

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

20 SEPTEMBER 2021

### REPORT OF THE INTERIM CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

#### SHAPING BRIDGEND'S FUTURE - BUDGET CONSULTATION 2021 ENGAGEMENT WITH TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Town and Community Council Forum of the Shaping Bridgend's Future Budget Consultation process 2021, with the aim of ensuring effective engagement with Town and Community Councils and local residents.

#### 2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective/objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county borough.
- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** – taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 In conjunction with this report a presentation on the MTFS 2021-22 to 2023-24 will be given to set the scene for future years' savings requirements and budget pressures.
- 3.2 Each year the council carry out a consultation with the public around the MTFS proposals for the following year(s).
- 3.3 In 2018 the consultation team engaged with 5288 residents through a variety of

mechanisms such as face to face engagement, online and paper surveys, social media and the councils Citizens' Panel. In 2019 this engagement increased to 7,437 interactions. Due to the impact of Covid-19 we were unable to carry out face to face engagement in 2020, which resulted in a decrease in interactions. In 2020 there were a total of 1,831 interactions from a combination of survey completions, engagement at various meetings, social media and digital communication engagement and via the local authority's Citizens' Panel.

- 3.4 We aim to ensure that the consultation is as wide reaching as possible, and are continuously looking for ways to engage with the public and improve participation.
- 3.5 We hope that given the success of engagement sessions with Town and Community Councils in 2019 and 2020 we are able to replicate this for 2021, by attending face to face and online meetings as appropriate.

#### **4. Current situation/proposal**

- 4.1 The timeframe for the Shaping Bridgend's Future Budget consultation 2021 is 20 September to 14 November 2021.
- 4.2 This year the consultation focusses on nine key areas:
- ❖ Performance over the past 12 months;
  - ❖ Support for Business, Tourism and the economy;
  - ❖ Wellbeing;
  - ❖ Customer face-to-face access
  - ❖ Digitalisation;
  - ❖ Investment in services:
  - ❖ Fees and charges;
  - ❖ Council Tax levels;
  - ❖ The future.
- 4.3 Bridgend County Borough Council's 'Shaping Bridgend's Future' budget consultations have been undertaken annually since 2013. Previous budget consultations have focused on specific service provisions, but this year we want to engage with residents on a longer term vision for Bridgend County Borough.
- 4.4 Town and Community Councils will be provided with the electronic link to the consultation, posters and the explainer video. Paper copies are available where requested.
- 4.5 The consultation will be available in a variety of formats, including online and paper, standard, easy read, youth version and large print. All formats are available in Welsh and English.
- 4.6 During the live period BCBC officers will be available to attend Town and Community Council meetings. The Consultation and Engagement team will liaise with Town and Community Council Clerks directly to arrange attendance at meetings.

4.7 The Consultation, Engagement and Equalities team will develop a calendar of events for the live period, so all requests to attend meetings or events should be made as soon as possible. Meetings and events will not take place after the closing date of 14 November 2021.

4.8 The Budget Consultation Report will be presented to Cabinet in December 2021.

## **5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**

5.1 There are no proposed changes to the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

## **6. Equality Act 2010 implications**

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

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

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. The following is a summary to show how the five ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

**Long-term** - The consultation process will ensure residents' needs are listened to in the short-term and in the long term.

**Prevention** – Effective consultation, taking into consideration the views of residents will help to prevent disproportionate impact to any protected characteristic groups, on socio-economic disadvantage or on the Welsh Language.

**Integration** – The availability of the consultation in many formats ensures integration for all people with protected characteristics.

**Collaboration** – The consultation is carried out in collaboration with all key stakeholders.

**Involvement** - Publication of the report ensures that the public and stakeholders can review the work that has been undertaken.

## **8. Financial implications**

8.1 The cost of the budget consultation is met from existing budgets.

**9. Recommendation**

- 9.1 That the Town and Community Council Forum receives and considers this report and gives consideration to engagement during the live period.

**Gill Lewis**

**INTERIM CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE**

**20 September 2021**

**Contact officer:** Nicola Bunston  
Consultation, Engagement and Equalities Manager

**Telephone:** (01656) 643664

**Email:** [nicola.bunston@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.bunston@bridgend.gov.uk)

**Postal address:** Level one, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend,  
CF314WB

**Background papers:**

None