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



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GYFRINACHOL – I'W HAGOR GAN CYREIRIWYD ATO UN UNIG / CONFIDENTIAL TO BE OPENED BY ADDDRESSEE ONLY

Rt Hon Mark Drakeford Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language Welsh Government

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Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Corfforaethol / Chair of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line: (01656) 643515

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Scrutiny

Ein cyf / Our ref: Scrutiny Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 9 May 2025

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

<u>Fully funding of National Policy Commitments, National Insurance Contributions and Late and Multi-Year Settlements</u>

I am writing on behalf of our Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee which met on 15 January 2025 to consider the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2028-29.

I write to express the Committee's concerns about the impact of not fully funding Welsh Government national policy commitments upon the Authority's budget and services.

During discussions, the Committee expressed that national policy commitments resulting from legislative changes should be fully funded both in terms of capital funding and ongoing revenue funding and that core responsibilities should not be diluted by not fully funding national policy commitments, including a commitment to fund employer national insurance payments for individuals employed by agencies who provide services to the Council which is currently resulting in a £1.5m cost pressure to Bridgend.

In addition, the Committee expressed concern regarding the lateness of receipt of the settlement and requests a commitment that the settlement date can be brought forward.

The Committee also expressed that indicative multi-year settlements would assist Members and the Council as a whole in better preparation and management of their Medium Term Financial Strategies and their budget.

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Cyfnewid testun: Rhowch 18001 o flaen unrhyw un o'n rhifau ffon ar gyfer y gwasanaeth trosglwyddo testun

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Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg. Rhowch wybod i ni os yw eich dewis iaith yw'r Gymraeg We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please let us know if your language choice is Welsh The Committee requests that consideration be given to the above and look forward to your response please.

Yours sincerely,



Meryl Lawrence - Uwch Swyddog Gwasanaethau Democrataidd – Craffu / Senior Democratic Services – Scrutiny

Ar ran Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Corfforaethol / On behalf of Chair of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee