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**Date: 29th November 2017**

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee** will be held in the **Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Wednesday, 6th December, 2017** at **10.30 am** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. **The meeting will be concluded by 12.15 p.m.** 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.

#### PLEASE NOTE

Arrangements have been made for a **pre-meeting of the County Borough Members only, at 10.00 a.m. in Core Meeting Room 1.3**, and **all Voluntary Sector Representatives at 10.00 a.m. in the Sirhowy Room**. All other council officers and representatives of external organisations should assemble in the Reception Area for the main meeting at **10.30 a.m. in the Sirhowy Room**.

Yours faithfully,

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

**Chris Burns**  
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### AGENDA

- 1 To receive apologies for absence.

Pages

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2 Declarations of Interest.

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

3 Aneurin Bevan University Health Board "Care Closer to Home" Presentation.

To receive and consider the following minutes: -

- |   |   |        |
|---|---|--------|
| 4 | Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee held on the 20th September 2017.                       | 1 - 6  |
| 5 | Draft Budget Proposals for 2018/19.   | 7 - 12 |
| 6 | Verbal Update on Tree Felling - Jon Goldsworthy, Natural Resources Wales.                 |        |
| 7 | Items of interest concerning the Voluntary Sector from Compact Partners - Verbal Updates. |        |

**Circulation:**

Councillors Mrs E.M. Aldworth, J. Bevan, A. Collis, S. Cook, K. Etheridge, J.E. Fussell, R.W. Gough, A.G. Higgs, V. James, Mrs B. A. Jones, Mrs T. Parry, A. Whitcombe, R. Whiting, L.G. Whittle and W. Williams

**Representatives of the Voluntary Sector:**

Ms H. Billington, Abbeyfield (Caerphilly) Society Limited  
Mr L. Clay, Abertridwr Community Church  
Ms J. Price, Bargoed YMCA  
Ms P. Jones, Caerphilly Care & Repair  
Mr C. Luke, Caerphilly People First  
Ms S. Howells, Charter Housing  
Ms J. Channing, Citizen's Advice Bureau (Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwen)  
Mrs C. Williams, Cruse Bereavement Care  
Ms N Perkins, Disability CANDU Organisation  
Ms L. Tibbs, Drugaid Young Persons Service  
Mr M. Featherstone, GAVO  
Ms K. Stevenson, Groundwork Wales  
Ms M. Snowden, Homestart Caerphilly  
Ms L. Jones, Menter Iaith  
Ms C. Loring, Right From The Start  
Mr M. Goldwyn, SCOPE  
Ms N. George-Titley, South East Wales Carer's Trust  
Ms M. Jones, The Parent Network  
Mr J. Wade, Van Road United Reformed Church  
Mrs M. Wade, Vanguard Caerphilly  
Mr D. Brunton, YMLAEN

**Aneurin Bevan University Health Board:**

Ms C. Gregory

**Gwent Police:**

Chief Inspector P. Staniforth

**The Office of the Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner:**

Ms J. Tippins

**South Wales Fire & Rescue Services:**

Mr R. Hassett

**Caerphilly Business Forum:**

Mrs D. Lovering

**Town & Community Councils Representative:**

H. Llewellyn

**Natural Resources Wales**

Mr J. Goldsworthy

And Appropriate Officers

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## VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH  
ON WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 10.40 A.M.

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PRESENT:

Mrs E.M. Aldworth - Chair  
Mrs M. Jones (Vice Chair) - Caerphilly Parent Network

Councillors:

A. Collis, K. Etheridge, J.E. Fussell, R.W. Gough, Mrs B.A. Jones, Mrs T. Parry, R. Whiting,  
L.G. Whittle, W. Williams

Voluntary Sector Representatives:

Abertridwr Community Church (Mr L. Clay), Bargoed YMCA (Ms J. Price), Caerphilly People First (Mr C. Luke), Citizen's Advice Bureau - Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent (Ms J. Channing), GAVO (Mr S. Tiley - Assistant Chief Executive), Ms G. Jones (GAVO Caerphilly), Homestart Caerphilly (Ms R. Evans), Scope (Mr M. Goldwyn)

Compact Partners:

Insp. A. O'Keefe and DS S. Warden (Gwent Police), PCs A. Marriner and J. Evans (Gwent Police Online Investigation Team), Mr H. Llewellyn (Town and Community Council Representative)

Also present:

P. Cooke (Senior Policy Officer), T. McMahon (Community Regeneration Manager), A. Palmer (Community Planning Co-Ordinator - GAVO/CCBC), V. Doyle (Policy Officer - Statistics and Funding), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was moved and seconded that Councillor Mrs E.M. Aldworth be appointed as Chair of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee for the ensuing year, and by a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

### 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors J. Bevan, S. Cook, A.G. Higgs, V. James and A. Whitcombe.

Voluntary Sector Representatives - Abbeyfield (Caerphilly) Society Ltd (Mr H. Billington), Caerphilly Care and Repair (Ms P. Jones), Charter Housing (Ms S. Howells), Cruse Bereavement Care (Mrs C. Williams), Disability CANDO Organisation (Mr J. Miles), Drugaid Young Persons Service (Ms L. Tibbs), GAVO (Mr M. Featherstone - Chief Executive), Groundwork Wales (Mrs K. Stevenson), Menter Iaith (Mrs L. Jones), Right from the Start (Ms C. Loring), South East Wales Carer's Trust (Ms N. George-Titley), Van Road United Reformed Church (Mr J. Wade), Vanguard Caerphilly (Mrs M. Wade), YMLAEN (Mr D. Brunton)

Compact Partners - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (Ms S. Millar), Caerphilly Business Forum (Mrs D. Lovering), Gwent Police (Chief Inspector P. Staniforth), Natural Resources Wales (Mr J. Birch and Mr J. Goldsworthy), Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (Ms J. Tippins), South Wales Fire and Rescue (Mr R. Hassett)

Officers - K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager)

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **4. INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair led the introductions for the meeting and it was explained that Miss Jackie Dix (Policy Officer) has now left the Authority. Vicki Doyle and Paul Cooke will represent the Council's Policy department at future meetings of the Liaison Committee. Members noted the valued contribution that Miss Dix had made to the Committee over the years.

It was also noted that Chief Inspector Paul Staniforth had replaced Chief Inspector Nick McLain as the Gwent Police representative to the Committee. Inspector Andy O'Keefe was in attendance on his behalf and was welcomed to the meeting together with his colleagues from Gwent Police.

### **5. MINUTES – 28TH JUNE 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 2017 were approved as a correct record.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

#### **6. Items of Interest from Compact Partners - Natural Resources Wales (Minute No. 7)**

It was explained that due to a prior commitment by Natural Resources Wales, it was now intended for them to attend the December meeting to provide an update on the tree felling project at Cwmcarn Forest Drive. Members expressed a need for tree felling across other areas to also be examined and agreed that the item be scheduled for the December meeting.

#### **7. Any Other Business – Medium Term Financial Plan Savings (Minute No. 12)**

Tina McMahon (Community Regeneration Manager) provided an update on Communities First, which had been referenced at the June meeting during the course of discussion regarding the Medium Term Financial Plan and expected savings that may impact on the voluntary sector.

Members were advised that a report outlining the set process for the phasing out of the Communities First programme had been presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee the previous evening and would be considered by Cabinet on 4th October 2017. Since 1st April 2012, Communities First has been a Community Focused Tackling Poverty Programme, concentrating on the most deprived communities in Wales. The programme is funded by WG and has an annual budget of £2.902m. On 14th February 2017, it was confirmed that Communities First would be phased out between 31st March 2017 and 1st April 2018, and that funding will continue at 70% of 2016/17 levels until 31st March 2018.

It is intended for 2017/18 to be a transition period which secures the legacy of Communities First whilst moving to a fresh approach to building resilient communities. The changes will include two new Welsh Government initiatives (the Employment Support Fund and Legacy Fund) which are successors to the existing Communities First programme and will be funded from 1st April 2018. It was explained that the new Legacy programme will provide the administration and wider support for those with complex barriers to employment, and should influence the realignment of core public sector budgets. Whilst elements of the Legacy fund could be delivered by third sector organisations they would have to be appropriately procured.

Members were advised that these changes will have a significant impact on voluntary sector organisations. The Communities First programme has contributed to the funding of a number of posts across Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO), Groundwork Caerphilly and Senghenydd Youth Drop In Centre (SYDIC), and a reduction in the current funding is likely to have a major impact on the Council's voluntary sector partners. Additionally, from 1st April 2018, it is only Local Authorities that will be awarded the new Legacy and Employment Support Fund. Officers emphasised the importance of more effective and joint working with the voluntary sector moving forward as a result of these changes.

Members expressed a need for more creative partnership working between the voluntary sector and local authority as a result of these changes and for different working approaches to be undertaken moving forward. It was also suggested that the Liaison Committee could be a useful forum for the sharing of ideas in relation to collaborative working.

The Officer was thanked for the update in respect of Communities First.

## **8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS - CAERPHILLY WE WANT - FEEDBACK FROM WORKSHOPS AND DRAFT WELL-BEING PLAN**

Paul Cooke (Senior Policy Officer) provided an update on the feedback arising from the workshops held during the previous Liaison Committee meeting to discuss the proposed Well-being Objectives for the Caerphilly Public Services Board (PSB) and the involvement of the third sector.

Each Public Services Board has a duty to prepare and publish a local well-being plan setting out its local objectives and the steps it proposes to meet them. It was explained that at their June meeting, the PSB agreed six areas for action to be developed into Well-being objectives, which have been subject to in-depth investigation by partners as part of the response analysis process. The facilitated discussion by the Liaison Committee during the workshops focused on areas surrounding apprenticeships and volunteering, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Community Safety, Health, Environment and Sustainable Communities.

A summary of the notes from the workshops were included in the meeting papers, which outlined suggestions on how volunteer organisations can contribute to these priorities, what key actions can be taken together, how these can be linked to the other priorities, and what needs to be overcome or done differently. General discussion took place on a number of the priorities and the Liaison Committee noted the outcome of the facilitated workshops.

Members were then updated on the contents of the draft Well-being Plan as contained in the meeting papers which was presented to the PSB on 5th September 2017. The responses analysed from the Liaison Committee and other partner agencies have been used to develop the priorities for collaborative action for the Well-being Plan 2018-2023. The PSB were asked to consider and comment the draft Well-being Plan so that it could be circulated as part of the statutory 12 week stakeholder and public consultation.

Officers outlined the vision of the Public Services Board as set out in the draft Plan and the Well-being objectives that have been adopted in order to achieve “The Caerphilly We Want”. The objectives are intended to bring about a generational shift in focus for public sector activity in the area, in order to bring about tangible improvements in the well-being of current and future generations. The Well-being objectives comprise of Positive Change (a shared commitment to cross-sectoral change), Positive Start (giving future generations the best start in life), Positive People (empowering and enabling all residents to achieve their own potential) and Positive Places (enabling communities to be resilient and sustainable). Achievement of these objectives will differ to previous integrated planning process (such as the Single Integrated Plan) and will place a focus on outcome-orientated action.

The draft Plan also contained a delivery and action plan against each of these objectives. Officers highlighted areas for development, including changes to procurement systems and joint procurement working across agencies, work around early life experiences and building resilience, development of volunteering and apprenticeship programmes, supporting disadvantaged communities, protecting the environment, and work around community safety and community cohesion. Public consultation on the draft Plan is due to commence and a series of community engagement workshops across the county borough have been arranged for October-November 2017.

A number of comments were received from the Liaison Committee on the contents of the draft Plan. It was suggested that accessibility should be identified as an actionable area, particularly in relation to residents experiencing difficulties in accessing their GP surgery via public transport. Officers confirmed that the issue has already been identified and will form part of the feedback to the PSB on the draft Plan. A Member expressed a need for more even distribution of housing developments across the county borough to avoid the infrastructure pressures caused by overdevelopment of certain areas and for this matter to be raised with the PSB.

Discussion took place regarding the Gwent Priorities Project agreed by the G7 Group (comprising the 5 Gwent local authorities together with police, health and fire service representatives), which will examine the 5 local assessments of well-being and derive any commonalities to be listed as a set of Gwent well-being priorities. A Member expressed the need for these priorities to have equal parity and status with the locally-agreed priorities, and the Liaison Committee also discussed how the work being carried out by the Group will link into the aims of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal. A Member referenced the strong economic prospects within Cardiff and expressed a need for these to be distributed across the county borough and wider region. Members also suggested it would be useful to attend a PSB meeting to gain a greater understanding of how the identified priorities will be taken forward.

Having given full consideration to the items contained within the draft Well-being Plan, Members agreed that their comments regarding the contents of the draft Plan be forwarded to the Caerphilly Public Services Board.

## **9. UPDATE ON REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE**

It was explained that work is continuing on the revised Terms of Reference, which will enhance the function of the Committee, particularly in relation to partnership working. Officers



outlined the complexities involved in the revision of this document and explained that it was now intended for the item to be presented at a future meeting of the Liaison Committee.

Members noted the details of the update.

## **10. PRESENTATION BY GWENT POLICE - CYBERCRIME**

The Liaison Committee received a presentation on cybercrime from Detective Sergeant S. Warden of Gwent Police, together with his colleagues from the Online Investigation Team (PCs A. Marriner and J. Evans).

Members were advised that there has been a significant increase in cybercrime over the past few years, which has now been identified as a serious and organised crime. Gwent Police are seeing more prevalent cyberattacks on businesses across the region and the use of more sophisticated technologies in these attacks, and this has resulted in more officers across Gwent Police being trained to tackle and prevent such crimes. The Liaison Committee were advised that smartphone users are also particularly susceptible to cybercrime, given the wide use of these devices to access social media and other internet sites such as online banking. Cybercriminals will often use VPNs (virtual private networks) to mask their efforts, which means they are often virtually untraceable. The Police Officers outlined the work carried out by Gwent Police's digital media investigators who will examine major reported attacks to determine access routes or system weaknesses and establish how these can be minimised in the future.

Members were advised of the work carried out by Gwent Police's Police Online Investigation Team (POLIT) which deals with online crime relating to the trafficking of child abuse images, Gwent Police also tackle instances of cyberbullying, which is becoming more prevalent through avenues such as social media. It was emphasised to Members that the public should report any suspected instances of cybercrime (including any strange or unusual online requests) to 101 so that the matter can be investigated and preventative measures put in place if needed.

Discussion took place regarding the matters outlined in the presentation, and a Member queried whether Gwent Police has given consideration to working with vigilante groups to detect offenders involved in online child exploitation. It was explained that a working group has been established to look at this matter, but that there are wide-ranging issues that need to be considered, including the gathering of admissible evidence as a result of these investigations. A query was received regarding available resources in the event of a cyberattack on local businesses, and Members were advised that Gwent Police will endeavour to attend as soon as they can in order to minimise the spread of the cyber infection.

A Member from the voluntary sector indicated that he would find it useful to have additional advice from Gwent Police in relation to preventing cybercrime so that it could be passed to service users within his organisations. The Police Officers agreed to contact the Member following the meeting to discuss this further. Discussion took place regarding instances where local businesses/organisations around Caerphilly have been the focus of cyberattacks, the ease and speed at which these had been carried out, and the time it can take before a company becomes aware of these attacks. It was noted that affected businesses can also contact the Action Fraud helpline who will report the cyberattack to Gwent Police. The Police Officers emphasised to Members that if there is any suspicion regarding a cyberattack or potential attack, then they should not hesitate to call Gwent Police on 101.

The Liaison Committee thanked the Gwent Police Officers for attending the meeting and for their informative presentation and stated that they had found the content extremely useful.

## **11. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMPACT PARTNERS**

A verbal update was received from the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) and Mr Stephen Tiley (Assistant Chief Executive) provided an update on the latest developments. He explained that funding continues to be a priority for groups in the area and the volunteering team had helped to place 119 volunteers over recent months. There has been some changes to staffing arrangements and GAVO continues to support local community development and explore new ways of working. Mr Tiley also confirmed that GAVO had been included in the consultation process for the new PSB Well-being objectives, and will continue to work with new projects and support small voluntary organisations to be engaged. Mr Tiley explained that the phasing out of the Communities First programme would have an impact across the sector and that the Community Voices Programme will also be ending in June 2018. Any programme underspends were being used to support other gaps in the programme. GAVO are also seeking to review the Compact partnership agreement and support other options that may be available under the Well-being Plan.

The Liaison Committee also noted the contents of a written update from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) from Gwent, a copy of which was tabled at the meeting. The update referenced a recent drive in volunteer recruitment across Gwent police for the Animal Welfare and Independent Custody Schemes, details of the new Chief Constable for Gwent Police (Mr Julian Williams) and the opening of a new police station in Caerphilly.

There were no reports received from any of the other Compact Partners listed on the agenda.

## **12. FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

It was noted that the Safer Caerphilly event will be held on Saturday 23rd September at Cwmcarn High School, the Voluntary Sector Achievement Awards will be held on 19th October 2017 and the next Caerphilly Third Sector Forum will be held on Monday 23rd October 2017.

Members were encouraged to attend the One Beat Roadshow which will be held at the Vision Centre, Newbridge on 2nd November 2017 and it was noted that the GAVO Annual General Meeting will be held on 15th November 2017.

The Committee also noted the dates and locations of the community engagement workshops for "The Caerphilly We Want" being held in Rhymney (3rd October), Risca (10th October), Blackwood (10th November), Ystrad Mynach (21st November) and Caerphilly (29th November), and were invited to contact Vicki Doyle for more information or to book a place.

## **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A voluntary sector Member referred to the closure of a project administered by his organisation under the Community Voices programme and stated that he was unaware that the underspend for this project could have been re-utilised. Officers outlined the process in relation to projects that are coming to an end or close early and explained that any funding underspend would have to be returned to the awarding body. It was also confirmed that the organisation would have been notified of the options available in regards to the underspend. The Member stated that he had not received this information and the Officer offered to discuss the matter with him following the meeting.

The Chair thanked Members for their attendance and apologised for the meeting overrun arising from the delayed start.

The meeting closed at 12.38 p.m.



## VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 6TH DECEMBER 2017

**SUBJECT: DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2018/19**

**REPORT BY: ROB HARTSHORN, HEAD OF POLICY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION**

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

1.1 To provide Committee Members with an update on the Council's draft budget proposals for the 2018/19 financial year.

### **2. SUMMARY**

2.1 Following the announcement of the Welsh Government Provisional 2018/19 Local Government Financial Settlement on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Caerphilly CBC is currently consulting on draft budget proposals for 2018/19 prior to a final decision by Full Council in February 2018.

2.2 The draft budget includes savings proposals for 2018/19 totalling £7.205m and this report provides details of the savings proposals relating directly to the Voluntary Sector.

### **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 This report is consistent with the commitments, values, and principles of the Voluntary Sector Compact 2013-17.

3.3 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 The Welsh Government Provisional 2018/19 Local Government Financial Settlement was published on the 10th October 2017. For Caerphilly CBC there is a cash increase of £1.973m in the Aggregate External Finance (Revenue Support Grant and Redistributed Non-Domestic

Rates). 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.

- 4.2 At its meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 the Council’s Cabinet agreed draft 2018/19 budget proposals which are currently subject to consultation prior to final budget proposals being presented to Cabinet and Council in February 2018. The proposals will deliver a balanced budget for 2018/19 on the basis that Council Tax is increased by 4.52%. Table 1 provides a summary: -

Table 1 - Summary

Description	£m	£m
Whole-Authority cost pressures	8.867	
Inescapable service pressures	2.310	
Increase in Welsh Government funding		1.973
Draft savings proposals 2018/19		7.205
Contingent sum/savings in advance	1.000	
Council Tax uplift (4.52%)		2.999
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12.177</b>	<b>12.177</b>

- 4.3 Draft savings proposals have been identified for the 2018/19 financial year totalling £7.205m as summarised in Table 2: -

Table 2 – 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7.205</b>

- 4.4 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. Details of draft 2018/19 savings proposals that have a direct impact upon the voluntary sector are provided in 4.5 below.

#### **4.5 Draft 2018/19 Savings Proposals Impacting Upon the Voluntary Sector**

- 4.5.1 **Decommissioning of Hospital Discharge Contract currently held by Age Cymru (£46k) –** This proposal is to decommission the current contract let jointly with Health, which provides services for a relatively low number of people receiving non-statutory services for a short period of time. The implementation of the Social Services & Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 means these people should be sign-posted via the Council’s Information, Advice & Assistance Team to promote their independence and choice and to control their own needs. The current contract comes to an end in March 2018. The impact on the public will be in relation to people being discharged from hospital and will be mitigated via the provision of information, advice and assistance including literature being produced by Health.
- 4.5.2 **Decommissioning of 2 Luncheon Club contracts (£12k) -** Two Luncheon Clubs currently operate in Panside (Newbridge) and Nelson. Only 3 people currently attend the Panside Club and 11 people attend Nelson. The savings proposal is to cease funding to both these Clubs and offer people services of a community connector to look at other options in their communities. Alternatively the provider may be able to find a different funding stream.

- 4.5.3 **Decommission DEWIS advocacy contract, residential homes (£12k)** - This contract ended in March 2017 and £45k was retained (a budget reduction of £12k) to enable the spot purchase of advocacy services to meet identified needs, using the arrangements Newport City Council have in place. This reduction reflects demand on the advocacy service.
- 4.5.4 **Decommission Care & Repair Safety at Home contract (£13k)** - The current contract comes to an end in March 2018 and it is proposed that it is not recommissioned. The contract provides minor adaptations in peoples' own homes but there are many other options to providing this service. The implementation of the Social Services & Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 means these people should be sign-posted via the Council's Information, Advice & Assistance Team to promote their independence and choice and to control their own needs. Mitigation could be via application for Integrated Care Fund grant. In 2017/18 Care & Repair have been successful in securing circa £60k from the Integrated Care Fund across the Gwent region but will need to bid for funding in 2018/19. The Council has a separate minor adaptations budget which provides support for those most in need.
- 4.5.5 **Cease contribution to Stroke Association contract (£18k)** - The Health Board let this contract to which Caerphilly CBC currently makes an £18k contribution. In the last few years Health have received significant funding via the Integrated Care Fund to develop services for neurological conditions, hence alternatives are available.
- 4.5.6 **Reduce Advocacy Contract currently held by Carers Trust (£36k)** – The current value of this contract is £72k. It is proposed to re-tender on a lower value of £36k to reflect demand as advocacy services are available from a number of other sources. There is the option of potentially looking to commission services on a regional footprint to achieve better value for money when the contract ends in October 2018.
- 4.5.7 **Reduction in Technical Assistance budget (£4k)** - The Technical Assistance Fund is used to support technical advice and guidance for the required professional assessments and fees to allow access to funding provided through the Community Regeneration Fund and other external grant programmes such as the Community Facilities Programme (Welsh Government) and Big Lottery e.g. solicitors and legal fees, lease costs etc. The proposed £4k reduction would leave a remaining budget for 2018/19 of £15k.
- 4.5.8 **Reduction in Well-being budget (£10k)** - The Well-being budget of £41k was established in 2017/18 by bringing together a number of smaller budgets that each had a link to promoting well-being. The budget supports a range of well-being activity including, for example, health, sustainability, and 50+ initiatives. For 2018/19 it is proposed that the £41k budget is reduced to £31k.
- 4.5.9 The Well-being budget also funds the Greener Caerphilly Small Grants scheme which is usually accessed by services and external partners delivering environmental projects. The projects have always demonstrated collaborative working with other partner organisations and delivered tangible environmental improvement and benefits to the community. The funding awarded was dependant on applicant match funding on a £1 for £1 basis, so in some circumstances the funding helped partners secure additional funding.
- 4.5.10 Historically, approximately £5k of the Well-being budget has been allocated to third sector partners for environment and sustainability
- 4.5.11 **Reduction in Community Regeneration Fund (£137k)** - The Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) enables community and voluntary sector organisations in the county borough to bid for revenue funding to take forward initiatives they have developed for the benefit of the local community or service users. The revenue budget for 2017/18 is £232k and it is proposed to reduce this to £95k in 2018/19. There was an underspend of £115k on the CRF budget in 2016/17.
- 4.6 Details of the Final 2018/19 Local Government Financial Settlement will be issued on the 20th December 2017. The public consultation on the budget is running from the 13<sup>th</sup> of November

2017 to the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018, following which final 2018/19 budget proposals will be presented to Cabinet and Council in February 2018.

#### **4.7 Financial Outlook for Future Years**

- 4.7.1 At its meeting in February 2017, the Council was presented with an updated Medium-Term Financial Plan that showed a potential savings requirement of £22.2m for the three-year period 2019/20 to 2021/22. This assumed a cash flat position in terms of the Local Government Financial Settlement for each of the three years.
- 4.7.2 The Provisional 2018/19 Local Government Financial Settlement included an indicative all-Wales reduction in funding of minus 1.5% for the 2019/20 financial year. This would increase Caerphilly CBC's savings requirement by a further £3.9m for 2019/20 alone. If this was replicated in 2020/21 and 2021/22 then further savings of £7.8m would be required. This would result in a total savings requirement of circa £34m for the three-year period 2019/20 to 2021/22.
- 4.7.3 The Final 2018/19 Local Government Financial Settlement will include a revised indicative figure for 2019/20. This will take account of any impact on the Welsh Government budget of the UK Government Autumn Budget Statement.
- 4.7.4 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 but it is clear that significant financial challenges lie ahead.

#### **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 There are no personnel implications associated with this report

#### **9. CONSULTATIONS**

- 9.1 This report has been sent to the consultees listed below and all comments received are reflected in the report.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 That the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee consider and comment upon the Council's draft 2018/19 savings proposals that have a direct impact upon the Voluntary Sector.

## **11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 11.1 To ensure that the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee is aware of the draft 2018/19 savings proposals that have a direct impact upon the Voluntary Sector and has the opportunity to be involved in the development of the Council's draft 2018/19 budget.

## **12. STATUTORY POWER**

- 12.1 The Local Government Acts 1998 and 2003.

Author: Rob Hartshorn, Head of Policy and Public Protection

Consultees:	Steve Harris	Interim Head of Corporate Finance
	Jo Williams	Assistant Director, Adults Services
	Kathryn Peters	Corporate Policy Manager
	Dave Whetter	Principal Engineer, Communities

Background Papers:

"Draft Budget Proposals 2018/19" Caerphilly county borough council Cabinet report, dated 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

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