Date of Meeting	Item	Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:	Response/Comments
	Financial position at Year End for 2016-17	The Committee expressed concern regarding the sickness absence figures across the Authority. Members commented that the figures relating to stress/Anxiety/Depression/Mental Health provide a worrying figure and questioned whether there was a direct correlation between the budget reductions and asking staff to take on more work and the sickness absence figure increasing and similarly whether there was a correlation between sickness absence and budget overspend.  The Committee requested that they receive the following information in relation to sickness absence: a) comparative information with other Local Authorities to determine where we are ranked in relation to Wales on sickness absence and if possible to receive these comparisons at a Directorate level; b) any possible costings associated with sickness absence; c) information on how many agency staff have been employed over the past 6-12 months and at what cost? d) How many staff out of the FTE figure have never been off sick and how many staff relate to recent sickness figures; in order to give a more accurate picture; e) A response as to whether Members could receive Apse data to assist them in considering comparisons with other LAs as the Authority are a member of APSE and its involves public sector benchmarking data for over 200 LAs.	a) The all Wales data for sickness absence is published annually and this year will occur on 14th September 2017. Data is not collected on a Directorate basis  b) as we do not have a "costed payroll" we cannot give figures indicating the cost of sickness absence to the Council  c) the management information we receive from Ranstad [our agency worker provider] do not provide details of how many agency requests were made specifically to cover sickness, we could explore whether this is possible in the future. The robustness of this data will always be questionable in the sense that: we will be relying on line managers to declare the reason at the time of the request; this will not be the only mechanism for covering sickness [eg, long term cases may be filled by moving resources and back-filling at a lower level, recruiting on a short term temporary contract, etc d) HR would be unable to easily extract this information. This would require large resource to check individual staff records and collate the information e)We will investigate what APSE are able to offer and report back to the Committee but the work would have to be commissioned.
		In response to the issue of staff remaining off on sick due to waiting for scans and tests on the NHS, the Committee recommended that some form of FastTrack system to provide financial assistance for tests be explored as the cost of this could be far less than the cost of the sickness and therefore would benefit both the individual involved and the Authority.	The Authority has a responsibiltiy to treat all staff equally, whether they are ill or not.  Therefore funding for a private healthcare scheme would need to be offered to all staff in the Authority, a decision of which Cabinet would need to make.

The Committee reiterated the views of the previous CRI Overview and Scrutiny 'The Council does have a strategic approach to the management of absence in the sense Committee in that there was a need for a strategic stance to be taken with sickness absence to determine if there were common issues across the Authority and whether there were pockets of concern so that focus can be provided specifically in these areas. There is a corporate policy which is supported by a "Management of Absence" toolkit – Whilst recognising that the WLGA has carried out a piece of work in this field the readily available on the intranet Corporate training has been provided to support managers in the management of both Committee commented that things have changed since then and further budget cuts have occurred. They therefore recommended that an overview was required where long and short term absence consultation was carried out with staff and the Trade Unions to determine if there were A new Occupational Health provider has been appointed with whom we are working any correlations. The Committee also once again recommended that the Chief closely to ensure proactive approaches on preventative measures, eg, health surveillance Executive incorporate a specific percentage reduction target for sickness absence in his Management information reports have been and are being developed and refined to make appraisal so that there is a strategic focus from the top. sure line managers are reminded of their required actions and "chased" if necessary An "escalation process" has been put in place should line managers not fulfil their responsibilities A robust approach towards employees who are not adhering to the management of absence policy is being taken, eg, if sick notes are not provided and after warning the employee of the consequences, employees are told their sick pay will not be paid Via Care First we provide a wide range of on line and face to face support services, including Counselling which is available to all employees and their families . The Chief Executive's appraisal requires a strategic approach to the reduction of sickness. The views of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee will be provided to the appraisal panel Social Services and Wellbeing The Committee requested that they receive breakdown information on the Looked After Children Population including how many are in Out of County Foster Care. Please see attached figures as at the end of July 2017. Communities The Committee requested that they receive the Town Centre Footprint for Bridgend. Bridgend Town Centre footprint will be forwarded to all Scrutiny Members The points made will be considered as part of the review of CAT that is ongoing Community Asset Transfer (CAT) – the Committee expressed concern over the CAT process and recommended that a decision needed to be made over the policy and whether to introduce definitive timelines as to when the Council will no longer support the Assets and thus and end date for communities and organisations to put in bids to take them on. It is hoped this would encourage interest as without a deadline there is no urgency for organisations.

31-Jul-2017

Members expressed concern over the delays with the Extra Care Scheme in relation to the Authority signing off on the project with Linc and also slippage mentioned in terms of the selling of a school. Members queried whether there was a common theme or issue causing such delays.

Extra care - info provided in separate document also.

Extra care: the delays in relation to the granting of the long leases were due to Linc contending that the sites had nil or nominal value due to the level of site development abnormalities. We did not agree and the District Valuer was appointed to provide an independent valuation and confirmed our stance. As a result we safe guarded and generated a capital receipt of £1,105,000. A number of complex legal agreements were required to protect the long term position of both parties and these were time consuming to draft and agree.

Sale of school: delays - not sure which property is being referred to

The sale of properties do not generally impact on projects – for example the School Modernisation programme - the sale of land occurs once the school has been vacated and is used as match funding. Sites with potential residential development and high land values, require complex legal agreements to protect the Council's position and the sales will be reliant on planning consent which can be time consuming. Since 2014, £15million has been generated from the sale of surplus assets which is a real success story.

Acquisition of property can delay projects particularly if compulsory purchase powers are used. However, in relation to the new Pencoed Primary School a very swift acquisition of an adjoining house was delivered by Property Services, which required sensitive handling due to the personal circumstances of the householder and overcame the need to use a CPO.

Property transactions can be complicated, particularly in circumstances where the Council wishes to retain control / influence in the long term, for example where long leases are granted. This can sometimes result in delays, particularly if not adequately built in to the timeline of the project plan.

However, there is currently a significant capacity issue to deliver these projects. Property Services have struggled to recruit and retain over the last few years due to more competitive salaries being offered elsewhere, including in the public sector, compared to the salaries we can offer. There is currently a dearth of Chartered Surveyors employed by the Authority and unless this can be resolved this will undoubtedly result in delays going forward which involve property transaction.

## Finance

Members requested that they receive information on when the Authority expects to go live with Baseware Solutions.

Electronic ordering will commence in Q3 with full implementation (including e-invoicing) on initial supplier/s in Q4. Priority has been given to replace goods previously fulfilled by County Borough Supplies in order to benefit the widest group of internal customers including schools

1	1		
		The Committee requested that clarification be provided in future reports in relation to paragraph 3.2 of the cover report and the Capital programme figure.	Noted
		General Comments	
		The Committee agreed that work needed to be done on a different way to report Performance information to the Committee as it was currently too much information with not enough time to consider it. Members agreed that a small workshop be undertaken to consider the best method for reporting the Authority's performance and budget position to the Scrutiny Committee.	Workshop has been organised
		9 1	A review will be needed to consider the finance and resource implications of implementing
		Members recommended that when undertaking the Procurement Business Review that the Authority state in the procurement specifications that they support ethical employment, and did not support the following:  1. Gender disparity in relation to pay and career opportunities 2. Zero hour contracts except in exceptional cases 3. Suppliers who do not allow their employees to join a trade union	Our current contracts contain the following clause: "The Provider shall ensure compliance with all applicable employment legislation, including any relevant regulations, directions or guidance in force during the term of the Agreement. In particular the Provider shall comply with the provisions of the National Minimum Wage Act 1998 and shall ensure all relevant working time as referred to in said Act is included in calculations for compliance with the National Minimum Wage and Working Time Regulations 1998." This clause would cover the gender disparity and trade union issues mentioned.  We do not specifically exclude the use of zero hours contracts. In some circumstances the use of zero hours contracts is legitimate. In certain sectors their use is justifed and imposing a prohibition on their use could mean we don't attract the providers needed.
	Procurement Update		

05-Oct-2017

The Committee recommend that Officers look to pursue best practice with other Local Authorities in relation to procurement software packages that identify due diligence and signpost Officers to Due North. Members recommended that as part of the Corporate review process that a mechanism be put in place to support the local economy when procuring contracts and ensure that the contract is efficient, fit for purpose provides value for money and the Authority do not just sign a contract with those suppliers offering the lowest price.	All procurements are tendered on the Most Economical Advantageous Tender (MEAT) - this includes criteria for quality and price. We do not contract purely on price unless we have included a high quality specification in the pre qualification stage.  The authority currently utilises up to date software packages - the etenderwales portal - Bravo Solutions- this is the same type of procurement portal as Due North. Recently we have been contacted by another authority to share our best practice on procurement an the etenderwales portal we utilise.
Members requested the following further information from Officers	Response/ Comments
What percentage of contracts awarded are offered to local businesses and welsh based businesses	From 1st October 2016 of the contracts which have been procured through the corporat procurement unit, 44% were awarded to local businesses and 19% are welsh based businesses.
How many Local Authorities in Wales have signed up to the Code of Practice – Ethical Employment in supply Chains, and of those signed up how many pay the voluntary Real Living Wage as set by the Living Wage Foundation which is calculated on actual living costs	We do not have this information at present.
What Strategic Overview is undertaken for large scale contract awarding to ensure due diligence such as reputational issues of suppliers, past performance and engagement and consultation with other Local Authorities.	Procurement utilise the Welsh Government supplier qualification information database (SQuID) as a standard template for assessing bidders. For large scale contracts our finan department assess financial standing of bidders and there is a panel for evaluations consisting of procurement, finance, technical and operational staff to ensure due diliger
Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:	
_	Property Services will establish whether there are opportunities to work with the Welsh Government to seek support in improving the physical appearance of the environment is the vicinity of its demolished properties.

	Rationalisation of the	opportunities during the procurement process. Members recommended that this could be made a part of the contract when companies bid for properties/ land.	Response from OPS Directorate The Directorate as a whole support the Apprentice programme. We are currently seeking to support 5 new apprectices internally.
	Councils Estate		The requirement to provide "Community Benefits, Targeted Recruitment and Training Requirements" has been included within tenders where appropriate. It has been included in the procurement process for school builds. In general the requirement is that for every £1m spent 52 weeks employment and training opportunities must be provided by the contractor. Below are examples of where this has been successful.
			Pencoed Primary School Betws Primary School Brynmenyn Primary School Porthcawl Town Beach
			Response from Communities Directorate Property Services can encourage purchasers to include apprenticeship opportunities within their development programmes but will not be able to enforce as part of a sale contract.
15-Nov-2017	Digital Transformation	The Committee praised the presentation and expressed confidence in the current officers who are taking forward the Digital Transformation project.	NA .
		Recommendations  1. The Committee recommend that any promotion or communication to the public of any changes relating to digitalisation needs to include reassurance to those who don't have access to IT that there will be other, non-digital, options remaining and assistance provided to them.	Noted, all promotion activity we be focused on adding additional channels such as Digital to supporting the traditional channels such as Face to Face and telephony
		of the Digital Transformation such as jointly buying in, and sharing information through, web-based software such as itrent.	In terms of "Line" of business applications such as "itrent" etc. Authorities are in different cycles in terms of contract dates and application vendors. Information is shared with other Authorities with regards core "Line" of business applications being used. There are difficulties with changing "Line" of Business applications as there is a significant cost of change due to the emmbedded nature of the applications and the required re-training. This highlights a need for a robust busniess case to align applications as and when contracts expire across authorities.

3. The Committee recommend that work be undertaken in the near future to incorporate schools as part of Digital Transformation considering aspects such as online school admissions and also expanding the current cashless catering system to optimise the available functionality to incorporate any and all payments collected by schools such as those for school trips.	Environmental Reporting
4. The Committee supported the involvement of partner organisations in the Transformation Programme however recommended that this be a phased approach and the Authority focus first on launching the system first before looking to include partners	contract, this will be reviewed to determine feasibility to extend the scope at the point of re-procurement.  The delivery of My Account is supported by Agilisys Digital, who were awarded the
5. The Committee recommend that the Authority ensure that education of the new online services be a priority with focus on support being provided within Communities.	Engagement with the community programmes will be sought, to understand the feasibility of incorporating support / training for the new digital channel. In terms of digital competency currently 8 out of 10 adults within Bridgend County already regularly use the internet and nearly 100% of 16 – 34 year olds.
6. The Committee requested that some form of contingency plan be put in place for any future resourcing issues, with particular emphasis on lead officers in order to ensure the project deadlines and success are achieved.	The current model is focusing on developing a team from within existing staff resurources, as the "business process review" is carried out, champions will be idenitfied within the service area to support the change process team. Resource implications will be monitored as the programme develops to ensure that the progress is not stymied due to resource shortages, where necessary recources will be bolstered to maintain continuity and success .
7. The Committee acknowledged that in order for the project to succeed it required organisational change across the whole of the Local Authority. Members therefore recommend that Digital Transformation be considered a priority by all Corporate Directors and Cabinet Members to ensure that support is cascaded down and across all Directorates, departments and service areas.	As part of the Digital Discovery work, a review has been initiated that will incorporate Corporate Directors, Cabinet Members, Heads of Service and Group Managers. The review will involve a top down bottom up approach. The review will inform an overarching Digital Stratgey for the Council.
The Committee requested that the item of Digital Transformation be revisited on the FWP approximately 3 months after its initial launch to enable some evidence to be provided to the Committee in relation to uptake and feedback.	Will be put forward to Corporate OVSC

		Education and Family Support	
		In relation to the possible future 1% budget efficiency saving for schools, the Committee queried whether schools were making suitable preparations now to try and minimise the impact on the schools and their staff and recommend that they focus on income generation through hiring out their facilities out of school hours.	
		Additional Information:  • The Committee have asked to receive a list of the schools that are at full capacity whilst also in deficit.	
		Social Services	
		Due to the increasing numbers of Looked After Children being an issue across Wales, the Committee questioned whether there was any leadership emerging from Welsh	
	Budget Monitoring 2017-18 – Quarter 2	Government on this subject, or any working group established to explore this national concern.	
	Forecast	Additional Information:	
14-Dec-2017	1010000	• Members requested to receive detail on any management restructures which have	
		equated to monetary savings over the past few years.	
		Communities	
		The Committee acknowledged the need for TCCs to collaborate more, but this was difficult to take further as identifying a common purpose amongst themselves was challenging with individual capabilities, needs and priorities being very different. It is recommended that in order to maximise the potential of TCCs and for them to work more effectively together and with the Local Authority, the subject is raised with the TCC Forum for discussion for them to take back to their individual TCCs.	Agreed, an appropriate paper will be prepared for the town and community council forum in due course to promote a discussion about how best this can be achieved.
		It is also recommended that a proposal be put to the TCC Forum for more regular meetings to ensure momentum and consistent monitoring of any future collaborative work.	Recommendation sent to Cllr H David as Chair of the TCC Forum for consideration - 16 February 2018
	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018-19 to 2021-22	Members commend the Corporate Director of Operational and Partnership Services for his clear strategic vision and future planning for budget cuts.	No comment required
25-Jan-2018	Corporate Plan		
	·	Subsequent to the Committee's consideration of the report and draft Corporate Plan Members made the following comments for amendment and inclusion:	
			This commment has been considered and acted upon. The Introduction of the Plan has been re-written and now includes a reference to the Council's Annual Report that highlights how we performed in the previous year. A hyperlink to the Annual Report has been created. In addition, a section titled "How have we done so far" has been added, under each priority, to highlight what the Authority had achieved or not managed to achieve over the past year.
		That a brief history of what the Authority had achieved and not managed to achieve over the past year in relation to the Corporate Plan be provided in the introduction;	

• That a greater link be made in the Corporate Plan to the County Borough's environment and community services. The Committee linked this in with the views of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 on the draft budget proposals; that the corporate priorities need to take account of the public element and realign community services as a corporate priority;	This comment has been considered. Most community services are core businesses, and are included in the Communities Directorate Business Plan. To determine or change corporate priorities involves a long process.
• That the mention of 'redeveloping the Rhiw Car Park' under Priority One be updated to state that it has been done – possibly including this also in the history as a successful achievement;	This comments has been considered and acted upon. The description of the "Successful Economy Programme" under priority one has been updated and "the redevelopment of the Rhiw Car park on time and on budget" has now been included in "How have we done so far" as an achievement.
• Plan needs to be more explicit as to the current situation of the Authority in relation to the position of austerity, how the budget has been decreased and how the authority plans to engage the smaller communities in order to still be able to achieve aims. This also need to incorporate how also there are challenges resulting from recent legislation;	This comment has been acted upon. The Introduction of the Plan has been re-written to make it "more explicit" about the challenging situation the Council faces in relation to the position of austerity and the impact of recent legislation.
<ul> <li>Plan needs to reflect other local communities both in its achievements and plans going</li> </ul>	This comments has been considered and acted upon. Pencoed has now been included in both the achievement section and the forward planning section. For example, the Urdd Eisteddfod in Pencoed is included as one of the achievements for priority one and the consultation on the relocation of Pencoed Primary School as an achievement for priority three. To lobby for the Pencoed rail corssing forms part of the "Successful Economy Programme" under priority one, and is included in the corporate commitment under "to create successful town centres". Pencoed is also added to the success measure of "the number of vacant premises in town centres".
forward with particular reference to Pencoed and which is the fourth town in the Authority;	
<ul> <li>All acronyms to be expanded upon to assist with public understanding;</li> <li>In relation to the percentage of care leavers who are in education, training or employment, a more achievable target should be put forward as the jump from to 70% appears a very large jump from what was achieved in 2016-17;</li> </ul>	This comment has been acted upon. All acronyms have been explained.  Based on current performance, the target has been reviewed and amended for 2018-19: a)60% and b) 55%
• In relation to the measuring the percentage of economically active 16-64 year olds, it was proposed that a further measure be included to consider those who are still economically active 65+ to give us a greater understanding of our economy;	This proposal has been considered, and a preliminary research has been undertaken which suggests that data for the proposed indicator is currently not robust. Further exploration into data is needed. it is therefore suggested that this is for future consideration/development.
• That the target for the percentage of pupils achieving 3 A*-A grades at A level be addressed as there appears to be a significant jump for 2017-18 but then a decline for 2018-19, which doesn't also reflect the comments in the rationale regarding the target confirming an improving positon;	This comment has been addressed. The target for 2018-19 has been amended to 10.5%, which is an improvement on the 2017-18 actual of 9.5%. The rationale for this target has also been amended.

• That clarification be provided within the plan over what the percentage refers to in relation to the gap in educational attachment between pupils 15+ entitled top free school meals and those who are not;	This comment has been acted upon. A provisional target for 2018-19 has now been provided and as well as clarification for the target setting in the rationale box.
That the 2% increase on total annual expenditure by tourists be amended to take into account recent inflation and possibly be reviewed to be a bit more ambitious;	This comment has been considered. While the target remains the same, the rationale for the target has been updated to clarify why, that is, to track the Visit Wales national target for increase in visit numbers.
• In relation to the number visitors to town centres, the rationale needs to be clearer as to why there is a 0% change target for 2018-19, which Officers explained was due to the footfall in Porthcawl decreasing over the past year;	
• In relation to Business start ups, it was proposed that the target be revisited once the actual for 2017-18 is known to try and show a strive for improvement and also a greater explanation be provided in the rationale, particularly if the target is not increased significantly;	This proposal has been considered. The actual figure for 2017 has been gathered and added to the corporate plan. However, due to the nature of the indicator, the outcome of which can be influenced by many external factors, the target is only indicative, to monitor the general level of entrepreneurship in the county borough. The rationale has been amended to reflect this.
• Clarification be provided in the plan as to whether the figure provided for business start ups includes those that that have been funded through the Special Regeneration Fund and if not that consideration be given to include a separate line in the Corporate Plan to illustrate these as a success indicator;	Clarification has been provided in the rationale, and the target includes those supported by the special regeneration fund.
<ul> <li>That some detail be provided as to where these business start ups and active businesses are in the county borough;</li> </ul>	The comment has been considered. However, the council's business support services are available on an equal basis across the whole county borough. Inevitably, support to businesses tends to follow the geographical spread as the county's industrial sites and premises.
· ·	Clarification has been provided in the Plan, in the rationale. The indicator measures the whole of all adult social care. Target is based on current performance. It is recognised that numbers will plateau.
• In relation to the indicator for 'the percentage of private dwellings that have been vacant for more than 6 months that have been returned to occupation', it is proposed that the target needs a greater explanation in the rationale as it is not clear as to why its target remains the same as the previous year;	A greater explanation has been provided in the rationale, which reads, "The target remains challenging. Priority is being given to create a cross directorate response to the challenge of empty properties within the county borough and a cross directorate project team is in operation."

	The rationale has been reworded as follows: "A lower target demonstrates the focus on the prevention and relief of homelessness which has seen the number of final duty cases reduce significantly. This year-on-year reduction in the target is positive and shows that early help and intervention prevents people reaching a more critical stage of
	homelessness.
That the rationale be reworded for the indicator on the percentage of people presenting as homeless to whom the local authority has a legal responsibility to secure accommodation, as it is not clear how the target can be reduced when Welsh Government funding is reduced;	Some of this work is currently funded through the Welsh Government transitional homeless prevention funding. This grant has been extended for 2018-19."
	Consideration is being given to an additional indicator to "monitor how many carers of
• That a further indicator be provided to monitor how many carers of adults who were offered an assessment or review actually took up the offer;	adults who were offered an assessment or review actually took up the offer". Once developed, the indicator will be added to the Corporate Plan and the performance management system.
That clarification be provided in the plan as to whether the 45% referred to for the	Clarification has been provided in the rationale, as follows: "The target is based on the anticipated number of employees required to complete mandatory training modules. The percentage is of the total workforce and therefore should reduce as staff are trained."
• That the actual figure for budget reductions achieved for 2016-17 be provided within the plan;	The actual figure has been provided in the Plan, under "How have we done so far" of priority three.
• That the rationale relating to the percentage of Council Tax customers accessing on line services through 'my account' be more transparent in relation to the delay that has occurred in launching the system and hence why the target has remained the same;	This comment has been considered. A new, more appropriate indicator has been identified to replace the indicator concerned. The new indicator is: "The number of services that are available to the public online". The target set for 2018-19 is 5. To provide services digitally online requires significant business process re-engineering. The target is challenging but achievable.
• That clarification be provided within the plan as to whether the number or percentage is being referred to for the interactions from citizens on the corporate social media accounts as there indicator states number yet the target states percentage. On the same indicator clarification was requested in relation to how many people a 5% increase would refer to;	rationale has also been updated.
That the target for CATs be reconsidered and increased given the fact that a recent report on CATs stated that at the moment there were 10 expressions of interest.	The target has been considered, and determined that the target remains the same. Whilst asset transfer to the community remains council policy, the Council is currently reviewing and rationalising the process in order to promote the level of engagement and better meet external circumstances, consequentially lowering the target for 2018-19.
Further Comments  CATs  The Committee expressed concern over the target for CATs and proposed that a major re-think of the process is required with an injection of life and leadership in order for it to succeed.	Discussions are ongoing with Cabinet regarding how the CAT process can be stimulated and given greater impetus, for example, a revised charging structure for pavilions and playing fields is proposed that will help promote CAT as an alternative way forward.

	City Deal The Committee requested that any future focus by Scrutiny on the subject of City Deal include detailed consideration of the planned infrastructure that is required, in order for Bridgend to be properly linked for commuting purposes etc.	Infrastructure requirements to improve commuting opportunities within the County Borough and further afield are part of ongoing discussions for future phases of the Metro for South East Wales.  The Destination Management plan is currently being reviewed and updated and will be
	Further Information	forwarded on when this is complete.
	The committee requested that they receive the Tourism strategy for information.	2045 (47 (5 1)
		2016/17 (full year)
		The number of final duty homelessness acceptances 83 The number of homelessness presentations 947
		The percentage of final duty homelessness acceptances 8.8%
		2017/18 (up to QTR3)
		The number of final duty homelessness acceptances 63 The number of homelessness presentations 720
	How many people out of those who presented as homeless or potentially homeless did the Authority provide accommodation for in 2016-17 and 2017-18.	·
	How much social interaction with citizens on the corporate social media is instigated by the Authority rather than by the citizens themselves.	Unfortunately we don't record this data. We use the analytics that are provided within Facebook and Twitter and it doesn't report this type of information. It only provides statistical information on how many people have interacted with us and how e.g. via comments, likes and shares.
	What the actual figure is for 17-18 in relation to sickness absence for the Authority.	As at Quarter 3, the average days lost due to sickness absence per FTE is 7.38. The cumulated total figure as at Qaurter 3 is 32656.84 days.
Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018-19 and 2022 and Draft Budget Consultation Pro	The Committee briefly discussed the budget process and the Committees Budget Research and Evaluation Panel (BREP) findings with the Leader, Deputy Leader and	Agreed. Next year, BREP will be engaged in the process as early as possible.
	The Committee also agreed to present the findings and recommendations of BREP and the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees to Cabinet, separating out the relevant Budget recommendations	

21-Feb-2018	Budget Monitoring Quarter 3	In addition to Members attendance at formal meetings being recorded and available for the public to view, the Committee recommended that the attendance of Chief Officers required at each overview and Scrutiny Committee should also be recorded and made available to the public on the Council's website. Members were disappointed that there was no representative from finance available to attend a Scrutiny meeting that related to a Budget monitoring item, therefore members were unable to get the answers they required on certain points in the report. The Committee further recommended that if the lead officer for a particular item is not available to attend ther an appropriate representative should be sent in their place	
		Members recommended an audit of vacancies across the whole Authority to include the following:  1. How many vacancies are there across the whole Authority?  2. How long they have been vacant for?  3. The reasons for them being vacant – budget related or difficulties recruiting?  4. A breakdown of the vacancies within each Directorate so members are able to see exactly what posts are vacant  5. The impact on the service area due to number of vacant posts  6. Information from Trade Unions in relation to the direct impact on staff for each Directorate	The committee discussed vacancies in the context of budget savinsg and were interested in the contributin that vacancies make to the budget. However the point was also made that vacancies one aspect of staffing information that has relevance to organsiationsal effectiveness. other factors that are significant are age profile, gender balnce, rates of attrition, length of service. Full quartely reports on workforce data can be made availabel to teh committe so that it could consider the wider workforce implicatiosn of trend data
		Members recommended that future budget monitoring items detail more information in relation to the underspends in each Directorate so members could see exactly what impact the underspends has to the service	
		Members requested receive further information relating to the slippage of schemes and new approvals for the Capital Programme into 2018-19. The Chief Executive agreed to detail this in the next budget monitoring item to the Committee	Will be detailed in the next budget monitoring item
		Members recommended that a Community Safety Plan be established for Bridgend. It is proposed that the plan includes how the Authority are working collaboratively with external partners such as South Wales Police to secure grant funding in respect of Community Safety	The community safety plan is being prerpared with partners - princiaplyteh polcie and the polcie and crime commisioner in the first instance. The plan is intended to expres how the CS partnership will prioritise community saftey and community cohension matters for teh coming 12 months. It is further intended that teh plan influences teh delpoyment of core resource and not just grant funding which remains a small element of teh overall resource abailable to partners to address community safety and community cohesion

Members requested clarification on the £50,000 projected underspend relating to the tender of new play equipment and if this related to the revenue budget	In relation to the play equipment we have not deemed the investment to be capital in nature as the definition of capital is as follows:-Play equipment except when it is replacement due to lack of regular maintenance (then it is revenue)  The spend will be distributed in the following existing play areas and will only be the replacement of a couple of items per area maximum  Griffin Park.  Maesteg Welfare Park  Newbridge Fields  Pencoed Recreation Ground  Victoria Street, Pontycymer  Waun Llwyd, Nantymoel  Ynysawdre Swimming Pool
Members welcomed the LED replacement lighting throughout the Borough and recommended that this news is shared with the public as it was pleasing to hear of the potential future savings that this project could achieve  Members recommended communicating with Town and Community Councils to see if there was interest in them subsidising the costs towards the replacement of the pillars/lanterns for the streetlights as some were in desperate need of repair and replacement and members understood there was an appetite from some TCCs to contribute to get this completed more timely	
Members requested information on the process for the replacement of street lighting within the Borough including the criteria used to prioritise the areas for replacement first	
Members were pleased to hear that Education and Family support Directorate would be working in Partnership with the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate to explore options to rationalise home to school transport and encouraged the dual use of the mini buses, working in partnership with other Local Authorities and exploring the option of bringing the service back in house.	
Members were concerned at the responsibility of schools managing their individual budgets and sought reassurance from Officers that schools were fully supported and that the relevant staff and governors received regular training to allow them to effectively manage their budgets	

		Members remained concerned at the projected overspend in the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate and asked that at their next meeting where the Social Services and Wellbeing Director was due to bring a report to the Committee on the Directorate Financial Plan that the report include detail on how savings will be realised against the following areas:  1. Services to Older People 2. Looked After Children 3. Care at Home for Adults with learning Disabilities	Plan to be presented at the next Corporate Committee
29-Mar-2018	Directorate Business Plans	• The Committee commented on the fact that in order to support the 'One Authority' approach each Business Plan should make reference to the current financial situation of the Authority and how each Directorate is working together to contribute to the overall savings. It was suggested that this be incorporated into the Foreword of each plan in order to set the tone. Members also commented that by acknowledging the financial situation, and recognising the challenges they are each faced with provides Members with confidence in the Corporate Directors and their Directorates.	

## Operational and Partnership Services

• Members requested that the Performance Indicator DOPS6 be made clearer as to whether the 75 for 17/18 and 18/19 was an increase on the previous year or not.

In 2016/17 the Council was striving to meet the obligations placed upon us by the Welsh Language Commissioner in terms of the Welsh Language Standards issued to it. The Council now has a 5 year Welsh Language Strategy and action plan.

One of the urgent actions was to ensure that front-facing employees were able to "meet and greet" customers bi-lingually. In response to this training was organised and delivered to those groups of staff [large in number].

The numbers of staff reported as having been trained in 2016/17 will therefore never be repeated and this was never regarded as a target figure on which to build. In the meantime we have been developing training to address the need to have sufficient numbers of staff who can do more than simply meet and greet customers bi-lingually but also further develop their conversational ability with customers in Welsh. Further, courses have been developed to enable current fluent Welsh speakers to elevate their skills to a standard where they would be comfortable conducting their business in Welsh.

"Meet and greet" courses continue to run for new entrants and those changing roles in the Council. The 30 week courses progress over a period of 3 years and the next course will commence in September 2018. We will continue to run "Business Welsh" courses in line with service need.

The figure of 75 for 2017/18 and 2018/19 is a target figure and recognises that the Council has now entered it's "rolling programme" phase of Welsh language training and as such this is a reasonable target to which it can aspire.

Additional Information	
• The Committee requested clarification over how the Authority gathers the numbers for social interaction via Facebook and Twitter, asking for real numbers rather percentages.	The OAPS Business Plan shows the target for the performance indicator in relation to social media both numerically (page 22) and as a percentage (page 24). The statistics used to report on this are downloaded directly from both Facebook and Twitter every month.
Communities	
• The Committee requested that the milestone on p20 of the plan under commitment 1.3.1 in relation to lobbying for Pencoed Railway crossing be expanded upon to clarify exactly what this entails as some Members expressed concern over this and what exactly was being lobbied for.	Agreed, item description will be expanded. It is to lobby for the proposed bridge widening and improvements that would have been required under the previous electrification project and the closure of the level crossing associated with this.
• In relation to PAM020/20/22 on p28 of the plan, on the percentage of A, B and C road in overall poor condition, Members proposed maybe presenting this slightly differently to show some improvement.	Not Agreed. The targets have been set the same as the previous year to reflect the level of investment in the Highway. £2 million on resurfacing will be spent each year. This is the spend needed to model a static state in condition. The network overall should neither improve or deteriorate at this level of spend. Previously the target was a worsening target due to under investment. This has been changed but an improving target as suggested would have no justified basis.
• In relation to PAM030 on p28, Members proposed that clarification be sought as to the accuracy of the decrease in target for the percentage of municipal waste collected by LAs for reuse, and/or recycled etc.	The 58% is the statutory target defined by Welsh Government, this will increase to 64% in 2019. The mistake was in the 2017 figure of 60% when the target was actually 58%, which was slightly missed by the authority by a small fraction.
The Committee proposed that in terms of achievements, the Directorate should also highlight the work that it has undertaken to support the School Modernisation Programme.	Agreed. This will be inserted.
• The Committee requested that clarification be sought in relation to the apparent increase of approximately £2m in the Streetworks budget as illustrated in the Finance breakdown on page 8 of the Communities Business Plan.	There was a transfer into the local government settlement for Bridgend of £1.503 million in respect of the Single Revenue Grant, which now forms part of the Streetworks' core budget. In addition to this, there were budget pressures agreed as part of the MTFS for the overall reduction in the Single Revenue Grant (279k) to meet waste collection and disposal commitments, as well as funding to meet the increased demand for Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP) collection and treatment (£285k).
• In relation to the Tackling poverty grant, the Committee expressed concern that it was targeting working parents only, such as assistance with childcare when the issue of poverty expanded beyond this.	The specific childcare offer is a Welsh Government initiative to support working parents. However the Local Authority supports all parents and there are a number of schemes specifically targetted to support parents living in poverty. The most significant of these is the flying start programme which is a broad prgramme of interventions which include childcare but also other things such as parenting support which are specifically focussed on those at the highest level of need

• Members made a general comment in relation to the budget for schools and the possibility of a 1% cut in the future. Members concerns concentrated firstly on the fact that the Authority cannot sustain the level of funding to schools with the pressures that it is facing and also concerns over how schools that are already in deficit are going to cope a 1% cut.	It is clear that all schools are struggling to maintain balanced budgets for a variety of reasons. Both the directorate and finance collegaues are working hard with schools to manage budgets as well as they can and to make sensible cuts which will not impact on teaching and learning. It is of concern that schools may have to manage further cuts to budgets but without some cuts to schools further cuts to directorate budgets will compromise our ability to support school with the many services provided centrally.
• In relation to DEFS29 on p23 of the plan, Members proposed that either the target or the comment be amended as there was not actually a 10% increase as from the actual for 2016-17 the increase was only 3%.	
	We will amend the comments
Additional Information  • The Committee requested that clarification be sought on why only 'most' primary schools have used the Dyslexia Early Screening Test (DEST) and not all.	All schools are trained to use the DEST test but some have chosen to use an alternative testing method such as 'Read write ink'
The Committee requested detail of when and where the consultation on the catchment areas was carried out as they had no knowledge of this exercise.	As part of the startegic review of schools there was a workstream to consider catchment areas which reviewed these in 2015. This work did not progress beyond establishing a set of principals by which we should consider any catchment changes. there have not been any catchment changes in that time nor any consulatations of the issue.
General Recommendation  • The Committee requested that any new public consultations taking place be emailed out to all Members so that they are kept aware of them.  Social Services and Wellbeing  • In relation to the Finance table on p8 of the plan, the Committee requested that the Children's Social Care budget be broken down similar to that illustrated for Adult Social	Agreed Finance table updated in the Business Plan
• In relation to PAM026 on p20 of the plan, the Committee proposed either amending the comment or including the actual for 2016-17 as the two did not currently correspond in that it states the target for 18-19 has been based on 16-17 results when there is no result for the latter.	Added actual for 2016/17 to business plan

	• The Committee proposed that further rationale is provided from Halo regarding their targets particularly in relation to SSWB25 as the 2018-19 target is a drop from the actual 2016-17.	With regard to national exercise referral it is worth noting that in both years Bridgend will have significantly exceeded its targeted number of referrals set by public health wales. Within the overall number there will be both lower level referrals (ie people needing to be a little more active) and also people with chronic conditions(ie those requiring higher levels of support based on cancer,pulmonary rehab,cardiovascular disease,stroke etc). The more that focus is given to supporting chronic conditions the lower the overall volume is likely to become. This is the strategic direction of travel of the local authority linked to community asset transfer and alternative management models which will influence what we can count against the indicator.
		Explanation added to the business plan as per below:
		This national PI is made up of everyone over the age of 18 entering residential care. The local breakdown is as per below: a) Over 65 b) Under 65
	<ul> <li>Members requested that PM22 on p15 of the plan be presented a bit clearer.</li> </ul>	If there are a few adults of a younger age group the PI is disproportionately affected.
	The Committee proposed that clarification be provided on the Staff table at 3.1 to explain why the headcount has increased and how this sits against the decrease in FTE.	HR revised table. The headcount now shows an increase of only 1. Comment added re FTE coming down.
	Additional Information  • The Committee requested clarification on PAM/017 and how the data is gathered regarding the numbers of people attending parks and playing fields.	The criteria for parks and playing fields contribution are set by welsh government and requires a formal arrangement for use between the council and the hirer/user and an accurate way of calculating the number of uses.  This then leads to a "multiplying factor being applied based on whether the sport being played is football rugby.cricket etc with the number again being set by welsh government.  The rationale for the target in the business plan has been updated.
Social Services and	The Committee asked that in future meetings the RAG status be completed in the	This will be considered.
	financial plan.	
Service Delivery Plan	<ul> <li>The Committee proposed charging for things as Discovery days as a method of income generation.</li> </ul>	This will be looked at and due consideration given in the context of what legislation allows us to charge for
	The Committee agreed to receive an information report on the Social Services     Financial Plan at each Corporate Overview and Scrutiny meeting so that they can     continue to monitor the plan and pick up on any concerns as necessary.	The directorate has developed a new service plan and a corresponding financial plan and this reports into a fortnightly corporate group which is chaired by the Chief Executive. Information will be provided to each Corproate Overview and Scrutiny meeting.

	City Deal	Additional Information  • The Committee requested that they receive detail of the average spend per head for adults and children separately and where we sit as an Authority in comparison to other LAs.  • The Committee agreed that the City Deal item should be deferred to a date which ensures an appropriate level of attendance at that meeting and that sufficient time is allocated to the item by all invitees.  • Members of the Committee further requested that a letter be sent to the Chief Executive formally highlighting their disappointment on learning of the reduced attendance of the meeting.	Date to be confirmed.  Letter sent to Chief Executive. Response received and circulated to all Members on 30 May 2018
		• Members referred to the recommendations made by the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel (BREP) in relation to this item and the Committee queried whether the Directorate had been successful in securing any sponsorship from local businesses for the event, as there was no reference provided within the finance section of the report.	Officers have approached a range of local businesses in order to secure sponsorship for the event. To date, offers of sponsorship have been received from New Directions (£1000) and Andrew Scott Ltd (£150) and Heronston Hotel (c. £85). Asda has agreed to provide free water bottles to attendees at the Learners' Day event. WHSmith has also agreed to provide sponsorship but the actual amount hass not been confirmed at present. Officers are continuing to attract further sponsorship. A further update will be provided in due course.
		• The Committee also emphasised the importance of local businesses involvement in the event to provide greater clarity regarding what skills are required by employers to ensure future students employability.	The Education and Family Support Directorate has been working closely with the Projects and Business Approaches Team throughout the development phase of the Festival of Learning 2018. Two articles in respect of the Festival of Learning have been published in the Bridgend Business Forum newsletter. Similarly, Bridgend College has been involved in the planning and preparation of the event. Several local businesses have already been involved in the Festival of Learning (see above). The Interim Coporate Director, Education and Family Support will be presenting to the Bridgend Business Forum on 13 June; where local buisnesses will again be invited to attend Festival of Leearning events. Sponsorship will be discussed at that point too.
30-Apr-2018	Festival of Learning – Summary of Activity and Projected Outcomes	Again, with reference to the recommendation made by BREP regarding the need for schools to select a broad range of pupil representation to partake in the event, to ensure a variety of view to be incorporated, the Committee note that there was no mention of how the students would be nominated.	All school councils are involved in preparing for the Festival of Learning 2018 (ie around 730 pupils) are actively involved in the week's events). 120 pupils, representing all 59 schools and The Bridge Alternative Provision will be involved in the Learners' Day. It is hoped that the outcome of the Festival of Learning will have a positive impact on all learners in Bridgend.

• Members requested clarification in relation the funding amounts for the festival of learning and queried whether the £15k would be deducted from the £65k applied for and highlighted the need to make this clearer within the report.

Officers would to happy to provide a report stipulating projected outcomes following the event.

approximately 50% of the total budget (ie £15,500) required to run the Festival of Learning 2018 will be delegated directly to schools £65,000 was approved by Council for the Festival

of Learning on 28 February 2018 as a one-off pressure as part of the Council's Medium-

will be returned to the Corporate Budget.

Term Financial Strategy 2018-2019 to 2021-2022. Any underspend against this allocation

The total cost of running the Festival of Learning 2018 is £31,400. The total indicative cost of running the professional development workshops is £16,700 (with £15,500 of this going directly to schools). The total indicative cost of running the Symposium event is £1,800. The total indicative cost of the Learners' Day is £4,850. The total additional indicative costs associated with running the Festival of Learning 2018 are £8,050. The Local Authority Annex funding allocation (£19,500) Bridgend receives from Central South Consortium will be used to support the cost of running the Festival of Learning 2018. Officers anticipate that BCBC's final contribution will be below £10,000. It is important to note that

• Members recommend that a future report be presented to Scrutiny to provide an evaluation of the Festival of Learning, to stipulate what outcomes were achieved and provide statistics evidencing success following the event.