

# Pecyn Dogfennau Cyhoeddus

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

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



[www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)  
[www.caerffili.gov.uk](http://www.caerffili.gov.uk)

Am unrhyw ymholiad yn ymwneud â'r agenda hwn cysylltwch â Emma Sullivan  
(Rhif Ffôn: 07738 263933 Ebst: [afzalm@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:afzalm@caerphilly.gov.uk))

**Dyddiad: Dydd Mercher, 1 Rhagfyr 2021**

Annwyl Syr/Fadam,

Bydd cyfarfod digidol o'r **Cabinet** yn cael ei gynnal trwy Microsoft Teams ar **Dydd Mercher, 8fed Rhagfyr, 2021 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 y cyfarfod hwn yn cael ei recordio a bydd ar gael i'w weld trwy wefan y Cyngor, ac eithrio trafodaethau sy'n ymwneud ag eitemau cyfrinachol neu eithriedig. Felly, bydd delweddau/sain yr unigolion sy'n bresennol ac/neu sy'n siarad yn ystod y Cabinet ar gael i'r cyhoedd trwy'r recordiad ar wefan y Cyngor: [www.caerffili.gov.uk](http://www.caerffili.gov.uk)

Yr eiddoch yn gywir,

**Christina Harrhy**  
PRIF WEITHREDWR

## AGENDA

Tudalennau

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

A greener place Man gwyrddach



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

I gymeradwyo a llofnodi'r cofnodion canlynol:-

3	Cabinet 24 Tachwedd 2021.	1 - 4
Blaenraglen Waith y Cabinet – Nodi.		
4	Blaenraglen Waith y Cabinet.	5 - 8
I dderbyn ac ystyried yr adroddiad(au) canlynol y mae angen penderfyniadau gweithredol arnynt.		
5	Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg 2022-2032.	9 - 66
6	COVID-19 – Fframwaith Adferiad Economaidd.	67 - 112
7	Sylfaen Treth y Cyngor 2022/2023.	113 - 122
8	Gweithredu Datrysiaid Cyfarfod Hybrid.	123 - 130
9	Cyfundrefnau Torri Glaswellt.	131 - 144

## Cylchrediad:

Cyngorwyr

S. Cook, N. George, C.J. Gordon, P.A. Marsden, J. Pritchard, Mrs E. Stenner, A. Whitcombe a R. Whiting,

A Swyddogion Priodol.

## SUT FYDDWN YN DEFNYDDIO EICH GWYBODAETH

Bydd yr unigolion hynny sy'n mynychu cyfarfodydd pwyllgor 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](http://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 Pwyllgor Llawn](#) ar ein gwefan neu cysylltwch â Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol drwy e-bostio [griffd2@caerffili.gov.uk](mailto:griffd2@caerffili.gov.uk) neu ffoniwch 01443 863028.



## CABINET

### COFNODION Y CYFARFOD O BELL A GYNHALIWDY DRWY MICROSOFT TEAMS DDYDD MERCHER, 24 TACHWEDD 2021 AM 2:00PM

YN BRESENNOL:

Y Cyngorydd P. Marsden (Arweinydd) – Cadeirydd

Cynghorwyr:

S. Cook (Gofal Cymdeithasol a Thai), N. George (Gwastraff, Diogelu'r Cyhoedd a Strydoedd), C. Gordon (Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol), J. Pritchard (Isadeiledd ac Eiddo) ac R. Whiting (Dysgu a Hamdden).

Ynghyd â:

D. Street (Prif Weithredwr dros dro), R. Edmunds (Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg a Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol) ac M.S. Williams (Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Economi a'r Amgylchedd).

Hefyd yn bresennol:

R. Tranter (Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a'r Swyddog Monitro), S. Harris (Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Ariannol a Swyddog A151), S. Richards (Pennaeth Cynllunio a Strategaeth Addysg), R. Kyte (Pennaeth Adfywio a Chynllunio), A. Dallimore (Rheolwr Gwasanaethau Adfywio), J. Carpenter (Rheolwr Cyllid - Refeniw), M. Afzal (Swyddog Gwasanaethau Pwyllgor) ac S. Hughes (Swyddog Gwasanaethau Pwyllgor).

### TREFNIADAU RECORDIO A PHLEIDLEISIO

Atgoffodd yr Arweinydd bawb a oedd yn bresennol fod y cyfarfod yn cael ei ffilmio, ac na fyddai'n cael ei ffrydio'n fyw, ond y byddai recordiad ar gael yn dilyn y cyfarfod ar wefan y Cyngor – [Cliciwch Yma i'w Wyllo](#). Dywedodd y byddai penderfyniadau'n cael eu gwneud drwy Microsoft Forms.

#### 1. YMDDIHEURIADAU AM ABSENOLDEB

Cafwyd ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan y Cynghorwyr E. Stenner (Perfformiad, yr Economi a Menter), A. Whitcombe (Cynaliadwyedd, Cynllunio a Fflyd) a C. Harrhy (Prif Weithredwr).

#### 2. DATGAN BUDDIANNAU

Ni dderbyniwyd unrhyw ddatganiadau o fuddiant ar ddechrau'r cyfarfod nac yn ystod y cyfarfod.

#### 3. CABINET – 10 TACHWEDD 2021

PENDERFYNWYD cymeradwyo cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ar 10 Tachwedd 2021 fel cofnod cywir.

#### **4. BLAENRAGLEN WAITH Y CABINET – I'W NODI**

Darparwyd Blaenraglen Waith y Cabinet i'r Cabinet, a oedd yn nodi'r adroddiadau sydd wedi'u trefnu hyd at 23 Chwefror 2022. Atgoffwyd yr Aelodau bod Blaenraglen Waith y Cabinet yn ddogfen weithio, ac felly mae'n bosib y bydd yn newid.

Nodwyd bod Eitem 6 ar yr Agenda – Trefniadau Torri Glaswellt wedi'i gohirio i gyfarfod y Cabinet a gynhelir ar 8 Rhagfyr 2021 ac na fyddai'n cael ei hystyried yn y cyfarfod hwn.

Ar ôl ystyried a thrafod, cynigiwyd ac eiliwyd y dylid nodi'r Flaenraglen Waith. Trwy ddangos dwylo, cytunwyd ar hyn yn unfrydol.

PENDERFYNWYD y dylid nodi Blaenraglen Waith y Cabinet.

#### **5. STRATEGAETH TRAWSNEWID TÎM CAERFFILI - YN WELL GYDA'N GILYDD – DIWEDDARIAD 6 MIS**

Rhodddwyd ystyriaeth i'r adroddiad a oedd yn diweddarau'r Cabinet ar y cynnydd o dan Strategaeth Trawsnewid Tîm Caerffili -Yn Well Gyda'n Gilydd yn unol â threfniadau rheoli'r rhaglen. Nododd y Cabinet fod yr adroddiad wedi cael ei ystyried gan y Pwyllgor Craffu Polisi ac Adnoddau yn ei gyfarfod ar 9 Tachwedd 2021 a manylwyd ar eu sylwadau yn Adran 10 adroddiad y Swyddog.

Rhodddod yr adroddiad y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y camau a gymerwyd i gyflawni'r strategaeth hyd yma ac roedd yn cynnwys crynodeb o'r cynnydd yn erbyn y camau strategol, gan gynnwys y fframwaith llesiant a llunio lleoedd a'r gyfres gyfredol o adolygiadau corfforaethol. Roedd hefyd yn cynnwys y strategaeth fasnachol a buddsoddi a Sgwrs Caerffili sy'n broses barhaus.

Cyfeiriwyd at adran 5.2 o'r adroddiad a oedd yn manylu ar y grynoded o'r cynnydd yn erbyn pob un o'r deg adolygiad corfforaethol ac amlinellodd y Pennaeth Cynllunio a Strategaeth Addysg y strategaethau a'r polisiau sydd wedi'u lansio yn y chwe mis diwethaf. Cafodd y Cabinet hefyd y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y cynnydd a wnaed yn erbyn rhai o'r prosiectau sylweddol a adroddwyd o fewn y Fframwaith Llunio Lleoedd.

Gofynnwyd am eglurhad mewn perthynas â Datblygu Gerddi'r Siartwyr a dywedwyd wrth y Cabinet fod gwaith cynllunio wedi'i gymeradwyo yn amodol ar lofnodi unrhyw gytundebau cyfreithiol angenrheidiol.

Tynnodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol dros Addysg a Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol sylw at y ffordd y mae'r cynnydd a nodwyd yn erbyn y prosiectau yn y Fframwaith Llunio Lleoedd yn cynnwys holl amcanion lles y Cyngor. Roedd y Cabinet yn falch o weld canlyniad yr adolygiad chwe misol a chroesawodd yr awgrym i weld cynnydd y prosiectau gyda ffotograffau cyn ac ar ôl hynny.

Ar ôl ystyried a thrafod yr adroddiad a thrwy bleidleisio electronig a chadarnhad llafar nodwyd yr adroddiad.

PENDERFYNWYD, am y rhesymau a geir yn adroddiad y Swyddog, y dylid nodi cynnwys yr adroddiad a barn Craffu.

#### **6. TREFNIADAU TORRI GLASWELLT**



Fel y nodwyd, gohiriwyd yr adroddiad hwn i gyfarfod y Cabinet a gynhelir ar 8 Rhagfyr 2021.

## **7. CYNIG CYFLOGADWYEDD RHANBARTHOL**

Rhodddwyd ystyriaeth i'r adroddiad a oedd yn ceisio cymeradwyaeth ar gyfer yr egwyddor o ddull gweithredu a ddarperir yn lleol, ac a gydgyssylltir yn rhanbarthol, o ran cyflogadwyedd wedi i aelodaeth i'r UE ddod i ben, a oedd hefyd yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth ar gyfer y Fframwaith ar gyfer Cyflogaeth yn y Dyfodol (y Fframwaith) ym Mhrifddinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd fel y nodir yn Atodiad A adroddiad y Swyddog.

Nododd y Cabinet y cydymffurfiwyd â'r adroddiad mewn partneriaeth â chydweithwyr a oedd yn cynrychioli cyflogadwyedd ar draws Prifddinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd. Roedd Awdurdodau Lleol ar draws y rhanbarth wedi llwyddo i sicrhau cyflogadwyedd am dros ddau ddegawd gan gefnogi degau o filoedd o drigolion i mewn i waith, cyflogaeth â chyflog gwell neu i ddysgu pellach; helpu ein trigolion NEET ifanc; ac wedi bod yn gonglfaen allweddol ar gyfer ymyrraeth gynnar ac atal.

Mae Grŵp Clwstwr Awdurdodau Lleol y Bartneriaeth Sgiliau Rhanbarthol wedi bod yn cydweithio i lunio fframwaith rhanbarthol newydd i lywio sut mae gweithgareddau cyflogadwyedd yn cael eu darparu yn y rhanbarth yn y dyfodol. Amlinellwyd egwyddorion allweddol y fframwaith a fyddai'n sail i geisiadau rhanbarthol am gyllid ar ôl yr UE ar gyfer cyflogadwyedd gan gynnwys Cronfa Ffyniant a Rennir y DU pan gaiff ei lansio.

Amlinellodd y Pennaeth Adfywio a Chynllunio yr egwyddorion a rennir a nodwyd yn yr adroddiad, a oedd yn ystyried y gwersi a ddysgwyd o 20 mlynedd o brosiectau cyflogadwyedd.

Rhodddod y Pennaeth Cynllunio a Strategaeth Addysg a'r Pennaeth Adfywio a Chynllunio eglurhad ynghylch sut mae'r Fframwaith yn cyd-fynd â rhaglenni cyflogadwyedd presennol eraill a gynhelir gan Lywodraeth Cymru a'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau. Dywedwyd wrth y Cabinet mai dyma'r ysgogiad i sicrhau dull partneriaeth effeithiol iawn yn y rhanbarth, gan weithio'n agos gyda phartneriaid i osgoi unrhyw ddyblygu darpariaeth cyflogadwyedd.

Ar ôl ystyried a thrafod, cynigiwyd ac eiliwyd y dylai'r argymhelliad yn yr adroddiad gael ei gymeradwyo. Drwy bleidleisio'n electronig a chadarnhad llafar, cytunwyd yn unfrydol ar hyn.

PENDERFYNWYD am y rhesymau a oedd wedi'u cynnwys yn Adroddiad y Swyddog: –

- i. Bod yr egwyddor o ddull gweithredu a ddarperir yn lleol, wedi'i gydgyssylltu'n rhanbarthol ar gyfer cyflogadwyedd ar ôl yr UE, yn cael ei gymeradwyo.
- ii. Bod y Fframwaith ar gyfer Cyflogadwyedd yn y Dyfodol ym Mhrifddinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd fel y dangosir yn Atodiad A yn cael ei gymeradwyo.

## **8. RHYDDHAD ARDRETHI BUSNES – CYLLID LLYWODRAETH CYMRU**

Rhodddwyd ystyriaeth i'r adroddiad a oedd yn ceisio cymeradwyaeth y Cabinet i gynllun rhyddhad ardrethi dewisol lleol ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol 2021/22 gan ddefnyddio cyllid a ddarparwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru at y diben hwn.

Nododd y Cabinet y cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi dewisol lleol ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol 2021/22 gan ddefnyddio cyllid o £452k a ddarparwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru drwy'r Setliad Ariannol Llywodraeth Leol. Mae talwyr ardrethi busnes yn y sectorau manwerthu, hamdden a lletygarwch yn cael rhyddhad ardrethi o 100% ar gyfer blwyddyn ariannol 2021/22 o dan gynllun ar wahân gan Lywodraeth Cymru ac felly nid oes ganddynt ardrethi busnes i'w talu am y cyfnod hwn. Cynigir felly bod y cynllun hwn yn targedu'r trethdalwyr hynny sy'n dal i orfod talu ardrethi busnes

am eleni. Cynigiwyd felly y bydd meini prawf penodol a fabwysiadwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn eu cynlluniau rhyddhad ardrethi yn berthnasol i'r cynllun hwn er mwyn sicrhau bod y rhyddhad ardrethi yn cael ei dargedu mor effeithiol â phosibl. Cyfeiriwyd y Cabinet at y meini prawf ym Mhwynt 5 adroddiad y Swyddog.

Ar ôl ystyried a thrafod, cynigiwyd ac eiliwyd y dylai'r argymhelliad yn yr adroddiad gael ei gymeradwyo. Drwy bleidleisio'n electronig a chadarnhad llafar, cytunwyd yn unfrydol ar hyn.

PENDERFYNWYD, am y rhesymau a geir yn adroddiad y Swyddog, y dylid cymeradwyo a mabwysiadu'r cynnig ar gyfer cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi dewisol lleol ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol 2021/22 fel y nodir ym mharagraffau 5.1 i 5.9.

## **9. PRAWF BUDD Y CYHOEDD**

Ystyriodd yr Aelodau brawf budd y cyhoedd, a daethpwyd i'r casgliad, ar y cyfan, bod budd y cyhoedd o ran cynnal yr eithriad yn gorbwysu budd y cyhoedd o ran datgelu gwybodaeth a:-

PENDERFYNWYD yn unol ag Adran 100(4) Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 y byddai'r cyhoedd yn cael eu heithrio o weddill y cyfarfod, oherwydd y tebygolrwydd y byddai gwybodaeth eithriedig yn cael ei datgelu iddynt fel y nodwyd ym mharagraffau 14 ac 16 Atodlen 12A Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972.

## **10. EITEM EITHRIEDIG – LAWNTIAU RHYMNI – MATERION CWLFFERT A CHOSTAU DILYNOL YN GOR-REDEG**

Ar ôl ystyried a thrafod, cynigiwyd ac eiliwyd y dylid cymeradwyo argymhellion yn adroddiad y Swyddog a thrwy bleidleisio electronig a chadarnhad llafar, cytunwyd yn unfrydol ar hyn.

PENDERFYNWYD, am y rhesymau a oedd wedi'u cynnwys yn adroddiad y Swyddog, cymeradwyo'r argymhellion ym mharagraff 3.1 (i), (ii), (iii) a (iv).

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 2:40pm

Wedi'i gymeradwyo a'i lofnodi fel cofnod cywir yn amodol ar unrhyw gywiriadau a wneir yn y cyfarfod a gynhelir ar 8 Rhagfyr 2021.

---

CADEIRYDD

**Cabinet Forward Work Programme as at 1st December 2021**

08/12/2021 10:30	Economic Recovery Framework Report	To update Cabinet on our strategic approach in relation to assisting businesses across the county borough to recover from the pandemic and to provide information on progress to date.	Hudson, Paul;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
08/12/2021 10:30	Council Tax base for 2022/23	For Cabinet to agree the calculation of the Council Tax base for 2022/23.	O'Donnell, Sean;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
08/12/2021 10:30	Procurement and Implementation of a Hybrid Meeting solution	To seek Cabinet approval to appoint a preferred supplier of a hybrid meeting solution for the Council.	Edmunds, Richard (Ed);	Cllr. Gordon, Colin J;
08/12/2021 10:30	Welsh Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032	For Cabinet to consider and approve the new 10- year plan.	Cole, Keri; Mutch, Sarah;	Cllr. Whiting, Ross;
08/12/2021 10:30	Grass Cutting Regimes	To seek the views of Cabinet in relation to grass cutting regimes across the county borough and proposals to enhance and promote bio-diversity following consultation with local members and presentation to Scrutiny Committee.	Headington, Mike;	Cllr. George, Nigel;
12/01/2022 10:30	Active Travel Network Map Review and Consultation	Review of the statutory consultation process/responses and approval of the ATNM prior to submission to WG by the 31st December 2021.	Lloyd, Marcus; Campbell, Clive;	Cllr. Pritchard, James;

**Cabinet Forward Work Programme as at 1st December 2021**

12/01/2022 10:30	Newbridge to Risca Regeneration Masterplan	To obtain approval to consult on the Draft Newbridge to Risca Corridor Masterplan, the 4th of the Masterplans aligned under the regeneration Strategy "A Foundation for Success", which sets out the regeneration aspiration for the area for the next five years and beyond.	Kyte, Rhian;	Cllr. Whitcombe, Andrew;
Special Cabinet 19/01/2022 10:30	Draft Budget Proposals for 2022/23	To present Cabinet with details of draft budget proposals for the 2022/23 financial year to allow for a period of consultation prior to final decision by Council on the 24th February 2022.	Harris, Stephen R;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
26/01/2022 10:30	21st Century Schools – Band B - Phase 2: Consultation Report / Statutory Notice	For Members to consider the contents of 21st Century Schools consultation report prior to determination to proceed to Statutory Notice by Cabinet in December 2021.	West, Andrea; Richards, Sue;	Cllr. Whiting, Ross;
09/02/2022 10:30	HRA Charges (rent increase) report	Members to agree the level of rent increase for council tenants effective from April 2022.	Harris, Stephen;	Cllr. Cook, Shayne;
09/02/2022 10:30	Report from Task and Finish Group on Non-Residential Care Charges	This report outlines the findings and recommendations of the task and finish group established to review charges for non-residential care set by Caerphilly County Borough Council.	Jacques, Mark;	Cllr. Cook, Shayne;

**Cabinet Forward Work Programme as at 1st December 2021**

09/02/2022 10:30	Pedestrian and Cycle Zones (School Streets)	To update Cabinet on the effectiveness and outcomes of the experimental pedestrian and cycle zone traffic regulation orders implemented outside three primary schools within the borough.	Lloyd, Marcus; Smith, Dean;	Cllr. Pritchard, James;
23/02/2022 10:30	Oakdale Housing Development	For Cabinet to consider the development options presented by Willmott Dixon on behalf of Caerphilly Homes, on the basis of need and viability with regard to the site of the former Oakdale Comprehensive School.	Roberts-Waite, Jane;	Cllr. Cook, Shayne;
23/02/2022 10:30 Page 7	Low Cost Home Ownership	The LCHO (Low Cost Home Ownership) report will document the formulation, implementation and the publication of a new policy which governs the process by which the Council will sell homes to people living and/or working in the borough wanting to access homeownership but cannot afford to do so without some form of public subsidy.	Roberts-Waite, Jane;	Cllr. Cook, Shayne;
23/02/2022 10:30	Ty Darren site in Risca	To discuss with Cabinet the proposed development plan and construction contract for the former Ty Darren site in Risca by Caerphilly Homes.	Roberts-Waite, Jane;	Cllr. Cook, Shayne;

**Cabinet Forward Work Programme as at 1st December 2021**

23/02/2022 10:30	Welsh Government Lease Scheme Proposal	To discuss the WG lease scheme proposal in comparison to Caerphilly Keys and to seek a decision on which scheme we take forward for PRS option to assist in the discharge of statutory Homeless Duties.	Denman, Kerry;	Cllr. Cook, Shayne;
23/02/2022 10:30	Budget Proposals for 2022/23	To present Cabinet with details of draft budget proposals for the 2022/23 financial year to allow for a period of consultation prior to final decision by Council on the 24th February 2022.	Harris, Stephen R;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;



## CABINET - 8 RHAGFYR 2021

**SUBJECT:** CYNLLUN STRATEGOL CYMRAEG MEWN ADDYSG 2022-2032

**REPORT BY:** RICHARD EDMUNDS, CYFARWYDDWR CORFFORAETHOL -  
GWASANAETHAU ADDYSG A GWASANAETHAU  
CORFFORAETHOL

### 1. DIBEN YR ADRODDIAD

- 1.1 Bydd yr adroddiad hwn ar gyfer aelodau cabinet yn cyflwyno Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg (WESP) 2022-2032 arfaethedig ac yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth i'w gyflwyno i Lywodraeth Cymru ym mis Ionawr 2022 i'w gyhoeddi a'i weithredu erbyn mis Medi 2022.

### 2. CRYNODEB

- 2.1 Gwneir y Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg hwn o dan Adran 84 o Ddeddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion (Cymru) 2013 ac mae'n cydymffurfio â Rheoliadau Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg (Cymru) 2019 a Rheoliadau Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg (Cymru) (Diwygio) (Coronafeirws) 2020. Wrth osod targedau, rhoddwyd sylw dyledus i'r canllawiau statudol a gyhoeddwyd gan Weinidogion Cymru.
- 2.2 Y gofyniad cyfreithiol gyda'r rheoliadau newydd yw drafftio'r cynllun gydag ymgynghoriad y tymor hwn, ei gyflwyno ym mis Ionawr 2022, ei gyhoeddi yn haf 2022 yn dilyn cymeradwyaeth weinidogol Llywodraeth Cymru i'r cynllun, a'i weithredu o fis Medi 2022.
- 2.3 Mae'r targed lleiaf o 26% ar gyfer dysgwyr ym mlwyddyn 1 erbyn 2032 yn cael ei bennu gan Lywodraeth Cymru er mwyn cwrdd â'r targed o 1 miliwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050. Er mwyn cyrraedd y targed uchelgeisiol hwn, bydd angen i ni adeiladu ysgol gynradd newydd ac ehangu ysgolion eraill i greu'r lleoedd. Yn ogystal, bydd angen cynllun cyfathrebu arnom ni i gynyddu nifer y lleoedd hynny a fydd angen darpariaeth ychwanegol yn grwpiau Ti a Fi a Chylchoedd yn y blynyddoedd cynnar.
- 2.4 Pan fyddwn ni'n ehangu ein darpariaeth gyfrwng Gymraeg, bydd angen i ni hefyd ehangu ein gweithlu sy'n siarad Cymru ynghyd â nifer sylweddol o gamau eraill a amlygwyd ar ddiwedd pob maes canlyniad o'r cynllun.
- 2.5 Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn cydnabod yr angen am fuddsoddiad cyfalaf ac mae wedi creu cyllid cyfalaf ychwanegol ochr yn ochr â rhaglen Band B Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif;

rydyn ni wedi gweithio gyda thîm cynllunio Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif i ddatblygu cynigion cyfalaf cadarn. Bydd angen cynllunio gofalus arnom ni o fewn timau Addysg i gynorthwyo'r cyfnod pontio i blant a theuluoedd er mwyn galluogi pontio cynyddol dros y 10 mlynedd nesaf ac atal effaith niweidiol sydyn heb ei reoli ar ysgolion cyfrwng Saesneg.

- 2.6 Mae Fforwm Addysg Cymru yn cwrdd bob tymor i fonitro cynnydd tuag at gamau gweithredu ac mae wedi nodi'r angen i grŵp tasg parhaus o dan y fforwm yrru ymlaen a chydlynu gweithgareddau o amgylch gwaith cyfathrebu a hyrwyddo sy'n cysylltu â Strategaeth y Gymraeg a'r fforwm. Bydd rhan o'r gwaith hwn hefyd yn cynnwys sut rydyn ni'n datblygu ac yn hyrwyddo darpariaeth trochi hwyrdydfodiaid yn ogystal â rhagor o weithlu sy'n siarad Cymraeg.
- 2.7 Mae'r ymgynghoriad ar agor ar hyn o bryd a bydd yn fyw tan 5 Rhagfyr 2021 pan fydd sylwadau'n cael eu hystyried ar gyfer y Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg terfynol a gellir ei drafod gyda'r Cabinet ar 8 Rhagfyr 2021 yn barod i'w cyflwyno i Lywodraeth Cymru Ionawr 2022.

### **3. ARGYMHELLION**

- 3.1 Gofynnir i Aelodau'r Cabinet dderbyn Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg fel rhan o'r broses ymgynghori a rhoi sylwadau ynghylch digonolrwydd yr wybodaeth a'r targedau i gyflawni'r meysydd canlyniadau a chyrraedd ein targed lleiaf o 26% yng ngharfan blwyddyn 1 erbyn 2032

### **4. RHESYMAU AM Y ARGYMHELLION**

- 4.1 Cydymffurfio â Rheoliadau Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg (Cymru) 2019 a Rheoliadau Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg (Cymru) (Diwygio) (Coronafeirws) 2020.

### **5. YR ADRODDIAD**

- 5.1 Gwneir y Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg hwn o dan Adran 84 o Ddeddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion (Cymru) 2013 ac mae'n cydymffurfio â Rheoliadau Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg (Cymru) 2019 a Rheoliadau Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg (Cymru) (Diwygio) (Coronafeirws) 2020. Wrth osod targedau, rhoddwyd sylw dyledus i'r canllawiau statudol a gyhoeddwyd gan Weinidogion Cymru.
- 5.2 Mae'r cynllun hwn yn amlinellu sut yr ydym yn bwriadu gweithio gyda Llywodraeth Cymru ac ystod eang o randdeiliaid i weithio tuag at gyflawni uchelgais 2050 o filiwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg yn ogystal â Rhaglen Lywodraethu 2021-2026. Bydd yr arian yn cefnogi ein dyheadau ar gyfer Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol ar gyfer diwylliant bywiog ac iaith Gymraeg ffyniannus waeth beth fo'ch cyd-destun cymdeithasol-ddemograffig. Mae'r cynllun hwn wedi'i gysylltu'n gynhenid â chyflawni ein targedau integredig, gan ddefnyddio'r egwyddorion datblygu cynaliadwy, ledled Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili gan gynnwys cynllun Asesu Digonolrwydd Gofal Plant 2022-2027, Strategaeth y Gymraeg 2022-2027 a Chynllun Corfforaethol Caerffili 2018-2023, yn enwedig Amcan 1 – Gwella Cyfleoedd Addysg i Bawb a Chynllun Cydraddoldeb Strategol 2020-2024, Amcan 5 – Y Gymraeg. Mae'r cynllun yn dangos pwysigrwydd gwella safonau a galluogi pontio cadarnhaol trwy gydol addysg i



addysg, hyfforddiant a chyfleoedd cyflogaeth cadarnhaol, ynghyd â chysylltiadau cryf â Chaerffili Mwy Cyfartal, Caerffili Mwy Ffyniannus/A More Equal Caerphilly, A More Prosperous Caerphilly yn ogystal â Chaerffili o Ddiwylliant Bywiog a'r Gymraeg yn Ffynnu.

- 5.3 Deallir yn glir bod angen i ni ganolbwyntio ar gynyddu cyfleoedd i blant a'u teuluoedd yn y blynyddoedd cynnar er mwyn cynyddu nifer y plant sy'n cyrchu darpariaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Bydd cynyddu nifer y lleoedd gofal plant ac addysg feithrin gyda dilyniant i ganiatáu pontio 100% trwy addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn cynyddu nifer y siaradwyr Cymraeg sy'n gadael yr ysgol ac yn mynd i gyfleoedd cyflogaeth, addysg a hyfforddiant. Mae galw mawr ar draws pob rôl yn y gweithlu am siaradwyr Cymraeg, felly mae'n hanfodol cynyddu nifer y bobl ifanc sy'n gadael yr ysgol sy'n siarad Cymraeg yn ogystal â chynyddu'r cyfleoedd i ddysgwyr sy'n oedolion.
- 5.4 Ein targed 10 mlynedd dros oes y cynllun hwn yw cynyddu'r lleoedd ym mlwyddyn 1 i rhwng 26% (520) a 30% (600) o blant mewn addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg erbyn 2030/31. Mae dogfen ganllaw Llywodraeth Cymru sy'n amlinellu'r fethodoleg wrth gyfrifo'r targed yn dangos bod ein canran yn 2019/20 yn 17.9% (rydym yng ngrŵp 3). Mae'r awdurdodau lleol eraill yng Ngwent yng ngrŵp 4. Mae hwn yn darged heriol ac mae angen ei ystyried ar draws pob agwedd ar ein Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg.
- 5.5 Mae ein sefyllfa bresennol yn seiliedig ar leoedd gwirioneddol yn y dosbarthiadau derbyn yn 2020, ac mae'n cynnwys amcangyfrifon parhaus ar gyfer lleoedd sydd ar gael ac sy'n cael eu creu drwy ein rhaglen datblygu cyfalaf gyfredol. Yn 2020, roedd 421 o leoedd Cymraeg ar gael a fydd yn cynyddu i 466 o leoedd ar gael ym mlwyddyn 1 erbyn 2031 drwy ein rhaglen gyfalaf ehangu gyfredol. Fodd bynnag, gwir nifer y garfan blwyddyn 1 gyfredol yw 366 o leoedd Cymraeg, sy'n is na'r rhai sydd ar gael. Yn seiliedig ar amcangyfrifon cyfredol ar gyfer cyfradd genedigaethau a cheisiadau, y nifer ym mlwyddyn 1 yn 2031 a ragwelir fydd 411. Mae'n amlwg bod angen datblygu lleiafswm o 54 o leoedd blwyddyn 1 ychwanegol sy'n debygol o greu angen am ysgol gynradd newydd ac ehangu'r ddarpariaeth bresennol i gyflawni'r targed o sicrhau 26% (520) o blant mewn addysg gyfrwng Gymraeg ym mlwyddyn 1 erbyn 2032. Yn flaenorol, rydym wedi seilio ein datblygiad ar yr Arolwg Galw gan Rien i ddangosodd alw o oddeutu 18%, ond rydym yn symud tuag at osod targed mwy estynedig o 26% erbyn 2032 i lywio datblygiadau yn y dyfodol.
- 5.6 Mae'r dadansoddiad o'r lleoedd yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol yn dangos bod yna feysydd penodol sydd angen eu datblygu. Rhagwelir y bydd symud Ysgol Cwm Gwyddon i Gwmcarn yn gwasanaethu eu dalgylch yn fwy effeithiol o'r lleoliad mwy canolog yn y cwm. Dylai'r lleoliad wella cyfraddau pontio er y bydd o bosibl angen datblygu darpariaethau Ti a Fi a Cylch yng ngogledd a de'r cwm i wasanaethu ehangu posibl yr ysgol. Mae'r safle hefyd yn ddigon mawr i gefnogi datblygu darpariaeth uwchradd yn y dyfodol os bydd angen. Mae cyfyngiad ar gyfer lleoedd yn ardal basn Caerffili wedi'i oresgyn i ddechrau drwy ehangu Ysgol y Castell ac Ysgol Gymraeg Caerffili, ond mae angen datblygu ysgol gynradd Gymraeg yn ardal Bedwas Machen o hyd, yn unol â rhaglen Band B Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif. Byddai dadansoddiad o'n stoc tai ysgolion yn dangos yr angen i ddatblygu Ysgol Gymraeg Trelyn ac Ysgol y Lawnt er mwyn symud tuag at Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif yn yr ardaloedd ochr yn ochr â darpariaeth gofal plant. Gyda'r holl ddatblygiadau ehangu neu gyfalaf, byddwn yn ystyried sut y gallwn hefyd ddatblygu gofal plant ar y safle ar gyfer plant 2-11 oed i wella pontio a chefnogi ein teuluoedd sydd angen y ddarpariaeth.
- 5.7 Mae'r camau o fewn y Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg hwn yn cyd-fynd â'n nodau strategol yn Strategaeth Iaith Gymraeg 5 mlynedd Caerffili:

1. Cynyddu nifer y teuluoedd lle mae'r Gymraeg yn cael ei siarad â phlant
2. Cynyddu defnydd o'r Gymraeg ymhlith plant a phobl ifanc, codi eu hymwybyddiaeth o werth y Gymraeg, a sicrhau gwell mynediad at weithgareddau a digwyddiadau cymdeithasol trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.
3. Cefnogi grwpiau cymunedol a'u helpu i gynyddu defnydd o'r Gymraeg yn eu hardaloedd
4. Hyrwyddo a gwella argaeledd gwasanaethau cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol

5.8 Mae saith maes canlyniad, ac mae gan bob un ofynion penodol o dan y rheoliadau a chanllawiau dilynol drwy'r wybodaeth fanwl ym mhob adran a'r targedau lefel uchel 10 mlynedd.

Canlyniad 1: Mwy o blant meithrin / plant 3 oed yn derbyn eu haddysg trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg

Canlyniad 2: Mwy o blant dosbarth derbyn / plant 5 oed yn derbyn eu haddysg trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg

Canlyniad 3: Mwy o blant yn parhau i wella eu sgiliau iaith Gymraeg wrth drosglwyddo o un cyfnod o'u haddysg statudol i un arall

Canlyniad 4: Mwy o ddysgwyr yn astudio ar gyfer eu cymwysterau asesedig yn Gymraeg (fel pwnc) a phynciau trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg

Canlyniad 5: Mwy o gyfleoedd i ddysgwyr ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg mewn gwahanol gyd-destunau yn yr ysgol

Canlyniad 6: Cynnydd yn narpariaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg ar gyfer dysgwyr ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol (yn unol â'r dyletswyddau a bennir gan y Ddeddf ADY)

Canlyniad 7: Cynyddu nifer y staff addysgu i allu addysgu Cymraeg (fel pwnc) ac addysgu trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg

## 5.9 **Casgliad**

Mae Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg 2022-2032 wedi diweddarau gwybodaeth ynghylch y sefyllfa bresennol ym mhob maes canlyniad ac wedi nodi camau lefel uchel er mwyn cwrdd â'r isafswm o 26% o garfan blwyddyn 1 sy'n cael ei addysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg erbyn 2032.

Mae'r cyfnod ymgynghori wedi agor ac yn cael ei gylchredeg i'r holl ymgynghoreion gofynnol yn ogystal â bod ar gael i'r cyhoedd drwy wefan y Cyngor.

## 6. **TYBIAETHAU**

6.1 Does dim tybiaethau pendodol.

## 7. **CYSYLLTIADAU Â PHOLISI'AU'R CYNGOR SY'N BERTHNASOL**

### 7.1 **Cynllun Corfforaethol 2018-2023.**

Amcan 1 - Gwella cyfleoedd addysg i bawb

### 7.2 **Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol**

Mesur y Gymraeg (Cymru) 2011

Cynllun Cydraddoldeb Strategol Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerphilly 2020-2024

Strategaeth Gymraeg Pum Mlynedd 2017-2022

Strategaeth Gymraeg 2050 Llywodraeth Cymru

Cynllun Lles Corfforaethol Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerphilly  
Strategaeth Uchelgeisiau a Rennir mewn Addysg  
Aseiad Digonolrwydd Gofal Plant  
Rhaglen Ysgolion yr 21<sup>ain</sup> Ganrif - Band B  
Rhaglen gyfalaf cyfrwng Cymraeg  
Rhaglen gyfalaf gofal plant  
Deddf ADY a Chynllun rhanbarthol trawsnewid system ADY

## 8. LLESIANT CENEDLAETHAU'R DYFODOL

8.1 Mae'r adroddiad yn cyfrannu at y Nodau Llesiant:-

- Cymru lewyrchus - plant, pobl ifanc ac oedolion sydd â sgiliau priodol ar gyfer gweithlu dwyieithog
- Cymru iachach - amgylcheddau dysgu priodol i gefnogi lles pob dysgwr
- Cymru sy'n fwy cyfartal - darpariaeth briodol ar gyfer pob dysgwr gan gynnwys y rhai mwyaf galluog neu fwyaf agored i niwed
- Cymru â diwylliant bywiog lle mae'r Gymraeg yn ffynnu - ymrwymiad i gefnogi diwylliant Cymru yn ogystal â chynyddu'r lleoedd sydd ar gael yn y ddarpariaeth Gymraeg i gefnogi ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cymru i filiwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050

8.2 Mae'r adroddiad yn dangos y camau a gymerwyd mewn perthynas â'r egwyddorion datblygu cynaliadwy:

- **Ymglymiad** – mae yna lawer o randdeiliaid sy'n hanfodol i gyflawni ein targedau cyffredinol o 26% o leoedd addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg ym mlwyddyn 1 erbyn 2031. Mae Fforwm Addysg Cymru (WEF) yn cynnwys aelodau amrywiol o bob rhan o dimau Addysg, Polisi, Uwch Arweinwyr sy'n cynrychioli Ysgolion, Cynghorwyr, Rhwydwaith Rhieni, Menter Iaith Caerffili, Mudiad Meithrin, Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RhAG), Cymraeg i Blant, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Coleg y Cymoedd, Gwasanaeth Cyflawni Addysg De Ddwyrain Cymru, a Llywodraeth Cymru. Mae'r hen ddywediad, '*mae'n cymryd pentref i fagu plenty'n*', yn wir ac mae Fforwm Addysg Cymru yn datblygu drwy'r amser i gynnwys aelodau newydd sydd â diddordeb mewn cyflawni ein targedau yng Nghynllun Strategol y Gymraeg mewn Addysg a chefnogi ein cynllun cyfathrebu i hyrwyddo'r manteision o ddatblygu cymuned ddwyieithog. Mae cysylltiadau da rhwng fforwm y Gymraeg a Fforwm Addysg Cymru i sicrhau dull cydgysylltiedig cyson o wneud gwaith hyrwyddo.
- **Tymor hir** – mae'r Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg hwn dros gyfnod o ddeng mlynedd ond hefyd yn rhan o ymrwymiad tymor hir uchelgeisiol yn y gyfarwyddiaeth Addysg a Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol i ddatblygu ein system Addysg i fod o'r ansawdd uchaf i ddiwallu anghenion blaengar ein dysgwyr. Mae'r system yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd datblygu amgylcheddau ein hysgolion, gan ymgorffori blynyddoedd cynnar mewn addysg ynghyd â chyfleoedd y tu allan i ysgolion i bobl ifanc a theuluoedd wreiddio Cymraeg yn ein cymunedau.
- **Cydweithrediad** – mae yna ystod eang o bartneriaid ymroddedig i gyflawni ein Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg gan gychwyn gyda'n plant, pobl ifanc, a theuluoedd yn ein cymunedau. Mae yna lawer o dargedau yn ein cynllun a fydd yn gofyn am wahanol gydweithrediaid esblygol i'w cyflawni. Mae gennym hanes hir o gydweithrediaid cadarnhaol ar draws y rhanbarth i ddatblygu ein hadnoddau Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol y blynyddoedd cynnar ar gyfer y sector gofal plant,

gan rannu arfer da ac adnoddau ledled ein cymunedau ysgol, yn ogystal â gweithgaredd hyrwyddo drwy ein grŵp swyddogion polisi'r Gymraeg.

- **Integreiddio** – mae llawer o'r canlyniadau yn croestorri dros wahanol gynlluniau a strategaethau gyda chanlyniadau a dangosyddion integredig cyffredin. Mae'n hanfodol cysylltu ar draws yr amrywiol gynlluniau gan gynnwys Strategaeth Iaith Gymraeg, Asesu Digonolrwydd Gofal Plant, Amcan Llesiant Corfforaethol, a rhaglen lywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau ein bod yn cyflawni'n effeithiol ar feysydd canlyniadau integredig.
- **Atal** – mae'r canlyniadau'n ymestyn ar draws yr holl gyd-destunau demograffig ac amgylchiadau teuluol ac yn hanfodol i atal effeithiau niweidiol ar blant a phobl ifanc. Mae'r cynllun yn cynnwys rhoi'r dechrau gorau mewn bywyd i bob plentyn, i'r rhai a allai ddilyn llwybr academaidd llai traddodiadol a'r rhai a allai fod eisiau dysgu Cymraeg yn ddiweddarach mewn bywyd. Dros gynlluniau diweddar, rydym wedi datblygu darpariaethau arbenigol priodol yn Ysgol Cwm Derwen ac Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni i sicrhau dull cynhwysol cyfannol ar gyfer pob plentyn drwy gydol eu haddysg. Bydd y ddarpariaeth arbenigol yn galluogi plant, waeth beth fo'u hamgylchiadau, eu hanghenion datblygiadol neu feddygol, i gael mynediad at ddarpariaeth Gymraeg. Bydd ein cynllun cyfathrebu yn hyrwyddo'r ddarpariaeth sydd gennym ar gael yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol i deuluoedd i gefnogi eu dewisiadau ynghylch addysg ac annog plant a phobl ifanc i gofleidio'r cyfleoedd a gynigir mewn cymunedau dwyieithog.

## 9. GOBLYGIADAU CYDRADDOLDEB

- 9.1 Mae'r Asesiad Effaith Integredig wedi'i gwblhau. Mae'r WESP yn ysgogi'r galw am ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg ac Addysg Gymraeg i alluogi ymgysylltiad cadarnhaol ar draws pob cymuned â'r Gymraeg. Mae effeithiau cadarnhaol sylweddol i'r WESP gan gynnwys hyrwyddo a chefnogi datblygiad yr iaith Gymraeg ar draws cymunedau trwy ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg ac Addysg Bellach ynghyd â chymorth cymunedol ehangach i rieni ddatblygu eu sgiliau Cymraeg. Mae cysylltiadau sylweddol â'r strategaethau cydraddoldeb, Ysgolion yr 21<sup>ain</sup> Ganrif a strategaethau Cymraeg Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili yn ogystal â strategaeth Llywodraethau Cymru ar gyfer miliwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050. Mae Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg 2022-2032 wedi diweddarau gwybodaeth ynghylch y sefyllfa bresennol ym mhob maes canlyniad ac wedi nodi camau lefel uchel er mwyn cwrdd â'r isafswm o 26% o garfan blwyddyn 1 sy'n cael ei addysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg erbyn 2032. Mae'r cyfnod ymgynghori wedi agor ac yn cael ei gylchredeg i'r holl ymgynghoreion gofynnol yn ogystal â bod ar gael i'r cyhoedd drwy wefan y Cyngor.

## 10. GOBLYGIADAU ARIANNOL

- 10.1 Does dim goblygiadau ariannol i'r adroddiad hwn gan fod unrhyw adnoddau sydd eu hangen wedi'u hymgorffori yn yr adnoddau a'r cynlluniau presennol neu cynigion yn y dyfodol.

## 11. GOBLYGIADAU PERSONÉL

- 11.1 Does dim goblygiadau personél i'r adroddiad hwn.

## 12. YMGYNGHORIADAU

- 12.1 Mae'r holl safbwyntiau yn yr ymgynghoriad wedi'u cynnwys yn yr adroddiad hwn.

### 13. PŴER STATUDOL

- 13.1 Â Rheoliadau Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg (Cymru) 2019 a Rheoliadau Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg (Cymru) (Diwygio) (Coronafeirws) 2020.

Awdur: Sarah Mutch, Rheolwr Blynyddoedd Cynnar a Phartneriaethau,  
mutchs@caerffili.gov.uk

#### Ymgynghoreion:

Christina Harrhy, Prif Weithredwr  
Richard Edmunds, Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Addysg a Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol  
Dave Street, Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol, Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Y Cynghorydd Ross Whiting, Aelod Cabinet dros Ddysgu a Chyflawniad  
Y Cynghorydd Teresa Parry, Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Craffu Addysg  
Y Cynghorydd Carol Andrews, Is-gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Craffu Addysg  
Steve Harris, Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol a Swyddog Adran 151 dros dro  
Keri Cole, Prif Swyddog Addysg  
Sue Richards, Pennaeth Addysg, Cynllunio a Strategaeth  
Sarah Ellis, Arweinydd Cynhwysiant ac ADY  
Paul Warren, Arweinydd Strategol ar gyfer Gwella Ysgolion  
Jane Southcombe, Rheolwr Gwasanaethau Ariannol  
Lynne Donovan, Pennaeth Gwasanaethau i Bobl  
Anwen Cullinane, Uwch Swyddog Polisi (Cydraddoldeb, y Gymraeg ac Ymgynghori)  
Rob Tranter, Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Swyddog Monitro  
Ros Roberts, Swyddog Gwella Busnes  
Fforwm Addysg Cymru

#### Atodiadau:

Atodiad 1 Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg 2022-2032  
Atodiad 2 Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg 2022-2032 – Cynllun gweithredu

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

## Caerphilly County Borough Council - Integrated Impact Assessment

This integrated impact assessment (IIA) has been designed to help support the Council in making informed and effective decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of relevant legislation, including:

- Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of the Equality Act 2010
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Statutory Consultation v Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation and Gunning Principles

**PLEASE NOTE: Section 3 Socio-economic Duty only needs to be completed if proposals are of a strategic nature or when reviewing previous strategic decisions. See page 6 of the Preparing for the Commencement of the Socio-economic Duty Welsh Government Guidance.**

<b>1. Proposal Details</b>			
<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Head of Service</b>	<b>Service Area &amp; Department</b>	<b>Date</b>
Sarah Mutch	Keri Cole	Education and Corporate Services	14/9/2021

**What is the proposal to be assessed?** *Provide brief details of the proposal and provide a link to any relevant report or documents.*

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-2032

We have an ambitious target to increase the number of pupils taught through the medium of Welsh by 2032 and have developed high level actions through all aspects of our Welsh in Education Strategic Plan to achieve this.

This plan outlines how we intend to work with the Welsh Government and a wide range of stakeholders to work towards delivering the Cymraeg 2050 ambition of 1 million Welsh speakers as well as the Programme for Government 2021-2026. The funding will support our aspirations for the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act for a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language regardless of your socio demographic context. This plan is intrinsically linked to delivering our integrated targets, using the sustainable development principles, across the Caerphilly county borough including Childcare Sufficiency Assessment plan 2022-2027, the Welsh Language Strategy 2022-2027 and our Caerphilly Corporate Plan 2018-2023 especially Objective 1 Improve Education Opportunities for All and the Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024 Objective 5 – Welsh Language.

Our 10year target over the lifespan of this plan is to increase the places in year 1 to between 26% (520) and 30% (600) of children in Welsh medium education by 2030/31.

The minimum target of 26% for learners in year 1 by 2032 is set by Welsh Government in order to meet the 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050 target. In order to meet this ambitious target, we will need to build a new Primary School and expand others to create the places. In addition, we will need a communication plan to increase the take up of those places and our starting point will need additional provision in Ti a Fi and Cylchoedd in the early years.

When we expand our Welsh medium provision, we will also need to expand our Welsh speaking workforce along with a substantial number of other actions highlighted at the end of each outcome area of the plan.

## 2. Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011

*(The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have “due regard” to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and foster good relations between different groups). Please note that an individual may have more than one protected characteristic.*

<u>Protected Characteristics</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?	If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?	What evidence has been used to support this view?
Page 18 <b>Age</b> (people of all ages)	The WESP proposes to increase the number of Welsh medium Education places so will positively affect children and young people who wish to access Welsh medium Education. There is a focus on increasing the size of the Welsh speaking workforce and so there is a positive impact for the working age population.	There is a recognition in the WESP that increasing the numbers in Welsh medium Education needs planned incremental transition to manage the potential negative impact on English medium primary schools.	The Welsh Government target for us of a minimum 26% learners in Welsh medium Education in the year 1 cohort by 2032. This will require an additional primary school as well as expansion of existing schools to create the spaces.
<b>Disability</b> (people with disabilities/ long term conditions)	Outcome area 6 has a specific focus on provision for learners with Additional Learning Needs to ensure inclusive and specialist Welsh medium Education provision.		Over recent plans we have developed appropriate specialist provisions in Ysgol Cwm Derwen and Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni to ensure a holistic inclusive approach for all children throughout Education. The specialist provision will enable children regardless of their circumstances, developmental or medical needs to access Welsh language provision.



<u>Protected Characteristics</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?	If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?	What evidence has been used to support this view?
<b>Gender Reassignment</b> <i>(anybody who's gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex they were assigned at birth)</i>	Neutral impact		
<b>Marriage or Civil Partnership</b> <i>(people who are married or in a civil partnership)</i>	Neutral impact		
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b> <i>(women who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave)</i>	Neutral impact		
<b>Race</b> <i>(people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds)</i>	Neutral impact		
<b>Religion or Belief</b> <i>(people with different religions and beliefs including people with no beliefs)</i>	Neutral impact		
<b>Sex</b> <i>(women and men, girls and boys and those who self-identify their gender)</i>	Neutral impact		
<b>Sexual Orientation</b> <i>(lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, other)</i>	Neutral impact		

### 3. Socio-economic Duty (Strategic Decisions Only)

*(The Socio-economic Duty gives us an opportunity to do things differently and put tackling inequality genuinely at the heart of key decision making. Socio-economic disadvantage means living on a low income compared to others in Wales, with little or no accumulated wealth, leading to greater material deprivation, restricting the ability to access basic goods and services)*

**Please consider these additional vulnerable groups and the impact your proposal may or may not have on them:**

- Single parents and vulnerable families
- People with low literacy/numeracy
- Pensioners
- Looked after children
- Homeless people
- Carers
- Armed Forces Community
- Students
- Single adult households
- People misusing substances
- People who have experienced the asylum system
- People of all ages leaving a care setting
- People living in the most deprived areas in Wales (WIMD)
- People involved in the criminal justice system

<u>Socio-economic Disadvantage</u>	<b>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?</b>	<b>If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?</b>	<b>What evidence has been used to support this view?</b>
<p><b>Low Income / Income Poverty</b> (<i>cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport etc.</i>)</p>	<p>Additional Welsh medium Primary School will potentially support improved transport times for children to their school. The transport policy will still support those from low income households who require transport to school to access it, so is likely to have slightly positive or a neutral impact.</p>		
<p><b>Low and/or No Wealth</b> (<i>enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provisions for the future</i>)</p>	<p>Neutral impact</p>		
<p><b>Material Deprivation</b> (<i>unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, hobbies etc.</i>)</p>	<p>Neutral impact</p>		

<u>Socio-economic Disadvantage</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?	If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?	What evidence has been used to support this view?
<b>Area Deprivation</b> (where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of public transport) Impact on the environment?)	Neutral impact		
<b>Socio-economic Background</b> (social class i.e. parents education, employment and income)	Neutral impact		
<b>Socio-economic Disadvantage</b> (What cumulative impact will the proposal have on people or groups because of their protected characteristic(s) or vulnerability or because they are already disadvantaged)	Neutral impact		

12/09/21

#### 4. Corporate Plan – Council’s Well-being Objectives

(How does your proposal deliver against any/all of the Council’s Well-being Objectives? Which in turn support the national well-being goals for Wales as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Are there any impacts (positive, negative or neutral? If there are negative impacts how have these been mitigated?) Well-being Objectives

<b>Objective 1</b> - Improve education opportunities for all	The WESP addresses many aspects of Objective 1 improving education opportunities for all positively impacting learning in Welsh language provision including development of school buildings, childcare, and outcomes for learners.
<b>Objective 2</b> - Enabling employment	The WESP recognises the importance of and need for developing the Welsh speaking workforce and as such will deliver on some aspects within Objective 2.
<b>Objective 3</b> - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people’s well-being	No impact



<b>Objective 4</b> - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impact on the environment	No impact
<b>Objective 5</b> - Creating a county borough that supports healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development principle with in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	No impact
<b>Objective 6</b> - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being	No impact

#### 4a. Links to any other relevant Council Policy

*(How does your proposal deliver against any other relevant Council Policy?)*





The WESP is linked closely with the Welsh Language Strategy and the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, which are both currently being updated and reviewed for the next five-year plans.

In addition there are close links to:

- CCBC Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024
- CCBC Welsh Language Strategy 2022-2027
- Welsh Government Cymraeg 2050 Strategy
- CCBC Corporate Wellbeing Plan
- Education Shared Ambitions Strategy
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century schools programme Band B
- Welsh medium capital programme
- Childcare capital programme
- ALN Act and ALN transformation regional plan

## 5. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – The Five Ways of Working (ICLIP)

*(Also known as the sustainable development principles. The Act requires the Council to consider how any proposal improves the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales using the five ways of working as a baseline)*

<u>Ways of Working</u>	How have you used the Sustainable Development Principles in forming the proposal?
<p><b>Long Term</b></p> 	<p><b>Long term</b> – this Welsh in Education Strategic Plan is over a ten-year period but also part of an ambitious longer-term commitment in the Education and Corporate Services directorate to develop our Education system to be of the highest quality to meet the progressive needs of our learners. The system recognises the importance of developing our school environments, embedding early years in education as well as opportunities outside of schools for young people and families to embed Welsh language in our communities.</p>
<p><b>Prevention</b></p> 	<p><b>Prevention</b> – the outcomes reach across all demographic contexts and family circumstances and are essential in preventing detrimental impacts for children and young people. The plan includes giving all children a best start in life, through to those who may follow a less traditional academic path and those who may wish to learn Welsh later in life. Over recent plans we have developed appropriate specialist provisions in Ysgol Cwm Derwen and Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni to ensure a holistic inclusive approach for all children throughout Education. The specialist provision will enable children regardless of their circumstances, developmental or medical needs to access Welsh language provision. Our communication plan will promote the provision we have available within the borough to families to support their Education choices and encourage children and young people to embrace opportunities offered in bilingual communities.</p>
<p><b>Integration</b></p> 	<p><b>Integration</b> – many outcomes are cross cutting over different plans and strategies with common integrated outcomes and indicators. It is essential to link across the various plans including Welsh Language Strategy, Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, Corporate Wellbeing Objective, and the Welsh Government programme for government to ensure we are effectively delivering on integrated outcome areas.</p>
<p><b>Collaboration</b></p> 	<p><b>Collaboration</b> – there are a wide range of committed partners to delivering our Welsh in Education Strategic Plan starting with our children, young people, and families in our communities. There are many targets in our plan that will require different evolving collaborations to achieve. We have a long history of positive collaborations across the region to develop our early years Additional Learning Needs resources for the childcare sector, sharing good practice and resources across our school communities, as well as promotional activity through our Welsh policy officer’s group.</p>

## Involvement



Consider the **Involvement** – there are many stakeholders critical to achieving our overarching targets of 26% Welsh medium education places in our year 1 by 2031. The Welsh Education Forum (WEF) involves various members from across Education teams, Policy, Senior Leadership Teams representing Schools, Councillors, Parent Network, Menter Iaith Caerffili, Mudiad Meithrin, Rhieni dros Addyg Gymraeg (RhAG), Cymraeg i Blant, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Coleg y Cymoedd, South East Wales Education Achievement Service, and Welsh Government. The old saying ‘it takes a village to raise a child’ holds true and the Welsh Education Forum is ever evolving to include new members who have an interest in delivering towards our targets in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and supporting our communication plan to promote the benefits of developing a bilingual community. There are good links between the Welsh Language forum and the Welsh Education Forum to ensure a consistent coordinated approach to promotional work.

## 6. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

<u>Well-being Goals</u>	Does the proposal maximise our contribution to the Well-being Goal and how?
<p><b>A Prosperous Wales</b>  <i>An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work</i></p>	<p>The WESP aims to develop appropriately skilled children, young people and adults for a bilingual workforce.</p>
<p><b>A Resilient Wales</b>  <i>A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for climate change)</i></p>	<p>Any Primary School development will include environmental impact surveys and build conditions on the build to ensure high quality capital schemes.</p>
<p><b>A Healthier Wales</b>  <i>A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood</i></p>	<p>The WESP will support the development of appropriate learning environments to support the wellbeing of all learners</p>
<p><b>A More Equal Wales</b>  <i>A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances)</i></p>	<p>The WESP will support the development of appropriate provision for all learners including those most able or more vulnerable</p>

<u>Well-being Goals</u>	Does the proposal maximise our contribution to the Well-being Goal and how?
<p><b>A Wales of Cohesive Communities</b>  <i>Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities</i></p>	<p>All Welsh medium capital projects will support the development of attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</p>
<p><b>A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language</b>  <i>A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation</i></p>	<p>The WESP shows our commitment to supporting the Welsh culture as well as increasing the places available in Welsh medium provision to support the Welsh Government's commitment to 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.</p>
<p><b>A Globally Responsible Wales</b>  <i>A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being</i></p>	<p>All capital projects will consider the environmental impact of any proposals.</p>



## 7. Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and Welsh Language Standards

(The Welsh Language Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards require the Council to have 'due regard' for the positive or negative impact a proposal may have on opportunities to use the Welsh language and ensuring the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language) [Policy Making Standards - Good Practice Advice Document](#)



Requirement	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?	If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?	What evidence has been used to support this view? <i>e.g the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census</i>
Links with Welsh Government's <a href="#">Cymraeg 2050 Strategy</a> and CCBC's <a href="#">Five Year Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022</a> and the <a href="#">Language Profile</a>	Positive impacts as detailed in the WESP		The WESP describes many actions required to meet our minimum 26% target for year 1 cohort by 2032 which will support the Cymraeg 2050 strategy, develop a skilled workforce for the future.
Compliance with the <a href="#">Welsh Language Standards</a> . <i>Specifically Standards 88 - 93</i>	Positive impact.		The draft WESP has been developed in partnership with the Welsh Education Forum and the Fforwm Iaith, ensuring key stakeholders for delivering on the actions are responsible for its delivery and success. There is a bilingual consultation process and it remains interlinked with a number of key CCBC strategies including the Welsh Language Strategy 2022-2027
<b>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</b> <i>e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work / community</i>	The WESP will actively encourage and promote the use of our services in Welsh to see an increase in demand over time		
<b>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language</b> <i>e.g. staff, residents and visitors</i>	The WESP will support the rights of Welsh speakers to use Welsh when accessing Education and for staff to use Welsh at Work		
<b>Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language</b>	Positive intended impact on increasing the use of Welsh		

**7a. Having considered the impacts above, how has the proposal been developed so that there are positive effects, or increased positive effects on (a) opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and b) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.**

The WESP demonstrates our commitment to increasing the number of Welsh speakers throughout the borough by 2032 towards the national 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. The WESP has sections focussed on Education provision as well as early years and community provision and the opportunities for Welsh speaking workforce moving forward.

**8. Data and Information**

*(What data or other evidence has been used to inform the development of the proposal? Evidence may include the outcome of previous consultations, existing databases, pilot projects, review of customer complaints and compliments and or other service user feedback, national and regional data, academic publications and consultants' reports etc.)*

Data/evidence <i>(Please provide link to report if appropriate)</i>	Key relevant findings	How has the data/evidence informed this proposal?
Welsh Government guidance containing the 26% target calculation alongside current data sets within the body of the WESP with the data set hyperlinks.	The data shows where high level actions are required which are included in each of the 7 outcome areas	The data shows what actions were needed to meet the 26% target for year 1 learners taught through the medium of Welsh by 2032.

**Were there any gaps identified in the evidence and data used to develop this proposal and how will these gaps be filled?**

*Details of further consultation can be included in Section 9.*

The census data is 2011 and so may need consideration once 2021 data is released to understand language trends in the borough.

**9. Consultation**

*(In some instances, there is a legal requirement to consult. In others, even where there is no legal obligation, there may be a legitimate expectation from people that a consultation will take place. Where it has been determined that consultation is required, [The Gunning Principles](#) must be adhered to. Consider the [Consultation and Engagement Framework](#). Please note that this may need to be updated as the proposal develops and to strengthen the assessment.*

**Briefly describe any recent or planned consultations paying particular attention to evidencing the Gunning Principles.**

Consultation will open from October to December for an 8 week period and has a mix of statutory required stakeholders via direct consultation email as well as members of the public via the Council consultation webpage. Statutory Stakeholders are: neighbouring local authorities, head teachers and governing bodies of schools maintained by the authority, further education sector institutions within the area, the Welsh Language Commissioner, Early Years Development Childcare Partnership, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales, providers of initial school teacher training, and appropriate organisations providing services to children and young people.

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan contains all the information and targets to enable consultees to raise aspects needing more information or additional actions.

Yet to be known from wider stakeholders. However, all Welsh Education Forum members shaped the draft WESP for consultation.

Aiming to consider comments for amendments to the WESP prior to submission to Welsh Government in January 2022.

## 10. Monitoring and Review

<b>How will the implementation and the impact of the proposal be monitored, including implementation of any amendments?</b>	Annual reports will be submitted to Welsh Government and uploaded to website. The Welsh Education Forum will monitor updates from members against action areas termly.
<b>What are the practical arrangements for monitoring?</b>	The WESP is required to start implementation from September 2022 and will be monitored termly with annual reports submitted to Welsh Government.
<b>How will the results of the monitoring be used to develop future proposals?</b>	At year five there is the opportunity to review the actions and targets and amend if progress and data shows it to be necessary.
<b>When is the proposal due to be reviewed?</b>	Reviewed annually and at year 5
<b>Who is responsible for ensuring this happens?</b>	Lead officer and Welsh Education Forum

## 11. Recommendation and Reasoning

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Implement proposal with no amendments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Implement proposal taking account of the mitigating actions outlined
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reject the proposal due to disproportionate impact on equality, poverty and socio-economic disadvantage

<b>Have you contacted relevant officers for advice and guidance?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
--	---	-----------------------------

## 12. Reason(s) for Recommendation

*(Provide below a summary of the Integrated Impact Assessment. This summary should be included in the "Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment" section of the Corporate Report Template. The Integrated Impact Assessment should be published alongside the Report proposal).*

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan stimulates demand for Welsh medium provision and Welsh language Education to enable positive engagement across all communities with the Welsh language. There are substantive positive impacts for the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan including promoting and supporting development of the Welsh language across communities through Welsh medium schools and Further Education as well wider community support for parents to develop their Welsh language skills. There are substantive links to the equalities, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and CCBC Welsh Language strategies as well as the Welsh Governments strategy for 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 has updated information regarding the current position in each outcome area and has identified high level actions in order to meet the minimum 26% of the year 1 cohort taught through the medium of Welsh target by 2032. The consultation period has opened and is being circulated to all required consultees as well as being available to the public via our council website.

## 13. Version Control

*(The IIA should be used in the early stages of the proposal development process. The IIA can be strengthened as time progresses to help shape the proposal. The Version Control section will act as an audit trail to evidence how the IIA has been developed over time)*

Version No.	Author	Brief description of the amendments/update	Revision Date
01.	Sarah Mutch	Final version to accompany the WESP and committee services report although does not yet include consultation comments which is live currently	15/10/2021
02.	Sarah Mutch	Updated version following feedback	19/10/2021
03.			

## Integrated Impact Assessment Author

<b>Name:</b>	Sarah Mutch
<b>Job Title:</b>	Early Years and Partnerships Manager
<b>Date:</b>	14/9/2021

## Head of Service Approval

<b>Name:</b>	Keri Cole
<b>Job Title:</b>	Chief Education Officer

<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
-------------------	--	--------------	--



## CABINET – 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021

**SUBJECT: COVID 19 – ECONOMIC RECOVERY FRAMEWORK**

**REPORT BY: COPORATE DIRECTOR, ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT**

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides Cabinet with an update on our economic recovery framework which comprises three distinct phases as follows:

- The Restart phase.
- The Revive phase.
- The Renew phase.

The focus of this report is the Revive and Renew phases following an initial 'Government led' restart phase that delivered financial and employer support at pace in response to the pandemic.

### 2. SUMMARY

2.1 The Covid-19 pandemic is causing unprecedented disruption to our communities and the local economy. In response the Council prepared a framework for recovery which aims to support the Council and the wider county borough to recover. The economic recovery framework, 'Delivering Prosperity after Covid' has been prepared to deliver our strategic objective of Supporting Business.

2.2 Welsh Government emergency financial support effectively ended during August 2021 and their response has now moved to a growth phase for which the economic recovery framework will complement based on the following key objectives:

- To build a more resilient and diversified economy for the county borough.
- To support economic growth, innovation and enterprise.
- To create an environment that nurtures business.
- To enhance the competitiveness of the county borough.
- To boost business support.
- To identify key business investment sites.
- To improve the links between business, schools and training providers.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To agree the Strategic Direction, Objectives and action plan proposed for the Revive and Renew Phases.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To provide a cohesive framework and action plan for economic recovery.

### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 The Covid-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented disruption to our communities and the local economy that has been exacerbated by the transition from being a part of the European Union during this period and combined have created logistical challenges and supply chain disruption for local businesses. In response the Council prepared a framework for recovery which aims to support the Council and the wider county borough to recover. The economic recovery framework, 'Delivering Prosperity after Covid' has been prepared to deliver our strategic objective of Supporting Business and builds on the Councils 2018 – 2023 regeneration strategy, A Foundation for Success' which sets out 7 key objectives to support business.
- 5.2 On 7 August this year, the country moved to Alert level 0 which allowed a number of remaining business sectors and premises that were affected by the regulations to open but there is still a requirement for businesses and employers to undertake coronavirus specific risk assessments and take reasonable measures to minimise exposure to, and reduce the spread of coronavirus. Some businesses are starting to recover but at the end of July 2021 there were still around 3,000 employees furloughed in the county borough which is around 3% of the workforce.
- 5.3 The Covid crisis has reinforced the fundamental role of the foundational economy to the well-being of our citizens. It provides the infrastructure of everyday life, serving our essential daily household needs, keeping us all safe and civilised, and provides jobs at the heart of our communities in healthcare, childcare, food, housing, energy, construction, waste and recycling.
- 5.4 The impact of Coronavirus on the local economy is becoming clearer since the restart phase response, with industries that rely on personal interactions suffering more than others, such as the hospitality and leisure industries. The longer-term impacts on structural changes to industry and the service economy are still to be understood but it is evident that we will be living with Coronavirus and its effects for some time.
- 5.5 Research carried out during the height of the pandemic confirmed that the majority of businesses in the county borough were negatively impacted by coronavirus through operational limitations to their business, loss of staff and reductions in turnover. 31% of businesses surveyed felt their staffing requirements would decrease in the long term but on a more positive note, 12% of businesses surveyed had been able to diversify their offer bringing new services or products to the market and to communities in the county borough.
- 5.6 The research identified that 42% of firms felt they needed specific business support to help with the challenges presented by Brexit. In response to this research, the Regeneration Service will be employing an International Trade Support Officer for a fixed period to work with businesses across the county borough to support their overseas trading requirements and aspirations.



- 5.7 This report provides Cabinet with an overview of the revive and renew phases of our economic recovery framework, 'Delivering Prosperity after Covid' following the restart phase which focussed on reopening town centres safely in the early stages of the pandemic and the targeting of businesses in the county borough to distribute over £55m of emergency phase business support funding on behalf of the Welsh Government.

### The Revive phase

- 5.8 Using the Council's regeneration strategy, A Foundation for Success, and the suite of area-based masterplans as a basis for addressing structural and strategic improvement, the Revive phase will include policy interventions, financial support and the delivery of major construction projects to create opportunities to provide a diverse range of employment and training opportunities and opportunities to local business supply chains, and will include:

- Securing funds to overcome high-level public sector challenges, working closely with business to utilise innovative solutions.
- Understanding future industrial growth as influenced by Brexit and the pandemic, and work with business to strengthen Caerphilly's place in the regional economy.
- Expediting delivery of major construction projects as a catalyst for growth.
- Renewing policy interventions through the Second Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) – working from home, reducing the need to travel, provision of suitable land for development, diversification of town centres, facilitating Active Travel and modal shift.
- Accelerating Caerphilly Town 2035 and the Place Shaping Framework projects.
- Ensuring maximum social impact and social value from public sector investment.

- 5.9 Critical to the delivery of the objectives of the economic recovery framework are the following areas identified in the regeneration strategy: Implementation of strategic masterplans, innovation, cluster networks and skills that will be addressed through the following priority areas with each priority having a series of actions identified in the framework:

- Development of the Foundational Economy.
- Homes for the Future.
- Development of cluster and innovation opportunities.
- Improving resilience through education training and careers advice.
- Transport Infrastructure and connectivity.
- Town Centre Regeneration & Diversification.
- Tourism Recovery.
- Reconfiguration of existing employment sites and identifying new sites.

### The Renew Phase

- 5.10 Building on the Revive Phase the Council-approved Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework provides a list of potential civic investments across Caerphilly in excess of £231m that align explicitly with the Council's adopted Wellbeing Objectives which are due to be delivered in the next 5 years.

Long-term investments in infrastructure such as that proposed within the Place Shaping Framework, holds the potential to rebalance the local economy, enhance productivity and create jobs and opportunities across Caerphilly County Borough. This 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 the Council's "TeamCaerphilly" collective community and civic leadership model of delivery

Strategic improvements that are necessary to drive local economic growth in the Renew Phase for example are:

- Improve access to the digital front door and addressing digital poverty as a barrier to employment.
- Influence regional and Welsh policy and programme development as a member of CCR Regeneration Group, WG regional town centre group etc. through a continued dialogue with the WLGA.
- Build on developing relationship with WG Business Wales, WG Regeneration Team and WG Task & Finish Groups so we can dovetail support packages.
- Developing a coherent marketing strategy for the county borough to attract in new investment.
- Prepare the Final Masterplans for:
  - Newbridge to Risca Corridor; and
  - Greater Blackwood.

## **Conclusion**

5.11 The Council, in partnership with the Welsh Government, has been at the forefront of responding to the immediate and short-term needs of local businesses as both coronavirus and Brexit have unfolded. There is now a pressing need to support and strengthen the local economy and in order to do this a renewed strategic approach is required to address this unprecedented period of economic turbulence and lay the ground to enable the county borough to build back better.

5.12 This report gives an overview of the framework for economic recovery and provides an overview of the work that is being undertaken to aid economic recovery. The detailed actions to be undertaken over the period of the framework are included in the appendix section of the report, a number of which will require financial support to deliver and staff within the service are looking ahead to the opportunities presented by the Levelling Up and UK Shared Prosperity Funds.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 At the time of writing it is assumed that there will be no further emergency government support through both UK and Welsh Government.

6.2 Wales will be at alert level zero for the immediate future.

## **7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 The document 'Delivering prosperity after covid' sets a framework for economic recovery for the Council to work within and outlines a number of actions that will

support the Council to contribute to a prosperous Wales for the benefit of our citizens. The primary evidence for the direction of the framework is based on the work undertaken for the Council's Regeneration Strategy which covers the period 2018 – 2023 and has been supported by business research carried out during the early part of covid to assess the impact of both covid and Brexit on our business community. The actions identified within framework are positioned to impact positively on our residents and include actions in areas that are socio-economically disadvantaged within our community.

[Link to full Integrated Impact Assessment](#)

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The report sets the framework for supporting economic growth aligned to the Council's previously agreed Regeneration Strategy and taking account of the impact of the pandemic. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report in the context of the framework. Projects and work streams that require financial input linked to the framework for economic recovery will be brought forward where required.

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The report sets the framework for officers working to support economic growth and prosperity and there are no direct personnel implications arising from this report in the context of the framework. Projects and work streams that require changes to staff resources will be brought forward where required.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

- 10.1 All consultation responses are reflected in the report.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 The Local Government Acts 1998 and 2003.

## **12. URGENCY**

- 12.1 This report is subject to the 'call-in' procedure.

Author: Paul Hudson, Business Enterprise and Renewal Team Leader

Consultees: Cllr Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member for Performance, Economy and Enterprise  
Dave Street, Corporate Director Social Services & Housing  
Mark S. Williams, Corporate Director Economy and the Environment  
Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning  
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer  
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer  
Liz Lucas, Head of Customer and Digital Services  
Allan Dallimore, Regeneration Service Manager

Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer - Equalities, Welsh Language and Consultation  
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services  
Jane Roberts-Waite, Strategic Coordination Manager  
Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Chair and Vice Chair - Cllr Ridgewell and Cllr Mike Adams

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Recovery from Covid – A Foundation For Success



# Foundation for *Success* Delivering Prosperity After Covid

Page 39

October 2021









# Background

The Strategic Vision for the Regeneration of the County Borough has been clouded throughout 2020 by 2 significant events Covid-19 and Brexit and the significant economic impact of both continues to persist. In addition to the well-documented impact of the pandemic on public health, its effect combined with the impact of BREXIT on the economy is profound.

The Council, in partnership with the Welsh Government, has been at the forefront of responding to the immediate and short-term needs of local businesses as both events have unfolded. There is now a pressing need to support and strengthen the local economy and in order to do this a renewed strategic approach is required to address this unprecedented period of economic turbulence and lay the ground to enable the county borough to build back better.

## Response

In response the Council has established a Strategic Recovery Framework to support the Council and the wider County Borough

to recover whilst continuing to support the Wellbeing Objectives set out in the Corporate Plan 2018 - 23. The economic recovery framework Delivering Prosperity after Covid has been prepared to deliver our strategic objective of Supporting Business and this framework has three, distinct phases as follows:

- The Restart phase;
- The Revive phase; and
- The Renew phase.

## The Restart Phase

An initial 'led by Government' phase, the Welsh Government and Council responded at pace implementing the following measures swiftly:

- Establishment of an Emergency Business Support Team;
- Communication and signposting to Business Wales and other forms of government relief, including the creation of a dedicated e-newsletter for business;
- Financial business support through a multitude of grant schemes;

- Supplier relief (supplier risk analysis, targeted support to supply chain companies, intervention for companies at risk, monitoring of business needs);
- Employer Support (training regarding new employment positions with local companies, creation of a Redundancy Response Team, relaunch of Caerphilly Business Club);
- Reopening towns (consideration of physical intervention such as street widening, business survey to determine business requirements, grant aid for physical intervention and modifications required by businesses);
- Tourism Recovery Group & Recovery Plan;
- Economic Recovery Plan (research to understand the implications for business);
- Identification of major construction projects (Caerphilly Town 2035, social procurement, working with WLGA on financial support for schemes).

## The Revive Phase

The Revive phase is tied to testing, potential vaccine availability and public confidence and behaviour. Research commissioned in 2020 identified how the pandemic and Brexit were impacting on the business community in the County Borough and provided quantitative and qualitative evidence on that impact on different sectors of the economy. This document provides an Action Plan to serve to address and respond to those impacts.

Using the Council's regeneration strategy, **A Foundation for Success**, and the suite of masterplans as a basis for addressing structural and strategic improvement, the Renew phase will include policy interventions, financial support and the delivery of major construction projects to create opportunities to provide a diverse range employment and training opportunities and opportunities to local business supply chains, and will include:

- Securing funds to overcome high-level public sector challenges, working closely with business to utilise innovative solutions;

- Understanding future industrial growth as influenced by the Brexit and the pandemic, and work with business to strengthen Caerphilly's place in the regional economy;
- Expediting delivery of major construction projects as a catalyst for growth;
- Renewing policy interventions through the Second Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) – working from home, reducing the need to travel, provision of suitable land for development, diversification of town centres, facilitating Active Travel and modal shift;
- Accelerating Caerphilly Placemaking Plan projects;
- Ensuring maximum social impact and social value from public sector investment.

## Foundation for Success

'A Foundation for Success' is the Council's overarching regeneration strategy for the 5 year period 2018 - 2023 which was adopted by Council in July 2018. The Strategy identified 7 key objectives for Supporting Business and these remain even more

relevant post Brexit and as a response to the economic impact of the pandemic. They are:

- To build a more resilient and diversified economy for the county borough;
- To support economic growth, innovation and enterprise;
- To create an environment that nurtures business;
- To enhance the competitiveness of the county borough;
- To boost business support;
- To identify key business investment sites; and
- To improve the links between business, schools and training providers.

It further identified the following key areas are critical to its delivery:

- Implementation of strategic masterplans;
- Innovation;
- Cluster networks;
- Skills.

These will continue to be addressed through the following priorities:

- Development of the Foundational Economy;



- Homes for the Future;
- Development of cluster and innovation opportunities;
- Digital Connectivity;
- Improving resilience through education training and careers advice;
- Transport Infrastructure and connectivity;
- Town Centre Regeneration & Diversification;
- Tourism Recovery;
- Reconfiguration of existing employment sites and identifying new sites;

Covid-19 has made a massive impact on people's working, commuting and living habits and it is conceivable that some aspects of society will be permanently altered and this will undoubtedly impact on decarbonisation. Opportunity exists to maximise the potential of these changes, for example through agile working, increased active travel and reduction in travel by car. We must recognise that our approach to the economic recovery that will follow provides us with a unique opportunity to sustainably rebuild our economy and make greener investments and climate positive decisions that set us on a pathway to achieve our climate target.

The Council's Decarbonisation Strategy entitled 'Reduce, Produce, Offset, Buy' prepared during the pandemic focuses on reducing the Council's own carbon footprint and sets out the overarching objective of being a net carbon neutral authority by 2030.

By becoming net carbon neutral by 2030, the Authority will help to create a more robust county borough by stimulating jobs in the "Low Carbon" Sector and green economy. This will not only make our environment greener and more stable, but will help local residents into work and out of poverty, making communities more resilient to change

### The Renew Phase

Building on the Revive Phase the **Council approved Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework** provides a list of potential civic investments across Caerphilly in excess of £231m that align explicitly with the Council's adopted Wellbeing Objectives which will be delivered in the next 5 years.

The Place Shaping 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.

The Place Shaping Framework 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 the Place Shaping Framework, hold the potential to rebalance the local economy, enhance productivity and create jobs and opportunities across Caerphilly County Borough, 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 the Council's "TeamCaerphilly" collective community and civic leadership model of delivery.



## Priority Theme: Improve Resilience through the Development of the Foundational Economy

The Covid crisis has removed any doubt about the fundamental role of the foundational economy to the well-being of our citizens. This is the part of the economy which could not be shut down during the pandemic as it provided the infrastructure of everyday life, serving our essential daily household needs, and keeping us all safe and civilised, providing jobs at the heart of our communities in healthcare, childcare, food, housing, energy, construction, waste and recycling. The Foundational Economy also makes a substantial contribution to GVA in Wales. The Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change estimated that that the foundational economy accounts for approximately four jobs in every ten and approximately £1 in every £3 spent by households in Wales and Caerphilly County Borough is no exception.

### Why is this a priority?

- The health of our local economy is broader than simply GVA and jobs growth, supporting the foundational economy

ensures that economic growth accrues more equitably and spreads social justice.

- Resources can be usefully spent shoring up indigenous businesses where profit and spend is more likely to remain or recirculate within the local economy.
- Building capacity within communities and establishing networks of collaboration is fundamental to supporting and growing the Foundational Economy within the County Borough.

### The opportunities this presents are:

- Enabling economic value to be re-invested and recirculated within the local economy whilst creating employment opportunities closer to home.
- To spatially redistribute economic activity throughout the County Borough to achieve greater equality.

What we will do:			
Project	12 Months	3 Years	5 Years
Strengthening local supply chains through cultivational procurement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Business Support to help local SMEs register with procurement.</li> <li>• Map supply chain voids to ensure that local companies are used where practicable.</li> <li>• Develop the capabilities of indigenous business to compete for contracts and fill supply chain voids.</li> <li>• Work with partners to support local jobs through the use of procurement measures that support local supply chains.</li> </ul>		
Improve support for business.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider bespoke support for services targeted at micro and small businesses, business start-up and self-employment within the County Borough by reinvigorating and resourcing local business support to coordinate and maximise the opportunities arising at the Regional level through City Deal.</li> <li>• Work with partners to provide training and support for citizens to become self-employed.</li> <li>• Re-configure grant spend to ensure that it is more effective and targeted more closely at supporting economic outputs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and develop town centre enterprise incubator hub targeting young entrepreneurs – Fab Lab.</li> </ul>	

What we will do:			
Project	12 Months	3 Years	5 Years
Exploit funding opportunities to ensure premises are available for business development and growth for SMEs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target key premises within the strategic hubs of Caerphilly and Ystrad Mynach in addition to Principal Town Centres throughout the County Borough in order to ensure that there are suitable premises available to facilitate commercial growth (retail &amp; business).</li> <li>• Work with the ICE Regional Enterprise Hub to identify new opportunities for business hubs in other parts of the County Borough.</li> <li>• Exploit opportunities to bring employment back to the centre of our towns as part of a wider offer of activities and uses and re-purpose buildings to create co-working spaces and encouraging new green skills and opportunities such as repair cafes, reuse and refill retail and remanufacturing innovation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that potential new sites are incorporated within the emerging Local Development Plan.</li> <li>• Review Town Centre Policies through the work on the 2nd Replacement LDP to diversify the offer in town centres and apply the town centre first principle for development with high footfall.</li> </ul>	
Work with local Businesses to progress innovation in the Foundational Economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in partnership with the private sector to develop foundational economy challenge bid schemes.</li> </ul>		

### What will this achieve?

- To spatially redistribute economic growth throughout the County Borough.
- To create the appropriate support and conditions to enable the Foundational Economy to grow and flourish.



# Priority Theme: Zero Carbon Homes for the Future

Caerphilly County Borough Council remains one of the few local authorities that have retained its housing stock, with over 10,000 properties and 13,000 tenants. The Council has invested over £260m in bringing all these homes up to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) and this should be complete by December 2021. This ambitious investment programme is not just to improve homes, but to also transform people's lives and the communities in which people live.

The Council is also progressing significant work to deliver new homes and is considering the delivery of housing more widely, including our commitments to work collaboratively and share knowledge and resources with our RSL partners to work towards delivering more energy efficient housing, progressing innovative housing schemes and delivery mechanisms which offer potential solutions to housing demand not being met by volume housebuilders and exploring mechanisms to deliver specialised housing such as housing to support an ageing population.

Alongside this the Council's ambitious house building programme is to deliver 400 new Council homes by 2025. The Council will invest and incentivise modern methods of construction and off-site manufacturing capability and supply chains to deliver high quality, energy efficient and low carbon Council housing. The Council's procurement strategy for social housing will be critical in this respect as we seek to also deliver an element of off-site manufactured in Wales innovative homes across our development sites. This has the potential to create scale, developing a stronger pipeline of development, so we can secure more modular off site construction, that will make a locally based factory commercially viable using Welsh suppliers for example which will provide employment, shorten supply chains and further reduce carbon usage. During the lifetime of the strategy further opportunities will be explored to further reduce energy consumption and options that create heat and power by using photovoltaics, ground source and air source energy and heating.

## Why is this a priority?

- The Council is committed to improving the quality of its housing stock and will ensure it is maintained to up-to-date quality standards.
- There is an urgent requirement to deliver new housing to meet the needs of all residents of the County Borough.
- Unlocking stalled housing sites is critical to achieving social justice and providing housing in areas less favourable to volume builders.

## The opportunities this presents are:

- The house building industry can drive economic growth and generate employment and supply chain demands that benefit the local economy.
- Piloting the construction of innovative housing increases the supply of energy efficient homes within the County Borough whilst showcasing innovative construction methods and technologies that can provide a learning opportunity for the wider construction industry.

What we will do:			
Project	12 Months	3 Years	5 Years
Welsh Housing Quality Standard Investment to upgrade 10,822 homes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently 10448 properties out of our total stock of 10654 have been upgraded and are fully compliant with WHQS standard. It is anticipated that the majority of those remaining will be upgraded within the next 12 months with many only awaiting external works. Target to complete all internal and external works by December 2021.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to work with other housing partners on a Challenge Fund to retrofit existing dwellings to facilitate decarbonisation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The successful Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) programme has sought to address fuel poverty and enhanced energy efficiency in all of our Council homes, the next iteration of WHQS, due in January 2022, is expected to challenge us to meet EPC A using the Optimised Retrofit approach to Council housing stock. This will require the upskilling of our construction sector and provide opportunities for our business partners and local supply chains</li> </ul>	
Unlocking public sector land for self-build development, through a 'Plot Shop' initiative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify plots of land in Council ownership that are suitable for self-build development; apply for outline planning permission and ensure infrastructure is in place (where appropriate) to ensure sites are 'oven ready.' Facilitate the sale of plots to eligible applicants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate demand for the scheme and identify additional sites in appropriate areas through a rolling programme of re-investment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate demand for the scheme and identify additional sites in appropriate areas through a rolling programme of re-investment. The scheme is intended to run for 15 years.</li> </ul>
Construction of new council housing stock.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore and develop energy efficient housing that reduces energy costs significantly and / or generates energy that can be supplied into the grid.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore and develop energy efficient housing that reduces energy costs significantly and / or generates energy that can be supplied into the grid.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore and develop energy efficient housing that reduces energy costs significantly and / or generates energy that can be supplied into the grid.</li> </ul>

What we will do:			
Project	12 Months	3 Years	5 Years
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure planning permission on Council owned sites identified within the Council's Programme Development Plan (PDP).</li> <li>Seek opportunities to secure additional Council stock through Section 106 agreements.</li> <li>Set up partnership agreements with developer partners including where appropriate RSLs for the delivery of Council units.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure planning permission on Council owned sites identified within the Council's Programme Development Plan (PDP).</li> <li>Seek opportunities to secure additional Council stock through Section 106 agreements and/or selected purchase.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure planning permission on Council owned sites identified within the Council's Programme Development Plan (PDP).</li> <li>Seek opportunities to secure additional Council stock through Section 106 agreements and / or selected purchase.</li> </ul>
Examine the potential to pilot initiatives through the Housing Investment Fund as part of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal workstream.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure funding to unlock 2 problematic stalled sites at Maesycwmmmer and Abertridwr through the City Deal Housing Investment Fund.</li> <li>Secure funding to unlock 1 problematic site in the Heads of the Valleys through the City Deal Housing Investment Fund.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the development of older persons housing.</li> <li>Encourage the delivery of innovative technologies in new housing development.</li> <li>Secure funding to unlock problematic stalled sites through the City Deal Investment Fund.</li> <li>Work with Development Bank for Wales to unlock stalled sites within the County Borough.</li> <li>Work with RSL's to deliver schemes at Maesycwmmmer and Abertridwr through the City Deal Housing Investment Fund by end of 2024.</li> </ul>	

What we will do:			
Project	12 Months	3 Years	5 Years
Utilise Welsh Government loans / funding to bring vacant properties and sites back into beneficial use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate and assist owner occupiers and landlords to access Welsh Government loans to upgrade and bring properties back into beneficial use.</li> <li>Secure Welsh Government Land to bring 1 brownfield site back into beneficial use for a mixed-use development including mixed tenure housing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate and assist owner occupiers and landlords to access Welsh Government loans to upgrade and bring properties back into beneficial use.</li> <li>Secure planning permission on Council owned sites.</li> <li>Bring 1 problematic brownfield site into Council ownership to unlock its development potential through a partnership agreement with Welsh Government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate and assist owner occupiers and landlords to access Welsh Government loans to upgrade and bring properties back into beneficial use.</li> <li>Secure planning permission on Council owned sites.</li> </ul>
Secure money through the Innovative Housing Fund to deliver innovative homes suitable for the future (i.e., carbon neutral, zero carbon).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pentrebane Street Caerphilly, funding secured for the development of a mixed-use scheme on this site.</li> <li>Ty Pontllanfraith, funding secured from the Innovative Housing Fund for the redevelopment of this site and the creation of a 'Garden Village'.</li> <li>Ty Du, funding secured from the Innovative Housing Fund for the development of this site.</li> <li>Work with our RSL partners to deliver new carbon neutral homes to meet housing need across the county borough.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore opportunities to deliver innovative homes in partnership with developers / RSLs on key development site within Risca.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore opportunities to deliver innovative homes in partnership with developers / RSLs on key development sites across the county borough.</li> </ul>



What we will do:			
Project	12 Months	3 Years	5 Years
Set up empty homes team to target empty town centre properties and empty residential properties to bring them back in to beneficial use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare an Enforcement Action Plan for Vacant Town Centre Properties and act using relevant statutory powers to bring premises back into beneficial use.</li> <li>• Provide grant support via the Transforming Towns Initiative to bring town centre properties back into beneficial use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take Enforcement Action on Vacant Town Centre Properties and act using relevant statutory powers to bring premises back into beneficial use.</li> <li>• Use WG Placemaking for Towns funds to support residential / commercial development where applicable such as 'Store 21' scheme in Blackwood.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take Enforcement Action on Vacant Town Centre Properties and act using relevant statutory powers to bring premises back into beneficial use.</li> </ul>

### What will this achieve?

- Higher quality Council Housing throughout the County Borough to meet identified housing need.
- Housing in areas of need that have traditionally been less favourable to volume house builders.
- Innovative, energy efficient homes and the showcasing of new construction techniques that could benefit the housebuilding industry more widely.
- Housing that meets the needs of an ageing population in a sustainable manner.
- Provide housing in town centre locations to diversify towns and increase footfall.

# Priority Theme: Develop Cluster and Innovation Opportunities

The County Borough has a diverse and varied economic base, featuring companies and sectors that exhibit the area's capability to attract and foster higher value-added jobs. The Baseline Economic Analysis for South East Wales, identifies 3 main sectors within Caerphilly County Borough, where location quotients were at their strongest, these include:

- Life Sciences – one of Welsh Government's nine key sectors.
- Advanced Materials and manufacturing; and
- Food

Examples of some of the companies that are already located within the County Borough include:

**Pharmaceutical / life sciences, of which there are numerous examples already operating within the County Borough including:**

- Norgine (Tir-y-berth);

- Convatec, Sharp Clinical Solutions, Carey Medical and Williams Medical (Rhymney);
- Biotage (Dyffryn Business Park);
- PCI Services and BBI Group (Penyfan Industrial Estate);
- Frontier Medical and IMP Pharmaceuticals (Pontllanfraith);
- Biometrics Ltd (Nine Mile Point);
- Biological Preparations (Pantglas Industrial Estate).

## Advanced Materials and Manufacturing

- General Dynamics UK – a prime contractor and complex systems generator based at Oakdale Business Park;
- BRUSH eu - supply industry leading turbogenerators and power management systems around the world, and design and manufacture high quality transformers and switch gear. (Pontllanfraith);
- Nuair Ltd – a designer and manufacturer

of domestic and commercial ventilation products available in over 40 countries (Western Industrial Estate, Caerphilly);

- IG Doors – Leading UK Door manufacturer (Oakdale Business Park);
- Transcend Packaging – Duffryn Industrial Estate;
- Deregella – manufacture of prototype battery and supercapacitor devices (Pontygwindy Industrial Estate).

## Food

- Braces Bakery – Oakdale Business Park;
- Peters Foods – Bedwas;
- Castle Dairies – Pontygwindy Industrial Estate;
- Unilever Best Foods – Oakdale Business Park.

As illustrated Caerphilly is home to several prestigious companies a number of which have diversified during the pandemic to

aid the national call for the manufacture and provision of PPE. Significantly a number of the county borough's Med Tech companies have also experienced growth as a consequence of their ability to manufacture and package pharmaceutical products in response to the Covid pandemic creating hundreds of high value new jobs within the local economy.

In addition, the wider region is home to the world's first compound semiconductor cluster in South Wales. The Compound Semiconductor Centre in Was formed in Cardiff in 2015 as a joint venture between IQE Plc, a leading supplier of advanced compound semiconductor wafer products, and Cardiff University. In 2017, the Cardiff Capital Region through its City Deal invested £38M with IQE co-investing £375M in the Newport CS-mega Foundry at Imperial Park, Newport. The Foundry, is also home to the £50M CSA Catapult, which produces wafer chips that are exported the world over and are embedded in all major developing technologies from smart-phones to wearable technology and from advanced energy

systems to next generative automotive. This has led to several firms locating in and operating along the M4 Corridor in Newport and Monmouthshire however supply chain activity is taking place throughout the region, including in Caerphilly.

### Why is this a priority?

- Caerphilly is ideally located within the Cardiff Capital Region to capture opportunities associated with emerging technologies and cluster developments;
- There are already emerging clusters within the County Borough e.g., life sciences which potentially can be developed further;
- Both local and regional cluster developments require networking and collaboration in order to maximise economic benefit.

### The opportunities this presents are:

- To develop regional clusters linked to emerging key areas including compound semiconductors, artificial intelligence and electric automation;

- To develop the skills base required to meet business needs and to drive our green economic recovery;
- To create higher value jobs.

What we will do:			
Project	12 Months	3 Years	5 Years
Develop cluster opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with City Deal/Welsh Government to deliver key sites including Capital Valley, Rhymney, Ty Du Nelson, Caerphilly Business Park and Oakdale Business Park (plateau 1,2 and 4).</li> <li>• Work with WG to secure £3m investment for the provision of infrastructure at Oakdale Business Park.</li> <li>• Work with the private sector to facilitate their growth plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redevelopment of Capital Valley – establish the physical needs of potential occupiers.</li> <li>• Ensure the provision of sufficient land through the planning system for new businesses and expansion opportunities for key sectors to establish and grow.</li> <li>• Develop business case for development of commercial development to support Llanbradach park and ride scheme.</li> </ul>	
Create and strengthen official lines of communication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Caerphilly Business Club to programme business networking opportunities at a local level and make connections to enhance local supply chain activity.</li> <li>• Continue to work closely with businesses in the county borough to address their training needs in association with Further and higher Education partners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with relevant firms and education/training providers to minimise skills shortages and skills mismatches.</li> </ul>	
Target innovation and business set up.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain a better understanding of the skills requirements in respect of the compound semiconductor, life sciences sectors and electric automotive sectors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help establish links between Innovate UK and existing life science businesses identified within the County Borough. (Innovate UK provide support and challenge funding to the health and life sciences sector).</li> </ul>	

What we will do:			
Project	12 Months	3 Years	5 Years
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to roll out the Caerphilly Business Productivity Enhancement Programme to encourage SMEs with more than 10 employees to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future proof business through becoming more efficient,</li> <li>Introduce new technology, Diversify and broaden the customer base,</li> <li>Develop new products.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Following a productivity diagnostic of the company, a comprehensive support package will provide implementation support, skills development, research &amp; development, export, GRANT SUPPORT for capital expenditure and any other specialist interventions that are required.</li> <li>Bring together public, private and third sector organisations in the County Borough to respond to societal challenges and drive positive change through innovation via the CCR Challenge Fund Programme and Innovate UK.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring together public, private and third sector organisations in the County Borough to respond to societal challenges and drive positive change through innovation via the CCR and other Challenge Fund Programmes.</li> <li>Develop entrepreneurship action plan with Caerphilly Business Club.</li> </ul>	

### What will this achieve?

- Build upon existing, prominent economic sectors within the County Borough creating strong innovative and resilient clusters.
- Stronger business networks.
- Encourage new participants within prominent economic sectors and establish Caerphilly County Borough as a strong business destination.

# Priority Theme: Digital Connectivity

Digital connectivity is critical to a well-functioning, modern economy and the pandemic has highlighted the significant role digital inclusion has played during lockdown. From the ability to engage with health services to maintaining contact with friends and families during periods of lockdown, there has never been a greater need for digital confidence. Digital connectivity and confidence are essential in terms of the delivery and consumption of many, varied services (both public and private) for individuals and households and importantly for business. It is also essential for all sectors of the economy to help to drive growth and create jobs.

## Why is this a priority?

- Digital connectivity increases productivity and growth.
- Clear benefits to the economy if small businesses further increase their use of broadband and mobile services.
- Businesses benefit from growth by

accessing broader markets and increased productivity from engaging with the digital economy.

- Business optimisation with the time and cost savings an internet connection can bring to business operations including access to cloud services.
- Increasing digital skills within both the business community and wider communities within the County Borough.

## The opportunities this presents are:

- To provide a strategic direction for the 'Digital' strand at both a regional level through CCR and at a local authority level.
- Increase digital connectivity within Caerphilly County Borough and across the wider CCR and beyond.
- Enable the County Borough to benefit from new forms of artificial intelligence (driverless cars, wearable devices), many of which will rely on 5G networks.

- Enable the County Borough to benefit from new forms of technological advances linked to care home provision.
- To enable the Council to provide and offer digitally enabled services 24/7.

<b>What we will do:</b>			
<b>Project</b>	<b>12 Months</b>	<b>3 Years</b>	<b>5 Years</b>
Work with Partners to Increase broadband speed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote initiatives to increase the availability of SFBB (Super Fast Broad Band) and UFBB (Ultra-Fast Broadband).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to promote initiatives to increase the availability of SFBB and UFBB.</li> </ul>	
Provide digital support and advice to business.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with WG to offer digital infrastructure support services to local businesses / enhance digital connectivity / promote the role of artificial intelligence in business.</li> </ul>		
Promote the concept of Regional / Community Wi-Fi as the potential for enabling a functional and connected future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roll out Free Wi Fi in all Principal Towns and Rhymney and Newbridge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore opportunities through CCR investment and Welsh Government Funding opportunities.</li> </ul>	
Explore the opportunity to roll-out a 5G Network across the CCR.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the work of the CCR Digital Strategy</li> <li>Continue to work with private sector providers engaged in rolling out their 5G network across the CCR and County Borough.</li> </ul>		
Ensure innovative technologies through the use of broadband are incorporated within new housing developments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with developers to ensure the incorporation of innovative technologies within new housing developments in line with national planning policy.</li> </ul>		
Improve Broadband Speeds in Schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of SuperFast Broadband Installations in Schools in line with the Learning in Digital Wales Programme.</li> <li>Seek funding opportunities through WG and work with schools to improve network infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek funding opportunities through WG to increase broadband speeds for schools to Ultra-Fast Broadband to support future digital provision.</li> </ul>	

What we will do:			
Project	12 Months	3 Years	5 Years
Coding for Younger People to enable young people to have the relevant skills for the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with partners in WG &amp; Consortia to promote the use of coding in line with the Digital Competence Framework.</li> </ul>		
Assess the potential development of Wi-Fi analytics and digital towns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilise Wi Fi analytics to inform Town Centre Strategies.</li> </ul>		
Assess the ability of town centre traders to offer increasingly popular digital services such as click and collect and look to share best practice where this has worked well.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with 'Near Me Now' to pilot a new digital platform for use by business in Principal Towns throughout the County Borough.</li> </ul>		

### What will this achieve?

- Enable the County Borough to keep pace with technological advancement and realise the economic benefits associated with digital connectivity.
- Increasing social justice by providing an environment where everyone has equal access to all the digital necessities required for modern living.



# Priority Theme: Improving Resilience through Education, Training & Careers Advice

Education, Training, Employability and Skills support is vital in times of economic uncertainty, and it is clear that the pandemic threatens to reverse progress made in reducing unemployment and economic inactivity over the last decade. There is an urgent need to boost enterprise and employment within the County Borough and to link people with business and create a stimulating environment for both people and business. There are different economic challenges faced in different parts of the County Borough, and the pandemic has accentuated these differences further.

Notwithstanding this the key principles of protecting jobs, developing the economy, and increasing skills and business growth applies equally across the whole of the County Borough. Working in partnership with training providers and business and industry, the Council will seek to increase the availability of skilled workers, quality jobs and identify opportunities to enhance access for residents to high value jobs.

The availability of a workforce with a wide range of skills and education levels can

help business grow and also attract new business. Ways need to be found to improve confidence & build a culture of learning in the workforce with a particular focus on workers who may have few, if any, qualifications and yet who have valuable, transferable skills and experience.

## Why is this a priority?

- Children and adults need to be given appropriate career support to aid their understanding of the type of employment available to them in the county borough and the wider region and help them make the right choices to lead them into the world of work.
- To ensure that the appropriate soft skills and technical skills are provided to undertake the work that is available, and to give people the confidence and skills to encourage entrepreneurship.
- To address the mismatch between the skills needed to access jobs in the region (digital, technical and soft) and the

training provided through the curriculum and by training providers.

- Ensure that there are opportunities for upskilling the current workforce and to upskill for new jobs in the green economy.
- Improve links between schools and local businesses.

## The opportunities this presents are:

- The creation of an appropriately skilled workforce within the region.
- Reduce worklessness by aligning interventions in the provision of employment support services.
- Development of skills in key growth areas and in areas where there are skills shortages as a consequence of the pandemic & Brexit.
- Creation of employment opportunities through an effective apprenticeship and the CCR graduate programme.
- Support mechanisms that employ pathways into work and improve employability by removing barriers to employment.

## What we will do:

Project	12 Months	3 Years	5 Years
Develop a skilled workforce and tackle unemployment to respond to the needs of business both locally and regionally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to deliver the Caerphilly Academy - training, work placement and apprenticeship programme to support the needs of business.</li> <li>Assist the CCR project team in the delivery of its "graduate" programme by working with the Caerphilly Business Club to identify opportunities for business to take part &amp; benefit.</li> <li>Engage with the DWP Kickstart scheme and Restart Scheme at an authority-wide level, with a commitment to host 10 Kickstart work placements across various service areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and where beneficial maintain or extend the apprenticeship programme in partnership with Local Businesses.</li> <li>Continue to engage with the DWP Restart Scheme.</li> </ul>	
Work with partners, in the private, public and third sector, utilising labour market intelligence to identify future growth demand and skill requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Align skills and employment support provision to meet the needs of future employment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Align skills and employment support provision to meet the needs of future employment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Align skills and employment support provision to meet the needs of future employment.</li> </ul>
Explore opportunities for targeted career advice aligned to current and future job opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Welsh Government and CCR to pilot career advice initiatives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roll out new career advice initiative.</li> </ul>	
Formalise links between businesses, schools, FE and HE establishments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek funding opportunities through WG and work with schools to improve network infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek funding opportunities through WG and work with schools to improve network infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek funding opportunities through WG and work with schools to improve network infrastructure.</li> </ul>

What we will do:			
Project	12 Months	3 Years	5 Years
Ensure training and skills provision enables those currently in employment to upskill.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with local business and training providers to support those in employment to have access to in work training and progression opportunities.</li> </ul>		
Work with partners to upskill the workforce and expand the workforce in green sectors. Investment in low carbon housing at scale and upgrading housing stock particularly Council housing, is likely to be a central plank of recovery to increase energy efficiency of Council homes, reduce fuel poverty and create jobs in the green economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with local business and training providers and developers to support those in the construction sector to have the necessary training and skills to meet the decarbonisation ambitions of the Council and Welsh Government.</li> </ul>		
Continue to provide crucial assistance to people who might have lost their job or training opportunity because of the pandemic or Brexit, and help people develop new skills fit for the future and to find new employment opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with individuals to provide appropriate employment support through the existing employment support programmes including CfW, CfW+, CfW++, Inspire 2 Work, Inspire 2 achieve, Bridges into Work and Nurture Equip and Thrive to ensure participants are given the support that is required to support them into employment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and roll out a regional Employment Support Programme for the CCR to succeed the current EU/WG funded programmes.</li> </ul>	

### What will this achieve?

- Create an appropriately skilled workforce.
- Improve career choices and life opportunities.
- Facilitate access to employment.

# Priority Theme: Transport Infrastructure & Connectivity

Regeneration and investment should address both physical and social exclusion and to this extent, "Delivering Prosperity after Covid" should identify the immediate infrastructure needed to increase connectivity between people and places. This section addresses connectivity in terms of the physical accessibility to services, facilities, employment and places and infrastructure required to deliver the priority themes identified within this document.

## Why is this a priority?

- There is a need to identify major infrastructure projects that would significantly improve connectivity.
- Regeneration success of key strategic sites depends upon public transport integration and connectivity.
- There is a need to promote place-making development around key transport hubs and nodes.
- To unlock and actively promoting rail

improvements and the reinstatement of new links.

- There is a need to roll out a comprehensive network of electric vehicle charging points to actively promote the decarbonisation of our transport system.

## The opportunities this presents are:

- Making strategic sites more attractive to investors.
- Improving connectivity and access to employment opportunities.
- Improving access to employment opportunities outside the County Borough.
- Re-inforcing Metro hubs.
- Ensure that active travel funding proposals align with emerging Transforming Towns projects.
- To maximise the economic, social and environmental benefits and opportunities the electric vehicle agenda will provide, and enable electric vehicles to be a fundamental part of our fleet.

What we will do:			
Project	12 Months	3 Years	5 Years
Improve the resilience of the strategic highway network of the A469 to Rhymney.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress Design and Feasibility stage in preparedness for Levelling Up Fund Submission in 2022.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit Levelling Up Fund Bid to UK Government to fund the strategic highway improvements.</li> </ul>	
Improvement to the strategic highway network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake initial feasibility and design for Bedwas Bridge Highway Improvements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure funding and all relevant consents for the Bedwas Bridge Highway Improvement Scheme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cross-valley link between Crumlin, Ystrad Mynach and Nelson, involving new bus interchange at Maesycwmmmer to facilitate east-west and north-south services.</li> </ul>
Implementation of METRO proposals in relation to Capital Valley, the wider Rhymney area and the A465.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake Options appraisal and feasibility work to establish the optimum location for a new A465 interchange.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a new bus interchange on the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road to facilitate transition between east-west A465 bus services and north-south bus routes and the Rhymney Rail Station.</li> <li>Work with Transport for Wales to provide a new METRO stabling facility at Rhymney Station.</li> </ul>	
Implement further key transport improvements including park and ride.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and prepare a business case for a park and ride in Twyn Carno ward for 100 spaces.</li> <li>Design and prepare a business case for a new park and ride in Llanbradach ward for 250/500 spaces (Phase 1).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the number of park and ride spaces at Ystrad Mynach park and ride.</li> <li>Hengoed park and ride.</li> </ul>	
Improve connectivity along the A472 Corridor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure funding for a feasibility study to identify how connectivity can be enhanced along the A472 Corridor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include proposal for enhancing the A472 in the Local Development Plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop detailed designs, secure funding and secure planning permission for proposed enhancement scheme.</li> </ul>

What we will do:			
Project	12 Months	3 Years	5 Years
Caerphilly Metro Transport and Investment Hub.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress the Caerphilly Interchange to Weltag stage 2.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress the Caerphilly Interchange / Metro scheme to Weltag stage 4.</li> <li>Submit Levelling Up Fund Bid to UK Government to fund the Caerphilly interchange.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress scheme.</li> <li>Weltag stage 5.</li> <li>Reinstatement of Cwmbargoed freight line for passenger provision.</li> <li>Provide new metro hubs at Nelson and Tredomen and maximise park and ride opportunities at proposed new stations.</li> </ul>
Electric hub.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roll out Electric Vehicle Charge Points at key locations across the County Borough.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the opportunities and funding sources for establishing Caerphilly Town Centre as the first 'all electric' transport hub.</li> </ul>	
Implementation of key infrastructure projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of cycle facilities at all transport hubs together with key employment and retail destinations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus development at Caerphilly Business Park / Ness Tar centred on a new METRO Hub (residential, B1 offices, live / work units and leisure).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reinstatement of the former Newport to Caerphilly rail line for passenger transport.</li> </ul>

### What will this achieve?

- A better-connected County Borough, with improved connectivity within the County Borough as well as being better connected to the opportunities within the wider Cardiff Capital Region.
- Progress on the Decarbonisation of our transport network.
- Make active travel a real option for the transport mode of choice.
- Greater investment within the County Borough and the development of key strategic infrastructure.



# Priority Theme: Town Centre Regeneration and Diversification

Prolonged lockdown has fundamentally changed consumer behavior, as people have become dependent on having products delivered to their home. Town centres are not only at risk of being obsolescent to shoppers. People who are now used to exercising in their immediate locality or front room, may not go back to the gym; employees who like working from home may not return to the office; and friends accustomed to socialising online may no longer pop down the pub. It is not just the everyday functions of towns that are likely to be affected. The impact of travel bans is already evident on destination retailing such as out of town shopping centres and City Centres and on our tourism destinations. Many town centres and high streets may not manage to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 crisis, unless we act swiftly to develop the necessary capacity for recovery and then longer-term transformation.

## Why is this a priority?

- The shift towards online retail has accelerated as a result of the Covid pandemic and town centres are at risk of becoming obsolete if this short-term trend cannot be reversed.
- The rise in retail vacancy rates and the resultant reduced footfall will undermine the viability of other businesses in our towns such as those in the hospitality sector.
- There is a need to promote place-making development around key transport hubs and nodes.

## The opportunities this presents are:

- The opportunity to apply the Town Centre First Principle for uses that drive footfall e.g. Health Centres, Schools to act as a catalyst to breathe new life and purpose into Town Centres.

- Improved connectivity and access to employment opportunities in Town Centres.
- Reinforcing Town Centre locations as a focus for active travel and strategic Metro hubs.
- Reinforcing Town Centres as convenient places to live.

<b>What we will do:</b>			
<b>Project</b>	<b>12 Months</b>	<b>3 Years</b>	<b>5 Years</b>
Assess the suitability of Local Development Orders / Town Centre Enterprise zones in South East area towns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake initial Assessment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce Local Development Orders if the Assessment indicates this is an appropriate way forward.</li> </ul>	
Consider the Strategic Acquisition of key sites and premises in our prioritised town centres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure Funding to acquire key sites and premises.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire as appropriate and bring property and key sites back into beneficial use.</li> </ul>	
Prepare an enforcement action plan for town centres - targeting statutory action on target properties where necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target problematic premises with statutory action to encourage property owners to invest in their premises.</li> <li>• Take action in default if necessary. Initial focus on Bargood Town Centre.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target problematic premises with statutory action to encourage property owners to invest in their premises.</li> <li>• Take action in default if necessary.</li> </ul>	
Investigate and encourage all opportunities to locate public sector / third sector commercial occupation in town centres. To include service hubs, health and well-being provision etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with Health Board to establish their requirements for facilities in town centres.</li> <li>• Work with other public sector and third sector bodies to locate in town centres.</li> </ul>		
Undertake a review of the current town centre offer for incubation space, start up space, managed space, live work space and graded office space and an assessment of future demand in light of changing ways of working accelerated by the Covid pandemic.			



What we will do:			
Project	12 Months	3 Years	5 Years
Assess need and potential for housing provision in town centres, to include standards, tenure mix, access arrangements, client groups etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress the Acquisition of Pentreban Street, Caerphilly for mixed use development including mixed tenure housing.</li> <li>Work with the private sector to secure new residential accommodation above retail units in town centres.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification of sites for residential development through the Local Development Plan preparation process.</li> </ul>	
Establish a meanwhile use programme to encourage community use and pop-up provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify town centre premises suitable for meanwhile uses and pop-up provision.</li> </ul>		

### What will this achieve?

- Diversification of the uses in the Principal Town Centres.
- Provide housing in town centre locations.
- Bring empty Premises back into beneficial use and increase occupancy levels.
- Provision of cultural and service offer that maintains the relevance of town centres in an age of online shopping and remote working.
- Increase footfall and increase dwell time to make our towns more vibrant.
- Reinvigorate our town centres and improve investor confidence.
- Provide support to town centre businesses to adapt and survive.
- A shop local marketing strategy to encourage the return of shoppers to the high street.
- Build a more resilient, sustainable economy.
- Provide the creative industries with opportunities to hold events for the sports and music sectors within key town centre venues.
- Reintroduction of our Programme of Events to attract visitors and increase footfall.

# Priority Theme: Tourism Recovery

Prior to the pandemic, jobs, visitors and spend were all on an upward trend and tourism was worth an estimated £122m for the local economy and responsible for an estimated 1632 jobs in Caerphilly and 68,700 jobs within the Cardiff Capital Region. However, the Tourism sector has been one of the sectors hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic and the outlook remains highly uncertain.

Encouraging news on the roll out of the vaccines has boosted hopes for recovery but challenges remain, and the sector is expected to remain in survival mode until well into the Autumn of 2021.

Domestic tourism has restarted and is helping to mitigate the impact on jobs and businesses in some destinations. However, the survival of businesses throughout the tourism ecosystem is at risk without continued government support and although UK and Welsh Governments have taken impressive action to cushion the blow to tourism, to minimise job losses and to build recovery in 2021 and beyond, more needs to be done.

## Why is this a priority?

- Tourism is an important area in terms of ongoing, long-term economic growth providing much needed jobs in the County Borough.
- There is a need to restore visitor confidence.
- Tourism connects people to our unique Welsh culture, heritage and natural landscapes and maintaining the sector is also good for our citizens well-being providing valued attractions in the heart of our communities.
- Tourism contributes to the enhancement and conservation of our cultural, natural and historic heritage and is fundamental in terms of sustaining accommodation and hospitality businesses.

## The opportunities this presents are:

- To make full use of digital, technology and data to engage new audiences, enhance the visitor experience and provide an

offer that continues to meet consumer expectations.

- To develop the tourism industry to contribute to the further enhancement and conservation of Caerphilly's cultural, natural and historic heritage and minimise damage to the natural and built environment.
- To provide an inclusive and accessible offer that is open to all.
- To promote our tourism attractions to the creative industries for use by the UK's film, heritage, sports and music sectors.
- To build back a resilient, future-proof tourism sector, further efforts will be needed to ensure the industry is employing more UK nationals in year-round, quality jobs and that this workforce is adequately and appropriately skilled.

What we will do:			
Project	12 Months	3 Years	5 Years
Develop a positive narrative/ reputation for tourism in Caerphilly County Borough as a go to destination for Activity and Heritage holidays focusing on those areas of competitive advantage such as mountain biking, cycling, walking, heritage and activity tourism all of which are particular strengths in Caerphilly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with virtual and digital travel trade to identify opportunities for Activity and Heritage trips / holidays in Caerphilly with UK and international tour operators.</li> <li>Develop a marketing plan to reinvigorate and reinforce the attractiveness of the county borough to domestic tourism and increase awareness of what is on offer in the county borough to encourage visitors to Visit Caerphilly when they are visiting other attractions in the region.</li> <li>Update the Visit Caerphilly Webpage and utilise social media platforms to ensure that the Visit Caerphilly Brand is effective and recognised by prospective visitors to the region.</li> <li>Promote the Valleys Regional Park Discovery Gateways at Caerphilly Castle, Cwmcarn Forest and Penallta Parc in partnership with the VRP/WG and CCR.</li> </ul>		
Work with partners to develop new high-quality attractions and activity products, particularly those providing distinctive and unique experiences that can attract visitors all year round.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heritage – Work with Cadw on proposals to elevate Caerphilly Castle from a Tier 1 tourism attraction to a Tier 2 tourism attraction.</li> <li>Heritage – Expand the events and tourism offer at Llancaiach Fawr Manor and explore the feasibility of developing accommodation at the site.</li> </ul>		

What we will do:			
Project	12 Months	3 Years	5 Years
Work with partners to develop new high-quality attractions and activity products, particularly those providing distinctive and unique experiences that can attract visitors all year round.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage – Expand the cultural events on offer at the New Tredegar Winding House.</li> <li>• Activity – Work with NRW to promote and develop Cwmcarn Forest Drive as a destination activity and explore opportunities to expand the network of legal bike trails within the Forest.</li> <li>• Activity – Work with Tomorrow Tourism to prepare a long-term plan to develop Cwmcarn as a national visitor attraction through the provision of new activities and attractions to complement the existing offer.</li> </ul>		
Work with accommodation providers to diversify the range and type of accommodation provided in the county borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Council's preferred developer partner to develop proposals for a new boutique hotel in Park Lane, Caerphilly.</li> <li>• Undertake a feasibility study to ascertain what type of accommodation should be provided at Llancaiach Fawr Manor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of new sites for development through the Local Development Plan preparation process.</li> </ul>	
Work with partners to maximise existing assets and further develop new leisure establishments to drive the night-time economy and increase dwell time in the Principal Town Centres to encourage visitors to take weekend breaks in the county borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackwood Miners' Institute and the Caerphilly Workmens' Hall are both important historic assets in their respective town centres. Vibrant and successful theatres play an important role as an economic driver for developing employment and for the night-time economy. Officers will work with the management of both venues to build on their existing offer and encourage both venues to harness opportunities for greater networking with, and involvement of local businesses in their activities particularly those that operate in the 'experience' and evening and night time economy.</li> </ul>		

<b>What we will do:</b>			
<b>Project</b>	<b>12 Months</b>	<b>3 Years</b>	<b>5 Years</b>
Ensure that there is a sufficient variety of quality food and drink, leisure, entertainment, cultural activities and accommodation in our Principal Towns to attract and hold visitor/customers in town centres to develop their Night Time economy and make them more successful.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Council's preferred developer partner to develop proposals for a new boutique hotel in Park Lane, Caerphilly.</li> <li>• Provide financial support (Transforming Towns Grant) to businesses looking to locate in Caerphilly and Blackwood Town Centres.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the developer partner to secure Planning Permission for a new hotel in Caerphilly.</li> </ul>	
Reintroduce local and major events when restrictions permit to encourage people to visit town centres and to showcase and encourage the development of the towns' night time economy and encourage visitors to experience the towns' food, drink, entertainment and accommodation businesses alongside each event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare and agree a programme of Covid safe events for the Autumn of 2021.</li> </ul>		
Develop the leisure offer in Town Centres to bridge the transition from the day into the evening economy and help retain day time visitors, shop workers and employees in town into the evening.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of new sites for development through the Local Development Plan preparation process.</li> </ul>	



## What will this achieve?

- Provide job and training opportunities for local residents and help to diversify the local economy.
- Increase visitor numbers and town centre footfall and drive economic recovery and growth.
- Provide a wide range of high-quality attractions and activities that can attract visitors to the county borough all year round.
- Enhance the night-time economy in Caerphilly and Blackwood and increase dwell time.
- Sustain local services such as shops, restaurants and pubs and support a broader and more vibrant and active community by attracting arts, sports or cultural events to the county borough.
- Restore Visitor confidence.
- The return of tourism activity in a safe environment for staff, community and visitors alike.
- Help tourism businesses to adapt and survive.
- Safe return of domestic tourism through an up to date marketing strategy.
- Provision of clear information to visitors and limit uncertainty (to the extent possible) in terms of Covid restrictions through the Visit Caerphilly Website.
- Strengthened co-operation within the region to promote the Cardiff Capital Region as a safe Visitor Destination.
- Build a more resilient, sustainable tourism economy.
- Promotion of our tourism attractions to the creative industries for use by the UK's film, heritage, sports and music sectors.
- Reintroduction of our Programme of Events to attract visitors and increase footfall.



# Re-Configuration of Existing Employment Sites & Identification of New Employment Sites

The County Borough has over 400 hectares of functioning employment land spread across 36 sites, housing four 'anchor companies' (those identified by Welsh Government as being of global or international importance) and many others which provide important local employment.

*The anchor companies identified by Welsh Government include:*

- Dwr Cymru Welsh Water – based at Nelson;
- General Dynamics UK – prime contractor and complex systems generator with a base at Oakdale Business Park;
- Norgine Ltd – pharmaceutical company with a base at Tiryberth;
- Nuaire Ltd – ventilation product manufacturer headquartered at Western Industrial Estate, Caerphilly.

*There are many other important employers within the County Borough, which together account for thousands of jobs, some of these include:*

- BBI Group – Oakdale Business Park;
- Abingdon Flooring – Penyfan Industrial Estate;
- Unilever UK – Croespenmaen Industrial Estate;
- Nordam Europe – Hawtin Park;
- Seda UK Ltd – Hawtin Park;
- International Greetings – Penallta Industrial Estate;
- Orangebox Ltd – Penallta Industrial Estate;
- Kautex Textron – Dyffryn Business Park;
- Mollertech (UK) Ltd – Nine Mile Point;
- Peter's Foods – Bedwas House Industrial Estate;
- MII Engineering – Pantglas Industrial Est.
- RF Brookes – Rogerstone (500+ jobs);
- PHS – Western Industrial Estate;
- IG Doors – Oakdale Business Park.

## Why is this a priority?

- Some estates have issues in terms of:
  - Quality of business premises in terms of size and standards;
  - Suitability of business premises;
  - Vacancy rates reflect the quality and standard of the business premises.
- There is a need to enhance and expand the employment base within the County Borough.
- There is a need to identify new sites for employment use to accommodate the expansion plans of businesses within the county borough.

## The opportunities this presents are:

- Provision of new employment land and premises which meets the demands of business:
  - Seeking to invest within the area from outside;
  - Already within the area and looking to expand.

What we will do:			
Project	12 Months	3 Years	5 Years
Establish sites with scope for redevelopment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify a key list of sites that offer an opportunity for redevelopment / reconfiguration, having regard to vacancy rate trends, quality / type of existing premises, size and location e.g. Capital Valley, Rhymney.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that schemes are able to make best use of infrastructure improvements brought about by investment in Metro.</li> <li>Consider the need for start-up units in the redevelopment/reconfiguration of sites.</li> <li>Produce masterplans for key employment sites.</li> <li>Ensure that funding for the redevelopment of particular sites can be secured, through landowners, City Deal, Welsh Government and other stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redevelopment of relevant sites</li> </ul>
Establish more robust links with industrial property agents, landowners & existing occupiers to ensure redevelopment meets the needs of business and other stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify willing partners and funding opportunities to take forward sites for redevelopment e.g., Capital Valley, Rhymney.</li> </ul>		



What we will do:			
Project	12 Months	3 Years	5 Years
Prioritise the redevelopment of sites that would be beneficial in terms of promoting the growth of key sectors within the County Borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with CCR on a pipeline of strategic sites and premises to attract funding to facilitate employment growth.</li> <li>• Work with WG to unlock employment land at Oakdale Business Park through the provision on the necessary infrastructure to access the land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw up masterplans for relevant sites in conjunction with key stakeholders and support developers looking to submit planning applications to facilitate development.</li> </ul>	
Oakdale Plateaus' 2 and 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oakdale Plateaus' 2 and 4 – secure a private sector partner to redevelop vacant land for private sector-led employment use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the private sector to conclude the redevelopment of Oakdale Plateaus' 2 and 4.</li> </ul>	
Identify new sites for Business and Employment use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake a robust assessment of land availability to inform the type and location of employment land and premises to be provided.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of new employment sites for development through the Local Development Plan preparation process.</li> <li>• Consider land availability and access to transport network as key considerations.</li> </ul>	
Invest in new Council owned start up units.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify willing partners and funding opportunities to take forward sites for redevelopment for start-units.</li> <li>• Prepare up to date Masterplan to guide the provision of new units at Caerphilly Business Park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain planning permission and commence development.</li> </ul>	

## What will this achieve?

- Redevelopment opportunities that will maximise the financial return for estate holders.
- Provide opportunities for inward investors and indigenous SMEs.
- Address existing infrastructure issues which are hindering redevelopment.
- The reconfiguration and redevelopment of existing employment sites to provide modern, energy-efficient units to replace older, larger underutilised or vacant ones.
- Provision of land suitable for employment use and encourage clusters in key sectors.
- Provision of a diversity of land and premises suitable to enable the growth of indigenous SMEs.
- Restore investor confidence.
- Support for businesses to adapt and survive through the Caerphilly Enterprise Fund.
- Continue to provide clear information, advice and support to business through the Caerphilly Business Club and the Caerphilly Business E Newsletter.
- Strengthen co-operation within the region to promote the Cardiff Capital Region as a great place to do business.
- Build a more resilient, sustainable green economy.



Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwiadol



## CABINET – 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021

**SUBJECT: COUNCIL TAX BASE 2022-2023**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION & CORPORATE SERVICES**

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 For Cabinet to agree the calculation of the Council Tax Base for the 2022/23 financial year.

### 2. SUMMARY

2.1 The report provides details of the Council Tax base for 2022/23 for tax setting purposes and the collection percentage to be applied.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that: -

- The Council Tax collection rate is maintained at 97.50% for the 2022/23 financial year.
- The Council Tax Base for 2022/23 be **61,062.71**, with the Council Tax Base for each community council area being as outlined in paragraph 5.6.

### 4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 To determine the Council Tax base for 2022/23.

### 5. THE REPORT

5.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 and The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995 as amended set out the rules for the calculation of the Council Tax base. This is the amount required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to be used in the calculation of the Council Tax.

5.2 The Council Tax Base is the measure of the relative taxable capacity of different areas within the County Borough and is calculated in accordance with prescribed rules. The Tax Base represents the number of chargeable dwellings in the area expressed as Band D equivalents, taking into account the total number of exemptions, disablement reductions and discounts, with the net Tax Base calculated by taking account of the Council's estimated collection rate.

5.3 The gross Council Tax base for discounted chargeable dwellings expressed as Band D equivalents has been calculated at 62,628.42 for 2022/23. This figure is used by Welsh Government as part of the process for calculating the Revenue Support Grant.

5.4 The in-year collection rate for Council Tax had been maintained at between 96% and 97%

prior to the breakout of the Covid-19 pandemic. Last year however, it was only 94.5%. This was representative across all 22 Welsh authorities, who all reported a lower in-year collection rate due to the impact of the pandemic.

- 5.5 The Authority actively pursues all Council Tax arrears which results in the collection rate of 97.5% being regularly exceeded over time. This year the Authority has targeted the collection of previous years arrears, although this has been impacted by the restrictions in place limiting the number of defaulters we can summons to Magistrates' court
- 5.5 As the collection rate is regularly exceeded over time, it is proposed that the budgeted collection rate be maintained at 97.50% for 2022/23.
- 5.6 The Council Tax base for 2022/23 is 62,628.42 x 97.50%, which equates to **61,062.71**. Members are advised that increases in Band D equivalents can result in a reduced Revenue Support Grant when the final settlement announcement is made later this year. The Council Tax base analysed over community council areas is as follows: -

### **Community Councils Tax Base 2022/23**

<b>Community Council</b>	<b>Band D</b>
Aber Valley	2,016.21
Argoed	871.94
Bargoed	3,694.09
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	3,948.40
Blackwood	2,972.91
Caerphilly	6,293.38
Darran Valley	714.21
Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry	619.91
Gelligaer	6,285.34
Llanbradach & Pwllpant	1,501.97
Maesycwmmmer	905.37
Nelson	1,595.45
New Tredegar	1,338.76
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn	4,516.18
Rhymney	2,551.88
Risca East	2,040.30
Risca West	1,813.84
Van	1,652.77
Areas without Community Councils	15,729.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,062.71</b>

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 It is assumed that although the council tax collection rate of 97.50% is unlikely to be reached by the end of the financial year, it will be met over a period of time.

## **7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 The calculation of the Council Tax base is a statement of fact and as such an Integrated Impact Assessment is not required.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 As identified throughout this report.

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are none in respect of this report.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

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

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Local Government Finance Act 1992 and regulations made under the Act.

Author: Sean O'Donnell, Principal Council Tax & NNDR Officer  
(E-mail: [odonns@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:odonns@caerphilly.gov.uk) Tel: 01443 864013)

Consultees: David Street, Acting Chief Executive  
(Email: [streed@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:streed@caerphilly.gov.uk))  
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director for Education & Corporate Services  
(Email: [edmunre@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:edmunre@caerphilly.gov.uk))  
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer  
(Email: [harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk))  
Cllr Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member for Performance, Economy and Enterprise  
(Email: [stenne@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:stenne@caerphilly.gov.uk))  
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer  
(Email: [trantrj@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:trantrj@caerphilly.gov.uk))  
John Carpenter, Finance Manager (Revenues)  
(Email: [carpewj@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:carpewj@caerphilly.gov.uk))  
Andrew Southcombe, Finance Manager (Corporate Finance)  
(Email: [southak@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:southak@caerphilly.gov.uk))

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Council Tax Dwellings Return for 2022-23

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol



English / Saesneg

Caerphilly County Borough Council



Stephen Harris  
 HARRISR@CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK  
 Penallta House  
 Tredomen Park  
 Ystrad Mynach

Please select your authority and if necessary, amend any incorrect details

Name: CF82 7PG

E-mail (please enter N/A if unavailable): Sean O'Donnell

Telephone: STD code: ( 1443 ) ( 864013 )

Authorities are required to calculate the council tax base for 2022-23 with reference to dwellings shown on the valuation list for the authority as at 31 October 2021 supplied to the authority under section 22B(7) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The figures should also take account of changes to the valuation list that appear likely to occur during 2022-23.

The information requested on this return must be submitted to the Welsh Government under section 68 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Forms should be returned to the address below, according to the following timetable:

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| (i) certified signed copy and spreadsheet | <b>12 November 2021</b> |
| (ii) final ratified taxbase               | <b>4 January 2022</b>   |

Please check the validation sheet before sending the form.

Any queries on completion of the form or spreadsheet should be directed in the first instance, via telephone or e-mail, as directed below:

It is a Welsh Government audit requirement that all cells are completed. Please ensure that all blank cells are populated with zeros, those that are not will be assumed to be zero.

Local Government Financial Statistics Unit,  
 Welsh Government,  
 CP2  
 Cathays Park,  
 CARDIFF,  
 CF10 3NQ.

Email: [lgfs.transfer@gov.wales](mailto:lgfs.transfer@gov.wales)

Telephone: 0300 025 9169 or 0300 025 5673



Llywodraeth Cymru  
 Welsh Government

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		A*	Valuation band									Total (= sum of band figures)
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I		
<b>Part A: Chargeable dwellings</b>												
A1	All chargeable dwellings		14,738	26,121	18,339	9,293	6,552	2,308	807	89	70	78,317
A2	Dwellings subject to disability reduction (included in line A1)		71	192	182	107	74	39	16	3	16	700
A3	Adjusted chargeable dwellings (taking into account disability reductions)	71	14,859	26,111	18,264	9,260	6,517	2,285	794	102	54	78,317
<b>Part B: Dwellings with discounts and premiums</b>												
B1	Dwellings with no discount or premium (including long term empty properties and second homes with no discount)	32	6,882	15,770	11,852	6,624	5,285	1,943	682	71	46	49,187
B2a	Dwellings with a 25% discount (excluding long term empty properties and second homes)	39	7,961	10,293	6,387	2,617	1,216	333	108	15	3	28,972
B2b	Dwellings with a 50% discount (excluding long term empty properties and second homes)	0	16	48	25	19	16	9	4	16	5	158
B3a	Dwellings with a variable discount other than 25% or 50% (Part G, line 11)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B3b	Dwellings with long term empty property or second homes discount		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B3c	Dwellings with long term empty property or second homes premium		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B4	Total adjusted chargeable dwellings (sum of B1 to B3c=A3)	71	14,859	26,111	18,264	9,260	6,517	2,285	794	102	54	78,317
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Part C: Discounts and premium adjustments</b>												
B5	Total variable discounts (=Part G, line 12)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B6	Long term empty property and second homes discount adjustment (Part H, line 9g, 11g)		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
B7	Long term empty property and second homes premium adjustment (Part H, line 10g, 12g)		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Part C: Calculation of chargeable dwellings with discounts and premiums</b>												
C2	Total dwellings including discounts and premiums (=A3-(B2ax0.25)-(B2bx0.5)-B5-B6+B7)	61	12,861	23,514	16,655	8,596	6,205	2,197	765	90	51	
C3	Ratio to band D	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	1	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	21/9	
C4	Band D equivalents (=C2xC3) (rounded to 2 decimal places)	34.03	8,573.83	18,288.47	14,804.22	8,596.25	7,583.89	3,173.81	1,275.00	180.50	118.42	62,628.42
C7	Total discounted dwellings excluding long term empty and second homes adjustment	61	12,861	23,514	16,655	8,596	6,205	2,197	765	90	51	
C8	Band D equivalents excluding long term empty and second homes adjustment	34.03	8,573.83	18,288.47	14,804.22	8,596.25	7,583.89	3,173.81	1,275.00	180.50	118.42	62,628.42
<b>Part D: Memorandum items</b>												
D1	Exempt dwellings Classes A to N and P to W (not included in sections A to C above)		625	739	430	217	100	54	25	2	7	2,199
D2	Exempt dwellings Class O (not included in sections A to C above)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D3	Dwellings subject to a reduction under section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992		2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6

(sum of individual bands - carry to E1)

For Welsh Government Administration only BKAOARMACYBF

**Part E: Calculation of council tax base**

22	E1	Chargeable dwellings: band D equivalents (=C4 total)	62,628.42
23	E2	Collection rate (please enter to 2 decimal places)	97.50 %
24	E3	= E1 x E2 (rounded to 2 decimal places)	61,062.71
25	E4	Class O exempt dwellings: band D equivalents (please enter to 2 decimal places)	0.00
26	E5	Council tax base for tax-setting purposes (=E3+E4)	61,062.71
26.2	E5b	Discounted chargeable dwellings excluding long term empty and second homes adjustment	62,628.42
27	E6	100% council tax base for calculating revenue support grant (=E5b+E4)	62,628.42

**Part F: Exempt dwellings by class of exemption**

28 to 51.5	Class A	281	Class I	15	Class Q	6	
	Class B	0	Class J	4	Class R	0	
	Class C	678	Class K	1	Class S	14	
	Class D	8	Class L	5	Class T	21	
	Class E	111	Class M	0	Class U	407	
	Class F	421	Class N	115	Class V	0	
	Class G	32	Class O	0	Class W	24	
	Class H	5	Class P	0	Class X	51	
		For Welsh Government Administration only		PQBKLBWBOBW	Total all classes	2,199.00	
						Total of lines D1	2,199.00
						Total of lines D2	0.00

Part G : Variable discounts

		12	Valuation band										
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Discount percentage applied	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Total
Area	Properties / Discounts												
G1	Enter the name of area 1*	0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
G2			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
G3	Enter the name of area 2*	0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
G4			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
G5	Enter the name of area 3*	0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
G6			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
G7	Enter the name of area 4*	0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
G8			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
G9	Enter the name of area 5*	0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
G10			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
G11			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
G12	Total discounts (G2+G4+G6+G8+G10) (see note 11)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

\* this may be 'whole authority', a single community area or a number of community areas


**CERTIFICATE OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

I certify that the council tax base shown in sections A to E above has been calculated by my authority in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1995 (Wales) (SI 1995/2561) as amended. Where indicated below, the figures have been approved, in accordance with section 67 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by section 84 of the Local Government Act 2003.

The figures have not yet been approved;   
 or  
 the figures have been approved by executive decision;   
 or  
 the figures have been approved by the full council.

For Welsh Government Administration only	BKAOARMACYBF	A-D
	PQBKLBWBOBW	E-F
	ALBVBVBOHCFCF	H
	CACSCDZZBTAP	Total

Chief Financial Officer:



Date:

09/11/2021

**Part H: Long term empty and second homes - chargeable only - exclude exemptions**

If the value of percentage discount/premium is not shown in the table please add the percentage value to the bottom row of the "Percentage discount" or "Percentage premium" column.

12                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6                      7                      8                      9                      10                      11

Please enter actual dwelling numbers

		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Total	
64	H1	Chargeable long term empty properties with no discount or premium	416	308	166	73	40	5	11	2	2	1023
65	H2	Chargeable second homes with no discount or premium	71	70	48	22	13	5	2	2	1	234

**Long term empty property discount**

Please enter by band and percentage discount, the number of dwellings that are long term empty as at 31 October 2019.

	Percentage discount	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Total
66	H3a	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
67	H3b	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
68	H3c	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
69	H3d	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
70	H3e	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
71	H3f		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
72	H3g	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Long term empty property premium**

Please enter by band and percentage the premium your authority charges for long term empty properties and not included in table above.

	Percentage premium	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Total
73	H4a	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
74	H4b	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
75	H4c	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
76	H4d	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
77	H4e	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
78	H4f		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
79	H4g	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Second homes discount**

Please enter by band and percentage the discount your authority awards for dwellings registered as second homes

	Percentage discount	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Total
80	H5a	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
81	H5b	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
82	H5c	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
83	H5d	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
84	H5e	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
85	H5f		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
86	H5g	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Second homes premium**

Please enter by band and percentage the premium your authority charges for dwellings registered as second homes and not included in table above.

	Percentage premium	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Total
87	H6a	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
88	H6b	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
89	H6c	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
90	H6d	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
91	H6e	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
92	H6f		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
93	H6g	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Part H: Long term empty and second homes - chargeable only - exclude exemptions

If the value of percentage discount/premium is not shown in the table please add the percentage value to the bottom row of the "Percentage discount" or "Percentage premium" column.

		12	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
94	H7	Total chargeable long term empty properties	416	308	166	73	40	5	11	2	2	1,023
95	H8	Total chargeable second homes	71	70	48	22	13	5	2	2	1	234

## Dwelling equivalents

Reduction due to long term empty property discount

		Percentage discount	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Total
96	H9a	10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
97	H9b	25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
98	H9c	50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
99	H9d	75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100	H9e	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
101	H9f	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
102	H9g	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

## Increase due to long term empty property premium

		Percentage premium	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Total
103	H10a	10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
104	H10b	25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
105	H10c	50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
106	H10d	75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
107	H10e	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
108	H10f	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
109	H10g	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

## Reduction due to second homes discount

		Percentage discount	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Total
110	H11a	10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
111	H11b	25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
112	H11c	50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
113	H11d	75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
114	H11e	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
115	H11f	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
116	H11g	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

## Increase due second homes premium

		Percentage premium	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Total
117	H12a	10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
118	H12b	25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
119	H12c	50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
120	H12d	75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
121	H12e	100	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
122	H12f	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
123	H12g	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

For Welsh Government  
Administration only

ALBVBVBOHCFCF



## CABINET – 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021

**SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF A HYBRID MEETING SOLUTION**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

--

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to procure and implement a hybrid meeting solution in Ty Penallta that will enable meeting attendees to fully and seamlessly participate in meeting proceedings either in person (physically) or from a range of remote locations (virtually).

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Since June 2020, the vast majority of public meetings carried out by Caerphilly Council have been held remotely. This has enabled members and officers to participate in the democratic process while also aligning with WG guidance to work from home wherever it is possible.
- 2.2 While the practice has now become fully embedded, it is inevitable that at some point in the future, greater numbers of elected members and officers will choose to physically participate in meetings. It is also conceivable that some members and officers will choose to, or need to, engage in those same meetings remotely.
- 2.3 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires local authorities to “make and publish arrangements for the purpose of ensuring that local authority meetings are able to be held by means of any equipment or other facility which - (a) enables persons who are not in the same place to attend the meetings”. This essentially brings in to law the concept of ‘multi-location’ or ‘hybrid’ meetings and the Council’s responsibility to support both physical and virtual attendance. The Act also requires that Councils live stream public meetings along with the existing requirement to simultaneously translate meetings into Welsh. This is not something that the existing platform can currently provide.
- 2.4 Caerphilly’s Members have also made it clear that when returning to the chamber in person, they wish to engage in the democratic process in the same way they were able to do so prior to the pandemic. This would mean standing, speaking to the room and voting as they have done previously, something that the current platform cannot offer at this time.

- 2.5 Furthermore, the Welsh Local Government Associations Diversity in Democracy Programme has seen many Councils, Caerphilly included sign a pledge that provides a clear, public commitment to increase diversity; demonstrate an open and welcoming culture to all and to consider different ways of supporting councillors with other commitments. Clearly, a platform that would enable participation in the democratic process for individuals who could not easily attend Council meetings in person, would support this pledge.
- 2.6 Two suppliers have provided compliant project costs against the stated specification and the recommendations below seek to move forward with the chosen provider for the work.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 That Cabinet agree to:

- 1) Award the contract for the implementation of a Hybrid Meeting solution and associated hardware to Supplier B for an initial period of 3 years with an option to extend for up to a further period of 3 years
- 2) Meet the £124,899 one off capital costs of the solution and the associated electrical infrastructure upgrades of circa £7k from the Member Services Earmarked Reserve.
- 3) Meet the total ongoing costs of £126,841 for the software platform and associated support and maintenance for the initial three-year term of the contract by establishing a specific earmarked reserve from the 2021/22 Miscellaneous Finance Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) budget.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Over the next six months it is likely that there will be greater numbers of members and officers returning to the building and wishing to participate in meetings in person. There will also be officers and members who, for differing reasons, wish to participate in the same meetings remotely.
- 4.2 At present, the Council's existing platform would not provide an optimal solution to support hybrid meetings and so an alternative solution that provides a seamless experience for physical and remote participants has been sought.

### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 The vast majority of public meetings carried out by the Council have been held virtually since the beginning of the pandemic. This has enabled members and officers to fully participate in the democratic process while also aligning with WG guidance to work from home wherever it is possible.
- 5.2 Over the coming months, it is likely that there will be at least a gradual increase in the number of elected members and officers who wish to travel to the Council's offices to participate physically in public meetings. The public themselves may also wish to begin observing public meetings either in person or virtually.



- 5.3 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires local authorities to “make and publish arrangements for the purpose of ensuring that local authority meetings are able to be held by means of any equipment or other facility which - (a) enables persons who are not in the same place to attend the meetings”. This essentially brings in to law the concept of ‘multi-location’ or ‘hybrid’ meetings and the Council’s responsibility to support both physical and virtual attendance.
- 5.4 The Act requires participants in those multi-location or hybrid meetings to have access to the necessary equipment or facilities that enable attendees to “speak to and be heard by each other and to see and be seen by each other”.
- 5.5 At present, the majority of participants currently join meetings remotely and, in this instance, the product that currently supports virtual meetings can more than meet the needs of those participants. Should that position change, however, and the majority of participants join meetings physically, the current platform requires the use of microphones and headsets for all individuals that are sat in close physical proximity to one another, making the use of the existing platform more problematic.
- 5.6 There are also a number of additional requirements being placed upon principal councils, such as the need to simultaneously live stream public meetings so that they can be seen as they occur rather than via a delayed recording published after the meeting has concluded. Again, this is not something that the existing platform can currently provide.
- 5.7 Aside from the legislative requirements for multi-location or hybrid meetings to take place, Caerphilly’s Members have also made it clear that when returning to the chamber or other meeting rooms in person, they wish to engage in the democratic process in the same way they were able to do so prior to the pandemic. This would mean standing, speaking to the room and voting as they have done previously, something that the current platform cannot offer at this time.
- 5.8 Furthermore, the Welsh Local Government Associations Diversity in Democracy Programme has seen many Councils, Caerphilly included sign a pledge that provides a clear, public commitment to increase diversity; demonstrate an open and welcoming culture to all and to consider different ways of supporting councillors with other commitments. Clearly a platform that would enable participation in the democratic process for individuals who could not easily attend Council meetings in person which would support this pledge.
- 5.9 Over the last eighteen months or so elected officials and officers have become used to meeting remotely. More recently, a small number of individuals have chosen to attend the Council offices in person and engage in those remote meetings using the existing platform. A lot of compromise and a significant amount of learning has been generated during this time with feedback directly shaping the specification sent out to market and detailed below:
- 5.10 System Specification

The following paragraphs were included as the systems specifications (or requirements) against which suppliers could base their system proposals:

- a) In order to ensure a solution that is transparent, accountable, democratic and compliant with recent legislation, the ability to hold multi location meetings, where participants can be both seen and heard, regardless of their location, will be a critical component of the solution delivered.

- b) Full Council and Committee meetings are currently held over Microsoft Teams, with meetings recorded and uploaded to the Authorities dedicated You Tube channel. It is envisaged that attendees will be required to bring their own assigned laptops to the meetings to facilitate the use of some of the functionality provided with Teams such as voting, but will still benefit from the in room technology as far as possible – for example in-room cameras and microphones.
- c) These meetings can be held within the main Council chamber or on occasions the 3 large core meeting rooms within the Ty Penallta building. These are identified as:
- Sirhowy Room
  - Ebbw Room
  - Rhymney Room
- d) Moving forward, under the Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021, the Authority must make arrangements to broadcast certain meetings live with a requirement for participants to see and hear each other at these specified meetings.
- e) Arrangements must also be made for multi-location meetings which is a meeting of the Authority whose participants are not all in the same physical place. Examples of such meetings could include the following scenarios.
- Meetings of a committee where all participants are in the same physical location except one individual who joins from another location, with a physical public gallery being provided.
  - Meetings of a committee where a roughly equal number of councillors are present in a physical space and joining through remote means; those joining through remote means may include the Chair.
  - Meetings of a committee where all members are joining through remote means but nonetheless a physical public gallery has been made available in council premises.
  - Meetings of a committee taking place wholly through remote means where no physical arrangements have been made.
- f) There may also be occasions where a separate meeting room is utilised as an overspill room if the number of attendees exceed thresholds deemed safe to enable appropriate social distancing, or purely due to the usual capacity of the meeting room. The ability to invite this separate room into the meeting, either as an active participant or in a “viewing only” capacity must be included in the solution.
- g) The proposed cameras for the Chamber and large core meeting rooms must be able to display a view of the whole room so that all participants can be seen, and capable of being distributed to all television screens located within those rooms and the Atrium.
- h) The proposed microphones for the Chamber and large core meeting rooms must be capable of capturing the voice all delegates within the room, so that all delegates can be heard.
- i) Once a meeting attendee is speaking the cameras must be able to automatically detect and zoom, so that individual delegates can also be seen.

- j) The solution to be capable of integrating with the speakers, televisions and drop-down screens, and all other appropriate equipment currently within the Chamber and large core meetings rooms. Where this is not possible any additional hardware required must be clearly identified, costed, and included within the final solution.
- k) The ability to either record or webcast meetings live to the authorities YouTube channel or similar platforms is also an essential requirement of the solution.
- l) It is also imperative that provision for a simultaneous translation service is considered and integrated, in order to comply with Welsh Language Standards. For your information a copy of the Welsh Language Standards issued by the Welsh Commissioner
- m) Bidders were required to itemise all hardware required for their solution, including, but not limited to, industry standard audio equipment, professional broadcast video cameras, equipment to connect these video and audio sources, and hardware and software to broadcast meetings live via the Authorities YouTube channel or similar platforms.
- n) All materials and equipment were costed and provided by the suppliers and they are solely responsible for all elements of the entire installation. An exception to this is any electrical requirements, which will be carried out by the Authorities current electrical contractor and is deemed out of scope for this tender. Specific Risk Assessments and Method Statements should be submitted for approval prior to any installation works. Installation technicians will be CHAS registered and PASMA Certified
- o) Bidders should also, as part of their tender, include full installation and cabling costs associated with their final solution.
- p) The Council will require the successful tenderer to provide full training to staff on how to operate the solution where required, and if any equipment is required to be changed.

#### 5.11 Tender Submission and Pricing

Tenders were invited for this requirement in July 2021 via a mini competition tender process undertaken from the Council's existing Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) arrangement for the Provision of Education Technology and Associated Services. Following the closing date for tender responses to be received, no bids had been returned.

Officers therefore sought other compliant routes to market and identified an alternative arrangement that could be used on a direct award basis along with the above DPS e.g. NHS Shared Services Partnership framework.

Both routes to market included Microsoft preferred suppliers that have significant experience dealing with Microsoft Teams platforms and both suppliers were contacted directly to price against the specification detailed above.

Site meetings were held with both companies to review the scope and scale of the project with Officers from Democratic Services, Procurement Services, IT Services and Facilities Management and all attended the meetings to ensure a consistent message was delivered regarding the requirement.

Suppliers submitted detailed costs against the specification set out by the project team and a price comparison of the two submissions has been undertaken and is set out in the table below:

	<b>Supplier A (£)</b>	<b>Supplier B (£)</b>
Hardware	236,575.00	63,361.01
Optional Additional Encoder	4,000.00	3,500.00
Optional 85" Surface Hub	25,700.00	22,648.43
Software	0.00	105,960.00
Maintenance / Support	14,000.00	20,881.17
PS & Prelims	7,300.00	35,389.47
	<b>287,575.00</b>	<b>251,740.08</b>

The lowest cost submission was submitted by Supplier B and, subject to Cabinet approval for the funding, the Council will award a contract to Supplier B and subsequently begin the process of implementing the new system.

## 5.12 Conclusion

The introduction of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act combined with the new working practices that have emerged through the COVID-19 response has created the requirement for the Council to introduce a hybrid meeting solution.

Following the pricing exercise being carried out by the Council a supplier has been identified who can meet the emerging needs of the organisation and the Local Government and Elections (Wales) act and permission is sought to implement the solution.

## 6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 That the solution will be implemented and fully functional ahead of the 2022 Local Government Elections in May.
- 6.2 That the necessary training and development be delivered to meeting participants ahead of the system being made live.
- 6.3 That the solution can seamlessly integrate with the existing audio and voting equipment in the Council Chamber.

## 7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The Integrated Impact Assessment can be accessed via the link below:

[IJA Hybrid Solution](#)

- 7.2 In summary, the IJA has shown that there are a mixture of positive and neutral benefits attached to this proposal but has not identified and negative benefits. This is primarily a result of the proposal providing enhanced choice and additional options for democratic participation than are currently available. With greater choice, the potential for broader democratic engagement and the ability to broadcast live and in two languages, the solution appears to be a positive step in the right direction for the Council.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The capital cost of awarding the contract to Supplier B and for carrying out the associated works is £124,899. This will cover the hardware, additional encoder, 85” Surface Hub and the PS and Prelim work. It is recommended that this cost should be funded from the Member Services Earmarked Reserve, which currently has an uncommitted balance of £313,641.
- 8.2 There will also be a requirement to upgrade the electrical infrastructure within the Council Chamber to support device charging. These costs are estimated at circa £7k and are again one off in nature. It is proposed that this cost is also met from the Member Services Earmarked Reserve.
- 8.3 The ongoing costs of the software platform and associated support and maintenance for the initial three-year term of the contract total £126,841. It is recommended that this cost should be met by establishing a specific earmarked reserve from the 2021/22 Miscellaneous Finance Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) budget.
- 8.4 Any costs associated with training and developing officers and elected members in the use of the system will be carried out in house by colleagues from Democratic Services, and Digital Services utilising existing budgets.

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 None.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

- 10.1 All consultation responses received have been included in the body of this report.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Author: Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director Education & Corporate Services

Consultees: Philippa Marsden, Leader of the Council  
Cllr Colin Gordon, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services  
Dave Street, Acting Chief Executive  
Mark S Williams, Corporate Director Economy and Environment  
Gareth Jenkins, Head of Children’s Services  
Robert Tranter Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal Services  
Steve Harris, Section 151 Officer and Head of Finance  
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services  
Liz Lucas, Head of Customer and Digital Services  
Cllr Gez Kirby, Chair of Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr Brenda Miles, Vice Chair of Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr Colin Mann, Leader of the Plaid Group  
Cllr Kevin Etheridge, Leader of the Independent Group

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol



## **CABINET – 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**SUBJECT: GRASS CUTTING REGIMES**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT**

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

- 1.1 To seek the views of Cabinet in relation to grass cutting regimes across the county borough and proposals to enhance and promote biodiversity following consultation with local members. A report was presented to the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee on the 26<sup>th</sup> October to seek their views prior to this report being present at Cabinet.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Members will recall that a national lockdown was imposed in March 2020, this required the council to reshape and transform, almost overnight to respond to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Consequently, many services across the council were paused, one of these services was grass cutting.
- 2.2 The national and local lockdowns forced residents to interact with their surroundings in a new way. Whilst people worked from home where they could, the local environment became a source of appreciation and as lockdown rules heightened, appreciation for our local county and urban parks along with other open green space heightened, which benefitted residents with both their physical and mental wellbeing.
- 2.3 Through the summer of 2021, a consultation exercise was undertaken with local members to identify suitable areas within their respective wards which could be allowed to flourish during the summer period. These spaces would be marked with a wooden plaque thanking residents for allowing the dedicated areas to grow into eco-friendly spaces and allowed to produce abundant flowers, pollen seed and habitat for local wildlife

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The approach adopted during the 2021 cutting season be adopted as the standard going forward in relation to our highway verges and by-pass routes where mowing is kept to a minimum.

- 3.2 That urban areas, such as housing estates, older person accommodation, cemeteries etc. are maintained at the current cutting frequencies.
- 3.3 That Cabinet endorse the list of areas nominated by both officers and local members within their respective wards, which could be allowed to flourish during the summer period. Officers will continually work with local members to identify areas as the programme is expanded.

#### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To fulfil our statutory bio-diversity duty and to assist in our response to the Climate Emergency, which this council declared in 2019.

#### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 Grass cutting frequencies currently range through the growing season across Parks, housing estates and other public open space. Cemeteries and older person sheltered accommodation are cut on a weekly frequency, albeit these were reduced in the summer of 2020 due to the pandemic.
- 5.2 As members will be aware, in 2020 the UK was placed into a national lockdown and consequently, many of our non-essential services were paused. In response to the global pandemic, many staff were redeployed to allow our efforts to focus on maintaining essential front-line services and delivering the new services created to support our communities at the height of the pandemic.
- 5.3 At the start of the pandemic in March 2020, one of the many services paused was grass cutting and this had an unexpected and welcome impact on our environment as we had inadvertently created many wildlife habitats and havens for pollinators. Some of our community spaces became a sea of wildflowers, enjoyed by many and the council was commended by the Welsh naturalist and TV personality, Iolo Williams.
- 5.4 Like many services across the authority, we are continually striving to ensure that we are transforming and evolving to ensure we are meeting the ever-changing needs of our communities and that we are doing all that we can to respond to the Climate Emergency, which the authority declared in 2019. The management of green and blue spaces should be directed by the Green Infrastructure Strategy, which was formally adopted in November 2020 and such changes will enable multiple benefits such as improving mental and physical health and increasing biodiversity, which will lead to more resilient communities, more resilient habitats and ecosystems and a more resilient local economy.
- 5.5 Throughout May 2021, cutting along our highway verges and roundabouts were kept to a minimum in support of the 'No Mow May' campaign. The campaign encouraged local individuals, councils, and stakeholders to help bees, butterflies, and other wildlife by letting wildflowers grow on lawns and green spaces throughout May instead of mowing them. Grass cutting across the county borough still took place in order to:
- Maintain visibility for road users;
  - Keep traffic signage and sight lines clear;



- Maintain margins and access on footways and cycle routes;
- Maintain parks, sports grounds, cemeteries, housing estates, play and recreational green open spaces.

Set out at appendix one, Members will see photographs taken along both the Risca and Newbridge by-pass routes in June 2021, which illustrate the success of the approach.

- 5.6 In regularly mown areas, grass cuttings are left on the ground, which unfortunately does not promote a good growing environment for wild flora and fauna. Wildflowers and grasses thrive in nutrient poor soil, leaving grass cuttings uncollected allows nutrients from the grass to go back into the soil, which is not good for the wild flowers we would like to encourage. Areas that are left to grow need to be cut and collected at the end of the summer, removing the arisings deprives the soil of nutrients and thus creates the perfect environment for more species of flora and fauna to flourish.
- 5.7 Through the summer of 2021, a consultation exercise was undertaken with local members to identify suitable areas within their respective wards which could be allowed to flourish during the summer period. In total three responses were received from the 73 Councillors. These spaces would be marked with a wooden plaque thanking residents for allowing the dedicated areas to grow into eco-friendly spaces and allowed to produce abundant flowers, pollen seed and habitat for local wildlife.
- 5.8 Areas nominated by local members and relevant officers are: -
- Snowdon Close, Risca;
  - Junction of Heol Adam and B4254, Gelligaer (near the Cross Inn);
  - Areas within the Grove Estate, Trethomas;
  - Areas around the Community Centre, Llanbradach.

Arial photographs of these areas are set out in appendix 2.

- 5.9 During 2021, an assessment was undertaken along strategic roadside verges. The main objective being to gather data on habitats within the verges and to identify opportunities for management that would be beneficial for biodiversity.
- 5.10 The study was undertaken in May and June 2021 and identified a wide range and variation of verge habitats. The best example of diverse grassland habitats tended to be on the most recently constructed roads and where the soils have a relatively low nutrient status. One notable finding was a population of the nationally rare plant, Deptford Pink at Aberbargoed. In some cases, the flora diversity of newer roads has benefited from wildflower seeding. Longer established verges tended to be less diverse and dominated by coarse grasses and scrub, although there are exceptions where species rich vegetation has remained in areas of low fertility soil or which have been maintained by more frequent cutting in previous years.
- 5.11 Site specific recommendations to enhance biodiversity have been made for each of the sections of roadside verge and a series of more general measures have been produced that can be applied at verges across the county borough. The most important of these are to leave verges uncut through the spring and early summer to allow plants to flower and set seeds and to remove grass cuttings to reduce the dominance of coarse grasses.

## 5.12 Conclusion

To allow specific areas across the county borough and our roadside verges to flourish will not only enhance the local environment but will assist in fulfilling our statutory bio-diversity duty and assist in our response to the Climate Emergency, which this council declared in 2019.

## 6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 No assumptions have been made within this report.

## 7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has identified a number of both positive and negative impacts; however, the recommendation is to proceed with the proposal. The proposal would have a positive impact in that it would enhance our local environment and create habitat for wildlife and areas where wildflowers could flourish. It will also assist with residents' physical and mental well-being regardless of protected characteristics and support the council's Biodiversity Duty and Decarbonisation Strategy but also assist with the Climate Emergency which the Council declared in 2019.

7.2 However, areas left to flourish may give an untidy and unmanaged appearance, which could result in complaints from residents. This potential negative reaction will be mitigated by the installation of a sign where areas are being managed in an alternative manner to advise residents and to highlight the benefits.

[Link to full Integrated Impact Assessment](#)

## 8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no significant financial implications associated with this report, any costs will be funded from existing revenue budgets.

## 9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

## 10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 A report was presented to the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> October to seek their views prior to a report being presented to Cabinet. During the debate, one Member praised the commitment to allow the growth of wildflowers but raised the issue of road safety if visibility was reduced as a consequence of the policy at highway locations such as roundabouts. The Green Spaces and Transport Services Manager provided assurances that the policy would not impede traffic safety. It was outlined how verges along principal roads such as bypass routes were cut twice a year to ensure that sight lines were maintained. One Member asked

about contact details for Park Officers, the Green Spaces and Transport Services Manager provided details to the Member.

Members of the committee discussed and debated the proposals and unanimously supported the recommendations. It was noted that there were 12 votes for, 0 votes against and no abstentions. The Green Spaces and Transport Services Manager advised that relevant officers would continue to work with local members to identify suitable areas within their respective wards, which could be allowed to flourish during the summer period as the programme is expanded.

10.2 The views of the listed consultees have been reflected within this report.

## 11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Environment (Wales) Act 2016  
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981  
Highways Act 1980

Author: Michael Headington, Green Spaces & Transport Services Manager  
Headim@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Mark S Williams, Corporate Director for Economy and Environment  
willims@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Robert Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services  
Hartsr@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer  
Trantrj@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services  
Donovl@caerphilly.gov.uk  
David Roberts, Interim Finance Manager  
Roberda@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Philip Griffiths, Green Space Strategy and Cemeteries Manager  
Griffpm@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Jonathan Davies, Parks and Countryside Operations Manager  
Daviej27@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Councillor Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Waste, Public Protection and Street Scene  
Georgen@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Councillor Tudor Davies, Chair Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny  
Daviedt@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Councillor Adrian Hussey, Vice Chair Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny  
Hussea@caerphilly.gov.uk

Background Papers:

[Link to Green Infrastructure Strategy](#)

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Photographs of Risca and Newbridge by-pass in June 2021

Appendix 2 Aerial photographs

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol





*Newbridge by-pass*





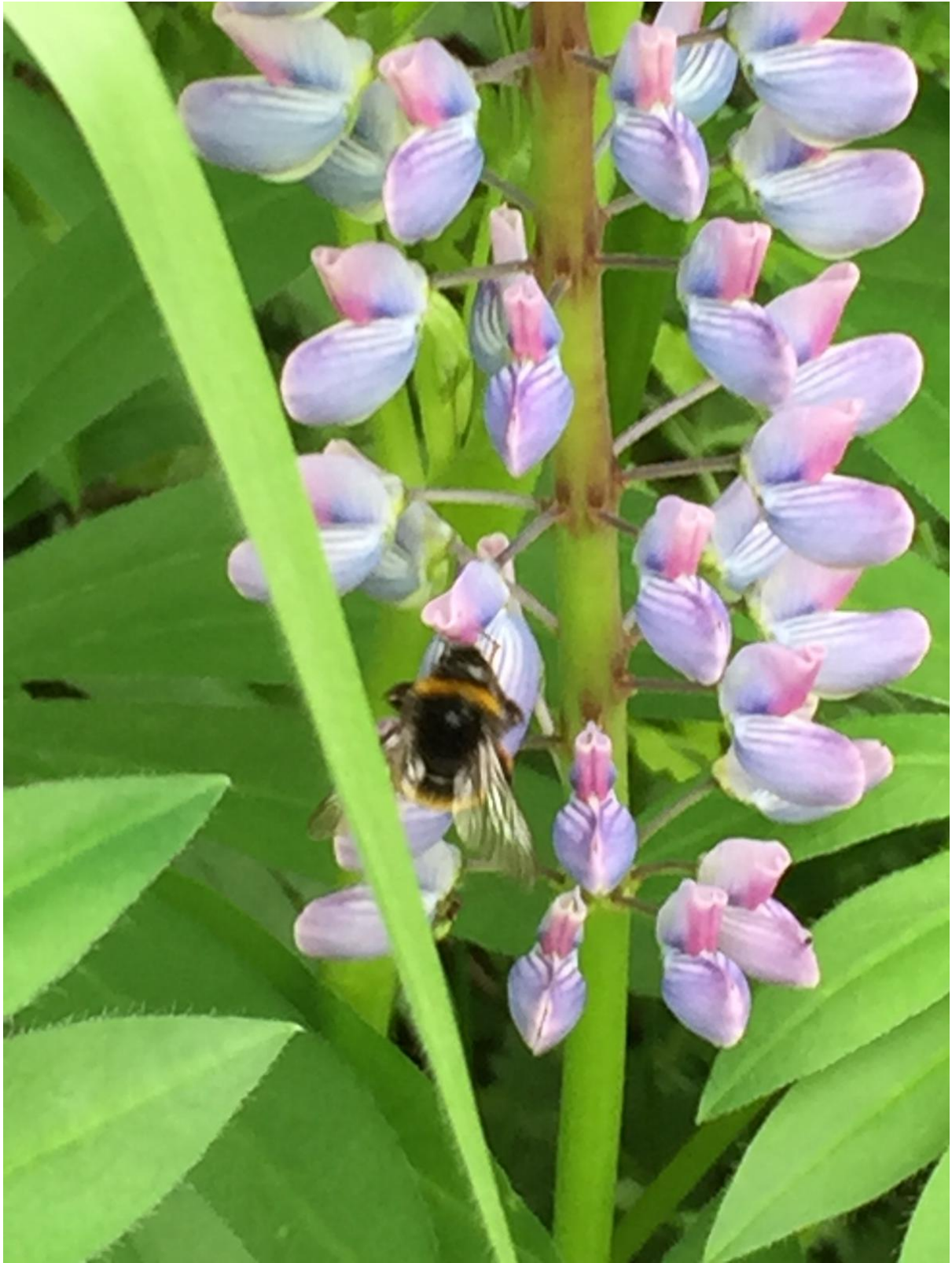
*Risca by-pass*





*Risca by-pass*





*Newbridge by-pass*





*Newbridge by-pass*

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol



Appendix 2



Area around the Grove Estate, Trethomas.



Snowdon Close, Risca



