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The following reports are Information Items for the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee.

- 1. Highway Infrastructure Budget Apportionment 2022/23.**
- 2. Revenue Budget 2022/2023 - Economy and Environment Directorate.**
- 3. Economy and Environment Revenue Grants 2022/2023.**
- 4. Economy and Environment 2022-23 Budget Monitoring Report (Period 3).**
- 5. Play Sufficiency Assessment.**



ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – FOR INFORMATION

**SUBJECT: HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET APPORTIONMENT
2022/23**

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members with details of the proposed apportionment of the highway maintenance budget for 2022/2023.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The 2022/23 Highway Revenue Maintenance budget is detailed in Appendix 1 and includes revenue budget of £7,806,500 and Capital budget of £2,532,000. The report provides information to members on how the £10,338,500 has been allocated. The Revenue budget includes Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay (RCCO) for carriageway and footway resurfacing schemes of £116k and £95k respectively.
- 2.2 The street lighting budget allocation (included in the above) is £1,928,000 which is inclusive of £1,412,000 energy costs (including the Salix loan of £517 pa). Energy prices have continued to rise, with this year's increase confirmed for 2022/23 at 12.8%. Our LED and part night lighting programme has been completed, which aims to minimise the impact of these energy rises whilst significantly contributing to our carbon reduction targets.
- 2.3 The 2022/23 Capital budget allocation in relation to Highway Services is detailed in Appendix 2; the budget remains largely unchanged and includes £739,000 and £148,000 directly related to highway resurfacing and footways respectively. Locations of the specific schemes, where appropriate, are provided in Appendix 3.
- 2.4 The ongoing strategy is to maximise the impact of our existing funding, based on priorities, innovation and standards, whilst ensuring the safety of highway users. There are no MTFP savings applied to the 2022/23 budget due to a better than anticipated budget settlement from Welsh Government. There is also a Welsh Government Grant of £2.2m for carriageway resurfacing for 2022/23, which will assist in the overall maintenance and capital investment programme.
- 2.5 The highway asset is the authority's largest asset valued at over £2 billion. To maintain the highway to an acceptable standard, that does not compromise user safety, alternate strategies (such as preventative maintenance techniques) are being widely utilised. The future funding challenges, because of any future MTFP's, may result in a reduction of service or the standard of service previously offered. As such it is imperative that a prioritised risk-based approach to highway maintenance continues. A separate report on the condition of and funding of the Carriageways was presented to Scrutiny Committee on 14th March 2019. A further updated report is planned to be presented during 2022/23 when the required survey data is available.

- 2.6 Overall, for a reactive wide-ranging front-line service delivery area, the performance of Highway Maintenance is judged to be good, producing variable results in view of key objectives set out. This service is benchmarked against other authorities in Wales and reported annually.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the content of the report and the proposed interventions detailed to maximise service standards from the allocated budget.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure the Highway Maintenance budget expenditure for 2022/23 is utilised effectively and provides value for money.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The focus of this apportionment exercise is to maximise the impact of the existing funding based on Council and statutory priorities, innovation, and standards, with the ultimate aim being to protect and maintain the authority's statutory responsibilities.
- 5.2 Identified below is the Authority's highways performance data for 2020-21, (latest available national data comparison). APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) publish this data annually. The standings have been produced using a family group system, comparing "like" authorities operating under similar circumstances to ensure a fair comparison. To improve on the current performance figures additional capital investment is required and a separate report on the condition of and funding of the Carriageways was presented to Scrutiny committee on 14th March 2019. A further updated report is planned for 2022/23.

APSE Performance Indicator	CCBC result	Councils above	Councils below	CCBC Placement
PI02b - Principal A Road Condition below standard (3rd Quartile) (Highest percentage is worst case)	3.0%	6	3	7/10
PI02e - Non-principal B Road Condition below standard (3rd Quartile) (Highest percentage is worst case)	2.4%	6	3	7/10
PI16 - Percentage of maintenance expenditure – Planned (3rd Quartile) (Lowest percentage is worst case)	60.85%	4	3	5/8
PI17 - Percentage of maintenance expenditure – Reactive (3rd Quartile) (Highest percentage is worst case)	27.90%	6	3	7/10
PI52 - Percentage of maintenance expenditure – Routine (highest percentage is worst figure)	11.25%	-	-	-
PI31a - Percentage change in number of non-repudiated third party claims in last 3 years compared to previous 3 year period (We already have good repudiation rate to start with, continuing downward trend is a positive output) (1 st Quartile)	-47.27%	1	10	2/12

Key:

Principal Roads – Class A or above

Non-principal Roads – B&C classification

Road Condition is the percentage of carriageway that was below standard, where more detailed monitoring or investigation is required

Planned Maintenance – works that are carried out as a road treatment (resurfacing, micro-asphalt etc.) designed to extend the life of the asset

Reactive Maintenance – works that are in response to a safety issue, so incorporate a degree of urgency

Routine Maintenance – combination of programmed, ancillary maintenance functions, such as gully emptying, which are not structural and other non-urgent works that would not constitute planned maintenance

- 5.3 The Council meeting of 20th February 2022 considered and approved the Council budget for 2022/23 including Service revenue and capital budgets. This report now provides information on the detailed allocation of the Infrastructure Division revenue and capital budgets to the highway maintenance operations service area.
- 5.4 The highway asset is currently valued at over £2 Billion. Using simple comparatives, it is evident that a revenue maintenance budget of £6,394,500 (excluding energy costs of £1,412,000) will only allow assets to be renewed every 300 years, well beyond the asset lifespan. It is therefore essential that a strategy is developed to try and preserve the life of the Authority's existing assets. With this in mind, £80,000 will be allocated to Highway asset management this year, which will ensure that Highway Services are delivered against the Councils key priorities, taking into consideration customer needs, asset condition and the best use of available resources. This work will continue to build on the condition of the County's highway network and the understanding of other key assets. The importance of asset management and its demonstration of continuous efficiency is likely to be linked to future funding streams that may be available from Welsh Government. Those Councils who can demonstrate value for money and efficient management with a demonstrable maintenance strategy for delivery of Highway maintenance are likely to be looked upon favourably.
- 5.5 In addition to the highway revenue budget in Appendix 1 there is also a capital budget detailed in Appendix 2. The capital budget includes £739,000 to undertake carriageway resurfacing works. Welsh Government awarded Caerphilly a General Capital Grant in March 2022 of which £2.2M was allocated to carriageway resurfacing works. This takes the annual budget to £2,939,000 for 2022/23. For 2022/23, the roads that were delayed due to the Pandemic are being prioritised, along with the completion of the major roundabouts.
- 5.6 Due to the rising demands on the existing drainage infrastructure, the capital allocation for land drainage has been maintained at £123k Corporate and £123k for non-corporate assets. This will assist with flood prevention schemes and any urgent works required for 2022/23. In line with the increased incidents of surface water flooding, it has been decided to also increase the Highway Drainage budget to £140k and to increase the ditching cleansing budget to £24,738 to maintain the Councils existing carriageway ditching. Separate Welsh Government grant funding for flood prevention schemes is also being pursued.
- 5.7 The approach taken to all maintenance must ensure that any work is selected on a prioritised risk basis. To assist this process, the authority endorsed the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) at the Cabinet meeting on 16/11/2016 following Scrutiny review on 01/11/16. The HAMP was developed in conjunction with CSS (County Surveyors Society) Wales, as an 'All Wales' project, to ensure there is a consistent national approach. This document is updated annually.
- 5.8 In addition to the revenue safety barrier budget the vehicle restraint systems (safety

barriers) capital contribution has remained at £148k. This is for the repair/ removal of safety fencing. This is in recognition that these barriers are at or exceed their design life and a concerted effort is required to replace the safety fencing within the authority (approximately 66km with an estimated total replacement value of £7M).

- 5.9 Due to the pressures on budgets, ageing infrastructure, increasing demands, expansion of the network, additional legislation, and compliance etc. it is essential that highway maintenance is undertaken in the most cost-effective manner. To achieve this, alternate preservation techniques, such as CAUTS (cold applied ultra-thin surfacing), micro asphaltting and slurry sealing will be increasingly required into 2022/23 and beyond. These techniques have become more advanced and innovative over recent years and are being widely adopted by authorities for a value for money approach to preserving the life of the highway network.
- 5.10 The revenue programme for surface dressing has been prioritised from specialist technical data surveys and visual inspection and is predominantly focussed on the high usage A and B road network. Additionally, the carriageway resurfacing programme is to be utilised on some high priority minor roads and/or where surface dressing is not considered an appropriate option. The priority programmes are identified in Appendix3.
- 5.11 The proposed apportionments are targeted to the most needed areas at this time. The ideal strategy is to attempt to re-profile the reactive spend into a more planned maintenance approach. For 2022/23 there is a downturn to a 60:40 split between planned and reactive maintenance compared to 70:30 in 2017/18. This negative trend will be difficult to rectify due to the MTFP savings applied previously. It is recognised that to deliver a 'steady state' highway asset management programme, a ratio of 80:20 would be the ideal split. In the current financial climate this is exceedingly difficult to achieve. It should be noted that given the current budgets the average renewal time for carriageways in the Borough is far beyond the expected life of the roads which will result in increased repair costs which will further deplete the planned maintenance budget and potentially result in an increase in claims. It is therefore fundamental that the budget apportionment be carefully considered to maximise value for money.
- 5.12 The FRMP (Flood Risk Management Plan) is continually reviewed, and its risk rating updated. The current budget allocation is insufficient to address the significant backlog of identified schemes, so locations with the highest risk to life and/ or property will be prioritised. The current prioritised list is included in Appendix 4. This is subject to change dependent on emerging priorities identified during the year.
- 5.13 The footway resurfacing programme has been maintained at previous levels, which would normally assist in completing works in the pedestrian areas with highest usage and risk.. This has been scheduled in the footway scheme programme for 2022/23 included in Appendix 5. Although this will help maintain works to reduce some of the higher risk areas, further investment is needed to begin to reduce the back-log and prevent it increasing. It is estimated that the backlog stands at around £3M for Category 4 sites and £18M for Category 3 sites. Condition categories are defined as follows:

Category	Condition Level	Definition
3	Minor Deterioration (Functionally Impaired)	The footway has minor deterioration such as:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cracked flags/blocks showing some signs of movements • Missing joint filler • Minor fretting, fatting up, scaling or minor cracking of bituminous footways • Moderate local settlement/subsidence or trips between 10-13mm*

4	Major Deterioration (Structurally Impaired)	<p>The footway has minor deterioration such as:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cracked and depressed or missing flags/blocks • Flags/blocks with exaggerated movements • Major cracking, fretting or scaling • Trip hazards exceeding 13mm* • Poor shape, severe local settlement/subsidence creating a difference in level greater than 30mm*
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* The dimensions within this table are given for guidance only.

It should be noted that the highest insurance liabilities are generally for personal injuries because of trips and falls on the footway network.

- 5.14 Investment initiatives to reduce street lighting energy usage have been completed via a Welsh Government, interest free funding option (SALIX). The energy savings being implemented in the last year will see long term carbon reductions and cost avoidance savings to the energy bills. This interest free government funded loan payments commenced on April 2021, with the last payment scheduled for April 2029. The Street Lighting Strategy report covering initiative work was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 15th May 2018 and Cabinet on 11th July 2018.
- 5.15 The maintenance programme for highway structures has been derived from a risk prioritisation process for bridges, culverts, retaining walls, landslips and erosion. The proposed list of works for 2022/23 is included in Appendix 6. It should be noted that there may be some amendments made to the programme with potential ecological/ seasonal risks that may impact on the proposals. Should this occur, works of similar priority will be substituted in its place.
- 5.16 The budget line for Tips Maintenance shows a capital investment of £246k which supports the revenue budget. This will fund a programme of works that will assist in resolving some long-term issues for this sector. Whilst the budget for this area is under pressure, the prioritised approach used, ensures a risk-based approach to the maintenance of the authority tips. There is likely to be further Welsh Government grant funding available for tips maintenance during 2022/23.
- 5.17 It is evident that there is a trend in more severe weather events. In recent years, flooding and snow have caused major problems both locally and nationally. These incidents are inherently difficult to predict. The drainage and winter maintenance budgets have been previously enhanced from within existing Highway revenue budgets and protected from significant cuts to provide a resilient service in these unpredictable areas, especially in the winter months. However, schemes to reduce flooding can be expensive and following storm Dennis, Welsh Government made some funding available for the emergency response to the storm. This in no way covers the cost to the authority for such events as there are thresholds applied before access to additional funding can be granted. A continuance to monitor the impacts of the severe weather is in place to allow the authority to apply for any further funding that may become available from Welsh Government.
- 5.18 The purchase of a “Jet Patcher” has proven to be successful in providing an efficient method of repairing potholes. This innovative machinery allows potholes in the more rural locations to be repaired at a much-reduced cost to traditional methods. This continues to provide a cost-effective method of repair.
- 5.19 The Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB) is now well established and has been reviewed as part of the restructuring of the organisation to meet the future requirements and opportunities ahead. Costs and income generation continue to be monitored as the legislation process has only been in place for just over 3 years, with a review currently

being undertaken.

- 5.20 A budget of £95,000 has been allocated to Traffic Management in 2022/23. Appendix 7 identifies the programme for traffic regulation orders and minor works following consultation with Members. This covers a wide range of requests and proposals, which includes, parking provisions (i.e. prohibition of waiting/driving, off-street provision and allocation for disabled persons), speed limits, one-way traffic proposals and both road traffic signing and markings. Every effort will be made to deliver the programme, but resources will be prioritised to meet commitments for ongoing schemes and some proposals are subject to consultation, deliverability and securing additional funding. There will be significant work undertaken during 2022/23 in preparation for Welsh Governments planned introduction of widespread 20mph speed limits in 2023.
- 5.21 Included in Appendix 8 is a plan detailing the highway inspector area boundaries for Members' information. Appendix 9 details the frequency of inspections carried out based upon the highway hierarchy.
- 5.22 The budget apportionment continues to meet the requirements and proposals set out within the authority's medium-term financial plan (MTFP) and the resources made available to the Highways Maintenance Group.
- 5.23 **Conclusion**
- 5.23.1 Ongoing reductions to the Highway Maintenance revenue budget will continue to impact Network integrity and the asset. This is evidenced by the steady state figures, highlighting the negative trend and increased maintenance burden which was presented to Scrutiny on the 14th May 2019. The report outlines a balanced approach through effective financial and asset management to produce a realistic budget.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 No assumptions have been made.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 This report is an **Information Only** item, so a completed IIA is not necessary at this stage

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Financial implications are detailed within the report.
- 8.2 The Highway Maintenance elements of the Infrastructure Division budgets in the last eight years are as follows:

	Revenue	Capital
2022-23	£7,806,500	£2,532,000
2021-22	£7,385,038	£2,532,000
2020-21	£7,350,154	£2,540,000
2019- 20	£5,701,050	£2,254,000
2018-19	£7,532,365	£1,475,000
2017-18	£7,741,926	£1,475,000
2016-17	£7,630,536	£1,475,000
2015-16	£7,911,671	£1,267,000

- 8.3 In order to help achieve revenue budget savings over the last 8 years and in support of the Councils medium term financial plan the Highway Maintenance revenue budget is still £105k below the 2015/16 budget. Currently notifications of material and labour rates price increases will impact existing contracts and will therefore affect the amount of work that can be undertaken this financial year. Existing programmes will have to be adjusted to reflect any changes that may occur.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 The comments of the consultees have been incorporated into the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Highways Act 1980
 11.2 Flooding & Water Management Act 2010.
 11.3 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

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Consultees: Christina HARRY – Chief Executive
 Mark S Williams, Corporate Director – Economy and Environment
 Councillor Julian Simmonds – Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation
 Councillor D T Davies, Chair Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee
 Councillor A Hussey, Vice Chair Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee
 Stephen Harris – Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer
 Dave Roberts – Principal Group Accountant, Corporate Finance
 Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure
 Paul Adams, Senior Assistant Accountant
 Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities, Welsh Language and Consultation)
 Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
 Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
 Chris Adams, Highway Engineering Group Manager
 Clive Campbell, Transportation Engineering Group Manager

Background Papers:

Background papers are exempt.

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Highway Maintenance Budget Apportionment 2022/23
 Appendix 2 Capital Budgets for 2022/23
 Appendix 3 Carriageway Resurfacing /Surface Dressing/Thin Surfacing Schemes 2022/23
 Appendix 4 Land Drainage Priorities and Highway Drainage Priorities 2022/23
 Appendix 5 Footway Schemes 2022/23 and Footway Resurfacing Priority Sites 2022/23
 Appendix 6 Structures Priorities 2022/23

Appendix 7	Traffic Management Priorities 2022/23
Appendix 8	Highway Inspectors Areas
Appendix 9	Highway Safety Inspection Criteria

APPENDIX 1

Highways Services Group Budget Estimates 2022-23		
Revenue		
		Est Budget
Structural Maintenance		
Reactive Safety/Emergency Maintenance		
3300 L651	Safety Defect - C/Way & F/way Repairs (28 days)	980,000
3300 L652	Emergency Maintenance - Out of Hours Call Outs	230,000
3300 L655	Emergency Safety Defect - C/Way 2/24hr response	130,000
3300 L656	Emergency Safety Defect - F/Way 2/24hr response	35,000
	Sub-total S1	1,375,000
Planned Carriageways, Footway and Cycleway Maintenance		
Carriageways		
3300 L663	Carriageway Resurfacing (RCCO)	116,000
3300 L699	Carriageway Surface Dressing	806,000
	Sub-total S2	922,000
Footways		
3300 L664	Footway Reconstruction (RCCO)	95,000
3300 L690	Footway Slurry Sealing	215,000
	Sub-total S3	310,000
Cycleway		
3300 L698	Cycleways	4,112
	Sub-total S4	4,112
Safety Barriers and Fencing		
3300 L659	Structural Maintenance - Safety Barriers	90,000
3300 L650	Structural Maintenance - Fencing/Railings	13,000
	Sub-total S5	103,000
Planned Programme Drainage Systems		
3313 L657	Highway Drainage - CCTV Systems	4,500
3314 L657	Highway Drainage - Replace Gullies/Pipework	140,000
3314 Q251	Highway Drainage - Ditching	24,738
3307 L658	Land Drainage - CCTV Surveys	4,900
3308 L658	Land Drainage - Severe Weather Culverts Inspections/Emergenc	203,000
3309 L658	Land Drainage - Provision of Grids/Fencing/Access	5,250
3316 L658	Land Drainage - Repairing/replacing culvert lengths	120,000
3317 L658	Land Drainage - Pumping Stations/Telemetry	5,000
	Sub-total S6	507,388
Gullies, Pipework and Manholes		
3310 L680	Cyclic Maintenance. - Scheduled Gully Cleansing	354,000
3310 L694	Cyclic Maintenance – main line de-silting	0
3315 Q251	Cyclic Maintenance – Gully Waste Charges	68,000
	Sub-total S7	422,000
	Structural Total (Sub S1 to S7)	3,643,500
Aids to Movement (Safety Maintenance)		
3305 L675	Safety Maintenance - Traffic Sign Maintenance/Cleaning	4,000
3305 L676	Safety Maintenance - Road markings & Studs	22,000
3305 L677	Safety Maintenance - Street nameplates	4,250
3300 L695	Special Maintenance - Roundabouts	0
3320 L696	Dropped kerbs – Improved Walking Environment	5,000
	Aids to Movement Total	35,250

Severe Weather		
Winter Maintenance		
3380 L658	Winter Maintenance - Severe Weather Culverts	32,000
3380 L680	Winter Maintenance - Gully Cleansing	162,000
3380 L901	Winter Maintenance - Salting	127,000
3380 L902	Winter Maintenance - Snow Clearance	46,000
3380 L903	Winter Maintenance - Salt Bins (new &refills)	49,000
3380 L904	Winter Maintenance - Salt Purchase	227,000
3380 L905	Winter Maintenance - Weather Stations/Forecasts	22,000
3380 L907	Winter Maintenance - Salt Barn Inspections/Repairs	0
3880 N001	Winter Maintenance - Vehicle RCCO	218,000
3380 N214	Winter Maintenance - Vehicle/Standby Costs	327,000
	Severe Weather Total	1,210,000
Street Lighting		
3370 L951	Routine Maintenance	301,000
3370 L952	Non Routine Maintenance	214,000
3370 Q251	De-Fibrulator Installation	1,000
	Sub-total L1	516,000
3370 L954	Energy	1,412,000
	Sub-total L2	1,412,000
	Street Lighting Total (Sub L1 to L2)	1,928,000
HOG General		
3320 L690	Land Reclamation Maintenance	58,250
3321 Q251	Risca Canal	100,000
	Sub-total H1	158,250
3300 L429	Road Closures for Special Events	35,000
3300 L507	Grounds Maintenance (Trees)	25,000
3300 L661	Cattle Grids	11,000
3320 L691	Maintenance Management Systems	5,000
3320 L692	Design Costs - Revenue Schemes	0
3559 Q251	Vehicular Crossings	50,000
3320 L695	Easements etc	0
3319 L975	Community Response Team	0
3880 Q252	Road Condition Surveys/Lab Surveys/Abnormal Loads	0
3320 Q251	Asset Management	80,000
	Sub-total H2	206,000
	HOG General Total (Sub H1 to H2)	364,250
Other Budgets		
3300 L669	Structures Assessments - External/Railtrack	35,000
3300 L670	Structures General Maintenance	225,500
3300 L671	Structures Retaining Walls	70,000
3300 L672	Structures Emergencies	29,000
3300 L679	Structures Embankment Repairs/Stabilisation	71,000
3300 L907	Consultancy SLA	100,000
	Structures Sub Total	530,500
3323 L429	Traffic Management	95,000
		95,000
	Other General Budgets Total	625,500
	Revenue Total	7,806,500

Highways Services Group Budget Estimates 2022-23		
Capital		
		Est Budget
Structures		
6102	Retaining Walls	314,000
6122	Bridges	441,000
	Structures Total	755,000
Drainage		
6147	Corporate Drainage	123,000
6149	Non Corporate Drainage	123,000
	Drainage Total	246,000
Carriageways & Footways		
6121	Carriageway Resurfacing	739,000
6194	Footway Resurfacing	148,000
	Carriageways & Footways Total	887,000
Other Budgets		
6150	Vehicle Restraint System	148,000
6153	Corporate Maintenance Tips, Mines & Spoils	246,000
6160	Risca Canal	200,000
6114	Street Lighting	50,000
	Other Budgets Total	644,000
	Capital Total	2,532,000
Capital Grant Funding		
	Highways Improvement Grant 2022-23 - Footways	300,000
	Highways Improvement Grant 2022-23 - Carriageways	2,200,000
	Creation of off-road Parking Areas	400,000
	Cattle Grid Renewals	100,000
	Speed Hump Renewals	100,000
	Telemetry for culverts to provide early warning of possible blockages	100,000
	Dolyfelin Street highway improvement	100,000
	Priority drainage Schemes	300,000
	Vehicle Restraint Systems	200,000
	Capital Grant Total	3,800,000

Highways Carriageway 2022/23

Area 1

Surface Dressing

- Wellington Way, Rhymney
- School Street, Pontlottyn
- Bedlwyn road, Phillipstown
- Mountbatten, Rhymney

Resurfacing

- Ty Isaf Farm Lane, Llechryd
- Plantation terrace, Rhymney
- Goshen st to The Terrace, Rhymney
- Lady Tyler Terrace, south UL, Rhymney

Area 2

Resurfacing

- Cliff road, High St to Asda, Blackwood
- Southview road/ Pentwyn road junction, Blackwood
- B4511 Markham roundabout, Markham
- B4511 Penylan road, Argoed
- Crown Roundabout, Pontllanfraith (A472)

Area 3

Surface Dressing

- B4511 Bedwellty road, Aberbargoed
- Heol-Tir-Y-Llan, Abrbargoed
- Park Crescent, Bargoed
- Wood and Upper Wood st, Bargoed
- Park Drive, Bargeod
- West Road, Penallta Ind Est,
- North Road, Penallta Ind Est
- Caerphilly Road, Llanbradach
- Wingfield Junction/ Traffic lights, Llanbradach

Resurfacing

- Vicarage Close, Bargoed
- Llancayo St East UL, Bargoed
- Cwrt Coch St/ Commercial St junction, Aberbargoed
- Bedwellty Road, Aberbargoed
- Roman Ridge and Hadrians Close, Gelligaer
- Cae Ffynnon, Penybryn
- Penybryn West UL, Penybryn
- Glyn Bedw from Pant Glas to Bryn Derw, Llanbradach

Area 4

Surface Dressing

- High st, junction of Pennar close to Junction of New Bryngwyn, Newbridge
- A467 Coed Celynen RA to Junction in to Abercarn
- A467, Trecelyn RA to Ceod Celynen RA
- B4591 Chapel of Ease to Abercarn
- Woodland Terrace, Abercarn
- King Charles Road, Pentwynmawr
- Springfield Terrace, Pentwynmawr

Resurfacing

- B4591 Brook st Junction, Chapel of Ease, Abercarn
- Twyn Road, Abercarn
- Rhyswg Road, Abercarn
- Gwyddon Road, Abercarn
- Tir-philkins Lane, Woodfieldside
- Ashfield Road to Greenfield UL, Newbridge
- Old Pant Road, RA, Panside Newbridge

Area 5

Surface Dressing

- Sir Stafford Close, Caerphilly
- Railway Terrace, Caerphilly

Resurfacing

- Pandymawr road, Cattle grid to farm, Bedwas

- Bartlett st UL, Caerphilly
- Mill road/ Caenant road junction, Caerphilly
- KFC Parc Pontypandy, Caerphilly
- Tesco Junction Parc Pontypandy, Caerphilly

Area 6

Surface Dressing

- Thistle Way, Risca
- Lower Wyndham terrace, Risca
- Grove Road, Risca
- Forest View, Cwmcarn

Resurfacing

- Napier St, Machen
- Pandy Lane, Machen
- Lewis St, Machen

Area 7

Surface Dressing

- Cae- Nant Goch, Caerphilly
- Wesley Road inc Coggings close and Ashman Close, Caerphilly
- Bryn siriol/Heol Clyd, Penheol, Caerphilly
- A472 Nelson RA to Ty DDU RA
- King St UL, Abertridwr
- A472 Tredomen RA to Royal Oak RA

Resurfacing

- A472 Ty Ddu RA, Nelson
- A472 Nelson RA, Nelson
- Tredomen RA, Tredomen
- Dynevour Terrace UL, Nelson
- West Ave, Tecenydd, Caerphilly
- Energlyn Terrace, Energlyn

Area 8

Surface Dressing

- Gelligaer Road, Cefn Hengoed
- Brynafon Terrace, Hengoed
- B4254, Pengam road Glanynant, Pengam
- High St, Pengam

Resurfacing

- Hawtin Park Junction Maesycwmmmer
- A4049 Pengam road/Bryn Road Junction, Pengam
- Tredomen to Royal oak/Lewis St Junction, Ystrad Mynach
- A469 Hengoed RA, New Road Hengoed
- Penallta Road west UL, Ystrad Mynach
- Beech Embankment, Ystrad Mynach
- Fairview North UL, Pengam
- Tir Coppi Lane, Mynyddislwyn
- Twyn Gwyn Lane, Mynyddislwyn
- Ton-y-Moch lane, Mynyddislwyn
- Treod-y-Rhiw road to Mynyddislwyn Church, Wattsville
- Heolddu Road , Gelligroes
- Glanhowy Road, Wyllie

The list of priorities is dependent on Budget commitments and realisation of Contract rates once tendered.

Land Drainage Priorities 2022/23

Area 1

- Birchgrove, New Tredegar – Business Justification Case
- Powells Terrace, New Tredegar – Business Justification Case
- Jubilee Road, New Tredegar – Business Justification Case
- Mill Road, Deri – Business Justification Case completed; design & construction to progress (subject to Welsh Government funding allocation – project is on Welsh Government reserve list for 2022/23 funding)
- Fochriw Tip Remediation Scheme – Essential maintenance works on erosion of channels
- Oxford Street, Gelligaer – Feasibility study, options appraisal & design for culvert improvements

Area 2

- R/o 21- 24 Bryn Road, Markham – Business Justification Case
- Sir Ivors Road, Pontllanfraith - Business Justification Case
- Commercial Street (Bridge Vets), Pontllanfraith – renew culvert crossing the road
- Markham to Argoed, Markham - Defective culvert – design only

Area 3

- Lon Y Afon, Penpedairheol – Outline Business Case
- Berllanlwyd House, Llanbradach – Inlet clearance works completed. Clearance of outlet now required.
- Penpedairheol Reservoir, Penpedairheol – fitting of telemetry system; re-establishment of reference levels

Area 4

- Pontbren, Hafodyrynys – Business Justification Case
- Llanover Street & Railway Terrace, Abercarn – Business Justification Case
- Tir Philkins, Woodfieldside - Design and Construction of new access track and repairs to screen

Area 5

- Van Road, Caerphilly – Business Justification Case
- High Street, Trethomas – Design & Construction of headwall and channel improvements
- Gypsy Lane, Caerphilly - Erosion Works phase 2
- Morgan Street, Caerphilly - Erosion works with Structures

Area 6

- Darran Road, Risca – Headwall improvements

Area 7

- Llanfabon Road (Ty Du Road, Pant Du Road), Nelson – upgrade works to highway drainage system
- Station Terrace West UL (upstream of SWC 2.16), Senghenydd – access track regulating to Parc Newydd Farm
- Tredomen Park, Tredomen - Access required to reach outlet @ SWC3.14 including repair to damaged guard rails
- Abertridwr long culvert – Maintenance works and cleansing of culvert

Area 8

- Victoria Road, Fleur-de-lys - Feasibility Study
- High Street, Fleur-de-lys – Feasibility Study
- Ty Glas, Mynyddislwyn – Feasibility study
- Mynyddislwyn – resurfacing & drainage improvement works
- Edwards Street, Ystrad Mynach – Full Business Case
- Central Street, Ystrad Mynach – Business Justification Case
- Nant Cylla, R/O Commercial Street, Ystrad Mynach - Erosion Scheme

Highway Drainage Priorities – 2021/22

Area 1

- Tirphil Square, Tirphil – Water surcharging from gully under retaining wall
- Pontlloftyn Link Road, Pontlloftyn – Reconnect gully to existing system
- Bedllwyn Road, Phillipstown – Investigate & resolve main line issues
- High Street, Troedrhifwch – Install new French drains

Area 2

- Rhosnewydd Terrace, Blackwood – Groundwater issues
- A4049, Pontllanfraith – Investigate and resolve gully issues
- Bird in Hand Public House, Pontllanfraith – Investigation of issues with existing system
- Rock Villas, Blackwood – investigate ponding in kerb line

Area 3

- Leicester Square, Penpedairheol – reconnect gully
- Gilfach Street, Bargoed – Install additional gully and channel drain
- Hillside Park, Bargoed – Dig down to investigate and repair connection between gully and culvert
- Penywrlod, Gelligaer – Install new channel drain

Area 4

- Outside Hafodyrynys Inn – Feasibility study. With Carl Bugler.
- Park Road, Newbridge – CCTV Survey, new connection or repair required to alleviate flooding/ponding on carriageway.
- A472, Newbridge – Dig down investigation and re-connection of gully
- Bryngwyn Road, Newbridge – Install new drainage channels

Area 5

- Rudry Village to Community Centre – Extension of existing channel
- Pontygwindy Road, Caerphilly – Dig down investigation & repair
- Rudry Road, Rudry – Install new drainage channels
- Castle Street, Caerphilly – Investigate possible collapsed drain

Area 6

- Mountain Road, Risca – pipe alterations
- 9 Mile Point Road, Wattsville – maintenance and clearance works
- Crosskeys Link Road, Crosskeys – investigate main line
- Commercial Street, Pontymister – Reinstate gullies damaged by Virgin Media works

Area 7

- Rowan Tree, Nelson – Repair and minor upgrades to culvert
- Cilfynydd Road, Nelson – Repair to edge of carriageway and new headwall
- Heol Fawr, Nelson – Investigate and repair following storm damage
- No.117, Shingrig Rd, Nelson - Footway gully.

Area 8

- A469 outside Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr – Investigation of existing system
- Ynysddu – clear flap valves, channel outlets and stone ditches in various locations
- Hengoed Hall Drive, Hengoed – Install new gullies
- Main Rd, Maesycwmmer – Raise kerb line to alleviate water running down footway following resurfacing works

** The list of priorities is dependent on Budget commitments, funding and realisation of Contract rates once tendered.*

For information:- A business justification case, captures the reasoning for initiating a project or task to Welsh Government. Welsh Government uses this information to ascertain whether future funding from them is appropriate.

Footway Slurry Sealing Sites 2022-2023

Area 1

- Dan Y Graig, Pontlottyn

Area 2

- Coronation Road, Blackwood
- Cefn Road, Blackwood
- Bryn Road, Pontllanfraith

Area 3

- Thomas Street, Aberbargoed
- Ty Fry Road, Aberbargoed
- The Avenue / The Drive, Gilfach
- Llys Cambria, Llanbradach

Area 4

- Parkway, Pen y fan Ind Est.
- Mining School Hill, Newbridge
- North Road, Newbridge
- Gwyddon Road, Abercarn

Area 5

- Vanfield Close, Caerphilly
- Pentrebane Street, Caerphilly
- Tafwys Walk, Caerphilly
- Western Industrial Estate, Caerphilly

Area 6

- Park Place, Risca
- Springfield Road, Risca
- Ffwrn Road, Machen

Area 7

- New Street, Pwll y pant
- Ty Nant, Penyrheol

Area 8

- Bryngwyn Street, Fleur De Lis
- Alexander Road, Ynysddu
- Troedyrhiw, Ystrad Mynach
- Caerphilly Road, Ystrad Mynach

The list of priorities is dependent on Budget commitments and realisation of Contract rates once tendered.

Footway Reconstruction Sites 2022-2023

Area 1

- Chapel Street, New Tredegar
- Station Terrace, Brithdir
- Price Street, Rhymney

Area 2

- Penywerlod Road to Abernant Road, Markham
- Gelli Lane, Pontllanfraith
- Penllwyn Lane, Pontllanfraith
- William Street, Blackwood

Area 3

- Aneurin Bevan Avenue, Gelligaer
- Park Road, Bargoed

Area 4

- Waungoch Road, Oakdale
- Homeleigh, Newbridge
- Pant Farm Close, Pantside
- Lon Maes y Haf, Croespenmaen

Area 5

- Watford Road, Caerphilly
- Coed Yr Eos, Caerphilly
- Bedwas Industrial Estate, Bedwas

Area 6

- Manor Way, Ty-Sign
- Wesley Hill, Machen

Area 7

- Morlais Court, Hendredenny
- Bowls Close, Penyrheol

Area 8

- Warne Street, Fleur de lis
- St Anns Gardens, Maesycwmmer
- Viaduct View, Maesycwmmer
- Lisburn Road, Ystrad Mynach

The list of priorities is dependent on Budget commitments and realisation of Contract rates once tendered.

Structures Priorities 2022/23

All Areas

- Bridge Maintenance
- Retaining Wall Maintenance
- General Bridge Inspections (numerous)

Area 1

- Pen-y-Garreg Overbridge (Arch Bridge) – renewal or strengthening.
- A469 Brithdir Retaining Wall repairs
- A469 Brithdir - support to carriageway
- Troedrhwiwfuwch - Land Slip / Borehole monitoring / ongoing design and procurement of stabilisation works
- School Street - Retaining wall repairs
- Fochriw Riverbridge Parapet - reinstatement
- Hill Street Culvert, Rhymney –Lining
- Dynevor Arms - boundary wall repairs

Area 2

- Rear of Montclair Avenue, Blackwood – Water Course repairs
- Markham Culvert - Investigation works.
- Rock and Fountain, Blackwood - Concrete Repairs.
- Meadow Road Phase 2/3 – Maintenance with renewal in sections.

Area 3

- Penallta Road Bridge upgrading & refurbishment.
- Penallta Link Road Bridge - Special Inspection
- Groesfaen Terrace, Deri – culvert repairs (1A only)
- Bargoed Park - Training Walls
- Bowen Industrial Estate – Culvert renewal
- Rhymney River Bridge- Expansion Joint Replacements
- Trehir Bayley Bridge - Inspection & assessment.
- Angel Way, Bargoed - Principal Inspections
- Factory Road Retaining Wall / Scour repairs

Area 4

- Penmaen Industrial Estate - maintenance works to previous river erosion works on behalf CCBC Parks
- A467, Panside - Footbridge Repairs
- A467 Rock Face Cutting – additional rock netting

Area 5

- Nant Gwaun y Bara Riverbridge - Parapet Replacement
- Gwern y Domen Overbridge - Parapet Replacement
- Crossborder bridges parapet reinstatement – Draethen Riverbridges
- Morgan Street, Caerphilly – underpinning of wall

Area 6

- Pontywaun Footbridge –Structural repairs.
- Hillside, Risca - Retaining Wall repairs
- Waunfawr Park Footbridge - upgrading access ramp.
- Butchers Footbridge Replacement
- Dan-Y-Graig Underbridge – concrete repairs, re-waterproof deck, replace expansion joints, re-surface.
- Rhydygwern Footbridge - Deck Replacement
- Mill Race Footbridge - Deck Replacement
- Rock Overhang, Machen - nailing and netting.

Area 7

- Hendredenny Footbridge – Parapet repair.
- A469 Trecenydd R/A to Pwllpant R/A Footbridges Refurbishment – Wilkins Terrace Footbridge
- Nant y Parc Primary School - Culvert repairs
- Heol Uchaf Retaining Wall, Nelson – Investigation / Maintenance, depending on land ownership.
- Rectory Road Retaining Wall - Investigation / Maintenance depending on ownership of wall.
- Abertridwr Long Culvert- Cleansing programmed.
- Nant Tirmynydd Culvert – Refurbishment to culvert inlet and outlet.
- Gypsy Lane watercourse reinstatement.
- Kingsley Place Footbridge - Deck Replacement
- St Annes Gardens, Abertridwr - Ongoing monitoring of Retaining Wall
- opp Rowan Tree, Caer Rd, Nelson - Culvert 36520 – Refurbishment.
- Brookside Close, Hendredenny - Nant yr Aber River Bank Works.

Area 8

- Ynysddu Allotments - maintenance work to previous river erosion works on behalf CCBC Public Services
- Wyllie South Overbridge – Parapet repair, Maintenance.
- rear of Commercial St., Ystrad Mynach - Nant Cylla Stream Refurbishment
- Penallta Road - Bridge Strengthening
- Ynysddu Hotel - Culvert Investigation

The list of priorities is dependent on Budget commitments and realisation of Contract rates once tendered.

Traffic Regulation Orders 2022-2023

Area 6

1. Risca, Gladstone Street/Cobden Street/Risca Rd - Review of weight limits/signing

Area 5

1. Lane to rear of Bedwas Road, Caerphilly - Remove POD

Various

1. Disabled Persons Parking Places - DPPPs 2022/23
2. Parking Related TROs - Phase 2 - Various locations DYLS

Scheme Related

Ward	Location	Requirement
Morgan Jones	Dol-y-Felin Street	One-way traffic order and physical measures
Nelson	Bwl Road	Review experimental one-way traffic order
Risca West	Church Road	Experimental one-way traffic order
Various	Active Travel Schemes	TBC
Various	Borough Wide	Default 20mph
Various	Pay and Display Car Parks	Tariff changes associated with new charging regime
Blackwood	HGV Cliff Rd business park signing	Direction signs required via SEW
Risca East	Elm Drive	TRO changes to supplement additional on-street parking provision

Works

Ward	Location	Works
Abercarn	Celynen Road, Westend	Enhance school warning sign with yellow backing board
Abercarn	Llanfach Village Hall	Give-way lines at junction
Argoed	Manmoel	No through road sign
Argoed	Hafodrisclawdd Fawr Lane off Manmoel Lane	Horse riders warning signs
Bargoed	Puzzle House junction	Advance weight limit signs
Maesycwmmer	Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr Signals	Yellow box marking
Nelson	Heol Fawr	Junction warning sign - southbound approach to Mountain Way
Pontllanfraith	Penllwyn Roundabout	Additional chevron signs
St James	Cwmnofydd Farm Lane	Chevron signs on bends below Tamplins Farm
St James	Rudry Road	Horse warning signs
St Martins	Bedwas Road / Morrisons, Caerphilly	Yellow box marking
Abercarn	Twyn Road/Llan-fach Road jct, Llanfach	Sat Nav sign
Abercarn	Nantcarn Road, Cwmcarn	Sat Nav sign

Crumlin	Treowen Road, Treowen	No Entry road markings
Pontllanfraith	Upland Road, Pontllanfraith	Sat Nav sign
Ystrad Mynach	Penallta Road (near former pet shop)	Additional one-way signing
Pengam	Oak Terrace Bypass	Pedestrians crossing warning signs/red surfacing
St Martins	Ffordd Traws Cwm	Duck warning signs
St James	Yew Tree Cottage to The Row, Draethen	Horse warning signs
St James	Lansbury Park Distributor Road	Pedestrians crossing warning signs
Pengam	Plas Road/Ivor Street junction, Fleur-de-Lis	Pedestrians in road (on Ivor Street) warning sign
St James	Cwmnofydd Lane between Waterloo and Rudry	Give-way markings
St Martins	Caerphilly Mountain A469	Pedestrians crossing warning signs where public footpaths cross
Abercarn	Marne Street, Cwmcarn	No entry road markings
Abercarn	Twyn Road approaching junction with Cemetery Lane, Abercarn	Junction warning sign
Blackwood	Chartist Bridge roundabouts	Lane arrows on approaches
Cefn Fforest/Pengam	Fair View at jct with Pwll Glas Road	Hazard marker posts
Cefn Fforest/Pengam	Fair View	Playground warning signs
Nelson	Road leading to Tynewydd Cottages, Llanfabon	Road narrows warning sign
Nelson	Outside entrance to Llechwen Hall	Road narrows warning sign
Morgan Jones	Crescent Road, Caerphilly	Duck warning signs
Newbridge	Old Pant Road, Panside	Chevrons on bend
Pengam	Islwyn Close, Pengam	Access protection marking
Penmaen	Oakdale Terrace/Penmaen estate, Oakdale	Junction warning signs
Risca West	A467 Ochwryth Roundabout	Additional 'sat nav' signage
BTM	Oakfield Gardens, Machen	Give-way markings

Projects

Location and Requests

Borough wide	Feasibility study for camera car (for enforcement of parking restrictions)
Borough Wide	Pavement parking - Review and progress WG-led initiative
Borough wide	Residents Parking Scheme - Policy and scheme review
Borough wide	EV Charging infrastructure and network delivery

APPENDIX 8

Highway Inspection Areas 2021

Area, Inspector, Telephone

- 1, Darren Jones, 01495 235704
- 2, Garryn Skrine, 07786 730947
- 3, Darren Bilton, 01495 235757
- 4, Nichola Tiley, 01495 235757
- 5, Carl Bates, 07768 701094
- 6, Paul Hamer, 01495 235771
- 7, Julie Gambold, 01495 235757
- 8, David Price, 01495 235733



Defect Intervention Levels

Safety Defect Rating System

Category	Inspection Interval	Defects Definition
Carriageways	Safety	Tripping Hazards
2. Strategic Routes ('A' Roads) 3(a). Main Distributor ('B' Roads)	3 months	40 mm
3(b). Secondary Distributor 4(a). Link Roads 4(b). Local Access Roads/Rear Lanes	6 months	50 mm
Footways/Cycleways		Tripping Hazards (inc. Protrusions)
1&1a. Prestige & Primary Walking Zones	1 month	20 mm
2. Secondary Walking Route	3 months	40 mm
3. Link Footway and Cycleways remote from carriageway 4. Local Access Footway	6 months	40 mm
C. Cycle Trails	1 year	40mm

GENERAL – other 'emergency' safety defects (not exhaustive)

Missing covers – manholes, inspection chambers, gullies, stop taps etc.;

- Lighting columns/illuminated signs – missing door/exposed electrical cables;
- Unsafe roadwork's sites;
- Recently damaged safety barrier systems;
- Traffic Signals – complete failure;
- Missing slabs/kerbs;
- Obstructions including major c/way flooding
- Obstructions including major c/way flooding



ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – FOR INFORMATION

**SUBJECT: REVENUE BUDGET 2022/2023 - ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT
DIRECTORATE**

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to Members on the revenue budget for 2022/2023 for the Economy and Environment Directorate, including Regeneration & Planning Division, Infrastructure Division, Public Protection Division and Community & Leisure Services Division.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report summarises the revenue budget for the above services for the financial year 2022/2023.
- 2.2 Budget monitoring reports will be prepared throughout the financial year to ensure that Members are updated on projected spend against budgets.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee Members are requested to note the contents of this report and the budget summary pages that follow in respect of the Infrastructure Services Division, Public Protection Division, and the Community & Leisure Services Division, which all fall within the remit of the Committee.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the Scrutiny Committee is provided with full details of the 2022/2023 revenue budgets for the Economy and Environment Directorate, including Regeneration & Planning Division, which falls outside the remit of this Scrutiny.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 The Welsh Government's Revenue Support Grant (RSG) for Caerphilly CBC for the 2022/2023 financial year is a net cash increase of £25.1 m (8.5%) after adjusting for changes in the Council Tax base.

- 5.1.2 Specific grants transferred into the Settlement for Caerphilly CBC were £297k, which related to Social Care Workforce & Sustainability Grant. These have been passported into the Social Services Budget.
- 5.1.3 Members will recall that due to the increase in the Financial Settlement and the approved uplift in Council Tax of 1.9%, there were no additional savings required for the 2022/2023 financial year to deliver a balanced budget.
- 5.1.4 The approved 2022/2023 budgets for the Economy and Environment Directorate include a number of budgetary changes agreed by Council, which are summarised in the table in paragraph 5.1.8 below and incorporated into the budget pages attached as appendices 1a to 1c.
- 5.1.5 Additional budget of £1.710m has been allocated to the Directorate revenue budgets for inescapable cost pressures in relation to Superannuation (1%), National Insurance Increases (1.25%), non- pay inflation (4%), Fees and Charges (4%) and the Living Wage.
- 5.1.6 Budget growth of £1.649m has been provided to the Economy and Environment Directorate. The Regeneration & Planning Division has received £175k for additional staff. The Infrastructure Division has received £463k in respect of additional staffing requirements and a transfer into Home to School Transport Services of £93k. The Community & Leisure Services Division has received £253k in relation to the review of Fleet Services Section and an additional post in Leisure together with additional costs for weed spraying (Parks). Public Protection Division has received £607k for additional staff. The Director Section has received £58k for unbudgeted Audit and Bank Charges.
- 5.1.7 There were no savings applied to the budget to support the Council's financial position in 2022/2023.
- 5.1.8 Table 1 also summarises other general budget adjustments including transfers in relation to service realignment. Overall, the Economy and Environment Directorate net controllable budget for 2022/2023 has increased by £3.359 million compared to 2021/2022, increasing from £54,278million to £57,607million.

TABLE 1	INFRASTRUCTURE	REGENERATION & PLANNING	COMMUNITY & LEISURE	PUBLIC PROTECTION	DIRECTOR	Total
	£	£	£		£	£
Revised Budget 2020-21	20,821.00	2,940.00	22,644.00	7,693.00	180.00	54,278.00
						0.00
Superannuation Increase (1%)	58.00	35.00	168.00	77.00	1.00	339.00
National Insurance Increase (1.25%)	72.00	44.00	212.00	96.00	2.00	426.00
Living Wage	0.00	1.00	115.00	60.00	18.00	194.00
Non - Pay Inflation (4.0%)	628.00	127.00	380.00	120.00	0.00	1,255.00
Fees & Charges (4.0%)	(76.00)	(160.00)	(248.00)	(22.00)	0.00	(506.00)
Growth Service Pressures	463.00	175.00	253.00	607.00	58.00	1,556.00
Home to School Transport	93.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	93.00
Joint Use Recharge	0.00	0.00	(28.00)	0.00	0.00	(28.00)
						0.00
Budget 2021-22	22,059.00	3,162.00	23,496.00	8,631.00	259.00	57,607.00

5.2 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

- 5.2.1 The Infrastructure Service Division received additional 2022/2023 budget of £682k for inescapable cost pressures along with budget growth for Home to School Transport (£93k), transferred from Education along with £463k budget growth. The budget growth items relate to: -
- £228k additional staffing capacity in the SuDs Approving body (SAB)/Drainage Team
 - £90k additional staffing Traffic Management

- £65k additional cost to maintain 3 full-time gully machines.
- £45K increase in energy costs for Street-lighting.
- £35k to support Remembrance Day events.

5.2.2 The Infrastructure Division budget for 2022/2023 includes ring-fenced budgets in relation to Home to School transport (£8,332million) and Social Services transport (£1.626million), which represent circa 45% of the overall Infrastructure budget. Any year-end budget over or under spends in relation to these specific services will be identified separately and transferred back to the Education Directorate and Social Services Directorate respectively.

5.3 COMMUNITY & LEISURE SERVICES

5.3.1 The Division has received additional budget to fund inescapable cost pressures of £628k and budget growth of £253k. The budget growth items relate to: -

- £60k to cover the contractual price increases of Project Gwyrd.
- £110k additional staffing capacity to meet demands within Fleet management.
- £40k to cover an additional weed spray per year.
- £42k for a Play Sufficiency Officer.

5.4 PUBLIC PROTECTION

5.4.1 The Division has received additional budget of £332k for inescapable cost pressures along with £607k budget growth. The budget growth items relate to: -

- £33k for an additional Licencing Officer
- £85k for 2 additional Fair-Trading Officers
- £105k for 2 additional Environmental Health Officers
- £38k for a Secretary post.
- £113k for 3 additional officer posts within Enforcement.
- £133k for 4 additional Community Safety Wardens.
- £47k for a additional Community Safety Officer.
- £53k for a Senior Emergency Planning Officer.

5.5 CONCLUSION

5.5.1 The Economy and Environment Directorate provides a diverse range of services as outlined in the report and appendices. The report notes that the services face significant ongoing financial pressures and budgetary growth has been allocated in a number of areas.

5.5.2 For the 2022/2023 financial year, the Covid-19 pandemic will continue to have an impact on the financial position of many services in the Economy and Environment Directorate. The Welsh Government has stopped providing support via the Covid-19 Hardship Fund.

5.5.3 All growth items were agreed as part of the Council budget report of 24th February 2022.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 All assumptions linked to the Authority's budget strategy for financial year 2022/2023 are detailed in the Report agreed by Council on 24th February 2022.

6.2 A range of other assumptions have been made in setting the Authority's budget, this is in respect of pay and non-pay inflationary increases and inescapable service pressures.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 An IIA is not necessary for this Information Only Report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 As identified throughout the report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Included in the Service Division budget savings summarised in the report are savings in relation to staff restructures and vacancy management, these will be managed in accordance with HR policies.

10. CONSULTATIONS

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

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2003 and the Council's Financial Regulations.

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Consultees

Councillor D.T Davies Chair Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee
 Councillor A Hussey Vice Chair Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee
 Christina HARRY, Chief Executive
 Mark S Williams, Corporate Director for Economy & Environment
 Robert Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community & Leisure Services
 Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning
 Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure
 Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer
 Jane Southcombe, Education Financial Services Manager
 Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning & Strategy
 Paul Adams, Senior Assistant Accountant
 Mike Jones, Financial Services Manager Social Services
 Cllr N. George, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Property
 Cllr J. Simmonds, Cabinet Member for Highways & Transportation
 Cllr C. Morgan, Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure & Green Spaces
 Cllr P Leonard, Cabinet Member for Planning & Public Protection
 Cllr C Andrews, Cabinet Member for Education & Communities

Background Papers:

Divisional budget papers 2022/2023

[Minutes Council Meeting 24/02/2022: Budget Proposals 2022/2023 and Medium- Term Financial Outlook](#)

Appendices:

Appendix 1A Budget Monitoring Report - Infrastructure Services Division
 Appendix 1B Budget Monitoring Report - Public Protection Division
 Appendix 1C Budget Monitoring Report - Community and Leisure Services

<i>Economy and Environment Directorate</i>	Page No	Estimate 2021/22	Revised Estimate 2021/22	Budget 2022/23
<u>INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES DIVISION</u>				
<i>HIGHWAY SERVICES</i>		9,225,831	9,246,618	9,973,586
ENGINEERING PROJECTS GROUP		(93,085)	(71,707)	(103,661)
<i>TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING</i>		516,492	539,156	651,818 0
PASSENGER TRANSPORT		1,665,286	1,671,184	1,702,711
HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT		7,923,081	7,926,589	8,332,247
<i>SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORT</i>		1,564,373	1,534,430	1,625,981
NETWORK CONTRACTING SERVICES		(127,514)	(85,249)	(144,195)
<i>INFRASTRUCTURE - GENERAL</i>		19,482	19,482	20,262
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE		20,693,946	20,780,503	22,058,749

<i>Economy and Environment Directorate</i>	Page No	Estimate 2021/22	Revised Estimate 2021/22	Estimate 2022/23
<u>PUBLIC PROTECTION DIVISION</u>				
TRADING STANDARDS		773,421	786,017	885,275
LICENSING		98,218	104,867	145,909
REGISTRARS		54,532	59,596	65,411
CCTV		423,218	430,573	440,532
CORPORATE AND DEMOCRATIC COSTS (CDC)		57,633	58,525	78,321
COMMUNITY WARDENS		232,077	235,650	373,220
HEALTH DIVISIONAL BUDGET		295,082	299,261	323,634
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP		47,865	49,453	99,862
ENFORCEMENT		663,822	673,791	801,220
POLLUTION		402,007	406,989	416,513
FOOD TEAM		639,679	650,137	767,899
<i>Earmarked Reserve For EHO</i>		(50,946)	(50,946)	(52,728)
EMERGENCY PLANNING		106,705	108,396	163,043
CATERING		3,799,763	3,880,529	4,151,994
<i>Approved Use of Reserves -Cashless Catering Officer</i>				(29,489)
<i>Approved Use of Reserves - Cashless Catering System</i>				
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE		7,543,076	7,692,838	8,630,616

<i>Economy and Environment Directorate</i>	Page No	Estimate 2021/22	Revised Estimate 2021/22	Estimate 2022/23
<u>COMMUNITY & LEISURE SERVICES</u>				
WASTE MANAGEMENT				
<i>Residual Waste</i>		2,676,976	2,685,854	2,836,125
<i>Organics recycling</i>		1,232,664	1,246,154	790,475
<i>Civic Amenity Sites</i>		3,015,585	3,037,350	3,324,296
<i>Waste Transfer Station</i>		119,329	119,863	135,891
<i>Dry Recycling</i>		2,539,307	2,556,598	2,657,477
<i>RCCO</i>		77,933	77,933	77,933
<i>Bulky Waste</i>		133,874	134,742	145,619
<i>Commercial Waste</i>		(351,696)	(349,069)	(348,867)
<i>Other Waste</i>		23,322	23,322	23,149
<i>Treher</i>		132,437	132,437	135,500
<i>Sustainable Waste Management Grant</i>		(849,804)	(849,804)	(849,804)
<i>HQ Staff</i>		1,248,937	1,265,998	1,372,169
CLEANSING				
<i>Street Cleansing</i>		4,284,763	4,335,630	4,654,069
GROUND MAINTENANCE AND PARKS				
<i>Cemeteries</i>		(202,692)	(196,959)	(202,695)
<i>Allotments</i>		38,088	38,088	39,612
<i>Parks and Playing Fields</i>		1,778,529	1,810,949	1,887,049
<i>Playgrounds</i>		278,610	280,105	289,057
<i>Outdoor facilities</i>		238,864	241,129	247,812
<i>Countryside</i>		951,755	973,787	995,092
<i>HQ Staffing</i>		1,002,709	1,003,882	1,002,761
LEISURE SERVICES				
<i>Leisure Centres</i>		2,966,166	3,035,709	3,089,138
<i>Sports & Health Development</i>		21,875	22,594	24,368
<i>Outdoor Education</i>		249,038	258,132	255,732
<i>Community Centres</i>		361,758	367,173	375,317
		21,968,327	22,251,597	22,957,275
<i>Building Cleaning</i>		594,603	661,727	722,058
<i>Vehicle Maintenance & Fleet Management</i>		(278,651)	(268,988)	(183,481)
Total net expenditure Community & Leisure Services		22,284,279	22,644,336	23,495,852



ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – FOR INFORMATION

SUBJECT: ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT REVENUE GRANTS 2022/2023

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to Members relating to revenue grants for 2022/2023 for Economy and Environment Directorate.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides details of the 2022/2023 revenue grant funding for Economy and Environment Directorate. The report excludes grant funded schemes where CCBC merely act as banker for Partnership schemes. During the financial year further grants are often made available subject to new funding being identified and successful outcomes to bids.
- 2.2 The report is provided to ensure that Members are aware of grants and their intended purpose. Further details of individual grants can be made available to Members if requested.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee Members are requested to note the contents of this report and the summary grant pages that follow in respect of Infrastructure Services Division, Public Protection Division and Community & Leisure Services Division, which all fall within the remit of this Scrutiny.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To inform Members of the 2022/2023 revenue grant funding position for Economy and Environment Directorate.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The attached appendix provides summary details of revenue grants currently available to the Directorate in 2022/2023. It includes a list of the grants, the grant

funding bodies, the value of the grant, a brief description of the purpose of the funding, together with details of the responsible officer. As highlighted in the appendix, there is a diverse range of grants available to the Authority.

5.2 Grants will have an agreed set of terms and conditions, covering the type of initiatives and expenditure that will be funded, the methods for submitting grant claims and documentary evidence required in support of the claims. The grant funding body will request information to satisfy itself that the grant monies have been spent in accordance with its terms and conditions. Expenditure in respect of some grants is subject to an external audit.

5.3 Where required, external audit would assess expenditure against the terms and conditions of the grant and this assessment would normally comprise a random sample of spend, followed by an in-depth scrutiny of the sampled items. This could involve ensuring proper procurement processes have been adhered to, and/or assets purchased have been located, along with the confirmation that spend complies with the conditions of the grant. The External Auditors produce a report annually summarising any issues that have come to light during their audit of the Authority's grants.

5.4 **CONCLUSION**

External grant funding is very important in helping the Authority deliver some key services and appendix 1 summarises the revenue grants for 2022/2023 and the service areas they support. It is important that services receiving grant adhere to any specific terms and conditions linked to the grant and ensure financial processes and procedures are in place in relation to expenditure incurred and grant claims produced.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 There are no assumptions in this report.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 An IIA is not necessary for this Information Only Report.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Grant funding for service initiatives and schemes can change from year to year and uncertainty of funding or reductions in funding needs to be considered and managed, including implications for future service provision, employment implications, possible redundancy costs and alternative funding streams.

8.2 Expenditure must comply with the grant terms and conditions, and/or bids. Failure to comply may result in a qualification of the grant by the External Auditors, which could result in the clawback of the grant funding.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Grant funded services provide employment opportunities within the Authority and loss of or reduced grant provision can sometimes impact on employment and possible redundancy.

10. CONSULTATIONS

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

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Act 1972 and 2003 and the Council's Financial Regulations.

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Consultees:

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Cllr A Hussey Vice Chair Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee
Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive
Mark S Williams, Corporate Director for Economy & Environment
Robert Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community & Leisure Services
Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning
Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure
Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer
Jane Southcombe, Education Financial Services Manager
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning & Strategy
Paul Adams, Senior Assistant Accountant
Mike Jones, Financial Services Manager Social Services
Cllr N. George, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Property
Cllr J. Simmonds, Cabinet Member for Highways & Transportation
Cllr C. Morgan, Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure & Green Spaces
Cllr P Leonard, Cabinet Member for Planning & Public Protection
Cllr C Andrews, Cabinet Member for Education & Communities

Background Papers:
Grant Allocation Reports 2022/2023

Appendices:
Appendix 1 Schedule of Economy and Environment Directorate Grants 2022/2023

Appendix 1 - Schedule of Economy & Environment Directorate Revenue Grant Funding for 2022-23

Grant	Funding Body	Grant Funding 2022/2023	Grant Funding 2021/2022	Matched Funding	Division	Lead Officer	Purpose of Grant	Subject to Audit
Rural Development Plan (RDP) 2014-2020	EU funding via Welsh Government (WG)	£0	£354,000	Yes	Community & Leisure - Countryside	RDP Delivery Manager	Regeneration Initiatives in rural areas through community engagement and development.	Yes
Aberbargoed Grasslands SSSI	National Resources Wales (NRW)	£0	TBC awaiting details from Countryside Manager	No	Community & Leisure - Countryside	Countryside Manager	To part fund the Aberbargoed Grasslands SSSI	No
Agriculture & Farming - Ynys Hywel Farm	Welsh Government (WG)	£0	TBC awaiting details from Countryside Manager	No	Community & Leisure - Countryside	Countryside Manager	To part fund / subsidise farming activities at Ynys Hywel Farm	No
ENRaW Resilient Greater Gwent Project Delivery (Blaenau Gwent Lead Partner)	Funding vis Blaenau Gwent	£5,969	£0	No	Community & Leisure - Countryside	Countryside Manager	Nature Officer	No
Allotment	Welsh Government (WG)	£38,059	£38,059	No	Community & Leisure - Countryside	Countryside Manager	To bring back vacant plots and security	No
Local Sport Plan	Sport Wales (SW)	£566,295	£566,275	No	Community & Leisure - Sports Development	Sports & Leisure Development Manager	Support the development of physical activities in CCBC	No
60Plus Activity	Sport Wales (SW)	£37,335	£26,241	No	Community & Leisure - Sports Development	Sports & Leisure Development Manager	Support the development of physical activities in CCBC.	No
National Exercise Referral Scheme	Public Health Wales	£138,600	£138,600	No	Community & Leisure - Sports Development	Sports & Leisure Development Manager	Provide exercise schemes to support over 16's at risk of chronic disease	No
Disability Sports Grant	Federation of Disability Sports Wales (FDSW)	£20,698	£20,698	No	Community & Leisure - Sports Development	Sports & Leisure Development Manager	Provision of sport activities for people with disabilities	No
Sustainable Waste Management Grant	Welsh Government (WG)	Value TBC from WG	£833,848	No	Community & Leisure - Waste Management & Cleaning	Waste Strategy & Operations Manager	Waste Resource Management including resource efficiency through waste prevention, recycling and landfill diversion.	Yes
Caru Cymru Partnership	Welsh Government (WG)	£37,500	£30,000	No	Community & Leisure - Waste Management & Cleaning	Special Projects Officer	Caring for the Environment and Keeps Wales Tidy initiatives. Funding via Caru Cymru	Yes
Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant	Welsh Government (WG)	£225,000	£105,000	No	Infrastructure	Senior Engineer Corporate Land Drainage	Flood alleviation initiatives	No
Road Safety Revenue Grant	Welsh Government (WG)	£82,800	£77,800	No	Infrastructure	Transport Engineering Manager	Provision of 4 Road Safety activities comprising of Kerb craft, National Standards Cycle Training, Pass Plus Cymru & Megadrive.	No
Bus Services Support Grant	Welsh Government (WG)	£427,454	£427,454	No	Infrastructure	Principal Passenger Transport Officer	To support Local and Rural Bus Services with a minimum requirement for Community Transport. This is a WG funded grant but is claimed via Monmouthshire CC who are the lead Authority.	Yes

Grant	Funding Body	Grant Funding 2022/2023	Grant Funding 2021/2022	Matched Funding	Division	Lead Officer	Purpose of Grant	Subject to Audit
Concessionary Fares Grant	Welsh Government (WG)	£4,062,202	£3,386,000	No	Infrastructure	Principal Passenger Transport Officer	To pay towards the Concessionary Fares Scheme operated by WG via each Local Authority and its Bus Service Contracts. Figure is indicative only and paid on actual basis plus administration less £934,000 CCBC contribution. Also this mechanism may be changing in the future on how grant is administered, claimed & paid	Yes
Bus Service Operators Grant (Connect 2)	Welsh Government (WG)	£10,000	£10,000	No	Infrastructure	Principal Passenger Transport Officer	To pay towards Bus Service Operators Costs and based on kilometre's travelled. This is a WG funded grant but is claimed via Monmouthshire CC the lead Authority. Figure is indicative only and are normally paid on actual mileage travelled but 21/22 is based on 19/20 figures due to Covid-19	No
Bus Service Operators Grant (Social Services Transport)	Welsh Government (WG)	£45,000	£45,000	No	Infrastructure	Principal Passenger Transport Officer	To pay towards Bus Service Operators Costs and based on kilometre's travelled. This is a WG funded grant but is claimed via Monmouthshire CC the lead Authority. Figure is indicative only and are normally paid on actual mileage travelled but 21/22 is based on 19/20 figures due to Covid-19	No
Children & Communities Grant	Welsh Government (WG)	£292,256	£248,240	No	Public Protection - Community Safety	Community Safety Manager	Children & Communities Grant (CCG) which incorporates Promoting Public Engagement together with 9 other grants into one funding allocation. Overall Allocation is £11,439,008	Yes
Child Burial & Cremations & Additional Financial Support Grant	Welsh Government (WG)	£37,938	£39,937	No	Public Protection - Community Safety	Green Spaces & Transport Services Manager	Child burial & cremation fees	No
Community Safety Grant	Police and Crime Commissioner via Torfaen CBC	£61,035	£61,035	No	Public Protection - Community Safety	Community Safety Manager	Part funds staff involved in anti-social behaviour case management	No
Arts Council for Wales (ACW) Revenue Grant	Arts Council for Wales (ACW)	£130,798	£130,798	No	Regeneration & Planning	Destination & Events Manager	Development of arts provision in CCBC via the Blackwood Miners Institute (BMI)	Yes
Children & Communities Grant	Welsh Government (WG)	£840,256	£819,003	No	Regeneration & Planning - Community Regeneration	Community Regeneration Manager	Children & Communities Grant (CCG) which incorporates C4W+ together with 9 other grants into one funding allocation. Overall Allocation is £11,439,008	Yes
C4WPlus Additional Grant (funded via Young Person's Guarantee for 2022-23)	Welsh Government (WG)	£558,568	£412,399	No	Regeneration & Planning - Community Regeneration	Community Regeneration Manager	Additional Grant from WG to support C4W+ .	Yes
C4W (Communities For Work)	EU funding via Welsh Government (WG)	£500,808	£603,010	No	Regeneration & Planning - Community Regeneration	Community Regeneration Manager	As compensation for services in relation to the C4W programme in each Cluster	Yes
SCHOOL MILK	EU funding & Welsh Government (WG) & Health	£292,900	£292,900	NO	Public Protection	Catering Manager	Grant value approximate as based on milk uptake, also varies according to exchange rate	No
Total: -		£8,411,472	£8,666,297					



ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – FOR INFORMATION

SUBJECT: ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT 2022/2023 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (PERIOD 3)

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of projected revenue expenditure for the Economy & Environment Directorate for the 2022/2023 financial year. Service Divisions include Regeneration & Planning Division, Infrastructure Services Division, Public Protection Division and Community & Leisure Services Division.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report summarises the most recent budget monitoring projections for 2022/2023 based on the latest available financial information.
- 2.2 The attached appendices outline more detailed budget monitoring figures for each of the Council Fund Services outlined in paragraph 1.1 above that fall within the remit of this Scrutiny.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee Members are requested to note the contents of this report and the detailed budget monitoring pages that follow in respect of the Infrastructure Services Division, Public Protection Division and Community & Leisure Services Division which all fall within the remit of this Scrutiny.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Council Budget is based on the achievement of both expenditure and income targets. To ensure that these are met, and the Council's financial integrity is maintained Directors are required to review income and expenditure trends.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 The report outlines the revenue budget position for each of the service Divisions that form part of the Economy & Environment Directorate based on the most current financial information available. Projected outturn figures for the financial year are compared with

the budget to show the anticipated under/overspends. More detailed budget monitoring figures are shown in the appendices 1A to 1C.

- 5.1.2 The table 1 below summarises the present budget monitoring position, with an overall Directorate underspend of £491k, but exclusive of ring-fenced budgets is projecting an underspend of £369k. Appendices 1A to 1C provide more detail on the budget variation projections for each Service Division, that falls within the remit of this Scrutiny.

TABLE 1	Estimate 2022/23	Revised Estimate 2022/2023	Outturn 2022/2023	Variance 2022/2023
Regeneration & Planning Division	3,163	3,163	2,860	303
Infrastructure Division	22,059	22,231	21,807	423
Public Protection Division	8,631	8,631	8,438	193
Community & Leisure Services Division	23,496	23,496	23,923	(428)
Directorate General	259	259	259	0
NET DIRECTORATE	57,608	57,780	57,287	491
Home to School Transport - ring fenced under spend				(28)
Social Services Transport – ring fenced under spend				252
Cemeteries Task & Finish – ring fenced under spend				(102)
NET DIRECTORATE over spend (excluding ring fenced budgets)				369

5.2 INFRASTRUCTURE DIVISION

- 5.2.1 Infrastructure is overall reporting a net underspend of £199k, after excluding budget variations in relation to Home to School Transport (£28k overspend) and Social Services Transport (£252k under spend) which will be ring fenced and appropriated back to the Service Directorates, this also accounts for the agreed use of the Covid reserve to fund Car Park income loss to September 2022.
- 5.2.2 Highway Services is reporting an underspend of £135k. The main variances are:
- Due to delays in filling vacant posts.
 - At present winter maintenance costs are difficult to predict but it is assumed the full budget of £1.16 million) will be spent.
- 5.2.3 EPG (Engineering Projects Group) is reporting underspend of £1k.
- 5.2.4 Transportation Engineering overall is projecting a small net overspend of £48k after adjusting for the agreed use of the Covid 19 reserve to fund the Car Park income to September. Included, subject to cabinets agreement, £171k as loss of income of implementing the proposals of the Task and Finish Group, supported by the Joint Scrutiny from October to March 2023. The main reason for variances is reduced income levels.
- 5.2.5 Passenger Transport is reporting an underspend of £102k, this is due in the main to reduced salary costs.
- 5.2.6 At this stage Network Contracting Services (NCS) is anticipating an underspend of £2k due in the main to additional income, this will be monitored closely during the year.
- 5.2.7 Home to School Transport is presently projecting net overspend of £28k on a £8.5M budget, after the in year virement of £172k, in the main due to additional contractor costs.

5.2.8 Social Services Transport is projecting under spend of £252k including £103k on salaries, £149k for service operators. There is risk of operator failure leading to increased cost in future although this is partly an in-house operator function rather than private contractor.

5.3 PUBLIC PROTECTION

5.3.1 Public Protection is presently projecting underspend of £193k on their overall revenue budget details below.

5.3.2 Environmental Health is currently projecting a net underspend of £271k. The main variances are: -

- Community Safety Wardens is forecasting an underspend of £123k due in the main to delays in filling vacant posts.
- Health Division is predicting an underspend of £34k due in the main to reduced staff cost.
- Community Safety Partnership is predicting a small underspend of £10k due to delays in filling a vacant post.
- Enforcement is forecasting an underspend of £33k mainly due to reduced travel, vehicle and external agency costs, partially offset by reduced income/fees.
- Pollution Control are predicting a net underspend of £57k partly due to vacant posts, but primarily due to grant received from WG to fund staffing costs linked to Hafodyrynys. At this stage it is unlikely this will be required to fund any shortfall in the purchase/compensation Capital grant received from WG to fund the acquisition and payment of compensation for the houses at Hafodyrynys, as this was practically completed in 2020/21. Hafodyrynys Compensation/Acquisition has been funded by a ring-fenced reserve of £268k (from prior to 2020/21 grant) and an RCCO in 2020/21 of £34k (from 2020/21 grant). There are also a number of other ongoing issues in respect of air quality, pollution, and contaminated land and these are being closely monitored as any increases in this area would impact on the overall financial position.
- Food Team is predicting a small net overspend of £15k after taking into account the use of reserves.
- Emergency Planning is predicting a £25k underspend due in the main to a delay in filling a vacant post.

5.3.3 Trading Standards (including Corporate and Democratic Services costs) are projecting a net £13k (Trading Standards & Corporate and Democratic Services costs) underspend due in the main to delays in filling vacant posts and staff not at the top of the incremental scale.

5.3.4 Licensing are projecting a breakeven position. The income levels are volatile and will be monitored during the course of the year.

5.3.5 Registrars are projecting a £29k underspend mainly due to an upturn in income more than offsetting increased costs.

5.3.6 CCTV services are projecting a slight overspend of £2k with salary and line rental underspends offsetting additional infrastructure cost.

5.3.7 Catering Services are projecting a net overspend of £118k. The underspend is due in the main to reduced income levels offset by salary underspends due to delays in filling vacant posts and reduced supplies and services. This is after adjusting for the agreed use of reserves for the Cashless Catering Invoicing post. The income will be monitored during the year especially as WG committed to a phased role out of FSM for all Primary pupils.

5.4 COMMUNITY & LEISURE SERVICES

- 5.4.1 The Community & Leisure Division is presently projecting overall a net overspend of £428k, this overspend is noted below.
- 5.4.2 Waste Management is overall presently reporting an overspend of £546k on a £10m budget due in the main to:-
- Residual Waste is projecting an overspend of £242k due in the main to additional vehicles costs, increased costs of waste treatments (£126K) and savings on staff costs.
 - Organic recycling is projecting a £77k underspend due to salary savings on vacant posts, reduced vehicle costs together with savings on contractor payments for treatment costs.
 - CA sites are projecting a £367k overspend due in the main to the additional wood treatment costs.
 - Waste Transfer Station is projecting a £26k overspend due in the main to increased transport costs.
 - Dry Recycling is forecasting a £453k overspend due in the main to increased tonnage costs (£333k) along with vehicle costs (£187k) due to additional hire costs, vehicle repairs and fuel costs. These have been partially offset with some savings on staffing and non-salary related costs.
 - RCCO (revenue contribution to capital outlay) is forecast to be £81k underspend due to no anticipated expenditure on vehicle acquisitions.
 - Bulky Waste is projecting a £18k underspend due to lower tonnages being sent to the contractor.
 - Commercial Waste is projecting a £99k underspend due in the main to overachievement of income.
 - Other Waste is projecting a £23k underspend due a costs being lower than earlier predictions.
 - Trehir is projecting a £77k underspend due to reduced maintenance costs and a reduction in sewage charges.
 - Sustainable Waste Management Grant (SWMG) from WG is showing a breakeven position at present.
 - HQ staff predicted an underspend of £166k which is due in the main to a vacant posts.
- 5.4.3 Cleansing Services is overall presently reporting an underspend of £19k. This is due in the main to a combination of staff vacant posts offset by additional agency costs and disposal costs.
- 5.4.4 An overspend of £45k is projected for Parks & Countryside, Outdoor Facilities and Cemeteries.
- Cemeteries is reporting a £102k overspend, this overspend in the main is due to increased contractor and agency costs and reduced income levels offset by some salary savings and non salary related costs. Any overspend in relation to cemeteries is ring fenced and will be funded by the ringfenced reserve.
 - Parks, are projecting a net £175k overspend after taking into account the use of agreed reserves to fund "Ash-Die Back" and Cleaner Greener Schemes. This overspend in due in the main to reduced income levels offset by salary savings and some non-salary related savings.
 - Allotments are projecting a small underspend of £19k, due in the main to small savings on salaries and contractor payments.
 - Playgrounds are reporting a £28k underspend due in the main to salary savings.
 - Outdoor facilities are reporting £55K overspend in the main due to increased utility costs, reduced income levels partially offset by savings on salaries.
 - Countryside is reporting an underspend of £67k in the main due to staff vacancies and private contractor costs offset by reduced income levels.
 - HQ is projecting an underspend of £72k primarily due to savings on salary costs and non-salary related expenditure, mainly transport costs.

- 5.4.5 Leisure Centres are reporting overspend of £157k. The main reasons for this are the increased utility costs in running the centres and the loss of income from the use of Pontllanfraith LC as a mass vaccination centre, there are ongoing discussions as to the funding of income. This is after taking into account of the agreed use of the ringfenced reserve for the replacement seats in the Centre of Sporting Excellence.
- 5.4.6 Community Centres are at present projecting a breakeven position with any reductions in operating costs they hope to utilise to bring forward maintenance on these buildings.
- 5.4.7 Caerphilly Adventures is reporting an underspend of £1k.
- 5.4.8 Sports Development is projecting a breakeven position.
- 5.4.9 Vehicle Maintenance & Fleet Management is currently projecting underspend of £271k, primarily due to a staff vacancies within the workshop. The outturn position will be dependent on the value of work through the workshop over the next few months and the ability to finance fixed overheads.
- 5.4.10 Building Cleaning is at present reporting underspend of £29k. The underspend in the main is due to increased income levels.

5.5 Conclusion

- 5.5.1 Members are advised that Economy & Environment Directorate provides a very diverse range of front-line services to residents and businesses. The overall Directorate has a budget totalling £57.780m after the in-year virement, with a projected net underspend of £369k. The operational managers will endeavour to ensure that service net expenditure does not exceed the budget available.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 Assumptions linked to this report were detailed in the budget report to Council on 24th February 2022.
- 6.2 The projected outturn position is based on actual income and expenditure details to the end of June 2022.
- 6.3 Forecasts have been made following discussions with Managers based on current information available.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An IIA is not necessary for this Information Only Report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 As detailed throughout the report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

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

11. STATUTORY POWER.

11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2003 and the Council's Financial Regulations.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1A Budget Monitoring Report - Infrastructure Services Division
 Appendix 1B Budget Monitoring Report - Public Protection Division
 Appendix 1C Budget Monitoring Report - Community and Leisure Services

Background Papers:

[Council \(24/02/22\) – Budget Proposals for 2022/2023 and Medium-Term Financial Outlook](#)

Economy and Environment Directorate	Page No	Estimate 2022/2023	Revised Estimate 2022/2023	Outturn 2022/2023	Variance 2022/2023
<i>INFRASTRUCTURE DIVISION</i>					
<i>HIGHWAY SERVICES</i>		9,973,586	9,973,586	9,837,981	135,605
ENGINEERING PROJECTS GROUP		(103,661)	(103,661)	(104,593)	932
<i>TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING</i>		651,818	651,818	1,170,340	(518,522)
Agreed Use of Covid 19 Reserve to fund Car Park income		0	0	(300,000)	300,000
Proposed Use of Reserves		0	0	(171,000)	171,000
PASSENGER TRANSPORT		1,702,711	1,702,711	1,600,033	102,678
HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT		8,332,247	8,504,247	8,532,136	(27,889)
<i>SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORT</i>		1,583,356	1,583,356	1,331,165	252,191
<i>Agreed RCCO - Vehicle</i>		42,625	42,625	42,625	0
NETWORK CONTRACTING SERVICES		(144,195)	(144,195)	(146,567)	2,372
<i>ENGINEERING - GENERAL</i>		20,262	20,262	15,208	5,055
<i>TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE</i>		22,058,749	22,230,749	21,807,327.42	423,422

Economy and Environment Directorate	Page No	Estimate 2022/2023	Revised Estimate 2022/2023	Outturn 2022/2023	Variance 2022/2023
<u>PUBLIC PROTECTION DIVISION</u>					
TRADING STANDARDS		885,275	885,275	857,340	27,935
LICENSING		145,909	145,909	146,021	(112)
REGISTRARS		65,411	65,411	36,422	28,989
CCTV		440,532	440,532	442,788	(2,256)
CORPORATE AND DEMOCRATIC COSTS (CDC)		78,321	78,321	92,596	(14,275)
COMMUNITY WARDENS		373,220	373,220	250,098	123,122
HEALTH DIVISIONAL BUDGET		323,634	323,634	289,406	34,228
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP		99,862	99,862	89,804	10,058
ENFORCEMENT		801,220	801,220	765,344	35,876
POLLUTION		416,513	416,513	359,242	57,271
FOOD TEAM		767,899	767,899	760,581	7,318
Agreed Use of Reserves for EHO		(52,728)	(52,728)	(30,758)	(21,970)
					0
EMERGENCY PLANNING		163,043	163,043	138,076	24,967
CATERING		4,151,994	4,151,994	4,240,625	(88,631)
Approved Use of Reserves -Cashless Catering Invoicing Officer		(29,489)	(29,489)	0	(29,489)
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE		8,630,616	8,630,616	8,437,585	193,031

Economy and Environment Directorate	Page No	Estimate 2022/2023	Revised Estimate 2022/2023	Outturn 2022/2023	Variance 2022/2023
<u>COMMUNITY & LEISURE SERVICES</u>					
WASTE MANAGEMENT					
<i>Residual Waste</i>		2,836,125	2,836,125	3,078,840	(242,715)
<i>Organics recycling</i>		790,475	790,475	713,745	76,730
<i>Civic Amenity Sites</i>		3,321,179	3,321,179	3,688,070	(366,891)
<i>Waste Transfer Station</i>		135,891	135,891	162,210	(26,319)
<i>Dry Recycling</i>		2,657,477	2,657,477	3,110,320	(452,843)
<i>RCCO</i>		81,050	81,050	0	81,050
<i>Bulky Waste</i>		145,619	145,619	126,918	18,701
<i>Commercial Waste</i>		(348,867)	(348,867)	(448,733)	99,866
<i>Other Waste</i>		23,149	23,149	64	23,085
<i>Trehir</i>		135,500	135,500	58,960	76,540
<i>Sustainable Waste Management Grant</i>		(849,804)	(849,804)	(849,804)	0
<i>HQ Staff</i>		1,372,169	1,372,169	1,205,686	166,483
CLEANSING					
<i>Street Cleansing</i>		4,654,069	4,654,069	4,634,792	19,277
GROUND MAINTENANCE AND PARKS					
<i>Cemeteries</i>		(202,695)	(202,695)	(100,922)	(101,773)
<i>Cemeteries Earmark reserves</i>		0	0	(101,773)	101,773
<i>Allotments</i>		39,612	39,612	20,274	19,338
<i>Parks and Playing Fields</i>		1,887,049	1,887,049	2,119,938	(232,889)
<i>Agreed use of reserves for Ash Dieback</i>		0	0	(54,875)	54,875
<i>Agreed use of reserves for Cleaner Greener Scheme</i>		0	0	(2,216)	2,216
<i>Playgrounds</i>		289,057	289,057	260,834	28,223
<i>Outdoor facilities</i>		247,812	247,812	303,044	(55,232)
<i>Countryside</i>		995,092	995,092	928,093	66,999
<i>HQ Staffing</i>		1,002,761	1,002,761	931,126	71,635
LEISURE SERVICES					
<i>Leisure Centres</i>		3,089,138	3,089,138	3,296,209	(207,071)
<i>Agreed use of reserves for CSE Seating</i>		0	0	(50,000)	50,000
<i>Sports & Health Development</i>		24,368	24,368	24,208	160
<i>Outdoor Education</i>		255,732	255,732	254,842	890
<i>Community Centres</i>		375,317	375,317	375,317	0
		22,957,275	22,957,275	23,685,167	(727,892)
<i>Building Cleaning</i>		722,058	722,058	692,831	29,227
<i>Vehicle Maintenance & Fleet Management</i>		(183,481)	(183,481)	(454,598)	271,117
Total net expenditure Community & Leisure Services		23,495,852	23,495,852	23,923,399	(427,547)



ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – FOR INFORMATION

SUBJECT: PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the Welsh Government statutory duty requiring Local Authorities to secure sufficient play opportunities for children through a Play Sufficiency Assessment every three years.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report provides a brief overview of the requirement of the duty and updates members of the sufficiency of play opportunities and the priorities identified in the attached assessment submitted to Welsh Government in June 2022
- 2.2 The legislation came into effect in July 2014 with the publication of “Wales, a Play Friendly Country”. The duty requires Local Authorities to secure sufficient play opportunities, so far as reasonably practicable.
- 2.3 There are many examples of how improved play opportunities have resulted from excellent partnership work, however, the biggest challenge remains the heavy reliance on external sources of funding to deliver many aspects of play provision.
- 2.4 The Play Sufficiency Assessment is a statutory requirement of Local Authorities and is required every three years.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the requirements of the statutory duty requiring Local Authorities to secure sufficient play opportunities for children, as far as reasonably practicable and the content of the latest Play Sufficiency Assessment.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 So that Members are aware of the Authority's Statutory duty as outlined in recommendations 3.1 above.
- 4.2 To inform Members of the outcome of the Play Sufficiency Assessment.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 In 2012 Welsh Government produced "Creating a Play Friendly Wales", the statutory guidance to Local Authorities on assessing sufficient play opportunities. The play sufficiency assessments were produced through a multi partnership approach and were submitted to Welsh Government for approval.
- 5.2 The second part of the legislation came into effect in July 2014 with the publication of "Wales: A Play Friendly Country", which is statutory guidance to local authorities on securing sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas. The duty also required Local Authorities to publish and keep up-to-date information about play opportunities for children.
- 5.3 There were no precedents for this work as Wales was the first Country in the world to establish such a duty within its legislative framework. While this approach is to be applauded and there is positive partner engagement, the duty needs to be delivered within existing or indeed reduced resources. However, the duty does include the caveat that opportunities should be secured "so far as reasonably practicable" and that sufficiency should be "determined locally".
- 5.4 Representations from all relevant stakeholder groups, both from within Caerphilly County Borough Council and partner organisations play an active role in a working group that developed the initial sufficiency assessment and are now contributing towards the delivery of the priorities within the action plan.
- 5.5 The accountability of delivering the actions in the plan are not the responsibility of any one service area and are very reliant on effective partnership working. Many aspects are also reliant on external sources of grant funding (if secured) that are short term in nature and may impact on the sustainability of some of the actions. Caerphilly has not had a Play Development Officer to this point, but the Council agreed budgetary growth for 2022/23 onwards and the service area is in the process of recruiting a play sufficiency officer who can then support this area of work going forward.
- 5.6 As part of the duty it is a requirement to submit a full Play Sufficiency Assessment every three years (2022 attached at Appendix 1) and review, update and submit Action plans annually to Welsh Government for assessment. The attached Assessment has been submitted and the Authority is awaiting feedback from Welsh Government.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 There are no assumptions within this report.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An IIA is not necessary for this Information Only Report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Some of the actions in the plan are dependent on successfully securing external sources of funding; the remainder of the actions will need to be delivered through existing Authority resources, improved co-ordination and partnership working.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 No personnel implications.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 The report was distributed as detailed below. All comments received have been reflected in this version of the report. This report reflects the views of the listed consultees and the working group.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 The Local Government Act 2000, Play Opportunities, Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010

Author: Jared Lougher, Sport, and Leisure Development Manager,
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Consultees: Councillor Chris Morgan, Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure & Green Spaces
 Councillor D.T Davies, Chair of Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee
 Councillor Adrian Hussey, Vice Chair of Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee
 Mark S Williams, Corporate Director for Economy and Environment
 Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services
 Sarah Mutch, Early years Manager
 Benjamin Jones, Assistant Planner
 Gareth Davies, Area Officer parks and outdoor facilities
 Fiona Santos, Childcare Co-ordinator
 Tina McMahon, Community Regeneration Manager
 Ruth Lee, Family Information Services
 Paul O'Neil, Senior Youth Service Manager
 Natalie Thomas, Sport Caerphilly Team Leader
 Sean Spooner, Sport and Leisure Area Team Leader

Appendices: The document attached is a Welsh Government document and is not fully accessible. Welsh Government advise that they are reviewing the Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit. For further information please contact the report author.

Appendix 1 Play Sufficiency Assessment 2022

Play Sufficiency Assessment Form



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Name of Local Authority: Caerphilly County Borough Council

Name of responsible officer: Jared Lougher

Job title: Sport & Leisure Development Manager

Date of completion:

Please note that the Play Sufficiency Assessment must be received by the Welsh Government by 30 June 2022



Conducting the Assessment – Play Sufficiency Assessment

As well as establishing a baseline of provision, the Play Sufficiency Assessment will enable the following:

- Identification of gaps in information, provision, service delivery and policy implementation
- Support the establishment of evidence to give an indication of distance travelled in relation to play sufficiency
- Highlight potential ways of addressing issues relating to partnership working
- The input and involvement of all partners increasing levels of knowledge and understanding
- A monitoring system which will involve and improve communication between professionals
- The identification of good practice examples
- Increased levels of partnerships in assessing sufficient play opportunities
- The identification of actions for the Securing Play Sufficiency Action Plan which accompanies the Play Sufficiency Assessment

A template has been produced to support a corporate appraisal of the matters that need to be taken into account as set out in the Statutory Guidance. The indicators listed within each matter are provided as sample indicators which should be amended to meet local issues as appropriate.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment must demonstrate that the Local Authority has taken into account and assessed the matters set out in The Play Sufficiency Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2012 and Statutory Guidance.

As well as providing baseline information, the Assessment can include examples of current practice that the Local Authority wishes to highlight.

Local Authorities might consider structuring the Play Sufficiency Assessment in the following way and as a minimum address all the identified sections.

Principle Statement

This section should be used to articulate the Local Authority's acknowledgement of the value and importance of play in the lives of children.

Context

This section should describe the methodology used to undertake and approve the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan and any consultation with partners on the Assessment/Action Plan. It should also list the key; partners that engaged with the process And identify any challenges in undertaking the Assessment. It should describe the mechanism that the Local Authority proposes to use to take forward the identified actions for the action plan.

Partnership working

This section should demonstrate to what extent the following (and others) were involved in the undertaking of the Assessment and the development of the action plan:

- Town and Community Councils
- Third sector organisations, particularly play associations and play providers
- The private sector if appropriate
- Community groups

Consultation and participation

This section should describe how the Local Authority has:

- Obtained the views of children with regards to the play opportunities they currently access, how they would like the community to better support them to play and what barriers stop them from playing
- Obtained the views on play provision from parents, families and other stakeholders
- Analysed the information and how it has been used to inform future plans

Maximising resources

This section should provide an overview as to how partners currently use their existing budgets to support children's access to play opportunities. It should identify how budgets have been reprioritised as part of the 2022 Play Sufficiency Assessments and subsequent plans.

Please use this section to highlight what has changed since the 2019 Play Sufficiency Action Plan in terms of how resources are allocated.

Please also highlight how Welsh Government programmes have been used locally for the provision of play and how they have addressed priorities from your 2019 play sufficiency assessment:

The Play Sufficiency Assessment and local Well-being Plans

This section should identify how the Play Sufficiency Assessments form part of the local needs assessment and to what extent the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan are integrated into the Well-being Plan and Public Service Board.

Monitoring Play Sufficiency

This section should identify the lead director and lead member for children and young people's services. It should also describe the Play Monitoring Group or

equivalent. Along with a list of members, please describe how the group has been facilitated and the benefits and challenges of the group.

Criteria

This section contains the “matters that need to be taken into account” as set out under section 10 of the Statutory Guidance.

The Criteria column: sets out the data that needs to be available and the extent to which Local Authorities meet the stated criteria.

The RAG status column: provides a drop down box, whereby the Local Authority can show its assessment of whether that criterion is fully met; partially met; or not met. These have been given Red, Amber Green markers, which appear as words in the drop down boxes. *(In the “RAG status column”, Double click on the word STATUS – this will bring up drop-down form fields options, use the arrow down key until the status required RED, AMBER or GREEN- is at the top then press ok)*

Red, Amber Green (RAG) status is a tool to communicate status quickly and effectively.

RAG status

Criteria fully met.	Fully met
Criteria partially met.	Partially met
Criteria not met.	Not met

The 2022 column enables the local authority to indicate the direction of travel with the insertion of arrows.

The Evidence to support strengths column: should be used to provide the reason for the chosen criteria status and how the evidence is held.

The Shortfall column: should be used to explain the areas in which the Local Authority does not fully meet the criteria.

The Identified Action for Action Plan column: should be used to show the Local Authority action planning priorities for that Matter.

The Comments section: asks some specific questions for each matter that should enable you to give a clear overview of how the Local Authority complies with the intention and implementation of this matter as set out fully in the Statutory Guidance. It also provides the opportunity to identify challenges and how they might be overcome.

Matter A: Population

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should provide an overview of population and demographic data used locally to plan for play provision. Information should also be included regarding:

- Ages of children
- First language Welsh speaking children
- Cultural factors (such as other language)
- Gypsy Traveller children
- Disabled children

What has changed in terms of population and demographic trends since Play Sufficiency Assessment 2019?

At the time of writing the 2011 census is still the most appropriate data source for many of the criteria identified, and this includes both ward and LSOA information.

How has/will the Local Authority use its population data to plan for sufficient play opportunities locally?

Population data has been used for analysis against the benchmark standards for children’s play space (see Matter C), which is based on the amount of open space per 1000 population. The release of the 2011 census overall population figures for the local authority raised concerns about the accuracy of the 2010 population and household projections (2008 based) as the Census identified a population approximately 5,000 higher than the projections had anticipated, so any 5 year projections need to be tentatively assessed.

The population increase, as well as projected householder increase will be considered as part of any new or replacement LDP and this will take the projected population increase into account in terms of accessibility and projected impact the increased population will have on current fixed play facilities across the County Borough.

Have there been challenges?

How can these be overcome?

Comments

Page 56

RAG Status for Matter A

Criteria fully met.	Green
Criteria partially met.	Orange
Criteria not met.	Red

Matter B: Providing for Diverse Needs

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should present data about how the Local Authority and partners aim to offer play opportunities that are inclusive and encourage all children to play and meet together.

RAG Status:

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 58	The play requirements of children living in isolated rural areas are understood and provided for			<p>The National Statistics Rural and Urban Classification of output areas identifies that 22% of the County Borough lives in a 'rural' area, defined as a settlement of less than 10,000 people. A total of 14 wards are designated as 'rural' within the Rural Development Plan and for the purposes of this Assessment, this definition will be used to define the number of children living in 'rural' areas. It should be noted, however, that whilst there are rural settlements across the County Borough, few would be considered to be geographically isolated as they have good public transport links, facilities and links to adjoining larger settlements.</p> <p>As part of the Open Space Audit the useable open spaces available for children to play have been mapped for the whole County Borough and therefore there is an understanding of the physical provision at a local level for those children living in more rural areas.</p>	<p>Whilst there is an understanding of the provision that is available in each area, it would be beneficial to undertake a survey within specific 'rural' settlements to determine the barriers that these particular children are facing.</p> <p>However, funding would be needed to carry this out.</p>	<p>Undertake targeted consultation with children and their parents in isolated areas to establish need.</p> <p>Assess the impact of the Rural Development Plan (RDP) schemes. Secure funding to carry these out.</p>
	The play requirements of Welsh language speaking			The Council's Early Years Hub (including the Family Information Service) database (Dewis) identifies the		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 59	children are understood and provided for			<p>availability of CIW regulated Welsh Medium play provision. This has been mapped and assessed against Welsh speaking population figures. The Early Years Hub has a Welsh speaking member of staff. The Early Years' Service area has procured Menter Iaith to support the development of language rich environments across the sector and to effectively coordinate workforce development with regard to Welsh Language Development, including a Welsh Language quality assurance scheme called the Road to Bilingualism which supports both English and Welsh medium settings.</p> <p>All specifications for Families First, Childcare and Flying Start must meet the needs of families including Welsh speaking. Urdd and Menter Iaith provide social opportunities to use Welsh language and both work with local Welsh medium schools to enhance provision.</p> <p>The local Welsh Education Forum acts as a partnership incorporating all services across Welsh medium provision and across sectors including education, play, parenting, youth, and childcare. The WEF links with the Welsh Language Forum through the Welsh speaking Planning and Strategy Officer. This acts as a vehicle to raise and monitor sufficiency issues as well as the need to stimulate demand.</p> <p>Staff throughout the sector have received training to improve their Welsh language skills. In addition, the Level 2 Playwork award has been delivered targeting Menter Iaith staff to ensure sufficient Welsh language speaking play workers had access to training.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The play requirements of children from different cultural background are understood and provided for			<p>Caerphilly has very low numbers of children from different cultural backgrounds. The FIS data has indicated that there is no specific provision for particular cultural groups. However, the LA and its play providers aim to promote inclusive play and therefore if there are specific cultural issues that are identified, play staff will ensure that these needs are provided for.</p> <p>A number of <u>equalities awareness courses</u> are organised to raise awareness of specific issues amongst Council employees and partner groups including play workers. Whilst these courses are not specific to play provision, they help raise awareness of the issues that may be experienced by specific groups in participating</p>		
Page 60	The play requirements and support needs of disabled children are understood and provided for.			<p>The Early Years' team provides a range of support for children with emerging needs including Join in and Play, Let's Talk groups, Parents as First Teachers programme, training for childcare providers on the whole range of ALN modules, social communication needs groups, to provide inclusive opportunities for families.</p> <p>Sport Caerphilly continues to run bespoke Disability holiday camps in conjunction with Caerphilly Adventures as well as inclusive holiday provisions, using various sports as a tool of engagement.</p>		
	Play projects and providers have access to a range of resources which support inclusion			Early Years has a range of resources and grants to support providers and families to provide play opportunities for children.		
	There is a well-known and agreed mechanism which is used to identify the need for			ISCAN is now in three hubs across Gwent enabling a care coordination model for children with emerging development needs.		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	separate provision for disabled children			Early Years team has developed a pathway of provision to support families with a range of needs to access the right support to meet their needs. Much of the play provision is offered through voluntary sector community groups.		
	Access audits for all play provision as described in the guidance are undertaken			Access audits have been completed on all council owned public buildings and they now all meet the 'foundation standard'. The majority of the fixed play sites have a 1.2 width tarmac path entrance with self closing gates which comply with the playground safety standard BS/EN1176.		
Page 61	Designated play space is provided and well maintained on gypsy traveller sites			There are no Local Authority or private Gypsy and Traveller sites within the County Borough. However, a planning application for a caravan site for two gypsy families is pending consideration. The site of this proposal is adjacent to an existing playground. If a requirement is identified in the future and a suitable site is delivered by the local authority, it is anticipated that it will be delivered in accordance with the Welsh Government's Gypsy Traveller Site Design Guidance, which recognises the need for an area for children and young people to play and gather, especially if there is not suitable provision within walking distance on a safe route.		
	The requirements of young carers are understood and provided for			Caerphilly FIS holds information on services available. Families First funds a joint contract with Children Services to deliver young carer provision and advocacy for young carers across the borough.		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 62	The requirements of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) children are understood and provided for			<p>There are no comprehensive records of how many children are lesbian, gay or bisexual in each ward of the County Borough, particularly as many young people may be reluctant to identify themselves within this group.</p> <p>However, the LA and its play providers aim to promote inclusive play and therefore if there are specific issues that are identified, play staff will ensure that these needs are provided for.</p> <p>A number of equalities awareness courses are organised to raise awareness of specific issues amongst Council employees and partner groups including play workers. Whilst these courses are not specific to play provision, they help raise awareness of the issues that may be experienced by specific groups in participating.</p> <p>The Authority's Youth Service operates the county borough's LGBT group for young people and provides a dedicated meeting place.</p>	There is a lack of specific training to meet this need available for the sector.	

Providing for Diverse Needs
How has data been used (or how will the data be used) to address the barriers that children with diverse needs face in accessing inclusive and accessible opportunities for playing?

Have there been challenges?

How can these be overcome?

Comments:

The Local Authority's approach to play is still to promote inclusivity for all and therefore those with a specific need by virtue of a disability, culture, language, sexual orientation, or any other reason will be supported to participate within existing play settings as much as possible, rather than being segregated through different provision.

With regards to Welsh language, an assessment of provision across the County Borough clearly indicates that there is only a limited supervised provision in certain areas for certain age groups, and much of this provision is linked to Welsh Medium schools (breakfast and after school clubs). However, it has been the case, particularly in the north of the County Borough, that their Welsh Medium childcare provision has been found to be unsustainable and therefore it is important that any future Welsh medium play provision is based on demand. The Local Authority will therefore continue to work with Welsh language groups such as Menter Iaith and Mudiad Meithrin to determine through further consultation with children and parents whether there would be a demand for increased facilities and to encourage the provision of these facilities where appropriate.

The County Borough has few areas that would be described as 'isolated rural areas,' but there are wards that have been classified as 'rural'. The provision of open space, designated play areas and supervised provision is understood and barriers to play have been identified by children in these areas through the survey. However, to aid a full understanding there would be benefits in undertaking further survey work with children in specific communities.

The number of non-English/Welsh speaking families is one of the lowest in Wales (379 households or 0.5% of the population) and figures for BME groups are very small and therefore the demand for groups or facilities to meet a specific ethnic group is low. However, as part of the inclusive play agenda opportunities to encourage all groups in society to participate in play provision is essential and the LA will continue to look to support increased awareness of cultural issues through training of play providers where appropriate.

Matter C: Space available for children to play: Open Spaces and Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

The Local Authority should recognise that all open spaces within their area are potentially important areas where children can play or pass through to reach other play areas or places where they go.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

Open Spaces

Page 64

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority has undertaken an Open Space Assessment (OSA) that maps areas that are used, or might be used for playing as listed in the Statutory Guidance			<p>An Open Space Assessment has been undertaken as part of the Local Development Plan (LDP) process. As part of this assessment, all spaces have been categorised in accordance with the typologies and sub-typologies set out with TAN 16.</p> <p>In accordance with the statutory guidance, where large sites (such as public parks and gardens) comprise more than one function these have been subdivided as appropriate to ensure that the local authority has an accurate position of the land use of every parcel of open space. The Council now has a corporate database, which records all areas of open space and their typologies and links this spatially to a map so that the amount of open space within different typologies in specific areas can be easily calculated and this information</p>	The OSA has not specifically considered brownfield sites as a separate typology as this was not a requirement of TAN 16 (see general comments below). The database is not regularly updated or maintained.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>will be regularly updated to ensure it remains as accurate as possible.</p> <p>This data is regularly updated as a result of planning applications. With regards to residential streets, a road hierarchy is set out within the LDP comprising the strategic highway network, county routes, distributor roads and access roads. Access roads are the estate roads and other roads where pedestrian activity will be commonplace, on which traffic will not automatically have priority, and therefore on which major constraints on traffic movement are likely to be desirable. Mapping of all 'access roads' in the County Borough has been carried out.</p>		
Page 65	The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible Greenspace Study that maps areas that are used for playing			<p>As part of the evidence base for the LDP, a Natural Greenspace Assessment was produced in accordance with the standards set out in the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) document 'Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities'. The Assessment was conducted on behalf of five Heads of the Valleys local authorities, and it was therefore possible to assess the accessibility to green space for areas along most of Caerphilly County Borough's boundaries. This allowed spaces used by residents but located outside the administrative area to be taken into account. Using a network analysis method, it was determined at a local authority level that 99% of the population lived within 10km of 500 ha green space, 100% lived within 5km of 100 ha space, 98% lived within 2km of 20 ha green space and 51% lived within 400m of any green space. However, it should be noted that only sites of 0.1 ha or over were assessed. Analysis has also been undertaken at a ward level where areas with low provision of greenspaces have been identified.</p> <p>A summary of the findings of the Natural Greenspace Assessment is found within the LDP Leisure Background</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 66				<p>paper http://apps.caerphilly.gov.uk/LDP/Examination/PDF/SB41.pdf</p> <p>In addition to the Natural Greenspace Assessment, which focuses on the particular typology of ‘natural greenspaces,’ the Local Authority has undertaken further analysis of the accessibility of those areas of open space classified as ‘useable’ in the Open Space Assessment to children and young people of different age groups based on the FIT Benchmark Standards for Children’s Playing Space Accessibility.</p> <p>The age of children will determine the distance that they are likely to travel to access play spaces and therefore local standards have been identified for the maximum walking distance for 0-3, 4-7, 8-12 and 13 and over, and the typology of open space that these age groups are likely to use. Maximum walking distance straight line buffers of each typology of useable open space have been mapped for each age group in order to identify areas where there is no accessible open space provision. As would be expected, younger children have lower maximum walking distance standards and also are likely to use fewer typologies of open space and therefore there are areas that have poor coverage of open space. These have been mapped to identify their location. Coverage is generally good for those 13 or over as they are able to travel further distances to a range of useable open spaces and therefore there are only a few small areas do not meet the defined standards.</p> <p>As children will not only travel to use more formal play facilities (designated play areas), but will also use more informal facilities, it is considered appropriate to include other types of open space within the accessibility assessment. The youngest children (0-3) will only use ‘doorstep’ facilities,</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>parks and play areas. Children 4-7 may start using other provision for children and young people but are unlikely to be allowed to play in areas classed as natural and semi-natural greenspace and green corridors. Over the age of 8, children are likely to utilise more types of space, but the distance they will travel will increase as they get older.</p>		
Page 67	<p>The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all open spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety</p>			<p>One of the criteria of the Open Space Assessment was to consider whether the space was accessible to the public or not and all 8000 parcels of open space have been assessed to determine whether they were publicly accessible, access was limited (e.g. school grounds) or the open space was private.</p> <p>Access audits have been undertaken for each of the Council's Country Parks and a number of improvements to access to these areas have been implemented.</p> <p>Furthermore, an access audit of the Heads of the Valleys area has been carried out utilising Heads of the Valleys programme funding which considered significant access improvements to open access land with the ten electoral wards which fall within this area. Several projects aimed at improving access have been implemented in response to this. A similar access audit has also been carried out for access to open access land in the Lower Sirhowy Valley. The Council's Commons strategy also includes measures to improve access to common land within the County Borough.</p> <p>Five of the councils' main parks have received 'Green Flag' awards where 'equal access for the community' is a criterion and access audits have been carried out to inform this. The Green Flag Community Award has also been awarded to three quality green spaces managed by voluntary and community groups across the County Borough.</p>	<p>Develop an agreed access audit template.</p> <p>Train internal staff on how to undertake assessments.</p> <p>Undertake access audits for designated play spaces including fixed provision in the first instance.</p> <p>Where the need for improvement is identified look for funding opportunities to facilitate these improvements.</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority has developed its own Open Space Standards in accordance with the advice and requirements of Planning Policy Wales			<p>The Council has developed Open Space Standards in accordance with Planning Policy Wales and PPW. These standards are based on FIT Standards and are summarised within the Council's adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance on the Protection of Open Space (LDP8).</p> <p>https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Planning/LDP8-protection-of-openspace.aspx</p>		
Page 68	The Local Authority undertakes and actions play value assessments in public open space			<p>The Council undertakes a risk assessment on a quarterly basis of all playgrounds, which considers play equipment, the site itself, perimeter fencing, surfaces and other facilities. The issues identified through the risk assessment process are addressed based on the risk factor and level of urgency identified. Other open space within the Council's ownership is subject to a regular maintenance programme it is free from hazards and the Council respond to any safety issues reported to them by residents as appropriate.</p> <p>One hazard identified as a major concern in play spaces is dog mess. As a means of encouraging safe play free from dog fouling, the Council has a Dog Exclusion Order, which restricts any dog from entering any enclosed children's play areas or MUGA within the County Borough. The Dog Exclusion Order will go some way to addressing this.</p>		
	Brownfield sites owned by the Local Authority are assessed for the potential for the site to be reclaimed to provide for children's				Brownfield sites owned by the Council are not assessed for their potential to be reclaimed to provide children's play. It should be noted,	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 69	play				<p>however, that many of these sites are allocated within the LDP for alternative uses such as housing and employment.</p> <p>It will only be viable to reclaim certain sites if the after-use would generate a high land value such as housing. Funding is unlikely to be available to reclaim sites for children's play facilities.</p>	

Outdoor Unstaffed Designated Play Spaces

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible			All designated play spaces are listed on the Caerphilly green spaces website which is now operational following the recently integrated parks and countryside service.	Information on the website will need to be updated regularly.	Ensure the website is regularly updated.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Greenspace Study that maps areas that are used for playing					Link to proposals for access audits for open space above.
	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all designated play space as described in the Statutory Guidance			All designated play spaces are listed on the Caerphilly green spaces website, which is now operational following the recently integrated parks and countryside service, as well as on the Council's own databases and GIS.	Information on the website will need to be updated regularly.	Undertake joint play access audit/place space and play value assessments.
Page 70	The Local Authority assesses play spaces for play value and potential to increase in play use as set out in the Statutory Guidance			<p>All fixed play facilities have been accessed as part of a playground assessment conducted in 2014 as part of the Review of Existing Leisure facilities. This included assessing the condition of the fixed play, as well as the number of equipment available.</p> <p>In addition, a Playground Assessment was carried out in 2008 which considered a number of criteria including safety, age and condition of equipment, DDA compliance and location. This assessment has identified playgrounds that were a priority for improvements. This information requires updating as some playgrounds have now been removed as they have reached the end of their life and new playgrounds have been provided to respond to local need, or in light of Section 106 agreements.</p> <p>Risk assessments carried out on a quarterly basis also identify areas where improvements to the condition of facilities are required.</p> <p>The local authority has assessed all playing pitches and identified where there are current condition issues such as drainage problems, which, if resolved, would increase the play potential of these areas.</p>	Whilst a baseline position is identified on the quality of play spaces based on their condition, further assessment will be required on the 'play value' element of quality and it will be beneficial to undertake this as part of a comprehensive review of designated play spaces.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				This evidence, along with the data in the Open Space Assessment, which looks at the usability, condition and recreational amenity of all open spaces including unstaffed designated play spaces, provides a baseline of the current standard of open space and areas for improvement to increase usage of equipment and sites. It should also be noted that as equipment is updated, only those that are targeted for inclusive play are chosen		
Page 71	The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all designated play spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety			<p>Caerphilly CBC has been awarded 5 awards from the prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) as part of their Play Quality Awards scheme for five of its key playgrounds due to their high quality of accessibility for disabled people, demonstrating that some play spaces have been assessed.</p> <p>Improvements to safety are identified as part of the quarterly risk assessments undertaken by the council.</p> <p>Design and access statements are required to be submitted for all new planning applications for residential developments where a new play space may be required. Where new play areas are proposed as part of new housing developments, consideration is given through the planning process to the location of the play area within a development to ensure that it adheres to the principles of good design in accordance with Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: design including ensuring ease of access for all, ensuring attractive safe public spaces and security through natural surveillance.</p>	No awards since 2019, due to the Covid 19 pandemic.	
	The Local Authority has developed and agreed a new fixed play provision standard			<p>The Play Sufficiency working group has endorsed the use of the FIT standard for total children play when assessing provision (0.8 Ha per 1000 population) and each ward has been assessed to determine how much children’s play space is available per ward. The definitions of what will be included and excluded from the calculation have been agreed by the working group to reflect local circumstances.</p> <p>In addition to the FIT standards, as designated play spaces vary in size and therefore one LEAP may be equivalent to five LAPs in size, it is</p>	Although there is a baseline level of information regarding the usage of facilities based on the condition survey, play space assessments as	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 72				<p>important that consideration is given to the number of playgrounds and other designated play space serving each ward. A calculation for the number of children aged 0-14 that each playground serves, and the number served by all designated facilities (playgrounds, MUGAs, wheeled play areas and youth shelters). In respect of playgrounds, the Council's draft Playground strategy considered that a notional standard of 1 playground per 500 pupils should be applied and this has been taken forward within the Play Sufficiency Assessment as an additional consideration when assessing fixed play provision, alongside the FIT Standard. Facilities at the edge of ward boundaries may serve more than one ward so consideration has also been given to this.</p> <p>It should be noted that although the statutory guidance identifies recreation sports fields as a designated play space, these have not be assessed as part of designated provision as there are separate FIT standards for outdoor sports provision.</p>	<p>per the statutory guidance have not been carried out.</p> <p>Link to proposals for access audits for open space above.</p> <p>Undertake joint play access audit/place space and play value assessments.</p>	
	The Local Authority undertakes, and actions play space assessments in designated play spaces			<p>The Council undertakes a risk assessment on a quarterly basis of all playgrounds, which considers play equipment, the site itself, perimeter fencing, surfaces and other facilities and identified improvements to conditions. This provides evidence of usage of facilities by the condition but is not a full play assessment.</p> <p>Where new play areas are proposed as part of new housing developments, consideration is given through the planning process to the location of the play area within a development to ensure that it adheres to the principles of good design in accordance with Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: Design including ensuring ease of access for all, ensuring attractive, safe public spaces and security through national surveillance</p>	<p>Although there is a baseline level of information regarding the usage of facilities based on the condition survey, play space assessments as per the statutory guidance have not been carried out.</p> <p>Link to proposals for access audits for open space above.</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
					Undertake joint play access audit/place space and play value assessments.	
	The Local Authority has introduced smoke-free playgrounds			The Authority's Youth Service has introduced county-wide smoke-free signage for play areas and schools https://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/healthchallenge/smoking/local-activities The Local Authority has undertaken a scheme whereby all playgrounds are now smoke-free. This is clearly indicated by a sign on the gates of all playgrounds and was implemented as a request of the Junior Forum (part of CCBC Youth Service).		
Page 73	The Local Authority has removed 'no ball games' signs to encourage more children playing in the community			Work towards removing 'no ball games' signs was a key task identified within the CYPP Play Strategy. There has been success in achieving this as the majority of areas have had their 'no ball games' signs removed. The Council has also prepared a Parks byelaw that will ensure that all areas of public open space can be used by all, and that no signage detailing specific types of play or no-play are allowed. http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/parklife/sites/your.caerphilly.gov.uk/parklife/files/ByeLaws.pdf The Authority's Youth Service has been proactive in the replacement of such signage with that that says 'please play here'	In some instances, such as within housing estates, residents have requested or petitioned for these signs to be put back.	
	The Local Authority has erected signs, such as Play Priority Signs to encourage more children playing in the community			The Junior Forum has been instrumental in the erection of play signs, within a number of communities working with various partnerships. The signs were funded by Caerphilly Children and Young People's Partnership and contributed to achieving the outcomes of the CYPP Play Strategy. The Authority's Youth Service has been proactive in the replacement of such signage with that that says 'please play here'	Residents have removed signs in some areas.	This area of No ball games signs will be explored through the council youth services initiative of 'please play here' signs.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority includes a recognition of the importance of playing fields to children's play when any disposal decisions are made			The importance of playing fields for children's play is recognised by the local authority. The commitment to retaining playing fields where appropriate is demonstrated by Policy CW8 of the LDP on the Protection of Community and Leisure Facilities. This policy states that proposals that would result in the loss of a community and/or leisure facility (which would include playing fields) will not be permitted except where a comparable facility can be provided or where it can be demonstrated that the facility is surplus to requirements.		
Page 74	The Local Authority includes children and their families in any consultations regarding decisions to dispose of playing fields			If a playing field is to be disposed of for an alternative use requiring planning permission, the regulatory planning application consultation process would apply. This involves the placement of site notices in the area, notification to neighbours and any town or community councils where there is coverage to encourage the community, including families and children, to make their views known. Any consultation on future disposal of a playing fields will also be done in accordance with any regulations introduced as a result of the Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decisions) (Wales) Measure 2010.		
	The Local Authority refers to guidance around creating accessible play space when refurbishing or developing new playgrounds			Discussions are undertaken with stakeholders when new schemes are proposed to ensure accessible play space is provided.		

Open Spaces

How has the Local Authority ensured collaboration between Open Space Assessments / Green Infrastructure Strategies and Play Sufficiency Assessments to improve spaces for play?

The LA has a very strong evidence base on the open spaces available to serve the community. A comprehensive Open Space Assessment has been carried out in accordance with the typologies of Open Space set out within TAN 16 and a process is in place to ensure the data remains regularly updated. This data has been used, in accordance with local standards for open space provision, to identify which areas may have an insufficient overall amount of open space that is useable for play when assessed against these local standards. The results of this assessment have indicated that there are a small number of wards that are slightly below these standards. However, where there are apparent deficiencies purely in quantitative terms, consideration has also been given to other factors, including play space provision in adjoining wards.

The Council has also considered the accessibility of open spaces to children of different age groups and can identify areas where the nearest useable open space suitable for that age group is further than minimum standards for distance. This mapping exercise identifies those areas where accessibility to useable open space is poor and options to improve access to open space in these areas should be explored.

Have there been challenges?

How can these be overcome?

Comments:

It is noted that the statutory guidance includes three additional typologies of Open Space to be assessed over and above those stated in TAN 16 – school grounds, residential streets and brownfield sites. School grounds and school playing fields were already included within the TAN 16 typologies under ‘amenity greenspace’ and ‘outdoor sports facilities’ respectively so have been addressed within the Open Space Assessment. However, this assessment does not look specifically at brownfield sites or residential streets.

Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

How has the local authority considered all issues of accessibility in play space development?

The LA maintains a strong dataset regarding the location and condition of its designated play spaces, particularly in respect of playgrounds, which undergo quarterly risk assessments, and it is known which areas would benefit from improvements to condition to improve play.

Have there been challenges?

How can these be overcome?

Comments

An assessment has been carried out against local standards to determine areas with insufficient provision of fixed facilities. This assessment, which takes into account the population figures, the number of facilities and total area as well as provision in adjoining areas, identifies that there are several wards that have lower levels of provision than the standard. Whilst a baseline assessment on the quality of designated play areas has been undertaken based on the condition of facilities, a full play value assessment of all designated spaces has not been carried out.

Matter D: Supervised provision

The Local Authority should aim to offer a range of supervised play provision.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

Playwork provision

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 77	The Local Authority keeps an up-to-date record of all supervised play provision as described in the Statutory Guidance			CCBC’s Family Information Service (FIS) now incorporated within the Early Years Hub service maintains a directory of all supervised play provision in the County Borough. This information is regularly updated and available on the Early Years Website. All supervised play provisions that operate for children under the age of 12, for more than 2 hours in one day or for more than 6 days in a year must be formally registered with the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and the LA also keeps a record of these.		To develop a procedure for ensuring all supervised play providers keep their detail updated on the Dewis database.

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 78	The Local Authority offers play provision which offers a rich play environment as described in the Statutory Guidance			<p>CCBC and its partners seek to support providers to provide play provisions that offer rich play environments, where children are able to make a wide range of choices. As a significant number of provisions available in the County Borough are Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) accredited, it can be assumed that there is a baseline of quality in provision. In addition, many childcare play providers have also obtained the Caerphilly Quality Standard, which is used countywide as a stepping-stone to providers achieving a national Quality Assurance Scheme, where the play environment is a factor.</p> <p>Training is currently offered to support play workers to deliver quality holiday play schemes and remain compliant with regulations through partnership with external organisations such as the local FE College and Childcare Umbrella organisations including Clybiau Plant Cymru and National Day Nurseries Association.</p>	As not all supervised play provisions need to be CIW accredited and/or do not participate in the Caerphilly Quality Standard, establishing a baseline for quality is therefore difficult.	
	The Local Authority ensures that partners are supported to offer rich play environments as described in the Statutory Guidance			As above, childcare settings are encouraged to achieve the Caerphilly Quality Standards, ITERS / ECERS. Childcare staff support summer sports and community programmes to meet minimum quality practice.	There are no statutory obligations to adhere to quality assurance schemes unless registered by CIW or contracted to the Local Authority who may make it a requirement of contract.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 79	Staffed play provision that the Local Authority provides meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards			<p>All supervised play provisions for children under the age of 12 years that operate for more than 2 hours in one day or for more than 6 days in a year must be formally registered with the CIW and have staff trained in play work subject to age range they cater for. These settings are assessed by the CIW on a regular basis to determine compliance with the National Minimum Standards (NMS).</p> <p>CCBC Early Years Department support all CIW registered play settings via Officers who visit settings. Settings are also encouraged to engage in the Caerphilly Quality Standard which exceeds the standards expected by NMS and if contracted there are additional standards to meet.</p> <p>School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) is also delivered in school holidays in schools in areas of disadvantage to support children’s play, activity and nutritional needs. It is delivered under one of the exceptions under the regulations but meets quality standards.</p> <p>CCBC Flying Start Programme also offer childcare via 16 maintained settings that are supported by CCBC officers who also act as Responsible Individuals on behalf of CCBC and ensure all settings adhere to the requirements of the NMS.</p>		
	Staffed play provision that the Local Authority funds meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards			<p>The LA does not directly fund staffed play provision with the exception of Holiday provision under the Childcare Offer which is offered through private childcare providers. All provision delivering the Childcare Offer meets the NMS, as well as the toolkits.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				All CCBC maintained Flying Start provision meets the regulatory requirement of the NMS.		
	Staffed play provision that the Local Authority's partners provide meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards			The LA does not directly fund staffed play provision. All private provision delivering the Childcare Offer meets the NMS, as well as using the toolkits. All providers contracted with the Local Authority to deliver Flying Start and Early Years Education places meet the regulatory requirements and NMS.		
Page 80	Staffed play provision across the Local Authority works to a recognised quality assurance programme			All registered settings are encouraged to undertake the local authorities own free Quality Assurance scheme – the Caerphilly Quality Standard which has just undergone a thorough review. All settings are also encouraged to undertake a nationally recognised QA scheme such as the national umbrella organisation sector quality assurance scheme.		
	The Local Authority prioritises quality issues when engaging with/ commissioning the private sector to deliver recreational activities for children.			Quality is a primary consideration when commissioning and engaging with the private sector, although this is balanced with other considerations such as cost, relevant experience, efficiency and reliability. The weighing to be applied to a consideration of quality criteria against other evaluation criteria is to be determined in respect of individual tenders and how quality should be measured will be set out within the tender documents. The procedure is set out within Council's Procurement Guide. All Early Years provision is procured through an appropriate tender process.		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 81	The Local Authority provides council premises and space free of charge to organisations which provide free (at the point of access) play provision for children			<p>All of the Council's community buildings are leased or licensed to their respective voluntary management committees. These management committees are empowered to set hire fee levels as they see fit for the various categories of hire. This can include free use, but this is not generally advocated because of the precedent it creates.</p> <p>There are normally three or four levels of hire fee, covering charitable, normal and commercial usage. It is therefore normal that only other charities are granted free use, and even then, usually by the reimbursement of the hire fee as a 'donation'.</p> <p>Many playgroups are operated as businesses and are therefore required to pay the highest commercial hire rate. It is necessary for these organisations to pay a reasonable hire fee to ensure that there is not a situation where a charity (the voluntary management committee) is not subsidising a business. All income generated from community buildings is retained by the management committees to further their charitable objectives. The use of such funds is controlled by Charity Law and not the local authority.</p> <p>The LA does make spaces available free of charge for certain events such as previously the Family Play Project Play Day. GAVO have also been able to use local free space for open access play sessions after discussions with the Parks department. Schools open up free of charge for the Food and Fun Programme. This programme is</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				also delivered in school holidays in schools in areas of disadvantage to support children’s play, activity and nutritional needs. It is delivered under one of the exceptions under the regulations but meets quality standards.		

Structured recreational activities for children

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 82	Local authority sport, physical activity, and active recreation plans are contributing to increasing free play and recreational activities			<p>The Local Authority’s Sport and Active Recreation strategy is a 10 year holistic strategy for Sport and Active recreation in CCBC. ‘Positive Futures’ is run by Sport Caerphilly, which provides inclusive Play and Sports for all particularly in areas where there are high levels of Anti Social behaviour.</p> <p>The programme continues to be a targeted approach and supported by data provided by Gwent PCC. This is supplemented by work ongoing on ‘Active Gwent’. The latest Local Plan for Sport (LPS) review has indicated that there have been increased levels of participation in recreational physical activity within sports development. We now also report on the number of children and young people that are ‘Hooked on Sport’ (HoS).</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 83				<p>The term HoS refers children who participate in sport or physical activity more than 3 times a week. This statistic has slightly decreased from 47% to 44% , however we have noticed an increase in popularity of recreational / less formal activities such as children playing on trampolines in their back garden or playing in skateparks. All the Council’s Comprehensive and High Schools are participating in school sport provision offer by Sport Caerphilly and it’s supporting partners such as Skateboarding Academy, Dragons Community Rugby etc. to encourage participation in extra- curricular and enrichment activities.</p> <p>School Sport also provides schools with the opportunity to listen to the needs of young people by providing opportunities that they would like to participate in and be fully inclusive for all young people. Overall, there has been a year on year increase for participation, however with COVID we are awaiting more accurate data from the latest school sport survey which is currently being undertaken.</p> <p>There has also been an increase in opportunities for children aged 3-11 years due to the physical literacy programme. Linked to this Sport Assessment Toolkit; 34 Play Sufficiency staff have undertaken training in the use of this toolkit – Part 2 LA Ref No Criteria RAG Status 2016 RAG Status 2019 Evidence to support strengths Shortfalls Identified actions for the Caerphilly Action</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 84				<p>Plan. Caerphilly are piloting a Health and well-being ambassador programme. This gives year 6 pupils the qualification to lead physical literacy play sessions during play times in schools and offers upskilling opportunities Within the School Holiday periods Sport Caerphilly run schemes/ camps for children across the borough to access sporting activities within leisure centre facilities.</p> <p>Sport Caerphilly also work in collaboration with Town Councils across the borough to provide free activities for children to access across the summer holidays. During summer 2021 additional free activities were also provided by Sport Caerphilly through the 'Summer of Fun' funding and the same approach will also be adopted in summer 2022.</p> <p>Sport Caerphilly also runs a comprehensive offer of tots sessions to children (aged 3-6) which links to the physical literacy programme adopted. Sports such as Football and Netball are run in leisure centre facilities with sporting club engagement provided so, children are able to continue playing sport once they are too old for our tots provision.</p> <p>A free Welsh Government swimming initiative, on a Friday at all leisure centres is continuing to prove popular, even after 5 years. The participation rates have increased year on year, with the exception of 2020 and 2021 due to covid-19 restrictions. CCBC have also offered free swimming in public swimming for</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>all children attending the ‘Learn to Swim’ classes. Free swimming lessons were also introduced to encourage children from deprived communities a chance to learn to swim. Additional free sessions were also introduced around school holidays to encourage children to be active. In 2021, all Year 7 pupils across the Borough were given access to ‘free’ leisure for a full School year. The take up has been extremely high.</p>		
Page 85	<p>The sports agenda contributes to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children</p>			<p>A variety of programmes are offered to children in schools and community settings. This demand is based on data obtained by the School Sport Survey, which is conducted every 2 years.</p> <p>The Sports Development Strategy outlines a vision for CCBC, which includes the promotion of Skills for Life priority areas. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the number of pupils accessing the extra-curricular sporting opportunities; • Increase the number of females that participate in sport; • Improve leadership through developing a leadership continuum; - provide an extensive inclusive competitive structure of activities available to all pupils regardless of ability; • Provide an extensive competitive structure of activities available to all; - Provide young people with high quality 	<p>This data is available every 2 years and has been delayed by COVID. However, it is now being undertaken again and data will become available end of October 22.</p>	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 86				<p>physical education opportunities in primary and secondary school; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide all young people with the opportunities to access sport in school environments inclusively. <p>There has been a steady increase in the number of people participating in the Council's sports provision over the past few years. The supervised provision analysis has also included information on structured recreational activities on a ward basis and it has been identified where free opportunities exist. Information on recreational activities for children including those with disabilities is contained on the Sport Caerphilly website, Facebook page and Twitter.</p>		
	<p>The cultural and arts agenda, is contributing to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children</p>			<p>The Council runs a number of arts and cultural development groups through which different opportunities for recreational activities occur. The Caerphilly County Youth Theatre runs two groups in English and Welsh to help young adults, aged 15-19 develop skills in drama techniques. We run a yearly variety of projects aimed at supporting young people in partnership with Literature Wales. Our focus has been on intergenerational work between nursery aged children and residential homes and also writing comic books with excluded pupils at the Innovate project as a way of boosting confidence and literacy skills.</p> <p>We support the Night Out scheme in partnership with The Arts Council that shows many children's and family shows in</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 87				<p>communities with no access to the performing arts. In addition we run the young promoters scheme which involves pupils taking the role of the promoter and learning new skills around putting on a show.</p> <p>Our work with young people is often accredited through 'Arts Award' which has been used heavily in schools, our Youth theatre and Night Out young promoters scheme. This is an informal accreditation with varying levels depending on age and ability for young people. Inside Out Cymru has been running for a number of years, providing arts activities to adults (post 16 years) within Caerphilly County Borough who have been identified as being at risk of developing a mental health problem or who are suffering from mental health issues. https://inside-out-cymru.org/</p> <p>We are moving towards developing work in arts and well-being to encourage participants in their personal development mentally, socially and creatively. We also aim to raise awareness of mental health issues and help to remove the stigma and discrimination attached to society's perceptions of mental health.</p> <p>In addition, the Council has helped support the redevelopment of Blackwood Miners Institute, which is a recognised as a Regional Performing Arts Centre by the Arts Council for Wales. The venue is at the forefront of developing family friendly shows for families that don't normally engage with the arts works</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				closely with the Parent Network in creating new ways for hard-to-reach families to come and see shows.		
Page 88	The Local Authority Youth Service provides for children’s opportunities for leisure and association			<p>Youth Service self and peer assessments indicate a broad selection of settings and activities available, in the context of an overall youth work curriculum.</p> <p>This is in addition to the CCBC Leisure and Tourism website that links through to various activities that are available.</p> <p>Caerphilly FIS holds information on services available.</p> <p>Leisure and association-related activities form a significant part of the Youth Service’s curriculum.</p>		

Supervised play provision

The local authority keeps an up-to-date record of all supervised play provisions that occur within the County Borough. The majority of these are published on the Council’s various websites. However, this data does not include information on the capacity or general size of groups, nor if there is a waiting list. This is an area that needs to be developed further.

Analysis of current provision indicates that there is a good distribution of supervised play across the County Borough and there are a number of free to attend or low-cost groups in some areas. In addition, there is provision in some areas for different needs such as disability and Welsh Medium although shortfalls have been identified in some areas.

It is clear that CCBC and its play partners seek to provide a provision that offers a rich environment given the number of different play opportunities on offer, and many of the provisions available are CIW accredited. CCBC also has its own Quality Standard through which play schemes will aspire to be accredited towards.

The analysis of supervised play provision indicates that there is a wide and rich variety of play opportunities available for children of all ages to participate in within their individual wards; however, it is difficult to ascertain the quality to which these schemes are run.

However, whilst there is a relatively good provision of activities available for younger children wishing to play through a Welsh Medium setting, there is only one youth group in the County Borough that provides this service.

The sports development strategy, arts and cultural development groups, the leisure and tourism teams all help to highlight the variety of play provisions on offer around the borough.

SHEP is delivered in schools free of charge to families in disadvantaged areas during the school holidays to support play, sports and nutrition.

Where the Local Authority has assessed settings as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessments (CSAs), how have these settings been assessed in respect of the quality of play opportunities they provide and offer?

Under the CSA there is no requirement to assess the quality of all provision available. However, the local authority supports improving quality across the sector through Officer support and Toolkits as well as self-assessment tools. All settings registered with CIW for out of school childcare must meet NMS and have play work trained staff.

How has provision that is not part of the CSA been assessed in respect of the quality of play opportunities they provide and offer?

N/A

Have there been challenges?

Capacity would be a challenge.

How can these be overcome?




Additional targeted funding would be needed.





Comments:

Matter E: Charges for play provision

The Local Authority should consider which play opportunities involve a charge and the extent to which the Local Authority takes these charges into account in assessing for sufficient play opportunities for children living in low income families as set out in the Statutory Guidance.

RAG status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 91	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in low income families			<p>Education has a data set for children eligible for Free School Meals which would give an indication of children living in low-income families.</p> <p>Welsh Government has produced a map indicating those LSOA that are the most deprived in Wales.</p> <p>https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/wimd-map</p>		
	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in areas of deprivation			<p>In addition to e-FSM data, Flying Start uses income benefit data to understand the demographics of each LSOA.</p> <p>Welsh Government has produced a map indicating those LSOA's that are the most deprived in Wales.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/wimd-maps		
	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in rural areas			Whilst Caerphilly is not a rural authority, fourteen wards have been identified as 'rural' as part of the rural development plan. The number of children aged 0-19 (based on 5 year age band data currently available from the 2011 Census) has been calculated for each of the fourteen wards to determine the number of children living in 'rural' areas.		
Page 92	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of disabled children and those with particular needs.			Education has a data set for children with additional learning needs and identified as particularly vulnerable. In addition, all children registered into the Flying Start programme and any project areas in Early Years as well as children referred through ISCAN for Education Psychology observation, are captured in the same database which enables a better picture for children aged 0-3 of emerging needs.	Not all pupils with particular needs will attend their catchment school, particularly if another school would be better suited to cater for their disability. This data cannot therefore be used to comprehensively identify the number of children with particular needs in each ward.	
	The Local Authority records the availability of no cost provision			FIS publicises all known provision complete with any costs or no cost provision. SHEP identifies individual children for schools delivering the scheme.	Some voluntary led free groups do not take up the opportunity to be included on the FIS system and therefore not all provision may be publicised.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority records the provision of no cost / low cost premises used for play provision			The LA keeps a record of new developments that have been provided via core Early Years grants, Childcare grants, and Flying Start grants, both revenue and capital. More information on this can be found in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017 and subsequent refresh / assessments.		
	The Local Authority records the provisions where grants or subsidies are available for play providers			The LA keeps a record of new developments that have been provided via core Early Years grants, Childcare grants, and Flying Start grants, both revenue and capital. More information on this can be found in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017 and subsequent refresh / assessments. The Youth Service has provided significant grant funding to a partner agency over the past decade for the purpose of supporting play providers.		
Page 93	The Local Authority provides subsidised transport for children travelling to play opportunities			The Authority uses Road Safety Grant to deliver cycling training to children this provides enhanced skills and enables them to cycle for leisure and to access local facilities.		

Charge for play provision

How is the Local Authority ensuring that children have access to no or low-cost provision?

SHEP provides free access to holiday play, nutrition and sports activities on local school sites reducing need for transport and being more community based.

Childcare Offer provides funding for families of 3-4 year olds in part time Foundation Phase to access free holiday childcare provision and after school term time childcare provision which are staffed regulated play opportunities.

FIS provides information on all activities across the borough.

Have there been challenges?

How can these be overcome?

Comments:

There is a good provision of free and low-cost provisions for children within most wards in the County Borough. Children and young people benefit from Families First funding and the majority of wards have a provision of free play sessions for young children to attend. Older children benefit from Youth Service run youth clubs as well as some voluntary sector run clubs. Youth Service Projects funded by Families First, Legacy and Safer Communities Funding also enable free youth activities to be delivered on an outreach basis to young people in their communities. This means that those areas where there are more low-income families are able to receive free play provisions.

However, the location of these provisions may mean that young children have to use public transport to gain access to free provisions. Currently, public transport costs are around half price for a child, however this is not a subsidised fare but that set by the various transport operators. Availability of further subsidised travel may lead to an increase in the uptake of play events.

Matter F: Access to space/provision

The Local Authority should consider all the factors that contribute to children’s access to play or moving around their community.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 95	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of the number of 20 mph zones/school safety zones in residential areas			<p>The Council has implemented 20mph zones and limits around the majority of primary schools where it is practicable to reduce the speed limit.</p> <p>Accurate records of 20mph speed limits and zones are maintained.</p>		
	The Local Authority has an identified mechanism for assessing the impact of speed reduction and other road safety measures on the opportunity for children to play outside in their communities			<p>The Council has adopted a Speed Management Strategy, which focuses on encouraging appropriate vehicle speeds. The strategy provides a transparent approach to speed management that investigates and responds in an appropriate manner to all identified speed related complaints and requests for traffic calming. It also complements the council’s integrated approach to road safety policies, practices and awareness and educational campaigns.</p> <p>The Speed Management Strategy applies to all roads within communities throughout the County Borough it does not specifically target aiding and promoting play on our streets. It does however focus on the management of vehicle speeds and</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				aims to ensure that all road users can safely access the highway network. Speed data is collected as part of the VAS project and includes scheme monitoring as required by Welsh Government Grant funding rules.		
Page 96	The Local Authority has a plan(s) to reduce the negative effect of busy roads and junctions through the introduction of speed reduction measures and provision of safe crossing points/routes for pedestrians and cyclists			<p>This is contained in the Speed Management Strategy. In addition, the Council has installed traffic calming measures and zones outside the majority of its schools to ensure the safety of children. The Highway Authority also studies the occurrence of personal injury collisions on the Highway Network and will implement measures to address problems where this can be of benefit.</p> <p>The Approved Active Travel Integrated Network Map for the Authority also includes planned improvements for walking and cycling on the highway network within communities for the next 15 years. The Active Travel (2013) Wales Act creates a duty on Local Authorities to consult on and review and resubmit their improvement plan on a regular basis.</p>		
	The Local Authority has a plan(s) to improve walking and cycle access to parks, outdoor play facilities and local leisure centres from residential areas			<p>The LDP contains policies to facilitate improvements to the cycle route network in the county borough. In addition, in line with national planning guidance, all new development is required to make adequate provision to ensure that walking and cycling are modes of transport which have been actively encouraged for short trips to and within the development and to nearby services and facilities through the provision of appropriate infrastructure.</p> <p>The Welsh government passed primary legislation “The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013” in November</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				2013. The legislation's aim is to develop Active Travel Maps and to make continual improvements for walking and cycling in defined settlements in Local Authority Areas. This initiative will assist in developing networks of cycling and walking routes to the standard to promote walking and cycling for utility (everyday) journeys. A well-developed Sustainable transport network will promote access to play and safer streets.		
Page 97	There is potential for the Local Authority to take further action to reduce traffic speed and improve road safety to promote play opportunities			<p>The Council has adopted a Speed Management Strategy which responds to concerns about vehicle speeds. The authority also seeks to implement 20mph limits and zones around schools in order to improve the safety of the school journey.</p> <p>Communities will benefit from reduced traffic speed in the 20mph zones, although play areas are not specifically identified. The council's traffic calming policy is embedded in the Speed Management Strategy and considers in the first stage the suitability of a road for traffic calming. The appraisal of a site also takes into consideration of the historic personal injury road traffic data and vulnerable road user casualties.</p>		
	The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to support delivery of cycling training for children to national standards			The Road Safety Team facilitates cycle training in a number of schools across the borough which is funded from Road Safety Grant. Children training on the scheme participate in the National Standards cycle training course.		
	The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to provide pedestrian			There are a number of schemes in operation in the County Borough which are funded by Welsh Government grants such as Kerbcraft which is an		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	safety training for children			innovative scheme that aims to provide children with road safety skills. The scheme has been running since 2003 and teaches children aged 5 to 7 how to be safe pedestrians by giving them practical roadside training.		
Page 98	The Local Authority has an accessible and well-known way of arranging temporary road closures, to support more children to play outside their homes			<p>Temporary Road closures are used for special events. 'Play activities' would need to form part of a larger organized 'special event' in order for us to grant a road closure under Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1994.</p> <p>Information can be found through the Council's website and is readily accessible to all who require this information. The Council also has an Event Safety Advisory Group that can assist.</p>	<p>Special events procedures for closure of the highway are not currently used for play activities on individual streets. However, play activities can form part of a larger event involving a closure of a street.</p> <p>The council website has been updated and contains information on how to plan an event on the highway and apply for a road closure.</p> <p>https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Things-To-Do/Events/Planning-an-event</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority refers to <i>Manual for Streets</i> when considering new developments and changes to the highway network/urban realm			Highways Engineers and Planning Officers administer, where appropriate, the design principles contained within Manual for Streets when considering new development. Consultants/developers are encouraged to utilise the information held within Manual for Streets, and for this information to be made available within Transport Statements in planning applications on schemes where a need for consideration is identified.		
Page 99	The Local Authority works to nationally recognised good practice guidelines when developing walking and cycling facilities			All schemes for improved walking and cycling routes are considered and are implemented according to nationally adopted standards. The Council uses national standards/guidance to develop schemes such as Welsh Government Design Guidance for Active Travel and the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges.		
	The Local Authority uses child pedestrian road accident casualty data to inform the location and design of interventions which help children get around independently in their communities			The Local Authority Road Safety Team is proactive in training children with the appropriate skills that enable them to enjoy a level of independent mobility. Road Traffic personal injury data is considered in developing all road safety schemes and interventions. Safety scheme funding is prioritised to address treatable patterns of pedestrian/vulnerable road user injuries.		
	The Local Authority considers children’s needs to access play opportunities when making decisions about public transport planning and expenditure			The majority of the local bus network is provided on a commercial basis and the Council has no direct control over the planning and extent of this. Resources are therefore targeted at serving areas that generate the highest passenger demand. Access specifically to play opportunities will not be the primary objective. However, a community		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 100				<p>served by a well serviced bus network will provide opportunities to travel to amenity areas.</p> <p>The Council provides revenue support for services that are not commercially viable, but these tend to be during evenings and Sundays, or during the daytime to areas where a commercial service is not sustainable. In addition, the Council has developed a flexible transport service that serves the needs of areas more isolated from the main public transport networks, but with limited financial resources available, there is limited scope to meet these criteria.</p> <p>As transport to play facilities is unlikely to generate demand that is sufficient to sustain a bespoke service, when planning play facilities, it would be appropriate to consider public transport provision and locate them in areas that are accessible by existing bus (or train) networks from the outset.</p>		
	The requirements of disabled children are understood and provided for within traffic and transport initiatives			The Local Authority recognises the issues faced by some disabled transport users as it funds a Community Transport service, which is provided for members of the community that do not have access to public transport or do not have access to their own car, as well as those who are unable to use public transport. The service also provides transport opportunities for those living in a community not frequently served by public transport. Bus and rail infrastructure is improved to meet disability regulations where this is practicable and new walking and cycling infrastructure is designed to meet the DDA required standard.		

Information, publicity and events:
For children and families to take part in play opportunities, recreational activities and events it is necessary for them to know what is available in their area.

<p>Page 101</p>	<p>The Local Authority has a clearly identified section on its website which gives information about play opportunities as described in the Statutory Guidance (play areas, play provision, clubs and their accessibility)</p>			<p>The Council has a number of website links that deal with Play opportunities within the Borough. These are:</p> <p>Parklife website – http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/parklife/welcome-parklife which includes playgrounds, kickwalls, MUGA's, skate parks and Youth Shelters.</p> <p>Family Information Service - http://www.caerphilly.org.uk/earlyyears/publicenquiry/ which deals with childcare, childminding, parent and toddler groups, after school clubs etc.</p> <p>Leisure Centres (through Sport Caerphilly) also provide sports provision during the school holidays.</p>		
	<p>The Local Authority provides information on access to play opportunities and contact for support if required</p>			<p>The Council has a number of website links that deal with Play opportunities within the Borough. These are:</p> <p>Parklife website – http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/parklife/welcome-parklife which includes playgrounds, kickwalls, MUGA's, skate parks and Youth Shelters.</p> <p>Family Information Service - http://www.caerphilly.org.uk/earlyyears/publicenquiry/ which deals with childcare, childminding, parent and toddler groups, after school clubs etc. Leisure Centres (through Sports Caerphilly) also provide sports and play provisions during the school holidays.</p>		

				<p>There are links from the CCBC website to partner organisations including:</p> <p>Menter Iaith http://www.mentercaerffili.cymru</p> <p>Contact details are provided on each of these websites to allow the public to access support where necessary.</p> <p>Information and support is also available from FIS outreach workers and from the Family Engagement Project Integration into Universal Provision Project, which also supports families to access universal provision and to engage in community based activities including local youth projects, play schemes, parent forums etc.</p>		
Page 102	The Local Authority supports and publicises events which encourage play opportunities and events for children and families			<p>The Council has a number of websites that publicise play opportunities and events for children and families. These are:</p> <p>Caerphilly website - www.caerphilly.gov.uk has a 'Latest news' section, as well as a 'What's on' section. These include events and activities that families and children are able to attend.</p> <p>Family Information Service - http://www.caerphilly.org.uk/earlyyears/publicenquiry/ which deals with childcare, childminding, parent and toddler groups, after school clubs etc.</p> <p>Groundwork Wales also assist in the provision of events.</p>		
	The Local Authority publicises information which contributes to positive community			<p>The Council regularly publishes community activities and events on its 'news' section on the website, many of which are related to play. In addition, the Council's Twitter and Facebook pages are regularly updated with additional information. In addition, there</p>		

	attitudes to play			<p>are Facebook pages for FIS, Flying Start, and Families First.</p> <p>Many events are also photographed and put on the Council's Flickr account.</p> <p>The Early Years and FIS websites both provide support information for parents on encouraging play. Downloadable resources for parents on language and Play are available for Babies, Toddlers and Older Children.</p> <p>In addition, Welsh Government website provides information to families on the Flying Start and 'Parenting. Give it Time' pages. All of this is regularly updated and publicised on local Facebook pages.</p>		
Page 103	The Local Authority publicises information and support for parents to help them encourage their children to play			<p>The Early Years and FIS websites both provide support information for parents on encouraging play. Downloadable resources for parents on language and Play are available for Babies, Toddlers and Older Children.</p> <p>In addition, Welsh Government website provides information to families on the Flying Start and 'Parenting. Give it Time' pages. All of this is regularly updated and publicised on local Facebook pages.</p>		
	The Local Authority widely uses on-site signposting to safeguard and promote play			<p>There are a number of signs across the County Borough identifying spaces as play area (see Matter C).</p> <p>The Council has a byelaw that ensures all areas of public open space can be used by all, and that no signage detailing specific types of play or no-play will be allowed.</p> <p>The Authority's Youth Service has actively promoted the use of public areas for the purposes of play.</p>		

	<p>The Local Authority engages with the media to encourage the positive portrayal of children playing in the local area</p>			<p>The Council regularly publishes information on community activities and events on its 'news' section on the website, which portray play in a positive manner.</p> <p>Many events are also photographed and put on the Council's Flickr account.</p>		
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Access to space/provision

How has the Local Authority ensured collaboration to ensure children can move around their communities to increase access to opportunities for playing?

Page 104

The Council encourages walking and cycling schemes within its Healthy Schools and the Active Travel Plan. In addition, schools also help to educate young children in using the streets safely, and grants are available to help fund this.

When designing new road schemes and residential layouts, the council endorses the use of Manual for Streets 2 to ensure that the streets are made as safe as possible. To further this, the Council has adopted a number of 20mph limit zones around schools and has invested in making road crossing and junction improvements to ensure that all road users can use the streets safely. As part of its Speed Management Strategy, the Council set out a strategy through which people can nominate roads that should have speed reduction measures put in place.

To ensure that collaborative working is taking place, the regional transport plan also helps inform LDPs. Within CCBC, the adopted LDP helps inform upcoming proposals and looks to improve key transport routes, for all types of vehicles and pedestrians. The LDP also seeks to further imbed cycle routes as part of the greater transport network. The addition of more frequent train services will help increase access to play provisions in Caerphilly.

Information leaflets are produced by the Countryside team that help highlight interesting walking routes that residents can undertake. Whilst these are not solely for access to play provisions, they are a valuable resource that can be a tool to help access play facilities in the country parks.

Have there been challenges?

How can these be overcome?

Comments

In terms of permitting temporary road closures for parents to allow their children to play on the roads, there is an online ‘Special Events on the Highway’ form that can be found on CCBC’s website. Whilst anyone can apply for this, there has been little to no uptake of this scheme for play purposes – potentially as the website has been targeted to deal with large scale street parties.

Information, publicity, events

How has the Local Authority positively used information to support access to play provision?

Have there been challenges?

How can these be overcome?

Comments:

Information about play facilities and groups is readily available on websites of the council and its play partners. The websites have all been designed for ease of use, and to allow children and parents to see what provisions are available to them. All materials produced by the Council and its play partners are aimed at their target audience and are available upon request in a variety of different mediums.

Matter G: Securing and developing the play workforce

The Local Authority should provide information on the organisational structure of the policy area which manages the play agenda and the play workforce.

RAG status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
<p>Note – These criteria are specifically about Playwork: Playwork is a highly skilled profession that enriches and enhances play. It takes place where adults support children’s play, but it is not driven by prescribed education or care outcomes. This includes both open access and out of school childcare settings</p>						
	The Local Authority keeps up to date information regarding the playwork workforce across the Local Authority (this should include the number of playworkers, playwork management structure, qualification levels, training opportunities and volunteers)			A childcare and play workforce audit is carried out (most recent Winter 2021/22) and includes data on the number of childcare workers with play work qualifications, qualification levels and training needs and opportunities. The Audit now considers both childcare and Playwork in separate sections.	Some play workers may not be included within the workforce audit if they are not part of childcare settings. There is also a high turnover of staff, which creates challenges in a snap shot audit as well as not all schemes being registered / regulated.	Explore with the Early Years Hub if we can Identify play settings that are not regulated to be included in the Audit

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 108	The Local Authority supports all of the workforce to achieve the qualification level required by the Welsh Government’s National Minimum Standards			<p>Training and signposting to funded training/qualifications is available to anyone living or currently working in a registered setting within Caerphilly County Borough to undertake a nationally recognised qualification in accordance with the Qualification framework and the National Minimum Standards via Caerphilly Early Years.</p> <p>The promotion of Play and Playwork Careers is included in all literature, and on the Caerphilly early years website.</p> <p>Play and playwork is included in all career events / roadshows. These are delivered to members of the public, Comprehensive schools, groups engaged with Projects e.g. through JCP</p>		
	The Local Authority supports the workforce to achieve the accepted qualification levels set out by SkillsActive			<p>Training and signposting to funded training/qualification opportunities is available to anyone living or currently working in a registered setting within Caerphilly County Borough to undertake a nationally recognised qualification in accordance with the Qualification framework and the National Minimum Standards via Caerphilly Early Years</p> <p>The promotion of Play and Playwork Careers, and information about funded qualifications is included in all literature, and on the Caerphilly Early Years website.</p> <p>Play and playwork is included in all career events / roadshows. These are delivered to members of the public, Comprehensive schools, groups engaged with Projects e.g. through JCP</p>		To re-engage with career events post pandemic.
	The Local Authority has a staff development budget			Caerphilly Early Years ring-fence money for Play in the training budgets if it has been identified as a need from the childcare and play workforce audit. There are many WG funded Playwork qualification apprenticeships which are offered locally so staff are signposted to this route first.	Since COVID (March 2020) the majority of the training and qualification	

	ring fenced for play, including playwork			<p>During 2019 Caerphilly Early Years part funded a Transition to playwork level 3 award in partnership with Coleg y Cymoedd. 16 participants achieved the qualification.</p> <p>Adult Learners Wales promote and fund the Playwork qualification which is actively promoted to the early years and childcare workforce.</p>	<p>courses were postponed or cancelled due to COVID restrictions. Caerphilly Early Years have slowly built the programme back up again using different methods of delivery i.e. virtual or blended learning as time is progressing.</p>	
Page 109	There is a comprehensive range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities available for playworkers in the area			<p>Caerphilly Early Years have a training budget and offer a comprehensive regulatory and CPD training programme which is available to playworkers who are working in the borough in a known provision.</p> <p>Since April 2019, Playworkers have had access to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 courses to enhance their CPD (play type courses) • 10 courses around Additional Learning Needs • 28 courses around Safeguarding 	As above	
	Training is available for volunteers and parents to develop their knowledge on skills in playwork			<p>Parent Network continues to work with funders and Adult Learners Wales as well as other funding bodies to deliver play work training for volunteers in the communities to develop playful communities.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority includes playwork within its Workforce Development strategies			Playwork is incorporated into Caerphilly Early Years Workforce Development for Childcare purposes as evidenced above.		
	The Local Authority supports partners to deliver appropriate training to community groups, parents and volunteers			Parent Network has worked with funders and Adult Learners Wales as well as other funding bodies to deliver play work training for volunteers in the communities to develop playful communities.		
Note – these criteria are about the Play workforce: This encompasses anyone employed whose role has an impact on children playing – those who may either directly facilitate their play, design for playing, or those with the power to give permission for children to play, or not.						
Page 110	The Local Authority has undertaken a comprehensive training needs analysis for the play workforce as defined in the toolkit glossary and above			A childcare and Play Workforce Audit Is carried out every 2 years, with the latest audit report carried out in March 2022. The result of the audit is used to plan training and qualifications for the sector.		
	The Local Authority takes action to expand the variety of learning and development opportunities that are offered to staff			Learning and development is identified through the training needs analysis carried out by Caerphilly Early Years, and also through the latest curriculum. New courses are sourced to keep learning interesting and to keep up with current practice.		To incorporate identified training needs into the full Early Years Workforce Development Plan.
	There is a comprehensive range of CPD opportunities for a range of professionals who work with children			Learning and development is identified through the training needs analysis carried out by Caerphilly Early Years. New courses are sourced to keep learning interesting and to keep up with current practice. Some of this is developed through the requirements		

				within Flying Start and the new curriculum and then rolled out across the whole sector		
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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Training awareness sessions are available for professionals and decision makers whose work impacts on children’s opportunities to play			<p>The Interact event and Parent Planet event are both useful in dissemination of information for frontline practitioners.</p> <p>The Local Authority is investing in a Play Development Officer post to support raising awareness of children’s opportunities to play.</p>		Following the recruitment of Play Development Officer, to promote the opportunity for development of play throughout the borough.

Securing and developing the play workforce

Page 12

How has the Local Authority met the requirement to undertake or secure the managerial and delivery functions necessary to achieve sufficient play opportunities?

Play and play work is integrated into the work carried out by Caerphilly Early years. To ensure we support the workforce in achieving nationally recognised qualifications and accessing CPD opportunities, we capture information through our Family Information Service and through our Early Years Workforce Development Training Website around the size and structure of the workforce. We have a team of Childcare Officers who support out of school club settings who can advise on what is available and support the setting to ensure they are meeting the National Minimum Standards.

How has the Local Authority ensured it understands and provides for the workforce development needs of the play workforce (as defined in *Wales: A Play Friendly Country and above*)?

We carry out or access through partner organisations (CWLWM) workforce audits to gauge the levels of qualifications the workforce possesses and use this information to plan what training and qualifications are needed. We ring fence a budget through the Childcare Early Years training budgets and also promote funded play work qualifications and training.

How has the Local Authority ensured it understands and provides the play work workforce (as defined in *Wales: A Play Friendly Country and above*)?

We have a team of Childcare Officers who support out of school club settings who can advise on what qualifications and training is available locally, and also support the setting to ensure they are meeting the National Minimum Standards, and the accepted qualification levels as set out by Skills Active.

Have there been challenges?

COVID Restrictions has had a massive impact on training and qualifications. From March 2020 most courses were cancelled or postponed, and Caerphilly Early Years have been working with training providers and professionals ever since to amend their training delivery methods to enable us to offer the courses again. A cautious approach has been taken to ensure the quality of learning was not lost. As such we are still not offering as many courses as we did pre-COVID.

How can these be overcome?

Caerphilly Early Years are continually growing the programme and aim to offer a full suite of training courses again by Autumn 2022, COVID restrictions permitting.




Comments

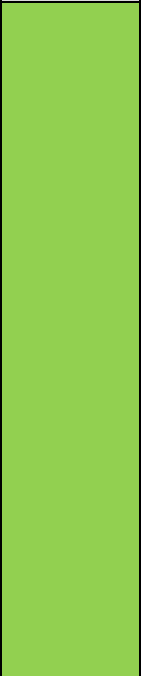

The promotion of Play and Play work careers is adequately addressed and included within Caerphilly Early Years workforce development. Within the Childcare Sufficiency Assessments, the ability and needs of the workforce need are examined - Chapter 15 of the Childcare Sufficiency assessment details in depth the various skills, opportunities, threats, and issues that face the workforce.

Matter H: Community engagement and participation.

The Local Authority should consult widely with children, their families and other stakeholders on their views on play provision. It should also promote wide community engagement in providing play friendly communities.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 114	The Local Authority promotes initiatives to engage relevant groups in enhancing play opportunities for children in its area.			<p>The Local Authority works across departments and with partner organisations to develop opportunities for children and their play opportunities.</p> <p>An example is the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) which worked across schools and LA teams to deliver healthy meals, nutrition sessions, and physical activity through play as well as free play sessions including string assault courses and fire pits. The subsequent promotion has increased significantly the number of schools who want to be involved in summer holidays 2019.</p> <p>The summer of fun funding was used to run a trip to Margam Park and Aberavon beach. The trip was designed to be low cost with no attractions and free entry. 54 community members attended these were a mixture of children and parents of all</p>	This GAVO funded officer was made redundant March 2018, post not filled due to funding cuts.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 115				<p>ages. The trip was created to empower parents to recreate the journey with their own children and family members. The trip run from the Lansbury community and was created and booked through the Bridging together group, a local recently established community group whose aim is to provide better and improved services to their housing estate.</p> <p>Part 1 of the trip was to Margam park, people were able to explore the nursery Rhyme village, farm, park, lake, trails and castle.</p> <p>Part 2 of the trip, later in the afternoon the families visited the beach, Aberavon has a beautiful golden beach and water park. Lots of the children had never seen the sea before and found the whole experience overwhelming.</p> <p>Staff were able to help the families to positively encourage the children to walk on the sand and visit the sea. The trip was well received, with lots of positive feedback.</p> <p>The Youth Service sponsors the employment of a dedicated officer within a partner agency to promote related initiatives.</p> <p>The WHQS Environmental Improvement programme continues to undertake</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>extensive consultation with communities in the Caerphilly Homes housing areas to identify potential environmental improvement projects for funding consideration. This will include engaging with local people, consulting with community groups, local interest groups, disability organisations, community councils and children and young people and use a variety of different consultation and engagement techniques.</p> <p>Formal and informal play including playparks, skate parks and MUGAs identified in several areas across Caerphilly and work has recently started at Penyrheol.</p> <p>Where a potential play site is identified and funding and maintenance requirements met, further in depth consultation will be undertaken with the local community, including children and young people, to determine the requirements of the play area. This is ongoing until 2020.</p> <p>The Lansbury Park Coalition for Change board has recently agreed to undertake a Community needs assessment / rapid participatory appraisal in Lansbury Park, which will focus on community engagement and provide qualitative information on a community’s health and well-being needs. This will help to identify what play provision is needed and what space is available for play. It will also help to inform the</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>community of what current play opportunities are available to them.</p> <p>The Welsh medium schools cluster in Caerphilly enabled sixth form pupils to attend a series of careers based workshops including one on the play sector</p>		
Page 117	<p>The Local Authority promotes community engagement in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - making space available and suitable for play - organising play events - positive attitudes towards children and play - training on the importance of play. 			<p>Many teams within the LA have a remit to promote community-based engagement examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • play schemes • play days • use of parks and open spaces for family play sessions. • delivery of training to practitioners and in future also extending to community members to support play provision • development work under Children First to support the development of playful communities <p>Youth Service facilities, which are community located, are open access in flavour and the delivery of activity at these locations incorporates principles that are consistent with those of Play.</p> <p>As part of the WHQS programme, asset mapping work is being undertaken by an Asset Surveyor in Housing which will help to identify spaces available and suitable for play</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				Officers within Community Regeneration are supporting local community groups and residents in Lansbury Park to organise community events and outings which have incorporated elements of play. This is in partnership with the Parent Network, which will commence in April 2019.		

Community engagement and participation.

How has the Local Authority effectively used existing mechanisms for children’s participation and family consultation processes with regards to play?

Have there been challenges?

How can these be overcome?

Comments

Through the various schemes and programmes run by the Local Authority, a number of consultations take place regularly to help gauge how successful various schemes have been, or if there are any gaps in provision. Children and young people are actively encouraged to engage in opportunities to promote play and there are a number of good practice examples across the County Borough of where this is succeeding.

Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas

The Local Authority should examine all its policy agendas for their potential impact on children’s opportunities to play and embed targets and action to enhance children’s play opportunities within all such policies and strategies.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 120	There is a named person on the Local Public Service Board who champions children’s play and ensures that the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan contribute to and are incorporated within the Well-being Plan			There is not a named person on the Gwent Public Service Board who champions play.	There is no specific ‘champion’ on the board as the PSB considers a wide range of cross cutting agendas.	There is a need to explore a named person who champions play on the Gwent Public Service Board.
	The Well-Being Plan recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities			The Wellbeing Assessment and plan is being reviewed with the move to Gwent Public Service Board with the objectives yet to be finalised.		The finalised Wellbeing assessment and plan for Gwent should include play.

Education and schools

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 121	Schools ensure that children are provided with a rich play environment for breaks during the school day			<p>School environments have improved to offer a range of diverse play opportunities during the school day as well as outside of school. The Sustainable Learning Communities team supports development of provision through both Band B funding and 50/50 schemes as well as maintenance and other funded Welsh Government programmes.</p> <p>The Flying Start and Childcare Offer capital programme has improved facilities and play provision on/near school sites.</p> <p>The Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme (Formerly referred to as the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme) has invested in outdoor spaces including soft play surfaces in collaboration with the schools in the borough.</p> <p>The Welsh Government and Local Authority's Education</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				Capital programmes continue to undertake investment in the ongoing maintenance of outdoor spaces.		
Page 122	Schools provide play opportunities during out of teaching hours			<p>Schools have been impacted by covid and had to reduce out of school provision. However, many schools are returning to delivery of out of school activity sessions and working with partners to offer a range of experiences using the school grounds and facilities.</p> <p>Food and Fun (SHEP) is planned for delivery in 6 schools with 8 cohorts in Summer 2022 (impacted by FSM canteen development and covid recovery), although this is planned to increase in summer 2023.</p> <p>Breakfast clubs and after school provisions as well as holiday clubs are advertised on Dewis to ensure families have the right information and support.</p> <p>All developments funded via the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme (Formerly referred to as the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme) ensure Community Usage is a key component of the development.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>These often include access to multi-use games areas outside of school hours.</p>		
Page 123	Schools provide access to school grounds for playing out of school times			<p>Schools have been impacted by covid and had to reduce out of school provision. However, many schools are returning to delivery of out of school activity sessions and working with partners to offer a range of experiences using the school grounds and facilities. SHEP is being delivered in the school summer holidays to support vulnerable communities.</p> <p>Some schools have leisure facilities on joint sites which are open out of school hours, including leisure centres, 4G pitch, running tracks etc.</p> <p>A pre-requisite of funding via the Welsh Government’s Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme (Formerly referred to as the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme) is to ensure the school facility has a component of Community Usage accessibly outside of school hours.</p>		
	Schools encourage children to walk and cycle to school			<p>All schools have a sustainable transport policy which includes safe routes to schools plans for walking and cycling. Many</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>schools have School Travel Plans which promote sustainable transport initiatives and encourage walking and cycling. The Healthy Schools Scheme includes criteria on 'fitness.' In order to demonstrate that the indicators related to this are being met many schools have implemented a walking bus, which has been successful in increasing the number of children walking to school. The Authority has also implemented a number of projects and schemes that promote walking and cycling. This includes 'Safe Routes in Communities' Initiatives. The development and implementation of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 which places duties on LA's to create an Active Travel Existing Routes Map and identified future improvements. These projects will assist in encouraging walking and cycling as part of the school journey.</p> <p>Active Travel is promoted via public consultation and as part of direct engagement with pupils as part the 'Pupil Voice' for any investments via the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				Programme (Formerly referred to as the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme).		
	The Local Authority offers guidance to ensure schools understand and ensure that regular outdoor play is not curtailed			Health and Safety, Healthy Schools and Sports teams offer guidance to schools on use of their outdoor spaces CCBC's 21st Century Schools have all designed appropriate play provisions inside and outside of the classrooms, so that play is not curtailed. In addition, guidance is given to staff and assistants in Play, such as the delivery of a Play workshop.		

Town and Country Planning

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 126	The Local Development Plan recognises and addresses the outdoor play needs of children of various age groups and abilities			<p>The Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in November 2010. One of the key objectives of the plan is to “ensure that the County Borough is well served by accessible public open space and accessible natural green space.” This objective has been translated into a strategic policy which states that “the Council will protect important networks of public open space, natural green space and recreational facilities from inappropriate development.” This is supported by criteria-based policies on the protection of open space as well as community and leisure facilities.</p> <p>The LDP recognises that new development may generate additional pressure on existing play spaces and therefore a policy has been included which requires developments of 10 or more dwellings to “make adequate provision for well-designed useable open space as an integral part of the development and appropriate formal children’s play facilities and outdoor sports provision either on or off site”.</p> <p>New formal leisure facilities such as football and rugby pitches have also been identified on a number of sites across the County Borough.</p> <p>CCBC has continued to identify and develop new leisure facilities. In the past two years, new 3g pitches have been installed in Blackwood, Islywn</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 127				<p>High School, St Cenydd, Bedwas Leisure Centre, Lewis School Pengam and Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni.</p> <p>Some pitches have been converted from the previous Artificial Turf Pitches (ATP) to the new 3G style pitches that are more user friendly and will provide key strategic facilities for the surrounding communities in each of the areas. The new pitches add to Caerphilly’s County Borough Council’s vast portfolio of excellent facilities and will provide more opportunities for Caerphilly’s residents and pupils at the schools to engage in sport from an early age. The new facilities will provide local sports clubs with the opportunity to play and train all year around. The multi-use pitches can be used in all weather and are utilised by a number of different sports including football and rugby.</p> <p>A new artificial turf pitch has been laid in Sue Noake Leisure Centre, helping to establish this site as a centre for Hockey excellence. A 300m running track and field event area in Oakdale was developed in 2021, partnering with a local Athletics organisation.</p> <p>Significant investments have also been made in Risca and Newbridge leisure Centre fitness suites, almost doubling the capacity and allowing the community from 11years upwards to enjoy.</p> <p>Policy CW7 Protection of Open Spaces is also supported by a Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) LDP8. This SPG seeks to provide further guidance on how more informal open spaces – the</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				areas that are likely to have the significant value for children’s play – will be assessed to ensure that the most valuable areas are protected if there is the potential threat that they may be lost. The guidance sets standards and a methodology for assessing the amount of open space in an area that is based on the FIT standards and guidance in TAN 16 in order to determine the value of an area of open space in both quantitative and qualitative terms.		

Traffic and Transport

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 128	The local Transport Plan recognises the importance of local streets, roads and walking and cycling route in offering play opportunities for children of different ages and abilities			<p>The Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Transport (Wales) Act 2006, requires Local Authorities to produce their highway strategy which can be produced in collaboration with other Local Authorities. These are known as Local Transport Plans.</p> <p>The South East Wales Local Transport Plan (SEW LTP) (January 2015) has been produced in partnership between local Authorities in the area. It identifies priorities for transport on an area wide basis. The plan has been developed and identifies a programme of initiatives and schemes that reflect local and national priorities. The plan helps deliver the objectives contained in the Welsh Government Transport Strategy for management and development of the transport</p>	The LTP does not make reference to the local streets and walking and cycle routes specifically as places for children to play. Rather, the document is focussed on the wider sustainability benefits of traffic reduction and modal shift.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>system aims to achieve environmental, social, economic and health benefits.</p> <p>Some objectives and interventions included in the South East Wales Local Transport Plan SEW LTP aim to encourage Active Travel and to improve access to leisure and cultural facilities for all individuals, including children & young people.</p>		
Page 129	The local Transport Plan identifies ways of assessing and addressing the needs of all groups including those which are often marginalised.			<p>The SEW LTP impact assessment report considered a number of measures including children’s rights, equality and health. The SEW LTP also aims to improve accessibility for all individuals including children between and within communities. The SEW LTP seeks to address a number of problems in society and remove barriers in the transport system. These include the following objectives:</p> <p>Safety and Security</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To reduce the number and severity of road traffic casualties. 2. To improve actual and perceived level of personal security when traveling. <p>Connectivity and Accessibility</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. To improve access for all and promote equality of opportunity to employment opportunities, services, healthcare, education, tourism and leisure facilities. 		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>4. To improve connectivity by sustainable transport between the SE Wales Valleys and the rest of Wales, the UK and Europe.</p> <p>Quality and Efficiency</p> <p>5. To improve interchange within and between modes of transport.</p> <p>6. To improve the quality, efficiency and reliability of the transport system.</p> <p>7. To reduce traffic growth, traffic congestion and to make better use of the existing road system.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>8. To achieve a modal shift towards more sustainable forms of transport for moving people and freight. To reduce significantly carbon emissions from transport.</p> <p>9. To reduce the impact of the transport system on the local street scene and the natural, built and historic environment.</p> <p>10. To promote sustainable travel and to make the public more aware of the consequences of their travel choices on climate, the environment and health.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 131				<p>Land Use and Regeneration</p> <p>11. To ensure developments in the SE Wales Valleys are accessible by sustainable transport</p>		

Early Years Plans

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Early Years and Flying Start plans and services recognise			Quality childcare supported through the Early Years and Flying Start team includes		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	the importance of play and contribute to the provision of rich play opportunities for younger children			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITERS / ECERS assessments on the quality of the environment and staff interaction • Advisors and Officers all recognise the importance of play and playful environments and deliver training to expand the staff understanding of learning through quality play opportunities • Play specific training is delivered regularly • Forest School sessions include fire pits and the importance of children experiencing the rich outdoors environment <p>The LA’s Early Years education programme considers play as an important part of learning. All early years’ settings providing places for 3 year old have to be inspected by a registered education inspector (ESTYN) on a regular basis. Non-maintained settings also undergo the usual annual inspection by the Care Inspectorate Wales. In Caerphilly County Borough non-maintained settings have to go through a quality tendering procedure to achieve early years status. Opportunities for play and learning are one of the minimum standards that need to be achieved.</p> <p>There are 26 Flying Start areas in the County Borough that offer a range of support and advice for parents and children living within Flying Start areas. The importance of play is integral to the Flying Start service and all core services aim to reinforce this message to parents through advice on play activity ideas and support for parents in</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				playing with their children. Flying Start is expanding with phase 1 starting Sept 2022.		

Family policy and initiatives

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 133	Family support initiatives provide up to date information and support for parents to enable them to support their children to play			<p>Caerphilly Early Years team support vulnerable families to support their children in play and development. the team delivers bespoke package to meet the family needs, speech and language, and child development, routines, behaviour, as well as parenting programmes. Caerphilly Early Years now works with families across the borough with families antenatal to 7years.</p> <p>The Early Years Hub helps to provide information to families including having the What Matters conversation to understand their needs. The team work with providers to keep Dewis updated with information for families. The Early Years website has recently been developed to provide information and links to wider websites for families.</p>		
	The local implementation of the Families First programme recognises the importance of play and contributes to the			Since the new guidance for Families First programme the adventure play project was removed from the commissioning cycle. However, all projects commissioned support		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	provision of rich play opportunities			vulnerable families with an element of play within this.		
	Plans to reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities			ACEs work sits under Best Start in Life which has now developed into a focus on Early Years Integration Transformation Programme. ACEs training has been embedded into Safeguarding training and resilience training in early years.		

Inter-generational policy and initiatives

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	There are a range of play based approaches to inter-generational activity			Inter-generational working forms an aspect of youth service delivery.	Youth Service activity does not include the total age-range that defines Play activity.	
	There is a creative approach to inter-generational activity which encourages better interaction between children of different ages			Under the Children First task group this is being explored to develop a greater understanding between generations of play, the importance of play for children and young people and adults and to cultivate a tolerance in communities moving towards developing playful communities.	Youth Service activity does not include the total age-range that defines Play activity.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				Inter-generational working forms an aspect of youth service delivery.		

Health and Safety	
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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 136	The Health and Safety policies explicitly recognise the value of children being able to experience risk and challenge			While we cannot enforce all policies from Early Years across all childcare settings, we do offer templates to support their implementation. Within Early Years we encourage an understanding of children’s development needs and foster a play experiential learning environment with a risk management approach to health and safety policies, so that appropriate risk and challenge is enabled for the age and stage of the children.		
	The Health and Safety policies and procedures incorporate the risk-benefit approach to health and safety assessments as recommended by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)			While we cannot enforce all policies from Early Years across all childcare settings, we do offer templates to support their implementation. Within Early Years we encourage an understanding of children’s development needs and foster a play experiential learning environment with a risk management approach to health and safety policies, so that appropriate risk and challenge is enabled for the age and stage of the children.		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority offers the provision of insurance through the Local Authority scheme to all third sector play providers and community councils			The Council offers insurance to third sector play providers and community councils using Council buildings through its corporate insurance policy.		

Play within relevant policy and implementation agendas

Please use this section to highlight successes of collaboration across policy areas to improve play opportunities.

Have there been challenges?

How can these be overcome?

Comments:

Conclusion

This section should identify the key priorities for the Local Authorities in accordance with the regulations and described in the Statutory Guidance.

Matter A: Population

The 2011 Census is still the most appropriate data source, as in 2016.

Matter B: Providing for Diverse Needs

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The Local Authority's approach to play is to promote inclusivity for all and therefore those with a specific need by virtue of a disability, culture, language, sexual orientation or any other reason will be supported to participate within existing play settings as much as possible, rather than being segregated through different provision.

However, it is recognised that specific groups may have particular requirements for which specific provision is needed. The Assessment has therefore considered the location of provision specifically for disabled children and it is evident that, whilst provision is available, the geographical coverage of provision is varied. Community transport is, however, available to assist.

Through the Open Space Audit undertaken as part of the Local Development Plan evidence base, the LA has a clear indication of the open spaces available to those living in rural areas and through child survey the barriers facing children in these areas have been identified, although there it would be beneficial to undertake further survey work in some communities.

There are few areas that would be classified as 'isolated.' There are small numbers of specific ethnic groups in the County Borough. No specific demand has been identified as yet for culturally specific play provision and the lack of culturally specific provision has not been identified as a barrier to play. However, more consultations around this area will need to take place.

With regards to Welsh language, an assessment of provision across the County Borough clearly indicates that there is only a limited supervised provision in certain areas for certain age groups, and much of this provision is linked to Welsh Medium schools (breakfast and after school clubs). However, it has been the case, particularly in the north of the County Borough, that Welsh Medium childcare provision has been found to be unsustainable and therefore it is important that any future Welsh medium play provision is based on demand. The Local Authority will therefore continue to work with Welsh language groups such as Menter Iaith and Mudiad Meithrin to determine through further consultation with children and parents where there would be a demand for increased facilities and to encourage the provision of these facilities where appropriate.

Matter C: Space available for children to play: Open Spaces and Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

A comprehensive Open Space Assessment has been carried out in accordance with the typologies of Open Space set out within TAN 16, although no specific assessment has been undertaken in respect of those typologies included within the Play Sufficiency Statutory Guidance that are additional to those included in TAN 16, namely brownfield sites and residential streets. This data has been used, in accordance with local standards for open space provision, to identify which areas may have an insufficient overall amount of open space that is useable for play when assessed against these local standards. The results of this assessment have indicated that there are a small number of wards which fall below the children's play space standards. However, where there are apparent deficiencies purely in quantitative terms, consideration has also been given to other factors, including play space provision in adjoining wards.

The quantity of playgrounds and of all designated play spaces have been calculated and assessed against local standards based on both the area of facilities (FIT standard per 1000 population) and the actual number of facilities per child population, as well as considering against known future provision e.g., through Section 106 agreements and provision in neighbouring wards. A few wards have been identified as having insufficient provision.

The assessment also considers the usability of the space as well as accessibility based on the minimum distances to travel standards by age group, its recreational and visual amenity and its condition. Areas that fall below minimum distance standards have been identified.

Whilst this provides a baseline of the value of each open space and designated space, a full play value assessment has not been carried out and there would be benefit in undertaking a more detailed assessment of play value, specifically in relation to designated spaces to inform future reviews of the Play Sufficiency Assessment.

Matter D: Supervised provision

The local authority keeps an up-to-date record of all supervised play provisions that occur within the County Borough. The majority of these are published on the Council's various websites. However, this data does not include information on the capacity or general size of groups, nor if there is a waiting list. This is an area that needs to be developed further.

Analysis of current provision indicates that there is a good distribution of supervised play across the County Borough and there are a number of free to attend or low-cost groups in some areas. In addition, there is provision in some areas for different needs such as disability and Welsh Medium although shortfalls have been identified in some areas. Assessment Toolkit 81 Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

CCBC and its play partners seek to provide a provision that offers a rich environment given the number of different play opportunities on offer, and many of the provisions available are CIW accredited. CCBC also has its own Quality Standard through which play schemes will aspire to be accredited towards. The analysis of supervised play provision indicates that there is a wide and rich variety of play opportunities available for children of all ages to participate in within their individual wards.

The sports development strategy, arts and cultural development groups, the leisure and tourism teams all help to highlight the variety of play provisions on offer around the borough and SHEP is delivered in schools free of charge to families in disadvantaged areas during the school holidays to support play, sports and nutrition.

Matter E: Charges for play provision

There is a good provision of free and low-cost provisions for children within most wards in the County Borough. Children and young people benefit from Families First funding and many wards have a provision of free play sessions for young children to attend. Older children benefit from Youth Service run youth clubs as well as some voluntary sector run clubs. Youth Service Projects funded by Families First, Legacy and Safer Communities Funding also enable free youth activities to be delivered on an outreach basis to young people in their communities. This means that those areas where there are lower income families are able to receive free play provisions.

However, the location of these provisions may mean that young children have to use public transport to gain access to free provisions. Currently, public transport costs are around half price for a child, however this is not a subsidised fare but that set by the various transport operators. Availability of further subsidised travel may lead to an increase in the uptake of play events.

Matter F: Access to space/provision

To ensure that collaborative working is taking place, the regional transport plan also helps inform LDPs. Within CCBC, the adopted LDP helps inform upcoming proposals and looks to improve key transport routes, for all types of vehicles and pedestrians. The LDP also seeks to further imbed cycle routes as part of the greater transport network. The addition of more frequent train services will help increase access to play provisions in Caerphilly.

The Local Authority has invested in a large number of traffic calming schemes, and 20 mph zones and limits have ensured that the County Borough's roads are safer for children, particularly around schools. Whilst the parent and child surveys do indicate that the public perceive that more could be done, it is evident that the LA has made significant progress in improving road safety already and through the Speed Management Strategy, people can nominate roads that should have speed reduction measures put in place, which provides an opportunity to tackle the barriers to play in respect of road safety where appropriate. There is also an extensive road safety education programme in place.

The Council encourages walking and cycling schemes within its Healthy Schools and the Active Travel Plan. In addition, schools also help to educate young children in using the streets safely, and grants are available to help fund this.

Whilst information is available on the Council website in respect of temporary road closures, this is aimed at special event and improvements to the website information will be taken forward.

Information, publicity, events

Information about play facilities and groups is readily available on websites of the council and its play partners. The websites have all been designed for ease of use, and to allow children and parents to see what provisions are available to them.

All materials produced by the Council and its play partners are aimed at their target audience and are available upon request in a variety of different mediums.

Matter G: Securing and developing the play workforce

Play and play work is integrated into the work carried out by CCBC's Early years. To ensure we support the workforce in achieving nationally recognised qualifications and accessing CPD opportunities, we capture information through our FIS and through our Early Years Workforce Development Training Website around the size and structure of the workforce. We have a team of Childcare Officers who support out of school club settings who can advise on what is available and support the setting to ensure they are meeting the National Minimum Standards.

Matter H: Community engagement and participation

Through the various schemes and programmes run by the Local Authority, a number of consultations take place regularly to help gauge how successful various schemes have been, or if there are any gaps in provision. Children and young people are actively encouraged to engage in opportunities to promote play and there are a number of good practice examples across the County Borough of where this is succeeding.

Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas

It is recognised that play is a cross cutting policy agenda that can be influenced by a number of policy areas and an assessment of the many policies and strategies produced by the Council indicates that whilst play is often not directly referenced, the overall aims of many strategies e.g., traffic reduction, increased number of childcare providers adhering to local standards, community safety etc. will all indirectly improve play provision in Caerphilly.

There is evidence of good practice in schools with regards to play opportunities, but there is scope to expand the existing programmes that are successfully being implemented as well as looking to increase the use of playgrounds out of school hours as these are valuable play spaces.

The protection of valuable areas of open space and delivery of new open space and fixed facilities where new development generates a demand are both important elements of the LDP and the shared evidence base on Open Spaces between the Play Sufficiency Assessment and the LDP is critical in ensuring that the information remains up to date.

Way forward

The Action Plan highlights that whilst provision of Play is wide and varied, more work needs to be undertaken to assess the quality of provisions that are available. This work will undoubtedly have funding consequences on the teams that need to implement wider research or analysis.

Without appropriate funding from the Government, it is uncertain how these actions can be implemented.

In order to build upon the strong networks created by the Play Sufficiency Working Group, regular meetings will continue to take place to discuss and update colleagues on progress that is being made with the project.

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Signed:

Date: 29.6.2022.....



Actions to be taken to address the issues / shortcomings recorded in the Play Sufficiency Assessment

Proposed actions for the period of 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023

(Funding source: funding from Local Authority own budgets and to be included in the Single Integrated Plan).

Matter	Priorities	Targets	Links to other Matters	Resources, including costs	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)
Page 143 Statutory Guidance-policy Framework	To adhere to the Statutory Guidance – policy framework for future Play Sufficiency Assessments	Submit subsequent Assessment and accompanying Action Plan to Welsh Government every 3 years.		Current CCBC staff and partners where possible.	Additional funding would be required as CCBC does not have a play sufficiency officer.
Matter A: Population					
Matter B: Providing for diverse needs	Undertake targeted consultation with children and their parents in isolated areas to establish need.	Try and carry out consultation by 2023.		Current CCBC staff and partners where possible.	Funding will be required to carry out these actions.
Matter C: Space available for children to play	Undertake joint play access audit / place space and play value assessments.	Carry out assessments by 2023.		Training will be required for CCBC staff to undertake assessments.	Funding will be required to carry out these actions.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

	This area of 'No ball games' signs will be explored through the council Youth Services initiative of 'please play here' signs.	Work with Youth Service and parks to undertake this action.		Current CCBC staff and partners where possible.	Funding will be required to fund 'please play here' signs.
Matter D: Supervised provision					
Matter E: Charges for play provision					
Matter F: Access to space/provision					
Matter G: Securing and developing the workforce	<p>Look to incorporate a specific section on Play Accreditations within the Workforce Development Audit.</p> <p>Explore with Family Information Service if we can identify play settings that are not regulated childcare</p>	Try and carry out these actions by 2023.		Current CCBC staff and partners.	Funding will be required to carry out these actions.
Matter H: Community engagement and participation	A draft environmental enhancement plan for Lansbury Park has been drafted and is currently out for internal	Adoption of policy and provision of improvements by 2023.		Current CCBC staff and partners.	Funding will be required to carry out these actions.

	consultation which could include play improvements				
Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas	There is a need for a Play Champion.	Try and appoint a community champion by 2023.		Play Sufficiency Lead to action.	No funding is required.