

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3

RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING ACTION SHEET 2023-2024

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
19 June 2023	Update on Shared Prosperity Fund	While the Committee acknowledged that starting a scheme or project before written confirmation of any Government Grant Funding carried some risk, Members reflected on whether the process undertaken by Cabinet and Officers had taken into consideration the risk of the UK Government not permitting the rolling of year 1 funding into year 2. Members therefore recommended that Cabinet consider whether, on balance, starting the process of these projects before funding was received was a justified risk moving forward and also provide reassurance as to how they could ensure it will be considered in future decisions, as the Authority would not want to receive any less than the 8.3% announced by the United Kingdom (UK) Government.	Cabinet Members / Corporate Director of Communities	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 19 September 2023.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31468/SOSC3RecommendationResponses19June23.pdf
19 June 2023	Update on Shared Prosperity Fund	The Committee furthermore recommend that a way of providing short term interim funding (including potentially reserves) for projects that have a high degree of certainty of Grant Funding be explored and consideration be given to mechanisms for managing risk and allowing projects to	Chief Officer - Finance, Performance & Change / Corporate Director of Communities	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 19 September 2023.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31468/SOSC3RecommendationResponses19June23.pdf

APPENDIX B

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		commence where Grant Funding had been agreed in principle, but not yet formalised.			
19 June 2023	Update on Shared Prosperity Fund	That Members be informed of the outcome, as soon as possible, of whether or not the request made by a number of Authorities to roll over year 1 funding into year 2 had been granted.	Corporate Director of Communities	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 19 September 2023.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31468/SOSC3RecommendationResponses19June23.pdf
19 June 2023	Update on Shared Prosperity Fund	Information that the Director of Communities offered regarding engagement with community groups to establish the level of demand for Bridgend Local Investment Grant Funding and assistance required. This was in response to Members’ concerns regarding responsibilities and reliance on volunteers and organisations to deliver the projects and Officers’ explanations that part of the UKSPF was to build resilience and economic development, targeting communities that may not normally have access to that type of funding.	Corporate Director of Communities	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 19 September 2023.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31468/SOSC3RecommendationResponses19June23.pdf
25 July 2023	Update on Communities Directorate Position and Challenges	That the Update on Communities Directorate Position and Challenges report be made available to all Committee Members.	Scrutiny	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 19 September 2023.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31469/SOSC3RecommendationResponses25July2023.pdf
25 July 2023	Update on Communities Directorate	The Committee welcomed the proposal of a plan over the next five years to develop a new Target Operating Model (TOM) as explained by the Corporate Director of	Corporate Director for Communities / Scrutiny	ACTIONED – response and information	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31469/SOSC3RecommendationResponses25July2023.pdf

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
	Position and Challenges	Communities, of what the Communities Directorate can deliver in alignment with their resources and budget. Looking at all the services they deliver, statutory responsibilities and the communities' expectations. The Committee recommended that at the opportune time when the Target Operating Model (TOM) draft becomes available it is added to the Forward Work Programme for review by the Committee.		circulated 19 September 2023.	endationResponses25July2023.pdf
25 July 2023	Update on Communities Directorate Position and Challenges	That the Town and Community Council Forum consider the current model of partnership working between the Local Authority and the local Town and Community Councils and explore options for better communication, more collaborative working and whether the authority can assist Town and Community Councils take on leadership of certain service provisions. The Members requested that the outcome of this discussion be provided back to Committee as an information report.	Corporate Director for Communities / Democratic Services Manager	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 19 September 2023.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31469/SOSC3RecommendationResponses25July2023.pdf
25 July 2023	Update on Communities Directorate	The Committee discussed the Communities Directorate operating with a £31m budget allocation in the financial year 2023/2024 and it is representing 9%	Corporate Director for Communities	ACTIONED – response and information	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31469/SOSC3RecommendationResponses25July2023.pdf

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
	Position and Challenges	of the authority's budget. They considered whether any benchmarking had been done in terms of budget per head of population in the authority for Communities versus those of other authorities in South Wales of a similar size. The Chief Executive advised a piece of work had been commissioned through the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) which they intend to share in the next Budget Research and Evaluation Panel (BREP).		circulated 19 September 2023.	
25 Sept 2023	Homelessness Strategy	The Committee recommended to strengthen the Strategy in terms of support for veterans and Armed Services personnel.	Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change / Head of Partnerships	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 13 March 2024.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD854&ID=854&RPID=6757126&sch=doc&cat=13501&path=13490%2c13494%2c13501&LLL=0&LLL=0
25 Sept 2023	Homelessness Strategy	The Committee recommended to maximise effectiveness of the Strategy, that the strategic priority objectives be reviewed to ensure that they are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timebound) and set out in the Action Plan and the timescales be broken down further detailing the year and month in which each action is	Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change / Head of Partnerships	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 13 March 2024.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD854&ID=854&RPID=6757126&sch=doc&cat=13501&path=13490%2c13494%2c13501&LLL=0&LLL=0

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
		planned to be achieved, so that progress can be clearly measured.			
25 Sept 2023	Homelessness Strategy	The Committee recommended that the Strategy be made more user friendly and as easy to navigate as possible.	Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change / Head of Partnerships	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 13 March 2024.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD854&ID=854&RPID=6757126&sch=doc&cat=13501&path=13490%2c13494%2c13501&LLL=0&LLL=0
25 Sept 2023	Homelessness Strategy	The Committee requested a route map setting out the broad working practice model of what happens when someone presents as homeless, including the stages, timescales and type of services offered and where appropriate, average timescales for rehousing.	Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change / Head of Partnerships	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 13 March 2024.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD854&ID=854&RPID=6757126&sch=doc&cat=13501&path=13490%2c13494%2c13501&LLL=0&LLL=0
2 Oct 2023	Call In of Cabinet Decision: Hybont Project Gateway Review	The Committee concluded that the Decision would not be referred back to Cabinet.	-	Complete.	-
27 Nov 2023	Strategic Transport Projects	The Committee acknowledged that a list of schemes is required to be ready for any current or future transport funding bids, in the event that surplus funding is available from Welsh Government towards the end of the financial year. and for identifying projects for developer contributions through Section 106 planning (S106) agreements. Nevertheless, the Committee	Corporate Director of Communities / Group Manager Planning & Development Services	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 13 March 2024.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32095/SOSC327Nov23RecommendationsandResponses.pdf?LLL=-1

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
		<p>expressed some concerns over the process for transport projects, with no form of prioritisation, even with projects that fall under the same strategy, such as Active Travel. Whilst appreciating that funding was controlled by Welsh Government, Members felt the system appeared to be the wrong way round and rather than waiting for funding to become available, a comprehensive table or plan of transport needs, solutions, and priorities within the Borough, to then use to go out and seek funding, would seem a far more effective method.</p> <p>Furthermore, Members expressed grave concerns over the future maintenance and ongoing costs for the Authority of any transport project, particularly in light of the Council's current financial situation. The Committee therefore viewed it as vital that some form of prioritisation was considered for transport projects taking account of the future financial situation of the Authority and its ability to be able to maintain these going forward.</p> <p>In light of the above, whilst acknowledging the limitations Officers faced around</p>			

APPENDIX B

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		<p>funding availability from Welsh Government, they still expressed concern that some of the projects could now potentially be inappropriate and moreover were concerned that because of the funding process that is in place, the Authority could find itself bidding for projects, 'just because' the funding is available, rather than because there is a distinct need for it. With a review of the transport projects list scheduled to be undertaken in the near future, for agreement by Cabinet, the Committee recommended that the review take account of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Whether projects are now out of date given how long they have been on the list;➤ Whether there is clear evidence of the 'need' for the project – for example, the benefits for the community, any evidence from similar projects that clearly indicate success in a modal shift;➤ How projects could be prioritised, even if just within their own strategy, such as Active Travel			

APPENDIX B

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		<p>routes – could safety be used as a criterion for these projects? What are the future financial implications of any project for the Authority in relation to its maintenance liability as well as any potential impact on existing infrastructure?</p>			
27 Nov 2023	Strategic Transport Projects	<p>In addition to this Members expressed concern that due to historical budget cuts, the Authority did not have the staffing resources and internal expertise to support some transport projects, particularly on the ability to estimate or provide any indicative costs of each scheme, which should be required to inform any decision on a project for the list or on which future funding bids to progress. The Committee requested reassurance as to how this could be addressed going forward.</p>	Corporate Director of Communities / Group Manager Planning & Development Services	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 13 March 2024.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32095/SOSC327Nov23RecommendationsandResponses.pdf?LLL=-1
27 Nov 2023	Strategic Transport Projects	<p>Members highlighted that whilst the report did not deal specifically with other aspects such as parking, safety, pavements etc, these were intrinsically linked to transport projects. The Committee therefore requested reassurance that a joined-up approach was being undertaken by the Authority when these projects were considered for</p>	Corporate Director of Communities / Group Manager Planning & Development Services	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 13 March 2024.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32095/SOSC327Nov23RecommendationsandResponses.pdf?LLL=-1

APPENDIX B

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		funding bids, and that this form part of the evidence provided to the Committee for any future report on this subject.			
27 Nov 2023	Strategic Transport Projects	To assist the Committee with future consideration of this subject, Members requested that a diagram or flowchart be provided to illustrate how the various transport projects fit under their own plans or strategies and how they then fit together.	Corporate Director of Communities / Group Manager Planning & Development Services	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 13 March 2024.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32095/SOSC327Nov23RecommendationsandResponses.pdf?LLL=-1
27 Nov 2023	Strategic Transport Projects	The Committee requested that the Democratic Services Manager explore whether it has been previously reported by Officers that there was a direct link between the Pyle Park and Ride scheme and the Porthcawl Metrolink project, as this was the Committee’s understanding.	Corporate Director of Communities / Group Manager Planning & Development Services	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 13 March 2024.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32095/SOSC327Nov23RecommendationsandResponses.pdf?LLL=-1
22 January 2024	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-25 – 2027-28	The Committee made recommendations and requested additional information.	Scrutiny / Chair of COSC	ACTIONED: Recommendations formally reported to COSC and onward to Cabinet on 6 February 2024 for consideration and response.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=141&Mid=4425&Ver=4&LLL=0

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
				Response from Cabinet on 20 February 2024.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=141&Mid=4426&Ver=4
19 March 2024	Future Waste Service Options	The Committee discussed in detail the three service delivery options in the report and the findings of the commissioned report from Eunomia on future recycling and waste options from April 2026. Having heard from Officers and the Eunomia consultants Members were interested to understand more regarding the option of a Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo), whether it was viable and could be a benefit. They discussed the ability to create funds within a LATCo and whether an offer of an affordable package of waste collection for businesses could provide the potential, to offer the same pension scheme and terms and conditions as Bridgend County Borough Council staff, by offsetting the cost with the potential additional revenue streams. Members expressed concern that staff should not be disadvantaged with regard to the Local Government Pension Scheme.	Corporate Director of Communities	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.	

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
		<p>While understanding that there were no guarantees of success and the model selected would not be operated until 2026 so would not be a quick fix, the Committee recommended the LATCo model be explored further with the Authority looking at how it could be developed and grown over future years, which as the LATCo developed could help provide a part solution to the long term issue of annual revenue difficulties.</p>			
19 March 2024	Future Waste Service Options	<p>Members also discussed the findings with regards to the qualitative assessment and the in-house position. Noting the assessment had identified the market conditions to be favourable at present with a low probability of high risk in both operational and implementation and no difference in quality of service, however there was a financial risk based on the pension contributions, but there was also an opportunity to control, shape and develop that service. On that basis the Committee recommended that bringing the waste collection service in-house should also be explored in further detail.</p>	Corporate Director of Communities	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.	

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
19 March 2024	Future Waste Service Options	Members agreed that they were looking for the best decision and best fit for the Council and its residents and to contribute to this decision, the Committee recommended that a report be submitted to Cabinet either with the recommendations or shortly after, including a case study of best practice where these types of operations had been proven and were operating successfully, to demonstrate how they could potentially also work for Bridgend County Borough Council.	Corporate Director of Communities	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.	

APPENDIX B

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26 March 2024	Call-In of Cabinet Decision: Proposed Use of Land Transaction Transfer Protocol with Cardiff Capital Region for Land at Brynmenyn and Bryncethin	The Committee concluded that the Decision would not be referred back to Cabinet for reconsideration but made the following Recommendations to Cabinet, to be reported to a future Cabinet meeting: Recommendations: 1. That Cabinet consider receiving a further report at the appropriate time on further information including the length of the lease and the terms of the value of the lease. 2. That Cabinet note the concerns raised in the Committee as contained in the Notice of Call-In and take them into account during any further deliberation.	Cabinet	The Recommendations have been reported to the meeting of Cabinet on Tuesday, 16 April 2024 requesting Cabinet to consider them and provide a written response to the Committee.	