

**BREP recommendations in relation to Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-20  
– 2022-2023****Recommendation 1**

Members recommend that research is undertaken into how the Authority is able to deliver services imposed by Welsh Government without any additional monies as outlined in paragraph 1.7 and meet the associated additional costs - A pan Wales approach may well be more valuable. This will provide the evidence needed to enable the Council to lobby for supplementary monies to carry out legislative pressures effectively. In addition to this the Panel recommend that any lobbying for extra funding is carried out publically, to demonstrate to the public how much services costs and how much has allocated to each service.

**Recommendation 2**

Members recommend that in relation to any departmental restructure a corporate approach is instigated across all Directorates, taking a bottom up approach. The Panel further recommend that any reorganisation is carried out following discussions and thorough planning by Cabinet/CMB. The Panel identified that this may well be suitable to form one of a number of annual objectives for the new Chief Executive.

**Recommendation 3**

Members state that some of the proposed budget reductions in this Directorate will provide small savings in the short term but will incur costs in the future. The Panel used the reduction of weed spraying as a short term example, stating that in the long run it could impact on members of the public safety and highway maintenance. Therefore the Panel recommend that longer term strategic proposals are deliberated and different models of service delivery are explored, such as external businesses that could provide services more economically.

**Recommendation 4**

Although the Panel are mindful of the extra resources required to improve collaboration and communication with TCC's and also between TCC's themselves, Members recommend that a Cabinet led approach is undertaken to explore options to take this forward. The Panel also recommend Cabinet revisit the Terms of Reference of the Town and Community Council Forum to ensure the Membership of the Forum is representative and that additional powers are allocated to it, such as making recommendations. Furthermore, the Panel propose the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding between both parties.

**Recommendation 5**

The Panel recommend that Cabinet take the lead in approaching all stakeholders regarding their potential for Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of all outdoor leisure facilities as outlined in the Budget Reduction Proposals 2019-20 to 2022-23.

**Recommendation 6**

With reference to the lack of communication regarding potential Cabinet decisions relating to CAT, the Panel therefore recommend that Cabinet reviews its communication plan on CAT to ensure that all relevant information is distributed to all Local Members and TCC's for information.

**Recommendation 7**

In relation to the Materials Recovery and Energy Centre (MREC) the Panel recommend that a political solution is sought to negotiate a favourable outcome for all parties involved.

**Recommendation 8**

In relation to comments being made about the possible closure of the Bus Station the Panel recommend that a press release is provided by Corporate Communications outlining the fact that the Council are exploring alternative measures for full cost recovery for Bridgend Bus Station and that there are no plans for closure of the building on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

**Recommendation 9**

In relation to the Home to School Transport review, Members were pleased to note that all aspects of transport will be explored, including vehicles used in day centres as BREP has previously recommended - slightly amending the opening and closing times of day centres so the buses can be made available for school transport. The Panel also recommend that consideration is given to the possibility of collaborating with other local authorities and creating an in-house resource from the current fleet for Home to School transport use.

**Recommendation 10**

The Panel recommend introducing a charge for transport over and above Welsh Government statutory distances for Home to School Transport, which should take into account and offer concessions for low income families. Members further recommended that instead of removing the provision that the Council could provide a discounted bus pass on an existing bus route.

**Recommendation 11**

The Panel believe that the budget reduction proposal EFS49 which plans on decreasing the current nursery provision to the statutory minimum could have been implemented in previous years. Therefore Members recommend that consultation on this proposal should commence taking into consideration the proposed review process outlined in 2.13.

**Recommendation 12**

If the 1% school budget reduction is implemented the Panel recommend that the Council ensure that they work closely with all schools to provide financial support and advice to agree on a deficit plan. The Panel further recommend exploring the possibility of centralising the non-teaching aspect of all school budgets and re-charge for services which would ensure that services are properly remunerated.

**Recommendation 13**

**With reference to the joint responsibility between BCBC and Police for crime and disorder in the County and the integral part CCTV has to Police investigations, Members recommend that Cabinet explore joint funding with the Police for operating the CCTV service.**

**Recommendation 14**

**The Panel recommend that Cabinet and CMB receive the Fees & Charges – Comparison with other Local Authorities spreadsheet which collates all services that the Authority does not currently charge for where other neighbouring Councils do. The Panel further recommend that if it is financially viable that the Council introduce the appropriate charges to align with other Councils as soon as possible. The Panel also request that this topic is added to the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme to assist with income generation.**

**Recommendation 15**

**The Panel voiced their concerns regarding the lack of inspection following work carried out throughout the Borough. Members therefore recommend that the Authority undertake corporate vigilance and explore the possibility of charging companies and members of the public when they have damaged Council property. Examples of general utility works on the highway which lead to long term road surface damage were identified. The Panel also identified Members corporate responsibility in reporting issues and damages as part of their local community role.**

**Recommendation 16**

**The Panel identified that there may be opportunities for the Council to look into charging external companies when the Authority deals with public complaints on their behalf such as V2C, Kier, Halo and Awen. Members recommend that the Member Referrals Working Group explore this further as part of the current review of the Member Referral system.**

**Recommendation 17**

**Therefore the Panel recommends that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the BREP work and seeks to explore options to include some work streams into individual Forward Work Programmes. The Panel concluded by stating that they welcome development proposals from Cabinet to ensure BREP are used to their full potential.**