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Date: 8th February 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee** will be held in the **Sirhowy Room, Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Tuesday, 14th February, 2017** at **5.30 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chris Burns'.

Chris Burns
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

	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 this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers

To approve and sign the following minutes: -

- | | | |
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| 3 | Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee held on 13th December 2016. | |
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A greener place Man gwyrddach

Correspondence may be in any language or format | Gallwch ohebu mewn unrhyw iaith neu fformat



- 4 Special Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee held on 19th December 2016. 9 - 12
- 5 Consideration of any matter referred to this Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.
- 6 To receive a verbal report by the Cabinet Member(s).
- 7 Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme. 13 - 24
- 8 To receive and consider the following Cabinet report(s)*: -
1. Interment Charges for Children (Up To And Including The Age Of 16 Years) - 1st February 2017.

** If a member of the Scrutiny Committee wishes for any of the above Cabinet report(s) to be brought forward for review at the meeting please contact Rebecca Barrett, 01443 864245, by 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 13th February 2017.*

To receive and consider the following Scrutiny reports:-

- 9 Gwent Police Policies Priorities and Resource Requirements associated with Speed and Parking Enforcement - Chief Constable Jeff Farrar.
- 10 LED Lighting Feedback Report. 25 - 34
- 11 Communities First - Verbal Update.
- 12 Budget Monitoring Report 2016/2017. 35 - 46

Circulation:

Councillors M.A. Adams, Mrs E.M. Aldworth (Vice Chair), J. Bevan, C.J. Cuss, D.T. Davies (Chair), N. Dix, C. Elsbury, R.W. Gough, L. Harding, S. Kent, Ms P. Leonard, P.A. Marsden, A. Leonard, M.J. Prew, Mrs D. Price and Mrs E. Stenner

And Appropriate Officers



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON
TUESDAY, 13TH DECEMBER 2016 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor D.T. Davies - Chair

Councillors:

M. Adams, C.J. Cuss, C. Elsbury, L. Harding, S. Kent, P. Marsden, M.J. Prew, Mrs E. Stenner

Cabinet Members:

N. George (Community and Leisure Services), T.J. Williams (Highways, Transportation and Engineering)

Together with:

C. Harrhy (Corporate Director - Communities), T. Stephens (Interim Head of Planning), M.S. Williams (Head of Community and Leisure Services), M. Headington (Acting Parks Manager), P. Rossiter (Energy and Water Officer), C. Forbes-Thompson (Interim Head of Democratic Services), J. Williams (Solicitor) and R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

Also present:

Councillor C.J. Gordon

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E.M. Aldworth, J. Bevan, R.W. Gough, Mrs A. Leonard, Mrs D. Price and Cabinet Member K. James (Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development).

2. **COUNCILLOR LEONARD**

The Chair congratulated Councillor Arianna Leonard on her recent wedding and Members wished her health and happiness for the future.

3. **COUNCILLOR BLACKMAN**

The Chair announced that Councillor Mrs Anne Blackman had recently resigned from the Scrutiny Committee. Members requested that their appreciation to Councillor Blackman for her valued contribution to the work of the Committee be placed on record.

4. COUNCILLOR JAMES

In noting that Councillor Ken James (Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development) was currently unwell, Members asked that their best wishes for a speedy recovery be sent to him.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

6. MINUTES - 1ST NOVEMBER 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 1st November 2016 (minute nos. 1 - 12) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

A Member requested an update on the inspection schedule relating to drains and gullies as detailed in Minute No. 10 (Highway Asset Management Plan Endorsement), and it was confirmed that arrangements are in hand for this information to be circulated to the Scrutiny Committee.

7. CALL-IN PROCEDURE

There had been no matters referred to the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.

8. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBERS

The Scrutiny Committee received verbal reports from Councillors T.J. Williams and N. George and noted the contents of the report from Councillor K. James, which had been circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

Councillor T.J. Williams (Cabinet Member for Highways, Transportation and Engineering) informed Members that the procurement exercise for the next Wales and Borders Rail Franchise and the South Wales Metro is progressing well. Welsh Government are currently assessing the bids and an announcement is expected in the next few weeks. The Scrutiny Committee were updated on Canal works at the historic Pontywaun aquaduct, and the Cabinet Member also outlined the work that have been undertaken to address the recent inclement weather as part of the Authority's Winter Maintenance Service Plan, including the development of strategic Highway Operations manuals which had been endorsed by Cabinet and Council.

Discussion took place regarding CADW and other funding sources in relation to the restoration of the Canal aquaduct at Pontywaun and it was agreed that a breakdown of funding would be circulated to Members.

Councillor N. George (Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services) referred to the report to be considered later that evening in relation to charges for waste collection containers. He urged the Committee to consider the issue very carefully in light of the financial climate and explained that should Members be minded to change the current charging policy, there would be a need to substitute this saving with alternative measures. The Cabinet Member also referred to the Management of Trees report due to be considered at the meeting and explained that the tree strategy proposed within the report will address a number of issues relating to the Authority's tree stock.

Members also noted the contents of the report circulated in advance of the meeting from Councillor K. James (Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development) which provided an update on developments within Town Centre Management, Urban Renewal, Destination and Events, Business Strategy and Funding, and Community Regeneration. Members discussed the recent Christmas Market weekends held across the county borough and were pleased to note the positive feedback arising from these events. Members were also encouraged to visit the annual Bargoed Ice Rink event taking place from 14th December to 18th December 2016.

9. REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Cath Forbes-Thompson (Interim Head of Democratic Services) presented the report, which outlined details of the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme (FWP).

Members were advised that the FWP includes all reports identified at the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 1st November 2016 and outlines the reports planned for the period December 2016 to April 2017. Members were asked to consider the FWP alongside the Cabinet Work Programme as appended to the report and to suggest any changes prior to it being finalised and published on the Council's website.

It was noted that the next CCBC Car Parks Task and Finish Group has been scheduled for 16th January 2017 and therefore the Scrutiny Committee would be updated at their next meeting on 14th February 2017 regarding the status of the Car Parking Review report (currently scheduled for 28th March 2017). Members were also advised that arrangements are in hand to invite the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent and the Chief Constable to a future Scrutiny Committee meeting to discuss parking enforcement matters.

Following discussion on its contents, it was agreed that the Forward Work Programme as appended to the report be approved and published.

10. CABINET REPORTS

None of the Cabinet reports listed on the agenda had been called forward for discussion at the meeting.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

11. THE MANAGEMENT OF TREES

The report sought the views of the Scrutiny Committee on the current tree management arrangements, the formal adoption of a tree strategy and a further review of resources (staff and budget) linked to this function.

It was explained that the management of trees on land that the Council is responsible for (approximately 260,000 trees) incorporates reactive works (responding to service requests), proactive inspections (scheduled safety inspections of tree stock) and arboricultural comments in relation to planning applications. The Authority currently employs one fully qualified Arboricultural Officer and a dedicated/trained tree maintenance team within the Parks Service. The number of service requests in relation to trees is increasing year on year, which has been largely attributed to a changing climate that can adversely affect trees.

Officers summarised the proactive tree inspection regime currently being undertaken by Council staff. Further details were contained within the report, which also highlighted weaknesses in the current regime where inspections are not being proactively undertaken. The report also outlined the minimum recommendations for proactive inspections (based on best practice guidelines from the National Tree Safety Group) if Members were minded to recommend the formal adoption of a draft tree strategy.

In addition to seeking the views of Members on current tree management arrangements and the draft tree strategy, the report also recommended that a review of the tree management budget be undertaken by Parks and other appropriate service areas, with a view to allocating sufficient and appropriate funding (circa £100K per annum) to this area. This will enable the Authority to arrange appropriate inspections and remedial works and could be achieved by the realignment of existing budgets. Upon completion of the review, a further report would be prepared for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee on how the strategy can be best delivered (prior to its presentation to Cabinet). To ensure the Authority complies with legal responsibilities, the report also proposed that consideration be given to establishing additional resources within the section to deal with inspections and subsequent maintenance work.

During the course of the ensuing debate, a Member queried whether additional funding would remove the inspection backlog and assist in the maintenance of proposed inspection timelines. Officers explained that all schools across the county borough have recently been inspected (utilising funding from Insurance/Risk Management and Education) and that responsibility for resultant works remains with the school, along with any cyclical inspections going forward. Officers confirmed that the management of tree maintenance in schools is monitored by the Council's Corporate Health and Safety Team. A Member queried what would happen to all the sites that have not been inspected, if the new strategy were to be approved. Officers explained that should the new policy be approved, inspections would commence from a 'zero base', and going forward these would be in line with the frequencies outlined within the draft strategy.

In response to a Member's query, Officers confirmed that a budget currently exists to utilise a private contractor where necessary for the inspection of trees. Discussion also took place regarding the limited staffing resources available to deal with tree maintenance issues and Members expressed a need for other organisations to improve their accountability in relation to the management of trees.

Having given due consideration to the report, Members noted its contents, including the current tree management arrangements and the proposed draft tree strategy. Members endorsed the review of the current tree management budget, including the exploration of additional resources, which will be the subject of a further report to the Scrutiny Committee and thereafter Cabinet.

12. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT - PLANNING

Consideration was given to the report, which advised Members of the contents of the Annual Performance Report (APR) for the Planning Service within the Planning and Regeneration Division, which encompasses the Development Management and the Strategic Development Plan Groups within the Council.

Officers explained that as a result of the 'Positive Planning' consultation in December 2013, Welsh Government proposed that stakeholders in the planning service should prepare an annual report to discuss how their organisation had performed against key indicators, identify what it had done well so that this can be shared with others, and what steps might be taken to address areas of performance in need of improvement. A draft version of the Council's APR, (a copy of which was appended to the Officer's report) was submitted at the end of October 2016.

Members were referred to the results of a customer satisfaction survey conducted by the Council in 2015-16 and included in the APR, which assessed the views of people that had received a planning application decision during the year. In general, the percentage of respondents who positively agreed with statements about the Planning Service were on a par with Wales as a whole. Stakeholder forums are being arranged with local applicants and agents to discuss the survey findings, and the Council will also participate in regional forums with national developers and agents. Where possible, changes/procedures will be introduced in response to these discussions in order to address and improve customer satisfaction levels.

The Scrutiny Committee noted a number of key findings within the APR detailing the Council's performance in 2015-16, covering the five key aspects of planning service delivery (plan-making, efficiency, quality, engagement and enforcement). Overall, 66% of all planning applications were determined within the required timescales (below the 80% Welsh target). However, significant improvements were made to this performance in the last two quarters of 2015-16, and performance currently stands at 95% (July to September 2016), with the majority of applications determined within 64 days. 247 enforcement cases were investigated in 2015-16, equating to 1.4 per 1000 population, and over the same period, 237 cases were resolved, taking on average 239 days to resolve each case. Both indicators are lower than the all-Wales average and the Council is currently reviewing its enforcement procedures to improve the time taken to resolve such cases.

In summary, the APR shows that there are areas for improvement in terms of the perception of the development management service by the public, but also that efficiency measures have been introduced, which are already delivering improvements. The main actions to address these areas include better targeting and monitoring of specific indicators and improved communication with relevant planning parties. Members were pleased to note the significant increase in planning applications determined within the required timescales, which had been achieved via a number of avenues, including weekly team meetings to identify more complex applications.

A Member referred to the Authority's shortage of a current housing land supply and Officers outlined the background to how the methodology was originally calculated and the circumstances which have led to this supply becoming diminished. Members were reminded that a Strategic Development Plan for the Cardiff Capital Region is being progressed, which will address the shortfall in the 5-year housing land supply through proactive action.

Following consideration and discussion, Members noted the contents of the report and the findings of the Annual Performance Report.

13. CHARGES FOR REPLACEMENT WASTE COLLECTION CONTAINERS

The report updated Members on the impact of the charging regime for replacement domestic waste containers and outlined options for future consideration. The report was prepared following a Member's request at the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting of 28th June 2016.

It was explained that on 25th February 2015, as part of the Council's budget setting process and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) strategy, Members decided to introduce a charge for all replacement domestic waste containers (excluding food waste caddies and those containers damaged by collection staff). Details of the current charging policy implemented on 1st April 2015 were contained within the report.

The MTFP saving associated with the charges totalled £60,000 and this was consequently removed from the waste strategy and operations budget. This saving has been met by a combination of income (£35,000 - £40,000 per annum) and a reduction in the number of bins issued (£30,000 - £35,000). Members noted the significant reduction in waste container requests as a result of the changes (from 10,403 in 2013/14 down to 1,721 in 2016/17 to date). The report also included examples of charging schemes across other local authorities.

Members were asked to consider whether they wished to retain the current charges (**Option 1**), re-introduce free replacement containers (**Option 2**) or offer reduced rate replacement containers (**Option 3**). It was suggested that if Members were minded to change the current charging policy, then they make a specific recommendation to Cabinet for this to be considered as part of the 2017/18 budget and MTFP process.

It was reiterated to Members that a change in the current charging policy would lead to the loss of income combined with an increase in costs and would require a review of the savings needed from the service as part of the MTFP process going forward. Examples of alternative savings that could be introduced to offset the £60,000 budget re-instatement were contained within the report, together with details of the potential staff costs arising from a change to the current charging policy.

Councillor Colin Gordon, who had made the original report request to the Scrutiny Committee, was then invited to the table to offer his comments on the matter. He thanked Members for considering his request and explained that he was seeking a review of the policy in view of the hardship that replacement waste container charges can occasionally cause to residents. He gave an example in his ward of where multiple containers have been stolen from one street at the same time or had been subject to arson damage, and outlined the distress of some elderly or vulnerable constituents who have to pay for a replacement. He appealed to the Scrutiny Committee to examine the policy to determine whether an alternative to the charges can be offered in certain circumstances.

During the course of the ensuing debate, Members acknowledged the impact that the current charging policy can have on some residents and expressed the need to seek a way forward whilst continuing to deliver savings. A Member queried whether affected residents could be given the option to pay the replacement charge in instalments as part of their council tax payments but Officers explained that this would not be a viable option due to the additional administrative costs involved.

In response to Members' queries, Officers explained that Community and Leisure Services currently hold a limited stock of second-hand waste containers that have been recovered or returned to them. Discussion took place on the feasibility of recycling or refurbishing this stock and offering these containers to residents at a lesser charge.

Having considered and discussed the report fully, it was moved and seconded that Option 1 (retain the current charges) be supported. By a show of hand (and in noting there were 2 against, this was agreed by the majority present.

Arising from the course of the debate, Members unanimously agreed that the option of issuing second-hand containers at a lower price be explored (recognising the fact that this stock may be limited and once exhausted then this may no longer be an option). Given the tight timescales before the 2017/18 budget is considered by Cabinet and Council in February 2017, it was agreed that the Chair would meet with the Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services and relevant Officers to agree a way forward, which would be circulated to the Scrutiny Committee Members in January 2017 for consultation.

RESOLVED that the current charging policy for replacement waste collection containers be retained and the option of issuing second-hand containers at a lower price be explored further by relevant Members and Officers.

14. WELLBEING OBJECTIVE: CARBON MANAGEMENT – REDUCE OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT (SIX MONTH PROGRESS UPDATE) – 2016/17

Consideration was given to the report, which highlighted key progress against Wellbeing Objective IO4 – Carbon Management: Reduce Our Carbon Footprint for the period April 2016 to September 2016.

Members were reminded that the Local Government Measure 2009 requires all local authorities in Wales to set and publish a set of Improvement Objectives. Additionally the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places new requirements on the Council to meet the seven national well-being goals ushered in by this legislation. At the beginning of 2016/17, it was recommended that progress of the Wellbeing Objective: Carbon Management: Reduce our carbon footprint would be reported to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee for regular performance monitoring.

In line with the Carbon Reduction Strategy the Wellbeing Objective focuses on 4 priorities to reduce emissions: Good Housekeeping, Invest to Save, Design and Asset Management, and Renewable Technology. Officers outlined the key achievements and progress made across this Objective at the six-month point, with details of the actions taken against each of these priorities outlined in the report and the appended scorecard.

Through the various actions outlined in the report, a positive improvement is evident in raising awareness and training activity as part of Good Housekeeping practice. The Authority continues to target key individuals in schools and reasonable progress has been made across all areas. Council staff have also been engaged via media formats and free Welsh Water home audits. It is believed that targets on the 'Invest to Save' scheme by the end of quarter 4 will be out-performed due to the strong advances made in the first 2 quarters, with Ty Penallta being a significant project that will introduce LED lighting to the building.

The progress made to date this year has already resulted in carbon, cost, and energy savings. Guidance has been issued to highlight the importance of heating and lighting smaller sections of buildings for non-occasional use, which assist in the prevention of excessive consumption, and several medium-scale solar PV installations have been identified for the Authority to consider.

Officers explained that consideration is being given to the use of green energy for future generations, including the use of electric vehicle charging points, and solar panels to all schools. Future reports on this matter will be brought back to the Scrutiny Committee. In view of the key progress made to date, Officers proposed that the Objective be judged as 'partly successful' at the six-month point.

In noting the progress made to date, Members welcomed the introduction of LED lighting at Penallta House and the use of new technology in achieving this Wellbeing Objective. Reference was made to two indicators that had not been achieved in the first six months (monthly school email advice and Carbon Group meetings). Officers explained that this was due to staff shortages and a need for workload prioritisation but that this should improve for the final two quarters.

Following consideration of the report, Members noted its contents and the progress made to date in meeting the actions set out in the action plan, and unanimously agreed with the Officer's judgement of "partially successful" against the Improvement Objective at the six-month point.

The meeting closed at 7.04 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2017, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR

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SPECIAL REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON
MONDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2016 AT 5.30 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor D.T. Davies - Chair
Councillor Mrs E.M. Aldworth – Vice-Chair

Councillors:

M. Adams, L. Harding, R.W. Gough, S. Kent, P. Marsden, M.J. Prew

Cabinet Member:

T.J. Williams (Highways, Transportation and Engineering)

Together with:

N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer), S. Harris (Interim Head of Corporate Finance), M. Eedy (Finance Manager - Environment Directorate), L. Dallimore (Medium Term Financial Plan Programme Coordinator), B. Davies (Solicitor) and R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C.J. Cuss, C. Elsbury, Mrs A. Leonard and Mrs E. Stenner, together with Cabinet Members N. George (Community and Leisure Services) and K. James (Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D.T. Davies declared an interest in Agenda Item 3 (Draft Budget Proposals for 2017/18) in respect of Bowling Green rationalisation. Details are minuted with the respective item.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following report.

3. DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2017/18

Councillor D.T. Davies declared an interest in this item as he is a member of Bargoed Bowls Club. In that the interest was deemed to be personal and not prejudicial, he remained in the meeting room during consideration of the item.

The report, which was presented to Cabinet on 30th November 2016, provided Members with details of draft budget proposals and draft savings proposals for the 2017/18 financial year, to allow for a period of consultation prior to a final decision in February 2017.

Members noted the headline issues in the WG Provisional 2017/18 Local Government Financial Settlement (which was published on 19th October 2016) and the details of the draft budget proposals for 2017/18. The report detailed Whole Authority Cost Pressures (£2.745m), Inescapable Service Pressures (£6.186m), and the Reduction in Welsh Government Funding (£0.608m). Additionally, the report outlined draft savings proposals for 2017/18 (£8.653m) and a proposed Council Tax Uplift of 1% (£0.886m) which will ensure that a balanced budget is deliverable for 2017/18.

The report outlined the financial pressures placed on service areas, with significant pressure on Social Services for essential payments in relation to the National Living Wage that had an impact on suppliers contract prices to CCBC, and the ever-increasing demand for services in both Adult and Children's Services. As a result, the report proposed that £3.5m be allocated in the 2017/18 budget to meet the ongoing financial pressures within Social Services. It was explained that cost pressures for schools are excluded as these will be funded through a proposed increase of 1.25% in the funding provided to schools.

Members were advised that although the provisional 2017/18 financial settlement is better than originally anticipated, the emerging cost pressures identified have resulted in a net savings requirement of £8.653m. Members were referred to Table 6 of the report, which provided details of the draft savings proposals that, alongside the proposed increase of 1% in Council Tax, will enable a balanced budget to be achieved. Included in the proposals are £3.037m of savings identified for 2017/18 that do not have a direct impact on service users or the public. A saving of £3.5m has also been proposed through undertaking a review of the Authority's Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, details of which were reported to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on the 7th December 2016. A Members' Seminar has been scheduled for the 12th January 2017 which will allow Members to be fully briefed on the proposed changes, ahead of the proposals being presented to Cabinet and thereafter Council for consideration.

During the course of the ensuing debate, reference was made to 'nil impact' savings (such as vacancy management, budget realignment and service provision). Members expressed a need for the Council to be mindful of staff wellbeing when applying these savings, and raised concerns regarding staffing reductions (especially in smaller teams) and the impact that subsequent service pressures could have on individuals. Officers gave examples of how these reductions could be spread out (such as a loss of a 0.5fte post in a team of 30 staff) and agreed to circulate further information to the Scrutiny Committee for sickness data related to work-related stress.

Members were assured that the Council is committed to promoting employee wellbeing and reducing work-related stress for all its employees as much as possible. Officers also explained that appropriate consultation will take place with staff and trade unions before any restructuring arrangements are implemented. Moving forward, Members were reminded of the difficult times faced by the Authority and the continued need to examine potential savings across all service areas. Officers advised that 'nil' impact savings would present a much smaller proportion of savings moving forward.

Discussion took place regarding the details of Bowling Green rationalisation (agreed by Cabinet in March 2016) and Officers confirmed that this process had entailed a number of voluntary redundancy severance arrangements. Members sought further information on the Apprenticeship Levy, and Officers explained that there is currently no clear guidance from Welsh Government on this matter. Reference was also made to a shortfall in income generation for car parking charges at country parks during 2016/17 and Officers confirmed that measures were being looked at to ensure the income target was achieved.

Following consideration and discussion of the report, it was moved and seconded that the following recommendations be supported. By a show of hands (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: -

- (i) the draft 2017/18 budget proposals, including the proposed savings totalling £8.653m, be endorsed;
- (ii) the proposal to increase Council Tax by 1% for the 2017/18 financial year to ensure that a balanced budget is achieved (Council Tax Band D being set at £1,011.96) be supported;
- (iii) the consultation process for the draft budget proposals be endorsed, prior to final 2017/18 budget proposals being presented to Cabinet and Council in February 2017.

The meeting closed at 5.56 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2017, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR

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REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14TH FEBRUARY 2017

**SUBJECT: REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151
OFFICER**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme

2. SUMMARY

2.1 Forward Work Programmes are essential to ensure that Scrutiny Committee agendas reflect the strategic issues facing the Council and other priorities raised by Members, the public or stakeholders.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 The operation of scrutiny is required by the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent Assembly legislation.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 The Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee forward work programme includes all reports that were identified at the scrutiny committee meeting on 13th December 2016. The work programme outlines the reports planned for the period February 2017 to July 2017.

4.2 The forward work programme is made up of reports identified by officers and members and has been prioritised into three priority areas, priority 1, 2 or 3. Members are asked to consider the work programme alongside the cabinet work programme and suggest any changes before it is published on the council website. Scrutiny committee will review this work programme at every meeting going forward alongside any changes to the cabinet work programme or report requests.

4.3 The Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1. The Cabinet Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 2.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising as a result of this report.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no specific financial implications arising as a result of this report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific personnel implications arising as a result of this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been included in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That Members consider any changes and agree the final forward work programme prior to publication.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To improve the operation of scrutiny.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 The Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Catherine Forbes-Thompson, Interim Head of Democratic Services
Consultees: Gail Williams, Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Christina Harry, Corporate Director - Communities

Appendices:
Appendix 1 Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme
Appendix 2 Cabinet Work Programme

Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme February 2017 to July 2017			
Meeting Date: 14 February 2017			
Subject	Purpose	Key Issues	Witnesses
Parking and Speed Enforcement (Members Request)	To discuss with the Chief Constable Gwent Police policies priorities and resource requirements associated with parking and speed enforcement		Chief Constable Jeff Farrar
Review of Street Lighting Changes (P2)	A briefing report to encompass the possible and actual effects of the most recent installation of LED (gear-tray replacement) Street Lighting in CBC	<p>The key elements of the report cover the following aspects of this investment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy, Financial & Materials savings • Environmental & Maintenance savings • Light pollution • Public response • Possible future trends in Accident & Criminal occurrences 	Terry Shaw
Communities First	To advise members on the current position with regards to Communities First Funding	To ensure members are aware of the current WG developments in relation to the Communities First programme and are fully informed on the potential impact.	David Whetter Tina McMahon
Environment Budget Update (P1)	Briefing report in relation to Service Revenue Budget Monitoring for 2016/17.	Service provision and delivery remaining within budget funding for the financial year and highlighting any ongoing budget pressures	Mike Eedy

Meeting Date: 28 March 2017			
Subject	Purpose	Key Issues	Witnesses
Environment Act – Ecology Plan	To update committee on the preparation of a plan.	The Council’s compliance with the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty required by the Act.	Christina Harray Tim Stephens
Inspection of Coal Tips	Committee Request	An overview of the inspection regime, responsibility and health and safety requirements in respect of Coal Tips in the County Borough.	Terry Shaw

Meeting Date: 23 May 2017			
Subject	Purpose	Key Issues	Witnesses
Vibrant Viable Places Proposal (P3)	To consult on the Viable Vibrant Places (VVP) grant bid proposals.	The report will outline the Welsh Government (WG) VVP funding criteria and submission timetable which currently waits to be published. It will detail the bid being made by CCBC for funding to engage the local community in a range of social, environmental and economic projects.	Awaiting for confirmation from WG. Anticipated the following officers will attend: Tina McMahon Jane Roberts-Waite Dave Whetter
Car Parking Review	To bring forward report and recommendations of the task and finish group.	To be determined from the task and finish group outcomes.	Terry Shaw Chair of Task and Finish Group
Road Speed Review (P2)	To explain the Speed review process to Members and advise of the outcomes and way forward.	Highlight those stretches of the Council's highway network that will be changing speed restrictions.	Terry Shaw Clive Campbell

Meeting Date: 4th July 2017			
Subject	Purpose	Key Issues	Witnesses
Leisure Review Proposals (P4)	To update the Committee on the outcome of the Sport & Leisure Review (s) agreed by the Committee at its June 2016 meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of BIP review and findings/ outcomes. • Next steps in terms of adoption of strategy by the Authority. 	Mark S Williams

(Key P1,2,3,4 – Priority 1,2,3 or 4)

Cabinet Forward Work Programme

APPENDIX 2

15TH FEBRUARY 2017	Key Issues	Service Area
<p>Budget Proposals 2017/18 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2017/22</p> <p>Cynigion Cyllideb 2017/18 a Strategaeth Cyllidol Tymor-Canolig 2017/22</p>	<p>To seek Cabinet endorsement of final 2017/18 budget proposals prior to consideration by Council on the 22nd February 2017.</p>	<p>Corporate Finance</p>
<p>Proposed Licensing Fees for Scrap Metal Dealers and Dog Breeders</p> <p>Arfaethed Trwyddedu Arfaethedig ar gyfer Masnachwyr Metel Sgrap a Bridwyr Cŵn</p>	<p>To note the review of fees for Scrap Metal Dealers and Dog Breeders licences and to seek approval for a revised fee structure for 2017/18.</p>	<p>Public Protection</p>
<p>“Business Enterprise and Innovation” Project - Regional Application for EU Structural and Investment Funds ERDF Priority 4 Objective 4</p> <p>Prosiect “Arloesi a Menter Busnes” - Cais Rhanbarthol ar gyfer Cronfeydd Strwythurol a Buddsoddi UE, ERDF Blaenoriaeth 4 Amcan 4</p>	<p>Cabinet approval to engage in a collaborative regional project that seeks grant funding under the European Regional Development Fund Priority 4, Strategic Objective 4 for expansion of the Lawns Industrial Estate, Rhymney.</p>	<p>Communities</p>
<p>Carbon Reduction Initiatives - Capital Allocation</p> <p>Mentrau Lleihau Carbon - Dyranid Cyfalaf</p>	<p>To seek Cabinet approval for capital budget allocation to carbon reduction initiatives to increase the provision of solar panels at schools and to pilot the use of electric vehicles for Council business.</p>	<p>Public Protection</p>

Cabinet Forward Work Programme

APPENDIX 2

1ST MARCH 2017	Key Issues	Service Area
<p>Corporate Plan (Well-Being Objectives)</p> <p>Cynllun Corfforaethol (Amcanion Llesiant)</p>	<p>To present to Cabinet (1st March 2017) the Council's draft Corporate Plan for 2017/18 and to seek the views and approval of Cabinet prior to its presentation to Council on 7th March 2017.</p>	<p>Public Protection</p>
<p>Junior and Youth Forum Priorities 2017</p> <p>Blaenoriaethau'r Fforwm Iau a'r Jeuenctid 2017</p>	<p>To inform Members of issues raised by Children & Young People via the Youth Service's Junior and Youth Forums.</p>	<p>Education</p>
<p>Bryn Brithdir, Oakdale Business Park – Renewal of CCBC and WG Joint Venture Agreement</p> <p>Bryn Brithdir, Parc Busnes Oakdale– Adnewyddu Cytundeb Menter ar y Cyd CBSC a LIC</p>	<p>To seek approval for the terms of the Joint Venture agreement with WG in relation to allocation of rental income received by the Council for Units 1-4 Bryn Brithdir, Oakdale Business Park.</p>	<p>Communities</p>
<p>Unit 21 Lawn Industrial Estate, Rhymney – Lease Renewal to the Furniture Revival, GC Enterprises (Wales) Ltd</p> <p>Uned 21 Ystâd Ddiwydiannol Lawn, Rhymni – Adnewyddu Prydles i'r Furniture Revival, GC Enterprises (Cymru) Cyf</p>	<p>To seek approval for the terms of the a new lease arrangement at a peppercorn rent with The Furniture Revival</p>	<p>Communities</p>

Cabinet Forward Work Programme

APPENDIX 2

15TH MARCH 2017	Key Issues	Service Area
Rhymney 3-18 All Through School Rhymni 3 - 18 Ysgol Gydol Oed	To apprise Members of the outcome of the consultative process to establish a Rhymney 3-18 All Through School and determine whether to proceed to publish a statutory notice.	Education
Cabinet Forward Work Programme Blaenraglen Waith y Cabinet	To seek Cabinet endorsement of the Forward Work Programme for the period April 2017 to June 2017.	Democratic Services
Payment for Annual Leave afal am Wyliau Blynnyddol	To consider payment for Annual Leave.	Human Resources
WHQS Re-profiling and Associated Capital Programme Rhaglen Gyfalaf Cysylltiedig ag Ail-broffilio SATC	To review progress with the implementation of the WHQS Programme, re-profile over the remaining years, where necessary, and set out a capital programme budget for 2017/18.	Housing Services
Proposed Admission Arrangements Trefniadau Derbyn Arfaethedig	To consider proposed changes to the Councils admission arrangements for the 2018/19 academic year	Education
Education Capital Programme Rhaglen Gyfalaf Addysg	To consider the school bids and recommendations for the allocation of funds against the different component parts of the 2017-18 Education capital programme	Education
29TH MARCH 2017	Key Issues	Service Area

Cabinet Forward Work Programme

APPENDIX 2

12TH APRIL 2017	Key Issues	Service Area

26TH APRIL 2017	Key Issues	Service Area
Annual Equalities Report Adroddiad Cydraddoldeb Blynyddol	<p>The Council has a statutory duty to produce an annual monitoring report on Equalities issues under current legislation. The requirements are very detailed as to what relevant information must be included in the annual monitoring and improvement report.</p> <p>The information presented is to ensure that the regulatory body involved (the Equalities and Human Rights Commission) is provided with full evidence of the Council's compliance and commitment to the statutory duty.</p>	Policy and Central Services

Page 22

24TH MAY 2017	Key Issues	Service Area

7TH JUNE 2017	Key Issues	Service Area

21ST JUNE 2017	Key Issues	Service Area
Rhymney 3-18 All Through School Rhymni 3 - 18 Ysgol Gydol Oed	To make a final decision on the proposal to establish a Rhymney 3-18 All Through School.	Education
EAS Business Plan Cynllun Busnes GCA	This report presents the South East Wales Education Achievement Service (EAS) Business Plan.	Education

Cabinet Forward Work Programme

APPENDIX 2

CABINET AS TRUSTEES OF BLACKWOOD MINERS INSTITUTE		
2ND AUGUST 2017	Key Issues	Service Area
Blackwood Miners' Institute progress report and update on 2017/2018 Budget Adroddiad Datblygiad Sefydliad y Glowyr Coed Duon Diweddariad Cyllid 2017/2018	To update Cabinet as Trustees on progress against the activity programme and work plan for Blackwood Miners Institute for the current year.	Economic Development

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REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14TH FEBRUARY 2017

SUBJECT: LED LIGHTING FEEDBACK REPORT

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report reviews the impact of recent investment to change from the existing higher energy conventional luminaries to LED (light emitting diode).
- 1.2 Scrutiny Committee to review the current methods of measuring and monitoring the energy savings.
- 1.3 Scrutiny Committee to review the use of LED light sources with reference to the Council's expectations with regards to light pollution and maintenance as outlined within this report.
- 1.4 For Scrutiny to review the LED feedback information relating to public responses within this report and comment on the existing methods of addressing these public concerns.
- 1.5 For Scrutiny to review and comment on the correlation between LED light sources and crime/accident figures in residential areas.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) has a current lighting stock of approximately 27,500 units, which have been subject to a number of energy saving measures (inter-urban part-night lighting, replacement of conventional bulbs with low-energy alternatives, dimming etc) since 2009.
- 2.2 The MTFP (Medium Term Financial Plan) 2015-16 EN5 saving looked for an energy saving of £450k (£290k from the LED lighting and £160k from part night lighting) over 2015-16, 2016-17 with the combination of an investment of £980k in LED (Light Emitting Diode) replacement gear-tray technology and part-night lighting measures. The installation started in September 2015 and has been completed. A total of 9,450 lighting units converted to lower energy ratings (compared with the original proposal of 8,000 units). This installation had realised £96k by the end of March 2016 with an additional £190k in energy savings forecast by the end of March 2017.
- 2.3 The energy savings have been measured and monitored in energy, CO₂ tonnage savings and financial terms. The savings show that, with the current figures, there is a positive correlation between the projected energy savings and those predicted in MTFP 2015-16 EN5.
- 2.4 Whilst this installation has taken place, comments / complaints have been logged and responded to, which has assisted in understanding the issues of the LED change and the potential issues for any future schemes. The comments are limited to around 100 over the

last 13 months (a very modest number over this period of time) with their nature being limited to the LED units being either too bright or too dim. It is deemed that the existing feedback mechanisms for the public are sufficient for this or similar schemes.

- 2.5 Although the links to crime and accidents have been shown not to have a demonstrable link to LED Street Lighting (refer to background paper: London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in partnership with University College London - published in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health - July 2015), figures for these have been sourced and reviewed.
- 2.6 Accident figures for night-time collisions for the first six months, since installation of the LED gear-trays, show a slight increase from the five year mean, which has no statistical significance, so further data will need to be gathered before any firm conclusions can be drawn.
- 2.7 The local crime figures provided by Gwent Police (from April 2014 to November 2016) shows that there is no noticeable increase in crime after the installation of LED gear-tray lighting in Sept 2015.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The report links directly to the Council's priority to ensure that communities are safe, green and clean places to live and to improve residents' quality of life by reviewing, renewing and installing lighting energy saving technologies.
- 3.2 The proposal also links to the Council's Strategic Equality Objectives – **Safer Caerphilly** namely SEO1 - Tackling Identity Based Hate Crime and SEO3 Physical Access, as detailed further in Section 6 of this report.
- 3.3 This proposal has a contribution to make in improving sustainability with more effective lighting and the reduction in energy usage for these lighting replacements. As noted in the Single Integrated Plan - A **Greener Caerphilly** which aims to: improve local environmental quality (G01) and reduce the causes of and adapt to the effects of climate change (G02)
- 3.4 The report supports the **Prosperous** and **Safer** themes of the 'Caerphilly Delivers' in the single integrated plan.
- 3.5 The recommended course of action contributes to the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015:
 - *A prosperous Wales*
 - *A resilient Wales*
 - *A Wales of cohesive communities*
 - *A globally responsible Wales*

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Background to Street Lighting

- 4.1.1 There is no statutory requirement on local authorities in the United Kingdom to provide public lighting, the Highways Act 1980 (Sections 97 & 98), empowers local authorities to light roads (Highway Authorities may provide lighting for the purposes of any Highway or proposed Highway for which they are or will be the Highway Authority), it does not place a duty to do so. Although Highway Authorities do have a duty of care to the road user, and an obligation to light obstructions on the highway, this does not imply a duty on the Highway Authority to keep all lighting operational. The Council has a statutory duty under the Highways Act to ensure the safe passage of the highway (as far as reasonably practicable) and this includes any lighting equipment placed on the highway.

4.1.2 To date a number of measures have taken place to reduce street lighting energy consumption in CCBC.

4.1.2.1 In 2009-10 CCBC implemented part-night lighting (switched off between mid-night and 5.30 am GMT – as agreed by the Council in 2009 for implementation in 2010 onwards) for the majority of the inter-urban roads (between towns and villages); approximating to 5,000 units in total.

4.1.2.2 In 2012-14 areas were nominated for low energy lighting trialled in selected areas around the county borough; approximating to 4,000 units in total.

4.1.2.3 In 2012-14, Central Management System (CMS)/ Dimming schemes were installed in trial areas, to approximately 5,000 units in total. This works by dimming the lights (via the CMS) to realise energy savings. The threshold for this power reduction is 50%, after this point a visible difference is perceived by the naked eye, more efficient energy savings can be attained with the recent and effective ranges of lighting technologies, such as LED replacements.

4.1.2.4 There are also ancillary apparatus, which include lit signs and bollards. These are of marginal cost to the annual energy budget, amounting up to £10k each; with traffic lights having a figure of £50k per annum. Though these are not seen as a priority (as more significant savings can be realised with street lighting replacements), the older/life expired ancillary units are gradually being replaced by modern energy efficient LED versions, as finances allow.

4.1.2.5 In 2015-16 a capital investment of £980k was made for replacement of approximately 8,200 lights with LED gear trays (replacing the lighting elements only) and increasing the number of lights affected by the part night lighting policy. Failure to agree an increase to the part night lighting resulted in a proposed whole year saving of approximately £290k for 2016-17. The remaining reduction of £160k has been achieved by reducing the Lighting Maintenance budget by this amount (agreed at the Cabinet meeting 30th March 2016).

4.1.2.6 There has been an additional installation of the LED gear-trays which has taken around seven months to complete. This being sourced from the capital funding previously allocated for part night lighting, which has been utilised to replace life expired sodium residential lanterns (approximately 1250 units). Installation began in August 2016 and was completed in December.

4.2 **Effects of LED Street Lighting**

4.2.1 As explained in the previous section, there has been a two stage installation of the LED gear-trays taking place over a fifteen month period, which has given the time parameters for data to be compiled and an assessment to be carried out on the following:

- Energy reduction
- Environmental savings
- Financial savings
- Material saving
- Maintenance costs
- Light pollution
- Public response
- Possible future trends in accident occurrence
- Possible future trends in crime

4.2.2 **Energy Reduction:** with large scale usage this is expressed as the standard unit of measurement of the kilo-watt hour (kWh). This provides the energy rating, as it combines both power (kW) and time (h). So if you switched on a 100 watt light bulb, it would take 10 hours to use 1 kWh of energy (100W x 10h = 1,000 = 1 kWh).

A table can be drawn up with comparisons made for the energy savings based on readings taken this year with projected figures up to March 2017 against readings taken before the main LED gear-tray installation (so in 2014-15). This can be segregated over three time periods:

- Comparing January to September 2016 against January to September 2015 – this gives an actual reading of the energy savings for the most recent nine months (Column A in table below)
- Comparing January to December 2016 against January to December 2015 – this gives predicted energy savings for the end of the calendar year (Column B in table below)
- Comparing March 2016 to March 2017 against March 2014 to March 2015 – this gives the projected energy savings for the first 12 months of the MTFP savings (refer to 2.2) (Column C in table below)

	A	B	C
Energy Saving (kWh)	1,558,861	2,100,000	2,531,000

4.2.3 **Environmental Savings:** The standard measurement of environmental impact is in Carbon Dioxide tonnage (CO₂ t). This means the predicted amount of the CO₂ is calculated for producing a set amount of energy. Working out the amount of CO₂ produced, as a by-product of energy generation, is a ready measure of the burden placed on the environment. The formula for this is:

$$\text{CO}_2 \text{ t} = \text{kWh} \times \text{DEFRA conversion factor} / 1000$$

The 'conversion factor' changes annually due to the mix of fossil fuels used by the power stations.

To express such a figure as an energy saving, gives a convenient scaling of the amount of ecological benefit gained by the environment.

Using the same format of table as produced for 4.2.2, the following figures can derived:

	A	B	C
Saving (CO ₂ t) as of 2014	770	1,000	1,250

These rates are linked to the year that the MTFP was set in 2014 (ref. 2.2).

As energy becomes greener this factor has reduced from 0.49426 in 2014 to 0.41205 in 2016. CO₂ t savings, as predicted in 2014, are therefore higher than in 2016; this gives the following results:

	A	B	C
Saving (CO ₂ t) as of 2016	642	865	1,042

4.2.4 **Financial savings**, this is the most prominent indicator of energy saving as it has a direct effect on budgets. Unlike the other two units above (kWh and CO₂), it is an inconsistent unit of measurement as unit prices for energy can go up as well as down. To mitigate this inconsistency from 2014 to 2016, the price per kWh is fixed to October 2014; this being the rate set at the time the MTFP was formulated and approved.

Using the same format of table as produced for 4.2.2, the following figures can derived:

	A	B	C
Saving (£) @ October 2014 rates	179,000	242,000	290,000

At the time of the MTFP (ref 4.1.2.5.), the unit rate per kWh was £ 0.11525, since then it has reduced to £0.10546, therefore the figure to be realised in March 2017 will be closer to £288,000.

As can be seen the projected savings from the MTFP 2015-16 EN5 (£290,000 from LED lighting – refer to 2.2), are currently on target for being achieved by March 2017, despite the drop in energy prices, due to the additional LED lighting investment released by the funds budgeted for part-night lighting (ref. 4.1.2.6.).

4.2.5 **Materials Savings** – the basis of LED lighting is for a current to pass through oppositely charged silicon diodes to create light, it therefore does not rely on the use of significant amounts of heavy metals or rare (and expensive) Nobel gases, as is the case with conventional sodium lighting. The material costs for LED lighting therefore presents a low-cost, more environmentally friendly and sustainable alternative to conventional street lighting.

4.2.6 **Maintenance Costs**, the average life span for a conventional (sodium) light is 3 to 4 years, LED units range from 10 to 15 years. Therefore there is a clear advantage of moving to LED technology in that the replacement of the lighting units are less frequent by a factor of 2 to 4.

The use of this more modern technology means that the lighting head design is more effectively profiled to resist severe weather conditions, is composed of more resilient materials and lighter in weight (reducing the loading risk), so presenting a more sustainable and resilient unit when compared to conventional types.

This has to be balanced with factors such as LED being a relatively new technology (so not as tried and tested as conventional units) and other components such as the column, electric cabling and lamp housing are still subject to aging and failure.

4.2.7 **Night-time light pollution** is the combined light from streetlights, office buildings, stadiums and other structures that brightens night skies and drastically limits the visibility of stars and potentially affects nocturnal wildlife.

Outdoor LEDs illuminate streets more efficiently than conventional (sodium) units, consisting of individual point light sources; they are more directional, meaning that they focus light, so illuminating the highway only and not the surrounding areas. Sodium lamps are gas-filled bulbs that emit light in all directions; more than half of that light must be redirected downward by reflectors or lenses, reducing the lamps' illumination efficiency.

Early versions of LED street lights have worsened light pollution by giving off more blue and green light than the conventional sodium lights they normally replace. So like the conventional sodium lighting, it appeared to wash out the night sky and was linked to many negative consequences, such as disrupted night and day cycles of nocturnal animals and altering their hunting interactions and internal physiology.

More recently, lighting companies have introduced LED streetlights, with coatings on the LEDs, which provide a warmer-hued output together with flat or concave configurations to direct more of the light downwards; this has reduced the blue/ green lighting and the reflected light issues.

All of the LED gear-tray and LED lantern replacements installed in CCBC since 2014 have utilised warm (sub 4000K LEDs) and been on the flat configuration and so directing their light towards the highway rather than dispersing it.

4.2.8 **Public Response**, there has also been an exercise carried out to segregate and compile the comments and complaints related to the LED conversion of street lighting since its instigation in September 2015, these can be summarised as follows:

Customer services

Number of complaints that LED lighting is too bright	29
Number of complaints that LED lighting is too dim	41
Number of commendations	4
Total number of comments/ complaints via Customer Services	74

Social Media

Total number of negative comments (too dim)	33
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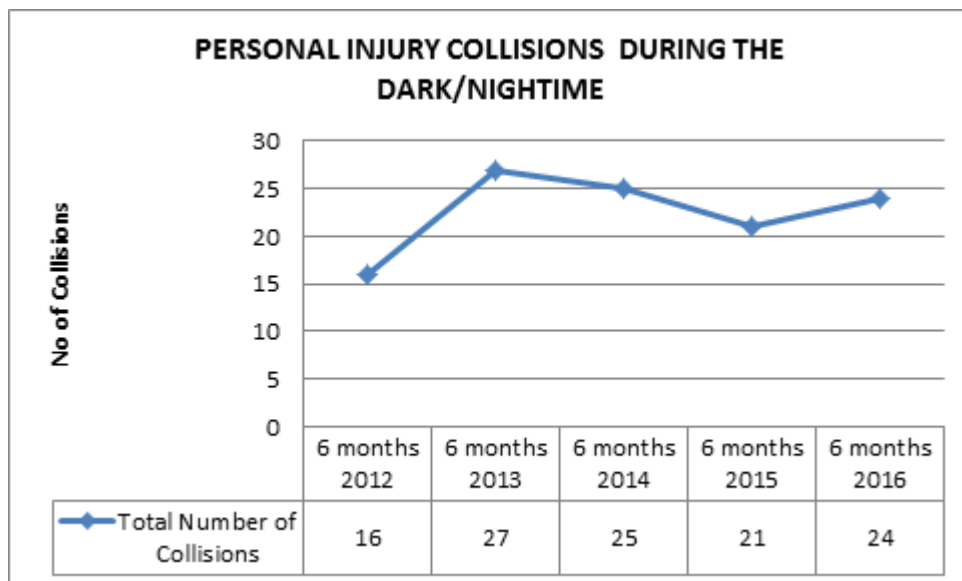
This gives a total of 107 for comments and complaints from September 2015 to date, of which 104 are concerning the light intensity when compared with the conventional sodium (yellow) street lighting units. It must also be noted that the number from Social Media (33) is very low and was usually in response to a posted article rather than arriving independently. To give a degree of context, other council services such as refuse collection, dog fouling etc. typically number in the hundreds over similar time periods.

The perception of the different lighting types leads to a comparison, where the conventional Sodium (yellow) lights floods the surrounding area with a dispersed light eg buildings and trees, whilst the lighting of LED units is primarily directed towards the highway only. In instances where the LED lighting has received a complaint about the brightness, the deployment of mini-shields or a minor alteration in the street light head can be used to alleviate the issue.

Interaction with members of the public indicates that most accept that there is a need to reduce the energy use associated with street lighting and, following a short period of acclimatisation to the LEDs, few people have reported any ongoing concerns. Adjacent Authorities undertaking wide ranging LED installations have also received similar concerns in modest numbers.

4.2.9 **Possible future trends in accident occurrence;** for this to be assessed the figures for night-time accidents were taken over a five year period. Due to the installation date (September 2015 to December 2016) the most representative figures will be found over the first six month period of 2016 (1st January to 30th June), as the figures for the second half of the year have not been sourced and compiled at time of printing.

The results are summarised in the table below:

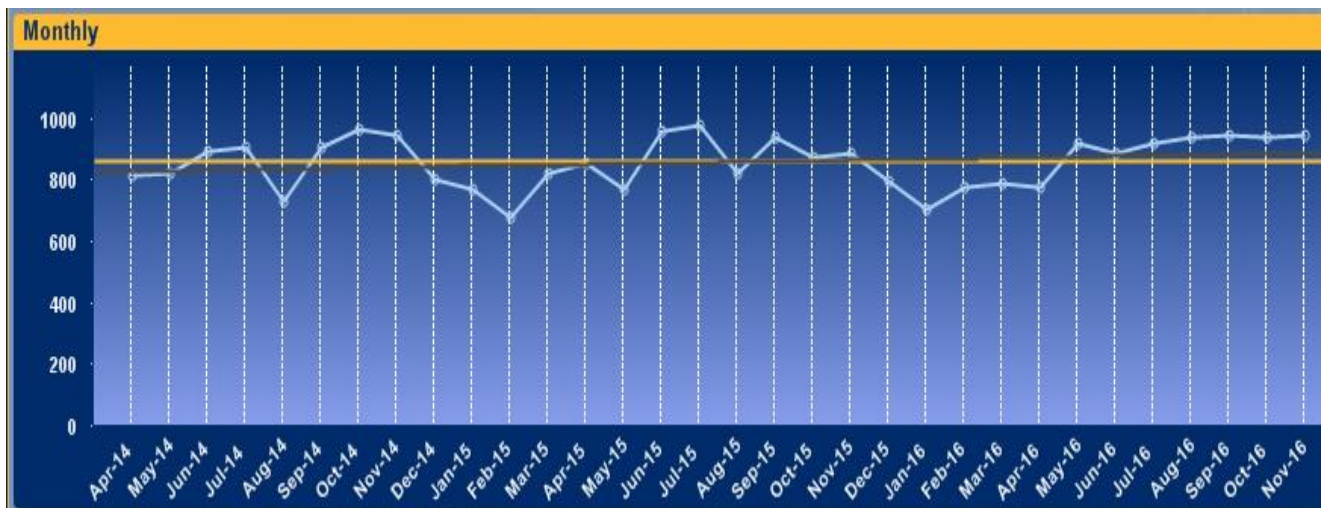


The figures compiled are taken from incidents that occurred in the dark, to focus on the possible issues associated with street lighting; although lighting conditions can be noted in the details of the Accident Statistics (Stats 19) formwork (filled in primarily by the Police), it is difficult to attribute the change in street lighting as a causation factor, as it is not currently included in the Contributory Factors section of this form. Street lighting was not especially noted in the Stats 19 forms received for the first 6 months of 2016. With this proviso, the 2016 figures can be seen to show a slight increase from the comparable data taken in 2015, though this is within 10% of the 5 year average of 23, so is not deemed statistically significant.

Going forward the possible effects of the change to LED street lighting on accident rates will be looked into in a separate exercise to be conducted by CCBC when a full 12 month set of figures (for 2016) becomes available.

Figures taken at this early stage are always going to be less representative of any possible effects and so an exercise of on-going monitoring is now in place to more accurately assess any negative or positive effects LED lighting has on this particular statistic.

4.2.10 **Possible future trends in crime** – A summary of the crime trend line (for CCBC) from April 2014 to November 2016 is shown below:



As can be seen, there is no noticeable increase in crime after the implementation of LED lights in Sept 2015. The steady increase post May 2016 is likely to be related to a change in recording practices used by the Gwent Police.

Caution should be used when analysing these crime figures as they are influenced by a huge range of factors and the effectiveness and impact of street lighting is open to much debate (refer to background paper: London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in partnership with University College London - published in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health - July 2015).

It also needs to be noted that a significant amount of the reported crime figures is committed in the hours of daylight, or within buildings or dwellings that would not be influenced by the presence or type of nearby street lighting.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

5.1 This report contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above (3.5). It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act in that it supports:

- Long term asset management solutions, as the LED conversions are both more durable and have a longer life-span than the current conventional (sodium) lighting units. This allows for more effective and predictable resource/ financial commitment for replacement and maintenance of these units.

- A prevention strategy based on having less reliance on the maintenance of the lighting units; the street lighting budget can then be re-focussed on the other structural elements of the lighting column, including the electric cables and focussing on making Caerphilly a safer and more environmentally friendly authority, with the reduction in energy expenditure meaning that energy saving initiatives, such as restricted hours lighting, are no longer an issue for urban areas. The application of LED lighting along interurban routes could also allow a return to whole night operation with no increase in the energy usage. The lower energy usage will mean reduced CO₂ levels needed for energy generation, so increasing the environmental benefits at the local and national levels.
- Effective lighting leading to collaboration with internal departments for town centre initiatives / schemes and the inclusion of other public bodies, such as the Police, in making urban areas less prone to crime and vehicular/ pedestrian accidents.
- The involvement of the public in instigating further LED conversion schemes with effective feedback mechanisms to receive comments both positive and negative and so improve the service provision.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Dimming or switching off of street lights could have a significantly greater negative impact on people with certain types of visual impairment compared with the majority of the population. It will also significantly affect older people for both reasons of eyesight, and potentially a number of groups such as older people, the LGBT community, lone women etc. in terms of feelings of vulnerability and an increased fear of crime.
- 6.2 The clearer, more focused street lighting provided by LED units should assist poorly sighted individuals, as well as helping define the less able bodied to be identified in poor lighting conditions, on or around the highway.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct financial impacts from the assessments that have been carried out in this report. The only potential impact will be on the possible future investments for LED conversions and any measures (existing and additional) required for this to take place.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 These proposals will not have any direct impact on CCBC personnel.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 All comments received have been taken into consideration for inclusion into this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Scrutiny to review the impact of the investment to change from the existing conventional (sodium) luminaries to LED (light emitting diode) street lighting that has taken place in urban residential areas within Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) and comment on the current methods of measuring and monitoring the energy savings for future phases of LED street lighting conversion.
- 10.2 Scrutiny Committee to consider and comment on the data and information within this report and note the current approach taken for both light pollution and maintenance aspects when implementing the LED conversions.

- 10.3 Scrutiny Committee to consider and comment on the data and processing of public responses within this report and note the current processes used when implementing LED street lighting conversion.
- 10.4 Scrutiny to review the accident and crime figures and note that the current figures show no significant change with the introduction of urban LED street lighting and that further data will be required to more accurately assess any possible effects of LED street lighting.

11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 The views of the committee will be considered as part of any future phases of LED conversions.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Highway Act 1980.

Author: Graham Parry, Highway Operations Group Manager

Consultees: Cllr T Williams – Cabinet Member for Highways, Transportation & Engineering
Cllr T Davies, Chief of Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee
Cllr E M Aldworth, Vice Chair of Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee
Chris Burns – Interim Chief Executive
Christina Harray - Corporate Director – Communities
Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services and S.151
Gail Williams, Interim Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer
Terry Shaw – Head of Engineering Services
Rob Hartshorn – Head of Public Protection
Mike Eedy – Finance Manager
Anwen Rees – Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)
Steve Hodges – Network Management Manager
Thomas Llewelyn – Senior Engineer
Alison Jones - Ecologist (Countryside and Landscape Services)
Gemma Thomas - Road Safety Officer
Trish Reardon, HR Manager

Background Papers:

Highways Act 1980

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in partnership with University College London
(published in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health - July 2015)

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REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14TH FEBRUARY 2017

SUBJECT: BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2016/2017

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the most recent budget monitoring position for 2016/2017 for Environment Directorate service Divisions, including Regeneration & Planning Division, Engineering Services Division, Public Protection Division and Community & Leisure Services Division.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report summarises the most recent budget monitoring projections for 2016/2017 based on the latest available financial information.
- 2.2 It attaches, as appendices the more detailed budget monitoring figures for each of the Council Fund Services outlined in paragraph 1.1 above.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The content of the report is in accordance with the budget strategy considered by the Council at its meeting of 24th February 2016.
- 3.2 The budget figures outlined in this report assist in meeting the ambition of the Authority to build better communities by building better public services, building better lifestyles, building a vibrant economy and building Futures Changing Lives.
- 3.3 Budget monitoring and management information itself is in accordance with the corporate theme of delivering the Strategies.
- 3.4 Effective financial planning and financial control contribute to the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-
- A prosperous Wales
 - A resilient Wales
 - A healthier Wales
 - A more equal Wales
 - A Wales of cohesive communities
 - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
 - A globally responsible Wales

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The report outlines the revenue budget position for each of the service Divisions that form part of the Environment Directorate based on the most current financial information available. Projected outturn figures for the financial year are compared with the budget to show the anticipated under/overspends. More detailed budget monitoring figures are shown in the appendices' 1a to 1d.
- 4.1.2 It should be noted that the budget report to Council on 24th February 2016 detailed the need to apply further budget efficiency savings in 2016/2017 to meet medium term financial plan (MTFP) targets and achieve budget strategy aims. Environment Directorate services were targeted to achieve new budget efficiency savings of £2.850million.
- 4.1.3 The table 1 below summarises the present budget monitoring position, with an overall Directorate under spend of £365k, but **exclusive** of ring fenced budgets this under spend is increased to £426k. The report will highlight that the budget for Community & Leisure Division now includes £800k corporate funding approved by Cabinet on 16th November 2016 to support the ongoing budget pressures and over spend in relation to dry recycling treatment (paragraph 4.5.2 below). Appendices 1a to 1d provide more detail on the budget variation projections for each Service Division.

TABLE 1	ORIGINAL ESTIMATE 2016/2017	REVISED ESTIMATE 2016/2017	ANTICIPATED OUTTURN 2016/2017	ANTICIPATED VARIANCE 2016/2017 Under (Over)
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Regeneration & Planning Division	3,857	4,085	4,081	4
Engineering Services Division	19,618	19,671	19,578	93
Public Protection Division	7,143	7,143	6,945	198
Community & Leisure Services Division	18,136	18,936	18,869	67
Directorate General	162	162	159	3
NET DIRECTORATE	48,916	49,997	49,632	365
Home to School Transport - ring fenced over spend				(94)
Social Services Transport – ring fenced under spend				33
Cemeteries Task & Finish – ring fenced under spend				0
NET DIRECTORATE under spend (excluding ring fenced budgets)				426

Note: Cabinet on 16th November 2016 approved the recommendation that for 2016/2017 financial year the projected underspend in relation to Cemeteries would not be ring fenced but instead be retained within the base budget to partially offset other budget pressures within the Community & Leisure Service Division.

4.2 Regeneration & Planning Division

- 4.2.1 Overall, the service division presently has a small projected under spend of £4k. Planning services are reporting an over spend of £227k and Economic Development & Tourism an under spend of £231k.

- 4.2.2 Countryside Services are reporting an over spend of £25k, with a shortfall in income generation from car park charging of £31k being offset by under spends in other operational costs.
- 4.2.3 Development Control is reporting an over spend of £60k as a result of Planning application fee income and pre application advice income presently being projected to be £145k short of the £575k budget target. This income shortfall is partly offset by an under spend in staffing due to delayed filling of vacant posts and MTFP savings in advance for 2017/2018. There is also an over spend of £89k in Building Control, where income is presently projected to be £106k below the £302k budget. Planning application fee and building control fee income is dependent on the number of applications received and applications and fee levels can vary significantly. The addition of one or two large planning applications can make a significant difference to income levels and this will be monitored closely over the next few months.
- 4.2.4 Strategic Planning budgets are presently projected to be £50k over spent due to a shortfall in rechargeable fee income, partly offset by staffing under spend due to staff on reduced working hour contracts.
- 4.2.5 Schemes under the Rural Development Plan (R.D.P) are continuing in 2016/2017 as a result of a new approved RDP programme 2014-2020 and European grant funding of £2.643million for the period up to 2020. The total cost of these schemes will be 80% funded by European (W.E.F.O) grant. Approval of the new schemes has helped secure continuity of employment of Planning and Countryside staff. However the position may change dependent on the timing of UK's exit from the European Union and the impact this will have on existing European grant funding.
- 4.2.6 Overall Economic Development & Tourism is presently projecting an under spend of £231k. Business Development has an underspend of £111k which is due to a combination of staff vacant posts including the vacant Head of Service post and under spend in other operational non staff budgets. This underspend is partly offset by a temporary contract extension to a previously grant funded post. There is also an under spend of £40k in Community Regeneration Fund due to an anticipated reduction in the number of applicants for grant match funding support.
- 4.2.7 Business Urban Renewal is reporting an over spend of £120k, this includes a projected over spend of £125k in relation to the Bargoed retail shop units which are part of the Bargoed Regeneration project, which is due to anticipated under occupancy of the units and reduced rental income in 2016/2017. There is also staffing over spend due to a temporary contract extension to a previously grant funded post and honorarium payment relating to the vacant Head of Service post, but this is more than offset by another vacant post and additional income in Town Centre Management from commercial pitch fees in town centres.
- 4.2.8 There is a projected £72k under spend in relation to industrial properties due to staff vacant posts from voluntary early retirements, partly offset by a £12k shortfall in income. Income budgets for 2016/2017 were increased by £100k as part of MTFP requirements, so it is pleasing to note that this increased target is nearly fully achieved. There will be further review of this service and initiatives identified to increase Industrial Property rent income in order to ensure budget targets are achieved in the future.
- 4.2.9 Tourism Events have a net under spend of £10k, with additional income generated from pitch fees and concessions from the various events, particularly the Big Cheese. At present the Tourism Venues are reporting an overall under spend of £53k primarily due to staff vacant posts at a number of venues partly offset by under achievement in income targets, including Cwmcarn Visitor centre where the ongoing closure of the Scenic Drive for ongoing tree felling works is negatively impacting on visitor numbers. The Caerphilly Visitor Centre is however over achieving income targets due to the continuing success of the coffee shop facilities. Income generation at the tourism venues will be closely monitored as it can be susceptible to variation due to changes in consumer demand and visitor numbers. Marketing & promotion

and identifying new customer offer options are important to the ongoing financial sustainability of the tourism venues.

4.2.10 Community Regeneration has an under spend of £65k, mainly due to additional staff recharge income from support provided to the grant funded Community First programme.

4.3 Engineering Services

4.3.1 Engineering is reporting a net under spend of £93k on a £20.2million budget, but after excluding budget variations in relation to Home to School Transport (£94k over spend) and Social Services Transport (£33k under spend) which will be ring fenced and appropriated back to the Service Directorates, there is an under spend of £154k.

4.3.2 Expenditure in relation to highway reactive maintenance repairs is presently projected to be £250k overspent due to ongoing pressures on the highway. The severity of winter weather in relation to snow, gritting and flooding will have an impact on the overall outturn position, but for now it is currently assumed that the winter maintenance budget of £1.14million will under spend by £209k. There is funding in the winter maintenance reserve of £492k which can be accessed if necessary. The Engineering Division is reviewing the highway maintenance programme to identify measures to balance the budget by the end of the financial year. MTFP savings of £350k (£190k energy and £160k maintenance) were applied to the street lighting budget in 2016/2017 as a result of capital investment in low energy LED lights so it is pleasing to note that these savings are being achieved

4.3.3 The Engineering Projects Group (EPG) has a projected under spend of £134k, due to a combination of vacant posts and additional fee income primarily from the ongoing car park review and asset management plan development.

4.3.4 There is a projected overspend of £99k in relation to car parks, primarily relating to the ongoing review and asset management plan development for car parks, however this is offset by additional fee income for EPG (Engineering Projects Group) as noted above. The payment of fees to EPG is to be funded from the use of identified unapplied grant from the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) park & ride project. There is also a £34k shortfall in the car park income budget at present.

4.3.5 An MTFP saving of £126k was applied to Public Transport in 2016/2017, but there is presently an overspend of £50k due to the timing of the implementation of the new bus contracts and other cost increases. The saving will be found from within the Public transport service area for this financial year and will be fully achieved in 2017/18 from within the specific budget area.

4.3.6 There is a projected overall underspend of £230k in staffing across the Engineering Division due to vacant posts and secondments some of which are MTFP savings in advance for 2017/2018.

4.3.7 The £94k over spend in relation to Home to School Transport is due to there being 3 more school days in 2016/2017 compared to the average budgeted school days, which increases contractor payments accordingly and increased cost of alternative transport. An MTFP saving of £250k was applied to this budget in 2016/2017. There is some volatility in this budget due to demand for taxi's and variation in school days due to poor winter weather.

4.3.8 Social Services Transport has a projected under spend of £33k which is mainly due to under spend on salaries (as some staff are currently on reduced hours & casual costs lower than expected) and the Bus Services Support Grant likely to be £14k more than budgeted.

4.3.9 At this stage of the year Network Contracting Services is reporting a£40k surplus. It is anticipated that the value of work and income will increase during the remainder of the year which should result in an improved financial position. NCS is undertaking the work in relation to the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) sub contract with Sirhowy Enterprise Way Ltd for a

further 10 years and this should have a positive impact on the overall financial position, although in order to be compliant with the risk transfer aspects of the PFI procurement, surpluses in relation to this contract will again be ring fenced, as they were in previous financial years.

4.4 Public Protection

- 4.4.1 Public Protection is presently projecting an under spend of £198k on an overall revenue budget of £7.143million.
- 4.4.2 Environmental Health is currently projecting a net under spend of £91k including £55k in the Enforcement team due to income received from early termination of the Blaenau Gwent pest control SLA and delayed filling of vacant posts. There is also underspend in relation to the Pollution team due to a vacant part time post. Costs in relation to closed landfills, pollution and contamination can be volatile and subject to change during the year so these will be monitored closely as any increases in this area would impact on the overall financial position.
- 4.4.3 Trading Standards is reporting an underspend of £43k primarily relating to a staff vacant post in Commercial Services and additional income in relation to Registrar's, partly offset by a shortfall in Licensing fee income. CCTV is reporting a £12k under spend due to staff vacancies and increased income from CCTV recharges to other services.
- 4.4.4 There is a projected overall net underspend of £51k for Catering Services. This includes £98k in Primary School catering due to additional school meals income and underspends in staffing and other operational costs, although food costs have recently increased due to inflationary price changes. There is also a projected underspend of £46k for Comprehensive School catering. These underspends are partly offset by a projected overspend of £43k in relation to Breakfast Clubs due to the fact that the MTFP saving of £70k in relation to reduced supervision has not been fully achieved as yet. There is also a £48k projected overspend in meals direct and civic catering due to a shortfall in income targets and increased cost of food.
- 4.4.5 At present, financial information in relation to the Public Protection Division continues to be reported to Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee as part of the Environment Directorate, although operational service specific reports are now submitted to Health Social Care & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee due to a realignment of senior officer reporting arrangements.

4.5 Community & Leisure Services

- 4.5.1 The Community & Leisure Division is presently projecting an overall under spend of £67k on an overall budget of £18.136 million. As noted in paragraph 4.1.4 above this does include a £162k under spend in cemetery services which will not for the 2016/2017 financial year be ring- fenced.
- 4.5.2 Waste management & cleansing is presently projecting an overall over spend of £112k, however this includes £800k additional budget approved by Cabinet on 16th November 2016. This temporary funding has been made available to finance cost pressures in dry recyclable waste whilst alternative waste treatment arrangements are procured. The dry recycling treatment budget is presently over spending by £1,133k (reduced to £333k after the £800k contingency funding) due to a combination of increased treatment costs per tonne, increased waste tonnages and additional costs of treating materials that cannot be recycled. There is also over spend of £105k in relation to residual waste treatment due to increased tonnage of waste sent to the Project Gwyrdd EfW plant in Cardiff. There is also a £337k over spend in relation to Civic Amenity sites due to increased tonnage of waste being processed. Volumes of waste tonnage from the various waste streams and the treatment costs per tonne are monitored closely as any fluctuations during the year can have a significant impact on the overall financial position.

- 4.5.3 It is anticipated that these over spends will be partly offset by under spend in staffing costs (£317k) in relation to street cleaning and HQ management & supervision from vacant posts and also other savings in operational costs including reduced/delayed vehicle and plant acquisition requirement (£480k RCCO) and bin replacements (£60k).
- 4.5.4 An underspend of £100k is projected for Parks, Outdoor Facilities and Cemeteries inclusive of £162k under spend in relation to Cemeteries. Cabinet on 16th November 2016 approved that the 2016/2017 projected underspend in relation to cemeteries is not ring fenced as in previous years but instead retained within the base budget to partially offset other budget pressures within the Community & Leisure Services Division. The £62k overspend in the remainder of the Parks service is mainly due to the delayed retirement of the Parks Manager as part of the 2016/2017 MTFP savings.
- 4.5.5 Leisure Services is projecting an overall underspend of £81k. Leisure Centres are projected to overspend by £52k mainly due to a projected £45k shortfall in budgeted income. The Leisure Centres have a challenging combined income target of £3.516million for 2016/2017 which has been increased by £235k over the past few years as part of MTFP savings requirements. Income targets at Leisure Centres will be monitored closely as income generation is subject to variation depending on customer demand. However, the overspend in Leisure Centres is more than offset by an underspend in central leisure of £96k due to vacant posts and an underspend in sports & health development of £37k due to vacant posts.
- 4.5.6 Vehicle Maintenance & Fleet Management is currently projected to overspend of £4k. The outturn position will be dependent on the value of work through the workshop over the next few months and the ability to finance fixed overheads.
- 4.5.7 Building Cleaning is reporting a small projected under spend of £1k, the service is continually seeking to secure additional cleaning contract work to sustain employments levels and finance fixed overheads.

4.6 Medium Term Financial Plans (MTFP) Savings 2016/2017

- 4.6.1 The 2016/17 revenue budget for Environment Directorate included targeted MTFP savings of £2.850million as summarised in table 2 below. The projected overspends and under spends discussed in the above paragraphs take account of these savings targets.

TABLE 2

Service Division	Approved Savings 2016/2017 £000
Regeneration & Planning Division	285
Engineering Services Division	894
Public Protection Division	463
Community & Leisure Services Division	1,208
TOTAL	2,850

- 4.6.2 As reflected in the budget monitoring figures reported above, most of the approved MTFP savings introduced for 2016/2017 have or will be achieved by the end of the financial year, however, there are some that require further review and monitoring that may not be fully achieved, as some over spend is being predicted. These MTFP savings include:
- Increased income targets in relation to Industrial Properties (£100k), projected to under achieve by £12k and Cwmcarn visitor centre (£20k) projected to under achieve by £22k as noted in paragraphs 4.2.8 and 4.2.9 respectively above. Initiatives are being considered to increase income generation at Industrial Properties via increased occupancy and rent reviews and at Cwmcarn by reviewing the customer offer to compensate for the loss of income resulting from the closure of the scenic drive.

- Passenger Transport (£126k) projected to under achieve by £50k due to the timing of the introduction of new contracts (paragraph 4.3.5 above). This saving is anticipated to be fully achieved in 2017/2018 as the new contracts will have been in operation for a full financial year and initiatives are being considered to offset the over spend in 2016/2017
- Catering breakfast clubs reduced staffing hours (£70k) projected to under achieve by £43k due to delayed implementation (paragraph 4.4.4 above). Staffing levels are being reviewed on a site by site basis. Redeployment opportunities are continuing to be explored and any vacant posts are reviewed before being filled.
- Parks, deletion of Parks & Outdoor facilities manager post (£60k) projected to under achieve by £53k due to a delayed retirement date and one off retirement costs (paragraph 4.5.4 above). This saving is anticipated to be fully achieved in 2017/2018 and initiatives are being considered to offset the over spend in 2016/2017.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

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

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 As noted in the table in paragraph 4.1.3 above some service under and over spends will be appropriated to ring fenced reserves for specific requirements. The remaining Directorate under spend, will be either appropriated to the Environment Directorate strategic reserve (£228k under spend) in relation to Regeneration & Planning, Engineering and Community & Leisure or the Social Services strategic reserve (£198k under spend) in relation to Public Protection. Any Directorate over spends will require funding from future years revenue budgets.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

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

9. CONSULTATIONS

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

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Local Government Act 1972 and 2000.

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Consultees: Councillor D.T Davies Chair Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Mrs E.M Aldworth Vice Chair Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee
Councillor K. James, Cabinet Member Regeneration, Planning & Sustainable Development
Councillor N George Cabinet Member Community & Leisure Services
Councillor T. Williams Cabinet Member Highways, Transportation & Engineering
Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive
Dave Street Corporate Director, Social Services
Christina Harry Corporate Director, Communities
Robert Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection
Terry Shaw, Head of Engineering Services
Mark S Williams Head of Community & Leisure Services
Tim Stephens, Development Control Manager
Dave Whetter, Principal Engineer
Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer
Steve Harris, Interim Head of Corporate Finance
Cheryl Jeremic, Acting Group Accountant
Rose Shears, Finance Officer
Jane Southcombe, Financial Services Manager
Dave Roberts, Group Accountant
Paul Adams, Senior Assistant Accountant

Background Papers:
Divisional budget monitoring working papers 2016/2017

Appendices:
Appendix 1A Budget Monitoring Report – Regeneration, Planning and Economic Development
Appendix 1B Budget Monitoring Report – Engineering Division
Appendix 1C Budget Monitoring Report – Public Protection Division
Appendix 1D Budget Monitoring Report – Community and Leisure Services

Links to other Documents:
Council Meeting 24/2/2016: "Budget Proposals 2016/17 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/2021" Agenda Item No. 4
Cabinet Meeting 17/02/2016: "Budget Proposals 2016/2017 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/2021 Agenda Item No 4

<i>DIRECTORATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT</i>	Page No	Estimate 2016/2017	Revised Estimate 2016/2017	Projected Outturn 2016/2017	Variance 2016/2017
<u>REGENERATION, PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</u>					
<i>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM</i>					
Business Development		904,888	1,133,637	982,119	151,518
Business Urban Renewal		270,111	270,111	390,646	(120,535)
Tourism Events		120,215	120,215	110,519	9,696
Commercial Properties		(1,023,524)	(1,023,524)	(1,095,487)	71,963
Tourism Venues		952,424	952,424	911,193	41,231
Community Regeneration		210,596	210,596	145,386	65,210
Community First Expenditure		2,902,453	3,644,012	3,197,486	446,526
Community First Grant Funding		(2,902,453)	(3,644,012)	(3,197,486)	(446,526)
Blackwood Miners Institute		302,768	302,768	290,503	12,265
Arts Development		147,431	147,431	147,431	0
		1,884,909	2,113,658	1,882,310	231,348
<i>PLANNING</i>					
Countryside and Landscape		1,134,430	1,134,430	1,159,497	(25,067)
Strategic Planning		402,726	402,726	452,969	(50,243)
Development Control		346,516	346,516	406,610	(60,094)
Building Control		(39,805)	(39,805)	49,380	(89,185)
Land Charges		(13,700)	(13,700)	(11,608)	(2,092)
Corporate and Democratic Core		141,706	141,706	141,706	0
		1,971,873	1,971,873	2,198,554	(226,681)
<i>TOTAL NET BUDGET</i>					
		3,856,782	4,085,531	4,080,864	4,667

<i>DIRECTORATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT</i>	Page No	Estimate 2016/2017	Revised Estimate 2016/2017	Projected Outturn 2016/2017	Variance 2016/2017
<u>ENGINEERING DIVISION</u>					
HIGHWAY OPERATIONS					
Gross Expenditure		10,057,416	10,047,575	10,099,684	(52,109)
Grants, Fees & Charges and Other Income		(375,882)	(366,041)	(407,804)	41,763
Net Expenditure		9,681,534	9,681,534	9,691,880	(10,346)
ENGINEERING PROJECTS GROUP					
Gross Expenditure		1,108,368	1,078,154	1,004,760	73,394
Fees & Charges and Other Income		(1,217,100)	(1,186,886)	(1,247,549)	60,663
Net Expenditure		(108,732)	(108,732)	(242,789)	134,057
TRANSPORT ENGINEERING					
Gross Expenditure		1,692,293	1,689,291	1,660,424	28,867
Grants, Fees & Charges and Other Income		(1,016,785)	(1,013,783)	(997,274)	(16,509)
Net Expenditure		675,508	675,508	663,150	12,358
PASSENGER TRANSPORT					
Gross Expenditure		5,312,774	5,380,977	6,209,378	(828,401)
Grants, Fees & Charges and Other Income		(3,624,953)	(3,693,156)	(4,486,592)	793,436
Net Expenditure		1,687,821	1,687,821	1,722,786	(34,965)
HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT					
Gross Expenditure		6,347,419	6,400,597	6,494,670	(94,073)
Grants, Fees & Charges and Other Income					
Net Expenditure		6,347,419	6,400,597	6,494,670	(94,073)
SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORT					
Gross Expenditure		1,423,483	1,425,273	1,406,672	18,601
Grants, Fees & Charges and Other Income		(14,210)	(16,000)	(30,000)	14,000
Net Expenditure		1,409,273	1,409,273	1,376,672	32,601
ENGINEERING - GENERAL (Expenditure only)		99,708	99,708	86,711	12,997
Engineering Division		19,792,531	19,845,709	19,793,080	52,629
Network Contracting Services (NCS)		(174,544)	(174,544)	(214,544)	40,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ENGINEERING SERVICES		19,617,987	19,671,165	19,578,536	92,629

<i>DIRECTORATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT</i>	Page No	Estimate 2016/2017	Revised Estimate 2016/2017	Projected Outturn 2016/2017	Variance 2016/2017
<i>PUBLIC PROTECTION DIVISION</i>					
<i>TRADING STANDARDS</i>					
Expenditure		808,705	808,705	791,217	17,488
Income		(17,000)	(17,000)	(41,451)	24,451
Net Expenditure		791,705	791,705	749,766	41,939
<i>LICENSING</i>					
Expenditure		355,712	355,712	346,375	9,337
Income		(320,983)	(320,983)	(300,948)	(20,035)
Net Expenditure		34,729	34,729	45,427	(10,698)
<i>REGISTRARS</i>					
Expenditure		282,009	282,009	288,512	(6,503)
Income		(209,200)	(209,200)	(228,031)	18,831
Net Expenditure		72,809	72,809	60,481	12,328
<i>CCTV</i>					
Expenditure		618,895	618,895	611,718	7,177
Income		(151,252)	(151,252)	(156,078)	4,826
Net Expenditure		467,643	467,643	455,640	12,003
<i>COMMUNITY WARDENS</i>		349,314	349,314	339,192	10,122
<i>COMMUNITY SAFETY</i>		18,304	18,304	18,304	0
<i>CORPORATE AND DEMOCRATIC COSTS (CDC)</i>		35,806	35,806	35,806	0
<i>HEALTH DIVISIONAL BUDGET</i>					
Expenditure		261,423	261,423	261,257	166
Income		(8,000)	(8,000)	(24,242)	16,242
Net Expenditure		253,423	253,423	237,015	16,408
<i>ENFORCEMENT</i>					
Expenditure		680,886	680,886	637,447	43,439
Income		(50,668)	(50,668)	(63,078)	12,410
Net Expenditure		630,218	630,218	574,369	55,849
<i>POLLUTION</i>					
Expenditure		413,128	413,128	400,663	12,465
Income		(24,350)	(24,350)	(24,350)	0
Net Expenditure		388,778	388,778	376,313	12,465
<i>FOOD TEAM</i>					
Expenditure		581,494	581,494	584,030	(2,536)
Income		(15,000)	(15,000)	(22,562)	7,562
Net Expenditure		566,494	566,494	561,468	5,026
<i>EMERGENCY PLANNING</i>					
Net Expenditure		95,025	95,025	103,643	(8,618)
<i>CATERING</i>					
Expenditure		7,215,773	7,215,773	7,192,723	23,050
Income		(3,777,315)	(3,777,315)	(3,805,670)	28,355
Net Expenditure		3,438,458	3,438,458	3,387,053	51,405
<i>TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE</i>		7,142,706	7,142,706	6,944,477	198,229

<i>DIRECTORATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT</i>	Page No	Estimate 2016/2017	Revised Estimate 2016/2017	Projected Outturn 2016/2017	Variance 2016/2017
<u>COMMUNITY & LEISURE SERVICES</u>					
WASTE MANAGEMENT					
<i>Residual Waste</i>		2,417,728	2,417,728	2,545,189	(127,461)
<i>Organics recycling</i>		1,516,001	1,516,001	1,503,256	12,745
<i>Civic Amenity Sites</i>		2,522,903	2,522,903	2,888,998	(366,095)
<i>Waste Transfer Station</i>		137,602	137,602	148,484	(10,882)
<i>Dry Recycling</i>		2,109,873	2,909,873	3,228,636	(318,763)
<i>RCCO</i>		580,000	580,000	175,500	404,500
<i>Bulky Waste</i>		134,626	134,626	166,769	(32,143)
<i>Commercial Waste</i>		(537,827)	(537,827)	(419,724)	(118,103)
<i>Other Waste</i>		68,567	68,567	54,925	13,642
<i>Trehir</i>		121,800	121,800	92,324	29,476
<i>Sustainable Waste Management Grant</i>		(3,134,136)	(3,134,136)	(3,134,136)	0
<i>HQ Staff</i>		1,386,328	1,386,328	1,357,781	28,547
CLEANSING					
<i>Public Conveniences</i>		91,944	91,944	85,253	6,691
<i>Street Cleansing</i>		4,349,596	4,349,596	4,058,725	290,871
<i>RCCO</i>		75,000	75,000	0	75,000
GROUND MAINTENANCE AND PARKS					
<i>Cemeteries</i>		(118,132)	(118,132)	(279,738)	161,606
<i>Allotments</i>		37,856	37,856	37,214	642
<i>Parks and Playing Fields</i>		1,532,410	1,532,410	1,527,335	5,075
<i>Playgrounds</i>		274,027	274,027	273,807	220
<i>Outdoor facilities</i>		291,198	291,198	291,058	140
<i>Housing Ground Maintenance</i>		239,277	239,277	239,277	0
<i>Community Assets Funding</i>		58,000	58,000	58,000	0
<i>HQ Staffing</i>		956,369	956,369	1,023,798	(67,429)
LEISURE SERVICES					
<i>Leisure Centres</i>		2,429,389	2,429,389	2,385,654	43,735
<i>Sports & Health Development</i>		54,059	54,059	17,079	36,980
<i>Outdoor Education</i>		153,070	153,070	153,070	0
<i>Community & Leisure Services Divisions</i>		17,747,528	18,547,528	18,478,534	68,994
<i>Building Cleaning</i>		477,620	477,620	476,280	1,340
<i>Vehicle Maintenance & Fleet Management</i>		(89,177)	(89,177)	(85,478)	(3,699)
<i>Total net expenditure Community & Leisure Services</i>		18,135,971	18,935,971	18,869,336	66,635