

**CABINET - TUESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2019**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 1/2/3, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2019 AT 14:30**

Present

Councillor HJ David – Chairperson

CE Smith  
RE Young

PJ White

HM Williams

D Patel

Apologies for Absence

Cllr R Young

Officers:

Gill Lewis	Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer
Kelly Watson	Head of Legal & Regulatory Services
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive
Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Zak Shell	Head of Neighbourhood Services

416. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D Patel declared a personal interest in Agenda item 8., in that Appendix 1 to the report made reference to Ogmere Vale Primary School of which she is a School Governor.

Councillor PJ White declared a personal interest in Agenda item 10., in that he was the local Ward Member and had submitted no objection to the proposal from a planning perspective.

417. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of meetings of Cabinet on the following dates, be approved as a true and accurate record:-

Special meeting – 10 September 2019

Ordinary meeting – 17 September 2019

418. ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

The Interim Head of Finance and S151 Officer submitted a report on behalf of the Chief Executive, the purpose of which, was to consider the Annual Report 2018-19 (Appendix A to the report) and recommend it to Council in turn, for approval.

The report gave some background information which confirmed that the Plan defined 40 commitments to deliver the three well-being objectives and identified 58 outcome-focused indicators for the financial year 2018-19.

The report also confirmed some pleasing news, in that overall it had performed well in 2018-19. Of the 40 commitments, 35 (88%) were completed successfully and the remaining 5 (12%) achieved most of their milestones.

The Corporate Plan identified 58 indicators to measure access. Of the 56 indicators with a target, 37 (66%) were on target, 9 (16%) were off target by less than 10% and 10 (18%) missed the target by more than 10%. Detailed information about the Council's performance against its commitments and targets was included in Appendix A.

The Interim Head of Finance and S151 Officer confirmed that the Annual Report was an important document, as it provided citizens and stakeholders with detailed information about the Council's performance against its well-being objectives and outcomes. It also included national comparable measures to give a full picture of how the Council performed across a range of services.

The Leader felt the report and supporting information was very balanced and made for positive reading. He particularly felt that reference to a number of case studies that brought the report to life. He felt that reaching 88% of the Council's commitments put the Authority in good stead moving forward. He also referred to page 25 of the report where this detailed how the Council's wellbeing objectives dovetailed with our wellbeing goals. He was also pleased that the report did not hide areas where the Council did not compare so favourably to other authorities.

He felt it notable also to advise that we were ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest in Wales in terms of the percentage of Year 11 school leavers that were not in further education, employment or training. There were also a list of actions in the Report that identified how the Council had met its objectives.

The Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help referred to page 28 of the Annual Report and a snapshot of economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being goals achieved across the Bridgend County Borough. He referred to the fact that in 2018-19 there were 81,767 over 60's free swims recorded for 5,000 individual users, which was the highest participation in Wales out of 22 local authorities.

The Head of Operations – Community Services in response to a question regarding details of the footfall in terms of visits to Porthcawl town centre, advised that these were showing as relatively low in the report. He added that this figure was inaccurate due to the fact that one of the CCTV cameras was not working around the time this figure was collated. This camera had now been both repaired and re-located to a better position and following this in the first quarter of this year, the footfall into the town centre was showing far more favourably than in similar quarters last year.

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet considered the Annual Report 2018-19 at Appendix A to the report and recommended it to Council for approval.

419. **BUDGET MONITORING 2019-20 - QUARTER 2 REVENUE FORECAST**

The Interim Head of Finance presented a report, the purpose of which, was to provide Cabinet with an update on the Council's revenue financial position as at 30 September 2019.

By way of background, she confirmed that on 20 February 2019, Council approved a net revenue budget of £270.809m for 2019-20, and that budget projections are reviewed regularly and reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis.

Paragraph 4 of the report then showed a summary of the Council's financial position at 30 September 2019, which reflected the Council's net revenue budget and projected outturn for 2019-20 in Table 1 in this section of the report.

The overall projected position at 30 September 2019 is a net under spend of £575k, comprising £659 net over spend on directorates and £4.808 million net under spend on corporate budgets, offset by net appropriation to earmarked reserves of £3.574m.

The Interim Head of Finance proceeded, by confirming that the main reason for the under spend of £3.8m on 'Other Corporate Budgets,' is due to Welsh Government advising local authorities of additional grant funding being made available during 2019-20 to meet the increased cost of teachers' pensions, fire service pensions and teachers pay increases, all of which were originally funded in full through the MTFS. A detailed analysis of the more significant projected under and over spends was set out in section 4.3 of the report.

Paragraph 4.2 of the report then outlined information in respect of the monitoring of Budget Reduction Proposals and paragraph 4.2.2 contained Table 2 detailing Outstanding Prior Year Budget Reductions. This reflected that of the £2.342m outstanding reductions, £1.795m is likely to be achieved in 2019-20, leaving a shortfall of £547,000. In respect of this, paragraph 4.2.3 of the report listed the proposals still not likely to be achieved in terms of reductions in certain areas.

Table 3 of the report then highlighted the Monitoring of Budget Reductions 2019-20 where it stated that the total budget reductions required totalled 7.621m, with £6.492 of these likely to be achieved, hence leaving a shortfall of £1.129m.

Appendix 2 identified the projected amount of saving against the proposals in detail and action to be taken by the directorate to mitigate the shortfall.

A summary of the financial position for each main service area was attached at Appendix 3 to the report and comments on the most significant variances were provided on a directorate by directorate basis in the next sections of the report. Some further narrative was then given on Council Wide budgets, whilst Table 4 then in paragraph 4.4.2 of the report gave details of Earmarked Reserves during Quarter 2, which amounted to £3.574m.

The Deputy Leader advised that there were significant challenges ahead, notwithstanding the level savings that the Council had been required to make to date as a result of austerity. Some reliance had also been made on staff vacancies in order to manage the levels of savings that were required under the MTFS. To this end, he noted that there were a number of staff vacancies in the area of Health and Safety within the Education Directorate and he asked if this was compromising the Authority in any way.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support advised that it had been difficult to recruit externally in the above area, though the section had increased from one specialist Officer to three including an acting-up Manager. The department were looking to train staff in-house to fill any void here.

The Head of Operations – Community Services advised that there had also been some improvement made in regards to contractual arrangements with Neath Port Talbot Council having committed to improving the current price by taking the facility back in-house as of 1 October 2019.

The Leader concluded debate, by noting that there was an over spend in respect of the provision of Learner Travel for ALN and those being educated in the medium of Welsh.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support advised that this was due to the fact that extra bespoke vehicles for ALN had been required to meet a more than

expected level of demand and a similar situation applied for the intake for welsh medium learners and those being taken to/picked up from Learning Resource Centres.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the projected revenue position for 2019-20.

420. CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE - QUARTER 2 2019-20

The Interim Head of Finance and S151 Officer submitted a report, the purpose of which was to:-

- comply with the requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Prudential Code for Capital Finance 2018
- provide an update of the Capital Programme for 2019-20 at 30 September 2019 (Appendix A to the report)
- seek agreement from Cabinet to present a report to Council for approval for a revised Capital Programme for 2019-20 to 2028-29 (Appendix B)
- note the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2019-20 (Appendix C)

The report outlined certain background information, 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.

The Interim Head of Finance and S151 Officer, confirmed that on 20 February 2019, Council approved a capital programme covering the period 2019-20 to 2028-29 as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

The capital programme was last updated and approved by Council on 24 July 2019. The report before Members provided an update on the following areas:

- Capital Programme 2019-20 Monitoring;
- Capital Programme 2019-20 Onwards;
- Prudential and Other Indicators Monitoring;
- Capital Strategy Monitoring

In respect of the Capital Programme 2019-20 Monitoring, Table 1 in paragraph 4.1 of the report, reflected the Capital Programme per Directorate for 2019-20.

The revised programme for 2019-20 currently totals £38.133m, of which £18.504m is met from BCBC resources, including capital receipts and revenue contributions from earmarked reserves, with the remaining £19.629m coming from external resources.

Table 2 in the report, then summarised the current funding assumptions for the capital programme for 2019-20.

Appendix A to the report provided details of the individual schemes within the capital programme, showing the budget available in 2019-20 compared to the projected spend.

## CABINET - TUESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2019

A number of schemes have already been identified as requiring slippage of budget to future years (2020-21 and beyond). At quarter 2 the total requested slippage is £18.858 million, which included the schemes as listed in paragraph 4.4 of the report.

Paragraph 4.5 of the report gave information regarding the Capital Programme 2019-20 onwards and, in particular, confirmed that since the last capital report was considered in July 2019, there have been a number of new externally funded schemes approved, which have been incorporated into the capital programme and these were listed in this section of the report.

The Interim Head of Finance and S151 Officer advised that there were a number of other schemes within the Capital Programme that were awaiting confirmation of external funding over the autumn period, and at present, the Capital Programme had not been updated to take account of these.

The final sections of the report then gave information in respect of Prudential and Other Indicators 2019-20 Monitoring and Capital Strategy Monitoring, whilst the financial implications were outlined in the body of the report.

The Leader felt that there were very exciting projects proposed as detailed in the report, that included a Community Hub at Brynteg Comprehensive School, Valleys Regional Park (VRP) at Bryngarw and Parc Slip and was pleased to see grant funding from Welsh Government being committed toward the Capital Programme, such as the Economic Stimulus Grant. He also welcomed the £800k that had been earmarked for highway infrastructure work.

The Cabinet Members – Future Generations and Wellbeing and Social Services and Early Help, in turn, asked for an update on the Caerau Heat Network, as the report confirmed that the scheme was in its final stages of approval with Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO). Completion of this would assist in carbon reduction within this part of the County Borough going forward.

The Chief Executive advised that the delay was with Welsh Government rather than ourselves, but it was hopeful that this project would proceed within the next 6 months, hence the scheme's inclusion in the Capital Programme.

**RESOLVED:**    That Cabinet:

1. Noted the Council's Capital Programme for 2019-20 for the period to 30 September 2019 (see Appendix A to the report).
2. Agreed that the revised Capital Programme (Appendix B to the report) be submitted to Council for approval.
3. Noted the Prudential and Other Indicators for 2019-20 (Appendix C to the report).

### 421. GUARANTEED INTERVIEW SCHEME FOR VETERANS

The Chief Executive presented a report, the purpose of which, was to advise Cabinet of the introduction of a guaranteed interview scheme for veterans, as part of the Council's recruitment and selection procedures.

The report advised that veterans can find making the transition to civilian life extremely challenging, particularly in finding and securing lasting employment, notwithstanding that they have valuable transferable skills as detailed in the report.

He explained that a guaranteed interview scheme for veterans provides the guarantee of an interview to those that meet the essential criteria as set out in any relevant job pack. It did not however, guarantee employment, as selection procedures ensure that the best candidate for any job is appointed.

The above together with other support for veterans, can assist them to overcome barriers in finding civilian employment and help to reduce the risk of health and welfare problems as a result of long term unemployment.

The introduction of a guaranteed interview scheme supports BCBC's Armed Forces Community Covenant.

Paragraph 4.2 of the report, confirmed the terms of eligibility for the scheme and criteria that required to be met. The Chief Executive confirmed that if the proposals of the report were approved, then the recruitment process of the Authority would be amended to reflect the above.

The Leader commended the report and added that the guaranteed interview scheme would be one more support mechanism for veterans, added to free swimming sessions, adaptations made where necessary to their living accommodation and prioritising any applications they make to be placed in housing accommodation.

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet noted the implementation of a guaranteed interview scheme for veterans.

422. **CAPITAL ENERGY INVESTMENT PROJECT AND CORPORATE LANDLORD ENERGY AND CARBON STRATEGY**

The Head of Operations – Community Services submitted a report, the purpose of which, was to provide an update to Cabinet on the Capital Energy Investment Project and seek approval from Cabinet to use the Re:fit Framework and to issue an Invitation to Tender for the works; as well as seeking approval for the Corporate Energy and Carbon Strategy 2019.

He advised that in February 2018, as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018-19 to 2021-22, council approved capital funding of £1.3m to enable the delivery of the Capital Energy Investment Project. This was to be funded from prudential borrowing with repayments made from energy savings generated as a result of the investment.

The Welsh Government proposed that the Council considers delivering carbon saving measures using the Re:fit programme. Re:fit is an energy performance framework produced by Local Partnerships LLP (which is a joint venture owned by HM Treasury and the Local Government Association and established in 2009) and specialises in delivering retrofit energy projects to public sector buildings. Re:fit have delivered projects across the UK but also to many Welsh Local Authorities, such as Cardiff, Swansea, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Merthyr Tydfil, to name a few.

The report then confirmed that following a review being undertaken of a number of options, Officers of the Council determined that using the Re:fit framework would provide the most appropriate Capital Investment delivery model.

22 buildings as shown in Appendix 1 were identified as delivering the most effective measures in respect of the above, and these were shown in Appendix 1 to the report and engagement with stakeholders is currently being undertaken

## CABINET - TUESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2019

With regard to the Corporate Energy and Carbon Strategy 2019, the Head of Operations – Community Services, advised that similar to the Capital Energy Investment Project, Officers have been working to produce this so that it could help to improve management of energy and carbon emissions produced by the Council.

There were set key objectives to follow here and in order to meet these, a series of actions and activities have been identified and these were illustrated through 8 key areas shown in paragraph 4.2 of the report.

A copy of the Energy and Carbon Strategy proposed to be approved by Cabinet was attached to the report at Appendix 2.

The Head of Operations – Community Services concluded his submission by giving a resume of the report's financial implications.

The Deputy Leader felt that this was a timely report and referred to the fact that BCBC has previously approved a £1.3m of capital funding for the Capital Energy Investment Project utilising prudential borrowing, with a payback period of 5 years. If this was fully realised then the project would basically be self-funded he added.

The Cabinet Member – Future Generations and Wellbeing advised that she was pleased to note that the Capital Energy Investment Project was being rolled out in some of our schools. She asked if they could be involved in some of the processing of work through their Eco Councils.

The Head of Operations – Community Services advised that this would be possibly and that he would liaise with stakeholders regarding this.

The Leader added that in the Annual Report item considered earlier in the meeting, there was a section on Eco friendly schools and he was pleased to be able to confirm, that most schools in the County Borough had achieved Green Flag status, of which around 50% had achieved the highest possible level i.e. the Platinum award.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- Noted the content of the report;
- Gave approval to use the Re:fit Framework and to issue an Invitation to Tender using the Re:fit framework to select the service provider to deliver the capital energy investment project and associated saving measures;
- Delegated authority to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources to approve the award of the contract to the successful bidder under Scheme A of the Scheme of Delegation;
- Approved the adoption and implementation of the Corporate Energy and Carbon Strategy 2019.
- Delegated authority for any revisions required to the Corporate Energy and Carbon Strategy 2019 to be approved by the Corporate Landlord Project Board.

423. PLAYING FIELDS, OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND PARKS PAVILIONS

The Head of Operations – Community Services presented a report, the purpose of which, was to provide detailed feedback to Cabinet on the public consultation undertaken between 17 April and 10 July 2019, on proposals to make the Council's provision of playing fields, outdoor sports pitches and parks pavilions more financially sustainable moving forward.

In addition, the report put forward recommendations to support a financially sustainable future provision of facilities and provides an update concerning current Community Asset Transfer (CAT) progress.

On 18th September 2018 Cabinet approved a consultation exercise on proposals to make the Council's provision of playing fields, outdoor sports facilities and parks pavilions more financially sustainable moving forward.

The provision of these facilities is recognised as playing an important contributory part in helping to achieve healthy lifestyles and better levels of physical and mental wellbeing for the County Borough's residents.

A list of pavilions and playing fields managed by the Council's Parks Department was attached at Appendix A to the report.

The report outlined that currently there were Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) proposals relating to savings in the areas of playing fields, outdoor sports facilities and parks pavilions, which amounted to £69k in 2019-20 and a further indicative saving of £369k in 2020-21. This totalled a saving overall of £438k.

Paragraphs 4.1 to 4.7 of the report, then gave a comprehensive update regarding progress in respect of Community Asset Transfers (CAT) in respect of the above facilities and although some progress had been made with CAT, it had not been to the extent or level previously anticipated.

The next section of the report, ie from paragraphs 4.8 to 4.13 outlined the part the CAT Task and Finish Group had played in the support of CAT including input from the Scrutiny process, which had provided strategic direction in respect of the Council's CAT Programme, including associated policies, systems and processes. Paragraph 4.9 listed the main recommendations arising from the CAT Task and Finish Group which concluded their review in February 2019. In relation to this, the Group had reported to Cabinet on 23 July 2019, a priority of assets for CAT be refined so that the necessary savings required under the MTFS could be prioritised accordingly.

A consultation was subsequently carried out on the proposals required to achieve the level of savings that needed to be made, in order to gather the views of the public and users of the facilities opinions on the potential impact of changes that would be required moving forward, in order to achieve this. The consultation document was attached at Appendix B to the report and whilst paragraph 4.17 of the report outlined some salient points received on the consultation, the Head of Operations – Community Services also highlighted some of these for the benefit of Members.

Paragraphs 4.18 to 4.36 of the report then continued to give further information with regard to feedback received to the consultation. These included:

- Proposals with regards to Play area provision
- Reducing maintenance on open grassland and highway verges
- Reducing parks grass cutting, and



**CABINET - TUESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2019**

- Proposal to increase charges for use of Sports playing fields and pavilions to enable costs to be saved

The Head of Operations – Community Services advised, that in the event that sports clubs or community groups are unable to undertake a CAT then the proposed increased fee levels would apply as indicated in Appendix E to the report. These fee charges reflect typical annual maintenance and running costs for both playing fields and pavilions. However, these would need to be tailored by the anticipated usage of individual clubs and organisations. However, the figures and activities offer a reasonable guide to current expenditure against current levels of subsidy.

Prior to closing his submission, he then referred to the reports financial implications, which reiterated that a total of £438k in savings under the Council's MTFs had been earmarked in this area over the next two year period.

The Deputy Leader confirmed that this report was challenging and that the Council did not want to be in the position to make some of the proposals that were being made in the report. However, the level of savings that were required to be made were significant and if these were not made in this area, then they would have to be made in another area within the Communities Directorate.

The Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help, added that the Council currently managed 34 Sports Pavilions/playing fields and had done so for a very long time. However, in the current climate, maintenance costs associated with this could no longer be financially sustained. Therefore, alternative ways to do this needed to be looked at, including self-management proposals through the CAT process and/or by Clubs and Associations and possibly Town/Community Councils taking over these assets in terms of the running and maintenance costs.

The Cabinet Member – Education and Regeneration felt that a Development Trust methodology arrangement could possibly be put in place in order to aid possible takeovers such as those detailed above and in the report.

He encouraged Town/Community Councils to assist here through increasing their precept and take over such facilities through avenues so suggested.

He added that some Clubs had funds, for example through charging for the public to see matches and bar intakes which could help assist in funding a takeover of their local ground/Sports Pavilion. He further added that maybe financial support could be committed by national organisations, for example the Football Association and Welsh Rugby Union. He felt that it was particularly important to provide continued assistance for the use of these facilities by the elderly and minority groups and therefore suggested that Cabinet receives a further report on this at a future date.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the above facilities would face closure if assistance was not provided from the likes of Clubs and Associations or perhaps Town/Community Councils, as quite simply the Council could not provide the level of subsidence it had in the past due to the level of savings it had to find under the MTFs. He added that responses to all elements of the consultation had been a little bit mixed, however, a lot of Clubs/Associations had been supportive of the Council's proposals.

The Leader advised that the Council yet had to find £36m in savings across all its Directorates over the next 4 years and this was on top of the extensive savings it had made to date since the recession and austerity. Even if the Authority had an increase in its Revenue Support Grant, there were ongoing pressures that had to be dealt with in continuing to provide its statutory role in terms of its responsibilities, in the Education

## CABINET - TUESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2019

and Social Services Directorates where there were as in previous years, continuing and ongoing challenges that had to be met. There was also considerable costs to bear in terms of pay inflation.

The level of subsidy historically provided for the facilities subject of the report was 80% and quite simply, the Council could not sustain this level going forward. There were not many other services it subsidised to this degree he added. A lot of Clubs and Associations had engaged with the Council in a positive way during the consultation process and there were ways to assist them to finance Sports Pavilions and Playing Fields such as through the CAT process where they would be provided with some financial assistance in terms of funding. The new facility at Bryncethin RFC exemplified this.

He further added that the Council would look to set up a separate fund to support junior and mini-clubs, ie under 18's, as they were in a less favourable position than senior teams to self-finance themselves. The Council would also look to support the elderly also in a similar manner, in order to encourage them to continue participating in recreation activities, for the future benefit of their health and wellbeing.

The Cabinet Member – Future Generations and Wellbeing concluded debate on this important item, by stating that hopefully disadvantaged groups could also be financially supported through any fund set-up for this purpose.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the following:-

- A reduction in grass cutting for roadside verges and open grassland from 7 to 5 times a year
- Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member - Communities of approval of identified area where grass cutting can be discontinued.
- Discontinuing grant arrangements and regularising existing lease arrangements with Bowls Clubs to reflect the principles of full cost recovery.
- Increasing fee charges from September 2020 to users of facilities, with Appendix E to the report being used as a general guide to costs presently (with actual costs being determined at a future date) in the event where facilities do not form part of a Community Asset Transfer (CAT).
- Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member - Communities of approval for a separate strategy for Newbridge fields.
- With regards to the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) attached at Appendix D to the report and, in particular page 126/127 of the EIA, where reference is made to responses to the consultation where it was suggested that there may be an impact arising from the report's recommendations on child development, health and anti-social behaviour, with any such impact specifically relating to both "younger and older persons in society," a fund be set aside for this category of users to provide continued support for their access to facilities. This will assist in addressing any potential concerns the proposals may have on this category of user, including any detrimental effect on their future health and wellbeing. A further report will be presented to Cabinet at the earliest opportunity, outlining the detail of this fund and the users it will support.

**CABINET - TUESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2019**

- Noted that officers will continue to promote Community Asset Transfer of children's play areas to relevant Town and Community councils.

424. SECTION 123 (2A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: DISPOSAL OF LAND AT FORGE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MAESTEG

The Head of Operations – Community Services presented a report, in order for Cabinet to make a decision on whether or not the above Council owned land, which is classed as public open space, should be made available for disposal.

He explained that a request has been received from an existing business based on the Forge Industrial Estate, Maesteg, to purchase a parcel of Council owned land to facilitate the construction of additional factory space.

Following negotiations with the prospective purchaser, a purchase price for the parcel of land has been agreed. The land was outlined at Appendix 1 to the report.

As the land in question formed part of a wider area of green space, there will be no detriment as a result of the loss of the small parcel of open space.

The proposal was a positive one if approved also, the Head of Operations – Community Services added, in that the sale of land would lead to the creation of a further 10 new full-time posts in the above mentioned factory.

There was one objection to the proposal, however, the report highlighted (in paragraph 4.4) that this was not proven to be valid.

The Deputy Leader was happy with the report, particularly given that the sale of land would result in employment opportunities being created.

The Cabinet Member – Future Generations and Wellbeing asked if any small trees or shrubs have to be removed as a result of the land transaction, then could these be re-planted in another area of this valley location and once more could local school pupils assist in the re-planting, to which the Head of Operations – Community Services replied that both these suggestions could be pursued.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet having considered the report and the objection received in response to the Notices published in accordance with Section 123 (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972, authorised the disposal of land at Forge Industrial Estate, Maesteg.

425. PROCUREMENT UPDATE

The Head of Legal and Regulatory Services submitted a report, in order to update Members on the UK Steel Charter, Code of Practice – Ethical Employment in the Supply Chain, Welsh Government's Foundation Economy model – Better Jobs Closer to Home, the South East Wales Delivery Group and the Welsh Government Project Bank Account Policy and seek to:-

- Sign the UK Steel Charter with a view of working towards achievable commitments within the Charter if reasonable to do so.
- Sign the Code of Practice – Ethical Employment in the Supply Chain with a view of working towards achievable commitments within the Code if reasonable to do so.

**CABINET - TUESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2019**

- Work with Welsh Government to work towards the principles of the Foundation Economy Model – Better Jobs Closer to Home – Local Wealth Building when procuring goods, works and services.
- Agree for the council to participate in the South East Wales Delivery Group for common and repetitive collaborative Framework Agreements, if they provide value for money for the council.
- Adopt the principles within the Welsh Government Policy on Project Bank Accounts and apply payment through project bank accounts on contracts where their application is deemed appropriate and reasonable to do so.

The report outlined some background information in respect of the UK Steel Charter, Code of Practice – Ethical Employment in the Supply Chain, Foundation Economy Model – Better Jobs Closer to Home – Local Wealth Building, the South East Wales Delivery Group and the Welsh Government Project Bank Account Policy.

In terms of the South East Wales Delivery Group, the report expressed at paragraph 3.4.4, that for delivery of collaborative contracts by Local Government post 2020, there is a clear preference to establish regional delivery arrangements, for the 3 reasons given in bullet point format in this section of the report.

The Head of Legal and Regulatory Services then expanded upon the current situation of the report, giving reasons why the Council needed to consider adhering to/signing up to the proposals detailed in the bullet points above.

She then explained in terms of Section 5. of the report, that the Council's Contract Procedure Rules will require updating, in order to comply with the commitments of the UK Steel Charter, the Code of Practice – Ethical Employment in the Supply Chain and to reference the relevant requirements of the Welsh Government Project Bank Accounts Policy.

With regards to the financial implications of the report, the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services explained that these would be minimal at present, however, there was potential for a cost implication for the Council going forward. If these materialise, then they would be outlined in a future report to Cabinet she added.

The Leader advised that a considerable amount of work had gone into the report before Members, which had been the subject of consideration by Scrutiny as well as the subject of discussions with Welsh Government officials. The proposals of the report, if implemented, would help support the local economy including through local businesses. They had also been tried and trusted and proved successful in other areas, he added.

The Deputy Leader concluded debate on this item, by advising that the Council procured goods and services to the value of £160m and this had a major impact on not just local but the wider economy and the recommendations of the report, which he supported, would maximise that even further.

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet :-

- Signed up to the UK Steel Charter with a view of working towards committing to the steps that are considered to be achievable and reasonable to do so
- Signed up initially to the Code of Practice – Ethical Employment in the Supply Chain with a view of working towards achieving the commitments within the Code in the future if considered reasonable to do so.
- Agreed with working towards the Foundation Economy model.
- Agreed for Bridgend to participate in the South East Wales Delivery Group.

**CABINET - TUESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2019**

- Adopted the principles contained within the Welsh Government Policy on Project Bank Accounts and apply payment through a PBA on contracts where their application is deemed appropriate and reasonable to do so.

426. INFORMATION REPORT FOR NOTING

The Head of Legal and Regulatory Services presented a report, the purpose of which, was to inform Cabinet of the Information Report for noting published since its last scheduled meeting.

Details of this were outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the report with the report entitled 'Treasury Management – Half-Year Report 2019-20' which was published on 16 October 2019.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet acknowledged the publication of the above document listed in the report.

427. URGENT ITEMS

None.

The meeting closed at 16:45