

## **VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUB-COMMITTEE – 19TH SEPTEMBER 2012**

**SUBJECT: DIGEST OF CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE & ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF GAVO**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report from Caerphilly CBC contains a digest of committee reports containing items of interest for the voluntary sector. If there are reports of particular interest Members can request the committee report author to attend a future meeting of the Voluntary Sector Committee to prepare a further report/take questions.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 A quarterly summary of Caerphilly CBC committee reports selected as they contain areas of interest for the voluntary sector.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 All Caerphilly CBC reports relate to aspects of the Caerphilly County Borough Community Strategy.

### **4. THE REPORT**

- 4.1 The following reports have been selected as having particular interest on voluntary sector issues (note Members can request a full hard copy of any of the reports included) :-

#### **4.2 REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 17.07.2012**

##### **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT - THE ROLE OF SCRUTINY**

Mr. Colin Jones, Head of Performance and Property, opened proceedings by saying that this was the first of two meetings held each year to carry out a forward looking review of corporate arrangements to support improvement and retrospectively assess improvement in services.

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, states each local authority has to have effective arrangements in place to secure improvement. A number of organisations, in particular the Wales Audit Office (WAO), monitor the progress made by each authority. Additionally, the WAO publish an Annual Improvement Report, which tells the public how each local authority is performing. Members were advised that a Wales Audit Officer had attended the last Health, Social Care and Well Being Scrutiny Committee to observe how the Authority challenged itself and held local decision and policy makers to account. Positive feedback was received and the Officer had stated that he had been impressed with the level of scrutiny shown at CCBC.

Specific key areas are chosen, selected from both local performance measures, by heads of service, and National measures, as prescribed from the Performance Indicator Guidance for Wales. Data is collated using the Performance Information Measurement System (PIMS - Ffynnon), and extracted from the PIMS scorecard on a regular basis for analysis. The Head of Performance and Property attends Corporate Management Team meetings to keep everyone abreast of developments and challenges.

Members were informed that Cabinet identifies the key Improvement Objectives and publishes a 3 - 4 year Improvement Plan. This is revised annually to ensure its relevance. Mr. Jones highlighted that the Authority has seen significant improvement in its performance and showed an example of that improvement in the national performance indicators since 2007/2008. In addition, a 3 yearly Outcome Agreement is agreed with the Welsh Government. Improvements made ensured that the Authority received grants of £5.4m over a 3 year period, as all targets had been met in the last 6 years. In closing, Members were introduced to Ffynnon and advised of their role in performance management. The Chairman thanked the officer for his presentation and welcomed comments and questions from Members. Mr. Jones confirmed that the local performance indicators were management driven.

## **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER**

Councillor R. Davies, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning, gave a verbal report to Members and made reference to the following:

**Bargoed** – the multiplex cinema tender, worth £5M, has gone out and there are currently nine potential operators. Phase 2 works were completed in February with the contractor currently completing any outstanding defects on the contract. Phases 3 and 4 (Hanbury Road and Hanbury Square) are currently out to tender. The successful contractor will commence in July and the £3 million scheme will be implemented within a 10-month contract - with completion expected in May 2013.

The Go2Bargoed project that promotes local products, services and events to the community, offers businesses up to 50 per cent financial support towards the cost of a new website or ecommerce website to generate online sales.

**Caerphilly** – the resurfacing project at Owain Glyndwr sports field was successfully completed last weekend and it is now ready for future events. The building on the site of the new library has been demolished but the stonework has been saved and will be incorporated into the new façade. Events in the town centre will be held on 26th May, to coincide with the Olympic torch being carried through the town.

**Cwmcarn** – increased charges in the café has addressed its financial shortfall following an audit of rates and a new charging regime. While it was an unpleasant decision, it will help with future regeneration projects.

**Newbridge** - Phase 1 of the public realm enhancements commenced in January 2012 and will run until October 2012. The refurbishment of the listed Institute and Memo also commenced in January and will run until December 2012. The restoration of the adjoining Memorial Hall will commence January 2013 and run until December 2013.

**Apprenticeships** – CCBC is the only local authority in Wales to have its own trainee scheme. In the first 6 months, more than 150 young people have benefitted from the Traineeship Scheme. The Authority is working with Caerphilly Business Forum and Jobcentre Plus to develop support for local businesses, which will help them to recruit local people in apprenticeship roles.

**Communities First** - Applications for the proposed cluster areas were submitted at the end of March. As a result of criteria changes, each cluster area must provide a detailed delivery plan, a community involvement plan, specific project development plans, proposed staff structures and a financial spreadsheet before 29th June 2012.

Members thanked the Cabinet Member for his presentation and congratulations were given for recent and ongoing regeneration projects.

## **HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 10TH JULY 2012**

### **SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

To update the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the progress of remodelling services for Children with Disabilities in Caerphilly County Borough Council. To update the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the progress of the Children's Services Occupational Therapists Integration with Health Occupational Therapists. On the 15th February 2011 a report was provided to the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee seeking support to progress the re-design of services for Children with Disabilities in Caerphilly County Borough Council. The Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee gave approval to progress the re-design of services for children with disabilities living in Caerphilly County Borough Council with agreement that any savings made would be reinvested to both improve and extend service provision for children with complex and significant disabilities and their families including children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, with a further update on the re-design as requested being presented to the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the 25th October 2011.

In June 2011 a service specification was drawn up between the Occupational Therapy (OT) Directorate for the new Aneurin Bevan Health Board and the Children's Division of Caerphilly County Borough Council that sought to clarify both the operational management and the professional leadership and supervision arrangements that underpin the delivery of an integrated occupational therapy assessment and treatment service as part of the overall service provision for children with disabilities and developmental difficulties living in the borough of Caerphilly.

In order to ensure progression of this re-design an Implementation Group and Project Board have been set up. There are three parent representatives on both the Children's with Disability Implementation Group and Project Board. These parents have brought a fresh insight from a parental perspective, which has been extremely useful in the planning for these services. Parents and carers have continued to indicate high levels of satisfaction with current services and Children's Services will continue to enhance those services that are currently provided.

Over the last 5 years, the Directorate of Social Services has evidenced a change in the needs of children with disabilities, with an increase in complex disabilities including highly challenging behaviour amongst those children diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and children with a Learning Disability.

Children's Services reviewed the services currently provided, which can broadly be grouped into the following five areas:-

- Family Link short break foster care service
- Blackwood Resource Centre short break residential care
- Early Years – Nursery provision and Community Based Pre-School Play
- Play and Leisure Services
- Shared Care

One of the proposed changes that has now been fully implemented is the new revised Children's with Disability Eligibility Criteria introduced in October 2011. This change in the Eligibility Criteria for the Children With Disability Team was as a direct result of views expressed by many parents and carers and now allows children with diagnosed ASD to access support and service provision through this specialist team.

From January 2012 to March 2012, 36 new referrals were received by the team, of these 9 referrals were in respect of children with diagnosed Autistic Spectrum Disorder. All referrals to Children With Disabilities Team continue to be monitored and further updates will be provided.

### **FAMILY LINK SHORT BREAK FOSTER CARE SERVICES**

This service provides respite through the provision of foster carers for children with disabilities. The Family Link Foster Care Service had been managed through a contract with Action for Children but following a review and evaluation of this service this resource has successfully transferred to the management of the Family Placement Team and the re-registration of the remaining foster carers was completed in October 2011. A part time social worker who has been recruited to manage the service has been in post since January 2012. Further development of the service is underway.

### **BLACKWOOD RESOURCE CENTRE**

Blackwood Resource Centre is a short break respite residential home established in 1998 and in the main offers residential short breaks to children with complex physical disabilities between the age of 5 and 18. It is fully equipped with specialised moving and handling equipment. The service is available at weekends and school holidays only and is currently managed under a contract with Action For Children. Although the service is run by Action For Children the building is owned by Caerphilly County Borough Council.

As previously agreed rather than going out to the external market via a tender for this service draft plans are now in place for Children's Services to transfer this service into Local Authority management. In doing this Children's Services plan to widen the use of this purpose built resource to enable it's use during the week as well as at weekends. The expansion of these services will be funded through savings made on central management charges that have been paid to Action for Children along with other savings made.

Children's Services will be managing this centre and plans are currently being looked at through multi-agency collaboration with the Aneurin Bevan Health Board around the possibility of jointly commissioning additional beds for respite use during the week.

Plans are currently being considered with the Health Board that will look at the possibility of re- modelling the use of some of the downstairs rooms into additional bedrooms and looking at a more flexible use of the centre during the week with the focus on ensuring that the children who attend Blackwood Resource Centre have an enjoyable experience whilst attending this resource.

### **NURSERY PROVISION/COMMUNITY BASED PLAY**

Plans have now advanced in respect of the current Early Years Nursery provision in Blackwood Resource Centre. Children's Services had financed this resource on a yearly basis for the last 3 years due to Action for Children being unable to continue to fund this resource. In consultation with parents it has been agreed that this nursery provision will be realigned by July 2012.

Children who need a service in the future will be offered a place in the fully equipped Children's Centre Early Years Nursery and will undergo a play assessment over a period of approximately six weeks in order to assess their suitability to be able to access community based play. Children with complex needs who are assessed as being unable to access this service will be offered a long-term place in the Children's Centre Nursery.

Children who are identified as being able to access community based play will be offered one to one support. This will mean that a nursery placement within the child's own community will be identified and they will be matched with their own individual support worker who will accompany them during the time in the resource.

Parents of the five children currently attending the Blackwood Resource Nursery and who will still need a placement in a nursery provision from September 2012 have been offered the opportunity of meeting with members of the Implementation Group to discuss this change and have also visited the Children's Centre Nursery to meet with the staff and see the facilities.

To date all of these parents have been extremely happy with what they have seen and have advised that they are more than happy for their children to make this move and to look at the suitability of their children being able to access community based play in their own communities. It is clear from consultation with parents that integration for their children within their own community is high on their agenda's. Good consultation and engagement has made this possible.

## **PLAY AND LEISURE**

Children Services provide services for children with disabilities to have play and leisure opportunities during the school holidays and weekends. Currently there are two-school holiday play provisions, one at the Action For Children Caerphilly Children's Centre for under 8's and at Trinity Fields School for over 8's. Both providers have developed a high degree of expertise. Support is also provided by the Paediatric Nursing Service to the Trinity Fields Holiday Play service to allow children who continually use medical equipment to attend.

Following a review of services the Directorate do not propose to change these services and will continue to fund provision with the current providers.

Having reviewed these services and streamlined some contracts more placements will be made available for children who need services or require additional sessions per month. Additional placements will be made available at the Saturday Club for less complex children and 3 placements available for very complex children in the specialist respite service. The expansion of these services are to be funded through a reduction of management charges and other costs at Trinity Fields.

## **SHARED CARE**

Shared Care has been contracted to Action For Children over 10 years and has a base within the Caerphilly Children's Centre. It consists of 2 distinct services: Sitting and Outreach.

Sitting is a domiciliary care service in the family home and is available mainly in the evenings and weekends. This provides the parents or carers with a short respite period every two weeks when they can do things within the home or go for short outings. At least 25 children are able to access this service. Due to their high needs a small group of 5 children receive a weekly service with 2 workers. The Service is registered under National Minimum Standards For Domiciliary Care Agencies In Wales and receives annual inspections.

Outreach is a leisure service for children and young people with disabilities which utilises community based resources but also makes use of facilities within the Children's Centre such as the hydro pool, play room and specialised trampoline. Children and young people can also elect to do community based activities like swimming, bowling, visits to the cinema and shopping. Young people also have the opportunity of developing independence skills by accessing community facilities like shops and cafes. Outreach provides a service for 35 children and young people once a fortnight.

20 additional shared care places will be contracted this financial year; this will mean that 10 additional sitting and 10 outreach places will now be available on top of the contracted places.

## **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY INTEGRATION**

Through the collaboration with the Health Board and the CCBC's Children's Services, an 'Integrated' occupational therapy service' has been established, which will ensure a joined up, seamless service approach to OT assessments and interventions. The benefit of creating an integrated service which will span health and social care boundaries and where possible provide a seamless service to children, young people and their families, include:-

- Improving professional development
- Providing Joint training and study days
- Joint OT meetings
- Improved communication on joint casework
- Cut down on duplication of work

Janet Kelly, Head of Occupational Therapy Services Aneurin Bevan Health Board met with the OT's in the Children with Disabilities Team for a half day in early January 2012 to discuss what 'integration' means and to look at some shared cases with a view to understanding their workload and finding a way forward with managing the work in a more integrated way.

At this meeting all agreed the following as a way forward:-

- Caerphilly Local Authority OTs to attend the all Gwent health and social care children's OT meeting in March 2012 and will now meet as a whole Gwent children's and young person's OT team on a bi-monthly basis. This meeting is specifically to discuss issues of working practice that are common to health and social care OTs.
- Janet Kelly to meet with Senior Occupational Therapy staff in the Children with Disabilities Team for ongoing professional supervision.
- Janet Kelly to meet with the Caerphilly health and social care OTs in April 2012 at the children's Centre to discuss joint working and shared casework and to begin the process of 'uniting' both teams into a 'single team' in terms of working practices.
- Janet Kelly would hold a workshop in May 2012 with health and LA OTs from across Gwent to progress the 'single team' approach to managing referrals and on-going workloads.

It is also envisaged that a single assessment form can be developed for OT services and that some assessments and delivery of service can be achieved by one OT rather than two.

## **CABINET – 17TH JULY 2012**

### **PROVISIONAL OUTTURN FOR 2011/12**

This report informs Members of the Provisional Revenue Outturn for the Authority for the financial year 2011/12. This information is provisional at this stage, as it is still subject to an annual audit by the Authority's External Auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers.

In advance of the Statement of Accounts being audited and presented to Council in late September, this report provides an overview of the Council's performance against the budget for the year. Members receive detailed budget monitoring reports as part of the Scrutiny process during the financial year.

In addition to achieving the planned one-off surpluses above, the outturn position overall demonstrates that the Authority is managing its finances well, with all Directorates spending within or very marginally over their budget provision. Where there was a marginal overspend this was forecast, reduced in year and funded by service reserves.

In accordance with the Budget Strategy for 2012/13 as agreed by Council on 23rd February 2012, the following surpluses have been transferred to a capital reserve for use in the capital programme for 12/13, 13/14 and 14/15:-

- Treasury Management Surplus £300k
- Insurance Fund Surplus £500k
- Job Evaluation (protected salaries) Surplus £350k
- Icelandic Impairment release £400k

A summary of the budget performance is covered in section 4 of this report. In respect of the General Fund, the forecast position for 2011/12 as reported to Council on 23rd February 2012 was £11.05m. The actual position for 2011/12 is £12.2m, a variance of £1.2m to forecast. The main variances to forecast are:-

- Increased contribution from Service areas £944k
- Council Tax surplus higher than the projected £1m £256k

Members are reminded that Council agreed to take £1m out of General Fund balances in 2012/13 to support the capital programme. Hence General Fund balances currently stand at £11.2m. This is 3.8% of revenue budget spend.

## **CABINET - 17TH JULY 2012**

### **NEWBRIDGE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP – CAPITAL RECEIPTS**

To seek Cabinet approval for the transfer of the remaining £100,543.17 of the ring fenced capital sales receipts from the sale of land at Newbridge, to Newbridge Partnership's newly opened bank account.

Cabinet considered an exempt report on 26th February 2002, which recommended that Cabinet approve the ring fencing of the capital receipts from the sale of land at the Newbridge 'gateway' site to support bids by members of the Newbridge Partnership to implement the Newbridge Action Plan. Newbridge Partnership now seeks Cabinet approval to transfer the remaining £100,543.17 of the capital receipts to their bank account.

Newbridge has been recognised as a strategically important town in the 'mid valleys / A472 Corridor'. Newbridge has been recognised as a district centre in the 2003 UDP and as a 'Key Settlement' in the LDP. The Newbridge Town Centre Action Plan provides a comprehensive framework for the regeneration of Newbridge town centre.

Following the Cabinet decision in February 2002 ring fenced money has been used to part fund the new 'super bridge', the creation of a floodlit training pitch at Newbridge RFC, a contribution towards the CCTV along the bridge, new cricket nets for the Cricket club and a large landscaping improvements at Parry Square.

Whilst the ring fenced monies were allocated to the Partnership they couldn't receive the monies at that time because they didn't have a bank account. It would now be more appropriate for them to hold the money and have the authority to distribute it themselves, thus empowering them to support local projects that are in line with the priorities of the Newbridge Action Plan. Any decision on spend would be made with support of both Urban Renewal and Community Regeneration.

## **MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY AND LEISURE SERVICES**

To seek approval for revised management arrangements relating to Leisure Services to match the new Cabinet portfolio for Community and Leisure Services.

At the Annual General Meeting on the 24th May the Leader of the Council outlined the responsibilities of all Cabinet Members. This included a new portfolio of Community and Leisure Services.

This report recommends proposals to unify management responsibility for Community and Leisure Services within the Environment Directorate.

The Leisure and Sport Caerphilly Service plays a crucial role in the delivery of a number of National & Corporate Strategies. These include creating an active Wales, Climbing Higher, Play Sufficiency, Vision for Sport in Wales and the new Community Sport Strategy.

There are currently a number of Leisure related services that sit under two managers within the Lifelong Learning & Leisure area. The departure of the current Leisure Business Development Manager presents an opportunity to unify service delivery across Leisure and relevant sports development activities while also achieving financial savings.

The current Leisure and Community Development Service Structures consists of a diverse range of services. Whilst it is appropriate that responsibility for Community Focussed Schools and PE and Sport in Schools should remain with the portfolio holder for Education and Lifelong Learning the following changes to management responsibility are proposed:

- Leisure, Sports development and exercise referral be delivered through a single Leisure Service reporting to the current Head of Public Services.
- The Healthy Schools Officers join the Health Improvement Team within Public Protection.
- The Arts Service and Blackwood Miners Institute are managed within Regeneration and Planning through the same mechanisms as Llancaiach Fawr and the Winding House.
- Appendix 1 describes the existing and proposed structures across Leisure Business Development and Community Development and the proposed changes.

The following recommendations to take effect from 1st August 2012:-

That the PE and School Sport function remains within the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate.

That Connecting Communities (formerly Community Focussed Schools) is retained with the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate and delivered through Community Education.

That Leisure and Sports Development Services are merged and moved to the existing Public Services Division.

That the Public Services Division is re-designated as the Community & Leisure Services Division and the Head of Public Services title is changed accordingly.

That the Healthy Schools function is returned to the Public Protection Division.

That the Arts Service and Blackwood Miners Institute are managed within Regeneration and Planning through the same delivery arrangements as Llancaiach Fawr and the Winding House.

## **REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 17TH JULY 2012**

### **PUBLIC FACILITIES GRANT BY WELSH GOVERNMENT**

To inform Members of the availability of the Public Facilities Grant from the Welsh Government and how this can assist with increased Public Convenience Provision across the county borough.



As Members will appreciate there has been a general decline in the number of Public Conveniences provided by Local Authorities over the past decade. This Authority, together with many others has decommissioned unsuitable and costly buildings so we can concentrate our limited resources on a lesser number of better quality facilities.

The Welsh Government had recognised the problems faced by Local Authorities regarding the provision of suitable and sufficient Public Conveniences and has made a Public Facilities Grant available to increase the number of facilities available.

The Public Facilities Grant Scheme benefits Local Government and the Public as residents have free access to toilet facilities while businesses and other bodies receive cash to help them keep their facilities in good order.

The Public Facilities Grant has been available to all Welsh Local Authorities for the past 2 years and provides funding of up to £17,500 per annum for Authorities to sign up businesses in their area. The funding provides a £500 annual grant to each property if the business owners allow the public access to the toilet facilities they already provide at their premises.

There are quite strict qualifying criteria to obtain the grant such as signage, opening times, facilities available etc. and in the past there has been limited interest by local businesses in Caerphilly County Borough.

As stated above in the past two years there has been very little take up with the scheme despite sending letters to those properties deemed suitable and some canvassing work being undertaken in our main town centres by the Town Centre Management Team.

Towards the latter end of 2011/12 and after consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member it was resolved that we may get a better response if properties were paid a personal visit by officers from the Public Services division and a concerted campaign was launched to try and sign up as many of the 35 grant fundable properties as possible for 2012/13.

In excess of one hundred properties were visited/contacted during the campaign and whilst there was some initial interest it took several additional visits to persuade the property owners to participate. During this exercise officers were mindful to try and get a good geographical split of properties covering as many of our towns and villages as possible across the county borough the majority of the county borough is now covered. Unfortunately there may be a couple of areas/villages that are not covered and this is either because there were no suitable properties or there were no properties interested in participating in the scheme.

Participating properties were required to sign a "Public Facilities Grant" Contract. All properties participating in the scheme have now been included on a dedicated page (Community Facilities link on Public Convenience Page – link attached) on our Web –site <http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/site.aspx?s=kcMnpkpDDtMG8JxU6n/b+2HXaZlu1iHi5HWREuZKs1OdMZ4HmBZVLQ==> and have appropriate signage detailing opening hours and facilities available.

## **REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17TH JULY 2012**

### **CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND STRATEGY 2012 – 2017**

To consider the Draft Caerphilly County Borough Council Heritage Lottery Fund Strategy 2012– 2017 as a strategic framework for supporting bids by the Council and other bodies for Heritage Lottery Funding.

The Strategy identifies a number of heritage projects within Caerphilly county borough through which the Council and its partners will seek to conserve, sustain and share the county borough's heritage for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Strategy aims to increase community participation, access to and learning about heritage assets and increase awareness of Caerphilly's heritage.

The nine key heritage projects have been grouped to align with four of the Heritage Lottery Fund's main funding streams. They are further categorised according to their degree of readiness for implementation. This document is intended to provide a strategic framework for supporting bids for Heritage Lottery Funding on the basis of a five year rolling programme of projects.

The Heritage Lottery Strategy directly supports one of the key Objectives of the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan - specifically Key Objective 24 that states: -

“Protect and enhance the overall quality of the historic natural and built environment of the County Borough.”

The development of sustainable tourism opportunities, as proposed in several of the projects contained in the Strategy is a key Regeneration Objective in the Caerphilly Community Strategy and is also a critical action in protecting and developing the economy as highlighted in the Council's Regeneration Framework.

Developing such tourism projects forms part of Visit Wales' overall aim of maximising tourist contributions to the economic, social and cultural prosperity of Wales. The Strategy also supports the Welsh Government's 'Achieving Our Potential 2006 - 2013 - a Tourism Strategy for Wales'.

The Caerphilly County Borough Council Heritage Lottery Fund Strategy 2012 – 2017 document has been prepared by the Planning Division in consultation with the Development Manager of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) with the primary purpose of forming a strategic framework for supporting future HLF bids.

The HLF priorities are based on 3 key principles that inform all grant giving. These are:-

- Help people to learn about their own and other people's heritage.
- Conserve the UK's diverse heritage for present and future generations to experience and enjoy;
- Help more people, and a wider range of people, to take an active part in and make decisions about heritage.

The projects listed in the Heritage Strategy therefore reflect these objectives of the HLF. The Strategy provides information in respect of nine schemes that are currently in various stages of progress towards securing Heritage Lottery Funding. They are: -

1. Llancaiach Fawr Manor House, Nelson
2. Navigation Colliery complex, Crumlin
3. Bedwas Workmens' Hall and Institute, Bedwas
4. Ruperra Castle and outbuildings, Rudry
5. Manmoel Historic Land Study and archaeological dig
6. Caerphilly District Miners' Hospital
7. Universal Colliery Memorial (Senghenydd) 100 year anniversary of the Universal Colliery mining disaster in 2013
8. King Arthur Themed Project being led by the Heritage Group of the Greater Bargoed Communities First Partnership
9. Handball Court, Nelson Community Partnership

Of the nine projects, only the first – enhancement of Llancaiach Fawr Manor House – is in the direct ownership and responsibility of Caerphilly county borough council. The remainder are owned or proposed by a variety of partner organisations, many in the voluntary sector. The Council has an interest as a tenant in the Bedwas Workmen's Hall.

Although the Council has very limited ability to provide financial support for these other projects, the political support of the Council through this Heritage Strategy is important to their success in obtaining Lottery and other funding.

The Council has also provided support through provision of officer time and advice to voluntary bodies in particular in pursuance of their heritage projects, building on the recent success in obtaining Heritage Lottery and other funds to restore the Memo and Institute in Newbridge.

It is envisaged that the document represents a five-year programme that will be updated at regular intervals and 'rolled forward'. It is also envisaged that a full Conservation Strategy for the county borough will be prepared in the future, dealing with listed buildings, conservation areas and all other aspects of conservation of the built environment.

## **EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 24TH JULY 2012**

### **EDUCATION & LEISURE GRANTS 2012-13**

To provide Members with details of grant funding available to the Education & Leisure Directorate in 2012-13.

The report provides brief details of the grant funding currently available, although Members need to be aware that further grants can be made available in year subject to new funding sources or the successful outcome of bids.

The report provides a brief description of the intended purpose of the grant funding. More detailed information on individual grants can be made available to Members, if requested. The effective use of grant funding and resources within the Directorate is necessary to ensure that key strategies are achieved. This effective use includes not only ensuring success within the Council, but also ensures that our contribution to inter-agency partnerships and regional working projects are achieved more effectively (such as the Children and Young People's Partnership).

The attached Appendix 1 provides summary details of grants currently available to the Directorate in 2012-13. It includes a list of the grants, the grant funding bodies, the value of the grant, a brief description of the purpose of the funding, together with details of the responsible officer.

Members will note that there is a significant level of grant funding available to the Directorate in 2012-13, with the figure currently estimated at £30m. In addition Members will note that funding is made available from a number of different sources.

Each grant offer made to the Authority is dependant on adherence to a pre defined set of terms and conditions, as stipulated by the awarding body. The purpose of the terms and conditions is for the grant body to be able to satisfy itself that the grant has been spent within the scope and purpose of the funding.

In addition the terms and conditions will outline the period of the grant, how the grant will be paid, the timescale for submission of grant claims and reports and also whether the grant is subject to an annual audit review. The requirement for an audit review will stipulate whether this needs to be undertaken by either the Authority's Internal or External Auditors. The purpose of the audit review is to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant through a process of sample testing. The attached Appendix 1 identifies which of the 2012-13 grants require an audit review. During the review any queries raised are investigated and any further information required by Audit is provided prior to an Audit Report being produced. The details of the outcome of the audit are then made available to the awarding body as specified.

To be aware, even where a grant does not require a specific audit the Grant Body reserve the right to have access to documents and information relating to grant monies and may exercise this right, at all reasonable times, if deemed necessary.

Within the Directorate, the Finance Division maintains a database of all grants that have been awarded to the Directorate for the year. This provides key information for financial planning and also ensures that grant income and the associated expenditure are incorporated into the budget monitoring reports that are produced for the Directorate.

## **EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 24TH JULY 2012**

### **DIRECTORATE FORWARD CAPITAL PROGRAMME: 2012/13 – 2014/15**

To update Members on expenditure in 2012/13 and updated proposals for the following 2 financial years.

The report links directly to the Education for Life, sustainability and regeneration strategies, particularly in the context of provision of upgraded teaching and learning environments.

This report is by way of an update for Members on the 2012/13 allocations, as well as advising on provisional schemes for 2013/14 and 2014/15, funding permitting.

The 3-year indicative capital programme (2012/13 – 2014/15) agreed by Council in February 2012 for the Directorate is outlined in Appendix 1. More detailed allocations are shown in Appendices 2-4 for each of the 3 financial years.

#### **Demographic/Legislative**

The budget allocation permits the equivalent of 1 additional Primary classroom per annum. The allocation is based upon evidence of pupil projections exceeding capacity, combined with levels of out of catchment pupils. For September 2012, 2 classrooms will be completed, namely Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary (2011/12 budget) and Ysgol Ifor Bach (2012/13 budget).

Based upon the criteria above, the provisional forward programme provides for additional accommodation at Hendre Junior (2013/14) and Abercarn Primary (2014/15).

#### **Demountable classrooms**

A sum of £150,000 per annum was provided over the 3 financial year period 2010/11 – 2012/13. This budget was allocated to additional classroom accommodation at Ysgol Bro Sannan, Y G Cwm Gwyddon and Y G Cwm Derwen. The programme has now been completed and all the additional accommodation is in use.

#### **Asset Management**

A list of priority schemes have been identified by Building Consultancy which have been allocated against the 3 financial years.

The £920,000 allocation in 2012/13 represents the £600,000 budget agreed by Council, plus £320,000 from Welsh Government re windfall monies allocated to the Council at the end of last financial year.

#### **Health & Safety**

The forward programme contains four priority areas as follows:

- Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)/Accessibility.
- Toilet upgrades. This involves 50/50 funding with schools to improve hygiene facilities. In recent years, this has resulted in circa 20 schemes per annum.
- Resurfacing. This involves upgrading school playgrounds. Schemes are usually funded 50/50 with schools and on occasions supplemented by contributions from Risk Management, particularly in response to accidents/incidents.
- Traffic Management. This usually involves improvements to car parking provision and often on a 50/50 contribution basis with schools.

#### School Security

There has historically been a £100,000 per annum allocation. Typical schemes include CCTV, security fencing, door entry systems, replacement external doors, etc. These schemes are funded 50/50 with schools.

#### School Boiler Replacement Programme

A list of priority schemes have been identified by Building Consultancy and these are being upgraded on a rolling programme basis. Individual schemes have been identified against each of the 3 financial years.

#### Contribution to 21st Century Schools

The £4m agreed for 2012/13 supplements the £10m provided in 2011/12. The £14m represents a significant contribution towards ensuring the Council's 50% match funding of its £92m bid (2014-2020) is met.

#### Refurbishment of School Kitchens

As with the boiler replacement programme, a list of priority projects have been identified to continue the rolling programme of upgrades. These schemes have been prioritised in conjunction with Environmental Health officers.

#### Relocation of Community Education to Risca Library

The funding for the relocation has been earmarked in the current financial year.

#### Fochriw Youth Centre Match Funding

The 126k allocation, for Phase 2 of the project, is proposed for 2013/14. The funding of Phase 2 is subject to the success of the Fochriw Community Centre Management Committee securing external funding for Phase 1 of the project. Current estimates suggest the shortfall will be in excess of the £126,000 and this is being reviewed.

#### Leisure and Libraries Potential Match Funding

A sum of £250,000 has presently been allocated for 2013/14. This sum is proposed to supplement potential grant aided projects.

#### Ystrad Mynach New Sports Facility

This project is being managed by the Directorate of the Environment but a contributory sum of £2.8m has been provided, in the Directorate's capital programme, being 1.4m each in the current and following financial year.

In addition to the capital schemes outlined in Appendix 2 (2012/13), there are presently two other schemes in progress, namely:

- Blackwood Youth Club – provision of facilities on the Blackwood Comprehensive site. Total estimated costs of works can be met from the insurance settlement figure.
- Ty Graddfa (former Education Offices, Ystrad Mynach – top floor). A Welsh Government (WG) capital grant of £255,217 is being utilised to provide a range of children's services in conjunction with Social Services.

## **REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17TH JULY 2012**

### **REVIEW OF THE RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING POLICY**

To inform members on the review of the Council's Resident Permit Parking Scheme and Policy and seek support for the recommended changes.

The Council's Resident Permit Parking scheme/policy was last reviewed and amended in 2006. Since then no new schemes have been implemented despite over 190 requests being received. The limit of one permit per property and insufficient provision for visitors and carers are considered to be the main constraints responsible for a lack of support of the scheme from residents.

Following a review of the current scheme/policy further changes are proposed to address these constraints and make the policy more fit for purpose and responsive to residents parking needs.

Engineering Services Objectives:-

- To work towards a safer environment through positive measures to reduce road accidents and particularly by protecting and providing for vulnerable road users.
- To represent and safeguard highway users' interests against activities and development detrimental to users.

CCBC Strategic Equality Plan - outlines the Council's commitment to achieving equality within all aspects of our service delivery and in our employment practices.

### **Current Policy**

The current resident permit parking scheme and policy was last reviewed in 2006 when the recommendations for changes were supported by the Regeneration Scrutiny committee and approved by Cabinet. This review seeks to address the significant drawbacks of the current scheme/policy that is considered to inhibit support by residents to progress new resident permit parking schemes.

All existing resident permit parking schemes within the borough were implemented before 2006. Over 190 requests have been received for new resident permit parking schemes since July 2006 but none have been progressed because of the significant drawbacks the policy is considered to have. In response to requests for resident permit parking the requestor is given a copy of a briefing note that explains the issues and criteria of the current scheme/policy.

The three main issues of the current scheme/policy that inhibit support from residents to progress a scheme are listed below:

- Only one permit per property can be issued.
- For each permit there is an administration charge of £30 per year.
- Visitors and carers are not adequately catered for.

### **Proposed Changes to the Scheme and Policy**

Appendix 2 includes a full list of the current scheme/policy criteria, the proposed amendments and a description of the benefits.

Schemes are limited to residential areas where at least 50% of properties are unable to provide reasonable off-street parking and that are immediately adjacent to major shopping centres, large employment sites, main interchanges and colleges (i.e. where there is the likelihood of demand/pressure from non-residential parking). No changes are proposed to this requirement.

## **CABINET – 31ST JULY 2012**

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIVING WAGE**

To seek approval to implement arrangements for the introduction of "The Living Wage". The Council is committed to being a Living Wage Employer. The Living Wage is a rate of pay per hour which is enough for workers and their families to be able to live free from poverty.

On 30 May 2012, the Welsh Government announced its commitment to encouraging employers in Wales to introduce the Living Wage (£7.20 per hour outside of London). The main objective is to increase employees' wages above the poverty line. Other benefits evidenced from the research studies include:-

- An improvement in the quality of work
- Reduction in absenteeism
- Easier recruitment and retention
- Consumer awareness and reputation
- Reduction in turnover of contractors
- Improved morale motivation and commitment

The report links to the efficient and effective management of the Council's activities. The remuneration of employees is an integral feature of our People Strategy and frameworks and is a fundamental feature of the employment relationship.

The council is committed to improving the impacts of poverty within the borough, and this is integral to a number of our policies and plans. Adopting the living wage as a Corporate Body will demonstrate Leadership to the wider community.

## **The Living Wage**

The Living Wage is a calculated according to the basic cost of living in the UK. In London the rate is calculated by the Greater London Authority, the National rate for outside London is calculated by the Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University. Employers choose to pay the Living Wage on a voluntary basis. The Living Wage enjoys cross party support, with public backing from the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and First Minister for Wales.

## **Living Wage & National Minimum Wage**

It is worth noting that the Living Wage is not the National Minimum Wage, which is set as the Minimum to be paid under law. Again this is set on an hourly rate. Historically Caerphilly's lowest rate of pay was significantly greater than the NMW rate, indeed the differential on introduction in 1999 was 24% - i.e. our lowest rate was 24% greater than the NMW rate. Over the years, the difference between our lowest point in the scales (SCP 4) narrowed significantly. Indeed prior to the introduction of our new Pay & Grading structure in 2009, this had reduced to 8.4%.

Significantly, with our new Pay & Grading structure introduced in line with Single Status in April 2009, we removed the lowest point in the scale making the bottom point SCP 5 (£6.38). This had a positive effect, and increased the differential back to 10%. This however has been further eroded in recent years due to the lack of pay awards. The NMW rate will increase in October to £6.19 ph. Without any positive action on the Council's part this would see the differential in rates at its lowest point standing at just 3%, with our lowest rate at £6.38ph.

Positive action on the Council's part in adopting the Living Wage would have a significant impact on redressing the differential. Were £7.20 ph to be adopted as our minimum rate, the differential with the NMW would be at 16%. Whilst not at as high as previous levels, this would differentiate the Council as an employer in the local recruitment market.

As a Community Leader we wish to maximise our ability to promote the Living Wage to other employers. We will explore with Procurement colleagues the potential for the inclusion of relevant clauses into procurement tenders and contracts that CCBC commissions. This would allow us to maximise the impact of being a Living Wage Employer.

## **Issues regarding implementation of the Living Wage**

### **Impact on Single Status Arrangements**

To ensure that any potential Equal Pay risks are mitigated it is essential that the principles of the Living Wage are applied consistently across the Council to all employees and workers. In order for the Council to continue to justify and defend challenges to its current Job Evaluation Scheme it is essential that the current grading structure, including the current scale points matched against current job scoring is maintained.

The application of the Living Wage to the Council's current pay and grading structure, will have the effect of lifting those currently paid below SCP 10 onto the Living Wage rate of £7.20ph. This will affect all employees in grades 1 + 2 and any employees who are on the lower 2 Spinal Column points in grades 3. This is due to grade 3 currently containing 5 Spinal Column Points (3 are above the £7.20 rate). It should also be noted that these payments would also apply to agency staff employed by CCBC, in order to meet with the requirements of the Agency Workers Directive, and in the spirit of fairness.

It is proposed that this payment is made as a supplement to the hourly rate. This is similar to the provisions applied through the use of market supplements. This is a tried and tested principle that has been subjected to legal tests. On a balance of probabilities it is likely that the Council will be able to justify the differential treatment compared to other employees, on the basis that the application of the Living Wage is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim i.e. paying a Living Wage and addressing poverty.

The Single Status Collective Agreement signed by all Trade Unions and Caerphilly County Borough Council on 1 April 2009 under **Section 1 - Principles, point (b)** that we are committed to a joint commitment ***'To put forward a non-discriminatory, transparent pay and grading structure and conditions of service that fully comply with the Equal Pay Act and any other anti-discriminatory legislation that both parties believe is both affordable and sustainable'***.

The manner in which we are seeking to progress the introduction of the Living Wage:

- does not diminish the transparency of the Single Status pay and grading structure. The 12 grades that were evaluated as distinct and separate grades under JE are maintained
- closes the pay gap even further between the female and male workforce. (For the most part, females occupy the posts that fall in Grades 1 and 2)
- if national pay awards are received and the grading structure is changed, the Living Wage supplement is able to be applied in a standalone arrangement

This proposal will positively impact an Equality Impact Assessment N.B: The Single Status Collective Agreement confirms under Section 1 - Equalities Monitoring *'This Review has helped to close the gender pay gap that exists. The Review provides a strong foundation to build on for the future and it will be the responsibility of the Joint HR Equalities Group to develop strategies and policies that will, over time, close this gap'*.

### **Links with agreed enhancements**

The payment of a supplement could be complicated if agreed enhancements are taken into account as part of the calculation method. Employees on the lowest point of SCP5 are currently receiving £6.38 for basic hours worked. However, if they work these hours at night time they receive £8.49 due to an additional enhancement to compensate night time working. A decision will need to be made as to whether the enhancement will only be paid to the hours worked at the basic rate as any hours worked at night or on overtime will already be above the Living Wage.

If the Living Wage supplement were not to be paid due to the fact that the addition of the enhancements placed this at a higher rate, this may potentially lead to discrimination claims. This is due to the fact that the employees affected are likely to be predominately female. It is therefore proposed that the Living Wage supplement uses basic pay rates and excludes any enhancements. Administratively this will also be simpler to manage.

### **Impact on Benefits**

There is a possible complication where employees are in receipt of benefits. The payment of the Living Wage supplement could take someone over a threshold meaning they lose the benefit. This loss could be greater than the gain and hence they could be worse off. In another Council in their correspondence with staff they gave them contact details of all the



possible benefits they were receiving and told then they would need to make contact to ensure it did not take them over any threshold. They did discuss what would happen if the above scenario did occur and whether to give employees an opt out of the Living Wage. They decided not to give an option to opt out on the basis that if Council employees were given a national cost of living pay award they were not able to opt out of this if it impacted upon their benefits, and therefore is treated consistently.

## **CABINET- 17TH APRIL 2012**

### **FOCHRIW COMMUNITY CENTRE**

To seek approval, in principle, to lease the site of Fochriw Community Centre to the Management Committee on the basis of a 25 year Lease to enable the Committee to apply for external funding to extend the building to accommodate the youth service.

Due to building condition concerns, Fochriw Youth Centre was closed during the summer term 2011. Since this time, the Youth Centre has been relocated on a temporary basis within Fochriw Community Centre. This has meant a reorganisation of the Community Centre's timetable, which is not sustainable on a permanent basis.

A Task and Finish Group has been established to fully investigate the feasibility for a permanent location for the Youth Centre and possible funding routes. The Group concluded that the only viable option available is to extend the Community Centre to provide suitable accommodation for the youth service, thus alleviating the pressure on limited space and enabling the continuation for the service delivery in the long term.

A number of funding sources have been identified, including Heads of the Valley Fund and Community Facility Activity Programme (CFAP), but as yet, no funding has been confirmed. In order to assist the Management Committee to move forward with their proposals, this report seeks an approval in principle to lease the site of Fochriw Community Centre on terms to be agreed. Should Cabinet agree to the principle, Fochriw Management Committee will have the necessary assurances in place to progress their funding application. Should the funding application be successful and subject to the necessary approvals and Planning consent, a Lease will then be granted.

The Area Review exercise was a key process in the Council's Asset Management Strategy. It was implemented to help support the council in its aim of delivering services effectively and ensuring value for money. The process identified opportunities to achieve shared use of buildings, potential disposal opportunities and joint development projects.

Youth provision in Fochriw has for many years been housed in an aging demountable classroom within the site of Fochriw Primary School. The Youth Centre operates two evenings per week and is extremely well attended with an average of 40 young people attending per evening.

In March 2011, Caerphilly Council received a petition from the young people of Fochriw via the Caerphilly Youth Forum, raising concerns regarding the poor state of the building. Subsequently, a health and safety survey and building survey were undertaken which identified substantial defects with the building. The building surveyor advised that although the building fulfilled an important function, in their opinion, it had surpassed its economic life expectancy and could be classed as physically obsolete. Estimated remedial costs to bring the building to a good standard of repair would be in the region of £87,000, excluding fees and contingency. The figure does not include any additional work that might be incurred whilst remedial work is being undertaken. Based on the evidence of both surveys, and the cost implications, it was decided to close the building from the end of the summer term 2011.

On a temporary basis, youth provision is being housed in the Community Centre two evenings per week, which has been accommodated by reorganising the Community Centre's timetable.

This is not sustainable on a permanent basis due to the disruption and restricted use for existing users.

A Task and Finish Group consisting of officers from Communities First, Property Services, Heads of the Valley Co-ordinator, Community Education, the Local Member of Fochriw and the Chairman of the Fochriw Community Centre was established to investigate the feasibility and possible funding routes for a permanent location for the Youth Centre in Fochriw.

Having reviewed possible alternative sites, the Group concluded that the only feasible location was the existing Community Centre and an extension would be required to enable the Youth Centre to function without disrupting the regular users of the centre. This conclusion also fits with a community facility recommendation identified in the Caerphilly Local Development Plan 2010 – 2012 (LDP) regarding a new Youth Centre in Fochriw.

A future potential allocation of £126,000 has been identified in the Education and Leisure Capital programme 2013-14 as a contribution towards the Fochriw Community Centre extension. Consultation has been carried out with the young people of Fochriw to involve them with the extension if funding can be secured.

The Task and Finish Group is currently exploring funding from a number of sources such as Heads of the Valley funding and Community Facility Activity Programme (CFAP). At present, no funding has been confirmed. The criterion for such funding includes a requirement for the applicant to have security of tenure. Currently, the Management Committee holds an annual Lease agreement, which is not sufficient to meet the funding requirement. Therefore, to facilitate any funding application, an in principle approval is being sought to grant a long Lease of approximately 25 years to satisfy the funding criteria.

Planning advice is that the proposed scheme accords with the general principles of the LDP. Planning permission would be required for the extension, however it is currently deemed acceptable in planning terms subject to compliance with standard development control criteria, including the provision of adequate car parking. Work is ongoing to develop an acceptable design and determine an appropriate number of spaces as this may affect the viability of the scheme.

**Annual Director's Report on the effectiveness of Social Care Services 2011-2012  
(Some hard copies available at this meeting)**

[http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/pdf/Health\\_SocialCare/Directors-Report/Social\\_Services\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2011-2012.pdf](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/pdf/Health_SocialCare/Directors-Report/Social_Services_Annual_Report_2011-2012.pdf)

**CABINET – 4TH SEPTEMBER 2012**

**FORMER NELSON BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB**

To seek Cabinet approval to amend a decision taken by Cabinet on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2011 to develop the site of the former Nelson Boys and Girls Club and to issue a letter of intent to lease the site for 25 years to the Nelson Development Trust, subject to appropriate conditions. The Nelson Development Trust was established to be the management group for the Nelson Boys & Girls Club. The Trust “has at its core a very community focussed team of both long standing County and Community Councillors and dedicated interested community entrepreneurs”. This report relates to the council’s priority “to raise awareness to the benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle”. At its meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2011 Cabinet agreed that “the former Nelson Boys and Girls Club be appropriated out of the HRA for development purposes”. The reason for this recommendation was to allow the site to be brought into beneficial use, it having been unused since circa 2005. At the request of the Nelson Community Council the Cabinet Member for Performance, Property and Asset Management together with the Head of Performance & Property attended a meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012 to discuss the Trust’s ambitions for the development of the site and its supporting Business Plan.

The Trust is determined to re-open the Boys & Girls Club building and develop the adjacent Land to enhance youth provision within the village. Their aspirations are commendable although at this time, in the opinion of both the Cabinet Member & Head of Service, the supporting Business Plan lacks solid evidence to support many of the business projections quoted.

Cabinet agree to the provision of a letter of intent to lease the site of the former Nelson Boys & Girls Club to the Nelson Development Trust for a minimum period of 25 years, subject to the terms of the lease making the Trust responsible for all repairs and maintenance of the existing building. The Letter of Intent to be issued as soon as practicable following a Cabinet decision on the recommendations within this report.

## **FORMER WOOLWORTH BUILDING, BARGOED**

To identify and allocate a building conversion budget to the former Woolworth building at Bargoed. This proposal links to the Authority's Regeneration Strategy "People, Business, Places" Optimising the use of council owned buildings accords directly with the council's Asset Management Strategy

The former Woolworth building at Bargoed was originally acquired with a HoV grant of £325k in March 2010 with the intention to convert to offices in order to 'kick start' the Business Quarter designated in the northern part of Bargoed Town Centre.

The original intention was to convert the building with EU grant, however, this never materialised and in January 2011 it was agreed to let the High Street level (the upper level) to a retailer. The middle and lower floors with 600 square metres of useable space remain vacant.

There has been a lack of private interest in such a development and this has encouraged officers to consider the role that the authority has, as the largest employer in the county borough, in utilising this potential office space by transferring existing services into the building. It is estimated, although no firm plans have been developed, that some 50 staff and equipment could be accommodated within the space available and the presence of such numbers will inevitably contribute to the regeneration of the town centre and, hopefully, stimulate future interest in the Business Quarter.

To achieve this the middle and lower floors will need significant investment particularly in terms of IT and telecommunications.

It is recommended that a budget of £500k be allocated for the creation of office space at the former Woolworth building Bargoed. It is anticipated that conversion works will take around 4 months and with procurement time expenditure is likely to span the financial years 2012/13 and 2013/14. This would contribute to the regeneration of Bargoed Town Centre by maximising the use of vacant areas within a building that is owned by the council.

## **AMENDMENTS TO AUTHORISATION OF OFFICERS WITHIN THE PUBLIC PROTECTION DIVISION**

To inform Cabinet of required changes to the legal powers for officers of the Public Protection Division to aid their ability to protect the public and legitimate businesses and to seek the necessary authorisation.

Officers within the Public Protection Division require additional authorisation under a number of Acts of Parliament in order to enforce the legislation and carry out their duties.

## **AUTHORISATION OF OFFICERS**

As a result of the introduction of new legislation and following a review of existing authorisations it is considered that the Council's Constitution should be amended to include the following legislation:

**Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011**  
**The Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010**  
**Local Government Act 2003**  
**Powers of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000**  
**Fireworks Act 2003**  
**Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1985**  
**Tattooing of Minors Act 1969**  
**House to House Collections Act 1939**  
**Charities Acts 1992 and 2006**

Part 3 of the Council's Constitution, Responsibility for Functions be amended to include the above changes and the addition of the words "as amended" to the list of authorised legislation. This will ensure authorisations are kept up to date with changes to the authorised Acts of Parliament.

That Cabinet consider the contents of this report and agree to the relevant changes to the constitution and terms of reference, in order to comply with statutory requirements and to ensure proper and effective enforcement of the legislation.

## **TRANSFORMING COUNCIL HOMES, LIVES AND COMMUNITIES**

### **A Joint Statement On Behalf Of**

Nigel Barnett - Deputy Chief Executive with responsibility for delivery of WHQS

Cllr Gerald Jones - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member responsible for Housing

Transforming Council Homes, Lives and Communities

The programme to deliver the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) is the council's flagship priority and involves a budget of £200m being spent between 2012 and 2020.

This Autumn it will take a major step forward as the new team, responsible for delivering this is put together, with the lead operational support being taken by Phil Davy and Shaun Couzens. Next week the first Council Homes Task Group meeting takes place where councillors and tenants will work together to ensure the programme is fit for purpose. Their recommendations will be reported directly to a Cabinet sub group for decision-making.

We believe the first step in recognising what this means to us as an organisation, is to welcome the challenge of change and we are using the following as our key message to all involved in the this exciting project -

We are going to be doing different things

and

We are going to be doing things differently

The Project Board in defining their vision in the offer document "Your Home, Your Choice" embraced the principals of sustainable development, equality of opportunity, effective partnership and consultation. We know this major investment in council homes is going to be a catalyst to achieve our wider council objectives including new jobs and training opportunities for local people. On top of this we are making a substantial investment of £11 million in the physical environment surrounding our communities.

We know we want to make a positive difference to peoples' lives as we deliver this programme. By 2020 we want our communities to know -

We kept our promise and: -

- Delivered the best quality home improvements scheme to our tenants as promised in the Offer Document
- We did it with them and not to them
- Their homes created real jobs in our communities
- We delivered the whole project on time and in budget

These ambitions can only be achieved with our entire council working together for the good of all and we are confident with your support this programme will transform council homes, the lives of our citizens and our communities.

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Equalities implications have been taken into account for a number of reports submitted to Cabinet and other committees.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None, this is an information paper only on the contents of Caerphilly CBC reports which contains items of interest for the Voluntary Sector Committee.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 None arising.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 Not applicable.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 Members are invited (if they feel appropriate) to select any report for further consideration by the Committee by requesting the report author to attend a future meeting of the Voluntary Sector Committee to take questions/prepare another report.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 To ensure Members are fully briefed on items of interest for the Voluntary Sector.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2000.

Author: John Elliott, Senior Research Officer  
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