

Public Document Pack

Penallta House,
Tredomen Park,
Ystrad Mynach,
Hengoed CF82 7PG

Ty Penallta,
Parc Tredomen,
Ystrad Mynach,
Hengoed CF82 7PG



www.caerphilly.gov.uk
www.caerffili.gov.uk

For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Charlotte Evans
(Tel: 01443 864210 Email: evansca1@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Date: 18th February 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

A digital meeting of the **Cabinet** will be held via Microsoft Teams on **Wednesday, 24th February, 2021** at **10.30 am** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so.

This meeting will be recorded and made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. Therefore the images/audio of those individuals present and/or speaking at Cabinet will be publicly available to all via the recording on the Council website at www.caerphilly.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Harrhy'.

Christina Harrhy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

- | | Pages | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 | To receive apologies for absence. | |
| 2 | Declarations of Interest. | |

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on the agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

A greener place Man gwyrddach



To approve and sign the following minutes: -

3 Cabinet held on 10th February 2021. 1 - 6

To note the Cabinet Forward Work Programme.

4 Cabinet Forward Work Programme. 7 - 8

To receive and consider the following reports on which executive decisions are required: -

5 Carry Over Annual Leave 2020. 9 - 14

6 Whole-Authority Revenue Budget Monitoring Report (Period 9) 15 - 28

7 Caerphilly Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework. 29 - 46

Circulation:

Councillors S. Cook, N. George, C.J. Gordon, P.A. Marsden, S. Morgan, L. Phipps, J. Ridgewell, Mrs E. Stenner and R. Whiting

And Appropriate Officers

HOW WE WILL USE YOUR INFORMATION

Those individuals that attend committee meetings to speak/give evidence will be named in the minutes of that meeting, sometimes this will include their place of employment or business and opinions expressed. Minutes of Meetings including details of speakers will be publicly available to all via the Council website at www.caerphilly.gov.uk. except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items.

You have a number of rights in relation to your information, including the rights of access to information we hold about you and the right of complaint if you are unhappy with the way your information is being processed.

For further information on how we process your information and your rights please view the [Full Committee Meetings Privacy Notice](#) on our website or contact Legal Services by email griffd2@caerphilly.gov.uk or telephone 01443 863028.



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY 2021 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor P. Marsden (Leader) - Chair

Councillors:

S. Cook (Social Care), N. George (Waste and Public Protection), C. Gordon (Corporate Services), S. Morgan (Economy and Enterprise), L. Phipps (Homes and Places), J. Ridgewell (Environment and Infrastructure), E. Stenner (Performance and Customer Services) and R. Whiting (Learning and Achievement).

Together with:

C. Harry (Chief Executive), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director – Education and Corporate Services), D. Street (Corporate Director – Social Services and Housing) and M.S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director – Communities).

Also in Attendance:

L. Allen (Principal Group Accountant – Housing), S. Couzens (Chief Housing Officer), L. Donovan (Head of People Services), S. Isaacs (Rents Manager), S. Richards (Head of Education Planning and Strategy), E. Townsend (Health and Safety Manager), M. Williams (Interim Head of Property Services), F. Wilkins (Housing Services Manager), S. Harris (Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

G. P. Jones – Wales Audit Office

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Leader reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed but would not be live streamed, however a recording would be available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here To View](#). She advised that decisions would be made by Microsoft Forms.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor N. George declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 – Housing Revenue Account Charges – 2021/22 as he rents a Council owned garage but was able to remain and take part during its consideration.

3. CABINET – 27TH JANUARY 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2021 were approved as a correct record.

4. CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – TO NOTE

Cabinet were provided with the Cabinet Forward Work Programme, which detailed the scheduled reports from 10th February 2021 to 24th February 2021. Members were reminded that the Cabinet Forward Work Programme is a working document and therefore subject to change.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the Forward Work Programme be noted. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Forward Work Programme be noted.

5. LEGIONELLA CONTROL POLICY

The report sought Cabinet approval of the Legionella Control Policy.

It was noted that the Authority has in place a number of policies setting out its approach to managing key health and safety risks. Due to the high risk associated with legionella, there is need for a policy setting out the Authority's commitment to and arrangement for managing legionella safety. Competent specialist advice has been sought to assist with the development of the policy.

Cabinet thanked the Officer and Cabinet Member for the report and discussion ensued.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's Report the Legionella Control Policy attached at Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

6. CYCLE TO WORK SALARY SACRIFICE SCHEME

The report sought Cabinet agreement to increase the current limit on the Cycle to Work salary sacrifice scheme.

It was noted that the Council have operated the Cycle to Work salary sacrifice scheme since June 2010. The scheme provides eligible employees the opportunity to lease a bike to enable them to commute to and from work. Under the scheme employees can lease the bikes from the provider with deductions made through their salary which are exempt from PAYE income tax and national insurance contributions. There are also savings to CCBC of employer's national insurance contributions (currently 13.8%) and apprenticeship levy (0.5%). There are no pension savings to the employee or the Council as the scheme is pensionable.

The scheme rules are set by HMRC and until June 2019 the maximum value of the bike and accessories (helmets, lights, locks, etc) was £1,000.

Since the revised guidance was issued in June 2019, it is possible to exceed the £1,000 limit provided the employer or the provider of the scheme gain authorisation from the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The Council's provider, Cycle Solutions Limited, are already

registered with the FCA and can therefore act as Principal and can appoint the Council as an 'Introducer Appointed Representative' (IAR).

It was noted that Cycle Solutions Limited, as Principal, must take responsibility for the Council's activities under the Cycle to Work scheme and therefore a written contract needs to be signed by both parties detailing the arrangements. Cycle Solutions must ensure that the Council complies with all FCA rules in relation to the Cycle agreements.

The main benefit of setting up this arrangement is that the Council can set its own maximum limit which would enable eligible employees to gain access to a wider choice of bikes. In particular this would open the opportunity for employees to consider having an electric bike which typically retail between £1,500 and £3,000 for a good quality machine.

Cabinet thanked the Officer and Cabinet Member for the report and discussion ensued.

Cabinet discussed the report at length and raised queries around the provision of travelling expenses for bicycle users. Officers explained that there is no current provision in place for the payment of expenses for bicycle users, and guidance is provided by HMRC, however, as part of the Corporate Reviews, a number of Policies will be reviewed, which will include mileage expenses and tax relief for Agile Working.

A Member, in noting the significant benefits to the scheme, which include an increased demand in bicycles since the pandemic and more people walking, running and cycling, as well as the Council's priority to reduce the carbon footprint and support for active travel, felt that the recommended £3,000 limit may not be sufficient for many electric bicycles and therefore proposed an amendment to increase the limit to £5,000.

Following consideration of the Officers report it was moved and seconded that subject to an amendment to recommendation 3.1 in that the limit for the cycle to work salary sacrifice scheme be increased to £5,000 rather than the £3,000 recommended within the report.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's Report and subject to the aforementioned amendment: -

- i) the increase of the limit for the Cycle to Work Salary Sacrifice Scheme from the limit of £1,000 to £5,000 be agreed;
- ii) the Council be appointed as an 'Introducer Appointed Representative' be agreed.

7. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL – ANNUAL AUDIT SUMMARY 2020

Cabinet welcomed Mr G. Jones from the Wales Audit Office who provided Cabinet with a detailed overview of the report and explained that since the Spring of 2020, the ongoing pandemic has impacted upon the audit work of the Wales Audit Office (WAO) and it was acknowledged that there is a huge strain on public services. As a result, the WAO have reshaped their work programme, and found new ways of working to reduce its impact on public bodies' response to COVID-19, while still meeting statutory duties.

The report, which was considered by the Audit Committee on 26th January 2021 presented Cabinet with the Audit Wales Caerphilly County Borough Council Annual Audit Summary 2020.

It was noted that since 2009 the Wales Audit Office has issued an Annual Improvement Report (AIR). From 2020 the name of this report has changed to the Annual Audit Summary.

The Audit Wales report attached at Appendix 1 of the report, provided a summary of the audit work completed for Caerphilly County Borough Council since the last Annual Improvement Report, which was issued in July 2019.

It was noted that the audit summary forms part of the Auditor General for Wales' duties.

Cabinet thanked the Officer and Cabinet Member for the report and discussion ensued.

Cabinet discussed the report at length and in highlighting the significant cultural changes that the Council is undertaking through the Transformation agenda and Corporate Reviews, sought clarification that the Wales Audit Office was in support of the agenda. Mr Jones explained that with any change agenda comes several risks, however, with the new approach undertaken by the Wales Audit Office, allows a new working relationship in which advice and reviews can be undertaken alongside progress and provide real time advise and reviews. Members were assured however that the working relationship remains professional with clear roles between the Council and Wales Audit Office.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's Report the content of the Audit Wales Report be noted.

8. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CHARGES – 2021/2022

Councillor N. George declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 – Housing Revenue Account Charges – 2021/22 as he rents a Council owned garage but was able to remain and take part during its consideration.

The report, which was considered by the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 26th January 2021 sought Cabinet decision on the increased Council Housing rent charges proposed within the report. The charges predominantly focus on council house rents, but also include garages, and are intended to be effective for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the 2021/2022 financial year.

It was noted that the preparation of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget is quite separate to the work involved in setting the General Fund Budget and Council Tax. The HRA is funded by rental income received from council tenants, rather than the Council Taxpayer. Whilst there is a clear separation of these funds, the majority of the proportion of council tenants rent is funded from financial support in the form of Housing Benefit or Universal Credit (72%) which is derived from the taxpayers' purse, therefore value for money must always be sought. Council tenants are charged rent over a 48-week basis but The Welsh Government (WG) base their rents on a 52-week basis so the report showed the 52-week equivalent.

Cabinet noted that the previous September's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation figure was 0.5%. The policy therefore allows a maximum of 1.5% increase on the total rental income. However, the Business Plan has assumed a rent increase of 2.5% for 2021/22 to 2024/25.

Cabinet noted that there was limited time to consider full affordability options appraisal for setting the rent for 2020/21, and the intention was to conduct a data gathering exercise later in 2020, in advance of the 2021/22 rent setting cycle.

A working group was set up to discuss an appropriate way forward, including a questionnaire

to tenants specifically on rent affordability. It soon became apparent that there were many complexities to address if the affordability appraisal was to evidence meaningful outcomes. What is considered affordable to one tenant will not be affordable to another. The lack of information regarding tenant's income and outgoings (e.g. utility bills, wages etc), and their individual circumstances and expectations mean that affordability becomes difficult to measure. Unfortunately, due to the Covid pandemic, the working group could not progress to the extent desired, as resources were prioritised elsewhere. However, some progress was made, in the hope it is an adequate base on which to develop further. An affordability survey to tenants was agreed and posted on social media and the Councils website on 16th November, with a 30-day deadline. Tenants who have registered to receive EGov updates also received the survey directly, and officers made our engaged tenants aware of the survey in several communications with some surveys being carried out over the phone. The responses received have been considered within the proposals of the report.

Cabinet thanked the Officer and Cabinet Member for the report and discussion ensued.

Cabinet discussed the report at length and queried the implications of not increasing the rent. Officers explained that whilst the pandemic has resulted in underspends in a number of areas, a rent increase would result in securing works for the WHQS and HRA and future proof the programme. In addition, Members were assured that the investment into the Caerphilly Cares Scheme has resulted in an increase in Housing Support staff, who can provide advice and support to maximise income for Council tenants.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting and in noting there was 1 abstention, this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's Report an increase of 1.5% (CPI plus 1%) – (£92.02/52 week – additional £1.36/wk), the maximum allowed under the rent policy which will set our rent just within the low end of the previous year's policy target rent band but, will reduce our income by £0.5m to that assumed within our business plan, compounded year on year be agreed.

The meeting closed at 11.30am

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 24th February 2021.

CHAIR

This page is intentionally left blank

Cabinet Forward Work Programme

Cabinet Date	Title	Key Issues	Author	Cabinet Member
24/02/21 10:30	Wellbeing and Placeshaping Framework	To seek approval to consult and engage on the capital investment programme for the county borough	Harrhy, Christina;	Cllr. Marsden, Philippa; Cllr. Morgan, Sean
24/02/21 10:30	Annual Leave	For Cabinet to consider options to address the annual leave balances in excess of 5 days carry over for 2020.	Donovan, Lynne;	Cllr. Gordon, Colin J
24/02/21 10:30	Whole-Authority Revenue Budget Monitoring Report (Period 9).	To provide Cabinet with details of projected whole-authority revenue budget expenditure for the 2020/21 financial year and to seek approval for proposed one-off investments.	Harris, Stephen R;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
24/03/21 10:30	Gender Pay Gap	For CMT and Cabinet to agree the Gender Pay Gap report which has to be published by 31st March	Donovan, Lynne	Cllr. Gordon, Colin J;
24/03/21 10:30	Interim Report from the Task and Finish Group on the Non-Residential Care Charges	To recommend to Members that they request that Cabinet extends the current rate increase for the 2021/22 financial year. This would allow the Task and Finish Group to continue their inquiry and to draft recommendations for Cabinet's consideration on the charge for Non-Residential Care from 2022/23 onwards	Jacques, Mark;	Cllr. Cook, Shayne;
24/03/21 10:30	White Paper on Rebalancing Care and Support	To share the proposal of the Welsh Government White Paper on Rebalancing Care and Support and to seek Members views with regards to a consultation response.	Street, Dave;	Cllr. Cook, Shayne;

24/03/21 10:30 Annual Equalities Report 2019/20	To seek Cabinet approval of the statutory Annual Equalities Report 2019/20 which provides an update of the progress made during the financial year 2019/20 against targets in the Council's Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020.	Cullinane, Anwen;Peters, Kathryn;Richards, Sue; Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
---	--	--



CABINET – 24TH FEBRUARY 2021

SUBJECT: CARRY OVER ANNUAL LEAVE 2020

REPORT BY: LYNNE DONOVAN, HEAD OF PEOPLE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek a Cabinet decision with regards to annual leave balances in excess of 5 days carry over for the year 2020.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council's Annual Leave Policy states:

3. An employee's annual leave entitlement should be taken in the leave year in which it is accrued. Employees may carry over up to five days annual leave into the following leave year with the prior approval of their manager. Carried over leave should be used as soon as is reasonably possible in the new holiday year.

- 2.2 The Covid pandemic impacted on the availability of staff in some services, resulting in staff agreeing to work through periods of planned annual leave and therefore having balances in excess of the 5 days at the end of the leave year.

- 2.3 It is important to acknowledge the commitment of the staff with these excess balances, as there would have been difficulties in providing services had they taken their leave. It would seem unreasonable and unfair for them to be penalised in such circumstances by losing any balance in excess of 5 days carry over.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked:

- 3.1.1 To agree that Heads of Service (or a more Senior Manager) discuss with staff that have annual leave balances in excess of 5 days carry over, whether they wish the excess annual leave to be paid up or added to their annual leave balance for 2021. Members of the Leadership team affected should not be offered the option of payment. For clarity, the Leadership team is Corporate Management Team and Heads of Service.

- 3.1.2 To agree that this is a one off situation to address the impact of the pandemic on services in 2020 and is not a change to Policy.

- 3.1.3 To agree that where excess leave is paid up that the cost should be met from core service revenue budgets.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The recommendation is made to acknowledge the commitment of staff during the pandemic whilst considering the impact that excessive annual leave balances in this calendar year could have whilst the pandemic is still prevalent.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Cabinet are aware that the UK was put in to lockdown with effect from 23rd March 2020, in an attempt to combat the Covid 19 pandemic.
- 5.2 Staff who were extremely vulnerable and vulnerable to severe illness from the Covid virus were sent home whilst services reshaped to ensure the continuing provision of critical services and effective remote homeworking where appropriate. Shielding, self isolation periods and social distancing were quickly introduced, which together with child care issues and sickness, lead to reported staff absences linked to Covid peaking at almost 1,100 at the end of March 2020. This figure thankfully reduced steadily.
- 5.3 Shielding in Wales ended on 16th August 2020 and risk assessments would have determined whether employees could return to their substantive posts. Cabinet will be aware that Shielding was reintroduced with effect from 22nd December 2020 and is still in place until at least 31st March 2021.
- 5.4 Whilst 1st June 2020 saw the easing of the lockdown restrictions in Wales, Cabinet will be aware that many restrictions remained in place and Caerphilly residents were the subject of the first local lockdown due to high rising case numbers with effect from 8th September 2020.
- 5.5 Since this date, further restrictions have been introduced in Wales, including a firebreak during the period 23rd October 2020 to 8th November 2020 and a further lockdown with effect from 19th December 2020, which is still in place.
- 5.6 During this period, the Council has continued to provide essential services to residents of the County Borough and has introduced new services i.e. Test Trace Protect (TTP), free school meals, the Buddy scheme. Staff have also provided support at testing centres and the mass vaccination centres.
- 5.7 Cabinet will recall the decision made not to furlough staff, but to maximise the opportunity of the flexibility of the workforce via redeployment. This has successfully supported the service provision as outlined in 5.6.
- 5.8 Discussions were held with the Trade Unions at the early stages of the pandemic as to whether we needed to change the Annual Leave Policy and it was agreed that we should not as it was important employees took their annual leave for their wellbeing and that Managers should ensure staff took their leave. We acknowledged there may be a need to consider the situation for some employees, depending on the pandemic and service needs. Leadership were informed of this position and that annual leave needed to be managed effectively within their services and taken by employees. The Chief Executive has regularly reminded staff to take their annual

leave to support their wellbeing in her communications. Staff were also advised that if they did not take their leave it would be lost.

5.9 The pandemic as briefly outlined in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.5 has impacted on the numbers of staff available to deliver critical services in some areas. The introduction of testing and the TTP service has also meant staff being advised to self isolate. Cabinet will be aware that these services were not in place at the start of the pandemic. Some services have seen an increase in workload as a result of the requirement to provide enforcement services to support Welsh Government's restrictions.

5.10 As a result of the above, there are 91 employees with annual leave balances in excess of 5 days carry over, as at the end of December 2020. For Cabinet's information, annual leave entitlements are issued per calendar year. The number of days in excess of 5, range from 1 to 14 and are within the service areas below:

Adult Services
Children's Services
Corporate Management Team
Financial Services
Green Spaces & Transport
Infrastructure
Planning
Public Protection
Sport & Leisure Services
Waste

5.11 The Council's Annual Leave Policy states:

3. An employee's annual leave entitlement should be taken in the leave year in which it is accrued. Employees may carry over up to five days annual leave into the following leave year with the prior approval of their manager. Carried over leave should be used as soon as is reasonably possible in the new holiday year.

8. There will be no payment in lieu of any annual leave not taken, except on termination of employment.

5.12 The exception to this is if employees are absent due to maternity leave, adoption leave or long term sickness. The Annual Leave Policy provides that leave entitlements are unaffected by these absences and can be carried in to the following leave year if there is insufficient time for the leave to be taken in the same year. The 91 employees referred to in paragraph 5.10 does not include anyone that has been absent due to these reasons.

5.13 It is important as an employer that we acknowledge the commitment of staff who cancelled their annual leave during the exceptional circumstances of the pandemic, to ensure critical services continued to be provided. It would seem unreasonable and unfair for these staff to lose their excess balances of annual leave in such circumstances.

5.14 This has to be balanced with the continuation of service provision this year whilst the pandemic remains and the potential increased annual leave balances of some staff if the annual leave in excess of 5 days carry over is agreed. The recommendation

within this report attempts to address this problem but allows staff to make the choice.

- 5.15 It is important that Managers monitor the situation of annual leave within their services to support the wellbeing of their staff members. There should be no assumptions made that any decisions made by Cabinet in relation to annual leave to address the issues that arose in 2020 will apply in future years; this is a one off recommendation resulting from the pandemic. Should concerns arise that there could be any similar problems in the future, they will be brought to the attention of Cabinet as soon as possible in order to consider possible options.

5.16 **Conclusion**

To ensure continuation of essential services during the pandemic, some employees agreed not to take all their annual leave entitlement in 2020 and consequently have carry over balances in excess of the maximum stipulated in the Council's Annual Leave Policy. This report seeks to acknowledge the commitment of these staff and to ensure that they are not in a detriment situation by losing the additional excess leave.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 There are no assumptions made within this report.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 7.1 The report links to the Council's Annual Leave Policy.

7.2 **Corporate Plan 2018-2023.**

Whilst this report does not specifically contribute towards the Corporate Well-being Objectives, it does support good governance which is the foundation of the Council's performance management framework.

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 8.1 Having considered the five ways of working, they will not be affected by the contents of this report.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been produced as this is a one off variation to the agreed policy to reflect the exceptional circumstances of the pandemic.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Annual leave is accounted for within employees' salaries. Any payments made for the excess carry over annual leave will be funded from core service budgets.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The Personnel implications are included within the report.

12. CONSULTATIONS

12.1 All comments from consultees have been included in the report.

13. STATUTORY POWER

13.1 Local Government Act 1972
Employment Rights Act 1996
Working Time Regulations 1998

Author: Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services

Consultees: Corporate Management Team
Cllr Colin Gordon, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer
Lisa Downey, HR Service Manager
Shaun Watkins, HR Service Manager

Background Papers: Annual Leave Policy 2014

This page is intentionally left blank



CABINET – 24TH FEBRUARY 2021

**SUBJECT: WHOLE-AUTHORITY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT
(PERIOD 9)**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE
SERVICES**

-
- 1.1 The attached report will be considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 23 February 2021, prior to its consideration at Cabinet on 24 February 2021.
 - 1.2 The report provides details of the current position regarding funding received from WG in respect of additional costs incurred and income lost as a direct consequence of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.
 - 1.3 The report also provides details of the 2020/21 projected revenue budget outturn position based on information available as at month 9 of the current financial year. Commentary is also provided throughout the report on the more significant variations against budget.
 - 1.4 The report also includes proposals for the use of reserves in specific areas and the Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider these prior to the proposals being presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 24 February 2021.
 - 1.5 The views expressed at the meeting and the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee will be reported verbally to Cabinet on 24 February 2021.

Author: C. Evans, Committee Services Officer, Ext. 4210

Appendices:

Appendix Report to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 23rd February 2021 - Agenda Item 8

This page is intentionally left blank



POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 23RD FEBRUARY 2021

**SUBJECT: WHOLE-AUTHORITY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT
(PERIOD 9)**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE
SERVICES**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide details of projected whole-authority revenue budget expenditure for the 2020/21 financial year, including an update on the funding received from the Welsh Government (WG) in respect of the financial implications of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.2 To propose the use of reserves for specific purposes detailed within the report.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides details of the current position regarding funding received from WG in respect of additional costs incurred and income lost as a direct consequence of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2.2 The report also provides details of the 2020/21 projected revenue budget outturn position based on information available as at month 9 of the current financial year. Commentary is also provided throughout the report on the more significant variations against budget.
- 2.3 The report also includes proposals for the use of reserves in specific areas and the Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider these prior to the proposals being presented to Cabinet at its meeting on the 24th February 2021.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee: -
 - 3.1.1 Notes the content of the report.
 - 3.1.2 Supports the proposed use of reserves totalling £648k as detailed in Section 5.3 of the report.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the Scrutiny Committee is aware of the projected revenue budget outturn position for the 2020/21 financial year and also has the opportunity to consider the proposed use of reserves prior to Cabinet consideration.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Coronavirus Pandemic (Covid-19)

- 5.1.1 Members will be aware that the Authority has incurred significant additional costs due to the pandemic and is also losing income in several key areas. Additional costs of £10.846m have been incurred for the period March to December 2020 in key areas such as Social Care, the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Information Technology, the establishment of Community Hubs for childcare provision and Free School Meals.
- 5.1.2 At an early stage a decision was made to account for the additional costs of Covid-19 on distinct holding codes for each Directorate. This allows for the costs to be captured outside of Directorate core revenue budgets and provides the clarity required to submit claims for funding from WG. It also ensures that there is a clear evidence base to substantiate the costs.
- 5.1.3 From the outset of the pandemic WG has provided funding to Local Authorities for additional costs through the Covid-19 Hardship Fund. The £10.846m additional costs incurred between March and December 2020 have been claimed from the Hardship Fund and the table below provides a summary of the current position: -

Month	Claim £000's	Paid £000's	Disallowed £000's	Pending £000's
March	13	13	0	0
April	439	366	73	0
May	1,270	1,189	21	60
June	2,589	2,333	316	(60)
July	1,004	955	48	1
August	1,174	1,017	158	0
September	1,049	880	37	132
October	1,036	939	7	90
November	1,088	1,067	20	0
December	1,184	1,040	44	100
TOTALS: -	10,846	9,799	724	323

- 5.1.4 Members will note from the above that WG have reimbursed £9.799m of the total costs claimed to date, with £724k being disallowed and therefore not funded. The most significant elements of disallowed expenditure relate to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), certain expenditure in schools and only 50% of IT equipment purchases being funded. The bulk of the pending figure of £323k relates to Free School Meals expenditure which is still under consideration by WG.
- 5.1.5 The additional cost figures do not include further financial pressures arising from an increase in applications for Council Tax support through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS). WG has provided further funding for this and Caerphilly CBC's share for the 2020/21 financial year totals £331k.
- 5.1.6 WG has also provided funding to compensate Local Authorities for income losses arising from the pandemic. For Caerphilly CBC, claims for income losses total £4.451m for the period March to December 2020 with key areas being Leisure Centres, Catering, Tourism Venues and Private Sector Housing. To date WG has paid £4.371m of the sums claimed with £53k being disallowed and £27k pending due to additional information being requested.

- 5.1.7 The income lost figures do not include Council Tax where collection rates are being adversely affected by the economic impact of the pandemic. Collection rates to the end of January 2021 are 2.2% (£1.666m) lower than for the same period last year, albeit that WG has recently announced funding of £1.122m to help mitigate the shortfall in Council Tax receipts.
- 5.1.8 Members will recall that at its meeting on the 10th September 2020, Council approved a recommendation to transfer £2.713m into an earmarked reserve to meet potential unfunded additional costs arising from Covid-19. To date there have been no calls on this funding but as part of the year-end process for the 2020/21 financial year any disallowed Covid-19 additional costs and income losses will be funded from this earmarked reserve.
- 5.1.9 Whilst the various packages of Covid-19 WG funding are of course very welcomed there is currently only a confirmed commitment for this funding until the 31st March 2021. The UK Government has allocated £766m to WG in respect of the ongoing financial impact of Covid-19 for the 2021/22 financial year but this is far below the levels of funding that have been allocated in 2020/21. This presents a significant financial risk and the position will be closely monitored as we move into the new financial year.

5.2 Projected Revenue Budget Outturn for 2020/21 (Month 9)

- 5.2.1 As already outlined, the additional costs associated with Covid-19 are being captured on distinct holding codes for each Directorate and are not therefore included in the year-end revenue budget projections.
- 5.2.2 Members will be aware that detailed budget monitoring reports are prepared for Scrutiny Committees throughout the financial year. This report is intended to provide a high-level summary position highlighting some of the key variations against budget. Based on information available as at month 9 the projected 2020/21 net year-end revenue budget underspend is £3.980m. A summary is provided by Directorate in the table below with further details provided in Appendix 1.

	Original Estimate 2020/21 £000's	Revised Estimate 2020/21 £000's	Projected Outturn 2020/21 £000's	Projected (Overspend)/ Underspend £000's
Education & Lifelong Learning	138,903	139,001	137,713	1,288
Social Services & Housing	94,864	95,194	92,801	2,393
Communities	51,429	51,727	52,602	(875)
Corporate Services	20,335	20,378	19,296	1,082
Miscellaneous Finance	50,599	49,829	49,738	91
Totals: -	356,130	356,130	352,150	3,980

- 5.2.3 The following paragraphs summarise some of the key issues in the month 9 budget monitoring reports.

Education & Lifelong Learning (Projected Underspend of £1.288m)

- 5.2.4 A net underspend of £1.288m is currently forecast for Education & Lifelong Learning. The most significant variances are the following: -

Service Area	Projected (Overspend)/ Underspend £000's
Relief Supply Cover (Maternity - Schools)	(241)
Retirement Pension Costs – School Based Staff	290
Home to School/College Transport	386
EOTAS/Additional Support/Out-of-County	236

- 5.2.5 Due to the unpredictability of maternity absences across all school sectors, it is very difficult to project the position for the year. This budget funds the maternity absence of staff members in schools with the schools funding the replacement teacher costs. Based on current data and reviewing spend on maternity in prior years the current prediction is a projected overspend of £241k for the year. In recent years this budget has also been overspent (2018/19 £153k overspend, 2019/20 £187k overspend) so a growth bid has been included in the 2021/22 Draft Budget Proposals to address this trend.
- 5.2.6 A projected underspend of £290k on the pension costs of school-based staff follows a more favourable budget position for schools in 2020/21 alongside the challenge of progressing any staff changes in schools during the end of academic year 2019/20 due to Covid-19.
- 5.2.7 Early on in the pandemic it was agreed across Wales that transport contract values would be supported to the level of 75% (April to August), with a real concern that operators would go out of business without support and not be available when schools and colleges return. There were only been a small number of contracts that have continued during the early months of the pandemic, relating to some of our pupils who accessed the Trinity Fields Hub. On a budget of circa £7m the current predicted underspend is estimated at £386k. The projection includes an estimate for the potential of two terms costs to contractors for additional cleaning and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) linked to Covid-19.
- 5.2.8 An underspend of £236k is projected for provision to our most vulnerable learners (EOTAS/Additional Support/Out-of-County). This is due in part to additional growth approved in the 2020/21 budget but is also due to delays in some spend linked to the pandemic and new practices linked to pupil support. Budgets in this area are under review as part of the Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) Strategy.

Social Services & Housing (Projected Underspend of £2.393m)

- 5.2.9 Information available as at month 9 shows a projected year-end underspend of £2.393m for Social Services and Housing.
- 5.2.10 A net overspend of £825k is projected for the Children's Services Division. The most significant areas of overspend are £1.288m in Residential Care and £521k in Fostering & Adoption. These overspends are partially offset by underspends of £788k in Management, Fieldwork & Administration, £94k in Aftercare Support and a net underspend of £101k on other Children's Services budgets.
- 5.2.11 The Adult Services Division is currently projected to underspend its budget by £2.048m (inclusive of a projected underspend of £171k on Social Services transport costs which are managed by the Integrated Transport Unit in the Communities Directorate).
- 5.2.12 There are a range of offsetting overspends and underspends across the Division. The most significant projected overspends are £470k in Homecare and £559k in Other Domiciliary Care. Demand for Homecare has continued to grow throughout the current financial year, much of which can be attributed to restrictions on residential care admissions and avoidance of hospital admissions as a result of Covid-19. Demand for supported living placements and shared lives placements has contributed to the projected overspend in Other Domiciliary Care.

- 5.2.13 The most significant projected underspends in the Adult Services Division are £688k in Own Residential Care & Supported Living, £436k in Own Day Care, £560k in External Residential Care and £540k in External Day Care.
- 5.2.14 A significant element of the projected underspend of £688k in Own Residential Care & Supported Living relates to delays in recruiting to posts in some facilities, and the level of staff vacancies and absence cover across residential homes, respite care and supported living homes. Much of the absence cover has been provided through the redeployment of day care staff at no additional cost.
- 5.2.15 The £436k underspend forecast against our Own Day Care services can be attributed to the closure of day care facilities in response to Covid-19, as some posts will have remained vacant during the closures.
- 5.2.16 The main elements of the projected underspend of £560k in External Residential Care are £438k in respect of long-term residential care for older people and £171k for people with learning disabilities. These underspends are partially offset by increased demand for long-term placements for people with physical disabilities and people with mental health problems.
- 5.2.17 The projected underspend of £540k in respect of External Day Care provision is largely due to the temporary suspension of some services in response to Covid-19.
- 5.2.18 Within Service Strategy & Business Support there is a projected underspend of £1.053m, much of which is attributed to funding received through the WG Covid-19 Hardship Fund. Circa £562k has been claimed through this grant scheme up to December 2020 to support in-house service provision and a further £450k is expected to be claimed between January and March 2021. While some additional in-house costs due to Covid-19 are easily identifiable (e.g. Covid-19 testing in care homes) most of the additional costs are less identifiable such as sickness cover provided by existing staff and lost income due to reduced occupancy. These less identifiable costs are captured within the Adult Services projected year-end outturn position whilst the grant funding has been captured within Service Strategy & Business Support.
- 5.2.19 For Housing Services there is a projected year-end underspend of £117k.

Communities (Projected Overspend of £875k)

- 5.2.20 The projected outturn position for the Communities Directorate is an overspend of £875k.
- 5.2.21 The Regeneration & Planning Division is projecting an underspend of £90k. Shortfalls in fee income continue to be experienced in Planning Services, continuing the trend experienced in recent years. The 2021/22 Draft Budget Proposals seek to address this through realigning income budgets to reflect the actual levels of income being received. The overall net projected underspend for the Regeneration & Planning Division is largely due to additional fee income generated through supporting grant funded projects and one-off income for the administration of business grants linked to Covid-19.
- 5.2.22 The Infrastructure Division is projecting a net overspend of £427k on its £19.97m budget. The most significant element of this is an overspend of £504k in Transportation Engineering, which is mainly due to reduced income of £612k linked to car parking and the suspension of charges during the pandemic. At this stage Network Contracting Services (NCS) is anticipating a deficit of £489k with an underachievement in the income targets primarily linked to a significantly reduced workload due to Covid-19 operational issues. However, this is partially offset by projected underspends in the main highway maintenance budgets due to delays in schemes that NCS would normally be undertaking.
- 5.2.23 The Community & Leisure Services Division is projecting a net overspend of £677k. A significant element of this relates to Leisure Centres which have been closed for long periods due to Covid-19 with no income being generated. Whilst some funding has been provided by WG to partially

offset the income losses the service has elements of operating expenditure that are fixed in nature and cannot easily be reduced while the Centres have been closed. There are significant variations across budget headings within Waste Management & Cleansing due to the impact of Covid-19 but overall a net overspend of £210k is projected for these services. Caerphilly Adventures is reporting an overspend of £251k due to a significant reduction in income from schools during the pandemic. This internal income is not eligible for WG funding.

5.2.24 The Public Protection Division is projecting a net overspend of £137k.

Corporate Services (Projected Underspend of £1.082m)

5.2.25 The Directorate of Corporate Services is currently projecting a net underspend of £1.082m. This underspend is across a range of service areas and is due in the main to delays in filling vacant posts, one-off grant income and delays in fully implementing agreed restructures in some areas.

Miscellaneous Finance (Projected Underspend of £91k)

5.2.26 A net underspend of £91k is projected for budgets in Miscellaneous Finance.

5.2.27 Members may recall that as part of the 2020/21 approved budget it was proposed to redirect £20m of our current investments into long-term investments (a property fund, an equity fund and a bond fund). This £20m investment would have been locked in for a minimum of 3 to 5 years but there would be a significant improvement on returns estimated at £718k per annum. Due to the pandemic and the associated economic impact, these proposed investments have been delayed. Furthermore, we are seeing a reduction in returns on our wider investment portfolio resulting in a projected total shortfall against budget of £918k. Following recent discussions with our Treasury Advisors, Arlingclose, we will shortly be making new longer-term investments which will improve the returns moving forward. The shortfall in investment returns for the current year has been offset by a projected underspend on debt interest payments due to no new borrowing being undertaken in the year to date.

5.3 Proposed Use of Reserves

5.3.1 Proposals have been received for the use of reserves totalling £648k as follows: -

- Match-funding for Sports Wales Grant - £224k.
- Conversion of Ty Isaf into Children's Residential Facility - £140k.
- Development of Regional Hub to accommodate Gwent MyST - £100k
- Care Home Visiting and Lateral Flow Testing - £184k.

5.3.2 In order to satisfy the conditions of a Sport Wales grant of £300k towards the cost of replacing the Artificial Training Pitch (ATP) at Sue Noakes Leisure Centre and developing a Hockey Hub, and to create a 3G pitch at Idris Davies 3-18 school, the Council needs to make available £224k of match-funding. Members are asked to endorse a recommendation to Cabinet that this match-funding requirement is funded from Corporate Capital Earmarked Reserves.

5.3.3 The Children's Services Division within Social Services has secured £820k of Integrated Care Fund (ICF) grant to enable the purchase and conversion of a new residential facility for children. During March 2019 this funding was used to purchase the Ty Isaf property in Llanbradach at a cost of around £652k leaving £168k available to convert the property. A further £50k was earmarked within the Social Services capital budget to convert the garage at the property to move on accommodation for care leavers and a programme of work was agreed within the budget available. However, once work had commenced a serious fault was uncovered which required the rebuilding of the gable end wall and a further £55k was earmarked within the Social Services capital budget to fund this. A number of other faults and safety issues have been identified during the refurbishment of the property adding a further £140k to the cost of the project which cannot be absorbed within the Social Services capital budget. Members are asked to endorse a recommendation to Cabinet that the additional funding requirement of £140k is

met from Corporate Capital Earmarked Reserves.

- 5.3.4 Similarly, Integrated Care Fund (ICF) grant of £705k was secured for the development of a regional hub to accommodate the Gwent MyST (which is an intensive foster care support service) in Bargoed High Street. Initial tenders for this project were received between £1million and £1.3million so a re-scoping of the scheme was undertaken resulting in an estimated cost of around £805k. Therefore, a further £100k of funding was earmarked within the Social Services capital budget for 2020/21. However, a more recent estimate has identified a potential cost of £905k so a further £100k of funding is required to ensure the completion of the project and to protect the grant funding. Members are asked to endorse a recommendation to Cabinet that the additional funding requirement of £100k is met from Corporate Capital Earmarked Reserves.
- 5.3.5 The proposed use of reserves totalling £184k for care home visiting and lateral flow testing is for eight fixed-term 28 hours per week posts for an initial period of nine months. £10k is also included in this total for equipment. Feedback from other Local Authorities is that this is very time intensive in respect of Lateral Flow Devices as everything has to be logged on a system to link to Track, Trace & Protect (TTP). It is a significant logistical exercise as kits have to be ordered, stored and distributed to all registered domiciliary care agencies in the borough. This will then be expanded to include supported living and frontline Social Workers and Occupational Therapists. Care Homes will order their own kits, but the administrative burden will be significant. There is also a weekly reporting requirement for WG. In respect of Care Home visits there will need to be a booking system to coordinate visits across the council's six Care Homes 7 days a week so staff time is required to identify the designated visitor and explain and plan visits, which will vary depending on alert levels e.g. window, pod indoor etc. Members are asked to endorse a recommendation to Cabinet that the £184k funding requirement is met from Social Services Retained Underspend Reserves.

5.4 Conclusion

- 5.4.1 Despite the ongoing challenges faced by the Council the financial position is being well managed during the current financial year with a projected revenue budget underspend of £3.980m based on information available at month 9.
- 5.4.2 The Covid-19 WG funding is of course very welcome but there is currently only a confirmed commitment for this funding until the 31st March 2021. The UK Government has allocated £766m to WG in respect of the ongoing financial impact of Covid-19 for the 2021/22 financial year but this is far below the levels of funding that have been allocated in 2020/21. This presents a significant financial risk and the position will be closely monitored as we move into the new financial year.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 A wide range of assumptions are made in the preparation of budget monitoring reports based on information available for the relevant reporting period.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 7.1 Effective financial planning and maintaining expenditure within approved budgets supports the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 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.

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 8.1 Effective financial planning and the management of expenditure within approved budgets are key elements in ensuring that the Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 are met.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no direct equalities implications to this report in terms of the financial information presented.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 As detailed throughout the report.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

12. CONSULTATIONS

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

13. STATUTORY POWER

- 13.1 Local Government Act 1972.

Author: Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer
Tel: 01443 863022 E-mail: harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Corporate Management Team
Cllr Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Customer Service
(Email: stenne@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
(Email: trantrj@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Andrew Southcombe, Finance Manager, Corporate Finance
(Email: southak@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Dave Roberts, Principal Group Accountant, Corporate Finance
(Email: roberda@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Jane Southcombe, Finance Manager, Education & Lifelong Learning
(Email: southj@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Mike Jones, Financial Services Manager, Social Services
(Email: jonesmj@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Lesley Allen, Principal Group Accountant, Housing
(Email: allenl@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Whole-Authority Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2020/21 (Period 9)
(Summary by Directorate/Service Division)

Background Papers:

- Budget Proposals for 2020/21 and Medium-Term Financial Outlook (Council 20/02/20).
- Financial Outlook (Council 10/09/20).

This page is intentionally left blank

Whole Authority Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2020-21 (Period 9)

Summary by Directorate/Service Division

Directorate/Service Division	Original Budget 2020-21	Revised Budget 2020-21	Projected Outturn 2020-21	Projected (Overspend)/ Underspend
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Education & Lifelong Learning				
- Schools Related	118,513	118,529	118,036	493
- Education	16,591	16,654	16,138	516
- Lifelong Learning	3,799	3,818	3,539	279
Sub-Total: -	138,903	139,001	137,713	1,288
Social Services & Housing				
- Children's Services	25,143	25,216	26,041	(825)
- Adult Services	65,962	66,194	64,146	2,048
- Service Strategy and Business Support	2,131	2,138	1,085	1,053
- Housing Services	1,628	1,646	1,529	117
Sub-Total: -	94,864	95,194	92,801	2,393
Communities				
- Regeneration and Planning	2,214	2,246	2,156	90
- Infrastructure	19,917	19,970	20,397	(427)
- Community and Leisure Services	21,673	21,823	22,500	(677)
- Public Protection	7,450	7,512	7,375	137
- Directorate General	175	176	175	1
Sub-Total: -	51,429	51,727	52,602	(875)
Corporate Services				
- Interim Chief Executive/Director	359	362	342	20
- Corporate Finance	1,864	1,895	1,739	156
- Legal and Governance	3,199	3,213	3,117	96
- Business Improvement Services	1,328	1,335	1,181	154
- Customer and Digital Services	5,845	5,803	5,487	316
- Corporate Property	4,903	4,921	4,715	206
- People Services	2,837	2,849	2,715	134
Sub-Total: -	20,335	20,378	19,296	1,082
Miscellaneous Finance	50,599	49,829	49,738	91
Grand Total: -	356,130	356,130	352,150	3,980

This page is intentionally left blank



CABINET – 24TH FEBRUARY 2021

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY WELLBEING AND PLACE SHAPING FRAMEWORK

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on some of the significant capital investments made over recent years across the Council's wellbeing objectives and to propose a suite of projects that will form the basis of a county borough wide Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework.
- 1.2 The report also sets out a proposed community engagement mechanism that enables key stakeholders to have the opportunity to shape and refine the Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework over future years.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council has been developing a Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework since the spring of 2020. The Framework has been built on the wide range of capital investments made across the county borough in recent years and has been developed to take into consideration:
 - Existing long standing multi-annual investment programmes
 - Emerging and existing funding and investment opportunities
 - Corporate Plan priorities and objectives
 - Previously identified need
 - Collaborative project opportunities
 - Emerging Commercial opportunities
 - The Council's Strategic Recovery Framework
- 2.2 The draft Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework set out in 5.8 contains a list of potential investments across Caerphilly in excess of £231m that align explicitly with the Council's adopted Wellbeing Objectives.
- 2.3 This investment framework provides the opportunity to build, repair and renew key infrastructure and assets across the length and breadth of Caerphilly county borough, as well as explicitly further the aims and policy direction previously set within strategies such as the Council's Corporate plan, the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy (SARS), the Council's Regeneration Strategy "A Foundation for Success 2018-2023"

as well as the exciting proposals set out within the 21st Century Schools Band B Programme.

- 2.4 This framework proposal is of paramount importance at this time, as it offers an important element of the Council's Covid recovery plan, which aims to support our communities as they begin to emerge from the Covid pandemic. Long-term investments in infrastructure such as that proposed within this Framework, hold the potential to rebalance the local economy, enhance productivity and create jobs and opportunities across Caerphilly, which is of great importance as we support our communities to rebuild a sustainable and resilient future post Covid. The opportunity exists to work together to create a better and more prosperous Caerphilly for everyone, further embedding our "TeamCaerphilly" collective community and civic leadership model of delivery.
- 2.5 The projects and ideas within the Framework will need to be developed into propositions that will be shaped through community engagement and scrutiny prior to any decision to implement being reached.
- 2.6 In many cases, the investment to support these projects will be a combination of internal capital and external grant, with the latter also being subject to relevant external approval processes.
- 2.7 The ongoing engagement programme described in 5.9 has been designed explicitly to ensure the Framework is continuously refined over coming years with opportunities for future Wellbeing and Place Shaping proposals to be added in and considered as they emerge.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to:
- a) Consider any views and recommendations made at the meeting of all Scrutiny Committees on the 22nd February.
 - b) Note the Wellbeing and Place Shaping investments, totalling in excess of £153m that have been undertaken between 2017 and 2020 as set out in 5.6
 - c) Note the Wellbeing and Place Shaping investments currently approved totalling over £129m for delivery as set out in 5.7
 - d) Agree that the projects set out in 5.8 totalling in excess of £231m will form the initial Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework for the Council from 2021 onwards, forming a sustainable and resilient route-map for our communities to emerge stronger from the Covid pandemic
 - e) Agree that the projects set out within 5.8 can be developed into business cases for consideration
 - f) Acknowledge that each proposal must go through the relevant consultation, scrutiny, funding approval and decision-making processes before implementation
 - g) Agree the proposed mechanisms for community engagement set out within 5.9
 - h) Note the funding approvals totalling £28.591m that have already been confirmed

- for the Place Shaping Framework as set out in Section 10 of the report.
- i) Approve a recommendation that funding of £1.640m held in the 2020/21 Miscellaneous Finance Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) budget should also be allocated to the Place Shaping Framework, which would increase the total funding available to £30.231m.
 - j) Agree that a Joint Meeting of all Scrutiny Committees be held twice yearly to consider the progress of the Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework.
 - k) Agree to receive a separate report on the Community Empowerment Fund that will detail the mechanisms by which Elected Members can, alongside their communities, develop project ideas for consideration within the Framework.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To agree a potential Framework of Wellbeing and Place Shaping investment across the county borough for the period 2021 onwards, subject to the necessary business cases being developed, consulted upon and agreed by the relevant decision-making body.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Place Shaping is about creating Communities that are great places to live now, as well as having the potential to thrive in the future. As we emerge from the Covid pandemic, it is essential that we provide a route-map for our communities which offers a sustainable and resilient future for them. Within this context, it is imperative we understand the needs and challenges of our constituent communities, the impact of the investments and interventions made to date and those required in the years ahead, coupled with a detailed understanding of what makes a community unique is the foundation of any Place Shaping approach.
- 5.2 Investment in Wellbeing and Place Shaping projects should be designed to directly strengthen the fabric of our communities by improving key aspects of life across Caerphilly. This report sets out a range of such investments, both in the recent past and over the years ahead, that are intended to collectively improve the lives of those that live within the County Borough.
- 5.3 The Wellbeing and Place Shaping projects that form the basis of this report will involve a combination of funding approaches. Some projects will be funded directly by Council capital, some will be a combination of Council capital and external funding alongside and some being wholly funded externally. In each case, the Council will play a pivotal role in the development of the idea and the acquisition of the investment.
- 5.4 Multi-million pound programmes designed to improve the quality of our school buildings, bring Council Houses up to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard, improve the highway infrastructure of the County Borough, enhance the opportunities to lead a healthy lifestyle and create new and enhanced opportunities for businesses to thrive all feature within this programme.
- 5.5 Caerphilly's Wellbeing Objectives

In 2018, Council adopted a Corporate Plan which included six wellbeing objectives. The wellbeing objectives were set using intelligence and data from the Wellbeing

Assessment that was carried out to inform the Public Service Board's Wellbeing Plan. This exercise captured directly the concerns of our residents and the areas that they would like to see improved.

The wellbeing objectives cover the period 2018-2023 and are as follows:

- **Wellbeing Objective 1** – Improve education opportunities for all
- **Wellbeing Objective 2** – Enabling employment
- **Wellbeing Objective 3** – Address the supply, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people's health and wellbeing
- **Wellbeing Objective 4** – Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impacts on the environment
- **Wellbeing Objective 5** – Creating a County Borough that supports a Healthy Lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- **Wellbeing Objective 6** – Support citizens to remain independent and improve their wellbeing

5.6 Wellbeing and Place Shaping Investment 2017-2020

During the period 2017-2020, the Council was able to facilitate investment totalling in excess of £153m across its communities and the six wellbeing objectives. Some of the most significant of these schemes, with investments exceeding £100k, are summarised by wellbeing objective in the table below.

Image 1 – Selection of some of the most significant approved investments 2020-2023



Table 1 – Historic Wellbeing and Place Shaping Investment 2017-2020

WBO1	£	Example Investments
	8.075m	Idris Davies 3-18 Primary Phase
	2.000m	9 Classroom Extension and lift at Newbridge Comprehensive
	2.000m	Blackwood Comprehensive refurbishment programme Band A
	1.800m	Expansion of Welsh Medium @ Ysgol Y Castell
	1.340m	Band A Trinity Fields Phase 1 complete refurbishment
	0.865m	3G Pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive
WBO2	£	Example Investments
	0.300m	Tiryberth Depot full site upgrade
	0.392m	Vacate Ty Duffryn (enabling Transcend to start up)
WB03	£	Example Investments
	100.9m	Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) Works
	6.250m	Lansbury Park EW1 Scheme
	4.200m	POBL Investment in Mill Street, Risca
	3.900m	WHQS Environmental Works
	2.500m	ARBED Scheme Lansbury Park
	2.015m	Property Acquisitions
	1.920m	Non Traditional Property Improvement Works
	1.100m	Pontlottyn Energy Works
	1.100m	Energy Conservation (I Park)
	1.000m	Gilfach Energy Works
	0.692m	Preparation of Pontllanfraith Civic Site for Housing
	0.300m	Homeless Accommodation at Maes Y Derwyn
	0.200m	Homeless Accommodation at Idris Davies House
	0.126m	Property Conversions
WB04	£	Example Investments
	7.938m	Pwllypant Roundabout
	0.450m	Infrastructure delivered at Ty Du
	0.407m	Active Travel – Ystrad Mynach to Nelson
WB05	£	Example Investments
	0.810m	Cwmcarn Adventures play area/new lodges
	0.485m	Rowan Place Environmental Enhancement
	0.182m	Upgrade works to Newbridge Leisure Centre
WB06	£	Example Investments
	0.154m	Caerphilly Leisure Centre Health Suite Upgrades
	0.120m	Extension Hafod Deg Rhymney

Many of these capital investments also bring with them wider benefits than the creation of the new asset itself. Taking the development of the new primary phase at Idris Davies 3-18 as an example, the following benefits have also been identified beyond the £8m capital investment in the school building:

- 98% of the build workforce were from Wales
- 76% of project spend was within Wales
- 82% of the build sub-contractors were Welsh

- 100% were SMEs
- 233 weeks of employment were created (13 people in total) during the build
- 132 weeks training provided

Taking the wider socio-economic benefits of this nature into consideration, many of which are in the Councils gift to deliver, the level of investment outlined in section 5.7 and 5.8 below should be seen only as a baseline for the development of wider community or social benefits.

5.7 Wellbeing and Place Shaping Investment 2020-2023 (With Approval)

During the period 2020-2023, a significant amount of further investment is being made across Caerphilly. So far, project approvals have been received totalling over £129m across the six wellbeing objectives. The most significant of these projects are summarised in the table below.

Image 2 – Selection of some of the most significant approved investments 2020-2023



Table 2 = Wellbeing and Place Shaping Approved Projects 2020-2023

WBO1	£	Example Investments
	6.400m	Expansion of Welsh Medium Provision
	6.000m	EdTech (Hwb) Programme
	5.000m	WG School Capital Maintenance Grant Works
	5.000m	Childcare Grant (WG)
	1.400m	CCBC Capital Maintenance Grant Works (each year)
	1.340m	Band A Refurbishment at Trinity Fields
	0.755m	Oakdale Running Track
	0.751m	Increase Capacity at Ysgol Penallta
	0.500m	Extension at Ystrad Mynach Primary School
	0.442m	Glan y Nant PRU Extension
	0.306m	New 3G pitches at Lewis Pengam, YGCR and St Cenydd
WBO2	£	Example Investments
	13.00m	Acquisition, demolition and redevelopment of Pentrebane Street Caerphilly with Linc Cymru
	10.00m (of which £0.4m relates to Specsavers)	Specsavers Building demolished to facilitate longer term development of a Hotel in Park Lane Caerphilly

	7.000m	Oakdale Housing Development including a new local allotment facility
	3.900m	Ty Du Starter Units
	2.900m	15 x new start-ups at Lawn Industrial estate
	1.360m	Targeted Regeneration Initiative (TRI) in Property Enhancement
	0.200m	New Coach Pull in at Caerphilly Castle
WB03	£	Example Investments
	40.00m	Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) Works
	10.00m	Chartist Gardens Development
	4.000m	WHQS Environmental Works
	3.000m	Remodelling of two sheltered housing schemes
	1.800m	Lansbury Park Energy Work
	1.000m	Non Traditional Property Improvements (Bedwas)
	1.000m	Bedwellty School and Field Redevelopment
	0.500m	Ty Bedwellty - New Build (Section 106)
WB04	£	Example Investments
	0.489m	Active Travel in Caerphilly
	0.150m	Trecenydd Footbridge Improvement
WB05	£	Example Investments
	0.550m	Newbridge Leisure Centre Enhancements
	0.465m	Longbridge Baths Demolition and changing room enhancement
WB06	£	Example Investments
	6.387m	Hafodyrynys Demolished/Road Realigned
	1.500m	Completion and Opening of new Caerphilly basin cemetery at Nantgarw
	1.000m	Cwmcarn Forest Drive Improvements
	0.800m	Penallta CA Site Extension & Re-use Shop
	0.705m	Therapeutic Fostering Services MYST
	0.115m	Cwmcarn Café Refurbishment

5.8 Proposed Wellbeing and Place Shaping Investment 2020-onwards

During the period 2020-2023 and beyond, the Council wishes to develop and implement a Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework that builds on the investment made to date and seeks to help Caerphilly's communities become great places to live now, as well as having the potential to thrive in the future, as they emerge from the Covid pandemic.

The draft Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework summarised below includes a wide range of projects that could, should they prove acceptable to the relevant decision-making body, deliver significant further investments and a range of enhanced facilities across the communities of Caerphilly.

The draft Framework has been developed through consultation with Heads of Service, Corporate Management Team and Cabinet and has also been shaped through the insight generated by the Caerphilly Conversation Questionnaire.

It should be noted that these projects are currently only proposals at present. The development and progression of each project will be subject to relevant consultation and engagement; where necessary the development and scrutiny of robust business cases, and the necessary financial investment being in place and having received approval. There may also be occasions where planning permission will also be required prior to a project developing.

The Framework as a whole will form part of an ongoing engagement programme with the communities of Caerphilly that will provide stakeholders with the potential to add in further projects, as well as refine or remove projects that already exist within the Framework.

Should the proposed projects below ultimately be taken forward, investment in excess of £231m will be forthcoming into the county borough which will support a wide range of enhancements across all six wellbeing objectives.

Table 3 – Draft Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework 2021 - onwards

WBO1	£	Proposed Investments
	35.00m	Upper Rhymney Valley Potential development of mixed-use facilities, including a combination of education / leisure / housing and employment usage
	20.00m	Secondary School Investment Secondary School investment yet to be determined and subject to ongoing review.
	12.70m	Trinity Fields Expansion including Children's Centre Expansion of the existing Trinity Fields School to support 80 additional places and the provision of state of the art facilities for our most vulnerable pupils that are capable of meeting learning, social and medical needs, as well as the creation of facilities for integrated working across Education, Social Services and Health.and the provision of opportunities for childcare, outdoor space and community use.
	9.50m	Cwm Gwyddon development on former Cwmcarn High site The project will provide fit for purpose childcare, a 16 place Special Resource Base and will increase educational provision and capacity of the school from 220 to 420 primary plus nursery.
	8.900m	New School Build at Plas Y Felin Creation of a new state of the art Plas-y-Felin Primary School on the grounds of the existing site to include community use of the facility
	5.500m	New School Build (Gilfach and Park Primary) Amalgamation of Gilfach Fargoed Primary and Park Primary on a new build school site, working towards a net zero carbon school

	5.500m	Centre for Vulnerable Learners (CVL) at Pontllanfraith (Old Pont Grammar School site) Create a centre of excellence for vulnerable learners from across Caerphilly equipped with high quality learning opportunities, indoor and outdoor sporting provision as well as access to first class support. The Centre will reduce the need to outsource support for learners to private providers and will enable community use of the facilities outside of school hours.
	4.200m	New Welsh Medium Primary Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen The creation of a new Welsh Medium Primary school to accommodate the catchment area for Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen.
	4.200m	New Upper Rhymney Primary School A new build replacement for Upper Rhymney Primary, site to be determined.
	4.000m	New Primary School at Llancaeath / Llanfabon Amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School to create a new Primary School to include community use of the facility
	2.000m	Expansion of St. James Primary Primary expansion subject to demand.
	0.500m	Investment into the existing Idris Davies 3-18 site to accommodate possible reconfiguration of primary schools.
	0.400m	Relocation of YGG Gilfach Fargoed to the current Park Primary school site. This will require an element of refurbishment.
	0.260m	3G Pitch at Idris Davies School Establish a 3G pitch supporting rugby & football within the existing school site.
	0.200m	Relocation of Ysgol y Lawnt to possible new site.
	0.065m	Education facility at Virginia Park Modification of the now acquired Virginia Park Golf Club building to provide a base for the Youth Service and a community asset
WBO2	£	Proposed Investments
	1.500m	Expansion of employment opportunities at Oakdale Work with WG to expand the employment opportunities at Oakdale.
	TBC	AD Renewable Scheme Bryn/Tredomen Explore the opportunity to make a direct wire connection between Tredomen and the AD plant to receive electricity from the AD at a more attractive rate than direct from the grid.

	0.150m	Expand Existing Country Park Tea Room Offer Seek to pilot an expanded Country Park tea room offer to include other Country Park sites
	TBC	Industrial / employment Proposals Develop proposals for improving and enhancing the offer at sites across the county borough, such as Capital Valley
WB03	£	Proposed Investments
	35.00m	New Build housing investment programme across the county borough following the conclusion of the WHQS programme.
	3.500m	New Build Opportunities - The Crescent, Treceenydd and Llanfabon Drive, Bedwas (16 units altogether)
	1.500m	Completion of Arbed work at Lansbury Park
WB04	£	Proposed Investments
	17.00m	Decarbonisation Strategy Approve strategy and progress projects such as Cwm Ifor Solar Farm (£17m).
	4.000m	Ystrad Mynach Park & Ride 113 Spaces Proposed extension of the existing Park & Ride facility to promote greater modal shift and support the development proposals from the emerging LDP
	2.500m	County borough Wide Highways investment Maintenance and upgrade of the highway infrastructure and improvements in road condition across Caerphilly
	1.600m	Vehicle Replacement Programme Replace and upgrade front line Council vehicles including, wherever possible, a move to ELV to ensure key services can be maintained. The replacement programme also links to the Council's Decarbonisation Strategy
	0.950m	A469 New Tredegar/ Pontlottyn Investigation work and ongoing design plus some maintenance work with investment spent by end of March 2021. Longer term planning for route will be considered following the investigation work.
	0.590m	Introduction of cycle lanes across the county borough Seek to increase the number of cycle lanes in support of SARS, Active Travel agenda and climate change
	0.511m	Further Active Travel – Ystrad Mynach to Penallta Delivery of an Active Travel route between Ystrad Mynach and Cwm Calon (Penallta) which will include the crossing of a railway line.
	0.400m	Town Centre Traffic Calming

		Introduction of Town Centre Traffic calming measures with some projects commenced as part of Covid WG grant award
	0.300m	Caerphilly Transport Interchange Development of local active travel routes/network to support the Caerphilly town placemaking agenda, focusing on developing improvement options between the interchange, business park and Lansbury Park.
	0.300m	Car Park Improvements Introduce Tap and Go Payment machines at public car parks while removing car park charging at Caerphilly's Country Parks. Removing charging at Country Parks links to the Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy.
	Awaiting Grant Award	Active Travel Possible Active Travel in Greater Blackwood. A range of schemes to be developed.
	TBC	Llanbradach Park and Ride Seek funding from WG to Introduce a Park and Ride Scheme for Llanbradach
	0.040m	Clean Roundabouts Scheme Build on existing roundabout sponsorship scheme.
	TBC	Improve Flood Defences Design and implement a series of flood defence schemes across the County Borough.
WB05	£	Proposed Investments
	36.00m	Caerphilly Basin Potential development of a key brownfield site within Caerphilly town centre for mixed use facilities, including a combination of education / leisure / housing and employment usage
	1.200m	Penallta Visitors Centre
	1.000m	Canal Improvement Works at Risca Undertake Canal Improvement Works at Risca
	0.500m	County Borough Gateway Enhancement works for 2020/21.
	0.350m	Climate Change - Work to Ty Penallta Rooftop PV arrays on Tredomen Campus buildings and additional EV changing points on campus
	0.328m	Community Empowerment Fund Create a fund through which elected members, community groups and organisations can bid for funding to deliver improvements within the locality

	0.400m	Create the Foundations of a Community Sporting Hub at Sue Noake Leisure Centre Replace the ATP at Sue Noake with a state of the art ATP Hockey Hub as well as creating a new senior Rugby Pitch and enhancing the existing Rugby Pitch at the Centre.
	0.200m	Caerphilly Premier Parks Programme (CPPP) Create a Premier Parks Programme that provides a number of attractive public walks and outdoor spaces where residents can take exercise and get fresh air. CPPP to include Morgan Jones Park, Sirhowy Walk, Waunfawr Park, Ystrad Mynach Park, Bargoed Park, the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal as well as Cwmcarn Forest Drive and Parc Cwm Darran
	0.150m	Park Lane, Caerphilly Explore possibility of opening up as a pop up market with benches / gardens or to open the land to the Dafydd Williams Park for tourists/residents.
	0.080m	Green Flag Status Seek Green Flag status for Risca Canal - Crumlin Arm and Penallta Country Park. This will require some infrastructure improvements, increased maintenance, additional bins and benches as well as tree planting and painting of existing rails and barriers.
	0.020m	Town Cleansing Programme Key towns to be deep cleaned and weeded in advance of the summer months
	TBC	Park Run Sites Active promotion of park run sites across Caerphilly
WB06	£	Proposed Investments
	4.160m	Development of a new purpose-built Respite Centre facility at Pontllanfraith with the potential to deliver respite services from a single location serving the whole county borough
	4.620m	Integrated Health Facility - Ty Darren (Health Centre/element of Housing) to include an additional financial contribution from ABUHB

5.9 Ongoing Place Shaping Engagement Programme

The Place Shaping Engagement Programme will build upon the principles within the council's Consultation and Engagement Framework and the draft projects and ideas set out within section 5.8.

The principles of the Consultation and Engagement Framework were endorsed by Cabinet in February 2020 and include:

- Empowering our residents to have greater influence over the issues that affect them
- Increasing and strengthening the role of communities in how we live, work and visit Caerphilly county borough
- Helping us to understand the needs of our communities, which in turn, will help to ensure the services we deliver meet those needs, and that available resources are used effectively and in line with agreed priorities
- Supporting communities to take action, by helping them identify needs and support them in developing community led solutions.

The council has recently conducted a comprehensive resident survey entitled 'The Caerphilly Conversation'. The Caerphilly Conversation sought views on a wide range of areas including satisfaction with council services, our collective response to the COVID-19 pandemic and views on areas such as education, housing, the local economy and climate change. The findings from that consultation exercise are a very useful contributor to the emerging Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework which is framed in section 5.8.

Caerphilly – 'A Place for Everyone'

The Place Shaping Engagement Programme – 'A Place for Everyone' will build upon the stakeholder engagement carried out to date and will focus on developing strengthened, ongoing relationships between our residents and public services – to help forge a greater understanding of community needs and aspirations for the future.

The programme will seek to develop a shared vision for the type of place our residents want to live in and the collective role that everyone has to play in achieving this.

The following will be key components of the programme:

- Ongoing training and development for councillors and key council staff around community involvement and co-production of services
- Making optimum use of the council's existing network of staff who have regular, ongoing trusted dialogue with residents
- Mapping of community assets at individual ward level to build upon the council's existing consultation/engagement network– particularly focussing on hard to reach groups
- Ongoing community and council led projects badged as 'Team Caerphilly in Action' which aim to encourage ongoing dialogue, provide feedback and further build community capacity
- The opportunity to use the enhanced stakeholder mapping to gather regular insights on key service areas – including education, regeneration and quality of life issues.
- Regular 'pulse checking' residents surveys to ensure the Council is delivering on its key objectives and highlighting opportunities to refine its approaches.

- A cyclical programme of councillor and officer led community engagement, at individual council ward level. The discussions will focus initially on a number of areas and will take place across a number of platforms. These will include:
 - community pride
 - identity
 - community need
 - identification of gaps
 - what is important to our communities in living full and prosperous lives

As part of this cyclical programme, existing projects can be considered and potentially refined while also providing the platform for additional project ideas to be added into the Framework.

This ongoing approach to community engagement is not intended to replace individual, formal consultation processes specific to particular projects or schemes; rather it is intended to facilitate solid, ongoing, long-term dialogue with our communities where relationships are valued and trust earned, and will support those more formal consultation and engagement processes as required.

5.10 Conclusion

Over the paragraphs above, investment in excess of £485m has been outlined. Some of this has been made over prior years, but a significant proportion can be used to shape Caerphilly's future over coming years.

The Wellbeing and Place Shaping proposals set out within 5.8 provide the makings of a significant investment into the future of the county borough from an economic, social and environmental perspective and the engagement programme set out from section 5.9 onwards sets out the mechanism by which key stakeholders can directly shape the programme with the Council as it is developed. This provides an essential route-map for our communities to build a resilient and sustainable future as they emerge from the Covid pandemic.

Should Cabinet agree the Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework set out within 5.8 it will be agreeing to invest significantly in its communities, at a key moment in the recovery of our communities from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The potential benefits the Framework can provide in developing, improving and refreshing infrastructure and assets from across Caerphilly should not be underestimated. Sustained investment of this size and scale can help strengthen the local economy, increase community resilience and bring jobs and opportunities.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 It is assumed that the current and future economic landscape will be sufficiently viable for the projects proposed within section 5.8 to be progressed.
- 6.2 Should specific projects ultimately prove unviable; it is assumed that it would be possible to divert the funding in support of other Place Shaping projects.

- 6.3 The delivery of the Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework at pace and scale is critical and its success will be limited without the additional senior management and project management capacity referenced in section 11.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 7.1 Caerphilly's Wellbeing Objectives 2018 to 2023. This proposal will assist the Council in meeting all six of its stated wellbeing objectives:

- **Wellbeing Objective 1** – Improve education opportunities for all
- **Wellbeing Objective 2** – Enabling employment
- **Wellbeing Objective 3** – Address the supply, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people's health and wellbeing
- **Wellbeing Objective 4** – Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impacts on the environment
- **Wellbeing Objective 5** – Creating a County Borough that supports a Healthy Lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- **Wellbeing Objective 6** – Support citizens to remain independent and improve their wellbeing

- 7.2 The Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework also aligns specifically with the Council's:

- Team Caerphilly – Better Together
- Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-2029
- 21st Century Schools Band B Programme 2019-2026
- Shared Ambitions Strategy 2019-2022
- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- A Foundation for Success 2018-2023
- SE Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan 2015
- Covid Strategic Recovery Framework 2020
- Communications and Engagement Strategy 2019-2022

8. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 8.1 The Wellbeing of Future Generation (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:

- 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.

8.2 The Act sets out the sustainable development principle against which all public bodies in Wales should assess their decision-making. The aim of the legislation is to ensure the wellbeing of future generations through maximising the contribution public bodies make towards the wellbeing goals. In using the sustainable development principle, it is incumbent that the Council considers the whole of the population it serves and considers the effect of its actions on future generations. The principle, also known as the five ways of working is assessed below:

- **Long Term** – The Place Shaping Framework is a multi-year investment into a wide range of new facilities that hold the potential to benefit the community as whole as well as contributing to all six of the Council’s wellbeing objectives.
- **Prevention** – The provision of new and in many cases, state of the art facilities and programmes holds the potential to support a multitude of preventative work across the Borough.
- **Integration** – The Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework is designed in order to integrate directly with the Council’s own Wellbeing Objectives and those agreed by the Public Service Board.
- **Collaboration** – Many of the programmes within the Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework will require integration across Council Directorates as well as key partners from the public, private and third sectors.
- **Involvement** – It is proposed that the Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework is underpinned by an ongoing engagement programme entitled ‘Caerphilly – a place for everyone’ that will provide the opportunity for key stakeholders to be directly engaged in the future of the Framework. Each project within the draft Framework will also be underpinned by a consultation and engagement exercise.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Equalities Implications will differ significantly across each project within the draft Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework. With this in mind, the equalities implications of each of the proposed projects will need to be addressed as part of the project development and delivery mechanisms.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework is an ambitious programme that will require large scale investment. The funding of the projects will involve a combination of approaches with some being funded directly through council resources, some through external funding alongside a match-funding requirement for the council and some wholly funded externally.

10.2 As certain projects are developed into business cases for consideration, the detailed financial implications will need to be considered in accordance with the Council’s

Constitution and Financial Standing Orders. Wherever possible, one of the key drivers in the development of business cases will be to lever in funding from grants and/or external partners.

- 10.3 At its meeting on the 29th January 2020, Cabinet approved a recommendation to earmark £24.543m from useable reserves for the Place Shaping Framework. In addition to this at its meeting on the 20th February 2020, Council approved further funding for the Place Shaping Framework totalling £4.048m from 2020/21 savings in advance and a surplus balance on the General Fund. This brings the total approved funding to date to £28.591m.
- 10.4 Cabinet is asked to approve a further recommendation that funding of £1.640m held in the 2020/21 Miscellaneous Finance Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) budget should also be allocated to the Place Shaping Framework, which would increase the total funding available to £30.231m.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 In order to deliver an investment programme of this size and scale, the delivery of the Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework has been identified as a core priority for Council's Leadership team. To complement this focus, a growth bid has been put forward as part of the 2021/22 budget which will be considered by Council in February 2021 to appoint additional resources.
- 11.2 The growth bid seeks to secure the permanent employment of the previously fixed term transformation resources as well as the creation of a new permanent Head of Transformation and a new permanent Head of Prosperity.
- 11.3 The Framework will also be supplemented by the acquisition of four fixed term project management resources and the creation of a project management office to support the delivery of this wide-ranging transformation programme of investments.
- 11.4 This additional resource, coupled with the existing corporate leadership team focus, will enable the Council's "TeamCaerphilly" wider transformation programme to be further embedded and progressed at the necessary pace. The Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework is a pivotal element of this overall programme of investment and change. If the bid for additional resources is not supported by Council as part of the 2021/22 budget, the Placeshaping framework will not be able to delivered at the desired pace and scale and the programme will need to be "scaled back" to align with any existing resources that are available..

12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 The draft report was distributed as detailed below. All comments received have been reflected in this version of the report.

13. STATUTORY POWER

- 13.1 Various Local Government legislation including the Local Government Acts 1972, 2000 and 2003, and the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

Author: Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive

Consultees: Cllr Philippa Marsden, Leader
Cllr Sean Morgan, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise
Cllr Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member for Performance and Customer Services
Cllr Ross Whiting, Cabinet Member for Learning and Achievement
Cllr John Ridgewell, Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure
Cllr Colin Gordon, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
Cllr Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Waste and Public Protection
Cllr Lisa Phipps, Cabinet Member for Housing and Property
Cllr Shayne Cook, Cabinet Member for Social Care
Dave Street, Corporate Director for Social Care and Housing
Ed Edmunds, Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services
Mark S Williams, Interim Corporate Director for Communities
Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Cllr Colin Mann, Leader of the Plaid Cymru Group
Cllr Kevin Etheridge, Leader of the Independent Group