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**Date: 17th January 2018**

Dear Sir/Madam,

At the meeting of **Council** held in the **Council Chamber, Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Tuesday, 23rd January, 2018** at **5.00 pm** with regard to Agenda Item 14, the following questions were received and answered under Rule of Procedure 10 (2).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissy', enclosed in a large, loopy oval shape.

**Christina Harrhy**  
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## **A G E N D A**

11 To receive and to answer questions received under Rule of Procedure 10(2).

### **Circulation:**

All Members And Appropriate Officers

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## COUNCIL – 23RD JANUARY 2018

**SUBJECT: ANSWER TO QUESTIONS RECEIVED UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(2)**

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### 1. REGENERATION AREA FORUM

To the Cabinet Member for Homes and Places from Councillor K. Etheridge

To ask the Cabinet Member for Homes and Places how much total money was allocated to the Regeneration Area Forum since March 2017 -2018 and

1. Allocating to each Ward
2. How was the money spent, and what criteria was used and can projects be defined
3. Can Ward Members bid for projects which benefit their wards and residents
4. Is the procedure and funding agreed after discussion with the Town Centre Management Committees where one exists, and is there any discussion with Town Councils
5. What happens in Wards when point 4 is not applicable
6. Define any underspends for this period across the Borough
7. Confirmation that future allocations will be available from March 2018

### **RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR L. PHIPPS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND PLACES**

#### **Q1 Allocating to each Ward.**

As a result of decisions made at Special Council on 25th February 2015 in relation to the budget proposals 2015/16 and medium term financial strategy 2015/2018 the Area Forum revenue budget did not receive a budget allocation for 2017/2018. Consequently, for 2017/18 there was no Area Forum revenue budget allocation to Wards.

Whilst several Wards have fully utilised their previous funding awards from the Area Forum revenue budget a number of Wards maintain a residual budget

allocation resulting from underspends in their previous funding awards. As at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 the residual underspent of Area Forum budget totalled £70,498.72

**Q2 How was the money spent, and what criteria was used and can projects be defined.**

To date in 2017/18 expenditure on projects within those Wards with a residual Area Forum budget has been:-

- Cefn Fforest – Upper Trelyn Bus Stop Repair £2,454
- Risca East - Schools Solar Panel Installation £4,396.50
- Penyrheol - Schools Solar Panel Installation £10,000
- Ty Sign - Schools Solar Panel Installation £3,582.50
- Trinant - Schools Solar Panel Installation £1,885

Total 2017/18 Area Forum budget expenditure to date = £22,318

In addition to the above within Wards with a residual Area Forum budget allocation there are ongoing commitments to a number of projects that remain to be fully implemented and paid for. The estimated total of Area Forum funding identified to support previously committed projects is £14,423.31

Currently the uncommitted residual Area Forum budget totals £33,757.41, comprising £29,345.25 from previous budget allocation to specific Wards and an additional £4,412.16 that has not been previously been allocated to specific Wards.

There are no specific criteria that a project seeking Area Forum funding must satisfy. However, the projects previously brought forward have sought to implement local environmental enhancements in order improve the appearance of local areas and to encourage greater local involvement in order to contribute to efforts to secure more sustainable development.

**Q3 Can Ward Members bid for projects which benefit their wards and residents.**

In those areas where a Ward has a residual Area Forum budget from previous funding allocations Ward Members can bring forward proposals for projects to the relevant Town Centre Management Group/Community Partnership.

Where a Ward with a residual Area Forum funding allocation is located outside a Town Centre Management Group/Community Partnership area the Ward Members are required to submit their project proposal to the Council's Community Regeneration Manager for consideration and approval in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member on the proviso that all Ward Members are in agreement with the proposal.

**Q4 Is the procedure and funding agreed after discussion with the Town Centre Management Committees where one exists, and is there any discussion with Town Councils.**

As noted above proposals are considered by Town Centre Management Groups (TCMG) when brought forward from within those Wards that form part of a TCMG. There is no specific liaison with Town Councils on project proposals but the TCMG includes representatives of the appropriate Town Council.

**Q5 What happens in Wards when point 4 is not applicable.**

Where a Ward with a residual Area Forum funding allocation is located outside a Town Centre Management Group/Community Partnership area the Ward Members are required to submit their project proposal to the Council's Community Regeneration Manager for consideration and approval on the proviso that all Ward Members are in agreement with the proposal.

**Q6 Define any underspends for this period across the Borough.**

As noted above the uncommitted residual Area Forum budget currently totals £33,757.41, comprising £29,345.25 from previous budget allocation to specific Wards and an additional £4,412.16 that has not been previously been allocated to specific Wards.

**Q7 Confirmation that future allocations will be available from March 2018.**

The decisions made at Special Council on 25th February 2015 in relation to the budget proposals 2015/16 and medium term financial strategy 2015/2018 ended the award of annual revenue funding allocations to the Area Forum revenue budget.

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