

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2015 AT 3.00 PM**

**Present**

Councillor RE Young – Mayor and Chairperson

G Thomas	D Sage	HJ David	M Gregory
MEJ Nott OBE	JH Tildesley MBE	PJ White	E Dodd
M Winter	E Venables	M Butcher	N Clarke
G Davies	GW Davies MBE	EM Hughes	RD Jenkins
PN John	B Jones	CL Jones	M Jones
RC Jones	DRW Lewis	JE Lewis	JR McCarthy
HE Morgan	DG Owen	G Phillips	DR Pugh
CL Reeves	M Reeves	CE Smith	JC Spanswick
M Thomas	RL Thomas	KJ Watts	C Westwood
DBF White	HM Williams	R Williams	LC Morgan
CA Green			

**Officers:**

Darren Mephram	Chief Executive
Ness Young	Corporate Director - Resources & Section 151 Officer
Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Mark Shephard	Corporate Director - Communities
Andrew Jolley	Assistant Chief Executive Legal & Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer
Nicola Echanis	Head of Strategy Partnerships & Commissioning
Randal Hemingway	Head of Finance & ICT
Jonathan Parsons	Group Manager Development
Susan Jones	Development Planning Manager
Gary Jones	Head of Democratic Services
Andrew Rees	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees

**526. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members/ Officers for the reasons so stated:

Councillor S Aspey – Work Commitment  
Councillor P A Davies – Holiday  
Councillor D K Edwards - Holiday  
Councillor N Farr – Holiday  
Councillor E P Foley – Holiday  
Councillor A D Owen – Work Commitment  
Councillor H J Townsend – Unwell.

**527. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor G Phillips declared a personal interest under agenda item 4(ii) in the announcement made by the Deputy Leader in relation to the accreditation achieved by the Catering Services Team as his wife is employed as a trainer / supervisor in the Catering Service.

528. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council of 2 September 2015 be accepted as true and accurate record.

529. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:

MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor hoped that Members are enjoying the Rugby World Cup as he is and it was fitting that Wales' recent victory has coincided with a new initiative that is encouraging young people to read and exercise more by presenting every child who borrows a library book during the World Cup with collectable cards featuring a rugby-themed superhero. The cards were created after pupils from Caerau and Litchard primary schools worked with local illustrator Rianne Rowlands. With 20 cards to collect in total, the characters range from Prop-er-Sassy, Captain Hooker, Kee-run and Mog the Handsome Scrum Frog. Swop shops are being set up at local libraries where children can meet to exchange their cards, listen to stories and much more. Details of this very creative scheme and cards could be found by visiting the libraries page on the Council's website.

The Mayor announced that he was delighted to attend the recent unveiling of Porthcawl's first Blue Plaque commemorating the area's historic links with the Dyffryn Llynfi railway line and the South Wales coal industry. The plaque has been installed at Station Hill as part of a project led by the Porthcawl SHOUT forum which the Council has supported. He stated that the town of Porthcawl had a long association with the railway, from the coal deliveries that began nearly 200 years ago to the steam trains bringing holidaymakers to the town. He stated that the Blue Plaque is a fantastic focal point and a reminder of the town's heritage and he commended the enthusiasm and drive that has been shown by the members of Porthcawl SHOUT to bring this idea to fruition.

The Mayor thanked everyone who had attended the civic service at Nolton Church and gave special thanks to chaplain Father Comor for conducting the service, and the Ogmore Silver Band and local singing group Harmony for providing music during the ceremony. He stated that it was a wonderful day and he hoped Members enjoyed the service as much as he and his Consort did.

He also informed Members that this Friday night, he will be hosting a Russian choir at All Saints Church in Porthcawl in aid of the mayoral charity appeal. Some places are still available and tickets could be obtained from Councillor Marlene Thomas and Mari Major.

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader announced that recent figures from the Central South Consortium Joint Committee have demonstrated that schools across the Central South Wales region have risen above the national average in 2015 as a result of the hard work of pupils, parents, teachers and school staff. He stated that provisional GCSE results for schools in areas that include Bridgend County Borough indicate that the percentage of pupils achieving five GCSE passes at grades A\* - C including English/Welsh and mathematics has improved from 47.8 per cent in 2012 to 58.1 per cent in 2015. Teacher assessment outcomes demonstrate that pupil performance at foundation phase and key stage two has also improved again, taking the region above the national average for both measures. Key stage three teacher assessment outcomes have also improved faster than the national level of improvement. Early figures indicate that the gap between

children claiming free school meals and their peers has narrowed at every key stage. He stated that this is very encouraging news and he congratulated pupils, teachers, governors, parents and staff for their hard work.

The Deputy Leader also announced that the Catering Services team has also received some good news with an announcement that they have been presented with official accreditation demonstrating that the authority's secondary schools are compliant with Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards and Requirements) (Wales) Regulations 2013. He stated that a tremendous amount of complex analysis work has been undertaken by the team and school cooks to be able to achieve this, and the WLGA food in schools coordinator has confirmed that Bridgend is the first authority in Wales to be issued have reached the standards in 2015-16. It meant that all primary and secondary schools in the County Borough where the Council provides meals are fully compliant with the regulations which are designed to ensure that children receive healthy, nutritious food while at school. He congratulated the Catering Services staff and school cooks on their achievement.

The Deputy Leader congratulated Pencoed Primary School for winning an Excellence In Forestry Skills Gold Award, which is a national and prestigious award and it recognises schools that use local woodlands in innovative ways as part of their lessons. The woodland at Pencoed Primary was planted by pupils 24 years ago, and has grown to become a focal point not just for the pupils, but for the wider community too.

The Deputy Leader was pleased to announce that three schools had been recognised due to their excellent practice and had become hub schools for the Central South Consortium, which means they will be offering support to schools from across Bridgend, Cardiff, RCT, the Vale of Glamorgan and Merthyr. Bryntirion Comprehensive has become a specialist school, Olcastle Primary a specialist hub and Cenf Glas Infants has been a Foundation Phase Alliance School and will be holding its first event next week.

The Deputy Leader informed Members that the proposed industrial action by NUT members over teachers' pay and conditions at Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen has been called off. He stated that Mr Nick Brain has been appointed as interim head teacher with immediate effect following the departure of head Mr Andrew Warren who has decided to follow other educational interests. The Deputy Leader stated that he would keep Members updated about efforts to recruit a full-time candidate to the post.

#### Cabinet Member Communities

The Cabinet Member Communities announced that affordable housing in the Porthcawl area has received a welcome boost recently with the completion of 40 brand new homes at New Road Court. He stated that this innovative £3.9m development of one and two bed apartments has been built by local construction company Jehu for Wales and West Housing working in partnership with the Welsh Government and Bridgend County Borough Council, and is located in the Newton area. The first residents are all from the County Borough and have already moved in, and the scheme is a further example of the Council's ongoing successful partnership with Wales and West Housing. He stated that high quality developments such as this are making it possible for affordable housing to be provided in Bridgend County Borough, and he looked forward to seeing more schemes of this type. A Member of Council queried whether this development comprised 49 units of accommodation. The Deputy Leader informed Council that the development was of a mixed tenure.

The Cabinet Member Communities announced that work has begun to create an extra rugby pitch, together with a small car park, at the A48 end of Newbridge Fields in Bridgend. The 50-space car park is being built on a patch of land off Bowham Avenue that has recently been used as an unofficial car park for visitors to the fields. The new free car park will be open at times that pitches have been booked for use and when community events such as the Race

For Life are being held, but will be closed at all other times. The pitch is being created to meet demand and the car park will help ease traffic issues with drivers parking in surrounding streets. Depending on weather and ground conditions, the new facilities should be ready at the end of the month.

The Cabinet Member Communities was pleased to announce that almost 800 people took part in this year's Communities First Summer Programme. Designed to encourage people to participate in activities that promote health and well-being and teach them new skills, the activities included exercise classes, hair and beauty sessions, healthy cooking, creative workshops, the Play for Life and Mini Play for Life schemes, hate crime awareness and much more. With the age of participants ranging from 19 months to 70 years old, this was a great opportunity to consult with local communities about what sort of activities they would like to see in the future. It was a big success and he congratulated everyone who had helped deliver the Summer Programme.

#### Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing

The Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing announced that colleagues in health are urging people across Bridgend County Borough to make early plans for battling the flu virus this winter. As flu viruses can change each year, new vaccines are developed to combat them and these are now available. The vaccine is free on the NHS for those who are at the greatest risk, including people aged 65 or over, anyone with a chronic medical condition aged anywhere between six months and 65, people with lowered immunity, pregnant women, all children aged two to seven, carers, anyone who lives in a nursing or residential home, and community first responders. More details are available at [www.beatflu.org](http://www.beatflu.org).

The Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing announced there had also been some excellent news for Porthcawl with the recent announcement that ABMU Health Board, the Council and Natural Resources Wales are teaming up to develop a new Primary Community Health Centre. Although it is still in the early stages, the proposal involves constructing a three-storey centre at Mallards Reach where the health board is planning to buy three acres of land. He stated that this a multi-million pound development which will offer the people of Porthcawl a larger, fit-for-purpose service at a single site which will include an operating theatre for minor injuries, screening services and clinics. The developer is Assura Group, who specialise in primary health care building projects, and a public consultation is being planned for later this year. It was currently hoped that a new centre would be open and operational by 2017, and he hoped that local people will take part in the consultation and make their voices heard about this extremely beneficial new project.

The Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing informed Members that a new 'Ageing well in Bridgend' survey has been launched after the Older Persons Commissioner for Wales challenged the nation to develop plans that can support people aged 50 and above to live active, healthy and fulfilling lives. As part of this a local Ageing Well Plan is being developed which will focus on themes including 'age friendly communities', 'falls prevention', 'dementia supportive communities', 'loneliness and isolation' and 'opportunities for learning and employment'. He stated that the Council intends to engage with older people to see how they use services, how connected they are within their communities and how improvements can be made. He hoped Members will encourage their constituents to take part by visiting the consultations page of the Council's website throughout October.

#### Cabinet Member Children's Social Services and Equalities

The Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing announced on behalf of the Cabinet Member Children's Social Services and Equalities that a new ID card scheme was launched recently to great acclaim that helps young carers in Bridgend

County Borough receive the support and understanding they need. The scheme had been developed as a simple and subtle way of raising awareness of their responsibilities and how they may impact on their lives. As well as avoiding them having to repeatedly explain their circumstances to teachers and other adults who work with children, the card has been developed to encourage other young carers who may not be known to the Council to come forward and receive support. He stated that this is a fantastic new initiative and hoped that Members will help spread the word about it within their own communities.

He also announced that the Civic Offices has welcomed a new service which is offering staff and members of the public access to a wide range of domestic abuse support. The Domestic Abuse Support and Information service will be located at the Assia Suite in the Customer Service Centre and will bring organisations such as the Council, South Wales Police, Probation Service, Victim Support and Calan DVS together as part of a multi-agency hub. Linking in with Council services such as housing and education, staff at the Assia Suite will be available to provide confidential advice and support on issues ranging from physical, psychological, sexual, emotional and financial abuse, safety planning for victims and their children and more. The service is intended to be a one-stop-shop and will cater for people who may be experiencing domestic abuse as well anyone who is concerned for the wellbeing of a friend or family member. The service can be accessed by calling 815919 or asking at reception for the Assia Suite. An official opening and wider publicity will take place later this year.

The Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing New announced that rules had come into place on 1 October which has made it illegal to smoke inside any vehicle that is carrying children aged under 18. The rules apply to both England and Wales and follow a widespread consultation in which more than 86 per cent of participants supported the proposals. Under the rules, it is now an offence for a person of any age to smoke in a private vehicle when someone under the age of 18 is present, or for a driver, including a provisional driver, not to stop someone smoking in these circumstances. However, e-cigarettes are exempt. Statistics suggest that a fifth of residents in Bridgend County Borough are smokers, and the Council has been raising public awareness over the new law in an effort to help reduce health problems caused by exposure to secondary smoke. More information is available at [www.freshstartwales.co.uk](http://www.freshstartwales.co.uk)

#### Cabinet Member Resources

The Cabinet Member Resources informed Members that the pre-council presentation at the end of October will be on Safeguarding, which will provide Members with an overview of the authority's Safeguarding Policy, and will ensure that as elected Members and corporate parents, Members are fully aware of the council's commitment, practices and efforts to protect children, young people and adults. He stated that forthcoming presentations will look at the Local Transport Plan, the Social Services and Wellbeing Act, and the National Autistic Society.

The Cabinet Member Resources informed that a workshop on the Medium Term Financial Strategy will be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015, which will include an overview of the Corporate Priorities as well as the MTFS Strategy. Members will be able to participate in an interactive survey and a question and answer session. He hoped that that as many Members as possible will attend, details of the session have already been scheduled into calendars.

He thanked all Members who have submitted their annual reports and Personal Development Reviews. All of the annual reports received to date have been formatted and published on the Council's website. He also reminded Members that the Council has been requested by the Minister for Public Services, Leighton Andrews to provide information on the number of completed annual reports by 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

The Cabinet Member Resources announced that tomorrow would be the last opportunity for Members to express their opinions on the Wales Audit Office Corporate Assessment.

Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development

The Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development announced that Members will have seen that the Rhiw multi storey has now closed so that it can be demolished to enable work to begin on an all-new modern car park, 28 affordable apartments and a commercial unit suitable for a shop, café or restaurant. This landmark £9m development is one of the most significant regeneration projects undertaken to date in Bridgend town centre and aims to create a community living within the heart of the town who will support local shops. The project is part of the Vibrant and Viable Places programme, which will also convert unused space above existing premises into new accommodation. The start of work has been signalled with the launch of a new 'Free after 3pm' initiative which is being trialled throughout October and November at Council-run car parks in Brackla Street, Tremains Road, Tondu Road and Cheapside. With privately-run town centre car parks also available at Derwen Road, Nolton Street and the Embassy, the Council and its partners are making every effort to ensure that visitors can continue to park easily and conveniently during construction work, and alternative arrangements are being heavily promoted in press and radio and across the web and social media. He stated that the new car park is set to open by October next year and the flats and new shop ready by the following March and he would bring further updates as the work develops.

He announced that residents, visitors and businesses had recently been invited to find out more about the new cycle route and bicycle hire centre that is set to be developed along the seafront in Porthcawl in time for the 2016 summer holidays. A series of exhibitions have revealed plans for the 4km route, which will use the lower promenade between the Seabank Hotel and the RNLI Station before passing the marina and following the Eastern Promenade. It will then travel along New Road and across the Sandy Bay Caravan Park before finishing at Trecco Bay Holiday Park. Feedback from the exhibitions is currently being collated and he was looking forward to seeing the results. As well as being a visitor attraction the new route will encourage active travel for people moving between home, school and work. The project is being delivered by the Council in partnership with the Bridgend Tourism Association and the Coastal Communities Fund.

The Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development announced that the deadline for taking part in the Active Travel consultation is Friday 23 October, and full details are available at the consultation page of [www.bridgend.gov.uk](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk).

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive announced that the Awen Cultural trust had gone live on 1 October 2015.

He also announced that public consultation over the council's future corporate priorities and budget plans was now underway and will run until 22 November. The consultation has had a promising start with almost 100 people completing the online questionnaire within the first few days of it going live. The consultation is being heavily publicised in the press and radio, online and across social media, including a short video which has been made available on You Tube. The You Tube clip was played for Members to enable them to see at first hand the content of the video. He stated that a series of community events would be held throughout the area over the next two months. Exhibition stands would also be set up at local supermarkets and in town centres, and together with Directors he will be holding question and answer sessions about the budget and corporate priorities on Twitter and Facebook.

The Chief Executive stated that this consultation had been made available in a number of different ways in order to encourage as many people as possible to have their say; share their views and help the Council make informed decisions as it sought to deliver a balanced budget and move forward. He also stated that it was important that local communities, businesses and organisations play a part in this process and help the Council to shape the future of the County Borough. He hoped that Members will encourage their constituents to participate in the consultation. As an incentive, everyone who completes the online survey will receive a free seven-day pass to a Halo leisure centre plus a chance to win a full year's free membership. Full details of the community events, exhibition stands and social media debates are available on the Council's website. The consultation questionnaire can also be found at [www.bridgend.gov.uk/future](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk/future) and residents can request hard copies by visiting libraries, emailing [consultation@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@bridgend.gov.uk) or calling 01656 643664, alternative formats are available on request.

530. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE LEADER

The Leader reminded Members that tomorrow is the final day for making their feelings known about the proposed closure of Bridgend Magistrates Court as part of a review by the Ministry of Justice. He stated that not only would the closure of this building force people to travel to Cardiff and not be in the interests of justice, it would have a direct impact on Council staffing costs and the ability to fund public protection litigation as well as access for criminal and childcare litigation issues. He urged Members take part in the official consultation before 8 October, which can be found at [www.gov.uk/m-o-j](http://www.gov.uk/m-o-j)

The Leader announced that more than 200 local businesses took part in the recent Bridgend Business Forum Awards and the quality of entries was again highly impressive. He stated the Council is keen to encourage enterprise and the Bridgend Business Forum Awards is an excellent example of how it can help showcase the fantastic talent and skills we have in the local business community. Among the winners were Tŷ Elis Porthcawl Counselling Service, LouChi's Tearoom, Best Western Heronston Hotel and Spa, ITCS Ltd, Nemein Limited and Customised Sheet Metal Limited who won Manufacturing Business of the Year, the Creative Industries Award, and the overall Bridgend Business of the Year 2015. Geraint Robson and Caitlyn Corless of Ddraig Valley Farm Park won Business Student of the Year, and Suzanne Bourne of Nemein Limited was named Entrepreneur of the Year. He stated that it was interesting to see how local businesses are continuing to be vibrant and innovative, and he congratulated everyone who participated or helped organise this event.

The Leader also announced the recent news that Ford Bridgend has been selected for the production of a range of new, fuel efficient petrol engines. The move will safeguard up to 750 jobs following an investment of £181m and demonstrates ongoing confidence in the area. It will help to secure the future of the plant and its workforce and is a real boost for the County Borough. He stated the area has long been identified with major names such as Bridgend Ford and this latest news exemplifies the many advantages that the area can offer. He had been informed by the Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development that that the Bridgend engine plant has been open now for 35 years and employs a total of 1,860 staff who produce 3,400 engines a day, which equates to one every 24 seconds.

531. ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

The Chief Executive presented the Council's Annual Report 2014-15, which evaluated the Council's performance against the priorities set in the Corporate Plan 2013-17 and also reiterated the Council's Improvement Objectives (priorities) for 2015-16. He reported that the Annual Report was prepared in order to meet the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, which summarised how well the Council did

in progressing these priorities in 2014-15. He stated that the Council had carried out to completion 47 (81%) of its 58 commitments and missed only marginally in a further 11 (19%). Targets had been set for 62 of the 69 indicators included in the Corporate plan, with 44 (71%) of the 62 indicators meeting their target, 9 (14.5%) missed the target by more than 10%. He informed Council that it had successfully managed both revenue and capital budgets and achieved the savings target.

The Chief Executive informed Council that Annual Report also evaluates the Council's performance against the 43 national indicators and the Council in 2014-15 is among the five local authorities in Wales that had improved the most and among the nine that had performed the best.

The Chief Executive reported that once approved, the Annual Report would be published on the Council's website and shared with stakeholders.

A member of Council stated that she would like to see improvements in that children in receipt of free school meals have as much success throughout their education as those who do not receive free school meals as it was not consistent across all schools as the gap had widened in the academic year 2013-14 of pupils achieving GCSE A\*-C in English or Welsh first language and Mathematics. The Deputy Leader informed Council that 50% of pupils in receipt of free school meals had achieved 5 GCSEs Grade A\*-C in English / Welsh and mathematics in 2014-15 and that the gap had been narrowed across the authorities which made up the Consortium.

A member of Council questioned whether the target set by 2017 that every school was improving at a faster rate so that at least two thirds of young people achieve a minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade A\*-C in English / Welsh and Mathematics was realistic. The Deputy Leader informed Council that there is a significant difference across secondary schools, however the three schools which were the lowest performing had seen improvements but middle ranked schools had not seen improvements. The Head of Strategy Partnerships and Commissioning informed Council that a lot of the data for this year's GCSE results had yet to be validated but results in Bridgend had seen greater improvements than the authority's partners in the Consortium. The Chief Executive informed Council that some of the targets had been designed in order that there was a deliberate push behind them. He stated that the data included in the Annual report was historic and that the performance for achieving GCSEs would be reflected in the Corporate Plan, which could be looked at by the Children and Young Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

A member of Council questioned the steps being taken by managers in relation to absence levels which despite absence management training being developed and a concerted effort being made had seen levels increasing. The Chief Executive informed Council that sickness levels are reviewed regularly by the Corporate Management Board and the reasons behind sickness was being looked at. The Council has been working with the WLGA to compare how sickness is managed in local authorities across Wales; the results of this exercise were awaited. The Leader informed Council that the Chief Executive had been tasked in his appraisal with reducing sickness absence in the authority as this was a cost to the public purse.

**RESOLVED:** That the Annual Report 2014-15 be approved.

532. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015-16 TO 2024-25



The Corporate Director Resources sought approval for a revised capital programme 2015-16 to 2024-25.

She informed Council that it had approved a capital programme for 2024-25 in February 2015 of £153,014m, which was subsequently revised by Council at its meeting in July 2015 to reflect funding changes to some schemes, slippage from 2014-15, additional external funding approvals and changes to expenditure profiles. The Corporate Director Resources highlighted changes to the programme to reflect further funding changes, additional external funding approvals and changes to expenditure profiles since July 2015.

The Corporate Director Resources reported that the Council had been rigorously pursuing an enhanced disposal strategy over the past eighteen months and as at 31 March 2015 held capital receipts of £14.5m and of this figure £1m arose from the disposal of school sites earmarked for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme. A further £5.3m was supporting commitments already in the capital programme leaving £8.2m available to support the Council's capital investment requirements.

The Corporate Director Resources also reported that in addition to the £8.2m capital receipts available now more are forecast in the current financial year, with the target being £6m for 2015-16, of this £2m is for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme. As part of the review of the MTFS it would also identify and prioritise investment pressures against the available capital receipts that have been realised up to January 2016 for inclusion in the MTFS. Decisions were needed in the meantime before February 2016 on a number of schemes that meet the Council's proposed new corporate priorities in relation to rationalising the Administrative Estate, by committing investment to agile working and improvements to the external envelope of the Civic Offices. The total capital investment needed to deliver agile working was estimated (subject to procurement) to be £1.217m, however no capital expenditure would be incurred until a tenant for the whole of the Raven's Court building had been secured. The total estimated cost of works to the external envelope of Civic Offices (subject to procurement and detailed feasibility) to replace the roof and windows, repair the parapets and clean/protect the stonework is £2.55m, including fees and a 10% contingency.

The Corporate Director Resources also reported on the requirements of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme in relation to the amalgamation of the Mynydd Cynffig and Junior Schools in that there is £4.5m built into the capital programme. The Corporate Director resources informed Council that the Welsh Government had committed to fund 50% (£22.475m) of the total cost of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme with the Council meeting the remaining 50%, this being met from core allocations of £5m, anticipated Section 106 funding of £4m and projected receipts from the sale of school and other sites of £13.475m. She stated following a review of the receipts likely to be realised from the sale of school sites it was estimated that there would be a match funding shortfall of around £1.1m. There was also a risk of further shortfalls should potential planning consent conditions negatively impact on the sale receipts currently agreed on the larger residential development sites. She stated that a commitment had been given to the Welsh Government that the Council would match the funding requirement for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme. She further stated that it would be prudent to provide budgetary cover for the current estimated shortfall in the capital programme to enable the programme to progress.

The Corporate Director Resources reported that in relation to the Coety Primary School there had been an increase in the cost of the scheme of £560k, due to additional works that were not included in the contract, including works required as part of planning conditions and work necessitated by ground conditions. It was proposed that the additional scheme costs are met from the additional Section 106 payments, leaving

£500k Section 106 funding also to be used on the scheme in place of the equivalent level of Welsh Government funding. In turn the displaced Welsh Government funding will be moved across to another scheme under the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme.

The Corporate Director Resources also reported that the MTFs review of capital pressures will assess whether the level of funding was likely to meet the interest in Community Asset Transfer as well as funding requests for projects traditionally supported by the Fund.

The Corporate Director Resources informed Council that funding was required by the Fleet Service to acquire vehicles on behalf of Directorates and approval had been given under Delegated powers to purchase four replacement specially adapted vehicles for adult social services £204k and a gritter and tipper trucks for highways £79k.

The Corporate Director Resources also reported that it was proposed to use the balance of £87k from the replacement site escrow account in respect of Bridgend Football Club to be used towards improved sporting facilities within the County Borough.

A member of Council requested that consideration be given to improving disabled access to Civic Offices particularly wheelchair accessibility to the Council Chamber and Committee Rooms and from the basement car park to the reception area. The Corporate Director Resources informed Council that design work was underway to implement disabled toilets and touch pad doors in the Civic Offices. She had also requested that the business case ensure that the building is DDA compliant.

A member of Council referred to the agile working investment and requested an assurance there was sufficient resource with the ICT Department to support this project. The Corporate Director Resources informed Council that there would be no bid for recurrent growth in the ICT staffing budget to support the agile working project and that different ways of working were being looked at. She stated that there are already a number of vacancies within the ICT Department.

**RESOLVED:** That the revised Capital Programme be approved.

**533. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2014-15**

The Section 151 Officer reported that the Council's Treasury Management activities were regulated by the Local Government Act 2003 which provided the powers to borrow and invest as well as providing controls and limits on this activity. The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 as amended, develops the controls and powers within the Act. The Council is required to operate the overall treasury function with regard to the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services.

The Section 151 Officer reported on the treasury position for 2014-15 which showed £19.25m as maturing in 2054 which related to Lender's Option Borrower's Option loans. The Section 151 Officer stated that the long term liabilities figure of £21.58m as at 31 March 2015 included £19.30m for the Council's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a secondary school in Maesteg. Included in this figure is the short term liability of £0.51m included as current financial liabilities in the Council's balance sheet in the Statement of Accounts.

The Section 151 Officer reported that the Co-operative Bank had announced that they did not wish to support local government banking beyond 2015-16 and therefore a bank retendering exercise was undertaken in 2014 with Barclays bank being appointed the Council's bankers with effect from 5 January 2015.

The Section 151 Officer reported that the Treasury Management function had been reviewed by the Council's External Auditors, KPMG and by Internal Audit during 2014-15, which found many key positives and no areas of concern and one of "substantial assurance" of the areas selected for examination, with no control weaknesses identified and no recommendations were made.

The Council's Treasury Management advisers were currently Arlingclose who provided the services indicated in the report to the Council. The Section 151 Officer referred to the Treasury Management Strategy which set out the parameters for the management of risks associated with Financial Instruments. The Council also produces Treasury Management Practices specifying the practical arrangements to be followed to manage these risks. The Borrowing Strategy for 2014-15 was based on the Bank rate remaining at 0.50% for 2014-15. Given the significant cuts to public expenditure and in particular to local government funding, the Council's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without comprising the longer term stability of the debt portfolio. The uncertainty over future interest rates increases the risks associated with treasury activity with short term interest rates currently much lower than long term rates. Short term and variable rate loans expose the Council to the risk of short term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the limit on the net exposure to variable interest rates as shown in the treasury management indicators. The Council's primary objective for the management of its debt was to ensure its long term affordability, with the majority of its loans borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board at long term fixed rates of interest, with no long or short term borrowing taken in 2014-15.

The Section 151 Officer reported on the Investment Strategy and outturn for 2014-15 which set out the policies for giving priority to the security and liquidity of the Council's Investments. The Strategy dealt with the credit ratings defined for each category of specified investments, the prudent use of non-specified investments and the liquidity of investments. The Section 151 Officer informed Council that on a day to day basis, the Council potentially had surplus cash balances arising from cash flow, which was invested on the market via brokers, direct with the counterparty or held in instant access business reserve accounts. The Council usually invested for a range of periods dependent on cash flow requirements and the interest rates on offer having regard to the Investment Strategy.

The Section 151 Officer outlined the reporting arrangements which required that the Council report on its Treasury Management as an Annual Strategy and plan in advance of the year, a mid-year review and an annual report after its close to Council. The Council also produces quarterly monitoring reports which are presented to Cabinet as Information Reports.

The Section 151 Officer stated that the Treasury Management Code and Prudential Code required the Council to set and report on a number of Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators. During the financial year 2014-15 the Council operated within the Treasury limits and Prudential Indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy 2014-15.

**RESOLVED:** That Council:-

- (1) Approved the Treasury Management activities for 2014-15;
- (2) Approved the actual Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators for 2014-15.

534. AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

The Group Manager Development presented the report of the Corporate Director Communities on the outcome of the consultation exercise on the draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Guidance (SPG) document and sought endorsement of the proposed amendments to the draft document and adoption of the amended version as SPG to the Bridgend Local Development Plan.

He reported that the Development Control Committee at its meeting on 3 September 2015 considered representations received during public consultation, endorsed the reasoned responses, decisions and changes to the draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance and recommended that Council adopts SPG13 – Affordable Housing as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the adopted Bridgend Local Development Plan.

The Group Manager Development reported that following a 6 week period of public consultation three individuals and external organisations had submitted comments on the draft SPG. He stated that responses to those representations had been included in the Consultation Report and he summarised the main areas of change in the document arising from the consultation.

A member of Council requested clarification as to how the percentages had been arrived at for the provision of affordable housing Market Area targets and how the percentage for affordable housing had been arrived at in a recent housing development in Newton. The Group Manager Development informed Council that the development in Newton was funded entirely by a Registered Social Landlord and there was no contribution required for affordable housing. Other development in Porthcawl would be subject to a 30% contribution to affordable housing. The Deputy Leader informed Council that he had recently visited that development and he was pleased that all the residents accommodated within the development are from the County Borough, many of whom had seen their lives transformed. The Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Wellbeing commented that the percentage targets varied due to the attractiveness of areas for developers.

The Cabinet Member Communities in commending the Supplementary Planning Guidance and that housing development was subject to a Housing needs Assessment to determine where there is need.

A member of Council requested that Brackla be listed in the areas showing Housing Sub Markets in Appendix A.

A member of Council commented on the sustainability of the 30% target for affordable housing in rural areas and the need for consideration to be given to develop housing near to amenities such as bus routes, railway stations and to shops as people living in rural locations could have difficulty in accessing any of these amenities. The Group Manager Development informed Council that all housing has to be sustainable and there was a general presumption against development in the countryside. He stated that the same principle was adopted for affordable housing as with all housing. The SPG and LDP does allow provision of affordable off site or to be pooled elsewhere.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Considered the representations received and endorsed the suggested reasoned responses, decisions and changes to the draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Guidance;

- (2) Adopted SPG 13 – Affordable Housing (as amended) as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to the adopted Bridgend Local Development Plan.

535. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Monitoring Officer reported that a number of vacancies have arisen on the Standards Committee and appointments were necessary to fill these vacancies.

He stated that three vacancies for Independent Members and one vacancy for a Town and Community Council Member and Council had previously delegated authority to him to oversee a recruitment process and to report to Council the outcome of those appointments.

He reported that following interviews by the Standards Committee of candidates the following appointments were made:

- Mr Clifford Jones, Independent Member with effect from October 2015;
- Mrs Judith Kiely, Independent Member with effect from October 2015;
- Mr Jeff Baker, Independent Member with effect from February 2016;
- Cllr Alana Davies, Town and Community Councillor Member with effect from October 2015.

RESOLVED: That the appointments to the Standards Committee be noted.

536. INFORMATION REPORTS FOR NOTING

The Monitoring Officer presented a report, the purpose of which was to inform Council of the Information Reports which had been published since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That Council acknowledged the publication of the documents listed in the report:-

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date Published</u>
Final Statement of Accounts 2014-15	1 October 2015
Urgent Delegated Decision	1 October 2015

537. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

The meeting closed at 4.50 pm