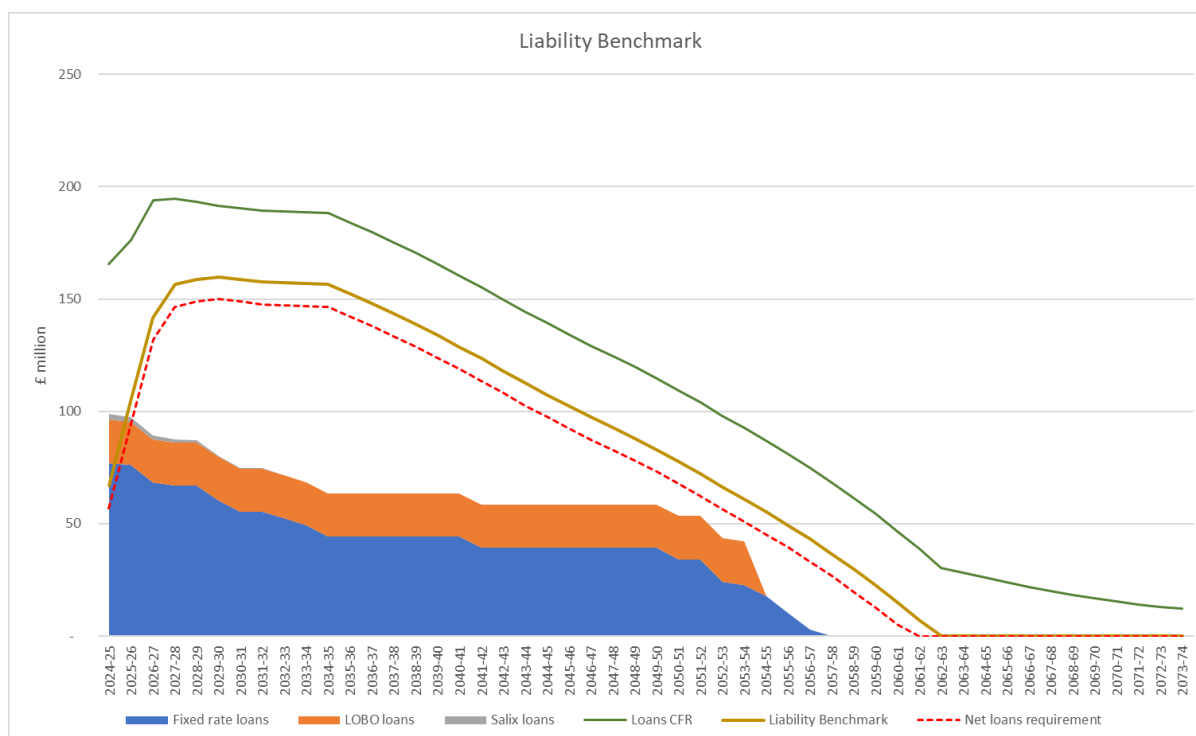
The liability benchmark is a tool which helps to assess the lowest level of borrowing the Council needs, taking into account available cash resources to fund capital expenditure in the short term. A minimum level of investments is factored into the calculation, set at £10 million, which are held as reasonably liquid to ensure the Council has available cash resources to meet day-to-day cash flow requirements. Forecast borrowing needs are based on capital expenditure estimates and available usable reserves. The underlying need to borrow to fund capital expenditure (known as the Capital Financing Requirement or CFR) is the amount of capital expenditure which is not funded via grants, capital receipts or contributions from revenue and earmarked reserves.

Table 2 below shows the Capital Financing Requirement and the calculation of the liability benchmark. It is important to note that the graph is based on the current approved capital programme and the borrowing associated therewith. Any new schemes which require debt financing will increase the CFR and loans requirement.

Table 2: Liability benchmark

	31 March 2025 actual	31 March 2026 estimate (TMS)	31 March 2026 forecast	31 March 2027 forecast	31 March 2028 forecast
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Capital Financing Requirement	181.09	183.22	190.40	206.75	206.06
Less: Other debt liabilities	(15.65)	(15.12)	(14.36)	(12.97)	(11.50)
Loans Capital Financing Requirement	165.44	168.10	176.04	193.78	194.56
Less: Balance Sheet Resources	(108.44)	(58.52)	(81.67)	(61.97)	(48.13)
Plus: Liquidity allowance	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Liability Benchmark	67.00	119.58	104.37	141.81	156.43

The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. The liability benchmark itself represents an estimate of the cumulative amount of external borrowing the Council must hold to fund its **current** capital plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level to manage day-to-day cash flow.



The Council may need to borrow long term in 2025-26 although this is based on a number of assumptions including the forecast capital programme expenditure and the level and use of reserves.

The Section 151 Officer will monitor and update the liability benchmark assumptions on an on-going basis and report any significant changes within the treasury management monitoring reports to Cabinet, the Governance and Audit Committee and Council as appropriate. This could be as a result of changes in the level of usable reserves at year end, slippage within the Capital Programme or changes within the working capital assumptions which may affect the Council's need to take new long-term borrowing.

4.0 BORROWING

As at 30 September 2025 the Council held £95.82 million of Long-Term Borrowing, £93.50 million of which is fixed long term loans as part of its strategy for funding previous years' capital programmes.

The Council has previously raised the majority of its long-term borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), and this was the case when the Council borrowed £5 million for duration of 16 months in February 2025. The Council will however consider long term loans from other sources including banks, pension funds and other local authorities if appropriate. The Council will also investigate the possibility of issuing bonds and similar instruments, in order to lower interest costs and reduce over-reliance on one source of funding in line with the CIPFA TM Code.

The Council has loans from PWLB maturing within the next 3 financial years that it will need to repay. Given the anticipated level of expenditure within the capital programme over the current and next financial years, it is likely that new borrowing will be required to replace these maturing loans. The value of the loans due to be repaid over the next 3 years is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Value of PWLB maturing debt

	2025-26 £ million	2026-27 £ million	2027-28 £ million
Value of maturing debt	0.918	7.790	1.395

The £0.918 million due for repayment during 2025-26 will be maturing at the end of the current financial year, 31 March 2026. There will be £7.790 million maturing next financial year, 2026-27, £5 million due for repayment on 5 June 2026 and £2.790 million on 31 March 2027. As noted above the Council is likely to need to borrow during 2025-26 which will replace these maturing loans.

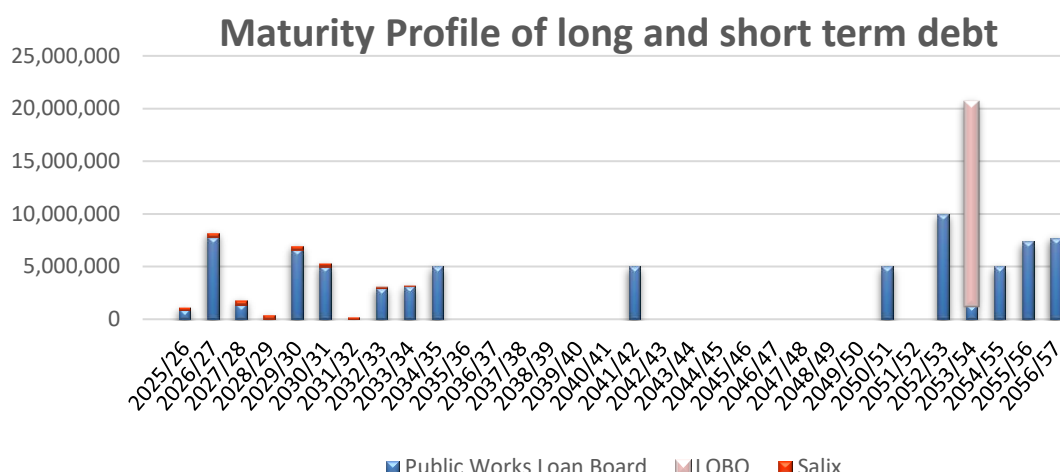
Maturity structure of borrowing

The maturity structure of borrowing indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk with respect to the maturity of the Council's external borrowing. The limits are set to avoid having large amounts of debt maturing in a short space of time and is the amount of projected borrowing maturing in each period as a percentage of total projected borrowing. Where the maturity date of borrowing is unknown, as in the case of LOBO loans, the maturity should normally be determined by reference to the earliest date at which the lender can require repayment. The £19.25 million of LOBO loans has therefore been included in the 'Under 12 months' category. This table also reflects the PWLB repayable in 2025-26.

Table 4: Maturity Structure of Borrowing 2025-26

Maturity structure of borrowing	Upper limit	lower limit	£ million	As at 30 September 2025
Under 12 months	50%	0%	25.56	26.68%
12 months and within 24 months	25%	0%	3.18	3.32%
24 months and within 5 years	25%	0%	9.08	9.47%
5 years and within 10 years	40%	0%	16.61	17.33%
10 years and within 20 years	50%	0%	5.00	5.22%
20 years and above	60%	25%	36.39	37.98%

As can be seen from the table the maturity structure remains within the limits approved as part of the Treasury Management Strategy 2025-26. The following chart provides the maturity profile of the Council's long term debt.



All the LOBO loans are subject to the lender having the right to change the rate of interest payable during the financial year at either of two trigger points in January and July, with the Council having the right to refuse the change, triggering early repayment and the need to re-finance. This is a manageable risk should repayment be needed during the current financial year as the Council has sufficient cash funds available in the short term, but would, however, need to consider taking out new debt to replace these loans during the current financial year. These loans were not called at the July call date, and the next call date is 22 January 2026.

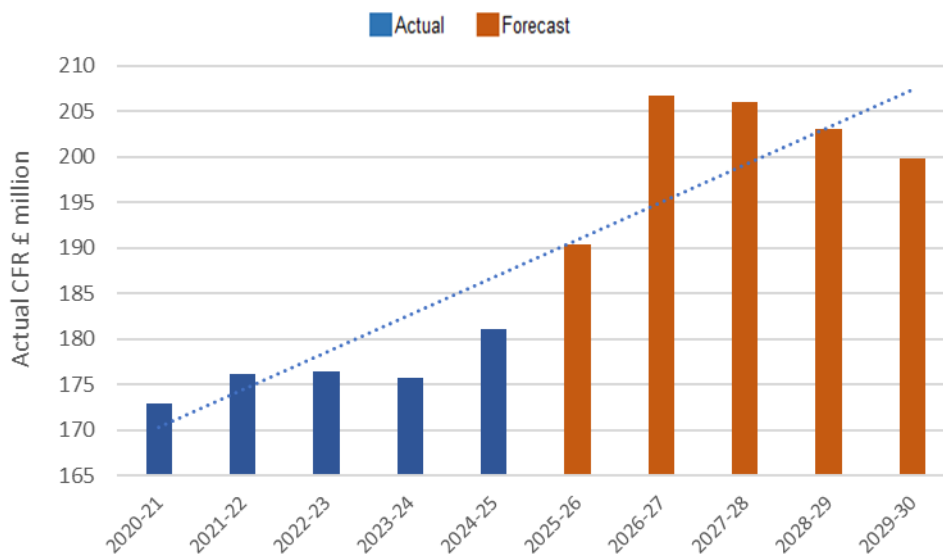
Table 5: LOBO loans

Commencement date	Loan value £m	Potential repayment date	Option frequency	Full term maturity
22 January 2004	4.00	22 January 2026	6 months	22 January 2054
22 January 2004	5.00	22 January 2026	6 months	22 January 2054
22 January 2004	10.25	22 January 2026	6 months	22 January 2054

In accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy, the Council is internally borrowing, which is when it uses temporary cash balances it holds in the short term instead of undertaking external borrowing. Internal borrowing is estimated to be £78.55 million as at 31 March 2026. This is shown by the Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) net of its external level of debt including other long term debt liabilities. The Council's forecast CFR as at 31 March 2026 is £190.40 million, external borrowing £97.49 million and other long term debt liabilities £14.36 million, which is primarily the PFI Maesteg School scheme plus the lease commitments of right of use assets.

The chart below shows the trend in the CFR based on **current** capital commitments within the approved capital programme. The CFR is anticipated to increase in the current and following year assuming capital expenditure is incurred as currently anticipated. The CFR in future years shows a marginal reduction, however, this is on the assumption that there will be no new schemes added to the capital programme which require debt financing. If new schemes requiring debt financing are added, the CFR will continue to increase.

Capital Financing Requirement Trend



5.0 TREASURY INVESTMENTS

The Council holds treasury investments as a result of temporary cash balances arising from its day-to-day activities. The management of the day-to-day cash requirements of the Council is undertaken in-house with advice from Arlingclose, the Council's Treasury Management advisors. This may involve temporary borrowing to meet cash-flow needs or temporary lending of surplus funds. Investment balances can fluctuate daily and arise as a result of a range of circumstances, including timing differences of revenue and capital cash flows, reserves and other balances held for future use.

Investments are made in institutions approved by the Council as part of its Treasury Management Strategy and in accordance with investment guidelines issued by the Welsh Government. As part of the Markets and Financial Instruments Directive II, the Council elected for 'professional' status, which covers national and regional governments and public bodies. The categories of investments the Council can invest in can be changed with any proposed changes being presented to Council for approval. Treasury investments are made primarily on the basis of ensuring security of the funds invested, whilst managing liquidity, and only then considering a commensurate return on the investment. As at 30 September 2025, the Council held £64.95 million of investments, with a weighted average return (based on the rate of return of each investment over the 3 month period) of 4.08% (£64 million at 4.20% as at 30 June 2025). This compares to the average interest rate of investments as at 30 September 2025 of 3.77%, as shown in Table 1 and indicates that returns are falling, as expected when the Bank of England base rate reduces.

Table 6 below shows the investment profile as at 30 September 2025.

Table 6: Investments by counterparty type

Investment Category	Balance 1 April 2025 £m	Investments made in period £m	Investments repaid in period £m	Balance 30 Sept 2025 £m	Weighted interest rate 1 July 2025 to 30 Sept 2025 %
Government DMO	18.00	311.50	(296.00)	33.50	4.16
Money Market Funds	12.75	23.00	(12.25)	23.50	4.25
Banks (instant access/notice accounts)	6.00	22.00	(20.05)	7.95	3.18
TOTAL	36.75	356.50	(328.30)	64.95	4.08

The following should be noted:

- During the period to 30 September 2025 all investments made were in line with the approved counterparties within the Treasury Management Strategy.
- Investments are diversified over a number of organisations across different sectors, demonstrating a diversified investment portfolio.
- All investments are in sterling and are rated A- and above as per the approved criteria or with a public body.
- The weighted average rates are for all investments made during 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025.

The overall interest receivable from treasury investments for the period 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025 was £1.292 million. There has been a slow and gradual reduction to interest rates since they reached their peak of 5.25% in July 2024, with 5 reductions of 0.25% each since then, bringing the current rate to 4.00%. The Council will continue to take a cautious approach to investing to ensure as its primary concern the security of any investments made. The risk of default for investments held is considered negligible.

All investments longer than 364 days will be made with a cautious approach to cash flow requirements and advice from the Council's Treasury Management advisors will be sought as necessary. All investments as at 30 September 2025 were short term of less than one year duration, as shown in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Sums invested for periods longer than a year

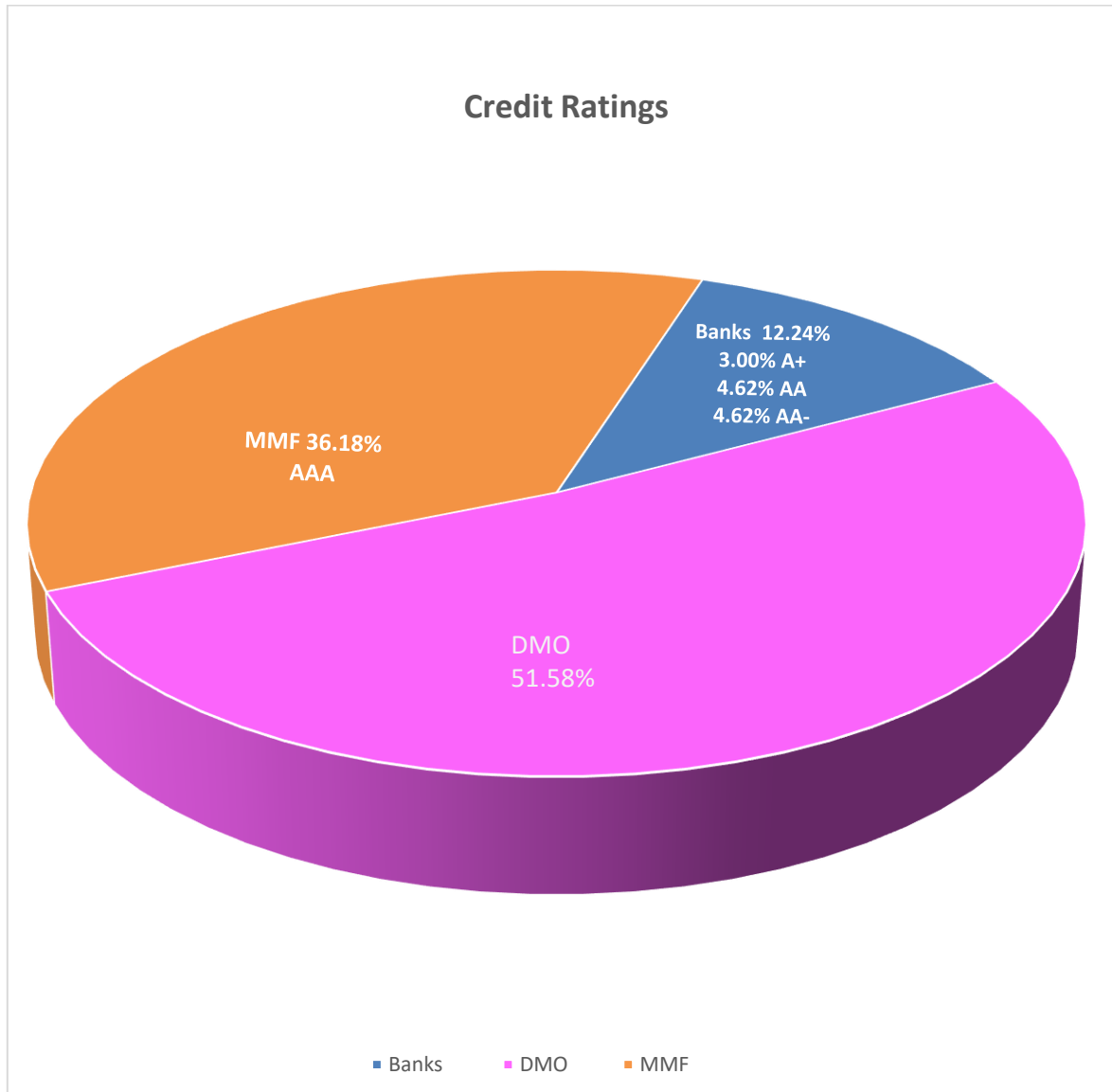
Price risk indicator	TMS 2025-26 £m	Actual £m	Full term maturity
Limit on principal invested beyond financial year end	10	NIL	NIL

The below table details the Council's investments by counterparty and maturity profile.

Table 8: Investments by maturity

Counterparty Category	Instant Access £m	Deposits maturing within 1 month £m	Deposits maturing within 2-3 months £m	Deposits maturing within 4-12 months £m	TOTAL £m
Government DMO	-	29.50	4.00	-	33.50
Money Market Funds	23.50	-	-	-	23.50
Banks	7.95	-	-	-	7.95
Total	31.45	29.50	4.00	0.00	64.95

The pie chart below summarises the distribution of the Council's investments by credit ratings. The DMO are the UK government and rated AA-.



6.0 INTEREST RATE EXPOSURES

The Council is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Council, depending on how variable and fixed interest rates move across differing financial instrument periods. Short term and variable rate loans expose the Council to the risk of short-term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the Treasury Management indicator below.

The following Table is based on investments at 30 September 2025.

Table 9: Interest Rate Exposure

Interest rate risk indicator	£ million
One year revenue impact of a 1% rise in interest rates	(0.4.29)
One year revenue impact of a 1% fall in interest rates	0.621

It is important to note that this is an indicator, not a limit. It is calculated at a point in time on the assumption that maturing loans and investments would be replaced at rates 1% higher or lower than they are currently, and that the treasury investment and borrowing portfolios remain unchanged over the next 12 months, which in practice is not the case. The figure for the 1% fall in interest rates indicator is not the same figure as the 1% increase (but reversed) as the borrowing relates to variable LOBO loans where it is assumed that the lender would only exercise their option if there was an increase in interest rates. All other borrowing does not have a rate reset in the next year and is with the PWLB at fixed rates.

A comparison of interest payable on borrowings excluding other long term liabilities (PFI and lease interest), and interest income due for the period 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025 is shown below.

Table 10: Interest

	01 April 2025 – 30 September 2025 £ million
Interest expenditure payable on long term borrowing	0.591
Interest income receivable in period	(1.292)
Net interest cost	(0.701)

7.0 NON-TREASURY INVESTMENTS

The Council recognises that investment in other financial assets and property primarily for financial return, taken for non-treasury management purposes, requires careful investment management. Such activities include investments in subsidiaries and investments in property. A schedule of the Council's existing non-treasury investments (currently limited to owned property) is set out in Table 11 below. Recent PWLB guidance requires that local authorities should review their investment portfolio if they wish to secure PWLB borrowing but does not require the local authority to sell existing investment assets. This category covers non-financial assets held primarily or partially to generate a profit, primarily investment property. These assets are valued on an annual basis to reflect market conditions and the current value at the time they are valued, otherwise known as Fair Value, which provides security of their value and continued benefit to the Council.

Table 11: Non-treasury investments

Non-treasury investments	£ million
Bridgend Science Park - Units 1 & 2	3.070
Waterton Cross Land	0.560
Brynmenyn Industrial Estate Plot 53	0.675
Village Farm Plots 32,119 & 120	0.385
Tyrewise Bridgend	0.200
Total at Fair Value	4.890
Anticipated annual return 2025-26	0.458

The Council considers that the scale of its investment properties is proportionate to the resources of the Council as the investment represents less than 1% of its total long-term assets. In addition, the value of these investments has increased from the previous year.

In accordance with Welsh Government Investment Guidance these are classified as non-treasury investments.

Schedule A – Credit Rating Equivalence Table

Credit Rating Equivalence Table

	Description	Fitch		Moody's		Standard & Poor's	
		Long	Short	Long	Short	Long	Short
INVESTMENT GRADE	Extremely strong	AAA	F1+	Aaa	P-1	AAA	A-1+
	Very strong	AA+		Aa1		AA+	
		AA		Aa2		AA	
		AA-		Aa3		AA-	
	Strong	A+	F1	A1	P-2	A+	A-1
		A		A2		A	
		A-	F2	A3		A-	A-2
	Adequate	BBB+		Baa1	P-3	BBB+	
		BBB		Baa2		BBB	A-3
		BBB-	F3	Baa3		BBB-	
SPECULATIVE GRADE	Speculative	BB+	B	Ba1	Not Prime (NP)	BB+	B
		BB		Ba2		BB	
		BB-		Ba3		BB-	
	Very speculative	B+		B1		B+	
		B		B2		B	
		B-		B3		B-	
	Vulnerable	CCC+	C	Caa1		CCC+	C
		CCC		Caa2		CCC	
		CCC-		Caa3		CCC-	
		CC		Ca		CC	
		C				C	
	Defaulting	D	D	C		D	D

Schedule B – Arlingclose Economic & Interest Rate Forecast – September 2025

	Current	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27	Sep-27	Dec-27	Mar-28	Jun-28	Sep-28
Official Bank Rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Central Case	4.00	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.25	-0.50	-0.75	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
3-month money market rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Central Case	4.01	3.80	3.75	3.80	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.25	-0.50	-0.75	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
Five gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.65	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70
Central Case	4.10	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Downside risk	0.00	-0.65	-0.70	-0.75	-0.80	-0.85	-0.90	-0.95	-1.00	-1.05	-1.05	-1.05	-1.05
10-year gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.65	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70
Central Case	4.68	4.50	4.45	4.40	4.40	4.40	4.40	4.40	4.40	4.40	4.40	4.40	4.40
Downside risk	0.00	-0.65	-0.70	-0.75	-0.80	-0.85	-0.90	-0.95	-1.00	-1.05	-1.05	-1.05	-1.05
20-year gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.65	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70
Central Case	5.37	5.20	5.10	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Downside risk	0.00	-0.65	-0.70	-0.75	-0.80	-0.85	-0.90	-0.90	-0.90	-0.90	-0.90	-0.90	-0.90
50-year gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.65	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70
Central Case	4.87	4.80	4.75	4.65	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70
Downside risk	0.00	-0.65	-0.70	-0.75	-0.80	-0.85	-0.90	-0.90	-0.90	-0.90	-0.90	-0.90	-0.90

- The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee voted 7-2 to maintain Bank Rate at 4.0% in September, in line with market expectations. While continuing to signal the expectation of "gradual and careful" policy easing, the Monetary Policy Committee minutes also emphasised some committee members' concerns about second round inflation effects. The shift in the committee's focus over the past few months has increased uncertainty over the timing of the next rate cut.
- The committee's sensitivity to higher inflation is partly offsetting the effect of the weak economic environment on Bank Rate expectations. However, our external advisors continue to forecast one more 25bps rate cut in Q4 2025 to 3.75%, while recognising that uncertainty over the timing of this move has increased.
- Inflation remained at 3.8% in August, but the expectation is for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate to peak around 4% this month and remain elevated into next year. The rise is largely the result of higher food and regulated prices, and labour costs. Services inflation remains elevated but has eased recently. Inflation expectations have picked up, but this is likely largely the result of the noticeable rise in food prices.
- Long-term gilt yields remain elevated for various reasons, both domestic and international. These issues may not be resolved quickly, but the UK Budget will be a key market driver.

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Meeting of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	18 NOVEMBER 2025
Report Title:	LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2025
Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member	CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES AND CORPORATE POLICY CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE
Responsible Officer:	JASON BALE – OPERATIONAL MANAGER, SHARED REGULATORY SERVICES
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	THERE IS NO EFFECT UPON THE COUNCIL’S POLICY FRAMEWORK OR PROCEDURE RULES AS A RESULT OF THIS REPORT.
Executive Summary:	<p>This report provides Cabinet with an update on local air quality monitoring undertaken across Bridgend County Borough Council in 2024.</p> <p>The 2025 Annual Progress Report confirms that in 2024, two sites located on Park Street exceeded the air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide as prescribed in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000 and the Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002. All other locations within Bridgend County Borough continue to meet the relevant air quality objectives.</p>

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the 2025 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) Annual Progress Report

(APR) based upon the air quality datasets obtained in 2024. This report requires Cabinet approval to submit a final version to Welsh Government (WG).

- 1.2 The report provides an update on progress regarding the Air Quality Action Plan for the Park Street Air Quality Management Area.

2 Background

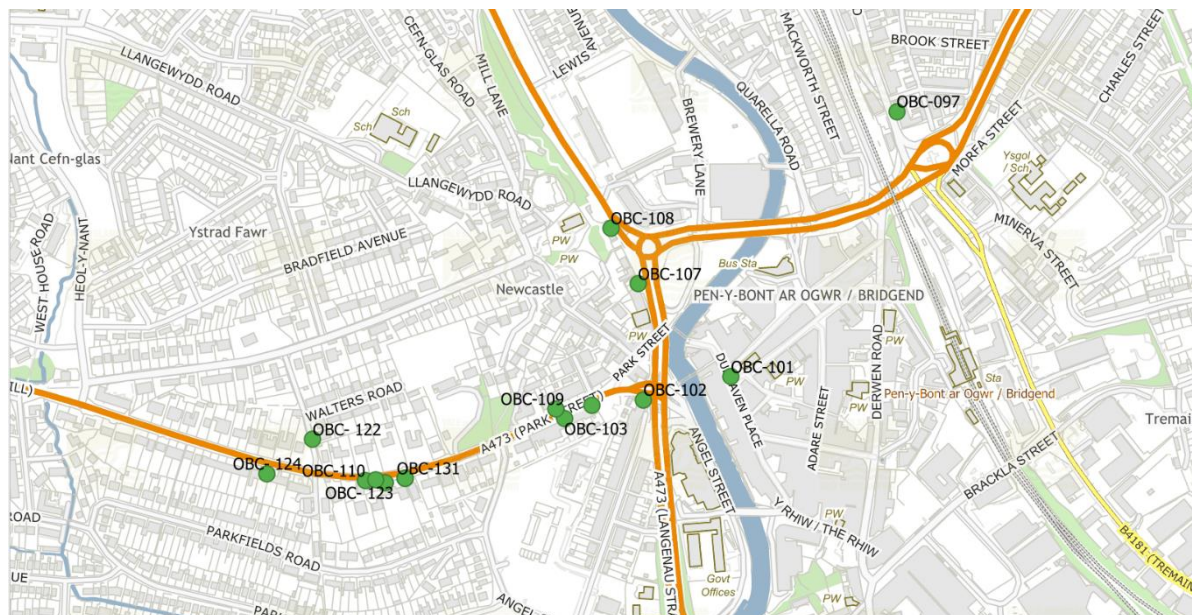
- 2.1 Under Section 82 of the Environment Act 1995 every local authority has an obligation to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether or not air quality objectives to protect health are likely to be achieved. Where the air quality reviews indicate that the air quality objectives are not being achieved, or are not likely to be achieved, Section 83 of the 1995 Act requires local authorities to designate an Air Quality Management Area ('AQMA'). Section 83B of the Act ensures that action must then be taken at a local level which is outlined in a specific Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to ensure that air quality in the identified area improves.
- 2.2 The Annual Progress Report, attached as **Appendix 1**, provides details on the ratified data for the air quality monitoring undertaken in 2024 within Bridgend County Borough.
- 2.3 Welsh Government issues statutory policy guidance to Local Authorities under section 88 of the Environment Act 1995 to bring the local air quality management system in Wales into line with the sustainable development principle outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015. This guidance, which local authorities use when carrying out their air quality functions under the Environment Act 1995, sets out that authorities in Wales must produce a draft Annual Progress Report each year and submit a final version to Welsh Government by the 31st of December at the latest. This report must include monitoring results for the previous calendar year, a progress report on action plan implementation and an update on any new policies or developments likely to affect local air quality.
- 2.4 The 2025 Annual Progress Report satisfies the above criteria examining ratified datasets for air quality monitoring undertaken in 2024 within Bridgend County Borough.

3. Current situation/ proposal

- 3.1 The 2025 Annual Progress Report confirms that in 2024, two sites located on Park Street exceeded the air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide as prescribed in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000 and the Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002. All other locations within Bridgend County Borough continue to meet the relevant air quality objectives.
- 3.2 The Park Street, Bridgend Air Quality Management Area Order was raised on the 1st January 2019.

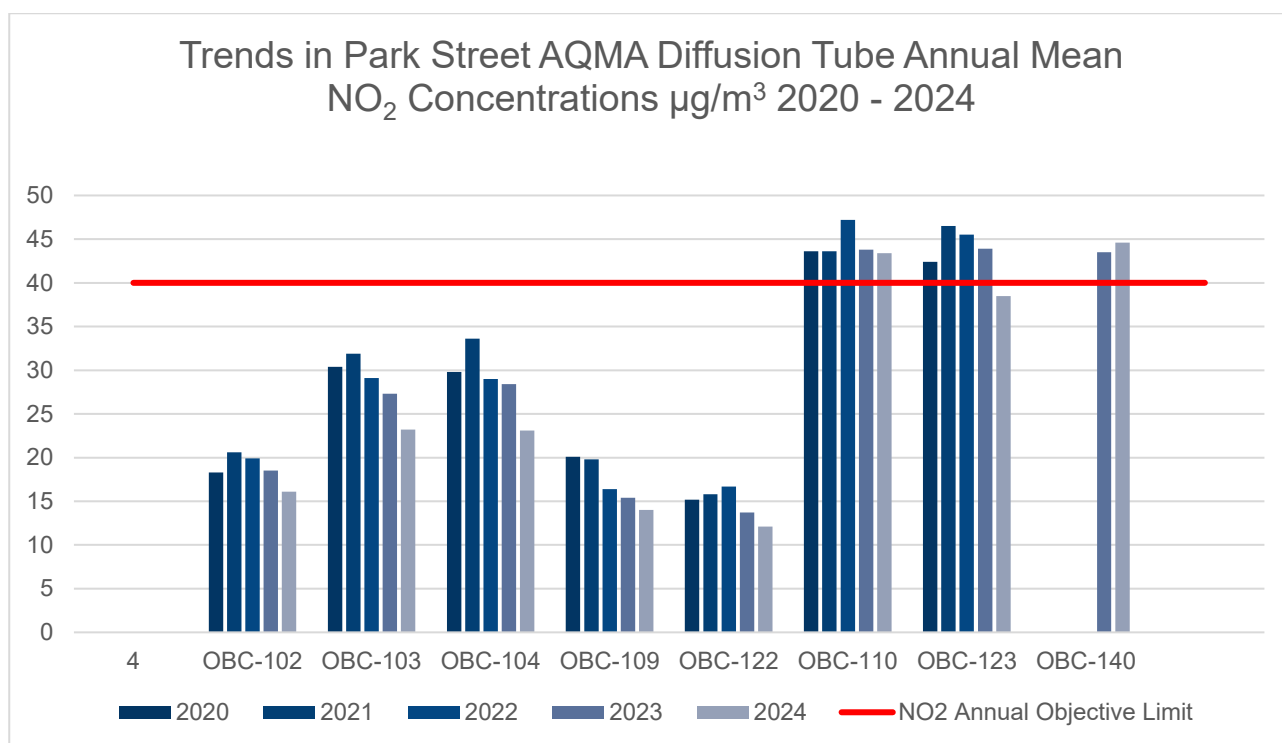
3.3 Figure 1 below depicts the non-automated monitoring sites located in and around the Park Street Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).

Figure 1 - 2024 NO₂ Diffusion Tube Monitoring Locations, Park Street/ Tondu Road/ Bridgend Town Centre



In 2024, the results for monitoring undertaken at sites OBC-110 and OBC-140 located on Park Street residential facades, exceeds the annual average air quality objective set at ($40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) for NO₂. OBC-110 recorded annual average figures of $43.6\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and OBC-140 recorded an annual average figure of $44.6\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. In 2024, monitoring site OBC-123 was compliant with the NO₂ annual objective for the first time since the commencement of monitoring at this location, with a result of $38.4\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Figure 2 - Trends in annual mean NO₂ concentrations in the Park Street AQMA



- 3.4 As part of the Local Air Quality Management statutory duties, from the date of raising the AQMA Order (in this instance 1st January 2019) Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) and BCBC had 18 months in which to prepare a DRAFT Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to improve air quality in the area, and once agreed, this plan was to be formally adopted before two years had elapsed.
- 3.5 The AQAP was published in April 2024.
- 3.6 Following the indicative Cost Benefit Analysis on these proposals, detailed air quality and transportation modelling was commissioned on those mitigation options that would manage and improve traffic flows through the Park Street AQMA, and in so doing, likely deliver air quality improvements in the **shortest time possible**, and in line with the ambitions of Welsh Government and BCBC; reduce levels to **as low as reasonably practicable**.
- 3.7 These options have now been modelled under the following *Do Minimum* and *Do Something* scenarios:
- **Do Minimum - DM**
 - Introduction of a right turn holding lane at the Junction of Park Street with Heol y Nant (measure 21);
 - **Do Something - DS (inclusive of the above)**
 - Deny all access onto St Leonards Road (Measure 18);
 - Optimise the Park Street/Angel Street/Tondu Road Junction (Measure 20).

- 3.8 Under the requirement of Condition 27 of Planning consent P/18/1006/FUL, of the former Ysgol Bryn Castell site (Llangewydd Road, Cefn Glas) there was a requirement to introduce a right turn holding lane at the Junction of Park Street with Heol y Nant. This has been modelled as the **Do Minimum (DM)** scenario in the modelling exercises, as this change has now been implemented. Modelling of the right turning lane demonstrated congestion reduction on Park Street from vehicles turning right onto Heol y Nant.
- 3.9 In the summer of 2022, work was carried out to upgrade the traffic lights located at the junction of Park Street and Angel Street, along the A473. The refurbishment of the existing traffic lights was needed as the traffic light system was over 25 years old and the upgrade was essential to safeguard pedestrians, as well as making sure that traffic is managed in the best way possible on what is one of the county borough's busiest routes. The works follow-on from previous work completed on traffic lights at the A473's junction with Broadlands.
- 3.10 A right turn holding lane at the Junction of Park Street with Heol y Nant was implemented in January 2022. This was to be introduced by the developer (Persimmon) of the former Ysgol Bryn Castell site (Llangewydd Road, Cefn Glas) under the requirement of Condition 27 of Planning consent P/18/1006/FUL.
- 3.11 Both the Park Street/ Angel Street junction, and Heol y Nant right turn holding lane options were assessed by air quality modelling within the Park Street AQAP and were deemed to have a positive effect on traffic flows and air quality within Park Street.
- 3.12 Work has continued for the Park Street AQAP, with the assessment of various options that could improve air quality in the area. These options included investigating the benefits of bus electrification and HGV restrictions using Park Street. Modelling carried out in support of these options has found that the implementation of these measures will have little effect on receptors exceeding the NO₂ annual objective.
- 3.13 An updated modelling assessment was carried out in 2023, using modelled receptors predicted to remain in exceedance of the air quality standard in 2023 with 'do something' scheme in place. This assessment was provided to predict the date of natural compliance for both 'do minimum' and 'do something' schemes.
- 3.14 The results of the natural compliance assessment suggest that without further additional measures in place, the annual mean NO₂ concentrations will fall below the 40 µg/m³ threshold in 2026 and that the local authority could start to make a case for revoking the AQMA from 2027 onwards.
- 3.15 The remaining measure in the Do Something scenario is Measure 18, Deny all access onto St Leonards Road from Park Street. In order to progress this measure, BCBC as the highway authority, would be legally required under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to undertake formal consultation on the implementation of Measure 18 in

order to implement a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). Initial discussions with officers from highways have indicated that this process could take up 18 months and would be subject to funding of approximately £8,000. Should any objections to this proposal be received, BCBC would then be required to undertake an appeals process in the form of an Appeals Report which will have to be submitted to the appropriate Cabinet member to decide on the way forward, which could impact further on timescales for full implementation.

- 3.16 As a result of this assessment, the Council decided to delay implementation of the final traffic management mitigation measure 18, pending close evaluation of monitoring results in comparison to those within the assessment in relation to the natural compliance date of 2026. This measure is a retained measure for future consideration should air quality not improve.
- 3.17 The premises in which the air quality monitoring station was located within Park Street AQMA is under new ownership. In February 2025, the new owners requested that the monitoring station is removed. To replace the automatic monitoring station, funding has been acquired via the Welsh Government Local Air Quality Management support fund to install two automatic monitoring sensors within Park Street to replace the automatic monitoring stations.

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 SRS & BCBC adopt the principles of The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WFGA). The act is a significant enabler to improve air quality as it calls for sustainable cross-sector action based on the principles of long-term, prevention-focused integration, collaboration and involvement. It intends to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in Wales to ensure the needs of the

present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

5.2 The declaration of the AQMA on Park Street and the subsequent Action Plan, will ensure that future decision making in terms of air quality complies with the WFGA, and the Council meets the five ways of working, as detailed below:

- Long term – The action plan has looked to balance short-term needs of improving air quality and will also look at measures to safeguard the ability of meeting long-term needs to further improve air quality.
- Prevention – By implementing measures set out in the Action Plan, the Council should ensure improvements in air quality and will be able to prevent air quality deteriorating in the future.
- Integration – SRS will look to ensure that the work undertaken as part of the Action Plan integrates with the Council's environmental well-being objectives.
- Collaboration – The Action Plan was developed in collaboration with many departments within the Council and other external organisations, i.e., Public Health Wales.
- Involvement – The action plan was subject to public consultation and the Council has ensured that those who have a strong interest in improving air quality have been fully involved and their ideas considered.

5.3 In accordance with air quality, as part of the objective for “Healthy Choices in a Healthy Environment”, Bridgend Public Services Board (PSB) outlines that resources are best utilised and collaborative working ensures that the built, cultural, and natural environment remains resilient in future. The priority areas to endorse and encourage the success of the objective will include working together to maximise benefit from cultural, built and natural assets. It will also look at promoting a more resource and energy efficient way of living and working. To measure the success of promoting a more resource and energy way of living, air quality, particularly NO₂ levels will be examined.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 The Annual Progress Report provides the latest full data set of air quality monitoring data for BCBC. One of the key actions identified in BCBCs Net Zero Carbon Strategy is to reduce emissions from Transport.

6.2 Given that road transportation is one of the key contributors to air pollution the ongoing assessment of air quality data trends will assist the Council in assessing the impact of its Climate Change and nature interventions and reductions of transport emissions.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 Due regard has been paid to the BCBC Safeguarding Policy which seeks to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children, young people and adults at risk of abuse or neglect and to ensure that effective practices are in place throughout the Council and its commissioned services. Given the subject matter of this report no negative safeguarding implications have been identified.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 SRS has an existing budget to complete a programme of air quality monitoring across Bridgend.
- 8.2 Funding of £5,950 has been secured from the Welsh Government Local Air Quality Management support fund to install two automatic monitoring sensors within Park Street Air Quality Management Area, to replace the automatic monitoring station that was removed.
- 8.3 Transport and air quality monitoring within the Park Street AQMA has been completed within the identified budget for this work. Should any further detailed assessments be required, then this would necessitate discussion with the Section 151 Officer as to how that additional work could be funded.

9. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended:

- 9.1. To note the results of air quality monitoring gathered in 2024 and to agree the finalisation of the 2025 Annual Progress Report (attached as **Appendix 1**) for submission as a final version to Welsh Government by 31st December 2025.
- 9.2. To note the progress made in developing the Air Quality Action Plan for Park Street.
- 9.3. To note the replacement of the automatic air quality monitoring station with two indicative automatic sensors funded via Welsh Government's Local Air Quality Management support fund.

Background documents - None



Bridgend County Borough Council 2025 Air Quality Progress Report

In fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, as amended by the Environment Act 2021

Local Air Quality Management

Date: September 2025

Information	Vale of Glamorgan Council
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Report Reference Number	BCBC/APR/2025
Date	September 2025

Executive Summary: Air Quality in Our Area

What has become distinctly apparent is that air pollution is a local and national problem. Long-term exposure reduces life expectancy by increasing mortality, as well as increasing morbidity risks from heart disease and strokes, respiratory diseases, lung cancer and other effects.

What we know is that poor air quality in Wales poses a significant concern for Public Health and is regarded as the most significant environmental determinant of health. Its associated adverse risk to public health is particularly prevalent within urban areas and near major roads. The pollutants of concern for public health are particulate matter (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}) and primary/ secondary derived nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). Both pollutants primarily originate from motor vehicles. Particulate matter can also be generated by industrial sources and forms of domestic solid fuel burning, such as wood burning stoves.

The UK expert Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollution (COMEAP) estimated that air pollution is responsible for “an effect equivalent of between 28,000 and 36,000 deaths (at typical ages) each year” in the UK. In 2022, the UK Health Security Agency updated this estimate; the burden range is now reported as the equivalent of between 29,000 and 43,000 deaths per year¹.

The burden range does not reflect ‘actual’ deaths from air pollution exposure but is an estimate of the ‘equivalent’ reduced life expectancy, when summed, which everyone experiences because of air pollution exposure (6-8 months on average but could range from days to years).

In Wales – based on modelled air pollution data pre-pandemic – Public Health Wales estimated the burden of long-term air pollution exposure to be around the equivalent of 1,000 to 1,400 deaths each year². This estimate was calculated using a more accurate method that considers the combined effects of different pollutants, meaning that the overlapping effects of PM_{2.5} and NO₂ are accounted for. Impact estimates are uncertain, however, which

¹ <https://airquality.gov.wales/about-air-quality/health-advice>

² <https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/environmental-public-health/air-quality/air-pollution-and-health-fact-sheet/>

is why they should always be presented as a range of values, rather than a single, central estimate.

Although estimating the burden of air pollution is difficult, there is clear and strong evidence that it does harm health. It is therefore important to take action to reduce air pollution and the harms that go with it.

Air Quality in Bridgend

Local authorities have a statutory duty under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021) & Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland 2007 to manage local air quality. Under Section 82 of the Environment Act 1995, the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether air quality objectives are likely to be achieved.

The air quality objectives applicable to LAQM in Wales are set out in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000, No. 1940 (Wales 138) and Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002, No 3182 (Wales 298). Where the air quality reviews indicate that the air quality objectives may not be met, the local authority is required to designate an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Action must then be taken at a local level and outlined in a specific Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to ensure that air quality in the identified area improves.

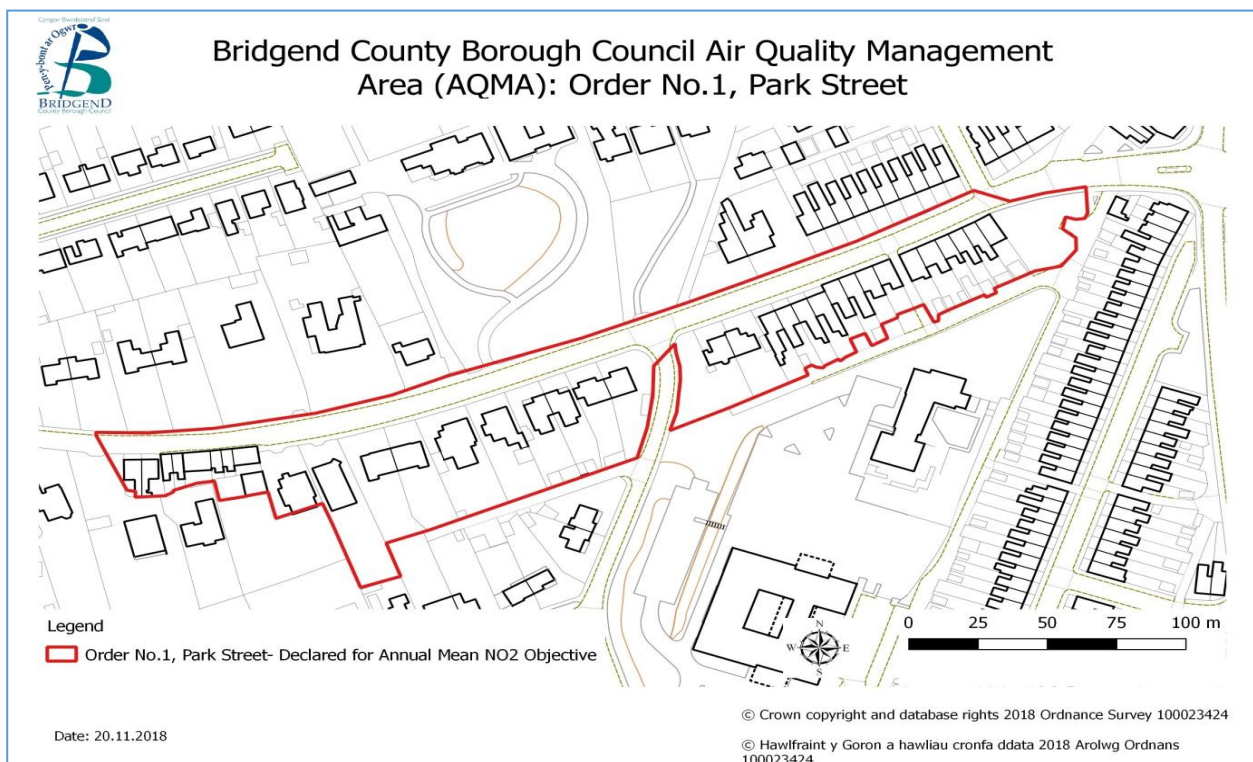
In line with the Local Authorities' statutory duties under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, in 2024 Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) on behalf of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) undertook regular air quality monitoring at specifically allocated locations across Bridgend using automated and non-automated principles for ambient air nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM₁₀).

With regards to prioritising ambient air quality sampling locations, the Council adopts a risk-based approach to any allocation of monitoring sites, considering the requirements of The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) Technical Guidance. The designated monitoring locations are assigned based on relevant exposure and where the certain Air Quality Objective levels for a particular pollutant applies. It states that annual mean objectives should apply at "All locations where members of the public might be regularly exposed. Building facades of residential properties, schools, hospitals, care homes etc."

Bridgend Council's 2018 APR³ documented and made the recommendation to implement and raise an Order for an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), designated to Park Street, Bridgend. On 18th September 2018 BCBC's Cabinet approved the 2018 LAQM APR 2018 for Bridgend. The report examined datasets captured during 2017 and noted that Park Street, Bridgend was an area of particular concern and subsequently an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was required.

The designated AQMA borders the green space area prior to the rear entrance of properties located on Sunnyside Road. The designated area incorporates all north facing properties, including their open space areas between 39 Park Street and 105 Park Street. The boundaries' northern side borders the open space areas that front the south facing properties encapsulating the public access pathway.

Figure 1 – Map of Park Street AQMA

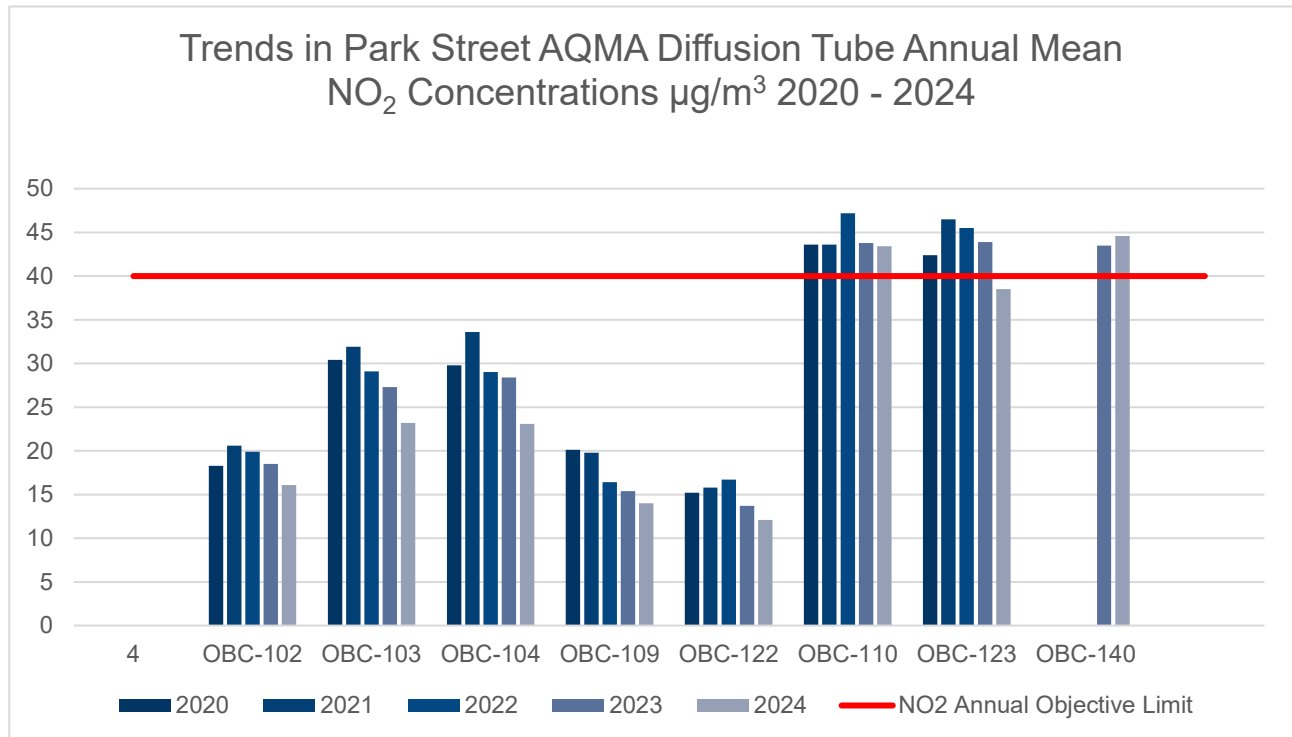


Within the Park Street AQMA, there has been a decreasing trend in NO₂ concentrations since the Covid-19 pre-pandemic period. However, in 2024, two non-automatic monitoring

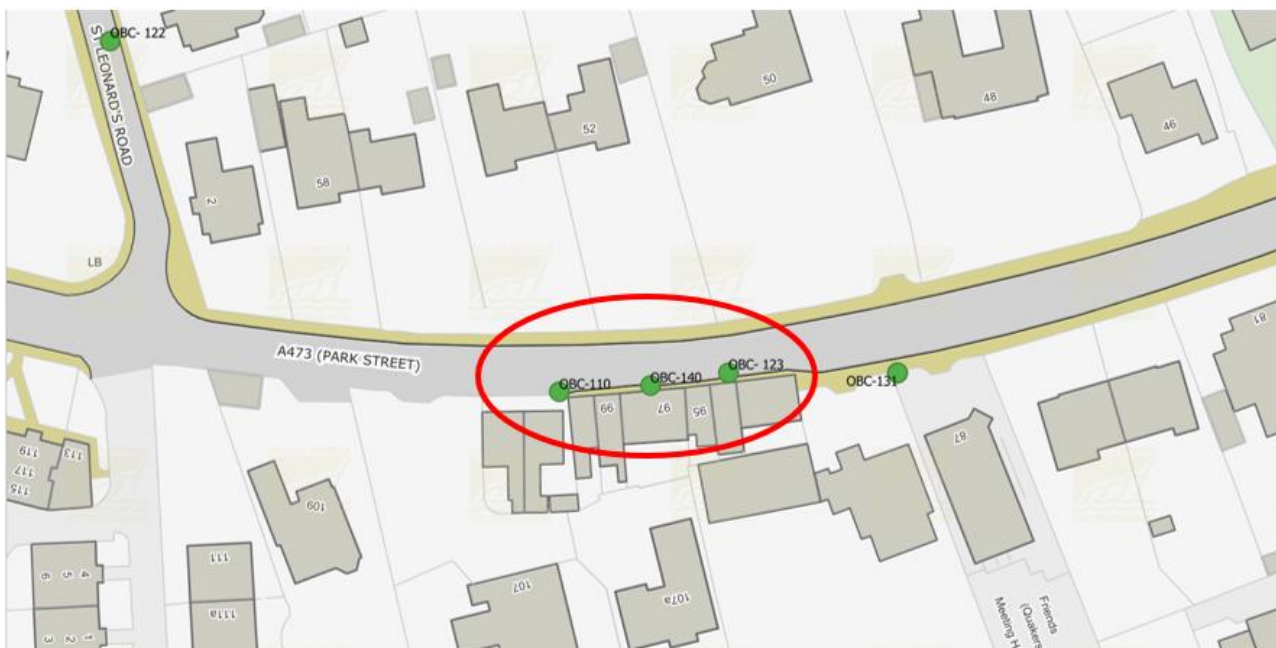
³ <https://www.srs.wales/Documents/Air-Quality/Bridgend/7294-7279-Bridgend-Council-2018-Air-Quality-Progress-Report.pdf>

locations within the AQMA remain in exceedance of the annual air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide. All other monitoring locations within Bridgend county display compliance with all relevant air quality objectives.

Figure 2 - Park Street AQMA Diffusion Tubes Annual Mean Concentration Trends



In 2024, the results for monitoring undertaken at sites OBC-110 and OBC-140 located on Park Street residential facades, exceed the annual average air quality objective set at ($40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) for NO₂. OBC-110 recorded annual average figures of $43.6\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and OBC-140 recorded an annual average figure of $44.6\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. In 2024, monitoring site OBC-123 was compliant with the NO₂ annual objective for the first time since the commencement of monitoring at this location, with a result of $38.4\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Figure 2 - Area in Exceedance of the NO₂ Annual Objective Limit**Figure 3 - Park Street AQMA Monitoring Sites Exceeding the NO₂ Annual Objective Limit**

Sites currently exceeding annual air quality objectives are isolated to one area of Park Street. This area of Park Street experiences higher concentrations of pollutants due to the proximity of houses to a heavily trafficked primary route with congestion issues. These issues are compounded by gradients increasing engine load and poor dispersion of pollutants caused by buildings.

All other monitoring locations within Park Street AQMA and across Bridgend currently demonstrate compliance with the applicable air quality objectives.

Actions to Improve Air Quality

The Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for the Park Street AQMA was published in March 2024. Various options within the AQAP have been adopted following development of the AQAP and public consultations.

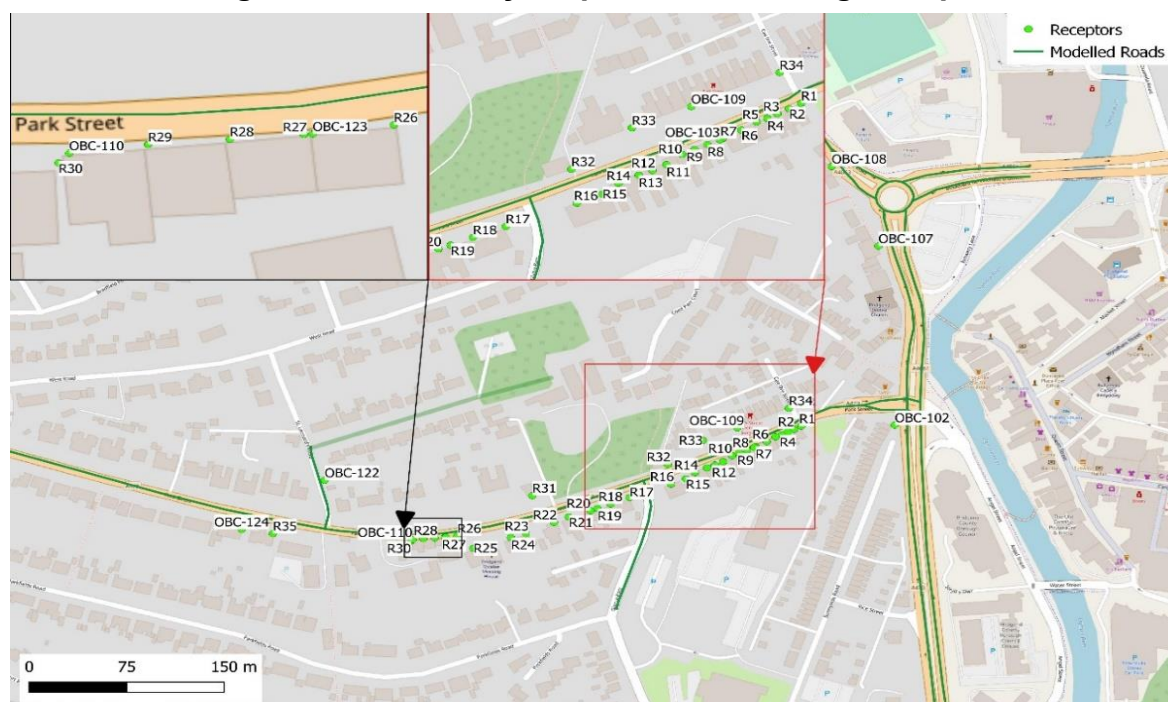
In the summer of 2022, work was carried out to upgrade the traffic signals located at the junction of Park Street and Angel Street, along the A473. The refurbishment of the existing traffic lights was needed as the traffic light system was over 25 years old and the upgrade was essential to safeguard pedestrians, as well as making sure that traffic is managed in the best way possible on what is one of the county borough's busiest routes. The works follow-on from previous work completed on traffic lights at the A473's junction with Broadlands.

A right turn holding lane at the Junction of Park Street with Heol y Nant was implemented in January 2022. This was to be introduced by the developer (Persimmon) of the former Ysgol Bryn Castell site (Llangewydd Road, Cefn Glas) under the requirement of Condition 27 of Planning consent P/18/1006/FUL.

Both the Park Street/ Angel Street junction, and Heol y Nant right turn holding lane options were assessed by air quality modelling within the Park Street AQAP, as part of the 'do something' scheme, and were deemed to have a positive effect on traffic flows and air quality within Park Street.

Measures such as restricting HGVs, and electrification of buses using Park Street have also been explored and air quality dispersion modelling has been carried out to assess these measures. Restricting HGV's will result in a negligible improvement to air quality within the AQMA. The electrification of buses using Park Street AQMA will only result in only a small improvement to air quality, predicted as $-0.7\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at the worst effected receptor currently exceeding the Annual Air Quality Objective for NO_2 on Park Street.

An assessment has also been undertaken to investigate when Park Street AQMA could see compliance with the NO_2 Annual Objective at all locations. The results of this compliance assessment suggest that without additional measures in place, the annual mean NO_2 concentrations will fall below the $40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ threshold in 2026, and that the local authority could start to make a case for revoking the AQMA at these locations from 2027 onwards.

Figure 4 - Air Quality Dispersion Modelling Receptors**Table 1 - Annual averaged NO₂ concentrations (µg/m³) at each receptor from the 2025 – 2027 natural compliance models**

Receptor ID	2019	2023	2025	2026	2027
R26	56.8	44.6	37.6	35.3	33.2
R27	60.2	47.3	39.9	37.5	35.3
R28	60.5	47.5	40.1	37.7	35.4
R29	57.4	44.9	39.1	36.7	34.5
OBC-123	56.4	44.3	37.4	35.2	33.1

At present, completion of the 'do something' scheme has the potential to bring forward compliance to 2025. However, this timescale is unrealistic due to the fact that the implementation of Measure 18, which is the final 'do something' scheme measure within the AQAP, denying all access onto St Leonards Road from Park Street, requires a consultation process due to the introduction of a traffic order. It is important to consider this in terms of

timescale for implementation in comparison to the predicted year of natural compliance of 2026.

Any decision to move forward with this measure must take into consideration the benefits that further air quality improvements will bring, in balance with the costs and timescales to implement the measure. This measure will be retained and will be reconsidered dependent on ongoing NO₂ monitoring results in the Park Street AQMA.

Electric Vehicle Charging Network

In line with the council's aim to reach Net Zero Carbon by 2030 and supported by Welsh Government funding, Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) will be leading on EV chargers to be installed at council owned public car parks and Bridgend County Borough Council will focus on EV charger installation at leisure centres, council offices and depots. Further details for EV charging point locations in Bridgend can be found at [Electric Vehicle \(EV\) charging points](#).

Net Zero Strategy

Figure 5 - Net Zero Carbon Strategy



Welsh Government has legislated for a Net Zero Wales by 2050 with the public sector leading by example to be Net Zero by 2030. We have committed to the Net Zero 2030 target as an organisation and recognises the leadership role to enable wider Net Zero for businesses and communities in the county. Projects designed to reduce carbon emissions can have a positive effect on air quality and its related human health impacts.

We declared our own climate emergency in June 2020 and set up its Climate Emergency Response programme. The Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy is the initial strategic step in achieving this commitment.

Importantly, this Strategy will not be the only driver for Net Zero, it will be an integral part of the Council's Corporate Plan and Wellbeing Plan, whilst policies, strategies and ongoing plans will all reflect the commitment to Net Zero. This will ensure it is fully embraced across the organisation.

Our Commitments

- The Council will **demonstrate leadership and commitment** to deliver the Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy, to address the Climate Emergency as declared by Welsh Government, the Senedd and the Council.
- The Council will **integrate low and zero-carbon behaviours** throughout the organisation and carbon impact will become a key consideration in all strategic decisions.
- The Council will **decarbonise its built estate by 2030** with a strong focus on energy efficiency, low carbon heating and on-site renewable generation.
- The Council will undertake a programme of **fleet renewal to ultra-low emission vehicles**, such that all vehicles are ULEV by 2030.
- The Council will **promote active and low-carbon travel** options throughout its own operations.
- The Council will **decarbonise its procurement activity** by engaging the supply chain, supporting and mandating suppliers to decarbonise, and progressing sustainable, local procurement practices.
- The Council will **ensure its land holdings are developed and maintained to support Net Zero objectives** through high levels of carbon sequestration and biodiversity.

- The Council will **decarbonise its waste streams** by ending landfill use and adopting a reuse culture alongside sustainable methods of disposal.

Active Travel

Supported by Welsh Government funding for active travel routes across Wales, Bridgend County Borough Council has recently completed a new active travel route from Ynysawdre to Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen, near Bridgend. A map of the route can be found at [Ynysawdre Active Travel](#).

The 440m long route runs through an area of previously overgrown and wooded land, bounding the north side of Brynmenyn Primary School and the east side of Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen. It links two points on the existing active travel network, as well as provides the start of a proposed future route, continuing to the east of the River Ogmore.

The route opened at the beginning of April 2024, with work carried out over a period of months, from October 2023 to March 2024, to complete the £500k project.

Local Priorities and Challenges

The priority for the coming year is to continue to monitor and review air quality within and around the Park Street AQMA. Further action may be taken dependant on this monitoring data and the AQAP updated accordingly. The natural compliance model predicts compliance within the AQMA in 2026. Therefore, monitoring results from 2025 and 2026 will inform the decision on whether to implement measure 18 of the AQAP (denying all access onto St Leonards Road from Park Street).

How to Get Involved

Bridgend County Borough Council welcomes any correspondence relating to air quality enquiries or concerns. Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) Specialist Services Team represents the Vale of Glamorgan Council for air quality management and therefore is contactable via the webpage www.srs.wales/en/Home.aspx.

Further information including previous Annual Progress Reports for Air Quality can be found at the following link <https://www.srs.wales/en/Environmental-Health/Noise-and-Air-Pollution/Air-quality-and-pollution/Air-Quality-and-Pollution.aspx>

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1 Actions to Improve Air Quality

1.1 Previous Work in Relation to Air Quality

First Round of Review and Assessment

Between 1999 and 2001, Bridgend County Borough Council published reports corresponding to stages 1, 2 and 3 of the first round of review and assessment of air quality. Seven key pollutants were examined (carbon monoxide, benzene, 1,3-butadiene, lead, nitrogen dioxide, fine particles (PM₁₀) and sulphur dioxide). These assessments predicted no exceedances of any of the objectives. It concluded that to fulfil the requirements of the Environment Act 1995, air quality should be reviewed and assessed again in 2003.

Second Round of Review and Assessment

Following new technical and policy guidance issued by Defra, Bridgend County Borough Council published its first Updating and Screening Assessment (USA) in June 2003. Of the seven pollutants subjected to the updating and screening assessment process, it was concluded that the likelihood of the air quality objectives for carbon monoxide, benzene, 1,3-butadiene, lead, and sulphur dioxide being exceeded was negligible and that it was not necessary to carry out a detailed assessment of any of these pollutants. However, the updating and screening assessment for nitrogen dioxide and PM₁₀ revealed gaps in the data gathered and concluded that there was evidence to suggest non-compliance with the air quality objectives for PM₁₀ and NO₂ at three locations resulting from road traffic emissions. It was suggested that there was a requirement to continue to a Detailed Assessment for the following locations:

- A48 Ewenny Cross, Bridgend
- The western end of Cowbridge Road, Bridgend
- The western end of the Bridgend Cross Valley Link Road.

In addition, it was also recommended to carry out a co-location exercise to determine the bias correction for the passive nitrogen dioxide detector tubes provided and analysed by Severn Trent Laboratories.

In July 2005, Bridgend County Borough Council's Local Air Quality Management Progress Report recommended that:

- All currently held data should be, as far as possible, ratified.
- Data shall continue to be gathered from the three sites identified in the June 2003 USA to enable conclusions to be drawn on the current and future air quality at these locations. The results will be presented in a Detailed Assessment of Air Quality at these locations by 31st December 2005.
- The mobile PM₁₀ and NO_x monitoring station should be added to the Welsh Air Quality Forum Network of sites and receive appropriate Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) to validate any data gathered.

In March 2006, a Detailed Assessment for Nitrogen Dioxide and Particles (PM₁₀) was and concluded that the current air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide and particles PM₁₀ are being met and that the 2010 Air Quality Daughter Directive limit value for nitrogen dioxide will also be achieved at the three road junctions assessed. However, it also recommended that monitoring data from the three road junction sites identified in the June 2003 USA should continue to be gathered to enable assessment of future air quality at these locations.

Third Round of Review and Assessment

Bridgend County Council published its second USA in May 2006. The assessment concluded that there was no requirement to proceed to a detailed assessment for any pollutant in Bridgend County Borough.

The Council published Progress Reports in 2007 and 2008. Both reports coincided with one another, issuing similar conclusions and recommendations. They indicated that no air quality objectives prescribed in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000 and the Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002 will be breached at any relevant locations.

In terms of monitoring locations, the reports highlighted the following:

- Data on NO₂ concentrations will continue to be gathered at relevant locations adjacent to A48 Ewenny Cross, the western end of Cowbridge Road and at Tondu Road on the western end of the Bridgend Cross Valley Link Road.
- Monitoring of PM₁₀ and NO₂ will continue at Kenfig Hill adjacent to the opencast coal site operated by Celtic Energy Ltd.

- Monitoring of NO₂ and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) will take place at relevant locations adjacent to Rockwool Ltd, Wern Fawr, Pencoed when the new factory extension becomes operational.

Fourth Round of Review and Assessment

The Bridgend County Borough Council published its third USA in June 2009. There was no evidence of any significant breaches of the air quality objectives prescribed in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000 and the Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002, at any relevant locations. The report did however draw attention upon an ongoing trend for NO₂ concentrations at Ewenny Cross, Bridgend, and Tondu Road, Bridgend, at the façade of the nearest houses, to be at or close to the air quality objective for NO₂ for 2007. It was decided that monitoring would continue at the two highlighted sites as part of an ongoing Detailed Assessment to be produced later that year.

The 2010 Progress Report stated the following:

- The conclusions for the new monitoring data in relation to Ewenny Cross and Tondu Rd show that Ewenny Cross has exceeded the annual mean National Air Quality Objective for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and this will be reported in depth in the Detailed Assessment to be produced later this year.

The results for nitrogen dioxide at Tondu Rd show that the annual mean National Air Quality Objective for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) has not been exceeded. However, in view of the results which are very close to the objective, monitoring will continue at this location for at least another year.

The 2010 Detailed Assessment for Ewenny Cross was subsequently submitted and stated:

This Detailed Assessment of Air Quality has shown that the current air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) are not being met at the southwestern sector of Ewenny Cross, Bridgend but are being met at the Bridgend Cross Valley Link, Tondu Road, Bridgend.

In view of the above, the following recommendations have been made:

- Monitoring should continue at its present level at the Bridgend Cross Valley Link, Tondu Road and at Ewenny Cross, Bridgend.
- A continuous monitor, together with a meteorological station, should be installed at or as near to the southwestern sector of Ewenny roundabout as is practical.

Following discussions with Welsh Assembly Government and University of the West of England (UWE) it was decided that the Detailed Assessment should remain ongoing and that any decision to declare an AQMA for Ewenny Cross should be delayed until continuous monitoring data for 2010 has been collated and analysed.

The 2011 Progress report stated the following:

Following the Detailed Assessment submitted in June 2010 and the response from WAG, the Authority decided, in consultation with WAG and UWE to defer a decision to declare an AQMA for Ewenny Cross until a full calendar year of continuous monitoring data had been collated and analysed.

Due to equipment failure and contractual issues, continuous monitoring at Ewenny Cross has been significantly delayed. Continuous sampling commenced in March 2011 as did a diffusion tube co-location study.

The conclusions from annualised monitoring data obtained since the last report show that one sampling point at Ewenny Cross has exceeded the annual mean National Air Quality Objective for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). The other nine around the Cross remain within the annual mean National Air Quality Objective.

The results for nitrogen dioxide diffusion tube monitoring at Tondu Rd show that the National Air Quality Objective's annual mean for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) has not been exceeded. However, results are very close to the objective and monitoring will continue at this location for another year.

No continuous PM₁₀ data could be retrieved for South Cornelly or Kenfig Hill due to equipment failure.

The nitrogen dioxide diffusion tube sampling locations in Maesteg town centre which were set up in July 2010 following local concerns have shown to date, an exceedance at one sampling point. As a result, more monitoring location points have been put in place and will be reported upon in the next USA report.

Fifth Round of Review and Assessment

Bridgend County Council published its fourth USA May 2012. In addition, a Detailed Assessment was submitted for Ewenny Cross. The reports identified:

There were no indications of any significant breaches of the air quality objectives prescribed in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000 and the Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002.

There was an exceedance of the objective for Nitrogen Dioxide at one location in Maesteg. However, this was marginal and the other sample points in the immediate vicinity were below the National Objectives for Nitrogen Dioxide. Monitoring continued at this site and extra sample sites, in addition to those already in place were set up where practicable. The data so far for this location, in view of the above, does not suggest that a Detailed Assessment is necessary at this time, although this will be subject to review as more data is collected and analysed.

The positioning of an Automated Continuous NO_x Analyser and co-location study at Ewenny Cross has provided robust information as to the air quality situation and indicates that Nitrogen Dioxide levels do not exceed the National Air Quality Objectives. This Automated Continuous NO_x Analyser will be retained at this site to gather more data over the coming year.

The Detailed Assessment 2012 completed in tandem with this Report concluded that it is not necessary at this point in time to proceed with declaring an Air Quality Management Area at Ewenny Cross. The situation will continue to be monitored by way of the co-location study utilising the Automated Continuous NO_x Analyser and the numerous Nitrogen Dioxide Diffusion Tube sites situated at Ewenny Cross.

The 2013 Progress report provided the following findings and recommendations:

- The Report has not identified a need to proceed to a Detailed Assessment for any pollutant.
- The Report has identified a need to continue monitoring for Nitrogen Dioxide in Maesteg Town Centre.
- Monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide and PM₁₀ will continue at the same sites as at the end of 2012.

The Automated Continuous NO_x Analyser and co-location study will continue at Ewenny Cross Roundabout for this year to acquire more robust data. In the light of the acquired data, the positioning and possible relocation of the Automatic Monitoring Station will be decided at the end of 2013.

Bridgend County Borough Council will submit a Progress Report in May 2014.

The 2014 Progress report stated the following:

- the exception of Ewenny Cross Roundabout as highlighted above; the Progress Report has not identified a need to consider proceeding to a Detailed Assessment for any other pollutant.
- Monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide and PM₁₀ will continue at the same sites as at the end of 2013.
- Bridgend County Borough Council will submit a progress report in May 2015.
-

Sixth Round of Review and Assessment

Bridgend County Council published its fourth USA September 2015. The assessment identified no need to proceed to a Detailed Assessment for any pollutant.

2016 Annual Progress Report highlighted no concerns, and no objectives were exceeded.

2017 Annual Progress Report

BCBC's 2017 Annual Progress Report highlighted that air quality within Bridgend County Borough continued to meet the relevant air quality objectives as prescribed in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000 and the Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002.

Reporting described the amendments to the non-automatic NO₂ network with 10 new locations commissioned for 2017.

Quality and technical issues were outlined regarding the automatic monitoring at Ewenny Cross Roundabout, for both NO₂ and PM₁₀. The inability to conform to the frequency of calibration checks and technical issues faced with the PM₁₀ Met One E Sampler were noted. Data capture was also an issue at the Rockwool Ltd site for SO₂ monitoring, recorded at 47.1%.

2018 Annual Progress Report

BCBC's 2018 Annual Progress Report highlighted elevated and exceeding annual average levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and outlined the requirement to proceed to implement and formalise an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) Order for Park Street, Bridgend. On January 1st, 2019, an official AQMA Order was raised for Park Street, Bridgend, designated on the basis of exceeding annual average NO₂ air quality objectives/ limit values.

2019 Annual Progress Report

BCBC's 2019 Annual Progress Report highlighted general compliance for monitoring undertaken in 2018, however it did note the elevated and exceeding annual average levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), especially within and close to the established Park Street AQMA boundary. The report outlined the works initiated to develop an effective Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to support the AQMA. In doing so the report highlighted the commitment of a designated work steering group to develop appropriate mitigation measures that would not only benefit the Park Street AQMA "hot spot" but would also generate wider air quality benefits to improve and protect the amenity of public health. The report specified commitments to gather public engagement on the AQAP's development via public drop-in sessions through the course of December 2019. It outlined how suggested mitigation measures would be assessed and indicated that detailed transportation and air quality modelling would be required to quantify the impacts derived by any preferred options. The report also noted the need for enhanced monitoring capabilities in the form of automated monitoring within the Park Street AQMA to improve understanding and provide a platform for public to access data.

2020 Annual Progress Report

BCBC'S 2020 Annual Progress Report showed continued elevated and exceeding levels of NO₂ at sensitive receptor locations situated on Park Street within the established AQMA Order boundary. Development of Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) continued, and full approval was given to locate an automatic monitoring station within the Park Street, Bridgend AQMA. Despite the areas of concern within the Park Street AQMA, compliance with the air quality objectives was achieved at all other monitoring locations.

2021 Annual Progress Report

The 2021 Annual Progress Report shown a reduction in NO₂ concentrations at all locations, although still slightly exceeding the annual air quality objective at two locations within Park Street. Monitoring continued at all locations within the Park Street AQMA with the addition of an automatic air quality monitoring station in December 2020.

2022 Annual Progress Report

Annual average datasets outline continued elevated and exceeding levels of NO₂ at two sensitive receptor locations situated on Park Street within the established AQMA Order boundary. It is noted that monitoring undertaken in 2021 at sites OBC-110 & OBC-123, located on Park Street at residential facades exceed the annual average air quality objective set at (40µg/m³) for NO₂. All automated and non- automated datasets show compliance with the air quality objectives at every other monitored location.

2023 Annual Progress Report

Annual average datasets outline continued elevated and exceeding levels of NO₂ at sensitive receptor locations situated on Park Street within the established AQMA Order boundary. It is noted that monitoring undertaken in 2022 at sites OBC-110 & OBC-123, located on Park Street, demonstrates annual average levels in exceedance of the annual average air quality objective set at (40µg/m³) for NO₂. OBC-110 & OBC-123 recorded annual average figures in 2022 of 47.2µg/m³ & 45.5µg/m³ respectively. This represents a reduction in NO₂ concentrations of 12% and 17% at these receptors since 2019.

Automatic monitoring carried on Park Street demonstrates compliance with the annual air quality objective for NO₂. This automatic monitor also showed no exceedances of the 1-hour NO₂ objective of 200 µg/m³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times annually for both periods.

Compliance of air quality objectives at the automatic monitoring station confirms the varied impact of pollutant emissions on Park Street. Two non-automatic monitoring sites located approximately 17 metres from the monitoring station, OBC-110 & OBC-123, exceed the annual air quality objective for NO₂. Air quality issues are exacerbated in the location of non-compliance by the proximity of terrace housing to the road and poor dispersion of pollutants.

Nitrogen dioxide concentrations at all other non-automatic locations were shown to be compliant the annual air quality objective for NO₂ of 40µg/m³.

2024 Annual Progress Report

Annual average datasets outline continued elevated and exceeding levels of NO₂ at sensitive receptor locations situated on Park Street within the established AQMA Order boundary. It is noted that monitoring undertaken in 2023 at sites OBC-110, OBC-123 and OBC-140 located on Park Street at residential facades exceed the annual average air quality

objective set at ($40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) for NO_2 . All automated and non- automated datasets show compliance with the air quality objectives at every other monitored location.

Monitoring data from Park Street AQMA will be reviewed to ensure that compliance will be met in the shortest time possible. If trends in air quality data indicate that compliance will not be met by 2025/2026, then further traffic management measures, such as measure 18 within the AQAP may be implemented.

At present, the 'do something' scheme has the potential to bring forward compliance to 2025. However, this is unlikely due to the fact that the implementation of Measure 18 within the AQAP, denying all access onto St Leonards Road from Park Street, will require a consultation process due to the introduction of a traffic order. It is important to consider this in terms of timescale for implementation in comparison to the predicted year of natural compliance of 2026. This measure will be retained and will be reconsidered dependent on ongoing NO_2 monitoring results in the Park Street AQMA.

1.2 Air Quality Management Areas

Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) are declared when air quality is close to or above an acceptable level of pollution (known as the air quality objective (Please see Appendix A)). After declaring an AQMA the authority must prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) within 18 months setting out measures it intends to put in place to improve air quality to at least the air quality objectives, if not even better. AQMA(s) are seen by local authorities as the focal points to channel resources into the most pressing areas of pollution as a priority.

A summary of AQMAs declared by Bridgend County Borough Council can be found in Table 2.

Figure 6 - Map of Park Street AQMA

Bridgend County Borough Council Air Quality Management Area Order No. 1, Park Street.

Schedule 2

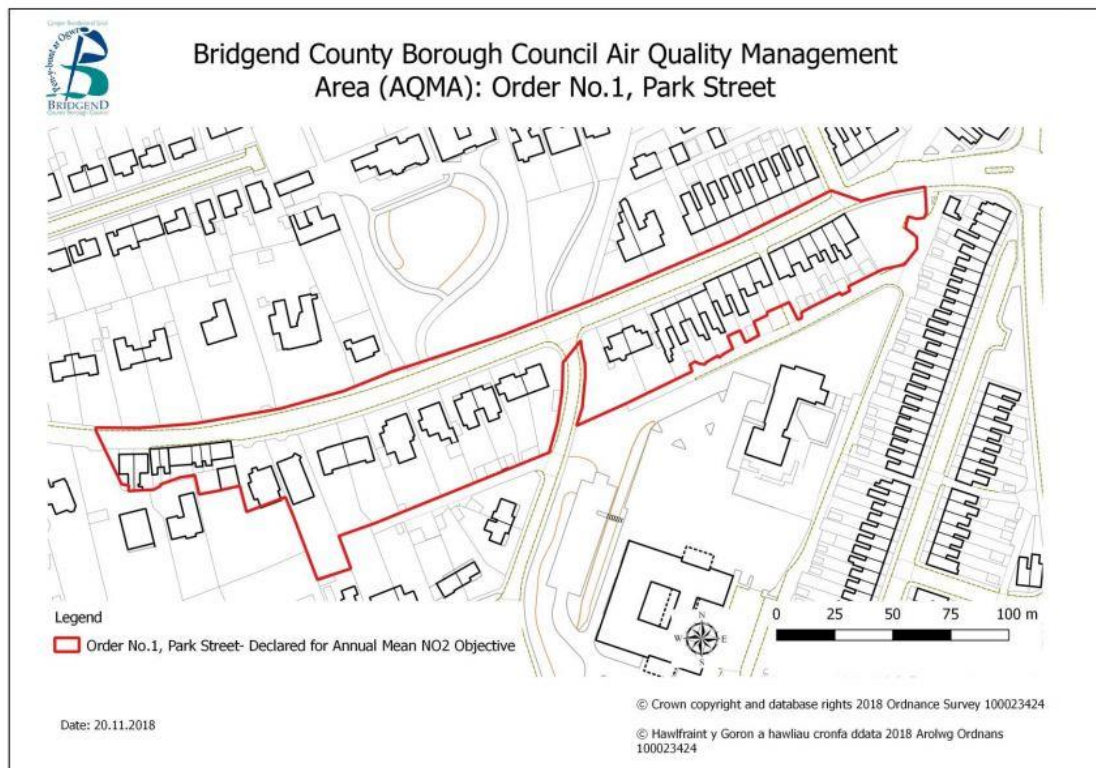


Table 2 - Declared Air Quality Management Areas

AQMA	Relevant Air Quality Objective(s)	Comments on Air Quality Trend	Town	Description	Action Plan
Park Street	NO ₂ annual mean	Slight increase in NO ₂ concentrations at one monitoring site exceeding the objective limit. All other sites display a decreasing trend within the AQMA.	Bridgend	<p>The designated AQMA borders the green space area prior to the rear entrance of properties located on Sunnyside Road.</p> <p>The designated area incorporates all north facing properties, including their open space areas between 39 Park Street and 105 Park Street. The boundaries' northern side borders the open space areas that front the south facing properties encapsulating the public access pathway.</p>	AQAP BCBC Park Street final (srs.wales)

1.3 Implementation of Action Plans

As the exceedance in air quality is isolated to one specific area of Park Street, the focus on improving air quality has been to improve traffic flows and reduce queuing traffic within this specific area. To achieve this, interventions for traffic management have been assessed, modelled and prioritised for inclusion within the published AQAP as part of a 'do something' scheme. In 2022, measure 20, optimising the traffic signals at the Tondu Rd/ Park Street/ Angel Street Junction, and measure 17, installation of a ghost right hand turn from Park Street to Heol Y Nant were implemented.

One remaining measure within the Park Street AQAP 'do something scheme' (Measure 18) has yet to be implemented. Based on the modelling undertaken, this measure would provide further improvements to air quality, although it may not necessarily bring forward the compliance date, based on timescales for consultation, appeals process, and implementation. Any decision to move forward with this measure must take into consideration the benefits that further air quality improvements will bring, in balance with the costs and timescales to implement the measure. This measure will be retained and will be reconsidered dependent on ongoing NO₂ monitoring results in the Park Street AQMA.

Table 3 - Annual averaged NO₂ concentrations (µg/m³) at each receptor from the 2025 – 2027 natural compliance models

Receptor ID	2019	2023	2025	2026	2027
R26	56.8	44.6	37.6	35.3	33.2
R27	60.2	47.3	39.9	37.5	35.3
R28	60.5	47.5	40.1	37.7	35.4
R29	57.4	44.9	39.1	36.7	34.5
OBC-123	56.4	44.3	37.4	35.2	33.1

Measures such as restricting HGVs, and electrification of buses using Park Street have also been explored and air quality dispersion modelling has been carried out to assess these measures. Restricting HGV's will result in a negligible improvement to air quality within the AQMA. The electrification of buses using Park Street AQMA will only result in only a small

improvement to air quality, predicted as $-0.7\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at the worst effected receptor currently exceeding the Annual Air Quality Objective for NO_2 on Park Street.

Table 4 - Comparisons of bus electrification in addition to Do Minimum and Do Something Schemes ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

Receptor ID	2026 DM	2026 DS	NO_2 reduction (DM minus DS)	2026 DS with 100% Electric buses	NO_2 reduction (DS minus electric bus)
R26	35.3	34.7	0.6	34.4	0.3
R27	37.5	36.9	0.6	36.5	0.4
R28	37.7	37.0	0.7	36.6	0.4
R29	36.7	36.1	0.6	35.7	0.4
OBC-123	35.2	34.6	0.6	34.2	0.4

Other local authority measures, such as Net Zero Projects and Active Travel Plans and policies can also improve County wide air quality. This may also influence air quality within the AQMA by reducing emissions, encouraging sustainable travel and promoting alternatives to vehicular travel.

Air Quality Action Plans are continuously reviewed and updated whenever deemed necessary, but no less frequently than once every five years. Such updates are completed in close consultation with local communities.

Table 5 - Progress on Measures to Improve Air Quality

Comments / Potential Barriers to Implementation	Progress to Date	Key Performance Indicator	Target Reduction in Pollutant / Emission from Measure	Estimated Cost of Measure	Defra AQ Grant Funding	Funding Source	Organisations Involved	Estimated / Actual Completion Year	Estimated Year Measure to be Introduced	Classification	Category	Measure	Measure No.
Requires ongoing grant funding.	No progress to date.	The number of hits on website. Number of initiatives delivered. Delivery of a public education campaign. Cross reference obtained air quality results to the applicable air quality objectives. Improvements to those figures outlined in Bridgend LTP 2015 using data acquired by 2011 Census.	Unknown.	Unknown		Potential DEFRA AQ Grant Funding	. Local Authority Environmental Health, BCBC, Local Communities Forum	Unknown	Unknown	Via the Internet	Public Information	Public Health information campaign including additional automatic monitoring	1
	No progress to date	Number of associated members.	Unknown.	As above		Measure could be included in funding for measure one.	Local Communities Forum	Unknown	2023	Via the Internet/Leaflets/Other	Public Information	Support the creation of a local "Air Quality Action Group."	2

Comments / Potential Barriers to Implementation	Progress to Date	Key Performance Indicator	Target Reduction in Pollutant / Emission from Measure	Estimated Cost of Measure	Defra AQ Grant Funding	Funding Source	Organisations Involved	Estimated / Actual Completion Year	Estimated Year Measure to be Introduced	Classification	Category	Measure	Measure No.
New owners of land have requested air quality monitoring station is removed. Officers are assessing other options.	Automatic monitoring station installed at Park Street AQMA in 2021. Data available for public at www.airqualitywales.gov.wales	Cross reference obtained air quality results to the applicable air quality objectives.	Unknown.	£10 - £50k		DEFRA AQ Grant Funding	. Local Authority Environmental Health, BCBC, Local Communities Forum	2024	2021	Via the internet	Public Information	Increase the monitoring capabilities of the Council with investment in more air quality monitoring techniques. Creation of an online platform linked to the Air Quality Index.	3
	No progress to date	Improved Public awareness/ Increase in the use of sustainable alternatives.	Not directly applicable – NOx reduction not estimated	£50k - £250k		Unknown	. Local Authority Environmental Health, BCBC		Unknown	Other	Public Information/Traffic management	Electronic “pollutant signage” within AQMA and local area	4
	No progress to date	Improved Public awareness/ Increase in the use of sustainable alternatives.	Not directly applicable – NOx reduction not estimated	£50k - £250k		Unknown	Local Communities Forum	Unknown	Unknown	Other	Public Information/Traffic management	Signs and banners for engine idling. Signage at key intersections, near junctions and on public transport / taxis encouraging people to switch off engines when traffic comes to a stop.	5

Comments / Potential Barriers to Implementation	Progress to Date	Key Performance Indicator	Target Reduction in Pollutant / Emission from Measure	Estimated Cost of Measure	Defra AQ Grant Funding	Funding Source	Organisations Involved	Estimated / Actual Completion Year	Estimated Year Measure to be Introduced	Classification	Category	Measure	Measure No.
.	No progress to date	Production of an SPG.	Not directly applicable – NOx reduction not estimated	< £10k		Unknown	. Local Authority Environmental Health, BCBC	Unknown	Unknown	Air Quality Planning and Policy Guidance	Policy Guidance and Development Control	Develop Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to provide a specific guidance for air quality in accordance with new developments.	6
	Various EV charging points installed at specific locations across Bridgend	Number of properties where a power spur for an electric vehicle charge point is installed. Number of planning applications approved with a vehicle charge point as an advisory or required condition.	Not directly applicable – NOx reduction not estimated	£10k – 50k		Welsh Government	BCBC		Various	Other	Policy Guidance and Development Control	Planning guidance for the provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Points. To note; EV points are now compulsory in England	7
	No progress to date	Production of a revised document.	Not directly applicable – NOx reduction not estimated	< £10k		Unknown	BCBC	Unknown	Unknown	Promotion of cycling	Policy Guidance and Development	Revise BCBC's Walking and Cycling Strategy; Revise the existing 2009 document	8

Comments / Potential Barriers to Implementation	Progress to Date	Key Performance Indicator	Target Reduction in Pollutant / Emission from Measure	Estimated Cost of Measure	Defra AQ Grant Funding	Funding Source	Organisations Involved	Estimated / Actual Completion Year	Estimated Year Measure to be Introduced	Classification	Category	Measure	Measure No.
.	No progress to date	Number of trees planted.	Not directly applicable – NOx reduction not estimated	< £10k		Unknown	BCBC	Unknown	Unknown	Other	Policy Guidance and Development Control	Endorse SP19, Biodiversity and Development. Further influence the use of green infrastructure for new developments.	9
Unlikely to impact area of concern within Park Street AQMA	No progress to date	Number of nuisance complaints generated.	Not directly applicable – NOx reduction not estimated. Not necessarily applicable to reduction of emissions on Park Street as source of problem is from vehicles. Unlikely to impact NO ₂ exceedances at effected receptors	Cost unknown		Unknown	BCBC		Unknown	Other	Policy Guidance and Development Control	Implement 'smoke control zone' for Bridgend. Wood burners installations would need authorisation to operate and receive permissions in accordance with the Clean Air Act.	10
Funding provided to improve active travel route for Bryntirion Comprehensive	Ongoing		Not directly applicable – NOx reduction not estimated	< £10k	No	Existing funding sources / Planning conditions	BCBC	Ongoing	Various	Incentivise active travel campaign & infrastructure	Promoting Travel Alternatives	School Active Travel Plans	11

Comments / Potential Barriers to Implementation	Progress to Date	Key Performance Indicator	Target Reduction in Pollutant / Emission from Measure	Estimated Cost of Measure	Defra AQ Grant Funding	Funding Source	Organisations Involved	Estimated / Actual Completion Year	Estimated Year Measure to be Introduced	Classification	Category	Measure	Measure No.
.	Flexible working patterns implemented	Produce Healthy Travel Charter. Number of individuals enrolled on programme.	Not directly applicable – NOx reduction not estimated	< £10k		Unknown	BCBC	Unknown	Unknown	Encourage / Facilitate home working.	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Encourage/ Facilitate homeworking. BCBC/ SRS is one of the largest employers in Bridgend and therefore could look to adopt more flexible/ agile working patterns	12
	No progress to date	Produce Healthy Travel Charter. Number of individuals enrolled on programme.	Not directly applicable – NOx reduction not estimated	< £10k		Unknown	BCBC/ Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board/ Public Health Wales.		Unknown	Other	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Work with local businesses to develop active travel to work programmes. Cardiff Staff Travel Charter currently being rolled out but only for public sector establishments.	13

Comments / Potential Barriers to Implementation	Progress to Date	Key Performance Indicator	Target Reduction in Pollutant / Emission from Measure	Estimated Cost of Measure	Defra AQ Grant Funding	Funding Source	Organisations Involved	Estimated / Actual Completion Year	Estimated Year Measure to be Introduced	Classification	Category	Measure	Measure No.
	No progress to date	Bus patronage figures.	NOx reduction not estimated although a reduction in cars will mean benefits in air quality and congestion.	£250k - £1m		Unknown	BCBC	Unknown	Unknown	Bus Park and Ride scheme	Alternatives to private vehicle use	Park and Ride facilities to be implemented at strategic sites (Broadlands)/ Shuttle bus service linking Bridgend train station to strategic points (Broadlands/ Hospital/ Coity/ McArthur Glen). There is also the potential to look at shared shuttle service for persons accessing proposed Health Centres.	14
.	No progress to date	Cross reference obtained air quality results on Park Street to the applicable air quality objectives.	Not directly applicable – NOx reduction not estimated	<10k		Unknown	BCBC	Unknown	Unknown	Anti-idling enforcement	Traffic Management	Anti-idling implemented as TROs specific to sensitive areas such as outside schools, hospitals, care homes, as well as Park Street AQMA	15

Comments / Potential Barriers to Implementation	Progress to Date	Key Performance Indicator	Target Reduction in Pollutant / Emission from Measure	Estimated Cost of Measure	Defra AQ Grant Funding	Funding Source	Organisations Involved	Estimated / Actual Completion Year	Estimated Year Measure to be Introduced	Classification	Category	Measure	Measure No.
	Nationwide implementation of 20mph limit in residential September 2023.	Evaluation of annual air quality datasets for NO ₂ . Reduction in vehicle speeds via traffic flow analysis Any marked improvement in collision/ incident rates. Cross reference obtained air quality results on Park Street to the applicable air quality objectives.	Unlikely to improve air quality on Park Street, as the air quality issue is caused by slow moving and queuing traffic.	Cost unknown		Welsh Government	BCBC	Unknown	Unknown	Anti-idling enforcement	Traffic Management	Introduce a pilot scheme "20mph speed limit" to Park Street.	16
Measure included in AQAP detailed assessment as part of 'do minimum' scenario.	Measure completed in February 2022.	Cross reference obtained air quality results on Park Street to the applicable air quality objectives.	Exact reduction unknown. However, improvements in NO ₂ reductions are evident since the implementation of the measure	<£10k		Planning condition	BCBC/ Planning	2022	2022	Strategic highway improvement	Traffic Management	Ghost right hand turn onto Heol-Y-Nant.	17

Comments / Potential Barriers to Implementation	Progress to Date	Key Performance Indicator	Target Reduction in Pollutant / Emission from Measure	Estimated Cost of Measure	Defra AQ Grant Funding	Funding Source	Organisations Involved	Estimated / Actual Completion Year	Estimated Year Measure to be Introduced	Classification	Category	Measure	Measure No.
Measure included in AQAP detailed assessment as part of 'do something' scenario.	Measure retained pending monitoring results.	Cross reference obtained air quality results on Park Street to the applicable air quality objectives.	Modelling for 'do something' scenario predicts a decrease in NO2 emissions of up to 5.8µg/m3 when with addition of measure twenty.	£10k - £50k		Unknown	BCBC	Unknown	Unknown	Strategic highway improvement	Traffic Management	Deny all access onto St Leonard's Road from Park Street for all traffic movements.	18
	Option not taken forward as part of "do something scheme".	Reduced capacity on Park Street captured via traffic flow analysis.	Unknown.	Cost unknown		Unknown	BCBC	Unknown	Unknown	Strategic highway improvement	Traffic Management	Deny a through route movement from Angel Street onto Park Street.	19
Completed September 2022. Measure included in AQAP detailed assessment as part of 'do something' scenario.	Measure completed in February 2022.	Cross reference obtained air quality results on Park Street to the applicable air quality objectives.	Modelling for 'do something' scenario predicts a decrease in NO2 emissions of up to 5.8µg/m3 as part of a 'do something' scenario with measure eighteen	£10k - £50k		Welsh Government	BCBC	2022	2022	Strategic highway improvement	Traffic Management	Optimise the traffic signals at the Tondu Rd/ Park Street/ Angel Street Junction- Adopt a MOVA system.	20

Comments / Potential Barriers to Implementation	Progress to Date	Key Performance Indicator	Target Reduction in Pollutant / Emission from Measure	Estimated Cost of Measure	Defra AQ Grant Funding	Funding Source	Organisations Involved	Estimated / Actual Completion Year	Estimated Year Measure to be Introduced	Classification	Category	Measure	Measure No.
	No progress to date	Customer satisfaction questionnaires from the bus operators.	Unknown.	£50k - £250k		Unknown	BCBC	Unknown	Unknown	Bus Route Improvements	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Bus Programme- Strategic Bus Network. Buses not to use St Leonard's Road due to the experienced access constraints onto and off Park Street.	22
Negligible benefit to HGV restrictions as source of NOx emissions are primarily from private vehicles	Modelling has carried out to assess measure	Cross reference obtained air quality results on Park Street to the applicable air quality objectives. Review data gathered via modelling assessment	Dispersion modelling indicates this option will have little effect on reducing NO2 concentrations at the worst effected receptors.	<£10k	Yes	LAQM support fund	BCBC	Unknown	Unknown	UTC, Congestion management, traffic reduction	Traffic Management / Promoting Low Emission Transport	Assessment of HGV restrictions for Park Street.	23
Small benefit of bus electrification as source of NOx emissions are primarily from private vehicles	Modelling has carried out to assess measure	Cross reference obtained air quality results on Park Street to the applicable air quality objectives. Review data gathered via modelling assessment	Dispersion modelling indicates this option will have little effect on reducing NO2 concentrations at the worst effected receptors.	<£10k	Yes	LAQM Support Fund	BCBC	Unknown	Unknown	Public Vehicle Procurement - Prioritising uptake of low emission vehicles	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Assessment of Bus Electrification for buses using Park Street	24

2 Air Quality Monitoring Data and Comparison with Air Quality Objectives

2.1 Summary of Monitoring Undertaken in 2024

2.1.1 Automatic Monitoring Sites

This section sets out what monitoring has taken place and how results compare with the objectives.

SRS on behalf of BCBC undertook automatic (continuous) monitoring at one site within Park Street during 2024. Table 6 presents the details of the site. National monitoring results are available at <https://airquality.gov.wales/>. This monitoring station experienced technical faults during 2024. Therefore, data capture for 2024 is at 68% and has been annualised in accordance with LAQM guidance.

Maps showing the location of the monitoring sites are provided in Figure 7. Further details on how the monitors are calibrated and how the data has been adjusted are included in Appendix C.

2.1.2 Non-Automating Monitoring Sites

SRS on behalf of BCBC undertook non- automatic (passive) monitoring of NO₂ at 33 sites during 2024. Table 7 presents the details of the sites.

New sites were installed at

- Picton Gardens, Bridgend (OBC-141)
- Abergarw Road, Brynmenyn (OBC-142)
- Derllwyn Road, Tondy (OBC-143)

These sites were installed due to concerns from residents being made to Councillors.

The following sites from 2023 were removed from the non-automatic monitoring network due to continued compliance well within the NO₂ annual air quality objective.

- Bridgend Town Centre
- 133 Park Street
- New Road Porthcawl
- Moriah Place, Kenfig Hill

- Maerdy Park, Pencoed

Maps showing the location of the 2024 monitoring sites are provided in Figure 8 to Figure 18. Further details on Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) and bias adjustment for the diffusion tubes are included in Appendix C.

Table 6 - Details of Automatic Monitoring Sites

Site ID	Site Name	Site Type	Associated with (Named) AQMA?	X OS Grid Reference	Y OS Grid Reference	Pollutants Monitored	Monitoring Technique	Inlet Height (m)	Distance from monitor to nearest relevant exposure (m) ⁽¹⁾	Distance from Kerb to Nearest Relevant Exposure (m)	Distance from Kerb to Monitor (m)
AQMA1	Bridgend Park Street AQMA	Roadside	Y	290040	179704	NO ₂ , PM ₁₀	Chemiluminescence/ Beta Attenuation Monitor with Gravimetric Equivalence	1.5	4	5.5	1.5

Notes:

(1) N/A if not applicable

(2) 0m indicates that the sited monitor represents exposure and as such no distance calculation is required.

Figure 7 – Map(s) of Automatic Monitoring Sites

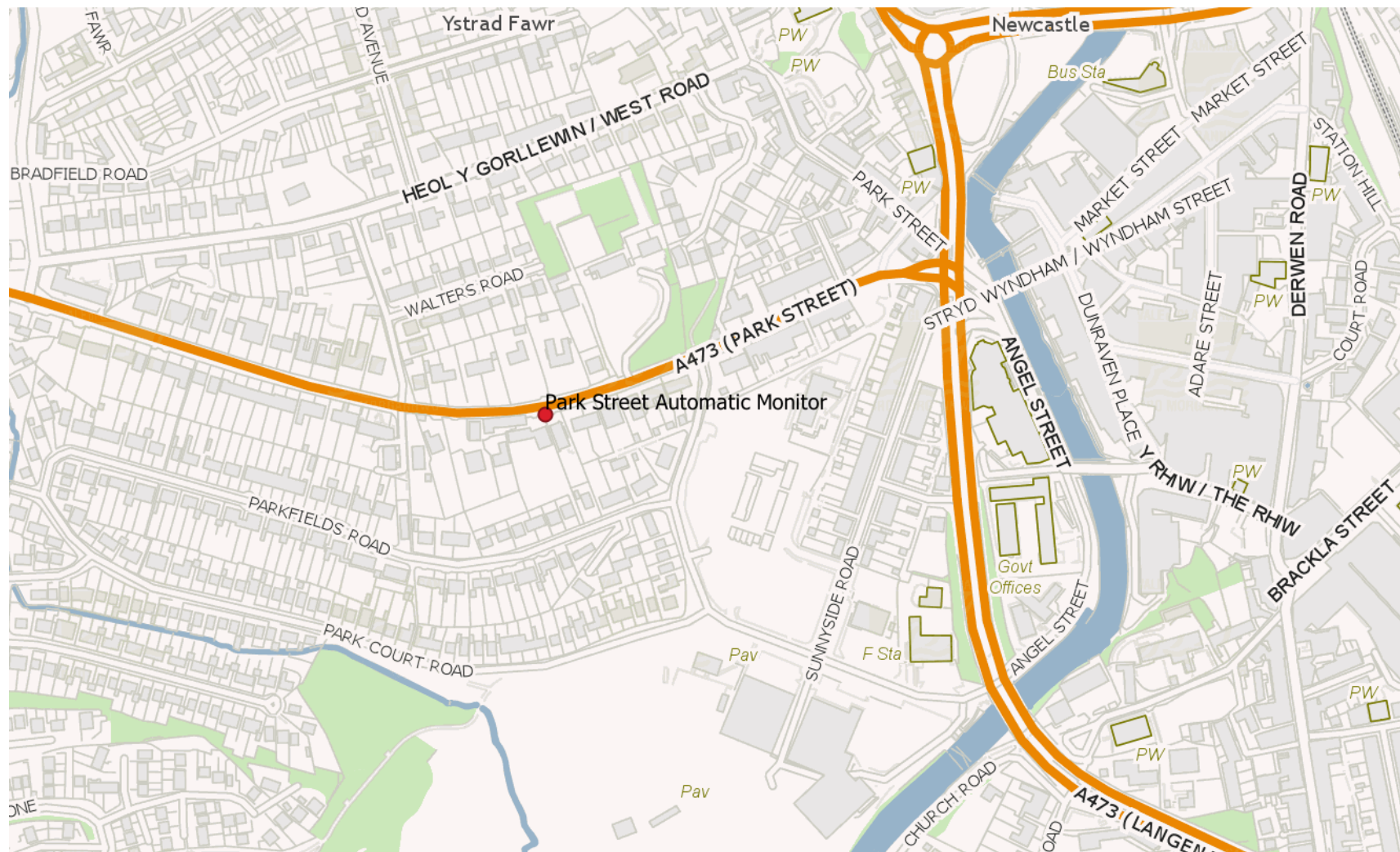


Table 7 - Details of Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

Diffusion Tube ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA? Which AQMA?	Distance to Relevant Exposure (m)	Distance to Kerb of Nearest Road (m)	Tube Co-located with a Continuous Analyser	Height (m)
OBC-115	105 Eweny Road	Roadside	290667	178529	NO ₂		0.0	12.0		1.5
OBC-141	Picton Gardens	Kerbside	291164	178580	NO ₂		4.0	1.5		1.5
OBC-105	65 Cowbridge Road	Roadside	290899	179185	NO ₂		0.0	4.1		1.5
OBC-106	38/40 Cowbridge Road	Roadside	290826	179210	NO ₂		0.0	1.0		1.5
OBC-112	33 Cowbridge Road	Roadside	290798	179244	NO ₂		0.0	1.0		1.5
OBC-111	01 Cowbridge Road	Roadside	290700	179305	NO ₂		0.0	5.0		1.5
OBC-102	4 Sunnyside	Roadside	290354	179807	NO ₂		0.0	3.0		1.5
OBC-103	39 Park Street	Roadside	290250	179782	NO ₂	Park Street AQMA	0.0	3.0		1.5
OBC-104	51 Park Street	Roadside	290286	179800	NO ₂	Park Street AQMA	0.0	1.2		1.5
OBC-109	32 Park Street	Roadside	290239	179795	NO ₂	Park Street AQMA	0.0	1.1		1.5
OBC-107	17 Tondu Road	Roadside	290347	179959	NO ₂		0.0	2.0		1.5
OBC-108	43 Tondu Road	Roadside	290311	180032	NO ₂		0.0	0.9		1.5

Diffusion Tube ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA? Which AQMA?	Distance to Relevant Exposure (m)	Distance to Kerb of Nearest Road (m)	Tube Co-located with a Continuous Analyser	Height (m)
OBC-131	Park Street 1 Co-location	Roadside	290040	179704	NO ₂	Park Street AQMA	0.0	1.0	Y	1.5
OBC-123	93 Park Street	Roadside	290014	179698	NO ₂	Park Street AQMA	0.0	0.5		1.5
OBC-140	97 Park Street	Roadside	290002	179702	NO ₂	Park Street AQMA	0.0	0.5		1.5
OBC-110	101/103 Park Street	Roadside	289988	179701	NO ₂	Park Street AQMA	0.0	0.5		1.5
OBC-122	Post on St Leonards Road	Kerbside	289919	179755	NO ₂		0.0	0.9		1.5
OBC-126	31 Tremains Road	Roadside	291125	179517	NO ₂		0.0	8.0		1.5
OBC-127	Longacre, Brackla	Roadside	292236	179473	NO ₂		2.0	2.0		1.5
OBC-097	22 Coity Road	Kerbside	290687	180185	NO ₂		0.0	5.0		1.5
OBC-130	A4061 Opposite Mason Arms	Roadside	291386	184168	NO ₂		0.0	1.5		1.5
OBC-132	Meadow View Blackmill	Roadside	293418	186662	NO ₂		0.5	2.0		1.5
OBC-125	Commercial Street, Maesteg	Roadside	285299	191136	NO ₂		0.0	2.0		1.5
OBC-135	33 Maesteg Road, Tondu	Roadside	289402	184461	NO ₂		0.0	2.0		1.5
OBC-137	Main Road, Coychurch	Roadside	294309	179872	NO ₂		4.0	2.0		1.5

Diffusion Tube ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA? Which AQMA?	Distance to Relevant Exposure (m)	Distance to Kerb of Nearest Road (m)	Tube Co-located with a Continuous Analyser	Height (m)
OBC-138	A473 Coychurch Road	Kerbside	294218	179795	NO ₂		4.0	1.5		1.5
OBC-133	Coychurch Road, Pencoed	Roadside	295899	181363	NO ₂		4.0	1.0		1.5
OBC-139	Britannia Pub Pencoed	Roadside	295967	181623	NO ₂		0.0	1.5		1.5
OBC-116	20 Henre Road Pencoed	Roadside	295886	181642	NO ₂		0.0	1.0		1.5
OBC-142	Abergarw Road, Brynmenyn	Roadside	290717	184822	NO ₂		0.0	4.5		1.5
OBC-143	Derllwyn Road, Tondu	Roadside	289345	184754	NO ₂		2.5	1.0		1.5

Notes:

- (1) 0m indicates that the sited monitor represents exposure and as such no distance calculation is required.
- (2) N/A if not applicable.

Figure 8 - Map Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites Park Street AQMA and Tondy Road

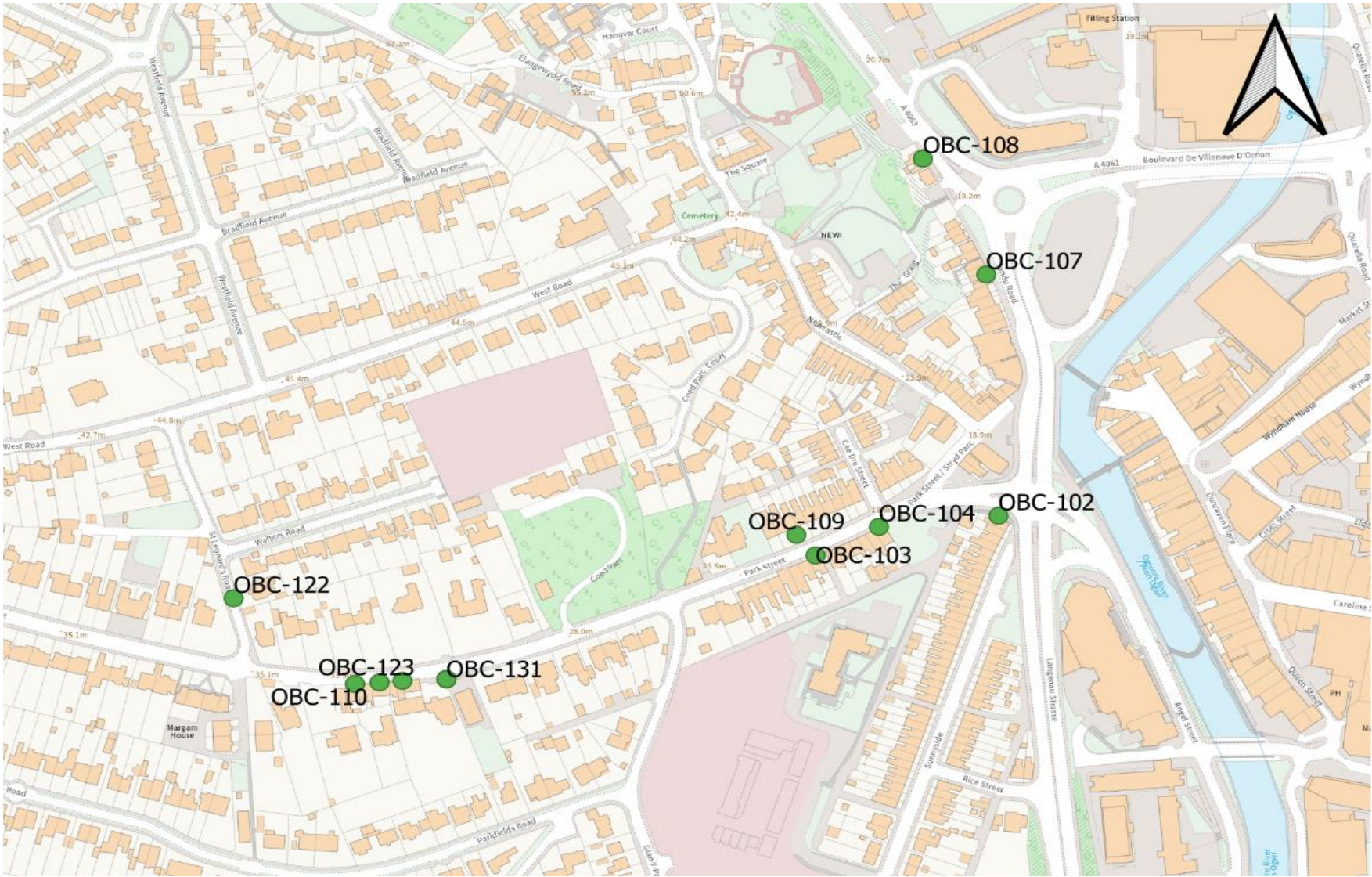


Figure 9 - Map Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites A48 Ewenny Roundabout and Picton Gardens, Bridgend

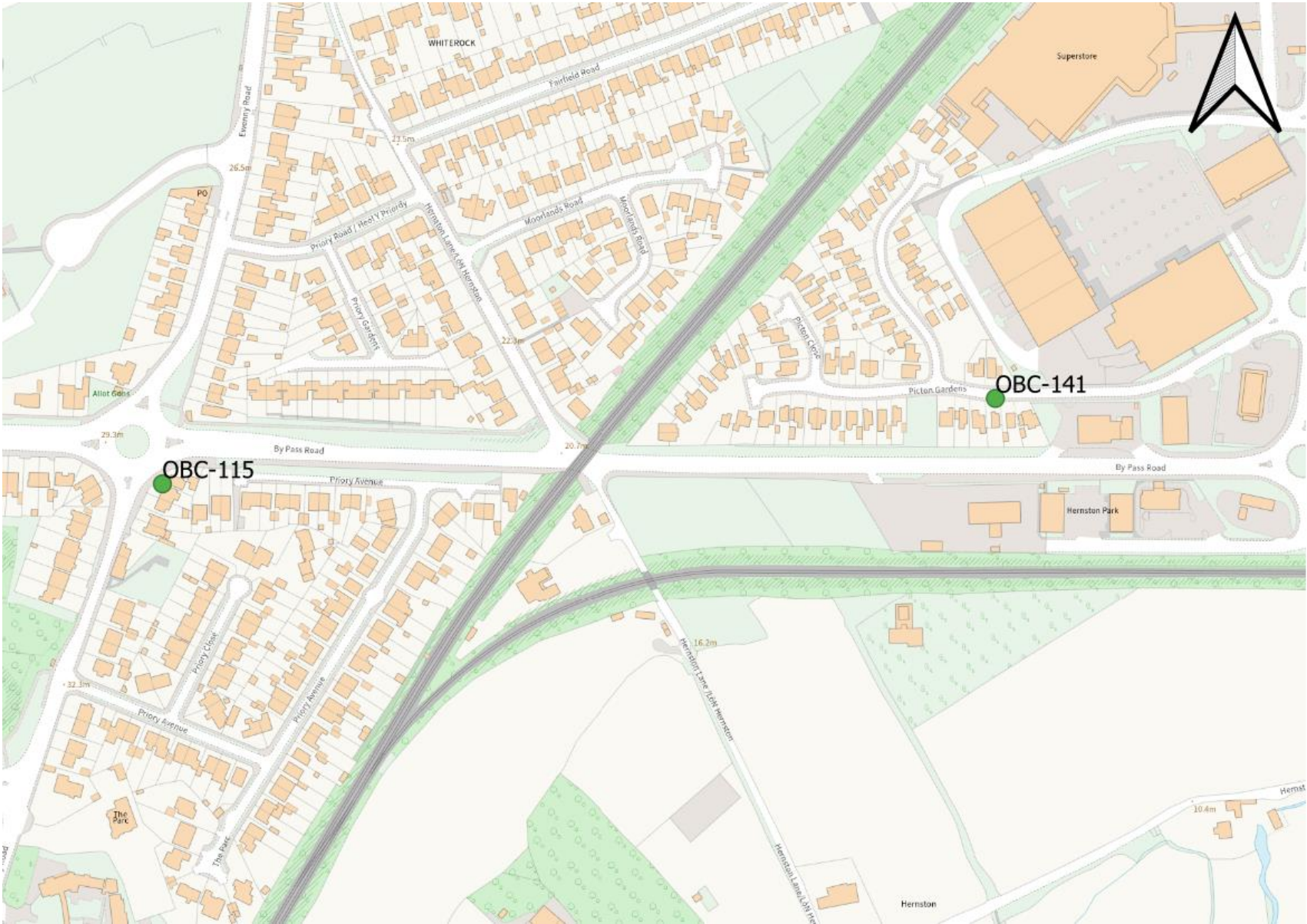


Figure 10 - Map Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites Cowbridge Road and Tremains Road, Bridgend

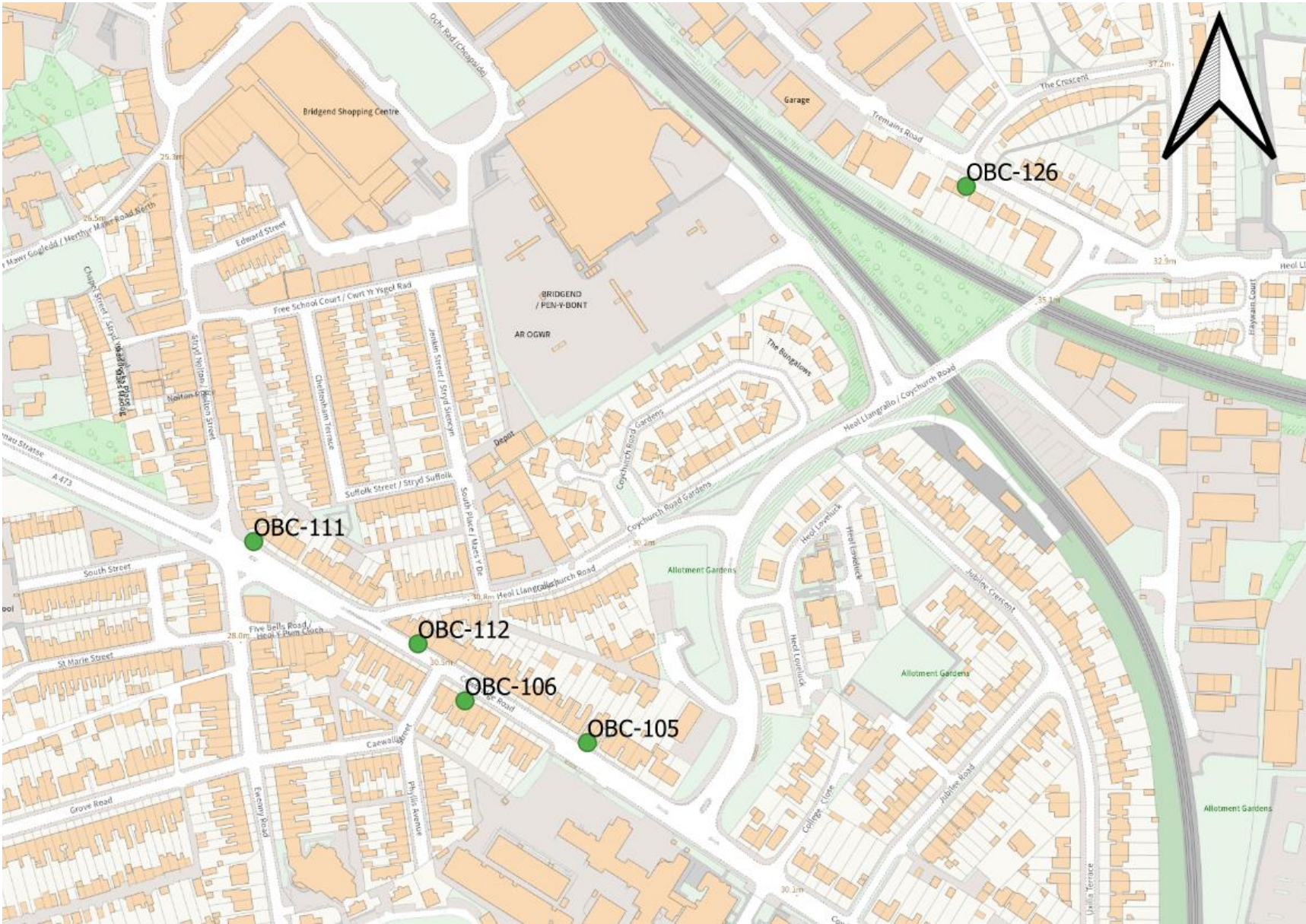


Figure 11 - Map Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites Longacre, Brackla, Bridgend



Figure 12 - Map Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites Coity Road, Bridgend



Figure 13 - Map Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites Coychurch A473, Bridgend

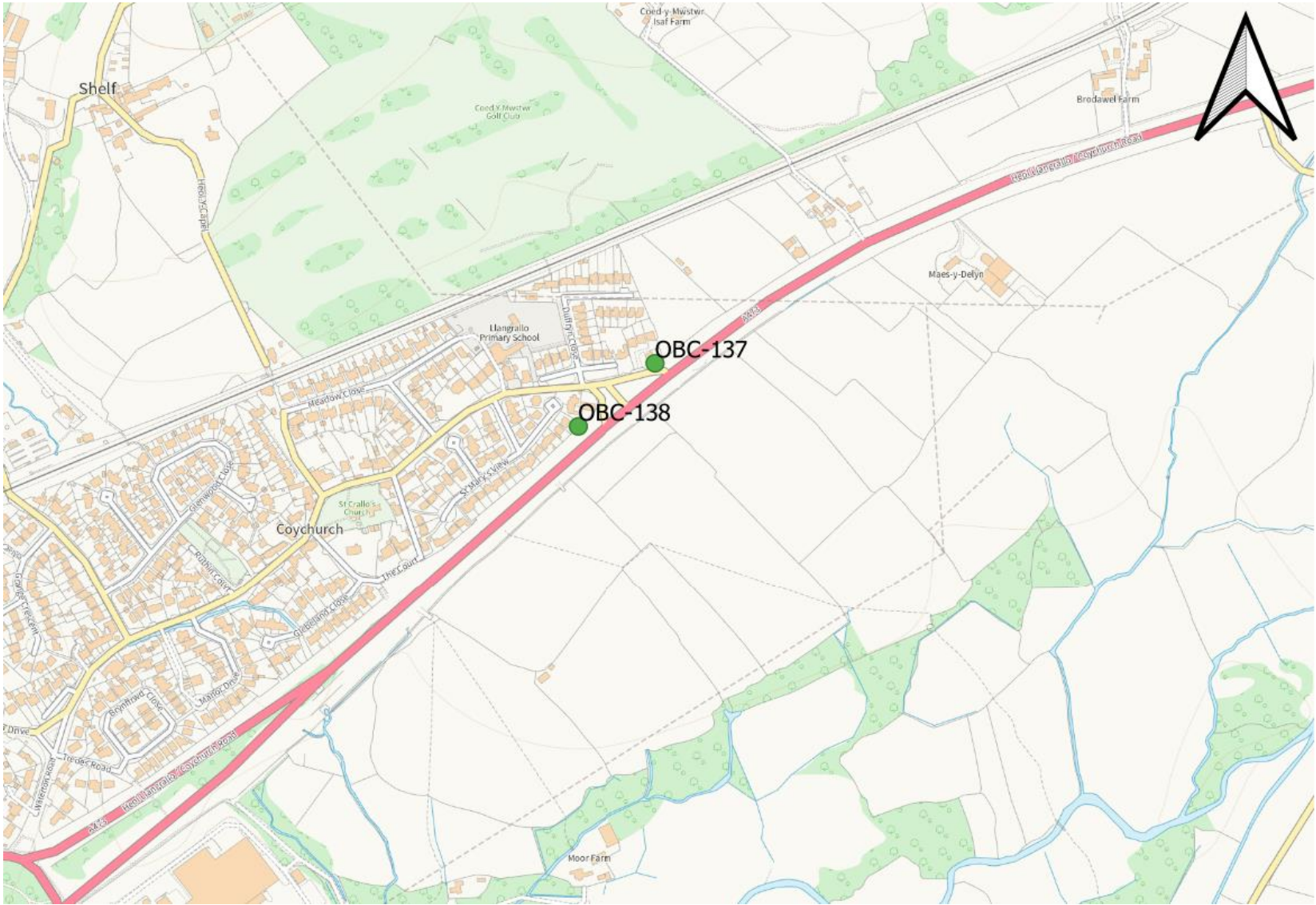


Figure 14 - Map Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites Bryncethin & Brynmenyn

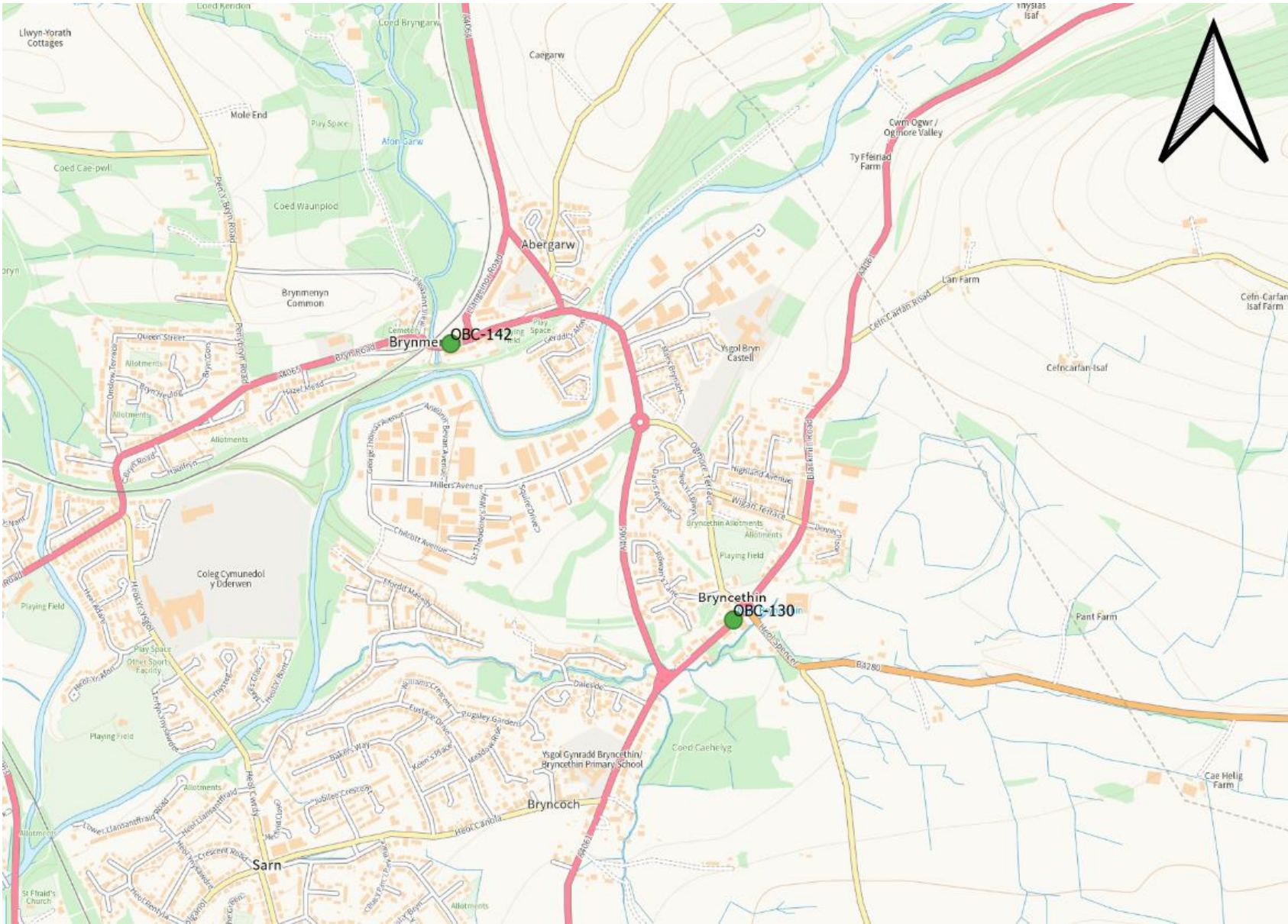


Figure 15 - Map Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites Blackmill

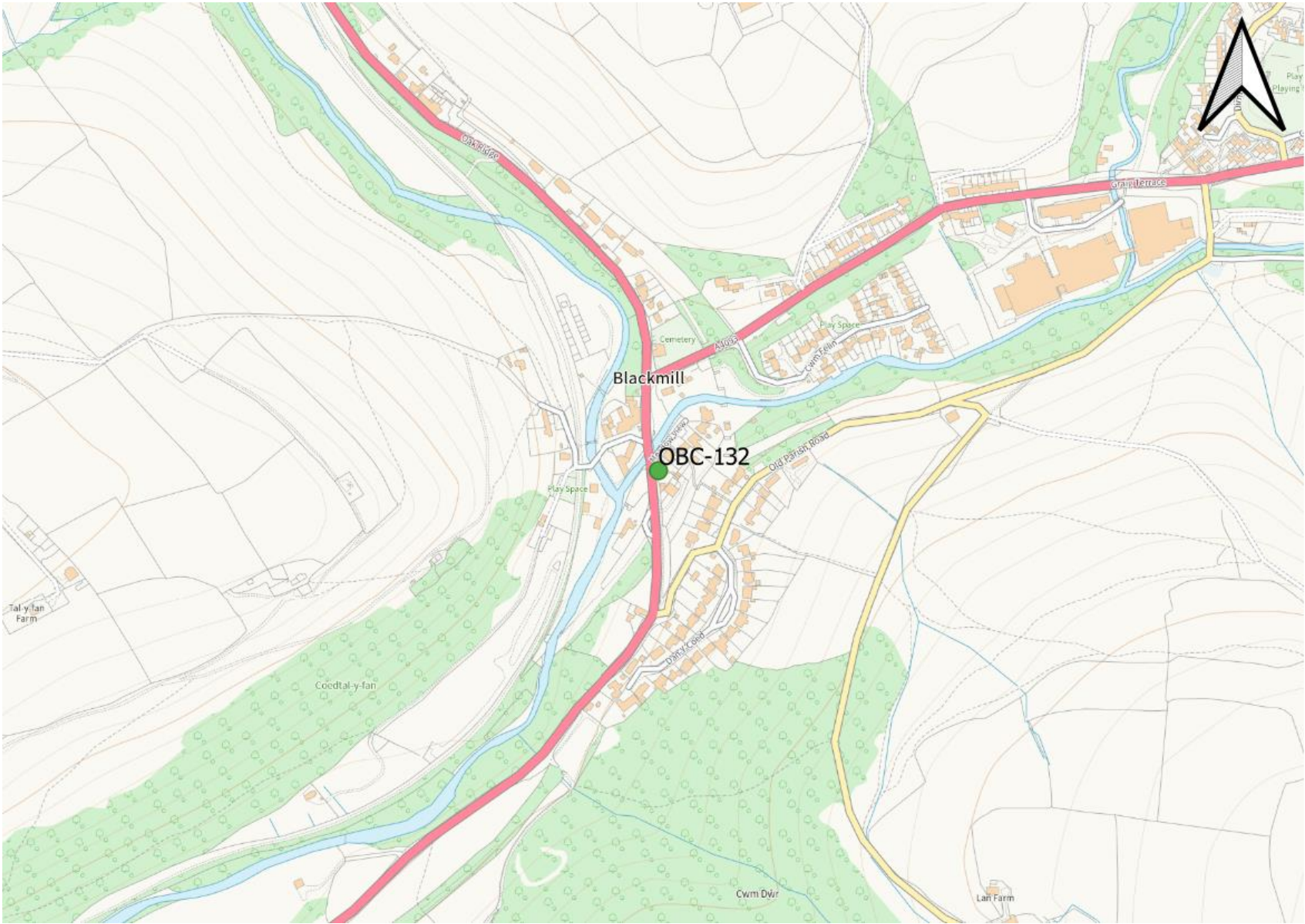


Figure 16 - Map Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites Tondy

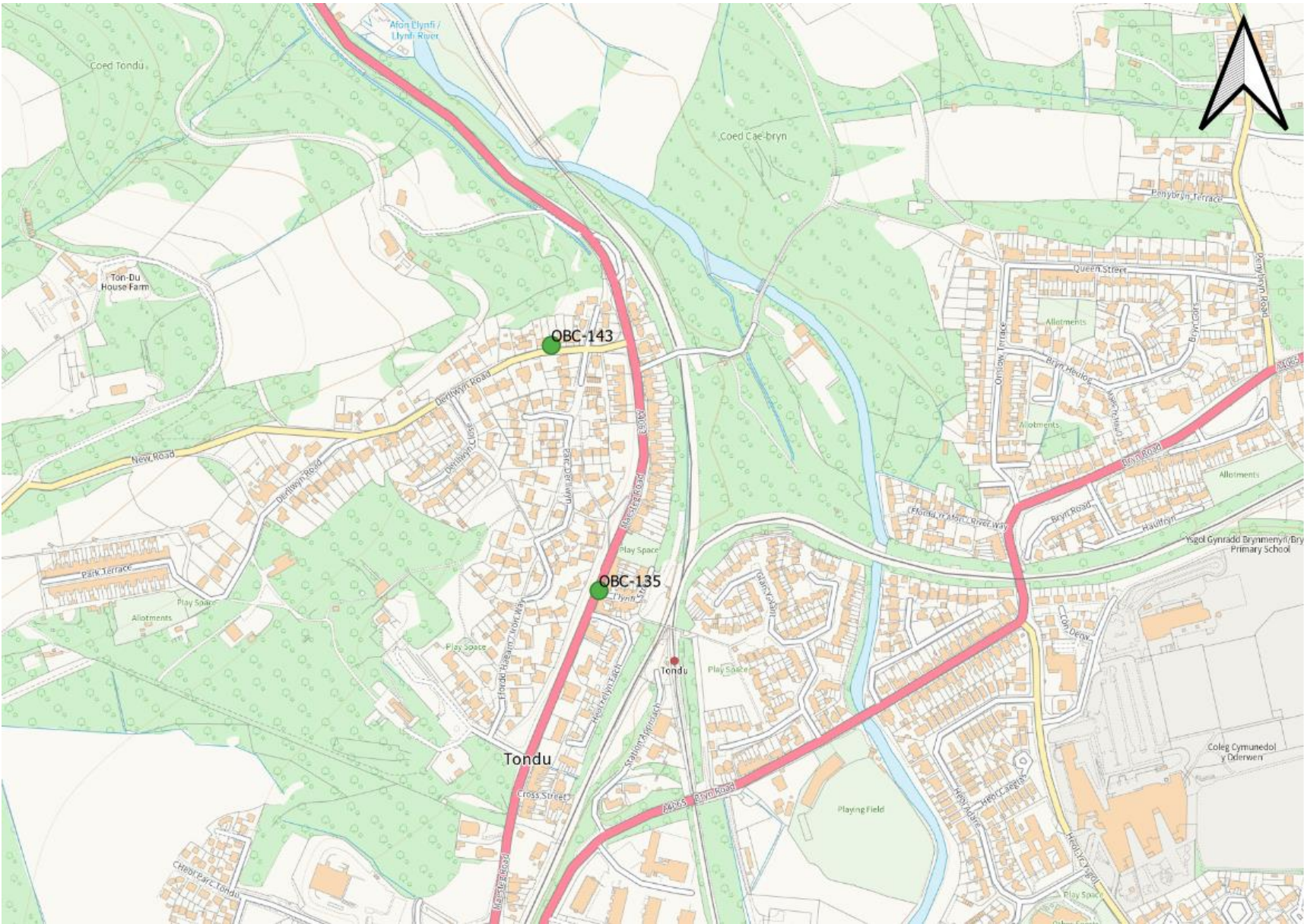


Figure 17 - Map Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites Maesteg

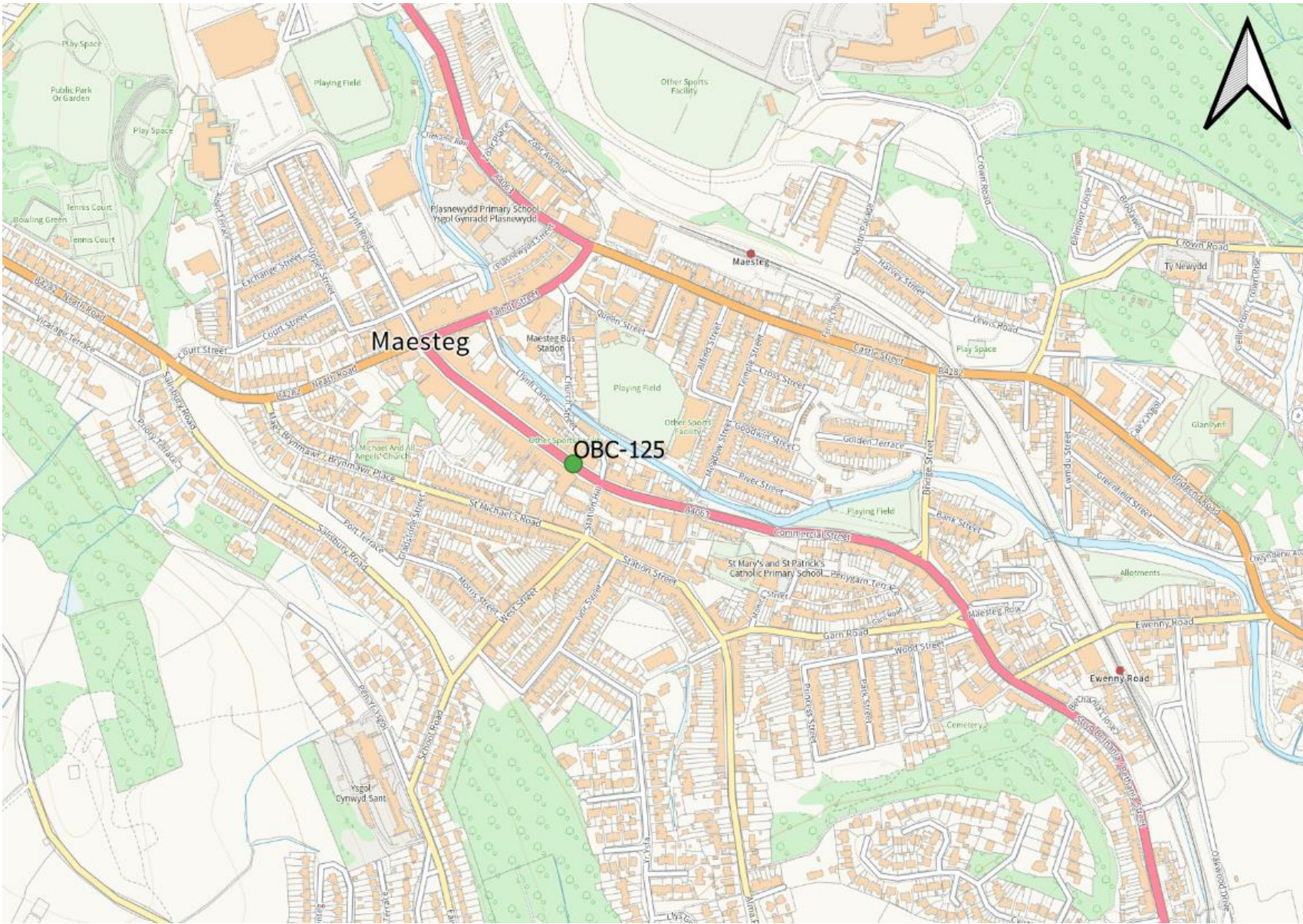


Figure 18 - Map Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites Pencoeed



2.2 2024 Air Quality Monitoring Results

Table 8 - Annual Mean NO₂ Monitoring Results: Automatic Monitoring (µg/m³)

Site ID	Site Location	Site Type	Within AQMA?	Valid Data Capture 2024 %	Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m ³)			
					2021	2022	2023	2024
AQMA 1	Park Street AQMA Automatic Monitor	Roadside	Y	68%	27	28	27	27.6

Notes:

Exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean objective of 40µg/m³ are shown in **bold**.

NO₂ annual means exceeding 60µg/m³, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO₂ 1-hour mean objective are shown in **bold and underlined**.

Means for diffusion tubes have been corrected for bias. All means have been “annualised” as per LAQM.TG22 if valid data capture for the full calendar year is less than 75%. See Appendix C for details.

(1) Data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year.

(2) Data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for 6 months, the maximum data capture for the full calendar year is 50%).

Table 9 - Annual Mean NO₂ Monitoring Results: Non-Automatic Monitoring (µg/m³)

Diffusion Tube ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Site Type	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period (%)	Valid Data Capture 2024 (%)	NO ₂ Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m ³)				
						2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
OBC-115	290667	178529	Roadside	100	100	16.3	18.5	17.0	14.0	14.3
OBC-141	291164	178580	Kerbside	100	100	-	-	-	-	11.3
OBC-105	290899	179185	Roadside	100	100	16.1	19.2	18.1	15.9	15.0
OBC-106	290826	179210	Roadside	84	84	25.8	26.1	22.7	20.2	16.0
OBC-112	290798	179244	Roadside	100	100	23.7	29.2	26.7	25.3	20.8
OBC-111	290700	179305	Roadside	66	66	19.7	22.4	20.9	19.8	18.1
OBC-102	290354	179807	Roadside	100	100	18.3	20.6	19.9	18.5	16.1
OBC-103	290250	179782	Roadside	92	92	30.4	31.9	29.1	27.3	23.2
OBC-104	290286	179800	Roadside	100	100	29.8	33.6	29.0	28.4	23.1
OBC-109	290239	179795	Roadside	66	66	20.1	19.8	16.4	15.4	14.0
OBC-107	290347	179959	Roadside	100	100	24.3	27.7	26.1	25.2	21.6
OBC-108	290311	180032	Roadside	100	100	27.5	31.7	29.4	27.6	22.4

Diffusion Tube ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Site Type	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period (%)	Valid Data Capture 2024 (%)	NO ₂ Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m ³)				
						2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
OBC-131	290040	179704	Kerbside	100	100	-	28.3	27.3	25	22.9
OBC-123	290014	179698	Roadside	82	82	42.4	46.5	45.5	43.9	38.5
OBC-140	290002	179702	Roadside	75	75	-	-	-	43.5	44.6
OBC-110	289988	179701	Roadside	100	100	43.6	43.6	47.2	43.8	43.4
OBC-122	289919	179755	Kerbside	91	91	15.2	15.8	16.7	13.7	12.1
OBC-126	291125	179517	Roadside	100	100	18.5	18.7	17.6	16.4	15.1
OBC-127	292236	179473	Roadside	100	100	13.7	15.6	16.1	15.1	12.7
OBC-097	290687	180185	Kerbside	100	100	15.2	15.8	16.7	13.7	16.2
OBC-130	291386	184168	Roadside	100	100	-	31.1	29.0	25.7	24.8
OBC-132	293418	186662	Roadside	100	100	-	25.1	21.6	21.1	19.7
OBC-125	285299	191136	Roadside	66	66	19.3	9.8	14.5	20.8	13.1
OBC-135	289402	184461	Roadside	82	82		17.8	21.5	21.7	22.6
OBC-137	294309	179872	Roadside	91	91	-	-	16.5	17.0	14.8

Diffusion Tube ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Site Type	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period (%)	Valid Data Capture 2024 (%)	NO ₂ Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m ³)				
						2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
OBC-138	294218	179795	Kerbside	100	100	-	-	23.8	19.6	17.7
OBC-133	295899	181363	Roadside	0	0	-	17.8	18.8	17.0	-
OBC-139	295967	181623	Roadside	91	85	-	-	-	22.6	20.8
OBC-116	295886	181642	Roadside	0	0	15.8	18.5	17.9	17.4	-
OBC-142	290702	184828	Roadside	100	43	-	-	-	-	12.2
OBC-143	289345	184754	Roadside	100	43	-	-	-	-	9.0

The annual mean concentrations are presented as µg/m³.

Exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean objective of 40µg/m³ are shown in **bold**.

NO₂ annual means exceeding 60µg/m³, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO₂ 1-hour mean objective are shown in **bold and underlined**.

Means for diffusion tubes have been corrected for bias. All means have been “annualised” as per LAQM.TG22 if valid data capture for the full calendar year is less than 75%. See Appendix C for details.

Concentrations are those at the location of monitoring and not those following any fall-off with distance adjustment.

(1) Data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year.

(2) Data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for 6 months, the maximum data capture for the full calendar year is 50%).

Figure 19 - Park Street Automatic Monitoring Annual Mean Trends NO₂ (µg/m³)

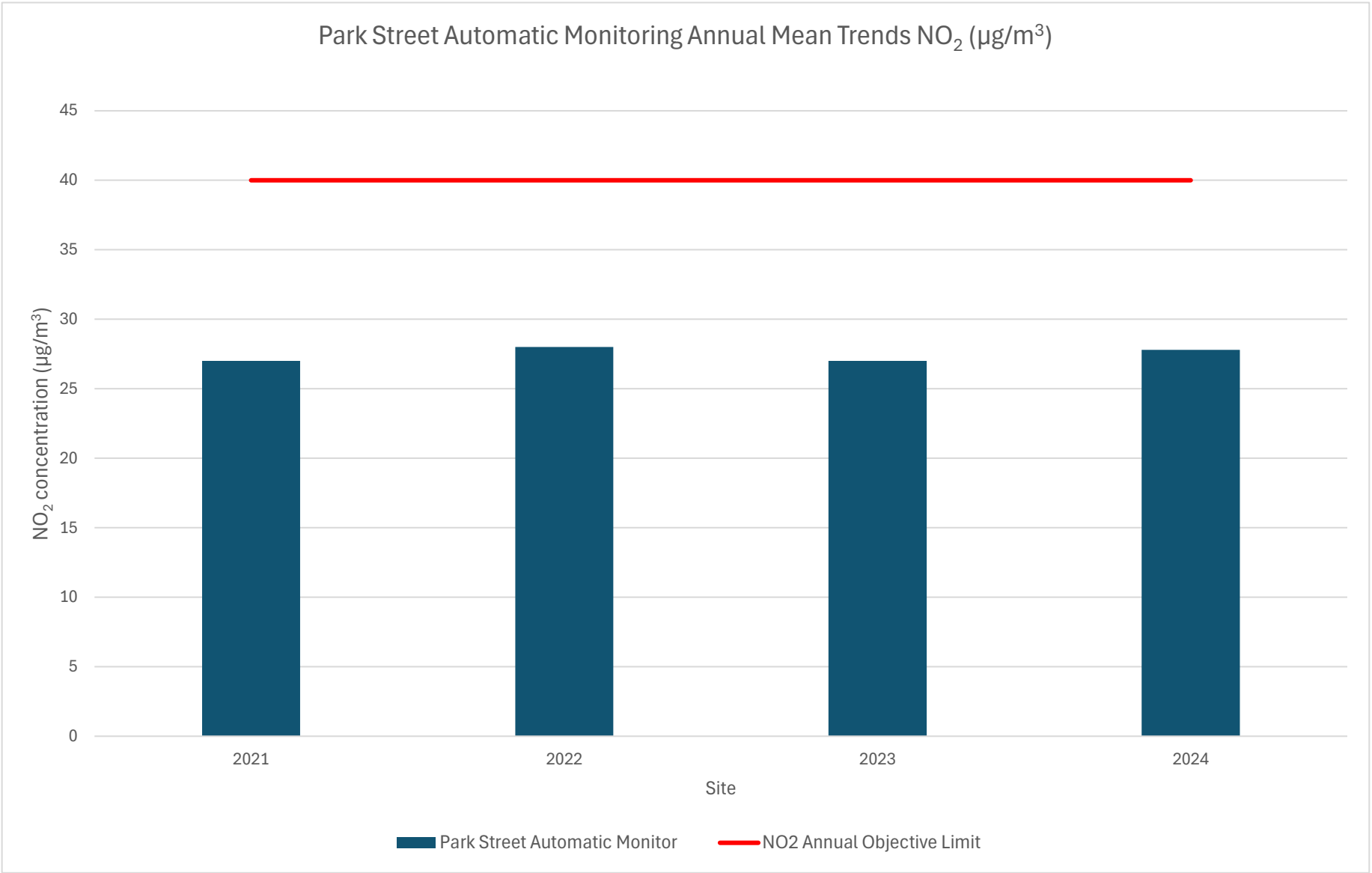
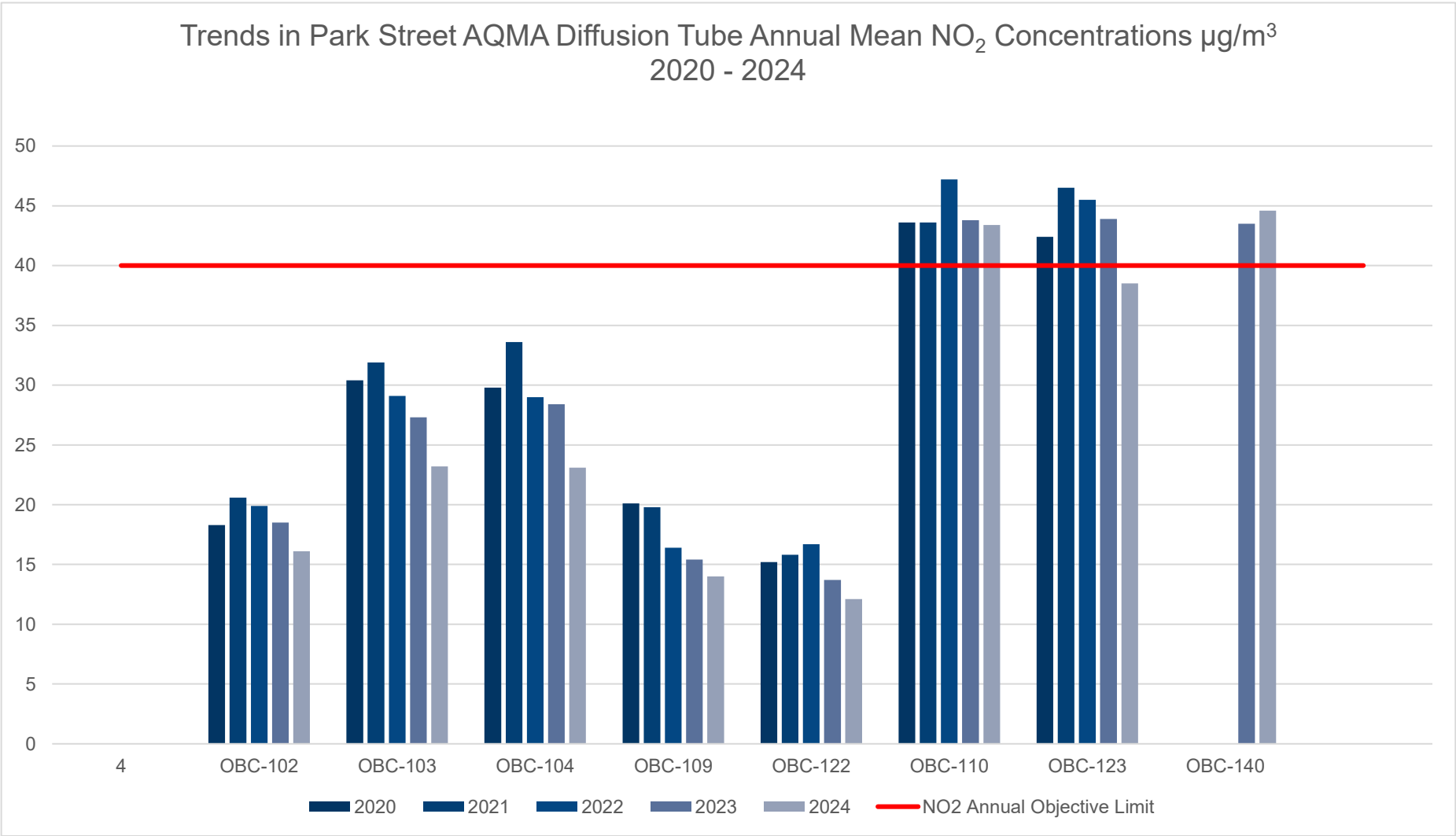
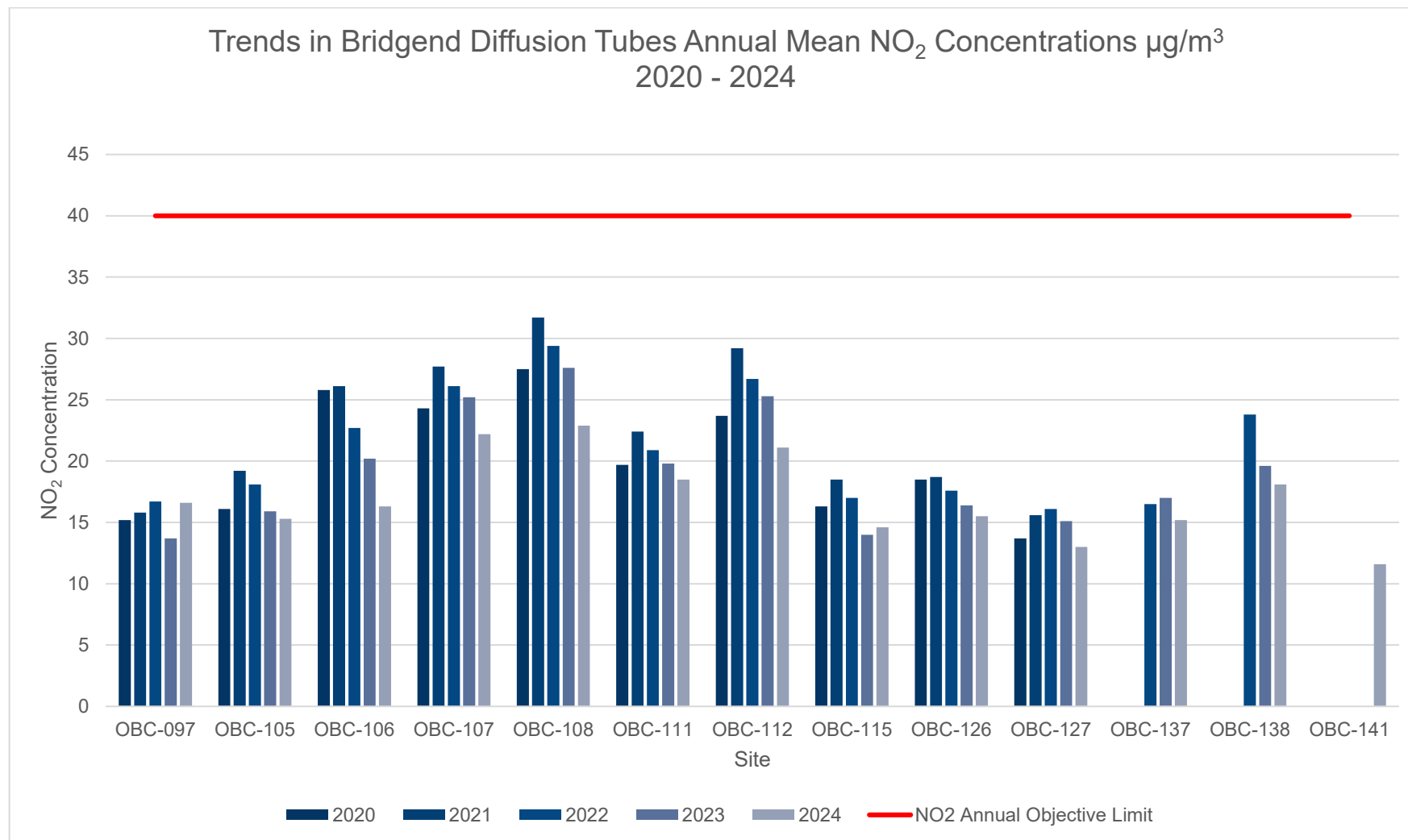


Figure 20 - Trends in Annual Mean NO₂ Concentrations Park Street AQMA



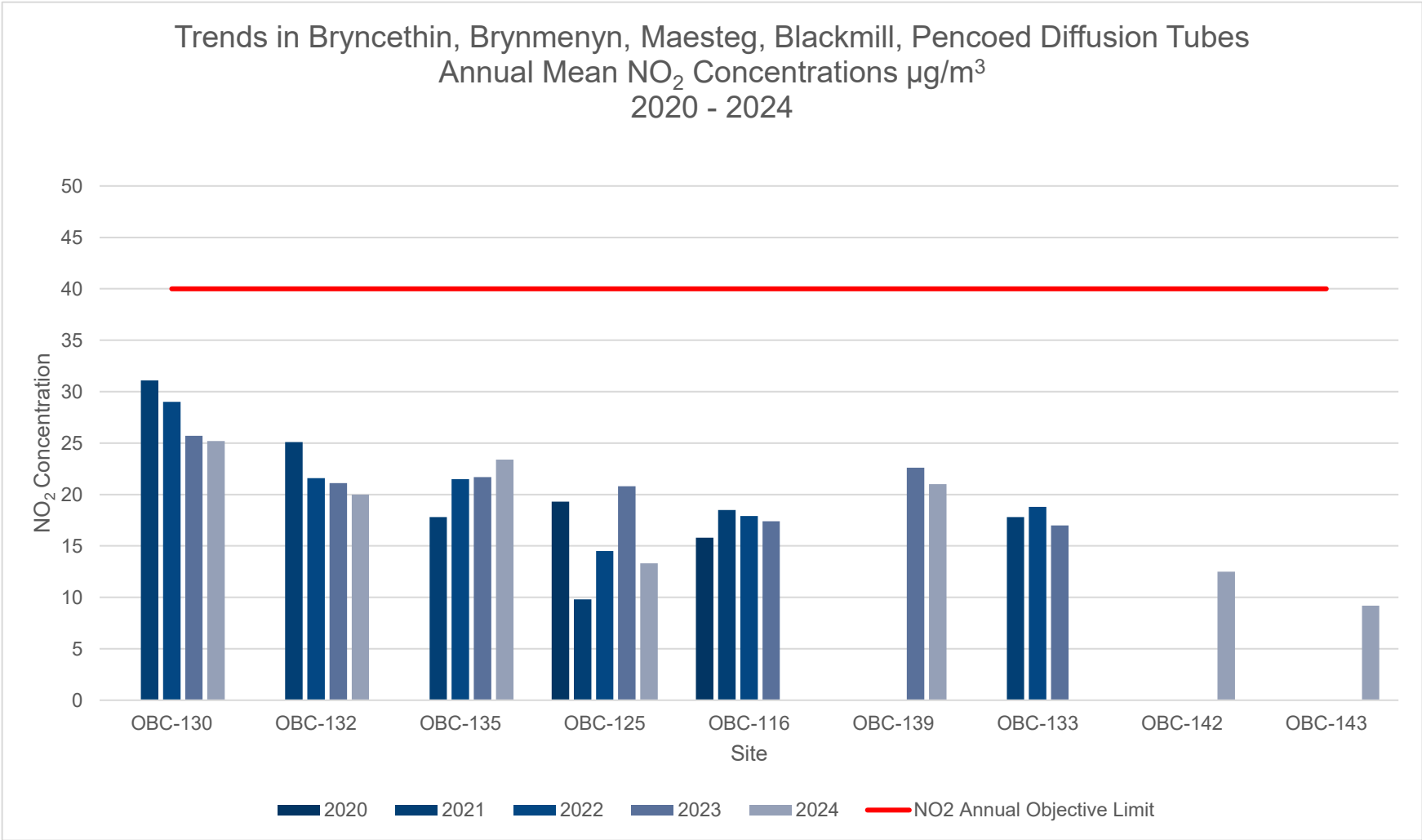
Sites OBC-110 and OBC-140 exceed the NO₂ Annual Objective limit. All other sites are within the objective limit.

Figure 21 - Trends in Bridgend Diffusion Tubes Annual Mean NO₂ Concentrations µg/m³ 2020 - 2024



All sites outside the Park Street AQMA are compliant with the NO₂ annual objective limit.

Figure 22 - Trends in Brycethin, Brynmenyn, Maesteg, Blackmill, Pencoe Diffusion Tubes Annual Mean NO₂ Concentrations
µg/m³ 2020 - 2024



All sites outside the Park Street AQMA are compliant with the NO₂ annual objective limit

Table 10 - 1-Hour Mean NO₂ Monitoring Results, Number of 1-Hour Means > 200µg/m³

Site Name	Site Type	Monitoring Type	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period (%) ⁽¹⁾	Valid Data Capture 2024 (%) ⁽²⁾	2021	2022	2023	2024
Park Street AQMA	Roadside	Automatic	68	68	0	0	0	0

Notes:

Exceedances of the NO₂ 1-hour mean objective (200µg/m³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times/year) are shown in **bold**.

If the period of valid data is less than 85%, the 99.8th percentile of 1-hour means is provided in brackets.

(1) Data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year.

(2) Data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for 6 months, the maximum data capture for the full calendar year is 50%).

Table 11 - Annual Mean PM₁₀ Monitoring Results (µg/m³)

Site ID	Site Type	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period (%) ⁽¹⁾	Valid Data Capture 2023 (%) ⁽²⁾	2021	2022	2023	2024
Park Street AQMA	Roadside	94	94	17	18	18	16.4

Notes:

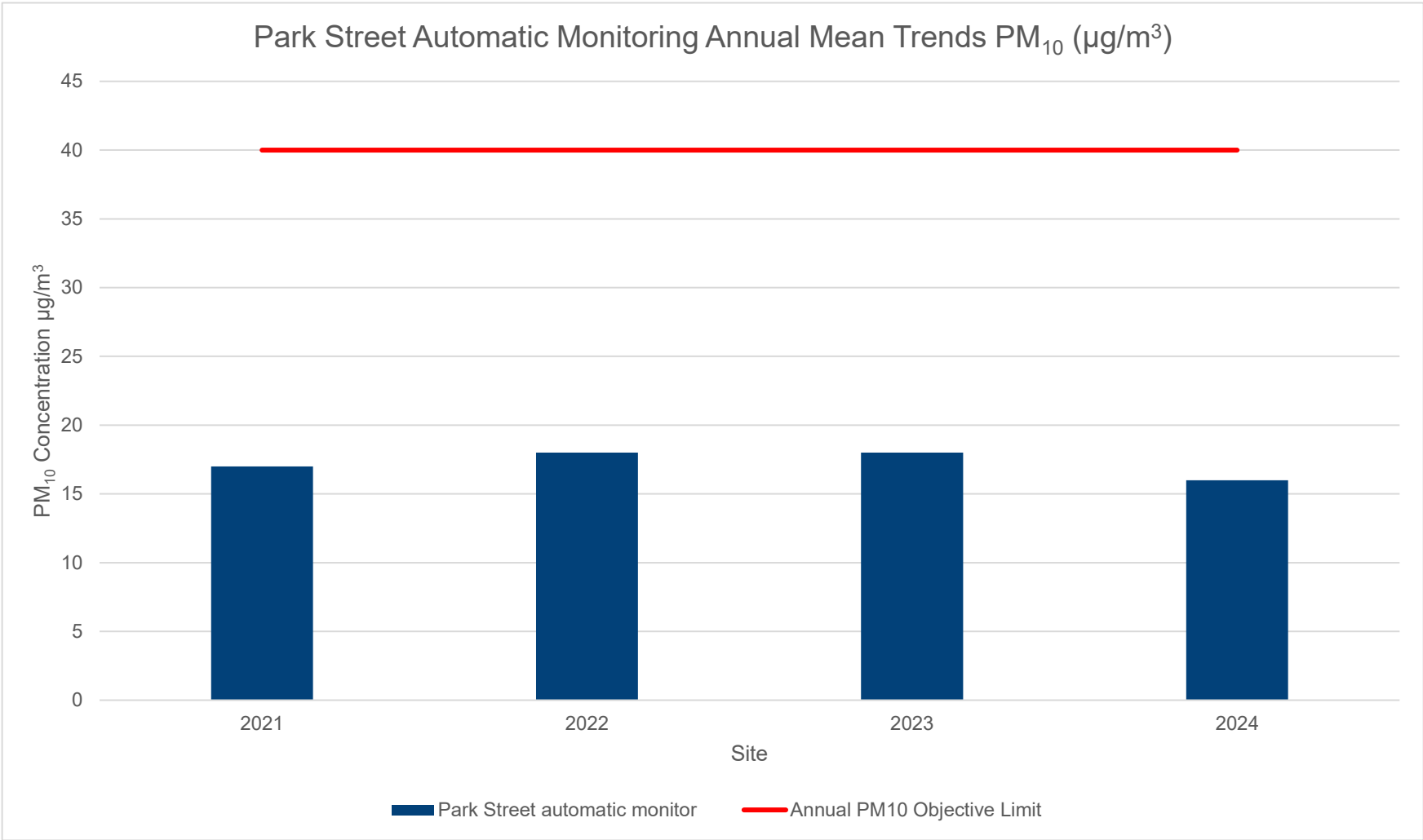
Exceedances of the PM₁₀ annual mean objective of 40µg/m³ are shown in **bold**.

All means have been “annualised” as per LAQM.TG22 if valid data capture for the full calendar year is less than 75%. See Appendix C for details.

(1) Data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year.

(2) Data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for 6 months, the maximum data capture for the full calendar year is 50%).

Figure 23 – Trends in Annual Mean PM₁₀ Concentrations Park Street AQMA



All PM₁₀ concentrations are within the annual objective limit.

Table 12 - 24-Hour Mean PM₁₀ Monitoring Results, Number of PM₁₀ 24-Hour Means > 50µg/m³

Site ID	Site Type	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period (%) ⁽¹⁾	Valid Data Capture 2024 (%) ⁽²⁾	2021	2022	2023	2024
Park Street AQMA	Roadside	68	68	0	0	2	0

Notes:

Exceedances of the PM₁₀ 24-hour mean objective (50µg/m³ not to be exceeded more than 35 times/year) are shown in **bold**.

If the period of valid data is less than 85%, the 90.4th percentile of 24-hour means is provided in brackets.

(1) Data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year.

(2) Data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for 6 months, the maximum data capture for the full calendar year is 50%).

2.3 Comparison of 2024 Monitoring Results with Previous Years and the Air Quality Objectives

2.3.1 Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

In 2024, the results for monitoring undertaken at sites OBC-110 and OBC-140 located on Park Street residential facades, exceeds the annual average air quality objective set at (40µg/m³) for NO₂. OBC-110 recorded annual average figures of 43.6µg/m³ and OBC-140 recorded an annual average figure of 44.6µg/m³. In 2024, monitoring site OBC-123 was compliant with the NO₂ annual objective for the first time since the commencement of monitoring at this location, with a result of 38.4µg/m³.

Sites currently exceeding annual air quality objectives are isolated to one area of Park Street. This area of Park Street experiences higher concentrations of pollutants due to the proximity of houses to a heavily trafficked primary route with congestion issues. These issues are compounded by gradients increasing engine load and poor dispersion of pollutants caused by buildings.

All other monitoring locations within Park Street AQMA and across Bridgend currently demonstrate compliance with the applicable air quality objectives.

Due to diffusion tubes being stolen from the monitoring points, site OBC-133 and OBC-116 did not have sufficient monthly data of >25% to calculate an annual result.

2.3.2 Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)

Particulate matter (PM₁₀) monitoring was carried out by the automatic monitoring station located in Park Street AQMA. The annual average figure shown at this site in 2022 was 16µg/m³, which is compliant with the PM₁₀ annual average objective of 40 µg/m³. There were no exceedances of the 24-hour PM₁₀ objective of 50 µg/m³ air quality objective limit for this objective, which is to not be exceeded more than 35 times annually.

2.4 Summary of Compliance with AQS Objectives as of 2024

Concentrations within Park Street AQMA still exceed the annual objective for NO₂ at two monitoring locations, therefore, this AQMA should remain.

3 New Local Developments

Before the approval of any new development, the impact of both demolition, construction, and operational air quality is considered. If certain criteria are met, such as a substantial increase in vehicle generation, combustion processes, or the introduction of new receptors to areas of potential air quality concerns, then Air Quality Assessments (AQA's) are submitted to the local authority. This criterion is set within the Institute of Air Quality Management and Environmental Protection UK "Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning For Air Quality"⁴. AQA's use dispersion modelling to predict air quality impacts, and mitigation measures or conditions can be set as a result of these assessments.

3.1 Road Traffic Sources (and Other Transport)

No new road traffic sources have been identified which require consideration in this report.

3.2 Industrial / Fugitive or Uncontrolled Sources / Commercial Sources

No new Industrial / Fugitive or Uncontrolled Sources / Commercial Sources have been identified which require consideration in this report.

3.3 Other Sources

No other sources have been identified which require consideration in this report.

3.4 Domestic Wood Burners

It should be noted that the Council receives a number of enquiries each year from residents in respect of national or local requirements were they to wish to install log-burners or similar appliances in their homes. There are no smoke control areas in Bridgend and hence no

⁴ <https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/assets/airqualityplanningguidance.pdf>

legal requirements with regard to appliances that may be installed. However, residents are always reminded of the legislation in respect of statutory smoke nuisance and, where they can't be persuaded otherwise for reasons of air quality and health, are recommended to seek out an appliance certified for use in a smoke control area.

SRS on behalf of BCBC can confirm that there are no areas of significant domestic fuel use in the Local Authority area.

4 Policies and Strategies Affecting Airborne Pollution

4.1 Air Quality Planning Policies

On 13 March 2024, Bridgend County Borough Council adopted the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2018-2033 for Bridgend County Borough. The RLDP became operative on the date of its adoption.

It supersedes and replaces the previous adopted Bridgend County Borough Local Development Plan (LDP) 2006-2021. The adopted RLDP constitutes the development plan for Bridgend County Borough and will be the basis for decisions on land-use planning in the area. It sets out key policies and land use allocations that will shape the future of Bridgend County Borough and guide development up to 2033.

Proposed development projects currently listed in the Local Development Plan (LDP) will require up to date air quality impact assessment in support of the planning application.

Further details for the RLDP can be found at [Adopted Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033](#)

4.2 Local Transport Plans and Strategies

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2015- 2030. The Welsh Government now requires local authorities in Wales to prepare and adopt Local Transport Plan (LTPs) as the framework for identifying local transport schemes for improvements. LTPs therefore replace Regional Transport Plans.

Under guidance from the Welsh Government, local authorities have the choice to develop and adopt either joint LTPs with neighbouring local authorities or a stand-alone LTP for their own geographical area.

Bridgend County Borough Council has opted for the latter approach in view of the uncertainty of the future of local authority boundaries and structures amid discussions of reorganisation of local government.

The LTP looks to tackle growing traffic levels (and hence air quality impacts) by providing strategies which focus upon providing efficient and effective transport networks. “The Council is mindful of the broader negative impact of transport related emissions on health and the natural environment” “To reduce the environmental impact of transport, the LTP

includes measures and interventions that will increase opportunities for active travel, encourage the use of public transport and promote modal integration.”

The LTP policy recognises the Council’s objective to achieving sustainable travel (alternatives to using cars) and reducing negative impacts on the environment. The policy suggests that through improved transport infrastructure and transport services this can be achieved.

The LTP policy is available at [Local Transport Plan](#).

4.3 Active Travel Plans and Strategies

In September 2014, the Welsh Government introduced the Active Travel (Wales) Act. This measure legally requires Welsh local authorities to map and plan suitable routes for Active Travel within certain areas, as designated by the Welsh Government.

Following formal public consultation and review by Welsh Government, BCBC has produced Integrated Network Maps (INM) that show highlighted routes dedicated to pedestrians and cyclists. The maps are available to download from [Active travel](#).

Supported by Welsh Government funding for active travel routes across Wales, Bridgend County Borough Council has recently completed a new active travel route from Ynysawdre to Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen, near Bridgend. A map of the route can be found at [Ynysawdre Active Travel](#).

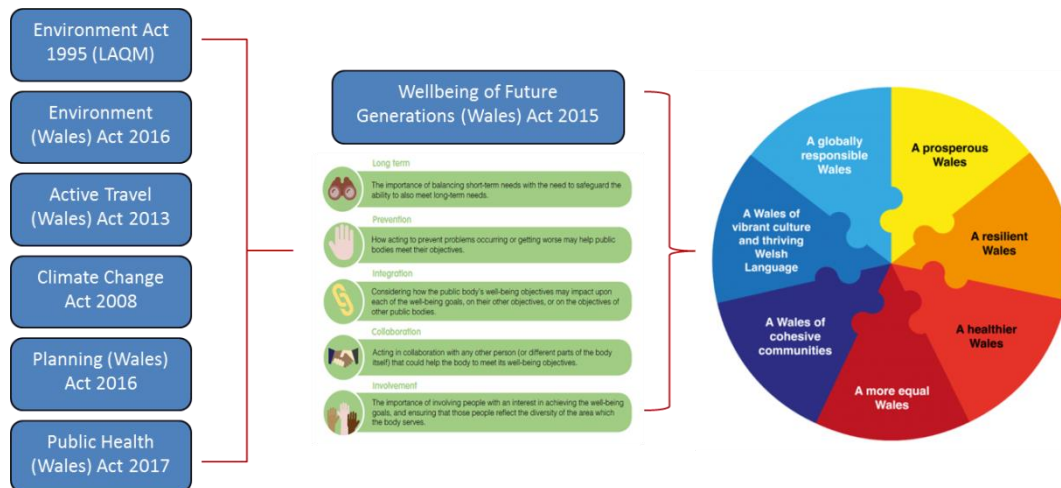
The 440m long route runs through an area of previously overgrown and wooded land, bounding the north side of Brynmenyn Primary School and the east side of Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen. It links two points on the existing active travel network, as well as provides the start of a proposed future route, continuing to the east of the River Ogmore.

The route opened at the beginning of April 2024, with work carried out over a period of months, from October 2023 to March 2024, to complete the £500k project.

4.4 Local Authorities Well-being Objectives

In 2015 Welsh Government made a new law called the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. The new law has the sustainable development principle at its heart. This means that we need to work in a way that improves wellbeing for people today without doing anything that could make things worse for future generations.

Figure 24 - Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act



As highlighted in Figure 24, there are seven national well-being goals that form the basis of the Act and five ways of working which support the goals.

Public bodies have come together in Bridgend to form a Public Services Board (PSB). Bridgend PSB is committed to working together to improve wellbeing in Bridgend County Borough now and in the future. Bridgend PSB has used the sustainable development principle and the new five ways of working to develop a Well-Being Plan (2018-2023).

The plan outlines the things that Bridgend PSB will work together on, over the next five years, well-being objectives and steps, and provide a vision for how Bridgend will look in 10 years' time. The plan is seen as a mechanism that provides the best possible means of working to help understand the underlying causes of problems and prevent those problems getting worse or happening in the future.

Contributing to the seven national well-being goals and long-term vision for Bridgend, Bridgend PSB has developed four main objectives.

Figure 25 - Bridgend Well-Being Objectives

In accordance with air quality, as part of the objective for “Healthy Choices in a Healthy Environment” Bridgend PSB outlines that resources are best utilised and collaborative working ensures that the built, cultural, and natural environment remains resilient in future. The priority areas to endorse and encourage the success of the objective will include working together to maximise benefit from cultural, built, and natural assets. It will also look at promoting a more resource and energy efficient way of living and working. In order to measure the success of promoting a more resource and energy way of living, air quality, particularly NO₂ levels will be examined. The Bridgend PSB wellbeing plan is available at <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/3657/bridgend-wellbeing-bps-plan-e-0518.pdf>

4.5 Green Infrastructure Plans and Strategies

Green infrastructure will be provided through the protection and enhancement of existing natural assets and the creation of new multi-functional areas of green space. Green infrastructure corridors will connect locations of natural heritage, green space, biodiversity, or other environmental interest. They will be safeguarded through:

- 1) Not permitting development that compromises their integrity and therefore that of the overall green infrastructure framework;
- 2) Using developer contributions to facilitate improvements to their quality and robustness;
- 3) Investing in appropriate management, enhancement and restoration, and the creation of new resources.

A Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) concerning Green Infrastructure was produced in 2014 by BCBC to provide a detailed understanding to the elements raised in the LDP. The document highlights how the Council expect habitats to be considered as part of development proposals within the County Borough of Bridgend. It also introduces the concept of adopting a Green Infrastructure Approach to development.

Figure 26 - Green Infrastructure

In addition to the above, outlined within the Bridgend PSB Well-being Plan, as part of the objective “Healthy Choices in a Healthy Environment” and priority area to include working together to maximise benefit from cultural, built, and natural assets, the steps involved will;

- Identify opportunities to improve the green asset base by implementing the Bridgend Nature Recovery Plan.
- Improve the public estate and green spaces in urban areas by encouraging award of green flag status.

4.6 Climate Change Strategies



Welsh Government has legislated for a Net Zero Wales by 2050 with the public sector leading by example to be Net Zero by 2030. We have committed to the Net Zero 2030 target as an organisation and recognises the leadership role to enable wider Net Zero for businesses and communities in the county. Projects designed to reduce carbon emissions can have a positive effect on air quality and its related human health impacts.

We declared our own climate emergency in June 2020 and set up its Climate Emergency Response programme. The Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy is the initial strategic step in achieving this commitment.

Importantly, this Strategy will not be the only driver for Net Zero, it will be an integral part of the Council's Corporate Plan and Wellbeing Plan, whilst policies, strategies and ongoing plans will all reflect the commitment to Net Zero. This will ensure it is fully embraced across the organisation.

Our Commitments

- The Council will **demonstrate leadership and commitment** to deliver the Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy, to address the Climate Emergency as declared by Welsh Government, the Senedd and the Council.
- The Council will **integrate low and zero-carbon behaviours** throughout the organisation and carbon impact will become a key consideration in all strategic decisions.
- The Council will **decarbonise its built estate by 2030** with a strong focus on energy efficiency, low carbon heating and on-site renewable generation.
- The Council will undertake a programme of **fleet renewal to ultra-low emission vehicles**, such that all vehicles are ULEV by 2030.
- The Council will **promote active and low-carbon travel** options throughout its own operations.
- The Council will **decarbonise its procurement activity** by engaging the supply chain, supporting and mandating suppliers to decarbonise, and progressing sustainable, local procurement practices.
- The Council will **ensure its land holdings are developed and maintained to support Net Zero objectives** through high levels of carbon sequestration and biodiversity.

- The Council will **decarbonise its waste streams** by ending landfill use and adopting a reuse culture alongside sustainable methods of disposal.

5 Conclusion and Proposed Actions

5.1 Conclusions from New Monitoring Data

Annual average datasets outline continued elevated and exceeding levels of NO₂ at sensitive receptor locations situated on Park Street within the established AQMA Order boundary. It is noted that monitoring undertaken in 2023 at sites OBC-110 and OBC-140 located on Park Street at residential facades exceed the annual average air quality objective set at (40µg/m³) for NO₂. All automated and non- automated datasets show compliance with the air quality objectives at every other monitored location.

5.2 Conclusions relating to New Local Developments

No new local developments have been identified which are expected to have significant impacts on air quality within Bridgend County Borough.

5.3 Proposed Actions

Monitoring data from Park Street AQMA will be reviewed to ensure that compliance will be met in the shortest time possible. If trends in air quality data indicate that compliance will not be met by 2025/2026, further traffic management measures, such as measure 18 within the AQAP may be implemented.

At present, the 'do something' scheme has the potential to bring forward compliance to 2025. However, this is unrealistic due to the fact that the implementation of Measure 18 within the AQAP, denying all access onto St Leonards Road from Park Street, requires a consultation process due to the introduction of a traffic order. It is important to consider this in terms of timescale for implementation in comparison to the predicted year of natural compliance of 2026. This measure will be retained and will be reconsidered dependent on ongoing NO₂ monitoring results in the Park Street AQMA.

References

1. Bridgend County Borough Council Annual Air Quality Progress Reports [Air Quality and Pollution](#)
2. Bridgend County Borough Council Active Travel [Active travel](#)
3. Bridgend County Borough County Net Zero [Net Zero Carbon Strategy](#)
4. Bridgend County Borough Council RLDP [Replacement Bridgend Local Development Plan 2018 to 2033](#)
5. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2003. *Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 Part III Local Air Quality Management, Technical Guidance LAQM.TG(22)*. London: DEFRA (as updated August 2022).
<https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/LAQM-TG22-August-22-v1.0.pdf>
6. Institute of Air Quality Management, Environmental Protection UK, *Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning For Air Quality*
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8. Welsh Government, *Local Air Quality Management in Wales, Policy Guidance*, 2017 [local-air-quality-management-in-wales.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)
9. Welsh Government, *Air Pollution Health Advice* [Health Advice | Air Quality In Wales \(gov.wales\)](#)

Appendices

Appendix A: Monthly Diffusion Tube Monitoring Results

Appendix B: A Summary of Local Air Quality Management

Appendix C: Air Quality Monitoring Data QA/QC

Appendix D: AQMA Boundary Maps

Appendix A: Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QA/QC) Data

Table A.1 – Full Monthly Diffusion Tube Results for 2024 (µg/m³)

Diffusion Tube ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	NO ₂ Mean Concentrations (µg/m³)												Simple Annual Mean (µg/m³)		
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Raw Data	Bias Adjusted (0.78) and Annualised	Distance Corrected to Nearest Exposure
OBC-115	290667	178529	24.4	22.2	17.6	19.0	17.5	13.6	12.9	12.4	17.8	19.6	22.4	20.7	18.3	14.3	-
OBC-141	291164	178580	20.5	13.2	14.3	12.6	12.9	9.4	9.5	9.3	13.3	18.8	20.4	20.4	14.6	11.3	-
OBC-105	290899	179185	25.7	22.6	19.6	16.8	18.5	14.1	12.2	9.5	17.5	19.2	30.2	24.3	19.2	15.0	-
OBC-106	290826	179210			27.1	19.5	22.5	19.0	18.5	17.1	23.2	16.9	27.4	13.4	20.5	16.0	-
OBC-112	290798	179244	43.7	28.6	24.5	32.4	26.9	21.2	18.3	14.6	19.7	35.3	41.3	13.4	26.7	20.8	-
OBC-111	290700	179305	36.2	20.2	22.8	19.3	22.1	17.5	14.4	14.4					20.9	18.1	-
OBC-102	290354	179807	31.2	24.6	22.0	20.6	19.4	15.8	14.2	13.3	15.0	24.5	27.3	19.1	20.6	16.1	-
OBC-103	290250	179782		37.7	35.0	29.7	22.9	24.6	26.3	26.5	24.0	28.9	36.4	35.7	29.8	23.2	-
OBC-104	290286	179800	47.4	35.6	33.4	33.5	30.1	23.8	12.5	24.6	28.6	31.9	34.5	18.8	29.6	23.1	-
OBC-109	290239	179795	20.3	20.7	15.7	18.8	15.4	14.8	12.3	11.2					16.2	14.0	-
OBC-107	290347	179959	24.8	37.8	32.9	29.6	25.8	24.4	21.1	23.3	25.9	30.1	32.9	23.2	27.7	21.6	-
OBC-108	290311	180032	38.4	36.1	38.3	34.8	31.3	30.4	27.5	27.3	23.0	30.4	3.9	23.6	28.8	22.4	-
OBC-131	290040	179704	16.5	36.9	29.6	33.3	31.6	26.9	28.8	25.3	30.9	32.7	30.4	38.9	30.1	23.5	-
OBC-123	290014	179698	66.8			54.0	47.0	42.6	44.5	38.0	35.6	52.0	56.2	57.0	49.4	38.5	-
OBC-140	290002	179702				54.2	55.1	48.0	49.0	46.0	44.5	48.7	66.0	67.1	53.2	44.6	-
OBC-110	289988	179701	64.9	47.2	82.9	63.9	44.7	40.4	51.1	47.3	53.1	59.8	63.5	48.4	55.6	43.4	-
OBC-122	289919	179755	24.9	17.9		15.4	14.8	9.8	6.3	6.4	12.2	21.4	21.8	20.1	15.5	12.1	-

Diffusion Tube ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	NO ₂ Mean Concentrations (µg/m ³)												Simple Annual Mean (µg/m ³)		
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Raw Data	Bias Adjusted (0.78) and Annualised	Distance Corrected to Nearest Exposure
OBC-126	291125	179517	28.3	22.5	20.9	19.9	17.3	13.8	14.0	11.7	11.3	22.7	26.9	23.2	19.4	15.1	-
OBC-127	292236	179473	22.5	8.9	16.4	14.8	15.8	13.0	12.2	12.2	14.7	20.7	22.8	21.8	16.3	12.7	-
OBC-097	290687	180185	27.5	19.6	22.9	19.7	21.1	15.9	14.9	14.6	15.2	25.9	27.2	25.2	20.8	16.2	-
OBC-130	291386	184168	53.9	39.3	33.3	39.3	36.1	31.0	27.0	29.8	31.9	27.1	7.9	25.1	31.8	24.8	-
OBC-132	293418	186662	29.1	32.8	26.1	28.1	27.1	21.8	20.4	17.5	22.6	29.1	23.9	23.9	25.2	19.7	-
OBC-125	285299	191136	22.5		16.6	16.7	15.4	15.2	12.2	8.6			20.9		16.0	13.1	-
OBC-135	289402	184461	32.0	19.3	26.6	21.1	22.7		22.2	21.5	23.2		69.1	32.5	29.0	22.6	-
OBC-137	294309	179872	28.7	20.5	21.1	19.6	17.1	13.8	13.2		15.7	19.0	25.3	15.4	19.0	14.8	-
OBC-138	294218	179795	31.1	26.4	22.0	19.1	22.0	18.1	17.1	18.5	17.1	26.7	28.9	25.6	22.7	17.7	-
OBC-133	295899	181363														-	-
OBC-139	295967	181623	50.1	30.2	29.3	25.3		22.7	23.4	22.7	20.0	26.1	17.1		26.7	20.8	-
OBC-116	295886	181642														-	-
OBC-142	290702	184828								15.2	14.0	16.5	16.5	22.0	16.8	12.2	-
OBC-143	289345	184754								9.5	8.5	13.7	13.7	16.7	12.4	9.0	-

Notes:

Exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean objective of 40µg/m³ are shown in **bold**.

NO₂ annual means exceeding 60µg/m³, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO₂ 1-hour mean objective are shown in **bold and underlined**.

See Appendix C for details on bias adjustment and annualisation.

Appendix B: A Summary of Local Air Quality Management

5.4 Purpose of an Annual Progress Report

This report fulfils the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process as set out in the Environment Act 1995, as amended by the Environment Act 2021, and associated government guidance. The LAQM process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas and to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are being achieved. Where exceedances occur, or are likely to occur, the local authority must then declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) within 18 months of declaration setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of the objectives. Action plans must then be reviewed and updated no later than every five years; or if a local authority considers there is a need for further or different measures to be taken in order to achieve air quality standards; or if significant changes to sources occur within your local area.

For Local Authorities in Wales, an Annual Progress Report replaces all other formal reporting requirements and have a very clear purpose of updating the general public on air quality, including what ongoing actions are being taken locally to improve it if necessary.

5.5 Air Quality Objectives

The air quality objectives applicable to LAQM in Wales are set out in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000, No. 1940 (Wales 138), Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002, No 3182 (Wales 298), and are shown in Table 13.

The table shows the objectives in units of microgrammes per cubic metre $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (milligrammes per cubic metre, mg/m^3 for carbon monoxide) with the number of exceedances in each year that are permitted (where applicable).

Table 13 - Air Quality Objectives Included in Regulations for the Purpose of LAQM in Wales

Pollutant	Air Quality Objective: Concentration	Air Quality Objective: Measured as	Date to be achieved by
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)	200µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2005
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)	40µg/m ³	Annual mean	31.12.2005
Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)	50µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2010
Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)	40µg/m ³	Annual mean	31.12.2010
Sulphur dioxide (SO₂)	350µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2004
Sulphur dioxide (SO₂)	125µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2004
Sulphur dioxide (SO₂)	266µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	15-minute mean	31.12.2005
Benzene	16.25µg/m ³	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
Benzene	5µg/m ³	Annual mean	31 12 2010
1,3 Butadiene	2.25µg/m ³	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
Carbon Monoxide	10.0mg/m ³	Maximum Daily Running 8-Hour mean	31.12.2003
Lead	0.25µg/m ³	Annual Mean	31.12.2008

Appendix C: Air Quality Monitoring Data QA/QC

5.6 QA/QC of Diffusion Tube Monitoring

The diffusion tubes are supplied and analysed by Socotec UK Ltd Didcot, using the 50% triethanolamine (TEA) in water method. Socotec UK Ltd Didcot participates in the Annual Field Inter-Comparison Exercise and Workplace Analysis Scheme for Proficiency (WASP) inter-comparison scheme for nitrogen dioxide diffusion tube analysis. From April 2014 the WASP Scheme was combined with the STACKS scheme to form the new AIR scheme, which Socotec UK Ltd Didcot participates in. The AIR scheme is an independent analytical proficiency testing scheme operated by LGC Standards and supported by the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL).

The laboratory Socotec UK Ltd Didcot is regarded ranked as the highest rank of satisfactory in relation to the WASP intercomparison scheme for spiked nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes. Information regarding tube precision can be obtained via <http://laqm.defra.gov.uk/diffusion-tubes/precision.html> Information regarding WASP results can be obtained via <http://laqm.defra.gov.uk/diffusion-tubes/ga-qc-framework.html>

Diffusion Tube Annualisation

5 diffusion tube sites required annualisation in 2024. Details for these sites are provided in Table 17. Annualisation is required for any site with data capture less than 75% but greater than 25%.

Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factors

SRS on behalf of BCBC have applied a national bias adjustment factor of 0.78 to the 2024 monitoring data. A summary of bias adjustment factors used by BCBC over the past five years is presented in

It should be noted that the automatic monitoring station located within Park Street AQMA had 68% data capture due to technical issues. In light of this issue, local bias adjustment factors from a co-location study carried out using the monitoring station have not been utilised to calculate the final bias adjusted figures for the diffusion tube network. Instead, diffusion tubes have been bias adjusted using the national bias adjustment figure.

Table 14 - Bias Adjustment Factor

Year	Local or National	If National, Version of National Spreadsheet	Adjustment Factor
2024	National	04/24	0.78
2023	National	09/24	0.78
2022	Local	-	0.73
2021	National	03/22	0.78
2020	National	06/21	0.76

NO₂ Fall-off with Distance from the Road

No diffusion tube NO₂ monitoring locations within Bridgend required distance correction during 2024

5.7 QA/QC of Automatic Monitoring

Local Site Operator duties are performed by officers within the SRS Environment Team. The Park Street AQMA Automatic Monitor is part of the Welsh Automatic Urban pollution Monitoring Network. The monitor is owned and managed by Bridgend Council and is calibrated fortnightly by an officer from the Shared Regulatory Services Environment Team.

Automatic monitoring data presented in this APR from the above monitors is ratified by Ricardo. Live and historical data is available at <https://airquality.gov.wales/>.

PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} Monitoring Adjustment

The type of PM₁₀ monitor utilised within Bridgend does not required the application of a correction factor.

Automatic Monitoring Annualisation

Table 15 - Automatic NO₂ Annualisation Summary (concentrations presented in µg/m³)

Background Site	Annual Data Capture	Annual Mean (A _m)	AQMA1	
			Period Mean (P _m)	Ratio (A _m /P _m)
Site 1 Name	100.0	14.1	12.7	1.108
Site 2 Name	100.0	11.9	10.6	1.117
Site 3 Name				
Site 4 Name				
Average (R _a)			1.113	
Raw Data Annual Mean (M)			24.8	
Annualised Annual Mean (M x R _a)			27.6	

Table 16 - Automatic PM₁₀ Annualisation Summary (concentrations presented in µg/m³)

Background Site	Annual Data Capture	Annual Mean (A _m)	AQMA1	
			Period Mean (P _m)	Ratio (A _m /P _m)
Site 1 Name	100.0	12.4	12.6	0.986
Site 2 Name	100.0	12.7	12.7	0.999
Site 3 Name				
Site 4 Name				
Average (R _a)			0.993	
Raw Data Annual Mean (M)			16.5	
Annualised Annual Mean (M x R _a)			16.4	

NO₂ Fall-off with Distance from the Road

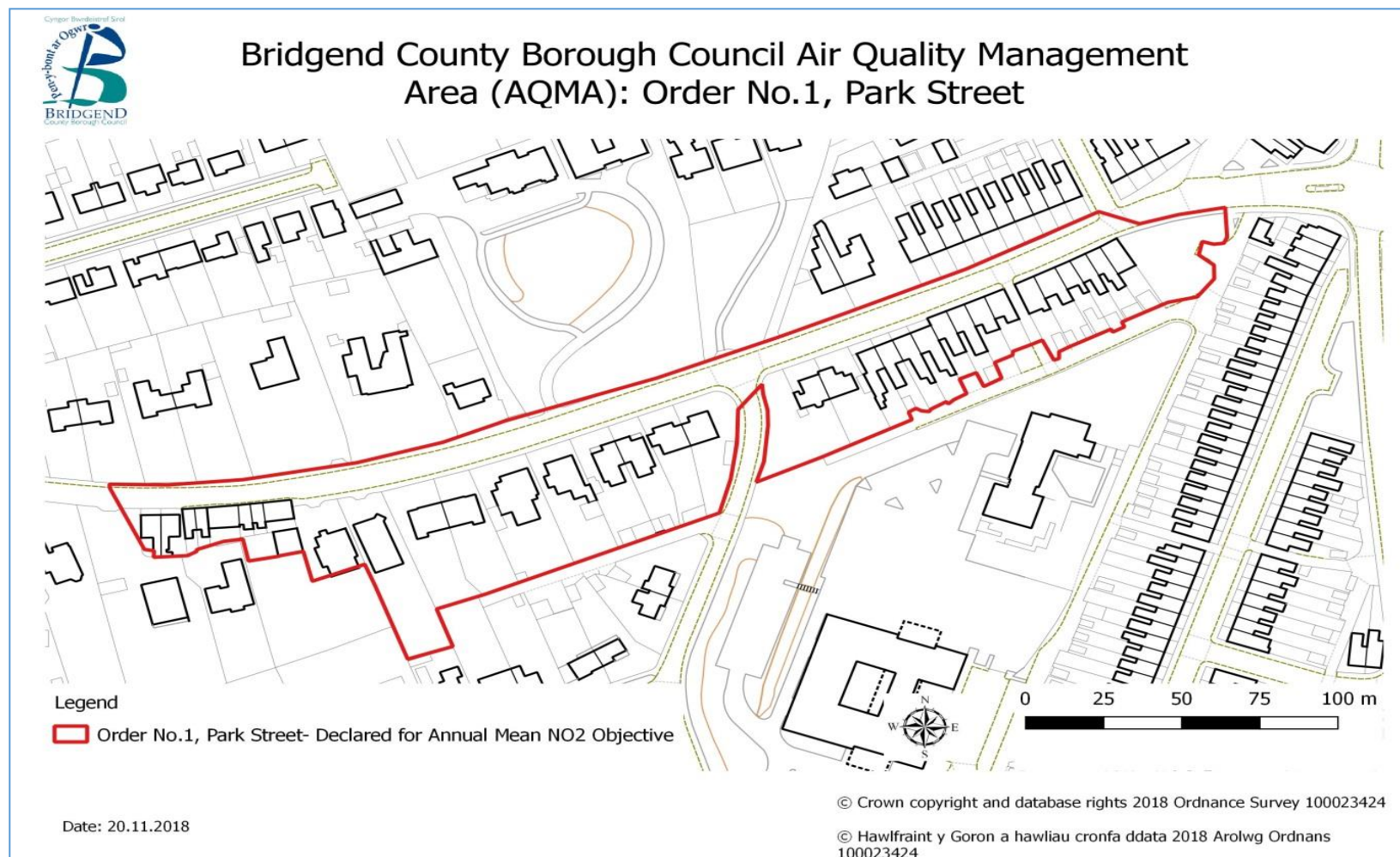
No automatic NO₂ monitoring locations within Bridgend County Borough required distance correction during 2024.

Table 17 - Annualisation Summary (concentrations presented in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

Diffusion Tube ID	Annualisation Factor Site Cardiff Centre	Annualisation Factor Site Newport St Julians	Annualisation Factor Site 3 Name	Annualisation Factor Site 4 Name	Average Annualisation Factor	Raw Data Simple Annual Mean ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Annualised Data Simple Annual Mean ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)
OBC-111	1.1078	1.1183			1.1130	20.9	23.2
OBC-109	1.1078	1.1183			1.1130	16.2	18.0
OBC-140	1.0826	1.0668			1.0747	53.2	57.1
OBC-125	1.0389	1.0539			1.0464	16.0	16.8
OBC-142	0.9404	0.9182			0.9293	16.8	15.6
OBC-143	0.9404	0.9182			0.9293	12.4	11.5

Appendix D: AQMA Boundary Maps

Figure 27 - Map of Park Street AQMA



Glossary of Terms

Abbreviation	Description
AQAP	Air Quality Action Plan - A detailed description of measures, outcomes, achievement dates and implementation methods, showing how the LA intends to achieve air quality limit values'
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area – An area where air pollutant concentrations exceed / are likely to exceed the relevant air quality objectives. AQMAs are declared for specific pollutants and objectives
APR	Air quality Annual Progress Report
AURN	Automatic Urban and Rural Network (UK air quality monitoring network)
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges – Air quality screening tool produced by Highways England
FDMS	Filter Dynamics Measurement System
LAQM	Local Air Quality Management
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO _x	Nitrogen Oxides
PM ₁₀	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 µm (micrometres or microns) or less
PM _{2.5}	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 µm or less
QA/QC	Quality Assurance and Quality Control
SO ₂	Sulphur Dioxide

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Meeting of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	18 NOVEMBER 2025
Report Title:	INFORMATION REPORT FOR NOTING
Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member	CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES, HR AND CORPORATE POLICY CABINET MEMBER – FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE
Responsible Officer:	MICHAEL PITMAN – TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon the policy framework and procedure rules.
Executive Summary:	To update Cabinet with an information report published since the last Cabinet meeting

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the Information Report for noting that has been published since its last scheduled meeting.

2. Background

- 2.1 It was previously resolved to approve a revised procedure for the presentation to Cabinet and Council of Information Reports for noting.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 Information Report

The following Information Report has been published since the last meeting of Cabinet:-

Title

Date Published

Monitoring Report – Corporate Complaints

11 November 2025

3.2 Availability of Document

The document has been circulated to Elected Members electronically via

email and placed on the Bridgend County Borough Council website. The document is available from the above date of publication.

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

- 4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations Implications and Connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

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

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 6.1 There are no climate change and nature implications from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 There are no safeguarding and corporate parent implications from this report.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications in relation to this report.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 That Cabinet acknowledges the publication of the report referred to in paragraph 3.1 above.

Background documents

None

Meeting of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	17 NOVEMBER 2025
Report Title:	MONITORING REPORT – CORPORATE COMPLAINTS
Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member	COUNCILLOR HYWEL WILLIAMS CABINET MEMBER – FINANCE AND RESOURCES CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL, HR AND CORPORATE POLICY
Responsible Officer:	CHARLOTTE BRANFORD INFORMATION AND DATA PROTECTION OFFICER
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon the policy framework and procedure rules.
Executive Summary:	The purpose of this report is to note the Authority’s corporate complaints process. The report also provides the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Letter for the Authority for 2024/25 which must be presented to Cabinet.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to note the Authority’s corporate complaints process and provide data for 2024/2025. The report also provides the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) Annual Letter for the Authority for 2024/25.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Authority’s Concerns and Complaints Policy is designed to deal with corporate complaints. There are separate processes for dealing with social services complaints, Elected Member conduct concerns and school based complaints. The Social Services Complaints Procedure (Wales) Regulations 2014 outlines the procedure for handling complaints from persons receiving a service from social services. School based complaints are dealt with separately by the relevant school and Governing Body. Complaints from members of the public about Elected Members are within the remit of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW). In addition, Freedom of Information Act, Environmental Information Regulations appeals and complaints about data protection are within the remit of the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO).

- 2.2 In 2019 the PSOW gained new powers under the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2019 in relation to complaints handling procedures. The Ombudsman published a Statement of Principles concerning complaints handling procedures and a model complaints handling policy together with associated guidance on the implementation of a new model Concerns and Complaints Policy.
- 2.3 The PSOW wrote to all 22 local authorities in September 2020 explaining how the Ombudsman's Complaints Standards Authority created within the PSOW had engaged with representatives from all local authorities to put in place a raft of measures designed to support and enhance complaint handling. These measures included bespoke training and support which has been taken up by officers at Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and a process for all local authorities to report complaints statistics to the PSOW on a quarterly basis. The Ombudsman encouraged all local authorities to reflect on how their current practices and procedures comply with the Statement of Principles, model complaint handling process and guidance published on the PSOW website.
- 2.4 The Concerns and Complaints Policy attached as **Appendix 1** was reviewed and revised in line with the PSOW model policy and subsequently approved by Cabinet on 17 November 2020. The Policy incorporates the PSOW Statement of Principles namely that the complaints process should be: (1) complainant focussed (2) fair and objective (3) simple (4) timely and effective (5) accountable (6) committed to continuous improvement. There is no change to the current approach (informal and formal stage) which will remain with the right to then escalate a complaint to the PSOW should the complainant be dissatisfied with the Authority's response. The current policy was last reviewed in July 2024 and is published on the Council's website and internally on the intranet.
- 2.5 The Authority also has a separate Unreasonable or Vexatious Behaviour Complaints Policy which is rarely utilised but provides officers with support and advice on managing situations when someone's actions are considered unreasonable. Most of the contact that the Authority has with customers is positive. However, there may be occasions when customers act in an unreasonable or unacceptable manner. In some cases, the frequency and the nature of their contact with the Authority can hinder the consideration of their own or other people's enquiries. In some instances, the sheer number or nature of their inquiries lead them to be considered as 'persistent' or 'vexatious' in their dealings with staff. There are currently 4 individuals classed as vexatious. A copy of the policy is attached as **Appendix 2** and sits alongside the Concerns and Complaints Policy.

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 The Information Team is responsible for the management of the Authority's corporate complaints process. **Appendix 3** sets out performance data in relation to corporate complaints for the period 1 April 2024 to 30 April 2025.
- 3.2 The PSOW also reports annually on the number of complaints against public bodies received by its office. The Ombudsman's Annual Letter for BCBC for 2024-25 is attached at **Appendix 4** and must be presented to the Governance and Audit Committee and Cabinet for noting.

- 3.3 As outlined in the Annual Letter, the number of complaints against the Authority for the period 2024–2025 was 58 of which 57 were closed. The figure for 2023-2024 was 59. The figure for 2024-25 represents 0.07 complaints received per 1000 residents. Children’s Social Services attracted the largest number of complaints - 14. Overall, 20 cases were not investigated, 19 were premature, 12 were out of jurisdiction, 5 were settled by working with the Ombudsman for early resolution. One complaint proceeded to investigation and was upheld.
- 3.4 10 Code of Conduct complaints against the Authority’s Councillors were received by the Ombudsman’s Office in this period, none of which proceeded to investigation.
- 3.5 The Complaints Standards Authority publishes datasets on complaints handled by local authorities. These datasets are published on the Ombudsman’s website and on the Council’s website. This data shows that in 2024-2025 the Ombudsman intervened in 11% of the Authority’s complaints.
- 3.6 In terms of complaints handling roles, Section 115 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 sets out a provision that came into force in April 2021 for the Governance and Audit Committee to *“review and assess the authority’s ability to handle complaints effectively and to make reports and recommendations in relation to the authority’s ability to handle complaints effectively”*. The Governance and Audit Committee receives an Annual Report on complaints under its Terms of Reference and anonymised data is also shared quarterly with the PSOW Complaints Standards Authority as part of the Authority’s commitment to accountability and learning from complaints.
- 3.7 The Authority takes complaints and concerns seriously and will try to learn from any mistakes made. The Information Team has developed a process to monitor both the effectiveness of the complaints process and how complaints data is being used to improve services and delivery of care. It is proposed that Services then consider any emerging themes and identify any service improvements required as a result of concerns raised. The information identified will then be used to contribute to service development which could include additional training, changes to internal procedures and increased monitoring.
- 3.8 The Complaints Team is currently exploring in conjunction with the Customer Services Team and our external provider Granicus, the possibility of developing a central system for logging and processing complaints. It is recognised that we must build and act on the knowledge gathered within the complaints data and use it as a positive source to promote improvement in relation to any customer contact with the Authority. Going forward, it is anticipated that the new system will provide a more timely and streamlined way to produce data for reports and improve data records within the complaints process. The system will be monitored with the Complaints Team, feeding back on any issues they may identify within the system in order to further streamline the process.

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

- 4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, socio-economic duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the

preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

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

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

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 6.1 There are no climate change and nature implications arising from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

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

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.
- 8.2 The PSOW has the legal power to require authorities to make payments to complainants where they have suffered financial loss or in compensation for distress and inconvenience. The PSOW has not required the Authority to make any payments within this reporting period.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 Cabinet is recommended to note the report and appendices.

Background documents

None.

Bridgend County Borough Council Concerns and Complaints Policy

Bridgend County Borough Council is committed to dealing effectively with any concerns or complaints you may have about our services. We aim to clarify any issues you may be unsure about. If possible, we'll put right any mistakes we may have made. We will provide any service you're entitled to which we have failed to deliver. If we did something wrong, we'll apologise and, where possible, try to put things right for you. We aim to learn from our mistakes and use the information we gain from complaints to improve our services.

When to use this policy

When you express your concerns or complain to us, we will usually respond in the way we explain below. However, sometimes you may have a statutory right of appeal e.g. against a refusal to grant you planning permission or the decision not to give your child a place in a particular school so, rather than investigate your concern, we will explain to you how you can appeal. Sometimes, you might be concerned about matters that are not covered by this policy e.g. when a legal framework applies and we will then advise you about how to make your concerns known.

This policy does not apply to 'Freedom of Information' or data access issues. Please contact the Data Protection Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB, tel: 01656 643565 or foi@bridgend.gov.uk

Complaints Officers can advise on the type and scope of complaints they can consider.

We have a separate policy for [Social Services complaints](#).

Welsh Language Standards

Bridgend County Borough Council embraces the Service Delivery, Policy Making and Operational Welsh Language Standards with which it is expected to comply positively and will strive to ensure that the use of the Welsh language in Bridgend is developed and promoted.

How we will deal with complaints relating to our compliance with the Welsh Language Standards

The public is able to raise complaints with the Council's compliance with the Welsh Language Standards under this Complaints Procedure using the process described. All complaints related to the standards (or any other service provided in Welsh) will be taken seriously and will be fully investigated to establish the validity of the complaint. If the Council has failed in its compliance with the Welsh Language Standards, it will apologise to the complainant and will consider any shortfall in compliance when reviewing any relevant internal processes or practices.

Staff training and awareness raising

We will raise awareness amongst all relevant Council employees of the requirement to deal with any complaints regarding the Council's compliance with the Welsh Language Standards to ensure that such complaints are investigated fully and

impartially. Employees will also be made aware of the need for records of all written complaints, investigations and outcomes, against the council's compliance with the Welsh Language Standards to be retained and to be included and published in the Council's Annual Welsh Language Reporting process. This will be provided for each financial year.

This policy is also available in Welsh at our public buildings and on our website.

Asking us to provide a service?

If you are approaching us to request a service, e.g. reporting a faulty street light, or requesting an appointment this policy doesn't apply. If you make a request for a service and then are not happy with our response, you will be able to make your concern known as we describe below.

Informal resolution

If possible, we believe it's best to deal with things straight away. If you have a concern, please raise it with the person you're dealing with. They will try to resolve it for you there and then. If there are any lessons to learn from addressing your concern, the member of staff will draw them to our attention.

If the member of staff can't help, they will explain why and you can then ask for a formal investigation.

How to express concern or complain formally

You can express your concern in any of the following ways:

- Ask for a copy of our form from the person with whom you are already in contact. Tell them that you want us to deal with your concern formally.
- Get in touch with our central complaint contact point on 01656 643565 if you want to make your complaint over the phone.
- Use the form on our website at <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/customer-services/formal-complaints/>
- Email us at complaints@bridgend.gov.uk
- Write to us at: Complaints, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Dealing with your concern

- We will formally acknowledge your concern within 5 working days and let you know how we intend to deal with it.
- We will ask you to tell us how you would like us to communicate with you and establish whether you have any particular requirements – for example, if you need documents in large type.

- We will deal with your concern in an open and honest way.
- We will make sure that your dealings with us in the future do not suffer just because you have expressed a concern or made a complaint.

Normally, we will only be able to look at your concerns if you tell us about them within six months. This is because it's better to look into your concerns while the issues are still fresh in everyone's mind. We may exceptionally be able to look at concerns which are brought to our attention later than this. However, you will have to explain why you have not been able to bring it to our attention earlier and we will need to have sufficient information about the

issue to allow us to consider it properly. In any event, we will not consider any concerns about matters that took place more than three years ago.

If you're expressing a concern on behalf of somebody else, we'll need their agreement to you acting on their behalf.

What if there is more than one body involved?

If your complaint covers more than one body e.g. Housing Association or NHS we will usually work with them to decide who should take the lead in dealing with your concerns. You will then be given the name of the person responsible for communicating with you while we consider your complaint.

If the complaint is about a body working on our behalf e.g. specialist health providers you may wish to raise the matter informally with them first. However, if you want to express your concern or complaint formally, we will look into this ourselves and respond to you.

Investigation

We will tell you who we have asked to look into your concern or complaint. If your concern is straightforward, we'll usually ask somebody from the relevant service area to look into it and respond to you. If it is more serious, we may use someone from elsewhere in the Council or, in certain cases including those concerning social services where a statutory procedure applies, we may appoint an independent investigator.

We will set out our understanding of your concerns and ask you to confirm that we are right. We'll also ask you to tell us what outcome you're hoping for.

The person looking at your complaint will usually need to see the files we hold relevant to your complaint. If you don't want this to happen, it's important that you tell us.

If there is a simple solution to your problem, we may ask you if you're happy to accept this. For example, where you asked for a service and we see straight away that you should have had it, we will offer to provide the service rather than investigate and produce a report.

We will aim to resolve concerns as quickly as possible and expect to deal with the vast majority within 20 working days. If your complaint is more complex, we will:

- Let you know within this time why we think it may take longer to investigate.
- Tell you how long we expect it to take.

- Let you know where we have reached with the investigation, and
- Give you regular updates, including telling you whether any developments might change our original estimate.

The person who is investigating your concerns will firstly aim to establish the facts. The extent of the investigation will depend upon how complex and how serious the issues you have raised are. In complex cases, we will draw up an investigation plan.

In some instances, we may ask to meet with you to discuss your concerns. Occasionally, we might suggest mediation or another method to try to resolve disputes.

We'll look at relevant evidence. This could include information you have provided, our case files, notes of conversations, letters, emails or whatever may be relevant to your particular concern. If necessary, we'll talk to the staff or others involved and look at our policies, any legal entitlement and guidance.

Outcome

If we formally investigate your complaint, we will let you know what we find. If necessary, we will produce a report. We'll explain how and why we came to our conclusions.

If we find that we made a mistake, we'll tell you what happened and why.

If we find there is a fault in our systems or the way we do things, we'll tell you what it is and how we plan to change things to stop it happening again.

If we make a mistake, we will always apologise for it.

Putting Things Right

If we didn't provide you with a service you should have had, we'll aim to provide it now, if that's possible. If we didn't do something well, we'll aim to put it right. If you have lost out as a result of a mistake on our part, we'll try to put you back in the position you would have been in if we'd done things properly.

If you had to pay for a service yourself, when we should have provided it for you, or if you were entitled to funding you did not receive we will try to refund the cost.

The Ombudsman

If we do not succeed in resolving your complaint, you may complain to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. The Ombudsman is independent of all government bodies and can look into your complaint if you believe that you personally, or the person on whose behalf you are complaining:

- Have been treated unfairly or received a bad service through some failure on the part of the service provider.
- Have been disadvantaged personally by a service failure or have been treated unfairly.

The Ombudsman normally expects you to bring your concerns to our attention first and to give us a chance to put things right. You can contact the Ombudsman by:

- Phone: 0300 790 0203

- Email: ask@ombudsman.wales
- The website: www.ombudsman.wales
- Writing to: Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae, Pencoed CF35 5LJ

There are also other organisations that consider complaints. For example, the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office deals with complaints about services in Welsh. We can advise you about such organisations.

Learning lessons

We take your concerns and complaints seriously and try to learn from any mistakes we've made. Our Senior Management Team considers a summary of all complaints quarterly and is made aware of all serious complaints. Our Cabinet also considers our response to complaints at least twice a year. We share summary (anonymised) information on complaints received and complaints outcomes with the Ombudsman as part of our commitment to accountability and learning from complaints.

Where there is a need for significant change, we will develop an action plan setting out what we will do, who will do it and when we plan to do it. We will let you know when changes we've promised have been made.

What if you need help?

Our staff will aim to help you make your concerns known to us. If you need extra assistance, we will try to put you in touch with someone who can help. You may wish to contact e.g. advocacy services, Age Cymru, Shelter etc. who may be able to assist you.

You can also use this concerns and complaints policy if you are under the age of 18. If you need help, you can speak to someone on the Meic Helpline:

- Phone 0808 802 3456
- Website www.meiccymru.org

or contact the Children's Commissioner for Wales. Contact details are:

- Phone 0808 801 1000
- Email post@childcomwales.org.uk
- Website www.childcom.org.uk

What we expect from you

In times of trouble or distress, some people may act out of character. There may have been upsetting or distressing circumstances leading up to a concern or a complaint. We do not view behaviour as unacceptable just because someone is forceful or determined.

We believe that all complainants have the right to be heard, understood and respected. However, we also consider that our staff have the same rights. We therefore expect you to be polite and courteous in your dealings with us. We will not tolerate aggressive or abusive behaviour, unreasonable demands or unreasonable

persistence. We have a separate policy to manage situations when we find that someone's actions are unacceptable.

Date:	July 2024
Author/s:	Information and Data Protection Officer
Consultee/s:	
Approved by:	Cabinet
Review frequency:	Every 2 years
Next review date:	July 2026

Bridgend County Borough Council



Unreasonable Behaviour or Vexatious Complainant Policy

Unreasonable Behaviour or Vexatious Complainant Policy

1. Policy objective

- 1.1** This policy and procedure sets out an agreed understanding of what is considered unacceptable customer complaint behaviour or vexatious complainants when dealing with officers and Elected Members of Bridgend County Borough Council. It applies to all members of the public (customers) in their interaction with the Council.
- 1.2** The Council is committed to dealing with all complaints fairly and impartially, and to making our services of a high quality and as accessible as possible.
- 1.3** Most of the contact that the Council has with customers is positive. However, there may be occasions when customers act in an unreasonable or unacceptable manner. In some cases the frequency and the nature of their contact with the Council can hinder the consideration of their own or other people's enquiries. In some instances the sheer number or nature of their inquiries lead them to be considered as 'persistent' or 'vexatious' in their dealings with staff.
- 1.4** This policy explains the Councils:
- Definition of unreasonable customer behaviour
 - Definition of vexatious request
 - Process for dealing with customers who behave in an unreasonable way
 - Process for dealing with vexatious requests
- 1.5** This policy should only be used in exceptional circumstances after all reasonable measures have been taken to try to resolve the complaints under the council's corporate complaints procedures.

2. Definitions

Unreasonable Customer Conduct

- 2.1** It is difficult to produce a comprehensive list of the actions that would be deemed unreasonable customer conduct. Ultimately it will be a matter for the Council's Complaints Officer and Monitoring Officer to decide whether a particular customer's actions or behaviour are inappropriate, having regard to the circumstances of each case. Examples of conduct which may be considered unreasonable are listed below but the list is not exhaustive:
- Acts or threats of violence or aggression by an individual toward staff, Elected Members or any third party. Where the behaviour is so extreme that it threatens the immediate safety and welfare of staff the Council may report the matter to the police or consider taking legal action. In such cases, the Council may not give the complainant prior warning;
 - Persistent failure to show respect in dealings with staff or Elected Members, or acting in a threatening or abusive way. Examples of such behaviour include

shouting, verbal abuse, unsubstantiated allegations, derogatory remarks, inflammatory statements;

- Malicious, unwarranted or defamatory comments or making remarks which are related to any protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010;
- Hindering objective consideration of an enquiry or operation of a service by the nature or frequency of contact with the Authority;
- Attempting to pursue any matter, having exhausted all stages of the corporate or other statutory complaints procedure. This will include where the substance of a complaint is the same as that originally made;
- Contacting the Council through different routes about the same issue in a persistent manner. This may include other parties, such as Elected Members or the Ombudsman;
- Excessive demands on the time and resources of officers with the expectation of an immediate response;
- Being unable to identify the precise issue a customer wants the Council to deal with or investigate despite the Council having taken reasonable steps to assist the Customer with this task;
- Focusing on a trivial matter to an extent which is out of proportion to its significance and continue to focus on this point. It is recognised that determining what is 'trivial' can be subjective and careful judgments will be used in applying this criteria;
- Changing the substance of a complaint or continually raising new issues or seeking to prolong contact;

Vexatious requests

2.2 The Council defines this as any request which is likely to cause distress or disruption, without any proper or justified cause. Examples would include:

- High volume of correspondence, or combining requests with accusations and complaints;
- Requests for information that has already been provided, or to reconsider issues that have already been dealt with;
- When compliance with the request would impose significant burden on the Council in terms of expense and negatively impact on the Council's ability to provide service to others.

3. Strategy for dealing with Unreasonable behaviour or vexatious requests

3.1 If an officer of the Council is of the opinion that a customer's actions or behaviour are unreasonable or to classify a request as vexatious, they shall, in the first instance discuss this with their line manager in order to consider any informal steps that can be followed to resolve the concerns. Every effort will be made to satisfy the request or resolve the issue that has been made. For complaints, this will include exhausting both stages of the Council's complaints procedure.

3.2 In the event that no informal steps are appropriate or informal attempts to resolve the concerns do not work, the Directorate will note the comments, and a decision to

classify a customer's behaviour as unreasonable or a request as vexatious, will be considered by an Appropriate Officer (as defined in 3.3 below) on an individual basis in consultation with the Monitoring Officer. Each case will be viewed individually and decided on its merits. However, a customer may be deemed to have unreasonable behaviour or be vexatious if previous or current contact with them shows that they meet the criteria, dependent upon degree.

3.3 The "Appropriate Officer" to determine the action to be taken will depend upon the circumstances of each case provided that no officer may undertake the role of "Authorising Officer" if he/she has had an involvement in the complaint. This may be a Group Manager, Head of Service or Complaints Officer acting on behalf of the Chief Executive.

3.4 The Appropriate Officer in consultation with the Monitoring Officer will determine what action to take including:

- (a) Restricting the manner in which the customer may contact the Council;
- (b) The times at which the customer may contact the Council;
- (c) Restrict contact through a designated officer;
- (d) Notify the customer that the Council has responded fully to the points raised and has tried to resolve the complaint but there is nothing more to add and continuing contact will serve no useful purpose and advise them to contact the Ombudsman;
- (e) Withdraw contact with the customer either in person, by telephone, by email or any combination of these, provided at least one form of contact is maintained. The Council shall not, without the consent of the Monitoring Officer, withdraw or not provide any services to which the customer or his/her family are entitled to receive;
- (f) Inform the customer that the Council reserves the right to pass the matter to the Council's legal services which may result in legal action against the customer;
- (g) Removal from the Council offices by a senior manager or the police if the behaviour is considered to be a public nuisance offence; and
- (h) Other suitable options will be considered in light of the customer's circumstances.

3.5 The Appropriate Officer will write to the customer to:

- (a) Detail the action that will be taken and why as outlined at paragraph 3.4;
- (b) Explain what this means in terms of contact with the Council;
- (c) Advise how long any restrictions will be in place and when they will be reviewed;
- (d) Enclose a copy of this policy.

3.6 The Monitoring Officer shall maintain a central register of decisions relating to the above.

4. Review

4.1 Any restriction imposed shall be subject to a regular review and the timing of such reviews will be notified to the customer. Reviews will be based on the individual circumstances of the case but could typically be for a period of 6 months, dependent on the severity of the situation.

5. Social Media

- 5.1** The Council will remove, without notice, offensive or abusive posts from its social media channels. Additionally, the Council reserves the right to take any action it considers necessary where derogatory comments are made about officers of the Council.

6. New complaints

- 6.1** New complaints from individuals whose behaviour has previously been deemed unreasonable or their complaints vexatious will be treated on their merits. Restrictions imposed in respect of an earlier complaint will not automatically apply to a new matter. An Appropriate Officer will decide if any restrictions which have been applied before are still appropriate and if necessary in relation to the new complaint or request.
- 6.2** However, persistent unreasonable behaviour, or exceptionally unreasonable behaviour may result in a refusal of future contact on any matter.

7. Monitoring Arrangements

- 7.1** Information will be presented quarterly to the Cabinet and Corporate Management Board with details of customers who have been categorised as vexatious or have unreasonable behaviour.

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1. Background

The Information Team based in Legal Services Policy is responsible for processing all formal complaints in line with the Authority's Corporate Complaints Procedure.

Complaints

The Complaints and Concerns Policy was approved by Cabinet at its meeting held on 17 November 2020, to take effect from 23 November 2020.

The Policy sets out a two-stage process as follows:

- **Informal Complaint Stage**
- **Formal Complaint Stage**

The policy is a national policy required by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. The Policy was last reviewed in July 2024.

2. Informal Complaints (Stage 1)

- 2.1 The Policy recognises that complaints should be dealt with as quickly as possible and where possible informally as part of the normal working of the Authority. It advises customers to contact the office or officer responsible for the service to provide an opportunity to solve the problem. All informal complaints should be logged in the Corporate Complaints office as the Council is now required to report these every quarter to the Public Services Ombudsman.
- 2.2 The Public Services Ombudsman now sets criteria for complaint types to be logged. For the period from 1 April 2024 to 1 April 2025, the number of informal complaints received against each category together with the numbers of those complaints closed against each outcome was as follows:

Appendix 3

	Total number of informal complaints received	Number resolved by frontline staff/not upheld	Number Upheld	Number where investigation discontinued /investigation not merited/complaint about a service not provided by the Council/withdraw	Still Ongoing
Adult Social Care	0	0	0	0	0
Benefits Administration	4	2	2	0	0
Children's Social	2	1	1	0	0
Community Facilities (including Recreation & Leisure)	3	1	1	1	0
Complaints handling	2	2	0	0	0
Education	3	2	1	0	0
Environment & Environmental Health	2	2	0	0	0
Finance & Council Tax	16	14	2	0	0
Housing	5	4	1	0	0
Planning & Building Control	5	3	1	1	0
Roads & Transport	9	9	0	0	0
Various/Other	7	3	4	0	0
Waste & Refuse	24	11	13	0	0
Total	82	54	26	2	0

2.3 The Corporate Complaints team have only recently commenced the collation of

Bridgend County borough Council Ward for informal complaints. It is therefore intended to provide this to the Governance & Audit Committee and Cabinet going forward.

3. Formal Complaints (Stage 2)

3.1 Formal complaints are received by email, telephone, letter or online complaint form. All formal corporate complaints with the exception of schools and social services (which have their own statutory procedures) are received, logged and acknowledged centrally by the Information Team within 5 working days. These complaints are sent to the relevant Head of Service who appoints a senior officer within the service to investigate the complaint and respond directly within 20 working days. The Information Team is provided with a copy of the response. If an investigation is more complex and more time may be needed, the complainant is advised of the likely timescale and kept informed of progress.

3.2 The Information Team has received, logged, acknowledged and referred a total of 37 formal complaints for the period from 1 April 2024 to 1 April 2025. The breakdown for the period is as follows:

	1 April 2024 to 1 April 2025
No. of Complaints Received	37
No. acknowledged in 5 working days	24
No. acknowledged outside 5 working days	13

3.3 The table below sets out the number of formal complaints the Council has received the financial half year 1 April 2024 to 1 April 2025 and the previous two financial years:

Financial Year	Number of Complaints Received
1 April 2022 to 1 April 2023	53
1 April 2023 to 1 April 2024	67
1 April 2024 to 1 April 2025	37

3.4 The Information Team endeavour to ensure that all complaints (both informal and formal) are acknowledged within 5 working days. However, during the reporting period, some delays were experienced due to temporary

staff shortages. This impacted the timely completion of certain tasks and deliverables. At the time of this report, the team is now fully staffed and any backlog resulting from the delays has been addressed or is currently being resolved.

Appendix 3

- 3.5 For the period from 1 April 2024 to 1 April 2025, the number of formal complaints received against each of the Public Services Ombudsman's criteria together with the numbers of those complaints closed against each outcome was as follows:

	Total number of formal complaints received	Number resolved by frontline staff/not upheld	Number Upheld	Number where investigation discontinued/investigation not merited/complaint about a service not provided by the Council/withdrawn	Still ongoing
Adult Social Care	0	0	0	0	0
Benefits Administration	1	0	1	0	0
Children's Social Services	0	0	0	0	0
Community Facilities (including Recreation & Leisure)	2	2	0	0	0
Complaints Handling	2	0	2	0	0
Education	5	5	0	0	0
Environment & Environmental Health	0	0	0	0	0
Finance & Council Tax	3	2	1	0	0
Housing	4	4	0	0	0
Planning & Building Control	4	4	0	0	0
Roads & Transport	5	4	1	0	0
Various/Other	9	9	0	0	0
Waste & Refuse	1	1	0	0	0
Total	36	31	5	0	0

Appendix 3

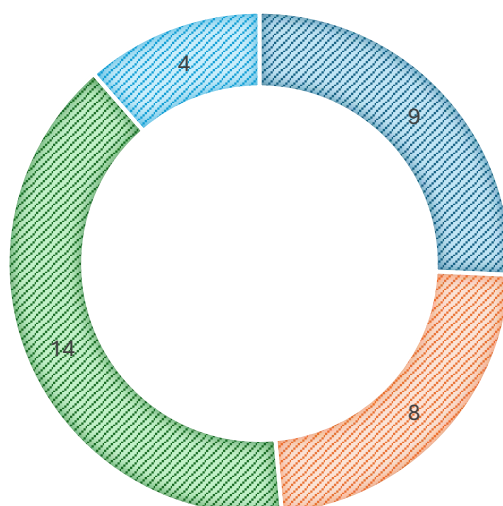
- 3.6 The following information sets out the breakdown of formal complaints received by County Borough Council Ward:

Ward	No. of complaints
Brackla East & Coychurch Lower	2
Brackla West Central	2
Bridgend Central	1
Bryntirion, Laleston & Merthyr Mawr	1
Caerau	1
Cornelly	2
Garw Valley	1
Maesteg West	2
Nottage	1
Pencoed & Penprysg	1
Rest Bay	1
St Brides Minor & Ynysawdre	1
Unknown/By e-mail	21

- 3.7 For the period from 1 April 2024 to 1 April 2025, the number of formal complaints received by each Directorate

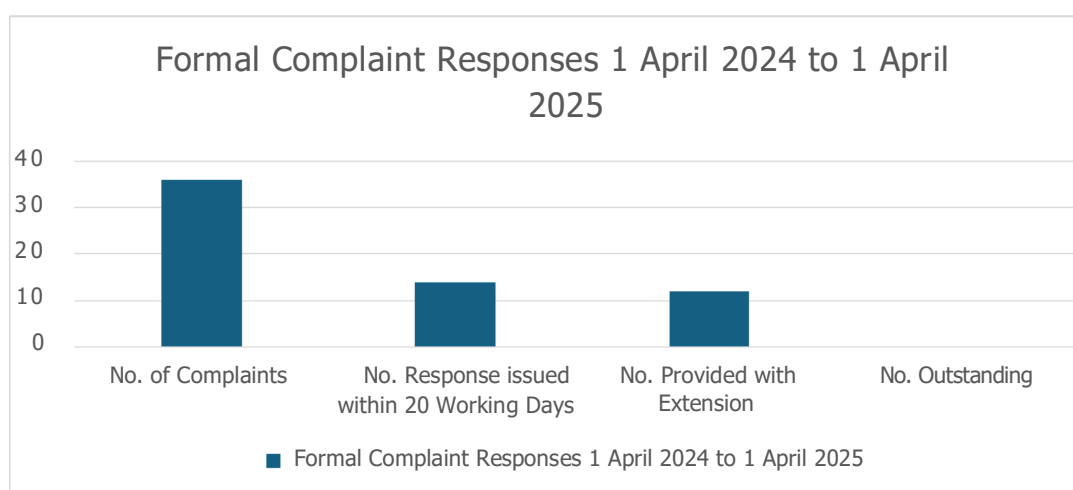
NO. OF FORMAL COMPLAINTS FROM 1 APRIL 2024 TO 1 APRIL 2025

■ Chief Executive ■ Finance, Housing & Change ■ Communities ■ Education



- 3.8 For the period 1 April 2024 to 1 April 2025, no complaints were received by the Welsh Language Commissioner about a service provided by the Authority.
- 3.9 As required by the Equalities Strategy, a voluntary equalities monitoring questionnaire has been developed to accompany the Corporate Complaints Form. The information collected informs the Strategic Equality Plan.
- 3.10 The chart below provides a breakdown of the number of Formal Complaints received, those responded to within 20 working days, those for which it was necessary to request an extension to the response deadline, those that remain outstanding and those complaints currently under investigation within the respective 20 working days.

Appendix 3



- 3.11 In order that the Committee can be provided with a Lessons Learned Section the Corporate Complaints team request departments to provide them with a note of any system or process changes the service has made as a result of a complaint.

At the time of reporting, the Team have not received any feedback from Services with regard to Lessons Learned.

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Ask for: Communications



01656 641150



caseinfo@ombudsman.wales

Date: 30 September 2025

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Councillor John Spanswick
Bridgend County Borough Council

By email only

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Dear Councillor John Spanswick

Annual Letter 2024-25

Role of PSOW

As you know, our role as the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales is to consider complaints about public services, to investigate alleged breaches of the councillor Code of Conduct, to set standards for complaints handling by public bodies and to drive improvement in complaints handling and learning from complaints. We also undertake investigations into public services on own initiative.

Purpose of letter

Through this letter, we want to give you an update on our work, share key trends in complaints about local government in Wales and highlight any particular issues for your organisation, together with actions I would like your organisation to take.

Complaints about public services

This letter, as always, coincides with the publication of our Annual Report. Again, we saw an increase in the number of people contacting us about public services. Since 2019-20, the volume of new complaints about public services reaching our office has increased by 44%.

We also closed a record number of complaints about public services – 5% more than last year. This year, we intervened (found that something has gone wrong, and recommended how to put things right) in 18% of complaints that we closed. Positively, this year we resolved many more complaints early on. 87% of our interventions this year involved Early Resolution, compared to 70% in 2023-24.

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We understand that people who come to us want their complaints resolved as quickly as possible and we are committed to dealing with them in a timely manner.

Overall, we assessed incoming complaints, or intervened with an Early Resolution, within an average of 4 weeks; well within our target of 6 weeks. We have also reduced the time it takes us to complete an average investigation, from 64 weeks in 2023-24, to 53 weeks this year.

During 2024-25, we received 1,337 complaints about local councils - an increase of 20% on the previous year and 54% more than in 2019-20.

The main complaint subjects accounting for this increase related to social services, environment and environmental health, and housing. However, we also saw a welcome drop in complaints about complaint handling.

We intervened in 13% of local council complaints that we closed – a similar proportion to recent years.

We received 58 complaints about Bridgend County Borough Council and closed 57 – some complaints were carried over from the previous year. Bridgend County Borough Council's intervention rate was 11%. You can find detailed information on complaints about your organisation that we handled this year can be found in the appendices.

In 2024-25, we made 15 recommendations to your organisation. To ensure that our investigations and reports drive improvement, we follow up compliance with the recommendations agreed with your organisation. In 2024-25, 18 recommendations were due. 28% of the recommendations due was complied within the timescale agreed. Recommendations and timescales for complying with recommendations are always agreed with the public body concerned before being finalised, and we therefore expect organisations to comply within the timescales agreed.

Our Code of Conduct work

Our role is to investigate allegations that councillors have breached their Code of Conduct. Where an investigation finds evidence to support the complaint on a matter which is serious enough to require a referral in the public interest, these cases are referred either to the local Standards Committee or to the Adjudication Panel for Wales for consideration.

In 2024-25, we received 4% less new Code of Conduct complaints than the previous year. 60% of these complaints related to members of Town and Community Councils. We continue to see that over a half of these complaints (56% this year) tends to relate to promotion of equality and respect.

We made 15 referrals to Standards Committees or the Adjudication Panel for Wales (compared to 21 last year). We are grateful to your Monitoring Officer for their positive engagement with my office over the last year. We will continue to engage with them on matters relating to the ethical standards framework, including Local Resolution Procedures this year.

Independent Review

As you will be aware, last year, it was brought to our attention that a member of staff who had been the Team Leader of our Code of Conduct Team had been making inappropriate and unacceptable social media posts of a political nature.

In view of the seriousness of the matter, we commissioned Dr Melissa McCullough to conduct an independent review of our Code of Conduct work. [Dr McCullough's Report](#), published in September 2024, found that, "in general terms, the PSOW's Code of Conduct processes and delegations are robust in terms of safeguarding fairness and impartiality. They are systematic, well documented and supplemented with appropriate guidance and the reasoning for decisions is required to be recorded and explained as applicable."

While the findings overall were very positive, the review report included a number of recommendations and lessons learned, to "augment the existing safeguards for ensuring the fairness and impartiality of the processes and would clarify the related guidance as applicable."

Following this, the Senedd's Finance Committee published its report on the [Review into the operations, processes and investigations carried out by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales](#). The Committee made further recommendations to us in its report. The details of all the recommendations and lessons learned and the actions we have taken in response can be found in our Annual Report.

To provide additional assurance, Dr McCullough undertook further independent assessment of how we implemented the recommendations and lessons learned, as set out in her 2024 Independent Review Report. This [assessment](#) concluded that:

- all recommendations and lessons learned were fully accepted by us and have been fully implemented
- we demonstrated a comprehensive, thoughtful and consultative approach to the implementation
- the pace of implementation has been impressive
- a separate quality assurance review confirmed the robustness of our process.

Supporting improvement of public services

We continued our work on supporting improvement in public services.

During 2024-25, we concluded our second wider own initiative investigation which looked into unpaid carers' needs assessments in Wales. We considered whether 4 local councils – Caerphilly, Ceredigion, Flintshire and Neath Port Talbot - undertook carers' assessments in line with their statutory obligations.

We published the report on this investigation in October 2024. We found that only 2.8% of people in those council areas who identified as carers had received a needs assessment. In addition, only 1.5% had received a proper support plan following their assessment. Many carers were also not aware of their rights with regard to assessments and support services that might be available to them.

We identified some areas of good practice by the councils we investigated. However, we also made several recommendations including to:

- improve recording practices
- improve how information is shared with carers
- offer staff refresher training on carers' rights
- collaborate better with the healthcare sector.

We invited the other local councils in Wales to make similar improvements.

As we did in the case of our first own initiative investigation, we have been actively monitoring how organisations' have been complying with our recommendations.

We are planning to review compliance with the recommendations and any other impacts of the report in October 2025.

Currently 54 organisations across Wales operate our model complaints policy. This includes all local councils, all health boards and now most housing associations - representing about 85% of the complaints which we receive.

Our offer of free complaints handling training has remained popular and we provided a further 52 training sessions to public bodies across Wales during the year. This brings the total to 550 training sessions and 10,000 people, since 2020.

We have continued our work to publish complaints statistics, gathered from public bodies, with data published twice a year. We expect to publish the data on complaints handled by local councils in Wales during 2024-25 in the Autumn. This data allows us to see information with greater context – for example, during 2024-25 5.18% of complaints made to local councils went on to be referred to us. Finally, this year we also published 2 thematic reports, which included as case studies complaints about local councils:

- 'Living in Disrepair' (November 2024): a thematic report about housing disrepair and damp and mould complaints
- 'Equality Matters' (January 2025): a thematic report on inclusion and accessibility across public services.

These reports include general recommendations for public service providers, drawing on lessons learned from our casework.

Action we would like your organisation to take

Further to this letter, can I ask that your organisation takes the following actions:

- Present this Annual Letter to the Cabinet and to the Governance and Audit Committee at the next available opportunity and notify me of when these meetings will take place.
- Consider the data in this letter, alongside your own data, to understand more about your performance on complaints, including any patterns or trends and your organisation's compliance with recommendations made by my office.
- Inform me of the outcome of the organisation's considerations and proposed actions on the above matters at the earliest opportunity.

I would like to thank you, and your officers, for your continued openness and engagement with my office. Our information shows that local authorities are looking into more complaints than ever before and are using information from complaints to deliver better outcomes for the people of Wales.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Morris

Michelle Morris

Public Services Ombudsman

Cc. Jake Morgan, Chief Executive, Bridgend County Borough Council
Kelly Watson, Monitoring Officer, Bridgend County Borough Council
Charlotte Branford, PSOW Liaison Officer, Bridgend County Borough Council

Information Sheet

Appendix A shows the number of complaints received by PSOW for all Local Authorities in 2024-25. These complaints are contextualised by the population of each authority.

Appendix B shows the categorisation of each complaint received, and what proportion of received complaints represents for the Local Authority.

Appendix C shows intervention rates for all Local Authorities in 2024-25. An intervention is categorised by either an upheld complaint (either public interest or non-public interest), an early resolution, or a voluntary settlement.

Appendix D shows outcomes of the complaints which PSOW closed for the Local Authority in 2024-25. This table shows both the volume, and the proportion that each outcome represents for the Local Authority.

Appendix E shows the compliance performance of each Local Authority.

Appendix F shows the outcomes of Code of Conduct complaints closed by PSOW related to Local Authority in 2024-25. This table shows both the number, and the proportion that each outcome represents for the Local Authority.

Appendix G shows the outcomes of Code of Conduct complaints closed by PSOW related to Town and Community Councils in the Local Authority's area in 2024-25. This table shows both the number, and the proportion that each outcome represents for each Town or Community Council.

Appendix A – Complaints received (overview)

	MAL			CODE			Total		
Local Authority	Complaints Received	Population	Received per 1,000 residents	Complaints Received	Population	Received per 1,000 residents	Complaints Received	Population	Received per 1,000 residents
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	14	67356	0.21	1	67356	0.01	15	67356	0.22
Bridgend County Borough Council	58	146743	0.40	10	146743	0.07	68	146743	0.46
Caerphilly County Borough Council	78	176437	0.44	3	176437	0.02	81	176437	0.46
Cardiff Council*	219	383536	0.57	4	383536	0.01	223	383536	0.58
Carmarthenshire County Council	86	190083	0.45	14	190083	0.07	100	190083	0.53
Ceredigion County Council	47	73050	0.64	0	73050	0.00	47	73050	0.64
Conwy County Borough Council	29	114410	0.25	9	114410	0.08	38	114410	0.33
Cyngor Gwynedd	46	119173	0.39	2	119173	0.02	48	119173	0.40
Denbighshire County Council	98	97156	1.01	7	97156	0.07	105	97156	1.08
Flintshire County Council	61	155812	0.39	3	155812	0.02	64	155812	0.41
Isle of Anglesey County Council	22	69291	0.32	2	69291	0.03	24	69291	0.35
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	17	58593	0.29	3	58593	0.05	20	58593	0.34
Monmouthshire County Council	19	94572	0.20	9	94572	0.10	28	94572	0.30
Neath Port Talbot Council	48	142898	0.34	1	142898	0.01	49	142898	0.34
Newport City Council	61	163628	0.37	1	163628	0.01	62	163628	0.38
Pembrokeshire County Council	47	125006	0.38	6	125006	0.05	53	125006	0.42
Powys County Council	55	134439	0.41	24	134439	0.18	79	134439	0.59
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	62	241178	0.26	3	241178	0.01	65	241178	0.27
Swansea Council	113	246742	0.46	6	246742	0.02	119	246742	0.48
Torfaen County Borough Council	20	93419	0.21	4	93419	0.04	24	93419	0.26
Vale of Glamorgan Council	61	134733	0.45	3	134733	0.02	64	134733	0.48
Wrexham County Borough Council	76	136149	0.56	11	136149	0.08	87	136149	0.64
Total	1337	3164404	0.41	126	3164404	0.04	1463	3164404	0.45

Appendix B – Complaints received (by organisation)

Bridgend County Borough Council	Complaints Received	% Share
Adult Social Services	2	3%
Benefits Administration	0	
Children's Social Services	14	24%
Community Facilities, Recreation and Leisure	0	
Complaints Handling	4	7%
Covid19	0	
Education	4	7%
Environment and Environmental Health	10	17%
Finance and Taxation	5	9%
Health	0	
Housing	7	12%
Licencing	0	
Planning and Building Control	8	14%
Roads and Transport	1	2%
Self Funding Care Provider	0	
Various Other	3	5%
Total	58	

Appendix C – Cases with PSOW intervention (overview)

Local authority	No. of interventions	No. of closures	% of interventions
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	0	12	0%
Bridgend County Borough Council	6	57	11%
Caerphilly County Borough Council	11	79	14%
Cardiff Council*	37	190	19%
Carmarthenshire County Council	11	86	13%
Ceredigion County Council	11	45	24%
Conwy County Borough Council	5	29	17%
Denbighshire County Council**	6	98	6%
Flintshire County Council	7	61	11%
Cyngor Gwynedd	3	44	7%
Isle of Anglesey County Council	1	20	5%
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	1	15	7%
Monmouthshire County Council	1	16	6%
Neath Port Talbot Council	5	45	11%
Newport City Council	6	62	10%
Pembrokeshire County Council	8	47	17%
Powys County Council	8	51	16%
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	6	60	10%
Swansea Council	12	109	11%
Torfaen County Borough Council	0	18	0%
Vale of Glamorgan Council	12	63	19%
Wrexham County Borough Council	7	72	10%
Total	164	1279	13%

Appendix D – Complaint outcomes (by organisation) (* denotes intervention)

Bridgend County Borough Council	Complaint Outcomes	% Share
Complaint investigation discontinued (with early resolution at assessment stages)*	0	
Complaint investigation discontinued (without settlement)	0	
Decision not to investigate complaint	20	35%
Early resolution*	5	9%
Matter out of jurisdiction	12	21%
Non-public interest report issued: complaint not upheld	0	
Non-public interest report issued: complaint upheld*	1	2%
Non-public interest report issued: complaint upheld with early resolution at assessment stage*	0	
Premature	19	33%
Public interest report issued: complaint upheld*	0	
Public Interest report issued: complaint upheld with early resolution at assessment stage*	0	
Special Interest Report*	0	
Voluntary settlement*	0	
Total	57	

Appendix E – Compliance performance comparison

Local Authority	Number of recommendations made on complaints closed in 2024-25	Number of recommendations falling due in 2024-25	% of recommendations, complied with in line with agreed target date
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	0	0	n/a
Bridgend County Borough Council	15	18	28%
Caerphilly County Borough Council	24	24	50%
Cardiff Council*	97	96	56%
Carmarthenshire County Council	29	27	67%
Ceredigion County Council	24	24	63%
Conwy County Borough Council	14	14	71%
Denbighshire County Council**	10	8	50%
Flintshire County Council	20	22	91%
Cyngor Gwynedd	9	9	89%
Isle of Anglesey County Council	4	6	0%
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	2	4	0%
Monmouthshire County Council	2	2	0%
Neath Port Talbot Council	11	8	75%
Newport City Council	12	11	27%
Pembrokeshire County Council	20	18	61%
Powys County Council	21	23	22%
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	11	10	20%
Swansea Council	25	24	33%
Torfaen County Borough Council	0	0	n/a
Vale of Glamorgan Council	30	31	55%
Wrexham County Borough Council	19	16	75%

Appendix F - Code of Conduct Complaints Closed (* denotes investigation)

Bridgend County Borough Council	Code of Conduct Complaints Closed
Cc not acted on	0
Code of Conduct leaflet sent/link to website provided	0
Complaint taken over telephone – awaiting signature	0
Complaint Withdrawn	0
Discontinued. Not in the public interest to pursue*	0
Duplicate complaint with no new evidence	0
Information provided	0
No action necessary*	2
No declaration rec'd – Withdrawn	0
No evidence of Breach*	0
No prima facie evidence of breach	4
Not in the public interest to investigate	4
Out of Jurisdiction - signposted	0
Premature - referred for local resolution	0
Referred to Adjudication Panel*	0
Referred to Standards Committee*	0
Withdrawn	0
Total	10

Appendix G - Town / Community Council Code of Complaints

Decision not to investigate Code			Investigations					
Bridgend County Borough Council	Not in the public interest to investigate	No prima facie evidence of breach	Discontinued. Not in the public interest to pursue	No action necessary	No evidence of Breach	Referred to Adjudication Panel	Referred to Standards Committee	Total
Brackla Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Bridgend Town Council	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Cefn Cribwr Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coity Higher Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cornelly Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coychurch Higher Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coychurch Lower Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Garw Valley Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Laleston Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Llangynwyd Lower Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Llangynwyd Middle Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maesteg Town Council	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Merthyr Mawr Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newcastle Higher Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Ogmore Valley Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pencoed Town Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Porthcawl Town Council	10	4	0	2	0	0	0	16
Pyle Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Brides Minor Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ynysawdre Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

By virtue of paragraph(s) 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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