

Pecyn Dogfennau Cyhoeddus

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

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



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Am unrhyw ymholiad yn ymwneud â'r agenda hwn cysylltwch â Charlotte Evans
(Rhif Ffôn: 01443 864210 Ebost: evansca1@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Dyddiad: Dydd Mercher, 17 Ebrill 2019

Annwyl Syr/Fadam,

Bydd cyfarfod **Cabinet** yn cael ei gynnll yn **Ystafell Sirhywi, Tŷ Penallta, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach ar Dydd Mercher, 24ain Ebrill, 2019 am 10.30 am.** i ystyried materion a gynhwysir yn yr agenda canlynol. Mae croeso i chi ddefnyddio'r iaith Gymraeg yn y cyfarfod, a dylid rhoi cyfnod rhybudd o 3 diwrnod gwaith os ydych yn dymuno gwneud hynny. Bydd cyfieithu ar y pryd yn cael ei ddarparu ar gais..

Mae pob cyfarfod Pwyllgor yn agored i'r Wasg a'r Cyhoedd. Gofynnir i arsylwyr a chyfranogwyr ymddwyn gyda pharch ac ystyriaeth at eraill. Sylwer y bydd methu â gwneud hynny yn golygu y gofynnir i chi adael y cyfarfodydd ac efallai y cewch eich hebrwng o'r safle.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Harrhy'.

Christina Harrhy
PRIF WEITHREDWR DROS DRO

A G E N D A

Tudalennau

- 1 I dderbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb
- 2 Datganiadau o Ddiddordeb.

Atgoffi'r Cyngorwyr a Swyddogion o'u cyfrifoldeb personol i ddatgan unrhyw fuddiannau personol

A greener place Man gwyrrdach



a/neu niweidiol mewn perthynas ag unrhyw eitem o fusnes ar yr agenda hwn yn unol â Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 2000, Cyfansoddiad y Cyngor a'r Cod Ymddygiad ar gyfer Cynghorwyr a Swyddogion.

I gymeradwyo a llofnodi'r cofnodion canlynol:-

3 Cynhaliwyd y Cabinet ar 24ain Ebrill 2019.

1 - 10

I dderbyn ac ystyried yr adroddiad(au) canlynol y mae angen penderfyniadau gweithredol arnynt: -

4 Blaenorriaethau'r Fforwm Iau a'r Fforwm Ieuencid.

11 - 16

5 Mabwysiadu Cynllun Llywodraeth Cymru (Rhyddhad Ardrethi'r Stryd Fawr a Manwerthu) 2019/20 - Cyllid Grant.

17 - 42

Cylchrediad:

Cynghorwyr

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

A Swyddogion Priodol.

SUT FYDDWN YN DEFNYDDIO EICH GWYBODAETH

Bydd yr unigolion hynny sy'n mynchy cyfarfodydd pwylgor i siarad/roi tystiolaeth yn cael eu henwi yng nghofnodion y cyfarfod hynny, weithiau bydd hyn yn cynnwys eu man gweithio neu fusnes a'r barnau a fynegir. Bydd cofnodion o'r cyfarfod gan gynnwys manylion y siaradwyr ar gael i'r cyhoedd ar wefan y Cyngor ar www.caerffili.gov.uk. ac eithrio am drafodaethau sy'n ymwneud ag eitemau cyfrinachol neu eithriedig.

Mae gennych nifer o hawliau mewn perthynas â'r wybodaeth, gan gynnwys yr hawl i gael mynediad at wybodaeth sydd gennym amdanoch a'r hawl i gwyno os ydych yn anhapus gyda'r modd y mae eich gwybodaeth yn cael ei brosesu.

Am wybodaeth bellach ar sut rydym yn prosesu eich gwybodaeth a'ch hawliau, ewch i'r Hysbysiad Preifatrwydd Cyfarfodydd Pwylgor Llawn ar ein gwefan <http://www.caerffili.gov.uk/Pwylgor/Preifatrwydd> neu cysylltwch â Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol drwy e-bostio griffd2@caerffili.gov.uk neu ffoniwch 01443 863028.

Eitem Ar Yr Agenda 3



CABINET

COFNODION Y CYFARFOD A GYNHALIWYD YN NHŶ PENALLTA, TREDOMEN AR DDYDD MERCHER 10FED EBRILL 2019 AM 10:30AM

YN BRESENNOL:

Cynghorydd D. Poole – Cadeirydd

Y Cyngorwyr:

C. Cuss (Gofal Cymdeithasol a Lles), N. George (Gwasanaethau Cymdogaeth), C.J. Gordon (Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol), Mrs B.A. Jones (Cyllid, Perfformiad a Llywodraethu), P. Marsden (Addysg a Chyflawniad), S. Morgan (Economi, Seilwaith a Chynaliadwyedd), L. Phipps (Cartrefi a Lleoedd) ac E. Stenner (Amgylchedd a Diogelu'r Cyhoedd).

Ynghyd â:

C. Harrhy (Prif Weithredwr Dros Dro), E. Edmunds (Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Addysg a Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol), D. Street (Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Thai) ac M. S. Williams (Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Dros Dro - Cymunedau).

Hefyd yn bresennol:

S. Couzens (Prif Swyddog Tai), S. Harris (Pennaeth Dros Dro Gwella Busnes), J. Louger (Rheolwr Chwaraeon a Datblygu), J. Reynolds (Rheolwr Cyfleusterau Chwaraeon a Hamdden), S. Richards (Pennaeth Addysg, Cynllunio a Strategaeth), M. Williams (Pennaeth Dros Dro Gwasanaethau Eiddo), R. Tranter (Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol/Swyddog Monitro) a C. Evans (Swyddog Gwasanaethau Pwyllgor).

1. YMDDIHEURIADAU DROS ABSENOLDEB

Ni dderbyniwyd unrhyw ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.

2. DATGANIAD BUDDIANNAU

Datganodd y Cynghorydd C. Gordon fuddiant personol a rhagfarnllyd yn eitem 9 (Canolfan Hamdden Pontllan-fraith) a gadawodd y cyfarfod yn ystod ei ystyriaeth. Cofnodir y manylion gyda'r priod eitem.

3. CABINET – 27 MAWRTH 2019

PENDERFYNWYD bod cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ar 27ain Chwefror 2019 wedi'u cymeradwyo a'u llofnodi fel cofnod cywir.

MATERION AR Y PENDERFYNIADAU GWEITHREDOL SYDD EU HANGEN

4. CANOLFAN CAERFFILI AR GYFER PLANT AG ANGHENION YCHWANELEGOL

Rhoddodd yr adroddiad fanylion i'r Cabinet am gynnig i ddarparu canolfan newydd ar gyfer plant ag anghenion ychwanegol, i gymryd lle canolfan blant bresennol Caerffili yn Eneu'r-rglyn, Caerffili a cheisio cymeradwyaeth i fwrw ymlaen ag ymarfer ymgynghoriad ffurfiol o ran y datblygiad newydd posibl hwn.

Ym mis Hydref 2016 cymeradwyodd y Cabinet ddyraniad cyllid cyfalaf i adeiladu canolfan blant newydd fel rhan o'r rhaglen gyfalaf ar gyfer 2017/18. Er bod cynlluniau'n barod i ddatblygu, roedd trafodaethau pellach gyda chydweithwyr lechyd yngylch yr angen i gysylltu hyn â'r gwaith ar gyfer yr hybiau integredig a sicrhau bod gwasanaethau'n cael eu diogelu cymaint â phosibl at y dyfodol, wedi oedi'r penderfyniad i fwrw ymlaen.

Nododd y Cabinet fod y Cyngor bellach mewn sefyllfa i fwrw ymlaen â'r datblygiad gan fod safle addas wedi'i nodi, sef llwyfandir isaf Ysgol Gyfun Pontllan-fraith sydd bellach dros ben. O ganlyniad, gofynnwyd i'r Cabinet nodi'r cyfle hwn a chaniatáu i swyddogion allweddol fwrw ymlaen ag ymarfer ymgynghori ffurfiol mewn perthynas â'r datblygiad newydd posibl hwn.

Ychwanegodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Thai fod y ganolfan blant bresennol yn cynnig gwasanaeth gwerthfawr iawn a bod yr adroddiad yn gyfle i ddatblygu ymhellach ar hyn, gan ddarparu lleoliad mwy addas i'r diben, mewn lleoliad mwy canolog, gyda darpariaeth wedi'i huwchraddio neu rai ychwanegol i ddefnyddwyr gwasanaeth.

Cafwyd trafodaethau yngylch y broses ymgynghori a cheisiwyd eglurhad yngylch y partneriaid yr ymgynghorir â hwy. Esboniodd swyddogion yr ymgynghorir â'r holl Bartneriaid Statudol fel rhan o'r broses, a oedd yn cynnwys defnyddwyr gwasanaeth a mudiadau gwirfoddol, yn ogystal â darparu gwybodaeth ar wefan y cyngor a'r cyfryngau cymdeithasol.

Cydnabu Aelodau'r Cabinet fod y ganolfan blant yn adnodd ardderchog a gwerthfawr ond bod angen rhywfaint o uwchraddio a moderneiddio a gofynnwyd am ragor o wybodaeth am fanteision symud i safle newydd. Nododd swyddogion fod y Ganolfan bresennol wedi'i lleoli ym mhen isaf y cwm, ac ar waelod Bryn serth, a all fod yn broblemus o ran mynediad a theithio, y byddai'r lleoliad newydd yn fwy canolog yn y fwrdeistref ac yn lleihau problemau mynediad. Nodwyd nad yw'r pwll Hydro bellach yn addas i'r diben, a bod yna ystafelloedd therapi cyfyngedig, a byddai'r ganolfan newydd yn galluogi defnyddwyr i gael mynediad i safle mwy modern, gan gynnig amrywiaeth ehangach o wasanaethau.

Cafwyd trafodaethau yngylch y cyllid ychwanegol o £900 mil, y ceisiwyd ei gael gan Llywodraeth Cymru (LIC). Rhoddwyd sicrwydd i'r Cabinet y bydd y £3.1 miliwn, sydd wedi'i ddyrrannu i'r prosiect, yn darparu canolfan blant sy'n addas i'r diben, fodd bynnag bydd cyllid ychwanegol yn sicrhau diogelu at y dyfodol. Cysylltwyd â LIC, gyda chymorth Bwrdd lechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan, i wneud cais am arian ychwanegol o £900 mil, a darparwyd gwybodaeth bellach hefyd, ond mae ymateb dal i ddod ar hyn o bryd. Nododd y Cabinet fod yr ymgynghoriad yn cael ei gynnig am gyfnod o 12 wythnos ac mae swyddogion yn hyderus y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru wedi darparu ymateb erbyn hynny.

Yn dilyn ystyriaeth a thrafodaeth, cynigiwyd ac eiliwyd i gymeradwyo argymhellion yr adroddiad. Drwy ddangos dwylo cytunwyd hyn yn unfrydol.

PENDERFYNWYD, am y rhesymau a gynhwysir yn Adroddiad y Swyddog, y cytunir bod y Swyddogion yn bwrw ymlaen ag ymarfer ymgynghori ffurfiol mewn perthynas â'r datblygiad newydd posibl hwn.

6. GWELLIANAU I'R YSTAFELL FFITRWYDD YNG NGHANOLFAN HAMDDEN TRECELYN

Roedd yr adroddiad yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cabinet ar gyfer dyrannu arian untro ar gyfer gwaith gwella i'r ystafell ffitrwydd yng Nghanolfan Hamdden Trecelyn.

Ym mis Tachwedd 2018, cymeradwyodd y Cabinet Strategaeth Chwaraeon a Gweithgaredau Hamdden Egniol yr Awdurdod 2019-2029, sy'n nodi diben a chyfeiriad i'r dyfodol ar gyfer darparu chwaraeon a gweithgaredau hamdden egniol ym Mwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili.

Mae Strategaeth Chwaraeon a Hamdden Egniol y Cyngor yn disgrifio dros 500 o wahanol fannau chwaraeon a gweithgarwch corfforol ar draws y fwrdeistref sirol, gan gynnwys 10 canolfan hamdden gyda Chanolfan Hamdden Trecelyn yn cael ei nodi fel un o bedwar cyfleuster strategol.

Nodwyd bod ffrwd incwm allweddol yn cael ei pheryglu yng Nghanolfan Hamdden Trecelyn oherwydd diffyg buddsoddiad a hen gyfarpar ac o ganlyniad, nodwyd cyfle i ddatblygu a gwella'r ddarpariaeth bresennol yn sylweddol drwy ddatblygu a gwella'r ddarpariaeth bresennol yn sylweddol trwy drawsnewid y cyrtiau sboncen nad yw'n cael eu defnyddio ddigon.

Cwestiynodd Aelod o'r Cabinet y defnydd o'r cyrtiau sboncen fel rhan o'r cynnig, ond eglurodd swyddogion fod gostyngiad sylweddol wedi bod yn y nifer sy'n ymgymryd â chwaraeon raced, a chynnydd yn y nifer sy'n cymryd rhan mewn ymarfer grŵp, ac o ganlyniad, teimlwyd bod defnydd y gofod hwn ar gyfer gweithgaredau eraill yn diwallu anghenion, ac yn cynyddu cyfle, cyfranogiad a defnyddwyr.

Trafodwyd y Cynllun Atgyfeirio Cenedlaethol ar gyfer Ymarfer Corff a nodwyd, er nad yw hyn yn rhywbeth sydd wedi'i hwyluso yng Nghanolfan Hamdden Trecelyn ar hyn o bryd, y gallai fod yn rhywbeth y gellir darparu ar ei gyfer dros amser. Fodd bynnag, gobeithir y gall gwaith atal gael ei wneud drwy'r prosiect, ynghyd â gweithio mewn partneriaeth â'r ysgol gyfagos i annog mwy o bobl ifanc i gymryd rhan mewn gweithgaredau a ffitrwydd, gan felly leihau'r angen am y Cynllun Atgyfeirio Cenedlaethol ar gyfer Ymarfer Corff yn y dyfodol.

Codwyd cwestiynau ynghylch y ddarpariaeth bresennol o fannau parcio ceir yn y Ganolfan Hamdden ac a oes lle i ddefnyddio rhywfaint o'r lle yn yr Ysgol. Cadarnhaodd swyddogion fod trafodaethau ar y gweill gyda'r Ysgol i ddefnyddio nifer o gyfleusterau, gan gynnwys tir o fewn yr ysgol ar gyfer parcio ceir.

Yn dilyn ystyriaeth a thrafodaeth, cynigiwyd ac eiliwyd i gymeradwyo argymhellion yr adroddiad. Drwy ddangos dwylo cytunwyd hyn yn unfryadol.

Penderfynwyd, am y rhesymau a amlinellir yn Adroddiad y Swyddogion, am fuddsoddiad untro o £550 mil i gefnogi gwella cyfleusterau, datblygiadau, a phrynu offer yn yr ystafell ffitrwydd yng Nghanolfan Hamdden Trecelyn i gael ei gymeradwyo; ac i'w ariannu o'r ffynonellau canlynol :

- £253 mil o'r gyllideb cyfalaf Rheoli Asedau Corfforaethol;
- £92 mil o gyllid cyfalaf nas defnyddiwyd a ddyrannwyd yn flaenorol ar gyfer gwaith brys yng Nghanolfan Hamdden Caerffili;
- £205 mil o'r ad-daliad untro a dderbyniwyd gan CThEM mewn perthynas ag eithriad TAW ar gyflenwi gwasanaethau chwaraeon (fel yr adroddwyd i'r Cabinet yn ei gyfarfod ar 19eg Medi 2018).

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 12:45pm.

Wedi'i gymeradwyo a'i llofnodi fel cofnod cywir yn amodol ar unrhyw gywiriadau a wnaed yn y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ar 24ain Ebrill 2019.

CADEIRYDD



CABINET – 24TH APRIL 2019

SUBJECT: JUNIOR AND YOUTH FORUM PRIORITIES

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

- 1.1 The attached report was considered by the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on 2nd April 2019 prior to its presentation to the Cabinet. Members were advised that it was with sadness that the young people who were due to present at the meeting had attended a friend's funeral earlier in the day and had extended their disappointment at being unable to deliver their presentation.
- 1.2 The report, which had been presented by the Senior Youth Service Manager informed Members of issues raised by Children and Young People via the Youth Service's Junior and Youth Forums. Members noted the priorities voted on that were set out in paragraph 5.2 and 5.3 in the report. It was confirmed that the overall priority issue for the Youth Forum is 'Mental Health' - Services should be improved with young people's help and young people should receive mental health first aid education. The Junior Forum's overall priority issue is 'more awareness of support for drugs and alcohol support'. The process that follows the identification of issues was set out in paragraph 2.2 in the report.
- 1.3 A Member referred to the Youth Forum Conference that he attended and was impressed with the discussions that took place, with particular reference to the issue of mental health. The Cabinet Member had also attended the Conference and was equally impressed with the maturity of responses provided. She added that young people stated that issues of mental health are all around them and also how social media can impact negatively on their mental health. Officers confirmed that all secondary schools have Counsellors that provide support. Funding has been secured for this role that will not be affected by any savings proposals. There is an increase in need for support and the CAMHS Service is flooded with referrals. There is also a need to invest in Elsa and Thrive training to support children and young people.
- 1.4 Reference was made to the previous priorities presented to and supported by the Scrutiny Committee and a Member queried why feedback in terms of the young people's progress is not brought back to the Committee. It was suggested that the Youth Forum be invited to attend the next meeting scheduled on the 21st May 2019 to provide an update on the priority issues and this was agreed by the Scrutiny Committee.

Following consideration of the report, the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee unanimously recommended to Cabinet that for the reasons contained therein:-

- (i) the Junior and Youth Forum issues be supported and presented to Cabinet;
- (ii) the Youth Forum in addressing their Priority Issue of Mental Health, be supported;
- (iii) the Junior Forum in addressing their Priority Issue of raising awareness of Drug and Alcohol Support, be supported,
- (iv) issues raised by Children and Young People when making decisions which impact upon their lives, be supported.

1.5 Cabinet are asked to consider the recommendations of the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee.

Author: A. Dredge, Committee Services Officer, Ext. 3100.

Appendices:

Appendix A Report to the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee – 2nd April 2019 - Junior and Youth Forum Priorities – Agenda Item 9.



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2ND APRIL 2019

SUBJECT: JUNIOR & YOUTH FORUM PRIORITIES

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of issues raised by Children & Young People via the Youth Service's Junior and Youth Forums. The report is seeking the views of Members prior to its presentation to Cabinet.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Following the Youth Forum Conference in January 2019 and the Junior Forum meeting in November 2018, Children & Young People have identified issues important to them and have voted on Priority Issues for 2019.
- 2.2 The previously agreed process that follows the identification of issues has been as follows:
- Presentation of issues to SMT for information.
 - Young People present Junior Forum issues to Cabinet for information only and to request support in addressing the Youth Forum priority.
 - Young People to present issues to relevant scrutiny groups for information.
 - Young People to present issues to the Public Services Board (PSB) for information.
 - Issues are presented directly by Young People.
 - Young People form a Project Group that meets weekly to address the Youth Forum priority issue, working directly with Officers and Members as appropriate on a range of initiatives intended to have a positive impact on the issue. This work continues until December 2019, with the process re-starting in January.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Education Scrutiny Committee supports the presentation of Junior & Youth Forum issues to Cabinet.
- 3.2 That Education Scrutiny Committee considers how to support the Youth Forum in addressing their Priority Issue of Mental Health.
- 3.3 That Education Scrutiny Committee considers how to support the Junior Forum in addressing their Priority Issue of raising awareness of drug & alcohol support.
- 3.4 Education Scrutiny Committee to have due regard to issues raised within this report by Children and Young People when making decisions which impact upon their lives.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure Members are informed of priorities identified by children and young people.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The Junior & Youth Fora are structured and organised around five themes: Prosperous Caerphilly; Safer Caerphilly; Learning Caerphilly; Healthier Caerphilly; Greener Caerphilly, enabling children and young people to have a voice on issues that affect them. Junior Forum Representatives are aged 7-11 years; Youth Forum Representatives are aged 11-25 years.
- 5.1.2 At the Annual Youth Forum Conference Young People are provided with the opportunity to explore issues previously raised via borough wide consultation. Young people attending the conference present their views on each of the themes and engage in a dialogue with relevant Officers and Cabinet members. From exploring all themes within the context of young people's lives, young people identify and agree on a priority issue for each theme.

Following the Conference, an overall priority is voted for by Young People representing the Youth Service, Schools and Youth Support Services. The issues, as voted for by 2656 young people in a post conference consultation for 2019 are:

5.2 39% Healthier Caerphilly – **Overall Priority Issue**

Mental Health – Services should be improved with young peoples help. Young people should have mental health first aid education.

27% Safer Caerphilly

Knife Crime – Stop the knife crime epidemic

21% Prosperous Caerphilly

Tackling Homelessness – Every person should have a place to live and the opportunity to live comfortably. There needs to be more affordable housing.

9% Learning Caerphilly

Put an end to Period Poverty – Sanitary Products are an essential item. CCBC should make them free and accessible for all young people who need them whilst accessing schools and youth services.

4% Greener Caerphilly

Adventurous Outdoor Play - Provide safe adventurous play areas suitable for young people to encourage them to use local outdoor spaces.

- 5.3 The Junior Forum representatives identified a priority within each Forum theme, raised via consultation and then voted for as the overall priority. The issues voted for by 110 children are:

Junior Forum Issues:

41% Healthier Caerphilly – **Overall Priority Issue**

More awareness of support for drugs and alcohol

25% Learning Caerphilly

More support for children with Additional learning needs

19% Prosperous Caerphilly

More homeless shelters and opportunities for homeless people

11 % Safer Caerphilly
Speeding cars in communities are dangerous

4% Greener Caerphilly
Community litter picks

- 5.4 The Youth Forum will attend Education Scrutiny Committee on 2nd April 2019. To present on the issues and outline the plans to address the Priority Issue, and wish to proceed with attendance at Cabinet to seek support in addressing the priority issue.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 No related assumptions have been felt to be necessary in relation to this report.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 7.1 Youth Service Plan 2018-2021.
- 7.2 Education Service Improvement Plan 2019.
- 7.3 Statutory duties for the participation of children and young people under the children and families measure, Wales 2010.
- 7.4 Public Services Board Delivery Plan Enabler: E2 – Communications and Engagement.
- 7.5 Caerphilly County Borough Council Corporate Plan priority – The Well-being Objective “Improve Education opportunities for all”.

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 8.1 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 by working with children and young people (and supporting other service providers to work with children and young people) to impact on decision making for short term and long term needs. By listening to the voices of children and young people, service providers are better able to respond to needs, better able to identify and understand problems as experienced by our citizens and thus better able to shape services in the future in a more effective responsive way.
- 8.2 Involving children and young people in decision making at all levels fosters a culture of expectation and responsibility, strengthened by increasing their knowledge and understanding in Children's Rights.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 This report is for information purposes only, so the council's full Equalities Impact Assessment process does not need to be applied.
- 9.2 The participative activity that has taken place has benefitted many different groups in the community with many children and young people having been recipients of engagement activity, rights-based education and informed service delivery.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no financial implications with respect to this report.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no personnel implications with respect to this report.

12. CONSULTATIONS

12.1 All responses from the consultations have been incorporated in the report.

13. STATUTORY POWER

13.1 'Shared Purpose: Shared Future, Statutory Guidance on the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015', and in particular SPSF 3 – Annex B, which is issued in accordance with Section 17(3) of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 and applies to local authorities in respect of local well-being plans and whenever they take decisions which might affect children and young people.

Author: Clare Jones, Youth Forum Coordinator
Email: jonescl1@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Directorate Senior Management Team
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director, Education and Corporate Services
Christina Harrhy, Interim Chief Executive
Councillor Philippa Marsden, Cabinet Member, Education and Achievement
Councillor Derek Havard, Chair Education for Life Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Carol Andrews, Vice Chair Education for Life Scrutiny Committee
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Jane Southcombe, Financial Services Manager
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Nicole Scammell, Head of Corporate Finance and Section 151 Officer
Dave Street, Corporate Director, Social Services
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)
Ros Roberts, Performance Manager
Emma Townsend, Health & Safety Manager.



CABINET – 24TH APRIL 2019

SUBJECT: TO ADOPT THE WELSH GOVERNMENT (WG) 'HIGH STREET AND RETAIL RATE RELIEF' SCHEME 2019/20 – GRANT FUNDING

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Welsh Government (WG) has announced a new temporary business rate relief scheme, the 'High Street Rate and Retail Rate Relief Scheme' for the financial year 2019-20 only. Relief granted by the Authority under this new scheme is to be reimbursed by WG by way of a specific cash-limited grant but, before any relief is awarded, the Authority must consider and adopt the new scheme. This report recommends that Cabinet approval is given to adopt the new rate relief scheme in accordance with the WG guidance set out at Appendix 1.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report gives details of a new rate relief scheme offered by WG and attaches at Appendix 1 details of the new Scheme. Adoption of the new Scheme as set out at Appendix 1 is obligatory because WG has prescribed the details for the Scheme. The Authority must formally adopt the new Scheme set out in the guidance at Appendix 1 in order to obtain the WG grant funding.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet adopts, with immediate effect, the 'High Street and Retail Rate Relief Scheme' 2019-20 (the 2019/20 Scheme), in accordance with the guidance set out at Appendix 1 and the provisions of section 47(1) (a) and section 47(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. The Head of Corporate Finance and S151 Officer will use delegated powers to award the relief.
- 3.2 It is recommended for the reasons outlined in point 5.5 of this report that Cabinet adopts the proposals to allow successful applicants for the 2018/19 High Street Rate Relief Scheme (the 2018/19 Scheme) who are eligible to receive rate relief under the 2019/20 Scheme to have the rate relief awarded without the need to make a further application.
- 3.3 It is recommended that ratepayers who have not completed an application form for

the 2018/19 Scheme be required to properly complete and return an application form for the 2019/20 Scheme. Where an application form is required, such a form must be completed by each eligible ratepayer for each qualifying property and returned to the Business Rates Team.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the Authority complies with the grant conditions in order to obtain and fully utilise the grant funding in respect of any rate relief awarded under the WG Scheme as detailed in the guidance set out at Appendix 1.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 WG has announced the 'High Street and Retail Rate Relief Scheme' 2019-20 (the 2019/20 Scheme). It is intended that the relief under the 2019/20 Scheme will be made available subject to the Authority adopting the new Scheme as set out in the guidance at Appendix 1 and accepting the grant offer.
- 5.2 The 2019/20 Scheme aims to provide support for eligible retail businesses by offering up to £2,500 discount on the business rate bill per property, to retailers occupying premises with a rateable value of £50,000 or less for the financial year 2019-2020, subject to State Aid limits. WG has issued the estimated funding allocation for the Scheme, and this Authority's estimated allocation is £920k.
- 5.3 Relief is to be provided under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 in accordance with the criteria and conditions specified in the guidance set out at Appendix 1 of this report.
- 5.4 Appendix 1 is a guidance document issued by WG which in effect prescribes the detailed criteria and conditions for the Scheme.
- 5.5 In order to qualify for this rate relief, the guidance states that it will be for local authorities to determine how they wish to administer the Scheme. In order to maximise take-up by ratepayers and minimise administration costs for the Authority, it is proposed that rate relief is applied directly to eligible ratepayers' bills for those ratepayers who completed an application form and received rate relief under the 2018-19 Scheme, and are eligible for rate relief under the 2019-20 Scheme. In these cases, an application form will not need to be completed for 2019-20. However, if this path were to be followed, the guidance sets out a substantial amount of text which it recommends should be incorporated into an award letter addressed to each eligible ratepayer setting out the State Aid implications. Furthermore, if an eligible ratepayer believes he or she is not entitled to receive this relief, a declaration within the letter must be signed and returned to the Authority.
- 5.6 An application form will need to be completed in cases where a ratepayer did not receive High Street rate relief last year but meets the 2019-20 Scheme eligibility criteria. In 2018/19, officers issued initial application forms and several months later follow-up reminder letters were issued urging those ratepayers yet to apply to do so without further delay. It is intended that similar arrangements will be made for this scheme where a properly completed application form is not held in respect of the 2018/19 Scheme.
- 5.7 Officers of the Authority will make the business community aware of the 2019/20

Scheme through its usual channels, such as its website, social media channels and the ‘Newsline’ publication. In addition, where an application form is required to be completed, the Authority will write to ratepayers that it considers may be eligible for relief under the 2019/20 Scheme to inform them about the availability of relief and to provide information on the application process. The Authority’s Business Rate Team will therefore write to all newly-eligible businesses enclosing the appropriate application form to try and maximise take-up of the 2019/20 Scheme.

- 5.8 Full details of the Scheme, including the qualifying criteria, are included in the guidance set out at Appendix 1.

5.9 Conclusion

The report gives details of a new rate relief scheme offered by WG and attaches at Appendix 1 details of the new Scheme. Adoption of the new Scheme as set out at Appendix 1 is obligatory because WG has prescribed the details for the Scheme. The Authority must formally adopt the new Scheme set out in the guidance at Appendix 1 in order to obtain the WG grant funding. In order to implement the new Scheme, Members are advised to endorse all of the recommendations at points 3.1 to 3.3 inclusive.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 It is assumed that the recommendations in the report will maximise the use of the grant funding in terms of the amount of rate relief awarded, whilst minimising the staff/administrative costs incurred in awarding the rate relief.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 7.1 The adoption of the 2019/20 Scheme will support eligible businesses by reducing the amount of business rates payable which in turn may help create employment opportunities and increase entrepreneurial activities which is a key theme of ‘A Foundation for Success 2018-2023’ – Regeneration Strategy.

7.2 Corporate Plan 2018-2023.

This section shows how the report content (project, proposal, information or decision) contributes towards or impacts the Corporate Well-being Objectives, which are:

Objective 2 - Enabling employment – the awarding of rate relief under the Scheme will reduce the amount of business rates payable by businesses operating within the County Borough, which in turn should help those businesses to sustain the employment of residents.

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 8.1 Effective financial management is a key element in ensuring that the Well-being Goals in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 are met.
- A prosperous Wales – maximising the take-up of this WG business rate relief scheme will minimise the amount of rates payable by eligible businesses which helps them to continue trading.

- Long Term – It is hoped that eligible local businesses will be able to continue trading which will enable future generations to benefit in the long-term from a diverse number of local retailers, which should also improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of residents.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed in accordance with the Council's Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020 and supplementary guidance and is set out in Appendix 2. No potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact has been identified. This assessment was necessary because WG has not undertaken its own EIA. Each application will be dealt with on its own merits, but will follow the guidance set out in Appendix 1. It is clear that the 2019/20 Scheme will positively assist certain businesses.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no direct financial implications to the Authority as the Authority will be reimbursed by WG for any relief granted, provided it can evidence that the expenditure falls within the terms of the 'High Street and Retail Rate Relief Scheme' 2019-20 grant offer.
- 10.2 Based on an initial WG assessment of qualifying businesses for the 'High Street and Retail Rate Relief Scheme' 2019-20, the funding available to this Authority is estimated to be £920k. This figure is subject to change due to the daily amendments made to the Authority's rating list.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are none in respect of this report.

12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 There are no consultation responses which have not been reflected in this report.

13. STATUTORY POWER

- 13.1 Local Government Finance Act 1988, Government of Wales Act 2006 and Local Government Act 1972, 2000 and 2003. The decision as to whether to adopt the WG 'High Street and Retail Rate Relief Scheme' 2019-20 may be taken by Cabinet. The Head of Corporate Finance and S151 Officer will use delegated powers to award the relief.

14. URGENCY (CABINET ITEMS ONLY)

- 14.1 This report will be subject to a "call-in" procedure whereby the relevant Scrutiny Committee can ask for the implementation of the decision to be delayed until it has considered the matter and, if the Scrutiny Committee is so inclined, to ask Cabinet to

reconsider its decision.

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Cllr. Barbara Jones, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Governance, jonesb12@caerphilly.gov.uk

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Background Papers:
Contact Finance Manager (Revenues) (ext. 3421)

Appendices:

Appendix 1: 'High Street and Retail Rates Relief in Wales'- 2019-20 Guidance'

Appendix 2: 'CCBC EIA HSRRR 2019'

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Non-domestic Rates

High Street and Retail Rates Relief in Wales - 2019-20

Guidance

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Non-domestic Rates – High Street and Retail Rates Relief

Guidance

About this guidance

1. This guidance is intended to support local authorities in administering the High Street and Retail Rates Relief scheme (“the relief”) announced by the then Cabinet Secretary for Finance on 10 December 2018. This guidance applies to Wales only.
2. This guidance sets out the criteria which the Welsh Government will use to determine the funding for local authorities for relief provided to high street and retail properties. The guidance does not replace any existing non-domestic rates legislation or any other relief.
3. Enquiries on the scheme should be sent to:
localtaxationpolicy@gov.wales
4. The relief is being offered from 1 April 2019 and will be available until 31 March 2020.

Introduction

5. This relief is aimed at high street businesses and retailers in Wales, for example shops, pubs, restaurants and cafes.
6. The Welsh Government will provide grant funding to the 22 Unitary Authorities to continue the High Street and Retail Rates Relief scheme to eligible ratepayers for 2019-20. The enhanced scheme aims to provide support for eligible retail businesses by offering up to £2,500 discount on the non-domestic rates bill per property, to retailers occupying premises with a rateable value of £50,000 or less in the financial year 2019-20, subject to State Aid limits.
7. This document provides guidance on the operation and delivery of the scheme.

Section 1

High Street and Retail Rates Relief

How will the relief be provided?

8. As this is a temporary measure, we are providing the relief by reimbursing local authorities that use their discretionary relief powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. It will be for individual local authorities to adopt a scheme and decide in each individual case when to grant relief under section 47. The Welsh Government will then reimburse local authorities for the relief that is provided in line with this guidance via a grant under section 58A of the Government of Wales Act 2006.

How will the scheme be administered?

9. It will be for local authorities to determine how they wish to administer the scheme to maximise take-up and minimise the administrative burden for ratepayers and for local authority staff. Subject to State Aid considerations set out in paragraphs 29 to 33.
10. Local authorities are responsible for providing ratepayers with clear and accessible information on the details and administration of the scheme. If, for any reason, an authority is unable to provide this relief to eligible ratepayers from 1 April 2019, consideration should be given to notifying eligible ratepayers that they qualify for the relief and that their bills will be recalculated.

Which properties will benefit from relief?

11. Properties that will benefit from this relief will be occupied high street business and retail properties such as shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments, with a rateable value of £50,000 or less. More detailed eligibility criteria and exceptions to the relief are set out in paragraphs 15 to 19.
12. Relief should be granted to businesses as a payment based on occupation between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020. It is recognised that there may be some instances where a local authority is retrospectively notified of a change of occupier. In such cases, if it is clear that the ratepayer was in occupation on or after the 1 April 2019, the local authority may use its discretion in awarding relief.

Level of support: up to £2,500

13. Eligible ratepayers will be retailers whose property has a rateable value between £6,001 and £50,000 on 1 April 2019. It is expected that retailers with a rateable value of £6,000 and below will receive full Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR), however it is left to the discretion of authorities to determine if there are properties not in receipt of SBRR that should be eligible for this relief.

- 14. Unlike previous years, the 2019-20 scheme is not limited to high street premises but will include all properties within Wales meeting the wider retail criteria.**

15. It is intended that, for the purposes of this scheme, retail properties such as, “shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments” will mean the following (subject to the other criteria in this guidance).

i. Hereditaments that are being used for the sale of goods to visiting members of the public

- Shops (such as florists, bakers, butchers, grocers, greengrocers, jewellers, stationers, off-licences, newsagents, hardware stores, supermarkets, etc)
- Opticians
- Pharmacies
- Post offices
- Furnishing shops or display rooms (such as carpet shops, double glazing, garage doors)
- Car or caravan showrooms
- Second hand car lots
- Markets
- Petrol stations
- Garden centres
- Art galleries (where art is for sale or hire)

ii. Hereditaments that are being used for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public

- Hair and beauty services
- Shoe repairs or key cutting
- Travel agents
- Ticket offices, eg. for theatre
- Dry cleaners
- Launderettes
- PC, TV or domestic appliance repair
- Funeral directors
- Photo processing
- DVD or video rentals
- Tool hire
- Car hire
- Cinemas
- Estate and letting agents

iii. Hereditaments that are being used for the sale of food and / or drink to visiting members of the public

- Restaurants
- Drive-through or drive-in restaurants
- Takeaways
- Sandwich shops
- Cafés

- Coffee shops
- Pubs
- Wine Bars

16. To qualify for the relief a hereditament listed in (i) to (iii) should be wholly or mainly used as a shop, restaurant, café or drinking establishment. This is a test on use rather than occupation. Therefore, hereditaments which are occupied but not wholly or mainly used for the qualifying purpose will not qualify for the relief.

17. The above list is not intended to be exhaustive as it would be impossible to list all the many and varied retail uses that exist. There will also be mixed uses. However, it is intended to be a guide for local authorities as to the types of uses that the Welsh Government considers for this purpose to be high street and retail. Local authorities should determine for themselves whether particular properties not listed are broadly similar in nature to those above and, if so, to consider them eligible for the relief. Conversely, properties that are not broadly similar in nature to those listed above should not be eligible for the relief.

18. As the grant of the relief is discretionary, local authorities may choose not to grant the relief if they consider that appropriate, for example where granting the relief would go against the local authority's wider objectives for the local area.

Types of hereditaments that are not considered to be eligible for High Street and Retail Rates Relief

19. The list below sets out the types of uses that the Welsh Government does not consider to be retail use for the purpose of this relief and would not be deemed eligible for the relief. However, it will be for local authorities to determine if hereditaments are similar in nature to those listed below and if they would not be eligible for relief under the scheme.

i. *Hereditaments that are being used wholly or mainly for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public*

- Financial services (eg. banks, building societies, cash points, ATMs, bureaux de change, payday lenders, betting shops, pawn brokers)
- Medical services (eg. vets, dentists, doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors)
- Professional services (eg. solicitors, accountants, insurance agents, financial advisers, tutors)
- Post office sorting office
- Tourism accommodation, eg. B&Bs, hotel accommodation and caravan parks
- Sports clubs
- Children's play centres
- Day nurseries
- Outdoor activity centres
- Gyms
- Kennels and catteries
- Show homes and marketing suites
- Employment agencies

There are a number of further types of hereditaments which the Welsh Government believes should not be eligible for the High Street Relief Scheme.

ii. *Hereditaments with a rateable value of more than £50,000*

It is recognised there are some retail businesses with rateable value above the £50,000 relief who will not be eligible for this relief. However, local authorities have the option to use their discretionary powers to offer discounts outside this scheme to such businesses if it is in the interests of the local community to do so.

iii. *Hereditaments that are not reasonably accessible to visiting members of the public*

If a hereditament is not reasonably accessible to visiting members of the public, it will be ineligible for relief under the scheme even if there is ancillary use of the hereditament that might be considered to fall within the descriptions in paragraph 15 (i), (ii) or (iii).

iv. *Hereditaments that are not occupied*

Properties that are not occupied on 1 April 2019 should be excluded from this relief. However, under the Empty Property Relief scheme, empty properties will receive a 100% reduction in rates for the first three months (and in certain cases six) of being empty.

v. *Hereditaments that owned, rented or managed by a local authority*

Hereditaments owned, rented or managed by a local authority such as Visitor Centres, Tourist Information shops and council run coffee shops/gift shops attached to historic buildings, are exempt from this scheme.

vi. *Hereditaments that are in receipt of mandatory charitable rates relief*

These properties already receive mandatory charitable relief which gives an 80% reduction in liability and authorities may also choose to provide discretionary charitable relief which can reduce the remaining liability to nil. As such, these properties will not be eligible for High Street Rate Relief.

How much relief will be available?

20. The total amount of government funded relief available for each property for 12 months under this scheme is up to £2,500. This relief can be provided in addition to SBRR and Transitional Rate Relief. High Street and Retail Rates Relief should be applied against the net bill after these two reliefs have been applied. Any hardship or discretionary relief awarded by the local authority should be considered by the local authority once all other rates reliefs have been awarded.

21. The eligibility for the relief and the relief itself will be assessed and calculated on a daily basis. The following formula should be used to determine the amount of relief to be granted for a particular hereditament in the financial year:

$$\text{Amount of relief to be granted} = A \times (B / C)$$

Where:

A is the funding amount of £2,500

B is the number of days in the financial year that the hereditament is eligible for relief; and

C is the number of days in the financial year

22. When calculating the relief, if the net liability before High Street and Retail Rates Relief is £2,500 or less, the maximum amount of this relief will be no more than the value of the net rate liability. This should be calculated ignoring any prior year adjustments in liabilities which fall to be liable on the day.
23. Ratepayers that occupy more than one property will be entitled to High Street and Retail Rates Relief for each of their eligible properties, subject to State Aid de minimis limits.

Changes to existing hereditaments, including change in occupier

24. Empty properties becoming occupied after 1 April 2019 will qualify for this relief.
25. If there is a change in occupier part way through the financial year, after relief has already been provided to the hereditament, the new occupier will qualify for the relief on a pro-rata basis based on the remaining days of occupation using the formula in paragraph 21 of this guidance.

State Aid

26. State Aid law is the means by which the European Union regulates state funded support to businesses. Providing discretionary relief to ratepayers is likely to amount to State Aid. High Street and Retail Rates Relief will be State Aid compliant where it is provided in accordance with the De Minimis Regulation (1407/2013).
27. The De Minimis Regulation allows an undertaking to receive up to €200,000 of De Minimis aid in a three-year period (consisting of the current financial year and the two previous financial years). Local authorities should familiarise themselves with the terms of this State Aid exemption, in particular the types of undertaking that are excluded from receiving De Minimis aid, the relevant definition of undertaking and the requirement to convert the aid into Euros.
28. To administer De Minimis it is necessary for the local authority to establish that the award of aid will not result in the undertaking having received more than €200,000 of De Minimis aid. Note that the threshold only relates to aid provided under the De Minimis Regulations (aid under other exemptions or outside the scope of State Aid is not relevant to the De Minimis calculation).
29. Section 3 of this guidance contains a sample De Minimis declaration which local authorities may wish to use. Where local authorities have further questions about De Minimis or other aspects of State Aid law, they should seek advice from their legal department in the first instance.
30. Desk instructions covering the administration of De Minimis schemes are available at:

<http://gov.wales/funding/state-aid/de-minimis-aid/?lang=en>

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/legislation/de_minimis_regulation_en.pdf

Section 2 – State Aid

Sample paragraphs that could be included in letters to ratepayers about High Street and Retail Rates Relief for 2019-20

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance announced on 10 December 2018 that an additional £23.6 million of funding would be available to extend and expand the existing High Street and Retail Rates Relief scheme for 2019-20.

Relief of up to £2,500 will be provided to eligible occupied retail properties with a rateable value of £50,000 or less in 2019-20. Your current rates bill includes this High Street and Retail Rates Relief.

Awards such as High Street and Retail Rates Relief are required to comply with the EU law on State Aid¹. In this case, this involves returning the attached declaration to this authority if you have received any other De Minimis State Aid, including any other High Street and Retail Rates Relief you are being granted for premises other than the one to which this bill and letter relates, and confirming that the award of High Street and Retail Rates Relief does not exceed the €200,000 an undertaking² can receive under the De Minimis Regulations EC 1407/2013.

Please complete the declaration and return it to the address above. In terms of declaring previous De Minimis aid, we are only interested in public support which is De Minimis aid (State Aid received under other exemptions or public support which is not State Aid does not need to be declared).

If you have not received any other De Minimis State Aid, including any other High Street and Retail Relief you are being granted for premises other than the one to which this bill and letter relates, you do not need to complete or return the declaration.

If you wish to refuse to receive the High Street and Retail Rates Relief granted in relation to the premises to which this bill and letter relates, please complete the attached form and return it to the address above. You do not need to complete the declaration. This may be particularly relevant to those premises that are part of a large retail chain, where the cumulative total of High Street and Retail Rates Relief received could exceed €200,000.

Under the European Commission rules, you must retain this letter for three years from the date on this letter and produce it on any request by the UK public authorities or the European Commission. (You may need to keep this letter longer than three years for other purposes). Furthermore, information on this aid must be supplied to any other public authority or agency asking for information on ‘De Minimis’ aid for the next three years.

1 Further information on State Aid law can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/state-aid>

2 An undertaking is an entity which is engaged in economic activity. This means that it puts goods or services on a given market. The important thing is what the entity does, not its status. Thus a charity or not for profit company can be undertakings if they are involved in economic activities. A single undertaking will normally encompass the business group rather than a single company within a group. Article 2.2 of the de minimis Regulations (Commission Regulation EC/ 1407/2013) defines the meaning of ‘single undertaking’.

'De Minimis' declaration

Dear []

NON-DOMESTIC RATES ACCOUNT NUMBER: _____

The value of the non-domestic rates High Street and Retail Rates Relief to be provided to [name of undertaking] by [name of local authority] is £ [] (Euros []).

This award shall comply with the EU law on State Aid on the basis that, including this award, [name of undertaking] shall not receive more than €200,000 in total of De Minimis aid within the current financial year or the previous two financial years). The De Minimis Regulations 1407/2013(as published in the Official Journal of the European Union L352 24.12.2013) can be found at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:352:0001:0008:EN:PDF>.

Amount of De Minimis aid	Date of aid	Organisation providing aid	Nature of aid
€	1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020	Local authorities (for the High Street and Retail Rates Relief total, you do not need to specify the names of individual authorities)	High Street and Retail Rates Relief

I confirm that:

- 1) I am authorised to sign on behalf of _____ [name of undertaking]; and
- 2) _____ [name of undertaking] shall not exceed its De Minimis threshold by accepting this High Street and Retail Rates Relief.

SIGNATURE:

NAME:

POSITION:

BUSINESS:

ADDRESS:

DATE:

Refusal of High Street and Retail Rates Relief form

Name and address of premises	Non-domestic rates account number	Amount of High Street and Retail Rates Relief

I confirm that I wish to refuse High Street and Retail Rates Relief in relation to the above premises.

I confirm that I am authorised to sign on behalf of _____ [name of undertaking].

SIGNATURE:

NAME:

POSITION:

BUSINESS:

ADDRESS:

DATE:

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

October 2018

THE COUNCIL'S EQUALITIES STATEMENT

This Council recognises that people have different needs, requirements and goals and we will work actively against all forms of discrimination by promoting good relations and mutual respect within and between our communities, residents, elected members, job applicants and workforce.

We will also work to create equal access for everyone to our services, irrespective of ethnic origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, religious beliefs or non-belief, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality, responsibility for any dependents or any other reason which cannot be shown to be justified.

The Council is required to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The Act explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- removing or minimising disadvantages experienced by people due to their protected characteristics
- taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people
- encouraging people with protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

The protected characteristics are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Disability • Gender Re-assignment • Marriage and Civil Partnership • Pregnancy and Maternity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race • Religion, Belief or Non-Belief • Sex • Sexual Orientation • Welsh Language* |
|--|--|

* The Welsh language is not identified as a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010, however in Wales we also have to treat Welsh and English on an equal basis as well as promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh language.

Further advice on completing impact assessments can be found on the equalities pages of Corporate Policy Unit Portal.

THE EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

NAME OF NEW OR REVISED PROPOSAL*	Welsh Government High Street and Retail Rate Relief Scheme 2019/20
DIRECTORATE	Corporate Services
SERVICE AREA	Corporate Finance – Business Rates
CONTACT OFFICER	John Carpenter
DATE FOR NEXT REVIEW OR REVISION	Not applicable as one-off scheme

***Throughout this Equalities Impact Assessment Form, ‘proposal’ is used to refer to what is being assessed, and therefore includes policies, strategies, functions, procedures, practices, initiatives, projects and savings proposals.**

The aim of an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is to ensure that Equalities and Welsh Language issues have been proactively considered throughout the decision making processes governing work undertaken by every service area in the Council as well as work done at a corporate level.

The Council’s work across Equalities, Welsh Language and Human Rights is covered in more detail through the [**Equalities and Welsh Language Objectives and Action Plan 2016-2020**](#).

When carrying out an EIA you should consider both the positive and negative consequences of your proposals. If a project is designed for a specific group e.g. disabled people, you also need to think about what potential effects it could have on other areas e.g. young people with a disability, BME people with a disability.

There are a number of supporting guidance documents available on the [**Corporate Policy and Business Support Portal**](#) and the Council’s Equalities and Welsh Language team can provide advice as the EIA is being developed. Please note that the team does not write EIAs on behalf of service areas, the support offered is in the form of advice, suggestions and in effect, quality control.

Contact [**equalities@caerphilly.gov.uk**](mailto:equalities@caerphilly.gov.uk) for assistance.

PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL

1	What is the proposal intended to achieve? <i>(Please give a brief description and outline the purpose of the new or updated proposal by way of introduction.)</i> The Welsh Government (WG) has decided to fund a High Street and Retail Rate Relief Scheme from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 which is aimed at helping certain retail business rate payers. WG has not carried out an equality impact assessment (EIA), hence the need for this assessment. WG is offering specific grant funding to each local authority in Wales and has issued a Guidance document which contains the requirements that need to be followed in administering the scheme. This rate relief scheme has to be adopted by each local authority wishing to award the relief and in this Authority's case a report is to be taken to Cabinet proposing the adoption of the WG scheme.
2	Who are the service users affected by the proposal? <i>(Who will be affected by the delivery of this proposal? e.g. staff members, the public generally, or specific sections of the public i.e. youth groups, carers, road users, people using country parks, people on benefits etc. Are there any data gaps?)</i> If this proposal is adopted, it will affect certain business rate payers that would otherwise have had to pay a higher amount in business rates for the financial year 2019/20. A ratepayer may apply for relief of up to £2,500 on a business rates bill for the financial year 2019/20 if they are a retailer occupying qualifying premises with a rateable value of £50,000 or less in the financial year 2019/20, subject to State Aid limits. Properties that benefit from the relief will be occupied retail properties and must be wholly or mainly being used as a shop, restaurant, café or drinking establishment that is wholly or mainly providing a service to visiting members of the public (properties must be reasonably accessible to the public). WG has also laid down other conditions in its Guidance document, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The amount of relief will be calculated on a daily basis and limited to the amount of rates actually payable.• If a property is occupied after 1 April 2019 the ratepayer will be eligible for this relief.• If a property is vacated after 1 April 2019 the amount of relief will be reduced proportionately.• Ratepayers occupying more than one property may apply for High Street and Retail Rate Relief on each of their eligible properties, subject to State Aid limits.• Properties already receiving mandatory charitable rate relief are not eligible for High Street and Retail Rate Relief.• Properties owned, rented or managed by a local authority are not eligible.• State Aid 'de minimis' rules apply.

IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC AND STAFF

3	<p>Does the proposal ensure that everyone has an equal access to all the services available or proposed, or benefits equally from the proposed changes, or does not lose out in greater or more severe ways due to the proposals?</p> <p><i>(What has been done to examine whether or not these groups have equal access to the service, or whether they need to receive the service in a different way from other people?)</i></p> <p>For those ratepayers who completed an application form and received rate relief under the 2018-19 Scheme, and are eligible for rate relief under the 2019-20 Scheme, it is proposed that rate relief is applied directly to eligible ratepayers' bills. In these cases, an application form will not need to be completed for 2019-20.</p> <p>An application form will need to be completed in cases where a ratepayer did not receive High Street rate relief last year but meets the 2019-20 Scheme eligibility criteria.</p> <p>Those ratepayers that may be eligible to apply for this relief, and have not completed and returned an application form in 2018/19 will be sent an application form this year. Officers of the Authority will make the business community aware of the WG Scheme through its usual channels, such as its website, social media and the 'Newsline' publication.</p> <p>Actions required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Award this relief to ratepayers who completed an application form and received rate relief under the 2018-19 Scheme, and are eligible for rate relief under the 2019-20 Scheme;• Issue an application form to ratepayers that appear to be eligible to apply for this relief in 2019/20 but have not made an application previously;• Publicise the WG Scheme through the Council's usual channels.
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4	<p>Is your proposal going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?</p> <p><i>(Has the service delivery been examined to assess if there is any indirect effect on any groups? Could the consequences of the policy or savings proposal differ dependent upon people's protected characteristics?)</i></p>		
Protected Characteristic	Positive, Negative, Neutral	What will the impact be? If the impact is negative how can it be mitigated?	
Age	Neutral	The proposal is not aimed at a specific group within the eligible ratepayer group. No evidence has been identified to suggest that the WG scheme would have a differential impact on this group.	
Disability	Neutral	The proposal is not aimed at a specific group within the eligible ratepayer group. No evidence has been identified to suggest that the WG scheme would have a differential impact on this group.	
Gender Reassignment	Neutral	The proposal is not aimed at a specific group within the eligible ratepayer group. No evidence has been identified to suggest that the WG scheme would have a differential impact on this group.	
Marriage & Civil Partnership	Neutral	The proposal is not aimed at a specific group within the eligible ratepayer group. No evidence has been identified to suggest that the WG scheme would have a differential impact on this group.	
Pregnancy and Maternity	Neutral	The proposal is not aimed at a specific group within the eligible ratepayer group. No evidence has been identified to suggest that the WG scheme would have a differential impact on this group.	
Race	Neutral	The proposal is not aimed at a specific group within the eligible ratepayer group. No evidence has been identified to suggest that the WG scheme would have a differential impact on this group.	
Religion & Belief	Neutral	The proposal is not aimed at a specific group within the eligible ratepayer group. No evidence has been identified to suggest that the WG scheme would have a differential impact on this group.	
Sex	Neutral	The proposal is not aimed at a specific group within the eligible ratepayer group. No evidence has been identified to suggest that the WG scheme would have a differential impact on this group.	
Sexual Orientation	Neutral	The proposal is not aimed at a specific group within the eligible ratepayer group. No evidence has been identified to suggest that the WG scheme would have a differential impact on this group.	
5	<p>In line with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. (No.1)</p> <p>Regulations 2015, please note below what effects, if any (whether positive or adverse), the proposal would have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.</p> <p><i>(The specific Policy Making Standards requirements are Standard numbers 88, 89, 90, 91, 92 and 93. The full detail of each Standard is available on the Corporate</i></p>		

	<p><i>Policy Unit Portal. Although it is important that what is outlined in the proposal is available in Welsh and English, please consider wider impacts on Welsh speakers.)</i></p> <p>The application form will be bilingual and so there should be no negative impact. We will ensure that the application process will comply with Standards 71, 72, 72A, 74 and 75 of the council's Compliance Notice.</p>
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INFORMATION COLLECTION

6	<p>Please outline any evidence and / or research you have collected which supports the proposal? This can include an analysis of service users.</p> <p><i>(Is this service effectively engaging with all its potential users or is there higher or lower participation of uptake by one or more protected characteristic groups? If so, what has been done to address any difference in take up of the service? Does any savings proposal include an analysis of those affected?)</i></p> <p>All ratepayers (service users) who appear to the Council to be eligible to apply for relief under the WG scheme will be identified by data analysis of the business rates database to ensure take-up of the assistance available under the scheme is maximised. Beyond this, no detailed analysis has been undertaken.</p>
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CONSULTATION

7	<p>Please outline the consultation / engagement process and outline any key findings.</p> <p><i>(Include method of consultation, objectives and target audience. What steps have been taken to ensure that people from various groups have been consulted during the development of this proposal? Have you referred to the Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance?)</i></p> <p>WG developed this rate relief scheme and has laid down guidance containing various criteria which must be satisfied; therefore the Council was not at liberty to carry out a consultation on its development.</p> <p>The Council's Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language) has been consulted and the Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance considered.</p>
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MONITORING AND REVIEW

8	<p>How will the proposal be monitored?</p> <p><i>(What monitoring process has been set up to assess the extent that the service is being used by all sections of the community, or that the savings proposals are achieving the intended outcomes with no adverse impact? Are comments or complaints systems set up to record issues by Equalities category to be able analyse responses from particular groups?)</i></p>
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	<p>As this is a WG scheme, the Council will be required to provide certain information to WG about the number of ratepayers receiving this relief and the amount of relief awarded. This information may be used by WG to inform future policy decisions regarding the provision of this type of rate relief.</p>
9	<p>How will the monitoring be evaluated? <i>(What methods will be used to ensure that the needs of all sections of the community are being met?)</i></p> <p>As above, WG may use information reported to them by each local authority to inform future policy decisions regarding the provision of this type of rate relief.</p> <p>No evidence has been identified to suggest that the implementation of this WG scheme would have a differential impact on this group.</p>
10	<p>Have any support / guidance / training requirements been identified? <i>(Has the EIA or consultation process shown a need for awareness raising amongst staff, or identified the need for Equalities or Welsh Language training of some sort?)</i></p> <p>No</p>
11	<p>If any adverse impact has been identified, please outline any mitigation action.</p> <p>N/A</p>
12	<p>What wider use will you make of this Equality Impact Assessment? <i>(What use will you make of this document i.e. as a consultation response, appendix to approval reports, publicity etc. in addition to the mandatory action shown below?)</i></p> <p>It will be used to support the proposal to adopt the WG scheme going before Cabinet in April 2019.</p>

13	<p>An equality impact assessment may have four possible outcomes, through more than one may apply to a single proposal. Please indicate the relevant outcome(s) of the impact assessment below.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Please tick as appropriate:</p> <p>No major change – the impact assessment demonstrated that the proposal was robust; there was no potential for discrimination or adverse impact. All opportunities to promote equality have been taken. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X</p> <p>Adjust the proposal – the impact assessment identified potential problems or missed opportunities. The proposal was adjusted to remove barriers or better promote equality. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Continue the proposal – the impact assessment identified the potential problems or missed opportunities to promote equality. The justification(s) for continuing with it have been clearly set out. (The justification must be included in the impact assessment and must be in line with the duty to have due regard. Compelling reasons will be needed for the most important relevant proposals.) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Stop and remove the proposal – the impact assessment identified actual or potential unlawful discrimination. The proposal was stopped and removed, or changed. <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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Completed by:	John Carpenter
Date:	March 2019
Position:	Finance Manager (Revenues)
Name of Head of Service:	Nicole Scammell