

Public Document Pack



The following reports are Information Items for the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

1. Minutes of the Town Centre Management Group Meetings:-

- (i) Bargoed Town Centre Management Group – 14th March 2018;
- (ii) Blackwood Town Centre Management Group – 20th March 2018;
- (iii) Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group – 6th March 2018;
- (iv) Risca Town Centre Management Group – 13th March 2018;
- (v) Ystrad Town Centre Management Group – 8th March 2018.

2. Budget Monitoring Report 2018/2019.

3. Regeneration Board Update.

4. Town Centre Improvement Group 2018 Summary.

5. Well-being Objective 2 - 6 month Progress Update.

6. Well-being Objective 5 - 6 month Progress Update.



BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH
ON TUESDAY 14TH MARCH 2018 AT 4:00PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

C. Andrews, A. Collis, D.T. Davies, L. Harding, D. Price, S. Morgan

Together with:

Town Councillor V. Stephens, H. Llewellyn

Also:

A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), A. Dallimore (Team Leader – Urban Renewal), S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A. Higgs, S. Horton and A. Jones (Clerk)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

4. MINUTES – 11TH OCTOBER 2017

The minutes were taken as read.

5. UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO BARGOEDTOWN

Mr Highway introduced the report which provided an update on matters relating to Bargoed town centre.

Members were referred to update 1 in the report relating to a Business Report for 2017. Mr. Highway noted that Poundworld will be changing to a multi-point price retailer, which is becoming common in the value sector.

Consumers are now looking for “experiential shopping”, which is where there are activities to partake in along with being able to make purchases. The High Street is likely to change over coming years in light of this.

The Bargoed North footfall camera was removed when the footfall counters were changed over to a new provider – PFM Footfall. The cameras were offline for eleven weeks during the transition period.

Members were referred to update 2 in the report on 'Choose the High Street' Christmas Voucher Booklet. Mr. Highway reported that a feedback survey was sent to all participating businesses in January 2018. 96% of respondents feel that schemes such as this highlight the importance of shopping locally and 83% would consider taking part in this (or a similar discount scheme) in the future.

Advertising of the scheme was cut extensively in 2017 in order to make MTFP savings. The feedback suggests that this needs to be looked at if the scheme is run again as respondents felt that the scheme was not publicised well enough. The format of the booklet and overall promotion in the future will need to be considered in light of MTFP saving requirements.

Members were referred to update 3 in the report on Civil Parking Enforcement. Mr. Highway informed the group that the Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet have received the "stage 1" report. It has been agreed that the Authority will take on Civil Parking Enforcement and it will be done in-house as opposed to being contracted out.

Gwent Police will continue to enforce parking until December 2018, but will continue to work with Local Authorities after this date where Civil Parking Enforcement hasn't been fully implemented by this date. Council Officers are currently reviewing all of the Traffic Regulation Orders in force across the County Borough, along with all lines and signs denoting parking restrictions. Formal agreement from Welsh Government is required to fully and formally adopt Civil Parking Enforcement and it is anticipated that this will be obtained in January 2019 based on current timescales.

Cllr. D.T. Davies expressed his concern over the proposed 5.5 post being created as he does not feel that this will provide adequate resources to enforce parking across the whole County Borough.

Cllr. S. Morgan explained that priority will be given to town centres initially, followed by the smaller villages and side streets in the County Borough. Community Safety Wardens may also be given the power to enforce parking, but their primary role will remain as Community Safety Wardens and the duties they currently carry out. The "stage 2" report will contain further details on practicalities with implementation and operational plans.

Town Cllr. H. Llewellyn asked if standards will be set for the new enforcement staff so that there is a consistent approach, namely that they will start with a softer educational approach before enforcing.

Mr. Highway noted that discussions have been ongoing with Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) Council who have been carrying out Civil Parking Enforcement for several years and had to implement it far more quickly than Caerphilly. Part of this includes information on how staff started with a softer approach before routine enforcement.

RCT and Cardiff Councils have cars fitted with cameras and equipment that can detect a car's number plate electronically and are used to enforce areas such as outside schools and bus lanes/bays. The benefits of the cars include being more efficient at large-scale enforcement and avoiding confrontational situations for enforcement officers.

Cllr. S. Morgan informed the group that there are active discussions with RCT and Cardiff in relation to whether Caerphilly can trial the cars and looking at the possibility of the lease/purchase being shared between Authorities.

Members were referred to update 4 in the report – Cardiff Capital Region update. Mr. Highway informed the group that City Deal will involve a total investment in the region of £1.2bn. The

Metro scheme will benefit Bargoed as the Rhymney Valley train line is seen as a priority upgrade. A new Regeneration Strategy is currently being developed in order to facilitate bidding for projects.

Members were referred to update 5 in the report on channel blocks. Mr. Dallimore explained that the granite channel blocks are failing throughout the town centre and investigative works need to be carried out. If the blocks have been installed correctly, a claim could be made against the company that designed the scheme. If the installation is found to be incorrect, a claim may be made with the contractors. The investigative works will be carried out before the end of the financial year and are likely to be carried out over a weekend as road closures will be required. When budget allows, the channel blocks will be removed and the area tarmacked.

Members were referred to update 6 in the report on the letting of units 3&4, Lowry Plaza. Mr. Dallimore informed the group that the lease with DWP has now been signed, so the use as a new Job Centre Plus can be publicised. Planning permission has been granted for the shop frontage and signage and the fit out is out to tenders, with contractors currently visiting the site to cost up the scheme. The Council's marketing agents will now be going back out to the market with unit 6a in light of DWP's occupation.

The former Head Landlord – Rockspring – has sold their interest in Lowry Plaza. The new owner is Bargoed Estates Ltd. based in Manchester.

Cllr. D.T. Davies enquired as to whether there has been any interest in the former Job Centre at the northern end of the town. Mr. Highway noted that the former Blackwood Job Centre has gone on the market recently with a local agent, so the same is likely to happen when the Lowry Plaza centre is opened.

Members were referred to update 7 in the report on the Plateau Development Site. Mr. Dallimore informed the group that Cabinet approval has been obtained to investigate the sale of the site to a pub-restaurant chain. The interested party will be meeting with Development Control officers shortly to discuss their proposals for the site. They are also in dialogue with Property Services in readiness for investigatory works to commence on the site.

Following the site meetings and investigatory works, a sale price offer will be made to the Authority for consideration. Mr. Dallimore explained that there is likely to be little monetary gain on the sale of the site due to there being clawback from the Welsh Government Land Reclamation Grant that was issued to remediate the site.

Members were referred to update 8 in the report on antisocial behaviour in Morrisons' car park. Mr. Highway provided an update as there was no police representation at the meeting. The Police recently met with Mr. Highway and the Manager of Morrisons where several options were discussed, including closing certain sections of the car park in the evening, but this is likely to be very problematic operationally.

The Store Manager will approach head office to ask for a security guard for the store. Since the meeting, letters of support for a security guard have been issued from CCBC, local Police and Bargoed Town Council.

Cllr. D.T. requested that a letter be sent to the Regional Manager of Morrisons on behalf of the Town Centre Management Group expressing concern in relation to the level of antisocial behaviour in the store.

6. BARGOED TOWN CENTRE AUDIT

Mr. Highway presented the audit and the following items were raised:

Hanbury Road Steps – Mr. Dallimore informed the group that a site meeting recently took place to consider cladding the steps with a low maintenance slip-resistant surface. Unfortunately, this was not deemed a suitable option for the steps. However, NCS will shortly be cleaning the steps and carry out some repairs that are more aesthetically pleasing than previous repairs.

Installation of New Parking Bay, Lowry Plaza – Mr. Dallimore noted that a Traffic Regulation Order is required to implement the bay, which has now been advertised. As such, the lines and signs for the day will be installed within one month.

Movement of Granite Blocks – Mr. Dallimore advised that the defensive granite blocks that prevent pavement parking throughout the town have moved after being nudged by vehicles. These will all be returned to their original position during the road closure to carry out the investigative works on the channel blocks.

Missing Coping Stones at the Southern Punch-Through – Mr. Dallimore informed the group that the fixing method used to secure the stones wasn't as specified. A claim has been lodged with the installation contractor.

Daffodil Artwork – Mr. Dallimore noted that high level cleaning equipment is required to clean the trumpet. This is currently being sourced and the clean will be carried out in due course.

Damage to Miners' Heads Artwork – Mr. Dallimore informed the group that NCS has been commissioned to carry out the repair work, which has been delayed due to poor weather. The repair will be completed when weather conditions allow.

There were no further issues raised.

The meeting closed at 17:28.

CHAIR



TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING HELD AT THE LOUNGE, BLACKWOOD MINERS INSTITUTE, BLACKWOOD ON TUESDAY 20TH MARCH 2018 AT 3:00PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

T. Williams, K. Etheridge, A. Farina-Childs, S. Morgan

Together with:

Town Councillors B. Baber, Z. Hammond, Mr J Hold (Clerk) & Mr D. Davies (Moose Fraternity)

Also:

A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), A. Dallimore (Team Leader – Urban Renewal), S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager) & A. Jones (Clerk)

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors – C. Forehead, D. T Davies, N. Dix, Town Councillor D. Jones & Mr P. Hudson (Marketing & Events Manager)

The Chair advised the group that Community Councillor Z. Hammond was present at the meeting in place of Community Councillor Jones. The Chair asked the group if there were any objections to Z Hammond speaking at the meeting. The group agreed that Z. Hammond could participate in the meeting.

The Chair requested that thanks be recorded to Pobl for showing the group around the Red Lion site and explaining to the group the plans. The group were advised that Pobl would be happy to return to any future meetings.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 19TH SEPTEMBER 2017

The minutes were taken as read.

4. UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO TOWN

Mr Highway introduced the report which provided an update on matters relating to Blackwood town centre.

Members were referred to update 1 in the report relating to Clarification of Terms of Reference. Councillor Etheridge informed the group that he had requested that Town Councillors be allowed to have voting rights and asked for more input from them in the meetings. He also queried if a Town Councillor could be appointed as Chair & Vice Chair.

Councillor Morgan advised that as the meeting is a run by Caerphilly County Borough Council the appointment of Chair & Vice Chair will remain as set out in the Terms of Reference for County Borough Councillors only.

Mr Highway advised that whilst the appointment of Chair & Vice Chair is for County Councillors, the Town Councillors who are nominated to attend do have voting rights and can speak on matters which arise.

Members were referred to update 2 in the report relating to Business Report. Mr Highway presented the update and informed the group that Blackwood has the highest footfall between the five town centres and is performing well. Councillor Farina-Childs agreed that Blackwood is doing well and the town should be proud of the footfall figures.

Mr Dallimore stated that the cinema is recognised as a good anchor for the town, which brings benefits to both day and evenings throughout the town.

Mr Wilcox confirmed that he has worked closely with the developer for the new footfall cameras but they are not yet able to get any historical data.

Councillor Etheridge stated that people go to places outside of the core High Street area and use the free bus to Asda; unfortunately these people are not being picked up by the camera.

Councillor Baber asked if the car park at Summerfield could be free. Councillor Morgan advised that a review of car parks is been undertaken.

The Chair thanked all for the updates.

Members were referred to update 3 in the report relating to 'Choose the High Street' Christmas Voucher Booklet. Mr Highway presented the update and highlighted that 96% of feedback survey is positive. The group were advised that if the scheme was to run again consideration would be given to wider to marketing.

Members were referred to update 4 in the report relating to site visit to the Red Lion. The Site visit took place prior to the meeting and thanks are to be passed to Pobl.

Members were referred to update 5 in the report relating to Poundstretchers. Mr Highway advised that there was no further update since the report.

Members were referred to update 6 in the report relating to Civil Parking Enforcement. Mr Highway advised that the issue of parking has been raised in all of the Town Centre Management Group Meetings and parking enforcement remains with the police at present.

The group discussed the Council taking Civil Parking Enforcement over and Councillor Morgan confirmed that a stage 1 report had been written and Cabinet had made a decision for the Council to use its Community Safety Wardens to carry out some parking enforcement duties.

Councillor Morgan confirmed that when he received further information he will update the group at future meetings.

Members were referred to update 7 in the report relating to Cardiff Capital Region. Councillor Morgan presented the update and the group were advised that this would be good for the Borough as a whole and will create jobs and investment. As further information arises it will be passed on to the group.

Members were referred to update 8 in the report relating to Events – Beach Party. Mr Highway passed on apologies from Mr Hudson.

Mr Hold informed the group that he has met with the team organising the Beach Party event and the Town Council are looking to join in and provide a music stage as well as some additional stalls for charitable groups.

Mr Hold wished to thank Mr Hudson and the team and praised the good working relationship they have. The Town Council is looking to have a similar input into the Christmas Event.

Members were referred to update 9 in the report relating to First World War Memorial Garden. Mr Dallimore confirmed that he has looked at the funding for this project and advised that it would cost approximately £20,000.

Mr Hold confirmed that he has met with Groundwork Trust on site and would be returning for further discussion and hopefully looking to receive funding from Tesco plus circa £5,000 from the Town Council.

The Royal British Legion has expressed an interest in a memorial plaque been placed and is looking at additional funding from the Rotary Club. Further talks are to take place.

Mr Dallimore advised that he would like to be kept updated and is available for any advice.

Members were referred to update 10 in the report relating to Bicentenary Event 2020. Mr Hold confirmed that Mr Granville Hale is taking the lead and the Town Council is meeting next month to discuss this.

5. BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE AUDIT

Mr Highway presented the audit and the following items were raised

Litter bin fires, Mr Highway confirmed that he has spoken with Mr Adam Lang and has confirmed that this is a police issue. Mr Highway suggested the Council's CCTV may be of some assistance to the police

The Interchange Bus station toilets, Mr Highway confirmed that he has met with the new owner of the Plaza Café who has put significant investment into the business to upgrade it.

Additional pedestrian crossing point high street, Mr Highway confirmed that he had spoken with Mr Dean Smith in Traffic Management, but he was not able to attend the meeting. Councillor Morgan advised that he will bring this up in the next Engineering meeting.

There were no further issues raised.

The meeting closed at 16:05pm

CHAIR



CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY 6TH MARCH 2018 AT 2:00PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

P Bevan, C Elsbury, J Fussell, S Morgan

Together with:

Town & Community Councillor Mrs J Hibbert, Mrs L Williams, Professor Deacon, Mr J Dilworth (Clerk), Mr C Thomas (Centre Manager Castle Court), Mr Tidridge (Heol Trecastell Residents Association), Marika Jones (Castle Court Shopping Centre Manager), Ms D Stephens (Pub Watch), Ms M Jones (Manager Castle Court Shopping Centre)

Also:

A Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), A Dallimore (Team Leader – Urban Renewal), P Hudson (Marketing and Events Manager), R Kyte (Planning), V Morgan (Planning) K Kinsey (Engineering) & A Jones (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Elsbury Chaired the meeting as Vice Chair

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Cook, D.T. Davies, C. Forehead, E Forehead, B Jones, J. Pritchard, S Kent, Mr Robottom (Caerphilly Residents Association), S Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager), M Godfrey (Team Leader Environmental Health)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES – 3 OCTOBER 2017

The minutes were taken as read

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

4. UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO CAERPHILLY TOWN

Mr Highway introduced the report which provided an update on matters relating to Caerphilly Town Centre.

Members were referred to update 1 in the report relating to Business Report. Mr Highway presented the update.

The Chair thanked Mr Highway.

Members were referred to update 2 in the report relating to 'Choose the High Street' Christmas Voucher booklet. Mr Highway presented the update and highlighted that 96% of feedback survey is really positive.

The group were advised that if the scheme was to run again consideration would be given to wider marketing.

Mr Highway was asked if the GO2MyTown website was being replaced. He confirmed that the Councils IT team had been asked to look at a new web site options as part of a wider tender process for standalone council 'micro sites'.

Members were referred to update 3 in the report relating to Pwll y Pant Roundabout. Mr Kinsey presented the update. The group were advised that the weather has caused some delays, but resurfacing work will commence tomorrow.

The traffic is currently operating on a single lane each way following a period of two lanes running over Christmas. The group were advised that the works were due to be completed early October 2018 but this date may change due to alterations in the scheme. The Chair thanked Mr Kinsey.

Members were referred to update 4 in the report relating to the Caerphilly Master Plan. Ms Morgan presented the update. The group were advised that the new Cardiff Capital Region will bring with it the METRO transportation network which in turn it is hoped will influence future development and regeneration plans for Caerphilly Town Centre.

The group were shown a presentation setting out the Masterplan and copies of each slide were passed around the group.

The group were advised that the draft plan will be going to Regeneration & Scrutiny Committee and then go out for consultation between 26th March – 9th May 2018.

There will be 'drop in' sessions at Caerphilly Library and other libraries as well as information being made available on the Council website. Ms Kyte advised that local businesses will be spoken to directly.

Mr Dilworth asked for clarification on the disused rail line Newport to Machen, specifically regarding any bridges and whether they would need strengthening.

Ms Kyte confirmed that any bridges would be checked to ensure no further erosion had occurred, but this would not be done immediately and is part of a long term aspiration for a transport work.

Members of the group asked if toilets could be placed in Crescent Road car park, as there are no facilities for coaches dropping off visitors.

Mr Highway confirmed that a new layby for coaches to drop off is being looked at by officers and CADW. The Chair thanked Ms Morgan & Ms Kyte

Members were referred to update 5 in the report relating to night time economy. Mr Dallimore presented the update.

Ms Stephens representing Pub Watch welcomed the report. Mr Dallimore advised that Consultants will look at the wider opportunities that METRO presents and consider how this makes the town more attractive for businesses related to the night time economy.

Ms Stephens asked Mr Dallimore if he had spoken to the Police in relation to anti-social behaviour issues.

Mr Highway advised that the Police are keen to see more public spaces created where people can congregate for the night time economy and also work with the Council to re-develop the taxi area.

The Chair thanked officers & Ms Stephens for her observations.

Members were referred to update 6 in the report relating to Civil Parking Enforcement. Mr Highway advised that the issue of parking has been raised in all of the Town Centre Management Group meetings and all parking issues remain with the police at present.

The group discussed the Council taking over Civil Parking Enforcement and Councillor Morgan confirmed that a Stage 1 report had been written and Cabinet had made a decision for the Council to use its Community Safety Wardens to carry out some parking enforcement.

Councillor Morgan confirmed that when he receives further information he will update the group at future meetings.

Members were referred to update 7 in the report relating to Area Forum budget. Mr Dallimore presented the update and invited the group to come up with ideas on what unallocated monies could be used for.

Mr Dallimore confirmed that there was in total £7,722.64 of which £4,222.64 was left from project underspends and £3,500 from the Working Men's Hall, both sums have been pledged but not spent.

Mr Dallimore advised that there has been no dialogue with the Working Men's Hall and asks the group what they would like to do.

The group asked Mr Dallimore to contact the Working Men's Hall and ascertain if the monies are still required but advise that they have one month in which to confirm.

The group discussed options and discussed possibilities of using the funds in conjunction with monies from the Town Council. The group all agreed that Mr Dallimore and his team could look into ideas.

The Chair thanked Mr Dallimore

Members were referred to update 8 in the report relating to Air Quality. Mr Highway passed on apologies from Ms Godfrey and presented the update in her absence. Mr Highway advised the group that Ms Godfrey is happy for members of the group to contact her with any queries.

Members were referred to update 9 in the report relating to CADW Operational works. Mr Dallimore presented the update.

The group discussed the update and agreed that a lot more could be done with the site surrounding the castle.

Councillor Morgan advised the group that he would be going to Warwick Castle with the Acting Head of Regeneration Mr Whetter to look at what the town has to offer and to see if they can draw on any ideas.

The Chair thanked Mr Dallimore

Members were referred to update 10 in the report relating to the Park Lane site. Mr Dallimore presented the update and advised the group that there were two developers who had expressed interest in the site for hotel accommodation. A draft report will be presented to Cabinet.

Mr Dallimore confirmed that he is looking to bid for funding through a new Welsh Government programme and that discussions are taking place with CADW and Visit Wales for their input on plans and he will report back to the group with an update.

The Chair thanked Mr Dallimore.

Members were referred to update 11 in the report relating to Cardiff Capital Region. Councillor Morgan presented the update and the group were advised that this would be good for the Borough as a whole and will create jobs and investment. As further information arises it will be passed on to the group.

Members were referred to update 12 in the report relating to Summer Events. Mr Highway presented the report as Mr Hudson had to leave the meeting early.

Mr Highway advised that it was hoped that Castle Court Shopping Centre can link in with the events. Ms Jones (Manager Castle Court Shopping Centre) confirmed that she would email Mr Highway regarding this.

Councillor Bevan advised that the Town Council will be organising The Flower Festival, which will take place on the 22nd June 2018 - 24th June 2018. Councillor Fussell asked if the details could be circulated. Mr Highway confirmed he will circulate the details.

5. CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE AUDIT

Mr Highway presented the audit and the following items were raised

The condition of 73 Cardiff Road, Mr Highway confirmed that a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

There were no further issues raised.

The meeting closed at 15:49pm

CHAIR



TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE RISCA TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH

ON TUESDAY 13TH MARCH 2018 AT 2:00PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

N George, R Whiting

Together with:

Mr R Campbell (Clerk Risca Town Council)

Also:

A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), A. Dallimore (Team Leader – Urban Renewal), S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager) P Hudson (Marketing & Events Manager) & A. Jones (Clerk)

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors – D T Davies, A Leonard, P Leonard, S Morgan, B Owen, Tow Councillors J Parsons & B Hancock.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 17TH OCTOBER 2017

The minutes were taken as read

4. UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO TOWN

Mr Highway introduced the report which provided an update on matters relating to Risca town centre

Members were referred to update 1 in the report relating to Business Report. Mr Highway presented the update. Mr Highway advised the group that Councillor Owen has requested that the banners be removed as they advertise Caerphilly, not Risca town centre. Mr Dallimore asked if the group supported this.

The Chair asked if there would be savings if banners were to be removed. Mr Highway advised that the banners have already been bought so no savings would be made.

Councillor George advised that this would need to be referred back to Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for further consultation. Mr Highway confirmed that he would discuss the matter with local businesses to get their views and Mr Campbell confirmed he would raise this with the Town Council.

Members were referred to update 2 in the report relating to 'Choose the High Street' Christmas Voucher Booklet. Mr Highway presented the update and highlighted that 96% of feedback survey is positive. The group were advised that if the scheme was to run again consideration would be given to wider marketing. Mr Dallimore asked Mr Campbell to take this back to Town Council for discussions too.

Members were referred to update 3 in the report relating to Section 106 monies. Mr Dallimore presented the update and advised that the March deadline had been extended and that he has met with officers in Parks & Property.

Tesco have agreed that monies are to be used on demolition. The Chair asked if the monies could be used on other sites. Mr Dallimore advised that prioritising of demolition has to be adhered to and if monies were left over then it could be spent on other environmental projects within the Town Centre Action Plan that have already been identified.

Mr Dallimore confirmed that this would be brought to the attention of both Councillors and the Town Council.

Mr Campbell asked if Mr Dallimore could chase Property Services on the request for the Town Council to use the former caretakers building at Brooklands. The Town Council wrote to the Council but has not heard anything. Mr Dallimore confirmed he will raise this with colleagues. Members were referred to update 4 in the report relating to Monmouthshire and Brecon Adventure triangle. Mr Dallimore presented the update and advised that a large bid has been made for European money, a number of projects at Cwmcarn Scenic Drive have been submitted and the Council are waiting for Welsh Government to funding for the programme.

Improvements are planned for the car park, improvement of the pond area and an adventure playground. The group were advised that money has been set aside to match fund purchasing additional 'glamping pods'.

Mr Hudson confirmed that the Council is looking to encourage people to stay for longer. Mr Hudson is will meet with NRW to discuss exploring joint opportunities to work closer.

The group discussed cycle tracks and agreed that the site should be looked at to see what is needed. Mr Dallimore confirmed that £120,000 had been provided to improve the existing trails; however this is in the control of NRW. Mr Dallimore advised that Council have offered to carry out inspection and is waiting for NRW to reply.

Members were referred to update 5 in the report relating to Civil Parking Enforcement. Mr Highway advised that the issue of parking has been raised in all of the Town Centre Management Group Meetings and parking enforcement remains with the police at present.

The group discussed the Council taking Civil Parking Enforcement over and Councillor Morgan confirmed that a stage 1 report had been written and Cabinet had made a decision for the Council to use its Community Safety Wardens to carry out some parking enforcement duties.

Councillor Morgan confirmed that when he receives further information he will update the group at future meetings.

Members were referred to update 6 in the report relating to Cardiff Capital Region. Councillor Morgan presented the update and the group were advised that this would be good for the Borough as a whole and will create jobs and investment. As further information arises it will be passed on to the group.

5. RISCA TOWN CENTRE AUDIT

Mr Highway presented the audit and the following items were raised

Land around Cuckoo artwork - Mr Dallimore confirmed the area has been cleaned but needs a litter pick which will take place soon.

Illegal signage positioned on entrance to The Pontymister Industrial Estate -The Chair advised that this new signage is very bright. Mr Wilcox confirmed that he will take a look and check with Planning Enforcement.

Mr Hudson advised the group that he is looking at applications for the Summer Events. It was changed last year and organised on an arena in the park, this can accommodate different acts and will continue to build on success of last year's events.

The event will take place on the 7th July, which is a week earlier than last year.

Mr Campbell advised that there is a festive lighting unit and brackets for the baskets have gone missing and asked if officers can assist to try and locate the items.

Mr Wilcox confirmed that enquiries have been made but will ask again.

There were no further issues raised

The meeting closed at 14:57pm

CHAIR



TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE YSTRAD MYNACH TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH

ON THURSDAY 8TH MARCH 2018 AT 2:00PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

T Parry, S. Morgan, D T Davies

Together with:

PC 1230 Greg Turley

Also:

A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), A. Dallimore (Team Leader – Urban Renewal), S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager) P Hudson (Marketing & Events Manager), R Kyte (Head of Regeneration & Planning, K Kinsey (Acting Engineering Projects Group Manager)

1. QUORUM

Having waited the required 15 minutes the meeting was declared inquorate; therefore all matters would be deferred to the next appropriate meeting.

The meeting closed at 2:15pm

CHAIR



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - FOR INFORMATION

SUBJECT: BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2018/2019

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the most recent budget monitoring position for 2018/2019 for Communities Directorate Service Divisions, including Regeneration & Planning Division, Infrastructure Services Division, Public Protection Division and Community & Leisure Services Division.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report summarises the most recent budget monitoring projections for 2018/2019 based on the latest available financial information.
- 2.2 It attaches, as appendices the more detailed budget monitoring figures for each of the Council Fund Services outlined in paragraph 1.1 above.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The content of the report is in accordance with the budget strategy considered by the Council at its meeting of 22nd February 2018.
- 3.2 The budget figures outlined in this report assist in meeting the ambition of the Authority to build better communities by building better public services, building better lifestyles, building a vibrant economy and building Futures Changing Lives.
- 3.3 Budget monitoring and management information itself is in accordance with the corporate theme of delivering the Strategies.
- 3.4 Effective financial planning and financial control contribute to the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-
- 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.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The report outlines the revenue budget position for each of the service Divisions that form part of the Communities Directorate based on the most current financial information available. Projected outturn figures for the financial year are compared with the budget to show the anticipated under/overspends. More detailed budget monitoring figures are shown in the appendices' 1a to 1d.

4.1.2 It should be noted that the budget report to Council on 22nd February 2018 detailed the need to apply further budget efficiency savings in 2018/2019 to meet medium term financial plan (MTFP) targets and achieve budget strategy aims. Communities Directorate services were targeted to achieve new budget efficiency savings of £2.219million.

4.1.3 The table 1 below summarises the present budget monitoring position, with an overall Directorate over spend of £444k, but **exclusive** of ring fenced budgets this over spend is reduced to £419k. Appendices 1a to 1d provide more detail on the budget variation projections for each Service Division. It should be noted that the overall outturn position of each Service Division is likely to be affected by one-off pension strain and voluntary severance costs associated with staff based savings linked to the 2019/2020 budget and MTFP strategy.

4.1.4

TABLE 1	ORIGINAL ESTIMATE 2018/2019	REVISED ESTIMATE 2018/2019	ANTICIPATED OUTTURN 2018/2019	ANTICIPATED VARIANCE 2018/2019 Under (Over)
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Regeneration & Planning Division	2,560	2,509	2,581	(72)
Infrastructure Services Division	19,819	19,819	19,861	(42)
Public Protection Division	7,235	7,235	7,128	107
Community & Leisure Services Division	21,492	21,346	21,793	(447)
Directorate General	168	168	158	10
NET DIRECTORATE	51,274	51,077	51,521	(444)
Home to School Transport - ring fenced over spend				0
Social Services Transport - ring fenced over spend				(118)
Cemeteries Task & Finish - ring fenced under spend				93
NET DIRECTORATE over spend (excluding ring fenced budgets)				(419)

4.2 REGENERATION & PLANNING DIVISION

4.2.1 Overall, the service division presently has a projected over spend of £72k. Planning services are reporting over spend of £115k and Regeneration under spend of £43k.

4.2.2 Development Control is reporting an under spend of £12k this is primarily due to staff vacant posts, one of which is being held vacant as part of MTFP savings for 2019/2020 offset by a shortfall in planning application fee income of £110k on a budget of £537k, but pre-application advice fee income is projected at £32k, £4k above budget. Building Control is reporting

overspend of £104k and income is presently projected to be £105k below the £295k budget, there is also a £10k debtor write off in relation to dangerous structures linked to the Pound-stretcher building in Blackwood. Planning application fee and building control fee income is dependent on the number of applications received and applications and fee levels can vary significantly so will continue to be monitored closely.

- 4.2.3 Strategic Planning budgets are presently projected to be £13k over spent due a shortfall in rechargeable fee income, partly offset by staffing under spend due to staff on reduced working hour contracts and a temporary vacant principal planner post.
- 4.2.4 Land charge service is reporting overspend of £15k due to a shortfall in search fee income.
- 4.2.5 Overall Regeneration is presently projecting under spend of £43k. Business Support has underspend of £34k which is due to a vacant post which is being held in support of the MTFP for 2019/2020 and a reduction in some operational costs such as marketing, subscriptions etc.
- 4.2.6 Business Urban Renewal is reporting an over spend of £28k, this includes a projected over spend of £61k in relation to the Bargued retail shop units due to anticipated under occupancy of the units and reduced rental income in 2018/2019 partly offset by underspend in Urban Renewal mainly due to additional fee income and also Town Centre management from a vacant post and reduced operational costs.
- 4.2.7 There is a projected £51k under spend in relation to industrial properties where a shortfall in property rents resulting from a number of units becoming unoccupied is more than offset by under spend from staff vacant post and other operational costs. A rent review is being undertaken at present which is likely to result in additional income from increased rents which will help ensure budgetary targets can be achieved.
- 4.2.8 Overall Tourism Events and Tourism Venues are reporting a combined small underspend of £4k, this is primarily due to staffing underspends at the tourism venues offset by additional costs of security and health & safety in relation to the Big Cheese event and an underachievement in income at the tourism venues. It would seem that income generation at some of the tourism venues such as Llancaiach Fawr have been influenced by the unusually warm weather over the summer months and income at Cwmcarn VC has been affected by the summer mountain fires which had a negative impact on visitor numbers and on the bike trails.
- 4.2.9 Community Regeneration has an under spend of £10k, mainly due to additional staff recharge income from support provided to the grant funded Community First programme.
- 4.2.10 There is over spend of £28k in senior management support primarily due to one off payment in lieu of notice costs associated with the Interim Head of Service retiring.
- 4.2.11 The Head of Regeneration and Planning has recently undertaken a review of the staff structures of the service division with a view to achieving greater flexibility, clarity of roles and increasing the ability of the division to contribute to the Council MTFP for 2019/20 and beyond.

4.3 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

- 4.3.1 Infrastructure is reporting a small net over spend of £42k on a £19.819million budget, but after excluding budget variations in relation to Home to School Transport (presently projected to budget) and Social Services Transport (£118k over spend) which will be ring fenced and appropriated back to the Service Directorates, there is an under spend of £76k.
- 4.3.2 Highway Operations is reporting overspend of £107k, of which £103k relates to street lighting energy due to an increase in prices. The general highway maintenance and winter maintenance budgets of £5.6million are presently projecting a small overspend by £63k, with £50k offset by extra vehicle crossing income. However, much will depend on the severity of

winter weather and general wear and tear on the highway network. The expected amount of reactive maintenance required is difficult to predict, but every effort will be made to manage the maintenance programme within the budget available. Winter maintenance is assumed for now to be within the £1.1million budget, but it will depend on the severity of the winter. There is a winter maintenance reserve of £500k (this has however been offered up as a proposed one off saving for 2019/20 to meet MTFP target) available to help fund costs associated with a very severe winter. There is also a £17k shortfall in fixed penalty income associated with New Roads Street Works (NRSWA) but this is more than offset by extra income from skip/scaffolding permits of £24k.

- 4.3.3 EPG (Engineering Projects Group) is reporting underspend of £31k mainly due additional fee income generated.
- 4.3.4 Transport Engineering overall is projecting a £62k under spend, with a shortfall in car park income of £62k (on £736k budget), being more than offset by staffing underspend of £106k, of which £58k relates to school crossing patrol which is mostly MTFP in advance for 2019/2020. There is also underspend traffic signal maintenance (£9k) and road accident and road conditions surveys (£11k) both of which are planned MTFP savings for 2019/2020.
- 4.3.5 Public Transport is reporting an under spend of £22k, mainly due to the Connect 2 lead driver being recovered via grant.
- 4.3.6 At this stage Network Contracting Services (NCS) is anticipating surplus of £53k primarily in relation to the SEW contract. The financial position of NCS is heavily dependent on the volume and value of work secured during the year and this is monitored closely along with productivity levels within the workforce.
- 4.3.7 Engineering general support costs are underspent by £13k due to a vacant post which is MTFP in advance for 2019/20.
- 4.3.8 Home to School Transport is presently projecting a break even budget but the financial position will be monitored closely as it is subject to variation during the year.
- 4.3.9 Social Services Transport is projecting over spend of £118k again due to increased operator costs resulting from increased demand in adult services (£48k) and children services (£70k). This budget will be monitored closely as it is also subject to variation in demand and costs during the year.
- 4.3.10 The Head of Infrastructure has recently reviewed the structure of the division with a view to achieving greater flexibility and clarity of roles and to contribute financial savings to the MTFP for 2019/20 and beyond.

4.4 PUBLIC PROTECTION

- 4.4.1 Public Protection is presently projecting an under spend of £107k on an overall revenue budget of £7.235million.
- 4.4.2 Environmental Health is currently projecting a net underspend of £112k this is primarily due to £73k underspend in salaries from a combination of vacant posts some being held to support the Medium-Term Financial Plan savings requirement for 2019/20, maternity, reduced hour contracts and reduced overtime. Income is being over achieved by £26k but this relates to one off income relating to the final year Pest Control SLA fee with Blaenau Gwent (SLA ended early but Blaenau tied in to 3 years of payment). There are a number of ongoing issues in respect of pollution and contaminated land sites that are unpredictable and difficult to assess in terms of financial cost, this includes reviewing the existing provisions for Coed Top, but it is assumed the existing provisions and budget will cover this at present. Pollution and contaminated land sites are being closely monitored as any increases in this area would impact on the overall financial position.

- 4.4.3 Trading Standards, Licensing, Community Safety and CCTV has a projected net underspend of £49k. This is primarily in relation to staffing costs (£63k) from career break savings, vacancy management, associated costs in relation to car allowances and staff not currently top of the incremental scale. These underspends are partly offset by a shortfall in licensing fee income and some increased operating costs in relation to I.T requirements, notifications and adverts for license fee and tariff changes etc. Licensing fee income can be subject to variation so this will be monitored closely.
- 4.4.4 Catering Services are projecting overall small overspend of £54k on a £3.483million budget, this includes underspend in relation to Comprehensive schools (£46k) this is mainly due to over achievement in income which has been assisted by an increase in the number of schools implementing a policy of school children not leaving the premises at lunch time. However there is projected overspend in Primary schools of £151k due to an underachievement in income targets of £99k and overspend in staffing of £66k partly offset by underspend in other operational costs. Income generation will be monitored closely as it can vary depending on pupil take up, school disruptions due to poor weather etc. Similarly there is overspend in relation to breakfast clubs of £46k although this is primarily due to overspend in staffing costs. There is underspend in relation to staff restaurants of £54k due to increased income as more people make use of the restaurant facilities at Ty Penallta and also reduced staffing costs and overspend in meals direct of £27k due to a shortfall in income partly offset by reduced operating costs. There is underspend in HQ costs of £33k.

4.5 COMMUNITY & LEISURE SERVICES

- 4.5.1 The Community & Leisure Division is presently projecting overall net overspend of £447k on a budget of £21.346 million.
- 4.5.2 Waste Management & Cleaning Services is reporting over spend of £482k. There is anticipated overspend in dry recycling treatment (£672k), due to inadequate budget to fund the service, there is however a corporate contingency reserve of £800k available to finance any overspend during 2018/2019. There is a slight improvement in the financial position since the last monitoring and the dry recycling contract with Newport Paper Company is being monitored closely, as contract rates will depend on factors such as the quality of waste/level of contamination in the waste streams collected and also resale markets for recycling materials. There is overspend in relation to CA sites (£125k) due to increased tonnage of waste being deposited at the CA sites and the associated increase in running costs. Initiatives are being considered to help reduce some of these cost pressures including introducing restrictions by implementing a resident only ID scheme and also better controls on the waste deposited at the CA sites. Vehicle running costs are showing £155k overspend primarily in relation to unscheduled repairs, cover vehicles due to downtime on the fleet and fuel costs. It is anticipated that the new Fleet Services contract will generate savings in vehicle running costs in the future. These overspends are partly offset by an anticipated reduction in vehicle purchases this financial year from deferring acquisitions and therefore reduced RCCO (£391k), albeit vehicles will still need replacing in subsequent years and adequate budget provision will be required to fund replacements. There is also a net staffing under spend of £296k primarily due to vacant posts in street cleansing services some of which are being held to support the Medium-Term Financial Plan savings requirement for 2019/20 partly offset by a £121k overspend in agency costs. HQ staffing also shows overspend £25k primarily due to one off lieu of notice costs.
- 4.5.3 An underspend of £121k is projected for Parks & Countryside, Outdoor Facilities and Cemeteries. Cemeteries is reporting a £93k under spend due to income in excess of budget and reductions in maintenance expenditure. Any underspend in relation to cemeteries is ring fenced for future investment in cemetery infrastructure. Parks & Countryside combined is reporting underspend of £28k primarily due to staff vacant some of which is held vacant in support of the MTFP for 2019/2020, although the tree maintenance budget is reporting a £43k overspend as a result of essential tree works on a number of road by-passes and this will be monitored closely.

- 4.5.4 Leisure Centres are reporting a net overspend of £82k, with a £209k shortfall in income targets being mostly offset by underspend in staffing & tutors and other operating costs. Income generation at the Leisure centres can vary depending on consumer demand, operational closures due to adverse weather (which was significant in the 2018 winter), closures due to maintenance and refurbishments (Centre of Sporting Excellence this year due to renovation to the football pitch) and other factors, including this year, an apparent reduction in consumer demand due to the exceptionally hot summer. The recent Cabinet decision to apply a VAT exemption on the supply of sporting services following a legal challenge and a decision by the Court of Justice of the European Union (subsequently accepted by HMRC) to allow public bodies including local authorities to apply an exemption to VAT on sporting services, will result in additional leisure related income, which will assist in ensuring Leisure Centres can achieve their income budget targets. Overspend in Leisure centres is partly offset by underspend in Leisure HQ costs of £38k including customer services, marketing & training and uniforms.
- 4.5.5 Community Centres are at present projecting underspend of £30k on a £360k budget due to reductions in general maintenance and other operating costs and Caerphilly Adventures is reporting overspend of £24k as the service has suffered an element of disruption in its provision due to the move to Cwmcarn forest drive in the summer of 2018.
- 4.5.6 Vehicle Maintenance & Fleet Management is currently projecting overspend of £57k. The outturn position will be dependent on the value of work through the workshop over the next few months and the ability to finance fixed overheads.
- 4.5.7 Building Cleaning is at present reporting underspend of £14k, due to income greater than budgeted offset by staff additional hours to cover sickness and holidays. The service is continually seeking to secure additional cleaning contract work to sustain employments levels and finance fixed overheads.

4.6 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLANS (MTFP) SAVINGS 2018/2019

- 4.6.1 The 2018/19 revenue budget for Environment Directorate included targeted MTFP savings of £2.219million as summarised in table 2 below. The projected overspends and under spends discussed in the above paragraphs take account of these savings targets.

TABLE 2

Service Division	Approved Savings 2018/2019 £000
Regeneration & Planning Division	575
Infrastructure Services Division	732
Public Protection Division	295
Community & Leisure Services Division	617
TOTAL	2,219

- 4.6.2 Most of the £2.219million MTFP savings applied in 2018/2019 are being achieved or are expected to be achieved. However at present a number of MTFP savings are not being fully achieved and the position on these will be monitored closely, the under achieved MTFP savings include:

- Increased rental income industrial properties (£10k MTFP) not achieved due to shortfall in income as noted in paragraph 4.2.7
- Urban Renewal rental income from town centre events spaces (£10k MTFP) not achieved due to lower demand for events space
- Tourism Venues, increased income and expenditure realignment from Caerphilly Visitor Centre (£15k MTFP) not achieved due to reduced income as a result of disruption from refurbishment works to the public toilets and suspected impact of hot summer weather on consumer demand.

- Tourism Llancaiach Fawr staffing rotas and administration roles (£34k MTFP), £10k underspend in staffing, so not fully achieved. Also review of events at Llancaiach Fawr (£10k MTFP), due to general shortfall in income generation as noted in paragraph 4.2.8.
- Infrastructure, New Roads Street Works Act fee increases (£2.5k MTFP) not achieved as noted in paragraph 4.3.2 above
- Infrastructure, bus shelter maintenance (£10k MTFP) not achieved due to overspend on bus station maintenance
- Public Protection Catering, increased income from increasing prices at Primary schools (£54k MTFP) not being achieved due to present projected shortfall in primary school catering income as noted in paragraph 4.4.4
- Public Protection Catering, increased charge for meals on wheels (£11k MTFP) not achieved due to due shortfall in income as noted in paragraph 4.4.4
- Community & Leisure Countryside, leasing of buildings (£11.5k MTFP) not achieved as lease agreements not negotiated
- Community & Leisure Waste Management & Cleaning, early retirement of two supervisors (£67k MTFP) not achieved as yet but offset by greater increased savings in other operational posts.
- Community & Leisure, Caerphilly Adventures, increased income (£20k MTFP) not fully achieved as yet as noted in paragraph 4.5.5

4.6.3 Most of the unachieved MTFP savings are associated with additional income generation, which does have a greater risk of non-achievement, often due to the volatility in customer demand for services and factors outside the control of the service that can impact on usage and income levels (general economic climate, weather, consumer trends etc.)

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

5.1 Effective financial management is a key element in ensuring that the Well-being Goals within the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 are met.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no potential equalities implications of this report and its recommendations on groups or individuals who fall under the categories identified in Section 6 of the Council's Strategic Equality Plan. There is no requirement for an Equalities Impact Assessment Questionnaire to be completed for this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 As noted in the table in paragraph 4.1.3 above some service under/over spends will be appropriated to ring fenced reserves including Social Services Transport (£118k overspend) and Cemeteries (£93k underspend). In line with the Council's reserves protocol, general revenue underspends not subject to specific ring fencing are appropriated to Directorate strategic reserves and Council working balances on a 50/50 basis, however any Directorate over spends will be appropriated to Service Directorate reserves in full and will require funding from previous years reserve balances where they exist or future years revenue budgets.

7.2 Based on current projections, combined general revenue overspend for the Directorate of £419k in relation to Regeneration & Planning, Infrastructure, Community & Leisure services and Public Protection would be appropriated to Communities Strategic reserve (this excludes ring fenced under/overspends noted in paragraph 7.1). If as noted in paragraph 4.5.2 overspend of £672k in relation to dry recycling treatment is funded from Council Corporate contingency reserves, then the net general underspend for these Divisions will be £253k of which £126.5k would be appropriated to the Communities Strategic reserve and £126.5k to Council working balances. Consideration will be given to possible use of the contingency reserve at outturn when further updates of the financial position are reported.

7.3 As noted in paragraph 4.1.3, the overall outturn position of each Service Division is likely to be affected by one-off pension strain and voluntary severance costs associated with staff based savings linked to the 2019/2020 budget and MTFP strategy.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Members will be aware that when setting the budget, MTFP savings were identified for the Communities Directorate in relation to vacancy management savings, these are reflected in the financial figures reported.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 There are no consultation responses, which have not been included in this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Members are requested to note the contents of this report.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 The Council Budget is based on the achievement of both expenditure and income targets. In order to ensure that these are met and the Council's financial integrity is maintained Directors are required to review income and expenditure trends.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 Local Government Act 1972 and 2000.

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Consultees: Councillor D.T Davies Chair Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee
Mark S Williams Interim Corporate Director of Communities
Robert Hartshorn, Head of Community & Leisure, Policy and Public Protection
Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning
Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure
Nicole Scammell Head of Corporate Finance and Section 151 Officer
Steve Harris, Deputy Section 151 Officer
Rose Shears, Finance Officer
Jane Southcombe, Education Financial Services Manager
Dave Roberts, Principal Group Accountant
Paul Adams, Senior Assistant Accountant
Mike Jones, Interim Financial Services Manager Social Services

Background Papers:
Divisional budget monitoring working papers 2018/2019

Appendices:
Appendix 1A Budget Monitoring Report - Regeneration and Planning
Appendix 1B Budget Monitoring Report - Infrastructure Services Division
Appendix 1C Budget Monitoring Report - Public Protection Division
Appendix 1D Budget Monitoring Report - Community and Leisure Services

Links to other Documents:

Minutes Council Meeting 22/2/2018: Budget Proposals 2018/19 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2018/2023

Agenda Item No. 4

DIRECTORATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT	Page No	Estimate 2018/19	Revised Estimate 2018/2019	Projected Outturn 2018/2019	Variance 2018/2019
<u>REGENERATION & PLANNING</u>					
REGENERATION					
Senior Management Support		77,982	77,982	106,370	(28,388)
Business Support -					
Business Support & Funding		433,213	433,213	399,409	33,804
Commercial Properties		(1,063,437)	(1,133,218)	(1,184,402)	51,184
		(630,224)	(700,005)	(784,993)	84,988
Business Urban Renewal		297,045	297,045	325,440	(28,395)
Destination & Events					
Management, Marketing & Events		372,691	372,691	362,904	9,787
Tourism Venues		894,754	913,754	927,825	(14,071)
Blackwood Miners Institute		324,362	324,362	315,643	8,719
Arts Development		152,997	152,997	152,997	0
		1,744,804	1,763,804	1,759,369	4,435
Community Regeneration		168,576	168,576	158,058	10,518
Legacy/C4W Grant Programmes					
Expenditure		2,001,161	2,015,293	1,622,029	393,264
Grant Funding		(2,001,161)	(2,015,293)	(1,622,029)	(393,264)
		0	0	0	0
		1,658,183	1,607,402	1,564,244	43,158
PLANNING					
Strategic Planning		404,256	404,256	417,229	(12,973)
Development		332,384	332,384	320,453	11,931
Building Control		(30,845)	(30,845)	73,502	(104,347)
Land Charges		(9,849)	(9,849)	5,572	(15,421)
HQ, Corporate and Democratic Core		205,385	205,385	199,332	6,053
		901,331	901,331	1,016,088	(114,757)
TOTAL NET BUDGET		2,559,514	2,508,733	2,580,332	(71,599)

<i>ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE</i>	Page No	Estimate 2018/19	Revised Estimate 2018/19	Projected Outturn 2018/2019	Variance 2018/2019
<i>INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES DIVISION</i>					
<i>HIGHWAY OPERATIONS</i>		9,394,216	9,393,657	9,501,134	(107,477)
<i>ENGINEERING PROJECTS GROUP</i>		(99,873)	(99,873)	(130,961)	31,088
<i>TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING</i>		567,051	567,051	505,083	61,968
<i>PASSENGER TRANSPORT</i>		1,751,908	1,751,908	1,729,403	22,505
<i>HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT</i>		6,831,258	6,831,258	6,831,269	(11)
<i>SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORT</i>		1,465,319	1,465,319	1,583,226	(117,907)
<i>NETWORK CONTRACTING SERVICES</i>		(146,017)	(146,017)	(200,000)	53,983
<i>ENGINEERING - GENERAL</i>		55,403	55,403	42,085	13,318
<i>TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE</i>		19,819,265	19,818,706	19,861,239	(42,533)

<i>DIRECTORATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT</i>	Page No	Estimate 2018/2019	Revised Estimate 2018/2019	Projected Outturn 2018/2019	Variance 2018/2019
<u>PUBLIC PROTECTION DIVISION</u>					
<i>TRADING STANDARDS</i>		794,619	794,619	751,545	43,074
<i>LICENSING</i>		51,183	51,183	59,065	(7,882)
<i>REGISTRARS</i>		67,848	67,848	52,311	15,537
<i>CCTV</i>		466,777	466,777	473,251	(6,474)
<i>COMMUNITY WARDENS</i>		355,019	355,019	322,489	32,530
<i>CORPORATE AND DEMOCRATIC COSTS (CDC)</i>		54,643	54,643	49,546	5,097
<i>HEALTH DIVISIONAL BUDGET</i>		244,869	244,869	256,348	(11,479)
<i>ENFORCEMENT</i>		641,124	641,124	582,509	58,615
<i>POLLUTION</i>		410,366	410,366	401,818	8,548
<i>FOOD TEAM</i>		571,716	571,716	540,997	30,719
<i>EMERGENCY PLANNING</i>		93,185	93,185	100,296	(7,111)
<i>CATERING</i>		3,483,837	3,483,278	3,538,070	(54,792)
<i>TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE</i>		7,235,186	7,234,627	7,128,245	106,382

<i>DIRECTORATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT</i>	Page No	Estimate 2018/2019	Revised Estimate 2018/2019	Projected Outturn 2018/2019	Variance 2018/2019
<u>COMMUNITY & LEISURE SERVICES</u>					
WASTE MANAGEMENT					
<i>Residual Waste</i>		2,331,900	2,331,900	2,544,407	(212,507)
<i>Organics recycling</i>		1,330,439	1,330,439	1,323,360	7,079
<i>Civic Amenity Sites</i>		2,989,173	2,989,173	3,114,138	(124,965)
<i>Waste Transfer Station</i>		108,839	108,839	161,488	(52,649)
<i>Dry Recycling</i>		2,175,012	2,175,012	2,955,994	(780,982)
<i>RCCO</i>		391,000	391,000	0	391,000
<i>Bulky Waste</i>		149,892	149,892	155,526	(5,634)
<i>Commercial Waste</i>		(538,660)	(538,660)	(382,022)	(156,638)
<i>Other Waste</i>		71,055	71,055	63,478	7,577
<i>Trehir</i>		126,224	126,224	122,710	3,514
<i>Sustainable Waste Management Grant</i>		(942,804)	(942,804)	(942,804)	0
<i>HQ Staff</i>		1,280,201	1,155,482	1,180,828	(25,346)
CLEANSING					
<i>Public Conveniences</i>		93,146	74,146	61,007	13,139
<i>Street Cleansing</i>		4,235,188	4,235,188	3,780,850	454,338
GROUND MAINTENANCE AND PARKS					
<i>Cemeteries</i>		(140,856)	(140,856)	(233,993)	93,137
<i>Allotments</i>		39,231	39,231	27,191	12,040
<i>Parks and Playing Fields</i>		1,705,503	1,705,503	1,817,642	(112,139)
<i>Playgrounds</i>		284,223	284,223	283,400	823
<i>Outdoor facilities</i>		274,003	274,003	230,508	43,495
<i>Community Assets Funding</i>		54,160	54,160	54,160	0
<i>Countryside</i>		1,092,071	1,092,071	1,068,485	23,586
<i>HQ Staffing</i>		1,009,471	1,009,471	949,772	59,699
LEISURE SERVICES					
<i>Leisure Centres</i>		2,594,077	2,593,518	2,637,578	(44,060)
<i>Sports & Health Development</i>		20,024	20,024	23,183	(3,159)
<i>Outdoor Education</i>		143,091	143,091	168,491	(25,400)
<i>Community Centres</i>		359,855	359,855	329,414	30,441
		21,235,458	21,091,180	21,494,791	(403,611)
<i>Building Cleaning</i>		517,207	516,648	502,706	13,942
<i>Vehicle Maintenance & Fleet Management</i>		(260,883)	(261,442)	(204,317)	(57,125)
Total net expenditure Community & Leisure Services		21,491,782	21,346,386	21,793,180	(446,794)



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – FOR INFORMATION

SUBJECT: REGENERATION BOARD UPDATE

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with an update on the work of the newly constituted Regeneration Project Board and its discussions in relation to an initial list of priority schemes for Development Funding.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 At its meeting on 30th May 2018 – Cabinet agreed that a Regeneration Project Board would be set up with a cross party political representation of Councillors plus key officers.
- 2.2 The Regeneration Project Board terms of reference were also approved by the Cabinet on 30th May 2018. The Board is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure, and Sustainability & Well Being of Future Generations Champion.
- 2.3 The Project Assessment Panel met on the 3rd October and agreed the Membership and Terms of Conditions of the Panel. The first formal Assessment Panel was held in January 2019 where they considered the first suite of projects which have been identified by the Board to move to Assessment Stage.
- 2.4 This information report sets out the progress that the Regeneration Project Board has made as at January 2019.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. It requires public bodies to think more about the long term, working with people and communities, looking to prevent problems and take a more joined up approach. This will create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. The Act puts in place seven wellbeing goals and the contents of this report which will hopefully contribute to significant levels of community regeneration and infrastructure development potentially links into all seven wellbeing goals.
- 3.2 A Foundation for Success 2018-2023 (Approved July 2018) is the Regeneration Strategy for Caerphilly County Borough which sets out the strategic priorities for the regeneration and enhancement of Caerphilly County Borough which identifies four strategic themes on which regeneration efforts should be focussed namely: Supporting People; Supporting Business; Supporting Quality of Life and Connecting People and Places.

3.3 The Caerphilly Basin Masterplan (Approved July 2018) is the first of a number of area-specific strategies that identify projects that will help deliver on the Aims and Objectives set out within A Foundation for Success 2018-2023.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Considerable work has been undertaken over the last nine months to better position the Authority in order to take advantage of funding opportunities arising from the City Deal, Metro, the Valleys Task Force and the Welsh Government (WG) Targeted Regeneration Programme Initiative.

4.2 On the 30th May 2018, Cabinet agreed that a Regeneration Project Board be set up. The Terms of Reference of the Board were approved by Cabinet at the same meeting.

4.3 The Regeneration Project Board's remit is to provide clear strategic direction in relation to the Regeneration Project Team (officers) on regeneration projects to enable the Authority to react to calls for expressions of interest in short timescales. Further the Project Board:

- Can agree the range of projects to be developed by the project team in order to take advantage of regeneration investment opportunities.
- Must provide periodic updates on project development to Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.
- Agree that officers sitting on the Board can submit expressions of interest (EOI's) for project funding streams as long as the EOI's do not bind the Authority to any financial commitment.
- Recommend the formal submission of projects to the Authority's Cabinet so that submission to external funding bodies can be made and/or Authority budgets can be committed accordingly.

4.4 In June 2018 the inaugural meeting of the Regeneration Project Board (the Board) was held. The Board comprises a politically balanced membership and includes:

- Councillor Sean Morgan – Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure, Sustainability & Wellbeing of Future Generations Champion (Chair);
- Councillor Eluned Stenner – Cabinet Member for Environment & Public Protection;
- Councillor Brenda Miles – Labour Ward Member
- Councillor Kevin Etheridge – Independent Ward Member;
- Councillor Rob Gough – Plaid Cymru Ward Member.

4.5 At the June meeting a Project Prioritisation Toolkit was approved for the Board to prioritise projects and this was subsequently agreed by Council on 17th July 2018 as part of the Council's consideration of A Foundation for Success 2018-2023.

4.6 At its June meeting the Board had a detailed discussion concerning the Council's priorities for the Welsh Government Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Programme. WG has identified Caerphilly and Ystrad Mynach as Strategic Hubs for the Valleys Task Force Initiative and it is these areas that will be targeted for WG TRI funding. It was therefore agreed that the first tranche of TRI funding bids should be targeted at these important Strategic Hubs.

4.7 The Board also agreed that a report should be prepared to capture all the existing (in construction) and proposed regeneration schemes across the County Borough, in order to provide a clear indication in terms of the value of the projects being proposed; their spatial distribution; and the likely timescales for delivery. Officers were tasked with preparing this Capital Projects List for consideration by the Board at its second meeting in September 2018.

4.8 £300k has been set aside as a Development Fund to work up projects in readiness for any calls for funding. The appropriateness of this level of Development Fund will be kept under

review over the coming months as project work develops. However it is firmly the view of the Board that this level of funding is insufficient and that further funds need to be allocated to the Development Fund.

- 4.9 A second meeting of the Project Board was held on the 11th September 2018 at which the Draft Caerphilly Capital Projects List (CCPL) was presented. The CCPL sought to capture all key existing (in construction) and proposed capital projects across the County Borough, in order to provide an indication of value, spatial distribution, likely timescales for delivery and internal resource/lead.
- 4.10 The CCPL was divided into various section headings and sub sections such as “Physical Infrastructure” – “Transport”. Each sub section was further sub-divided to ascertain whether a project was: Small (less than £1m); Medium (£1m - £5m); or Large (greater than £5m); and the anticipated delivery timeframe. Each project was considered in turn and the Board identified a number of projects to be moved to formal assessment stage for 2019/2020.
- 4.11 An Assessment Panel has been set up to assess each of the projects using the agreed Project Prioritisation Toolkit. The Assessment Panel is an internal officer panel from a wide range of service areas set up specifically to assess strategic regeneration schemes.
- 4.12 The first meeting of the Assessment Panel took place on 3 October 2018 where the Terms of Reference of the Group were discussed and agreed. A series of meetings were then held in December 2018 and January 2019 to assess the projects that were progressed to assessment stage by the Board at their Meeting on 23 October 2018 as follows:
- T1 Ystrad Mynach Park & Ride;
 - T5 Llanbradach Park & Ride;
 - T6 Caerphilly Interchange;
 - Gen 19 Oakdale Business Park;
 - Gen22 Cwmcarn Forest Drive;
 - Gen23 Park Lane, Caerphilly;
 - Gen24 Pentrebane Street, Caerphilly.
- 4.13 The Caerphilly Interchange has secured £180k of development funding already and therefore at this stage there is no call on the Board’s Development Fund for this project. A project group has been set up for this project comprising CCBC/Welsh Government and Transport for Wales Officers to progress the feasibility work.
- 4.14 A number of other projects are already in development either by the Council or in partnership with the Private Sector and /or Welsh Government and therefore these are not required to move to Assessment e.g. The Lawns, Rhymney; Ty Du, Nelson; Caerphilly Business Park; Penallta Colliery; Monmouthshire and Brecon Adventure Triangle; Longbridge Baths; Brooklands Risca. However officers will work closely with the relevant partners and provide any necessary additional support/intervention to ensure that these important projects are realised.
- 4.15 Further to assessment of projects in December 2018 and January 2019, an initial list of priority schemes will be recommended for final decision by Cabinet as follows:

Development Funding Tranche 1 – Total £290,000

T5 Llanbradach Park & Ride

TOTAL PROJECT COST ESTIMATE (£): £300,000 budget required for feasibility works. £150,000 is being requested to act as match to Local Transport Funding.

Gen23 Park Lane, Caerphilly

TOTAL PROJECT COST ESTIMATE (£): £10million. £40,000 request to act as match to TRI grant for purchase of No. 25 Cardiff Rd.

Gen 19 Oakdale Business Park

TOTAL PROJECT COST ESTIMATE (£): Unknown. £100,000 to undertake feasibility work. In the short term this will not lever in external match funding towards feasibility, however it will provide a budget to allow the Council to work up costed proposals that can then be used to target external funding mechanisms to unlock private sector investment which is anticipated to run into millions of pounds.

(The RPB Assessment Panel – Project Information Forms for the Tranche 1 projects are attached at Appendix 1).

Development Funding Tranche 2 – Residual £15,000 (Awaiting assessment)

- T1 Ystrad Mynach P& R
- Gen22 a Cwmcarn
- Gen24 Pentrebanne Street

4.16 If agreed, this will result in a pipeline of prioritised projects that will be the focus of the Council's initial regeneration priorities in the short to medium term. The pipeline of projects will be reported to Cabinet on a six monthly basis and be updated accordingly as schemes progress.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

5.1 This report potentially contributes to all seven wellbeing goals as set out in the Links to Strategy section above. These include:-

- A globally responsible Wales
- 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

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no specific equalities implications associated with this report for any specific groups or individuals therefore a full equalities impact assessment has not been carried out.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 As stated above an initial project development fund of £300,000 has been approved and will allow a project team of officers to develop projects ready for implementation once funding becomes available.
- 7.2 If approved, the Tranche 1 projects would utilise £290,000 of the £300,000 Development Fund leaving £10,000 for Tranche 2.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

9. CONSULTATION

- 9.1 All consultation responses are reflected in the report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and the priority projects being presented to Cabinet.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 To progress feasibility works in respect of those priority regeneration schemes identified by the Regeneration Project Board.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Sections 70 and 71(1) of the Government of Wales Act 2006 and sections 126-128 of the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996.

Author: Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning

Consultees: Cllr Sean Morgan, Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure, Sustainability & Wellbeing of Future Generations Champion (Chair)
Mark S. Williams, Interim Corporate Director Communities
Stephen Harris, Interim Head of Business Improvement Services
Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure
Nicole Scammell, Head of Corporate Finance and Section 151 Officer

Appendix 1: RPB Assessment Panel – Project Information Forms for the Tranche 1 projects

APPENDIX 1

RPB Assessment Panel – Project Information Forms for the Tranche 1 projects

RPB ASESMENT PANEL – PROJECT INFORMATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT NAME: Llanbradach Strategic Park and Ride

SECTION/TEAM SUBMITTING PROJECT: Head of Infrastructure

LOCATION AND WARD: Llanbradach Village, Llanbradach

DESCRIPTION:

This project proposes a new park and ride facility in Llanbradach that would accommodate up to 500 spaces. The existing station only has 10 P&R spaces which is deemed totally unsuitable for the introduction of a much better and frequent rail service under Transport for Wales. The availability of an accessible public transport network is critical to service these areas within the county borough and a P&R at this location would remove traffic and reduce congestion on the strategic highway network.

The location of the new park and ride would be located some distance from the existing rail station and as such the scheme would require a new rail halt to be constructed.

Residual land at this location could accommodate employment growth

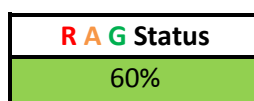
Overall benefits include

- Increasing levels of public transport use
- Reducing car usage on heavily congested networks
- Improve modal interchange
- Create employment opportunities by improving connectivity to a larger catchment
- Allowing those who cannot afford their own cars to access more employment/training opportunities
- Make good use of derelict land and stimulate local employment opportunities and local land assets becomes more attractive to investors.

Programme timeframe of 2023 is achievable for feasibility /design and implementation. WG and Transport for Wales are aware of this project and have been supportive.

This bid seeks £150k to match fund a Regional Transport Bid for resources to undertake further feasibility/design work on this project in 2019/20. This work will provide a robustly costed project which will prove beneficial when seeking funding to implement the scheme.

STRATEGIC FIT (SF) ASESMENT (R A G):



Notes:

TOTAL PROJECT COST ESTIMATE (£): £300,000 budget required for feasibility works. £150,000 is being requested to act as match

DELIVERABILITY ASESMENT (R A G):

R A G Status
60%

Notes:

<p>CCBC REGENERATION BOARD RECOMMENDATION: APPROVAL</p> <p>The provision of a large, strategic park and ride facility at Llanbradach will help to absorb the excess park and ride demand and also create new demand at a station that does not currently benefit from a notable park and ride facility. It will encourage greater use of the rail service on the Rhymney Valley line for those in the Mid Valleys area and offer a more accessible rail network that will enable car users to switch to rail for their everyday journeys. The proposed scheme will increase levels of public transport use, reduce levels of car use, and improve modal interchange by providing a new strategic park and ride facility.</p> <p>Identifying the necessary match for the Local Transport Fund bid is critical to feasibility/design work being conducted in 2019.</p> <p>The proposals contribute to the following themes within the CCBC Regeneration Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting people• Supporting Business• Supporting Quality of Life• Connecting People and Places <p><i>DATE: 15th January 2019</i></p>	<p>CHAIR'S SIGNATURE</p>
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RPB ASESMENT PANEL – PROJECT INFORMATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT NAME: Park Lane Hotel Development

SECTION/TEAM SUBMITTING PROJECT: Head of Regeneration and Planning

LOCATION AND WARD: Caerphilly Town Centre, Morgan Jones ward.

DESCRIPTION:

This project is aimed at stimulating the visitor economy in Caerphilly. It is acknowledged that to date, the town and Caerphilly castle are not attracting the visitor numbers they should. As a response, the Council has cleared 0.2 hectares of Council owned land at Park Lane in order to accommodate a use that would bolster the town's current visitor offer. In addition, Cadw have recently produced a masterplan that they hope to implement over the next 5 years to double the visitors to the castle and turn it into a Tier One destination

Plans are in place to develop a quality 4 star hotel at the Park lane site. A preferred developer has been secured and there is interest from the Accor Hotel group to take up residency at this site.

Welsh Government's Visit Wales Team have indicated that they are willing to support the scheme financially through grant aid to ensure that a prestigious building and hotel operator are secured.

At present the preliminary designs for the site show a 70plus bedroomed hotel development over 4 floors with a strong food and beverage offer – consisting of restaurant and banqueting/conference facilities.

Although the scheme has stunning views over the castle, it is somewhat hidden and out of the way of the main commercial strip on Cardiff Road.

An opportunity has presented itself to purchase the currently empty No.25 Cardiff Road and add it into the red line boundary of the site. This would give the site much better visibility and presence.

The owner of the property is keen to sell and the preferred developer is keen to add this land into the red line boundary and will be willing to increase his annual premium on the proposed long lease if this can be achieved.

WG have agreed in principle to a mixture of loan and Targeted Regeneration Investment grant allow the Council to purchase the building. It is then intended that the developer will demolish the building when he commences his hotel build. The WG loan element could be repaid with the annual income from the developer whilst the Council need to find match funding to secure the grant element.

This bid seeks a capital contribution of £40,000 to be used as match to secure TRI grant.

Overall benefits include:

- Beneficial use of brownfield site in the heart of the town centre
- Bolstering visitor offer in town and therefore increase spend and dwell times in the town.
- Opportunity for local supply chains - both in construction and running of venue
- Opportunities for local people to gain employment
- Act as a catalyst to further investment in the visitor, evening and wedding/conference economy
- A small outlay of £30k could secure up to £10m of hotel development

STRATEGIC FIT (SF) ASESMENT

R A G Status
42.5%

(R A G):

Notes:

TOTAL PROJECT COST ESTIMATE (£): £10million. £40,000 request to act as match to TRI grant for purchase of No. 25 Cardiff Rd.

DELIVERABILITY ASESMENT (R A

R A G Status
70%

G):

Notes:

<p>CCBC REGENERATION BOARD RECOMMENDATION: APPROVAL</p> <p>This is identified as a strategic project in the recently adopted Caerphilly Basin Masterplan and is one of the key schemes identified for the regeneration of Caerphilly Town Centre and the development of its visitor economy. The small financial requirement from the Council will help towards bringing a town centre brownfield site back into beneficial use and will help ensure up to £10m is invested in a quality hotel at Park Lane.</p> <p>The time envelope for purchasing No. 25 is very short, so it is imperative that the Council establishes the match funding required for the TRI application for financial support</p> <p>The proposals contribute to the following themes within the CCBC Regeneration Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting people • Supporting People • Supporting Quality of Life <p><i>DATE: 15th January 2019</i></p>	<p>CHAIR'S SIGNATURE</p>
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RPB ASESMENT PANEL – PROJECT INFORMATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT NAME: Oakdale Business Park Expansion

SECTION/TEAM SUBMITTING PROJECT: Head of Regeneration and Planning

LOCATION AND WARD: Oakdale Plateaux, Penmaen ward.

DESCRIPTION:

Oakdale business park is the largest employment site in the County Borough and consist of a number of distinct plateaux. There are still substantive amounts of undeveloped employment zoned land on Plateau 1, 2 and 4.

The Council is currently working with Welsh Government (WG) to develop out Plateau One. Fifteen Hectares will be unlocked when Welsh Government invest up to £3m towards introducing the necessary infrastructure to the plateau to make it attractive to investors.

On a smaller scale, land next to General Dynamics on Plateau 2 is being sold to Senior Flexonics who will build a hi- tech research facility there. A core component of this scheme is a WG funded access road that will provide access to Senior Flexonic's new facility and will also provide spinal access to the remaining 7 hectares of undeveloped land.

Plateau 4 at Foxes Lane has residual undeveloped land of circa 2 hectares that is currently lying dormant at the northern most part of the plateau.

The current momentum with Plateau 1 and 2 needs to be maximised and it is proposed that feasibility work be undertaken to establish costs of providing the necessary infrastructure to the remainder of Plateau 2 and Plateau 4.

Although the Council are unlikely to fund any infrastructural works from internal budgets, there should be opportunities to bid into WG or other funding vehicles to implement spinal infrastructural works to open up these sites for development.

£100,000 is being bid for to undertake this feasibility work. At present, this will not lever in any external match funding towards feasibility but it will provide a budget to allow the Council to appoint consultants to work up costed proposals that can then be used to target external funding mechanisms which may unlock millions.

The benefits of the proposals are set out below:

- Land is owned by the council which makes it easier to undertake feasibility study
- A strong feasibility study and skeleton layout would allow the Council to market the plateaux more actively.
- Costed proposals and preliminary layouts will make any applications for external funding more coherent
- It will allow the private sector to better understand the upfront costs of putting the infrastructure in themselves (should external funding not become available)
- It will hopefully lead to the infrastructure being provided which in turn will stimulate further investment from the private sector employment

STRATEGIC FIT (SF) ASESMENT (R A G):

R A G Status
38.75%

Notes:

TOTAL PROJECT COST ESTIMATE (£): feasibility £100,000 with no match funding identified. Project implementation £2million plus.

DELIVERABILITY ASESMENT (R A G):

R A G Status
50%

Notes:

<p>CCBC REGENERATION BOARD RECOMMENDATION: APPROVAL</p> <p>This is CCBC’s largest council owned undeveloped employment site and has regional significance. It has been identified as a Cardiff Capital Region Strategic Site and therefore every opportunity should be taken to maximise its potential and fulfil its purpose of creating local jobs. Providing infrastructure on the plateaux will makes the sites more attractive to investors and stimulates the local economy, hopefully attracting millions of pounds worth of private investment.</p> <p>It is critical that these feasibility works are undertaken to continue the momentum being experienced on Plateau 1.</p> <p>The proposals contribute to the following themes within the CCBC Regeneration Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting people• Supporting Business• Supporting Quality of Life <p><i>DATE: 15th January 2018</i></p>	<p>CHAIR’S SIGNATURE</p>
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REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - FOR INFORMATION

SUBJECT: TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT GROUP 2018 SUMMARY

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Scrutiny Committee on the progress made by the Town Centre Improvement Group during 2018 against the Council's objectives.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report provides a summary of work undertaken by the Town Centre Improvement Group during 2018. The report highlights how the Group works alongside the Council's five Town Centre Management Groups and outlines some of the issues that have been resolved in each of the five principal town centres. An appendix to the report lists all of the issues resolved in 2018 by the Town Centre Improvement Group using an Environmental Audit process.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The proposals within the Council's Regeneration Strategy "A Foundation for Success" are based on a number of regeneration principles, some of which acknowledge that town centres are powerful economic hubs and have the capability to drive economic growth and provide a focus for local economic activity. The vitality and viability of town centres should be enhanced by working in partnership with the business community in order to attract new investment and sustain confidence.
- 3.2 In particular, the following objectives within A Foundation for Success all have a town centric focus:
- SB1 – Building a more resilient and diversified economy;
 - SB2 – Supporting economic growth and innovation;
 - SB3 – Creating an environment that nurtures business;
 - SQL7 – Refocus on town centres to serve the needs of residents and business.
- 3.3 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets out seven Well-being Goals which aim to make a positive impact upon the social, economic, environmental or cultural well being of the area or community concerned. This report aligns with all of the following Well-being Goals:
- 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.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 The Town Centre Improvement Group (TCIG) was established in 2005 with appropriate representation from all relevant service areas.

4.2 The remit of the group is to:

- Improve the environment within the County Borough's five principal town centres: Caerphilly, Blackwood, Bargoed, Risca and Ystrad Mynach;
- Benchmark the performance of Council services in the five town centres;
- Demonstrate the commitment of the Council as an authority to the environmental improvement of the five town centres;
- Provide an internal forum for the Council to address issues that potentially blight town centres.

4.3 Within the TCIG there is representation from all the relevant Council departments and from the Police Inspectors whose respective responsibilities include Caerphilly, Blackwood, Bargoed, Risca and Ystrad Mynach town centres.

4.4 The purpose of the TCIG is to address operational issues brought forward from the Town Centre Management Groups for Caerphilly, Blackwood, Bargoed, Risca and Ystrad Mynach and ensure that there is a responsive and co-ordinated approach to the maintenance of the town centres through the process of an Environmental Audit.

4.5 The work of the TCIG should be seen as complementary to the five Town Centre Management Groups, ensuring that environmental and maintenance matters, which are the responsibility of the Authority, are addressed in an effective manner. The group, which is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure, Sustainability and Wellbeing of Future Generations, meets every eight weeks to consider Environmental Audits compiled by the Town Centre Development Manager.

4.6 During 2018, across the five town centres a total of 75 issues were actioned through the TCIG. The number of issues resolved in 2018 compares with 98 in 2017, the fall in the number of issues resolved is as a result of the MTFP savings. The key to the success of the Group still lies in adopting a collaborative approach between the various Council departments in order to address town centre issues. The report provides an overview of the variety of the issues examined in the audit process and highlights the TCIG's role in resolving them. Examples of the issues resolved by the Group during 2018 are outlined in the report.

4.7 Common Town Centre Issues

There are a number of common issues within our town centres, these include:

Illegal Parking

Parking remains a significant problem across the five principal town centres. The TCIG has enabled officers to continue to liaise with Police Inspectors in order to discuss how to prioritise limited resources to tackle instances of illegal parking.

Civil Parking Enforcement

Parking enforcement is the responsibility of Gwent Police until April 2019 when the Council will take it over. During this time of transition, the TCIG is helping to build relationships between the Police and Council officers which will assist in the handover of powers.

Event Programme

Each year there is a varied annual events program across the County Borough's principal town centres. The TCIG meetings offer a valuable opportunity to consult with other service areas over road closures and other activities which may cause disruption.

4.8 **Caerphilly**

73 Cardiff Road – Planning / Environmental Health / Police

Over a period of time the building's condition has deteriorated leading to a number of complaints from Councillors, residents and neighbouring businesses. In order to improve the condition and security of the site the TCIG was used to identify sections of legislation within the Council's remit which could form the basis of a dialogue with the building's owner.

Pwll y pant Roundabout Works - Highways

The major roadworks scheme on the roundabout has impacted on traffic flow in the Caerphilly basin and generated public comment and business concern. At the TCIG meetings Council service areas were made aware of changes in works programme as the scheme evolved.

Programme of Painting Works - Highways

In response to CADW's desire to raise the profile and status of Caerphilly Castle, over the summer street furniture throughout the town centre was repainted in a burgundy heritage colour. The work by the Council's 'Community Response Team' plays an essential part in maintaining the appearance of the town centres.

4.9 **Blackwood**

Homeless Person Gravel Lane – Community Safety / Police / Town Centre Management

Staff at *The Market Place* reported that a homeless person was sleeping rough behind the shopping centre. The Council's support services, which are coordinated through a multi-agency group, approached the person and offered help. The aim is to provide homeless people in the County Borough with a genuine opportunity to re-establish a permanent home.

Blue Badge Police – Licensing / Police

Following complaints about taxis parking in 'Blue Badge' bays on High Street, the TCIG acted as a forum to discuss the options open to officers. Subsequently, it was decided that in addition to Police parking enforcement action, Licensing officers would visit the taxi operator's to encourage their drivers to park more responsibly and considerately.

Travelling Circus Posters - Parks / Highways

A circus visiting Blackwood Show Field placed a large number of advertisements throughout the town centre, which drew a number of complaints. TCIG members identified a new approach whereby the circus operator's bond paid to hire the field was held until the posters were removed.

4.10 **Bargoed**

Antisocial Behaviour at Morrisons – Police / Community Safety / Town Centre Management

The store has experienced problems with groups of young people congregating in the undercroft car park and causing extensive damage to lighting and bollards. A multi-agency group led by Town Centre Management regularly updates the TCIG on progress made to resolve the different elements of what is a complicated problem to solve.

Footway Repair - Highways / Urban Renewal

There have been a number of instances where 'wheelie' bins have been set on fire on the section of footway between Bargoed Gateway and Eastview Terrace. This has necessitated a series of localised footway repairs to the damaged tarmac surface.

Vacant Units Lowry Plaza – Urban Renewal

Following the closure of *Poundworld* officers across a number of service areas including: Property Services and Legal Services, worked together to secure a new tenant. The TCIG meetings kept officers apprised of progress on this high profile site in the town centre.

4.11 **Risca**

Accumulation of Litter in Commercial Street - Cleansing

The lane which connects *Tesco* with the town centre is a key linkage to promote pedestrian footfall between the two sites. Either side of the lane is derelict lane which leads to accumulation of litter. Cleansing teams instigated a deep clean and frequent litter picks.

Tredegar Grounds Park - Parks

The statue in the centre of Tredegar Grounds was defaced with paint over the summer months. In response the Council's Parks department cleaned the statue and surrounding area and worked with the Police to successfully identify the offender.

Legality of Signage Pontymister Industrial Estate - Planning

An illuminated sign was erected on Pontymister Industrial Estate next to a road drawing complaints as it was deemed a distraction to drivers. The sign was the subject of a Planning Enforcement enquiry which resulted in the owner being asked to remove it.

4.12 **Ystrad Mynach**

Cutting back of Foliage – Town Centre Management

A section of land in private ownership frequently becomes overgrown. After a complaint was received from the local Assembly Member in relation to the overgrown foliage, Town Centre Management liaised with the owners who agreed to cut the area back.

Culvert Works & Road Closure – Highways / Transportation / Town Centre Management

The culvert which runs beneath Penallta Road was in urgent need of repair. A 10 week programme of works was planned which included a full road closure and bus diversions. Information was shared at the TCIG meeting to make service areas aware of the disruption

Litter Pick Siloh Square – Cleansing

The area of Siloh Square in the heart of the town attracts a build-up of litter leading to complaints. During the year the Council's Cleansing team have undertaken numerous litter picks. One of the purposes of the audit is to demonstrate that the Council is acting effectively and quickly to meet service requests.

4.13 **Town Centre Issues**

The Appendix to this report summarises the issues resolved within each of the town centres from January to December 2018. The information highlights the diverse nature of problems addressed by the TCIG and the commitment of service areas to resolve those issues.

The objective for 2019 is to continue where possible to provide a high level of service in the five principal town centres, however it is accepted that this will become increasingly difficult given the budget savings which need to be made under the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The focus on wider economic development goals across the whole County Borough has influenced future structural changes in the Regeneration and Planning division. Town Centre Management functions will now be delivered by a multi-functional business support team who will focus on business support across the whole County Borough. As a group, the TCIG has no specific budget allocation and reductions to maintenance budgets within the service areas which belong to the Group have impacted on the Council's ability to react to maintenance issues as they occur in the town centres.

Retailers in town centres are under huge pressure given the challenging situation within the wider UK economy and jobs within the sector are under significant risk as national retailers rationalise their store portfolios and independent businesses close. The aim for the TCIG and the process of Town Centre Management is to help promote sustainable long-term economic growth across the County Borough by delivering a coordinated approach to well-maintained and managed town centres which act as focal points for the local community.

5. ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

- 5.1 Through the work of the TCIG a wide range of projects have been delivered which have added value to the street scene and offered visible improvements to the town centres. Many of these have tackled specific issues and sought to resolve longstanding problems through collaborative working arrangements between officers and mutual support between organisations.

6. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 6.1 This report contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above in the following ways:
- *A prosperous Wales* - the retail sector is a significant employer within the County Borough and a substantial number of those retail businesses and jobs are located in the town centres.
 - *A resilient Wales* – developing green space in town centres helps to create a more biodiverse natural environment.
 - *A healthier Wales* – visiting a town centre promotes physical exercise and encourages social interaction.
 - *A more equal Wales* – town centres should strive to celebrate diversity and promote equal opportunity for all people regardless of their background or circumstances.
 - *A Wales of cohesive communities* – relevant, accessible and well managed town centres are vital to sustaining vibrant communities.
 - *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language* – town centres contain significant elements of the nation’s architectural and cultural heritage. They are also places where the Welsh language can be taught, used and promoted.
 - *A globally responsible Wales* – providing communities with local shops and services potentially reduces the necessity and frequency of vehicle use and promotes public transportation links and use of Active Travel.

7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This report is for information purposes, so the Council’s EqIa process does not need to be applied.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Although there is no single budget allocation identified through the TCIG, individual departments have budgets for town centre works. However, it should be noted that to fund any “improvement” works identified through the Environmental Audit process, Town Centre Management relies heavily on a combined budget allocation of £40k for 2018-2019. The Council’s ongoing commitment to its MTFP means all budgets are being reviewed and this particular budget will be reduced by £5,000 in 2019/2020.
- 8.2 Consequently, a reduction in allocated budgets does limit the Council’s ability to address requests for town centre maintenance works. Given these constraints there has been a need to prioritise reactive maintenance over planned enhancements.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The “Community Response Team” is established within and funded through the Infrastructure Division and is an important asset in maintaining and improving the appearance of the principal town centres. The Community Response Team’s work includes preparing and

painting street furniture such as railings, litter bins and benches along with sign cleaning and removal of foliage encroaching onto the footway. It should be noted that this service is considered discretionary and is one of the proposed savings for 2019/2020 currently subject to consultation as part of the wider MTFP savings proposals.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been reflected in this report.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 To inform Members of the work of the Town Centre Improvement Group.

12. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 For Members to note the progress made against the corporate objectives.

13. STATUTORY POWER

13.1 Local Government Act 2000.

Author:	Andrew Highway	Town Centre Development Manager
Consultees:	Cllr. S. Morgan	Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure, Sustainability and Wellbeing of Future Generations
	Cllr D T Davies	Chair Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee
	Cllr Mrs C Forehead	Vice Chair Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee
	Mark S Williams	Interim Corporate Director Communities
	Rhian Kyte	Head of Regeneration & Planning
	Marcus Lloyd	Head of Infrastructure
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	Lyndon Ross	Senior Environmental Health Officer
	Paul Wallen	Community Safety Warden Supervisor
	Clive Campbell	Transportation Engineering Manager
	Dean Smith	Principal Engineer
	Gavin Barry	Senior Assistant Engineer
	Lee Morgan	Licensing Manager
	Mike Headington	Green Spaces and Transport Services Manager
	Simon Beacham	Area Parks Officer
	Tim Stephens	Development Manager
	Mike Jones	Principal Enforcement Officer
	Steve Pugh	Communications Manager
	Paul Hudson	Marketing and Events Manager
	Anwen Cullinane	Senior Policy Officer
	Shaun Watkins	HR Manager
	Mike Eedy	Finance Manager
	Inspector G. Clifton	(Caerphilly)
	Inspector S. Drayton	(Blackwood / Risca)
	Inspector A. O'Keefe	(Bargoed / Ystrad Mynach)

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Matrix of Issues Resolved Across the Five Town Centres

TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT GROUP 2018

APPENDIX 1

BARGOED

AUDIT	ISSUE	LOCATION	DATE	DEPARTMENT
FEBRUARY	Edging Stone	Bus Station Link - High Street	13-Feb	Urban Renewal
	Gully Cleansing	Town Centre	13-Feb	Highways
JUNE	Damaged Street scene	Lowry Plaza	06-Jun	Urban Renewal
	Damage to Miners' Heads Artwork	Hanbury Square	06-Jun	Urban Renewal
	Broken Channel Block	O/S Gus Jones, Hanbury Road	06-Jun	Highways
	Channel Block Damage	O/S Decofore, Hanbury Road	06-Jun	Highways
	Overgrown Foliage	Hanbury Road Steps	06-Jun	Parks
	Reinstatement of Surface	Footpath Linking Eastview Terrace & Bargoed Gateway	06-Jun	Highways
	Insecure Access	Angel Way Flyover	06-Jun	Engineering
SEPTEMBER	Licensing Tables & Chairs on the Footway	Town Centre	11-Sep	Highways/Licensing/Police/Community Safety
	Bin Repair	Hanbury Road	11-Sep	Cleansing
	Cleansing	Hanbury Road Car Park	11-Sep	Cleansing
	Criminal Damage	Hanbury Road Steps	11-Sep	Police
	Reinstatement of Surface	Bargoed Gateway Footway	11-Sep	Highways
	Cigarette Ends Cleaning	Town Centre	11-Sep	Cleansing
NOVEMBER				

TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT GROUP 2018

BLACKWOOD

AUDIT	ISSUE	LOCATION	DATE	DEPARTMENT
FEBRUARY	Relay Taxis Parking Illegally	High Street	13-Feb	Police
	Feeding of Pigeons	The Market Place	13-Feb	Community Safety
	Dog Nuisance	Cheetah Print, High Street	13-Feb	Environmental Health
	Vandalism	St. Margaret's Church, High Street	13-Feb	Police
	Homeless Person	Gravel Lane	13-Feb	Police/Community Safety/Town Centre Management
	Litter Complaint	High Street	13-Feb	Environmental Health
	Dog Fouling	Hall Street	13-Feb	Environmental Health
	Assault of Homeless Person	The Flour Mill, High Street	13-Feb	Licensing/Police
	Noise Complaint	ASDA, Cliff Road	13-Feb	Environmental Health
JUNE	Litter Accumulation	Cliff Road	06-Jun	Cleansing
	Misuse of Blue Badge Bays	High Street	06-Jun	Police/Licensing
	Litter Complaint	Footpath linking Cliff Road with St. David's Wood	06-Jun	Cleansing
SEPTEMBER	Litter Bin Fires	Cliff Road	11-Sep	Police/Community Safety
	Bus Station Toilets Cleanliness/Vandalism	Bus Station	11-Sep	Cleansing
	Additional Crossing Point	High Street by BMI	11-Sep	Transportation
	Accumulation of Rubbish	High Street RO Luis Bar	11-Sep	Environmental Health
	Street Name Plate	Gravel Lane	11-Sep	Highways
	Fly Tipping	Gravel Lane	11-Sep	Cleansing
	Circus Posters	Town Centre	11-Sep	Parks/Highways
	Preachers Bar Noise Compliant	Hall Street	11-Sep	Licensing
	Reinstatement of Benches	Dragon Circle	11-Sep	Highways
	Refuse Collection Issues	High Street OS Cancer Research	11-Sep	Town Centre Management/Cleansing
Water Ingress	High Street Former Store 21	11-Sep	Highways	
NOVEMBER	Cleansing	Dragon Circle	06-Nov	Cleansing
	Relocate Noticeboard	Bus Station	06-Nov	Transportation
	Tree Pruning	O/S Blackwood Miners Institute, High Street	06-Nov	Parks
	New Litter Bins	Wesley Road/High Street	06-Nov	Cleansing/Town Centre Management
	Preachers Bar Broken Glasses	Hall Street	06-Nov	Licensing/Police

TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT GROUP 2018

CAERPHILLY

AUDIT	ISSUE	LOCATION	DATE	DEPARTMENT
FEBRUARY	Street Café	Cardiff Road Above Toilet Block	13-Feb	Town Centre Management/Urban Renewal/Police
JUNE	Blocked Drain	O/S The Visit Caerphilly City, The Twyn	06-Jun	Highways
	Homeless Person	O/S Caerphilly Castle	06-Jun	Community Safety/Town Centre Management
	Dislodged Coping Stones	The Twyn	06-Jun	Highways
	Taxi Rank Parking Issues	Town Centre	06-Jun	Police
	Grit Bin	O/S New Look, Cardiff Road	06-Jun	Highways
	Remarking of Taxi Bays	Station Terrace	06-Jun	Highways
	Overflowing Bin	Area Around Castle	06-Jun	Cleansing
SEPTEMBER	Damage to Roofs	Town Centre	11-Sep	Police
	Cleansing of Steps	OS Visitor Centre	11-Sep	Cleansing
	Access to Vacant Property	73 Cardiff Road	11-Sep	Planning/Police
	Repainting Street Furniture	Town Centre	11-Sep	Highways
	Cleansing of Signage	Crescent Road	11-Sep	Highways
	Graffiti Removal	Park Lane	11-Sep	Cleansing/Town Centre Management
	Raised Paving Slabs	OS Visitor Centre	11-Sep	Highways
	Removal of Weed Growth	Steps The Twyn Square	11-Sep	Parks
	Broken Bin	OS Visitor Centre	11-Sep	Cleansing
NOVEMBER	Lighting of Obelisk	Cardiff Road	06-Nov	Urban Renewal
	Litter Pick & Graffiti Removal	Park Lane	06-Nov	Cleansing/Town Centre Management
	Repair to BIG Cheese Artwork	Castle Street	06-Nov	Parks

TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT GROUP 2018

RISCA

AUDIT	ISSUE	LOCATION	DATE	DEPARTMENT
FEBRUARY	Broken Benches	Tredegar Grounds Park, Tredegar Street	13-Feb	Parks
JUNE	Repainting of Bollard	O/S Bayleaf, Commercial Street	06-Jun	Highways
	Damage to Statue	Tredegar Grounds Park, Tredegar Street	06-Jun	Parks/Police
	Restocking of Planters	Town Centre	06-Jun	Parks
SEPTEMBER	Accumulation of Litter	Commercial Street	11-Sep	Cleansing
NOVEMBER	Illegal Signage	Entrance to Pontymister Industrial Estate	06-Nov	Highways

TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT GROUP 2018

YSTRAD MYNACH

AUDIT	ISSUE	LOCATION	DATE	DEPARTMENT
FEBRUARY	Weeds in Pavement Cleanliness	Town Centre	13-Feb	Parks/Highways
		Town Centre	13-Feb	Cleansing
JUNE	Links with Centre for Sporting Excellence Uneven Surface	Town Centre	06-Jun	Urban Renewal
		Siloh Square	06-Jun	Urban Renewal
SEPTEMBER	Homeless Person Begging Cut Back Foliage	Town Centre	11-Sep	Community Safety/Town Centre Management
		High Street OS Lucas Estates	11-Sep	Town Centre Management
NOVEMBER				

TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT GROUP 2018

TOWN	AUDIT MONTH	NUMBER OF ISSUES RESOLVED
Bargoed	February	2
	June	7
	September	6
	November	0
	TOTAL	15
Blackwood	February	9
	June	3
	September	11
	November	5
	TOTAL	28
Caerphilly	February	1
	June	7
	September	9
	November	3
	TOTAL	20
Risca	February	1
	June	3
	September	1
	November	1
	TOTAL	6
Ystrad Mynach	February	2
	June	2
	September	2
	November	0
	TOTAL	6
Summary	TOTAL	75



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – FOR INFORMATION

SUBJECT: WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 2 - 6 MONTH PROGRESS UPDATE

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is for information only. It provides Members with a progress against Wellbeing Objective 2 'Enabling employment' at the first six month monitoring stage.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Well-being Objectives are set for five years 2018-2023. This is the first 6 month progress update of Well-being Objective 2 'Enabling employment'.
- 2.2 The Well-being Objective, Enabling employment has 5 outcomes which are noted in 4.1. Reviewing the outcomes at this stage of the 5-year plan the Objective is judged to be progressing well.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Well-being Objective 2 seeks to maximise our contribution towards the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016:
- A prosperous Wales – Developing the Communities for Work and Communities for Work Plus programme and success of the employability programmes will get people into work which contributes to a more prosperous Wales.
 - A healthier and equal Wales – this objective is about helping all young people (and adults) reach their full potential and so has strong connections to these objectives.
 - A Wales of cohesive communities –includes apprenticeships and work placements within the Welsh Housing Quality standard whose wider benefits include improved communities.
 - A globally responsible Wales – Employment locally and regionally as part of regional plans as part of our Regeneration Strategy including the City Deal improves the social, environmental, cultural and well-being of Wales.

Objective 2 contributes towards the Council's own Well-being Objective WBO 1 – Improve Education Opportunities, as there is a strong correlation between skills, free child care offer and other activities for learning and employment.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Wellbeing Objective 2 has 5 outcomes which are:

1. Aim to reduce the impact of poverty by supporting people into better employment prospects;
2. Meet the targets of the European Social Fund programmes of getting people skilled and into work;
3. The Council will use the value of its third party spend to bring greater social and economic regeneration to the communities we serve;
4. Use investment in the housing stock to increase the number of skilled, qualified workers and tackle worklessness by providing apprenticeship, training and work placements with our in-house workforce and building contractors;
5. Ensuring local delivery of work programmes aligns and maximises opportunities from the 'City Deal'

4.2 **What has gone well**

- Economic development proposals linked to A Foundation for Success 2018-2023 are incorporated within the economic action plan 'Delivering Prosperity' which sets out a 5 year delivery programme.
- A wider Implementation Plan for A Foundation for Success 2018-2023, in addition to the emerging Masterplans for Ystrad Mynach and the Heads of The Valleys Area will be produced to supplement Delivering Prosperity. These are intended to be reported to Cabinet before the summer.
- The Caerphilly Basin Masterplan was Approved by Council in July 2018.
- The Cabinet will consider a report in respect of the principle of a self-build development scheme early in February. The scheme was launched by Welsh Government in January 2019.
- Programme for Procurement 2018 – 2023 developed and endorsed by Cabinet in May 2017 supports the Council's Well-being Objectives. The Programme recognises the value of using procurement to support its wider Cultural, Social, Economic and Environmental Objectives in ways that offer real long-term benefits to the community it serves and the people of Wales, whilst balancing the issues of value for money. Where appropriate Core and Non Core community benefits and social clauses are included in contract terms and conditions.
- Appropriate guidance to assist suppliers in identifying social and economic benefits is available; however existing guidance is in the process of being updated to include Future Generations Act, Ethical Employment in Supply Chains, etc..
- Establishment of an effective mechanism to record social and economic benefits is still under review with options being considered such as the National TOM's framework; it has been agreed to trial the use of the methodology on a funded project being tendered shortly. In addition, Welsh Government are progressing an update to the existing measurement tool to align and take into account the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. Once available, Officers will review, agree and adopt the preferred mechanism to capture this information.

Communities for Work (CfW) and Communities for Work Plus (CfW+)

- Job Entry outcomes exceeded targets across both programmes.
- The introduction of CfW+ has been a huge success, providing essential wrap-around support for CFW in the form of an additional team of employment mentors and through the addition of the Participant Support Officers. These new roles provide additional capacity to tackle specific barriers, including those relating to physical / mental health, digital skills, budgeting etc. The introduction of the CfW+ programme and its greater flexibility means we are also now able to support anyone regardless of eligibility, which means employment support is now available to all residents of the County Borough.
- Employment mentors have also worked closely with Officers from the Legacy Team to establish a series of Employment Hubs across the Borough, providing a range of drop in/outreach support for local communities.

- Co-location: Employment teams are now based with DWP partners and other services where possible, ensuring closer links and seamless communication regarding participants/activities.
- The Triage process continues to work well, providing a single point of contact and subsequently triaging to all CCBC employment programmes, in addition to external employment providers, thus ensuring that all participants are directed to the programme that is most appropriate to their needs.
- Employment mentors have established excellent links with an expanding list of businesses, who are providing work experience, placements and paid opportunities.
- Staff have formed positive links with local Jobcentres. Employment mentors and Triage workers are in regular attendance at Jobcentres and the bulk of referrals received into the employment support programmes are received from work coaches.
- Partnership working has been extremely successful, with mentors working collaboratively with a range of partners to address specialist needs of participants. In particular, staff have formed excellent links with the authority's Supporting People, Rents and Housing Departments in the last quarter to support participants in addressing a range of housing issues, as a major step in enabling people to feel in a more stable position to consider employment.

Bridges into Work 2, Inspire 2 Work and Working Skills for Adults 2

- Encouraging those participants who are socially excluded to access community groups and I2W courses to socialise with other young people.
- Supporting participants from the Victory Outreach Project – which provides residential support for men and women with alcohol and drug abuse issues.
- Supporting participants who have been referred from the SOLAS team and who are either living in SOLAS or Llamau accommodation.
- Partnership working is going extremely well across the borough, building strong links with many partners including Gofal, MIND and Citizens Advice Bureau as well as those mentioned above.

Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS)

- For the period 2018/19 HRO employed 3 apprentices (WHQS – none) this is due largely to the fact that HRO are picking up WHQS voids and therefore have an increased workload requiring additional resource.
- 7 work placements have been made available to date via the External Wall Insulation contractors in Lansbury Park.
- WHQS continue to provide an allocation of £50,000 per annum to add value to the work undertaken via the Community Regeneration team to support tenants into employment. 2019/20 will be the last year that the allocation is made available.

4.3 **Challenges**

Communities for Work (CfW) and Communities for Work Plus (CfW+)

- Engagements for Priority 1 (adults 25+) within the CfW programme are under target. This has been a problem since the start of the programme as participants within this priority group (especially those within the “Economically Inactive” category) have proved particularly difficult to engage and often have the most complex barriers to work. It has become apparent that this is a problem across a range of employment programmes and across Wales in general, however staff are always considering new and innovative ways to address this issue through planned engagement activity.
- There is a lack of adequate referral routes and specialist support for people experiencing significant mental health problems.

- Transport is still a significant barrier for participants, particularly in the North of the County Borough and in particular for those trying to reach placements/jobs in Manufacturing / Production sectors, where shifts may start at 6am (or earlier) and public transport is not reliably available at that time.

Bridges into Work 2, Inspire 2 Work and Working Skills for Adults 2

- More detail needed at referral stage regarding participants' specific needs - i.e. mental health issues, MAPPAS, convictions.
- The length of time for counselling through MIND and through the GP is quite lengthy for those with mental health issues.
- Late start of projects which has affected sign up of participants.

Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQs)

- Engie is struggling to achieve their Targeted Recruitment and Training Targets hence a workshop has been arranged for the 29th January 2019 in order to pull together a draft 12 months plan which will set out how they will achieve their targets up to the end of the WHQS programme. They are able to offer work placement opportunities but not necessarily full time employment opportunities.
- An engagement session was held in Holly Road by Engie and Community Regeneration however those attending were deemed to be too far from the labour market to benefit from the placements on offer.

4.4 **Impact**

Communities for Work

Priority 1 (Adults aged 25+)	Annual Target 2018/19	6 Month Target Apr-Sept 2018	6 month Progress
Engagements	240	120	53
Job Entries	24	12	19
Priority 3 (Young People/NEETs aged 16-24)			
Engagements	96	48	57
Job Entries	48	24	30

CfW Plus	6 month Progress
Engagements	244
Job Entries	71
Vocational Training	61
Work Placements/Paid Opportunities	3
Volunteering	19

Bridges into Work 2

Bridges into Work 2	6 month Progress
Participants Supported	84
Qualifications Gained	41
Voluntary Placements Completed	30
Gaining Employment	17

Inspire 2 Work

Inspire 2 Work	6 month Progress
Participants Supported	53
Qualifications Gained	41
Gaining Employment	23
FE/Training	4

Working Skills for Adults 2

Working Skills for Adults 2	6 month Progress
Gaining Qualifications	25

- Contractors and Suppliers continue to deliver community benefit initiatives as part of contract arrangements which include, but are not limited to, Targeted Recruitment & Training, Community, Educational and Supply Chain initiatives.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 This report contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act. The long term strategy is to reduce the attainment gap and develop a well skilled, well educated workforce able to contribute positively to society.
- 5.2 Integration and collaboration through partnership working supports a coordinated approach for children, young people and their families aiming towards a long term prevention of poverty.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 No impact assessment has been undertaken on this report, however many individuals and groups who fall under the protected characteristics, and wider issues covered by the Council's Strategic Equality Plan, are often affected to a greater extent by poverty, vulnerability and the related causes; therefore any reduction in resources would have a negative impact on those individuals and groups.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Much of the delivery above is funded via Welsh Government or EU funded programmes. The current grant budgets have either been at standstill or have faced a reduction for the last few years. This is increasing the pressure on budgets as many are staff related costs, which have been increasing due to recent pay increases, all of which has to be met by the standstill or reduced grant. This has usually seen a rationalisation of delivery and project costs.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications within this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 All responses from consultations have been incorporated in the report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Members are requested to consider the content of the report and to satisfy themselves that progress is being made at the 6 month stage of the 2018-2023 Well-being Objective assessment.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 That members are informed and have the assurance that the Council is working towards delivering the Objectives within its Corporate Plan 2018-2023.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 Local Government Act 2000. This is a Cabinet function.

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Background Papers:

Corporate Plan 2018-2023	Approved Cabinet 11 April 2018 Endorsed by Council 17 th April 2018
WBO 2 – Enabling Employment	Page 24 of the Corporate Plan



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - FOR INFORMATION

SUBJECT: WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 5 - 6 MONTH PROGRESS UPDATE

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is for information only for members, which gives a progress update at the first six month stage against Wellbeing Objective 5 'Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015'.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Well-being Objectives are set for five years 2018-2023. This is the first 6 month progress update of the Well-being objective 5 'Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015'.
- 2.2 This Well-being Objective, has 2 outcomes which are noted in 4.1. Reviewing the outcomes at this stage of the 5-year plan the objective is judged to be progressing well with further details below.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Well-being Objective maximise our contribution towards the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016:
- A prosperous Wales – Research shows that young people who are healthy are more likely to perform better at school and are less likely to be unemployed, receive benefits or be involved in crime. Good health and reliance will support residents, of all ages, to be part of the labour market and help contribute towards a prosperous county borough. Our environment and green spaces can provide employment and other benefits such as inward investment and tourism.
 - A healthier Wales – Creating a supportive environment that enables our residents to manage their own physical, mental and well-being needs is an important part of ill health prevention. Communities with attractive public open spaces help residents to be more active and more engaged and support better mental and physical health.
 - A more equal Wales – At their core all sporting programmes are about 'tackling inequalities'. Lifestyle choices are a key cause of health inequalities and can have a major impact on healthy life expectancy. The need to reduce our health inequalities is unquestionable.

- A resilient Wales – Proposals to prevent fly tipping will contribute to a cleaner, safer environment. Regular participation in sport is associated with good mental health. A network of healthy, green, well-functioning, well-connected and sustainable communities can deliver multiple benefits for environmental, social, economic and cultural well-being.
- A Wales of Cohesive Communities - Supporting residents to have the best start in life will help reduce youth offending, anti-social behaviour and other crime levels leading to safer communities within the county borough. Attractive country parks and opportunities to walk and cycle and allow all to experience places to enjoy activities is very much a part of providing 'A Wales of Cohesive Communities'
- A Wales of Vibrant Culture creating a county borough where people can participate in sport and recreation and where they feel healthy and empowered to be engaged citizens, all supports a 'Wales of Vibrant Culture'.
- A globally responsible Wales – Enabling behaviour change towards a more preventative and sustainable approach will have a huge impact on the local and global environment. Positive early intervention and improving residents' health can prevent higher healthcare costs in adulthood. By encouraging residents to protect and look after their local environment and natural resources we strive towards our global obligations.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Well-being Objective 5 two has 2 outcomes which are;

- Aim to reduce inequalities in health across the county borough
- Creating a place that supports a healthy lifestyle including:
 - Contributing towards the Welsh Government target to reduce smoking prevalence rates to 16% by 2020
 - Reducing the overweight and obesity rates in children
 - Understand and address what helps to encourage people to become more physically active

4.2 What has gone well to date –

The Council undertook a consultation on its 10 year Sport and Active Recreation Strategy and this has now been formally adopted. Officers are now developing specific actions to support comprehensive implementation. The Sport and Leisure Service was awarded the Disability InSport Development Bronze Award. The Sport Wales School Sport Survey 2018 for Caerphilly shows 60% of girls participate in any extracurricular activity with 41% participating 3 times a week or more. Positive futures has seen over 3900 participations across both Daytime referrals and community outreach sessions which have also supported a 51% reduction in Anti Social Behaviour. So far, over £108k of community chest funding has been allocated to support growth and quality of organisations in CCBC. Supported by over 49,000 attendances to Sport Caerphilly activities which have a direct link into the community. 18 individuals were registered with the Elite Caerphilly programme with one getting to world finals.

Flying Start continues to deliver the programme to reach families of more than 2500 children aged 0-3years old in the most disadvantaged communities. All Health Visitors are now in post and delivering the key public health messages around good nutrition, responsive feeding and supporting healthy behaviours. There has been a move away from the more formal HENRY programme and more focus on supporting responsive feeding (Families First and Flying Start) which supports parents on discharge from hospital and as needed in the following months, which has increased our breastfeeding rates.

Our Flying Start Baby Clubs have been re-established across the county borough accessible to all Flying Start areas and take up has been very positive with parents having more access to Health Visitors, nursery nurses, parenting and speech and language support in community based provision. Tiny Talkers groups have had increased attendance and engagement and

they are being delivered with the Health team from Sept 2018. They support family play activities including physical activity and healthy eating as well as portion size information, and aim to improve the home learning environment particularly for speech, language and communication.

During the period April to Oct 2018 3 settings have completed the whole Healthy and Sustainable Preschool Scheme (Hey Scheme), there have been 2 new starters and there are 6 on the waiting list ready to start in the Spring Term 2019. Totals settings on the scheme:

Phase 1 – 14
Phase 2 – 18
Phase 3 – 22
Eco – 9
Completed whole scheme – 12

The Healthy Hearts/Get Going around Caerphilly initiative is a partnership between the cardiac rehab department of ABUHB and the countryside service of CCBC with the aim of using green spaces for walking initiatives to improve the health and well-being of ABUHB patients and the public. During the period 1st April to 31st October 2018 the partnership resulted in 260 led walks being delivered, with 726 individual walkers amounting to 4115 walking episodes. In addition there were 512 entrants to the Caerphilly Challenge series with 50 volunteers involved with pre planning and delivery on the day totalling 440+ volunteer hours.

4.3 What has not gone well –

In Sport and Leisure the Elite Caerphilly programme has not been athlete centred and considered to be too rigid. This has now been rectified

Healthy and Sustainable Preschool Scheme Eco training had to be cancelled twice because of poor weather. This training will now be incorporated in a full day training event to be held in March 2019.

Lets Walk Cymru funding has stopped which limits further expansion of the scheme.

4.4 What impact is there (if any to date) on the citizens

The 'Insport' Development Award represents a significant step forward in how Sport and Leisure Services integrate disability sport into their culture and planning. The Service has supported a number of sports clubs across Caerphilly County Borough offering disabled people the chance to get involved including sports from swimming to wheelchair basketball.

The Healthy Early Years Scheme runs across all types of childcare settings including Flying Start settings and so is able to promote healthy messages across a wide range of family dynamics. The scheme continues to upskill childcare settings across the county borough in promoting a healthy lifestyle and the 10 Steps to a Healthy Weight messages. These messages are being promoted across 75 settings potentially reaching approximately 2250 children and their families. The scheme promotes physical activity both in the childcare setting and in the home and instils a healthy lifestyle attitude from a young age. We also work with the local health Board to promote increased take up of immunisations and the flu jabs.

The Healthy Hearts/Get Going around Caerphilly initiative has increased awareness of the benefits of exercise and increased the uptake of regular physical activity, through the delivery of a wide range of health promoting activities that enable specific groups to be more physically active and to participate in safe, effective exercise.

More generally we see continued increasing use of the county borough's green infrastructure. In terms of country parks initial figures are showing year on year growth. Parks facilities are being used not only on an ad hoc basis but also by organised groups such as Parkrun and are of course open to all.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 This Objective contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act:

Involvement – This depends on the involvement of individuals to improve individual quality of life. We work with and involve a range of partners such as Public Health Wales, schools and parents (for initiatives like the Daily Mile initiative). The nature of preventing ill health requires the involvement of the individual to sustain initiatives as well as health services, GPs, Health Visitors, the voluntary sector and local groups such as walking groups. For example, the ‘Healthy Hearts’ Walking Initiative with the NHS, has 3000 participants in Caerphilly.

Long term – The objective is framed in the long term from a generational life course to deal with the long term implications of poor health which affects the quality of life and the wider economy if we do not improve on the current position. This objective starts from pre-pregnancy and 0-3 within the Flying Start programme through to healthy places for adults and children. Opportunities for health improvements with the development of the Valleys Landscape Park is a long term generational commitment and will probably run for the next 25 years.

Collaborate – As noted under involvement we must collaborate to improve this aspect, there are too many partners to list here but staff from the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Public Health Wales, Sport Wales all carry out activities in partnership. National Resources Wales (NRW) have a passion and willingness to allow the public use of their sites for outdoor recreation and the South Wales Countryside Officers group collaborate to ensure both local and region initiatives are developed and implemented that promote benefits to health, particularly through the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources.

Integration – Good Health underpins all the other Well-being objectives as without good health many other objectives such as maintaining sustainable employment, making the most of education and general quality of life opportunities is simply not possible. Success of this objective will meet the goals of the other organisations listed here seeking the same outcomes.

Prevention - This objective in its totality is about preventing poor health and building more resilience in our citizens over the life course to enable a better quality of life. At the heart of people’s ability to work, learn and enjoy a good quality of life, good health and well-being is the starting point for all other opportunities. Demand on already stretched services such as social care, primary and secondary health care, can be reduced by supporting residents to have a healthy and independent life for as long as possible.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An EIA screening has been completed in accordance with the Council’s Strategic Equality Plan and supplementary guidance. No potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact has been identified; therefore a full EIA has not been carried out. The Well-being Objective however will benefit different groups of citizens if achieved will contribute to the national Wellbeing Goal of ‘A More Equal Wales’.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct personnel implications within this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 All responses from consultations have been incorporated in the report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Members are requested to consider the content of the report and to satisfy themselves that progress is being made at the 6 month stage of the 2018-2023 Well-being Objective assessment.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 That members are informed and have the opportunity to call the objective to the agenda in having assurance that the Council is working towards delivering the objectives within its Corporate Plan 2018-2023.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

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Background Papers:

Corporate Plan 2018-2023	Approved Cabinet 11 April 2018 Endorsed by Council 17 th April 2018
WBO 5 – Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	Page 55 of the Corporate Plan