

Public Document Pack

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

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



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

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

Date: 8th November 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Cabinet** will be held in the **Sirhowy Room, Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Wednesday, 15th November, 2017** at **2.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

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 the 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: -

3 Cabinet held on 1st November 2017.	
--------------------------------------	--

1 - 6

A greener place Man gwyrddach



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

4	Draft Budget Proposals for 2018/19.	7 - 22
5	The Management of Trees.	23 - 60
6	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020.	61 - 138
7	Free Christmas Parking Proposal for Caerphilly Town.	139 - 142

Circulation:

Councillors C.J. Cuss, N. George, C.J. Gordon, Mrs B. A. Jones, P.A. Marsden, S. Morgan, L. Phipps,
D.V. Poole and Mrs E. Stenner,

And Appropriate Officers.



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 1ST NOVEMBER 2017 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT

Councillor D.V. Poole – Chair

Councillors:

C.J. Cuss (Social Care and Well Being), N. George (Neighbourhood Services), C.J. Gordon (Corporate Services), Mrs B.A. Jones (Finance, Performance and Governance), S. Morgan (Economy, Infrastructure and Sustainability), L. Phipps (Homes and Places) and Mrs E. Stenner (Environment and Public Protection)

Together with:

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), C. Harry (Corporate Director - Communities), D. Street (Director of Social Services), S. Harris (Interim Head of Corporate Finance)

Also in Attendance:

P. Lewis (Acting Head of IT), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), S. Couzens (Chief Housing Officer), M. Williams (Acting Head of Property), H. Morgan (Senior Committee Clerk)

Wales Audit Office - Non Jenkins and Ron Price

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs P.A. Marsden (Education and Achievement) and N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs B. Jones declared an interest in the report titled WAO Review of the WHQS Delivery Programme. Details are minuted with the respective item.

3. CABINET – 18TH OCTOBER 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2017 (minute nos. 1 - 7) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

4. WALES AUDIT OFFICE REVIEW OF THE WHQS DELIVERY PROGRAMME

Councillor Mrs B. Jones declared an interest in this item (as having benefited from the programme) and left the meeting during consideration of this item.

N. Jenkins and R. Price attended the meeting to present their findings, conclusions and proposals for improvement as detailed within the document. As part of the WAO performance audit plan the report provided a review of the Council's arrangements to deliver the WHQS by 2020.

N. Jenkins highlighted the key issues contained within the report and referred to the scope of the review, the interviews and evidence collated from Officers, tenants and leaseholders, the conclusions drawn and the subsequent statutory recommendations (which will be followed up to ensure that they are being addressed).

The Corporate Director advised that whilst Officers accept the recommendations within the report, they do not agree with the overall conclusion made, as it does not reflect the position of the programme and evidence to justify this view was provided throughout the report and discussed at the meeting. The report also set out the individual recommendations resulting from the review together with Officers' comments on how these recommendations have or will be addressed.

It was confirmed that the programme was based on the stock condition survey and estimated component costs provided by Savill's Consultants following a 15% survey of the housing stock. Since that time, an exercise to establish the full scope of investment needed to meet WHQS by 2020, based on accurate and comprehensive information has been completed. At the time of the audit preparatory work was being undertaken in order to use this data to reprofile the programme using actual costs. This has now been completed and the programme remains financially viable. The information has also been used to compile a more detailed overarching programme but the timescales laid out in the existing programme have not changed.

With regards to the procurement strategy, it was noted that this had been developed to meet Welsh Government's improvements and efficiency targets. Internal works contracts are predicated on a fixed contract basis using the JCT form of contract and national schedule of rates (reviewed annually) and external works have been developed via various procurement routes in accordance with legislation and in order to manage the supply base, ensure capacity and encourage and grow local contractors. This is managed through a series of arrangements which included the use of the small lots exemption, frameworks and more recently a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS).

In relation to the requirement to provide clear and transparent information to members and tenants about the current position of the programme, Officers have considered the information provided and accept the manner in which information is presented can be improved. As part of the exercise, Officers have reviewed information contained within the programme and have already made amendments to ensure it is clear, accurate and meaningful for all stakeholders.

With regards to programme management, governance and accountability these responsibilities are defined through the WHQS Board, the Caerphilly Homes Task Group, the Repairs and Improvement Group, Corporate Management Team, Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. The terms of reference of each of these groups will be reviewed to ensure that the respective groups are clear of their remit and purpose as well as ensuring that any urgent decision making required can be taken at the appropriate level.

The WAO report concluded that because of the fragmented nature of documents setting out the reprofiling programme of works, it did not believe they provide a strategic, comprehensive and integrated approach setting out clearly to tenants, councillors, officers and other stakeholders how it will meet the WHQS by 2020. By way of explanation, R. Price advised that it had been difficult to track through decisions on reprofiling and reprogramming. It was confirmed that information contained within reports has also been reviewed to ensure they are presented in a clear and transparent way and contain all relevant details so that the current position of the overall programme is easily communicated to all stakeholders. The effectiveness of the Tenant Liaison Officers had also been raised and the Chief Housing Officer clarified their role as support Officers.

Reference was also made to recommendation 3 whereby the council should ensure it has sufficient project management capacity to deliver the Council's WHQS programme effectively by 2020. In order to assist with the project management of such a major investment programme, the use of resources is being maximised through improved integration within Caerphilly Homes following changes in the management structure last year and by also utilising the services of other departments within the Council, including Building Consultancy, Grounds Maintenance, Highways Operations Group and Network Contracting Services.

During the course of the ensuing debate, concerns were expressed that the report reflects only those properties that have been completed and does not reflect the community based approach adopted whereby internal and external works are undertaken concurrently in different communities. This decision was taken to ensure that all housing communities benefit from the WHQS works at an earlier stage in the programme rather than focussing on completing all WHQS works in one community at a time. As such the information contained in the report is misleading and the comparable performance data with other authorities, although factual in relation to the number of properties completed, is not an accurate picture of the work completed to date as it is not a single method of measure and does not carry a caveat to explain how works within those authorities are programmed. To date, 85% of properties across the county borough have received either internal or external works.

With regards to views expressed by tenants as detailed in the report, R. Price advised that given the time constraints, interviews has only been undertaken with 6 tenants that sit on the Caerphilly Homes Task Group. They had also expressed concerns about the quality of work undertaken. Cabinet agreed that this was not representative of the number of tenants throughout the borough upon which to base the conclusion and subsequent recommendations and that further research should have been undertaken. Tenant satisfaction survey results show for internal works for the whole contract to date, 89% of tenants were very satisfied or satisfied, 5% neither satisfied nor dissatisfied and 6% dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. As such, the data within WAO report could not be seen as reflecting all views and had not taken into account this information. R. Price advised that this would be taken into account when the follow up report is being prepared with more interviews with stakeholders.

The Interim Chief Executive advised that Officers accept that further improvements need to be made and agree with the recommendations set out by WAO. These identified improvements are being delivered in accordance with the action plan detailed in the appendix to the report and progress on the action plan will be monitored on a monthly basis by Caerphilly Homes Project Board. It is accepted that the recommendations were following the review during March/April 2017, however at that point in time significant changes were already in the process of being made and this is demonstrated within the action plan with many tasks already completed. Officers do not agree with the overall conclusion drawn as it is felt that this statement does not offer a fair assessment of the position of the programme. The report provided information to support this view, details of which were highlighted at the meeting.

Whilst accepting that the completion of the programme by 2020 is challenging based on the current position and anticipated projections, 75% of internal works and 40% of external works are expected to be completed by March 2018. By March 2019, 94% of internal works are expected to be completed and 80% of external works. There is a plan and resources in place

to complete the programme by 2020. Officers consider that the measures put in place have resulted in a significantly increased and focused rate of completions and are confident that the programme will be completed by 2020.

Following detailed debate on the content of the Wales Audit Office Report, and in noting that several conclusions had been drawn based on consultation with 6 members of the Caerphilly Homes Task Group and that it does not accurately reflect the position at that time and the way in which internal and external works had been completed, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained therein be noted. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that;

- (i) following detailed debate on the content of the Wales Audit Office Report, its content and the recommendations contained therein be noted;
- (ii) as detailed in the Officers report, the response to the Wales Audit Report, which addresses its content, the issues raised and the proposals for improvement as set out therein be endorsed

The Chair thanked both N. Jenkins and R. Price for presenting the report and for responding to issues raised during the course for the debate and welcomed the review in 2019.

5. ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2016-17

Consideration was given to the report, issued at the end of August 2017 which outlines the key messages from the Wales Audit Office (WAO) Annual Improvement Report (AIR).

N. Jenkins gave an overview of the report which makes a judgement as to whether we have and are likely to comply with our statutory duty in compliance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to 'make arrangements to demonstrate continuous improvement'. She advised that the document summarises the work carried out by the WAO during the year of 2016/17 and provides the regulators judgement as to whether we will comply with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

Following discussion on its content, It was moved and seconded that finding of the Wales Audit Office in that '*Based on, and limited to, the work carried out by the Wales Audit Office and relevant regulators, the Auditor General believes that the Council is likely to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Measure (2009) during 2017-18 providing it responds constructively and in a timely way to our statutory recommendations*' be noted. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the findings of the Wales Audit Office be noted.

The Chair thanked N. Jenkins for presenting the report and for responding to issues raised during the course for the debate.

6. SOCIAL SERVICES ASSISTED TRANSPORT POLICY

Consideration was given to the report which was presented to, and supported by the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 24th October 2017.

The Director of Social Services advised that assisted transport is the discretionary provision of transport by social services to enable individuals to access the community support service for which individuals have been assessed as eligible to attend (i.e. day services). The aim of the Assisted Transport policy (as detailed in the appendix to the report) is to provide a clear framework for practitioners to assess and support individuals to identify methods of promoting

independence when accessing transport. By identifying what is available within the local community it provides a consistent approach to determining eligibility for funded transport where it has been identified as a requirement to access services commissioned by Social Services. It is proposed that the policy is implemented from 1st January 2018 for all new requests for transport made to Adult Social Services.

During the course of the debate, and in noting the application and appeals process and to address any query as to the time taken to determine an application, it was moved and seconded that the content of the Policy be amended to detail the assessment process, timelines for determining applications and the appeals process and be further considered by Cabinet in due course. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the content of the Policy be amended to detail the assessment process, timelines for determining applications and the appeals process and be further considered by Cabinet in due course.

7. WALES AUDIT OFFICE (WAO) LOCAL RISK BASED REVIEWS: ASSET MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY - CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Consideration was given to the report which provided details of the review undertaken by Wales Audit Office in respect of Asset Management and Information Management and Technology (IM&T).

N. Jenkins advised that the WAO review has no statutory recommendations or proposals for improvement, and are proposing further work, particularly around the Business Improvement Board.

The document concludes that the Council has a good understanding of its assets and current IT arrangements but lacks a strategic approach to direct their use. With regards to Information Management and Technology it has been noted that there are a range of related policies, plans and processes but no overarching digital strategy to drive activities. The WAO acknowledged that the Council is currently developing an outline business case to consider whether to join the regional Shared Resource Service (SRS) and as such, consideration would be given to carrying out more specific work, focussing on one or more area as part of the 2017-18 performance audit programme:

In relation to asset management, the report concludes that the Council recognises the key role its assets have in helping to deliver its priorities. It was explained that as a consequence of more difficult and challenging savings targets, decisions are required to be made on the level and nature of services which will include some major assets, work is being undertaken on a number of Individual asset management plans are not yet in place for a number of service areas.

The WAO report concluded that as a result of these ongoing reviews, it would not be helpful to have a corporate asset management plan and service asset management plans covering those services currently under review. However, as these reviews are completed, the Council will need to consider if its corporate asset management strategy should be updated to accommodate any asset related issues. It has also concluded that as a result of the findings from a number of reviews over the last 12-18 months that there was a need to carry out a detailed review of the effectiveness of Council's Business Improvement Board in providing strategic overview and direction for the Council's key business improvement projects.

Following discussion on its content, it was moved and seconded that finding of the Wales Audit Office be noted. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the findings of the Wales Audit Office be noted.

The Chair thanked N. Jenkins for presenting the report and responding to issues raised during the course for the debate.

The meeting closed at 4pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 15th November 2017.

CHAIR



CABINET – 15TH NOVEMBER 2017

SUBJECT: DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2018/19

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES & SECTION 151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present Cabinet with details of draft budget proposals for the 2018/19 financial year to allow for a period of consultation prior to a final decision in February 2018.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The report provides details of draft budget proposals based on the Welsh Government (WG) Provisional 2018/19 Local Government Financial Settlement.

2.2 The report also provides details of draft savings proposals for 2018/19 totalling £7.205m.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 The budget setting process encompasses all the resources used by the Council to deliver services and meet priorities.

3.2 Effective financial planning and the setting of a balanced budget support the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015: -

- A prosperous Wales.
- A resilient Wales.
- A healthier Wales.
- A more equal Wales.
- A Wales of cohesive communities.
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.
- A globally responsible Wales.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 **Headline Issues in the Provisional Settlement**

4.1.1 Published on the 10th October 2017, the key points of the WG Provisional 2018/19 Local Government Financial Settlement are the following: -

- An overall net cash increase of 1.8% in the Aggregate External Finance (Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and Redistributed Non-Domestic Rates) on an all-Wales basis. This cash increase includes specific grants totalling circa £92m that have been transferred into the RSG and £6m funding for new responsibilities in relation to the prevention of homelessness.

- After adjusting for the transfer in of the specific grants and new responsibilities there is an overall net decrease in the Aggregate External Finance of 0.5% on an all-Wales basis (comparing on a like-for-like basis with 2017/18). This varies by Authority due to the funding formula and ranges from minus 1% to plus 0.2%.
- For Caerphilly CBC there is a cash increase of £1.973m in the Aggregate External Finance. However, after adjusting for the transfer in of specific grants and new responsibilities this equates to a net cash reduction of £2.965m (1%) compared to the 2017/18 financial year.
- Caerphilly CBC's element of the £92m specific grants transferred into the Settlement and the £6m for new responsibilities totals £4.937m. Details are provided in paragraph 4.1.2.
- Changes to other passported grants in the Provisional Settlement result in a net reduction of £0.473m as detailed in paragraph 4.1.3.
- An all-Wales indicative reduction in Aggregate External Finance of minus 1.5% has been provided by WG for the 2019/20 financial year.
- The capital allocations available to Caerphilly CBC in the RSG and from the General Capital Grant have decreased by £64k from the 2017/18 financial year.

4.1.2 Table 1 provides details of transfers into the WG Financial Settlement and new responsibilities: -

Table 1 – Transfers In and New Responsibilities 2018/19

	£m
Transfers In: -	
Single Revenue Grant (waste element only)	1.818
Welsh Independent Living Grant	1.010
Social Care Workforce Grant	1.140
Carers' Respite Care Grant	0.180
Looked After Children: -	
• Expanding Edge of Care Service	0.342
• Support for Care Leavers	0.111
• Reflect	0.054
New Responsibilities: -	
Prevention of homelessness	0.282
TOTAL	4.937

4.1.3 Table 2 provides details of changes to other passported grants included in the WG Financial Settlement: -

Table 2 – Other Passported Grants 2018/19

	£m
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	(0.272)
Private Finance Initiative (PFI)	(0.201)
TOTAL	(0.473)

4.1.4 As in previous years, the adjustments in Tables 1 and 2 (both the increases and decreases in funding) will be passed directly to those services that they relate to.

4.2 2018/19 Draft Budget Proposals

4.2.1 The proposals contained within this report will deliver a balanced budget for 2018/19 on the basis that Council Tax is increased by 4.52%. Table 3 provides a summary: -

Table 3 – Summary

Paragraph	Description	£m	£m
4.2.3 – 4.2.9	Whole-Authority cost pressures	8.867	
4.2.10 – 4.2.18	Inescapable service pressures	2.310	
4.1.1	Increase in WG funding		1.973
4.3.1	Draft savings proposals 2018/19		7.205
4.3.3	Contingent sum/savings in advance	1.000	
4.4.1 – 4.4.2	Council Tax uplift (4.52%)		2.999
	TOTAL	12.177	12.177

4.2.2 Cabinet should note that the draft budget proposals assume no growth for Schools in 2018/19 i.e. a cash flat position. There is no requirement in the Provisional Settlement to protect Schools and they will therefore be required to manage their own pay and non-pay inflationary increases in 2018/19 along with other emerging cost pressures. This in effect equates to a real terms cut of £1.644m (1.68%). However, this needs to be considered alongside the need to deliver savings of £7.205m for other services across the Council, which equates to 3.24% of current budgets. This does therefore provide some relative protection to schools from the full extent of savings required to deliver a balanced budget.

4.2.3 The whole Authority cost pressures totalling £8.867m are set out in Table 4 below -

Table 4 – Whole Authority Cost Pressures

	£m
Pay – Weighted average increase of 1.2%	1.383
Living Wage	0.148
Employer pension contributions	0.249
Non-pay inflation at 2%	2.623
Transfers in and new responsibilities	4.937
Other passported grants	(0.473)
TOTAL	8.867

4.2.4 **Pay – Weighted average increase of 1.2%** - The pay award for the 2018/19 financial year is still subject to agreement so the draft budget proposals currently assume a pay award at 2017/18 levels. This presents a risk as the pay claim submitted by the Trade Unions significantly exceeds this sum. A further risk in relation to pay is that pay scale differentials may need to be reviewed as a result of annual increases in the National Living Wage which was introduced by the UK Government from April 2016. Work is ongoing in this area and the position is being kept under review.

4.2.5 **Living Wage** – Caerphilly CBC is a Living Wage Foundation employer so a sum is included in the draft budget proposals to allow for annual increases in the Living Wage hourly rate.

4.2.6 **Employer pension contributions** – Following the outcome of the most recent triennial valuation of the Pension Fund, Caerphilly CBC is required to increase its pension contribution by £249k (0.28%) for the 2018/19 financial year.

4.2.7 **Non-pay inflation at 2%** - The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) inflation rate is currently 3% against the Bank of England’s target rate of 2%. The draft budget proposals only allow for non-pay inflation at 2% so budget holders will need to manage the impact of any shortfall. This is sustainable for 2018/19 but in the longer-term additional funding may need to be set-aside if inflation continues to exceed the Bank of England target of 2%.

4.2.8 **Transfers in and new responsibilities** – As per the table in paragraph 4.1.2.

4.2.9 **Other passported grants** - As per the table in paragraph 4.1.3.

- 4.2.10 It is incumbent upon Council to set a realistic budget each year. Table 5 provides details of the 2018/19 inescapable service commitments/pressures that have been identified and require consideration in respect of funding: -

Table 5 – Inescapable Service Pressures and Other Service Commitments

	£m
Social Services cost pressures	1.500
City Deal partnership revenue contribution	0.060
City Deal debt charges	0.050
Private Finance Initiative (PFI) review	0.700
TOTAL	2.310

- 4.2.11 **Social Services cost pressures** - Cabinet will recall that the 2016/17 budget included additional funding of £2.5m for Social Services cost pressures and a further £3.5m was also set aside in 2017/18. This has been necessary to fund increases in fees for external care providers due in the main to the introduction of the National Living Wage, and additional costs arising from increasing demand for services in both Adult and Children's Services. It is proposed that a further sum of £1.5m should be allocated in the 2018/19 budget to meet ongoing financial pressures for Social Services.
- 4.2.12 **City Deal partnership revenue contribution** – At its meeting on the 31st January 2017, Council agreed an annual revenue contribution of £120k towards the support structure for the City Deal Regional Cabinet. For 2017/18 the contribution was only expected to be £60k due to underspends being carried forward from 2016/17 so £60k was included in the base budget. From 2018/19 onwards there will need to be provision in the base budget to meet the full £120k annual commitment therefore a further £60k will need to be included in the 2018/19 budget.
- 4.2.13 **City Deal Debt Charges** – The City Deal includes a borrowing requirement of £120m for the ten partner Local Authorities. £50k has been included in the 2018/19 draft budget proposals to meet the current anticipated cost for Caerphilly CBC's share of potential early borrowing that may be undertaken during the year. This is being kept under review and will be updated in the final budget 2018/19 budget proposals report that will be presented to Cabinet and Council in February 2018.
- 4.2.14 **Private Finance Initiative (PFI) review** – A review of the Council's PFI contracts is currently being undertaken. These contracts relate to Fleur de Lys (Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini) and Pengam (Lewis Boys) Secondary Schools, and Sirhowy Enterprise Way (SEW). To assist with this review the services of a company called Local Partnerships have been commissioned. This organisation has a proven track record in relation to supporting public sector bodies through reviews of operational PFI contracts and was recommended by WG.
- 4.2.15 The PFI Schemes are financially managed through two Sinking Funds which profile the anticipated costs and financial contributions over the life of the contracts. At the outset of the contracts the Sinking Funds showed a projected balanced position based on a range of assumptions at that time.
- 4.2.16 Based on updated financial projections completed as part of the ongoing review process the SEW Sinking Fund remains fully funded over the life of the project. However, the latest financial projections for the Schools PFI reveal an anticipated shortfall of circa £22m on the Schools PFI Sinking Fund. The main reasons for this are the following: -
- Financial impact of additional services agreed through the contract benchmarking process i.e. £3.3m.
 - There appears to have been a 'double count' from the outset in relation to the treatment of Free School Meals, with a cost implication of circa £3.5m.
 - Interest on balances is projected to be circa £7.1m less than originally anticipated due to changes in the payment profile and the impact on balances held.

- The remaining balance of £8.1m is due in the main to actual inflationary pressures compared to original assumptions.

4.2.17 To address this anticipated shortfall budgetary growth of circa £700k will need to be built into the Education & Lifelong Learning base budget from 2018/19 to ensure that a balanced position can be achieved for the Schools PFI Sinking Fund. This figure may reduce as part of the ongoing work being undertaken with Local Partnerships as discussions are continuing with the service provider regarding the potential for savings on services such as catering and cleaning.

4.2.18 A separate detailed report on the PFI review will be scheduled for Cabinet prior to final 2018/19 budget proposals being presented to both Cabinet and Council in February 2018.

4.3 2018/19 Draft Savings Proposals

4.3.1 Draft savings proposals have been identified for the 2018/19 financial year totalling £7.205m as summarised in Table 6: -

Table 6 – Draft Savings Proposals 2018/19

Description	2018/19 Saving £m
Savings proposals with no public impact	4.682
Savings proposals with a public impact: -	
• Low impact	1.218
• Medium impact	1.305
TOTAL	7.205

4.3.2 A summary of savings proposals by Directorate/Service Area is provided in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 provides further details of the savings proposals that are likely to have an impact on the public. As in previous years, those savings proposals that are not expected to have an impact on the public have been consolidated into a single line for each service area. These 'nil impact' savings consist in the main of vacancy management, budget realignment and minor changes to service provision.

4.3.3 The proposed savings of £7.205m along with the proposed Council Tax increase of 4.52% will allow for a contingent sum of £1m to be set aside to meet additional cost pressures that may arise from the final pay award for the 2018/19 financial year and potential changes to pay scale differentials. If this contingent sum is not required in full or in part to meet these potential cost pressures then it is recommended that any balance should be treated as savings in advance to assist with further financial pressures that will need to be managed in future financial years.

4.4 Council Tax Implications 2018/19

4.4.1 The draft budget proposals within this report include a proposed increase of 4.52% in Council Tax for the 2018/19 financial year. This will increase the Caerphilly CBC Band D precept from £1,011.96 to £1,057.70 i.e. an annual increase of £45.74 or weekly increase of £0.88.

4.4.2 The proposed increase of 4.52% for 2018/19 will result in the following totals for the Caerphilly CBC element of the Council Tax (the Police & Crime Commissioner and Town/Community Council precepts would be added to these totals when confirmed at a later date): -

Table 7 – 2018/19 Council Tax (CCBC Element) at 4.52% Increase

Band	Council Tax (CCBC Element) £	Weekly Increase £
A	705.13	0.59
B	822.66	0.68
C	940.18	0.78
D	1,057.70	0.88
E	1,292.75	1.08
F	1,527.79	1.27
G	1,762.83	1.47
H	2,115.40	1.76
I	2,467.97	2.05

4.5 Financial Outlook for Future Years

- 4.5.1 The Medium-Term Financial Plan presented to Council in February 2017 showed a potential savings requirement of £22.161m for the three-year period 2019/20 to 2021/22. This assumed a cash flat position in terms of the WG Financial Settlement for each of the three years. As mentioned in paragraph 4.1.1, WG has provided an all-Wales indicative reduction in Aggregate External Finance of minus 1.5% for the 2019/20 financial year. This would increase Caerphilly CBC's savings requirement by a further £3.984m for 2019/20 alone. If this was replicated in 2020/21 and 2021/22 then further savings of £7.789m would be required. This would result in a total savings requirement of circa £34m for the three-year period 2019/20 to 2021/22.
- 4.5.2 The indicative reduction of 1.5% provided by WG for the 2019/20 financial year is based on a current assumption that a proportion of unallocated UK Government savings totalling circa £3.5bn will flow through to WG. The Chancellor of the Exchequer will present his Autumn Budget Statement on the 22nd November 2017 and this will provide further clarity on any unallocated savings that may impact on WG. Details of the Final 2018/19 Local Government Financial Settlement will be issued on the 20th December 2017 and this will include a revised indicative figure for 2019/20 based on the implications of the Autumn Statement.
- 4.5.3 An updated Medium-Term Financial Plan covering the period 2018/19 to 2022/23 will be presented to both Cabinet and Council in February 2018.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

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

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An equalities impact assessment will be completed for all of the 2018/19 savings proposals that are expected to have an impact on the public. This is to ensure that decisions that affect different individuals and groups are assessed at an appropriate and relevant level and at the correct stage in the process.
- 6.2 Consultation with residents, when done in accordance with the Council's Public Engagement Strategy and the Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance, also ensures that every resident, regardless of circumstances, has the opportunity to have their views heard and considered in the Council's decision-making process.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 As detailed throughout the report.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Where staff reductions are required as a consequence of savings proposals the Council will firstly try to achieve this through 'natural wastage' and not filling vacancies. However, where this is not possible then every opportunity will be taken to find alternative employment through the Council's redeployment policy. The Council will also utilise other policies as appropriate e.g. voluntary severance.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 Cabinet is asked to agree that the draft budget proposals for 2018/19 should now be subject to a period of consultation prior to final 2018/19 budget proposals being presented to Cabinet on the 14th February 2018 and then Council on the 20th February 2018. The consultation process will run from the 13th November 2017 to the 8th January 2018 and will consist of the following: -

- Online and paper consultation.
- Articles in Newslines.
- Use of Social Media.
- Drop-In Sessions at locations across the County Borough.
- Meetings with the Viewpoint Panel, 50+ Forum, Youth Forum etc.
- Engagement with employees and the Trade Unions.
- Consultation with Town and Community Councils.
- Consultation with the Voluntary Sector.
- Posters at affected establishments.
- Other targeted stakeholder engagement as appropriate.

9.2 As part of the consultation process there will also be a series of Special Scrutiny Committees to focus on the savings proposals. In addition to considering the content of this Cabinet report the Scrutiny Committees will receive further reports providing more detail on the savings proposals that are expected to have an impact on the public. The dates of the Special Scrutiny Committee meetings are as follows: -

- 04/12/17 – Policy & Resources.
- 07/12/17 – Education for Life.
- 11/12/17 – Health, Social Care & Wellbeing.
- 13/12/17 – Regeneration & Environment.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Cabinet is asked to: -

10.1.1 Endorse the draft 2018/19 budget proposals including the proposed savings totalling £7.205m.

10.1.2 Support the proposal to increase Council Tax by 4.52% for the 2018/19 financial year to ensure that a balanced budget is achieved (Council Tax Band D being set at £1,057.70).

10.1.3 Agree that the draft budget proposals should now be subject to consultation prior to final 2018/19 budget proposals being presented to Cabinet and Council in February 2018.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 Council is required annually to approve proposals to set a balanced budget and agree a Council Tax rate.
- 11.2 Council is required to put in place a sound and prudent financial framework to support service delivery.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 The Local Government Acts 1998 and 2003.

Author: Stephen Harris, Interim Head of Corporate Finance
E-mail: harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk Tel: 01443 863022

Consultees: Corporate Management Team
Andrew Southcombe, Finance Manager, Corporate Finance
Richard Harris, Internal Audit Manager & Acting Monitoring Officer
Cllr Dave Poole, Leader
Cllr Barbara Jones, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Governance

Background Papers:

WG Provisional 2018/19 Local Government Financial Settlement (10th October 2017)
Council (22/02/17) - Budget Proposals 2017/18 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2017/2022

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Summary of 2018/19 Savings Proposals
Appendix 2 - 2018/19 Savings Proposals

Summary of 2018/19 Savings Proposals

Directorate/Service Division	Public Impact				Total Proposed Savings £000's
	Nil £000's	Low £000's	Medium £000's	High £000's	
Education & Lifelong Learning					
- Planning & Strategy	341	0	333	0	674
- Learning, Education & Inclusion	353	0	186	0	539
- Lifelong Learning	108	25	35	0	168
Sub-Total: -	802	25	554	0	1,381
Social Services/Public Protection/Policy					
- Children's Services	385	0	0	0	385
- Adult Services	330	563	0	0	893
- Service Strategy & Business Support	50	0	0	0	50
- Public Protection	134	151	86	0	370
- Corporate Policy	79	14	0	0	93
Sub-Total: -	978	728	86	0	1,791
Communities					
- Regeneration and Planning	288	166	0	0	454
- Engineering	175	180	534	0	888
- Community & Leisure Services	646	40	131	0	817
- Housing Services	117	0	0	0	117
Sub-Total: -	1,226	386	665	0	2,276
Corporate Services					
- Corporate Finance	80	0	0	0	80
- Procurement & Customer Services	85	80	0	0	165
- Information Technology	340	0	0	0	340
- Corporate Property	197	0	0	0	197
- Human Resources & Communications	140	0	0	0	140
- Health & Safety	70	0	0	0	70
Sub-Total: -	912	80	0	0	992
Miscellaneous Finance	765	0	0	0	765
Grand Total: -	4,682	1,218	1,305	0	7,205

This page is intentionally left blank

2018/19 Savings Proposals

Savings Proposal	£000's	Comments	Public Impact
EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING			
PLANNING & STRATEGY			
Savings proposals with no public impact.	341.00		Nil
Maintenance of School Buildings - Withdrawal of budget for 50/50 schemes.	333.00	LMS Contingency balances to be used initially. However, In the medium to long-term this would have a significant impact on repairs and maintenance spend on our schools.	Medium
Sub-Total: -	674.00		
LEARNING, EDUCATION & INCLUSION			
Savings proposals with no public impact.	353.00		Nil
Language Support Primary - Vacant posts.	66.00	2 postholders retired end of Summer Term 2017. No impact on statutory provision but some impact for Schools on discretionary provision.	Medium
School Improvement Initiatives - Budget reduction.	120.00	Initially low impact on Schools if Chief Education Officer is able to access Education balances. However, this is not a long-term solution so will rise to medium impact.	Medium
Sub-Total: -	539.00		
LIFELONG LEARNING			
Savings proposals with no public impact.	108.00		Nil
Libraries - Reduction in Book Fund.	25.00	Public unlikely to notice any significant impact, budget currently circa £380k.	Low
Libraries - Reduction in newspapers	20.00	Reduced Open Access provision within our libraries.	Medium
Youth Service - Removal of payment to GAVO for Holiday Scheme Co-ordinator.	15.00	The medium impact assessment is not in relation to the impact on service users but on the potential impact to GAVO. There would be minimal impact on service users as the Youth Service would take up any shortfall in capacity. GAVO would continue to be supported to the value of £25k.	Medium
Sub-Total: -	168.00		
TOTAL: -	1,381.00		
SOCIAL SERVICES, PUBLIC PROTECTION & POLICY			
CHILDREN'S SERVICES			
Savings proposals with no public impact.	385.00		Nil
Sub-Total: -	385.00		
ADULT SERVICES			
Savings proposals with no public impact.	330.00		Nil
Decommission Age Concern Hospital Discharge contract	46.00	Decommissioning of contract for relatively low numbers of people receiving low level non-statutory services for a short period. Links to Information, Advice & Assistance and implementation of the Social Services & Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 re. promoting independence.	Low

Savings Proposal	£000's	Comments	Public Impact
Decommission 2 Luncheon Clubs contract.	12.00	A small number of people attend these 2 Luncheon Clubs. The service may need to cease or different arrangements will need to be put in place if an alternative funding stream cannot be found.	Low
Domiciliary Care Client Income - Realign budget to reflect outcomes from Members Task & Finish Group and Welsh Government Cap.	75.00	There is an expectation that WG will gradually increase the weekly cap on service users contributions for non-residential care which will translate into a small increase in income each year.	Low
Small reduction in externally commissioned Respite Care for older people and adults with physical disabilities.	30.00	The small reduction will be offset by alternative respite arrangements that can be provided through the Carers Respite Grant.	Low
Decommission DEWIS advocacy contract (residential homes).	12.00	Decommissioning of contract with £45k budget retained for spot purchase. Spot contract is more reflective of the level of service demand.	Low
Decommission Care & Repair (Safety at Home) contract.	13.00	Other schemes are available that provide this service.	Low
Decommission GAVO and MENCAP contracts.	57.00	MENCAP contract ended some time ago and the GAVO contract relates to GAVO's central costs.	Low
Decommission Stroke Association contract.	18.00	Alternative services available through the NHS.	Low
Reduce Crossroads (Advocacy) contract by 50%.	36.00	Advocacy services are available from other agencies.	Low
Implications of Social Services & Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014.	264.00	Potential service users for some services to be signposted to alternative low or nil cost services.	Low
Sub-Total: -	893.00		
SERVICE STRATEGY/BUSINESS SUPPORT			
Savings proposals with no public impact.	50.00		Nil
Sub-Total: -	50.00		
PUBLIC PROTECTION			
Savings proposals with no public impact.	133.50		Nil
Meals Direct - Removal of 1 Van Helper post.	7.50	Will require a severance payment.	Low
Schools Catering - Increase price of Secondary School meals by 10p from April 2018 i.e. from £2.15 to £2.25.	50.00	Will not impact on the most vulnerable families due to Free School Meal eligibility.	Low
Schools Catering - Increase price of Primary School meals by 10p from April 2018 i.e. from £1.90 to £2.00.	54.00	Will not impact on the most vulnerable families due to Free School Meal eligibility.	Low
Registrar's - Increase in ceremony fees in line with cost of providing the service.	10.00	To ensure costs of service provision are fully recovered.	Low
Environmental Health - Pest Control/Animal Trespass post	29.00	Vacant post.	Low
Meals Direct - Increase in charge for Meals on Wheels.	11.00	Proposed increase of 20p per meal.	Medium
Environmental Health - Rat Treatment Fees	20.00	Introduction of a £20 charge for household rat treatments.	Medium
Environmental Health - Deletion of vacant Community Safety Warden posts.	40.00	2 vacant posts to be deleted.	Medium
Environmental Health - Reduce Air Quality & Contaminated Land Monitoring & Contractors	15.00	Will result in reduced activity in these areas.	Medium
Sub-Total: -	370.00		
CORPORATE POLICY			
Savings proposals with no public impact.	79.00		Nil

Savings Proposal	£000's	Comments	Public Impact
Voluntary Sector - Reduction in Technical Assistance Budget.	4.00	Reduction in grants available to Voluntary Sector (total budget is currently £19k).	Low
Policy - Reduction in Well-being budget.	10.00	Reduction in grants available (total budget is currently £41k).	Low
Sub-Total: -	93.00		
TOTAL: -	1,791.00		
COMMUNITIES			
REGENERATION & PLANNING			
Savings proposals with no public impact.	288.00		Nil
Business Support & Funding - Reduction in Community Regeneration Fund.	137.00	Community Regeneration Fund underspend of £115k in 2016/17. Budget for 2017/18 is £232k.	Low
Business Support & Funding - Reduction in Business Grants Budget.	12.00	Business Grants underspend of £4k in 2016/17. Budget for 2017/18 is £62k.	Low
Destinations & Events - Review of events at Llancaiach Fawr.	10.00	A review of events will be undertaken and some of those which are financially unviable will not be hosted in the future.	Low
Urban Renewal - Reduction in Publicity & Promotion budget.	7.00	Reduced frequency of Town Centre banner replacement and change-over and reduced expenditure on "Choose the High Street" campaigns.	Low
Sub-Total: -	454.00		
ENGINEERING			
Savings proposals with no public impact.	174.50		Nil
Highways Operations - Traffic Management minor works budget reduction.	6.00	Reduced programme and maximising grant applications for main schemes.	Low
Highways Operations - Reduction in Winter Maintenance budget.	35.50	This represents a 3.1% reduction in the budget and will be achieved through a review of gritting routes.	Low
Highways Operations - Street Lighting non-routine maintenance budget reduction.	5.00	New contract with external provider provides some efficiency with an increased fixed element, but with more items included in fixed element the non-routine can be reduced.	Low
Highways Operations - Consultancy/road survey budget reduction	4.00	Reduce the frequency of road condition reports	Low
Highways Operations - Reduction in Structures Service Level Agreement (SLA) budget.	20.00	Requires a new programme of inspection on a risk basis.	Low
Transportation - Road Safety salary budget reduction	25.00	Restructure of Team resulting in removal of 1 Road Safety post that transfers to School Crossing Patrol Supervisor (based on retirement).	Low
Transportation - School Crossing Patrol salary budget reduction.	38.00	Based on current vacant posts accumulated over time due to not meeting the ROSPA criteria when sites assessed after employee leaves/retires.	Low
Transportation - Accident Studies budget reduction.	10.00	New contract with external provider reduces the minimum fixed contract element and gives more flexibility to use as and when. This does reduce the detailed information across the whole borough but focus can be on target/risk areas.	Low
Transportation - Traffic Signal maintenance budget reduction.	11.00	Efficiency savings on existing maintenance contract (£4k). Reduction in planned works (£7k) which will reduce ability to replace life expired equipment.	Low

Savings Proposal	£000's	Comments	Public Impact
Transportation - Highways Act S38 etc. fee increase in income budget.	15.00	Due to economic improvement in recent years increased scope to improve external fees. Risks relate to sustainability of existing developments and economic climate.	Low
Transportation - Concessionary Fare Grant support service element increased income budget.	10.00	Due to planned regional collaboration, Caerphilly CBC will look after smaller operator reimbursement for all SE Wales. As we won't have to process large operators this should be maintained within existing support costs but produce more income.	Low
Highways Operations - Reduction in Highways Maintenance budget.	524.00	This represents a 11.3% reduction in the budget and will be achieved through a range of measures including a reduction in the carriageway surface dressing programme and a reduction in the frequency of gully cleansing.	Medium
Transportation - Bus shelter maintenance budget reduction.	10.00	Reduced maintenance programme, assisted by recent Capital grant in Caerphilly Basin. Assets replacement will be affected in the long-term.	Medium
Sub-Total: -	888.00		
COMMUNITY & LEISURE SERVICES			
Savings proposals with no public impact.	646.00		Nil
Caerphilly Adventures Service - increase in income.	20.00	This will be achieved through a review of the pricing structure for the service.	Low
Waste Strategy & Operations - Introduction of "admin" fee for Duty of Care Transfer notes for Commercial Waste Customers.	20.00		Low
Sport & Leisure Services - Closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.	81.00	This proposal is currently subject to consultation.	Medium
Waste Strategy & Operations - Review of charges for bulky waste.	50.00	Charge of £16 for 1 to 3 items with each item thereafter being charged at £5 per item. This will apply to all items other than fixtures and fittings.	Medium
Sub-Total: -	817.00		
HOUSING SERVICES			
Savings proposals with no public impact.	117.00		Nil
Sub-Total: -	117.00		
TOTAL: -	2,276.00		
CORPORATE SERVICES			
CORPORATE FINANCE			
Savings proposals with no public impact.	80.00		Nil
Sub-Total: -	80.00		
PROCUREMENT & CUSTOMER SERVICES			
Savings proposals with no public impact.	85.00		Nil
Customer First - Staffing reductions.	80.00	This will be achieved through vacancy management linked to the delivery of the approved Customer Services Strategy.	Low
Sub-Total: -	165.00		
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY			
Savings proposals with no public impact.	340.00		Nil
Sub-Total: -	340.00		

Savings Proposal	£000's	Comments	Public Impact
<i>CORPORATE PROPERTY</i>			
Savings proposals with no public impact.	197.00		Nil
Sub-Total: -	197.00		
<i>HUMAN RESOURCES & COMMUNICATIONS</i>			
Savings proposals with no public impact.	140.00		Nil
Sub-Total: -	140.00		
<i>HEALTH & SAFETY</i>			
Savings proposals with no public impact.	70.00		Nil
Sub-Total: -	70.00		
TOTAL: -	992.00		
<i>MISCELLANEOUS FINANCE</i>			
Savings proposals with no public impact.	765.00		Nil
TOTAL: -	765.00		
TOTAL 2018/19 PROPOSED SAVINGS: -	7,205.00		

This page is intentionally left blank



CABINET – 15TH NOVEMBER 2017

SUBJECT: THE MANAGEMENT OF TREES

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

- 1.1 The attached report, which was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 1st November 2017, sought Members' views on current tree management arrangements, the formal adoption of a tree strategy and the current resources (staff and budget) linked to this function, prior to its presentation to Cabinet for consideration.
- 1.2 Members were reminded of the initial report detailing the management of trees and draft strategy, which was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 13th December 2016. At that meeting, Members were supportive of the recommendations and agreed to consider resource requirements to ascertain if the draft strategy can be delivered before progressing further. Since that time, and following further examination of the strategy, Officers have made a slight amendment, which introduces a risk rating to underpin the inspection frequencies included in the original draft.
- 1.3 The latest report set out the position following a review of staff and budget resources, and outlined funding proposals to enable the safe management of its tree stock in line with the proposed Tree Strategy (set out in Appendix 1 of the report) and its resultant zones/inspection frequencies. Officers explained that due to the escalating number of service requests and the subsequent workload pressures, there is a need to employ an additional Arboricultural Officer and maintenance team to deal with tree inspections and maintenance work. There is also a requirement for additional funding to deal with highway tree maintenance on strategic routes. Also appended to the report was a list of the main legislation and guidance outlining land owners' responsibilities in relation to trees and duty of care.
- 1.4 Queries were received regarding the Council's policy in relation to highway obstructions, tree-related nuisance and leaf clearance. It was explained that trees obstructing the highway are addressed through normal highway safety processes as a matter of priority, whilst issues such as the obstruction of a window within a residential property would be approached through the proposed Tree Strategy. Members were advised that it is not feasible for the Council to clear leaves from steps and footpaths due to the enormity of the task, but that the Highways Department funds an additional sweeper through the autumn to clear leaves from gullies and minimise potential flooding.
- 1.5 A Member sought clarification on the process for reporting tree service requests on behalf of residents and suggested it would be useful for the reporting person to be kept informed of the request status. Officers provided details of the appropriate contact point and explained that view of the high volume of requests being received, arrangements are being made to expand the number of staff who can acknowledge such requests. Discussion took place regarding funding for the proposals and Officers outlined how this would be achieved through a combination of recharging measures for tree related surveys, inspections and works and a reprofiling of budgets within Community and Leisure Services. In response to a Member's query, Officers also outlined the health and safety investigations that would be undertaken in the event of a potentially dangerous tree failing.

- 1.6 Following consideration of the report the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee unanimously recommended to Cabinet that for the reasons contained therein:-
- (i) the current tree management arrangements set out within the report be endorsed;
 - (ii) the proposed draft Tree Strategy at Appendix 1 and the frequency of proposed proactive inspections be endorsed;
 - (iii) the funding proposals set out in the report to meet the associated costs in delivering the tree strategy and complying with the Authority's Health and Safety liabilities be endorsed.

1.7 Members are asked to consider the recommendations.

Author: R. Barrett, Committee Services Officer, Ext. 4245

Appendices:

Appendix Report to Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 1st October 2017 – Agenda Item 8



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 1ST NOVEMBER 2017

SUBJECT: THE MANAGEMENT OF TREES

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the views of the Scrutiny Committee on the current 'tree management' arrangements, the formal adoption of a tree strategy and the current resources (staff and budget) linked to this function prior to a report being considered by Cabinet.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 In December 2016, Scrutiny Committee considered an initial report on the management of trees and draft strategy. The committee were supportive of the recommendations and agreed to consider resource requirements to ascertain if the draft strategy can be delivered before progressing further. Since this initial report was considered by the Scrutiny Committee, officers have further considered the strategy as well as looking at strategies in place in other Local Authorities and have made a slight amendment to the strategy. This amendment introduces an approach whereby land is risk rated using a red, amber, green (RAG) risk rating to underpin the inspection frequencies included in the original draft. This report now sets out the position following a review of resources (both staff and budget) and seeks the views of members prior to a further report being considered by Cabinet.
- 2.2 The draft strategy, set out in Appendix One, sets out a number of policies and actions to help safeguard and enhance the vital tree-scape.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. It requires public bodies to think more about the long term, working with people and communities, looking to prevent problems and take a more joined up approach. This will create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. The Act puts in place seven wellbeing goals and the content of this report links into four i.e. "A Healthier Wales, a Globally Responsible Wales, a Resilient Wales and a Prosperous Wales".
- 3.2 In July 2015, Corporate Management Team approved the Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP), which was undertaken by Welsh Government as part of the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008. Recommendation eleven out of fourteen makes references to the increasing vulnerability of trees as a direct result of climate change and how more proactive and preventative work should be considered.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 There are currently circa 250,000 trees across the county borough in the care of this council. Their management is essentially 3 fold:-
1. Reactive – responding to service requests. In these cases a visit by a suitably qualified Arboricultural Officer is generally required (some on a more urgent basis and others with less urgency). The outcome of the officer's investigation may or may not result in works to the tree(s) being undertaken.
 2. Proactive – safety inspections of the tree stock (dependent upon their location), although current resources do not allow a scheduled inspection regime to operate effectively.
 3. The provision of arboricultural comments in relation to planning applications.
- 4.2 Currently there is one fully qualified Arboricultural Officer and one dedicated/trained tree maintenance team located within the Parks service. The number of service requests received can vary but these have generally increased since 2014. The service deals on average with 750 per annum (directly related to trees).
- 4.3 The increase in service requests can be largely attributed to our changing climate. Autumn and winter periods are becoming much milder and wetter, which can have an adverse effect on trees. The changes in our climate have not only resulted in limbs etc. falling from trees, but there have been situations whereby whole trees have been uprooted due to the pressure on the root system and the inability of sodden ground to anchor the roots. During Autumn/Winter 2015/16, South East Wales was affected by a number of storms that led to a "spike" in emergency call outs and inspections, which in turn delayed routine inspection works. Storms by their very nature are unpredictable and during the Autumn/Winter of 2016/17, the borough experienced a lot less than the previous year. In addition, recent observations confirm the presence of Charara (Ash Dieback), which will also have an adverse effect on the tree stock.
- 4.4 There is a host of legislation and guidance available in relation to the inspection of trees but there is no definitive guide to inspection frequencies for trees in various locations. However, the existing legislation and best practice guidelines provide a framework for interpreting that Local Authorities carry a significant legal duty of care in the various types of locations/ settings and that professional arboricultural guidance should be relied upon to determine frequencies of inspection. In addition the plethora of legislation and guidance (the main documents are outlined in Appendix 2 to this report), there is a substantial amount of case law in existence.
- 4.5 In accordance with both civil and criminal law, an owner of land on which a tree stands has responsibilities for the health and safety of those on or near the land and has potential liabilities arising from the falling of a tree or branch.
- 4.6 Caerphilly's draft tree strategy (Appendix 1), refers to the Council's legal duty of care and how the Council should meet that duty with regard to tree inspections. It states, "the council refers to the National Tree Safety Group's 2011 report, Common Sense Risk Management of Trees, as best practice with regard to managing its duty of care".
- 4.7 In developing the draft strategy, officers have obviously considered the legislation, case law and guidance as well as considering strategies in place in some other Local Authorities.
- 4.8 In relation to frequency of inspections, officers have considered this and looked at various options, which vary across England and Wales.
- 4.9 In developing its draft tree strategy, the view of Caerphilly Officers has been that a "zoned approach" should be adopted with inspection frequencies being specified in the strategy according to the zone.

- 4.10 The draft strategy attached at Appendix One to this report therefore sets out recommended periods for proactive inspections, which is based on “zones” using a traffic light system.
- High Use (Red): A & B roads, schools, housing estates, street trees, town centres, libraries, car parks, municipal parks etc. – Aim to inspect every 2 years.
 - Medium Use (Amber): country parks, public open space with large mature trees, playgrounds, car parks, corporate offices etc. – Aim to inspect every 4 years.
 - Low Use (Green): All other sites, C class and unclassified roads, rights of way etc. These could be assessed on a reactive basis.

The “zone” system will reflect normal usage but will be kept under review. If the level of risk changes over time for example, if there is a plan to hold an event involving many people in a municipal park (a medium risk zone), the risk will change to high for the duration of the event.

The “zoning” policy will enable resources to be channelled to a more frequent inspection of some trees, with savings made in fewer inspections in zones where there is much lower risk.

- 4.11 Recent case law i.e. Cavanagh v Whitley Parish Council (14/02/2017) details where a giant lime tree came down onto a bus on a busy road. The driver escaped with his life due to the tree landing on a wall opposite. However, he was left with a brain injury, numerous fractures of his face and body and lost the use of his right hand. He subsequently brought proceedings against the Parish Council for £500,000. The Judge held that the Council’s 3 year inspection policy was inadequate (even though the 3 yearly frequency of inspections was in accordance with industry guidelines). He stated the tree was in an extremely high risk position and should have been inspected more frequently than 3 yearly. He stated on the application of negligence principles, the tree should have been inspected “at least every 2 years or indeed every 18 months”. He concluded that this frequency of inspection would have identified that the tree was diseased well in advance and prevented the accident. It could have been felled or made safe in advance and the accident would never have occurred.

This case illustrates that Local Authorities have a duty to act as reasonable and prudent land owners, this includes a duty to undertake regular inspections. In order to protect the public Local Authorities need to demonstrate that they implement a system of inspection where consideration has been given to identifying and prioritising the inspection of those trees which pose a greater risk to people and property.

- 4.12 In the judgment the Court advocated that the council's recently instituted zoning policy as a sensible and economic policy as it enabled resources to be channelled to a more frequent inspection regime of some trees with savings made in zones where there is little or no risk
- 4.13 The Council's proposed strategy has been drafted on a zoning basis as set out earlier in the Report, although it must be recognised that the new inspection regime is likely to increase the amount of remedial works required.
- 4.14 Officers have met with other service areas (Highways, Housing, Regeneration, Property Services etc.) to discuss the management of trees on land within their respective portfolios. In the event of any remedial works being identified, a budget estimate would be provided to the relevant department for their consideration and approval. Any immediate works which pose a health and safety risk would be addressed without delay. In terms of schools, advice would need to be provided to the Head Teacher in relation to the urgency of the works and the respective Health & Safety liability involved. The last survey of trees in Education ownership was funded centrally by education but in accordance with devolved management arrangements for schools, future surveys would be the responsibility of each school.
- 4.15 In addition to the routine highway tree surveying, resultant pro-active remedial works and reactive works, there are some “substantial” sections of highway where significant tree works are required due to the tree stock not receiving appropriate management at the time the highway was developed.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 This report contributes to the well-being goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act in that in the long term, the importance of balancing our short-term needs to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs. The regular inspection of trees and undertaking resultant remedial works will safeguard their viability for our future generations. In terms of prevention, proactive inspections will ensure the safety and stability of our tree stock, which will reduce any potential accidents in the future. In relation to collaboration, our Arboricultural Officer is a consultee on planning applications and the role is important in terms of the Local Development Plan (LDP) and urban regeneration.
- 5.2 In respect of the seven well-being goals, this report contributes to at least four:-
1. A Globally Responsible Wales – The Authority is taking responsibility for its tree stock and needs to actively undertake pro-active inspections and resultant works. This will have a positive effect on global well-being, in particular absorbing carbon dioxide, which is the key greenhouse gas, will reduce the causes of global warming and climate change.
 2. A Resilient Wales – The maintenance and management of our tree stock enhances our biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning eco systems that will support social, economic and ecological resilience and the ability to adapt to climate change, for example trees take up water and therefore slow the movement of water through systems, thus reducing the likelihood of flooding.
 3. A Prosperous Wales – The pro-active management of our tree stock can improve local employment prospects. In addition, international studies have shown that semi-mature trees (or older) in at least reasonable condition can add between 5 – 15% to the value of a property. A green environment will be more attractive to businesses and will therefore increase the likelihood of inward investment.
 4. A Healthier Wales – Trees have a positive impact on both physical and mental health and are an important public resource for the wider community where they are situated.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no potential equalities implications associated with this report for specific groups or individuals. Therefore, there is no requirement for an Equalities Impact Assessment to be undertaken.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Within the report that was considered by the Scrutiny Committee in December 2016, it was suggested that in order for Parks Services to effectively manage the Council's tree stock, additional resources would be required. Further analysis of the resources required has been undertaken.
- 7.2 To enable the safe management of its tree stock in line with the proposed tree strategy and its resultant zones/inspection frequencies the following resources would be required:-
- (i) One-off allocation of £600,000 over a 3-5 year period to deal with highway tree maintenance on strategic routes.
 - (ii) An additional Arboricultural Officer to enable the level of surveying required by the draft strategy to be accommodated. This would cost circa £42,500.

- (iii) An additional tree maintenance team and associated vehicle. This would cost circa £85,500.

It should be noted that once the strategic highway route works are completed, on-going maintenance of the strategic routes can be absorbed by 2 in-house tree teams.

- 7.3 Given the Health & Safety responsibilities of the Council in this regard it is proposed that this funding is found through a combination of recharging land holding departments for pro-active survey work and any resultant works required, and a reprofiling of budgets in Community & Leisure Services to convert 2 current posts to those of tree operatives (with the team then recharging their time for works completed to the various land holding departments). As compliance with Health and Safety legislation is paramount, and the Authority cannot ignore its Statutory Health and Safety responsibilities it has adopted a recharging policy for various Health and Safety related surveys/works e.g. statutory electrical, legionella, gas safety and fire safety testing/works for its buildings with the department responsible for the building being recharged accordingly. This recharging process will also therefore be adopted for tree related inspections and works.
- 7.4 Tree surveying and associated tree works will consequently need to be funded from a mixture of the relevant departmental capital and revenue budgets on an annual basis (in the case of the highway related tree works, service reserves may also need to be used).
- 7.5 Obviously this may result in other aspects of service delivery reducing as land holding departments will be required to fund identified tree works (in the case of schools, this funding could fall to the authority if works are capital in nature although this is unlikely) in order to fulfil the Authority's statutory Health and Safety responsibilities.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Currently there is one suitably qualified Arboricultural Officer for the whole of the county borough.
- 8.2 As an interim measure to deal with the escalating number of service requests, an additional resource has been deployed to assist with inspections, etc. This has been implemented on a temporary basis via amending existing Area Parks Officers duties. Four Area Parks Officers have recently undertaken a basic (Level 1) Tree Inspection Course, which is endorsed by the Arboricultural Association. This will allow these staff to assist in the event of an emergency or during periods of high workload.
- 8.3 Currently there is one dedicated tree team within the Parks Operations area (comprising of three trained operatives) to undertake maintenance work, which often means that private contractors are engaged to undertake additional works.
- 8.4 As outlined above the cost of employing another qualified Arboricultural Officer and a team of qualified frontline staff (including vehicle and equipment etc.) is estimated at circa £128K.
- 8.5 To enhance the service further, it would also be beneficial for a number of key staff across the organisation (i.e. Highways Inspectors, staff at Cwmcarn Scenic Drive, Rights of Way Officers, Countryside Rangers etc.) to work towards a basic Level One tree inspection qualification (one day) endorsed by the Arboricultural Association. The cost of this training is £125 (per candidate) excluding VAT (which would need to be funded by each individual service area).

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 This report reflects the views of the listed consultees.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Members views are sought on the recommendations set out below prior to a further report being considered by Cabinet:-

- (i) The current tree management arrangements set out within the body of this report.
- (ii) The proposed draft tree strategy (set out at Appendix One) and in particular the frequency of proposed proactive inspections.
- (iii) The funding proposals set out in the report to meet the associated costs in delivering the tree strategy and complying with the Authority's Health & Safety liabilities.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 To establish the views of the Scrutiny Committee on the existing 'tree management' arrangements including the formal adoption of the draft tree strategy prior to a further report being considered by Cabinet.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000
Highway Act 1980
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
Health & Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974
Climate Change Act 2008

Author: Mike Headington, Acting Parks Manager – headim@caerphilly.gov.uk
Consultees: Christina Harry, Corporate Director Communities – harrhc@caerphilly.gov.uk
Mark S. Williams, Head of Community & Leisure Services – willims@caerphilly.gov.uk
Stephen R. Harris, Interim Head of Corporate Finance – harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk
Marcus Lloyd, WHQS and Infrastructure Strategy Manager – lloyd1@caerphilly.gov.uk
Mark Williams, Interim Head of Property Services – willim17@caerphilly.gov.uk
Gail Williams, Interim Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer – willige@caerphilly.gov.uk
Shaun Couzens, Chief Housing Officer – couzes@caerphilly.gov.uk
Lynne Donovan, Acting Head of Human Resources & Organisational Development – donovl@caerphilly.gov.uk
Councillor Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services – georgn@caerphilly.gov.uk
Phil Griffiths, Acting Countryside Manager – griffpm@caerphilly.gov.uk
Kevin Kinsey, Acting Engineering Projects Group Manager – kinsek@caerphilly.gov.uk
Paul J. Harris, Senior Arboricultural Officer - harripj@caerphilly.gov.uk
Jonathan Davies, Senior Area Parks Officer - daviej27@caerphilly.gov.uk
Anwen Rees, Senior Policy Officer – Equalities & Welsh Language – reesma@caerphilly.gov.uk
Sue Ruddock, Insurance & Risk Manager – ruddosa@caerphilly.gov.uk
Paul Cooke, Senior Policy Officer - cookepa@caerphilly.gov.uk
Sue Richards, Interim Head of Service – Education, Planning and Strategy – richase@caerphilly.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Draft Tree Strategy

Appendix 2 Main Legislation & Guidance Outlining Land Owners Responsibilities in Relation to Trees & Duty of Care

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

TREE STRATEGY

OCTOBER 2017

“A GREENER PLACE”

A guide to how the Council manages trees through its function as landowner, highway authority, and local planning authority.

CONTENTS:

page:

- 01 - Introduction.....	4
- 02 - General Policies.....	5
- 03 - Common Enquiries – ‘Nuisance Trees’.....	6
<i>Honeydew - Falling Leaves & ‘Small Biomass’ - Roosting Birds - TV & Satellite Reception - Blocked Daylight - Obstructed Views - ‘High Hedges’ - Overhanging Vegetation & Encroaching Roots - <u>POLICIES FOR ALL TREES (p.9)</u></i>	
- 04 - Council-held Trees.....	10
<i>Duty of Care: Inspections & Maintenance - Insurance Claims - Direct Damage by Roots - Indirect Damage by Roots - Footway, Footpath, or Highway Damage - Foreign Objects in Trees - Damage to Council Trees - Stump Grinding</i>	
- 05 - Highways.....	14
<i>Highway Obstruction & Hazard - CCTV Surveillance, Street Lighting and Road Signage - Trench Works, Excavations, & Roadworks Near Trees - The Growth Environment - Public Rights of Way & Cycleways</i>	
- 06 - Parks & Public Open Spaces.....	16
<i>Parks & Cemeteries - Other Open Space Trees - Allotments - Brecon & Monmouthshire Canal</i>	
- 07 - Council Housing.....	17
<i>Council House Gardens - Housing Estates (Communal Areas) - Council House Sales & Tree Protection</i>	
- 08 - Privately-owned Trees & the Planning System.....	18
<i>Privately-owned Trees - Trees & the Planning System - Tree Preservation Orders & Conservation Areas - <u>POLICIES FOR PRIVATELY-OWNED TREES & THE PLANNING SYSTEM (p. 22)</u> - Penalties & Exemptions - Interactive Map of TPOs</i>	

CONTENTS (contd.):

page:

- 09 - Schools.....	23
- 10 - Woodlands & 'Country Parks'	24
<i>Felling Licenses - Country Parks - Cwmcam Forest</i>	
- 11 - Hedgerows & 'Veteran' Trees.....	25
<i>Hedgerows - 'Veteran' or 'Ancient' Trees</i>	
- 12 - Tree Management Information & Assistance.....	26
<i>Biosecurity - Customer Service - Emergency Call-out - "Emergency" Enquiries</i>	
<i>- The Council Website - Reputable Local Contractors or Consultants</i>	
<i>- General Advice - Tree Strategy</i>	

DRAFT

1 - Introduction

Trees are good for us. They have many benefits, some of which are more obvious, and others less so. They are an important public resource for the wider communities where they are situated, and are valuable long-term assets to our environment where we live, work, study, and play. Trees can do all of the following:

- Produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide.
- Soak up excess rainwater runoff and help to control flooding.
- Absorb pollutants.
- Provide a home, shelter and food for wildlife.
- Retain soils and stabilise slopes.
- Aid sustainable drainage.
- Reduce wind speeds.
- Buffer noise pollution.
- Provide a visual screen or buffer.
- Have aesthetic value and bring 'nature' to urban or semi-urban areas.
- Have historical, educational and cultural importance.
- Relieve the stresses of modern life.
- Lower rates of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Improve property values.
- Provide shade and shelter to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The list goes on. Being around trees, even for a short while, is known to reduce stress levels, which in turn benefits our health greatly. For example, hospital patients recover better when their windows overlook trees and vegetation. Trees have also been shown to help alleviate depression and reduce aggressive behaviour¹. Trees in our communities also attract other values which can be hard to quantify: They can influence utility bills through their correct positioning by decreasing wind-chill and heating costs. Carefully positioned trees can save up to 25% of the energy a typical household uses. Trees also provide shade, reducing air conditioning costs in summer². Aesthetically, it has long been accepted that trees on a development provide a better impression, an immediate sense of maturity, to the benefit of a site and its surroundings. Estimates vary, but international studies have now shown that trees can add between 5-18% to the value of a property³.

In the UK, the **Environment Act (1995)**, the **Pollution Prevention and Control Act (1999)** and the European emission standards control pollution emissions from transport and industry. There is substantial evidence that urban trees remove large amounts of air pollution and improve urban air quality⁴. Careful maintenance to ensure plant health will increase the leaf area and increase the pollution-scrubbing effect of trees⁵. An increasing number of reports highlight the important role that trees play in our landscape and the need to future proof that treescape with regard to

¹ Forestry Commission (2011) Greenspace design for health and well-being – Practice Guide.

² US Dept. of Energy (2014) Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy.

³ Research by CABI Space in 'Does money grow on trees?', CABI 2005, reported that, in the 8 UK parks they studied, proximity to them added a premium to house prices of between 5-7%; While a US study of parks claimed house values were between 10-20% higher; The value of US properties in tree lined areas was estimated as being 6% higher by 'Urban Forest Values: Economic Benefits of Trees in Cities', Wolf K, University of Washington College of Forest Resources, Factsheet 29, 1998; 'Benefits of community trees', Nowak DJ, USDA Forest Service General Technical Report; 'The contribution of trees to residential property value', Morales DJ, Journal of Arboriculture 6, 1980.

⁴ Nowak, DJ. (1994) Air pollution removal by Chicago's urban forest.

⁵ Jim, C.Y. and Chen, W.Y. (2003) Assessing the ecosystem service of air pollution removal by urban trees in Guangzhou, China.

appropriate funding and resources, species diversity, and planting goals. [Caerphilly County Borough Council](#) (hereafter “the Council”) has committed itself to producing a Tree Strategy to provide action and policies to help safeguard and enhance this vital treescape.

2 – General Policies

This strategy exists as part of a hierarchy of other relevant tree-related or general strategies, standards and plans. The **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** is an important law about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. It is increasingly clear that the reasonable management of existing trees in the landscape, as well as the provision of new planting schemes and replacement planting plans, significantly contributes to all of those important aspects and the well-being goals that the Act is intended to enhance.

The **Climate Change Act (2008)** states that every local authority must produce an appropriate adaptation plan. The Council’s own **Local Climate Impacts Profile (2015)** has stressed the significant impact that the changing climate is having on trees in the landscape. It recommends a more joined up holistic approach to aligning plans and strategies that include the potential benefits of adaptation issues. Further recommendations focus on a number of service areas where appropriate tree management, and resources for increasingly proactive arboriculture, will help to mitigate the negative impact of climate change.

The Council’s Supplementary Planning Guidance (**SPG**) **LDP 4 – “Trees and Development”** – comprehensively explains the legislative and planning framework that relates directly to trees and woodlands. **British Standard 5837:2012** (“Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations”) is the key national document that forms the basis for the above SPG. **British Standard 3998:2010** (“Tree Work – Recommendations”) is the key national document that determines the recognisable standards of tree maintenance – be it pruning, felling, pollarding or coppicing – that all reputable tree surgery contractors and foresters are required to work to. It is also the Standard that the Planning Department require any approved tree works on protected trees be carried out to. The Council requires that the arboricultural contractors it employs and its own staff work to this standard.

The **Town and Country Planning Act (1990)**, and as amended) is the primary legislation for administering Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas. Works to protected trees are administered according to the nationally recognised procedures of this important legislation.

British Standard 8545:2014 (“Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape. Recommendations”) assists those involved in planning, designing, resourcing, producing, planting and managing new trees in the landscape. It describes a process for planting young trees that will result in them achieving genuine “independence in the landscape” which the Council requires to achieve desired planting objectives.

The National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) published “Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees” (known as “**NJUG – Volume 4**”), which echoes and simplifies most of the principles of BS5837:2012; forms the basis for the principles by which the Council carries out works to utilities near trees, or the standard to which other statutory undertakers are expected to adhere to.

The **Highways Act (1980, as amended)** is the primary legislation which determines how the Council manages trees on land either adjacent to or within the public highway. **Occupiers Liability Acts (1957 & 1984)**, the **Health & Safety at Work Act (1974)**, and **Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1976)** all provide further legislation which requires tree owners take reasonable steps to manage trees on their property responsibly. There is a 'Legal Duty of Care'. [This strategy is intended to supplement the above legislation, national and Council guidance, and British Standards; providing advice and guidance relevant to the management of private and Council owned trees within Caerphilly County Borough.](#)

3 – Common Enquiries – ‘nuisance’ trees

The Council receives many complaints or enquiries about trees causing nuisance: A high percentage of calls received by the Council are in relation to trees. A consistent approach is adopted throughout the Council and work is carried out or approved in response to an assessment of the actual problem, and the environmental, amenity, or financial cost of felling trees and/or other arboriculturally appropriate maintenance works. Each tree is assessed on the basis of the merits or defects in its condition at the time of the inspection; and with regard to the tree owner's legal duty of care and whether there might be any legal or 'actionable' nuisance present which the tree owner will be minded to abate.

Many of the nuisance types detailed below have not been found to be 'actionable' in UK courts, and as such the tree owner is not obliged to abate many of those specific nuisances. Those nuisance types, which *have* over the years been found 'actionable' – such as letting a known danger remain in situ within range of a neighbouring property (e.g. a large dead limb overhanging a neighbour's greenhouse), or the nuisance of structural damage, will be addressed elsewhere within this document.

Frequently, the most-often complained about nuisances will be what are known as 'minor' or 'seasonal nuisances'. These are generally those that may cause inconvenience to people, but rarely cause significant discomfort or financial loss. It is *very* common to hear that trees are generally appreciated, but not wanted in a *particular* location because of this. **Action in response to all minor nuisances would lead to the unnecessary removal or disfigurement of many trees, to the detriment of both public amenity and wildlife.** As well as having a major environmental implication that would clearly be unsustainable and contradictory to Council policies, action by the Council in response to all the minor nuisance complaints it receives would be a waste of resources that would be better spent on *necessary* tree works elsewhere or other Council services.

3A – 'HONEYDEW' – Aphids and related insects feeding on tree sap excrete what they don't use as a sugary substance called 'honeydew'. It is tacky dried on vehicles and slippery when wetted by rain*. Some tree species, such as Lime, Maple, and Oak, are more associated with this issue than others. Contrary to popular perception, it does not damage car paintwork, and is removed by washing with warm soapy water⁶. A car cover will help if alternative parking is unavailable.

Primarily a seasonal problem, honeydew is usually worst in May or June. No amount of pruning will alleviate the problem, and 'biological control' using aphid predators is costly, not always

⁶ DETR Research for Amenity Trees Number 2(2000) – 'Diagnosis of Problems with Trees' by Strouts & Winter

successful, and usually only a temporary reprieve. [Trees are not inspected or maintained in response to honeydew complaints.](#)

**Specific instances of particularly bad patches of pedestrian footway should be reported to the Council as a street cleansing issue and responded to accordingly.*

3B - FALLING LEAVES, SMALL FRUITS, BERRIES, NUTS, SEEDS, FLOWERS, etc. ('SMALL BIOMASS') – The seasonal shedding of leaves, fruits and flowers is a natural function of a tree's biology. Activities such as clearing fallen leaves or berries are part of normal household maintenance and would not obligate a tree owner to be responsible for their clearance. While clearly for some they are a burden or tiresome to deal with, they are a part of normal life and the disadvantages should be weighed against the benefits of the trees to the area. Apart from raking or sweeping, use of textured surfacing may assist with slip hazards if they occur persistently. A range of brushes, guards, meshes or grids are widely available to help stop gutters or drains from blocking. [Trees are not inspected or maintained in response to complaints of falling leaves or other small biomass.](#)

3C – ROOSTING BIRDS – Occasionally large numbers of roosting or perching birds can cause problems due to their droppings causing a mess. Generally, felling a tree will not alleviate the problem as birds will relocate to another tree nearby. For this reason [the Council will not fell, or allow the felling of, trees purely because of roosting or perching birds.](#)

3D – TELEVISION & SATELLITE RECEPTION – Holding a TV license does not give a legal right to reception; it permits the holder to operate receiving equipment. Residents are advised to consult a TV or satellite engineer about moving the aerial or dish, attaching it to an extension pole, or fitting improved receiving equipment. Residents with a broadband internet connection can usually access broadcast TV programming via their computer (which may typically be connectable to a TV). BBC iPlayer, ITV Hub, and Sky Go (and other equivalents) offer such services for free to license holders or subscribers.

Normally, pruning to alleviate an obscured signal would only be approved or consented to if it was arboriculturally appropriate for the tree concerned. Pruning or felling a protected tree, or a tree in a Conservation Area, will need prior consent from the Planning Department, just as any other issue. Applications or notification of works to protected trees will be considered on their merits (as per works to all protected trees). It's recommended that independent professional arboricultural advice be sought prior to an application or to giving notice in a Conservation Area. [Trees are not inspected or maintained in response to complaints specifically of blocked television or satellite reception.](#)

3E – BLOCKED DAYLIGHT – It is inevitable that the positions of some trees in relation to properties within residential areas will at times result in the reduction or loss of natural light within the property. Unfortunately, if all trees were felled or pruned to maximise light levels, there would be very few trees left in the built environment. Even without any trees, many houses and gardens would be at least partially shaded by surrounding buildings. As there is no legal right to daylight as far as deciduous trees, or single evergreen trees, are concerned, [the Council will not normally carry out inspections or maintenance specifically related to a complaint of this nature.](#) However, the obstruction of street lighting by trees *does* warrant action, and branches would be pruned accordingly, or occasionally even whole trees removed if it were necessary in order to improve visibility and/or safety in a public location (see section 5B below).

3F – OBSTRUCTED VIEWS – As there is no legal right to a view (unless specifically cited in title deed easements; typically rare), the obstruction of views is considered a minor nuisance and **the Council will not remove or severely prune trees of amenity value purely for the creation or reinstatement of views**, except in very exceptional circumstances. An example might be trees of significant size, but limited amenity value, blocking a public view of, say, Caerphilly Castle, that was felt to possess greater public amenity value.

3G – ‘HIGH HEDGES’ – The High Hedge Regulations, under Part 8 (High Hedges) of the **Anti-Social Behaviour Act (2003)** form the only UK legislation specifically giving a legal right to light where obscured by trees. The definition of a ‘High Hedge’ is “...*a barrier to light or access as is formed wholly or predominantly by a line of two or more evergreen or semi-evergreen trees or shrubs and rises to a height of more than 2 metres above ground level.*” The Act only offers control over hedges that affect domestic properties. **The role of the Council is to act as an independent and impartial 3rd party.** The official guidance document – “Over the Garden Hedge” (available at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/overgardenhedge>) - details the process that **must** be exhausted before a complaint is officially made via the Council as a last resort. The complaint procedure is a fee-payable service.

Once the Council is in receipt of a complaint form and the fee has been paid, and the Council is satisfied that the complaint meets the legal tests and other possible remedies have been exhausted, the Council will invite the hedge owner to set out their case. Once the Council has heard both sides of the issue, an officer of the Council will visit the site to assess the hedge and surroundings for themselves. The Council will also obtain any other relevant facts about the site that might be needed to help determine the outcome of the complaint. A Council officer might, for example, need to measure the size of the garden, or the hedge distance from the house windows. Once all relevant information has been gathered, the Council will consider the complaint. It shall be determined whether or not the hedge adversely affects the reasonable enjoyment of the home and garden, and what, if anything, should be done about it.

If it is decided that action is necessary, the Council shall issue a formal notice to the hedge owner which sets out what they must do to the hedge, and by when. This is known as a “remedial notice”. It may also require the hedge owner to keep the hedge maintained at its new size. High Hedge complaints are administered by the Council’s Environmental Health department.

3H – OVERHANGING VEGETATION & ENCROACHING ROOTS – There is no legal obligation to prune or reduce foliage from vegetation on your property if it overhangs a neighbouring property. However, if overhanging vegetation is causing damage to a neighbouring property it can be deemed a ‘legal’ or ‘actionable nuisance’. The same principle may apply to roots beneath the ground. (Contrary to popular belief the vast majority of tree roots growing beneath adjoining properties do not cause a legal nuisance or structural damage. **Please see sections 4C & 4D for further details concerning ‘direct’ and ‘indirect’ damage by roots.**)

In the case of legal nuisance the vegetation/root owner would be obliged to abate the nuisance. The same principle applies to any Council-managed tree. In most cases **the Council is unlikely to undertake pruning works solely as a result of overhang – unless there is direct physical contact causing a legal nuisance, or a reasonably foreseeable danger.** The Council does not reduce or remove overhanging branches as a result of falling leaves, seeds, fruits, blossom, etc., nor as a result of blocked light or blocked TV reception, as discussed in the sections above.

3J - POLICIES FOR ALL TREES:

P1	Transparency of Action	<i>The Council will aim to achieve a transparency in its action and all its decision-making on trees.</i>
P2	Public Safety	<i>Public safety is of foremost importance when making decisions about trees in the county borough.</i>
P3	Arboricultural Standards	<i>The Council will take a similar approach in assessing their own and private trees, and will require inspection to the highest standards of the arboricultural profession.</i>
P4		<i>The Council will require continued professional development for staff operating at both a professional, supervisory and practical level so as to help ensure that trees are managed appropriately and in accordance with current best practice in modern arboriculture.</i>
P5		<i>The Council will require that all the work for which it has responsibility is carried out according to BS3998:2010 British Standard "Tree Work - Recommendations" and/or in the European Tree Pruning Guide published in 2001 by the Arboricultural Association as a minimum standard. Any subsequent revisions or replacements of these recognised standards will be similarly adhered to.</i>
P6	Tree-related Nuisance	<i>The Council will not carry out or authorise any tree work to alleviate a nuisance which is contrary to any other adopted tree policy.</i>
P7	Minor and Seasonal Nuisances	<i>The Council will resist felling or severe pruning of its own or protected trees purely because of minor or seasonal nuisances such as honeydew, bird droppings, leaf-fall and the shedding of seeds, fruits, nuts or flowers.</i>
P8	TV or Satellite Reception Obstruction	<i>The Council will resist the removal or pruning of trees in order to improve television or satellite reception. There is no legal right to TV or satellite reception, and service providers are normally able to reposition or provide improved receiving equipment.</i>
P9	Daylight or View Obstruction	<i>The Council will resist the removal or pruning of trees in order to increase daylight admittance to a property or for the creation (or reinstatement) of a view.</i>
P10	Evergreen 'High Hedges'	<i>Complaints may be submitted about a privately held 'High Hedge' where it is shown that all reasonable attempts to resolve the situation have been made and the hedge affects reasonable enjoyment of a home because of its height. The Council will consider the complaint and sustainable height reductions may be enforced as necessary.</i>
P11	Tree Size and Amenity	<i>Trees should be placed for mainly uninterrupted growth, except where there are over-riding historical or design needs to do otherwise.</i>
		<i>Wherever there is space to allow a tree to grow to full size without the need for disfiguring pruning, or it causing a serious nuisance, the Council would seek the largest tree possible, notwithstanding the need to select trees for reasons of character or design.</i>
P12	Arboricultural By-products	<i>The Council will dispose of all timber and tree-work arisings in an environmentally sustainable manner, and encourage others to do so.</i>
P13	Trees and Wildlife	<i>In all its dealings with trees the Council will aim to carry out, approve or encourage management of trees that protects and enhances wildlife. Work will not take place to trees found to contain nesting birds during the nesting season where the work would destroy or disturb nesting. When works are proposed to trees, or near to trees, suspected as bat roosts or being near to badger setts, prior guidance will be sought from the Council's Ecologists, and the recommended actions followed. Works will be postponed as necessary in all but the most severe of emergency situations.</i>

4 – Council-held Trees

The Council is directly responsible for all the trees growing on land that it owns or holds in the county borough. This ‘estate’ is very diverse and includes urban parks, country parks, housing areas, highway land, cemeteries and care homes etc. Each site has its own requirements, opportunities and constraints in relation to trees. As of 2016 the current *estimated* number of trees is 260,000 though this number is expected to rise as wider-reaching surveys are undertaken in the future.

4A - DUTY OF CARE

Under UK law the occupier of land has a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent or minimise the risk of personal injury or damage to property arising from the presence of any tree on the land, or from its breakage or uprooting.

In England and Wales, liability is governed by the **Occupiers' Liability Acts (1957) and (1984)**. The earlier Act deals with the liability relating to visitors; i.e. persons who enter the land or premises either by invitation or permission. The later Act deals with the liability to other persons, including trespassers. Occupiers can be held negligent in their duty of care even if injury or damage occurs on land where people do not have access by right or invitation. In the event of a claim arising from personal injury or other damage involving a tree, the occupier of the land will in most cases be liable if found negligent in meeting their duty of care. For proof of negligence, it will usually have to be shown that it was reasonably foreseeable that the tree might do damage. Where negligence is not proven, the failure of a tree would be an accident, or “Act of God”.

If a tree is located where it could either fail in whole, or part, and cause injury or damage, the occupier is expected to ensure that it is subject to periodic expert inspection and that the inspection is recorded and any recommendations acted upon. The purpose of the inspection is to determine whether it is foreseeable that the tree could cause harm by virtue of its location, size and physical condition. The occupier must take action to remedy any defects found in the inspection. The courts have recognised that the occupier of land may not have the necessary expertise to make such a determination. It is therefore accepted that employing a suitably qualified expert to do this work can fulfill the occupiers’ duty of care.

The National Tree Safety Group (NTSG) is a broad partnership of organisations that have come together to develop nationally recognised guidance on tree safety management that is proportionate to the actual risk from trees. [The Council refers to the National Tree Safety Group’s 2011 report Common Sense Risk Management of Trees as best practice with regard to managing its duty of care.](#)

Meeting the Council’s duty of care in respect of trees: Inspections

The Council employs professional staff suitably qualified and experienced in arboriculture (the care and management of trees). To assist with the management of the tree stock, and to meet the Council’s duty of care, a computerised tree management database has been introduced. The recorded information includes details of a tree’s location, species, age & useful life expectancy, condition, recommendations for any necessary works, and the value of an individual tree as an amenity & environmental asset (see “CAVAT” system at section 4D below). It is an auditable archive of previous inspections and resulting works undertaken.

Tree inspections are undertaken in those areas where trees pose the greatest risk to people or property, but other management issues are also identified and addressed as far as possible. Based on the condition of the tree, and the severity of any defects present, a priority for action and timetable for maintenance is allocated (see below).

Pro-active or 'planned' inspections are based on a 'zoned' approach and use a traffic light system:

SITE USEAGE TYPE	<u>INSPECTION FREQUENCY</u>
<p>HIGHER USE: (RED)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - transport routes – A-roads & B-roads - schools* (see Section 9, pages 23-24) - housing estates (communal areas) and OAPs/sheltered housing provision - municipal parks - cemeteries 	<p>AIM TO INSPECT EVERY TWO YEARS</p>
<p>MEDIUM USE: (AMBER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - country parks - libraries - public open space with large mature trees - playgrounds - social services establishments - car parks - Council-held corporate sites - Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal 	<p>AIM TO INSPECT EVERY FOUR YEARS</p>
<p>LOWER USE: (GREEN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All other sites - Transport routes - C-class and unclassified roads - Public Rights of Way 	<p>RE-ACTIVE – based on expediency</p>

Meeting the duty of care in respect of trees: Maintenance

In addition to the rolling programme of planned inspections, and ongoing cyclical works (e.g. street tree re-pollarding), some works will also arise from unplanned events such as severe weather conditions or insurance claims. Trees which threaten public safety will always be given higher priority, which may at times correspondingly cause plans for non-urgent works having to be delayed.

TREE CONDITION	<u>WORKS PRIORITY</u>	TIME SCALES
<p>Dangerous Trees in public areas or along 'higher use' (RED) transport routes.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Root Movement (loose tree in ground; excludes saplings & small trees). • Unattached or split large branch. 	<p>EMERGENCY</p> <p>Immediate / Dangerous</p>	<p>Within 24 hours;</p> <p>ASAP during extreme weather conditions.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dead Trees. • Trees causing imminent structural damage. • Trees causing highway obstructions 'higher use' (RED) transport routes. • Major obstruction caused by trees at 'medium use' (AMBER) transport routes. • Trees affecting Community Safety e.g. CCTV. 	<p>HIGHER PRIORITY</p>	<p>0-3 months</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees implicated in insurance claims. • Other Trees causing highway obstructions. • Routine maintenance at 'higher use' sites 	<p>MEDIUM PRIORITY</p>	<p>3-18 months</p>
<p>Other work requests not of a safety related nature such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General pruning to improve tree structure for nuisance; or routine maintenance at 'lower use' (GREEN) sites. • Removal of unsuitable trees • Tree planting requests 	<p>LOWER PRIORITY</p>	<p>18 months to 5 years</p>

4B - INSURANCE CLAIMS

Where a Council owned tree is implicated in personal injury or damage to property and a claim against the Council is made, all details must be sent in writing to the Council's Insurance and Risk Manager. A recommendation for the pruning or removal of trees implicated in insurance claims will only be considered where sufficient technical evidence is submitted so that a suitably informed decision can be made. The Council will Investigate all tree related insurance claims when instructed by the Council's Insurance and Risk Manager.

DAMAGE BY TREE ROOTS

Roots may occasionally cause damage to properties either 'directly' or 'indirectly'. The roots of trees exploit soil and ground conditions in various ways dependent on the tree species and local conditions.

4C – DIRECT DAMAGE BY ROOTS

In cases of 'direct' damage (where roots of Council-held trees are actually *physically* damaging a structure) the affected property owner is advised to consult with their building insurer before making a claim against the Council for any damage suffered as outlined above in section 4B. In cases where drains or pipes are blocked or damaged: Old pipes with weak joints or cracks cause leaks, and roots may follow the water gradient into the pipe. Condensation on a pipe surface may increase root growth, giving the impression that they're 'attacking it'. Damage can sometimes occur when roots sheath around pipes, pulling on them in winds. Replacing or re-lining pipes with modern materials is the best solution since root pruning, root barriers, and mechanical/chemical clearance is usually only a temporary solution. Public drains are the responsibility of Water & Sewerage Undertakers, even if they are blocked by roots from a privately-owned tree.

4D – INDIRECT DAMAGE BY ROOTS

In cases of 'indirect' damage, tree roots may have contributed to a drying-out of soil so as to lead to ground movement or settlement known as '*subsidence*'. It is important to note that subsidence may be caused by a variety of non-tree related factors (e.g. leaking or collapsed drains; underground tunnelling or mining; ground vibrations; nearby construction or demolition activity; natural settlement; sub-standard building specifications, etc.), and may also be caused by other vegetation nearby such as other trees or shrubs, and creeping or climbing perennial plants.

In 2008 the London Tree Officers Association approved a 3rd edition of its **Risk Limitation Strategy** ("RLS"). The RLS was produced as a response tool for local authorities across the country to follow agreed procedures and principles with regard to tree-related subsidence damage to properties, and the management of those implicated trees. Along with an increasing number of UK local authorities, the Council will follow the core recommendations and principles of the RLS. They will allow the Council to save considerable sums of public money that might otherwise have been paid out in management and settlement of claims. A copy of the RLS may be downloaded from the LTOA website at <http://www.ltoa.org.uk/resources/risk-limitation-strategy> .

One key element of the RLS is that local authorities should adopt methods of assigning a monetary valuation of its trees so that the Council can specify the levels of evidence required in substantiating a claim dependent on the value of the implicated tree. The Council has incorporated the internationally recognised method of Capital Asset Valuation for Trees ("**CAVAT**") into its tree management database and applies a valuation to individual Council-held trees during inspection, or when implicated in an insurance claim.

The **Joint Mitigation Protocol (2008)** (also produced by the LTOA, together with representatives of the national insurance sector) gives further detail in the procedure and necessary levels of evidence and works in conjunction to the RLS. A copy of the JMP may be downloaded from the LTOA website at <http://www.ltoa.org.uk/resources/joint-mitigation-protocol> .

The Council endorses and will act upon the procedures and criteria recommended within the Risk Limitation Strategy (2008) and Joint Mitigation Protocol (2008) with regard to the management of trees under its management which are implicated in cases of subsidence damage.

4E – FOOTWAY, FOOTPATH, OR HIGHWAY DAMAGE

In some instances roots can deform the surfaces of footpaths or roads. To constitute a 'trip hazard' the deformation will be assessed against Highway Authority guidelines for the given location type. Where a hazard exists *and* is attributable to tree roots, engineering options will be explored before viable root pruning (often associated with simultaneous crown reduction pruning) or tree removal options are considered.

4F – 'FOREIGN OBJECTS' IN TREES

Unlawful placement of signs or advertisements on Council-held trees is not tolerated, and they will be removed. This is because the damaged bark which arises from the nailing or fixing of signs to the tree can often allow for ready access for pests and diseases. Similarly, ropes, strings, cables or other ties around stems or branches will usually be removed as these can girdle the stem or branch and cause premature decline and ultimately failure of the stem or branch in question.

4G – DAMAGE TO COUNCIL TREES

Malicious damage or vandalism to Council owned trees and woodlands, or unlawful works to Council owned trees is a criminal offence. The Council takes acts of malicious damage to trees very seriously and seeks prosecution whenever appropriate.

4H – STUMP GRINDING

This is the practice of removing a tree stump to below ground level by mechanical means. Where replacement planting is desirable, such as in highway verges or in existing pavement 'tree pits', stumps will be ground out. Where stump removal is not necessary, tree stumps will be removed close to ground level so as not to leave any trip hazard. Where necessary (often dependent on tree species and potential for re-generative sprouting) stumps shall be treated so as to prevent regrowth.

5 – Highways

The county borough's highway trees are mostly found in linear woodlands where the highway adjoins the countryside. Relatively few conventional street tree plantings exist within the county borough at present. Many of the street trees that have been planted are those trees on what is known as a 'pollarding' regime. Highway trees are very visible and their presence gives them an amenity value that surpasses many other trees in the county borough. In some streets, they are the only significant living thing (beside humans!) and their shape can provide a contrast to an otherwise harsh street-scene.

All the Council's general policies for its own trees will apply to the dealing of highway trees (see section 3J above).

5A – HIGHWAY OBSTRUCTION AND HAZARD

Through its responsibilities as highway authority the Council is responsible to ensure the safe unobstructed passage of vehicles, pedestrians and all lawful users of the highway. Where they grow in or near the adopted highway, trees often require management to allow visibility of signs, signals and street lamps. The Council manages its own trees to ensure sufficient highway visibility. Where visibility or physical passage is obstructed by privately-held roadside trees, the Council will continue to enforce the pruning, or occasional felling, of trees and hedges under the **Highways Act (1980)**. In an emergency situation the Council will carry out any immediately necessary works, and recharge the tree owner accordingly. The Council is not responsible for trees in an adopted

highway that might be causing an actionable nuisance to a neighbouring property unless the tree is on Council-held land. The responsibility for the tree remains that of the owner of the land where it stands.

In exceptional cases, where trees on privately-owned land represent a danger to users of the Highway, the Council has discretionary powers under the **Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1976)** to require trees be made safe. These *discretionary* powers will be used when necessary to ensure that the primary objective of public safety is upheld.

5B – CCTV SURVEILLANCE, STREET LIGHTING & ROAD SIGNAGE

Closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras are installed in a number of locations to increase public safety. In new developments tree planting and CCTV systems can be designed together to ensure conflicts are minimised. However, conflicts can occur where cameras are installed in an area with pre-existing trees. In these areas, total surveillance coverage cannot be achieved without some tree work. Arboricultural Officers within the council will be consulted to ensure that any felling and severe pruning is minimised. The Council aims to avoid felling or severe pruning of existing mature trees but recognises that greater public benefit in terms of safety will accrue from camera placement, subject to it being mitigated with appropriate replacement planting nearby.

The Council will allocate resources to ensure that where vegetation obscures street lighting or road signage, pruning maintenance works shall be carried out accordingly to abate any obstruction.

5C – TRENCH WORKS, EXCAVATIONS, AND ROADWORKS NEAR TREES

In contrast to the common misconception of a tree with a deep tap root, most trees actually possess a relatively shallow root system with most of the roots in the upper seam of soil. Such roots in the top 1-1.5 metres of soil are easily damaged by trench works that are required to repair existing services and lay new facilities. Significant damage to the roots will have an obvious and severe effect on the health of a tree. The damage may be worse than expected particularly for highway trees as they are often already stressed and severance of the roots on the non-road side (such as where the services run along the pavement and the tree lies between this and the roadway) will destroy a disproportionate number of roots.

Guidance is available on service maintenance and installation near trees. The **National Joint Utilities Group 'Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees' (NJUG, Issue 2, 2007)**, (the tree-related section is known as "NJUG Volume 4"), provides guidance to minimise damage and advises when careful hand-digging, or the use of tunnel boring technology is appropriate.

The Council requires the guidance of NJUG Volume 4 to be followed by all underground service maintainers and utility providers. The Council requires utilities to enforce their contractors take a responsible attitude when working adjacent to trees. Unfortunately, under the terms of the New Roads and Street Works Act, the Council are not given notice of all utility works. Where major works are planned, the Council will take appropriate action to ensure that contractors are taking precautions to protect highway trees. In all cases the Council requires appropriate supervision of staff and sub-contractors involved in trench works near trees and that action be taken to prevent, correct, and educate those ignoring the guidelines of NJUG Volume 4.

The Council undertakes its own trench works through its maintenance of sewers. The council will protect trees to at least the standard of NJUG Volume 4. Consultation will continue to take place between the appropriate council engineering team and a council Arboricultural Officer when trenching works are proposed near trees. An Arboricultural Officer will be consulted whenever it is proposed to cut roots greater than 25mm in diameter. Sometimes it may prove necessary to

undertake remedial crown reduction pruning in conjunction with viable root pruning in order to maintain a tree's functionality and stability. On rare occasions, when sustainable root pruning is not viable, or a tree's condition does not warrant extensive remedial works, a tree may be removed subject to its loss being mitigated with appropriate replacement planting nearby where feasible.

5D – THE GROWTH ENVIRONMENT

Road de-icing salt potentially poses a serious, albeit unquantifiable, threat to some street trees or trees near the highway. The Council will continue to minimise its salt use, as it already does for cost reasons.

Another significant stress on highway trees is the laying of tarmac or resin-bonded gravel surfacing up to the very base of a tree. To exploit rainwater runoff, trees often concentrate fine roots around the base. Unfortunately, where the laying of impermeable hard surfaces extends up to the base, the water runs into the street drain and is not available to a tree possibly stressed by drought conditions. Repeated relaying of tarmac near tree buttresses will also cause damage. Creating even a very narrow ring, or 'tree pit', of a permeable bed around highway tree stems has a significantly beneficial effect on a tree's health and long term retention value. This will not always be appropriate where trees take a disproportionate amount of pavement space, or if a trip hazard is created, but it will be considered and carried out wherever appropriate.

In new or planned developments in the built environment the Council's Arboricultural Officers will advise designers and landscape architects on the appropriate design specifications for new tree planting within existing or proposed hard standing. [Minimum soil volume requirements for tree planting within hard surfaced areas shall be recommended, and no smaller than 4m³, so as to ensure that long term success rates of new planting are significantly improved.](#)

5E – PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & CYCLEWAYS

Trees in or adjacent to a Public Right of Way ("PRoW") or cycleway are managed in the same way as would be privately-owned trees in or adjacent to the highway. Many PRoWs pass across privately-held land. Typically though, the priority levels for inspecting or maintaining a tree in a PRoW will be less than those of trees in the highway as there will normally be a lower 'target risk factor' (related to the quantity and frequency of pedestrian use, or other traffic). Where Council officers become aware of a tree-related obstruction or hazard to the PRoW they will enforce any necessary action to abate the obstruction or hazard. In an emergency situation the Council will carry out any necessary works, and seek to recharge the tree owner accordingly. The Council is not responsible for trees in a PRoW that might be causing an actionable nuisance to a neighbouring property unless the tree is on Council-held land. The responsibility for the tree remains that of the owner of the land where it stands.

6 – Parks and Public Open Spaces

All of the general policies and actions for Council-held trees apply (see section 3J above).

6A – PARKS AND CEMETERIES

Trees are an integral and important part of all of the county borough's parks and cemeteries, and their management by the Council should be aided by the production of individual management plans. Trees at the Council's cemeteries have already been placed on a cyclical inspection and maintenance regime. [Planned surveys at higher use sites \(including municipal parks and all cemeteries\) are to be conducted on a two-yearly basis.](#) Planned surveys at **medium use sites**

(including public open spaces with large mature trees, country parks, and playgrounds) are to be conducted on a four-yearly basis.

6B – OTHER OPEN SPACES

In contrast to formal parks and cemeteries often dominated by exotic species, public open space is predominately characterised by native species, whether original rural hedges and trees that have been incorporated, or newer ‘urban forestry’ plantations characterised by dense stands of native planting. The management of trees in these areas will reflect the urban forestry vision, with lower input management characterised by coppicing, group felling, and mass planting of small stock.

6C – ALLOTMENTS

There is considerable scope on council allotments for the development of small-scale ‘allotment forestry’ as a partnership between council and tenants as part of the Allotment Forum Initiative. Ideally this would involve the planting of useful trees in positions which would not affect the site’s primary function as a place to grow vegetables. The planting of fruit trees and other perennial crops on allotments by the tenant has previously been opposed by the Council because of the potential claim for compensation that could be made by a tenant on leaving. In the future, the Council will encourage tenants to plant appropriate fruit trees where they will not significantly interfere with vegetable production, although tenants will have to formally “give” their trees to the council, so removing the possibility of a compensation claim.

Besides fruit trees, there is also the potential for the planting of small coppice areas if it was supported by tenants. These could be planted on plots that, because of shading, or say waterlogged conditions, are less suitable for vegetable growing. Coppicing of species such as hazel, willow, or sweet chestnut would produce valuable products such as bean poles, pea sticks, or fencing materials, which could be harvested communally and would represent a sustainable use of these plots while maintaining wildlife value. As the trees would be cut on a short rotation (approximately every 3-5 years), any nuisance to adjacent plot holders would be minimal.

6D – BRECON & MONMOUTHSHIRE CANAL

The Crumlin Navigation arm of the “Mon. & Brec.” canal passes through a substantial swathe of the county borough’s eastern Ebbw valley. The Council holds responsibility for the upkeep of the canal and this includes the management of its trees. It is a substantial amenity resource for the wider community and attracts walkers, joggers, cyclists (NCN Route 47), anglers, bird-watchers and nature lovers alike. Parts of it are navigable and most of the many mature trees lining its banks are protected by Tree Preservation Orders. The Council’s Arboricultural Officers provide ongoing professional advice and instruction to the canal’s management, in much the same way as they do for other Council-held trees. [The canal is a medium use site and the Council will undertake planned inspections on a four year cycle.](#)

7 – Council Housing

All of the general policies for Council trees will apply to the Council’s treatment of trees associated with council housing (see section 3J above).

7A – COUNCIL HOUSE GARDENS

The Council has responsibility for many houses that have important trees in their gardens. Responsibility for trees in the gardens of Council-owned houses rests with the Area Housing office - though tenants' responsibilities for their normal garden maintenance is clarified in tenancy agreements. Any uncertainty regarding the responsibilities of tenants or the Council should be clarified with Area Housing officers. If tenants have any concerns about the safety of trees in their gardens, in the first instance they should contact their Area Housing office to request an inspection by the Council's qualified staff.

Trees are surveyed and an inspection database is being developed as per trees in other areas of the county borough held by other departments. Following inspection, the Council will carry out tree works where there is an imminent danger of personal injury or damage to property. Routine maintenance works are carried out to other trees where it is arboriculturally appropriate and/or to prevent a reasonably foreseeable hazard or obstruction.

If, under the terms of the tenancy agreement, an unreasonable tree-related nuisance arises as a result of any action or inaction by a tenant, the tenant may be recharged for the works.

The Council may also carry out ad hoc non-safety works considered essential to enable reasonable enjoyment of the garden by tenants. Any arboriculturally appropriate works will be recommended by the Council's Arboricultural Officers to the Area Housing office, and carried out at the discretion of the Area Housing Manager. In empty properties, Area Housing officers may request tree maintenance works.

7B – HOUSING ESTATES (COMMUNAL AREAS)

The Council's Housing Department manages several large housing estates in which there are often trees found in the landscape. Many will have been planted near to housing, schools, and shops; so as to contribute to the appearance of those locations, and to enhance amenity value for the wider community. [Trees in the communal areas of housing estates are to be subject to a regime of regular planned two yearly inspections from which a programme of scheduled works is drawn up for each estate.](#) Any surveyed trees found warranting urgent or higher priority maintenance will usually be highlighted and the details forwarded to the Council team which carries out grounds maintenance on housing estates.

7C - COUNCIL HOUSING SALES AND TREE PROTECTION

Government policy has led to many previously council owned houses being sold. The council may place a TPO on some of the important trees prior to sale. In order to protect trees at the point when they are sold, the planning department will be notified of all council houses being sold where trees are present so that the trees can be assessed for their public amenity value.

8 – Privately-owned Trees & The Planning System

8A – PRIVATELY-OWNED TREES

As explained in section 2 above - "General Policies" – A tree owner's legal duty of care means that there is legislation which expressly requires tree owners take reasonable steps to prevent or minimise the risk of personal injury or damage to property arising from the presence of any tree on the land, or from its breakage and uprooting.

The Council strongly recommends that owners of trees, especially if they are large trees or are trees which are adjacent to or near to a neighbouring property, or a public highway or PRoW, have those trees professionally surveyed on a regular basis by a suitably qualified tree inspector. A reasonable period for regular inspections of trees in reasonable condition might be once every three to five years. Trees with known defects or diseases may warrant more frequent inspections, and owners should follow professional arboricultural advice within any given timeframes provided

as far as is possible, in order to fully meet their duty of care. In exceptional cases, where trees on privately-owned land represent a danger to public spaces the Council has discretionary powers under the **Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1976)** to require trees be made safe. These *discretionary* powers will be used when necessary to ensure that the primary objective of public safety is upheld.

The Council keeps a list of local reputable consultants (and tree surgery contractors) which is available on request. It is not a definitive list and residents are able to engage whichever professional service meets their needs, but they are advised that inspectors must be suitably qualified and hold professional indemnity insurance to provide written reports or management recommendations for tree maintenance. Contractors must also be fully insured for public liability and should also be suitably qualified to use a chainsaw and carry out tree surgery or felling operations to British Standard 3998:2010. (See also section 12F below – “REPUTABLE” CONTRACTORS OR CONSULTANTS.)

8B – TREES AND THE PLANNING SYSTEM

Local planning authorities have legal powers to protect trees and woodlands in the interests of amenity by making **Tree Preservation Orders** (“TPOs”). The **Town and Country Planning Act (1990**, and as amended), is the principle legislation concerning TPOs and it is the same planning legislation that allows the local planning authority to designate **Conservation Areas** in respect of the built environment. There are currently sixteen Conservation Areas within Caerphilly County Borough and the trees within them are protected. Prior consent from the planning authority must be obtained before maintenance or removal of protected trees. (See paragraphs 8C to 8F below for further details.)

The retention of individual trees, tree groups, or areas of woodland can provide many benefits to both the proposed development and the adjacent area. Trees are a ‘material consideration’ in any development. The Council’s Local Development Plan incorporates **Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) (LDP4 - “Trees and Development”)**. The following policies of the Council’s Local Development Plan will be implemented:

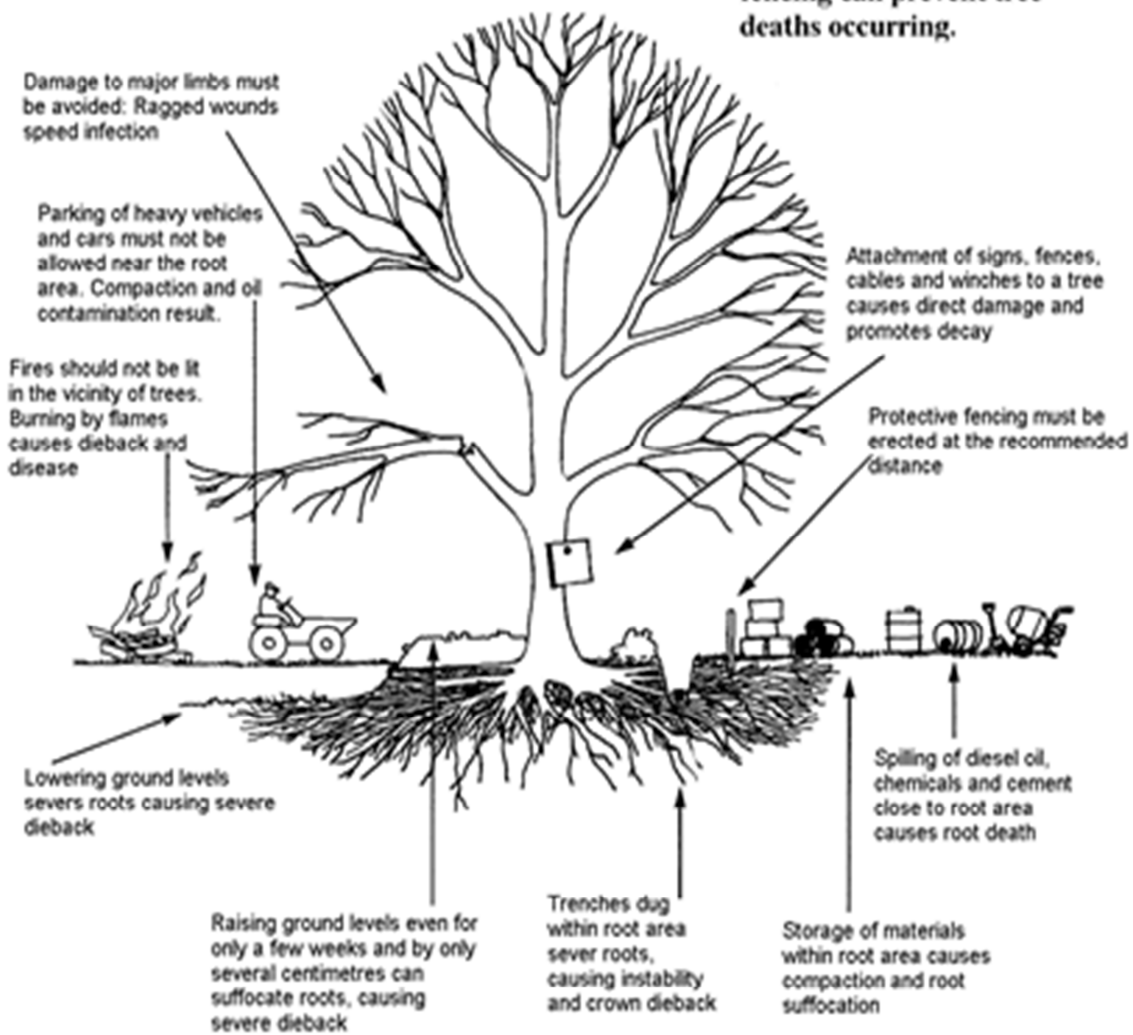
- **SP10 Conservation of Natural Heritage**
- **CW6 Trees, Woodland and Hedgerow Protection**

In addition, SPG LDP4 provides guidance in terms of **Criterion G of Policy SP6** insofar as it relates to the incorporation of natural features within new development. Policies SP10 & CW6 facilitate the provision and protection of trees within development sites within the county borough. LDP4 seeks to ensure that trees are adequately addressed throughout the development process by seeking the protection and integration of trees into the design of new development from an early stage in the development process.

The key component document in the Council’s approach to the retention and protection of trees at or near to development sites is **British Standard 5837:2012 “Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition, and Construction – Recommendations”**. The SPG LDP4 specifically cites this document (and any later revision or updated edition of it) as the Standard to which all development applications, or proposed developments, shall be fully compliant with whenever possible. Its recommendations and procedures shall be the default tree-related condition to the approval of any planning application where on-site trees, or nearby off-site trees, may potentially be impacted upon by the development.

Common causes of Tree Death

The use of properly positioned protective fencing can prevent tree deaths occurring.



Please use copies of this as an on-site poster for personnel



8C – TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS (TPOs) & CONSERVATION AREAS

A TPO is an order made by the Council, giving legal protection to trees or woodland. The TPO prevents the cutting down, uprooting, “topping”, “lopping”, wilful damage or destruction of trees (including cutting roots) without prior planning authority permission.

It does not mean that a tree may never be pruned or removed – if those actions are applied for in the prescribed way, and they are found to be reasonable and appropriate they will be approved. If the works applied for are found to be unreasonable or inappropriate then they will be refused, or may be approved with a modified specification.

All of the general policies (see sections 2 & 3 above) apply to the Council’s treatment of TPOs, particularly those that apply to tree-related nuisance, and arboricultural standards. The Council is able to offer informal verbal advice to owners on the management of their trees, particularly if they are protected trees, but it is always recommended that tree owners seek formal written advice from a suitably qualified independent arboriculturist (“tree consultant” or “consulting arborist”). The list referred to at section 12F below includes some reputable local consultants.

When considering the suitability of serving a new TPO, the Council’s Arboricultural Officers will use the nationally recognised TEMPO method for assessing each tree’s, or group/woodland of trees’ suitability for protection. TEMPO is the widely used “**Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders**” and was developed as a method to assist tree assessors to systematically consider all of the various factors of a tree’s character that collectively combine to give a points ‘score’ of the overall amenity value offered by the tree(s) to the wider community. The factors that determine the amenity value include the tree’s size; general condition and form; public prominence; useful life expectancy; threats to the tree; and any other unusual or notable characteristics such as species rarity or historic or cultural significance.

The party responsible for proposed works to an already-protected tree (either the tree owner, a tenant, or an affected neighbour) must apply in writing using an application form which is available from the planning authority’s offices or via the Council website at the ‘Protected Trees’ page - <http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Trees-and-conservation/Protected-trees> . Guidance notes may also be found there.

Where trees are located within the boundary of a **Conservation Area** the land owner (or tenant, or affected neighbour) is required to notify the local planning authority before undertaking any felling or pruning works. The same application form as works to trees protected by TPO is used (see the link above). **The Council may either consent to the notified works, or may serve a new TPO if it considers it expedient to do so in the interests of visual amenity.**

8D – POLICIES FOR PRIVATLY-OWNED TREES & THE PLANNING SYSTEM:

P14	Dangerous Privately-owned Trees	<i>The Council will use its discretionary powers, as a last resort, to make safe dangerous trees where public safety is threatened on land with public access. The Council will not use these discretionary powers where danger is presented on private land without public access, except in exceptional circumstance.</i>
P15	TPOs:- Works Application Quality	<i>The Council will not consider unspecified pruning and would require the submission of arboricultural reports where appropriate.</i>
P16	TPOs:- Unnecessary Works	<i>The Council will resist applications for any pruning where this is considered to be unnecessary</i>
P17	TPOs:- Replacements	<i>Where permission is given to fell a protected tree, the Council will always seek replacement except in exceptional circumstances</i>
P18		<i>Where permission is given to fell a protected tree, and replacement on site is not possible, the Council will seek funds for tree planting elsewhere.</i>
P19		<i>The Council will encourage advance planting of replacement trees where space permits and it will accept such trees as replacements when felling is necessary.</i>
P20	TPOs:- Groups and Woodlands	<i>Where trees are protected as a group or woodland, the Council recognises that it is generally beneficial to encourage irregularity of age and species, and will accept planned felling and regeneration to achieve this where appropriate to do so.</i>
P21	TPOs:- Unauthorised Works	<i>On encountering unauthorised works to trees, the Council will invite tree-owners or contractors to submit proof of exemption or technical justification of the work. Where this is not forth-coming or the Council's Planning Committee would not have been minded to approve the unauthorised work, the Council will always seek prosecution.</i>
P22	TPOs:- Tree Root Damage	<i>Permission will not be considered for the felling or major pruning of protected private trees to avoid or correct subsidence unless the application is accompanied by professional and appropriate technical reports that satisfactorily substantiate the claim of tree-related subsidence against the relevant tree(s).</i>
P23		<i>The Council will adhere to the recommendations and principles of the Risk Limitation Strategy(2008) and Joint Mitigation Protocol (2008) – as detailed in section 4D of the Council's Tree Strategy document - with regard to its response to any applications made citing tree-related subsidence as the reasoning behind the applied for works.</i>
P24	TPOs:- Permitted Development	<i>The Council will not approve the felling or disfiguring pruning of protected trees to accommodate permitted development other than in exceptional circumstances.</i>
P25	TPOs:- Rationalisation - Assessment	<i>TPOs not to be made or retained on trees that are not visible from public space (or sufficient usage to confer public amenity benefit) except in exceptional circumstances where the trees possess very high ecological or historical value. The Council's Arboricultural Officers will use the recognised TEMPO method for assessing a tree's suitability, or group/woodland suitability for protection.</i>
P26	Conservation Areas	<i>The Council will continue to place TPOs on trees in conservation areas where it receives notification of tree work that it judges to be detrimental to public amenity. As in Policy P25, trees will be assessed for suitability using TEMPO.</i>

8E – PENALTIES AND EXEMPTIONS

The **Town & Country Planning Act (1990)**, as amended) provides the legislation for protected trees and Conservation Areas. Within the legislation there are some exemptions that apply to trees in particular circumstances, where the normal need to apply for written permission may not be necessary. Residents or tree-owners are advised to obtain independent professional arboricultural advice before taking action under any of those exemptions, as technical expertise may be required to ascertain whether an exemption applies or not. The Council's Arboricultural Officers will also give advice where it is appropriate to do so. A Welsh Government pamphlet titled "Protected Trees" is available on request. This pamphlet fully details all of the exemptions as well as the penalties that may be applied if a party is found to be responsible for unlawful actions to protected trees and subsequently prosecuted. It is also a good overall summary of everything one might wish to know about TPOs in an easily comprehensible document.

Anyone who cuts down, uproots, "tops", "lops", wilfully destroys, or wilfully damages a protected tree – by TPO or in a Conservation Area – without having the necessary consent from the Council's Planning Department is guilty of an offence. The same penalties apply to Conservation Area tree works without consent as those for contravening a TPO:

Anyone who cuts down a protected tree without having given notice in a Conservation Area, or without written Planning Permission if the tree has a TPO, is liable, if convicted in a Magistrates' Court to a fine of up to **£20,000**. Anyone who carries out unlawful work in a way that is not likely to destroy the tree is liable to a fine in the Magistrates' Court of up to **£2500**.

8F – INTERACTIVE MAP OF TPOS

The Council now has an online searchable database of TPOs and Conservation Areas. It is a publicly-accessible and interactive map which gives the user the locations of trees currently protected by TPOs, and their TPO file or reference numbers. The interactive map also shows if a Conservation Area is in effect at a given location. The searchable database is available at a link found at the foot of the 'Protected Trees' page at the Council's website (see section 12E below).

9 – Schools

Trees on school-held land are the responsibility of each school's own management. The Council maintains a database of historic tree inspections and maintenance records so as to *assist* schools in managing their tree stock appropriately. The Council has a health & safety responsibility towards schools and so provides appropriate professional arboricultural advice as may be sought or considered necessary by the school's management.

A framework of approved independent tree consultants has been created and is available to schools' management to instruct as and when needed. Schools are encouraged to liaise with the Council's Arboricultural Officers so that any new survey details at their site are either entered directly into the Council's tree management database, or are forwarded to the Council's Arboricultural Officers at a later date for the benefit of reference and record-keeping (which assist and inform future inspections).

Neighbours affected by trees at school sites are advised to approach the school's management in the first instance if they wish to make an enquiry or request an ad-hoc inspection. The school's management may then choose to consult with the Council's Arboricultural Officers on how best to proceed, and will then be advised accordingly.

All of the general policies (see sections 2 & 3 above) apply to the Council's recommendations for treatment of trees at schools, particularly those that apply to tree-related nuisance, and arboricultural standards.

10 – Woodlands or 'Country Parks'

Around 60 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation ('SINCs') have been declared by the Council with respect to their woodland habitat. These include the priority habitats of 'Upland Oak Woodland', 'Upland Mixed Ash Woodland', 'Lowland Beech & Yew Woodland', 'Wet Woodland', and 'Lowland Wood Pasture & Parkland'. Where woodland or other trees at SINCs are situated on Council-held land, then the trees will be managed according to the same general policies outlined in sections 2 & 3 above, as well as in accordance with current better woodland management practices. The advice and expertise of Natural Resources Wales ('NRW' – formerly Forestry Commission Wales, Environment Agency (in Wales), & Countryside Council for Wales) shall be sought whenever appropriate to do so. The Council has its own ecologists and landscape architects available to assist with the appropriate management of these sites, as well as providing professional services to Council departments.

10A – FELLING LICENSES

NRW is responsible for administering Woodland Grant Schemes and Felling License applications, though the Council is occasionally a consultee in such applications (where protected trees are concerned, or areas of planting greater than 10 ha are proposed). Felling Licenses are required by law if more than 5 metres³ of timber is to be felled in any continuous 3 month period. A Felling License would also be needed if more than 2 metres³ of timber are to be sold in a 3 month period.

It is not easy to estimate timber quantities accurately, so for this reason tree owners are strongly advised to consult with NRW before commencing any felling works. There are some exemptions to the need to apply for a Felling License, and a NRW/Forestry Commission Wales produced leaflet is available to assist with the details and provide contact details should further assistance be required.

10B – COUNTRY PARKS & CWMCARN FOREST

The Council currently manages Country Parks at Parc Coetir Bargod; Parc Cwm Darran; Parc Penallta; Pen-y-Fan Pond; and Sirhowy Valley; as well as the Forest Drive attraction at Cwmcarn. Each has its own management plan, and trees on site are managed and maintained by the Country Parks' own teams of rangers on a week to week basis. Specialist or detailed arboricultural advice is sought when necessary from the Council's own Arboricultural Officers. There are also management plans for the notable sites of Aberbargoed National Nature Reserve and Bedwas Riverside Park. In addition, some 300 other sites across the county borough are managed by the Council.

Cwmcarn Forest is a haven for people and wildlife. The hills of this previously mined area have been transformed into peaceful forests with impressive views where nature has reclaimed the majority of the former industrial past. As with Country Parks, the Forest team carry out their own routine tree maintenance on a regular basis as and when needed. Specialist or detailed arboricultural advice is sought when necessary from the Council's own Arboricultural Officers.

All of the general policies (see sections 2 & 3 above) apply to the Council's recommendations for treatment of trees at woodlands or Country Park sites, or Cwmcarn Forest, particularly those that apply to tree-related nuisance, and arboricultural standards.

11 – Hedgerow Management and 'Veteran' Trees

Hedgerows, and parkland trees, are all important habitats and, like woodlands, often possess considerable historical and ecological value. Environmental legislation such as the **Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981)** and the **Hedgerow Regulations (1997)** confer protection to birds and their nests, as well as other animals; and to important hedgerows.

11A - HEDGEROWS

UK Government legislation offers protection namely by the **Hedgerow Regulations (1997)**. Anyone intending to remove a hedgerow must (except in limited circumstances) inform the Council first. The Council can protect the hedgerow if it meets certain "importance" criteria. These criteria provide an indication of the ecological or historical value of the hedgerow. The Council will aim to protect all hedgerows meeting these criteria and resists all unwarranted removals.

Along the network of adopted highways, where privately-owned hedgerow vegetation encroaches into the carriageway, or obstructs drivers' sightlines or street signs or street lighting, or obstructs a footway; the Council's Highways Inspectors will enforce hedge trimming or vegetation removal works as necessary, as per the Highways Act (1980).

Where the Council owns hedgerows it will wish to see them managed according to current best practice in order to maintain their ecological, historical and amenity importance while possibly managing their size. [The Council carries out hedgerow maintenance on established routes twice per year.](#)

11B – 'VETERAN' OR 'ANCIENT' TREES

A veteran tree is more than a single organism. It is home to a wealth of interdependent plants, animals and micro-organisms that interact with and can contribute to the longevity of the tree. The county borough is fortunate in containing a number of old and characterful former hedgerow and field trees. As with hedgerows, these trees have a considerable historical value as they may typically be hundreds of years old, and reveal a former agricultural land-use that has now practically disappeared from Britain. The Council will seek to promote the value of these old or 'veteran' trees. Veteran trees (also known as 'ancient' trees) are being incorporated into the Council's tree management database, and being flagged for their special status.

When veteran trees require maintenance (for example if they are causing an obstruction in the highway), and tree surgery is required, the Council will encourage the tree owner to, or will itself (in cases of trees on Council-held land, or trees in the highway) identify the minimum work necessary to reduce risk to an acceptable level. Effort will be made to retain the maximum habitat value while addressing the requirements to maintain adequate safety. When older or veteran trees are removed for safety or other legal nuisance reasons, the Council will recommend the retention of 'hulks' or remnant standing stems – provided it is appropriate to the setting, and to a safe size - in situ for the very significant habitat value that such stems have to the local ecology.

12 – Tree Management Information and Assistance

12A – BIOSECURITY

Biosecurity includes a set of precautions to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful organisms – pests, pathogens, or invasive species. The threat to our forests and woodlands has never been greater. The changing climate, increased global trade, and the movement of goods between countries means an increased risk of spreading pests and diseases, which may travel hidden in plant products, packaging, and shipping crates. Trees and plants in Britain are now vulnerable to a range of new pests and diseases, and outbreaks can seriously threaten sustainable forest management. In addition to economic losses for forestry and related industries, outbreaks can disrupt other sectors such as tourism. [The Council will adhere closely to the principles of the Forestry Commission's Tree Health Strategy, and will promote good biosecurity practices within its own departments and in the wider local commercial and private sectors.](#)

12B – CUSTOMER SERVICE

Subject to seasonal variations, adverse weather conditions, unforeseen emergencies, and ongoing schedules, the Council's Arboricultural Officers will aim to answer any reasonable tree-related enquiry within the given timeframes for responding to Service Requests. Customer Services staff and departmental administration teams will be minded to assist the Arboricultural Officers in the processing of new enquiries by referring to the policies listed above at sections **3J (POLICIES FOR ALL TREES)** and **8D (POLICIES FOR PRIVATELY-OWNED TREES & THE PLANNING SYSTEM)** as answers to many of the most commonly asked questions, or enquiry-types may be found there. If a new Service Request warrants either an inspection or immediate action, then it will be forwarded to the correct officer to deal with accordingly, and the Service Request updated in due course post-action. Correspondingly, if the Service Request does not warrant an inspection or immediate action, (for example – if a resident calls up requesting a tree be cut back because it is dropping leaves on their property) then the enquirer will be informed (with reference to the relevant Council policy) and the Service Request be closed off.

12C – EMERGENCY CALL-OUTS

The Council operates an out-of-hours service that deals with emergencies involving trees. The out-of-hours desk will contact the appointed duty-officer from the Parks department and forward details of any tree-related emergency. The officer will attend to site and assess the situation. If necessary, they will call on the Council's tree team operatives on standby, or an appointed contractor, to attend to site if immediate and urgent tree works are required. If trees or branches have fallen and are blocking the road, or obstructing it, or otherwise causing an immediately foreseeable hazard, then the works necessary to abate the obstruction or hazard shall be undertaken. Tree works arisings, or remnant parts, may be left at the roadside temporarily until such a time as they can be cleared away by their owner.

The Council will seek to recover costs of emergency operations to privately-held trees, or may place a charge against the property concerned if costs cannot be recovered.

The Council's emergency call-out service is strictly for emergency works only, where trees in public locations are concerned, or an adopted highway or PRoW is affected. The Council's

emergency call-out service does not attend to private property owners wishing to have their trees maintained. If there is a known emergency or immediately foreseeable hazard to a privately-held tree that is not affecting a public location, then the Council may forward to the enquirer the details of those local reputable contractors referred to in section 12E below.

12D - “EMERGENCY” ENQUIRIES

Most tree-related Service Requests received by the Council have a target response time of 4 weeks. There is provision for an emergency-level response, to which the Council will respond within 24 hours. What determines an “emergency” enquiry is dependent on different factors. Unfortunately, and especially during times of inclement weather, the Council has in the past received an extraordinarily large number of “emergency” enquiries, the vast number of which were not genuine emergencies that warranted an immediate response. Most would typically be genuine issues that needed attention in due course, but that were not immediate emergencies where people’s lives or property may be at immediate risk of harm. For this reason, criteria have been established that seek to clarify, at the point of contact with the Council, exactly whether the nature of the enquiry is genuinely an emergency or a routine Service Request.

“Emergency” criteria essentially relate to the size of the tree, and whether the tree is either visibly cracked or splitting in its trunk or main scaffold limbs, or visibly rocking or moving at the ground. This latter scenario would imply that the trees’ roots were either loose or damaged, and that the tree may therefore imminently fail. This is not the same thing as a tree swaying at the trunk, or its canopy moving in the wind – trees are supposed to move in the wind as they need to absorb, or dampen, the effects of the wind upon them. If a small tree were cracked or rocking at the ground, then it might warrant attention in the near future, but not as an “emergency” as the tree’s size would be unlikely to cause more than minor damage.

At times of severe and extreme weather conditions, the 24-hour response time for emergency enquiries may not always be met due to the sheer volume of calls, emails, enquiries, and incidentally-spotted emergencies (previously unreported to the Council) received or observed during such periods of high demand. The Council’s Arboricultural Officers in practice carry out a ‘triage’ system of evaluating the level of urgency suspected, based on the given or known information concerning the tree’s location, size, and condition; the nature of the hazard or obstruction; any Police or other emergency service information; combined with any local knowledge or inspection/maintenance history associated with a certain tree or group of trees.

12E – THE COUNCIL’S WEBSITE

<http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Trees-and-conservation> is in effect the Council’s ‘home page’ for trees. There are links there to Frequently Asked Questions (many of which echo those issues addressed by the policies listed above at sections 3J and 8D), and there are also dedicated pages addressing the following subjects:

- Report a tree issue
- Street and park trees
- Protected trees
- High hedges
- Overhanging vegetation

It is hoped that these pages, as well as the FAQs, will assist residents and other parties in learning what services the Council may provide, and what issues it may or may not respond to. Within those pages are contained further links that will assist the user in gaining further information, or downloading any necessary forms or other information that might be needed. For example – the application form (and guidance notes on how to fill them out) for consent to works on protected trees are available to download from the ‘Protected trees’ page. The interactive county borough map of TPOs may also be found there. Details of who to contact and how, may also be found at those pages.

12F – REPUTABLE CONTRACTORS OR CONSULTANTS

As previously mentioned, the Council has a list of local reputable contractors and consultants. It is not an “approved contractor” scheme as such, as the Council does not wish to specifically endorse one firm above others, and there is a nationally recognised “Approved Contractor” scheme run by the lead UK body on tree care and tree management – the **Arboricultural Association** (“the AA”). The AA scheme ensures a minimum level of professional competence and also regularly checks that the contractor’s equipment is appropriately cared for and managed, fit for purpose, and within all safety longevity limits. It also ensures that contractors have all the necessary insurances in place for professional tree surgery, and that their business record keeping is in good order. (See <http://www.trees.org.uk/> for further details.) There are other good contractors though who may not have achieved the AA “Approved Contractor” rating for a variety of reasons.

The Council’s tree pages at the website refer users to consult with the AA Approved Contractor scheme, as there are local firms with that accreditation, but we also have a list of local reputable contractors who we have direct experience with in the area, and whom we can vouch for as having the necessary insurances and competencies in place, and suitably qualified staff as well. The Council’s list is not a closed one, and new contractors in the area are welcome to contact the Arboricultural Officers with a view to future inclusion. A copy of the list is available to any resident or local business owner upon request. The list also includes local reputable *consultants* who are similarly known to have all the necessary training, competency, and professional insurances in place to practice as a consulting arborist or tree consultant (“arboriculturist”). A tree consultant must be suitably qualified in order for their written report to meet the requirements of the courts should their professional opinion ever be questioned.

12G – GENERAL ADVICE

When requested, and if available, the Council’s Arboricultural Officers provide advice over the telephone concerning other general tree-related issues of concern. For matters relating to trees on privately-held land, enquirers are recommended to seek professional advice from an independent tree consultant, or woodland agent, concerning the management of trees in their care.

12H – TREE STRATEGY

It is envisaged that the Tree Strategy shall be reviewed and revised accordingly at least once every five years. New or amended legislation shall be incorporated where necessary, and advances in arboricultural understanding shall be included where relevant. It is intended that this document shall be a continually evolving statement of Caerphilly County Borough’s policies with regard to the management of trees in its care for the benefit of the whole community, and the generations in the future who will live, work, study, and play in these beautiful valleys.

APPENDIX 2

MAIN LEGISLATION & GUIDANCE OUTLINING LAND OWNERS RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO TREES AND DUTY OF CARE

- Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 & Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulation 1999 (and associated advise notes).
- Management of Risk from falling trees or branches, - Health & Safety Executive 2013 (reviewed 2014).
- Well maintained Highways – Code of Practice, Dept, of Transport – 2005.
- Well Managed Highway Infrastructure – A Code of Practice
- Inspection of Highways Trees – Circular 52/75, Dept, of Environment.
- Common Sense Risk Management for Trees (2011) – Landowners’ Guide – National Tree Safety Group (NTSG) inspection standards, and frequencies.
- Common Sense Risk Management for Trees (2011) – NTSG (sample local Authority rural and city Council management scenarios).
- Occupiers’ Liability Acts 1957 & 1984.
- Highways Act 1980.
- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

This page is intentionally left blank



CABINET – 15TH NOVEMBER 2017

SUBJECT: WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2020.

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

-
- 1.1 The attached report was presented to Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on 7th November 2017.
 - 1.2 The recommendations of the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee will be reported at the meeting.
 - 1.3 Cabinet are asked to consider the views expressed by the Scrutiny Committee.

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

Appendices:
Appendix Education for Life Report – 7th November 2017.

This page is intentionally left blank



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 7TH NOVEMBER 2017

SUBJECT: WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2020

REPORT BY: CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report on the draft Caerphilly Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017-20 is for members' information and recommendation for approval to Cabinet on 15th November 2017 prior to publication on the CCBC website.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The WESP was developed locally but with a collaborative strategic approach through the Education Achievement Service, allowing for local authority development and accountability. There is a strong local emphasis on outcomes 1, 2 and 6 with outcomes 3, 4, 5 and 7 being more regionally directed.
- 2.2 The WESP fulfils the local authority's duty to monitor and improve standards of Welsh language, educational attainment, and it directs the appropriate use of the Welsh Education Grant funding, which is regionally administered.
- 2.3 Individual WESPs must be submitted to fulfil the legal duty of each local authority. However, regional collaboration must be identified within individual plans.
- 2.4 The WESP is updated and monitored termly by the Caerphilly Welsh Education Forum, as well as through the Strategic Regional Welsh Education Forum.
- 2.5 Statutory consultation was undertaken between 21st October and 13th December 2016 and responses have been reflected in the revised draft proposed for submission to the Welsh Government for comment/approval. Recommendations from Welsh Government have been addressed in this amended plan and highlighted in the body of the report.
- 2.6 The WESP contains an analysis of the current provision, highlights best practice and includes targets for continuing improvement and provision. The local authority remains committed to supporting parental choice through equitable support in both Welsh and English medium schools.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Caerphilly WESP contributes to the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016:

- *A prosperous Wales* – The WESP aims to support children and young people to develop their Welsh language skills and improve standards of achievement, which will create a bilingual population able to support and grow our economy.
- *A resilient Wales* – Although schools will build eco schools into their curriculum, this is not specifically mentioned in the WESP which is the strategic overview.
- *A healthier Wales* – The Healthy Early Years scheme and the Healthy Schools scheme are both embedded into practice across Flying Start, childcare settings, Primary and Secondary schools.
- *A more equal Wales* – The WESP has an objective to reduce the impact of poverty on children and young people through various closing the gap initiatives throughout the age ranges from Flying Start Welsh medium provision to Cylchoedd Meithrin to Primary school and Secondary school attainment. Outcome 6 focuses on the needs of learners with Additional Needs and how we will meet those needs in Welsh medium provision.
- *A Wales of cohesive communities* – Outcome 5 aims to support the use of Welsh and increase the standards in Welsh language delivering social activities and meeting spaces in communities.
- *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language* – Improving use of Welsh language and supporting the development of a bilingual workforce in the future is a key aim of the WESP. Arts and recreation activities also feature in Outcome 5 through the work of Urdd Gobaith Cymru and Menter Iaith. This is further embedded through actions in Caerphilly County Borough's Five Year Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022 with particular reference to Strategic Area 1 – The Family, Strategic Area 2 – Children and Young People, Strategic Area 3 – Communities and Strategic Area 6 – Infrastructure (Policies and Practices).
- *A globally responsible Wales* – Although not specifically mentioned in the WESP, wellbeing is embedded through practice across Flying Start, childcare settings, Primary and Secondary schools.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 This WESP is aspirational but clearly depends on Welsh Government funding to deliver the First Minister's programme for Government 2016-2021 Taking Wales Forward, working towards one million people speaking the Welsh language by 2050. Funding will enable delivery towards the aspirations for the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act for a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, and the The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 from which we must now comply with a set of national Welsh Language Standards. One of the key standards is a requirement to develop a 5 year Welsh language strategy, with the aim of increasing the number of Welsh speakers and which will enable us to facilitate the use of the Welsh Language within the Caerphilly county borough.
- 4.2 Our aim is to secure equality of access by promoting and supporting the development of inclusive education and giving a commitment to providing the best possible quality of education and services within available resources.
- 4.3 We will work strategically together as a region with South East Wales Education Achievement Service to equip schools and education providers across age ranges and linguistic sectors with the capacity and sustainability to increase standards in Welsh and promote the use of the Welsh language within families, communities and workplaces.
- 4.4 We will aim to stimulate and provide local, accessible, sustainable, community-focused provision to meet the growing demand for Welsh medium education.
- 4.5 The objectives are that by 2020 we will:
- Improve standards of attainment particularly in Key Stage 4 at the Level 2+ threshold
 - Raise levels of attendance
 - Reduce the impact of poverty on children and young people
 - Continue to proactively promote early years provision to stimulate parental demand

- Increase the number of children accessing Welsh medium education in line with parental demand surveys equating to 18% in primary by 2018 (an increase from 9.19% in 1996) and 20% in secondary by 2023 (an increase from 7.30% in 1996).
- Proactively manage Welsh medium places to ensure excess surplus places are minimised.
- Work with 21st century schools team in Welsh Government to identify funding in Band B of 21st century schools programme, for the development of sufficient Welsh medium places in areas where they are coming under pressure, in particular Bedwas Trethomas Machen area, and the Islwyn East area.

The draft WESP acknowledges the developments made by the Council and seeks to actively further promote these objectives.

4.6 It is intended to develop an action plan setting targets to continuously improve standards, under the 7 outcomes as identified in the Welsh Government guidance:

Outcome 1: More seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 2: More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary school to secondary school

Outcome 3: More learners aged 14-16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 4: More learners aged 16-19 studying subjects through the medium of Welsh in schools, colleges and work-based learning

Outcome 5: More learners with higher skills in Welsh

Outcome 6: Welsh-medium provision for learners Additional Learning Needs

Outcome 7: Workforce planning and Continuous Professional Development

4.7 The data is laid out in Annex 1 of the WESP document (Appendix 1&2) and the parental survey as required by the legislation was completed in 2015 attached in Annex 2 of the WESP document (Appendix 1&2), which will be repeated in 2018 as per the legislation.

4.8 Welsh Government made a number of recommendations in their letter dated 4th August (Appendix 3) which are summarised below:

4.9 Set objectives and timescales for increasing preschool provision.

We are setting up a regional task group to look at the specific areas impacting early years' provision. This group will target increasing Welsh Medium childcare provision through new and expanded places working with Mudiad Meithrin officers and wider partners; improving Welsh language acquisition skills and consistency through training and recruitment practices; sustainability and business support for settings; transition rates and links with local primary schools.

4.10 Set more challenging targets for outcome 1 (more 7 year olds being taught through the medium of Welsh) and not just projections.

We explained that in this timescale of the plan unless there are many movements into the middle of Foundation Phase the number of year olds being taught through the medium of Welsh would be projections based on the 3 year olds who are currently already in Foundation Phase Nursery provision. To be a meaningful target this needs to be over a longer period of time and include projections and targets for future years.

4.11 What are the plans for 21st century schools Band B proposals?

The timing is difficult to be specific with publicising the proposals due to member approval, Welsh Government approval and consultation with the relevant schools affected. We have tried to give more detail in the plan regarding proposals meeting the already known needs for specific areas and also the emerging increasing demands in certain areas needing additional classrooms to be able to increase the intake. We have also included childcare in line with the new Childcare Offer being developed across Wales to ensure increasing sufficient Welsh medium provision to meet the needs of working families.

- 4.12 Could you expand on new opportunities that may arise from new housing developments?
We have reiterated that all opportunities will be taken to develop the provision in line with the Band B proposals but that funding levy is not now specific to only Education.
- 4.13 There is a need to set objectives as to how you will improve transfer rates from Welsh medium nursery to Primary school.
This is one of the key areas for development by the regional early years' task group.
- 4.14 Provide further information on how you intend to work with the Further Education sector to ensure opportunities for pupils to continue with Welsh medium education post-16.
There are already extensive collaborative links between Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni and Coleg y Cymoedd and additional information has been added from Coleg y Cymoedd for this academic year to widen the range of modules taught through the medium of Welsh and their plan for working in partnership with Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni.
- 4.15 Additional information was required under each of the outcome areas in the Annex of the letter and have been addressed within our WESP (Appendix 1&2).

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 This report contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. The WESP aims over the long term to raise standards and increase the number of Welsh speakers through increasing the numbers accessing Welsh medium education, thereby developing the bilingual workforce as well as contributing to the Welsh Government 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050 pledge.
- 5.2 It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act in that school places are planned in the long term and capital bids submitted to increase provision in line with parental demand increases.
- 5.3 A focus on closing the gap in communities and improving educational attainment standards aims to prevent the cycle of poverty being repeated.
- 5.4 The WESP has a regional approach where integration of provision where reasonable and feasible is endorsed. Integrating Flying Start provision or Cylchoedd Meithrin with their local Primary School and clustering Primary school provision with the Secondary school as well as linking with the voluntary sector through Mudiad Meithrin, Menter Iaith and Urdd Gobaith Cymru, aids integration of provision and maximises resources available.
- 5.5 The WESP encourages a collaborative approach across services as well as regional collaboration through task groups which include development of a regional Welsh Language ALN Professional Forum to enable improved support to our most vulnerable learners.
- 5.6 Involvement is intrinsic to the WESP development and delivery as the stakeholders are diverse and seek opinions across the borough from families, children, young people, professionals, both public bodies and voluntary sector. Stakeholders inform the content of the WESP and bring a range of views across the sector which is monitored for delivery through the local WESP forum.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The WESP has positive equality implications linked to provision of sufficient places, access to resources and sharing of best practice to deliver the vision outlined in 4.1. The focus is on the development of Welsh language and improving standards across Welsh provision both in Welsh medium and where it is delivered as Welsh second language. Outcome 1 and 2 focuses on supporting and encouraging development of the Welsh language in early years and improving positive transition to Foundation Phase and throughout transition periods to

KS4. Outcome 3, 4, and 5 focuses on improving standards in KS4 and KS5 as well as access to social contextual use of Welsh language to improve their language skills. Outcome 6 specifically focusses on support for children with Additional Needs including provision for specialist provision and a range of interventions. Outcome 7 focuses on the need for training and development of the workforce to ensure good quality language acquisition skills.

- 6.2 The Council's Equalities and Welsh Language Team, together with Mudiad Meithrin, Menter Iaith and Urdd Gobaith Cymru (voluntary sector Welsh Language organisations) are members of the Caerphilly WESP forum and have contributed to its production. Caerphilly's 5 year Welsh Language Strategy is inextricably linked to the WESP as a key delivery method, and is referenced throughout the WESP to the relevant action.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This plan will be implemented through the Regional Welsh Education Grant, Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) and Early Years PDG, Flying Start grant as well as additional funding to support across the sector Early Years childcare settings to improve Welsh language provision delivered currently through Menter Iaith £36,500.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications in this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 There are no consultations that have not been reflected within this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Members are requested to note the final draft WESP 2017-20 following Ministerial recommendations and recommend to Cabinet for approval.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 To note the strategic direction and amended targets in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013
Government of Wales Act 2006 (Section 78)
Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
Welsh-medium Education Strategy 2016.

Author: Sarah Mutch, Early Years Manager
Email: mutchs@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Directorate Senior Management Team
Cllr Philippa Marsden, Cabinet Member, Education and Achievement
Cllr Wynne David, Chair of Education Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Gaynor Oliver, Vice Chair, Education Scrutiny Committee
Anwen Rees, Senior Policy Officer, Equalities and Welsh Language
Gail Williams, Interim Head of Legal Services
Mike Lewis, Principal Accountant
Neil Jones, Principal HR Officer

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020 Cymraeg

Appendix 2 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020 English

Appendix 3 Letter from Welsh Government containing the Ministerial recommendations

Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg Caerffili 2017-2020

Y cefndir yng Nghaerffili – yr hanes y tu ôl i'r llinell sylfaen

Bu cynnydd sylweddol yn y ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg yn ardal Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili ers iddo ddod i fod yn 1996.

Mae nifer y disgyblion mewn ysgolion cynradd wedi cynyddu mwy na 60% i'r lefel bresennol, sef mwy na 2900. Yn ystod y cyfnod hwn o 20 mlynedd, sefydlwyd 3 ysgol ychwanegol a chafodd 7 o'r 8 ysgol wreiddiol adeiladau newydd neu addasiadau / estyniadau er mwyn cynyddu nifer y lleoedd.

Mae nifer y disgyblion yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini wedi cynyddu oddeutu 75% o 900 i 1600. Symudodd yr ysgol i safle newydd yn 2002 a chafodd ei datblygu ymhellach i ail safle (Y Gwyndy) yn 2013. 2,348 yw nifer fwyaf y lleoedd ar y ddau safle gyda'i gilydd a disgwylir eu llenwi tua 2025.

Ceir tystiolaeth o ymrwymiad y Cyngor i ddatblygu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg uchod ac mae'n dal i fod yn flaenoriaeth iddo fel y dangosir ym Mand A o raglen Llywodraeth Cymru, Ysgolion ar gyfer yr 21ain Ganrif.

1. Y weledigaeth:

Mae'r cynllun hwn yn llawn dyheadau ond mae'n amlwg ei fod yn dibynnu ar gyllid Llywodraeth Cymru i gyflawni Rhaglen Lywodraethu 2016-2021 Prif Weinidog Cymru, Symud Cymru Ymlaen, gan weithio tuag at filiwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050. Bydd cyllid yn galluogi gwaith tuag at ddyheadau Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol o ran diwylliant bywiog lle mae'r Gymraeg yn ffynnu, a Mesur y Gymraeg (Cymru) 2011, sy'n golygu bod yn rhaid inni erbyn hyn gydymffurfio â set o Safonau'r Gymraeg. Un o'r safonau allweddol yw gofyniad i lunio strategaeth 5 mlynedd y Gymraeg, gyda'r nod o gynyddu nifer y siaradwyr Cymraeg ac a fydd yn ein galluogi i hwyluso defnyddio'r Gymraeg yn y fwrdeistref sirol.

Ein nod yw sicrhau cydraddoldeb mynediad trwy hyrwyddo a chynorthwyo â'r gwaith o ddatblygu addysg gynhwysol ac ymrwymo i ddarparu addysg a gwasanaethau o'r ansawdd gorau posibl gyda'r adnoddau sydd ar gael.

Byddwn yn gweithio'n strategol gyda'n gilydd fel rhanbarth gyda Gwasanaeth Cyrhaeddiad Addysg De-ddwyrain Cymru i roi i ysgolion a darparwyr addysg ar draws ystodau oedran a sectorau ieithyddol y gallu a'r cynaliadwyedd i godi safonau yn y Gymraeg ac i hybu defnyddio'r Gymraeg mewn teuluoedd, cymunedau a gweithleoedd.

Ein nod bydd ysgogi a chyflenwi darpariaeth leol, hygyrch, gynaliadwy sy'n canolbwyntio ar y gymuned er mwyn ateb y galw cynyddol am addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg.

Amcanion:

Erbyn 2020 byddwn yn:

- Gwella safonau cyrhaeddiad yn arbennig yng Nghyfnod Allweddol 4 ar drothwy

Lefel 2+

- Codi lefelau presenoldeb
- Lleihau effaith tlodi ar blant a phobl ifanc
- Dal i fynd ati i hybu'r ddarpariaeth blynyddoedd cynnar er mwyn ysgogi galw gan rieni
- Cynyddu nifer y plant sy'n cael addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn unol ag arolygon o'r galw gan rieni sef 18% yn y sector cynradd erbyn 2018 (cynnydd o 9.19% yn 1996) ac 20% yn y sector uwchradd erbyn 2023 (cynnydd o 7.30% yn 1996).
- Mynd ati i reoli lleoedd cyfrwng Cymraeg er mwyn sicrhau nad oes gormod o leoedd gwag.
- Cydweithio â thîm ysgolion yr 21ain ganrif yn Llywodraeth Cymru i ganfod cyllid ym Mand B o raglen Ysgolion ar gyfer yr 21ain Ganrif, ar gyfer datblygu digon o leoedd cyfrwng Cymraeg mewn ardaloedd lle maent yn dod o dan bwysau, yn enwedig ardal Bedwas Tretomos Machen, ac ardal dwyrain Islwyn.

Datganiad o gysylltiadau â strategaethau ehangach:

Mae gweithio amlasiantaethol yn ganolog i'r ffordd ymlaen er mwyn sicrhau bod gan bob dysgwr, ni waeth beth fo ei gefndir economaidd cymdeithasol, gyfle cyfartal i wireddu disgwyliadau uchel.

Mae 'Ailysgrifennu'r Dyfodol' yn rhoi pwyslais ar awdurdodau lleol, consortia ac ysgolion yn cydweithio â phartneriaid amlasiantaethol ar draws y pedair thema allweddol: ymgysylltu â'r teulu a'r gymuned; y blynyddoedd cynnar (0-7); addysgu a dysgu o safon uchel; disgwyliadau a dyheadau. Rhoddwyd blaenoriaeth uchel i hyn fel un o'r Amcanion Gwella ar draws Addysg.

Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn arwain y Rhwydwaith Dyfodol Llwyddiannus cyfrwng Cymraeg lle mae hyd at 40 o ysgolion ar draws Cymru'n cydweithredu o fewn y fframwaith rhanbarthol a chenedlaethol wrth ddatblygu cwricwlwm newydd i Gymru. Nod y rhwydwaith yw sicrhau y bydd gan yr holl aelodau ddealltwriaeth ddigonol o'r cwricwlwm newydd ac y byddant wedi cael digon o brofiadau datblygiadol i'w galluogi i gyflawni'r cwricwlwm newydd ym mis Medi 2018.

Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn un o Ysgolion Arloesi'r Fargen Newydd ac o'r herwydd mae dyletswydd arni i sicrhau y gall pob ymarferydd gael profiad o ddysgu proffesiynol effeithiol, gan alluogi datblygiad parhaus, gwella ei arweinyddiaeth a'i ddealltwriaeth o addysgeg ymarferol ac yn arbennig cynorthwyo â datblygu'r cwricwlwm newydd.

Mae Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol yn gosod dyletswydd ar wasanaethau cyhoeddus i gyhoeddi Asesiad o Lesiant erbyn mis Mawrth 2017 a Chynllun Llesiant i fwrdeistref Caerffili erbyn mis Mawrth 2018. Er ei fod yn ei gamau drafft, mae gwaith ymgynghori â'r cyhoedd wedi pwysleisio pwysigrwydd addysg o ansawdd da i bawb ac ategu pob un o'r saith nod llesiant. Gwelir pwysigrwydd gwella safonau a galluogi pontio i gyfleoedd addysg, hyfforddiant a chyflogaeth gadarnhaol yn thema gyffredin i wella llesiant cenedlaethau'r dyfodol. Hefyd mae cysylltiadau cryf iawn o'r cynllun hwn i'r adrannau ar gyfer Caerffili Fwy Cyfartal, mewn perthynas â gwella cyfleoedd mewn cymunedau economaidd cymdeithasol, Caerffili Fwy Ffyniannus a Chaerffili â Diwylliant Bywiog lle mae'r Gymraeg yn Ffynnu.

Mae Fforwm Lleol Cynllun Strategol y Gymraeg mewn Addysg Caerffili yn cyfarfod

bob tymor. Ei brif ddibenion yw:

- Monitro amcanion a chynlluniau gweithredol partneriaid tuag at gyflawni'r amcanion yng Nghynllun Strategol y Gymraeg mewn Addysg Caerffili
- Darparu diweddariadau ynghylch yr amcanion yng nghylch gwaith eu sefydliadau
- Datblygu cyfleoedd ar gyfer cydweithredu a phartneriaethau wrth iddynt godi er mwyn cynyddu'r ddarpariaeth a chyfleoedd cyfrwng Cymraeg sydd ar gael yng Nghaerffili
- Rhannu arferion gorau ac arloesedd
- Cyfrannu at fforwm rhanbarthol Cynllun Strategol y Gymraeg mewn Addysg

2. Cludiant

Mae dyletswydd statudol ar awdurdodau lleol o dan Adran 10 o Fesur Teithio gan Ddysgwyr (Cymru) 2008 i hybu mynediad i addysg a hyfforddiant drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Darparwch ddatganiad ynghylch hygyrchedd y ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg yn eich awdurdod lleol mewn perthynas â chludiant rhwng y cartref a'r ysgol. Nodwch unrhyw heriau a/neu feysydd lle ceir arferion da trwy gydweithredu.

Mae Caerffili yn cydymffurfio â gofynion Mesur Teithio gan Ddysgwyr (Cymru) 2008 gan ddarparu cludiant i ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg i ddisgyblion o oedran ysgol statudol yn unol â'n polisi cludiant unigol. Mae polisi cludiant Caerffili yn fwy hael na'r gofynion deddfwriaethol gan ei fod yn darparu cludiant i'r ysgol 'berthnasol' (h.y. ysgol dalgylch neu agosaf) sef 1.5 milltir yn y sector cynradd a 2 filltir yn y sector uwchradd. Hefyd darperir cludiant ôl-16 i fyfyrwyr mewn ysgolion a cholegau heb gost i'r myfyrwyr a rhieni / gwarcheidwaid.

Deilliant 1: Mwy o blant saith oed yn cael eu haddysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg

Y sefyllfa bresennol o ran nifer y plant saith oed sy'n cael eu haddysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg a'n targedau ar gyfer y tair blynedd nesaf yw tua 20% y flwyddyn. Mae'r niferoedd a addysgir trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn rhagamcaniadau yn seiliedig ar ein derbyniad presennol o blant 3 oed i'r Cyfnod Sylfaen. Gyda datblygiad Cylchoedd Meithrin a chynyddu ymwybyddiaeth rhieni, rhagwelwn y bydd y nifer sy'n mynd i mewn i'r Cyfnod Sylfaen yn codi ond ni fydd hynny'n effeithio ar nifer y plant saith oed sy'n cael eu haddysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg hyd nes y bydd y cylch cynllunio nesaf yn cael ei weithredu.

Sefyllfa Bresennol	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
384	371	374	391

Ein pum amcan er mwyn cyflawni'r canlyniad hwn yw:

1. Datblygu darpariaeth o fewn Band B rhaglen ysgolion yr 21^{ain} ganrif er mwyn mynd i'r afael â chynyddu anghenion cynhwysedd yn yr ardaloedd a nodwyd (yn berthnasol i weithred 6.3 yn Strategaeth Cymraeg Pum Mlynedd Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili)

2. Datblygu ymagwedd ranbarthol at gynyddu'r ddarpariaeth ar draws y blynyddoedd cynnar ac wrth wneud hynny ysgogi'r galw. Bydd hyn yn cynnwys gweithio gyda Swyddogion Mudiad Meithrin i wella cyfraddau pontio mewn cylchoedd Meithrin gyda chyfradd drosglwyddo o dan 75%
3. Gweithio'n rhanbarthol gydag ystod eang o randdeiliaid i ddatblygu darpariaeth ddigonol a chynyddol drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg i ddiwallu anghenion rhieni sy'n gweithio ar gyfer y Cynnig Gofal Plant erbyn 2020/2021 (yn berthnasol i weithred 6.3 yn Strategaeth Cymraeg Pum Mlynedd Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili)
4. Cynnal arolwg blynyddol o alw rhieni ac ymgorffori'r canlyniadau wrth gynllunio ar gyfer lleoedd ysgolion.
5. Gweithio'n rhanbarthol i gynllunio'n strategol ar gyfer creu darpariaeth gynyddol gan gynnwys datblygu deunyddiau gwybodaeth i deuluoedd, er enghraifft, gan archwilio datblygu llyfryn i rieni drwy grant Cronfa Glyndŵr.

Ar hyn o bryd mae 11 ysgol gynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg ar draws y fwrdeistref sirol sydd gyda'i gilydd â bron 3000 o leoedd. Ar hyn o bryd mae gan Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni 2 safle (Gelli Haf a'r Gwyndy) sy'n darparu 2,348 o leoedd.

Cytunodd y Cyngor ar ei gynllun blaenoriaethol cyntaf ym Mand A o raglen Llywodraeth Cymru, Ysgolion ar gyfer yr 21ain Ganrif, fel buddsoddiad gwerth £20 miliwn ar safle Y Gwyndy. Roedd y buddsoddiad yn cynnwys ysgol newydd yn lle hen Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Caerffili gyda lle i oddeutu 450 o ddisgyblion a darpariaeth uwchradd â 900 o leoedd fel ail safle ar gyfer Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni. Hefyd, cafodd hen adeilad Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Caerffili ei ddatblygu i fod yn gyfleuster blynyddoedd cynnar cyfrwng Cymraeg cyn-ysgol, gan greu campws 0-19. Mae'r safle hefyd wedi cael gwell meysydd chwarae awyr agored, gan gynnwys maes 3G maint llawn.

Mae'r rhaglen gyfalaf addysg wedi cael ei defnyddio i ddatblygu rhagor o leoedd yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf, gan gael ei hategu gan arian lles cynllunio a106. Mae'r cyllid adran 106 hwn wedi galluogi capasiti i gynyddu drwy ychwanegu ystafelloedd dosbarth ychwanegol at safleoedd ysgol presennol. Byddwn yn parhau i weithio gyda chydweithwyr ar draws yr awdurdod lleol i wneud y gorau o'r defnydd o gyllid adran 106.

O ran y sector cynradd, mae'r nifer fwyaf sylweddol o leoedd gwag yng nghanol a rhan uchaf ardal Cwm Rhymni. Ar hyn o bryd mae galw am bron yr holl leoedd yn ardaloedd Basn Caerffili a dwyrain Islwyn, ac ystyriwyd buddsoddi yn yr ardaloedd hyn fel rhan o gais y Cyngor o dan Fand B (2019-2024) o'r rhaglen Ysgolion ar gyfer yr 21ain Ganrif. Mae'r galw am Addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg wedi cynyddu ers sefydlu CBSC ac yn arbennig felly yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Mae canran y disgyblion mewn Ysgolion Cyfrwng Cymraeg fel a ganlyn: Sector Cynradd: 1997 (8.9%), 2007 (12.1%), 2010 (14.4%), 2016 (16.8%). Sector Uwchradd: 1997 (6.9%), 2007 (9.0%), 2010 (10.6%), 2016 (12.3%). Bydd y rhaglen Band B yn parhau i gefnogi'r ddarpariaeth Gymraeg sy'n ffynnu yng Nghaerffili drwy sicrhau bod digon o leoedd cyfrwng Cymraeg yn cael eu datblygu mewn ardaloedd lle maent dan bwysau, fel y nodwyd yng Nghynllun Strategol y Gymraeg mewn Addysg 2017 - 2020. Mae datblygiad o dan Fand B yn cydnabod yr angen i gynyddu'r ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg ac mae cynigion yn cynnwys potensial ar gyfer datblygu darpariaeth gofal

plant ar yr holl safleoedd y gwnaed cynigion ar eu cyfer, ond bydd yn ddibynol ar sicrhau arian gan Lywodraeth Cymru yng nghynnig Ysgolion yr 21^{ain} Ganrif a chynigion dilynol ar gyfer rhaglen gyfalaf Cynnig Gofal Plant.

Cafodd yr asesiad addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn unol â rheoliadau 2013 ei gynnal yn 2015, ac mae wedi'i atodi yn Atodiad 2. Caiff asesiad arall ei gynnal yn 2018 yn unol â'r gofyniad o ran cylch 3 blynedd. Hefyd cynhelir arolwg o'r galw gan rieni bob blwyddyn. Y rhain yw'r sail ar gyfer yr holl amcanestyniadau o dueddiadau'r galw yn y dyfodol ac maent yn darparu tystiolaeth o'r angen am leoedd ychwanegol a'u lleoliad yn y fwrdeistref. Yn flaenorol, mae arolygon rhieni wedi dylanwadu ar ddarpariaeth ieithyddol ysgolion newydd, er enghraifft, agorwyd Ysgol Penalltau fel ysgol gynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg i ddiwallu'r galw cynyddol a'r angen am ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg yn yr ardal leol.

Mae'r Asesiad llawn o Ddigonolrwydd Gofal Plant yn cael ei gynnal yn 2016 gyda golwg ar ei gyflwyno i Lywodraeth Cymru a'i gyhoeddi ym mis Mawrth 2017. Bydd yr arolygon o'r galw gan rieni'n adlewyrchu'r galw am ofal plant ac iaith y ddarpariaeth a byddant yn sail i'r Cynllun Gweithredu Gofal Plant blynyddol er mwyn datblygu darpariaeth newydd a chynnal neu ehangu'r ddarpariaeth bresennol. Rhagwelwn gynnydd yn nifer y lleoedd gofal plant y bydd eu hangen yn ystod oes Cynllun Strategol y Gymraeg mewn Addysg 2017-2020 ar draws y sector i gefnogi'r gofal plant i'r holl blant 3 a 4 oed y mae eu rhieni'n gweithio.

Ardal cynllunio gymunedol	Cylchoedd Meithrin gan gynnwys Cylchoedd heb eu cofrestru	Cylchoedd Meithrin a lleoliadau a gynhelir sy'n cynnig Dechrau'n Deg	Cylchoedd Meithrin sy'n cynnig Addysg y Blynyddoedd Cynnar	Gofal cofleidiol	Clybiau ar ôl ysgol	Clwb Brechwast	Darpariaeth gwyliau	Ti A Fi	Darpariaeth 11-14	% o blant hŷn na 3 oed sy'n cael rhywfaint o ddefnydd o'r Gymraeg yn ôl adroddiad y Fenter Iaith 2016
Basn Caerffili	3	2	1	3	3	1	2	2	1	13.21%
Cwm Sirhywi Isaf	3	1	1	3	1	0	0	1	0	10.08%
Gorllewin Canol y Cymoedd	3	2	2	2	2	0	1	2	0	12.04%
Dwyrain Canol y Cymoedd	3	1	3	1	2	1	0	2	1	10.36%
Cwm Rhymni Uchaf	3	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	9.6%

Mae 2 Gylch Meithrin yn cynnig Lleoedd â Chymorth sef cynllun i gynorthwyo plant

ag oediad datblygiad sy'n byw y tu allan i ardaloedd Dechrau'n Deg i gael darpariaeth gofal plant i gynorthwyo â'u datblygiad. Hefyd mae 6 gwarchodwr plant sy'n siarad Cymraeg a 3 meithrinfa ddydd sydd wedi'u cofrestru gydag AGGCC fel rhai dwyieithog.

Mae'r Fenter Iaith yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth â swyddogion yr awdurdod lleol a'r Mudiad Meithrin i gynorthwyo Cylchoedd Meithrin a lleoliadau gofal plant i wella'r ddarpariaeth Gymraeg ar draws y fwrdeistref. Mae'r contract presennol ar waith tan 31 Mawrth 2017 gydag opsiwn i'w ymestyn ymhellach tan 31 Mawrth 2018.

Mae Ffordd i Ddwyieithrwydd yn gynllun sicrhau ansawdd i gynorthwyo i ddatblygu'r Gymraeg mewn lleoliadau cyfrwng Saesneg a chynorthwyo lleoliadau cyfrwng Cymraeg lle mae yna ymarferwyr sy'n dysgu Cymraeg. Ar hyn o bryd mae 6 meithrinfa ddydd, 3 gwarchodwr plant, 6 grŵp chwarae, 7 lleoliad Dechrau'n Deg a gynhelir, a 6 lleoliad yn aros i ddechrau.

Mae pob rhiant yn cael gwybodaeth am addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg o *lyfryn Dechrau Ysgol* Caerffili sy'n cael ei ddosbarthu gyda ffurflenni cais am le mewn ysgol yn ogystal â bod ar gael ar wefan Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili. Gall rhieni gael gwybodaeth am ofal plant a darpariaeth Addysg y Blynyddoedd Cynnar cyfrwng Cymraeg trwy'r Gwasanaeth Gwybodaeth i Deuluoedd. (yn berthnasol i weithred 1.2 yn Strategaeth Cymraeg Pum Mlynedd Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili)

Mae gweithio gyda rhieni ar y cyfle cyntaf posibl yn galluogi'r rhieni i wneud dewisiadau gwybodus ynghylch iaith y ddarpariaeth y bydd eu plant yn ei mynychu. Bydd y Rhwydwaith Rhieni, y Fenter Iaith trwy'r rhaglen Lleisiau a Chymraeg i blant yn cydweithio i hyrwyddo gwybodaeth i rieni, ac i godi ymwybyddiaeth gyda staff rheng flaen o fuddion dwyieithrwydd. (yn berthnasol i weithred 1.1&1.3 yn Strategaeth Cymraeg Pum Mlynedd Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili)

Mae 'Cymraeg i blant' yn brosiect sy'n cael ei redeg gan y Mudiad Meithrin ar draws Caerffili ac sy'n canolbwyntio ar gynyddu nifer y plant oedran meithrin a all siarad Cymraeg. Mae'n rhoi gwybodaeth, cyngor a chymorth i rieni ar fuddion bod yn ddwyieithog, pwysigrwydd cyflwyno'r Gymraeg i blant mor gynnar ag sy'n bosibl, a manteision dewis gofal plant ac addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Caiff Cymraeg i blant ei hyrwyddo trwy'r Gwasanaeth Gwybodaeth i Deuluoedd.

Caiff hyn ei gyflawni trwy ddarparu sesiynau dwyieithog tyliuo babanod, ioga babanod a rhigymanau Cymraeg bob wythnos i rieni a phlant ifanc. Yn y tymor byr rhagwelwn weithio ar draws yr ardaloedd canlynol: Caerffili, Ystrad Mynach, Rhisga, gyda golwg ar gynyddu nifer y plant sy'n mynychu'r grwpiau Ti a Fi a Chylchoedd Meithrin lleol. Ar ôl mynychu cyfres o'n grwpiau cymorth caiff rhieni eu hannog i symud ymlaen i'w Grŵp Ti a Fi a Chylch Meithrin lleol cyn dechrau mewn ysgol gynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg lleol.

Ymgyrch gan y Mudiad Meithrin i hyrwyddo manteision addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yw **Cychwyn gorau / Beststart**.

Mae Swyddogion Cefnogi'r Mudiad Meithrin yn darparu cymorth ac adnoddau i staff Cylch Meithrin i hyrwyddo buddion addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg i rieni'r plant sy'n ei

fynychu. Mae Cylchoedd Meithrin lle mae'r cyfraddau pontio'n is na 50% yn cael eu targedu fel rhan o fenter Cychwyn Gorau sy'n rhan o'n targedau yr adroddir amdanynt i'r Uned Addysg Gymraeg.

Bwriad y cylch cynllunio nesaf ar gyfer y Fforwm Addysg Gymraeg Rhanbarthol yw cael pedwar grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen i symud ymlaen â rhaglenni gwaith arwyddocaol. Mae un is-grŵp yn canolbwyntio ar ddatblygiadau o fewn y Blynyddoedd Cynnar (yn berthnasol yn Strategaeth Cymraeg Pum Mlynedd Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili). Bydd gan yr is-grŵp hwn swyddogion perthnasol o bob awdurdod lleol yng Ngwent, Mudiad Meithrin a'r tri sefydliad Menter Iaith yn y rhanbarth, yn ogystal â chynrychiolaeth gan y RhAG neu sefydliadau eraill mewn cyfarfodydd perthnasol. Bydd y meysydd ffocws cychwynol yn cynnwys

- Cynyddu'r nifer o leoedd gofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg ar draws y rhanbarth gan gynnwys datblygu darpariaeth newydd yn ogystal ag ehangu'r ddarpariaeth bresennol drwy wneud newidiadau i adeiladau neu wasanaethau ychwanegol a gynigir.
- Hyfforddi a recriwtio staff a gwella sgiliau iaith Gymraeg ar draws y rhanbarth i ddatblygu cysondeb mewn defnydd iaith gan staff lleoliadau gofal plant i hyrwyddo caffael iaith, gan gynnwys cysylltu â'r ysgol gynradd sy'n bwydo ar gyfer cysondeb wrth ddefnyddio iaith a chefnogi pontio positif.
- Cynaliadwyedd a chymorth busnes i sicrhau bod gan bob gofal plant gynllun busnes cadarn i sicrhau ei fod yn cael ei gynnal a'i alluogi i gynyddu yn ystod y cynllun hwn. Bydd y ffocws hwn hefyd yn edrych ar sut y gall lleoliadau gofal plant dderbyn lleoedd a ariennir drwy'r Cynnig Gofal Plant, Dechrau'n Deg ac Addysg Blynyddoedd Cynnar i wneud y gorau o unrhyw arian a dderbynnir yn ogystal â darparu gwasanaeth ehangach i rieni sy'n talu ffioedd a darparu darpariaeth gymunedol.
- Gwella cyfraddau pontio rhwng Cylchoedd ac Ysgolion Cynradd.

Bydd y Cynnig Gofal Plant angen nifer sylweddol o leoedd gofal plant a gall lleoliad fod yn hanfodol i'w cynaladwyedd, felly bydd y grŵp hwn yn cysylltu drwy'r Fforwm Addysg Gymraeg i sicrhau bod yr is-grŵp sy'n edrych ar gynllunio lleoedd mewn ysgolion yn gysylltiedig â gwaith datblygu gyda'r grŵp blynyddoedd cynnar sy'n datblygu darpariaeth gofal plant. Mae Caerffili wedi cynnwys y datblygiad hwn o adeiladau o fewn ei gynigion Band B-Ysgolion yr 21^{ain} Ganrif, yn amodol ar sicrhau cyllid cyfalaf Cynnig Gofal Plant. Bydd y ceisiadau yn cael eu cyflwyno unwaith y'u hagaror ar gyfer rhaglen gyfalaf Cynnig Gofal Plant, a ragwelir yn 2018-2021.

Yng Nghaerffili mae ein poblogaeth, er ei bod yn symud rhwng ardaloedd cymunedol, yn weddol sefydlog o ran symud i mewn i'r fwrdeistref ac allan ohoni, ac felly caiff rhieni eu hannog i wneud eu penderfyniadau ar ddarpariaeth addysg yn y blynyddoedd cynnar, gan leihau'r galw am bolisi ar hwyrddyfodiaid.

Fodd bynnag, trafodwyd datblygiad polisi Hwyrddyfodiaid ar gyfer datblygiad lleol a rhanbarthol posibl o dan is-grŵp Fforwm Addysg Gymraeg Rhanbarthol ar gyfer cynllunio lleoedd a hyrwyddo galw.

Deiliant 2: Mwy o ddysgwyr yn parhau i wella eu sgiliau iaith wrth bontio o'r ysgol gynradd i'r ysgol uwchradd.

Y sefyllfa bresennol a'n targedau ar gyfer y tair blynedd nesaf mewn perthynas â nifer y disgyblion ym mlwyddyn naw a asesir mewn Cymraeg (iaith gyntaf)

Y sefyllfa bresennol	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
232	308	302	320

Ein tri amcan er mwyn cyflawni'r deilliant hwn yw:

1. Cydweithio â Swyddogion y Mudiad Meithrin i wella cyfraddau pontio mewn Cylchoedd Meithrin sydd â chyfradd pontio o dan 75%
2. Cynnal cyfraddau pontio uchel o ysgolion cynradd i'r ysgol uwchradd.
3. Cynnal ansawdd pontio o gofio heriau rheoli ysgol uwchradd sydd wedi'i rhannu rhwng dau safle – Gelli Haf a'r Gwyndy.

Mae nifer y plant sy'n trosglwyddo o leoliadau gofal plant nas cynhelir sy'n cynnig lleoedd a ariennir dan y Cyfnod Sylfaen i blant sy'n codi'n dair oed, lleoedd nas ariennir a lleoedd Dechrau'n Deg i'w gweld yn y data yn Atodiad 1, data sydd wedi'u cyflenwi gan y Mudiad Meithrin ym mis Tachwedd 2016. Mae pryderon ynghylch cyfraddau pontio mewn 3 lleoliad gofal plant cofrestredig ac 1 ddarpariaeth anghofrestredig. Mae Mudiad Meithrin a swyddogion awdurdodau lleol yn cwrdd bob mis i adolygu unrhyw bryderon ynglŷn â lleoliadau, gan gynnwys pontio, cefnogaeth ieithyddol, anghenion cymorth busnes ac ati. Fodd bynnag, mae hyn bellach yn flaenoriaeth uchel a gaiff ei symud ymlaen mewn is-grŵp o'r Fforwm Addysg Gymraeg Rhanbarthol sy'n canolbwyntio'n benodol ar y Blynnyddoedd Cynnar. Yn ogystal, mae cynigion Band B Ysgolion yr 21^{ain} Ganrif yn cynnwys datblygu darpariaeth gofal plant penodol fel rhan o raglen adeiladu / adnewyddu ysgolion ond mae'n parhau i fod yn ddarostyngedig i geisiadau cyllido llwyddiannus ar gyfer rhaglen gyfalaf y Cynnig Gofal Plant. Bydd hyn yn cynorthwyo i symud Cylchoedd a Chlybiau i safleoedd ysgol a gwella lles plant, cyfraddau pontio i Gynradd, cysondeb mewn caffael iaith yn ogystal ag effeithiolrwydd i rieni.

Mae'r holl leoliadau'n cael cymorth i gynnig pontio da i deuluoedd symud ymlaen o Ddechrau'n Deg i Addysg y Blynnyddoedd Cynnar neu o leoliadau nas cynhelir i ddarpariaeth feithrin Cyfnod Sylfaen a gynhelir mewn ysgolion. Rydym yn annog lleoliadau i ddefnyddio gwaith papur tebyg er mwyn caniatáu ar gyfer symud rhwng lleoliadau ac atal dryswch yn ogystal ag annog lleoliadau i weithio gyda theuluoedd i sicrhau eu bod yn cwblhau ffurflenni cais am leoedd o fewn y terfynau amser, gan enwi'r ddarpariaeth sy'n ddewis cyntaf ganddynt. Un o'r pethau mae'r Mudiad Meithrin wedi canolbwyntio arno yw cydweithio â Chylchoedd Meithrin i wella cyfraddau pontio. Yn nhymer yr haf 2016 roedd 70 o blant mewn lleoedd Addysg y Blynnyddoedd Cynnar yn y 7 Cylch Meithrin.

Cylch Meithrin Tonyfelin	16
Cylch Meithrin Nelson	9
Cylch Meithrin Pontllanfraith	9
Cylch Meithrin Dewi Sant	9
Cylch Meithrin Coed Duon	3
Cylch Meithrin Cwm Derwen	12
Cylch Meithrin yr Enfys	12

Nid oes llawer o wahaniaeth yn nifer y plant a asesir mewn Cymraeg iaith gyntaf ym mlwyddyn 6 ac yna ym mlwyddyn 9 yng Nghaerffili. Mae 100% o'r dysgwyr blwyddyn 9 mewn addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn cael eu hasesu mewn Cymraeg (iaith gyntaf). Mae'r cyfraddau dilyniant o'r 11 ysgol gynradd sy'n bwydo Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn ardderchog ac yn aros yn gyson ar 100%. Mae 11 ysgol gynradd yn cyfrannu at y cydweithredu yng nghlwstwr ysgolion Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni.

Safle'r Gwyndy	Safle Gelli Haf	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ysgol Gymraeg Caerffili • Ysgol Gymraeg y Castell • Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Bach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ysgol Gymraeg Penalltau • Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon • Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen • Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Allta 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ysgol Gymraeg y Lawnt • Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Sannan • Ysgol Gymraeg Gilfach • Ysgol Gymraeg Trelyn

Mae'r cydweithredu rhwng yr ysgolion yn gryfder sylweddol sy'n cyfrannu at y llwyddiant a'r safonau uchel iawn a gyflawnir gan yr ysgolion hyn. Cydnabyddir clwstwr Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn bartneriaeth arloesi lwyddiannus iawn lle mae arferion da'n cael eu rhannu'n gyson ar bob lefel ar draws y clwstwr. Nod y cydweithredu yw sicrhau bod pob disgybl sy'n mynychu ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg ym mwrdeistref Caerffili'n cael cyfleoedd addysgol a fydd yn ei alluogi i wireddu ei botensial.

CYNNYDD Y DISGYBLION YW GWRAIDD POPETH

Oherwydd y cydweithredu hwn mae modd cynnig amrywiaeth o gyfleoedd a gweithgareddau yn yr ysgolion cynradd neu yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni er mwyn hybu datblygiad disgyblion unigol neu grwpiau o ddisgyblion.

Cynllun Pontio Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni:

Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn sicrhau bod pob disgybl sy'n dechrau yn yr Ysgol yn awyddus i ddatblygu ymhellach ac adeiladu ar y cynnydd a wnaed yn ystod ei gyfnod yn yr ysgol gynradd. Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni a'r ysgolion cynradd yn cydweithio'n agos trwy rannu gwybodaeth a datblygu cynlluniau er mwyn sicrhau bod cyfnod cychwynnol y disgyblion yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn un hapus a llwyddiannus.

Cynllun cyd-fentora:

Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn arwain cynllun mentora ar draws holl ysgolion cynradd clwstwr Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni. Mae gan bob ysgol gynlluniau gwahanol i gynorthwyo ac arwain disgyblion sydd angen cymorth ychwanegol neu o wahanol fathau er mwyn datblygu eu galluoedd, yn benodol ym meysydd llythrennedd a rhifedd. Mae cynlluniau ymyrraeth disgyblion unigol yn amrywio yn ôl yr ysgol ac anghenion y disgyblion, ac maent wedi profi'n effeithiol dros gyfnod o amser. Mae yna gydweithredu effeithiol ar draws y clwstwr fel bod arferion da'n cael eu rhannu er mwyn sicrhau cynnydd y disgyblion.

Mae dau o athrawon Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn cael amser digyswllt ychwanegol i ganiatáu iddynt ymweld â phob ysgol gynradd yn rheolaidd i drafod cynlluniau ymyrraeth ac i drafod disgyblion unigol a grwpiau o ddisgyblion ym mlynnyddoedd 5 a 6. Drwy ddarparu system mentora effeithiol ar draws y clwstwr, mae disgyblion unigol a grwpiau o ddisgyblion yn cael budd o weithgareddau cynlluniedig ar draws y

clwstwr er mwyn datblygu yn unol â'u talent, gallu neu anghenion personol.

Bydd yr holl ddisgyblion ym Mlwyddyn 6 yn cael cyfle i gymryd rhan mewn Diwrnodau Gweithgareddau:

Diwrnodau Gweithgareddau Estynedig:

Trefnir ar gyfer disgyblion Mwy Abl a Thalentog yn canolbwyntio ar ieithoedd a chyfathrebu a gwyddoniaeth, mathemateg a rhifedd. Cynhelir cyfres o ddiwrnodau yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni sy'n rhoi cyfle i'r disgyblion blwyddyn 6 ddatblygu eu dealltwriaeth neu allu estynedig mewn maes neu feysydd penodol.

Diwrnodau Gweithgareddau Ychwanegol:

Trefnir ar gyfer y disgyblion hynny yr ymddengys na allant fanteisio ar yr holl gyfleoedd sydd ar gael yn yr ysgol oherwydd amddifadedd neu broblemau cymdeithasol ac emosiynol. Mae'r disgyblion hyn yn cael budd o gynlluniau'r ysgol i gynorthwyo ac arwain disgyblion sydd angen cymorth ychwanegol. Mae'r cynllun cyd-fentora'n atgyfnerthu'r gwaith hwn ac yn galluogi Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni i ddatblygu cyfleoedd ychwanegol ar draws y clwstwr er mwyn meithrin uchelgais a hyder y plant.

Cynhelir cyfres o ddiwrnodau yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni ac mewn lleoliadau eraill sy'n rhoi i'r disgyblion ym mlynnyddoedd 5 a 6 gyfle i ddatblygu eu huchelgais a'u hyder ac ar yr un pryd gwella dealltwriaeth o dopigau nad ydynt o angenrheidrwydd ar gael yn yr ysgol gynradd.

Diwrnodau Gweithgareddau Arbennig:

Trefnir ar gyfer disgyblion nad ydynt wedi cymryd rhan yn y diwrnodau gweithgareddau estynedig neu'r diwrnodau gweithgareddau ychwanegol. Mae'r plant yn mwynhau gweithgareddau tebyg i'r rhai mae eu cyfoedion wedi'u cyflawni yn ystod y diwrnodau gweithgareddau eraill. Mae'r diwrnodau hyn wedi'u bwriadu i wella dealltwriaeth y plant o'r hyn y gallant ei ddisgwyl pan fyddant yn dechrau yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni ac i'w paratoi'n fwy effeithiol ar gyfer y cyfnod pontio hynod bwysig hwn.

Gwyddoniaeth ym mlwyddyn 6

Mae adran gwyddoniaeth Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn cydweithredu gydag athrawon blwyddyn 6 i gyflwyno uned o waith gwyddoniaeth ym mlwyddyn 6. Mae athrawon o Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn ymweld â'r ysgol gynradd i gynnal gwersi gwyddoniaeth ac mae disgyblion blwyddyn 6 yn ymweld ag Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni i gael profiad o wneud arbrofion mewn labordy.

Diwrnodau Chwil Chwarae

Cynhelir diwrnodau cerddorol yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni lle mae disgyblion sydd â thalent gerddorol benodol yn cael cyfle i gwrdd â'r athrawon cerddoriaeth a disgyblion talentog eraill ac i berfformio o flaen cynulleidfa.

Diwrnod Pontio

Mae'r disgyblion yn cael amserlen ar gyfer y diwrnod sy'n eu galluogi i brofi gweithgareddau fel dosbarthiadau blwyddyn 7. Mae'r gweithgareddau'n cael eu cynllunio fel bod y disgyblion yn cael profiadau na fyddent yn eu cael fel arfer yn yr

ysgol gynradd ond a fydd ar gael iddynt ym mlwyddyn 7 yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni.

Nosweithiau Pontio

Cynhelir dwy noson i ddarpar rieni yn ystod cyfnod disgybl ym mlwyddyn 6:

- Noson gyflwyniad i'r ysgol a'r adeiladau a chyfle i'r rhieni gwrrdd ag arweinwyr yr ysgol.
- Noson weithgareddau seiliedig ar bynciau fel y gall y rhieni gael blas ar y math o bynciau y bydd y disgyblion yn eu hastudio ym mlwyddyn 7. Mae cyfle hefyd i brynu gwisg ysgol.

Ymweliadau unigol

Yn aml bydd gan blant mwy bregus bryderon ychwanegol wrth ystyried dechrau ym Mlwyddyn 7. Mae croeso i rieni a phlant unigol ymweld â'r ysgol ar adegau cyfleus er mwyn sicrhau cyflwyniad effeithiol i'r ysgol. Cyfres o ymweliadau fydd y rhain yn aml, yn dechrau ar ôl yr ysgol pan gânt eu tywys o gwmpas y safle pan mae'n dawel gan aelod o'r staff, gan symud ymlaen i ymweliadau hirach i gael profiad o weithgareddau'r ysgol.

Deilliant 3: Mwy o fyfyrwyr 14-16 oed yn astudio ar gyfer cymwysterau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg

Deilliant 4: Mwy o fyfyrwyr 14-19 oed yn astudio pynciau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg mewn ysgolion, colegau a dysgu seiliedig ar waith.

Ein sefyllfa bresennol a'n targedau mewn perthynas â chanran y dysgwyr sy'n cael eu cofrestru ar gyfer TGAU Cymraeg (iaith gyntaf) sy'n cael eu cofrestru ar gyfer o leiaf dau gymhwyster Lefel 1 neu Lefel 2 arall drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Y sefyllfa bresennol	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
100%	100%	100%	100%

Ein sefyllfa bresennol a'n targedau mewn perthynas â chanran y dysgwyr sy'n cael eu cofrestru ar gyfer TGAU Cymraeg (iaith gyntaf) sy'n cael eu cofrestru ar gyfer o leiaf pum cymhwyster Lefel 1 neu Lefel 2 arall drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Y sefyllfa bresennol	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
100%	100%	100%	100%

Ein pedwar amcan er mwyn cyflawni'r deilliant hwn yw:

1. Sicrhau bod y ddarpariaeth i ddysgwyr 14-16 oed yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn cydymffurfio â Mesur Dysgu a Sgiliau (Cymru) 2009
2. Cynnal adolygiad o drefniadaeth y ddarpariaeth uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg ym mwrdeistref Caerffili gan gynnwys y ddarpariaeth 14-19. Bydd hyn yn cydfynd ag adolygiad o'r 6^{ed} dosbarth mewn ysgolion ac addysg drydyddol.
3. Parhau i ddatblygu llwybr dysgu cyfrwng Cymraeg i ddisgyblion sydd mewn perygl o beidio â bod mewn addysg, cyflogaeth neu hyfforddiant ar ôl gadael yr ysgol yn 16 oed, a hybu cwricwlwm ôl-16 Lefel 2 i'r rheini nad ydynt yn

cyrraedd y trothwy Lefel 2 ar gyfer Cymraeg / Saesneg a Mathemateg.

4. Ystyried ymagwedd ranbarthol at y ddarpariaeth ôl-16 cyfrwng Cymraeg (Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni, Y Gwyndy, Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw (Torfaen) ac Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed (Casnewydd) wrth ddatblygu, hybu a chynnal llwybrau dysgu 14-19 cyfrwng Cymraeg effeithiol. Caiff hyn ei ddatblygu drwy is-grŵp Fforwm Addysg Gymraeg Rhanbarthol ar gyfer llwybrau 14-19 sy'n cysylltu'r tair ysgol uwchradd, 2 goleg a'r brifysgol. (yn berthnasol i weithred 2.3, 5.7&6.3 yn Strategaeth Cymraeg Pum Mlynedd Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili)

Mae disgyblion Caerffili sydd mewn addysg gynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg yn trosglwyddo i Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni. Ychydig iawn o eithriadau sydd. Mae disgyblion Caerffili yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn cael eu cofrestru ar gyfer dau TGAU Mathemateg, dau TGAU Gwyddoniaeth, tri TGAU dewisol a Bagloriaeth Cymru drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae hyn yn ogystal â Chymraeg / Llenyddiaeth Gymraeg.

Canran y dysgwyr sy'n cael eu cofrestru ar gyfer TGAU Cymraeg (iaith gyntaf) sy'n cael eu cofrestru ar gyfer o leiaf **pum** cymhwyster Lefel 1 neu Lefel 2 **arall** drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yw'r unig sefydliad yn yr awdurdod lleol a all ddarparu Llwybr Dysgu 14-19 cyfrwng Cymraeg. Ar hyn o bryd mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni ar ddau safle 7 milltir oddi wrth ei gilydd. Ym mis Medi 2016, dechreuodd 82 o ddisgyblion blwyddyn 10 ar eu cwricwlwm 14-16. Erbyn mis Medi 2018 bydd angen darparu cwricwlwm ôl-16 i'r disgyblion hynny ar safle'r Gwyndy sydd eisiau parhau mewn addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg.

Mae'r holl fyfyrwyr 14-16 oed sy'n astudio ar gyfer TGAU neu bynciau galwedigaethol Lefel 1 neu 2 yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn gwneud hynny drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae sicrhau cynnydd yn argaeledd cyrsiau TGAU a chysiau galwedigaethol Lefel 1 a 2 cyfrwng Cymraeg ar draws ein hawdurdod lleol yn gryn her i'r awdurdod gan fod y ddarpariaeth eisoes yn rhagori ar y disgwyliadau statudol (mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn cynnig 30 o gyrsiau Lefel 2 gan gynnwys 5 cwrs galwedigaethol). Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn gweithredu nifer o strategaethau gyda'r nod o gynyddu nifer y myfyrwyr sy'n parhau i fanteisio ar ddarpariaeth 14-19 cyfrwng Cymraeg:

Mae gan Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni strategaeth ar gyfer cymorth bugeiliol cyfrwng Cymraeg sy'n galluogi pob plentyn i gael cymorth priodol pan fo ei angen. Mae'r cymorth hwn yn hanfodol er mwyn sicrhau bod pob plentyn yn gwbl ymwybodol o'r ddarpariaeth 14-16 cyfrwng Cymraeg sydd ar gael, gan sicrhau bod bron 100% o'r disgyblion CA3 yn trosglwyddo i CA4.

Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn nodi'r disgyblion hynny ym mlwyddyn 9 sydd mewn perygl o beidio â bod mewn addysg, cyflogaeth neu hyfforddiant. Mae'r disgyblion hyn yn dod yn aelodau o'r Ganolfan Llwybrau Dysgu Cyfrwng Cymraeg ac yn dilyn cwricwlwm sydd wedi'i gynllunio'n arbennig i apelio atynt ac sydd â'r nod o sicrhau na fyddant yn peidio â bod mewn addysg, cyflogaeth neu hyfforddiant. Mae strategaeth y Ganolfan Llwybrau Dysgu Cyfrwng Cymraeg yn dal i fod yn ffordd effeithiol o wella disgwyliadau'r disgyblion. Mae'r strategaeth

hon wedi sicrhau bod y disgyblion hyn wedi parhau mewn addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg nes eu bod yn 16 oed a bod pob disgybl wedi cael lle mewn hyfforddiant, cyflogaeth neu addysg ar ôl gadael yr ysgol.

Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn darparu Llwybr Pontio Blwyddyn 12. Y nod yw galluogi myfyrwyr uchelgeisiol sydd ag ysgogiad da i barhau â'u hastudiaethau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae Llwybr Pontio Blwyddyn 12 yn addas i'r myfyrwyr hynny a hoffai ddilyn cyrsiau Lefel 3 ond nad ydynt, yn anffodus, wedi cyrraedd lefel cyflawniad addas eto i'w galluogi i astudio cyrsiau Lefel 3 ym mlwyddyn 12.

Mae Astudiaethau Galwedigaethol wrth wraidd y cwrs ac mae datblygu mwy o ddealltwriaeth o amrywiaeth o feysydd Busnes yn ganolog i'r cwricwlwm. Drwy barhau i astudio'r pynciau craidd allweddol (*Cymraeg/Saesneg/Mathemateg*) mae disgyblion yn gallu ailsefyll arholiadau TGAU er mwyn gwella eu graddau TGAU os oes angen neu i barhau i wella eu sgiliau llythrennedd a rhifedd os ydynt wedi cael TGAU graddau A*-C.

Disgwylir y bydd y myfyrwyr hynny sy'n dewis dilyn Llwybr Pontio Blwyddyn 12 yn dymuno parhau â'u hastudiaethau cyfrwng Cymraeg yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni ar ddiwedd blwyddyn 12 trwy ddechrau cyrsiau Lefel 3 ym Mlwyddyn 13.

Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni wedi datblygu cwricwlwm ôl-16 i ddisgyblion sydd ag Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol gan eu galluogi i barhau mewn addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg ac ar yr un pryd cael eu paratoi'n effeithiol ar gyfer byd gwaith a bywyd ar ôl addysg ffurfiol. Mae'r cwricwlwm yn cael ei deilwra i anghenion yr unigolyn ac fel arfer bydd yn cynnwys cwrs galwedigaethol a pharhad i ddatblygiad llythrennedd a rhifedd. Rhoddir pwyslais penodol ar feithrin mwy o ddealltwriaeth o sgiliau byw a chyfathrebu effeithiol.

O'r blaen roedd y cydweithredu rhanbarthol 14-19 cyfrwng Cymraeg yn manteisio ar gyllid ychwanegol trwy'r Cynllun Datblygu Rhwydwaith Blynyddol, y Cynllun Datblygu Rhwydwaith Rhanbarthol a'r grant oedd yn gysylltiedig â'r Fforwm Cyfrwng Cymraeg Rhanbarthol 14-19. Roedd y cyllid hwn yn ein galluogi i gynnal y Llwybrau Dysgu 14-19 cyfrwng Cymraeg mewn modd effeithiol ar draws y rhanbarth. Mae'n amlwg bod angen parhau â chyllid ychwanegol i lwybrau dysgu 14-19 cyfrwng Cymraeg er mwyn inni gynnal y sefyllfa bresennol yn y De-ddwyrain lle mae baich y ddarpariaeth ar ysgwyddau grŵp mor fach o sefydliadau.

Er na chafwyd unrhyw gyllid grant ychwanegol mae Fforwm 14-19 De-ddwyrain Cymru wedi penderfynu parhau i gwrdd er mwyn sicrhau y gall ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg a sefydliadau Addysg Bellach gydweithredu yn y dyfodol a bydd hyn yn ffurfio sail yr is-grŵp o dan y Fforwm Addysg Gymraeg .

Mae cynnal a chynyddu'r ystod o ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg i ddisgyblion 14-19 oed yn gryn her i'r awdurdod gan fod y llwybrau 14-16 yn cael eu darparu erbyn hyn ar ddau safle ysgol 7 milltir oddi wrth ei gilydd. Rhaid gwarantu bod y ddarpariaeth yn gyfartal ar y ddau safle gan arwain at ddosbarthiadau bach ychwanegol a chostau staffio ychwanegol sylweddol.

Mae 1.68 athro ychwanegol wedi cael eu cyflogi i ddarparu ar gyfer y cwricwlwm digraidd 14-16 ar ddau safle 7 milltir oddi wrth ei gilydd ar gyfer 2016-17 gan ddisgwyl y bydd o leiaf 3 athro ychwanegol ar gyfer 2017-18.

Ar hyn o bryd mae'n rhaid i Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni gynnig a darparu 30 o gyrsiau Lefel 3 cyfrwng Cymraeg yn unol â'r Mesur Sgiliau. Gan mai hi yw unig ddarparwr posibl addysg ôl-16 cyfrwng Cymraeg rhaid iddi barhau i ddarparu cyrsiau hyd yn oed pan fo nifer y myfyrwyr sy'n dewis y cwrs yn gwneud y cwrs yn anghynnaladwy.

Bydd angen llwybr 14-19 cynaliadwy i'r holl ddisgyblion cyfrwng Cymraeg yn yr awdurdod (ar ddau safle 7 milltir oddi wrth ei gilydd) erbyn mis Medi 2018. Hyn fydd sail yr adolygiad sy'n ofynnol. Bydd yr awdurdod ac Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn cydweithredu er mwyn sicrhau y gellir cynnal darpariaeth ôl-16 cyfrwng Cymraeg cynaliadwy erbyn mis Medi 2018. Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni ac Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw wedi bod yn greadigol yn eu partneriaeth wrth i aelodau o'r staff deithio i addysgu cyrsiau amgen neu gyrsiau sydd â nifer fach o fyfyrwyr ond ar ôl i'r grant gael ei dynnu'n ôl, nid yw hyn yn ariannol hyfyw ac ni fydd byth oherwydd y niferoedd bach.

Erbyn mis Medi 2019 bydd angen Llwybr Dysgu 14-16 cynaliadwy yn Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed (Casnewydd) ac erbyn mis Medi 2021 bydd angen Llwybr Dysgu 14-19 cynaliadwy. Nid yw'n ymarferol disgwyl i'r ysgol allu cynnig cwricwlwm cynaliadwy i'w disgyblion heb gydweithredu â darparwyr cyfrwng Cymraeg eraill.

O gofio bod cwricwlwm Dyfodol Llwyddiannus i gael ei weithredu erbyn mis Medi 2018 ni allwn fod yn sicr beth fydd y gofynion ar gyfer Llwybr Dysgu 14-19 cynaliadwy erbyn 2020. Mae'n amlwg ei bod yn hanfodol i unrhyw gynllunio yn y dyfodol ar gyfer strategaeth Llwybrau Dysgu 14-19 cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y De-ddwyrain ystyried ymagwedd gydweithredol er mwyn inni barhau i ddarparu llwybr cynaliadwy o ansawdd da.

Yn adolygiad yr awdurdod lleol o'r ddarpariaeth 14-19 caiff ymagwedd ranbarthol ei hystyried, lle gallai Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni gydweithredu ag Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw (Torfaen) ac Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed (Casnewydd) wrth ddatblygu a hyrwyddo Llwybrau Dysgu 14-19 cyfrwng Cymraeg effeithiol, yn ogystal â chydweithio gyda Choleg y Cymoedd a Coleg Gwent. Hwn fydd blaenoriaeth y Fforwm Addysg Gymraeg Rhanbarthol drwy'r ia-grŵp ar gyfer darpariaeth 14-19.

Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn ganolog i drefniadaeth a gweithrediad rhwydwaith ysgolion uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg y De-ddwyrain (CYDAG De-ddwyrain Cymru). Mae CYDAG De-ddwyrain Cymru yn cynnwys 17 ysgol uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg ar draws tri rhanbarth (Canolbarth y De, EAS ac ERW). Mae'r rhwydwaith yn trefnu diwrnodau HMS ar y cyd â CBAC i gefnogi a hybu cymwysterau 14-19 cyfrwng Cymraeg. Bydd y rhwydwaith yn parhau i gydweithredu â CBAC a bydd yn cyfathrebu â Cymwysterau Cymru er mwyn sicrhau bod y ddarpariaeth cymwysterau cyfrwng Cymraeg 14-19 yn cael ei chefnogi a'i gwella. Mae'r Fforymau 14-19 wedi dod i ben yn swyddogol, ond mae CYDAG De-ddwyrain Cymru yn dal i gwrdd i edrych ar y posibilrwydd o barhau ag arferion fel trefnu cynadleddau a chyfarfodydd cydweithredu i'r staff oedd yn bodoli hyd at fis Mawrth 2016. Bydd angen creadigrwydd ac ymroddiad i'w gwneud yn bosibl i'r fforwm llwyddiannus hwn

barhau.

Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn arwain y Rhwydwaith Dyfodol Llwyddiannus cyfrwng Cymraeg lle mae hyd at 40 o ysgolion ar draws Cymru'n cydweithredu o fewn y fframwaith rhanbarthol a chenedlaethol wrth ddatblygu cwricwlwm newydd i Gymru. Nod y rhwydwaith yw sicrhau y bydd gan yr holl aelodau ddealltwriaeth ddigonol o'r cwricwlwm newydd ac y byddant wedi cael digon o brofiadau datblygiadol i'w galluogi i gyflawni'r cwricwlwm newydd ym mis Medi 2018.

Cysylltiadau â Choleg y Cymoedd

Mae cydweithredu hirsefydlog ac effeithiol rhwng Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni a Choleg y Cymoedd. Mae Coleg y Cymoedd yn darparu hyfforddiant seiliedig ar waith mewn mecaneg ceir i ddisgyblion y Ganolfan Llwybrau Dysgu Cyfrwng Cymraeg ar gampws y Coleg yn Ystrad Mynach. Mae'r coleg wedi sicrhau cyllid Ewropeaidd i'r prosiect hyd 2020.

Mae trafodaethau'n cael eu cynnal ar sut i ddatblygu rhagor o weithio mewn partneriaeth rhwng Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni a staff o Goleg y Cymoedd. Mae'r Hyrwyddwr Dwyieithrwydd yn aelod o Fforwm Llwybrau Dysgu 14-19 De-ddwyrain Cymru ac mae'n cwrdd â'r pennaeth a'r hwylusydd yn rheolaidd.

Mae Coleg y Cymoedd yn cyflenwi cyrsiau dydd blasu a chyfoethogi cyfrwng Cymraeg i ddisgyblion o Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni. Mae'r pynciau'n cynnwys Ffrangeg, Arlwygo ac Astudiaethau Cerbydau Modur. Mae'r gwaith partneriaethol hwn wedi cael ei gyllido gan Fforwm Trawsffiniol De-ddwyrain Cymru ar gyfer addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg a dwyieithog, sydd wedi cael ei orffen erbyn hyn, ond mae'r ysgol a'r Coleg ill dau'n awyddus i barhau â'r cydweithio mewn partneriaeth.

Mae'r Hyrwyddwr Dwyieithrwydd yn cysylltu â'r ysgol i alluogi'r disgyblion hynny sydd eisiau dilyn cyrsiau ôl-16 yn y coleg i bontio'n rhwydd a deall yr amrywiaeth o gyfleoedd sydd ar gael iddynt barhau i ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg yn y coleg. I'r disgyblion hynny sy'n dewis mynychu'r coleg, mae geirfaoedd dwyieithog ar gael yn arbennig yn y pynciau STEM, i wneud y cyfnod pontio'n haws.

Yn y sector Addysg Bellach, nid yw'r broses gynllunio'r un peth ag mewn ysgolion/cynghorau. Mae'n rhaid i'r Coleg fynd trwy broses gynllunio strategol gyda'r AdAS a chael cymeradwyaeth yr AdAS am bopeth a wneir.

Un o'r blaenoriaethau presennol yw ymestyn ystod, math a lefelau'r cwrs Gofal Cwsmeriaid cyfrwng Cymraeg *Yr Iaith ar Waith* fel y gellir cynnig y cymhwyster ychwanegol hwn ar draws mwy o feysydd pwnc y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'u nodi'n feysydd i'w datblygu â blaenoriaeth, ar lefelau gwahanol ac mewn sgiliau gwahanol – siarad/darllen ac ysgrifennu.

Mae'r Coleg hefyd yn defnyddio aelodau o'r staff sydd wedi mynychu'r Cynllun Sabothol Iaith Gymraeg i gyflwyno unedau dwyieithog sydd ar gael ar draws cymwysterau prif-ffrwd e.e. Busnes yn 2016-17.

Manylion ychwanegol o waith cydweithredol arfaethedig mewn perthynas â TGAU a

datblygu darpariaeth brif ffrwd ddwyieithog o fewn meysydd Busnes, Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol a Gofal Plant yng Ngholeg y Cymoedd yn ystod 2017-2019.

Ymateb Coleg y Cymoedd

Targedau ar gyfer 2017-18

- Cynnig dosbarth ail-sefyll TGAU Mathemateg cyfrwng Cymraeg (yn amodol ar niferoedd digonol)
- Cynllunio a pharatoi 2 uned ddwyieithog o fewn cyrsiau Ysgol Busnes prif ffrwd er mwyn cynnig dewis i'n myfyrwyr sy'n siarad Cymraeg.
- I lansio cydweithrediad arloesol rhwng Coleg y Cymoedd ac ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg RhCT a Chaerffili mewn partneriaeth draws-sectoraidd, drawsffiniol i ddarparu Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol a Gofal Plant cyfrwng Cymraeg ar Lefelau 2 a 3 erbyn 2018-19 . Mae'r bartneriaeth wedi gwneud cais am gyllid prosiect gan y Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol i gefnogi elfennau o'r gwaith hwn. Gweler isod am bwyntiau Gweithredu a chyfnod amser y prosiect hwn;

Yn Cychwyn: Medi 2017

Cam 1 – Arbenigwyr pwnc o'r Coleg i nodi unedau posibl y gellir / na ellir eu cynnig fel rhan o'r cyrsiau hyn erbyn canol mis Medi

Cam 2 – Cyfarfod cynnydd i drafod y canfyddiadau ddiwedd mis Medi / dechrau mis Hydref

Cam 3 – Cytuno ar amserlen o gyfarfodydd Cymunedau Dysgu Proffesiynol i drafod datblygu adnoddau bob hanner tymor (gyda'r cyfarfod cyntaf i'w gynnal cyn diwedd mis Hydref)

Cam 4 – Ymgyrch farchnata - yn y Coleg, yr ysgolion a'r cymunedau lleol i wneud y dysgwyr yn ymwybodol o'r ddarpariaeth newydd a fydd ar gael o fis Medi 2018 (Ionawr / Chwefror)

Cam 5 – Cyfarfod i drafod lleoli'r staff presennol / recriwtio os nodwyd unrhyw ddiffygion ym mis Mawrth

Cam 6 – Cyfarfod i gytuno ar aelodaeth y Cylch Ansawdd i sicrhau bod aseswyr a dilyswyr mewnol digonol ar gael (Mawrth)

Cam 7 – Trafod a chytuno ar gynnwys cyfres o sesiynau Gwella Iaith (Ebrill)

Cam 8 – Cynnal cyfarfodydd i sicrhau bod y staff a'r adnoddau yn barod i ddechrau eu cyflwyno ym mis Medi a bod cyfleoedd i gynnig lleoliadau gwaith i'r dysgwyr (drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg os yn bosibl) Mai / Mehefin

Cam 9 – Cytuno ar amserlen o bwyntiau monitro yn ystod y flwyddyn i sicrhau gwelliant parhaus (Mehefin)

Cam 10 – Dechrau darparu Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol / Gofal Plant cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y Coleg (Medi 2018)

Cam 11 – Cyhoeddi amserlen o ddyddiadau ar gyfer cwblhau'r gwaith / asesiadau (Medi 2018)

Cam 12 – Gwerthuso'r prosiect drwy ystyried y data ar gynnydd dysgwyr ochr yn ochr ag adborth uniongyrchol gan y dysgwyr eu hunain er mwyn sicrhau gwelliant (Awst 2019)

Partneriaeth 6:

Cafodd y bartneriaeth rhwng Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni ac Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw (Partneriaeth 6) ei chyflwyno fel y bartneriaeth strategol 14-19 cyfrwng Cymraeg rhwng Caerffili, Blaenau Gwent a Thorfaen yn 2006. Mae wedi bod yn bartneriaeth

arloesi ddyfeisgar gan sicrhau Llwybrau Dysgu 14-19 cyfrwng Cymraeg effeithiol iawn. Roedd Partneriaeth 6 yn ddibynnol ar gyllid trwy'r Cynllun Datblygu Rhwydwaith Blynyddol, y Cynllun Datblygu Rhwydwaith Rhanbarthol a grantiau 14-19 cyfrwng Cymraeg nad ydynt ar gael mwyach. Mae angen i Bartneriaeth 6 ganolbwyntio yn awr ar hybu a datblygu'r cwricwlwm ehangach yn unol â Dyfodol Llwyddiannus a datblygiadau pellach mewn Llwybrau Dysgu 14-19.

Byddwn yn ail-lansio Partneriaeth 6 ym mis Ionawr 2017 gyda'r nod o barhau i arwain strwythur cyfrwng Cymraeg arloesol rhagorol ar draws y De-ddwyrain.

Bydd y bartneriaeth rhwng Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni ac Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw yn cael ei hatgyfnerthu trwy wahodd Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed i gydweithredu fel aelod o'r bartneriaeth. Bydd yr ysgolion cynradd sy'n bwydo pob un o'r ysgolion uwchradd yn aelodau cyswllt o'r bartneriaeth. Hefyd caiff Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed ei gwahodd i ymaelodi â Chydbwyllgor Llywodraethwyr Partneriaeth 6.

Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni wedi cael ei chydabod fel ysgol Arloesi ar gyfer Dyfodol Llwyddiannus ac mae'n arwain Rhwydwaith Dyfodol Llwyddiannus Cyfrwng Cymraeg Cymru Gyfan. Wrth gyflwyno'r cais i fod yn ysgol arloesi pwysleisiodd gryfder y bartneriaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg a gallu'r bartneriaeth i gydweithio mewn modd effeithiol wrth ddatblygu a chynllunio'r cwricwlwm. Bydd y bartneriaeth yn meithrin dealltwriaeth ehangach o anghenion y cwricwlwm yng Nghymru ar gyfer y dyfodol trwy gydweithredu ar draws yr ysgolion uwchradd a'u clystyrau.

Bydd Partneriaeth 6 yn cytuno ar dargedau ar gyfer cynyddu niferoedd disgyblion 14-19 cyfrwng Cymraeg trwy sicrhau bod y ddarpariaeth drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg o'r safon uchaf a bod y myfyrwyr yn cael cymwysterau ar y lefel uchaf posibl.

Bydd Partneriaeth 6 yn parhau i arwain strategaethau cyfrwng Cymraeg ar draws y rhanbarth mewn cydweithrediad â'r awdurdodau lleol a'r Gwasanaeth Cyflawni Addysg (EAS):

- ✚ Y system addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y De-ddwyrain i gael ei chydabod yn genedlaethol fel enghraifft arloesol / ardderchog o arferion da.
- ✚ Disgwylir i ddisgyblion yn y bartneriaeth gael canlyniadau sy'n gymaradwy â'r gorau yng Nghymru.

Deilliant 5: Mwy o fyfyrwyr â sgiliau uwch yn y Gymraeg

Y sefyllfa bresennol	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
<p>Cymraeg:</p> <p>1 myfyriwr wedi'i gofrestru ar gwrs Lefel UG yn CA5 yn 2015</p> <p>3 myfyriwr wedi'u cofrestru ar gyrsiau Lefel A yn CA5 yn 2015</p> <p>Cymraeg Ail iaith:</p> <p>4 myfyriwr wedi'u cofrestru ar gyrsiau Lefel UG yn CA5 yn 2015</p> <p>19 myfyriwr wedi'u cofrestru ar gyrsiau Lefel A yn CA5 yn 2015</p>	Ni ddisgwylir unrhyw gynnydd	3%	5%

Bydd targedau ystyrlon ar gyfer disgyblion yn cyflawni TGAU Cymraeg ail iaith yn

cael eu cynnwys yn y diweddariad ym mis Rhagfyr 2017. Cafwyd oedi oherwydd newidiadau mewn cymwysterau a gyflwynwyd a'r angen am osod targedau ystyrlon gydag ysgolion yn ystod y cyfnod pontio hwn. Mae gan y Gwasanaeth Cyflawni Addysg rôl a chyfrifoldeb wrth gyflwyno'r Grant Gwella Addysg a darparu her ddigonol i ysgolion. Felly eu cyfrifoldeb yw gosod targedau priodol gydag ysgolion i sicrhau ein bod yn gweithio tuag at y targed o 1 miliwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050.

Ein pum amcan er mwyn cyflawni'r deiliant hwn yw:

1. Gwella safonau llythrennedd ar y +1 disgwylidig ym mhob Cyfnod Allweddol ar gyfer Cymraeg iaith gyntaf i gael effaith ar y perfformiad TGAU A*-A gan arwain at niferoedd uwch ar gyfer Lefel A.
2. Cynyddu niferoedd Lefel UG/A mewn ysgolion cyfrwng Saesneg a mynd ati i gydweithredu i sicrhau y gall disgyblion ddilyn cwrs Cymraeg Ail Iaith Lefel UG/A.
3. Annog ysgolion cyfrwng Saesneg i gynyddu'r ddarpariaeth ffurfiol ac anffurfiol ar gyfer Cymraeg Ail Iaith yn CA3 a CA4 fel bod y ganran sy'n dilyn Cwrs Llawn TGAU yn codi o 42% (llinell sylfaen 2015) a bod y ddwy iaith yn cael eu defnyddio'n helaeth fel cyfryngau cyfathrebu
4. Annog ysgolion cyfrwng Saesneg i gofrestru bron pob disgybl ar Gwrs Cymraeg Llawn TGAU pan gaiff y Cwrs Byr presennol ei dynnu'n ôl yn 2018 (ar hyn o bryd nid oes yn rhaid i ddisgyblion gael eu cofrestru ar gyfer unrhyw arholiad Cymraeg Ail Iaith) a chynllunio ar gyfer gweithredu Dyfodol Llwyddiannus i sicrhau cymhwysedd rhyngweithredol i bob disgybl 16 oed.
5. Annog Cymwysterau Cymru a CBAC gyda chymorth Llywodraeth Cymru i ddarparu ystod addas o gymwysterau Cymraeg iaith Gyntaf Lefel 3.

Mae'r perfformiad mewn Cymraeg iaith Gyntaf / llythrennedd yn gryf yn y Cyfnod Sylfaen a CA2; mae'r perfformiad yn well na pherfformiad Cymru ar y lefel ddisgwylidig yn y ddau gyfnod allweddol. Er mwyn cynnal a pharhau i wella, yn enwedig deilliannau ar y +1 disgwylidig, gall ysgolion fanteisio ar amrywiaeth o raglenni llythrennedd a DPP Cymraeg trwy eu hymwneud â rhwydwaith llythrennedd rhanbarthol EAS a chymorth uniongyrchol gan gynghorydd llythrennedd Cymraeg (CS-CA4). Mae'r rhaglenni sydd ar gael ar hyn o bryd yn cynnwys menter 'Cyfathrebu'n Gyntaf' ar gyfer llythrennedd yn y Cyfnod Sylfaen a rhaglenni 'Ar Lafar', 'Y Darllenwr Dygn', 'Ditectifs Darllen' a 'Seiliau Sgrifennu' sydd i gyd wedi'u bwriadu i ddatblygu llythrennedd ym mhob un o'r targedau cyrhaeddiad ar draws yr holl gyfnodau. Mae cymorth ysgol i ysgol strwythuredig ar gael i'r ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg ar draws y rhanbarth trwy drefniadau cymorth llythrennedd consortiwm y De-ddwyrain gydag ysgolion arweiniol ar gyfer llythrennedd yn arwain agweddau ar y rhaglenni DPP cynlluniedig a nodir. Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn ysgol Arloesi'r Cwricwlwm a'r Fargen Newydd a fydd hefyd yn arwain a chefnogi'r gwaith o ddatblygu llythrennedd ar draws y rhanbarth.

Yn ogystal â dull trylwyr o asesu ar gyfer dysgu ac asesu dysgu, gan gynnwys cymedroli mewnol ac ar lefel clystyrau, bydd mabwysiadu menter y *Siarter Iaith* o fis Medi 2016 ymlaen yn cynorthwyo ysgolion i wella hyder a chymhwysedd disgyblion wrth ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg yn yr ystafell ddosbarth a'r tu allan iddi, gan alluogi ysgolion i gynnal eu deilliannau da. Bydd ysgolion cynradd yn cyflawni safon aur y *Siarter* erbyn mis Gorffennaf 2019 a bydd ysgolion uwchradd yn cymryd rhan yn y

prosiect Cefnogi Arferion Pobl Ifanc o hydref 2016 ymlaen.

Mae'r perfformiad mewn Cymraeg Ail Iaith yn CA2 yn gryf ond mae'r perfformiad yn CA3 yn waeth na pherfformiad Cymru. Bydd yr EAS yn monitro'r ddarpariaeth yn CA3 a CA4 ac yn adrodd i'r Cynghorwyr Herio a'r ALI ar ddyrannu amser a statws niferoedd grwpiau opsiynau bob blwyddyn.

Bydd ysgolion uwchradd yn cael eu hannog i ddarparu digon o amser i astudio'r Gymraeg fel ail iaith yn unol â'r TGAU Cymraeg newydd a gaiff ei haddysgu o fis Medi 2017 ymlaen ac â gofynion y cwricwlwm newydd i sicrhau cymhwysedd rhyngweithredol ar ddiwedd CA4 i bob disgybl ym mhob agwedd ar fywyd yr ysgol. Cymraeg Cwrs Byr fydd yr unig TGAU a gynigir o 2018 ymlaen wedi i Gymraeg Cwrs Byr gael ei dynnu'n ôl, a fydd yn darparu sylfaen gadarnach ar gyfer symud ymlaen i Lefel UG a Lefel A. Fodd bynnag, bydd statws di-graidd presennol y Gymraeg mewn ysgolion cyfrwng Saesneg yn parhau tan 2021. Rhaid i ddisgyblion astudio'r Gymraeg hyd nes eu bod yn 16 oed ond nid oes gofyniad iddynt sefyll arholiad allanol yn Gymraeg. Bydd hyn yn parhau i fod yn rhwystr mawr i dwf astudio'r Gymraeg i Lefel A.

Mae llawer yn dweud bod yr arholiadau presennol sydd ar gael i fyfyrwyr 16-19 oed, yn arbennig ar gyfer y Gymraeg, yn fwyaf priodol i'r myfyrwyr mwy academiaidd. Mae hyn wedi cael effaith ar y nifer sy'n eu sefyll. Mae Caerffili'n croesawu'r cyfle i ofyn i Cwricwlwm Cymru adolygu'r ystod o gymwysterau ar gyfer y Gymraeg er mwyn sicrhau apêl ehangach a gwneud cyrsiau Cymraeg yn berthnasol i fyd gwaith heddiw. Er enghraifft, byddai gan gwrs galwedigaethol Lefel 3 mewn Cymraeg Proffesiynol apêl eang a byddai nifer fawr yn ei ddilyn.

Nid yw'r targed i gynyddu nifer yr ymgeiswyr sy'n cael Lefel A Cymraeg yn darged perthnasol neu gyflawnadwy i'w ystyried yng nghyd-destun ein hangen lleol o gofio'r cymhwyster presennol sydd ar gael. Cydnabyddir mai'r cwrs Lefel A Cymraeg Iaith Gyntaf yw un o'r pynciau Lefel A mwyaf academiaidd sy'n cael eu hastudio, ac felly mae'n anodd annog myfyrwyr abl i astudio'r cwrs pan maent yn ymwybodol o'r gofynion academiaidd o gymharu â'r pynciau Lefel A eraill.

Mae'r Gymraeg yn boblogaidd iawn gyda'r disgyblion yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni a byddai twf sylweddol yn y nifer yn astudio cwrs Cymraeg Lefel 3 pe bai ystod o gyrsiau addas ar gael. Gall ysgolion gynnig cyrsiau Lefel A mewn Saesneg Iaith, Saesneg Iaith a Llenyddiaeth a Llenyddiaeth Saesneg, ond dim ond un cwrs Lefel A Cymraeg Iaith Gyntaf y gall ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg ei gynnig. Mae'n amlwg bod diffyg cydraddoldeb sylfaenol yn y ddarpariaeth cymwysterau Lefel A i'r Gymraeg yng Nghymru o gymharu â'r Saesneg.

Wrth ystyried sut mae dysgwyr yn cael eu paratoi ar gyfer y gweithle yng Nghaerffili a rhanbarth y De-ddwyrain mae angen inni ystyried mwy o gyfleoedd i'n pobl ifanc 16-19 oed fanteisio ar gyrsiau perthnasol a fydd yn eu paratoi ar gyfer byd gwaith ac i ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg yn yr amgylchedd gweithio. Credwn fod angen inni ddatblygu ystod o gyrsiau Lefel 3 addas i fyfyrwyr sydd eisiau parhau i astudio'r Gymraeg a gallu defnyddio'r iaith yn y gweithle ond na allant ymdopi â gofynion academiaidd iawn y cwrs Lefel A Cymraeg Iaith Gyntaf presennol. Gallai'r cyrsiau hyn fod yn rhai galwedigaethol gydag unedau penodol ar ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg wrth gyfathrebu'n

effeithiol yn y gwaith.

Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn parhau i ddarparu cwrs iaith mewnol, ar-lein wedi'i bersonoli i wella ymhellach safonau llythrennedd Cymraeg y staff ar bob lefel yn yr ysgol. Mae Ysgol y Gymraeg ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd yn defnyddio hyn i adnabod anghenion y staff am ragor o hyfforddiant, gan sicrhau bod y disgyblion yn cael eu haddysgu gan athrawon sy'n fodolau iaith da. Mae'r strategaeth ar gyfer gwella sgiliau llythrennedd y staff wedi profi'n effeithiol iawn. Mae unigolyn â gradd yn y Gymraeg wedi cael ei benodi i hwyluso'r strategaeth trwy gynorthwyo i fentora'r staff a chynorthwyo'r staff trwy fonitro safon ieithyddol taflenni gwaith a chyflwyniadau. Mae'r ysgolion cynradd sy'n ei bwydo hefyd yn manteisio ar y cyfleuster hwn.

Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn parhau i fod yn ysgol rhwydwaith arweiniol ar gyfer leithoedd Tramor Modern yn rhanbarth y De-ddwyrain (gydag Ysgol Gyfun Coed Duon) ac yn cael buddsoddiad sylweddol i hybu astudio ieithoedd. Mae datblygu llythrennedd triphlyg yn ganolog i'w gwaith.

Bydd grwpiau lleol Urdd Gobaith Cymru a'r Fenter Iaith yn cydweithio ag ysgolion a'r gymuned i ddarparu cyfleoedd i arfer eu sgiliau Cymraeg mewn sefyllfaoedd llai ffurfiol. Bydd disgyblion o ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg a Saesneg yn gallu achub ar amrywiaeth o gyfleoedd i arfer eu sgiliau Cymraeg mewn lleoliadau ffurfiol a heb fod yn ffurfiol.

Mae Urdd Gobaith Cymru'n cynnig amrywiaeth o ddigwyddiadau chwaraeon â chysylltiadau ag ysgolion cynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg a Saesneg, gan gynnwys rygbi, pêl-droed, pêl-rwyd, nofio, gymnasteg, rygbi tag a chriced. Mae Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd yn cynnig cyfle i gystadlu mewn amrywiaeth o gystadlaethau gan gynnwys canu, dawnsio ac adrodd. Ceir teithiau preswyl i'r tair canolfan yn Llangrannog, Glan-llyn a Chaerdydd.

I ysgolion uwchradd mae Swyddog Ieuenctid Cymraeg yn gweithio yn yr ardal gyda swyddfa yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni, a gyd-ariennir trwy'r Urdd, y Fenter Iaith a Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili. Mae'n cynorthwyo â'r clybiau wythnosol yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn ogystal â digwyddiadau chwaraeon ar draws ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg a Saesneg. Ynghyd ag Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd a theithiau preswyl cafwyd teithiau i wledydd tramor gyda disgyblion Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni i Disneyland Paris a Sbaen a Fforwm Ieuenctid Cymraeg. Bwriedir cynnal amrywiaeth o deithiau dydd ar draws ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg a Saesneg yn ogystal â chyfleoedd i wirfoddoli ac achrediad i gynorthwyo pobl ifanc i ddefnyddio ac arfer y Gymraeg y tu allan i'r ystafell ddosbarth. Hefyd mae'r Swyddog Ieuenctid yn cefnogi clwb wythnosol yn YMCA Bargod a gwaith ymgynghori.

Mae Menter Iaith Sir Caerffili ac Urdd Gobaith Cymru yn gweithio'n gydweithredol ac yn annibynnol i ddarparu amrywiaeth o gyfleoedd i blant a phobl ifanc ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg y tu allan i'r ysgol mewn nifer o weithdai a chlybiau yn ystod y tymor a gwyliau'r ysgol. Mae'r ddarpariaeth hon yn cynnwys y cyfleoedd canlynol a ddarperir gan y Fenter Iaith:

- Sgwad Sgwennu tymhorol

- Gweithdai celf a chreffft, coginio yn ystod holl wyliau'r ysgol
- Sesiynau Miri Meithrin yn ystod holl wyliau'r ysgol – sesiynau chwarae gydag amrywiaeth o weithgareddau a stondinau gwybodaeth i rieni a phlant
- Gweithgareddau awyr agored mewn parciau lleol
- Gweithdai mewn partneriaeth â'r Tŷ Weindio, Tredegar Newydd

Mae'r ddarpariaeth a'r gwaith partneriaethol yn barhaus ac mae'r rhaglen yn datblygu o hyd. Fodd bynnag, cyfyngedig yw'r cyllid ar gyfer y cyfleoedd hyn ac mae'n dibynnu ar y Fenter Iaith yn sicrhau ffynonellau cyllid. Bydd y Fenter Iaith yn parhau i chwilio am ffynonellau cyllid eraill er mwyn cynnal y ddarpariaeth.

Deiliant 6: Darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg i ddisgyblion ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol (ADY)

Ein hamcanion er mwyn cyflawni'r deiliant hwn yw:

1. Datblygu fforwm ADY arbenigol Cymraeg rhanbarthol fel is-grŵp i Fforwm rhanbarthol y Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg i gefnogi arferion gorau a dymchwel rhwystrau i ddisgyblion ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol fynychu ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg.
2. Cynnal archwiliad o weithwyr proffesiynol Cymraeg eu hiaith ar draws y rhanbarth er mwyn paratoi ar gyfer y fforwm arbenigol rhanbarthol.
3. Gwerthuso effaith Diwygio ADY a'r Cod Ymarfer newydd.

Mae darpariaeth arbenigol Ysgolion Cynradd wedi bod yn darparu gwasanaeth llwyddiannus am gyfnod hir. Yn unol â Pholisi AAA Caerffili mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r disgyblion mewn addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg sydd ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol yn cael eu haddysgu mewn lleoliadau prif-ffrwd. Gall disgyblion oedran cynradd mewn ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg sydd ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol gael cyngor a chymorth gan amrywiaeth o wasanaethau arbenigol. Mae Athro Ymgynghorol, Seicolegydd Addysg a thri Athro Arbenigol yn siarad Cymraeg. I ddisgyblion oedran cynradd sydd ag anghenion mwy cymhleth mae canolfan adnoddau arbenigol yn Ysgol Cwm Derwen.

Mae gan Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni Adran Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol (ADY) y cydnabyddir ei bod yn effeithiol iawn wrth ddeall anghenion yr holl ddisgyblion ag ADY cyn iddynt ddefnyddio cyfleusterau'r ysgol. Mae disgyblion sydd ag ADY yn manteisio ar drefniadau pontio hirsefydlog ardderchog rhwng yr ysgolion cynradd sy'n bwydo â'r adran gan sicrhau pontio didrafferth i'r plant mwyaf bregus.

Gall yr ysgol fanteisio ar asesiadau a chymorth seicoleg addysg, cymorth ymddygiad, athro ymgynghorol, athro anawsterau dysgu penodol, therapydd iaith a lleferydd a gwasanaethau eraill. Ar hyn o bryd mae'r athro ymgynghorol a Seicolegydd Addysg sydd newydd ei benodi yn siarad Cymraeg. Fodd bynnag, maent i gyd yn cynorthwyo ac yn hyfforddi'r staff cyfrwng Cymraeg gan alluogi'r staff cyfrwng Cymraeg i gynorthwyo a meithrin ein plant mwyaf bregus mewn modd effeithiol.

Mae'r cyfleusterau yn yr Adran ADY yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni (safle Gelli Haf) yn cynnwys amrywiaeth o ystafelloedd, un ohonynt wedi'i dynodi'n ystafell ystyriol o Anhywlder ar y Sbectrwm Awtistig.

Mae tair elfen wahanol i'r Adran ADY yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni:
Anghenion Cymhleth

- Y Ganolfan
- Hafan
- Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol Cyffredinol

Mae gan yr adran uned anghenion cymhleth hirsefydlog (Y Ganolfan). Diben y Ganolfan yw cynnig cymorth gwahaniaethol ac unigoledig i ddisgyblion fanteisio ar gymaint o'r cwricwlwm ag sy'n bosibl. Mae'r Ganolfan yn rhoi iddynt amgylchedd diogel, hapus a meithringar lle mae'r cymorth yn canolbwyntio ar ddatblygu sgiliau annibynnol a sgiliau cymdeithasol a gwella hunan-dyb y disgyblion. Mae'r Ganolfan yn fan dawel, ac mae'r pwyslais ar wobrwyo disgyblion am eu cyflawniadau. Mae'r Ganolfan yn rhedeg 'Rhaglen Defnyddio Iaith yn Gymdeithasol' lwyddiannus iawn i'r disgyblion hynny sydd angen gwella eu sgiliau cyfathrebu.

Mae'r adran wedi sefydlu darpariaeth i gynorthwyo ein plant y canfuwyd bod ganddynt anawsterau cymdeithasol, emosiynol ac ymddygiadol cymhleth. Mae'r Hafan yn cynnwys ystafell sydd wedi'i chynllunio'n arbennig ac yn cael ei staffio gan athrawon a chynorthwywyr cymorth dysgu hyfforddedig a phrofiadol. Mae'r ddarpariaeth yn unigoledig iawn a'i nod yw nodi a gwella datblygiad emosiynol y dysgwyr trwy addysgu ymddygiadau sy'n fwy derbyniol yn gymdeithasol. Mae'r dysgwyr yn mynd i'r Hafan am ran o'r dydd ac yn treulio gweddill y dydd yn eu dosbarth 'arferol'. Mae hyd yr amser maent allan o'u dosbarthiadau'n dibynnu ar y dysgwr unigol a'i anghenion.

Mae dysgwyr â datganiadau anghenion addysgol arbennig yn cael cymorth yn y dosbarth ac mewn gweithgareddau cymorth ychwanegol. Mae'r myfyrwyr hyn hefyd yn cael eu monitro, adolygu a chymorth rheolaidd a gosodir targedau ar gyfer gwella trwy Gynlluniau Addysg Unigol a Chynllunio sy'n Canolbwyntio ar yr Unigolyn. Mae myfyrwyr eraill sydd ag anghenion ychwanegol wedi'u nodi'n cael eu cynorthwyo a'u monitro'n rheolaidd trwy Gynlluniau Addysg Unigol a Chynlluniau sy'n Canolbwyntio ar yr Unigolyn.

Mae gan yr ysgol strategaeth sgiliau sylfaenol sydd â'r nod o hyrwyddo a datblygu sgiliau llythrennedd y disgybl. Mae'n gwneud hyn trwy gynnig cwricwlwm ehangach o weithgareddau sy'n cynnwys y cwricwlwm hanes, daearyddiaeth ac astudiaethau crefyddol a chanolbwyntio ar fireinio eu sgiliau iaith. Yn ddiau mae'r cwrs yn cryfhau sgiliau cyfathrebu llafar ac ysgrifenedig y disgybl. Mae'r disgyblion yn dod yn ymwybodol o bwysigrwydd nodweddion penodol iaith fel atalnodi a pharagraffau, nid yn unig mewn perthynas â'r Gymraeg a'r Saesneg, ond hefyd mewn perthynas â'r pynciau unigol. Mae'r disgyblion yn sylweddoli bod pob pwnc yn galw am sgiliau iaith o'r un lefel. Mae'r adran ADY yn cynorthwyo â gwaith Sgiliau Sylfaenol Cyfnod Allweddol 3, gan gysylltu â'r strategaeth Cyfnod Allweddol 3 gyffredinol sydd wedi canolbwyntio ar amrywiaeth fawr o ddatblygiadau. Roedd y rhain yn cynnwys tynnu myfyrwyr Blynnyddoedd 7, 8 a 9 allan o'r dosbarth ar gyfer gwaith llythrennedd a/neu rifedd ychwanegol.

Mae disgyblion ADY yng Nghyfnod Allweddol 4 yn dilyn amrywiaeth o gyrsiau galwedigaethol, gan eu galluogi i gymryd rhan yn y fframwaith cymwysterau cenedlaethol. Cynhelir cysylltiadau clos gyda Gyrfa Cymru a darparwyr addysg ôl-

16.

Mae'r ysgol wedi datblygu cwricwlwm ôl-16 i ddisgyblion ADY gan eu galluogi i barhau mewn addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg ac ar yr un pryd cael eu paratoi'n effeithiol ar gyfer byd gwaith a bywyd ar ôl addysg ffurfiol. Mae'r cwricwlwm wedi'i deilwra i anghenion yr unigolyn ac fel arfer bydd yn cynnwys dilyn cwrs galwedigaethol a pharhau i ddatblygu llythrennedd a rhifedd. Rhoddir pwyslais penodol ar feithrin mwy o ddealltwriaeth o sgiliau byw a chyfathrebu effeithiol.

Mae'r rhwydwaith ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg wedi sefydlu cymuned dysgu broffesiynol drawsranbarthol o amgylch y ddarpariaeth ADY cyfrwng Cymraeg, dan arweiniad Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni.

Mae'r Adran ADY ac yn arbennig y ddarpariaeth anghenion cymhleth yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni ac Ysgol Gynradd Cwm Derwen yn fodel o'r arferion gorau a gellid ei datblygu'n rhanbarthol gyda chydweithrediad oddi wrth yr awdurdodau eraill.

Mae gweithwyr ADY proffesiynol profiadol ac effeithiol iawn weddi'u dosbarthu ar draws y rhanbarth, mae hyn yn cynnwys y Gwasanaeth Synhwyrdd a Chyfathrebu rhanbarthol. Mae'r grŵp ADY rhanbarthol o arbenigwyr awdurdodau lleol a'r Gwasanaeth Cyflawni Addysg eisoes wedi cyfarfod i ddechrau archwilio arbenigedd ac ymagweddau rhanbarthol. Caiff hyn ei ffurfioli a'i wella i ffurfio is-grŵp y Fforwm Addysg Gymraeg rhanbarthol gyda'r ffocws ar adeiladu ar yr arferion gorau presennol ac ymarferwyr arbenigol i ddatblygu ateb rhanbarthol ar y cyd i sicrhau bod pob plentyn ag ADY yn cael ei gefnogi yn eu darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg.

Deilliant 7: Cynllunio'r gweithlu a datblygiad proffesiynol parhaus.

Ein hamcanion er mwyn cyflawni'r deilliant hwn yw:

1. Bydd EAS yn cynnal archwiliad o sgiliau Cymraeg ymarferwyr (athrawon a chynorthwyrwyr addysgu) mewn ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg a Saesneg a Chylchoedd Meithrin bob blwyddyn er mwyn asesu'r anghenion hyfforddiant.
2. Bydd EAS yn llunio cynllun systematig i ryddhau aelodau o'r staff ar gyfer hyfforddiant y Cynllun Sabothol mewn cydweithrediad ag ysgolion a chlystyrau.
3. Bydd cynlluniau gwella ysgolion yn dangos ymrwymiad i wella sgiliau ieithyddol ymarferwyr, gan gydweithio â Swyddogion Cymraeg mewn Addysg (ysgolion cyfrwng Saesneg) a thrwy gynllunio i ryddhau aelodau o'r staff mewn modd systematig i ddilyn hyfforddiant y Cynllun Sabothol (ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg a Saesneg) yn unol â dadansoddiad o'r anghenion.
4. Gwella sgiliau methodolegol ymarferwyr trwy waith Swyddogion Cymraeg mewn Addysg a thrwy fentrau ysgol i ysgol wedi'u cynllunio.
5. Datblygu strategaeth cynllunio ar gyfer olyniaeth i dimau arwain ysgolion gan ddefnyddio ymagwedd ranbarthol at y ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg.
6. Parhau i ddefnyddio'r Ffordd i Ddwyieithrwydd a darparu hyfforddiant i ymarferwyr y Blynyddoedd Cynnar er mwyn gwella sgiliau Cymraeg y sector gofal plant.

(yn berthnasol i weithred 2.3, 2.4&6.3 yn Strategaeth Cymraeg Pum Mlynedd Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili)

Cynhelir cwrs Cymraeg i Ymarferwyr y Blynyddoedd Cynnar ddwywaith y flwyddyn am 6 wythnos i wella eu sgiliau Cymraeg a chynorthwyo plant mewn lleoliadau gofal plant i gaffael y Gymraeg. Mae hwn yn gwrs poblogaidd ac yn haf 2016 roedd 20 o bobl arno.

Bach yw'r niferoedd sy'n manteisio ar hyfforddiant y Cynllun Sabothol yn y rhanbarth ar hyn o bryd (ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg a Saesneg) ac nid yw hyn yn cael ei gynllunio'n strategol. Felly bydd Caerffili yn gweithio gyda'r EAS ac ysgolion i gynllunio ar gyfer rhyddhau aelodau o'r staff a chynorthwywyr addysgu mewn modd systematig i ddilyn hyfforddiant Cynllun Sabothol Llywodraeth Cymru er mwyn ymateb i'r anghenion a nodir yn yr archwiliadau o sgiliau Cymraeg a gynhaliwyd. Mae'n bosibl y mabwysiadir ymagwedd clwstwr wrth glwstwr. Bydd gwella sgiliau iaith y staff, yn arbennig mewn ysgolion cyfrwng Saesneg yng Nghaerffili, yn hanfodol i wireddu gweledigaeth Dyfodol Llwyddiannus a symud ymlaen gydag agenda Miliwn o Siaradwyr 2015. Mae gan Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni raglen o gymorth i'w staff, a ddefnyddir ochr yn ochr â'r Cynllun Sabothol i gynorthwyo â datblygiad ieithyddol.

Mae cydweithredu iach ar draws ysgolion yng Nghaerffili a thrwy'r model gweithio rhanbarthol. Mae rhaglen DPP Cymraeg gynyddol (llythrennedd) ar gael i ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg oddi wrth yr EAS ac mae ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg arweiniol yn rhannu arferion da mewn rhaglen ar y cyd a drefnir yn ganolog o gymorth ymgynghorol ac mewn ysgolion (methodoleg). Hefyd mae rhaglen ysgol i ysgol ranbarthol i gynorthwyo athrawon i anelu at ragoriaeth mewn ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg o'r enw '*Anelu at Ragoriaeth*'. Gall ysgolion cynradd cyfrwng Saesneg fanteisio ar raglen DPP eang ac amrywiol trwy raglen yr EAS o hyfforddiant iaith a methodoleg. Mae rhaglen ymyrraeth dargededig yn bodoli hefyd ar gyfer ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd penodol i wella ethos Cymreig ysgolion ac iaith / methodoleg ymarferwyr. Mae Cynghorwyr Herio'r Gwasanaeth Cyflawni Addysg yn annog ysgolion i fanteisio ar yr ystod eang o gyfleoedd hyfforddi y mae'n eu cynnig. Bydd angen i bob is-grŵp Rhanbarthol y Fforwm Addysg Gymraeg ystyried gofynion hyfforddiant a sgiliau iaith Gymraeg staff o fewn eu ffocws penodol. Yn yr is-grŵp Blynyddoedd Cynnar bydd ffocws ar gysylltu â'r is-grŵp 14-19 o ran datblygu digon o ymarferwyr gofal plant i lenwi'r galw cynyddol yn y sector ar gyfer staff cymwys sy'n siarad Cymraeg. Gyda chyfrifoldeb am y Grant Gwella Addysg a chodi safonau ysgolion, mae gan y Gwasanaeth Cyflawni Addysg rôl a chyfrifoldeb dros sicrhau bod digon o siaradwyr Cymraeg ym mhob ysgol i ddarparu cymwysterau cyfrwng Cymraeg a chymwysterau Cymraeg ail iaith ac felly'n gweithio i gynyddu nifer y siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050.

Gall pob ysgol fanteisio ar raglenni arweinyddiaeth yr EAS (Paratoi at Brifathrawiaeth, CPCP). Mae cymorth ar gyfer arweinyddiaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg trwy raglenni partneriaeth cymheiriaid rhanbarthol a hwylusir secondiadau rhanbarthol lle bo'n briodol. Mae ysgolion uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg y rhanbarth yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth gref, gan drafod recriwtio yn rheolaidd. Er mwyn recriwtio cynorthwywyr addysgu Cymraeg, mae angen i ysgolion uwchradd y rhanbarth drafod darparu cyrsiau addas (e.e. CACHE) i ddisgyblion, yn enwedig yng ngoleuni ymgynghoriad diweddar gan Lywodraeth Cymru ar gyllid yn y dyfodol yn ogystal â defnyddio Lefelau 2 a 3 Gofal, Dysgu a Datblygiad Plant y FfCCh, a ddefnyddir yn helaethach. Mae'r cwrs hwn yn ddefnyddiol i gynorthwywyr addysgu mewn ysgolion

ac i ymarferwyr gofal plant y mae eu hangen i weithredu Cynnig Gofal Plant Llywodraeth Cymru erbyn 2020. Ar hyn o bryd mae'r cyrsiau hyn yn cael eu cyllido trwy'r llwybr prentisiaethau i bobl ifanc 16-24 oed a'r prosiect Cynnydd ar gyfer Llwyddiant a ariennir gan Gronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop, er mai cyfyngedig yw'r cyrsiau a ddarperir trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ac eithrio yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni, Cam Wrth Gam a Choleg Gwent.

Er mwyn inni allu sicrhau bod gennym weithlu digonol sy'n siarad Cymraeg ar draws yr ystod o gyfrifoldebau yn ein holl ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg, byddwn yn datblygu strategaeth effeithiol ar ddatblygu staff lle gallwn ganfod darpar ymarferwyr addas sydd â'r gallu i ddatblygu fel gweithwyr addysg proffesiynol ac ymarferwyr effeithiol a all ddatblygu cyfrifoldebau arweinyddiaeth ar bob lefel.

Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn un o Ysgolion Arloesi y Fargen Newydd ac o'r herwydd mae dyletswydd arni i sicrhau y gall pob ymarferydd proffesiynol gael profiad o ddysgu proffesiynol effeithiol. Rhaid iddi eu galluogi i ddatblygu'n barhaus, gwella eu harweinyddiaeth a'u dealltwriaeth o addysgeg ymarferol ac yn arbennig cynorthwyo â datblygu'r cwricwlwm newydd. Fel un o Ysgolion Arloesi y Fargen Newydd mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn cael budd o gydweithredu â'r EAS wrth ddatblygu, hybu a darparu cyfleoedd datblygiad proffesiynol trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn y rhanbarth ac ar draws rhanbarthau eraill.

Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn arwain y Rhwydwaith cyfrwng Cymraeg Dyfodol Llwyddiannus lle mae hyd at 40 o ysgolion ar draws Cymru'n cydweithredu o fewn y fframwaith rhanbarthol a chenedlaethol wrth ddatblygu cwricwlwm newydd i Gymru. Nod y rhwydwaith yw sicrhau y bydd gan yr holl aelodau ddealltwriaeth ddigonol o'r cwricwlwm newydd ac y byddant wedi cael digon o brofiadau datblygiadol i'w galluogi i gyflawni'r cwricwlwm newydd ym mis Medi 2018.

Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn ganolog i drefniadaeth a gweithrediad rhwydwaith ysgolion uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg y De-ddwyrain (CYDAG De-ddwyrain Cymru). Mae CYDAG De-ddwyrain Cymru yn cynnwys 17 ysgol uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg ar draws tri rhanbarth (Canolbarth y De, EAS ac ERW). Mae'r rhwydwaith yn cydweithredu wrth drefnu amrywiaeth o ddigwyddiadau gan gynnwys diwrnodau HMS ar y cyd.

Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn cydweithredu ag ysgolion uwchradd Arloesi cyfrwng Cymraeg eraill y Fargen Newydd yn y De, fel aelod o rwydwaith cyfrwng Cymraeg y Fargen Newydd (Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg (y Barri), Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr (Abertawe), Ysgol Gyfun Strade (Llanelli), Ysgol Gyfun Bro Pedr (Llanbedr Pont Steffan) ac Ysgol Gyfun Preseli (Sir Benfro)). Mae'r cyfleoedd pellgyrhaeddol hyn i rwydweithio ar draws ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg y De yn galluogi Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni i gydweithredu â'r mwyafrif helaeth o weithwyr proffesiynol a darpar weithwyr proffesiynol Cymraeg eu hiaith wrth ddatblygu arferion proffesiynol effeithiol a chanfod arweinwyr y dyfodol. Felly gall Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni gael budd o gydweithredu ar draws y sector cyfrwng Cymraeg a gyda'r EAS i sicrhau bod y cyfleoedd datblygiad proffesiynol mwyaf effeithiol ar gael i'r staff yn y rhanbarth ac ar draws rhanbarthau eraill.

Bydd Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn arwain y strategaeth datblygiad proffesiynol cyfrwng Cymraeg ar draws Partneriaeth 6 (partneriaeth gydweithredol rhwng Ysgol

Gyfun Cwm Rhymni, Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw ac Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed). Felly bydd y bartneriaeth yn cael budd o ddatblygiadau a strategaethau arloesol sydd â'r nod o annog pob aelod o'r staff i gyflawni ei botensial a bydd hefyd yn ein galluogi i ddatblygu cynllunio effeithiol ar gyfer olyniaeth ar bob lefel.

Bydd y bartneriaeth yn datblygu cyfleoedd i alluogi ein holl staff i gyflawni eu potensial:

- ✚ Arwain a chynllunio'r strwythurau hyfforddi staff yn y rhanbarth ac ar draws rhanbarthau eraill yn unol â'r Fargen Newydd.
- ✚ Parhau i arwain strategaethau addysgol arloesol
- ✚ Gwneud defnydd effeithiol o'r arbenigedd addysgol sydd ar gael yn y rhanbarth ac ar draws rhanbarthau eraill
- ✚ Sicrhau cyfleoedd i athrawon arsylwi ar gymheiriaid
- ✚ Parhau i arwain Cymunedau Dysgu Proffesiynol
- ✚ Cynnal diwrnodau hyfforddiant mewn swydd ar y cyd o fewn y bartneriaeth ac ar draws rhanbarthau eraill
- ✚ Datblygu Cymunedau Dysgu Proffesiynol perthnasol o fewn y bartneriaeth ac ar draws rhanbarthau eraill
- ✚ Cydweithredu ar strategaeth i atgyfnerthu safonau llythrennedd athrawon a staff cymorth

Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn datblygu Cynllun Strategol i'r tîm Cefnogi Addysg. Mae'r gwaith o ddatblygu ein tîm Cymorth Addysgol Ychwanegol Estynedig yn ganolog i'r cynllun strategol hirdymor i gynnwys yr holl staff fel cyfranwyr i ddatblygiad addysgol ein disgyblion. Rydym yn derbyn bod gan bob aelod o staff yr ysgol gyfraniad i'w wneud tuag at ddatblygiad addysgol ein disgyblion ac felly mae angen inni gydnabod y cyfraniad hwnnw ar lefel briodol. Bydd Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn arwain y Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg ar gyfer y tîm Cefnogi Addysg ar draws Partneriaeth 6. Mae'r strategaeth hon yn sicrhau y bydd pobl sydd ag uchelgais i ddatblygu'n cael cyfleoedd i barhau i ddatblygu trwy wneud cyfraniad sylweddol i'n disgyblion wrth iddynt gyflawni eu potensial.

Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn hyfforddi darpar gynorthwyr ystafell ddosbarth. Mae nifer sylweddol o'r ymarferwyr sy'n cael eu cyflogi ar hyn o bryd yn ysgolion cynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg Caerffili a'r rhanbarth wedi cael eu hyfforddi gan Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni. Mae'r ysgol hefyd yn cynorthwyo â hyfforddi ymarferwyr dan hyfforddiant yn y gweithle. Mae'r ysgol yn hyfforddi darpar gynorthwyr gweinyddu ysgolion ac yn annog ei holl staff gweinyddol i ddilyn cyrsiau datblygu hyd at a chan gynnwys lefel gradd. Mae'n bwriadu hybu'r strategaeth hon er mwyn cynorthwyo â datblygu ymhellach staff gweinyddu ysgolion Cymraeg eu hiaith ar draws yr holl ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y rhanbarth.

Nid yw pawb sydd â gradd yn addas i fod yn athro gyda'r hyder i gefnogi gwersi i nifer sylweddol o ddisgyblion. Fodd bynnag mae gan amrywiaeth fawr o unigolion gyfraniad sylweddol i'w wneud i addysgu disgyblion ac i feithrin dealltwriaeth ehangach ymysg addysgwyr o anghenion pobl ifanc o ran datblygiad. Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni wedi datblygu strategaethau sydd â'r nod o feithrin dealltwriaeth addysgeg lefel uwch ymysg rhai nad ydynt yn athrawon mewn amgylchedd addysgol. Gallai'r strategaethau hyn fod yn elfennau allweddol yng Nghynllun Strategol Partneriaeth 6 i'r tîm Cefnogi Addysg:

Cynorthwywyr Dysgu Graddedig

Rydym yn datblygu ymarferwyr proffesiynol o ansawdd da trwy ddatblygu ac ymestyn eu profiadau yn y gweithle. Maent yn dangos hyblygrwydd a gwybodaeth trwy ymateb i anghenion pobl ifanc ar draws ystod o gyd-destunau addysgol. Mae'r Cynorthwywyr Dysgu Graddedig yn cyfleu gwybodaeth a dealltwriaeth am yr ystod o gyfyngiadau mae disgyblion yn eu hwynebu a'r strategaethau a ddefnyddir i'w rheoli. Mae'r Cynorthwywyr Dysgu Graddedig wedi ymrwmo i weithio gyda'r ysgol wrth astudio a dilyn Cynllun Datblygiad Proffesiynol Personol ac yn gweithredu fel cynorthwywyr dysgu ac addysgu yn yr ysgol.

Cynllun Cynorthwywyr Addysgu Graddedig dan Hyfforddiant (*Interniaeth flwyddyn i ddarpar athrawon*)

Mae'r ysgol wedi datblygu strategaeth i hyfforddi Cynorthwywyr Addysgu Graddedig. Mae wedi'i bwriadu i alluogi unigolion i feithrin gallu a mwy o sgiliau proffesiynol yn y gweithle. Disgwylir y bydd y Cynorthwywyr Addysgu Graddedig dan Hyfforddiant yn cyfrannu'n effeithiol at strategaethau addysgol yr ysgol. Yn ystod eu cyfnod o hyfforddiant byddant yn adeiladu ar eu profiadau blaenorol trwy ddatblygu sgiliau addysgol ac arweinyddiaeth fwyfwy er budd ein disgyblion. Disgwylir y byddant yn ystyried dilyn cwrs hyfforddi athrawon yn dilyn eu profiad yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni.

Darpar Gynorthwywyr Dysgu Graddedig

Mae Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn cydweithredu â Choleg y Cymoedd wrth ddatblygu cynllun hyfforddiant i Ddarpar Gynorthwywyr Dysgu Graddedig. Disgwylir y bydd y Darpar Gynorthwywyr Dysgu Graddedig yn meithrin sgiliau a galluoedd proffesiynol cynyddol yn y gweithle.

Hyfforddiant Corfforaethol Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili

Mae gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili raglen hyfforddiant i gynorthwyo aelodau o'r staff i ddod yn rhugl eu Cymraeg. Mae'r rhaglen yn rhedeg ers 2001 ac yn rhoi i'r staff hyblygrwydd i ddysgu Cymraeg trwy nifer o wahanol ddulliau, o e-ddysgu i restr o wahanol ddsbarthiadau.

Mae cyflwyno Safonau'r Gymraeg ym mis Medi 2015 wedi rhoi gwerth i'r Gymraeg ac wedi codi ymwybyddiaeth o'r Gymraeg yn fewnol ymysg y gweithlu.

Yn y flwyddyn academaidd 2016-2017, mae 37 aelod o'r staff wedi cofrestru i ddilyn cyrsiau blwyddyn ar lefelau amrywiol o Fynediad 1 (Blwyddyn 1 Dechreuwr) i Uwch 4 (Blwyddyn 4 Uwch).

Yn y flwyddyn academaidd ddiwethaf roedd gennym 86 o ddysgwyr. Isod mae dadansoddiad fesul cyfadran a rhywedd;

	Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol	Addysg	Amgylchedd	Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol	Awdurdodau Allanol
Gwryw	2	2	4	3	6
Benyw	9	10	11	21	18

Mudiad Meithrin

Ar hyn o bryd mae Cam wrth Gam (is-gwmni hyfforddiant y Mudiad Meithrin) yn

cynnig cyfleoedd prentisiaeth trwy Gynnydd ar gyfer Llwyddiant. Hefyd, bydd y Mudiad Meithrin yn ystyried cyfleoedd i farchnata gyrfaoedd ym maes gofal plant gyda disgyblion blynyddoedd 10 ac 11. Cadarnhawyd fod gan Cam Wrth Gam 100 o leoedd led led Cymru yn y flwyddyn i ddod er mwyn datblygu staff gofal plant sy'n siarad Cymraeg.

Yn ogystal, cynigir cefnogaeth drwy beilot 6 mis ym Mudiad Meithrin i gefnogi cysondeb caffaeliad Cymraeg yn Cylchoedd (2 yng Nghaerffili o 5 ar draws rhanbarth Gwent).

Mae'r Ffordd i Ddwyieithrwydd, a ddarperir gan Menter Iaith a ariennir drwy CBSC, yn cefnogi caffaeliad Cymraeg mewn lleoliadau cyfrwng Saesneg ac yn annog y defnydd cynyddol o'r iaith Gymraeg ac adnoddau i ddarparu amgylchedd ieithyddol gyfoethog. Mae'r gwahanol lefelau (Arian, Aur ac Efydd) yn dangos faint o ddarpariaeth iaith Gymraeg y mae'r lleoliad yn gweithio tuag at ei chynnig. Mae'r holl leoliadau yn cael eu gwneud yn ymwybodol o'r Cynnig Gweithredol ac yn cael eu cefnogi i gyflawni hyn.

Llofnodwyd: Dyddiad:

Keri Cole, Prif Swyddog Addysg, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili

Data (Atodiad 1)

Deilliant 1: Mwy o blant saith oed yn cael eu haddysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg Ehangu'r ddarpariaeth

Pa ganran o blant saith oed sy'n cael eu haddysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ar hyn o bryd? Aeth 20% o ddisgyblion Bl 2 yng Nghaerffili i ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg yn 2016.

Deilliant 2: Mwy o ddysgwyr yn parhau i wella eu sgiliau iaith wrth drosglwyddo o'r ysgol gynradd i'r ysgol uwchradd

Pa ganran o ddysgwyr Blwyddyn 9 a asesir yn y Gymraeg (Iaith Gyntaf) ar hyn o bryd? Aseswyd 12.72% o ddisgyblion Caerffili yn y Gymraeg yn YGCRh yn 2016.

Sut mae'r ffigur hwn yn cymharu â chanran dysgwyr Blwyddyn 6 a aseswyd yn y Gymraeg (Iaith Gyntaf) dair blynedd ynghynt?

Roedd 12.9% o'r disgyblion yn mynd i ysgolion cynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg yn 2013.

Trosglwyddo effeithiol a dilyniant ieithyddol

Bydd y Mudiad Meithrin yn anfon data at yr ALL ym mis Tachwedd 2016.

Beth yw'r cyfraddau dilyniant rhwng:

- lleoliadau gofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg nas cynhelir ar gyfer plant o dan 3 oed ac ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg/dwyieithog a gynhelir sy'n darparu'r Cyfnod Sylfaen?
- lleoliadau gofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg nas cynhelir i blant o dan 3 oed a lleoliadau cyfrwng Cymraeg nas cynhelir a ariennir sy'n darparu'r Cyfnod Sylfaen?
- lleoliadau cyfrwng Cymraeg nas cynhelir a ariennir ac ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg/dwyieithog a gynhelir?
- lleoliadau gofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg nas cynhelir i blant o dan 3 oed a lleoliadau cyfrwng Cymraeg nas cynhelir a ariennir sy'n darparu'r Cyfnod Sylfaen, ac wedyn ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg/dwyieithog a gynhelir?
- y Cyfnod Sylfaen a Chyfnod Allweddol 2?
- Cyfnodau Allweddol 2 a 3?
- Cyfnodau Allweddol 3 a 4?

Nid oes gan Gaerffili unrhyw ysgolion uwchradd dwyieithog (categoriâu 2A, 2B, 2C a 2CH).

Deilliant 3: Mwy o ddysgwyr 14-16 oed yn astudio ar gyfer cymwysterau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg

Deilliant 4: Mwy o ddysgwyr 16-19 oed yn astudio pynciau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg mewn ysgolion, colegau a dysgu seiliedig ar waith

Cynyddu canran y dysgwyr 14-16 oed sy'n astudio ar gyfer cymwysterau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg

Beth yw canran gyfredol y dysgwyr Blwyddyn 11 sydd wedi'u cofrestru i sefyll arholiad TGAU Cymraeg Iaith Gyntaf sy'n astudio ar gyfer 5 neu fwy o gymwysterau Lefel 1 neu Lefel 2 arall drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg?

(NI ddylech gynnwys Llenyddiaeth Gymraeg. Mae pynciau TGAU cymhwysol a gwyddoniaeth ddwy'radd cyfwerth â dau bwnc; mae cyrsiau byr cyfwerth ag un pwnc. Mae'n bosibl na fydd modd cynnwys pynciau BTEC gan nad yw'r corff dyfarnu'n gwahaniaethu rhwng cyfrwng Cymraeg a chyfrwng Saesneg)

Mae 100% o ddisgyblion YGCRh, Caerffili, yn astudio 5 pwnc o leiaf drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, yn ogystal â Chymraeg Iaith Gyntaf. Mae disgyblion Caerffili sydd yn YGCRh ar hyn o bryd wedi'u cofrestru i sefyll dau arholiad Mathemateg, dau arholiad Gwyddoniaeth, tri TGAU dewisol a Bagloriaeth Cymru drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae hyn yn ychwanegol at Gymraeg / Llenyddiaeth Gymraeg.

Beth yw targedau'r awdurdod ar gyfer cynyddu'r ganran hon? Amherthnasol
Gellir mynegi hyn naill ai fel targedau blynyddol neu fel un targed diwedd cynllun

Beth yw canran gyfredol y dysgwyr Blwyddyn 11 sydd wedi'u cofrestru i sefyll arholiad TGAU Cymraeg Iaith Gyntaf sy'n astudio ar gyfer 2 neu fwy o gymwysterau Lefel 1 neu Lefel 2 arall drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg?
Gweler uchod. 100%

(NI ddylech gynnwys Llenyddiaeth Gymraeg. Mae pynciau TGAU cymhwysol a gwyddoniaeth ddwy'radd cyfwerth â dau bwnc; mae cyrsiau byr cyfwerth ag un pwnc. Mae'n bosibl na fydd modd cynnwys pynciau BTEC gan nad yw'r corff dyfarnu'n gwahaniaethu rhwng cyfrwng Cymraeg a chyfrwng Saesneg)

Beth yw targedau'r awdurdod ar gyfer cynyddu'r ganran hon? Amherthnasol
Gellir mynegi hyn naill ai fel targedau blynyddol neu fel un targed diwedd cynllun

Cynyddu canran y dysgwyr 16-19 oed sy'n astudio pynciau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg mewn ysgolion

Pa ganran o ddysgwyr 16-19 oed sy'n astudio 2 bwnc neu fwy a) drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg b) yn ddwyieithog (e.e. elfennau o gymwysterau/modiwlau)?
Mae 100% o ddisgyblion YGCRh, Caerffili, yn astudio 2 bwnc neu fwy drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Deilliant 5: Mwy o ddysgwyr â sgiliau uwch yn y Gymraeg

Gwella darpariaeth a safonau Cymraeg Iaith Gyntaf

Pa ganran o ddysgwyr ar ddiwedd y Cyfnod Sylfaen sy'n cyrraedd Deilliant 5 y Cyfnod Sylfaen o leiaf mewn Sgiliau Iaith, Llythrennedd a Chyfathrebu mewn ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg/ dwyieithog? 92.6%

Gwybodaeth ychwanegol:

Canlyniadau wedi gostwng 1.2 pwynt canran o gymharu â 2015

Mae perfformiad yn uwch na pherfformiad Cymru (90.7%) o 1.9 pwynt canran.

Dengys y duedd 3-blynedd gynnydd o 9 pwynt canran

Pa ganran o ddysgwyr ar ddiwedd Cyfnod Allweddol 2 sy'n cyrraedd Lefel 4 o leiaf yn yr aesiad athro yn y Gymraeg? 91.8%

Gwybodaeth ychwanegol:

Rhagorwyd ar ganlyniadau 2015 o 1.1 pwynt canran

Mae perfformiad un pwynt canran yn uwch na pherfformiad Cymru

Dengys y duedd 3-blynedd gynnydd o 1.9 pwynt canran

Pa ganran o ddysgwyr ar ddiwedd Cyfnod Allweddol 3 sy'n cyrraedd Lefel 5 o leiaf yn yr asesiad athro yn y Gymraeg?

Lefel 5	Cymraeg		
	Bechgyn	Merched	Blwyddyn
2016	82.73	91.04	87.3%

Canlyniadau (88.9%) wedi gostwng 1.6 pwynt canran o gymharu â 2015
Mae perfformiad (92%) 4.7 pwynt canran yn is na pherfformiad Cymru

Pa ganran o ddysgwyr ar ddiwedd Cyfnod Allweddol 4 sy'n cyflawni graddau A*-C mewn TGAU Cymraeg Iaith Gyntaf?

	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016
Nifer	213	234	225	224
% A* - C	67.5	73.3	56	58.72

Data L2 dros dro: 58.3% A*-C (Iaith/Llen.). Iaith Gymraeg yn unig: 55.3%
A/A* Iaith o 5pp

Gwella darpariaeth a safonau Cymraeg Ail Iaith

Pan ganran o ddysgwyr ar ddiwedd Cyfnod Allweddol 2 sy'n cyrraedd Lefel 4 o leiaf yn yr asesiad athro o Gymraeg Ail Iaith? 83.9% (Cymru 77.9%)

Gwybodaeth ychwanegol:

Canlyniadau wedi gwella 5.5% o gymharu â 2015. Mae perfformiad yn uwch na pherfformiad Cymru (77.9%) o 6%. Mae perfformiad ychydig yn is na pherfformiad de ddwyrain Cymru (84.1%) o 0.2%. Dengys y duedd 3-blynedd gynnydd o 9%

Pa ganran o ddysgwyr ar ddiwedd Cyfnod Allweddol 3 sy'n cyrraedd Lefel 5 o leiaf yn yr asesiad athro o Gymraeg Ail Iaith? 82% (Cymru 81.9%)

Gwybodaeth ychwanegol:

Canlyniadau wedi gwella 2.9% o gymharu â 2015

Mae perfformiad yn cyd-fynd â pherfformiad Cymru (81.9%)

Mae perfformiad yn uwch na pherfformiad de ddwyrain Cymru (81.8%) o 0.2%

Dengys y duedd 3-blynedd gynnydd o 9.2% ers 2014

Pa ganran o ddysgwyr ar ddiwedd Cyfnod Allweddol 4 sy'n cyflawni graddau A*-C mewn TGAU Cymraeg Ail Iaith Gwrs Llawn?

66.6% yn 2015 (cofrestrwyd ar gyfer y Cwrs Llawn / cymhwyster L2 = 42% o'r cohort)

Dim data ar gyfer 2016 ar gael hyd yma. Dadansoddiad EAS ar gael ar gyfer y pynciau craidd yn unig hyd yma.

Pa ganran o ddysgwyr ar ddiwedd Cyfnod Allweddol 4 sy'n cyflawni graddau A*-C mewn TGAU Cymraeg Ail Iaith Cwrs Byr?

41.1% yn 2015 (cofrestrwyd ar gyfer y Cwrs Byr = 39% o'r cohort)

Dim data ar gyfer 2016 ar gael hyd yma. Dadansoddiad EAS ar gael ar gyfer y pynciau craidd yn unig hyd yma.

Beth yw eich targedau ar gyfer gwella ym mhob un o'r uchod – naill ai'n flynyddol neu ar ddiwedd cyfnod y cynllun 3-blynedd?

Gosodir y targedau ar gyfer gwella perfformiad disgyblion gan yr ysgolion, yn seiliedig ar ddata lefel disgybl unigol. Caiff y targedau hyn eu hadolygu'n dymhorol, a'u herio a'u monitro gan Gynghorwyr Herio EAS. Caiff targedau 2017 eu pennu yn ystod Tymor yr Hydref 2016.

Pa ganran o'r cohort sydd wedi'i chofrestru i sefyll (i) TGAU Cymraeg Ail Iaith Cwrs Llawn; (ii) TGAU Cymraeg Ail Iaith Cwrs Byr; a (iii) nad yw wedi'i chofrestru am y naill na'r llall? Gweler uchod. Nid yw'r data ar gyfer 2016 ar gael ar hyn o bryd.

Ni chofrestrwyd 21.7% o'r disgyblion ar gyfer cymwysterau Cwrs Llawn neu Gwrs Byr yn 2015

Mwy o ddysgwyr â sgiliau uwch yn y Gymraeg

Beth yw cyfanswm cyfredol nifer y disgyblion sydd wedi'u cofrestru i sefyll Lefel A Cymraeg Iaith Gyntaf, fel canran o nifer y disgyblion a gofrestrwyd i sefyll TGAU Cymraeg Iaith Gyntaf ddwy flynedd yn gynharach?

Data 2015: 3 disgybl – Lefel A, 4 disgybl – lefel AS Cymraeg

Beth yw cyfanswm cyfredol nifer y disgyblion sydd wedi'u cofrestru i sefyll Lefel A Cymraeg Ail Iaith fel canran o nifer y disgyblion a gofrestrwyd i sefyll TGAU Cymraeg Ail Iaith, Cwrs Llawn a Chwrs Byr, ddwy flynedd yn gynharach?

Data 2015: 19 disgybl – Lefel A, 4 disgybl – lefel AS Cymraeg

Deilliant 6: Darpariaeth Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol cyfrwng Cymraeg

Dim angen data

Deilliant 7: Cynllunio'r gweithlu a Datblygiad Proffesiynol Parhaus

Dim angen data

Caerphilly Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020

Background for Caerphilly – the story behind the baseline

There has been a significant increase in Welsh medium provision within CCBC since its inception in 1996.

Pupil numbers in Primary schools have increased by over 60% to a current level in excess of 2900. During this 20 year period, 3 additional schools were established, with 7 of the 8 original schools either being replaced or receiving adaptations / extensions to increase capacity.

The pupil numbers at Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni (YGCRh) have increased by circa 75% from 900 to 1600 pupils. The school moved to a new site in 2002 and further developed onto a 2nd site (Y Gwyndy) in 2013. The present capacity of both sites in combination is 2,348 which is expected to be reached around 2025.

The Council's commitment to Welsh medium education development is evidenced above and continues to be a priority as evidenced in Band A of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools programme.

1. Vision:

This plan is aspirational but clearly depends on Welsh Government funding to deliver the First Minister's programme for Government 2016-2021 Taking Wales Forward, working towards one million people speaking the Welsh language by 2050. Funding will enable delivery towards the aspirations for the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act for a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, and the The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 from which we must now comply with a set of national Welsh Language Standards. One of the key standards is a requirement to develop a 5 year Welsh language strategy, with the aim of increasing the number of Welsh speakers and which will enable us to facilitate the use of the Welsh Language within the county borough.

Our aim is to secure equality of access by promoting and supporting the development of inclusive education and giving a commitment to providing the best possible quality of education and services within available resources.

We will work strategically together as a region with South East Wales Education Achievement Service to equip schools and education providers across age ranges and linguistic sectors with the capacity and sustainability to increase standards in Welsh and promote the use of the Welsh language within families, communities and workplaces.

We will aim to stimulate and provide local, accessible, sustainable, community-focused provision to meet the growing demand for Welsh medium education.

Objectives:

By 2020 we will:

- Improve standards of attainment particularly in Key Stage 4 at the Level 2+ threshold
- Raise levels of attendance
- Reduce the impact of poverty on children and young people
- Continue to proactively promote early years provision to stimulate parental demand
- Increase the number of children accessing Welsh medium education, in line with parental

demand identified in surveys, equating to 18% in primary by 2018 (an increase from 9.19% in 1996) and 20% in secondary by 2023 (an increase from 7.30% in 1996).

- Proactively manage Welsh medium places to ensure excess surplus places are minimised.
- Work with 21st Century Schools team in Welsh Government to identify funding in Band B of 21st Century Schools programme, for the development of sufficient Welsh medium places in areas where they are coming under pressure, in particular Bedwas Trethomas Machen area, and the Islwyn East area.

Statement of links to wider strategies:

Multi agency working is at the heart of the way forward to ensure all learners regardless of their socio-economic background, have equal chances of achieving high expectations.

'Rewriting the Future' places an emphasis on local authority, consortia and schools to work with multi agency partners across the four key themes: family and community engagement; early years (0-7); quality learning and teaching; expectations and aspirations. This has been given high priority as an Improvement Objective across the Education Directorate.

YGCRh leads the Welsh medium education Successful Futures Network where up to 40 schools across Wales are collaborating within the regional and national framework in developing a new curriculum for Wales. The aim of the network is to ensure that all members will have sufficient understanding of the new curriculum and will have enjoyed sufficient developmental experiences to enable them to implement the new curriculum in September 2018.

YGCRh is a New Deal Pioneer School and as such has a duty to ensure that all practitioners can experience effective professional learning, enabling continual development, improve their leadership, their understanding of practical pedagogy and in particular to support the development of the new curriculum.

Wellbeing of Future Generations Act places a duty on public services to deliver a Wellbeing Assessment by March 2017 and a Wellbeing Plan for Caerphilly borough by March 2018. Although in its draft stages, public consultation has emphasised the importance of quality education for all and underpinning all seven wellbeing goals. The importance of improving standards and enabling transition to positive education, training and employment opportunities is seen as a common theme to improving the wellbeing of future generations. In addition there are very strong connections from this plan to the sections for A More Equal Caerphilly, regarding improving opportunities in socio-economic communities, A More Prosperous Caerphilly and A Caerphilly of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language.

In order to contribute to the Welsh Government target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050, there is significant importance in improving provision in Welsh medium childcare and education, as well as working in partnership with community based groups or organisations to continue the use of conversational Welsh socially or in the workplace following the end of formal education. Without the continued use of Welsh there is a risk young people from English speaking households may lose confidence in their Welsh language skills.

Caerphilly WESP Local Forum meets termly with the main purpose to:

- Monitor the objectives and partner operational plans towards meeting the objectives in the Caerphilly WESP
- Provide updates in relation to objectives within their organisational remit
- Progress collaboration and partnership opportunities as they arise to increase the Welsh medium provision and opportunities available in Caerphilly

- Share best practice and innovation
- Contribute to the regional WESP forum

2. Transport

Local authorities have a statutory duty under Section 10 of the Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008 to promote access to education and training through the medium of Welsh. Please provide a statement regarding the accessibility of Welsh medium provision in your local authority in relation to home to school transport. Please highlight any challenges and/or areas of good practice through collaboration.

Caerphilly complies with the requirements of the Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008 through providing transport to Welsh medium schools for pupils of statutory school age in accordance with our individual transport policy. Caerphilly's transport policy is more generous than the legislative requirement by providing transport to the 'relevant' school (i.e. catchment or nearest school) of 1.5 miles primary and 2 miles secondary. Post-16 transport is also provided to students in schools and colleges at a nil cost basis to students and parents / guardians.

Outcome 1: More seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh

The current position relating to the number of seven year olds taught through the medium of Welsh and our targets for the next three years which is circa 20% annually. The numbers taught through the medium of Welsh are projections based on our current intake of 3 year olds into Foundation Phase. With the development of Cylchoedd Meithrin and increasing parental awareness we anticipate the number entering Foundation Phase will rise but that will not impact the number of seven year olds being taught through the medium of Welsh until the implementation of the next planning cycle.

Current Position	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
384	371	374	391

Our five objectives to achieving this outcome are:

1. Development of provision within Band B of the 21st century schools programme to address increasing capacity needs in the identified areas (related to action 6.3 in the CCBC 5 year Welsh Language Strategy).
2. Develop a regional approach to increasing provision across early years and in so doing stimulate demand. This will include working with Mudiad Meithrin Officers to improve transition rates in Cylchoedd Meithrin with a transition rate below 75%
3. Work regionally with a wide range of stakeholders to develop sufficient and increased provision in Welsh medium to meet the needs of working parents for the Childcare Offer by 2020/2021 (related to action 6.3 in the CCBC 5 year Welsh Language Strategy).
4. Conduct an annual parental demand survey and incorporate the results in planning for schools spaces.
5. Work regionally to strategically plan for creation of increased provision including development of information materials for families for example, exploring development of a booklet for parents through the Cronfa Glyndwr grant.

There are presently 11 Welsh medium Primary schools across the County Borough with a

combined capacity of approaching 3000 places. YGCRh is presently located over 2 sites (Gellihaf and Y Gwyndy) with a combined capacity of 2,348.

Council agreed its 1st priority scheme within Band A of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools programme as a £20 million investment at Y Gwyndy site. The investment comprised a new replacement YGG Caerffili to accommodate circa 450 pupils plus a 900 place secondary provision as a 2nd site for YGCRh. In addition, the former YGG Caerffili school building was developed as a pre-school Welsh Medium early years facility resulting in a 0-19 campus. The site has also benefitted from improved outdoor play areas, including a full sized 3G pitch.

The Education capital programme has been used to further develop places in recent years, supplemented by s106 planning gain monies. This section 106 funding has enabled increased capacity through additional classrooms being added to existing school sites. We will continue to work with colleagues across the local authority to maximise the use of section 106 funding.

As regards Primary schools, the most significant surplus places are in the mid and upper Rhymney Valley area. Demand is presently near to full capacity in the Caerphilly basin and Islwyn East areas which have been considered for investment as part of the Council's Band B (2019-2024) 21st Century Schools bid. The demand for Welsh Medium Education has been on the increase since the formation of CCBC and particularly so in recent years. The percentage of pupils in Welsh Medium Schools is as follows: Primary Sector: 1997 (8.9%), 2007 (12.1%), 2010 (14.4%), 2016 (16.8%). Secondary Sector: 1997 (6.9%), 2007 (9.0%), 2010 (10.6%), 2016 (12.3%). The Band B programme will continue to support a thriving Welsh Language provision within Caerphilly by ensuring the development of sufficient Welsh medium places in areas where they are coming under pressure, as identified in the Authorities 2017 - 2020 WESP. Development under the Band B recognises the need to increase Welsh medium provision and proposals include potential for development of childcare provision on the sites of all proposals, but will be dependant on successfully securing the funding from Welsh Government in both 21st Century Schools bid and subsequent bids for the Childcare Offer capital programme.

The Welsh medium education assessment in accordance with 2013 regulations was conducted in 2015, and is attached in the Annex 2. This will be repeated in 2018 in accordance with the 3 year cycle requirement. A parental demand survey is also undertaken annually. These are the basis for all trend future projections of demand and provide evidence of need for additional places and location in the borough. Previously the parental surveys have influenced the language provision of new build schools, for example, Ysgol Penalltau was opened as a Welsh medium primary school to meet the increasing demand and local area need for Welsh medium provision.

The full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is being undertaken in 2016 with a view to submit to Welsh Government and publish in March 2017. The parental surveys will reflect demand for childcare and language of provision and will form the basis of the annual Childcare Action Plan for developing new provision and sustaining or expanding existing provision. We anticipate an increase in the number of childcare places required during the duration of this WESP 2017-2020 across the sector to support the universal 3 and 4 year old childcare offer for working parents.

Community Planning Area	Cylchoedd Meithrin including unregistered Cylch	Cylch Meithrin and maintained settings offering Flying Start	Cylch Meithrin offering Early Years Education	Wraparound	After School Club	Breakfast Club	Holiday provision	Ti A Fi	11-14 provision	% over 3's having some use of Welsh according to Menter Iaith report 2016
Caerphilly Basin	3	2	1	3	3	1	2	2	1	13.21%
Lower Sirhowy Valley	3	1	1	3	1	0	0	1	0	10.08%
Mid Valleys West	3	2	2	2	2	0	1	2	0	12.04%
Mid Valleys East	3	1	3	1	2	1	0	2	1	10.36%
Upper Rhymney Valley	3	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	9.6%

2 Cylchoedd Meithrin offer placements for Supported and Assisted Places, which is a scheme to support children with developmental delays living outside Flying Start areas to access time limited childcare provision to support their development.

In addition there are 6 Welsh speaking childminders, and 3 day nurseries who have registered with CSSIW as bilingual.

Menter Iaith Caerffili works in partnership with local authority officers and Mudiad Meithrin to support Cylchoedd Meithrin and childcare settings to improve Welsh language delivery across the borough. Current contract arrangements are in place until March 31st 2017 with an option for a further extension until March 31st 2018.

Road to Bilingualism is a quality assurance scheme to support the development of Welsh language in English medium settings and supporting Welsh medium settings where there are practitioners who are Welsh learners. Currently there are 6 day nurseries, 3 childminders, 6 playgroups, 7 maintained Flying Start settings, and 6 settings waiting to start.

All parents receive information on Welsh medium education from *Caerphilly Starting School booklet* which is distributed with school application forms as well as available on the Caerphilly CBC website. Parents are able to access information on Welsh medium childcare and Early Years Education provision through Family Information Services (related to action 1.2 in the CCBC 5 year Welsh Language Strategy).

Working with parents at the earliest opportunity enables parents to make informed choices of the language of provision their children will attend. Parent Network, Menter Iaith Caerffili through the Voices programme and Cymraeg i Blant will work together to promote information for parents, and raise awareness with frontline staff of the benefits of bilingualism (related to action 1.1&1.3 in the CCBC 5 year Welsh Language Strategy).

Cymraeg I Blant is a new project managed by Mudiad Meithrin and funded by Welsh Government that focuses on increasing the number of nursery age children that are able to speak Welsh. It shares information, advice and support to parents on the benefits of being bilingual, the importance of introducing Welsh to children as early as possible and the advantages of Welsh medium childcare and education.

The local Cymraeg I Blant officer runs weekly bilingual baby massage, baby yoga and Welsh rhymetime sessions for parents and young children across the county working alongside the local Midwifery and Health Visiting teams to ensure that parents receive these key early messages during the ante-natal and post-natal period and are made aware of the bilingual pathway available for their child.

In addition parents are signposted to Mudiad Meithrin's Ti & Fi groups and to the 'Cylchoedd Meithrin' the Welsh medium playgroups as well as receiving information about regular family events that are held in partnership with the Mentrau Iaith and other local early years partners.

Cymraeg I Blant / Cymraeg For Kids aims to contribute towards the Welsh Government's target of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Cychwyn Gorau/ Beststart is a Mudiad Meithrin campaign to promote the advantages of Welsh medium education.

Mudiad Meithrin's Support Officers (Swyddogion Cefnogi) provide support and resources for Cylch Meithrin staff to promote the benefits of Welsh medium education to the parents of the children attending. Cylchoedd Meithrin where the transition rates are less than 50% are targeted as part of the Cychwyn Gorau initiative which forms part of our targets which are reported to the Welsh Language Education Unit.

The intention of the next planning cycle for the Regional Welsh in Education Forum is to have four task and finish groups to take forward significant work programmes. One sub group is focussed on developments within Early Years (related to the CCBC 5 year Welsh Language Strategy). This sub group will have relevant officers from each local authority in Gwent, Mudiad Meithrin and the three Mentrau Iaith organisations in the region, as well as representation from RhAG or other organisations at relevant pertinent meetings. Initial focus areas will include

- Increasing the number of Welsh medium childcare places across the region including the development of new provision as well as expanding existing provision through change in premises or additional services offered.
- Training and staff recruitment and improving Welsh language skills across the region to develop consistency in language usage by childcare setting staff to promote language acquisition, including linking with the feeder primary school for consistency in language usage and supporting positive transition.
- Sustainability and business support to ensure all childcare has a robust business plan to ensure it is maintained and able to increase over the course of this plan. This focus will also look at how childcare settings are able to receive funded places through the Childcare Offer, Flying Start and Early Years Education to maximise any funding received as well as provide a wider service to fee paying parents and delivering a community provision.
- Improving transition rates between Cylchoedd and Primary Schools.

The Childcare Offer will require significant additional childcare places and location may be critical to their sustainability so this group will link through the Regional WEF to ensure the sub group looking at planning school places is linked in development work with the early years group developing childcare provision. Caerphilly has included this development of buildings within its 21st Century Schools Band B proposals, subject to securing the Childcare Offer capital funding. The bids will be submitted once opened for the Childcare Offer capital programme, anticipated in 2018-2021.

Within Caerphilly our population while transient between community areas is reasonably static for

movement into / out of the borough, and as such parents are encouraged to make their decisions for education provision in the early years, reducing the demand for a latecomers policy. However, development of a Latecomers policy is has been discussed for potential local and regional development under Regional Welsh Education Forum sub group for planning places and promoting demand.

Outcome 2: More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school.

Our current position and targets for the next three years relating to the number of year nine learners who are assessed in Welsh (First Language) are 100% of the year 9 cohort attending YGCRh or Y Gwyndy.

Current Position	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
232	308	302	320

Our three objectives to achieve this outcome are:

1. Work with Mudiad Meithrin Officers to improve transition rates in Cylchoedd Meithrin with a transition rate below 75%
2. Maintain high transition rates from primary to secondary school.
3. Maintain the quality of transition given the challenges of managing a split site secondary school at both the Gellihaf and Y Gwyndy sites.

The number of children transferring from non-maintained childcare settings offering Foundation Phase funded rising three places, non-funded places and Flying Start places are in the table in the Data annex 1, which has been supplied by Mudiad Meithrin in November 2016. There are concerns regarding transition rates in 3 registered childcare settings and 1 unregistered provision. Mudiad Meithrin and local authority officers meet monthly to review any concerns regarding settings including transition, language support, business support needs etc. However, this is now a high priority which will be taken forward in a sub group of the Regional WEF specifically focussed on Early Years. In addition the 21st Century Schools Band B proposals include developing specific childcare provision as part of the school build / refurbishment programme but remains subject to successful funding applications for Childcare Offer capital programme. This will assist in moving Cylchoedd and Clwbiau onto school sites and improve wellbeing for children, transition rates to Primary, consistency in language acquisition as well as effectiveness for parents.

All settings are supported to offer good transition for families to move on from Flying Start to Early Years Education or from non-maintained settings to school maintained Foundation Phase nursery provision. We encourage settings to use similar paperwork to allow for movement between settings and prevent confusion as well as encourage settings to work with families to ensure they complete admissions applications forms within the deadlines naming their first choice provision. Mudiad Meithrin have had a focus to work with Cylchoedd Meithrin to improve transition rates. In Summer term 2016 there were a total of 70 children accessing Early Years Education places across the 7 Cylchoedd Meithrin.

Cylch Meithrin Tonyfelin	16
Cylch Meithrin Nelson	9
Cylch Meithrin Pontllanfraith	9
Cylch Meithrin Dewi Sant	9

Cylch Meithrin Coed Duon	3
Cylch Meithrin Cwm Derwen	12
Cylch Meithrin yr Enfys	12

There is no significant difference between the children assessed in Welsh as a first language in year 6 and then in year 9 within Caerphilly. 100% of year 9 learners attending Welsh medium education at Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni (YGCRh) are assessed in Welsh (first language). Progression rates from the 11 feeder primary schools to YGCRh are excellent and remain consistent at 100%. 11 primary schools contribute to the collaboration within YGCRh's cluster of schools. Transition rates Foundation Phase to KS2, KS2 to KS3 and KS3 to KS4 all remain very high at 100%.

Gwyndy Site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ysgol Gymraeg Caerffili • Ysgol Gymraeg y Castell • Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Bach 	Gellihaf Site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ysgol Gymraeg Penalltau • Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon • Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen • • Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Allta 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ysgol Gymraeg y Lawnt • Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Sannan • Ysgol Gymraeg Giffach Fargod • • Ysgol Gymraeg Trelyn
--	---	--

The collaboration between the schools is a significant strength which contributes to the success and very high standards achieved by these schools. The YGCRh cluster is acknowledged as a highly successful pioneering partnership where good practice is consistently shared on each level across the cluster. The collaboration aims to ensure that each pupil who attends a Welsh medium school within the Caerphilly county borough receives educational opportunities which will enable them to reach their potential.

THE PUPILS' PROGRESS IS THE HEART OF EVERYTHING

Because of this collaboration it is possible to offer a variety of opportunities and activities in the primary schools or in YGCRh to promote the development of individual or groups of pupils.

YGCRh's Transition Plan:

YGCRh ensures that each pupil who starts in YGCRh is keen to further develop and build upon the progress previously made during their period at the primary school. YGCRh and the primary schools work together closely by sharing information and developing plans in order to ensure that the pupils' initial period in YGCRh is a happy and successful one.

Joint mentoring Plan:

YGCRh leads a mentoring plan across all of the YGCRh cluster primary schools. Each school has different plans for supporting and guiding pupils who need additional or different forms of assistance in order to develop their abilities, specifically in literacy and numeracy. Individual pupils' intervention plans vary according to the school and pupils' needs and they have proved to be effective over a period of time. There is effective collaboration across the cluster so that good practice is shared in order to ensure pupils' progress.

Two YGCRh teachers have additional non contact time to allow them to visit each primary school regularly to discuss intervention plans and to discuss individual pupils and groups of pupils in year 5 and 6. By providing an effective mentoring system across the cluster, individual pupils and groups of pupils benefit from planned activities across the cluster in order to develop according to their talent, ability or personal needs.

All pupils in Year 6 will have the opportunity to participate in Activities days:

Extended Activities Days:

Organised for more able and talented pupils concentrating on languages and communication and science, mathematics and numeracy. A series of days are held at YGCRh which give the year 6 pupils an opportunity to develop their understanding or extended ability in a field or specific fields.

Additional Activities Day:

Organised for those pupils who appear unable to take advantage of all the opportunities which are available within the school due to deprivation or social and emotional issues. These pupils benefit from the school plans to support and guide pupils who need additional assistance. The joint mentoring plan reinforces this work and enables YGCRh to develop additional opportunities across the cluster in order to promote the ambition and confidence of the children.

A series of days are held in YGCRh and in other venues which provide pupils in year 5 and year 6 with an opportunity to develop their ambition and confidence whilst also enhancing understanding of topics that are not necessarily available in the primary school.

Special Activities Day:

Organised for pupils who have not participated in extended activities days or the additional activities days. The children enjoy similar activities to those experienced by their peers during the other activities days. These days are designed to enhance the children's understanding of what they can expect when they start in YGCRh and to prepare them more effectively for this most important transition.

Science in year 6

YGCRh's science department collaborates with year 6 teachers to introduce a unit of science work in year 6. YGCRh teachers visit the primary school to hold science lessons and year 6 pupils visit YGCRh to gain experience from performing experiments in a laboratory.

Chwil Chwarae Days

Musical days are held in YGCRh where pupils who have a specific musical talent have the opportunity to meet with music teachers and other talented pupils and to perform in front of an audience.

Transition Day

The pupils receive a timetable for the day enabling them to experience activities as year 7 classes. The activities are planned so that the pupils have experiences they would not normally receive in the primary school but will be available for them in year 7 in YGCRh.

Transition Evenings

Two evenings are held for prospective parents during a pupil's period in year 6:

- An introductory evening to the school and buildings and an opportunity for the parents to meet the school leaders.
- A subject-based activities evening so that the parents can get a taste of the kinds of subjects that the pupils study in year 7. There is also a chance to buy a school uniform.

Individual visits

More vulnerable children will often have additional concerns when considering starting in Year 7. Individual parents and children are welcome to visit the school at convenient times to ensure an effective introduction to the school. These will often be a series of visits starting after school where they are guided around the site when it is quiet by a member of staff progressing into lengthier visits to experience school activities.

Outcome 3: More students aged 14-16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh.

Outcome 4: More students aged 14-19 studying subjects through the medium of Welsh, in schools, colleges and work-based learning.

Our current position and targets relating to the percentage of learners entered for GCSE Welsh (first language) entered for at least two further Level 1 or Level 2 qualifications through the medium of Welsh.

Current Position	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
100%	100%	100%	100%

Our current position and targets relating to the percentage of learners entered for GCSE Welsh (first language) being entered for at least five further level 1 or level 2 qualifications through the medium of Welsh.

Current Position	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
100%	100%	100%	100%

Our four objectives for achieving this outcome are:

1. Ensure that provision for 14-16-year-old learners at YGCRh complies with the Learning and Skills Measure (Wales) 2009
2. Undertake a review of the organisation of Welsh medium secondary provision in Caerphilly borough to include 14-19 provision. This will coincide with a review of 6th form in schools and tertiary education.
3. Continue to develop a Welsh medium learning pathway for pupils who are in danger of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training on leaving school at 16 years, and promote a Level 2 post 16 curriculum for those not achieving the Level 2 threshold for Welsh / English and mathematics.
4. Consider a regional approach to Welsh medium post 16 provision (YGCRh, Y Gwyndy, Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw (Torfaen) and Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed (Newport) in developing, promoting and sustaining effective Welsh medium 14-19 learning pathways. This will be developed through the Regional WEF sub group for 14-19 pathways linking the three secondary schools, 2 colleges and the university. (related to action 2.3, 5.7&6.3 in the CCBC 5 year Welsh Language Strategy)

Caerphilly pupils in Welsh medium primary education transfer to YGCRh. This is with very few exceptions. Caerphilly pupils who currently attend YGCRh are entered for two maths, two science, three optional GCSEs and the Welsh Baccalaureate through the medium of Welsh. This is in addition to Welsh / Welsh Literature.

All learners entered for GCSE Welsh (first language) will also be entered for at least **five further** GCSE, level 1 or level 2 qualifications through the medium of Welsh.

YGCRh is the only establishment within the local authority with the ability to provide a Welsh medium 14-19 Learning Pathway. At present YGCRh is based on two sites 7 miles apart. In September 2016, 82 year 10 pupils started their 14-16 curriculum. By September 2018 a post 16 curriculum will need to be provided to those pupils at Y Gwyndy site who wish to continue in Welsh

medium education.

All students aged 14-16 studying for GCSE and or Level 1 or 2 vocational subjects at YGCRh do so through the medium of Welsh. Ensuring an increase in the availability of Welsh medium GCSE and Level 1 and 2 vocational courses across our local authority is a significant challenge to the authority as the provision already exceeds statutory expectations (YGCRh offers 30 level 2 courses including 5 vocational courses). YGCRh implements several strategies with the aim of ensuring that an increasing number of students continue to access a 14-19 Welsh medium provision:

YGCRh has a strategy for Welsh medium pastoral support which enables each child to access appropriate support when required. This support is essential in ensuring that every child is fully aware of the available 14-16 Welsh medium provision, thus ensuring that approaching 100% of KS3 pupils transfer to KS4.

YGCRh identifies those pupils in year 9 who are in danger of becoming NEETS. These pupils become members of the Welsh medium Learning Pathway Centre (LPC) and follow a specifically designed curriculum which appeals to them and aims to ensure that they do not become NEETS.

The Welsh medium Learning Pathway Centre strategy continues to be an effective tool in enhancing pupils' expectations. This strategy has ensured that these pupils have continued in Welsh medium education until they are 16 with every pupil gaining a place in training, employment or education on leaving school.

YGCRh provides a Year 12 Transition Pathway. The aim is to enable well motivated and ambitious students to continue their studies through the medium of Welsh. The Year 12 Transition Pathway is suitable for those students who would wish to follow Level 3 courses but, unfortunately, have not yet achieved a suitable level of achievement to enable them to study Level 3 courses in year 12. Vocational studies are at the core of the course with developing further understanding of a variety of fields of business being central to the curriculum. By continuing to study the key core subjects (*Welsh/English/mathematics*) pupils are able to re sit GCSE examinations to improve their GCSE grades if required or to continue to improve their literacy and numeracy skills if they have achieved GCSE grades A*-C.

It is expected that those students who choose to follow the Year 12 Transition Pathway will wish to continue their Welsh medium studies at YGCRh at the end of year 12 by starting Level 3 courses in Year 13.

YGCRh has developed a post-16 curriculum for pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) enabling them to continue in Welsh medium education whilst being effectively prepared for the world of work and life after formal education. The curriculum is tailored to the needs of the individual and will normally comprise of following a vocational course and continued literacy and numeracy development. Particular emphasis is placed on developing greater understanding of life skills and effective communication.

The Welsh medium 14-19 regional collaboration previously benefited from additional funding through the ANDP, RNDP and the grant associated with the 14-19 Regional Welsh medium Forum. This funding enabled us to sustain the Welsh medium 14-19 Learning Pathways in an effective manner across the region. There is clearly a need for continued additional funding of 14-19 Welsh medium learning pathways if we are to maintain the present position in South East Wales where the burden of provision falls on such a small group of establishments.

Despite the lack of any additional grant funding the South East Wales 14-19 Forum has decided to continue to meet to enable future collaboration between Welsh medium schools and Further Educational establishments, and will form the basis of the sub group under the Regional WEF.

Maintaining and increasing the range of Welsh medium provision for pupils aged 14-19 is a significant challenge to the authority as 14-16 pathways are now provided on two school sites 7 miles apart. Equality of provision must be guaranteed on both sites leading to additional small classes and significant additional staffing costs. An additional 1.68 teachers have been employed to accommodate the 14-16 non-core curriculum on two sites 7 miles apart for 2016-17 with an expectation of at least 3 additional teachers for 2017-18.

At present YGCRh has to offer and provide 30 Welsh medium Level 3 courses in line with the skills measure, as they are the main provider of Welsh medium post-16 education and continue to provide courses even when the number of students choosing the course makes the course unsustainable.

A sustainable 14-19 pathway will be required for all Welsh medium pupils within the authority by September 2018. This will form the basis of the review required. The authority and YGCRh will collaborate to ensure that sustainable Welsh medium post-16 provision can be maintained by September 2018. YGCRh and Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw have been creative in their partnership whereby staff travel to teach alternative or low take-up courses but following the withdrawal of the grant, this is no longer financially viable and will never be due to the low numbers. By September 2019 a sustainable 14-16 Learning Pathway will be required at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed (Newport) and by September 2021 they will require a sustainable 14-19 Learning Pathway. It is not a feasible proposition to expect them to be able to offer a sustainable curriculum to their pupils without collaboration with other Welsh medium providers. With the development of the Successful Futures curriculum to be implemented by September 2018 we cannot be sure what the requirements for a sustainable 14-19 Learning Pathway could look like by 2020. It is clearly essential that any future planning for a Welsh medium 14-19 Learning Pathways strategy in South East Wales must consider a collaborative approach if we are to continue to provide a high quality sustainable pathway.

Within the local authority's review of 14-19 provision a regional approach will be considered, where YGCRh could work in collaboration with Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw (Torfaen) and Gwent Is Coed (Newport) in developing and promoting effective Welsh medium 14-19 Learning Pathways, as well as collaboration with Coleg y Cymoedd and Coleg Gwent. This will be a priority of the Regional WEF through the sub group for 14-19 provision.

YGCRh is central in the organisation and implementation of the South East Wales Welsh medium Secondary schools network (CYDAG De Ddwyrain Cymru). CYDAG De Ddwyrain Cymru comprises of 17 Welsh medium Secondary schools across three regions (South Central, EAS and ERW). The network organises joint INSET days with WJEC to support and promote Welsh medium 14-19 qualifications. The network will continue to collaborate with the WJEC and will communicate with Qualifications Wales to ensure that the provision of 14-19 Welsh medium qualifications is supported and enhanced. The 14-19 Forums have officially come to an end however, CYDAG SE Wales continues to meet to explore the possibility of continuing practices such as arranging conferences and staff collaboration meetings that were in place to March 2016. Creativity and commitment will be needed to enable continuity for this successful forum.

YGCRh leads the Welsh medium Successful Futures Network where up to 40 schools across

Wales are collaborating within the regional and national framework in developing a new curriculum for Wales. The aim of the network is to ensure that all members will have sufficient understanding of the new curriculum and will have enjoyed sufficient developmental experiences to enable them to implement the new curriculum in September 2018.

Collaboration with Coleg y Cymoedd

There is a well-established and effective collaboration between YGCRh and Coleg y Cymoedd. Coleg y Cymoedd provides work-based training on car mechanics for the Welsh medium Learning Pathway Centre pupils at the College's Ystrad Mynach campus. The college has secured European funding for the project until 2020.

There are ongoing discussions on how to develop further partnership working between YGCRh and with staff from Coleg y Cymoedd. The Bilingual Champion is a member of the South East Wales Forum Learning Pathways 14-19 and meets the head teacher and facilitator regularly.

Coleg y Cymoedd delivers both Welsh medium taster and enrichment day courses to pupils from YGCRh. Subjects include French, catering and motor vehicle studies. This partnership work has been funded by the South East Wales Cross Border Forum for Welsh medium and Bilingual Education which has now finished, but both the school and the College are keen to continue the partnership work together.

The Bilingual Champion liaises with the school to enable those pupils who wish to follow post 16 courses at the college to enjoy a smooth transition and understand the variety of opportunities available to them to continue to use the Welsh language at the college. For those pupils who choose to attend the college, bilingual glossaries are made available, particularly in STEM subjects, to make the transitional period easier.

In the Further Education sector, the planning process is not the same as in schools/councils. The College must go through a strategic planning process with DFES and have DFES approval for everything that is done.

One of the current priorities is to extend the range, type and levels of the Welsh medium customer care course *Yr Iaith ar Waith* so that this additional qualification can be offered across more subject areas identified by Welsh Government as priority areas for development, at different levels and in different skills - speaking/reading and writing.

The College is also using staff who have attended the Welsh Language Sabbatical Scheme to introduce bilingual units available across mainstream qualifications e.g. business in 2016-17.

Additional details of planned collaborative work regarding GCSEs and developing bilingual mainstream provision within the areas of Business, Health and Social Care and Childcare in Coleg y Cymoedd during 2017-2019.

Coleg y Cymoedd response

Targets for 2017-18

- To offer Welsh-medium Maths GCSE re-sit class (subject to viable numbers)
- Plan and prepare 2 bilingual units within the mainstream School of Business courses so as to offer a choice to our Welsh speaking students.
- To launch an innovative collaboration between Coleg y Cymoedd and the Welsh-medium schools of RCT and Caerphilly in a cross-sectoral, cross-border partnership to deliver both Welsh-medium Health and Social Care and Childcare at Levels 2 and 3 by 2018-19. The partnership has applied for project funding from Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to support

elements of this work. Please see below for Action points and timeframe of this project;

Commencing : September 2017

Step 1 – Subject specialists from the College to identify possible units which can/cannot be offered as part of these courses by mid-September

Step 2 – Progress meeting to discuss the findings at end of September/beginning of October

Step 3 – Agree a timetable of Professional Learning Communities' meetings to discuss developing resources every half term (with the first meeting to take place before the end of October)

Step 4 – Marketing campaign – in the College, the schools and the local communities to make the learners aware of the new provision which will be available from September 2018 (January/February)

Step 5 – Meeting to discuss locating the current staff/recruiting if any deficits identified in March

Step 6 – Meeting to agree the membership of the Quality Circle to ensure that there are sufficient appropriate assessors and internal verifiers available (March)

Step 7 – Discuss and agree the content of a series of Language Improvement sessions (April)

Step 8 - Hold meetings to ensure that the staff and the resources are ready to commence delivery in September and that there are opportunities to offer work placements to the learners (through the medium of Welsh if possible) May/June

Step 9 – Agree on a timetable of monitoring points during the year to ensure continuous improvement (June)

Step 10 – Commence delivery of Welsh-medium Health and Social Care/Childcare at the College (September 2018)

Step 11 – Publish a timetable of dates for completion of work/assessments (September 2018)

Step 12 - Evaluate the project by considering the data on learners' progress alongside direct feedback from the learners themselves in order to ensure improvement (August 2019)

Partneriaeth 6:

The partnership between YGCRh and Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw (Partneriaeth 6) was introduced as the Welsh medium 14-19 strategic partnership between Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen in 2006. It has proven to be an innovative pioneering partnership ensuring highly effective 14-19 Welsh medium Learning Pathways. Partneriaeth 6 was dependant on funding through the ANDP, RNDP and Welsh medium 14-19 grants which are no longer available. Partneriaeth 6 now needs to re-focus on the promotion and development of the wider curriculum in line with Successful Futures and further developments in 14-19 Learning Pathways.

We will re-launch Partneriaeth 6 in January 2017 with the aim of continuing to lead an outstanding pioneering Welsh medium structure across South East Wales.

The partnership between YGCRh and Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw will be reinforced by inviting Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed to collaborate as partnership members. The feeder primary schools of each secondary school will be associate members of the partnership. Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed will also be invited to join the Joint Governors Committee of Partneriaeth 6.

YGCRh has been recognised as a Pioneer school for Successful Futures and leads the all Wales Welsh medium Successful Futures Network. In submitting the bid as a pioneer school they emphasised the strength of the Welsh medium partnership and the ability of the partnership to work together in an effective manner in developing and planning the curriculum. The partnership will develop a wider understanding of curriculum needs in Wales for the future through collaboration across the Secondary schools and their clusters.

Partneriaeth 6 will agree targets for increasing Welsh medium 14-19 pupil numbers by ensuring that provision through the medium of Welsh is of the very highest standard and that students achieve qualifications at the highest possible level.

Partneriaeth 6 will continue to lead Welsh medium strategies across the region in collaboration with the local authorities and the Education Achievement Service (EAS):

- ✚ The Welsh Medium Education system in South East Wales to be recognised nationally as a pioneering /excellent example of good practice.
- ✚ Pupils in the partnership will be expected to receive results that are comparable with the best in Wales.

Outcome 5: More students with advanced skills in Welsh

Current Position	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
Welsh: 1 Student entering AS Level WSL courses at KS5 in 2015 3 Students entering A Level WSL courses at KS5 in 2015	4	5	6
Welsh Second Language: 4 Students entering AS Level WSL courses at KS5 in 2015 19 students entering A Level WSL courses at KS5 in 2015			

Meaningful targets for pupils achieving Welsh second language GCSE will be included in the update in December 2017. Delays have been due to changes in qualifications delivered and the need for meaningful target setting with schools during this transition period. The EAS has a role and responsibility in delivery of the Education Improvement Grant and providing sufficient challenge to schools. Therefore it is their responsibility to set appropriate targets with schools to ensure we are working towards the target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Our five objectives to achieve this outcome are:

1. Improve literacy standards at the expected +1 at all Key Stages for Welsh 1st language to impact on A*-A GCSE performance leading to higher A level numbers.
2. Increase AS/A level numbers in English medium schools and actively collaborate to ensure pupils have access to AS / A level Welsh Second Language course.
3. Encourage English medium schools to increase formal and informal provision for Welsh Second Language at KS3 and KS4 so that GCSE full course uptake is increased from 42% (2015 baseline) and that both languages are widely used as medium of communication.
4. Encourage English medium schools to enter nearly all pupils for GCSE Welsh full course when the current short course is withdrawn in 2018 (pupils currently do not have to be entered for any examination in Welsh Second Language) and plan for the implementation of Successful Futures to ensure transactional competence for all pupils aged 16.
5. Encourage Qualification Wales and WJEC with the support of Welsh Government to provide a suitable range of level 3 Welsh First Language Qualifications.

Performance in Welsh First Language / literacy is strong in the Foundation Phase and KS2 with performance above Wales at the expected level at both key stages. To maintain and continue to

improve, particularly outcomes at the expected +1 schools have access to a range of Welsh literacy programmes and CPD through their involvement with the EAS regional literacy network and direct support from a Welsh literacy advisor (FP-KS4). Programmes currently available include the 'Cyfathrebu'n Gyntaf' initiative for literacy in the Foundation Phase and the 'Ar Lafar', 'Y Darllenwr Dygn', 'Ditectifs Darllen' and 'Seiliau Sgrifennu' programmes that are all targeted at developing literacy in each of the attainment targets across all phases. There is structured school to school support available to the Welsh-medium schools across the region through the SE Wales consortium literacy support arrangements with lead schools for literacy leading aspects of the designed CPD programmes outlined. YGCRh is a Curriculum and New Deal Pioneer school who will also lead and support literacy development across the region.

As well as a rigorous approach to assessment for and of learning, including in-house and cluster moderation, the adoption of the *Siarter Iaith* initiative from September 2016 will support schools in improving pupil confidence and competence in using the Welsh language both inside and outside the classroom, enabling schools to maintain their high outcomes. Primary schools will achieve the *Siarter* gold standard by July 2019 with secondary schools involved with the Supporting Young People's Practices project from Autumn 2016.

Performance in Welsh as a Second Language at KS2 is strong but performance at KS3 is below Wales. The EAS will monitor provision at KS3 and 4 and report to Challenge Advisors and the LA on time allocation and the status of option group numbers annually.

Secondary schools will be encouraged to provide adequate time for the study of Welsh as a second language in line with the new Welsh GCSE taught from September 2017 and with the requirements of the new curriculum to ensure transactional competence at the end of KS4 for all pupils in all aspects of school life. Welsh full course will be the only GCSE on offer from 2018 following the withdrawal of the Welsh short course, which will provide a more solid basis for the progression to AS and A Level. However, the current non-core status of Welsh in English medium schools will continue to 2021. Pupils must study Welsh to 16 but there is no requirement for them to sit an external examination in Welsh. This will continue to be a major barrier to the growth of the study of Welsh to A Level.

The current examinations available to students from 16-19, particularly for Welsh have been widely reported to be most appropriate for the more academic students. This has had previous effect on uptake. Caerphilly welcomes the opportunity to request that Curriculum Wales review their range of qualifications for Welsh to ensure wider appeal and make Welsh courses relevant to the world of work today; for example, a vocational Level 3 Professional Welsh course would have a wide appeal and take-up.

The target to increase the number of candidates achieving Advanced level Welsh is not a relevant or achievable target for consideration in the context of our local need given the present qualification that is available. The A level Welsh First Language course is recognised as one of the most academic of A level subjects studied, and it is therefore difficult to encourage able students to study the course when they are aware of the academic rigour required in comparison to other A level subjects.

The Welsh language is very popular with the pupils at YGCRh and there would be a significant growth in the number studying Level 3 Welsh Language course if there was a range of suitable courses available. Schools are able to offer A level courses in English Language, English Language and Literature, and English Literature, however Welsh medium schools are only able to offer one Welsh First Language A Level course. There is clearly a fundamental lack of equality in

the provision of A Level qualifications for the Welsh language in Wales in comparison to the English language.

When considering how learners are prepared for the workplace within Caerphilly and the South East Wales Region we need to consider increased opportunities for our 16-19 year olds to access relevant courses that will prepare them for the world of work and the use of the Welsh language in the working environment. We believe that we need to develop a range of suitable level 3 courses for students who wish to continue their further studies of the Welsh language and to be able to use the language in the workplace but who are unable to access the extremely academic rigour of the present A level Welsh First Language course. These courses could be vocational based courses with specific units on the use of the Welsh language in effective work based communication.

YGCRh continues to provide an in-house, on-line, personalised language course to further enhance the Welsh literacy standards of staff at all levels at YGCRh. This is used to identify further staff training needs by the School of Welsh at Cardiff University, thus ensuring that pupils are taught by teachers who are good language models. The strategy for improving staff literacy skills has proven to be highly effective. A Welsh language graduate has been appointed to facilitate the strategy by assisting in the mentoring of staff and supporting staff by monitoring the linguistic standard of work sheets and presentations. Primary feeder schools also access this facility.

YGCRh continues to be a lead network school for MFL within the SE Wales Region (with Blackwood Comprehensive) and are in receipt of significant investment to promote the uptake of languages. Triple literacy development is central to their work.

The local Urdd Gobaith Cymru and Menter Iaith groups will work with schools and the community to provide opportunities to practise their Welsh skills in less formal situations. Pupils from both Welsh and English medium schools will have access an array of opportunities to practise their Welsh language skills in formal and non-formal settings.

Urdd Gobaith Cymru offer a variety of sporting events linked to both English and Welsh medium Primary schools, including rugby, football, netball, swimming, gymnastics, TAG rugby and cricket. The Urdd National Eisteddfod offers an opportunity to compete in a variety of competitions including singing, dancing and recitation. There are residential trips to the three centres in Llangrannog, Glanllyn and Cardiff.

For Secondary schools there is a Welsh Language Youth Officer working in the area based in YGCRh funded jointly through Urdd, Menter Iaith and Caerphilly CBC. They support the weekly clubs in YGCRh as well as sporting events across Welsh and English medium schools. Along with the National Urdd Eisteddfod and residential trips there have been trips abroad with YGCRh pupils to Disneyland, Paris and Spain and a Welsh Language Youth Forum. There are a variety of day trips planned across Welsh and English medium schools as well as volunteering opportunities and accreditation to support young people to use and practice their Welsh outside of the classroom. In addition the Youth Officer supports a weekly club in Bargoed YMCA and consultation work.

Both Menter Iaith Sir Caerffili and Urdd Gobaith Cymru work collaboratively and independently to provide a range of opportunities for children and young people to use the Welsh language outside school within a number of workshops and clubs during term time and school holidays. This provision includes the following opportunities delivered by Menter Iaith:

- Termly Sgwad Sgwennu (Writing Squad)
- Art and craft, cooking workshops during all school holidays
- Miri Meithrin sessions during all school holidays – play sessions with a range of activities and information stalls for parents and children.
- Outdoor activities within local parks
- Workshops in partnership with the Winding House, New Tredegar

This provision and partnership work is on-going and the programme continues to develop. Funding for these opportunities is limited however and is dependent on Menter Iaith securing funding sources. Menter Iaith will continue to seek further funding sources to maintain provision.

Outcome 6: Welsh medium provision for learners with additional learning needs (ALN)

Our objectives to achieve this outcome are:

1. Develop a regional Welsh speaking specialist ALN forum as a sub group of the regional WESP forum to support best practice and remove barriers for pupils with ALN attending Welsh medium Primary and Secondary schools.
2. Audit Welsh speaking professionals across the region in preparation for the regional specialist forum.
3. Evaluate the impact of the ALN Reform and the new Code of Practice.

Primary School specialist provision has been successfully delivering over a long period of time. In line with Caerphilly's SEN Policy the majority of pupils in Welsh medium education who have ALN, are educated within mainstream settings. Primary aged pupils in Welsh medium schools, with ALN have access to advice and support from a range of specialist services. An advisory teacher, educational psychologist and three specialist teachers are Welsh speaking. For Primary aged pupils with more complex needs there is a specialist resource base at Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen.

The **Secondary School specialist provision** was developed and formalised during 2016/17 to address the gap identified previously. YGCRh has an ALN Department which is recognised as being highly effective in understanding the needs of all pupils with ALN prior to them accessing the schools facilities. Pupils with ALN benefit from the excellent well established transition arrangements between the feeder Primary schools and the department thus ensuring smooth transition for the most vulnerable children.

The school has access to educational psychology assessments and support, behaviour support, an advisory teacher, a specific learning difficulties teacher, a speech and language therapist, as well as other services. At present the advisory teacher and a newly appointed education psychologist speak Welsh, however they all support and train the Welsh medium staff thus enabling the Welsh medium staff to support and nurture our most vulnerable children in an effective manner.

The facilities of the ALN Department at YGCRh (Gellihaf site) comprises of a range of rooms, one of which is designated as an Autistic Spectrum Disorder friendly room.

There are three distinct elements of the ALN Department at YGCRh:

Complex Needs

- Y Ganolfan
- Hafan

- General Additional Learning Needs

The department has a well-established complex needs unit (Y Ganolfan). The purpose of the Ganolfan is to offer differentiated and individualised support for pupils to access as much of the curriculum as possible. The Ganolfan provides them with a safe, happy and nurturing environment where the focus of support is developing independent skills, social skills, and to improve the pupils' self-esteem. The Ganolfan is a quiet area, with the emphasis being on rewarding pupils for their achievements. The Ganolfan runs the very successful 'Social Use of Language Programme' for those pupils who need to improve their communication skills.

The department has established a provision to support our children who are identified to have complex Social, Emotional and Behavioural difficulties. The Hafan comprises of a specially designed room staffed by trained and experienced teachers and learning support assistants. The provision is extremely individualised and aims to highlight and improve the emotional development of the learners by teaching more socially acceptable behaviours. The learners access the Hafan for part of the day whilst spending the rest of their day in their 'normal' class. The amount of time withdrawn from classes is dependent on the individual learner and their needs

Learners with statements of special educational needs are supported in class and in extra-support activities; these students also receive regular monitoring, review and support with targets set for improvement via IEP's and Person Centred Planning. Other students who have identified additional needs, are supported and monitored regularly via IEP's and Person Centred Plans.

The school has a basic skills strategy which aims to promote and develop the pupil's literacy skills. They do this by offering a wider curriculum made up of activities encompassing the history, geography and religious studies curriculum and concentrating on refining their language skills. There is little doubt that the course strengthens the pupil's oral and written communication skills. The pupils become aware of the importance of specific features of language like punctuation and paragraphs, not only in regards to Welsh and English, but also in respect of the individual subjects. The pupils recognised that every subject requires the same level of language skills. The ALN department supports the KS3 Basic Skills work, linking with the overall KS3 strategy has focused on a wide range of developments. These included the withdrawal of Year 7, 8, and 9 students for additional literacy and/or numeracy work.

ALN pupils in KS4 follow a variety of vocational courses, enabling them to participate within the national framework of qualifications. Close links with Careers Wales and with post-16 education providers are maintained.

The school has developed a post-16 curriculum for ALN pupils enabling them to continue in Welsh medium education whilst being effectively prepared for the world of work and life after formal education. The curriculum is tailored to the needs of the individual and will normally comprise of following a vocational course and continued literacy and numeracy development. Particular emphasis is placed on developing greater understanding of life skills and effective communication.

The Welsh medium network of schools has established a cross regional PLC around Welsh medium ALN provision, led by YGCRh.

The ALN Department and in particular the complex needs provision in YGCRh and Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen, is a model of best practice and could be developed regionally with collaboration from the other authorities.

There are very experienced and highly effective Welsh speaking ALN professionals distributed across the region, this includes the regional Sensory and Communication Service (SenCom). The regional ALN group of local authority specialists and EAS have already met to begin to explore expertise and regional approaches. This will be formalised and enhanced to form the sub group of the regional WEF with a focus of building on existing best practice and specialist practitioners to develop a collaborative regional solution to ensure all children with ALN are supported in their Welsh medium provision.

Outcome 7: Workforce planning and continuing professional development.

Our objectives to achieve this outcome are:

1. EAS will audit practitioners' Welsh language skills (teachers and TAs) Welsh and English medium schools and Cylchoedd Meithrin on an annual basis to assess training needs.
2. EAS will draw up a systemic plan for release of staff to Sabbatical Scheme training in collaboration with schools and clusters.
3. School improvement plans will demonstrate commitment to improving practitioners' linguistic skills, working with Welsh in Education Officers (English medium schools) and through planning for systematic release of staff to attend Sabbatical Scheme training (Welsh and English medium schools) according to needs analysis.
4. Improve practitioners' methodological skills through the work of Welsh in Education Officers and through designed school-to-school initiatives
5. Develop a succession planning strategy for school leadership teams using a regional approach for Welsh medium provision.
6. Continue to use the Road to Bilingualism and deliver training for Early Years Practitioners to improve the Welsh language skills of the childcare sector.

Related to action 2.3, 2.4&6.3 in the CCBC 5 year Welsh Language Strategy.

A Welsh Course for Early Years Practitioners is run twice a year for 6 weeks to improve their Welsh language skills and support children in childcare settings in Welsh language acquisition. This is a popular course and in summer 2016 there were 20 attendees.

Current regional uptake on Sabbatical Scheme training is low (Welsh and English medium schools) and places are limited with release of staff challenging. Therefore Caerphilly will work with the EAS and schools to plan for systematic release of staff and TAs to attend WG Sabbatical Scheme training in response to needs expressed in Welsh language audits undertaken. A cluster by cluster approach may be adopted. Improving staff language skills, particularly in English medium schools in Caerphilly will be vital in implementing the Successful Futures vision and moving forward with the 2050 Million Speakers' agenda. YGCRh has a programme of support for their staff, used alongside the Sabbatical Scheme to support linguistic development.

There is healthy collaboration across schools within Caerphilly and through the regional working model. There is a growing Welsh medium CPD programme (literacy) available to Welsh medium schools from the EAS with lead Welsh medium schools sharing good practice within a centrally organised joint programme of advisory and school based support (methodology). There is also a regional school to school programme to support teachers in aiming for excellence in Welsh medium schools: '*Anelu at Ragoriaeth*'. English medium primary schools have access to a wide and diverse programme of CPD through the EAS programme of language and methodology training. There is also a programme of targeted intervention in place for identified primary and secondary schools to improve the Welsh ethos of schools and practitioner language / methodology. EAS Challenge Advisors encourage schools to take up the wide range of training opportunities it offers. All Regional WEF sub groups will need to consider training requirements

and Welsh language skills of staff within their particular focus. Within the Early Years sub group there will be a focus on linking with the 14-19 sub group regarding developing sufficient childcare practitioners to fill the increasing demands within the sector for qualified Welsh speaking staff. With responsibility for the Education Improvement Grant and raising school standards funding the EAS has the role and responsibility for ensuring sufficient levels of Welsh language speakers in all schools to deliver both Welsh medium qualifications and Welsh second language qualifications and thereby work to increase the number of Welsh speakers by 2050.

All schools have access to EAS leadership programmes (Preparing for Headship, and NPQH). There is support for Welsh medium leadership through regional peer partnership programmes with facilitation of regional secondments where appropriate. The region's Welsh medium Secondary schools work in strong partnership, regularly discussing recruitment. In order to recruit Welsh-medium TAs, the region's secondary schools need to discuss the provision of suitable courses (e.g. *Cache*) for pupils especially in light of a recent consultation from Welsh Government for future funding as well as using the more widely used QCF Childcare Learning and Development level 2 and 3. This course is useful for both TAs in schools and childcare practitioners required for the implementation of the Welsh Government Childcare Offer by 2020. These courses are currently funded through the apprenticeship route for 16-24 year olds and the ESF funded project Progress for Success for over 25s although there are limited courses delivered through the medium of Welsh other than YGCRh, Cam Wrth Gam and Coleg Gwent.

In order that we can ensure that we have sufficient Welsh speaking workforce across the range of responsibilities in all of our Welsh medium schools we will develop an effective staff development strategy where we can identify suitable prospective practitioners who have the ability to develop as educational professionals and effective practitioners who can develop leadership responsibilities at all levels.

YGCRh is a New Deal Pioneer School and as such has a duty to ensure that all professional practitioners can experience effective professional learning. They must enable them to continually develop, improve their leadership, their understanding of practical pedagogy and in particular to support the development of the new curriculum. As a New Deal Pioneer school YGCRh benefits from collaborating with the EAS in developing, promoting and providing professional development opportunities through the medium of Welsh within the region and across other regions.

YGCRh leads the Welsh medium Successful Futures Network where up to 40 schools across Wales are collaborating within the regional and national framework in developing a new curriculum for Wales. The aim of the network is to ensure that all members will have sufficient understanding of the new curriculum and will have enjoyed sufficient developmental experiences to enable them to implement the new curriculum in September 2018.

YGCRh is central in the organisation and implementation of the South East Wales Welsh medium Secondary schools network (CYDAG De Ddwyrain Cymru). CYDAG De Ddwyrain Cymru comprises of 17 Welsh medium Secondary schools across three regions (South Central, EAS and ERW). The network collaborates in organising a variety of events including joint INSET days.

YGCRh collaborates with the other Welsh medium New Deal Pioneer Secondary schools in South Wales as a member of the Welsh medium New Deal network (Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg (Barry), Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr (Swansea), Ysgol Gyfun Y Strade (Llanelli), Ysgol Gyfun Bro Pedr (Lampeter) and Ysgol Gyfun y Preseli (Pembrokeshire)). These wide ranging networking opportunities across the Welsh medium schools of South Wales enable YGCRh to collaborate with the vast majority of Welsh speaking professionals and prospective professionals in developing

effective professional practice and identifying future leaders. YGCRh can therefore benefit from collaborating across the Welsh medium sector and with the EAS to ensure that the most effective professional development opportunities are available to the staff within the region and across other regions.

YGCRh will lead the Welsh medium professional development strategy across Partneriaeth 6 (Collaborative partnership between YGCRh, Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw and Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed). The partnership will therefore benefit from developments and pioneering strategies aimed at encouraging every member of staff to achieve their potential and will also enable us to develop effective succession planning at all levels.

The partnership will develop opportunities to enable all our staff to achieve their potential:

- ✚ Lead and plan the staff training structures within the region and across other regions in line with the New Deal.
- ✚ Continue to lead pioneering educational strategies
- ✚ Make effective use of the educational expertise available within the region and across other regions
- ✚ Ensure opportunities for teachers to peer observe
- ✚ Continue to lead Professional Learning Communities
- ✚ Hold joint In Service Training days within the partnership and across other regions
- ✚ Develop relevant Professional Learning Communities within the partnership and across other regions
- ✚ Collaborate on a strategy for reinforcing the literacy standards of teachers and support staff

YGCRh is developing a Strategic Plan for the Supporting Education team. The development of our extended additional educational support team is central to the long term strategic plan to encompass all staff as contributors to the educational development of our pupils. We accept that all members of the school staff have a contribution to make towards the educational development of our pupils and therefore we need to recognise that contribution at an appropriate level. YGCRh will lead the Welsh Strategic Plan for the supporting education team across Partneriaeth 6. This strategy ensures that people with ambition to develop will have opportunities to continue to develop by making a significant contribution towards our pupils as they achieve their potential.

YGCRh trains prospective classroom assistants with a significant number of those practitioners presently employed within Caerphilly's and the regions Welsh medium primary schools having been trained by YGCRh. YGCRh also supports the training of trainee practitioners in the work place. YGCRh trains prospective school administrative assistants and encourages its entire administrative staff to follow developmental courses up to and including degree level. They intend promoting this strategy to support further development of Welsh speaking school administrative staff across all Welsh medium schools within the region.

Not everybody who graduates is suitable to be a teacher with the confidence to support lessons for a significant number of pupils. However a wide range of individuals have a significant contribution to make towards educating pupils and to promote a wider understanding amongst educators of the development needs of young people. YGCRh has developed strategies aimed at developing a higher level of pedagogic understanding amongst non-teachers within an educational environment. These strategies could be key elements in Partneriaeth 6's Strategic Plan for the supporting education team:

Graduate Learning Assistants

We develop high quality professional practitioners by developing and extending their experiences

in the workplace. They demonstrate flexibility and knowledge by responding to the needs of young people across a range of educational contexts. The graduate learning assistants convey knowledge and understanding of the range of restrictions that pupils face and the strategies used to control them. The graduate learning assistants are committed to working with the school in studying and following a personal professional development plan and operate as teaching and learning assistants in the school.

Trainee Graduate Teaching Assistants Scheme *(A one year Internship for prospective teachers)*

The school has developed a strategy for training graduate teaching assistants. It is intended to enable individuals to develop ability and increased professional skills in the workplace. It is expected that the trainee graduate teaching assistants will contribute effectively towards the schools educational strategies. During their period of training they will build on their previous experiences by increasingly developing educational and leadership skills for the benefit of our pupils. It is expected that they will be considering following a teacher training course following their experience at YGCRh.

Prospective Graduate Learning Assistants

YGCRh is collaborating with Coleg y Cymoedd in developing a training plan for prospective graduate learning assistants. It is expected that prospective graduate learning assistants will develop increasing professional skills and abilities in the work place.

CCBC Corporate Training

CCBC has a training programme in place to assist staff to become fluent Welsh speakers. The programme has been running since 2001 and it gives staff flexibility to learn Welsh through a number of different methods from e-learning to a list of different class options.

With the introduction of the Welsh Language Standards in March 2016, these have given the Welsh language value and have raised awareness of the Welsh language internally within the workforce.

For the academic year 2016-2017, we currently have 43 members of staff signed up to do year courses which vary in levels from Mynediad 1 (Year 1 Beginners) to Hyfedredd 4 (Year 4 Proficiency).

Last academic year we had 86 learners. Below is a breakdown by directorate and gender;

	Corporate Services	Education	Environment	Social Services	External Authorities
Male	2	2	4	3	6
Female	9	10	11	21	18

Mudiad Meithrin

Cam wrth Gam (Mudiad Meithrin’s training subsidiary) currently offers apprenticeship opportunities through Progress for Success. In addition, Mudiad Meithrin will consider opportunities to market careers in childcare with year 10 and 11 pupils. Cam Wrth Gam has been confirmed with 100 places in the coming year across Wales to develop qualified childcare Welsh speaking staff.

In addition there is support offered through a 6 month pilot in Mudiad Meithrin to support consistency of Welsh language acquisition in Cylchoedd (2 in Caerphilly of 5 across the Gwent region).

The Road to Bilingualism delivered by Menter Iaith funded through CCBC supports Welsh language acquisition in English medium settings and encourages the increased use of Welsh language and resources to provide a language rich environment. The different levels (Gold Silver and Bronze) show the amount of Welsh language being offered that the setting is working towards. All settings are being made aware of the Active Offer and supported to achieve this.

Signed: Date:

Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer, Caerphilly County Borough Council

DRAFT

Data (Annex 1)

Outcome 1: More seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh

Expanding provision

What is the percentage of seven-year-old children currently taught through the medium of Welsh?
[20% of Y2 pupils from Caerphilly attended Welsh-medium schools in 2016.](#)

Outcome 2: More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary school to secondary school

What is the current percentage of learners in Year 9 who are assessed in Welsh (First Language)?
[12.72% of pupils from Caerphilly were assessed in Welsh at YGCRh in 2016.](#)

How does this figure compare with percentage of learners in Year 6 who were assessed in Welsh (First Language) three years earlier?

[In 2013 12.9% of pupils attended Welsh medium Primary schools](#)

Effective transfer and linguistic continuity

What are the rates of progression between:

- non-maintained Welsh-medium childcare settings for children under 3 and maintained Welsh-medium/bilingual schools delivering the Foundation Phase? [See data table from Mudiad Meithrin](#)
- non-maintained Welsh-medium childcare settings for children under 3 and funded non-maintained Welsh-medium settings delivering the Foundation Phase? [See data table from Mudiad Meithrin](#)
- funded non-maintained Welsh-medium settings and maintained Welsh-medium/bilingual schools? [See data table from Mudiad Meithrin](#)
- non-maintained Welsh-medium childcare settings for children under 3 and funded non-maintained Welsh-medium settings delivering the Foundation Phase and subsequently maintained Welsh-medium/bilingual schools? [See data table from Mudiad Meithrin](#)
- Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2? [100%](#)
- Key Stages 2 and 3? [100%](#)
- Key Stage 3 and 4? [100%](#)

Caerphilly does not have any bilingual secondary schools (categories 2A, 2B, 2C and 2CH).

Outcome 3: More learners aged 14-16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 4: More learners aged 16-19 studying subjects through the medium of Welsh in schools, colleges and work-based learning

Increasing the percentage of learners aged 14 -16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh

What is the current percentage of Year 11 learners who are entered for GCSE Welsh First Language who are studying for 5 or more further Level 1 or Level 2 qualifications through the medium of Welsh?

(You should NOT include Welsh literature. Applied GCSEs, double science count as two subjects; short courses count as one subject. It may not be possible to include BTEC because the awarding body does not differentiate between Welsh-medium and English-medium)

100% of pupils at YGCRh, Caerphilly study at least 5 or more subjects, in addition to Welsh First Language, through the medium of Welsh. Caerphilly pupils who currently attend YGCRh are entered for two Maths, two Science, three optional GCSEs and the Welsh Bac. through the medium of Welsh. This is in addition to Welsh / Welsh Literature.

What are the authority's targets for increasing this percentage? [N/A](#)

This can be expressed either as annual targets or as a single end of Plan target

What is the current percentage of Year 11 learners who are entered for GCSE Welsh First Language who are studying for 2 or more further Level 1 or Level 2 qualifications through the medium of Welsh?

[See above. 100%](#)

(You should NOT include Welsh literature. Applied GCSEs, double science count as two subjects; short courses count as one subject. It may not be possible to include BTEC because the awarding body does not differentiate between Welsh-medium and English-medium)

What are the authority's targets for increasing this percentage? [N/A](#)

This can be expressed either as annual targets or as a single end of Plan target

Increasing the percentage of learners aged 16-19 who study subjects through the medium of Welsh in schools

What is the percentage of learners aged 16-19 who study 2 or more subjects through a) the medium of Welsh b) bilingually (e.g. elements of qualifications/modules)?

[100% of pupils at YGCRh, Caerphilly study at least 2 or more subjects through the medium of Welsh.](#)

Outcome 5: More learners with higher skills in Welsh

Improving provision and standards in Welsh First Language

What is the percentage of learners at the end of the Foundation Phase who reach at least Foundation Phase Outcome 5 in Language, Literacy and Communication Skills in Welsh-medium/bilingual schools? **92.6%**

[Additional information:](#)

[Results decreased on 2015 by 1.2 percentage points](#)

[Performance is above Wales \(90.7%\) by 1.9 percentage points](#)

[The 3 year trend shows an increase of 9 percentage points](#)

What is the percentage of learners at the end of Key Stage 2 who reach at least Level 4 in teacher assessment in Welsh? **91.8%**

Additional info:

Results increased on 2015 by 1.1 percentage points
 Performance is one percentage point above Wales
 The 3-year trend shows an increase of 1.9 percentage points

What is the percentage of learners at the end of Key Stage 3 who reach at least Level 5 in teacher assessment in Welsh?

Level 5	Welsh		
	Boys	Girls	Year
2016	82.73	91.04	87.3%

Results decreased on 2015 by 1.6 percentage points (88.9%)
 Performance is below Wales (92%) by 4.7 percentage points

Targets

%age achieving Level 5 at KS3

Targets 2019	Welsh		
	Boy.	Girls.	Pupils.
Level 5 or higher	82%	94%	87%

Targets 2018	Welsh		
	Boy.	Girls.	Pupils.
Level 5 or higher	91%	94%	93%

Targets 2017	Welsh		
	Boy.	Girls.	Pupils.
Level 5 or higher	88%	94%	90%

What is the percentage of learners at the end of Key Stage 4 who achieve grades A*-C in GCSE Welsh first language?

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Number	213	234	225	224
% A*-C	67.5	73.3	56	58.72

Provisional L2 data: 58.3% A*-C (Lang/Lit). Welsh Language Only: **55.3%**

Targets **%age achieving A*-C at GCSE Welsh first Language**

2017	2018	2019
61%	66%	68%

Targets for entering 5 or more GCSE and level 1 or 2 vocational courses

2017	2018	2019
98%	98%	98%

Improving provision and standards of Welsh Second Language

What is the percentage of learners at the end of Key Stage 2 who reach at least Level 4 in the teacher assessment of Welsh Second Language? **83.9%** (Wales 77.9%)

Additional information:

Results increased on 2015 by 5.5% Performance is above Wales (77.9%) by 6%. Performance is slightly below SE Wales (84.1%) by 0.2%. The 3year trend shows an increase of 9%

What is the percentage of learners at the end of Key Stage 3 who reach at least Level 5 in the teacher assessment of Welsh Second Language? **82%** (Wales 81.9%)

Additional information:

Results increased on 2015 by 2.9%
Performance is in-line with Wales (81.9%)
Performance is above SE Wales (81.8%) by 0.2%
The 3year trend shows an increase of 9.2% since 2014

What is the percentage of learners at the end of Key Stage 4 who achieve grades A*-C in GCSE Welsh Second Language Full Course?

66.6% in 2015 (entry for Full Course / L2 qualification = 42% of cohort)

No 2016 data available as yet. EAS analysis available for Core Subjects only to date.

What is the percentage of learners at the end of Key Stage 4 who achieve grades A*-C in GCSE Welsh Second Language Short Course?

41.1% in 2015 (entry for Short Course = 39% of cohort)

No 2016 data available as yet. EAS analysis available for Core Subjects only to date.

What are your targets for improvement in each of the above – either year on year or at the end of the 3-year Plan period?

Targets for improvement in pupil performance are set by schools based on individual pupil level data. These targets are reviewed on a termly basis, challenged and monitored EAS Challenge Advisors. Targets for 2017 will be set in the Autumn term 2016.

What percentage of the cohort is entered for (i) GCSE Welsh Second Language Full Course; (ii) GCSE Welsh Second Language Short Course; and (iii) not entered for either?

See above. 2016 data not currently available.

21.7% of pupils not entered for Full or Short Course qualifications in 2015

More learners with higher-level Welsh language skills

What are the current total A Level Welsh first language entries as a percentage of GCSE Welsh first language entries two years earlier?

2015 data: 3 pupils – A level, 4 pupil– AS level Welsh

What are the current total A Level Welsh second language entries as a percentage of the full and short course GCSE Welsh second language entries two years earlier?

2015 data: 19 pupils – A level, 4 pupils – AS level Welsh

Outcome 6: Welsh-medium provision for learners Additional Learning Needs

No data required

Outcome 7: Workforce planning and Continuous Professional Development

No data required

DRAFT

Name of Cylch Meithrin / Cylch Tî a Fi /non-maintained Welsh-medium childcare setting	Number of children transferring to Welsh-medium schools in September 2013	Percentage of pupils transferring to Welsh-medium schools in September 2013	Number of children transferring to Welsh-medium schools in September 2014	Percentage of pupils transferring to Welsh-medium schools in September 2014	Number of children transferring to Welsh-medium schools in September 2015	Percentage of pupils transferring to Welsh-medium schools in September 2015	Number of children transferring to Welsh-medium schools in September 2016	Percentage of pupils transferring to Welsh-medium schools in September 2016	Notes
Aberbargoed 123	13	57%	9	75%	13	62%	15	71%	This setting does not offer Foundation Phase or Flying Start places.
Coed Duon	18	90%	12	71%	11	69%	7	58%	The setting offers Foundation Phase places. Located on an English medium comprehensive site.
Cwm Derwen	20	100%	14	93%	18	100%	22	96%	The setting offers Foundation Phase places. Located on a Welsh Medium primary site
Cwm Gwyddon	36	75%	36	77%	24	100%	30	81%	This setting does not offer Foundation Phase or Flying Start places. Located on a Welsh Medium primary site
Dewi Sant	1	4%	3	9%	1	3%	2	5%	The setting offers Foundation Phase and Flying Start places. There is no Welsh-medium primary school in Risca, so children travel to Cwm Gwyddon. The nearest Welsh-medium school has consistent take up. Mudiad Meithrin will work with RhAG and the Local Authority regarding the need for Welsh medium Education in this area highlighted in WESP targets.
Idwal Bach	25	100%	41	89%	32	100%	50	100%	This setting offers Flying Start places, but does not offer Foundation Phase. Located on a Welsh Medium primary site
Llanbradach	10	59%	11	65%	8	58%	14	70%	This setting does not offer Foundation Phase or Flying Start places. Not located on a Welsh Medium primary site
Nelson	40	95%	20	95%	14	88%	20	91%	The setting offers Foundation Phase and are contracted to deliver Flying Start places in the future but not yet offering FS places. Not located on a Welsh Medium primary site.
Parc Waunfawr	1	8%	5	38%	0	0%	0	0%	This is still an unregistered part-time setting and therefore not offering Foundation Phase or Flying Start. Not located on a Welsh Medium primary site
Penalltau	39	100%	22	100%	22	100%	25	100%	This setting does not offer Foundation Phase or Flying Start places. Located on a Welsh Medium primary site
Penpedairheol	16	55%	14	78%	8	62%	1	11%	This setting does not offer Foundation Phase or Flying Start places. Pupils have to travel to reach the local Welsh-medium school. Mudiad Meithrin staff are working closely with the Cylch staff to promote Welsh-medium education and are monitoring the progression rates at the Cylch.

Name of Cylch Meithrin / Cylch Ti a Fi /non-maintained Welsh-medium childcare setting	Number of children transferring to Welsh-medium schools in September 2013	Percentage of pupils transferring to Welsh-medium schools in September 2013	Number of children transferring to Welsh-medium schools in September 2014	Percentage of pupils transferring to Welsh-medium schools in September 2014	Number of children transferring to Welsh-medium schools in September 2015	Percentage of pupils transferring to Welsh-medium schools in September 2015	Number of children transferring to Welsh-medium schools in September 2016	Percentage of pupils transferring to Welsh-medium schools in September 2016	Notes
Pontllanfraith	20	42%	6	43%	5	36%	8	44%	The setting offers Foundation Phase and Flying Start places. The school is the only pre-school provision in the area feeding 8 different schools; 4 Welsh and 4 English-medium. Mudiad Meithrin staff are working closely with the Cylch staff to promote Welsh-medium education and increase progression rates as well as develop the relationship with the local Welsh-medium school. Not located on a Welsh Medium primary site.
Rhymni	19	90%	21	81%	24	83%	19	86%	This setting offers Flying Start places but does not offer Foundation Phase places. Not located on a Welsh Medium primary site
Tedi Twt	22	100%	18	100%	9	100%	10	91%	This setting offers Flying Start places but does not offer Foundation Phase places. Currently located on a Welsh Medium primary site
Tonyfelin	25	96%	21	91%	27	100%	30	100%	The setting offers Foundation Phase places. Not located on a Welsh Medium primary site. It is the only Cylch Meithrin in Caerphilly town feeding 2 Welsh medium Primary schools.
Yr Enfys	14	82%	15	88%	16	89%	25	86%	This setting offers Foundation Phase places and is registered to offer Flying Start places in the future when they have reached eligibility criteria. Located adjacent to a Welsh Medium primary site
Caerphilly	319	72%	268	75%	232	76%	278	68%	2016 data shows a slight decrease in transition rates although the overall number of children in settings has increased significantly by 46 children (nearly 20%)

Annex 2 Parental Survey 2015:

Pre-School Survey 2014/2015

Analysis of Responses to the 1st September 2014 to 31st August 2015 Survey

Summary

Between 2004 and 2013 ten surveys were undertaken by Caerphilly County Borough Council. The surveys were designed to collect information regarding school place preferences from parents of 20,614 babies born in the period 1st September 2004 to 31st August 2014 (100% of total births in this period). The surveys were intended as a means of assessing the relative levels of demand for Welsh, English or Faith medium education.

Method

For the 2014/15 survey details of babies born during the period 1st September 2014 to 31st August 2015 were supplied by the Aneurin Bevan Health Board. The information provided consisted of each baby's name, date of birth, address and postcode. The postcodes were used to enable catchment area mapping.

A questionnaire was created and a covering letter was produced to go with each questionnaire, which gave information regarding the survey. Both the questionnaire and letter were sent in English and Welsh languages to each Parent / Guardian. In order to encourage a response, a Freepost envelope was provided for return. The letter referred to the Starting School Booklet which describes education provision in Caerphilly County Borough, produced by the Local Authority.

The questionnaire contained two sections:-

Part A. Child Details – this asked for the number of children under the age of 2 years of age as at 31st August 2015, the date(s) of birth of the child(ren) and the postcode of residency.

Part B. Preferred school – this invited the parent to choose a school from a list of all Caerphilly County Borough schools. This section also contained three further questions regarding whether a Welsh school would have been chosen if one was within 2 miles of their home, in excess of 2 miles from their home and the maximum distance to travel to school.

A total of 2037 questionnaires were sent out. Parents were given one month to reply.

Responses

Table 1 shows the overall response rate to the questionnaire

Table 1: Response Rate

Number sent	2037
Number returned	518
Percentage response	25.4%

The overall response rate of 25.4% is good for a postal survey, but 4.6% below that for the previous survey. Non-respondents were not followed up due to time and cost restraints.

Table 2: Choice of Language Medium

Parents were asked to choose their preferred school. Table 2 summarises the language medium preferences. Of the 406 choosing English medium provision, 6 of these opted for a faith school.

Preference	Total	Percent
Welsh medium catchment school	82	15.8%
Welsh medium non catchment school	30	5.8%
English medium catchment school	276	53.3%
English medium non catchment school	124	23.9%
Faith School	6	1.2%
Total	518	100.0%
Welsh medium school	112	21.6%
English medium school	400	77.2%
Faith School	6	1.2%
Total	518	100.0%

Tables 3a, 3b & 3c: Language Medium Preference Based on Distance to School

Parents were asked if they would have chosen a Welsh medium school based on distance from their home. The results are shown below.

Table 3a: Analysis of those who would choose a Welsh Medium school if one was within 2 miles of their home.

536 out of 541 respondents answered this question (99.1%)

Preference	Very Likely	Likely	Quite Likely	Quite Unlikely	Unlikely	Very Unlikely	Total
Welsh	109	7	5	0	0	0	121
English	26	25	21	38	75	224	409
Faith	0	0	1	1	2	2	6
Total	135	32	27	39	77	226	536
Welsh	90.1%	5.8%	4.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
English	6.4%	6.1%	5.1%	9.3%	18.3%	54.8%	100.0%
Faith	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	16.7%	33.3%	33.3%	100.0%
Total	25.2%	5.9%	5.0%	7.3%	14.4%	42.2%	100.0%

As expected, the majority of those who choose a Welsh medium school would have chosen one if within 2 miles of home. However, the majority (73.1%) of those who chose an English medium school would not have chosen Welsh medium even if a Welsh school was within 2 miles of their home.

Table 3b: Analysis of those who would choose a Welsh Medium school if one was more than 2 miles from their home.

519 out of 541 respondents answered this question (95.9%)

Preference	Very Likely	Likely	Quite Likely	Quite Unlikely	Unlikely	Very Unlikely	Total
Welsh	76	12	11	9	10	3	121
English	17	6	16	34	74	266	413
Faith	0	0	1	0	2	3	6
Total	93	18	28	43	86	272	540
Welsh	62.8%	9.9%	9.1%	7.4%	8.3%	2.5%	100.0%
English	4.1%	1.5%	3.9%	8.2%	17.9%	64.4%	100.0%
Faith	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	33.3%	50.0%	100.0%
Total	17.2%	3.3%	5.2%	8.0%	15.9%	50.4%	100.0%

Over 81% of those who choose a Welsh medium school would still chose this medium even if the school was more than 2 miles from home. Over 90% of those who choose an English medium school would stick with this choice if a Welsh medium school was more than 2 miles from home.

Table 3c: Analysis of maximum travel time to school according to medium chosen.
519 out of 541 respondents answered this question (95.9%)

Preference	Less than 10 minutes	Between 10 minutes and 20 minutes	Between 20 minutes and 30 minutes	Between 30 minutes and 45 minutes	Between 45 minutes and 60 minutes	More than 60 minutes	Total
Welsh	31	69	17	4	0	0	121
English	145	215	29	4	0	0	393
Faith	1	2	2	0	0	0	5
Total	177	286	48	8	0	0	519
Welsh	25.6%	57.0%	14.1%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
English	36.9%	54.7%	7.4%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Faith	20.0%	40.0%	40.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	34.1%	55.1%	9.2%	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

96.7% of those choosing Welsh medium schools would be willing to travel up to 30 minutes to school, whilst 99.0% of those choosing English medium schools would travel up to 30 minutes (so no real difference). However, the percentage willing to travel 20-30 minutes to school is higher for Welsh medium than English medium (14.1% compared to 7.4%), so on average parents are willing to travel for a little longer to reach a Welsh school. Just 1.6% of respondents answering this question would be willing to travel for over 30 minutes.



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Keri Cole
Chief Education Officer
Caerphilly County Council
Penallta House
Tredomen Park
Ystrad Mynach
Hengoed
CF82 7EP

4 August 2017

Dear Keri Cole

Thank you for the time and effort you have put into this phase of Welsh education planning. With the launch of our *Cymraeg 2050* Strategy, this is a new and exciting time for all of us. To fulfil our vision for a million Welsh speakers by 2050, we need to make some radical and far reaching changes to the way we work as a government and how we plan Welsh medium education. We are on the cusp of significant change to the Welsh language and Welsh Government can not do this on its own.

You will know by now that I want changes to the way we plan for Welsh medium education and I want to do this with you so we can work together to provide Welsh medium education with a strong and resilient framework for growth.

I have considered your draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and I am pleased to note your commitment to Welsh language education. However, as you will know from discussions between our officials, I would suggest that the issues outlined below need to be addressed in the plan. I trust you agree that it's important that the authority takes ownership over its own plan. Therefore, can you address these issues and submit an amended plan I will then make the decision whether or not to approve that plan. Should your amended plan address the issues outlined in this letter then I would be minded to approve it.

Issues to be addressed

Below are the issues you need to address in your plan. We realise that in some cases, you will need to go through your own approval process, but we would ask if you could present you amended plan to us as soon as possible and no later than **29 September 2017**. This of course will be dependent on your consultation processes.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Alun.Davies@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Alun.Davies@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

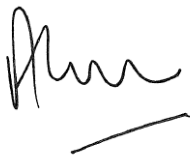
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

It is for you to decide what constitutes fair and open consultation in terms of timescales. It is important that all those with an interest in Welsh medium education have an opportunity to contribute their views.

This feedback includes Aled Roberts' views and these are attached in full as annex 1.

- To set objectives and timescale for increasing the pre-school provision.
- There is a need to set more challenging targets within outcome 1 and not just projections
- What are your plans for the Band B 21st Century Schools Programme?
- How will the Authority ensure that it can meet the demand for Welsh medium Education in areas where the demand is high and capacity is an issue?
- Could you expand on the opportunities that will arise from new Housing developments?
- There is a need to set objectives as to how you will improve transfer rates of pupils from Welsh medium nursery to primary school
- Provide further Information on how you intend to work with the further Education sector to ensure opportunities for pupils to continue with Welsh medium Education post-16.

You have my assurance that my officials will provide any support, advice or guidance necessary.



Alun Davies AC/AM

Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes
Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language

CAERPHILLY

VISION

It's important for me to acknowledge the significant contribution that Caerphilly County has made to the growth of Welsh medium education within the south-east. The plan also presents a vision which combines the promotion of Welsh education, increases school places, raises standards and improves the current transfer rates and reduces the effects of poverty.

OUTCOME 1

Although I welcome the intention to work with the Mudiad Meithrin to improve transfer rates from the cylchoedd where less than 75% of their children to transfer into Welsh-medium education. There needs to be a clear plan on how to expand on the current Welsh-medium pre-school provision. The plan needs to include the County's provision in terms of ensuring availability of Welsh medium 30 hour childcare offer that is to be introduced within the east central valleys.

The figures under outcome 1 are again based on projections rather than targets for further growth within Welsh education. It is therefore disappointing that the figures show there will only be 7 more children aged 7 assessed in the medium of Welsh by 2019/20 and a reduction in the two years before that.

Within the first year of the WESP, the county should develop resources to promote Welsh medium education. If Caerphilly County are to contribute to the Welsh Government's vision of increasing the number of Welsh speakers in the same way as they have done in the past, the Council needs to include plans for Caerphilly and Islwyn east within the Band B of the 21st Century Schools Programme. The WESP also needs to include a statement on how the authority is going to provide Welsh medium places in the interim period in those areas where it appears that capacity are insufficient to meet current demand. It would seem that further planning is needed at Caerphilly Welsh medium primary, Cwm Gwyddon primary, Ifor Bach primary, Bro Allta and Penalltau primaries.

There needs to be an understanding within the WESP about how the Council will determine the medium of teaching for the new schools that are to be constructed under section 106 or within developments under the local plan.

The numbers of latecomers requiring immersion are low and the intention is to plan at the regional/sub-regional level. Timescales should be specified in relation to those discussions and also includes immersion projects within the negotiations.

OUTCOME 2

The transfer rates between the stages within outcome 2 look healthy except for the percentage between pre-school and Foundation phase. It is clear that the transfer rates are

higher where the nursery groups are on the same campus as the primary school but the county should also plan to ensure that schools are situated close to successful Cylchoedd e.g. Risca.

OUTCOME 3 & 4

Whilst there is a strong partnership between the Rhymney Valley School and Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw that will be extended to include Ysgol Gwent Iscoed, there needs to be a clearer understanding of the post-16 vocational provision and Outcome 3 and 4 should be strengthened to reflect that. It is encouraging that discussions include Coleg y Cymoedd but the statement noting that it cannot extend the current provision within the college is unsatisfactory.

OUTCOME 5

Within outcome 5, the targets for achievement in Welsh should include Welsh as a second language. The Authority's intention to encourage schools to register nearly all pupils for the full Welsh second language course is to be welcomed when considering that only 22% of the existing pupils are sitting Welsh second language GCSE at the moment. Targets that have been agreed with the schools should be set in the WESP and continuously monitored during the lifetime of the WESP.

OUTCOME 6

There is a comprehensive description of the existing provision within the primary and intensive provision within Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen and then the secondary provision within Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni . It would be useful however to understand if a review has been carried out recently in terms of identifying any gaps in provision and the steps that need to be taken to deal with those gaps. There is also a need to understand the nature of the work that has been commissioned at regional level and expectations arising from that because the description is very different from county to county.

OUTCOME 7

It appears that EAS has the responsibility for conducting linguistic skills assessments within the schools but we need to understand who will be responsible for prioritising and meeting the training needs of the staff. The plan must include a timetable for fulfilling this work when considering the size of the task and the implications in terms of meeting the demand within the schools as the number of Welsh medium schools increases and changes to the Welsh second language curriculum are introduced.



CABINET – 15TH NOVEMBER 2017

SUBJECT: FREE CHRISTMAS PARKING PROPOSAL FOR CAERPHILLY TOWN

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to introduce a 2 hour free parking period in all Caerphilly town pay and display car parks for two weeks in the run up to Christmas 2017.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 In order to demonstrate the Council's continuing support for traders in Caerphilly town in light of the impact of the ongoing A468/A469 Pwllpant roundabout highway improvement works and the still challenging economic climate, it is proposed to introduce the 2 hour free parking period in the town's pay and display car parks for two weeks in the run up to Christmas 2017 in an effort to support and increase trade in the town.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The report links to the Council's priority to ensure that communities are safe, green and clean places to live and to improve residents' quality of life.
- 3.2 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 Construction of the A468/A469 Pwllpant roundabout highway improvement commenced on the 9th October 2017 and is programmed to take 12 months to complete. After the first few days of significant disruption to traffic, the increase in journey times has reduced significantly to generally 10-15 minutes at peak times. However, traders continue to express concern about the reduction in footfall and trade, and in particular the potential impact on the Christmas trade which is one of the busiest times for most traders. The impact of the temporary traffic management is under review and further mitigation measures are being considered.

- 4.2 The Cabinet acknowledges the ongoing pressures facing traders in the Caerphilly County Borough owing to the ongoing challenging economic climate and the potential impact of the highway improvement works on Caerphilly town in particular. Every opportunity must be taken to encourage shoppers and visitors to come into the town, particularly during the Christmas period. In previous years a 2 hour free parking for a two week period in the run-up to Christmas was introduced and was well received as part of the Council's support to increase trade in the borough (last introduced in 2011).
- 4.3 During the Christmas period the car parks are full for the majority of the day and demand for parking is at its highest at this time of year. Free parking up to 2 hours (with no return for 2 hours) in Caerphilly town, whilst diminishing some turnover, will ensure that there is turnover of car parking spaces; that commuter and worker parking is discouraged from the main car parks; and that there is general availability for shoppers and visitors to the town in the car parks most suited for their needs. Any users wishing to stay for longer than 2 hours will be required to pay the normal tariff (i.e. 3 hours and over).
- 4.4 To ensure compliance with the 2 hour free parking with no return for 2 hours a higher level of enforcement will be required at the most heavily used short stay sites. It will be important to ensure adequate signage is provided to avoid confusion with users. To control the free car parking users will still be required to display a ticket otherwise they may be issued with an excess charge notice. The early stages of this period will need to be monitored to determine how motorists react to the changes.
- 4.5 Given the practicalities of implementing this proposal just before the statutory holidays, it is proposed that the free parking will commence in Caerphilly town on Saturday 9 December 2017 until Saturday 23 December 2017.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 As a "one off" short term measure the proposal is not expected to have a long term impact, but does contribute to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An EIA screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's Strategic Equality Plan and supplementary guidance. No potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact has been identified, therefore a full EIA has not been carried out.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The cost of implementing the proposal borough wide in 2011 was approximately £30,000 but since that time usage of the car parks has remained similar and there has been no increase in the parking tariffs. To implement the free parking proposals in Caerphilly town in 2017 it is estimated to cost the Council around £5-10,000 (covering loss of income, legal and implementation costs). This cost will be met from existing Engineering Services budgets.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None.

9. CONSULTATIONS

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

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Cabinet are asked to approve the implementation of free parking in Caerphilly town for up to 2 hours with no return for 2 hours in the two weeks before Christmas 2017.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 As described in 4.1 – 4.2.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

13. URGENCY

- 13.1 This report is urgent on the basis that Caerphilly town businesses have cited that the Pwllpant Roundabout improvement works have had a detrimental impact on their trading figures as a result of reduced footfall and visitor numbers within the town. A significant amount of their annual trade is undertaken in the run up to Christmas.
- 13.2 In accordance with the Council's Constitution the Mayor has agreed that the decision proposed is reasonable and has agreed that the decision should be treated as exempt from Call in.

Author: Clive Campbell - Transportation Engineering Manager
Consultees: Cllr David Poole, Leader of the Council
Cllr Sean Morgan, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure, Sustainability and Wellbeing and Future generations Champion
Cllr John Bevan, Mayor
Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive
Christina HARRY, Corporate Director - Communities
Steve Harris, Interim Head of Corporate Services
Marcus Lloyd, Acting Head of Engineering Services
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer – Equalities & Welsh Language
Mike Eedy, Finance Manager
Shaun Watkins, HR Service Manager
Dean Smith, Principal Engineer (Traffic Management)

This page is intentionally left blank