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(Tel: 01443 864420 Email: sullie@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Date: 17th February 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Joint Scrutiny Committee** will be held via Microsoft Teams on **Monday, 22nd February, 2021 at 5.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. Councillors and the public wishing to speak on any item can do so by making a request to the Chair. You are also welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, both these requests require a minimum notice period of 3 working days.

This meeting will be recorded and made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. Therefore the images/audio of those individuals speaking will be publicly available to all via the recording on the Council website at www.caerphilly.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

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

Christina Harrhy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

Pages

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

A greener place Man gwyrddach



To receive and note the following minutes: -

3 Joint Scrutiny Committee held on 15th December 2020. 1 - 6

4 Joint Scrutiny Committee held on 14th January 2021. 7 - 10

To receive and consider the following report: -

5 Caerphilly Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework. 11 - 30

Circulation:

Councillors M.A. Adams, Mrs E.M. Aldworth, C. Andrews, A. Angel, J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, C. Bezzina, L.J. Binding, A. Collis, S. Cook, D. Cushing, C.J. Cuss, W. David, D.T. Davies, M. Davies, K. Dawson, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, K. Etheridge, M. Evans, A. Farina-Childs, Mrs C. Forehead, Miss E. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, A. Gair, Ms J. Gale, N. George, C.J. Gordon, R.W. Gough, D.T. Hardacre, L. Harding, D.C. Harse, D. Havard, A.G. Higgs, A. Hussey, M.P. James, V. James, L. Jeremiah, G. Johnston, Mrs B. A. Jones, S. Kent, G. Kirby, Mrs A. Leonard, Ms P. Leonard, C.P. Mann, P.A. Marsden, B. Miles, S. Morgan, Mrs G.D. Oliver, B. Owen, Mrs T. Parry, L. Phipps, D.V. Poole, D.W.R. Preece, Mrs D. Price, J. Pritchard, J. Ridgewell, J.E. Roberts, R. Saralis, Mrs M.E. Sargent, J. Scriven, G. Simmonds, J. Simmonds, S. Skivens, Mrs E. Stenner, J. Taylor, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe, R. Whiting, L.G. Whittle, T.J. Williams, W. Williams and B. Zaplatynski

And Appropriate Officers

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JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY AND HOUSING & REGENERATION)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 15TH DECEMBER 2020 AT 5.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor D.T. Davies - Chair (Environment & Sustainability)
Councillor A. Whitcombe - Chair (Housing & Regeneration)
Councillor A. Hussey - Vice Chair (Environment & Sustainability)

Councillors:

Councillors: M.A. Adams, A. Collis, D. Cushing, M. Evans, A. Gair, Ms J. Gale, R. Gough, L. Harding, G. Kirby, B. Owen, D. Price, T.J. Williams, W. Williams

Cabinet Members:

S. Morgan (Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Economy & Enterprise), N. George (Cabinet Member for Waste & Public Protection), J. Ridgewell (Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure)

Together with:

Mark S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director – Communities), M. Lloyd (Head of Infrastructure), C. Campbell (Transportation Engineering Manager), A. Dallimore (Regeneration Services Manager), C. Davies (Private Sector Housing Manager), M. Woodland (Senior Solicitor), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Manager), E. Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed and would be available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here to View](#). Members were advised that Microsoft Forms would be used for the formal voting on decisions.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bevan, C. Elsbury, C. Forehead, A. Higgs, S. Kent, A. Leonard, P. Leonard, G. Oliver, D.W.R Preece, J. Roberts, M. Sargent, J. Scriven and B. Zaplatynski.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D. Cushing sought advice in relation to Agenda Item 3 (as a Member of Gelligaer Community Council which had provided evidence to the Task and Finish Group) and was advised there was no requirement to declare an interest on this occasion.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

3. ENFORCED SALE POLICY

With the permission of the Chair, this item was brought forward on the agenda.

The Cabinet Member for Economy & Enterprise presented the report, which sought the views of the Scrutiny Committee on a proposed Enforced Sale Policy, prior to its presentation to Cabinet for approval. This is a mechanism by which problematic, long-term empty private sector dwellings, derelict commercial properties and land are brought back into beneficial use where Council debts have been registered against the property but not discharged.

Officers explained that the purpose of this policy is to set out a framework for Caerphilly County Borough Council to use statutory powers under the Enforced Sale Procedure with a view of targeting long-term problematic empty properties, and to bring these properties back into use where possible. The Council recognises the importance of bringing such properties back into use, as they can be a source of many problems including negative visual amenity, nuisance to adjacent occupiers, and increased anti-social behaviour. An Enforced Sale Policy will aim to free up public sector resources, recoup debts owed to the Authority, improve local communities and may increase the supply of affordable housing. It was emphasised to Members that the proposed policy would only apply to empty properties and only be used as a last resort where all other avenues to encourage beneficial use of a property have failed.

During the course of the ensuing debate, and in response to a Member's query on weighted criteria and policy triggers, Officers gave assurances that the criteria as set out in the policy must be followed and the Council would follow the steps to try to proactively engage with property owners before using this policy. Officers provided clarification on the number of empty properties across the county borough (ranging between 1000-1500 properties per annum) and explained that the Council Tax database which is checked every April will identify those properties registered as empty for 6 months or more. However, the majority of these properties will make their way onto the housing market and it is anticipated that this policy will only apply to a very low number of properties.

In response to Members' queries, clarification was also provided on the Land Registry process in cases where the property does not have a registered owner, with it noted that this is situation becoming an infrequent occurrence due to the requirement to register house sales with the Land Registry. It was also confirmed that the length of time taken to acquire a property and bring it back into beneficial use under the Enforced Sale Policy is likely to vary on a case by case basis but could generally take around 6-7 months to complete. It was highlighted to Members that the proposed policy will be a useful and cost neutral mechanism for the Council. Officers also confirmed that any authorisation in relation to the marketing and sale of an acquired property would need to be approved by the relevant Director.

Having considered the report and provided their views on the proposals, it was moved and seconded that the following recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for approval, and by way of Microsoft Forms (and in nothing there were 13 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that:-

- (i) the Enforced Sale Policy as an enforcement tool for Caerphilly County Borough Council be adopted;
- (ii) a figure of £500 be adopted as the level of debt at which this policy can be implemented.

4. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL CAR PARKS TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Councillor Rob Gough (Chair of the Car Park Task and Finish Group) presented the report, which informed the Joint Scrutiny Committee of the findings of the joint Task and Finish Group that was established to review car parks managed by Caerphilly County Borough Council. The Scrutiny Committee were asked to consider a number of recommendations made by the Task and Finish Group as set out in Sections 3.2 to 3.16 of the report and determine its recommendations to Cabinet.

The Joint Scrutiny Committee were advised of the extensive research and work carried out to inform the findings of the Task and Finish Group and placed on record their thanks to all Officers and Members that had been involved in the work of the Group.

The Joint Scrutiny Committee considered each of the Task and Finish Group recommendations in turn and took a show of hands following debate on each item to ascertain a broad view on that particular recommendation. It was noted that once all the recommendations had been considered, they would then be grouped according to general consensus and would be formally voted upon via Microsoft Forms.

The Joint Scrutiny Committee were supportive of a standardised hourly rate at all car parks across the county borough which should be set at the same level as the current 70p starting tariff across the majority of the Council's car parks (with the exception of Oakfield Street in Ystrad Mynach and the Twyn car park in Caerphilly) and were set out in Appendix 1 of the report. Members were supportive of the free use of car parks close to schools for a limited time to relieve congestion and improve safety. In addition, the Joint Scrutiny Committee endorsed the removal of parking charges at the 5 country parks and were also of the view that Cwmcarn Visitor Centre car park should continue to charge for parking.

There were some recommendations that the Joint Scrutiny Committee did not support. These included offering reduced parking permits for local businesses as it was felt that the existing reduced permits were sufficient. Members did not support the introduction of charges at park and ride car parks due to concerns that this would result in increased parking in residential areas. Finally, the Joint Scrutiny Committee did not support the ring-fencing of surplus car park income solely for improvement of car parks due to the potential impact upon budget available to the Infrastructure Department for maintenance in other areas, such as main roads.

The Joint Scrutiny Committee agreed that some of the recommendations should be deferred until the outcome and impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is known. These included the removal of Sunday charges at the Twyn car park in Caerphilly, non-enforcement of charges on St David's Day and introducing charges at free car parks. There were two recommendations that were deferred for a report to return to the relevant Scrutiny Committee

on zoning and residential parking areas. The recommendation regarding ceasing locking of the two car parks at night in Blackwood was also deferred for further discussion with ward members upon the retirement of the current post-holder. Members also agreed to remove Recommendation 3.12 on extending free parking across the county borough for a period of 3 months from 31st December 2020 and review thereafter, as this had already been agreed by Cabinet on 9th December 2020.

Members sought an update on the replacement of pay and display payment machines and were advised that more modern machines would allow card payments and there is circa 50% of the funding already available (£170,000 via the WG TRI grant). Members agreed to make an additional recommendation (3.17) to Cabinet asking that the Council proceed with the purchase of the new machines.

Having considered the findings and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group, and having agreed the inclusion of an additional recommendation (3.17), it was moved and seconded that the following recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for approval and by way of Microsoft Forms (and in nothing there were 13 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that:-

- (i) Current hourly tariffs at publicly available pay and display highway owned car parks be standardised across county borough for long term and short-term parking respectively. It is suggested that charges are set at a current lower level (Task & Finish recommendation 3.2);
- (ii) Parking charges at the 5 country parks be removed to recognise the significant health benefits to residents (Task & Finish recommendation 3.3);
- (iii) Where car parks in close proximity to school are having parking issues during school drop off and pick up times, Officers be given discretion to allow a free parking concession to parents/carers for a limited time and in consultation with local ward members (Task & Finish recommendation 3.5);
- (iv) The current approach to the use of car parks for trading and events be allowed to continue and Officers be permitted to continue to use discretion in respect of applications that have community benefit (Task & Finish recommendation 3.13);
- (v) Opportunities to improve existing CCTV be explored where grant funding or match funding is available (Task & Finish recommendation 3.16);
- (vi) A programme to upgrade pay and display machines across the county borough be implemented (additional Scrutiny recommendation 3.17).

It was moved and seconded that the following Task & Finish recommendations not be supported. By way of Microsoft Forms (and in nothing there were 12 for, 0 against and 2 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the following Task & Finish recommendations not be supported:-

- (i) offering local businesses reduced charge parking permits for their staff to park in car parks (Task & Finish recommendation 3.4);

- (ii) for the charging of Park and Ride facilities to be reviewed by Cabinet (Task & Finish recommendation 3.8);
- (iii) the ring-fencing of all surplus car parking income for maintenance and improvement of car parks (Task & Finish recommendation 3.15).

It was moved and seconded that the following Task & Finish recommendations be deferred pending the outcome of the Covid-19 pandemic. By way of Microsoft Forms (and in nothing there were 14 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the following Task & Finish recommendations be deferred pending the outcome of the Covid-19 pandemic:-

- (i) Remove Sunday parking charges at Twyn Car park on Sundays (Task & Finish recommendation 3.6);
- (ii) That car park charges not be enforced on St David's Day (Task & Finish recommendation 3.7);
- (iii) consideration of charging at free car parks (Task & Finish recommendation 3.9).

It was moved and seconded that the following Task & Finish recommendations be deferred for a further report to Scrutiny Committee. By way of Microsoft Forms (and in nothing there were 14 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the following Task & Finish recommendations be deferred for a further report to Scrutiny Committee:-

- (i) That priority be given in the county wide review for consideration of zoning of residential parking areas of main towns (Task & Finish recommendation 3.10);
- (ii) That the criteria for residential parking permit areas be reviewed to offer a more flexible approach that takes into account areas outside of principal towns where customer parking to access local businesses impacts on residential areas (Task & Finish recommendation 3.11).

It was moved and seconded that the following Task & Finish recommendation be removed as this matter has already been approved by Cabinet. By way of Microsoft Forms (and in nothing there were 13 for, 0 against and 1 abstention) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the following Task & Finish recommendation be removed as this matter has already been approved by Cabinet:-

- (i) That the current non-enforcement of parking charges at council owned car parks be extended after 31.12.20 for three months and then reviewed to consider if the impact of Covid-19 on town centres is ongoing at that time (Task & Finish recommendation 3.12).

It was moved and seconded that the following Task & Finish recommendation be deferred for further discussion with local ward members upon retirement of the current postholder. By way of Microsoft Forms (and in nothing there were 14 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the following Task & Finish recommendation be deferred for further discussion with local ward members upon retirement of the current postholder:-

- (i) Consideration be given to cease locking the car parks at Thorncombe 3 and Wesley Road Blackwood at night upon the retirement of the member of staff. To be done in consultation with local ward members. If night-time locking ends the impact should be monitored and options to install additional CCTV and/or upgrade the quality are explored if required. (Task & Finish recommendation 3.14).

The meeting closed at 6.56 p.m.

Agenda Item 4



JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 14TH JANUARY 2021 AT 5.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Pritchard - Chair
Councillor G. Kirby – Vice Chair

Councillors:

M. Adams, Mrs E.M. Aldworth, C. Andrews, C. Bezzina, L.J. Binding, A. Collis, S. Cook, C. Cuss, W. David, D.T. Davies, N. Dix, K. Etheridge, M. Evans, A. Farina-Childs, A. Gair, J. Gale, N. George, C. Gordon, L. Harding, D. Harse, A.G. Higgs, A. Hussey, V. James, G. Johnston, Mrs B.A. Jones, S. Kent, Mrs A. Leonard, C.P. Mann, P. Marsden, B. Miles, S. Morgan, B. Owen, Mrs T. Parry, Mrs L. Phipps, Mrs D. Price, J. Ridgewell, R. Saralis, Mrs M.E. Sargent, J. Simmonds, S. Skivens, Mrs E. Stenner, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe, R. Whiting, L G. Whittle, W. Williams

Together with: -

C. Harray (Chief Executive), M.S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director of Communities), D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director Education and Corporate Services), S. Harris (Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer), J. Southcombe (Finance Manager), S. Richards (Head of Education Planning and Finance), L. Donovan (Head of People Services), M. Jones (Finance Manager), R. Kyte (Head of Regeneration and Planning), L. Lucas (Head of Digital and Customer Services), J. Williams (Deputy Director Social Services), S. Couzens (Housing Manager), M. Lloyd (Head of Infrastructure), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Manager), E. Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

WEB-CASTING FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed and a recording would be available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here to View](#). He advised that decisions would be made by Microsoft Forms.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Angel, J. Bevan, P. Bevan, D. Cushing, M. Davies, K Dawson, C. Elsbury, C. Forehead, E. Forehead, J. Fussell, R. Gough, D. Hardacre, D. Havard, M. James, L. Jeremiah, P. Leonard, G. Oliver, D. Poole, D. Preece, J. Roberts, J. Scriven, G. Simmonds, J. Taylor, T. Williams, B. Zaplatynski.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2021/22

Consideration was given to the report which provided details of the draft budget proposals for the 2021/22 financial year.

Members were advised that the 3.1% uplift in the Provisional Financial Settlement, along with the proposed 3.9% increase in Council Tax and savings in advance meant there would be no new savings required for the 2021/22 financial year. Together this provides sufficient income to maintain service provision across the Council, fund increasing demand and service pressures in key areas such as Social Services and Education, enables new community focussed investments in areas such as Caerphilly Cares and the proposed Community Empowerment Fund, provides the capacity and resilience required to drive forward the Team Caerphilly Transformation Programme and Place Shaping Plan, and addresses legacy issues in respect of income shortfalls in a number of service areas.

Members were informed that the draft budget proposals did not include additional costs or income losses arising from the Covid-19 pandemic as these will continue to be managed through grant claims to the Welsh Government (WG) and are not included in the Financial Settlement.

Members were asked to note the various cost pressures and growth bids including those in Schools, the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, Social Services, Education and Lifelong Learning, Planning, Digital Services, and Car Parking as a result of the recent Scrutiny Task & Finish review. Reference was also made to the growth bid included in the budget in relation to Additional Staffing Capacity and it was explained that these resources were required in order to recruit the necessary staff to progress the Council's Transformation Strategy and Place Shaping Plan.

In terms of the future financial outlook the Section 151 Officer explained that the funding situation for Local Government is likely to be challenging due to the unprecedented fiscal impact of Covid-19 and the strain that will put on public finances for years to come. Members would also be aware that the UK Government had only undertaken a comprehensive spending review for the 2021/22 financial year so there was currently no clarity on future settlements. Because of this a scenario had been built into the updated Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) based on assumptions of a 1% increase year on year in WG funding, and the potential shortfall that the Council could be facing moving forward was summarised.

Members asked for an update on the work of the Transformation Team and were advised that there is a bold plan for both the Council and communities and that this has now been enhanced with 10 new corporate reviews and the emerging Place Shaping Plan. Members were advised that further details of the Place Shaping Plan would be made available in February 2021 and officers stressed that the Team Caerphilly transformation programme provides a framework that is pivotal for the MTFP and in order to deliver this agenda it is vital that additional staffing capacity is put in place.

A Member questioned the additional £526k for Transformation/Place Shaping in Table 4 of the Draft Budget Proposals Report and asked about the monitoring process for performance and value for money. The governance framework for the Team Caerphilly Transformation Programme was outlined which includes Scrutiny reports, Cabinet reports, Member Seminars and monitoring by a Programme Board. Members were advised that in order to achieve

transformation additional resources are needed to support the programme and existing staff will have the opportunity to be considered for new roles, but this would require back-filling of positions to ensure that day-to-day work continues. Members were also advised that a Members' Seminar would be arranged that would provide further details on the Transformation Programme.

Members sought further detail on the APT&C employer pension contribution increase for 2022/23. The Joint Scrutiny Committee were advised that the Torfaen Pension Fund is subject to an independent actuarial assessment every three years and that the recommendation for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years was that no increase in employer contribution levels would be required. However, an increase of 1% was recommended for 2022/23. The next triennial valuation will determine whether increases will be required from 2023/24 but the updated MTFP appended to the Draft Budget Proposals Report currently assumes an increase of 1% per annum.

Members sought comparative details on the proposed 2021/22 Council Tax uplift of 3.9% and noted that this would result in a Band D property having an 89p weekly increase. Officers advised Members that the 2020/21 Band D Caerphilly CBC element of Council Tax is £1,184 and that this is second lowest in Wales and the lowest in Gwent. By way of comparison the 2020/21 Band D figure for Blaenau Gwent CBC is £1,712 and £1,670 for Merthyr Tydfil CBC. Members were also reminded that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) provides significant financial support for eligible households.

Members noted that the proposed 3.9% increase in Council Tax will provide additional revenue of £3.097m and that there would also be a corresponding increase of £602k in the CTRS budget. A Member asked if a lower increase in the Council Tax would result in a lower increase in the CTRS budget. Officers explained that the increase in Council Tax must be matched by a corresponding increase in the CTRS budget and that funding was provided through the Financial Settlement.

Concern was expressed in relation to the impact of the pandemic on Mental Health and what if any additional funding provision had been put in place in order to mitigate potential increases in service demand. Members noted the additional pressures placed on Social Services during the pandemic and the work done to recoup costs via various grant funding streams and although there is no additionality in terms of Mental Health provision, Social Services would be working closely with the Aneurin Bevan Health Board while they reviewed their mental health provision. The Member emphasised the importance of getting ahead of this in order to avoid a crisis in mental health provision and welcomed the opportunity to take this issue forward on a cross party platform.

Members queried whether the number of high-level posts detailed within the draft budget were necessary and if savings could be achieved here in order to offset the proposed increase in Council Tax, clarification was also sought as to how these appointments would be monitored going forward.

Members were assured that governance of Team Caerphilly was already in place and provided robust monitoring of progress. In terms of the growth detailed within the report this would be used to lever in significant additional investment. These resources were vital to achieving progress on both the Transformation Strategy and Place Shaping Plan, which could not be progressed at the necessary pace without them.

In terms of Planning the additional resources would allow for the realignment of income budgets and provide resilience to the service, specifically entry level graduate posts for Planning Officers. It was noted that the Planning service was facing enormous pressures due to depleted staffing numbers, and these appointments would be suitably qualified officers required to deliver quality services. Reassurances were given that there would still be opportunities through the Gateway to Employment scheme and apprenticeships.

Concerns were raised regarding the impact of COVID on businesses and if these had been incorporated into budget assumptions and clarification was also sought as to how regional opportunities were being pursued in order to safeguard and secure local businesses. Potential funding opportunities were explained, and it was noted that regional working opportunities would continue to be taken up. Members noted the severe impact that the pandemic had on local businesses and the grant funding provided to assist them was detailed, it was noted that over £1Billion had been distributed to Welsh businesses during the pandemic. The need to support local business during the recovery process was emphasised and Members placed on record their thanks for those who had worked so hard getting the various grants paid out so quickly under such extraordinary circumstances.

The Chair thanked Members and Officers for their contributions and confirmed that the comments of the Joint Scrutiny Committee would now be reported to Cabinet and Council as part of the consultation process.

Meeting closed at 18:23pm



JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2021

**SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY WELLBEING AND PLACE SHAPING
FRAMEWORK**

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

- 1.1 The attached report details the Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework which will be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on the 24th February 2021.
- 1.2 The Joint Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider and comment upon the content of the report prior to the report being presented to Cabinet in February and Council in March.

Author: E. Sullivan, Senior Committee Services Officer

Appendices:

Appendix Report to Cabinet 24th February 2021

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CABINET – 24TH FEBRUARY 2021

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY WELLBEING AND PLACE SHAPING FRAMEWORK

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on some of the significant capital investments made over recent years across the Council's wellbeing objectives and to propose a suite of projects that will form the basis of a county borough wide Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework.
- 1.2 The report also sets out a proposed community engagement mechanism that enables key stakeholders to have the opportunity to shape and refine the Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework over future years.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council has been developing a Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework since the spring of 2020. The Framework has been built on the wide range of capital investments made across the county borough in recent years and has been developed to take into consideration:
 - Existing long standing multi-annual investment programmes
 - Emerging and existing funding and investment opportunities
 - Corporate Plan priorities and objectives
 - Previously identified need
 - Collaborative project opportunities
 - Emerging Commercial opportunities
 - The Council's Strategic Recovery Framework
- 2.2 The draft Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework set out in 5.8 contains a list of potential investments across Caerphilly in excess of £231m that align explicitly with the Council's adopted Wellbeing Objectives.
- 2.3 This investment framework provides the opportunity to build, repair and renew key infrastructure and assets across the length and breadth of Caerphilly county borough, as well as explicitly further the aims and policy direction previously set within strategies such as the Council's Corporate plan, the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy (SARS), the Council's Regeneration Strategy "A Foundation for Success 2018-2023" as well as the exciting proposals set out within the 21st Century Schools Band B

Programme.

- 2.4 This framework proposal is of paramount importance at this time, as it offers an important element of the Council's Covid recovery plan, which aims to support our communities as they begin to emerge from the Covid pandemic. Long-term investments in infrastructure such as that proposed within this Framework, hold the potential to rebalance the local economy, enhance productivity and create jobs and opportunities across Caerphilly, which is of great importance as we support our communities to rebuild a sustainable and resilient future post Covid. The opportunity exists to work together to create a better and more prosperous Caerphilly for everyone, further embedding our "TeamCaerphilly" collective community and civic leadership model of delivery.
- 2.5 The projects and ideas within the Framework will need to be developed into propositions that will be shaped through community engagement and scrutiny prior to any decision to implement being reached.
- 2.6 In many cases, the investment to support these projects will be a combination of internal capital and external grant, with the latter also being subject to relevant external approval processes.
- 2.7 The ongoing engagement programme described in 5.9 has been designed explicitly to ensure the Framework is continuously refined over coming years with opportunities for future Wellbeing and Place Shaping proposals to be added in and considered as they emerge.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to:
 - a) Consider any views and recommendations made at the meeting of all Scrutiny Committees on the 22nd February.
 - b) Note the Wellbeing and Place Shaping investments, totalling in excess of £153m that have been undertaken between 2017 and 2020 as set out in 5.6
 - c) Note the Wellbeing and Place Shaping investments currently approved totalling over £129m for delivery as set out in 5.7
 - d) Agree that the projects set out in 5.8 totalling in excess of £231m will form the initial Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework for the Council from 2021 onwards, forming a sustainable and resilient route-map for our communities to emerge stronger from the Covid pandemic
 - e) Agree that the projects set out within 5.8 can be developed into business cases for consideration
 - f) Acknowledge that each proposal must go through the relevant consultation, scrutiny, funding approval and decision-making processes before implementation
 - g) Agree the proposed mechanisms for community engagement set out within 5.9
 - h) Note the funding approvals totalling £28.591m that have already been confirmed for the Place Shaping Framework as set out in Section 10 of the report.

- i) Approve a recommendation that funding of £1.640m held in the 2020/21 Miscellaneous Finance Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) budget should also be allocated to the Place Shaping Framework, which would increase the total funding available to £30.231m.
- j) Agree that a Joint Meeting of all Scrutiny Committees be held twice yearly to consider the progress of the Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework.
- k) Agree to receive a separate report on the Community Empowerment Fund that will detail the mechanisms by which Elected Members can, alongside their communities, develop project ideas for consideration within the Framework.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To agree a potential Framework of Wellbeing and Place Shaping investment across the county borough for the period 2021 onwards, subject to the necessary business cases being developed, consulted upon and agreed by the relevant decision-making body.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Place Shaping is about creating Communities that are great places to live now, as well as having the potential to thrive in the future. As we emerge from the Covid pandemic, it is essential that we provide a route-map for our communities which offers a sustainable and resilient future for them. Within this context, it is imperative we understand the needs and challenges of our constituent communities, the impact of the investments and interventions made to date and those required in the years ahead, coupled with a detailed understanding of what makes a community unique is the foundation of any Place Shaping approach.
- 5.2 Investment in Wellbeing and Place Shaping projects should be designed to directly strengthen the fabric of our communities by improving key aspects of life across Caerphilly. This report sets out a range of such investments, both in the recent past and over the years ahead, that are intended to collectively improve the lives of those that live within the County Borough.
- 5.3 The Wellbeing and Place Shaping projects that form the basis of this report will involve a combination of funding approaches. Some projects will be funded directly by Council capital, some will be a combination of Council capital and external funding alongside and some being wholly funded externally. In each case, the Council will play a pivotal role in the development of the idea and the acquisition of the investment.
- 5.4 Multi-million pound programmes designed to improve the quality of our school buildings, bring Council Houses up to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard, improve the highway infrastructure of the County Borough, enhance the opportunities to lead a healthy lifestyle and create new and enhanced opportunities for businesses to thrive all feature within this programme.
- 5.5 Caerphilly's Wellbeing Objectives

In 2018, Council adopted a Corporate Plan which included six wellbeing objectives. The wellbeing objectives were set using intelligence and data from the Wellbeing Assessment that was carried out to inform the Public Service Board's Wellbeing Plan.

This exercise captured directly the concerns of our residents and the areas that they would like to see improved.

The wellbeing objectives cover the period 2018-2023 and are as follows:

- **Wellbeing Objective 1** – Improve education opportunities for all
- **Wellbeing Objective 2** – Enabling employment
- **Wellbeing Objective 3** – Address the supply, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people's health and wellbeing
- **Wellbeing Objective 4** – Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impacts on the environment
- **Wellbeing Objective 5** – Creating a County Borough that supports a Healthy Lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- **Wellbeing Objective 6** – Support citizens to remain independent and improve their wellbeing

5.6 Wellbeing and Place Shaping Investment 2017-2020

During the period 2017-2020, the Council was able to facilitate investment totalling in excess of £153m across its communities and the six wellbeing objectives. Some of the most significant of these schemes, with investments exceeding £100k, are summarised by wellbeing objective in the table below.

Image 1 – Selection of some of the most significant approved investments 2020-2023



Table 1 – Historic Wellbeing and Place Shaping Investment 2017-2020

WBO1	£	Example Investments
	8.075m	Idris Davies 3-18 Primary Phase
	2.000m	9 Classroom Extension and lift at Newbridge Comprehensive
	2.000m	Blackwood Comprehensive refurbishment programme Band A
	1.800m	Expansion of Welsh Medium @ Ysgol Y Castell
	1.340m	Band A Trinity Fields Phase 1 complete refurbishment
	0.865m	3G Pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive
WBO2	£	Example Investments
	0.300m	Tiryberth Depot full site upgrade
	0.392m	Vacate Ty Duffryn (enabling Transcend to start up)
WBO3	£	Example Investments
	100.9m	Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) Works
	6.250m	Lansbury Park EW1 Scheme
	4.200m	POBL Investment in Mill Street, Risca
	3.900m	WHQS Environmental Works
	2.500m	ARBED Scheme Lansbury Park
	2.015m	Property Acquisitions
	1.920m	Non Traditional Property Improvement Works
	1.100m	Pontlottyn Energy Works
	1.100m	Energy Conservation (I Park)
	1.000m	Gilfach Energy Works
	0.692m	Preparation of Pontllanfraith Civic Site for Housing
	0.300m	Homeless Accommodation at Maes Y Derwyn
	0.200m	Homeless Accommodation at Idris Davies House
	0.126m	Property Conversions
WBO4	£	Example Investments
	7.938m	Pwllypant Roundabout
	0.450m	Infrastructure delivered at Ty Du
	0.407m	Active Travel – Ystrad Mynach to Nelson
WBO5	£	Example Investments
	0.810m	Cwmcarn Adventures play area/new lodges
	0.485m	Rowan Place Environmental Enhancement
	0.182m	Upgrade works to Newbridge Leisure Centre
WBO6	£	Example Investments
	0.154m	Caerphilly Leisure Centre Health Suite Upgrades
	0.120m	Extension Hafod Deg Rhymney

Many of these capital investments also bring with them wider benefits than the creation of the new asset itself. Taking the development of the new primary phase at Idris Davies 3-18 as an example, the following benefits have also been identified beyond the £8m capital investment in the school building:

- 98% of the build workforce were from Wales
- 76% of project spend was within Wales
- 82% of the build sub-contractors were Welsh
- 100% were SMEs

- 233 weeks of employment were created (13 people in total) during the build
- 132 weeks training provided

Taking the wider socio-economic benefits of this nature into consideration, many of which are in the Councils gift to deliver, the level of investment outlined in section 5.7 and 5.8 below should be seen only as a baseline for the development of wider community or social benefits.

5.7 Wellbeing and Place Shaping Investment 2020-2023 (With Approval)

During the period 2020-2023, a significant amount of further investment is being made across Caerphilly. So far, project approvals have been received totalling over £129m across the six wellbeing objectives. The most significant of these projects are summarised in the table below.

Image 2 – Selection of some of the most significant approved investments 2020-2023



Table 2 = Wellbeing and Place Shaping Approved Projects 2020-2023

WBO1	£	Example Investments
	6.400m	Expansion of Welsh Medium Provision
	6.000m	EdTech (Hwb) Programme
	5.000m	WG School Capital Maintenance Grant Works
	5.000m	Childcare Grant (WG)
	1.400m	CCBC Capital Maintenance Grant Works (each year)
	1.340m	Band A Refurbishment at Trinity Fields
	0.755m	Oakdale Running Track
	0.751m	Increase Capacity at Ysgol Penallta
	0.500m	Extension at Ystrad Mynach Primary School
	0.442m	Glan y Nant PRU Extension
	0.306m	New 3G pitches at Lewis Pengam, YGCR and St Cenydd
WBO2	£	Example Investments
	13.00m	Acquisition, demolition and redevelopment of Pentrebane Street Caerphilly with Linc Cymru
	10.00m (of which £0.4m relates to Specsavers)	Specsavers Building demolished to facilitate longer term development of a Hotel in Park Lane Caerphilly

	7.000m	Oakdale Housing Development including a new local allotment facility
	3.900m	Ty Du Starter Units
	2.900m	15 x new start-ups at Lawn Industrial estate
	1.360m	Targeted Regeneration Initiative (TRI) in Property Enhancement
	0.200m	New Coach Pull in at Caerphilly Castle
WB03	£	Example Investments
	40.00m	Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) Works
	10.00m	Chartist Gardens Development
	4.000m	WHQS Environmental Works
	3.000m	Remodelling of two sheltered housing schemes
	1.800m	Lansbury Park Energy Work
	1.000m	Non Traditional Property Improvements (Bedwas)
	1.000m	Bedwellty School and Field Redevelopment
	0.500m	Ty Bedwellty - New Build (Section 106)
WB04	£	Example Investments
	0.489m	Active Travel in Caerphilly
	0.150m	Trecenydd Footbridge Improvement
WB05	£	Example Investments
	0.550m	Newbridge Leisure Centre Enhancements
	0.465m	Longbridge Baths Demolition and changing room enhancement
WB06	£	Example Investments
	6.387m	Hafodyrynys Demolished/Road Realigned
	1.500m	Completion and Opening of new Caerphilly basin cemetery at Nantgarw
	1.000m	Cwmcarn Forest Drive Improvements
	0.800m	Penallta CA Site Extension & Re-use Shop
	0.705m	Therapeutic Fostering Services MYST
	0.115m	Cwmcarn Café Refurbishment

5.8 Proposed Wellbeing and Place Shaping Investment 2020-onwards

During the period 2020-2023 and beyond, the Council wishes to develop and implement a Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework that builds on the investment made to date and seeks to help Caerphilly's communities become great places to live now, as well as having the potential to thrive in the future, as they emerge from the Covid pandemic.

The draft Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework summarised below includes a wide range of projects that could, should they prove acceptable to the relevant decision-making body, deliver significant further investments and a range of enhanced facilities across the communities of Caerphilly.

The draft Framework has been developed through consultation with Heads of Service, Corporate Management Team and Cabinet and has also been shaped through the insight generated by the Caerphilly Conversation Questionnaire.

It should be noted that these projects are currently only proposals at present. The development and progression of each project will be subject to relevant consultation and engagement; where necessary the development and scrutiny of robust business cases, and the necessary financial investment being in place and having received approval. There may also be occasions where planning permission will also be required prior to a project developing.

The Framework as a whole will form part of an ongoing engagement programme with the communities of Caerphilly that will provide stakeholders with the potential to add in further projects, as well as refine or remove projects that already exist within the Framework.

Should the proposed projects below ultimately be taken forward, investment in excess of £231m will be forthcoming into the county borough which will support a wide range of enhancements across all six wellbeing objectives.

Table 3 – Draft Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework 2021 - onwards

WBO1	£	Proposed Investments
	35.00m	Upper Rhymney Valley Potential development of mixed-use facilities, including a combination of education / leisure / housing and employment usage
	20.00m	Secondary School Investment Secondary School investment yet to be determined and subject to ongoing review.
	12.70m	Trinity Fields Expansion including Children's Centre Expansion of the existing Trinity Fields School to support 80 additional places and the provision of state of the art facilities for our most vulnerable pupils that are capable of meeting learning, social and medical needs, as well as the creation of facilities for integrated working across Education, Social Services and Health.and the provision of opportunities for childcare, outdoor space and community use.
	9.50m	Cwm Gwyddon development on former Cwmcarn High site The project will provide fit for purpose childcare, a 16 place Special Resource Base and will increase educational provision and capacity of the school from 220 to 420 primary plus nursery.
	8.900m	New School Build at Plas Y Felin Creation of a new state of the art Plas-y-Felin Primary School on the grounds of the existing site to include community use of the facility
	5.500m	New School Build (Gilfach and Park Primary) Amalgamation of Gilfach Fargoed Primary and Park Primary on a new build school site, working towards a net zero carbon school

	5.500m	Centre for Vulnerable Learners (CVL) at Pontllanfraith (Old Pont Grammar School site) Create a centre of excellence for vulnerable learners from across Caerphilly equipped with high quality learning opportunities, indoor and outdoor sporting provision as well as access to first class support. The Centre will reduce the need to outsource support for learners to private providers and will enable community use of the facilities outside of school hours.
	4.200m	New Welsh Medium Primary Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen The creation of a new Welsh Medium Primary school to accommodate the catchment area for Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen.
	4.200m	New Upper Rhymney Primary School A new build replacement for Upper Rhymney Primary, site to be determined.
	4.000m	New Primary School at Llancaeath / Llanfabon Amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School to create a new Primary School to include community use of the facility
	2.000m	Expansion of St. James Primary Primary expansion subject to demand.
	0.500m	Investment into the existing Idris Davies 3-18 site to accommodate possible reconfiguration of primary schools.
	0.400m	Relocation of YGG Gilfach Fargoed to the current Park Primary school site. This will require an element of refurbishment.
	0.260m	3G Pitch at Idris Davies School Establish a 3G pitch supporting rugby & football within the existing school site.
	0.200m	Relocation of Ysgol y Lawnt to possible new site.
	0.065m	Education facility at Virginia Park Modification of the now acquired Virginia Park Golf Club building to provide a base for the Youth Service and a community asset
WBO2	£	Proposed Investments
	1.500m	Expansion of employment opportunities at Oakdale Work with WG to expand the employment opportunities at Oakdale.
	TBC	AD Renewable Scheme Bryn/Tredomen Explore the opportunity to make a direct wire connection between Tredomen and the AD plant to receive electricity from the AD at a more attractive rate than direct from the grid.

	0.150m	Expand Existing Country Park Tea Room Offer Seek to pilot an expanded Country Park tea room offer to include other Country Park sites
	TBC	Industrial / employment Proposals Develop proposals for improving and enhancing the offer at sites across the county borough, such as Capital Valley
WB03	£	Proposed Investments
	35.00m	New Build housing investment programme across the county borough following the conclusion of the WHQS programme.
	3.500m	New Build Opportunities - The Crescent, Treceynydd and Llanfabon Drive, Bedwas (16 units altogether)
	1.500m	Completion of Arbed work at Lansbury Park
WB04	£	Proposed Investments
	17.00m	Decarbonisation Strategy Approve strategy and progress projects such as Cwm Ifor Solar Farm (£17m).
	4.000m	Ystrad Mynach Park & Ride 113 Spaces Proposed extension of the existing Park & Ride facility to promote greater modal shift and support the development proposals from the emerging LDP
	2.500m	County borough Wide Highways investment Maintenance and upgrade of the highway infrastructure and improvements in road condition across Caerphilly
	1.600m	Vehicle Replacement Programme Replace and upgrade front line Council vehicles including, wherever possible, a move to ELV to ensure key services can be maintained. The replacement programme also links to the Council's Decarbonisation Strategy
	0.950m	A469 New Tredegar/ Pontlottyn Investigation work and ongoing design plus some maintenance work with investment spent by end of March 2021. Longer term planning for route will be considered following the investigation work.
	0.590m	Introduction of cycle lanes across the county borough Seek to increase the number of cycle lanes in support of SARS, Active Travel agenda and climate change
	0.511m	Further Active Travel – Ystrad Mynach to Penallta Delivery of an Active Travel route between Ystrad Mynach and Cwm Calon (Penallta) which will include the crossing of a railway line.
	0.400m	Town Centre Traffic Calming

		Introduction of Town Centre Traffic calming measures with some projects commenced as part of Covid WG grant award
	0.300m	Caerphilly Transport Interchange Development of local active travel routes/network to support the Caerphilly town placemaking agenda, focusing on developing improvement options between the interchange, business park and Lansbury Park.
	0.300m	Car Park Improvements Introduce Tap and Go Payment machines at public car parks while removing car park charging at Caerphilly's Country Parks. Removing charging at Country Parks links to the Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy.
	Awaiting Grant Award	Active Travel Possible Active Travel in Greater Blackwood. A range of schemes to be developed.
	TBC	Llanbradach Park and Ride Seek funding from WG to Introduce a Park and Ride Scheme for Llanbradach
	0.040m	Clean Roundabouts Scheme Build on existing roundabout sponsorship scheme.
	TBC	Improve Flood Defences Design and implement a series of flood defence schemes across the County Borough.
WB05	£	Proposed Investments
	36.00m	Caerphilly Basin Potential development of a key brownfield site within Caerphilly town centre for mixed use facilities, including a combination of education / leisure / housing and employment usage
	1.200m	Penallta Visitors Centre
	1.000m	Canal Improvement Works at Risca Undertake Canal Improvement Works at Risca
	0.500m	County Borough Gateway Enhancement works for 2020/21.
	0.350m	Climate Change - Work to Ty Penallta Rooftop PV arrays on Tredomen Campus buildings and additional EV changing points on campus
	0.328m	Community Empowerment Fund Create a fund through which elected members, community groups and organisations can bid for funding to deliver improvements within the locality

	0.400m	Create the Foundations of a Community Sporting Hub at Sue Noake Leisure Centre Replace the ATP at Sue Noake with a state of the art ATP Hockey Hub as well as creating a new senior Rugby Pitch and enhancing the existing Rugby Pitch at the Centre.
	0.200m	Caerphilly Premier Parks Programme (CPPP) Create a Premier Parks Programme that provides a number of attractive public walks and outdoor spaces where residents can take exercise and get fresh air. CPPP to include Morgan Jones Park, Sirhowy Walk, Waunfawr Park, Ystrad Mynach Park, Bargoed Park, the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal as well as Cwmcarn Forest Drive and Parc Cwm Darran
	0.150m	Park Lane, Caerphilly Explore possibility of opening up as a pop up market with benches / gardens or to open the land to the Dafydd Williams Park for tourists/residents.
	0.080m	Green Flag Status Seek Green Flag status for Risca Canal - Crumlin Arm and Penallta Country Park. This will require some infrastructure improvements, increased maintenance, additional bins and benches as well as tree planting and painting of existing rails and barriers.
	0.020m	Town Cleansing Programme Key towns to be deep cleaned and weeded in advance of the summer months
	TBC	Park Run Sites Active promotion of park run sites across Caerphilly
WB06	£	Proposed Investments
	4.160m	Development of a new purpose-built Respite Centre facility at Pontllanfraith with the potential to deliver respite services from a single location serving the whole county borough
	4.620m	Integrated Health Facility - Ty Darren (Health Centre/element of Housing) to include an additional financial contribution from ABUHB

5.9 Ongoing Place Shaping Engagement Programme

The Place Shaping Engagement Programme will build upon the principles within the council's Consultation and Engagement Framework and the draft projects and ideas set out within section 5.8.

The principles of the Consultation and Engagement Framework were endorsed by Cabinet in February 2020 and include:

- Empowering our residents to have greater influence over the issues that affect them
- Increasing and strengthening the role of communities in how we live, work and visit Caerphilly county borough
- Helping us to understand the needs of our communities, which in turn, will help to ensure the services we deliver meet those needs, and that available resources are used effectively and in line with agreed priorities
- Supporting communities to take action, by helping them identify needs and support them in developing community led solutions.

The council has recently conducted a comprehensive resident survey entitled 'The Caerphilly Conversation'. The Caerphilly Conversation sought views on a wide range of areas including satisfaction with council services, our collective response to the COVID-19 pandemic and views on areas such as education, housing, the local economy and climate change. The findings from that consultation exercise are a very useful contributor to the emerging Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework which is framed in section 5.8.

Caerphilly – 'A Place for Everyone'

The Place Shaping Engagement Programme – 'A Place for Everyone' will build upon the stakeholder engagement carried out to date and will focus on developing strengthened, ongoing relationships between our residents and public services – to help forge a greater understanding of community needs and aspirations for the future.

The programme will seek to develop a shared vision for the type of place our residents want to live in and the collective role that everyone has to play in achieving this.

The following will be key components of the programme:

- Ongoing training and development for councillors and key council staff around community involvement and co-production of services
- Making optimum use of the council's existing network of staff who have regular, ongoing trusted dialogue with residents
- Mapping of community assets at individual ward level to build upon the council's existing consultation/engagement network– particularly focussing on hard to reach groups
- Ongoing community and council led projects badged as 'Team Caerphilly in Action' which aim to encourage ongoing dialogue, provide feedback and further build community capacity
- The opportunity to use the enhanced stakeholder mapping to gather regular insights on key service areas – including education, regeneration and quality of life issues.
- Regular 'pulse checking' residents surveys to ensure the Council is delivering on its key objectives and highlighting opportunities to refine its approaches.

- A cyclical programme of councillor and officer led community engagement, at individual council ward level. The discussions will focus initially on a number of areas and will take place across a number of platforms. These will include:
 - community pride
 - identity
 - community need
 - identification of gaps
 - what is important to our communities in living full and prosperous lives

As part of this cyclical programme, existing projects can be considered and potentially refined while also providing the platform for additional project ideas to be added into the Framework.

This ongoing approach to community engagement is not intended to replace individual, formal consultation processes specific to particular projects or schemes; rather it is intended to facilitate solid, ongoing, long-term dialogue with our communities where relationships are valued and trust earned, and will support those more formal consultation and engagement processes as required.

5.10 Conclusion

Over the paragraphs above, investment in excess of £485m has been outlined. Some of this has been made over prior years, but a significant proportion can be used to shape Caerphilly's future over coming years.

The Wellbeing and Place Shaping proposals set out within 5.8 provide the makings of a significant investment into the future of the county borough from an economic, social and environmental perspective and the engagement programme set out from section 5.9 onwards sets out the mechanism by which key stakeholders can directly shape the programme with the Council as it is developed. This provides an essential route-map for our communities to build a resilient and sustainable future as they emerge from the Covid pandemic.

Should Cabinet agree the Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework set out within 5.8 it will be agreeing to invest significantly in its communities, at a key moment in the recovery of our communities from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The potential benefits the Framework can provide in developing, improving and refreshing infrastructure and assets from across Caerphilly should not be underestimated. Sustained investment of this size and scale can help strengthen the local economy, increase community resilience and bring jobs and opportunities.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 It is assumed that the current and future economic landscape will be sufficiently viable for the projects proposed within section 5.8 to be progressed.
- 6.2 Should specific projects ultimately prove unviable, it is assumed that it would be possible to divert the funding in support of other Place Shaping projects.

- 6.3 The delivery of the Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework at pace and scale is critical and its success will be limited without the additional senior management and project management capacity referenced in section 11.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 7.1 Caerphilly's Wellbeing Objectives 2018 to 2023. This proposal will assist the Council in meeting all six of its stated wellbeing objectives:

- **Wellbeing Objective 1** – Improve education opportunities for all
- **Wellbeing Objective 2** – Enabling employment
- **Wellbeing Objective 3** – Address the supply, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people's health and wellbeing
- **Wellbeing Objective 4** – Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impacts on the environment
- **Wellbeing Objective 5** – Creating a County Borough that supports a Healthy Lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- **Wellbeing Objective 6** – Support citizens to remain independent and improve their wellbeing

- 7.2 The Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework also aligns specifically with the Council's:

- Team Caerphilly – Better Together
- Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-2029
- 21st Century Schools Band B Programme 2019-2026
- Shared Ambitions Strategy 2019-2022
- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- A Foundation for Success 2018-2023
- SE Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan 2015
- Covid Strategic Recovery Framework 2020
- Communications and Engagement Strategy 2019-2022

8. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 8.1 The Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. It requires public bodies to think more about the long-term, working with people and communities, looking to prevent problems and take a more joined up approach. This will create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. The Act puts in place seven wellbeing goals:

- 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.

8.2 The Act sets out the sustainable development principle against which all public bodies in Wales should assess their decision-making. The aim of the legislation is to ensure the wellbeing of future generations through maximising the contribution public bodies make towards the wellbeing goals. In using the sustainable development principle, it is incumbent that the Council considers the whole of the population it serves and considers the effect of its actions on future generations. The principle, also known as the five ways of working is assessed below:

- **Long Term** – The Place Shaping Framework is a multi-year investment into a wide range of new facilities that hold the potential to benefit the community as whole as well as contributing to all six of the Council’s wellbeing objectives.
- **Prevention** – The provision of new and in many cases, state of the art facilities and programmes holds the potential to support a multitude of preventative work across the Borough.
- **Integration** – The Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework is designed in order to integrate directly with the Council’s own Wellbeing Objectives and those agreed by the Public Service Board.
- **Collaboration** – Many of the programmes within the Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework will require integration across Council Directorates as well as key partners from the public, private and third sectors.
- **Involvement** – It is proposed that the Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework is underpinned by an ongoing engagement programme entitled ‘Caerphilly – a place for everyone’ that will provide the opportunity for key stakeholders to be directly engaged in the future of the Framework. Each project within the draft Framework will also be underpinned by a consultation and engagement exercise.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Equalities Implications will differ significantly across each project within the draft Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework. With this in mind, the equalities implications of each of the proposed projects will need to be addressed as part of the project development and delivery mechanisms.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework is an ambitious programme that will require large scale investment. The funding of the projects will involve a combination of approaches with some being funded directly through council resources, some through external funding alongside a match-funding requirement for the council and some wholly funded externally.

10.2 As certain projects are developed into business cases for consideration, the detailed financial implications will need to be considered in accordance with the Council’s Constitution and Financial Standing Orders. Wherever possible, one of the key drivers

in the development of business cases will be to lever in funding from grants and/or external partners.

- 10.3 At its meeting on the 29th January 2020, Cabinet approved a recommendation to earmark £24.543m from useable reserves for the Place Shaping Framework. In addition to this at its meeting on the 20th February 2020, Council approved further funding for the Place Shaping Framework totalling £4.048m from 2020/21 savings in advance and a surplus balance on the General Fund. This brings the total approved funding to date to £28.591m.
- 10.4 Cabinet is asked to approve a further recommendation that funding of £1.640m held in the 2020/21 Miscellaneous Finance Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) budget should also be allocated to the Place Shaping Framework, which would increase the total funding available to £30.231m.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 In order to deliver an investment programme of this size and scale, the delivery of the Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework has been identified as a core priority for Council's Leadership team. To complement this focus, a growth bid has been put forward as part of the 2021/22 budget which will be considered by Council in February 2021 to appoint additional resources.
- 11.2 The growth bid seeks to secure the permanent employment of the previously fixed term transformation resources as well as the creation of a new permanent Head of Transformation and a new permanent Head of Prosperity.
- 11.3 The Framework will also be supplemented by the acquisition of four fixed term project management resources and the creation of a project management office to support the delivery of this wide-ranging transformation programme of investments.
- 11.4 This additional resource, coupled with the existing corporate leadership team focus, will enable the Council's "TeamCaerphilly" wider transformation programme to be further embedded and progressed at the necessary pace. The Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework is a pivotal element of this overall programme of investment and change. If the bid for additional resources is not supported by Council as part of the 2021/22 budget, the Placeshaping framework will not be able to delivered at the desired pace and scale and the programme will need to be "scaled back" to align with any existing resources that are available..

12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 The draft report was distributed as detailed below. All comments received have been reflected in this version of the report.

13. STATUTORY POWER

- 13.1 Various Local Government legislation including the Local Government Acts 1972, 2000 and 2003, and the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

Author: Christina Harry, Chief Executive

Consultees:

Cllr Philippa Marsden, Leader
Cllr Sean Morgan, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise
Cllr Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member for Performance and Customer Services
Cllr Ross Whiting, Cabinet Member for Learning and Achievement
Cllr John Ridgewell, Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure
Cllr Colin Gordon, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
Cllr Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Waste and Public Protection
Cllr Lisa Phipps, Cabinet Member for Housing and Property
Cllr Shayne Cook, Cabinet Member for Learning and Achievement
Dave Street, Corporate Director for Social Care and Housing
Ed Edmunds, Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services
Mark S Williams, Interim Corporate Director for Communities
Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Cllr Colin Mann, Leader of the Plaid Cymru Group
Cllr Kevin Etheridge, Leader of the Independent Group