

# **BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **REPORT TO CABINET**

**25 FEBRUARY 2020**

### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

#### **PLAYING FIELDS, OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES & PARKS PAVILIONS AND COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report provides Cabinet with an update on the community asset transfers (CATs) of playing fields and park pavilions to Town and Community Councils (T&CCs) and/or sports clubs under self-management arrangements.
- 1.2 The report also makes recommendations to support the improvement and development of playing fields and park pavilions post transfer to ensure that facilities become more sustainable. The measures outlined are also designed to stimulate the Council's CAT Programme and ensure that the expectations of sports clubs are appropriately managed and transfers progressed and completed in a timely manner in support of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

##### **2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities**

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priorities:-
  1. Helping people to be more self-reliant – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
  2. Smarter use of resources – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

##### **3. Background**

###### **Sports Facilities Managed by Green Spaces & Bereavement Services**

- 3.1 The provision of playing fields, outdoor sports facilities and parks pavilions is recognised as making an important contribution in helping to achieve healthy lifestyles and better levels of physical and mental wellbeing for the County Borough's residents. The Council promotes and has historically subsidised a range of measures intended to support and increase levels of participation in sport and physical activity. However, the Council also recognises that the current level of subsidy provided to manage and maintain outdoor sports

facilities is financially unsustainable and will lead to the inevitable closure of facilities over time unless there is a significant shift to self-management. The status quo position is not sustainable and will lead to significant detriment to future generations, as evidenced by the fact that a number of sports pavilions have already had to close for health and safety reasons as the Council has insufficient funding to consistently invest in them and the condition of many others is critical unless the operating model is changed.

- 3.2 The Council currently manages 39 playing fields (excluding areas that have already undertaken CATs) which includes:
- 40 pavilions;
  - 43 football pitches;
  - 25 rugby pitches;
  - 14 bowling greens; and
  - 6 cricket squares.
- 3.3 The majority of the facilities are shared by a number of clubs and community groups as well as being accessible on an informal basis to the wider community. In contrast some facilities are used almost exclusively by a single club. Four bowls clubs already hold leases that are in the process of being regularised by the Council.
- 3.4 The Council established a £1 million Sports Pavilion Fund in February 2014 to encourage sports clubs to self-manage pavilions. The fund was intended to allow investment to improve the condition of such assets as part of an agreement to lease and take over the responsibility for the maintenance and repair of facilities and the payment of running costs - in line with their needs and expectations. A series of independent condition surveys are due to be undertaken shortly upon all Council controlled pavilions so that the extent of building works required in the future can be determined. The Cabinet has already agreed in principle that it will seek Council approval to replenish the fund, as and when necessary, as demand for CAT increases and the fund diminishes. This will be in conjunction with the S151 officer and will be actioned through quarterly capital monitoring reports to Cabinet and Council when the fund reaches a level of around £200,000 and will be based on known commitments going forward.
- 3.5 In response to concerns that have been expressed by the relevant overview and scrutiny committee regarding the nature of leases and the potential deterioration of facilities it is worth setting out the following:
- The terms and conditions of leases and/or tenancies at will issued by the Council requires the tenant, i.e. T&CC or sports club, to maintain the state and condition of the pavilion in a safe, clean and tidy manner and to ensure that the various statutory obligations including fire safety; electricity; gas; legionella and asbestos management are duly being complied with.
  - The Council also requires that grounds shall be maintained in a condition that is suitable for the safe unhindered recreational use by the public and other users and kept free of litter and debris with the playing pitch areas

being maintained in a safe condition, appropriate to the sport and level being played in line with Governing Body requirements.

- The Council as landlord is required to provide written consent, i.e. issue a licence, for internal or external alterations to the premises before any such works are permitted to be carried out
- The Council as landlord also has the right to inspect pavilions and playing fields to ensure that these requirements are being complied with and facilities can also be subject to periodic independent assessment, e.g. match and league officials.

3.6 The measures required to achieve the level of indicative savings of £369,000 in 2020-21 under the MTFS were outlined in the report of the Chief Executive which was approved by the Cabinet on 22 October 2019 and re-affirmed at a special meeting of Cabinet on 13 November 2019 after further consideration of comments and recommendations of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee from their meeting held on 4 November 2019, following a Call-in on the decision originally taken. These included:

Area	Action Proposed
<b>Playing fields, outdoor sports facilities and parks pavilions</b>	Hire fees will not increase for any club or organisation that is committed to the CAT process. For clarity, the Council will not introduce full cost recovery charges for any clubs provided that they commit to undertaking self-management either by full lease or licence, and the Council is pleased to report that it has received expressions of interest for all of its playing fields and park pavilions either from T&CCs and/or sports clubs.
<b>Bowling clubs</b>	Grant arrangements with bowling clubs should be discontinued, and existing lease arrangements regularised as the Council moves towards full cost recovery.
<b>Newbridge Fields</b>	A separate strategy should be developed for the management and operation of the various facilities available throughout Newbridge Fields with an option appraisal being undertaken to enable an informed decision to be taken.

## Community Asset Transfer

- 3.7 The transfer of assets or services to T&CCs, sports clubs or community groups offers opportunities to maintain and preserve valuable community services which may otherwise be under threat; or alternatively improve the provision that is already available. Throughout Wales there are a considerable number of sports clubs that already run and manage their own facilities very successfully, often utilising the skills and experience of local people and attracting external funding to improve facilities that is not available to local government. Additionally there is a good track record of many sports clubs in the County Borough similarly successfully running their clubs and facilities without the direct support of the Council. Over recent years the local authorities in Carmarthenshire, Blaenau Gwent, Vale of Glamorgan and Neath Port Talbot have all successfully adopted policies to CAT sports facilities to T&CCs and/or local sports clubs.
- 3.8 The Corporate Director Communities first wrote to T&CCs, sports clubs and community groups on 16 October 2015 outlining the Council's CAT policy, assets available for transfer, timescales and inviting expressions of interest in transferring Council assets which included sports pavilions and playing fields. It is evident that the Council's level of subsidy of more than 80% has in the main been a disincentive to the number of sports clubs seeking to complete transfers with only ambitious teams such as Bryncethin RFC, who secured funding of more than £550K, to turn their outdated pavilion into a community centre selecting self-management. However, the transfer of Bryncethin Playing Fields was protracted and highlighted limitations in the CAT process which needed to be improved and streamlined.
- 3.9 The CAT Task & Finish Group established by the CAT Steering Group with the primary objective of providing strategic direction in respect of the Council's CAT Programme and associated policies, systems and processes intended to make the process simpler and shorten timescales. The main recommendations arising from the CAT Task & Finish Group can be summarised as follows:
- A list of assets available for CAT should be maintained and periodically reviewed and updated (see latest CAT Priority 1 Asset List grouped by T&CC areas at **Appendix A**);
  - Asset data (compliance, condition survey and operating costs) should be issued to community groups at the earliest opportunity;
  - Model Heads of Terms and template Leases for particular asset groups should be utilised wherever possible with a "take it or leave it" approach being adopted;
  - The submission of income and expenditure projections for a minimum of a 5-year period should suffice for the majority of CATs but detailed business plans should still be requested for more complex projects;
  - A risk based approach should be adopted for the Business Diagnostic Assessment undertaken upon community groups/sports clubs and the assets being subject to CAT;

- T&CCs and established community groups/sports clubs should have their applications fast tracked particularly where the asset subject to CAT is in a compliant condition. The risk based approach will enable a risk matrix to be produced identifying suitability for fast tracking.

3.10 The Council's updated CAT Policy was approved by the Cabinet on 23 July 2019 and takes account of the changes summarised above and in particular the simplified "fast track" process which will be applicable to all T&CCs and the majority of community groups wishing to progress transfers. The Cabinet has also agreed that any organisation that is fully committed to progressing a CAT and are unable to complete a lease, a licence, a tenancy at will or management agreement of the playing fields and sports pavilions through no fault of their own, will have their hire fees frozen at the current levels, other than the regular inflation adjustment, until these issues are resolved.

#### **4. Current Situation / Proposal**

##### **Welsh Government Financial Settlement 2020/21**

4.1 The Councils received their provisional settlements from Welsh Government on 16 December 2019 which shows an overall budget increase for Bridgend of 4.7%. The provisional settlement is a significant improvement compared to the -1.5% "most likely" assumption contained within the Council's original MTFS for 2020-21. The provisional settlement does not recognise a number of new pressures faced by the Council, however, it does provide an opportunity for savings previously identified in the MTFS to be re-considered in line with the priorities of the Council.

4.2 The Final MTFS saving of £300,000 for playing fields and parks have been deferred until the 2021-22 financial year to reflect the level of ongoing CAT activity and this will have a number of clear benefits including:

- Providing sports clubs and the Council with more time to complete transfers in an orderly manner;
- Allowing the Council to engage more effectively with the governing bodies of sport and where possible developing joint strategies and more partnership working. Initial positive meetings have already been held with the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU), Football Association of Wales (FAW) Trust and Cricket Wales.

4.3 The situation beyond April 2021 will need to be re-assessed by the Council in December 2020 to take account of the financial settlement from Welsh Government for 2021-22 and the level of CAT activity particularly the number of completed transfers. In view of current level interest in CAT from T&CCs and local sports clubs, the increased resources intended to be deployed by the Council to support CAT, the positive dialogue with the relevant Governing Bodies, and the enhanced packages of support that are now in place, the Council is confident that the process of completing CAT's will accelerate significantly over the next year.

## Level of CAT Activity

- 4.4 T&CCs and sports clubs are actively engaging with the CAT Officer to progress CATs on all the sports facilities that would potentially be impacted by the introduction of any new hire charges:

Progress Reached	Playing Fields & Pavilions
Completed Transfers (Long Lease or Tenancy at Will)	1
Freehold Transfers being Finalised	0
Transfer Approved with Heads of Terms / Lease being Finalised	10
Renewable 5 Year Lease being Finalised	1
License to Occupy / Use	0
Expression of Interest Approved with Business Diagnostic Assessment & Financial Projections / Business Case being Developed	21
Informal Expression of Interest Received with Discussions Ongoing	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>

A detailed summary of CAT activity as at 31 January 2020 is included at **Appendix B**.

- 4.5 There are currently 7 T&CCs progressing CATs of playing fields and/or pavilions:

T&CC	Asset
Coity Higher Community Council	Great Western Avenue Playing Fields
Cornelly	North Cornelly Playing Fields
Laleston Community Council	Bryntirion Playing Fields
Llangynwyd Lower Community Council	Coytrahen Playing Fields

Newcastle Higher Community Council	Pen-Y-Fai Playing Fields
Pencoed Town Council	Pencoed Recreation Ground Pavilion and 2 x Pitches
Porthcawl Town Council	Griffin Park (including Bowls Pavilion & Greens)

- 4.6 Informal discussions have also been held with a further 5 T&CCs regarding the future arrangements of pavilions and playing fields in their areas and the support that could potentially be provided to sports clubs undertaking community asset transfers:

T&CC	Asset(s)
Coychurch Lower Community Council	Coychurch Playing Fields
Llangynwyd Middle Community Council	Llangynwyd Playing Fields
Maesteg Town Council	All Playing Fields (including Maesteg Welfare Park)
Ogmore Valley Community Council	Aberfields ("the Planka")
Ynysawdre Community Council	Pandy Park

- 4.7 There are 8 CATs to sports clubs that it is hoped will be completed shortly:

Sports Club / Group	Asset(s)
Bridgend Athletic Club	Newbridge Fields Athletic Field & Track
Caerau FC	Hermon Road / Metcalf Street Playing Fields
Carn Rovers FC	Cwm Garw Playing Fields
Kenfig Hill RFC	Croft Goch Playing Fields (Pavilion + Rugby Pitch)
Maesteg Harlequins RFC	South Parade Playing Fields

Maesteg Park FC	Tudor Park Playing Fields
Pencoed Athletic BGC	Woodlands Park
Rest Bay Sports	Rest Bay Playing Fields

### **CAT Resources**

- 4.8 Resourcing shortages were noted by the CAT Task & Finish Group as being a contributory factor in the delay in processing CATs. The staff resources required to progress multiple CATs within agreed timescales for the influx of transfers required has been assessed by the Head of Operations Community Services and shortages within the Corporate Landlord and Green Spaces and Bereavement Services teams identified together with additional support requirements for the CAT Officer. Proposals for additional staff resources have been outlined in a business case that will be submitted to the Corporate Management Board shortly. Additional funding has been identified and earmarked provisionally in the Change Management Fund to support this application for more resource that will ensure that the pace of CAT is accelerated.
- 4.9 The “Team” approach favoured by the CAT Task & Finish Group whereby multi-disciplinary staff from different sections of the Council work together has already commenced with the formation of a CAT Operations Group.

### **Sports Governing Bodies**

- 4.10 Cricket Wales, FAW Trust and WRU wrote jointly to the Council on 9 January 2020 to re-affirm that the 3 governing bodies were already actively working to find alternative solutions for the provision of sports across Bridgend – highlighting the time required to ensure this new model of delivery was successful and sustainable and the need for more support, and also setting out a clear willingness to work with the Council.
- 4.11 As previously indicated the Council has already held positive meetings with representatives from Cricket Wales, FAW Trust and WRU and will seek to do the same with Bowls Wales in the near future. The Council wish to work closely with relevant governing bodies to give our proposals the best chance of a successful implementation and to this end will be establishing a joint CAT Advisory Panel from representatives of the governing bodies of each sport and members and officers of the Council. The Advisory Panel will enable partnership working to be further developed to achieve the best outcomes and utilise resources more effectively by exploring joint funding opportunities, the sharing of experiences, and finding practical solutions to overcome common concerns such as public open space and the day to day maintenance of non-sporting areas. It is intended that the first meeting of the Advisory Panel will be held in March 2020.

## CAT Fund

- 4.12 The Sports Pavilion Fund outlined in paragraph 3.4 was re-designated as the CAT Fund and the scope for funding widened under the MTFS 2019-20 to 2022-23 in February 2019 to also include building works on other Council facilities such as community centres and public toilets, to support the CAT process. This is to ensure that as many buildings as possible can be kept open and provide long-term community benefits.
- 4.13 Funding applications up to £50K are approved by the CAT Steering Group with all sums in excess of this threshold being referred to the Cabinet for approval. To date six projects have been allocated funding from this source totalling up to £340,520:

Community Group / Sports Club	Asset	Purpose	Amount
Bryncethin RFC	Bryncethin Playing Fields	Develop a community centre	£110,000
Careau FC	Hermon Road/Metcalf Street Playing Fields	Refurbish the existing pavilion	£50,000
Pencoed Town Council	Pencoed Recreation Ground Pavilion	Repairs to enable pavilion to be re-opened	*£75,000
Carn Rovers	Cwm Garw Playing Fields	Pavilion repairs and security measures	£10,300
Rest Bay Sports	Rest Bay Playing Fields	Pavilion Refurbishment	£45,220
Porthcawl Town Council	John Street Public Toilets	Refurbishment of Grade 2 Listed Building	£50,000

\* Maximum contribution agreed by Cabinet on 21 May 2019

- 4.14 The Cabinet has previously confirmed their commitment to replenishing the CAT Fund as and when necessary, subject to the availability of finite capital resources, to encourage transfers and meet demand particularly where value for money can be clearly demonstrated post CAT.

4.15 Currently a sum of £340,520 is already committed from the £1 million CAT Fund.

### **T&CC Capital Grant Scheme**

4.16 Funding under the T&CC Capital grant scheme since 2017-18 has prioritised CAT projects. The CAT Officer has liaised with T&CCs to assist them in submitting funding applications and Cabinet has approved match funding of £229,211 in respect of 10 CAT related projects during this period:

<b>T&amp;CC</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>
Cornelly	Cornelly Community Centre Roof	£50,000		
Porthcawl	Griffin Park Public Toilets	£35,000		
Garw Valley	Bus shelter refurbishment in Betws		£3,795	
Pencoed	Provision of skateboard park		£20,000	
Cornelly	Landscaping around Cornelly Community Centre including pocket park		£40,000	
Pencoed	Refurbishment of Pencoed Recreation Ground Pavilion			£20,000
Bridgend	Refurbishment of Athletic Track at Newbridge Fields			£20,000
Cornelly	Refurbishment of Community Centre Toilets			£10,000
Coity Higher	Refurbishment of Pendre Fields Play Area			£15,000
Coity Higher	Refurbishment of Coity Castle Play Area			£15,416
<b>Total</b>		<b>£85,000</b>	<b>£63,795</b>	<b>£80,416</b>

4.17 Applications to the T&CC Capital grant scheme 2020-21 were made available in January 2020 with the deadline for receipt of completed applications of 28 February 2020 being established. Decisions on the allocation will be made by Cabinet in March 2020 ready for the start of the new financial year. Funding of up to £83,139 (T&CC Capital Grant Annual Allocation of £50,000 + Carry Forwards from Previous Years of £33,139) is currently available for 2020/21, and paragraphs 4.5 and 4.6 have already highlighted the good level of engagement between the Council, T&CCs and sports clubs.

### **Bridgend Sports Team Support Fund**

4.18 As part of their approval of the report to Cabinet outlining the introduction of full cost recovery methodology on 22 October 2019, the Cabinet announced their desire to establish an annually recurrent support fund primarily aimed at assisting the development of mini, junior and youth teams, particularly those involved with sports clubs undertaking self-management or CAT. Consequently Cabinet has included a new recurrent budget pressure within the MTFs (Parks and Playing Fields Development Budget - £75,000) to be submitted for approval by Cabinet on 25 February and Council as part of the overall MTFs on 26 February 2020.

4.19 Subject to Council approval the Bridgend Sports Team Support Fund (BSTSF) will be established to encourage participation in sport with the following simple eligibility criteria and basis for operation being applied:

- Funding of up to £75,000 will be made available in both of the next two financial years to support voluntary sports clubs based within the County Borough of Bridgend.
- Applications should be open to any age group; however, the scheme will prioritise supporting mini, junior and youth clubs and underrepresented sports / groups and will encourage growth and improvement.
- Financial assistance will be limited to a maximum of £2,000 per team and potentially can be used as match funding with Sports Wales Community Chest and the governing bodies of each sport.
- The cost of equipment, training and day to day operating costs will be allowable under the scheme.
- Funding will be provided based upon the submission of original invoices with expenditure being substantiated, e.g. copy of corresponding bank statement to verify proof of payment.
- The BSTSF will be open twice yearly to receive bids:

	<i>Application Start Date</i>	<i>Application Closing Date</i>
Spring / Summer	1 April	30 June
Autumn / Winter	1 October	31 December

- Administration of the Fund should be delegated to the CAT Officer on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Communities with all funding awards being approved by the Cabinet.

4.20 The BSTSF will require annual revenue funding of £75,000 being made available initially in both 2020-21 and 2021-22, which the proposed budget pressure will allow, and will follow the Council's general grant funding arrangements. Future years' funding will be reviewed at that point informed by the take up and success of both the fund and the CAT policy.

### **Pitch Maintenance & Improvement**

4.21 Paragraphs 4.12 and 4.13 have previously highlighted the support currently available under the CAT Fund to assist T&CCs and community groups undertake essential building works following the completion of a CAT, based upon an independent condition survey commissioned by the Council to highlight the future liabilities of a particular asset. It is also evident that a number of the pitches, greens and wickets currently maintained by Green Spaces and Bereavement Services may be in a poor condition due to enforced cuts in service provision over a number of years and issues surrounding drainage.

4.22 The Council are therefore also seeking to introduce the following initiatives aimed at improving green spaces pre and post CAT, and thereby improving the chances of long-term sustainable CAT by:

- Commissioning consultants, as necessary, to undertake independent condition assessments of sports pitches, greens and wickets so that future maintenance requirements can be determined;
- Developing a programme of sports pitch improvement and drainage capital grants valued at £5,000 to £25,000 in consultation with the governing bodies to ensure that prioritised sites are fit for purpose.
- Establishing pitch maintenance equipment grants to provide capital funding valued from £5,000 up to £10,000 for T&CCs and sports clubs who complete transfers to assist with the purchase of equipment to enable the self-management of associated green spaces.

4.23 It is envisaged that the scope of the CAT Fund should be extended to include the maintenance of playing fields so that capital grants to enable pitch and drainage improvements, and equipment purchases can be administered via this source.

4.24 The proposed independent pitch condition surveys will need to be subject to selective tendering and a budget of up to £50,000 would need to be set aside under the Change Management Fund for this purpose so that these can be undertaken during 2020-21. This will be subject to approval from Corporate Management Board.

### **Transitional Support for Bowls Facilities**

- 4.25 The Council has previously confirmed that the annual grant provided to bowling clubs will end in 2019-20. The Council appreciates that bowls club that currently make no direct financial contributions for the hire or the upkeep of bowls greens will be impacted most when self-management arrangements are introduced and that to lessen the initial burden that some form of transitional relief may be required to ensure sustainability of such assets. The Council is therefore prepared to make available a one-off grant of £5,000 for each bowls facility on the condition that the bowls clubs using them also commit to taking over the bowls green maintenance on a day to day basis from 30 September 2020 and that they complete a CAT lease of these facilities. This funding should not be linked to the number of bowls clubs or bowls greens attributed to a particular site.
- 4.26 This measure will cost the Council a maximum of £60,000 in 2020-21 based upon the 12 bowls sites maintained by Green Spaces and Bereavement Services. A request for an earmarked reserve to be established to meet this cost in 2020-21 will be made as part of the year end process for closing the accounts.

#### **Strategy for Newbridge Fields / Maesteg Welfare Park / Aberfields**

- 4.27 The Council has previously identified that Newbridge Fields may require alternative management and operational arrangements and is not suitable to be divided into plots to facilitate CATs to individual sports clubs. The CAT Steering Group also recognises that there are two further sites – Maesteg Welfare Park and Aberfields (more commonly known as “the Planka”) that currently provides sports facilities (pavilions and playing fields) that are also extensively used as public parks by local residents and visitors. Due to the size of the sites, level of public usage, the number of clubs involved, and/or need for improvement / development that options available in addition to the standard CAT to sports clubs should also be assessed and individual strategies developed for these sites.
- 4.28 The CAT Officer has already held informal discussions with the relevant T&CCs and some of sports clubs involved and intends to establish a Stakeholder Steering Group for each of the three sites to determine the most appropriate way of managing and developing these facilities in the future with option appraisals being independently commissioned.
- 4.29 A specification of requirements has been prepared and selective tender exercise to engage consultants is due to commence shortly. A budget of £20K has been set aside from the Change Management Fund already earmarked for CAT and is estimated that the assignment will take up to 6 months to complete with final reports being required by October 2020 so that any new arrangements can potentially be introduced by 1 April 2021.

#### **Conclusions**

- 4.30 The level of engagement with T&CCs and sports clubs outlined at paragraphs 4.4 to 4.7 has been good with all sports related facilities being subject to

discussions surrounding self-management arrangements. The Council wishes to continue to work in partnership with T&CCs and sports clubs so that CATs of playing fields and parks pavilions can be finalised to ensure the best outcomes are achieved to benefit our local communities.

- 4.31 The Council wishes to foster a culture of joint working with T&CCs and recognises the extremely important role that they can play in helping to manage and maintain facilities and services that otherwise may come under threat as the Council continues to experience cutbacks to its overall budget. The Council also acknowledges that in some cases, because of their direct links to local communities and sports clubs, T&CCs may be better placed to work in partnership at a local level to develop long-term sustainable solutions.
- 4.32 The better than expected financial settlement for 2020/21 enables the Council to reinforce our intention of not imposing new charges but to progress the preferred option of transferring the day to day management of such facilities to T&CCs and sports clubs instead. This will ensure that CATs can be completed in a more orderly manner and also enables the Council to work more collaboratively with the governing bodies of the sports impacted to achieve the most mutually beneficial results.
- 4.33 The Council has identified other enhancements to its support mechanisms such as pitch / drainage improvements and equipment grants that may also be needed in addition to grants already provided to refurbish pavilions to ensure that self-management can be completed successfully and assets become sustainable to the benefit of future generations. While it is the intention of the Council to replenish the CAT Fund to reflect the needs of community groups this cannot be guaranteed and is subject to the availability of continued funding. It is in the interests of T&CCs and sports clubs to complete transfers at the earliest opportunity so that required funding to improve assets can be duly secured and essential maintenance works progressed.

## **5. Effect upon Policy Framework& Procedure Rules**

- 5.1 The Council's CAT policy document has already been updated to reflect the changes to process recommended by the CAT Task & Finish Group and approved by the Cabinet on 23 July 2019.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 A full EIA was undertaken to support the original report - "Playing Fields, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks Pavilions" - considered by Cabinet on 22 October 2019 and is reproduced at **Appendix C**.

## **7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment**

- 7.1 The Council is committed to promoting sustainable development and to discharge our duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The proposals made by the CAT Task & Finish Group were aimed at

streamlining processes to enable CATs to be fast tracked, wherever possible, and to reduce the burden placed upon T&CCs and community groups.

7.2 Bridgend County Borough Council wishes to promote CATs of its playing fields and sports pavilions to either T&CCs or relevant sports groups to ensure that existing users are not required to pay any increased charges. The proposals seek to take into consideration the long-term sustainability of sports facilities in the County Borough and recognises the importance of such facilities in delivering a healthier Wales and the role these facilities have in a Wales of cohesive communities. In light of increasing budget pressures, taking an integrated approach to the way the Council operates these kinds of facilities is vital. The report outlines how T&CCs, sports clubs and community groups can have an involvement in the development of collaborative working opportunities to ensure the long-term sustainability of the facilities and the Council's ability to fund other services.

7.3 An assessment under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 was completed for the original Cabinet report considered on 22 October 2019 and has been included to the report at **Appendix D**. In respect of the Council's CAT policy and processes a summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is outlined below:

<b>Long-term</b>	Supports the corporate priorities of the Council outlined at paragraph 2.1.
<b>Prevention</b>	Ensures the assets and services threatened by financial austerity can continue to be used by the community and promote healthier lifestyles and general well-being.
<b>Integration</b>	Enables the Council to work in partnership with T&CCs, sports clubs, community groups, other stakeholders and the wider community to meet local needs in a more holistic way.
<b>Collaboration</b>	The proposals have been developed and will be delivered through a strong partnership between BCBC, T&CCs and relevant stakeholders including the governing bodies of the sports concerned.

<b>Involvement</b>	The proposals will be delivered in close partnership with a range of local stakeholders including T&CCs, community groups / current users and the national governing bodies.
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## 8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 The financial implications of the Council's current CAT activities and additional measures aimed at supporting sports clubs and stimulating transfers are reflected in the report and summarized below. These are in addition to any future capital funding agreed to replenish the CAT Fund:

Report Ref	Usage of Funding	Required Funding		Financial Year
		Capital	Revenue	
4.18 to 4.20	Establishment of Bridgend Sports Team Support Fund	-	£75,000	2020-21
		-	£75,000	2021-22
4.21 to 4.24	Commissioning Pitch Condition Surveys	-	£50,000	2020-21
4.25 & 4.26	Transitional Grants for Bowls Sites	-	£60,000	2020-21

## 9. Recommendation

It is recommended that Cabinet approves:-

- 9.1 The Council should regularly monitor the level of CAT engagement with T&CCs and sports clubs and associated progress on a case for case basis to ensure that this key priority is being achieved in line with the requirements of the MTFs.
- 9.2 The principle of replenishment of the CAT Fund as and when necessary as CAT's are completed be agreed, subject to known commitments, and there being sufficient capital resources and the approval of Council through quarterly capital reporting.
- 9.3 The creation of the Bridgend Sports Team Support Fund for an initial 2-year period, to be reviewed prior to the 2022-23 financial year and

informed by the level of take up and the success of the Council's CAT policy for playing fields and parks pavilions.

- 9.4 Extending the scope of the CAT Fund to include pitch and drainage improvements and pitch equipment grants.
- 9.5 Commissioning of pitch condition and drainage surveys.
- 9.6 The principle of providing transitional funding to facilitate the self-management of bowls greens by 30 September 2020, subject to the establishment of an earmarked reserve for this purpose.

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
**February 2020**

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**Background documents:**

Cabinet Report - Community Asset Transfer Policy (23 July 2019)  
Cabinet Report - Playing Fields, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks Pavilions (22 October 2019)  
Revised CAT Policy Document (July 2019)