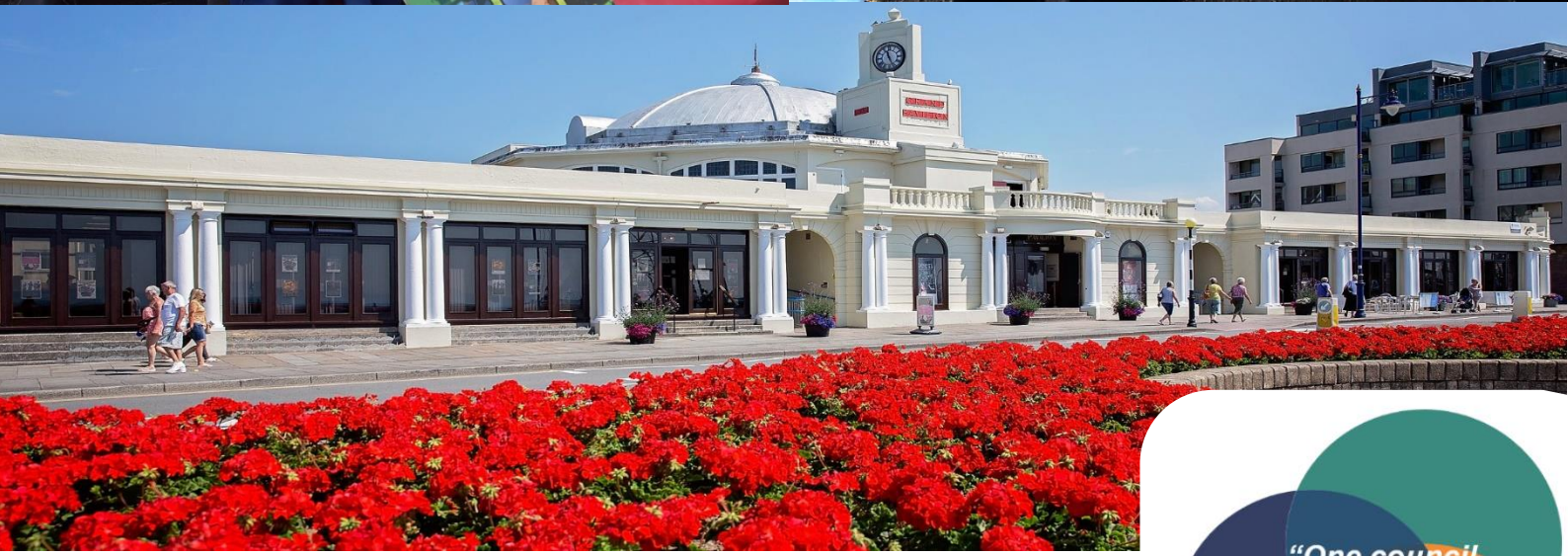


# CORPORATE PLAN

2018-23  
reviewed for  
2022-23



**Bridgend County Borough Council**  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr



# Introduction

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Welcome to the council's revised corporate plan for 2022-23

(DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN FOR CONSIDERATION)

Introduction – TBC



Councillor Huw David  
Leader of the Council



Mark Shephard  
Chief Executive



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# A snapshot of Bridgend County Borough



Population	147,539
Size	98.5 square miles
Households	64,766
Average house price	£187,812
Active businesses	4160
People in employment	69.4%

## Representation

Wards	39
Councillors	54
Constituency Members of Senedd	2
Regional Members of Senedd	4
Members of Parliament	2

## Homelessness

Homeless hostels	2
Domestic abuse refuges	2
Rough sleepers provision	3
Supported and temporary accommodation schemes	13

## Education

Primary schools (excluding. Welsh medium and Faith)	39
Secondary schools (excluding. Welsh medium and Faith)	7
Special schools	2
Pupil referral unit	1
Faith schools	6
Welsh medium schools	5

## Leisure and Well-being

Swimming pools	5
Life centres and sports facilities	9
Libraries	11

## Social Care

Extra care homes	3
Reablement unit	1
Resource centre for people with complex needs	1

We develop, manage and maintain **280 hectares** of open spaces, including children's play areas, sports pitches, commons, highway verges, landscapes and horticultural features.



## Total Council Income (2022-23)



Council Tax	£xxxm
Non-Domestic Rates	£xxxm
Revenue Support Grant (Welsh Government)	£xxxm
Other funding (including fees and charges)	£xxxm
<b>Total Gross Income</b>	<b>£xxxm</b>

We have **4,360** full-time equivalent staff delivering a full range of key services to over 147,000 people, which include:

Education and schools, social care, safeguarding our most vulnerable adults and children; youth justice, planning and building control, housing support, maintaining highways and public transport, refuse and recycling, street cleaning and safety, parks, environmental and natural resources protection, play areas, food hygiene, licensing, health and safety inspectors, collecting revenues and administering benefits, elections, sports, arts and libraries, supporting employment, business and tourism, special events and festivals.

# Our vision, principles and values

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## Our Vision

In formulating this corporate plan, the council has considered the type of organisation it wants to be. Our vision is to act as

**“One council working together to improve lives”.**

We will do this by delivering our well-being objectives. Achieving this will improve the quality of life of all those living and working in the county borough. This plan represents our ambitions and commitments to our citizens and sets out our contribution to Wales’ seven well-being goals as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

This means that we will become a smaller, more flexible and innovative local authority that works with partners and local communities to create a future in which residents have access to a more responsive and tailored service. It will also mean that residents take greater responsibility for making that happen, to improve their own resilience and for that of the community as a whole.

## Our Principles

A number of key principles underpin how we work. They highlight the importance of working in partnership with our citizens, our communities and with other organisations to develop and deliver sustainable services. Together, we will identify and meet local need as best we can:

- To support communities and people to create their own solutions and reduce dependency on the council.
- To focus diminishing resources on communities and individuals with the greatest need.
- To use good information from service users and communities to inform its decisions.
- To encourage and develop capacity amongst the third sector to identify and respond to local needs.
- To not let uncertainty over the future of public services prevent meaningful and pragmatic collaboration with other public sector bodies.
- To work as one council and discourage different parts of the organisation from developing multiple processes or unnecessarily different approaches.
- To transform the organisation and many of its services to deliver financial budget reductions as well as improvements.

These principles highlight the importance of other organisations in delivering services to meet local needs. The council has a track record of working with the third sector, the not-for-profit sector and the private sector, each of which already provides some services for the council. We will continue to build on this approach for the duration of this plan.

These principles, together with the council’s values, support the principle of sustainable development defined by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Sustainable development is about improving the way in which we can achieve our economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being by focusing on the long term, prevention, integration collaboration and involvement. It will underpin everything we do and help us make the county borough a great place for people to live, work, study and visit.

## Our Values

These represent what we stand for and shape how we work:

**Fair** - taking into account everyone's needs and situation

**Ambitious** - always trying to improve what we do and aiming for excellence

**Citizen-focused** - remembering that we are here to serve our local communities

**Efficient** - delivering services that are value for money

Our principles, together with our values, support the principle of sustainable development defined by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Sustainable development is about improving the way in which we can achieve our economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being by focusing on the long term, prevention, integration collaboration and involvement. It will underpin everything we do and help us make the county borough a great place for people to live, work, study and visit.

# Well-being objectives

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The Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 has been put in place to make sure that public bodies are doing all they can to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

The Act introduces seven long-term well-being goals, puts in place a sustainable development principle, and defines five ways of working that public bodies will need to adopt to show they have applied the sustainable development principle.

This document sets out a small number of important long-term objectives we want to achieve. These are our well-being objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. They are also our improvement objectives under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

In setting our well-being objectives we set out what we aim to achieve and why they are important. More detail is available in our well-being statement <insert new link when ready>. Our well-being objectives are integrated, which ensures we are working together to achieve shared outcomes. This plan sets out the steps we will take and identifies the priority areas to drive improvements. Details on how we have already made progress towards these objectives can be found in our Annual Report 2020-21 <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/12051/annual-report-2020-21-english.pdf>

## Our well-being objectives



In this plan, we have laid out the council's commitment to the well-being goals and embedded the sustainable development principles of the Act. We have made sure that, when we make decisions, we take into account the impact they could have on people living their lives in Wales both today and in the future.

## Our contribution to the well-being goals

This report sets out the contribution our well-being objectives make to the seven well-being goals. These are set out below:

Well-being Goal	Well-being Objective		
	Supporting a successful sustainable economy	Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient	Smarter use of resources
A prosperous Wales	✓		✓
A resilient Wales			✓
A healthier Wales	✓	✓	✓
A more equal Wales	✓	✓	✓
A Wales of cohesive communities	✓	✓	✓
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	✓	✓	
A globally responsible Wales	✓		✓

## How we are using the five ways of working

In addition to the seven well-being goals, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 puts in place the sustainable development principle and defines the five ways of working that public bodies must adopt to demonstrate they have applied the sustainable development principle. The five ways of working are:

**Long term** – The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long term needs.

**Prevention** – We are being proactive in resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse.

























**Integration** - Considering how our well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, or on the objectives of other public bodies.

**Collaboration** - Acting in collaboration with any other person/organisation or different parts of the local authority to deliver our well-being objectives.

**Involvement** - The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the areas which we serve.

We have embedded the five ways of working, as expressed in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 into our principles.



5 Ways of Working	Long term	Prevention	Integration	Collaboration	Involvement
<b>Our Principles</b>					
To support communities and people to create their own solutions and reduce dependency on the council.					
To focus diminishing resources on communities and individuals with the greatest need.					
To use good information from service users and communities to inform its decisions.					
To encourage and develop capacity amongst the third sector to identify and respond to local needs.					
To not let uncertainty over the future of public services prevent meaningful and pragmatic collaboration with other public sector bodies.					
To work as one council and discourage different parts of the organisation from developing multiple processes or unnecessarily different approaches.					
To transform the organisation and many of its services to deliver financial budget reductions as well as improvements.					

## Steps and targets

We review our steps (commitments) and targets every year to ensure we continue to take steps to meet our well-being objectives. The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have continued to have an impact on the availability of reliable data to inform targets for 2022-23. Furthermore, how learner outcomes will be measured has not yet been agreed by Welsh Government. To ensure flexibility in our corporate planning, targets will be reviewed during quarter 3 when yearend positions will be available, and we can set meaningful targets. It is also expected that guidance on the PAMs (public accountability measures) will be finalised and should provide a better understanding of how education performance will be assessed.

# Well-being Objective 1

## Supporting a successful sustainable economy

This means we will take 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 focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.

### Our well-being aims

1. To support local people develop skills and take advantage of opportunities to succeed
2. To create conditions for growth and enterprise
3. To create town centre and communities that improve the quality of life for citizens

### Why these are important

Our citizens have told us that a local, vibrant economy is one of their top priorities. We want to build a county borough where people have more opportunities to secure a meaningful job, develop a career and improve their family income and circumstances.

Helping us to achieve our ambition of a successful sustainable economy, the council, along with key partners, is working on a number of projects which will deliver the outcomes to help Bridgend recovery economically and thrive over the long term. These include:

- A Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP), which sets out our objectives for the development and use of land in the county borough up to 2033, including the need to build around 7,500 homes.
- The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, which the local authority is part of, with the aim of creating 25,000 jobs across the entire region and bringing in £4bn of private sector investment by 2036. The City Deal includes four strategic themes, which will benefit the county borough - skills and employment, innovation, connecting the region and infrastructure.
- The Valleys task force programme, an initiative the local authority is committed to, along with other South East authorities, which includes supporting the Maesteg Town Hall project, along with grant programmes for housing and business and tourism investment across the valleys, including the £6.6m Valleys Regional Park programme.
- Delivering the projects outlined in the Bridgend Masterplan for the regeneration of Bridgend Town Centre. This will include bringing forward a number of projects in partnership with key stakeholders to increase the range and number of facilities in the town centre, which will inject vibrancy and a sense of place. It will also encourage more use of public transport and active travel, provide opportunities for education and learning and assist in the economic recovery of the town centre.
- Progress and deliver the range of projects that form part of the Porthcawl Regeneration Programme. Including the Placemaking strategy, the development of Cosy Corner, the Metro Link bus facility, the flood defences on the Porthcawl Breakwater and mixed-use schemes for housing, retail, leisure and community facilities. All of these will provide economic vibrancy to the town and enhance both the amenity of local residents and the visitor economy.
- Working in partnership with Welsh Government, Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and the private sector to increase social housing opportunities throughout Bridgend, and support the effective and best use of Social Housing Grant for the development of new housing to meet housing needs.

We know that higher levels of prosperity boost health and well-being and create more resilient communities needing fewer services. For future prosperity and long-term resilience, our town centres and businesses need to thrive and be profitable to generate wealth, provide better jobs, attract investment, reduce economic inactivity and improve skills and encourage visitors.

We will work towards the principles of the foundation economy model – better jobs closer to home which will nurture and grow local economies by stimulating meaningful employment in communities with high levels of unemployment. We will seek to boost economic development throughout the County Borough through a range of activities including the development of enterprise hubs and direct business support packages.

We believe that education remains the most important lever for improving the life chances and resilience of young people. Our future long-term prosperity depends on the skills and knowledge of our communities. Estyn (Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales) inspected the local authority in March 2019 under the new Local Government Education Services (LGES) Inspection framework, introduced in September 2018. The inspection identified many strengths that the local authority has in providing education to its learners, but also recognised some areas that we need to improve on.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools closed in March 2020 and reopened in September 2020, with new ways of teaching through blended learning with schools and parents/carers supporting their children in continuing their education at home. A significant investment in technology from Welsh Government's 'Hwb EdTech' project and from schools, saw thousands of end-user devices being provided to learners to support their blended learning both at home and in schools. This also included the provision of 'Mi-Fi' devices to digitally excluded learners, to ensure that they were able to connect online. Welsh Government's decision to replace exams with teacher managed assessments for 2021 provided unique challenges at this difficult time.

We look forward to the implementation of the new Curriculum for Wales, supporting the diverse needs of our young people through the medium of Welsh and English, raising standards, improving educational outcomes for key groups of learners, including the most vulnerable, with a relevant real-world curriculum to equip them for their future lives.

## Our priority areas to support this well-being objective

- **Improve learner outcomes** – To inspire and support children, adults and families to achieve better outcomes, leading to prosperous, healthy, safe and happy communities.
- **Growth and prosperity** - Promote the conditions for growth and prosperity by supporting people and business to take advantage of the opportunities to help them succeed.

## Who will help us?

Bridgend Business Forum; City Deal partners; Bridgend College and training providers; schools; Careers Wales; Job Centre Plus.

## Steps we will take to support this well-being objective

### To help improve learner outcomes we will

Sustain the current good pupil performance at key stage 4.

Raise standards of literacy in primary schools.

Improve outcomes for post-16 learners in school sixth forms.

Assess the impact of the COVID-19 school closures on outcomes for learners and support schools to mitigate teaching and learning issues as a result of the pandemic.

Support schools to provide safe learning environments for all learners and staff in schools.

Deliver the priorities in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) to promote Welsh medium education and increase the number of Welsh speakers to support Cymraeg 2050.

### To support growth and prosperity we will

As part of regeneration to support the growth and prosperity of the county borough key developments are planned:

- The redevelopment of town centres across the County Borough; including delivering the projects outlined in the Bridgend Town Centre Masterplan, including assisting in the relocation of Bridgend College to brand new building on the former the South Wales Police site in the town centre. Also, to complete the £8m redevelopment of Maesteg Town Hall, providing improved community facilities to include the town library, performance spaces, offering improved accessibility for visitors and creating jobs.
- The regeneration of the Porthcawl waterfront including, a Placemaking Strategy, developing a new Metro Link bus facility and the development of the Salt Lake area for a mixed-use sustainable development of retail, housing and leisure and the redevelopment of the Grand Pavilion.

Create better town centres through improving property and the environment. Including seeking opportunities to work collaboratively with key stakeholders for mixed use developments which combine, live, work and social spaces to add vibrancy and promote conditions for growth and prosperity.

Through Employability Bridgend, work with individuals to improve their job opportunities and reduce economic inactivity.

Providing the right infrastructure and support for business to overcome the impact of the Covid-19 situation by:

- Supporting business start ups
- Supporting resilience of businesses
- Deliver and implement the corporate procurement strategy to boost the foundational economy

## To support growth and prosperity we will

Improving the visitor experience to boost tourism in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis by

- Enhancing the natural environment and act as host for the Valleys Regional Park programme team.
- Take forward the Cosy Corner project as part of the Visit Wales Tourism Attractor Destination Programme.

## How will we know we are successful?

By monitoring our measures of success we will be able to keep track of performance to help drive improvements to achieve the following outcomes:

### Priority area: Improve learner outcomes

Success Indicators	Actual 2020-21	Target 2021-22	Target 2022-23
Percentage of all schools that have effective evaluation and improvement processes in place	N/A	100%	100%

### Priority area: Growth and prosperity

Success Indicators	Actual 2020-21	Target 2021-22	Target 2022-23
The number of vacant premises in town centres: a) Bridgend b) Maesteg c) Porthcawl d) Pencoed	a) 74 b) 16 c) 21 d) 7	Bench marking	To be confirmed
The number of visitors to town centres- footfall for a) Bridgend b) Porthcawl	a)3,129,858m b)1,960,919m	Bench marking	To be confirmed
Financial value of externally funded town centre regeneration projects underway/in development.	£13.5m	£13m	£20m
Total annual expenditure by tourists.	£146.33M	Bench marking	To be confirmed
Number of business start-ups.	540	Bench marking	To be confirmed
The number of participants in the Employability Bridgend programme going into employment.	401	329	To be confirmed

## Well-being Objective 2

# Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient

This means we will work with our partners, including the people who use our services to take steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the council and its services. We will support individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

### Our well-being aims

1. To give people more choice and control over what support they receive by providing early access to advice and information.
2. To reduce demand through targeted early help and intervention programmes.
3. To develop more active, healthy and resilient communities by working in partnership with the third sector, town and community councils and community groups.

### Why these are important

Local authorities have a key role to play in supporting people and communities to create their own solutions and reduce dependency on the council and statutory services. By using a community development approach that understands the strengths and assets within communities, the council can work with people and communities to build on these strengths and this can support individual and collective wellbeing and connection. The council recognises the importance of the third sector in developing capacity within communities, and how it can help to identify and respond to local needs.

In response to the Welsh Government Strategy 'Together for Mental Health' the Bridgend Joint Partnership Board agreed a number of actions to be taken to develop adult community mental health services in partnership with Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) University health Board. This agreement was driven by the opportunity to build on the strong partnership working in Bridgend and in response to the anticipated rise in the number of people with mental health difficulties as a result of the covid pandemic. One of the main priorities identified is to review operating models and care pathways in adult community mental health services, so as to strengthen and focus service responses on the needs of the population of Bridgend with a particular focus on the effects of the covid pandemic.

Working alongside our regional partners, we are also developing a Mental Health Strategy for children and young people across the CTM region, where the main area of initial focus is to implement the NEST (Nurturing, Empowering, Safe, Trusted) framework across the region. The NEST Framework is a whole school approach to emotional health and well-being that aims to ensure a 'whole system' approach for developing mental health, well-being and support services for babies, children, young people, parents, carers and their wider families across Wales.

The council is committed to working with and alongside people and communities to improve health and wellbeing and support connect for local people and communities. By intervening early and focusing on prevention and early intervention we can help people and communities to live their lives inter-dependently, reducing the need for council services and more likely to achieving better outcomes and living good lives. Timely and effective interventions achieve better outcomes for

individuals and are more cost effective which helps to safeguard the sustainability of services, ensuring the council can effectively support those with greatest need.

The prevention and well-being focus includes “place based” developments where community buildings, places and spaces, have an expanded ability to meet needs and can support a wider range of services that support better physical health and emotional well-being.

The positive impact of housing on standards of health and overall well-being is recognised as a key contributor to these key outcomes. The council will work collaboratively with external partners providing responsive, creative and innovative approaches to prevent and relieve homelessness, ensuring accessibility to suitable accommodation with the appropriate support to meet housing legislation and Welsh Government guidelines.

Empty properties are a wasted resource and a missed opportunity to improve well-being. The council is committed to reducing the number of empty properties across the county borough and helping to contribute towards increasing the availability of quality affordable housing for sale or for rent. The additional wider benefits include improving the aesthetic of the local environment, creating training and job opportunities.

## Our priority areas to support this well-being objective

- **Developing and enhancing community support and services** – Ensuring there are high quality, seamless opportunities, support and services in place for those who need our help to enable them to remain independent for as long as possible.
- **Building resilient communities** – Working with our partners and communities we will develop through co-production new and innovative alternatives to improve well-being and to support and sustain delivery. New service models will be sustainable and less reliant on the council and will reflect a positive shift in responsibility by empowering other organisations and local people.
- **Better health and well-being** – Improve the physical, mental and emotional well-being of children and young people and vulnerable citizens, to ensure they can thrive and fulfil their potential.

## Who will help us?

We will work with partners to help achieve our aims, in particular the NHS, Police, Awen Cultural Trust, Halo Leisure and the third sector. Similarly, Registered Social Landlords and private sector landlords are also essential partners.

We also work collaboratively on a regional basis as members of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership Board. In addition, our key stakeholders, the people who use social care, play a vital role in helping design services that best meet need.



## Steps we will take to support this well-being objective

### To develop and enhance community support and services we will

Develop a sustainable operating model for social care services, as we understand the short, medium and long term impact of the covid-19 pandemic, ensuring that the Local Authority is able to meet needs for care and support through effective assessment, care planning, commissioning and service development.

Target the use of early intervention services to reduce demand on statutory services.

Ensure a sufficiency and high standard of all social care services

### To build resilient communities we will

Continue the safe reduction of care experience children numbers, and support children looked after to achieve the best possible outcomes by:

- Ensuring care experience children are supported to live with their families and where this is not possible identify alternative permanence options at the earliest opportunity
- Ensuring care experience children enjoy the same life chances as other children

Work in partnership with town and community councils, third sector and community groups to complete community asset transfers and develop long-term sustainable solutions to manage and maintain facilities/services.

Work with households and partners to prevent people from becoming homeless, and support vulnerable people including rough sleepers, by providing a range of accommodation options reacting to the changing guidance from Welsh Government as part of the COVID-19 response. Aim to support households to transition into long term solutions to prevent homelessness and escalation into statutory services.

Work with landlords to return empty properties back into use helping to increase the availability of housing for sale or rent in line with the empty property strategy.

### To support better health and well-being we will

Improve the quality of care and support provided to individuals at home through a multidisciplinary team around people in our Community Cluster Networks, ensuring timely and responsive assessments that are people centred and meet need. This will also improve our ability to anticipate future need and ensure contingency plans are in place.

Rebuild participation in leisure and cultural activities by improving accessibility, removing barriers to involvement and supporting individual well-being and community COVID-19 recovery.

## How will we know we are successful?

By monitoring our measures of success, we will be able to keep track of performance to help drive improvements to achieve the following outcomes:

## Priority Area: Developing and enhancing community support and services

Success Indicators	Actual 2020-21	Target 2021-22	Target 2022-23
Number of people aged 65+ referred to Community Resource Team.	1974	2200	>2200
Percentage of reablement packages completed that: a) Reduced the need for support b) Maintained the same level of support c) Mitigated the need for support d) Increased need for support	a) 34.32% b) 5.05 c) 52% d) new	a) 33% b) 11% c) 48% d) 8%	a) >33% b) <11% c) >48% d) <8%

## Priority Area: Building resilient communities

Success Indicators	Actual 2020-21	Target 2021-22	Target 2022-23
Number of council owned assets transferred to the community for running.	13	10	20
Percentage of households threatened with homelessness successfully prevented from becoming homeless.	67.2%	60%	60%
Percentage of people presenting as homeless or potentially homeless, for whom the local authority has a final legal duty to secure suitable accommodation.	50.4%	30%	30%
Number of additional dwellings created as a result of bringing empty properties back into use.	2	7	7
Percentage of private sector dwellings that had been vacant for more than 6 months at 1 April that were returned to occupation during the year through direct action by the local authority.	3.36%	6%	6%
Number of children and young people looked after.	390	371	<371
Percentage of care leavers who have completed at least 3 consecutive months of employment, education or training in the 12 months since leaving care	New for 2021-22	>31%	>31%
Percentage of care leavers who have completed at least 3 consecutive months of employment, education or training in the 13-24 months since leaving care	New for 2021-22	>37%	>37%
Percentage of care leavers who experience homelessness during the year (as defined by the Housing (Wales) Act 2014) within 12 months of leaving care.	New for 2021-22	<17%	<17%

## Priority Area: Better health and well-being

<b>Success Indicators</b>	<b>Actual 2020-21</b>	<b>Target 2021-22</b>	<b>Target 2022-23</b>
Percentage of completed Team Around the Family (TAF) support plans that close with a successful outcome.	68%	69%	70%
Percentage of individuals in managed care supported in the community.	75.34%	75%	>75%
Percentage of individuals in managed care supported in a care home setting.	24.66%	26%	<26%
Total library issues, including physical issues, digital issues and books on wheels service to people's homes	New for 2022-23	New for 2022-23	Establish Baseline
Total visits to leisure centres operated by Halo Leisure for all purposes.	New for 2022-23	New for 2022-23	Establish Baseline

# Well-being Objective 3

## Smarter use of resources

This means we will ensure that all of our 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. It will be particularly important to reflect the post pandemic way that businesses operate and how residents now live and work.

### Our well-being aims

1. To ensure that the council is financially sustainable over the longer term.
2. To improve the efficiency of, and access to, services by redesigning our systems and processes.
3. To work collaboratively to make the most of natural and physical assets.
4. To develop the culture and skills required to meet the needs of a changing organisation.

### Why these are important- what about the accommodation work?

We recognise that we need to continue to make smarter use of our resources, looking at different ways of delivering services, embracing technology and working with partners and our communities to deliver financially sustainable services for the long term. In this way we can maximise our contribution to achieving our well-being objectives and improving well-being for our citizens while achieving those planned savings.

Over the past four years, we have made budgetary savings of more than £17.9 million. The COVID-19 pandemic has not only led to unexpected costs of some £12.5m per annum, but an estimated £3m loss of income per annum, which provides us with additional financial challenges going forward. These challenges continue and we still must make a further £22m savings by 2026. Some big decisions will need to be made on what services the council provides over the longer term and how it works in partnership to use and deliver resources in the most effective way.

Our staff, who were mobilised to support essential services at the start of the pandemic, remain key to how we will deliver services in the future. We will need to increase the capabilities of our workforce as the organisation continues to change, making savings, whilst still improving the social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being of our citizens, at a time of ever-increasing need.

Over the longer term this well-being objective is essential for the sustainability of council services and for the local economy. The Welsh Government has set an ambitious target for public sector organisations to be net carbon zero by 2030, in 4 areas. These include energy use, transport, buildings and open space. Our ambitions, baselining, and road map to delivering this, will form part of the "Bridgend 2030" decarbonisation strategy. The transition to decarbonisation is one of the largest economic development opportunities that Bridgend County Borough will have in the next 30 years. Working with others we also need to better manage our natural resources, seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity as well as continuing to consider how best to dispose of waste, with an emphasis on reducing, reusing and recycling.

Through our Corporate Landlord model, we are transforming the council's estate, with an on ongoing disposals programme to have fewer but better buildings, reducing maintenance backlogs and

running costs, whilst also reducing our carbon footprint. By generating capital receipts from our disposals programme, we will continue to build new schools and improve the conditions of our existing school buildings to provide better teaching and learning environments for our pupils whilst also maximising community usage of these facilities.

Our Digital Strategy (<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/10089/bridgend-county-borough-council-digital-strategy-2020-to-2024.pdf> ) sets out our clear direction on what we have achieved so far and what we plan to achieve in relation to the digital citizen, digital council and digital place, including supporting new practices. This was evidenced in the rollout of equipment and software to staff at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic for staff to be able to work effectively from home. Work continues apace to increase digital inclusion for the citizen, council and place, increasing access to existing and proposed digital services. Progress will be monitored by the Digital Transformation Board and reported on annually.

Having access to technology for online study can also support positive outcomes for learners. As part of the 'Hwb EdTech Programme' funded by Welsh Government, £2m is being invested in our schools to provide high speed and quality broadband, together with new and replacement classroom-based, end-user devices. All schools in Bridgend have recently received upgraded network infrastructure that will provide enhanced connectivity for many years to come.

Over the short and medium term this corporate plan will focus on the following priority areas to help deliver improvements:

## Our priority areas to support this well-being objective

- **Transforming the council's estate** - Ensure the council's estate is appropriately developed and utilised to improve service delivery, reduce running costs, minimise our impact on the environment and provide the best possible setting to meet the needs of all users including citizens.
- **Areas of corporate change** - We will adapt our ways of working to ensure the effective delivery of our well-being objectives. Embracing innovation and technology, developing the skills and approaches of staff and adopting alternative ways of working will ensure the council is equipped to respond to future challenges.
- **Decarbonisation and environmental sustainability** - Programmes of work that protect and safeguard the environment for future generations by lowering the council's carbon footprint, enhancing reduction, re-use and recycling of materials, and promoting environmental awareness and responsibility with our communities.

## Who will help us?

Employees; Schools; Contractors; Trade Unions

## Steps we will take to achieve our well-being objective

### To transform the council's estate we will

Have fewer better buildings by disposing of or releasing surplus land and buildings to generate capital receipts and reduce our financial liabilities and improve those buildings which are retained.

Provide sufficient school places in the right areas by delivering 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools under the council's schools' modernisation programme.

### To support areas of corporate change we will

Work with the regional delivery group to identify and agree regional procurement frameworks fit for purpose to deliver economies of scale on common and repetitive spend.

Provide support to facilitate organisational and cultural change. This will include workforce engagement; the development of new and existing employees; and enhancing skills capacity through investment in the corporate apprenticeship programme.

Implement the planned budget reductions identified in the MTFS, in particular for the 2021-22 financial year, set annual balanced budgets and establish long term financially sustainable solutions.

Adapt our ways of working to make better use of our assets and build on the technological progress accelerated by COVID-19.

### To support decarbonisation and environmental sustainability we will

Deliver a corporate decarbonisation strategy – “Bridgend 2030” and associated action plan.

Invest £1.3 million to install energy and cost saving technologies to reduce our energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Implement a sustainable local area energy plan with a programme of work throughout the county borough to improve the carbon footprint for all residents, including schemes such as the:

- Caerau Heat Scheme,
- Bridgend District Heat Network

Continue to exceed the national recycling targets and increase opportunities for reuse of materials by:

- operating a new community recycling centre and reuse shop at Pyle,
- recycling street scene waste,
- raising public awareness of how to reduce, reuse and recycle by using public campaigns and publicity

Maintain and enhance the natural resources and biodiversity of Bridgend County Borough

## How will we know we are successful?

By monitoring our measures of success, we will be able to keep track of performance to help drive improvements to achieve the following outcomes:

### Priority Area: Transforming the councils' estate

Success Indicators	Actual 2020-21	Target 2021-22	Target 2022-23
Realisation of capital receipts targets.	£3.09m	£3.745m	£1.170m
Percentage of BCBC operational buildings achieve full statutory compliance.	62.7%	100%	100%

\*Target set by WG

### Priority Area: Areas of corporate change

Success Indicators	Actual 2020-21	Target 2021-22	Target 2022-23
Number of apprentices, excluding teachers, on formal recognised apprenticeship schemes within the authority during the year per 1,000 employees.	7.49 (N=34)	7.75 N=35	N=36
Percentage budget reductions achieved (Overall BCBC budget).	85.8%	100%	100%

### Priority Area: Decarbonisation and environmental sustainability

Success Indicators	Actual 2019-20	Target 2020-21	Target 2021-22
Kilograms of residual waste generated per person.	131.45KG	123KG	Post COVID baseline
Percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted.	69.15%	68%	70%
Percentage of waste: a) reused b) recycled c) composted	a) 0.38% b) 48.48% c) 9.96%	a) 1% b) 45% c) 20%	a) 1% b) 47% c) 20%
Percentage of street cleansing waste prepared for recycling.	postponed	30%	30%

# Managing our Budget

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The charts below outline our income and spending plans for 2022-23. The council's gross revenue budget for 2022-23 is £xxxxx million.

In addition to spending money on providing day-to-day services, the council also spends money on providing new facilities, improving assets and the infrastructure, enhancing assets or providing capital grants to others. Planned capital expenditure for 2022-2023 amounts to £xxx million.

The chart (above) provides details of the service areas where capital expenditure is planned and (below) how the expenditure will be financed in the year.



The local authority has a net revenue budget of £xxxx million that supports the delivery of the council's corporate Well-Being Objectives, core services and statutory functions. The net budget is financed by the Revenue Support Grant, Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) and Council Tax income. It excludes income from other financing streams such as other government grants, customer and client receipts, and interest which finance the gross revenue expenditure. The chart overleaf provides details of how the net revenue budget has been allocated for 2022-23.

# Democracy and Partnership

## How the Council Works

### Council

Made up of 54 councillors representing 39 wards, the full council meets to approve key strategic policies and set the council corporate plan and budget. The rules for how the council operates are written in the council's constitution.

### Cabinet

Made up of six councillors and chaired by the Leader, the Cabinet is responsible for making major decisions and policies in Bridgend County Borough. Each councillor has a portfolio covering a specialist area.

### Overview and Scrutiny

Made up of four committees who look at decisions that the council are making and make sure they have been examined properly.

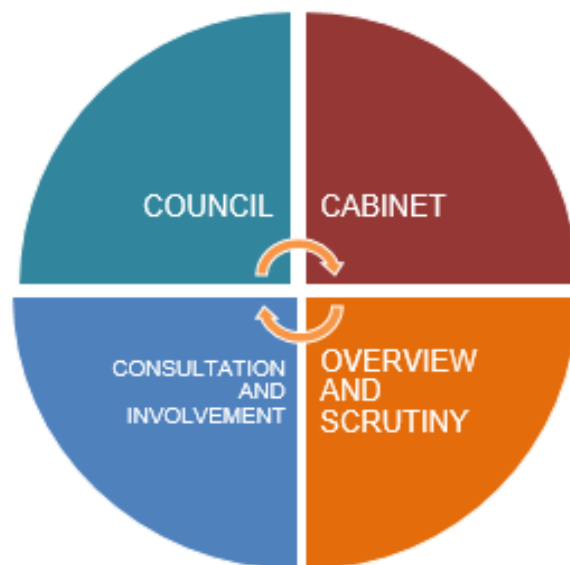
### Consultation and Involvement

Throughout the year we carry out a range of consultations to inform our decisions, including the Fit for the Future Budget consultation. Building on our experience of previous consultations, we developed new ways for people to participate and get involved. Our methods included surveys, social media, radio adverts, explainer videos, attendance at town and community council meetings as well as engagement with members.

Over 21,500 engagements took place in the 2020-2021 year through a range of survey completions, online interactions, citizens' panel engagement and social media engagement. We engaged with the public on a range of topics such as:

- Bridgend Town Centre Masterplan
- Free school meals
- Outdoor and green spaces
- Bridgend West school development

Members of the Citizens' Panel receive up to three surveys per year on diverse service areas. They also receive updates through our "You said we did" newsletter. We have also engaged with specific groups of people, such as parents and carers of service children, and businesses impacted by COVID-19. We use social media to promote engagement within the community and this year we have had over **79,000 (TBC)** interactions. Social Media polls also proved an effective way of engaging with the public as well the use of videos to promote and enhance engagement.



# Working with Others

- The [Bridgend Public Services Board \(PSB\)](#) was created as part of a legal requirement for each local authority under [The Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#). The council is one of a group of local health, education, social care and well-being organisations from the public sector and not for profit sectors who work together to create a better Bridgend County Borough. The work is based on collaboration and consultation with local people and communities.
- Following a Well-being Assessment, the Bridgend PSB has developed a [Well-being Plan](#) to address the issues that influence the long-term well-being of Bridgend.
- [The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership Board \(RPB\)](#) brings together health, social services, housing, the third sector and other partners to deliver strategic approaches to deliver integrated Health and Social Care services as set out in [The Social Services and Well-being Act Wales \(2014\)](#)

The [Bridgend Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub \(MASH\)](#) brings together professionals to provide safeguarding services from both the council and our partners across the community, in one place. The Bridgend MASH is made up of people from:

- Children's and adult services
- South Wales Police public protection unit
- Education
- Housing
- Community drug and alcohol team
- Probation and community rehabilitation
- Health
- Early help services
- Mental health services

- [Shared Regulatory Services](#) is a partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff Councils to provide a more efficient services covering Trading Standards, Environmental Health, Licensing and Private Sector Housing.
- [Bridgend Community Safety Partnership](#) is a sub-board of the Bridgend PSB, which brings together public, private and voluntary agencies that work together to reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime.
- The council's Internal Audit service had been delivered under a formal collaborative agreement with the Vale of Glamorgan Council since 2013. From April 2019 a Regional Shared Internal Audit Service has been in existence bringing together Merthyr Tydfil CBC, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and the existing shared service. An efficient Internal Audit service provides independent assurance that the council's risk management, governance and internal control processes are operating effectively.
- We have partnered with [GLL/Halo Leisure](#) to manage eight leisure centres and swimming pools. We have a long-term partnership with [Awen](#) Cultural Trust to run our cultural venues and services for 20 years. This includes the Bridgend library service, Maesteg Town hall, Porthcawl Grand Pavilion, four community centres and Bryngarw House and Country Park.
- We are one of ten local authorities in South East Wales that are part of [The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal](#), which is a programme to bring about significant economic growth in the region.

# Feedback

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We welcome your comments on this Corporate Plan and your suggestions for improvement. You can give your feedback through



Our website: [www.bridgend.gov.uk](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk)



Instagram: [www.instagram.com/BridgendCBC/](https://www.instagram.com/BridgendCBC/)



Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BridendCBC](https://www.facebook.com/BridendCBC)



Twitter: [@BridgendCBC](https://twitter.com/BridgendCBC)



Email: [talktous@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:talktous@bridgend.gov.uk)



Or by writing to Corporate Performance Team, Bridgend County Borough Council, Raven's Court, Brewery Lane, Bridgend CF31 4WB

This report is available in both Welsh and English. It is also available in another language or format on request.