

Pecyn Dogfennau Cyhoeddus

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

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



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Am unrhyw ymholiad yn ymwneud â'r agenda hwn cysylltwch â Emma Sullivan
(Rhif Ffôn: 01443 864281 Ebst: hughesj@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Dyddiad: 17 Mai 2023

Bydd y cyfarfod hwn yn cael ei ffrydio'n fyw ac yn cael ei recordio a bydd ar gael i'w weld ar wefan y Cyngor, ac eithrio trafodaethau sy'n ymwneud ag eitemau cyfrinachol neu eithriedig. Felly, bydd delweddau/sain yr unigolion sy'n siarad ar gael yn gyhoeddus i bawb trwy'r recordiad ar wefan y Cyngor: www.caerffili.gov.uk

Mae croeso i chi ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg yn y cyfarfod, mae angen o leiaf 3 diwrnod gwaith o rybudd os byddwch chi'n dymuno gwneud hynny. Bydd gwasanaeth cyfieithu ar y pryd yn cael ei ddarparu ar gais.

I bwy bynnag a fynno wybod,

Bydd cyfarfod y **Cyngor** yn cael ei gynnal yn y Siambr, Tŷ Penallta a thrwy Microsoft Teams ar **Dydd Mawrth, 23ain Mai, 2023** am **5.00 pm** i ystyried materion a gynhwysir yn yr agenda canlynol. Gall aelodau'r Cyhoedd neu'r Wasg fynychu'n bersonol yn Nhŷ Penallta neu gallant weld y cyfarfod yn fyw drwy'r ddolen ganlynol: <https://civico.net/caerphilly>

Yr eiddoch yn gywir,

Christina Harrhy
PRIF WEITHREDWR

AGENDA

Tudalennau

- 1 I dderbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.

A greener place Man gwyrddach



2 Cyhoeddiadau'r Maer.

3 I dderbyn deisebau o dan Reol Gweithdrefn 28(3).

4 Cyflwyno Gwobrau.

5 Datganiadau o Ddiddordeb.

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

I gymeradwyo a llofnodi'r cofnodion canlynol:-

- 6 Cyngor Arbennig a gynhaliwyd ar 23 Chwefror 2023. 1 - 16
- 7 Cyngnor 15 Mawrth 2023. 17 - 22
- 8 Cyngor Arbennig a gynhaliwyd ar 19 Ebrill 2023. 23 - 28
- 9 I dderbyn ac i ateb cwestiynau a dderbyniwyd o dan Reol Gweithdrefn 10(4).
Cwestiwn gan y Cynghorydd B. Miles i'r Aelod Cabinet dros Ofal Cymdeithasol, y Cynghorydd E. Forehead.
- A all yr Aelod Cabinet dros Ofal Cymdeithasol amlinellu'r pwysau ar Ofal Cartref a'r hyn rydyn ni, yng Nghyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, yn ei wneud i geisio ateb y galw?
- 10 I dderbyn ac i ateb cwestiynau a dderbyniwyd o dan Reol Gweithdrefn 10(4).
Cwestiwn gan y Cynghorydd K. Etheridge i Arweinydd y Cyngor, y Cynghorydd S. Morgan.
- Gofyn i'r Arweinydd ddiffinio, a gwneud datganiad ar ba gyngor, ymgynghori ac ymgysylltiad a gafodd o ran uno Swyddi Cabinet Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol, Eiddo a Phrifyrdd, o dan un Swydd Cabinet ac a yw'n teimlo y bydd hyn yn cynnig gwerth gorau ac effeithiolrwydd. effeithlonrwydd a lles dim ond 1 Aelod Cabinet wrth ymdrin â phortffolio mor fawr er budd Tîm Caerffili.
- 11 Derbyn y cwestiwn dan Reol Gweithdrefn 10(4) i'w ateb yn ysgrifenedig.
Cwestiwn gan y Cynghorydd J. Winslade i Arweinydd y Cyngor, y Cynghorydd S. Morgan.
- A fyddai'r arweinydd yn rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y pwysau oherwydd prinder tai ym Mwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili?

I dderbyn ac ystyried yr adroddiad(au) canlynol:-

12 Hysbysiad o Gynnig - Cyflogwr sy'n Croesawu Teuluoedd Maeth.

13	Hysbysiad o Gynnig - Tlodi Tanwydd.	35 - 40
14	Cynllun Busnes – Cyfrif Refeniw Tai 2023/24.	41 - 118
15	Dyfodol Grŵp Gorchwyl Cartrefi Caerffili.	119 - 126

Cylchrediad:

Pob Aelod a Swyddog Priodol

SUT FYDDWN YN DEFNYDDIO EICH GWYBODAETH

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

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

Am wybodaeth bellach ar sut rydym yn prosesu eich gwybodaeth a'ch hawliau, ewch i'r [Hysbysiad Preifatwydd Cyfarfodydd Pwyllgor Llawn](#) ar ein gwefan neu cysylltwch â Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol drwy e-bostio griffd2@caerffili.gov.uk neu ffoniwch 01443 863028.

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol



CYNGOR ARBENNIG

COFNODION Y CYFARFOD AML-LEOLIAD A GYNHALIWDYD YN SIAMBR TŶ PENALLTA A THRWY MICROSOFT TEAMS AR DDYDD IAU, 23AIN CHWEFROR 2023 AM 5.00PM

YN BRESENNOL:

Cynghorydd E.M. Aldworth - Maer
Cynghorydd M.A. Adams – Dirprwy Faer

Cynghorwyr:

C. Andrews, A.P. Angel, C. Bishop, A. Broughton-Pettit, M. Chacon-Dawson, R. Chapman, P. Cook, S. Cook, D. Cushing, C. Cuss, D.T. Davies MBE, N. Dix, G. Ead, C. Elsbury, G. Enright, K. Etheridge, A. Farina-Childs, C. Forehead, E. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, A. Gair, N. George, C. Gordon, D. Harse, T. Heron, A. Hussey, D. Ingram-Jones, M.P. James, L. Jeremiah, G. Johnston, J. Jones, S. Kent, A. Leonard, P. Leonard, C.P. Mann, A. McConnell, B. Miles, C. Morgan, S. Morgan, B. Owen, T. Parry, L. Phipps, M. Powell, H. Pritchard, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, J. Reed, J. Roberts, J. Sadler, R. Saralis, J. Scriven, J. Simmonds, E. Stenner, J. Taylor, C. Thomas, L.G. Whittle, S. Williams, W. Williams, J. Winslade, K. Woodland, C. Wright

Ynghyd â:

D. Street (Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Thai), R. Tranter (Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Swyddog Monitro), R. Edmunds (Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Addysg a Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol), M. S. Williams (Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol dros yr Economi a'r Amgylchedd), S. Harris (Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Ariannol a Swyddog Adran 151), L. Lane (Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Democraidaidd a Dirprwy Swyddog Monitro), A. Southcombe (Rheolwr Cyllid), N. Roberts (Prif Gyfrifydd Grŵp), S. Pugh (Pennaeth Cyfathrebu), E. Sullivan (Uwch Swyddog Gwasanaethau Pwyllgorau), R. Barrett (Cofnodwr)

ER COF

Cyfeiriodd y Maer at farwolaeth ddiweddar Mrs Margaret Davies, gwraig annwyl y Cynghorydd Tudor Davies MBE. Safodd y Cyngor am funud o dawelwch fel arwydd o barch a chydymdeimlwyd â'r Cynghorydd Davies MBE ar yr adeg drist hon.

TREFNIADAU RECORDIO, FFILMIO A PHLEIDLEISIO

Atgoffodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Thai y rhai oedd yn bresennol fod y cyfarfod yn cael ei ffrydio'n fyw, a byddai recordiad ar gael yn dilyn y cyfarfod ar wefan y Cyngor – [Cliciwch yma i'w weld](#). Dywedodd y byddai penderfyniadau'n cael eu gwneud drwy Microsoft Forms.

1. YMDDIHEURIADAU AM ABSENOLDEB

Derbyniwyd ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan y Cynghorwyr M. Evans, D.W.R. Preece,

D. Price, J. Rao, S. Skivens and A. Whitcombe, ynghyd â Mrs C. Harrhy (Prif Weithredwr).

2. DATGANIADAU O DDIDDORDEB

Derbyniwyd y datganiadau canlynol ynghylch Eitem Agenda Rhif 5 – Cynigion Cyllideb ar gyfer 2023/24 :-

Datganodd y Cynghorwyr C. Elsbury ac C. Wright fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon fel Aelodau o Awdurdod Tân ac Achub De Cymru.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd C. Cuss fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan ei fod yn Gadeirydd Canolfan Gymunedol Ael-y-Bryn ac yn aelod o Bwyllgor Rheoli Canolfan Gymunedol Dewi Sant a'r Wigwam yn Rhymni.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd N. George fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan ei fod yn aelod o Bwyllgor Rheoli Canolfan Gymunedol Channel View.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd W. Williams fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan ei fod yn aelod o Bwyllgor Tŷ Cymunedol a Chanolfan Hamdden Markham.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd P. Leonard fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan ei bod yn Gadeirydd Pwyllgor Rheoli Canolfan Gymunedol Channel View.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd C. Morgan fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan ei fod yn Aelod o Bwyllgorau Canolfan Gymunedol Graig-y-rhaca a Neuadd Bentref Machen.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd T. Parry fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan ei bod ar Bwyllgor Rheoli Canolfan Gymunedol Hengoed.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd D. Cushing fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan ei bod yn Gadeirydd Pwyllgor Rheoli Canolfan Gymunedol Cefn Hengoed.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd H. Pritchard fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan ei fod ar Bwyllgor Rheoli'r Ganolfan Gymunedol ac yn Aelod o Bwyllgor y Clwb Pêl-droed Lleol.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd C. Mann fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan ei fod yn Aelod o Bwyllgor Rheoli Canolfan Gymunedol Llanbradach.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd E. Forehead fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan ei bod yn Gadeirydd Canolfan Gymunedol y Fan.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd A. Gair fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan ei bod yn Aelod o Bwyllgor Rheoli Canolfan Gymunedol Tir-y-Berth a Cascade.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd R. Chapman fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan ei fod yn Gadeirydd Pwyllgor Rheoli Canolfan Gymunedol Fochriw.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd A. McConnell fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan ei bod yn Aelod o Bwyllgor Neuadd Bentref Machen a Chanolfan Gymunedol Graig-y-rhaca.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd S. Morgan fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan ei fod yn eistedd ar Bwyllgor Rheoli Canolfan Gymunedol Nelson.

ADRODDIADAU SWYDDOGION

Ystyriwyd yr adroddiadau canlynol.

3. ADRODDIAD STRATEGAETH GYFALAF 2023/2024

Rhodddwyd ystyriaeth i'r adroddiad, a oedd yn amlinellu manylion Strategaeth Gyfalaf yr Awdurdod ar gyfer 2023/24 yn unol â'r Cod Darbodus a gyflwynwyd gan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 2003 ac a oedd yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cyngor i'w gynnwys. Roedd yr adroddiad wedi cael ei ystyried gan y Pwyllgor Craffu Polisi ac Adnoddau ar 23 Ionawr 2023 a roddodd sylwadau ar y Strategaeth Gyfalaf cyn ei chyflwyno i'r Cyngor.

Dywedwyd wrth y Cyngor fod yr adroddiad yn croesgyfeirio adroddiad y Prif Weithredwr ar Gyllidebau Refeniw a Chyfalaf ["adroddiad y gyllideb"]; a Strategaeth Flynyddol Rheoli'r Trysorlys, Dangosyddion Darbodus Cyllid Cyfalaf ac Adroddiad Polisi Darpariaeth Isafswm Refeniw ar gyfer 2023/2024.

Mae'r Strategaeth Gyfalaf yn amlinellu'r egwyddorion a'r fframwaith ar y lefel uchel iawn sy'n llunio cynigion buddsoddi cyfalaf yr Awdurdod. Y prif nod yw darparu rhaglen fforddiadwy o gyfalaf sy'n gyson â'r strategaeth ariannol sy'n cyfrannu at gyflawni blaenoriaethau ac amcanion y Cyngor fel y'u nodir yng Nghynllun Corfforaethol yr Awdurdod; ystyried risgiau cysylltiedig; cydnabod cyfyngiadau ariannol dros y tymor hwy; ac yn cynrychioli gwerth am arian.

Mae'r Strategaeth yn diffinio ar y lefel uchaf sut mae'r broses o wneud penderfyniadau ar y rhaglen gyfalaf yn nodi'r materion a'r opsiynau sy'n dylanwadu ar wariant cyfalaf ac yn nodi sut y caiff yr adnoddau a'r rhaglen gyfalaf eu rheoli. Yn ogystal, dylai'r Strategaeth Gyfalaf gydymffurfio â'r Cod Darbodus ar gyfer buddsoddiad cyfalaf awdurdodau lleol a gyflwynwyd drwy Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 2003, gydag amcanion allweddol y Cod o sicrhau bod cynlluniau buddsoddi cyfalaf yn fforddiadwy, yn ddarbodus ac yn gynaliadwy.

Ni dderbyniwyd unrhyw gwestiynau a chynigiwyd ac eiliwyd bod yr argymhelliad yn yr adroddiad yn cael ei gymeradwyo. Trwy Microsoft Forms a chadarnhad llafar ac wrth nodi bod 56 o blaid, 3 yn erbyn a 4 yn ymatal, cytunwyd ar hyn gan y mwyafrif oedd yn bresennol.

PENDERFYNWYD cymeradwyo'r Adroddiad Strategaeth Gyfalaf blynyddol ar gyfer 2023/2024.

4. STRATEGAETH FLYNYDDOL RHEOLAETH TRYSORLYS, DANGOSYDDION DARBODUS CYLLID CYFALAF A PHOLISI DARPARIAETH ISAFSWM REFENIW AR GYFER 2023/2024

Rhodddwyd ystyriaeth i'r adroddiad, a oedd yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cyngor i Strategaeth Flynyddol yr Awdurdod ar gyfer Rheoli'r Trysorlys a set ddata o Ddangosyddion Darbodus sy'n berthnasol i Reoli'r Trysorlys a Chyllid Cyfalaf. Roedd yr adroddiad yn croesgyfeirio adroddiad y Prif Weithredwr ar Gyllidebau Refeniw a Chyfalaf ["adroddiad y gyllideb"]; hefyd yn cael ei ystyried yn y cyfarfod hwn. Roedd yr adroddiad hefyd yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth i'r polisi Darpariaeth Isafswm Refeniw (MRP) i gael ei fabwysiadu gan yr Awdurdod ar gyfer 2023/2024. Nodwyd bod yr adroddiad wedi'i gyflwyno i'r Pwyllgor Craffu Polisi ac Adnoddau ar 23 Ionawr 2023, a roddodd sylwadau ar yr adroddiad cyn ei gyflwyno i'r Cyngor.

Dywedwyd wrth y Cyngor bod y "Cod Ymarfer ar gyfer Rheoli'r Trysorlys yn y Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus" diwygiedig yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i Strategaeth Flynyddol gael ei chyflwyno i Aelodau ar neu cyn dechrau blwyddyn ariannol i amlinellu'r gweithgareddau a gynlluniwyd o fewn paramedrau'r Datganiad Polisi Rheoli'r Trysorlys ac Arferion Rheoli'r Trysorlys. Mae Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 2003 hefyd yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i'r Awdurdod nodi ei Strategaeth Rheoli'r Trysorlys ar gyfer benthyca ar gyfer y flwyddyn i ddod a pharatoi

Strategaeth Fuddsoddi Flynyddol, sy'n nodi'r polisiâu ar gyfer rheoli ei fuddsoddiadau, gan roi blaenoriaeth i sicrwydd a hylifedd y buddsoddiadau hynny. Mae'n ofynnol hefyd i'r Awdurdod gymeradwyo a chyhoeddi nifer o ddangosyddion sy'n berthnasol i Gyllid Cyfalaf a Rheoli'r Trysorlys a pharatoi Datganiad Polisi Darpariaeth Isafswm Refeniw blynyddol.

Gofynnodd Aelod am eglurhad ar y sicrwydd ariannol o £30m ym menthyciadau opsiwn LOBO (Opsiw Rhoddwr Opsiw Benthyciwr) fel y manylir yn Adran 5.7.5 yr adroddiad. Cadarnhaodd y swyddogion nad oedd unrhyw broblemau gyda'r benthyciadau penodol hyn ar hyn o bryd ac nid oedd unrhyw sylwadau wedi'u gwneud i gynyddu'r llog ar hyn o bryd. Fodd bynnag, mae'r benthyciadau hyn yn cael eu hadolygu'n barhaus trwy Ymgynghorydd Rheoli Trysorlys allanol y Cyngor (Arlingclose) ac os cyfyd cyfle i'r Cyngor ryddhau ei hun o'r benthyciadau hyn os yw'n ddarbodus i wneud hynny, rhoddir ystyriaeth i hyn a bydd adroddiad yn cael ei ddwyn gerbron y Cyngor.

Cyfeiriodd yr Aelod hefyd at Adran 5.11.4 yr adroddiad a oedd yn cyfeirio at gyfradd darged o 3.50% ar gyfer buddsoddiadau a gofynnodd a oedd hwn yn darged pesimistaidd o ystyried y cynnydd a ragwelir mewn cyfraddau llog. Atgoffodd y Swyddog yr Aelodau bod cyfraddau llog yn hynod gyfnewidiol ar hyn o bryd, ac ar gyfer 2022/23 rhagwelir incwm buddsoddi o tua £2.3m, sydd £824k yn fwy na'r lefel a gyllidebwyd ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol gyfredol. Ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf, rhagwelir y bydd incwm buddsoddi £1.9m yn uwch na'r lefel a gyllidebwyd, ac mae hyn wedi ei gynnwys fel arbediad dros dro o fewn cynigion cyllideb 2023/24 i'w hystyried yn ddiweddarach yn y cyfarfod.

Yn dilyn ystyried yr adroddiad, cynigiwyd ac eiliwyd bod yr argymhellion yn yr adroddiad yn cael eu cymeradwyo. Trwy Microsoft Forms a chadarnhad llafar ac wrth nodi bod 54 o blaid, 3 yn erbyn a 6 yn ymatal, cytunwyd ar hyn gan y mwyafrif oedd yn bresennol.

PENDERFYNWYD: -

- (i) cymeradwyo'r Strategaeth Flynyddol ar gyfer Rheoli'r Trysorlys 2023/24;
- (ii) adolygu'r strategaeth yn chwarterol o fewn yr adroddiadau monitro Rheoli'r Trysorlys a gyflwynir i'r Pwyllgor Craffu Polisi ac Adnoddau a chyfeirio unrhyw newidiadau a argymhellir i'r Cabinet, yn y lle cyntaf, ac i'r Cyngor am benderfyniad. Bydd yr Awdurdod hefyd yn paratoi adroddiad hanner blwyddyn ar weithgareddau Rheoli'r Trysorlys;
- (iii) Cymeradwyo'r Dangosyddion Darbodus ar gyfer Rheoli'r Trysorlys fel yn Atodiad 5 yr adroddiad;
- (iv) Cymeradwyo'r Dangosyddion Darbodus ar gyfer Ariannu Cyfalaf fel yn Atodiadau 6 a 7 yr adroddiad;
- (v) mabwysiadu'r polisi MRP fel y nodir yn Atodiad 8 yr adroddiad;
- (vi) Cymeradwyo parhad strategaeth fuddsoddi 2022/23 a benthycia i sefydliadau ariannol a chorfforaethau yn unol â'r meini prawf isafswm statws credyd a ddatgelir yn yr adroddiad hwn;
- (vii) rhoi cymeradwyaeth i'r Awdurdod fenthycia £46.8m ar gyfer y Gronfa Gyffredinol i gefnogi rhaglen gyfalaf 2023/24 a £45.0m ar gyfer y rhaglen Safon Ansawdd Tai Cymru a Thai Fforddiadwy y Cyfrif Refeniw Tai;
- (viii) bod yr Awdurdod yn parhau i fabwysiadu'r raddfa gradd buddsoddi fel maen prawf isafswm statws credyd i asesu teilyngdod credyd gwrthbartion addas wrth osod buddsoddiadau;

- (ix) mabwysiadu'r terfynau arian a buddsoddiad fel y nodir yn Atodiad 3 yr adroddiad.

5. CYNIGION CYLLIDEB AR GYFER 2023/24

Derbyniwyd datganiadau o ddiddordeb gan y Cynghorwyr C. Elsbury, C. Wright, C. Cuss, N. George, W. Williams. P. Leonard, C. Morgan. T. Parry, D. Cushing, H. Pritchard, C. Mann, E. Forehead, A. Gair, R. Chapman, A. McConnell ac S. Morgan. Gan fod pob datganiad yn bersonol yn unig nid oedd yn ofynnol i Aelodau adael y cyfarfod a gallent gymryd rhan lawn yn y ddatganiad a phleidleisio.

Nododd y Cyngor fod yr adroddiad wedi'i ystyried gan y Cabinet yn ei gyfarfod ar 22 Chwefror 2023 a gofynnodd am gymeradwyaeth y Cyngor i gynigion cyllideb 2023/24. Roedd yr adroddiad hefyd yn rhoi diweddariad ar Gynllun Ariannol Tymor Canolig y Cyngor.

Dywedwyd wrth yr Aelodau bod y set gytbwys a phwylllog o gynigion cyllidebol yn dangos effeithiolrwydd strategaeth rheolaeth ariannol barhaus y Cyngor o ystyried y pwysau cyllidebol sylweddol yr oedd yr Awdurdod yn ei wynebu. Pwysleiswyd nad oedd y cynigion yn cynnwys unrhyw doriadau sylweddol i wasanaethau allweddol a bod y Cyngor wedi gweithio'n galed i amddiffyn cymunedau lleol oherwydd y dull ariannol darbodus sy'n cael ei fabwysiadu, sydd yn arbennig oherwydd ymroddiad a phroffesiynoldeb staff y Cyngor ar bob lefel ar draws y sefydliad. Canmolodd yr Aelod Cabinet wydnwch a hyblygrwydd y gweithlu sydd wedi gwneud cymaint i gefnogi anghenion trigolion ar draws yr Awdurdod yn ystod y cyfnod heriol hwn.

Dywedwyd wrth yr aelodau bod codiad sefydlog o 6.9% yn Setliad Ariannol Dros Dro Llywodraeth Leol ar gyfer 2023/24, ynghyd â'r defnydd o gronfeydd wrth gefn, amrywiaeth o arbedion parhaol a thros dro, a Threth y Cyngor arfaethedig o 7.9% wedi arwain at gyllideb gadarn i Aelodau ei hystyried. Cydnabuwyd er nad yw cynnydd yn Nhreth y Cyngor yn ddymunol, heb y cynnydd hwn byddai angen i'r Awdurdod ystyried mesurau arbed amgen a allai gynnwys toriadau i wasanaethau allweddol. Nodwyd y byddai'r cynnydd arfaethedig yn arwain at gynnydd Band D o £1.91 yr wythnos, a phwysleiswyd bod lefelau presennol Treth y Cyngor ar gyfer Cyngor Caerffili yn parhau ymhlith yr isaf yng Nghymru.

Cyfeiriwyd yr aelodau at nifer o newidiadau allweddol i'r cynigion cyllidebol gwreiddiol sydd wedi'u llunio gan adborth gan drigolion, gan gynnwys ailystyried arbedion gwerth dros £600k fel y rhestrwyd yn Adran 5.3.1 yr adroddiad. Diolchodd yr Aelod Cabinet i bawb a roddodd adborth ar yr arolwg cyllideb ac am gymryd rhan yn Sgwrs Caerffili sydd wedi helpu i lunio'r ffordd y bydd y Cyngor yn cyflawni ei waith yn y dyfodol.

Cyfeiriodd Arweinydd y Cyngor at y pwysau ariannol sy'n wynebu'r Awdurdod a phwysleisiodd gyfrifoldebau'r Cyngor i ddarparu cyllideb gytbwys wrth sicrhau bod gwasanaethau cyhoeddus y mae mawr eu hangen yn cael eu diogelu. Canmolodd yr Arweinydd ymdrechion gweithlu'r Cyngor i gefnogi trigolion ar bob cam o'u bywydau, ynghyd â'r gefnogaeth a roddwyd i gymunedau trwy gydol yr argyfwng pandemig a chostau byw, gan warchod aelodau mwyaf bregus cymdeithas a darparu cymorth parhaus i'r rhai sydd â'r angen ariannol mwyaf. Atgoffwyd yr Aelodau y bydd y gost o ddarparu'r gwasanaethau allweddol hyn £55m yn fwy yn 2023/24 ac ni all y cynnydd hwn gael ei gwrdd drwy'r cyllidebau presennol. Er gwaethaf y £22m o gyllid ychwanegol gan Lywodraeth Cymru, arbedion parhaol arfaethedig o tua £5m, a chynnydd arfaethedig o 7.9% yn Nhreth y Cyngor, mae hyn yn dal i adael diffyg cyllid sy'n cyfateb i £22m, a fydd yn cael ei ddiwallu drwy ddefnydd untro o gyllid wrth gefn o £15.345m, ynghyd â nifer o arbedion dros dro. Bydd hyn yn galluogi'r Awdurdod i ffocysu ei gynlluniau parhaus i drawsnewid y sefydliad i fod yn Gyngor modern, ystywyth a chynaliadwy sy'n gallu cyflawni mwy gyda llai o adnoddau.

Cyfeiriodd yr Arweinydd at lefel y cronfeydd wrth gefn sydd gan y Cyngor ac eglurodd fod y mwyafrif o'r rhain wedi'u neilltuo at ddibenion penodol, megis y Cyfrif Refeniw Tai, balansau

ysgolion, dyfarniadau cyflog, seilwaith y mae mawr ei angen, a chyllid cyfatebol ar gyfer Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif, ac felly ni ellir ei ddefnyddio i gwrdd â'r diffyg cyllid. Yn ogystal, dim ond unwaith y gellir defnyddio'r cronfeydd wrth gefn, a byddai dargyfeirio'r cronfeydd wrth gefn hyn yn barhaus i gwrdd â chostau uwch yn golygu y byddai'r rhain yn cael eu disbyddu'n llwyr o fewn tair blynedd, ac ar ddiwedd y cyfnod hwnnw byddai'r Cyngor yn cael ei adael â bwlch ariannu o tua £100m. Atgoffwyd yr aelodau hefyd pe byddai'r Cyngor yn dargyfeirio cronfeydd wrth gefn i gwrdd â chostau uwch, byddai'r Fwrdeistref Sirol yn colli allan ar gannoedd o filiynau o bunnoedd mewn cyfleoedd arian cyfatebol allanol. Dywedwyd wrth yr Aelodau bod angen i'r Cyngor ganolbwyntio ymdrechion ar y cyd ar ddarparu gwasanaethau mewn ffordd fodern ac effeithlon, wrth wneud popeth posibl i ddiwallu anghenion hirdymor trigolion a chenedlaethau'r dyfodol.

Cynigiwyd ac eiliwyd bod yr argymhellion yn yr adroddiad yn cael eu cymeradwyo.

Trafododd y Cyngor y cynnydd arfaethedig o 7.9% yn Nhreth y Cyngor a chyfeiriwyd at y pwysau ariannol a oedd eisoes yn wynebu trigolion o ganlyniad i'r argyfwng costau byw a'r baich ychwanegol y byddai'r cynnydd hwn yn Nhreth y Cyngor yn ei roi ar aelwydydd. Cyfeiriodd sawl Aelod at y lefel sylweddol o arian wrth gefn sydd gan y Cyngor gan fynegi'r farn mai arian cyhoeddus yw hwn ac y dylid ei ddefnyddio i ddiwallu angen y cyhoedd. Awgrymwyd y gellid rhyddhau £6m ychwanegol mewn cronfeydd wrth gefn i wneud iawn am y cynnydd arfaethedig yn y Dreth Gyngor.

Yn ystod y ddadl, cynigiwyd ac eiliwyd gwelliant mewn perthynas ag Argymhelliad 1.3.6 o adroddiad eglurhaol y Swyddog, sef codiad o 0% yn Nhreth y Cyngor heb unrhyw doriadau i wasanaethau i'w hariannu o'r cyllid presennol (cronfeydd wrth gefn).

Cafwyd trafodaeth ar y gwelliant ac ailadroddodd nifer o'r Aelodau'r caledi ariannol a wynebir gan drigolion a'r ddibyniaeth gynyddol ar wasanaethau megis banciau bwyd, a allai waethygu pe bai Treth y Cyngor yn cynyddu. Mewn ymateb i'r gwelliant arfaethedig, gofynnodd un Aelod am eglurhad ynghylch pa gronfeydd wrth gefn penodol a fyddai'n cael eu defnyddio i gwrdd â'r diffyg ariannol yn deillio o gynnydd sero yn Nhreth y Cyngor. Mynegodd rhai Aelodau yr angen i ailfeddwl am y cynnydd yn Nhreth y Cyngor o ystyried y goblygiadau i'r trigolion, a chyfeiriwyd hefyd at lefel y cyllid grant a dderbyniwyd gan y Cyngor ac at y tanwariant yn deillio o arian grant ychwanegol a dderbyniwyd gan Llywodreath Cymru o ganlyniad i'r Pandemig Covid-19, a oedd wedi cynyddu lefel y cronfeydd wrth gefn a ddelir.

Darparodd swyddogion eglurhad ar y broses ariannu grant, gan egluro bod grantiau'n cael eu sicrhau at ddibenion penodol gyda thelerau ac amodau ynghlwm, ac er bod y Cyngor wedi derbyn cyllid untro ychwanegol gan Llywodraeth Cymru yn ystod y pandemig, dyna'r rheswm pam fod peth tanwariant yn uwch nag arfer. Roedd y tanwariant hwn bellach wedi'i neilltuo at ddibenion penodol fel y'u cymeradwywyd yn flaenorol gan y Cabinet a'r Cyngor. O ran y gwelliant arfaethedig, eglurodd y Swyddog Adran 151 y byddai cynnydd o sero yn Nhreth y Cyngor yn ychwanegu at y mesurau dros dro sydd eisoes wedi'u cynnwys yng nghynigion cyllideb 2023/24 ac felly'n cynyddu'r gofyniad arbedion o £48m a ragwelir ar gyfer y cyfnod o ddwy flynedd 2024/ 25 i 2025/26.

Cyfeiriodd Aelod at yr ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad a dderbyniwyd ar gynigion y gyllideb ddrafft, a heriodd honiad y Cyngor ei fod wedi gwrandao ar ei drigolion wrth lunio'r cynigion terfynol, o ystyried nad oedd y mwyafrif o'r 271 o ymatebwyr yn cefnogi cynnydd yn Nhreth y Cyngor nac yn cefnogi cynnydd is yn lle hynny. Cydnabu'r Aelod Cabinet Cyllid a Pherfformiad y gyfradd ymateb isel i'r ymgynghoriad ond pwysleisiodd y byddai cynnydd sero yn arwain at ddiffyg buddsoddiad mewn ysgolion ac yn effeithio ar y trigolion mwyaf bregus pe bai gwasanaethau allweddol yn cael eu torri yn lle hynny, ac anogodd y trigolion hynny sy'n wynebu anawsterau ariannol i gysylltu â thîm Gofalu am Gaerffili i ofyn am gyngor a chymorth os oes angen.

Yn unol â Rheol Gweithdrefn 15.4(1) gwnaed cais am bleidlais wedi'i chofnodi ar y gwelliant a gefnogwyd gan 10 Aelod.

O blaid y Gwelliant:

A.P. Angel, C. Bishop, D. Cushing, N. Dix, G. Ead, G. Enright, K. Etheridge, A. Farina-Childs, J.E. Fussell, M.P. James, J. Jones, S. Kent, C.P. Mann, B. Owen, T. Parry, H. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, J. Reed, J. Roberts, J. Scriven, J. Taylor, L.G. Whittle **(22)**

Yn erbyn y Gwelliant:

M. Adams, E.M. Aldworth, C. Andrews, A. Broughton-Pettit, M. Chacon-Dawson, R. Chapman, P. Cook, S. Cook, C. Cuss, D.T. Davies MBE, C. Forehead, E. Forehead, A. Gair, N. George, C. Gordon, D. Harse, T. Heron, A. Hussey, D. Ingram-Jones, L. Jeremiah, G. Johnston, A. Leonard, P. Leonard, A. McConnell, B. Miles, C. Morgan, S. Morgan, L. Phipps, M. Powell, J. Pritchard, J. Sadler, R. Saralis, J. Simmonds, E. Stenner, C. Thomas, S. Williams, W. Williams, J. Winslade, K. Woodland, C. Wright **(40)**

Datganwyd bod y gwelliant wedi ei golli gan y mwyafrif oedd yn bresennol.

Yna cynigiwyd ac eiliwyd gwelliant pellach mewn perthynas ag Argymhelliad 1.3.6 o adroddiad eglurhaol y Swyddog, sef bod cynnydd o 4% yn Nhreth y Cyngor gyda'r diffyg o £2.4m yn cael ei ariannu o'r cronfeydd wrth gefn.

Cafwyd trafodaeth ar y gwelliant arall, a gofynnwyd am eglurhad ynghylch pa gronfeydd wrth gefn penodol fyddai'n cael eu defnyddio i gwrdd â'r diffyg o £2.4m. Awgrymodd un Aelod y gellid defnyddio tanwariant ar draws Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes a Chyllid Amrywiol yn hyn o beth.

Yn unol â Rheol Gweithdrefn 15.4(1) gwnaed cais am bleidlais wedi'i chofnodi ar y gwelliant, a gefnogwyd gan 10 Aelod.

O blaid y Gwelliant:

A.P. Angel, C. Bishop, D. Cushing, N. Dix, G. Ead, G. Enright, K. Etheridge, A. Farina-Childs, J.E. Fussell, M.P. James, J. Jones, S. Kent, C.P. Mann, B. Owen, T. Parry, H. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, J. Reed, J. Roberts, J. Taylor **(20)**

Yn erbyn y Gwelliant:

M. Adams, E.M. Aldworth, C. Andrews, A. Broughton-Pettit, M. Chacon-Dawson, R. Chapman, P. Cook, S. Cook, C. Cuss, D.T. Davies MBE, C. Forehead, E. Forehead, A. Gair, N. George, C. Gordon, D. Harse, T. Heron, A. Hussey, D. Ingram-Jones, L. Jeremiah, G. Johnston, A. Leonard, P. Leonard, A. McConnell, B. Miles, C. Morgan, S. Morgan, L. Phipps, M. Powell, J. Pritchard, J. Sadler, R. Saralis, J. Scriven, J. Simmonds, E. Stenner, C. Thomas, S. Williams, W. Williams, J. Winslade, K. Woodland, C. Wright **(41)**

Ymatal:

L.G. Whittle **(1)**

Datganwyd bod y gwelliant wedi ei golli gan y mwyafrif oedd yn bresennol.

Cafwyd dadl ar y cynnig o sylwedd, a mynegodd sawl Aelod yr angen i gynnal cynaliadwyedd y Cyngor drwy gefnogi cyllideb gytbwys.

Cyfeiriodd Aelod at y cynnig i dynnu'r cymhorthdal ar gyfer gwasanaeth bws Cyswllt Rheilffordd y Coed-duon i Ystrad Mynach yn ôl a mynegodd bryderon y gallai hyn effeithio'n negyddol ar nifer sylweddol o gymudwyr ac nad oedd yn annog teithio cynaliadwy. Atgoffwyd yr aelodau fod Trafnidiaeth Cymru yn bwriadu cyflwyno gwasanaethau rheilffordd ychwanegol ym mhob gorsaf ar draws y Fwrdeistref Sirol bob 15 munud, sy'n golygu na fydd

angen gwasanaeth bws-rheilffordd dynodedig mwyach gan y bydd cymudwyr yn gallu cysylltu'n hawdd ag un o'r bysiau gwasanaeth presennol sy'n rhedeg rhwng y Coed-duon ac Ystrad Mynach, gan arwain at ddim effaith ar ddefnyddwyr trenau a bysiau.

Mynegwyd pryderon ynghylch y cynnydd arfaethedig o 12% mewn ffioedd caeau chwaraeon a'r pwysau ariannol y gallai hyn ei roi ar glybiau chwaraeon lleol. Pwysleisiwyd bod y Cyngor wedi gwrandao ar ei drigolion drwy leihau'r cynnydd arfaethedig o 20% i 12%, a bod ffioedd caeau chwaraeon ar draws y Fwrdeistref Sirol yn parhau'n rhatach na rhai awdurdodau cyfagos.

Mynegodd yr Aelodau bryderon ynghylch y gostyngiad arfaethedig yn oriau gofalgwyr mewn canolfannau cymunedol, gan gynnwys y posibilrwydd o golli swyddi a'r pwysau ychwanegol y byddai hyn yn ei roi ar wirfoddolwyr canolfannau. Gofynnwyd am sicrwydd ynghylch ymrwymiad y Cyngor i gefnogi canolfannau cymunedol. Eglurodd yr Aelod Cabinet Gwastraff, Hamdden a Mannau Gwyrdd fod y Cyngor wedi addo gweithio gyda phob canolfan gymunedol a'u pwyllgorau priodol, ond bod y baich yn fawr iawn ar ddefnydd/cefnogaeth gymunedol i sicrhau bod y canolfannau hyn yn parhau ar agor.

Gofynnwyd am eglurhad ynghylch sut y byddai cynigion y gyllideb yn cefnogi trigolion mwyaf agored i niwed y Cyngor. Cadarnhaodd yr Aelod Cabinet Gofal Cymdeithasol fod dyraniad o £9.3m mewn twf ar gyfer Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, gan gynnwys £3.9m i ddiwallu anghenion y plant mwyaf agored i niwed, £2.8m i alluogi partneriaid yn y sector annibynnol i dalu'r cyflog byw gwirioneddol, £697k i sefydlu tîm Gofalu am Gaerffili fel gwasanaeth parhaol yn deillio o golli cyllid gan Lywodraeth Cymru, a £232k i alluogi'r Cyngor i ddiwallu anghenion ychwanegol pobl ag anableddau dysgu sy'n byw mewn llety byw â chymorth. At hynny, mae £1.7m hefyd wedi'i ddyrannu i Dai i gefnogi darparu llety dros dro i'r preswylwyr hynny sy'n wynebu digartrefedd.

Gofynnodd yr Aelodau sut y byddai'r cynigion cyllideb hyn yn effeithio ar gyllid i ysgolion CBSC. Eglurodd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Addysg a Chymunedau bod hyn mewn termau real yn cyfateb i gynnydd cyllid o dros 8%. Fodd bynnag, mae hyn yn golygu y gofynnir i ysgolion gyfrannu at eu biliau ynni. Mae'r gyllideb hon hefyd yn golygu y bydd y Cyngor yn gallu parhau i adeiladu ysgolion newydd drwy'r rhaglen Cymunedau Cynaliadwy ar gyfer Dysgu a diogelu addysg i bobl ifanc ar draws y Fwrdeistref Sirol yn y dyfodol. Mewn ymateb, mynegodd Aelod ei siom fod ymwybyddiaeth ôl-troed carbon wedi'i nodi fel rheswm pam y gofynnwyd i ysgolion gyfrannu at eu biliau ynni wrth symud ymlaen.

Bu'r Cyngor yn trafod y defnydd o gronfeydd wrth gefn yn helaeth a phwysleisiodd yr Aelodau'r angen i gadw'r cronfeydd wrth gefn hyn er mwyn buddsoddi mewn seilwaith yn y dyfodol a diogelu prosiectau i drigolion a chenedlaethau'r dyfodol, gan gynnwys tai cyngor newydd, adeiladau ysgol newydd a phrosiectau adfywio ar draws y Fwrdeistref Sirol, ynghyd â'r angen i gadw cronfeydd wrth gefn wedi'u neilltuo ar gyfer meysydd y mae dirfawr angen amdanynt gan gynnwys cynnal a chadw yn y gaeaf, y cynllun prentisiaeth ac atal digartrefedd.

Derbyniwyd ymholiad ynghylch lefel y cronfeydd wrth gefn a ragwelwyd ar ddiwedd 2022/23. Eglurodd y Swyddog Adran 151 fod nifer o drafodion yn digwydd trwy gydol y flwyddyn ariannol ond yn seiliedig ar asesiad lefel uchel ar hyn o bryd, amcangyfrifir bod y cronfeydd wrth gefn ar ddiwedd 2022/23 yn debygol o ostwng i tua £178m. Pwysleisiwyd mai rhagamcan yn unig yw hwn ar hyn o bryd ac y gallai amgylchiadau newid, ond mae'r Awdurdod bellach ar lwybr ar i lawr o ran balansau wrth gefn. Gofynnodd Aelod arall am eglurhad ar sut y byddai'r cronfeydd hyn yn cael eu lleihau, ac esboniodd Mr Harris y byddai hyn yn cynnwys gostyngiad rhagamcanol ym malansau ysgolion o £17m i £8.4m a gostyngiad o £15m i fantoli'r gyllideb ar gyfer 2023/24, ynghyd â symudiadau niferus ar draws cronfeydd wrth gefn eraill erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn ariannol.

Gofynnwyd am eglurhad ynghylch sut y byddai busnesau ar draws y Fwrdeistref Sirol yn cael eu cefnogi, a nodwyd y byddai mwy o fuddsoddiad mewn busnesau bach yn ystod 2023/24, gan gynnwys dyraniad ychwanegol o £500k o ran Cronfa Fenter Caerffili. Hefyd, gwnaed buddsoddiad mewn tîm canol tref newydd i gefnogi busnesau ar draws y Fwrdeistref Sirol a bydd gwell rhaglen Ddigwyddiadau yn cael ei chynnal yn 2023, er mwyn cynorthwyo adfywio a chynyddu nifer yr ymwelwyr ar draws canol trefi.

Gofynnwyd am sicrwydd na fyddai unrhyw ddiswyddiadau gorfodol ar draws y Cyngor o ganlyniad i'r cynigion cyllidebol hyn. Cadarnhaodd yr Aelod Cabinet Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol ac Eiddo fod y gyllideb yn anelu at warchod gwasanaethau rheng flaen a thrigolion lle bynnag y bo modd a chadarnhaodd na fyddai unrhyw ddiswyddiadau gorfodol o ganlyniad i'r gyllideb hon.

Rhodddwyd eglurhad ar gynllun consesiynol Treth y Cyngor, gan nodi y gall trigolion ofyn am gyngor gan dîm Gofalu am Gaerffili ynghylch a ydynt yn bodloni'r meini prawf cymhwysedd. Amlygwyd gwaith tîm Gofalu am Gaerffili ymhellach.

Gofynnwyd am eglurhad ar yr arbediad dros dro o £50k yn erbyn y Gwasanaeth Seicoleg Addysg yn deillio o reoli swyddi gweigion o ganlyniad i drosiant staff, gydag Aelod yn gofyn a fyddai recriwtio yn digwydd i lenwi'r swydd wag er mwyn darparu'r gwasanaeth mawr ei angen hwn i ysgolion. Eglurodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Addysg a Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol mai arbediad dros dro am flwyddyn yw hwn i raddau helaeth, oherwydd maint y trosiant staff yn y maes penodol hwn. Eglurwyd bod yr Awdurdod yn agosáu at ei gyflenwad llawn o ran seicolegwyr addysg.

Ar ôl cynnig ac eilio eisoes bod yr argymhellion yn yr adroddiad yn cael eu cymeradwyo, cafwyd pleidlais ar y cynnig o sylwedd.

Yn unol â Rheol Gweithdrefn 15.4(1) gwnaed cais am bleidlais gofnodedig a gefnogwyd gan 10 Aelod.

O blaid y Cynnig:

M. Adams, E.M. Aldworth, C. Andrews, A. Broughton-Pettit, M. Chacon-Dawson, R. Chapman, P. Cook, S. Cook, C. Cuss, D.T. Davies MBE, C. Forehead, E. Forehead, A. Gair, N. George, C. Gordon, D. Harse, T. Heron, A. Hussey, D. Ingram-Jones, L. Jeremiah, G. Johnston, A. Leonard, P. Leonard, A. McConnell, B. Miles, C. Morgan, S. Morgan, L. Phipps, M. Powell, J. Pritchard, J. Sadler, R. Saralis, J. Simmonds, E. Stenner, C. Thomas, S. Williams, W. Williams, J. Winslade, K. Woodland, C. Wright **(40)**

Yn erbyn y Cynnig:

A.P. Angel, C. Bishop, D. Cushing, N. Dix, G. Ead, G. Enright, K. Etheridge, A. Farina-Childs, J.E. Fussell, M.P. James, J. Jones, S. Kent, C.P. Mann, B. Owen, T. Parry, H. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, J. Reed, J. Scriven, J. Roberts, J. Taylor, L.G. Whittle **(22)**

Datganwyd bod y bleidlais ar y cynnig o sylwedd wedi'i chario gan y mwyafrif a oedd yn bresennol a

PHENDERFYNWYD: -

- (i) cymeradwyo'r cynigion cyllideb referniw ar gyfer 2023/24 o £438.722m fel y manylwyd arnynt drwy'r adroddiad ac a grynhoir yn Atodiad 1;
- (ii) cymeradwyo'r trosglwyddiadau cyllideb arfaethedig mewn perthynas ag Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol fel y manylir ar hynny ym mharagraff 5.3.12;
- (iii) cymeradwyo'r defnydd arfaethedig o £346k o Gronfa Wrth Gefn Rheoli Ysgolion yn Lleol (LMS) fel swm unwaith ac am byth i gefnogi cyfraniad

2023/24 y Gyfarwyddiaeth Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes i'r gyllideb atgyweirio a chynnal a chadw 50% ar gyfer ysgolion (fel y manylir ym mharagraff 5.5.3);

- (iv) nodi'r symudiadau ar y Gronfa Gyffredinol yn Atodiad 5 a'r balans rhagamcanol presennol ar 31 Mawrth 2023 o £13.041m;
- (v) cymeradwyo'r Rhaglen Gyfalaf arfaethedig ar gyfer y cyfnod 2023/24 i 2025/26 fel y nodir hynny yn Atodiad 6;
- (vi) cymeradwyo'r cynnig i gynyddu Treth y Cyngor 7.9% ar gyfer blwyddyn ariannol 2023/24 i sicrhau y ceir cyllideb gytbwys (Band D Treth y Cyngor yn cael ei osod ar £1,353.01);
- (vii) nodi'r Cynllun Ariannol Tymor Canolig wedi'i ddiweddarau yn Atodiad 7 sy'n dangos gofyniad dangosol ar gyfer arbedion posibl o £48.335m ar gyfer y cyfnod dwy flynedd 2024/25 i 2025/26.

6. PENDERFYNIAD GOSOD Y DRETH GYNGOR 2023/24

Rhodddwyd ystyriaeth i'r adroddiad a oedd yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth i Benderfyniadau Gosod Treth y Cyngor ar gyfer blwyddyn ariannol 2023/24.

Gofynnwyd i'r aelodau nodi newidiadau i'r ffigurau a nodir yn Adrannau 2(a) a 2(b) o'r adroddiad, sef y dylai Adran 2(a) ddarllen £438,722,307 ac Adran 2(b) ddarllen £16,395,377. Dywedwyd wrth yr Aelodau na fyddai'r newid hwn yn cael unrhyw effaith ar ffigurau Treth y Cyngor.

Cynigiwyd ac eiliwyd bod y penderfyniadau yn adroddiad y Swyddog yn cael eu cymeradwyo a thrwy Microsoft Forms a chadarnhad llafar a chan nodi bod 43 o blaid, 18 yn erbyn a 0 yn ymatal, cytunwyd ar hyn gan y mwyafrif a oedd yn bresennol.

PENDERFYNWYD: -

1. Nodi bod y Cabinet yn ei gyfarfod ar 14 Rhagfyr 2022 wedi cyfrifo'r symiau a ganlyn ar gyfer y flwyddyn 2023/2024 yn unol â rheoliadau a wnaed o dan Adran 33(5) Deddf Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol 1992 a'r pwerau a roddwyd o dan Reoliadau Awdurdodau Lleol (Trefniadau Gweithrediaeth) (Swyddogaethau a Chyfrifoldebau) (Cymru) 2007 (fel y'i diwygiwyd).

- (a) **61,135.13** Sef y swm a gyfrifwyd gan y Cabinet, yn unol â Rheoliad (3) o Reoliadau Awdurdodau Lleol (Cyfrifo Sylfaen Treth y Cyngor) (Cymru) 1995 (fel y'i diwygiwyd), fel ei sylfaen treth gyngor am y flwyddyn.

- (b) **Rhan o ardal y Cyngor:**
Sylfaen Treth ar gyfer pob
Cyngor Cymuned

Sylfaen Treth
Nifer yr Eiddo yn
Cyfateb i Fand D

Cwm Aber	2,008.28
Argoed	880.45
Bargod	3,697.40

Bedwas, Tretomos a Machen	3,969.95
Coed-duon	2,959.91
Caerffili	6,284.17
Cwm Darran	713.62
Draethen, Tŷ'n-y-coed-cae a Rhydri	620.42
Gelligaer	6,322.88

**Sylfaen Treth ar gyfer pob
Cyngor Cymuned**

**Sylfaen Treth
Nifer yr Eiddo yn
Cyfateb i Fand D**

Llanbradach a Pwll-y-pant	1,504.43
Maesycwmwr	957.98
Nelson	1,590.59
Tredegar Newydd	1,335.80
Pen-yr-heol, Trecenydd a Eneu'r-glyn	4,547.97
Rhymni	2,564.25
Dwyrain Rhisga	2,038.26
Gorllewin Rhisga	1,819.23
Y Fan	1,644.55
Y Gweddill	15,674.99
Cyfanswm	61,135.13

sef y symiau a gyfrifir gan y cabinet, yn unol â rheoliad 6 y Rheoliadau, fel symiau ei sylfaen treth gyngor am y flwyddyn ar gyfer anheddau yn y rhannau hynny o'i ardal y mae un neu fwy o eitemau arbennig yn ymwneud â hwy.

2. Bod y symiau canlynol yn cael eu cyfrifo gan y Cyngor ar gyfer y flwyddyn 2023/2024 yn unol ag Adrannau 32 i 36 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol a Chyllid 1992:-

- (a) **£438,722,307** sef cyfanswm y symiau y mae'r Cyngor yn eu hamcangyfrif ar gyfer yr eitemau a nodir yn Adran 32(2)(a) i (d) y Ddeddf;
- (b) **£16,395,377** sef cyfanswm y symiau y mae'r Cyngor yn eu hamcangyfrif ar gyfer yr eitemau a nodir yn Adran 32(3) (a), (aa) a (c) y Ddeddf;
- (c) **£423,291,731** sef y swm y mae'r cyfanswm yn (2)(a) uchod yn fwy na'r cyfanswm yn (2)(b) uchod, a gyfrifir gan y Cyngor, yn unol ag Adran 32(4) o'r Ddeddf, fel ei ofyniad cyllidebol ar gyfer y flwyddyn;
- (d) **£339,610,488** sef cyfanswm y symiau y mae'r Cyngor yn amcangyfrif a fydd yn daladwy am y flwyddyn i mewn i'w gronfa gyngor mewn perthynas ag ardrethi annomestig wedi'u hailddosbarthu, grant cynnal refereniw, cynllun gostyngiadau'r dreth gyngor awdurdod neu grant ychwanegol;
- (e) **£1,368.79** sef y swm yn (2)(c) uchod llai'r swm yn (2)(d) uchod, dylid rhannu'r cyfan â'r swm yn (1)(a) uchod, a gyfrifir gan y Cyngor, yn unol ag

Adran 33(1) o'r Ddeddf, fel swm sylfaenol ei dreth gyngor am y flwyddyn;

(f) £964,801 *sef cyfanswm yr holl eitemau arbennig y cyfeirir atynt yn adran 34(1) o'r Ddeddf;*

(g) £1,353.01 *sef y swm yn (2)(e) uchod llai y canlyniad a roddwyd drwy rannu'r swm yn (2)(f) uchod â'r swm yn (1)(a) uchod, a gyfrifir gan y Cyngor, yn unol ag Adran 34 (2) o'r Ddeddf, fel swm sylfaenol ei dreth gyngor am y flwyddyn ar gyfer anheddau yn y rhannau hynny o'i ardal nad oes unrhyw eitem arbennig yn ymwneud â hwy;*

(h) Rhan o Ardal y Cyngor

		Ardoll y	Cyfanswm
	Praesept	Fwrdeistr	Tâl Band D y
	Lleol	ef Sirol	Fwrdeistref
	£	£	Sirol a
			Chynghorau
			Cymuned
			£
Cwm Aber	19.92	1,353.01	1,372.93
Argoed	15.50	1,353.01	1,368.51
Bargod	46.45	1,353.01	1,399.46
Bedwas, Tretomos a Machen	27.71	1,353.01	1,380.72
Coed-duon	20.00	1,353.01	1,373.01
Caerffili	15.50	1,353.01	1,368.51
Cwm Darran	18.19	1,353.01	1,371.20
Draethen, Tŷ'n-y-coed-cae a			
Rhydri	32.24	1,353.01	1,385.25
Gelligaer	21.13	1,353.01	1,374.14
Llanbradach a Pwll-y-pant	23.58	1,353.01	1,376.59
Maesycwmwr	19.10	1,353.01	1,372.11
Nelson	18.24	1,353.01	1,371.25
Tredegar Newydd	12.67	1,353.01	1,365.68
Pen-yr-heol, Trecenydd a Eneu'r-			
glyn	14.50	1,353.01	1,367.51
Rhymni	14.04	1,353.01	1,367.05
Dwyrain Rhisga	12.00	1,353.01	1,365.01
Gorllewin Rhisga	29.00	1,353.01	1,382.01
Y Fan	16.63	1,353.01	1,369.64
Y Gweddill	0.00	1,353.01	1,353.01

sef y symiau a roddwyd drwy ychwanegu at y swm yn (2)(g) uchod symiau'r eitem arbennig neu eitemau sy'n ymwneud ag anheddau yn y rhannau hynny o ardal y Cyngor a grybwyllwyd uchod wedi'u rhannu ym mhob achos â'r swm yn (1)(b) uchod, a gyfrifir gan y Cyngor, yn unol ag Adran 34(3) o'r Ddeddf, fel y symiau sylfaenol, o'i dreth gyngor am y flwyddyn ar gyfer anheddau yn y rhannau hynny o'i ardal y mae un neu fwy o eitemau arbennig yn ymwneud â hwy;

(i)

Bandiau Priso	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00	11.00	13.00	15.00	18.00	21.00
<u>Bandiau Priso</u>	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol	902.01	1,052.34	1,202.68	1,353.01	1,653.68	1,954.35	2,255.02	2,706.02	3,157.02
<u>Cynghorau Cymuned</u>									
Cwm Aber	13.28	15.49	17.71	19.92	24.35	28.77	33.20	39.84	46.48
Argoed	10.33	12.06	13.78	15.50	18.94	22.39	25.83	31.00	36.17
Bargod	30.97	36.13	41.29	46.45	56.77	67.09	77.42	92.90	108.38
Bedwas, Tretomos a Machen	18.47	21.55	24.63	27.71	33.87	40.03	46.18	55.42	64.66
Coed-duon	13.33	15.56	17.78	20.00	24.44	28.89	33.33	40.00	46.67
Caerffili	10.33	12.06	13.78	15.50	18.94	22.39	25.83	31.00	36.17
Cwm Darran	12.13	14.15	16.17	18.19	22.23	26.27	30.32	36.38	42.44
Draethen, Tŷn-y-coed-cae a Rhydri	21.49	25.08	28.66	32.24	39.40	46.57	53.73	64.48	75.23
Gelligaer	14.09	16.43	18.78	21.13	25.83	30.52	35.22	42.26	49.30
Llanbradach a Pwll-y-pant	15.72	18.34	20.96	23.58	28.82	34.06	39.30	47.16	55.02
Maesycwmwr	12.73	14.86	16.98	19.10	23.34	27.59	31.83	38.20	44.57
Nelson	12.16	14.19	16.21	18.24	22.29	26.35	30.40	36.48	42.56
Tredegar Newydd	8.45	9.85	11.26	12.67	15.49	18.30	21.12	25.34	29.56
Pen-yr-heol, Trecenydd a Eneu'r-glyn	9.67	11.28	12.89	14.50	17.72	20.94	24.17	29.00	33.83
Rhymni	9.36	10.92	12.48	14.04	17.16	20.28	23.40	28.08	32.76
Dwyrain Rhisga	8.00	9.33	10.67	12.00	14.67	17.33	20.00	24.00	28.00
Gorllewin Rhisga	19.33	22.56	25.78	29.00	35.44	41.89	48.33	58.00	67.67
Y Fan	11.09	12.93	14.78	16.63	20.33	24.02	27.72	33.26	38.80
Y Gweddill	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<u>Bandiau Priso</u>	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Cyfansymiau ar gyfer Ardaloedd Cynghorau Cymuned</u>									
Cwm Aber	915.29	1,067.83	1,220.39	1,372.93	1,678.03	1,983.12	2,288.22	2,745.86	3,203.50
Argoed	912.34	1,064.40	1,216.46	1,368.51	1,672.62	1,976.74	2,280.85	2,737.02	3,193.19
Bargod	932.98	1,088.47	1,243.97	1,399.46	1,710.45	2,021.44	2,332.44	2,798.92	3,265.40
Bedwas, Tretomos a Machen	920.48	1,073.89	1,227.31	1,380.72	1,687.55	1,994.38	2,301.20	2,761.44	3,221.68
Coed-duon	915.34	1,067.90	1,220.46	1,373.01	1,678.12	1,983.24	2,288.35	2,746.02	3,203.69
Caerffili	912.34	1,064.40	1,216.46	1,368.51	1,672.62	1,976.74	2,280.85	2,737.02	3,193.19
Cwm Darran	914.14	1,066.49	1,218.85	1,371.20	1,675.91	1,980.62	2,285.34	2,742.40	3,199.46
Draethen, Tŷn-y-coed-cae a Rhydri	923.50	1,077.42	1,231.34	1,385.25	1,693.08	2,000.92	2,308.75	2,770.50	3,232.25
Gelligaer	916.10	1,068.77	1,221.46	1,374.14	1,679.51	1,984.87	2,290.24	2,748.28	3,206.32
Llanbradach a Pwll-y-pant	917.73	1,070.68	1,223.64	1,376.59	1,682.50	1,988.41	2,294.32	2,753.18	3,212.04
Maesycwmwr	914.74	1,067.20	1,219.66	1,372.11	1,677.02	1,981.94	2,286.85	2,744.22	3,201.59
Nelson	914.17	1,066.53	1,218.89	1,371.25	1,675.97	1,980.70	2,285.42	2,742.50	3,199.58
Tredegar Newydd	910.46	1,062.19	1,213.94	1,365.68	1,669.17	1,972.65	2,276.14	2,731.36	3,186.58
Pen-yr-heol, Trecenydd a Eneu'r-glyn	911.68	1,063.62	1,215.57	1,367.51	1,671.40	1,975.29	2,279.19	2,735.02	3,190.85
Rhymni	911.37	1,063.26	1,215.16	1,367.05	1,670.84	1,974.63	2,278.42	2,734.10	3,189.78
Dwyrain Rhisga	910.01	1,061.67	1,213.35	1,365.01	1,668.35	1,971.68	2,275.02	2,730.02	3,185.02
Gorllewin Rhisga	921.34	1,074.90	1,228.46	1,382.01	1,689.12	1,996.24	2,303.35	2,764.02	3,224.69
Y Fan	913.10	1,065.27	1,217.46	1,369.64	1,674.01	1,978.37	2,282.74	2,739.28	3,195.82
Y Gweddill	902.01	1,052.34	1,202.68	1,353.01	1,653.68	1,954.35	2,255.02	2,706.02	3,157.02

sef y symiau a roddir drwy luosi'r symiau yn (2)(g) a (2)(h) uchod â'r nifer sydd, yn y gyfran a nodir yn Adran 5(1) o'r Ddeddf, yn gymwys i anheddau a restrir yn a band prisio penodol wedi'i rannu â'r nifer sydd yn y gyfran honno yn gymwys i anheddau a restrir ym mand prisio D penodol, a gyfrifir gan y Cyngor, yn unol ag Adran 36(1) o'r Ddeddf, fel y symiau i'w cymryd i ystyriaeth ar gyfer y flwyddyn mewn perthynas â chategoriâu o anheddau a restrir yn y gwahanol Fandiau Prisio.

3. Nodi ar gyfer y flwyddyn 2023/2024 bod y prif awdurdod praeseptio wedi datgan y symiau canlynol mewn praeseptau a roddwyd i'r Cyngor, yn unol ag Adran 40 o Ddeddf Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol 1992, ar gyfer pob un o'r categorïau o anheddau a ddangosir isod:-

Bandiau Prisio	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Awdurdod Praeseptu									
Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddau Gwent	216.35	252.40	288.46	324.52	396.64	468.75	540.87	649.04	757.21

4. Ar ôl cyfrifo'r cyfanswm ym mhob achos o'r symiau yn (2)(i) a (3) uchod, bod y Cyngor, yn unol ag Adran 30(2) o Ddeddf Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol 1992, drwy hyn yn gosod y symiau a ganlyn i'r Dreth Gyngor ar gyfer y flwyddyn 2023/2024 i bob un o'r categorïau o anheddau a ddangosir isod:-

Bandiau Prisio	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cwm Aber	1,131.64	1,320.23	1,508.85	1,697.45	2,074.67	2,451.87	2,829.09	3,394.90	3,960.71
Argoed	1,128.69	1,316.80	1,504.92	1,693.03	2,069.26	2,445.49	2,821.72	3,386.06	3,950.40
Bargod	1,149.33	1,340.87	1,532.43	1,723.98	2,107.09	2,490.19	2,873.31	3,447.96	4,022.61
Bedwas, Tretomos a Machen	1,136.83	1,326.29	1,515.77	1,705.24	2,084.19	2,463.13	2,842.07	3,410.48	3,978.89
Coed-duon	1,131.69	1,320.30	1,508.92	1,697.53	2,074.76	2,451.99	2,829.22	3,395.06	3,960.90
Caerffili	1,128.69	1,316.80	1,504.92	1,693.03	2,069.26	2,445.49	2,821.72	3,386.06	3,950.40
Cwm Darran	1,130.49	1,318.89	1,507.31	1,695.72	2,072.55	2,449.37	2,826.21	3,391.44	3,956.67
Draethen, Tŷn-y-coed-cae a Rhydri	1,139.85	1,329.82	1,519.80	1,709.77	2,089.72	2,469.67	2,849.62	3,419.54	3,989.46
Gelligaer	1,132.45	1,321.17	1,509.92	1,698.66	2,076.15	2,453.62	2,831.11	3,397.32	3,963.53
Llanbradach a Pwll-y-pant	1,134.08	1,323.08	1,512.10	1,701.11	2,079.14	2,457.16	2,835.19	3,402.22	3,969.25
Maescymwr	1,131.09	1,319.60	1,508.12	1,696.63	2,073.66	2,450.69	2,827.72	3,393.26	3,958.80
Nelson	1,130.52	1,318.93	1,507.35	1,695.77	2,072.61	2,449.45	2,826.29	3,391.54	3,956.79
Tredegar Newydd	1,126.81	1,314.59	1,502.40	1,690.20	2,065.81	2,441.40	2,817.01	3,380.40	3,943.79
Pen-yr-heol, Trecenydd a Eneu'r-glyn	1,128.03	1,316.02	1,504.03	1,692.03	2,068.04	2,444.04	2,820.06	3,384.06	3,948.06
Rhymni	1,127.72	1,315.66	1,503.62	1,691.57	2,067.48	2,443.38	2,819.29	3,383.14	3,946.99
Dwyrain Rhisga	1,126.36	1,314.07	1,501.81	1,689.53	2,064.99	2,440.43	2,815.89	3,379.06	3,942.23
Gorllewin Rhisga	1,137.69	1,327.30	1,516.92	1,706.53	2,085.76	2,464.99	2,844.22	3,413.06	3,981.90
Y Fan	1,129.45	1,317.67	1,505.92	1,694.16	2,070.65	2,447.12	2,823.61	3,388.32	3,953.03
Y Gweddill	1,118.36	1,304.74	1,491.14	1,677.53	2,050.32	2,423.10	2,795.89	3,355.06	3,914.23

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 7.52 pm

Cymeradwywyd fel cofnod cywir ac yn amodol ar unrhyw newidiadau neu gywiriadau a gytunwyd ac a gofnodwyd yng nghofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhelir ar 23 Mai 2023, fe'u llofnodwyd gan y Maer.

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol



CYNGOR

COFNODION Y CYFARFOD AML-LEOLIAD A GYNHALIWDYD YN SIAMBR TŶ PENALLTA A THRWY MICROSOFT TEAMS AR DDYDD MERCHER, MAWRTH 15, 2023 AM 5.00PM

YN BRESENNOL:

Cynghorydd E.M. Aldworth - Maer
Cynghorydd M.A. Adams – Dirprwy Faer

Cynghorwyr:

C. Andrews, A. Angel, C. Bishop, A. Broughton-Pettit, M. Chacon-Dawson, R. Chapman, P. Cook, S. Cook, C. Cuss, N. Dix, G. Ead, C. Elsbury, G. Enright, M. Evans, K. Etheridge, A. Farina-Childs, C. Forehead, E. Forehead, J. E. Fussell, A. Gair, N. George, C. Gordon, D. Harse, T. Heron, A. Hussey, D. Ingram-Jones, M. James, L. Jeremiah, G. Johnston, J. Jones, S. Kent, A. Leonard, P. Leonard, C.P. Mann, A. McConnell, B. Miles, C. Morgan, S. Morgan, B. Owen, T. Parry, L. Phipps, M. Powell, D.W.R. Preece, H. Pritchard, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, J. Reed, J. Roberts, J. Sadler, R. Saralis, E. Stenner, J. Taylor, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe, L.G. Whittle, S. Williams, W. Williams, J. Winslade, K. Woodland, C. Wright

Ynghyd â:

C. Harrhy (Prif Weithredwr), R. Tranter (Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Swyddog Monitro), R. Edmunds (Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Addysg a Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol), D. Street (Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Thai), M.S. Williams (Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Economi a'r Amgylchedd), S. Harris (Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Ariannol a Swyddog Adran 151), L. Lane (Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Dirprwy Swyddog Monitro), K. Peters (Rheolwr Polisi Corfforaethol), H. Delonnette (Swyddog Polisi), S. Pugh (Pennaeth Cyfathrebu), E. Sullivan (Uwch Swyddog Gwasanaethau Pwyllgor), R. Barrett (Cofnodwr)

CYHOEDDIAD – GOHIRIO EITEM AGENDARHIF 8

Rhodddwyd gwybod i'r Cyngor, mewn ymateb i amrywiol gyfathrebiadau a dderbyniwyd, a chyda chytundeb y Maer, bod Eitem Agenda Rhif 8 (Terfyniad Gwirfoddol Arfaethedig o Contract Menter Cyllid Preifat (PFI) Ysgolion Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili) wedi'i gohirio er mwyn caniatáu amser i'r Aelodau ystyried yr achos busnes llawn, cyn trafodaeth mewn cyfarfod arbennig o'r Cyngor a gynhelir ar 19 Ebrill 2023.

TREFNIADAU RECORDIO, FFILMIO A PHLEIDLEISIO

Atgoffodd y Prif Weithredwr y rhai oedd yn bresennol fod y cyfarfod yn cael ei ffrydio'n fyw, ac y byddai recordiad ar gael yn dilyn y cyfarfod ar wefan y Cyngor – Cliciwch yma i'w weld. Dywedodd y byddai penderfyniadau'n cael eu gwneud drwy Microsoft Forms.

1. YMDDIHEURIADAU AM ABSENOLDEB

Derbyniwyd ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan y Cynghorwyr D.T Davies MBE, J. Simmonds, J. Rao, D. Cushing, D. Price, J. Scriven ac S. Skivens.

2. CYHOEDDIADAU'R MAER

Cyfeiriodd y Maer at yr ymrwymïadau a'r digwyddïadau y bu'n bresennol ynddynt ers cyfarfod diwethaf y Cyngor a dywedodd wrth yr Aelodau ei bod wedi cael y pleser yn ddiweddar o fynychu Noson Ymgysylltu â'r Fyddin yn Ysgol Lewis Pengam, a oedd yn noson ddiddorol iawn yn archwilio rhagolygon gyrfa posibl yn y fyddin i bobl ifanc. Mynychodd y Maer a'r Dirprwy Faer Wasanaeth Dinesig Dydd Gŵyl Dewi ynghyd â Maer Cyngor Caerdydd. Roedd y Maer hefyd yn falch iawn o fynychu agoriad siop elusen gyntaf Sight Cymru yn y Coed Duon, sydd wedi bod yn gweithredu ar draws y rhanbarth ers 1865 ac yn darparu gwasanaeth amhrisiadwy i helpu pobl sydd wedi colli eu golwg.

3. I DDERBYN DEISEBAU O DAN REOL GWEITHDREFN 28(3)

Cyflwynodd y Cyngorydd Walter Williams ddeiseb ar ran trigolion lleol a Chyngor Cymuned Argoed, a oedd yn gofyn i'r Cyngor ddarparu rhwystr a chroesfan ddiogel i gerddwyr ar gyffordd Abernant Road a Phant y Cefn Road, tynnu'r gylchfan fach, a'i dychwelyd i gyffordd a reolir gan arwydd stop a llinellau gwyn dwbl.

Derbyniodd y Maer y ddeiseb a fyddai'n cael ei gweithredu yn unol â Chyfansoddiad y Cyngor.

4. CYFLWYNO GWOBRAU

Y Criw Gwastraff

Dywedodd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Wastraff, Hamdden a Mannau Gwyrdd wrth y Cyngor fod tri aelod o'r Tîm Casglu Bwyd a Gwastraff Gwyrdd (Craig Jarvis, Simon Kentfield a David Lemin) yn ymweld ag Eglwys Gymunedol Abertridwr yn rheolaidd am ddiodydd poeth a'u bod wedi dod yn gyfeillgar â'r gwirfoddolwyr sy'n gweithio yn y ganolfan.

Ar ôl dysgu bod un o'r gwirfoddolwyr yn hoff iawn o chwaraewr Pêl-droed Rhyngwladol Cymru, Gemma Evans, fe gysyllton nhw â hi i ofyn am lun wedi'i lofnodi ar gyfer y gwirfoddolwr. Roedd y criw wrth eu bodd pan anfonodd Gemma Grys Cymru wedi'i arwyddo atynt, a threfnwyd ei fframio. Cyflwynodd Craig, Simon a David y crys wedi'i fframio i'r gwirfoddolwr yn ei chartref ar fore Nadolig. Roedd hyn yn sicr yn enghraifft o staff y Cyngor yn mynd y tu hwnt i'w dyletswyddau ac yn rhywbeth y byddant hwy, a'r gwirfoddolwyr yn y ganolfan, yn ei gofio am byth.

Nodwyd yn anffodus nad oedd Simon Kentfield yn gallu bod yn bresennol yn y cyfarfod heno, ond gwahoddwyd Craig Jarvis a David Lemin ymlaen gan y Maer er mwyn i'r Aelodau gydnabod eu hysbryd caredig a meddylgar.

Malgwyn Davies OBE, Uchel Siryf Gwent

Cyflwynodd y Maer y wobr a oedd yn cydnabod llwyddiannau Mr Malgwyn Davies OBE, Uchel Siryf Gwent, a Phrif Weithredwr cyntaf erioed Cyngor Caerffili yn dilyn ad-drefnu llywodraeth leol yn ôl yn 1996.

Dros y 12 mis diwethaf, mae Mr Davies OBE wedi bod yn cyflawni rôl Uchel Siryf Gwent, sy'n dyddio'n ôl dros fil o flynyddoedd ac sy'n cynnwys ystod o ddyletswyddau megis codi proffil sefydliadau gwirfoddol ac ieuenctid a chefnogi gwasanaethau brys a chymunedol eraill ledled Gwent. Talodd y Maer deyrnged i waith Mr Davies OBE, sydd wedi bod yn hynod

ragweithiol yn y rôl hon ac sydd wedi gweithio'n galed i gefnogi'r gymuned gyfan yn ystod ei benodiad 12 mis, sydd bellach yn dod i ben.

Talodd sawl Aelod deyrnged hefyd i waith Mr Davies OBE a'i ganmol am y modd diwyd a phroffesiynol yr oedd wedi cyflawni ei ddyletswyddau yn ystod ei gyfnod fel Prif Weithredwr.

Gwahoddwyd Mr Davies OBE ymlaen er mwyn i'r Cyngor ddiolch yn ffurfiol iddo am ei ymroddiad i'r rôl a derbyn anrheg fechan ar ran y Cyngor a thrigolion ar draws y fwrdeistref sirol.

Diolchodd Mr Davies OBE i'r Cyngor am y wobwr annisgwyl ac am ei anrhydeddu yn y cyfarfod. Mynegodd ei falchder o fod y cyn weithiwr llywodraeth leol cyntaf i ddal swydd Uchel Siryf Gwent ac am allu cynrychioli'r fwrdeistref sirol ar y lefel fawreddog hon, rôl y mae wedi'i mwynhau'n fawr, a diolchodd i Gyngor Caerffili am yr holl gefnogaeth a chymorth a roddwyd iddo yn ystod ei flwyddyn yn y swydd.

5. DATGANIADAU O FUDDIANT

Yn ystod y cyfarfod, datganodd y Cynghorydd L. Phipps a J. Winslade fuddiant personol mewn perthynas ag Eitem Agenda rhif 12 – Clwb Rygbi Bedwas yn yr ystyr bod aelodau'r teulu'n chwarae i'r clwb, heb fod yn broffesiynol. Gan mai buddiant personol yn unig oedd hwn nid oedd yn ofynnol iddynt adael y cyfarfod a gallent gymryd rhan lawn yn y ddadl a phleidleisio. Mae manylion hefyd yn cael eu cofnodi gyda'r eitem berthnasol.

6. Y CYNGOR A GYNHALIWDYD AR 17EG IONAWR 2023

PENDERFYNWYD cymeradwyo cofnodion y Cyngor a gynhaliwyd ar 17 Ionawr 2023 (cofnod rhif 1-13) fel cofnod cywir.

7. I DDERBYN AC ATEB CWESTIYNAU A DDERBYNIWYD O DAN REOL trefn 10(4)

Cwestiwn gan y Cynghorydd A. Hussey i'r Aelod Cabinet dros Addysg a Chymunedau, Cynghorydd C. Andrews

A wnaiff yr Aelod Cabinet dros Addysg a Chymunedau roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am waith tîm Gofalu am Gaerffili?

Ymateb gan yr Aelod Cabinet dros Addysg a Chymunedau i'r Cynghorydd A. Hussey

Mae Gofalu am Gaerffili wedi dosbarthu dros 450 o Becynnau Cynnes i breswylwyr ac wedi derbyn dros 5000 o alwadau a 2000 o e-byst gan breswylwyr yn gofyn am help. Bellach mae dros 53 o Fannau Croesawu yn cael eu darparu gan 39 o sefydliadau ar draws y fwrdeistref sirol, ac yn dilyn gwerthusiad, bydd cyfle i'r manau hyn barhau i'r gwanwyn, gyda llai o bwyslais ar ddarparu cynhesrwydd a mwy ar leihau arwahanrwydd cymdeithasol ac unigrwydd. Rydym hefyd wedi cynorthwyo i ddarparu cyllid gwerth dros £250,000 i 46 o sefydliadau a grwpiau cymunedol. Mae dros 300 o unigolion wedi cael cymorth un-i-un a 78 wedi cael cymorth i gael mynediad at ddarpariaeth gymunedol leol, ac mae dau dderbynydd cyntaf y Gronfa Galedi ar fin cael taliadau. Mae'r Gronfa Galedi ar gyfer y trigolion hynny nad ydynt yn gallu derbyn cymorth ariannol gan unrhyw sefydliadau eraill. Mae dros 1000 o drigolion wedi cael cymorth i wneud cais am daliad tanwydd gaeaf Llywodraeth Cymru a hefyd mae dros 800 o barseli bwyd wedi'u trefnu, 800 o geisiadau llwyddiannus am daliadau tai dewisol, cyngor ynni wedi'i roi i dros 250 o denantiaid ac rydym wedi darparu 350 o atgyfeiriadau i'r Ganolfan Cyngor ar Bopeth am gyngor ar arian a dyledion. Mae ail gylchlythyr Costau Byw wedi'i argraffu ac yn y broses o gael ei ddsbarthu i gartrefi ledled y

fwrdeistref sirol. Bydd hefyd ar gael mewn llyfrgelloedd a chanolfannau gwaith a bydd gan Gofalu am Gaerffili gyflenwad pan fyddant yn mynychu'r digwyddiadau a drefnwyd trwy gydol misoedd y gwanwyn a'r haf.

Cynhyrchwyd £3.2m o incwm ychwanegol i drigolion yn ystod blwyddyn ariannol 21/22 a chyflwynwyd cymorth i helpu'r Timau Arlwygo, Addysg, Treth y Cyngor a Budd-daliadau i dderbyn galwadau ac atgyfeiriadau. Mae'r Cysylltwyr Cymunedol wedi bod yn llunio astudiaethau achos, ac mae rhai o'r rhai i'w nodi yn cynnwys preswlydd a gafodd ôl-daliad Taliad Annibyniaeth Personol (PIP) o £10,000 ac a gafodd incwm uwch o £225 yr wythnos. Cynyddodd incwm wythnosol preswlydd arall £159 a chanfod hefyd fod ganddynt hawl i ofal deintyddol a llygaid am ddim a thrwydded deledu am ddim. Cynorthwywyd trydydd preswlydd gyda gwiriad budd-daliadau a chynyddodd ei incwm dros £700 y mis. Dyma rai yn unig o'r ffyrdd y mae'r tîm yn gweithio i gynorthwyo ein trigolion ar draws holl adrannau'r Cyngor a chyda sefydliadau eraill, a hoffwn ddiolch i'n holl weithwyr a gwirfoddolwyr am eu hymdrechion i helpu gyda hyn.

ADRODDIADAU SWYDDOGION

Ystyriwyd yr adroddiadau canlynol.

8. CYNIG I DERFYNU CONTRACT PFI YSGOLION CBS CAERFFILI YN WIRFODDOL

Fel y nodwyd ar ddechrau'r cyfarfod, gohiriwyd yr eitem hon tan gyfarfod arbennig o'r Cyngor i'w gynnal ar 19 Ebrill 2023.

9. CYHOEDDI'R DATGANIAD POLISI TÂL

Rhoddyd ystyriaeth i'r adroddiad a oedd yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cyngor i gyhoeddi Datganiad Polisi Tâl 2023/24 yr Awdurdod. Nododd y Cyngor fod y Datganiad Polisi Tâl sydd ynghlwm yn Atodiad 1 yn ddatganiad o ffaith ac yn cynnwys manylion llawn sefyllfa tâl y Cyngor ar gyfer 2023/24. Mae'n ofyniad deddfwriaethol bod y wybodaeth hon yn cael ei chyhoeddi'n flynyddol erbyn 31 Mawrth bob blwyddyn. Bydd y Datganiad Polisi Tâl yn cael ei gyhoeddi ar Wefan y Cyngor a bydd ar gael i'r cyhoedd ei weld.

Ni dderbyniwyd unrhyw gwestiynau am gynnwys yr adroddiad a chynigiwyd ac eiliwyd bod yr argymhellion yn adroddiad y Swyddog yn cael eu cymeradwyo. Trwy Microsoft Forms a chadarnhad llafar (a chan nodi bod 52 o blaid, 0 yn erbyn a 7 yn ymatal), cytunwyd ar hyn gan y mwyafrif a oedd yn bresennol

PENDERFYNWYD:-

- (i) cytuno ar y Datganiad Polisi Tâl 2023/24 (Fersiwn 12) amgaeedig i'w gyhoeddi ar wefan y Cyngor;
- (ii) cytuno ar y diwygiadau i Raddau 1-3 ar Strwythur Tâl y Cyd-gyngor Cenedlaethol (NJC) ar gyfer Gwasanaethau Llywodraeth Leol yn Atodiad A Polisi Tâl 2023/24.

10. BWRDD GWASANAETHAU CYHOEDDUS GWENT – CYNLLUN LLESIANT 2023-2028

Rhoddyd ystyriaeth i'r adroddiad, a oedd yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cyngor i Gynllun Llesiant drafft Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Gwent (BGC) 2023 - 2028 er mwyn symud ymlaen i'w gyhoeddi'n derfynol cyn 5 Mai 2023.

Dywedwyd wrth yr aelodau mai dyma'r Cynllun Llesiant Gwent cyntaf i'w gymeradwyo fel aelod statudol o Fwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Gwent. Mae gan Fyrddau Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus ddyletswydd o dan Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015 i gynhyrchu Cynllun Llesiant sy'n anelu at wella llesiant cymdeithasol, economaidd, amgylcheddol a diwylliannol eu hardal, cyfrannu at y saith nod llesiant cenedlaethol, a defnyddio'r pum ffordd o weithio fel fframwaith. Ym mis Medi 2021, unodd y pum Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus presennol yn rhanbarth Gwent i ffurfio BGC Gwent.

Gan adeiladu ar y trefniadau partneriaeth cryf a oedd yn bodoli eisoes, cyhoeddwyd yr Asesiad Llesiant Gwent cyntaf gydag asesiadau ardaloedd cymunedol lleol ategol yn nodi'r materion allweddol sy'n effeithio ar gymunedau lleol. Gan ddefnyddio'r themâu allweddol hyn, datblygwyd Cynllun Llesiant drafft ac ymgynghorwyd yn eang arno â chymunedau lleol, rhanddeiliaid a rheoleiddwyr, a defnyddiwyd y wybodaeth a gasglwyd yn ystod yr ymgynghoriad i fireinio Cynllun Llesiant Gwent ymhellach. Mae'r Cynllun hwn yn gosod y cyfeiriad rhanbarthol ar gyfer cydweithio, yn nodi lle gall y BGC ychwanegu'r gwerth mwyaf ac yn darparu dull cyffredin ar draws y rhanbarth i sicrhau bod yr holl drigolion yn elwa. Mae Grŵp Cyflenwi Lleol wedi'i sefydlu ym mhob ardal leol i ganolbwyntio ar y materion lleol a sut i fynd i'r afael â'r rhain, gan alluogi canolbwyntio gwaith ac ymdrech lle byddant yn gwneud y gwahaniaeth mwyaf. Bydd gwaith yn parhau dros yr ychydig fisoedd nesaf i ddatblygu cynlluniau cyflenwi manwl ar lefel leol a rhanbarthol, gan gynnwys camau gweithredu ar gyfer y tymor byr, canolig a hir, ynghyd â mesurau perfformiad i asesu'r gwahaniaeth a wneir.

Rhoddyd sicrwydd y bydd Cyngor Caerffili yn parhau i gael ymateb lleol i gynllun Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Gwent drwy Grŵp Cyflenwi Lleol Caerffili, gan sicrhau bod asiantaethau'r sector cyhoeddus yn cael eu cynrychioli, ynghyd â'r sector gwirfoddol a chynghorau tref a chymuned. Bydd y Cynllun Cyflenwi Lleol yn cyfrannu at y blaenoriaethau rhanbarthol ac yn nodi'r hyn y bydd Caerffili yn ei wneud mewn cydweithrediad â'r Grwpiau Cyflenwi Lleol eraill ledled Gwent i wneud pethau'n well i gymunedau lleol.

Trafododd y Cyngor yr adroddiad, ac mewn ymateb i ymholiad ar gynrychiolaeth trigolion lleol o fewn y Grŵp Cyflenwi Lleol, eglurodd Swyddogion y cydnabuwyd bod angen i'r grŵp ehangu ei gynrychiolaeth i sicrhau eu bod yn nodi'r materion lleol fel rhan o'r Cynllun Llesiant newydd. Nodwyd bod y Grŵp ar hyn o bryd yn cynnwys cynrychiolydd o'r sector Cynghorau Tref a Chymuned, ac mae'r Grŵp hefyd eisiau cynnwys cynrychiolydd darparwr tai, gan fod tai wedi'u nodi fel blaenoriaeth yn y Cynllun Cyflenwi Lleol.

Gofynnwyd am eglurhad ynghylch cynnydd y rhaglen cyllidebu cyfranogol ar draws Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, ac eglurwyd mai arian yw hwn sydd wedi'i ddyrannu i'r gymuned drwy drefniadau'r Bwrdd Partneriaeth Rhanbarthol drwy'r Grŵp Cyflenwi Lleol. Mae'r Cyngor ar fin gwneud trefniant gyda Cymdeithas Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Gwent (GAVO) i gyflwyno'r rhaglen ar eu rhan, a thros y misoedd nesaf, bydd gwaith ar y rhaglen hon yn dechrau gyda chymunedau lleol.

Ar ôl ystyried yr adroddiad, cynigiwyd ac eiliwyd bod yr argymhellion yn adroddiad y Swyddog yn cael eu cymeradwyo. Trwy Microsoft Forms a chadarnhad llafar (a chan nodi bod 59 o blaid, 0 yn erbyn ac 1 yn ymatal), cytunwyd ar hyn gan y mwyafrif a oedd yn bresennol.

PENDERFYNWYD nodi bod Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Gwent wedi cynhyrchu ei Gynllun Llesiant drafft terfynol a bod y Cynllun yn cael ei gymeradwyo fel y gall symud ymlaen i'w gyhoeddi'n derfynol cyn 5 Mai 2023.

11. PRAWF LLES Y CYHOEDD

Rhoddodd yr Aelodau ystyriaeth i Brawf Budd y Cyhoedd a daethant i'r casgliad, ar ôl pwysu a mesur, bod budd y cyhoedd o gadw'r eithriad yn gorbwyso budd y cyhoedd o ddatgelu'r wybodaeth. Trwy Microsoft Forms a chadarnhad llafar ac wrth nodi bod 52 o blaid, 2 yn erbyn a 4 yn ymatal, cytunwyd ar hyn gan y mwyafrif a oedd yn bresennol.

PENDERFYNWYD bod y cyhoedd, yn unol ag Adran 100(4) o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972, yn cael eu gwahardd o weddill y cyfarfod oherwydd ei bod yn debygol y byddai gwybodaeth eithriadig yn cael ei datgelu iddynt fel y'i diffinnir ym mharagraff 14 o Atodlen 12A i Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972.

Ar ôl derbyn Prawf Budd y Cyhoedd, terfynwyd y llif byw a recordio'r cyfarfod, a symudodd y Cyngor i sesiwn eithriadig.

12. CLWB RYGBI BEDWAS

Yn ystod y drafodaeth, datganodd y Cynghorwyr L. Phipps a J. Winslade fuddiant personol mewn perthynas â'r eitem hon, sef bod aelodau'r teulu'n chwarae i'r clwb, mewn rôl nad yw'n broffesiynol. Gan mai buddiant personol yn unig oedd hwn, nid oedd yn ofynnol iddynt adael y cyfarfod a gallent gymryd rhan lawn yn y ddatl a'r pleidleisio.

Cynigiwyd ac eiliwyd gwelliant a thrwy Microsoft Forms a chadarnhad llafar (a chan nodi bod 17 o blaid, 36 yn erbyn a 4 yn ymatal) datganwyd bod y gwelliant wedi ei golli.

Ar ôl ystyried adroddiad y Swyddog yn llawn, cynigiwyd ac eiliwyd bod yr argymhellion ynddo ynghyd ag argymhelliad ychwanegol (3.1.4) yn cael eu cymeradwyo. Trwy Microsoft Forms (a chan nodi bod 43 o blaid, 2 yn erbyn ac 11 yn ymatal), cytunwyd ar hyn gan y mwyafrif a oedd yn bresennol.

PENDERFYNWYD cymeradwyo Argymhellion 3.1, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3 fel y'u nodwyd yn yr adroddiad ac Argymhelliad 3.1.4 ychwanegol.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 6.28 p.m.

Cymeradwywyd fel cofnod cywir ac yn amodol ar unrhyw newidiadau neu gywiriadau a gytunwyd ac a gofnodwyd yng nghofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhelir ar 23 Mai 2023, fe'u llofnodwyd gan y Maer.

MAER



CYNGOR ARBENNIG

**COFNODION Y CYFARFOD AML-LEOLIAD A GYNHALIWYD YN SIAMBR TŶ
PENALLTA A THRWY MICROSOFT TEAMS AR DDYDD MERCHER,
19 EBRILL 2023 AM 5.00PM**

YN BRESENNOL:

Cynghorydd E.M. Aldworth - Maer
Cynghorydd M.A. Adams – Dirprwy Faer

Cynghorwyr:

C. Andrews, A.P. Angel, C. Bishop, A. Broughton-Pettit, M. Chacon-Dawson, R. Chapman, S. Cook, D. Cushing, C. Cuss, D.T. Davies MBE, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, G. Enright, K. Etheridge, M. Evans, A. Farina-Childs, C. Forehead, E. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, A. Gair, N. George, C. Gordon, D. Harse, T. Heron, A. Hussey, D. Ingram-Jones, M.P. James, L. Jeremiah, G. Johnston, S. Kent, P. Leonard, C.P. Mann, A. McConnell, B. Miles, C. Morgan, S. Morgan, B. Owen, T. Parry, L. Phipps, M. Powell, D.W.R. Preece, H. Pritchard, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, J. Rao, J. Reed, J. Roberts, J. Sadler, R. Saralis, J. Scriven, J. Simmonds, E. Stenner, J. Taylor, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe, L.G. Whittle, S. Williams, W. Williams, J. Winslade, K. Woodland, C. Wright

Ynghyd â:

C. Harrhy (Prif Weithredwr), R. Tranter (Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Swyddog Monitro), R. Edmunds (Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol dros Addysg a Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol), M.S. Williams (Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Economi a'r Amgylchedd), S. Harris (Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Ariannol a Swyddog Adran 151), J. Southcombe (Rheolwr Cyllid), S. Richards (Pennaeth Trawsnewid a Chynllunio Addysg a Strategaeth), A. West (Rheolwr Derbyn a Gwaharddiadau Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif), S. Pugh (Pennaeth Cyfathrebu), E. Sullivan (Uwch Swyddog Gwasanaethau Pwyllgorau), R. Barrett (Cofnodwr)

Hefyd yn bresennol:

M. Read (Cyfarwyddwr Prosiect – Partneriaethau Lleol)

TREFNIADAU RECORDIO, FFILMIO A PHLEIDLEISIO

Atgoffodd y Prif Weithredwr y rhai oedd yn bresennol fod y cyfarfod yn cael ei ffrydio'n fyw, a byddai recordiad ar gael yn dilyn y cyfarfod ar wefan y Cyngor – [Cliciwch yma i'w weld](#). Dywedodd y byddai penderfyniadau'n cael eu gwneud drwy Microsoft Forms.

1. YMDDIHEURIADAU AM ABSENOLDEB

Derbyniwyd ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan y Cynghorwyr P. Cook, G. Ead, J. Jones, A. Leonard, D. Price ac S. Skivens, ynghyd â D. Street (Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Thai).

2. DATGANIADAU O FUDDIANT

Derbyniwyd y datganiadau canlynol ynghylch Eitem Agenda Rhif 3 – Terfyniad Gwirfoddol Arfaethedig o Gontract Menter Cyllid Preifat (PFI) Ysgolion CBS Caerffili.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd L. Phipps fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan fod ei chwaer yn gweithio yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni (safle'r Gwyndy) a'i nith yn mynychu Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni (safle Gelli-haf).

Datganodd y Cynghorydd C. Wright fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan fod ei mab yn mynychu Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd A. Whitcombe fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan fod ei wyres yn mynychu Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd C.P. Mann fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan ei fod yn Llywodraethwr a benodwyd gan yr AALI yn Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd J.E. Roberts fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan fod ei wyrion yn mynychu Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd R. Chapman fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan fod ei wyres yn mynychu Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd M.P. James fuddiant personol yn yr eitem hon gan ei fod yn Llywodraethwr a benodwyd gan yr AALI yn Ysgol Lewis Pengam.

Hysbyswyd yr Aelodau gan mai buddiannau personol yn unig oedd y rhain, y gallent gymryd rhan lawn yn y ddadl a'r pleidleisio.

ADRODDIADAU SWYDDOGION

Ystyriwyd yr adroddiad canlynol.

3. TERFYNIAD GWIRFODDOL ARFAETHEDIG O GONTRACT PFI YSGOLION CBS CAERFFILI

Derbyniwyd datganiadau o ddiddordeb gan y Cynghorwyr L. Phipps, C. Wright, A. Whitcombe, C.P. Mann, J.E. Roberts, R. Chapman, ac M.P. Iago. Roedd yr holl ddatganiadau yn ymwneud â buddiant personol yn unig, gyda'r manylion llawn wedi'u cofnodi uchod, ac arhosodd yr Aelodau yn y cyfarfod wrth drafod yr eitem.

Rhodddwyd ystyriaeth i'r adroddiad, a oedd yn rhoi manylion cynnig i derfynu Contract PFI Ysgolion CBS Caerffili yn wirfoddol ac yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cyngor i'r cynnig, a oedd wedi'i ystyried gan y Cydbwyllgor Craffu ar 28 Chwefror 2023 ac a gyflwynwyd i'r Cabinet ar 8 Mawrth 2023.

Dywedwyd wrth yr Aelodau bod y Cyngor, dros nifer o flynyddoedd, wedi ceisio cyflawni arbedion dan y Contract PFI Ysgolion, i sicrhau bod gwasanaethau gwerth am arian yn cael eu darparu i'r ysgolion ac i leihau goblygiadau fforddiadwyedd. Mae'r Cyngor wedi ystyried yr holl opsiynau, gan gynnwys cynyddu rheolaeth y contract, adolygu'r gwasanaethau a ddarperir i nodi a gweithredu arbedion, a defnyddio mecanweithiau yn y Contract megis meincnodi i leihau costau. Fodd bynnag, er gwaethaf y cymorth ariannol gan Lywodraeth Cymru (LIC), mae bwlch fforddiadwyedd sylweddol yn parhau rhwng lefelau ariannu ysgolion

arferol y Cyngor a'r taliadau a wneir i'r Contractwr. O'r herwydd, mae achos busnes wedi'i baratoi sy'n nodi manylion cynnig i derfynu Contract PFI yr Ysgolion yn wirfoddol.

Hysbyswyd y Cyngor bod yr adroddiad yn ceisio cynnwys cymaint o fanylion â phosibl i alluogi'r Aelodau i gael trafodaeth adeiladol mewn sesiwn agored. Fodd bynnag, nid oedd gwybodaeth fasnachol sensitif o'r achos busnes wedi'i chynnwys yn yr adroddiad er mwyn peidio â pheryglu'r trafodaethau y bydd angen eu cynnal gyda'r contractwr PFI.

Ystyriwyd y cynnig gan gyfarfod ar y cyd o'r Pwyllgorau Craffu Polisi ac Adnoddau ac Addysg ar 28 Chwefror 2023, a chyn hynny, rhannwyd nodyn briffio â phenaethiaid a Chadeiryddion Llywodraethwyr y ddwy ysgol PFI, a oedd yn seiliedig i raddau helaeth ar gynnwys adroddiad y Cyngor. Roedd yr adroddiad wedi'i amserlennu'n wreiddiol i'r Cyngor ei ystyried ar 15 Mawrth 2023, ond fe'i gohiriwyd tan 19 Ebrill 2023 er mwyn caniatáu mwy o amser i'r holl bartion â diddordeb ystyried y cynnig yn llawn a darparu safbwyntiau pellach cyn gwneud penderfyniad terfynol. Ers hynny, roedd cynrychiolwyr o gyrrff llywodraethu'r ddwy ysgol wedi achub ar y cyfle i ddarllen yr achos busnes yn gyfrinachol ac roedd diwrnodau darllen i'r Aelodau hefyd wedi'u trefnu ar 27 Mawrth 2023, 5 Ebrill 2023 a 13 Ebrill 2023 er mwyn caniatáu iddynt adolygu'r achos busnes yn gyfrinachol. Yn dilyn y broses hon, codwyd nifer o gwestiynau pellach gan y ddwy ysgol PFI a darparwyd manylion y rhain, ynghyd ag ymatebion y Swyddogion, yn Atodiad 4 yr adroddiad. Derbyniwyd llythyr pellach hefyd ar 18 Ebrill 2023 gan Gadeirydd Llywodraethwyr Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni a ddosbarthwyd i bob Aelod cyn cyfarfod y Cyngor.

Dywedwyd wrth y Cyngor bod yr achos busnes yn seiliedig ar ddyddiad terfynu arfaethedig o 31 Gorffennaf 2023. Fodd bynnag, oherwydd y dyddiad a aildefnwyd i'r Cyngor ystyried y cynnig, nid yw'r dyddiad terfynu hwn bellach yn gyraeddadwy, ac yn amodol ar gymeradwyaeth y Cyngor i'r cynnig, mae'r dyddiad terfynu cynharaf bellach yn debygol o fod ym mis Hydref 2023. Mae'r asesiad ariannol yn yr achos busnes yn dangos budd ariannol net sylweddol ar gyfer senarios yr Achos Gorau a'r Achos Gwaethaf, ac mae'r arwyddion cynnar yn dangos y gallai'r arbedion cyllideb referniw ar gyfer yr Awdurdod fod tua £2m y flwyddyn. Ni ellir pennu lefel wirioneddol yr arbedion yn bendant oni bai bod terfyniad yn digwydd mewn gwirionedd, ond mae'n amlwg bod y budd ariannol yn sylweddol. Ni fydd y dyddiad terfynu cynharaf diwygiedig, sef Hydref 2023, yn effeithio'n sylweddol ar yr asesiad ariannol.

Nodwyd pe bai'r cynnig yn cael ei gytuno gan y Cyngor, yna yn dilyn talu'r swm iawndal, bydd adroddiad pellach yn cael ei gyflwyno i'r Cyngor yn nodi manylion ariannu'r taliad, yr arbedion cyllideb referniw sy'n codi a'r opsiynau ar gyfer defnyddio'r arbedion.

Atgoffwyd yr aelodau bod y Cyngor yn parhau i wynebu heriau ariannol sylweddol a phwysau cyllidebol, ac y byddai bwrw ymlaen â'r terfyniad gwirfoddol arfaethedig yn caniatáu i'r Cyngor wireddu arbedion cyllideb referniw a all gefnogi cyflawni'r Cynllun Ariannol Tymor Canolig ac a allai hefyd roi cyfle am rywfaint o fuddsoddiad cyfalaf ar draws yr ystâd addysg ehangach. Pwysleisiwyd mai mater cytundebol yn unig yw'r cynnig rhwng y Cyngor a'r contractwr PFI ar nifer o wasanaethau anaddysgol, gan gynnwys cynnal a chadw adeiladau, arlwyo a chynnal a chadw tiroedd, ac nad oedd yr un o'r opsiynau a amlinellwyd yn yr adroddiad yn debygol o effeithio'n negyddol ar gyraeddiad disgyblion. Pe bai'r cynigion yn cael eu cefnogi, bydd y rhain yn dod ag eglurder i'r ffordd y mae ysgolion ar draws y fwrdeistref sirol yn cael eu hariannu a'u gweithredu gan yr awdurdod lleol, gan sicrhau dull tecach o ariannu ar draws yr holl ysgolion, a byddant hefyd yn cynhyrchu arbediad blynyddol sylweddol drwy derfynu'r Contract PFI yn gynnar. Rhoddwyd sicrwydd hefyd y byddai'r ddwy ysgol yn cael eu hysbysu, eu diweddarau a'u cefnogi gan yr Awdurdod drwy gydol y broses.

Trafododd y Cyngor yr adroddiad a mynegodd un Aelod amheuan ynghylch goblygiadau posibl y cynnig, gan gynnwys darpariaeth gwasanaeth yn y dyfodol, atebolrwydd atgyweirio

adeiladau a chostau diswyddo, a mynegodd y farn nad oedd y cynnig yn gyffredinol yn cynnig gwerth am arian, er ei fod yn falch fod y dyddiad terfynu wedi'i ohirio tan fis Hydref 2023, a fyddai'n caniatáu digon o amser i ysgolion sicrhau darparwyr contract newydd.

Cadarnhaodd Mr Steve Harris (Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Ariannol a Swyddog Adran 151) fod yr Awdurdod wedi gwneud popeth posibl i fynd i'r afael â phryderon ysgolion, a amlinellwyd yn fanwl ac yr ymatebwyd iddynt yn yr adroddiad. O ran cynnal a chadw adeiladau, mae ffigur yr achos busnes wedi'i seilio ar arolygon cyflwr a gynhaliwyd yn 2018, a byddai arolygon cyflwr newydd yn cael eu cynnal yn y ddwy ysgol a allai arwain at ffigur uwch neu is. Fodd bynnag, pe bai'r ffigur hwn yn cynyddu, yna bydd yr Awdurdod yn cymryd hyn i ystyriaeth yn eu trafodaethau gyda'r contractwr PFI, ac os na fydd yn cwblhau'r gwaith hwn cyn trosglwyddo, yna byddai'r Awdurdod yn ceisio gostyngiad yn y taliad iawndal.

O ran costau diswyddo, eglurwyd mai dim ond os na fyddai staff presennol yn trosglwyddo i ddarparwyr gwasanaeth newydd y byddai'r rhain yn berthnasol, gan amlgu y byddai darpariaethau Rheoliadau Trosglwyddo Ymgymeriadau (Diogelu Cyflogaeth) 2006 (TUPE) yn berthnasol a phe bai'r ysgolion yn caffael gwasanaethau gan y Cyngor, yna byddai'r staff presennol yn trosglwyddo i gyflogaeth y Cyngor. O ran tegwch ariannol, pe bai terfynu gwirfoddol yn mynd rhagddo, yna byddai cyllid cyfalaf a gwaith cynnal a chadw ar gyfer y ddwy ysgol PFI yn cael sylw yn yr un modd â phob ysgol arall yn y fwrdeistref sirol. O ran arbedion, pwysleisiwyd bod yr Awdurdod wedi gweithio'n agos iawn gyda Phartneriaethau Lleol ar yr achos busnes, sy'n cynnwys y senarios gorau a'r gwaethaf, ac sy'n dangos bod modd cyflawni arbedion sylweddol dan y broses hon. Sicrhawyd yr aelodau os daw'n amlwg ar unrhyw adeg nad yw'r arbedion yn gyraeddadwy ac nad yw er budd ariannol i'r Cyngor i symud ymlaen, yna byddai adroddiad pellach yn cael ei ddwyn yn ôl i'r Cyngor yn hyn o beth.

Mewn ymateb i ymholiad gan Aelod ar ddefnydd cymunedol o'r ysgolion hyn gyda'r nos, cadarnhaodd Mrs Sue Richards (Pennaeth Trawsnewid a Chynllunio Addysg a Strategaeth) mai un o strategaethau'r Cyngor yw uchafu defnydd ar ôl ysgol, a byddai gan yr Awdurdod fwy o allu i ddefnyddio adeiladau ysgol yn y modd hwn, pe bai Aelodau'n cytuno i derfynu'r contract PFI yn wirfoddol.

Cyfeiriodd un Aelod at gyfres o gwestiynau yr oedd wedi'u dosbarthu i Aelodau'r Cabinet a Swyddogion, gan gynnwys ymholiadau'n ymwneud ag amcangyfrifon ac asesiadau ariannol, arbedion cost, arolygon adeiladu, trafodaethau contractwyr, a thaliadau iawndal yn deillio o'r cynigion, ynghyd ag agweddau ar y broses a oedd wedi'u cymeradwyo o dan bwerau dirprwyedig. Cadarnhaodd Mr Robert Tranter (Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Swyddog Monitro) a Mr Richard Edmunds (Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg a Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol) y derbyniwyd y ddau e-bost gan yr Aelod ac ymatebwyd iddynt, a bod yr ymatebion i'r cwestiynau hefyd wedi'u dosbarthu i'r holl Aelodau er gwybodaeth.

Mynegodd un Aelod bryderon ynghylch yr amserlenni arfaethedig a chyflymder y broses ymgynghori hyd yma ac awgrymodd y dylid cyflwyno'r ffigurau arbedion terfynol i'r Cyngor cyn gofyn i'r Aelodau wneud penderfyniad ar y cynnig. Cadarnhaodd Mr Harris fod yr holl ymatebion i'r broses ymgynghori wedi'u nodi yn yr adroddiad, ac o ran amserlenni, pe bai'r cynnig yn cael ei cytuno, bydd gan y Cyngor amserlen o 6 mis i wneud y gwaith angenrheidiol i derfynu'r contract PFI, gyda'r arolygon cyflwr wedi'u trefnu ar gyfer cyfnod gwyliau haf yr ysgol. Pwysleisiwyd y bydd hon yn broses hir a chynhwysfawr yn cynnwys gwaith gyda Phartneriaethau Lleol, gyda'r amserlen i'w hadolygu i ymgorffori'r dyddiad terfynu newydd a ragwelir, ac ar ôl cytuno ar delerau terfynol y terfyniad o dan bwerau dirprwyedig a thalu'r swm iawndal, bydd adroddiad pellach yn cael ei ddwyn yn ôl i'r Cyngor yn nodi manylion pellach a'r opsiynau ar gyfer defnyddio'r arbedion.

Holodd Aelod a fyddai modd cyflawni lefel sylweddol o arbedion yn deillio o'r cynnig, o ystyried bod y taliadau terfynol eto i'w cadarnhau. Esboniodd Mr Harris fod yr achos busnes

yn amlinellu sut y byddai'r taliadau iawndal yn y senarios Achos Gorau a'r Achosion Gwaethaf yn cael eu hariannu, trwy gyfuniad o gronfeydd wrth gefn PFI a benthycia presennol, sy'n dangos bod modd cyflawni arbedion o hyd at £2m y flwyddyn, er y pwysleisiwyd y bydd yr arbedion terfynol yn dibynnu ar benderfynu ar swm yr iawndal terfynol.

Cyfeiriodd Aelod at yr argymhelliad a oedd yn gofyn am ddarpariaeth i gytuno ar delerau terfynol y terfynu o dan bwerau dirprwyedig, a gofynnodd am eglurhad ynghylch a oedd unrhyw reoliadau sy'n diffinio uchafswm lefel ariannol ar gyfer penderfyniadau dirprwyedig. Cadarnhaodd y swyddogion nad oeddent yn ymwybodol o unrhyw gyfyngiadau o'r fath ac eglurwyd y byddai awdurdod dirprwyedig yn cael ei roi i Bennaeth y Gwasanaethau Ariannol a'r Swyddog Adran 151, Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Swyddog Monitro, a'r Aelod Cabinet Cyllid a Pherfformiad. Pwysleisiodd Mr Harris na fyddai'r cynnig yn mynd yn ei flaen pe bai'n dod i'r amlwg nad yw gwneud hynny er budd ariannol y Cyngor, ac eglurodd hefyd fod ganddo fel Prif Swyddog Ariannol y Cyngor gyfrifoldeb i sicrhau bod unrhyw gytundeb yn cwrdd â gofynion Cod Darbodus y Sefydliad Siartredig Cyllid Cyhoeddus a Chyfrifyddiaeth (CIPFA) ar gyfer Cyllid Cyfalaf mewn Awdurdodau Lleol er mwyn iddo fod yn ddarbodus ac yn fforddiadwy. Felly, gofynnwyd i'r Aelodau gytuno bod yr awdurdod dirprwyedig hwn yn cael ei roi i'r Swyddogion perthnasol fel y gellir cyflawni'r cyfrifoldeb hwn.

Gofynnwyd am eglurhad ynghylch a fyddai unrhyw niwed i ddisgyblion ysgol o ganlyniad i'r cynigion, ac a fyddai cyfleusterau hamdden yn yr ysgolion ar gael i drigolion lleol gyda'r nos ac ar benwythnosau. Eglurodd Mrs Richards fod defnydd o'r fath yn gyfyngedig ar hyn o bryd, ond byddai'r Awdurdod yn ceisio ymestyn defnydd cymunedol o'r safle i 7 diwrnod yr wythnos. O ran effaith addysgol, atgoffwyd yr Aelodau bod Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni yn eistedd ar ddau safle a bod safle'r Gwyndy eisoes yn safle nad yw'n un PFI sy'n cael ei ariannu a'i reoli yn yr un modd â holl ysgolion eraill Caerffili, ac ar y sail honno, ni ragwelir unrhyw effaith ar addysg disgyblion ar draws y ddwy ysgol.

Gofynnodd Aelod a oedd yr arolygon cyflwr PFI yn seiliedig ar gyfraddau chwyddiant cyfredol neu lefelau 2018 a chyfeiriodd at y benthycia y byddai ei angen i helpu i ariannu'r cynnig. Eglurodd Mr Harris fod y ffigwr o £982k ar gyfer ôl-groniad o waith cynnal a chadw yn seiliedig ar lefelau 2018 ac nad yw wedi'i addasu ar gyfer chwyddiant, ond ers hynny bydd rhywfaint o'r gwaith hwn wedi'i wneud, ac er y bydd costau uwch oherwydd chwyddiant, mae'r rhain yn helpu trafodaethau o ran y swm iawndal terfynol sydd i'w dalu. Eglurwyd hefyd, er bod angen peth benthycia i gynorthwyo gyda'r setliad, fod hyn yn cyflwyno bargaen ariannol llawer gwell i'r Cyngor na'r sefyllfa PFI bresennol.

Gofynnodd un Aelod am eglurhad ynghylch y pryderon a godwyd gan y ddwy ysgol ynghylch gwasanaethau, o ystyried bod y Cyngor eisoes yn darparu gwasanaethau i safle'r Gwyndy nad yw'n safle PFI, a mynegodd Aelod arall amheuan ynghylch y cynnig ac a fyddai'r Awdurdod yn gallu cynnal a diogelu lefel gwasanaeth PFI yn yr ysgolion hyn. Eglurodd Mrs Richards, trwy gyfres o gyfarfodydd gyda phenaethiaid y ddwy ysgol, fod rhai o'r pryderon hyn wedi'u lleddfu, ac ymhellach, bydd y Cyngor yn gweithio gyda'r ysgolion i'w cefnogi drwy gydol y broses hon gyda'r effaith leiaf bosibl ar bawb sy'n ymwneud â'r cynnig.

Holodd Aelod a oedd yn ddoeth defnyddio cronfeydd wrth gefn i helpu i ariannu'r cynnig, ac esboniodd Mr Harris fod y cronfeydd penodol hyn wedi'u sefydlu at ddefnydd PFI ac y gellir eu defnyddio i helpu i ariannu'r swm iawndal. Yn ogystal, bydd cyfraniad ariannol LIC i'r contract PFI yn parhau am y 9.5 mlynedd nesaf, sy'n rhoi'r Cyngor mewn sefyllfa ariannol gref.

Yn dilyn ystyried yr adroddiad, cynigiwyd ac eiliwyd bod yr argymhellion yn yr adroddiad yn cael eu cymeradwyo. Trwy Microsoft Forms a chadarnhad llafar ac wrth nodi bod 42 o blaid, 12 yn erbyn ac 8 yn ymatal, cytunwyd ar hyn gan y mwyafrif a oedd yn bresennol.

PENDERFYNWYD am y rhesymau a roddwyd yn adroddiad y Swyddog:-

- (i) cymeradwyo'r cynnig i derfynu Contract PFI Ysgolion y Cyngor yn wirfoddol;
- (ii) dirprwyo awdurdod i'r Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Ariannol a'r Swyddog Adran 151, Pennaeth y Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a'r Swyddog Monitro, a'r Aelod Cabinet Cyllid a Pherfformiad i gytuno ar delerau terfynol y terfynu;
- (iii) bod y swm iawndal terfynol a chostau cysylltiedig eraill i ymgynghorwyr allanol yn cael eu hariannu drwy gyfuniad o gronfeydd wrth gefn PFI a benthyca;
- (iv) bod y Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Ariannol a Swyddog Adran 151 yn penderfynu ar y gofynion benthyca yn unol â gofynion Cod Darbodus CIPFA ar gyfer Cyllid Cyfalaf mewn Awdurdodau Lleol;
- (v) bod adroddiad pellach yn cael ei gyflwyno i'r Cyngor yn dilyn talu'r swm iawndal yn nodi manylion ariannu'r taliad, yr arbedion cyllideb referniw sy'n codi, a'r opsiynau ar gyfer defnyddio'r arbedion.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 6.11 p.m.

Cymeradwywyd fel cofnod cywir ac yn amodol ar unrhyw newidiadau neu gywiriadau a gytunwyd ac a gofnodwyd yng nghofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhelir ar 23 Mai 2023, fe'u llofnodwyd gan y Maer.

MAER



COUNCIL – 23RD MAY 2023

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION – FOSTER FAMILY FRIENDLY EMPLOYER

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Council is asked to consider the Notice of Motion as set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report and make an appropriate recommendation. In accordance with Rule 11(3) of the Constitution.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A Notice of Motion has been received from Councillor E. Forehead and is supported by Councillor T. Heron and by Councillors N. George, P. Leonard, C. Andrews, S. Cook, C. Morgan, J. Simmonds, E. Stenner, J. Pritchard, S. Morgan.
- 2.2 The Notice of Motion met the criteria set out in the Council's Constitution and in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure was considered by the Social Services Committee at its meeting on 24th January 2023.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Council are asked to consider the Notice of Motion as outlined in paragraph 5.1 and make an appropriate recommendation.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Notice of Motion

In her notice of motion Councillor E. Forehead asks Council to consider making Caerphilly County Borough Council a Foster Family Friendly Employer, giving staff that foster children extra support in balancing their work and care responsibilities.

We are a local authority who can recognise the need for flexibility at work to meet the needs of foster children, which is why we are committed to supporting our colleagues who are foster carers.

We support this motion for our foster carers – as well as those who care for children of family or friends, such as a grandparent caring permanently for their grandchild – will be offered up to 5 days paid leave to attend training or meetings relating to their role as a carer.

Employees will also be entitled to additional unpaid time off work to deal with unexpected emergencies, such as welcoming a child into their home at short notice.

Becoming a foster friendly employer will strengthen the links that are needed to ensure we, as a local authority, show a strong corporate social responsibility.

- 5.2 In support of the notice of motion Councillor Forehead asks Council to note that Foster Carers play a vital role in safeguarding our most vulnerable children. They become the expert on the child they care for and are dedicated to supporting each child to their full potential. This can only happen with support and encouragement from their networks.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 As a notice of motion is a procedural matter and must be dealt with in accordance with Council's Constitution, no assumptions have been made.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 This report does not require an Integrated Impact Assessment as it relates to a procedural matter under the Council's Constitution.
- 7.2 The procedural rules regarding a Notice of Motion are contained within Council's Constitution as adopted in May 2002. The Council's Constitution sets out the framework for the decision-making roles and responsibilities.
- 7.3 However the outcome of the Notice of Motion and any subsequent reports arising from it may require an Integrated Impact Assessment.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 The Notice of Motion was considered by the Social Services Scrutiny Committee on 23rd January 2023 and unanimously recommended to Council that the Notice of

Motion be supported.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Act 2000

Author: Lisa Lane Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Appendices: Appendix 1 Signed copy of the Amended Notice of Motion.

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

NOTICE OF MOTION – FOSTER FAMILY FRIENDLY EMPLOYER

To consider the Notice of Motion standing in the name of County Borough Councillor E. Forehead, supported by Councillor T. Heron and by the Members listed.

Foster carers play a vital role in safeguarding our most vulnerable children. They become the expert on the child they care for and are dedicated to supporting each child to their full potential.

This can only happen with support and encouragement from their networks

We propose that Caerphilly County Borough Council become foster-family-friendly employer, giving staff that foster children extra support in balancing their work and care responsibilities. We are a local authority who can recognise the need for flexibility at work to meet the needs of foster children, which is why we are committed to supporting our colleagues who are foster carers

We support this motion for our foster carers – as well as those who care for children of family or friends, such as a grandparent caring permanently for their grandchild – will be offered up to 5 days paid leave to attend training or meetings relating to their role as a carer.

Employees will also be entitled to additional unpaid time off work to deal with unexpected emergencies, such as welcoming a child into their home at short notice. Becoming a foster friendly employer will strengthen the links that are needed to ensure we, as a local authority, show a strong corporate social responsibility

Councillor Elaine Forehead



Councillor Teresa Heron



Supported by Councillors: N. George, P. Leonard, C. Andrews, S. Cook, C. Morgan, J. Simmonds, E. Stenner, J. Pritchard, S. Morgan.

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol



COUNCIL – 23RD MAY 2023

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION – FUEL POVERTY

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Council is asked to consider the Notice of Motion as set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report and make an appropriate recommendation. In accordance with Rule 11(3) of the Constitution.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A Notice of Motion has been received from Councillor C. Andrews and is supported by Councillors N. George, P. Leonard, E. Forehead, S. Cook, C. Morgan, J. Simmonds, E. Stenner, J. Pritchard, S. Morgan.
- 2.2 The Notice of Motion meets the criteria set out in the Council's Constitution and in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure is now referred to the Social Services Scrutiny Committee for consideration, prior to its consideration by Council.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Council are asked to consider the Notice of Motion as outlined in paragraph 5.1 and make an appropriate recommendation.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Notice of Motion

At the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee Councillor Andrews made an amendment to her motion which is set out in full below, with the changes highlighted.

In her notice of motion Councillor C. Andrews calls on the Leader of Council to write

to UK Government to pass legislation to **prevent energy companies entering people's homes and fitting pre-pay meters, unless asked to do so by the householder concerned. In addition, people should be given the right to have pre-payment meters removed from their home.**

5.2 Councillor Andrews provides the following information in support of her notice of motion:-

The Welsh Government has defined fuel poverty as households "having to spend more than 10 per cent of income (including housing benefit) on all household fuel used to maintain a satisfactory heating regime".

During this current Cost of Living Crisis energy prices have surged this winter and suppliers have stepped up the use of court warrants to force their way into homes to install prepayment meters, with some magistrates approving hundreds of applications at a time. For homes with smart meters, the change can be made remotely without even needing a warrant.

Citizen's Advice estimates 600,000 people were forced to make the switch away from credit meters after racking up debt with their energy supplier in 2022, compared with 380,000 in 2021 and it predicts that 160,000 more people could be moved onto a prepayment meter by the end of winter.

People using prepayment meters pay for their gas and electricity by topping up their meter, either through accounts or by adding credit to a card in a convenience store or post office.

Prepay meters charge for energy at a higher rate than contracts where the customer pays monthly or by direct debit, and people in debt are often left with no choice but to "self-disconnect". For many, running out of credit is not a one-off event, leaving residents unable to cook or heat their homes. There is a fear that this will lead to "disconnection by the back door". *Citizens Advice also found:*

- More than 2 million people are being disconnected from their energy supply once a month.
- 1 in 5 prepayment customers who have been disconnected from their energy supply in the past year said it had been for more than 24 hours at least once.
- 1 in 3 people on prepayment meters said that they had "self-disconnected" at least once in the past year because they could not afford to top up.

In response to public and media pressure Ofgem, the energy Regulator for Great Britain, has put in place a temporary ban on pre-payment meters, initially until the 31 March 2023. This has now been extended until energy companies sign up to the Ofgem Code of Practice which requires suppliers to have effective checks and balances in place when switching people to a smart meter. Under Ofgem rules companies must also offer payment plans people can afford and offer emergency credit for people who use a prepay meter and can't top up.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 As a notice of motion is a procedural matter and must be dealt with in accordance with Council's Constitution, no assumptions have been made.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 This report does not require an Integrated Impact Assessment as it relates to a procedural matter under the Council's Constitution.
- 7.2 The procedural rules regarding a Notice of Motion are contained within Council's Constitution as adopted in May 2002. The Council's Constitution sets out the framework for the decision-making roles and responsibilities.
- 7.3 However the outcome of the Notice of Motion and any subsequent reports arising from it may require an Integrated Impact Assessment.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 The Notice of Motion was considered by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 21st March 2023.
- 10.2 Members expressed the opinion that fuel poverty was a complex issue that needed consideration not only in terms of pre-paid meters, which were a valid preference for many people, but in the wider context of individuals own budgeting and money management abilities. Members agreed that the installation of meters without the homeowner's consent was not acceptable and urgent action was needed to stop this practice by energy companies who were amassing huge profits as fuel prices skyrocketed.
- 10.3 The Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee having considered the Notice of Motion by way of Microsoft Forms and in noting there were 14 For and 1 Abstention RECOMMENDED to Council that it be supported.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2000

Author: Emma Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

Appendices: Appendix 1 Signed copy of the Amended Notice of Motion.

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

NOTICE OF MOTION – FUEL POVERTY

Notice of Motion standing in the name County Brough Councillor Carol Andrews and support by the Councillors listed below: -

The Welsh Government has defined fuel poverty as households “having to spend more than 10 per cent of income (including housing benefit) on all household fuel used to maintain a satisfactory heating regime”.

During this current Cost of Living Crisis energy prices have surged this winter and suppliers have stepped up the use of court warrants to force their way into homes to install prepayment meters, with some magistrates approving hundreds of applications at a time. For homes with smart meters, the change can be made remotely without even needing a warrant.

Citizen’s Advice estimates 600,000 people were forced to make the switch away from credit meters after racking up debt with their energy supplier in 2022, compared with 380,000 in 2021 and it predicts that 160,000 more people could be moved onto a prepayment meter by the end of winter.

People using prepayment meters pay for their gas and electricity by topping up their meter, either through accounts or by adding credit to a card in a convenience store or post office.

Prepay meters charge for energy at a higher rate than contracts where the customer pays monthly or by direct debit, and people in debt are often left with no choice but to “self-disconnect”. For many, running out of credit is not a one-off event, leaving residents unable to cook or heat their homes. There is a fear that this will lead to “disconnection by the back door”. *Citizens Advice also found:*

- More than 2 million people are being disconnected from their energy supply once a month.
- 1 in 5 prepayment customers who have been disconnected from their energy supply in the past year said it had been for more than 24 hours at least once.
- 1 in 3 people on prepayment meters said that they had “self-disconnected” at least once in the past year because they could not afford to top up.

In response to public and media pressure Ofgem, the energy Regulator for Great Britain, has put in place a temporary ban on pre-payment meters, initially until the 31 March 2023. This has now been extended until energy companies sign up to the Ofgem Code of Practice which requires suppliers to have effective checks and balances in place when switching people to a smart meter. Under Ofgem rules companies must also offer payment plans people can afford and offer emergency credit for people who use a prepay meter and can't top up.

This notice of motion calls on the CCBC Leader Cllr Sean Morgan to write to the UK Government to pass legislation to prevent energy companies entering people’s homes and fitting prepayments, unless asked to do so by the householder concerned. In addition, people should be given the right to have pre-payment meters removed from their home.



Councillor Carol Andrews

Supported by: - Councillors S. Morgan, J. Pritchard, C. Morgan, E. Stenner, N. George, P. Leonard, E. Forehead, J. Simmonds, S. Cook.

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol



COUNCIL – 23RD MAY 2023

SUBJECT: HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN 2023/24

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

For Council to consider and take a view on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan 2023/24 and approve an extension to the borrowing cap, which forms part of the recommendations on this report. The HRA Business Plan is an annual requirement from Welsh Government (WG) as part of the annual submission of the Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) grant application. The report was considered by the Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on the 27th February 2023 and Cabinet on the 8th March 2023; comments from the Committees are included in Section 10 of the report.

2 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Following the publication by Welsh Government (WG) in its National Housing Strategy, 2001, which enforced all social landlords to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) on all its tenanted stock, WG introduced in 2002, a requirement for all Welsh authorities to develop and produce a Housing Business Plan which would be scrutinised by WG on an annual basis. The Housing White Paper published in May 2012 reaffirmed the WG commitment to the WHQS and set the revised target for all social landlords to meet it by 31st December 2020, which was extended to 31st December 2021 due to the impact of Covid-19. Caerphilly Homes achieved full compliance on all its housing stock by the deadline.
- 2.2 The Business Plan is a long-term 30-year plan for managing an organisation's assets and financing the necessary investments. It is a key element in ensuring the effective long-term management and maintenance of the Councils housing stock. It is essentially a financial forecast reliant on key assumptions which identifies the resources and funding required to meet the WHQS and maintain it thereafter. In addition, more recently WG have requested a business plan narrative to accompany the financial business plan, and this is also a requisite for the annual application of the MRA funding. Appendix C shows the Business Plan narrative for 2023-24 (provided in an electronic version) which will be available shortly on the Councils website.
- 2.3 Now that all the Local Housing Authorities have met the WHQS, there is a requirement for WG to develop an updated version of the standard so that LHA's can maintain its properties to the standard whilst incorporating new challenges. There has been an independent summative evaluation of WHQS in June 2021 and WG intend to launch WHQS 2 in 2023 following a period of consultation during the Summer 2022. The responses are currently undergoing detailed analysis. One of the biggest changes in the new standard will be around affordable warmth and decarbonisation, and WG are considering how they can support delivery alongside a new Optimised Retrofit Programme (ORP). In the 2023/24 Business Plan, however, WG acknowledge that LHA's will not have firm decarbonisation targets or measures to work with, and therefore do not expect comprehensive costed models for decarbonisation in this year's plan. Until the new WHQS 2023 is agreed, published and comes into effect, the

existing WHQS is extant and is the minimum that must be maintained. Therefore, borrowing that may be anticipated to meet the new standard is not included in this report.

- 2.4 Members may recall earlier reports regarding the HRA Business Plan as part of the ballot process together with commissioning stock condition surveys and determining borrowing levels. The borrowing level for WHQS was initially agreed by Council at £61m in 2011 and was subsequently revised as the WHQS programme progressed. In 2014, the borrowing was revised to £55m, and in 2019, the borrowing profile was amended to £75m to include funding for the first draft of our ambitious new build programme. Council agreed in July 2022 to increase the borrowing level further to £90m as the new build programme started to be implemented. Of this £90m, £40.9m has been taken up for the WHQS programme leaving £49.1m available initially towards increasing housing supply. Further development programmes are likely to require additional borrowing, together with the impact of the unprecedented inflation increases. The £90m cap did not allow for increases in costs across the housing service, which ultimately came later in the year after the 2022/23 Business Plan was submitted.
- 2.5 As we have now achieved the target of meeting WHQS to all our eligible stock, it is thought an opportune time to report the HRA Business Plan annually to members going forward as we progress onto developing our own social housing stock. This has become more important as we have experienced such volatility within the market in terms of material costs, supply and labour resources as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit, together with unprecedented inflation rates, which could impact significantly on our new build commitments and the ambitious decarbonisation agenda that is ahead of us.
- 2.6 Members will recall the Housing Revenue Account Charges 2023/24 report that was presented to Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on the 29th November 2022 and Cabinet on the 14th December where 6.5% rent increase was agreed for 2023/24. This report analysed some costing scenarios against the 2022/23 Housing Business Plan that had materialised since the plan was submitted to WG in March 2022. This included the higher than anticipated pay award and the impact on the increases for construction and material costs. This evidenced, that with a lower than inflation rent increase, which was agreed at 6.5%, that a further £10m would need to be borrowed to maintain current services and keep momentum with the new build programme.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Council is asked:-
- 3.2 To note the comments of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.
- 3.3 To note that Cabinet considered and approved the 2023/24 Housing Business Plan and its submission to WG by the 31st March 2023.
- 3.4 To approve an extension of the HRA borrowing cap to £100m as a result of higher than anticipated inflation to maintain services and to progress with the new build programme.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The HRA Business Plan has to be submitted annually to Welsh Government as part of the Major Repair Allowance (MRA) funding grant submission. Failure to submit a viable Business Plan as part of the application would be interpreted as failure to comply with the MRA grant criteria, and the grant is likely to be withdrawn.
- 4.2 The Housing Business Plan relies on key assumptions to remain viable and in recent years has become increasingly volatile due to the Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit. This has been

compounded more recently with the extraordinary increases in inflation. It is therefore prudent that members are formally updated on the financial position of the HRA investment programme as part of the annual grant submission to WG and to be kept up to date on the performance of the HRA in relation to other new priorities to be delivered from the HRA.

4.3 Borrowing is necessary to be able to fund the new build programme and will be reviewed annually. The building of new affordable homes is a corporate commitment, and a Welsh Government directive.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 The Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) is a capital grant for HRA assets to support Local Authorities to meet and maintain the WHQS. It cannot be used to repay debt, support borrowing, fund demolition costs, fund the day-to-day maintenance of properties, fund any properties acquired after April 2015, or for any properties held outside of the HRA.

5.2 LHA's must submit an application to WG each year for the MRA. The value of MRA for Caerphilly Homes is in the region of £7.3m. The deadline for the submission is 31st March 2023 and WG request the following documents to be included with the application:-

- An application form
- A full 30 year financial Business Plan
- Business Plan financial data summary
- New Build spreadsheet
- Business Plan narrative.

5.3 The HRA Business Plan is subject to detailed scrutiny by WG to ensure it is acceptable which means it must demonstrate:-

1. Maintenance of the WHQS
2. The HRA does not show a debit balance
3. Through stress testing the impact of positive and negative changes to key assumptions has been considered
4. An analysis of items included in the HRA certified to show it is in accordance with relevant legislation.

5.4 A Local Authority must inform WG by 31st March each year if it is unable to submit an acceptable Business Plan. The Authority will then be required to work with the support offered by WG to develop an acceptable Business Plan. Failure to do so will be treated as failure to comply with the MRA grant criteria and the grant is likely to be withdrawn.

5.5 Business Plans are owned by local authorities and are not prescriptive by WG. However, Caerphilly Homes uses a model adopted by Housing Finance Specialists (HFS) Ltd which has been sanctioned by WG. Most of the retaining Local Housing Authorities use this same model. WG also request a summary of the business plan as part of the MRA application, which is in a standard format to allow for ease of comparison against the minority of Local Housing Authorities who do not use the HFS model.

5.6 Section 76 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) cannot be set into a deficit. The Housing Business Plan is a working document and is constantly updated to reflect any changes in its original assumptions to ensure the HRA remains viable.

5.7 Once the HRA budget is set, this is added to year 1 of the 30-year Housing Business Plan, combined with the capital projections and a number of key assumptions. The plan is tested for viability in terms of its operating (revenue) account, level of reserves, capital account and its

level of borrowing. Further assumptions are then made to project this position for 30 years.

5.8 Key assumptions in the plan are

- Inflation rates
- Interest rates/Financing Costs
- Rent increases or decreases
- Level of bad debts and voids
- Stock count
- Pay awards
- Financing costs

5.9 WG also require a number of sensitivity tests against the base plan which models different stresses around key risks of the plan over the next 10 years. Anything beyond 10 years has been acknowledged by WG as too difficult to provide accurate or meaningful analysis. The sensitivities are not prescriptive but LHA's are expected to consider global and local challenges and how this will impact on the HRA remaining viable, if the WHQS can still be maintained, and if borrowing remains affordable.

5.10 A template is also required that captures LHA's development and acquisition plans.

5.11 The HRA Business Plan for 2023/24 has made the following assumptions. Note that this shows only 5 years which are more realistic than a 30-year period. However, the appendices attached will show the impact these assumptions make over a 30-year period.

5.12 Inflation rates

Every year, as part of the Business Planning Guidance, WG advise LHA's to use 2% as a typical inflation rate based on the Retail Price Index (RPI). This year however, this has not been included in the guidance and WG have advised they are no longer prescriptive on the assumptions in the Business Plans but now request that they are clearly explained and justified. This is probably as a result of the volatile increase in inflation experienced nationally. The Bank of England forecast that from mid-2023 inflation will fall sharply, perhaps below target, and expect inflation to level close to the 2% target by 2025/26. This is from their expectation that the price of energy will not continue to rise so quickly due to Government intervention schemes, also the price of imported goods won't rise so fast as some of the production difficulties start to ease, and less demand for goods and services in the UK forcing prices to rise much slower. The Bank of England has also steadily increased interest rates to attempt to bring inflation down.

The inflation rates for the Business Plan are in line with inflation rates used for the Councils Draft Budget Proposals for 2023/24. Inflation is currently at its highest level in 40 years with Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation peaking at 11.1% in 2022. For the reasons mentioned above, 5% general inflation has been factored into the Business Plan for 2023/24 followed by a return to the 2% target.

General Inflation for the Business Plan has been forecasted as follows:-

2023/24	5%
2024/25	3%
2025/26	2%
2026/27	2%
2027/28	2%

5.13 In addition to the above, an additional increase needs to be considered in respect of building materials which will affect the cost of our Planned programme, Response Repairs, and New Build programme. The increased global demand for construction combined with the complex impacts of the pandemic and Brexit, resulted in unprecedented shortage delays and increased prices for materials and labour across the economy. Whilst the impact is hard to

predict because it affects different material types, the industry suggests that although the material supply issues has eased, prices remain high across a range of materials. Contractors are also struggling to absorb the additional cost as well as the impact from a lack of skilled workers forcing wage costs up. The Building Cost Information Service (BCIS) has predicted a 16% rise from Q2 2022 to Q2 2027 which is an average increase of 3.2% per year. Although this does not affect all materials it is felt prudent to increase 2023/24 to 5% to also allow for the impact of the energy price increases which is likely to affect the cost of materials further in the short term. A further 2% has therefore also been included in addition to the rates above for 2024/25 to 2027/28. Further testing for higher increases are factored into the sensitivity analysis on 5.29 below.

5.14 Interest rates/Financing Costs

The debt profile for the authority includes a forecast for interest rates which are calculated by accounting for all estimated interest on the loan types the authority holds in any one year and dividing that into the total debt to arrive at a consolidated average interest rate each year. These rates will change depending on the debt profile and are updated regularly throughout the year. The interest rate charged to the HRA includes the borrowing requirement within the current Business Plan and is currently forecasted to be as follows

2023/24	4.17%
2024/25	4.20%
2025/26	4.18%
2026/27	4.12%
2027/28	4.05%

5.15 Rent Increase

The WG rent policy is determined every 5 years. We are currently under the 2020/2021 to 2024/2025 five-year rent policy which was set at CPI plus 1% (plus a further £2 to align rents if applicable). The Welsh Ministers can determine the appropriate change to the rent levels in any given year if CPI falls outside of the range 0% and 3%. Due to the unprecedented CPI rate in September 2022 of 10.1%, the Minister took the decision to override the policy and restrict the rent increase for social landlords to 6.5%.

- 5.16 Members agreed to increase the 2023/24 rent by 6.5%. This has been factored into the 2023/24 estimates and year 1 of the Business Plan. For the following years, the CPI rates have been forecasted to be within the 0% and 3% protection threshold, on the basis explained in 5.12 above, therefore the assumption is that these years will attract the CPI plus 1%. Note for this purpose CPI is assumed to be the same as RPI although typically CPI tends to be slightly lower.

It is also worth noting that 2024/25 is the end of the current 5 year rent policy, so there could be a review from the Welsh Minister as to whether the policy is fit for purpose, meaning the current policy may not exist going forward.

2023/24	6.5% as agreed by members
2024/25	3% plus 1% = 4%
2025/26	2% plus 1% = 3%
2026/27	2% plus 1% = 3%
2027/28	2% plus 1% = 3%

- 5.17 If predicted correctly, this will be the maximum rent increase allowed under the rent policy and LHA's must also evidence affordability. Members recently agreed that the authority could review its rent policy to consider including an appropriate affordability model called the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) model. When setting the 2023/24 rent the JRF model evidenced that Caerphilly Homes rents are a favourable comparison. Other indications such as the All-Wales statistics also confirm Caerphilly Homes rents are one of the lowest of the LHA's at about 7% lower than the average, yet earnings within the area are some 5% higher than the All-Wales average. According to Data Stat Wales Caerphilly Homes is ranked the lowest local

Authority in Wales in terms of its weekly rent. As part of the sensitivity testing required by WG for the MRA submission, we will include scenarios for lower rents than above to test the viability of the HRA is maintained with additional borrowing. (See 5.31 & 5.32 below on sensitivity testing).

5.18 For future years (from 2027/28 onwards) within the plan, rent increases have assumed to be 3% but these will be reviewed as we progress through the next 5 years when inflation is confirmed, if a new rent policy is introduced, and also how the JRF affordability model impacts on our rent structure. WG have yet to release the new WHQS 2023 standard which could also impact on future rent setting.

5.19 Level of bad debts and voids

This figure is combined in the Business Plan. In previous years, the average void loss was pretty static at just under 2% and arrears at around 2.5%. In recent years this has increased, particularly at the start of the pandemic when tenants were unable to pay their rent and landlords were unable to relet empty properties. LHA's have also started a rent and arrears working group with WG to compare and share best practise going forward as a consequence of the arrears position due to the pandemic and the impact on tenants. In December 2020 voids had increased to 2.8% and arrears to 4.24%. In December 2021, voids were 2.52% and arrears were 4.29%. The latest position shows voids reducing to 2.16% and arrears increasing to 5.1%. Whilst the void position is starting to settle towards its typical average rate, it is clear that arrears are steadily increasing with the added impact of the Cost of Living. Caerphilly Homes is in the top quartile when compared to the other 10 LHA's. However, members will be aware of the intense tenancy support that has been offered to our tenants since the pandemic, with the focus on helping tenants to sustain their tenancies rather than evict them. This will inevitably result in an increase in arrears, with further increases expected due to the Cost-of-Living crisis. As part of the rent increase announcement for 2023/24 The Minister for Housing and Local Government instructed all social landlords to strengthen their approach to minimising all evictions, and not to evict into homelessness, a process we had already embedded within Caerphilly Homes, but with an obvious impact on arrears levels. The Business Plan model has changed slightly as to how the arrears are shown. Previously the arrears were included within the inputs as a percentage, but now the actual arrears within the balance sheet is deducted from the working balances. The only input required now is the actual provision for bad debt which is charged to the HRA each year. For 2023/24 this is 1.14% increasing in line with arrears to 2.5% in 2024/25 and a reduction to 2% from 2025/26 onwards. This assumption is clearly volatile and is therefore included in the sensitivity testing shown in 5.34.

5.20 Stock Count

The estimated stock count for 1st April 2023 is 10,667.

5.21 The plan would normally make an assumption of any council house sales that would reduce the level of stock, until the Right To Buy (RTB) process ended in Wales in January 2019. Therefore, we do not anticipate any further RTB sales in the plan. However, we are now underway with our ambitious new build programme and have also acquired stock via a buy back process which assists us in meeting the increasing housing supply agenda from WG.

5.22 The increase in stock is detailed in 5.24 below and has been assumed based on the most recent Programme Delivery Plan (PDP) for affordable housing which drives the Social Housing Grant (SHG) programme, together with other schemes identified as part of the LDP process where areas have been identified for suitable development upon further investigation and viability checks. £10.3m of SHG funding has been accounted for in the plan for the period April 2023 to March 2025.

5.23 Pay Awards

The assumptions factored into the 2023/24 Draft Budget Proposals report (Special Cabinet 118/1/23) for the Council have been considered against the HRA Business Plan. The forecasted increases in terms of Pay Award and Employers Pension Contributions from

2023/24 to 2025/26 have been applied.

5.24 New Build proposals and grants

The current proposals allow for 432 units (social rented and blended tenure schemes) over the period 2023/24 to 2026/27 at a cost of some £117m. The full new build programme consists of 465 potential units but 33 will have been delivered by the end of 2022/23 so only the remaining 432 is factored into the Business Plan. A further 32 properties have also been acquired through Buy Backs, therefore housing supply for Caerphilly Homes has increased by 65 since 2019/20. Funding assumptions for the New Build programme include the Social Housing Grant awarded by WG up to 2024/25, and the Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP) Grant, together with expected market sales for the units that will not be classed as affordable housing when completed. Further funding options need to be explored and include the Land and Buildings Development Fund, The Health and Care Fund, and the Cardiff City Region Deal. It is worth noting that the 2021/22 Business Plan allowed for 230 units, and the 2022/23 Business Plan allowed for 405 units, so there is momentum in terms of increasing housing supply.

5.25 The value of the HRA in 2023/24 with the rent increase of 6.5% is £55.5m. The cost of managing and maintaining the service is essentially funded from this, and these costs are entered into the plan which includes a £15.7m commitment towards the capital programme. The capital programme is £35.6m and this includes £16.5m to maintain the WHQS programme (PAMS programme), £10.9m for increasing housing supply and £8.2m for adaptations, large scale void work, and one-off committed projects. It is however worth noting that the current proposals can change quickly as more schemes are identified and some existing proposals may not come to fruition. Also, as experienced this financial year, issues with resources have impacted on the ability to progress with the PAMS programme. Variances to the Housing Revenue and Capital Account are regularly monitored and reported to the Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee throughout the year.

5.26 The assumptions shown above are run through the plan over the 30 years and this typically results in a shortfall that would require some level of external borrowing. The base plan has a shortfall of £52.5m and this requires a borrowing commitment of some £55.7m (£31.5m in 2024/25 and £24.2m in 2025/26). The total borrowing commitment, when factoring in the amount already borrowed for the WHQS programme (£40.9m) is not within the current borrowing cap approved by Council. Total borrowing would currently stand at some £96.6m which would be £6.6m over the £90m agreed level. However, it is important to note that the initial level agreed was always expected to change as we progressed with the new build programme. The total number of proposed units have also increased compared to the previous plan, which will increase costs resulting in further borrowing. The Cost of Living and its impact on inflation also needs to be considered which has not only affected the new build programme, but also the ability to maintain current services. It is also worth noting that there may be other funding streams available, as schemes are investigated further, which would reduce costs, thus reducing the borrowing requirement. Officers recommend the borrowing level be increased to £100m at this stage to ensure adequate funding is available for the current new build proposals and the assumed cost increases within the 2023/24 Housing Business Plan. Borrowing is not required until year 2 of the plan (2024/25).

5.27 To date the HRA has borrowed £40.9m towards achieving WHQS therefore any further borrowing is now committed principally towards increasing our housing supply. The maintenance of the WHQS programme is now under our Post Asset Management Strategy (PAMS) programme and is currently funded from our existing HRA resources and MRA grant from WG, although we await the new version of the WHQS 2 which will undoubtedly affect this profile.

5.28 The Housing Business Plan for 2023/24 confirms that the HRA remains viable with the £55.7m borrowing, as it demonstrates a surplus in the operating account (see appendix A) and the capital account is fully financed (see appendix B)

5.29 **Sensitivity Analysis**

5.30 A number of sensitivities have also been tested against the base plan which include the following (*all must demonstrate HRA remains in surplus. WHQS still maintained and borrowing affordable)

5.31 ***S1 - A decrease in rent levels to CPI only (3%) in 2024/25***

DESCRIPTION: if CPI falls below 0% or higher than 3% then the policy would revert to CPI only (As in 2022/23). Although forecasts suggest CPI will be within this threshold, the market is very volatile so a variation in rent levels needs to be tested. Year 2 of the Housing Business Plan assumes 4% (CPI + 1%). The sensitivity reduces this to 3% (CPI only)

IMPACT: An increase in the shortfall of some £1.4m compared to the base plan with a further borrowing requirement of £2m.

MITIGATION: Cannot reduce the New Build Programme as there are continuations of the previous year's schemes, although some newer schemes could be reviewed or reprofiled.. The PAMS programme could be reduced but this would mean the timescales for properties maintaining their lifecycles would not be met. Additional borrowing of £2m over years 2 & 3 would fund the shortfall. The increased borrowing would remain within the current recommended borrowing level of £100m. WHQS and the New Build programme would remain on track if all other assumptions remained. The HRA would remain viable but with a reduction of £4.1m capacity by year 10 meaning less funding capacity for future challenges e.g., WHQS 2023, Decarbonisation and further increasing housing supply.

5.32 ***S2 - A decrease in rent levels to 2% in 2024/25***

DESCRIPTION: if CPI falls to 1% then applying the policy means a maximum of 2% rent increase in year

IMPACT: An increase in the shortfall of some £2.1m compared to the base plan with a further borrowing requirement of £9.6m.

MITIGATION: Cannot reduce the New Build Programme as there are continuations of the previous year's schemes, although some newer schemes could be reviewed or reprofiled which could impact on the Councils delivery agenda. The PAMS programme could be reduced but this would mean the timescales for properties maintaining their lifecycles would not be met. Additional borrowing of £9.6m over years 2 & 3 and also years 8-15 would fund the shortfall. The knock of effect of the loss of rental income year on year will also be felt later in the plan. The increased borrowing would go over the current recommended borrowing level of £100m by £6.2m. A further report to Council would be needed to increase the limit with no further productivity. WHQS and the New Build programme would remain on track if all other assumptions remained. The HRA would remain viable but the cost of funding the shortfall would be significant due to its impact later on in the plan meaning less funding capacity for future challenges e.g. WHQS 2, Decarbonisation and further increasing housing supply.

5.33 ***S3 - An increase of material costs to 10% in year 1***

DESCRIPTION: The volatility of the construction sector due to the pandemic, Brexit and the Cost of Living has seen unprecedented increases in material costs. The base plan allows for a further 5% increase in year 1 as explained but due to the volatility a further sensitivity is tested with a 10% increase.

IMPACT: An increase in the shortfall of some £2.4m compared to the base plan with a further borrowing requirement of £2.6m

MITIGATION: Cannot reduce the New Build Programme in Year 1 as there are continuations of the previous year's schemes although some newer schemes could be reviewed or reprofiled. The PAMS programme could be reduced but this would mean the timescales for properties maintaining their lifecycles would not be met. Additional borrowing of £2.6m over years 2 & 3 would fund the shortfall. The increased borrowing would remain just within the current recommended borrowing level of £100m. WHQS and the New Build programme would remain on track if all other assumptions remained. The HRA would remain viable but with less funding capacity for future challenges e.g. WHQS 2, Decarbonisation and further increasing housing supply.

5.34 ***S4 - An increase in bad debts to 8% in years 1 & 2***

DESCRIPTION: The base plan includes 5.4% of arrears within the balance sheet for both rent and service charges. The level of bad debt provision has increased due to the pandemic and an allowance has been made in the base plan for a further increase due to expected increases in energy and food prices. However, Caerphilly Homes were in a fortunate position over the last two years when the corporate method of calculating bad debt provision was reviewed, which resulted in a lower bad debt provision being required going forward. Irrespective of this, it is worth testing this scenario by adding the impact of an increase in arrears to 8% over a two-year period. This would mean a loss of income of approximately £1.5m for year 1 and also year 2, and result in a higher bad debt provision.

IMPACT: An increase in the shortfall of some £4m compared to the plan with a further borrowing requirement of £4.2m

MITIGATION: Cannot reduce the New Build Programme in Year 1 as it is a continuation of the previous year's schemes although some newer schemes could be reviewed or reprofiled. The PAMS programme could be reduced but this would mean the timescales for properties maintaining their lifecycles would not be met. Additional borrowing of £4.2m over year 1 & 2 would fund the shortfall but that is on the assumption that the arrears level would steadily reduce over time. The increased borrowing would be just within the current recommended borrowing level of £100m. WHQS and the New Build programme would remain on track if all other assumptions remained. The HRA would remain viable but with less funding capacity for future challenges e.g., WHQS 2, Decarbonisation and further increasing housing supply. Also, more resource is likely to be needed to support tenants with increased debt.

5.35 ***S5 – Combination of S1 & S3 – Reduce rent to CPI only in 2024/25 and increase material costs to 10% in year 1***

DESCRIPTION: Sensitivity testing needs to include a combination of potential issues as in reality more than one can arise at the same time. Therefore, this tests the possibility of rent reducing to 3% in year 2 and materials increasing to 10% in year 1.

IMPACT: An increase in the shortfall of some £3.5m compared to the base plan with a further borrowing requirement of £5.9m

MITIGATION: Cannot reduce the New Build Programme in Year 1 as there are continuations of the previous year's schemes although some newer schemes could be reviewed or reprofiled. The PAMS programme could be reduced but this would mean the timescales for properties maintaining their lifecycles would not be met. Additional borrowing is needed in year 2, 3 & 9,10,11 due to the knock on effect of the rent reduction in future years. The increased borrowing would not be within the current recommended borrowing level of £100m. A further report to Council would be needed to increase the limit with no further productivity. WHQS and the New Build programme would remain on track if all other assumptions remained. The HRA would remain viable but with less funding capacity for future challenges

e.g. WHQS 2, Decarbonisation and further increasing housing supply.

- 5.36 All the sensitivities tested prove how changes in one area of the Business Plan can affect the whole outcome, and that the Business Plan is reliant on a number of key assumptions that could change quickly and impact on our service delivery. However, the base plan is set using current knowledge within the service and at this point evidence it is viable.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 Assumptions are prevalent within the Housing Business Plan and are necessary to create a 30-year projection as requested by Welsh Government. Assumptions are included on key drivers such as (i) Interest rates (ii) Inflation (iii) Rental Increases (iv) Staffing levels (v) stock movement (vi) capital programme expenditure (vi) level of rent arrears/bad debts, and (vii) level of voids and are taken from projections, local knowledge and Welsh Government guidance. The key assumptions are detailed in this report, and the assumptions drive the borrowing requirements.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment was carried out as part of the HRA rent charges 2023/24 report which fundamentally drives the Housing Business Plan, therefore a further IIA is not necessary.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 This report deals with the financial implications.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The proposals contained in this report will not alter the current arrangements of HRA personnel.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 All consultation responses have been reflected in this report.
- 10.2 The report was presented to the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on the 27th February 2023 and to Cabinet on the 8th March 2023.
- 10.3 The Scrutiny Committee sought clarification on what the Major Repair Grant can be used for, the report references what it cannot be used for such as day to day repairs, but members asked if the difference between major and day to day could be explained. Members asked if the major repairs grant would cover several buildings in the same complex for example, such as damp issues in an older persons complex.
- 10.4 Members were advised that major repairs grant is an annual allowance given to all stock owning local authorities which can be used for planned capital works. The allowance cannot be used for anything other than HRA assets and is now essentially to maintain the WHQS programme.
- 10.5 Members referenced damp issues and expressed disappointment that these have not been resolved though the WHQS despite the amount of money spent and asked what kind of follow up had been done to the work carried out under the WHQS.

- 10.6 The scrutiny committee were advised that there is a cyclical maintenance repairs programme which is called the planned asset management programme. This essentially means that assets are looked at in terms of life expectancy of roofs doors windows etc and develop a planned programme of works to address these. Areas are reviewed where there are significant issues and assured members that where they have been in communication with members on issues such as damp they will look at it accordingly. Reference was made to WHQS 2023 on the horizon which will dictate where the focus will be on decarbonisation and affordable warmth going forward with an announcement from Welsh Government expected imminently.
- 10.7 Members were assured that the WHQS works were subject to a number of checks and works were signed off throughout the programme. In addition, a percentage of works received a post completion inspection. All properties are part of the long term maintenance programme. Officers stated that there may be issues with properties now that weren't apparent when the WHQS programme was planned, and they may be picked up under future works.
- 10.8 The scrutiny committee highlighted the number of voids in the report and raised concerns that in some cases properties seem to be empty for long periods of time without any works ongoing. Members were assured that officers are keen to improve the standard of works carried out, so this is taking longer to complete. There are around 100 void properties out of nearly 10,700 so the number is reasonable but is under review with the aim to improve the turnaround. Members asked if they could be provided with data on the average length of void period. Officers stated it depends on the type of void but offered to provide a breakdown to Members.
- 10.9 At the time of drafting this report there were 131 void properties that were in various stages of repair. Following a quality review of the standard of each void it has been agreed that full decoration is now applied to all void properties and a review on providing flooring is also underway which will be followed by a revision to the relet standard which is currently is being redrafted.
- 10.10 The oldest void is from January 2023 and is due to be handed back for letting w/c 15.05.23. The newest property has been with HRO since the 4th May but voids are received regularly. The average length of time it takes to refurbish a void is currently 10 weeks. However, it must be referenced that certain properties are left in a state that require full refurbishment; rewiring, new gas infrastructure, kitchen, bathroom etc whereas others are only cosmetic. To ensure that all repairs do not take longer than necessary, our efficiency and productivity and our supporting processes are being reviewed.
- 10.11 Members sought information of the length of time to buyback properties and asked if the Authority need to carry out works to bring them up to WHQS standards before they can be used as part of housing stock. The scrutiny committee were advised that these properties have to go through the conveyancing process, then there are varying amounts of works required, so it is difficult to provide a timescale. However, resources are being redirected to make sure they are brought into supply as soon as possible. At the moment there are about a dozen properties to be brought into use. It was clarified that these are predominantly former council properties bought under the RTB, but the Authority can also purchase empty properties through the work of the empty property team and privately marketed properties and are considered suitable. However, the priority now is former council owned properties.
- 10.12 The scrutiny committee referenced the assumptions in the report on interest rate, rent increases/decreases, etc and asked how rent increases work in relation to CPI. The rent increase for this year was 6.5% (with inflation at 10.1%) and its forecast to increase at CPI plus 1% for the next 5 years but what happens if the forecasts are inaccurate.
- 10.13 Members were informed that the HRA Business Plan is produced on an annual basis and we are governed on the rent increase by Welsh Government and they are currently reviewing their five year strategy. The forecast is done on the basis of the information we have at the

moment and must present a sustainable business plan, any future changes will need to be addressed in future iterations of the business plan. The plan seeks to predict CPI plus 1% which is technically the maximum allowed for a rent increase, but there is an allowance for an extra £2.00 if trying to merge or converge our rents – which we aren't at the moment. The HRA Business plan is a 30 year model but it is updated every year with the latest known information that is available.

- 10.14 The report was moved and seconded and supported by the majority present at the Scrutiny Committee.
- 10.15 On the 8th March 2023 Cabinet noted that the report had been considered by the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on the 27th February 2023.
- 10.16 Consideration was given to the report which presented Cabinet with the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan 2023/24 and also sought Cabinet's recommendation to Council for an extension to HRA borrowing cap to £100m as a result of higher than anticipated levels of inflation.
- 10.17 Cabinet noted that the HRA Business Plan must be submitted annually to Welsh Government as part of the Major Repair Allowance (MRA) funding grant submission. The Business Plan is a long-term 30-year plan of the authority's assets and financing the necessary investments and is essentially a financial forecast and a key element in ensuring the effective long term management and maintenance of the Councils housing stock.
- 10.18 Clarification was sought as to the impact of inflation rates on the Housing Revenue Account and Officers confirmed that it had a massive impact on every aspect of the HRA not only in terms of material and labour costs there was also on rent revenue, landlord functions and housing stock. There was also the impact in terms of delivering the decarbonisation strategy, affordable warmth, and new build agenda. In terms of WHQS and the 2023 standards, Officers confirmed that they were waiting for further information from Welsh Government.
- 10.19 Cabinet placed on record their thanks to Officers for all the work involved in producing the Business Plan and the work of both Nick Taylor-Williams and Lesley Allen were formally acknowledged.
- 10.20 Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved and by way of Microsoft Forms this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report:-

1. The comments of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee be noted.
2. The 2023/24 Housing Business Plan and its submission to WG by the 31st March 2023 be considered and approved.
3. RECOMMENDED to Council that the request for an extension of the HRA borrowing cap to £100m as a result of higher than anticipated inflation to maintain services and to progress with the new build programme be approved.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Act 1972.

Author: Lesley Allen, Principal Group Accountant, Housing

Consultees:

Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee	- 27/02/23
Cabinet	- 08/03/23
Cllr Sean Morgan	- Leader of Council
Cllr Shayne Cook	- Cabinet Member for Housing
Christina Harry	- Chief Executive
Dave Street	- Corporate Director for Social Services and Housing
Mark S Williams	- Corporate Director for Economy and Environment
Richard (Ed) Edmunds	- Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services
Nick Taylor-Williams	- Head of Housing
Robert Tranter	- Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Stephen R Harris	- Head of Corporate Finance and S151 Officer
Fiona Wilkins	- Housing Services Manager
Jane Roberts-Waite	- Strategy and Co-ordination Manager
Catherine Edwards	- Head of Asset Maintenance and Repairs
Jason Fellows	- HRO Manager
Kerry Denman	- Housing Solutions Manager
Rhian Williams	- Capital and Treasury Accountant

Appendices

- Appendix A – HRA Business Plan (Capital)
- Appendix B – HRA Business Plan (Revenue)
- Appendix C - HRA Business Plan 2023-24 (narrative)

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Business Plan Assumptions
Major Repairs and Improvements Financing

APPENDIX A

(expressed in money terms)

Year	Year	Expenditure					Financing					Check Total £,000	
		Catch up Repairs £,000	Planned Maint £,000	Improve ments £,000	Other £,000	Total Expenditure £,000	Borrowing £,000	RTB Receipts £,000	Other £,000	Repairs Account £,000	RCCO £,000		Total Financing £,000
1	2023.24	0	24,727	0	10,926	35,653	0	0	12,612	0	23,040	35,653	0
2	2024.25	0	24,764	0	59,369	84,133	31,500	0	20,837	0	31,796	84,133	0
3	2025.26	0	15,732	0	49,225	64,957	24,200	0	24,862	0	15,895	64,957	0
4	2026.27	0	19,182	0	5,906	25,087	0	0	22,362	0	2,726	25,087	0
5	2027.28	0	25,792	0	0	25,792	0	0	7,362	0	18,430	25,792	0
6	2028.29	0	30,937	0	0	30,937	0	0	7,362	0	23,575	30,937	0
7	2029.30	0	31,556	0	0	31,556	0	0	7,362	0	24,194	31,556	0
8	2030.31	0	32,187	0	0	32,187	0	0	7,362	0	24,825	32,187	0
9	2031.32	0	32,831	0	0	32,831	0	0	7,362	0	25,469	32,831	0
10	2032.33	0	33,487	0	0	33,487	0	0	7,362	0	26,125	33,487	0
11	2033.34	0	34,157	0	0	34,157	0	0	7,362	0	26,795	34,157	0
12	2034.35	0	34,840	0	0	34,840	0	0	7,362	0	27,478	34,840	0
13	2035.36	0	35,537	0	0	35,537	0	0	7,362	0	28,175	35,537	0
14	2036.37	0	36,248	0	0	36,248	0	0	7,362	0	28,886	36,248	0
15	2037.38	0	36,973	0	0	36,973	0	0	7,362	0	29,611	36,973	0
16	2038.39	0	37,712	0	0	37,712	0	0	7,362	0	30,350	37,712	0
17	2039.40	0	38,466	0	0	38,466	0	0	7,362	0	31,104	38,466	0
18	2040.41	0	39,236	0	0	39,236	0	0	7,362	0	31,874	39,236	0
19	2041.42	0	40,020	0	0	40,020	0	0	7,362	0	32,658	40,020	0
20	2042.43	0	40,821	0	0	40,821	0	0	7,362	0	33,459	40,821	0
21	2043.44	0	41,637	0	0	41,637	0	0	7,362	0	34,275	41,637	0
22	2044.45	0	42,470	0	0	42,470	0	0	7,362	0	35,108	42,470	0
23	2045.46	0	43,319	0	0	43,319	0	0	7,362	0	35,957	43,319	0
24	2046.47	0	44,186	0	0	44,186	0	0	7,362	0	36,824	44,186	0
25	2047.48	0	45,069	0	0	45,069	0	0	7,362	0	37,708	45,069	0

26	2048.49	0	45,971	0	0	45,971	0	0	7,362	0	38,609	45,971	0
27	2049.50	0	46,890	0	0	46,890	0	0	7,362	0	39,528	46,890	0
28	2050.51	0	47,828	0	0	47,828	0	0	7,362	0	40,466	47,828	0
29	#N/A	0	48,785	0	0	48,785	0	0	7,362	0	41,423	48,785	0
30	#N/A	0	49,760	0	0	49,760	0	0	7,362	0	42,398	49,760	0

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Business Plan Assumptions
Operating Account
(expressed in money terms)

APPENDIX B

		Income					Expenditure												Net Operating		RCCO		Surplus (Deficit) for the Year		Surplus (Deficit) b/fwd		Surplus (Deficit) c/fwd	
Year	Year	Net rent Income £,000	Other income £,000	Misc Income £,000	HRA Subsidy Receivable £,000	Total Income £,000	Managt. £,000	Depreciation £,000	Maint. £,000	Contribution to Repairs Account £,000	Debt Charges £,000	Other Revenue spend £,000	HRA Cost of Rent Rebates £,000	Misc expenses £,000	HRA Subsidy Payable £,000	Total expenses £,000	Net Operating (Expenditure) £,000	RCCO £,000	Depreciation adjustment £,000	Surplus (Deficit) for the Year £,000	Surplus (Deficit) b/fwd £,000	Interest £,000	Surplus (Deficit) c/fwd £,000					
1	2023.24	54,473	315	3	0	54,791	(17,885)	0	(12,205)	0	(8,078)	0	0	(1,019)	0	(39,187)	15,604	(23,040)	0	(7,436)	24,586	209	17,359					
2	2024.25	56,235	323	3	0	56,561	(18,543)	0	(12,727)	0	(8,616)	0	0	(1,050)	0	(40,935)	15,626	(31,796)	0	(16,170)	17,359	93	1,281					
3	2025.26	59,024	329	3	0	59,356	(19,007)	0	(13,250)	0	(9,202)	0	0	(1,071)	0	(43,529)	15,827	(15,895)	0	(68)	1,281	12	1,226					
4	2026.27	61,556	334	3	0	61,894	(19,437)	0	(13,850)	0	(10,885)	0	0	(1,092)	0	(45,264)	16,630	(2,726)	0	13,904	1,226	82	15,212					
5	2027.28	63,687	340	3	0	64,031	(19,845)	0	(14,363)	0	(10,556)	0	0	(1,114)	0	(45,877)	18,154	(18,430)	0	(277)	15,212	151	15,086					
6	2028.29	65,580	346	3	0	65,929	(20,242)	0	(14,650)	0	(10,083)	0	0	(1,136)	0	(46,111)	19,819	(23,575)	0	(3,757)	15,086	132	11,461					
7	2029.30	67,529	352	3	0	67,884	(20,647)	0	(14,943)	0	(9,819)	0	0	(1,159)	0	(46,568)	21,317	(24,194)	0	(2,877)	11,461	100	8,684					
8	2030.31	69,536	358	3	0	69,898	(21,060)	0	(15,242)	0	(9,589)	0	0	(1,182)	0	(47,073)	22,825	(24,825)	0	(2,000)	8,684	77	6,761					
9	2031.32	71,603	364	4	0	71,971	(21,481)	0	(15,547)	0	(9,431)	0	0	(1,206)	0	(47,664)	24,307	(25,469)	0	(1,162)	6,761	62	5,600					
10	2032.33	73,732	371	4	0	74,106	(21,911)	0	(15,858)	0	(9,134)	0	0	(1,230)	0	(48,132)	25,974	(26,125)	0	(51)	5,600	56	5,565					
11	2033.34	75,924	377	4	0	76,305	(22,349)	0	(16,175)	0	(8,948)	0	0	(1,254)	0	(48,726)	27,579	(26,795)	0	784	5,565	60	6,408					
12	2034.35	78,181	384	4	0	78,569	(22,796)	0	(16,498)	0	(8,784)	0	0	(1,279)	0	(49,357)	29,212	(27,478)	0	1,733	6,408	73	8,214					
13	2035.36	80,506	391	4	0	80,901	(23,252)	0	(16,828)	0	(8,581)	0	0	(1,305)	0	(49,966)	30,935	(28,175)	0	2,760	8,214	96	11,070					
14	2036.37	82,900	398	4	0	83,302	(23,717)	0	(17,165)	0	(8,307)	0	0	(1,331)	0	(50,520)	32,782	(28,886)	0	3,897	11,070	130	15,097					
15	2037.38	85,366	405	4	0	85,775	(24,191)	0	(17,508)	0	(8,032)	0	0	(1,358)	0	(51,089)	34,686	(29,611)	0	5,075	15,097	176	20,349					
16	2038.39	87,905	412	4	0	88,321	(24,675)	0	(17,858)	0	(7,893)	0	0	(1,385)	0	(51,811)	36,510	(30,350)	0	6,160	20,349	234	26,743					
17	2039.40	90,520	419	4	0	90,944	(25,168)	0	(18,215)	0	(7,713)	0	0	(1,413)	0	(52,533)	38,411	(31,104)	0	7,306	26,743	304	34,353					
18	2040.41	93,213	427	4	0	93,644	(25,672)	0	(18,580)	0	(7,493)	0	0	(1,441)	0	(53,266)	40,378	(31,874)	0	8,504	34,353	386	43,243					
19	2041.42	95,987	434	4	0	96,425	(26,185)	0	(18,951)	0	(7,326)	0	0	(1,470)	0	(54,074)	42,351	(32,658)	0	9,693	43,243	481	53,416					
20	2042.43	98,843	442	4	0	99,289	(26,709)	0	(19,330)	0	(7,206)	0	0	(1,499)	0	(54,943)	44,346	(33,459)	0	10,887	53,416	589	64,892					
21	2043.44	101,784	450	5	0	102,239	(27,243)	0	(19,717)	0	(7,105)	0	0	(1,529)	0	(55,854)	46,385	(34,275)	0	12,109	64,892	709	77,711					
22	2044.45	104,813	458	5	0	105,276	(27,788)	0	(20,111)	0	(6,910)	0	0	(1,560)	0	(56,692)	48,584	(35,108)	0	13,476	77,711	844	92,031					
23	2045.46	107,933	466	5	0	108,404	(28,344)	0	(20,513)	0	(6,685)	0	0	(1,591)	0	(57,517)	50,887	(35,957)	0	14,930	92,031	995	107,956					
24	2046.47	111,146	475	5	0	111,625	(28,911)	0	(20,924)	0	(6,499)	0	0	(1,623)	0	(58,412)	53,214	(36,824)	0	16,390	107,956	1,162	125,507					
25	2047.48	114,454	483	5	0	114,943	(29,489)	0	(21,342)	0	(6,348)	0	0	(1,655)	0	(59,357)	55,585	(37,708)	0	17,878	125,507	1,344	144,730					
26	2048.49	117,862	492	5	0	118,359	(30,079)	0	(21,769)	0	(6,263)	0	0	(1,688)	0	(60,393)	57,965	(38,609)	0	19,357	144,730	1,544	165,630					
27	2049.50	121,371	501	5	0	121,877	(30,680)	0	(22,204)	0	(6,182)	0	0	(1,722)	0	(61,458)	60,419	(39,528)	0	20,891	165,630	1,761	188,282					
28	2050.51	124,985	510	5	0	125,500	(31,294)	0	(22,648)	0	(6,097)	0	0	(1,756)	0	(62,536)	62,964	(40,466)	0	22,498	188,282	1,995	212,775					
29	#N/A	128,706	520	5	0	129,231	(31,920)	0	(23,101)	0	(6,013)	0	0	(1,791)	0	(63,640)	65,591	(41,423)	0	24,168	212,775	2,249	239,192					
30	#N/A	132,539	529	5	0	133,074	(32,558)	0	(23,563)	0	(5,901)	0	0	(1,827)	0	(64,751)	68,323	(42,398)	0	25,924	239,192	2,522	267,638					

DO NOT DELETE

Working Balance check	Cashflow Balance check	WG return rev fund	rev exp
0	0	55,000	-39,187
0	0	56,654	-40,935
0	0	59,369	-43,529
0	0	61,976	-45,264
0	0	64,182	-45,877
0	0	66,061	-46,111
0	0	67,985	-46,568
0	0	69,975	-47,073
0	0	72,033	-47,664
0	0	74,162	-48,132
0	0	76,364	-48,726
0	0	78,642	-49,357
0	0	80,997	-49,966
0	0	83,432	-50,520
0	0	85,951	-51,089
0	0	88,556	-51,811
0	0	91,248	-52,533
0	0	94,030	-53,266
0	0	96,906	-54,074
0	0	99,878	-54,943
0	0	102,948	-55,854
0	0	106,121	-56,692
0	0	109,399	-57,517
0	0	112,787	-58,412
0	0	116,287	-59,357
0	0	119,903	-60,393
0	0	123,638	-61,458
0	0	127,495	-62,536
0	0	131,480	-63,640
0	0	135,595	-64,751

Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwiadol

Caerphilly County Borough Council

Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2023-24



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Foreword

As the Cabinet Member for Housing I am pleased to present to you the 2021/22 HRA Business Plan. The purpose of this plan is to set out the income and expenditure plans for delivering the range of landlord services provided by Caerphilly Homes.



In December 2021, we successfully completed a long-term programme to ensure that our customers homes reached Welsh Housing Quality Standard. This involved the fitting of 7711 kitchens, 8217 bathrooms, and 2565 energy efficient boilers - a total investment of over £266m. As a result I am pleased to say that our customers are now directly benefitting from having homes with modern facilities, that are in a good state of repair and with improved energy efficiency.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the lives of many people and its legacy will be felt for a long time to come. At the start of the pandemic we needed to quickly change the way we delivered our services to protect lives and I am proud to say we did that without adversely affecting the quality of service. Moving forward, we will need to ensure that our service delivery continues to meet the changing needs and aspirations of our customers.

The UK currently finds itself in the midst of a cost of living crisis. People are having to pay more to adequately heat their homes and paying more for essential goods and services. We know that many of our customers on low incomes will be hit particularly hard and may find it increasingly difficult to run their homes and feed their families. We will continue to provide advice and support where we can.

In June 2022, Welsh Government announced its plans to introduce an improved standard for all social housing in Wales, called Welsh Housing Quality Standard 2023. Following its introduction later this year the Council will be required to assess the quality of our customers' homes against the new standard and makes plans to ensure that these homes meet the standard by 2033. Attainment of this standard will be challenging and require a significant financial investment by the Council from next year up until 2033.

With over 6,300 applications on the Common Housing Register the number of people requiring social housing remains high. There is a significant requirement for 1 bed accommodation, which only accounts for a small percentage of our existing stock. We are trying to reduce the waiting time for people by building new Council homes. However, funding is limited and as a result some people may have to wait longer than expected or find an alternative solution.

This year we undertook a customer survey and have provided the results to Welsh Government. Our customers are now able to compare results of all social landlords in Wales. Responses from our customers show that although we are providing good quality services, there is room for improvement and we will shortly be introducing an action plan that responds directly to the survey results.

The Council is a proud provider of social housing and two years ago gave approval for the establishment of a team to start building new Council homes, following changes introduced by Welsh Government. The Council has an ambition to build up to 400 new affordable homes over a 5 year period. Earlier this year we took ownership of a small number of new homes in Aberbargoed and in the summer this year we completed our first two developments in Trecenydd and Trethomas, thereby ensuring that people have access to good quality and affordable housing. We have approved to build our first mixed tenure development in Oakdale and a ground breaking later living scheme in Ty Darran, Risca.

Councillor Shayne Cook
Cabinet Member for Housing

Caerphilly Homes Vision

Caerphilly Council are embarking on an ambitious and exciting transformation agenda and so are Caerphilly Homes. Housing is high on the council's corporate and political agenda and having that backing represents a great opportunity to evolve the service for the better of our existing and future customers.



Caerphilly Homes is the comprehensive housing service covering all elements of the council's housing provision across the county borough.

Caerphilly Homes is passionate about providing a customer focused service at every level. The experienced team thrives on providing a person centric management ethos, managing relationships with residents and managing our assets. The customer is and should be at the heart of everything we do.

As we evolve we focus on ensuring the highest possible standards and quality of service to all our customers is maintained. The team understands the communities and their needs and strives to continually improve.

The Caerphilly Homes vision will guide everything that we do;

'To deliver an outstanding high-quality service for all customers of Caerphilly Homes'

The mission of the team is that;

'Caerphilly Homes supports all customers fairly and transparently. Maintaining all homes with a responsive and professional high-quality service. Building new relationships with existing and new customers, whilst developing new homes and communities with low-carbon, low-cost homes, for now and the future. Solutions are sourced for those that are homeless or at risk of homelessness, working with other landlords public and private across the county borough to deliver more opportunity for all, whatever the need.'

To achieve the vision and embody the mission, the team will focus on the customer, their journey and experience. With that at the heart of delivering our numerous services within the housing revenue account the service is on a firm and robust footing for the future.

Nick Taylor-Williams
Head of Housing

1

The Housing Service





1.1 Overview of the Housing Service

The housing service is called Caerphilly Homes and consists of the following teams - public sector housing, private sector housing, strategy and development, housing solutions and housing repair operations. We employ 597 members of staff (FTE) and have an overall budget this year of circa £110m (revenue and capital). Main streams of funding include the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), the General Fund, Major Repairs Allowance, Social Housing Grant and other grants received from Welsh Government.

Our ambition to provide high-quality housing and housing related services to people living in the county borough. The scope of this provision is wide ranging, incorporating housing functions in both the public and private sectors. Many of these services are interrelated and spread across the different teams that make-up Caerphilly Homes.

They include providing management and support services to customers carrying out repairs and improvements to their homes, providing adaptations to homes in public and private sectors, preventing homelessness and tackling rough sleeping and increasing the availability of good quality, affordable housing.

As part of our service delivery, we also provide wider community benefits including estate management, environmental improvements, supporting the local economy via procurement and associated community benefit clauses, aimed at reducing poverty, promoting housing led regeneration as well as creating training and employment opportunities.

1.2 Our Achievements Last Year & Priorities for the Next 3 Years

Last year we were able to successfully achieve the following:

- Welsh Housing Quality Standard attainment, thereby ensuring customers' homes are in a good state of repair; safe and secure; adequately heated, fuel efficient and well insulated.
- Maintain and enhance the levels of support we provide to help our customers manage their accommodation and their money.
- Exceeded the target for the value of financial savings generated for our customers - total savings of £3,207,624.88.
- The Council and housing associations partners drew down £14.92m of Welsh Government grant funding to build new affordable homes, an increase on the initial allocation of £2.3m.
- Awarded outline planning permission for two Caerphilly Homes led developments. The former Oakdale secondary school delivering circa 85 new homes and the Ty Darren older persons later living scheme in Risca delivering circa 46 new homes.
- Received endorsement for the continuation of Caerphilly Keys, which continues to play a crucial role in the Council's plan to prevent homelessness by providing access to good quality, affordable accommodation in the private rented sector.
- Completed just over one thousand minor adaptations and almost 150 major adaptations, alongside a further 105 Disabled Facilities Grants and 9 stair lifts assisting residents to remain independent in their own homes.
- Empty Homes action plan approved by Welsh Government; Empty Homes advice packs rolled out enabling empty homes to be brought back into use.
- Facilitated the running of community surgeries in 8 different locations across the borough, providing a range of support services to our customers.

Council Housing Priorities for the Next 3 Years

Over the next 3 years, we will focus on:

- Implementation of a new IT system which will enable us to improve the type and level of data we collect, thereby improving the services we provide.
- Implementation of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016, ensuring compliance with new housing legislation.
- Implementation of a new Planned Asset Management Strategy, with a focus on WHQS 2023 and the decarbonisation of the housing stock by 2033.
- Introduce a new Local Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan, which will provide the context for the provision of housing and housing related services throughout the county borough.
- Complete a Tenant Satisfaction Survey Action Plan.
- Complete a new Local Housing Market Assessment, to provide an updated picture of housing need throughout the borough.
- Submit the 2022/27 Gypsy Traveller Accommodations Assessment to Welsh Government for approval.
- Adopt a Rapid Re-Housing Strategy and ensure that our Common Allocations Policy is reflective of any new priorities.
- Achieve full planning permission and start on site with Oakdale Secondary school and Ty Darren.
- Continue to work with housing association partners to develop and deliver new affordable homes ensuring that we spend the record levels of social housing grant.
- Continue working in partnership with the Supporting People team to develop the Housing First initiative for people with complex needs.
- Support our customers to manage their money, maximising income and reduce fuel poverty by making homes more energy efficient and exploring funding provisions.

1.3 Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016

The Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 is the biggest change to housing law in Wales for decades and is intended to improve the way in which all rented homes in Wales are managed and lived in, by standardising written contracts, increasing landlords' obligations, and enhancing tenants' rights.

Significant changes are required to the way in which we manage and maintain our customers' homes and we have set-up a Project Board to oversee project delivery. We have set up working groups to undertake a comprehensive review of our policies, procedures, and services to ensure that the new statutory obligations are met. We are collaborating with other local authorities around the consistency of communications to our customers and to share good practice.

We will need to make changes to the way we deliver of services, which means we will incur additional costs. Some of the costs will be one-off, such as printing and delivery, and other costs will be year-on-year, such as increased staff numbers. We are currently in the process of identifying and assessing the likely costs that we will need to incur.

1.4 Ukraine Support Project

The Council fully supports the efforts of the UK and Welsh governments to provide the necessary support to Ukrainian people fleeing the war in their homeland. Using experience gained through similar UK resettlement schemes (Syrian and Afghanistan) the Council has set up a multi-disciplinary team, led by the Head of Housing, to oversee all aspects of the Council's response.

The number of people requiring housing was initially low but we have seen an increase in recent months. We have been successful in matching a large number of Ukrainian families under the national Homes for Ukraine scheme with sponsors living in the county borough. As the number of families requiring housing increases, we expect to start using some of our own homes to help meet need, although, under current arrangements, we do not expect this to impact on our lettings to people currently on the Common Housing Register.

Welsh Government has made funding available to local authorities and housing associations via the Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme. Funding is aimed at the refurbishment of existing void or soon to be void properties that were not planned to be re-let and to fund larger projects such as significant conversions or, remodelling, demolish and rebuild, and Modern Methods of Construction solutions. The Council has been awarded funding of phase 1 of the programme and has made an application under phase 2.



2










Profile of Existing Homes



2.1 Housing Stock Profile

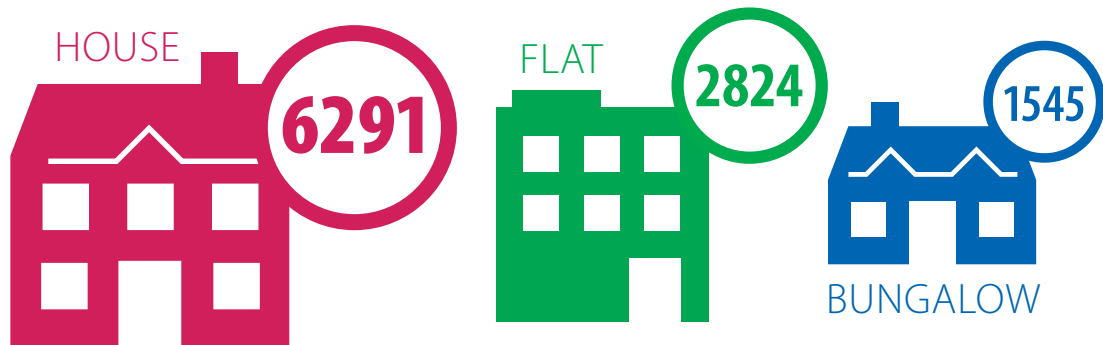
We currently provide over 10,660 homes to our customers in 72 different locations throughout the county borough. 70% of the stock is designated as general needs accommodation with the remainder designated as later living. The table below provides a summary of the housing stock by property type and bedroom count.

Summary of Housing Stock by Property Type and Bedroom Count

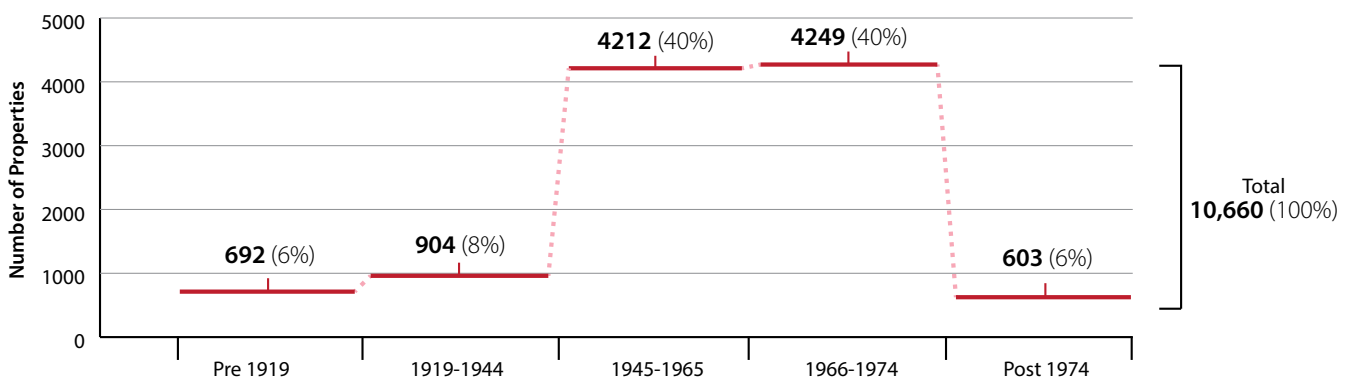
	 Bed					Total
 Bungalow	568	900	75	2	0	1,545
 Flat	1,306	1,444	66	0	0	2,816
 House	24	1,309	4,794	163	1	6,291
 Maisonette	0	3	5	0	0	8
Total	1,898	3,656	4,940	165	1	10,660

We also provide services to 405 leaseholders and let 875 garages. The infographic below shows a breakdown of our customers' homes by property type (March 2022). It shows that the majority of homes are houses.

Housing Stock by Property Type

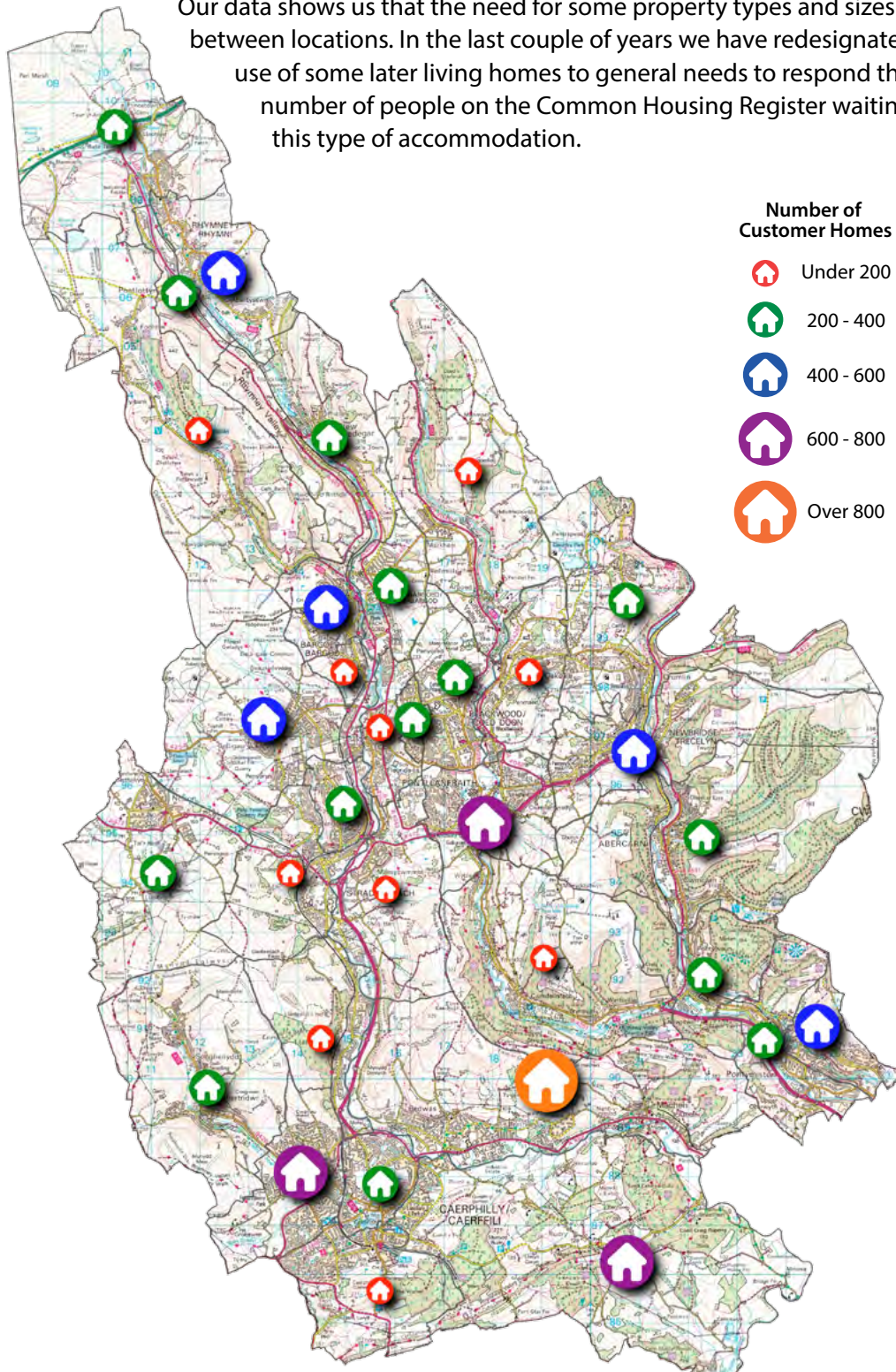


The table below provides a breakdown of our customers' homes by age. It shows that the majority of homes were built within a 30 year period from 1945 onwards. Approximately, 6% of the stock is more than 100 years old, which has implications for ongoing repair and maintenance.



The Right to Buy policy resulted in a significant number of our customers purchasing their homes, resulting in a decline in the number of homes we have to rent. The abolition of the Right to Buy in Wales (2019) prevents customers who rent their homes from purchasing them. In the last couple of years we seen stock numbers increase slightly due to homes being purchased from private sector developers as part of planning obligations and purchases funded by grants from Welsh Government. We expect numbers to increase in the next 4 years as a result of our new build programme and further private sector acquisitions.







Our data shows us that the need for some property types and sizes varies between locations. In the last couple of years we have redesignated the use of some later living homes to general needs to respond the high number of people on the Common Housing Register waiting for this type of accommodation.



2.2 Later Living Accommodation

We provide 3,148 homes designated later living, usually for people aged 60 years and over:

Later Living Accommodation by Property Type and Bedroom Count

	 Bed			Total
 Bungalow	568	853	4	1,425
 Flat	951	750	5	1,706
 House	0	4	13	17
Total	1,519	1,607	22	3,148

931 of our later living homes are designated as sheltered housing. We have 33 sheltered housing schemes with 15 provided under one roof. The accommodation varies in size, type and location.

All sheltered housing schemes have communal facilities and communal areas. Our customers are service charged for any additional services they may receive, which varies depending on which sheltered housing scheme they live in. Housing related floating support for people living in sheltered accommodation is from a Sheltered Housing Officer.

All sheltered homes are linked to the Caerphilly Careline Community Alarm Service, which can be used by our customers at any time of day for help or advice. This service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.














2.3 Accessible Housing

We want our customers to live in good quality homes which meet their needs. We assess the level of accessibility of all homes prior to them being relet to ensure that our customers are able to live safely and independently in their homes. All homes are categorised on their existing level of accessibility or on their potential to be adapted - A1 being the highest level of accessibility to D below the lowest level. Customers requiring an accessible home will be given priority through the Common Allocation Policy best match approach.

2.4 Lettings Data

When a property becomes empty, we will usually let it to people waiting on the Common Housing Register. In the last 3 calendar years we have made 2,713 lettings, on average 904 lettings per year. The number of lettings dipped slightly in 2020, because of the public health restrictions imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic, but in 2021 the number of lettings rose above the 3 year average. The number and type of lettings varies by area due to the stock profile in those areas. The table below shows the number of total lettings over the last 3 years by property type and bed count.

Total Letting by Property Type and Bed Count

					Total
 Bedsitter	3	0	0	0	3
 Bungalow	92	162	7	0	261
 Flat					
Ground floor	257	183	12	0	452
First floor	239	197	8	0	444
Second floor or higher	11	35	4	0	50
 House	9	498	689	39	1,235
 Maisonette	0	3	1	0	4
Sheltered Accommodation					
 Bedsit	4	0	0	0	4
 Flat					
Ground floor	66	5	0	0	71
First floor	48	6	2	0	56
Second floor or higher	6	1	0	0	7
 Bungalow	66	58	0	0	124
 House	0	1	1	0	2
Total	801	1,149	723	39	2,713

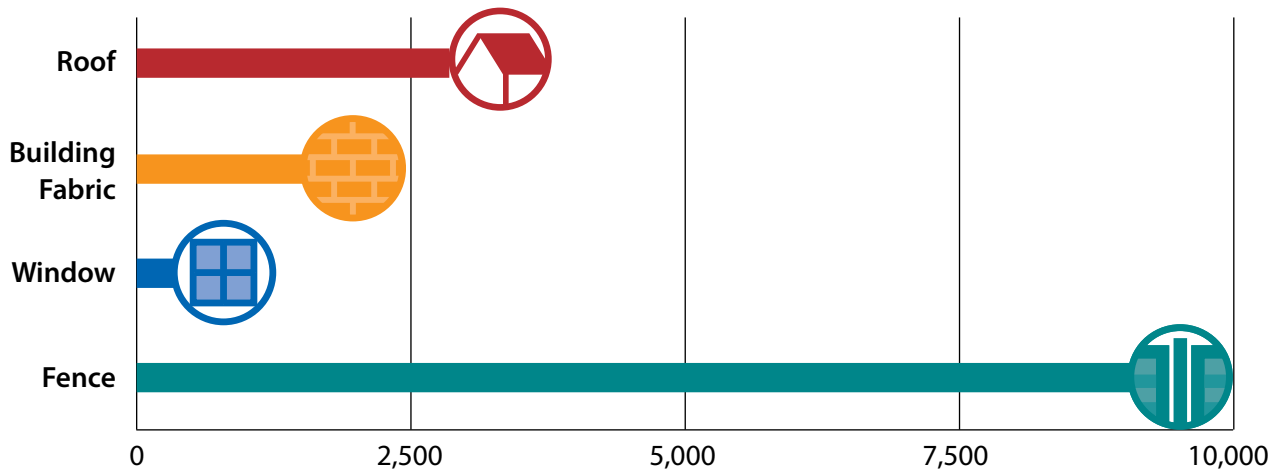
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WHQS Attainment

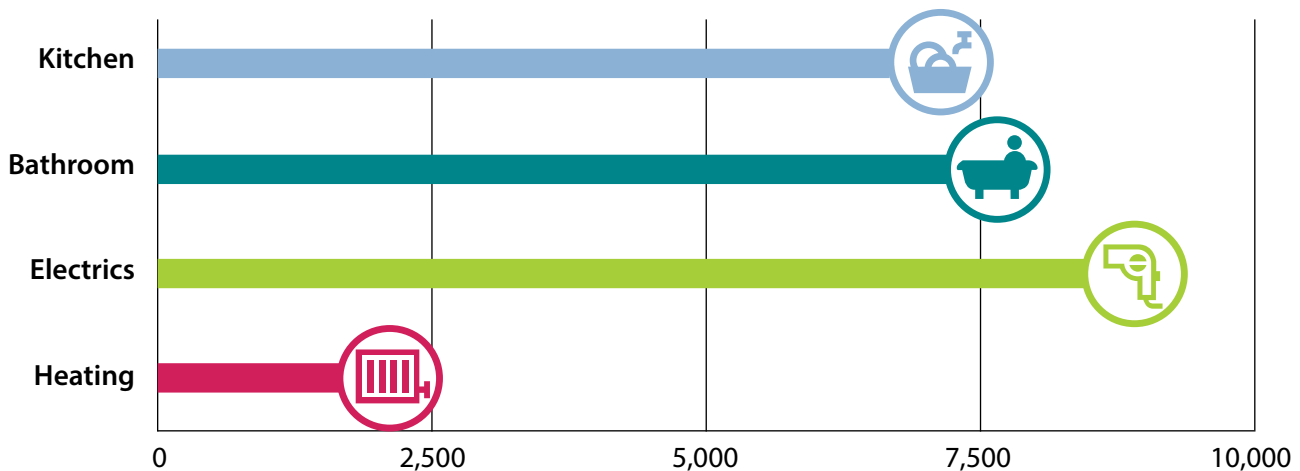


3.1 WHQS in Numbers

Having started in 2012, we successfully completed the WHQS programme by Welsh Government's target date of 31st December 2021. In bringing our customers' homes to the standard we spent a total of £266.39m. The graph below shows that during the lifetime of the WHQS programme we carried out 43,329 external improvements to our customers' homes, totalling £141.97m.



The graph below shows that during the lifetime of the WHQS programme we carried out 27,607 internal improvements to our customers' homes, totalling £124.42m.



1,396 of our customers' homes do not meet the standard because our customers declined to have all or part of their homes improved. This is something Welsh Government calls an acceptable fail - customers' choice. We intend pick up these improvements as part of our post asset management strategy or when the property becomes empty.

Our customers' homes will now be maintained at or improved to this standard under our new Post Asset Management Strategy, as outlined in section 4.1.



3.2 The Environmental Programme

82 communities throughout the county borough have been engaged and involved in an extensive programme to determine how best to meet the needs of customers and the aspirations of residents in accordance with Part 6 of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard. This exercise concluded in Summer 2020 and has resulted in the identification of over 300 projects to ensure that homes are in attractive and safe environments. Over £13m has been committed to projects identified by communities including improved footway and highway improvements to facilitate greater accessibility, external improvements to the environment in and around our sheltered housing schemes, increased car parking, planting, community amenities and facilities including play provision and skateparks.

We have also extended our environmental projects to include projects outside of the Part 6 remit as a result of our extensive engagement. Environmental works will therefore form part of our ongoing commitment of improvements throughout the county borough year on year and include the provision and improvement of amenities for young people; schemes to address anti-social behaviour and wider community led environmental schemes in targeted areas.

In the future, elements of the environmental programme will continue to be delivered via Caerphilly Homes' Area Housing Offices ensuring consistency and momentum of improvements throughout the county borough, year on year.



4

Maintaining Existing Homes

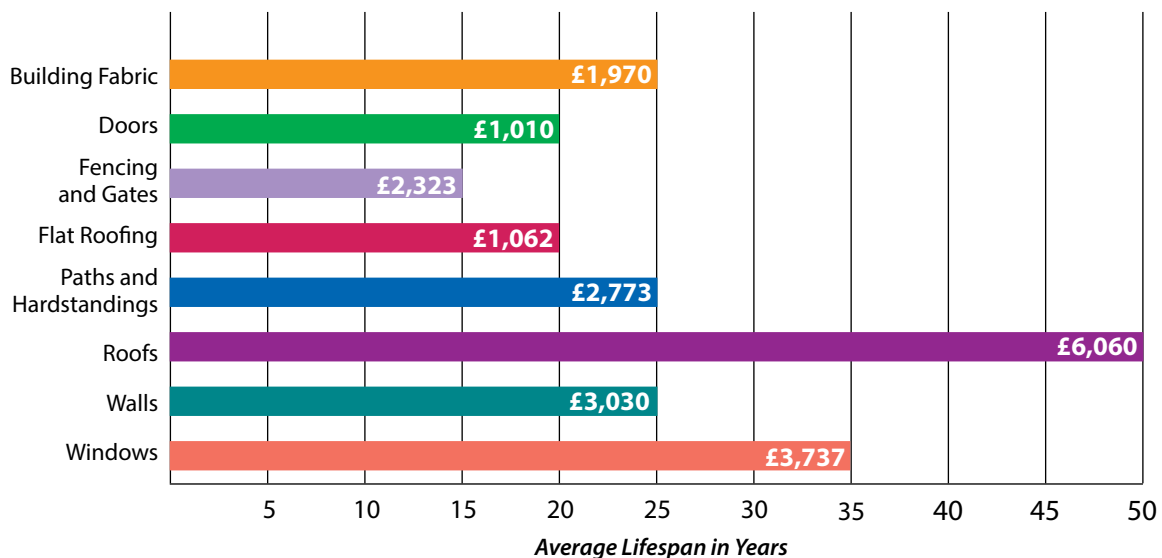


4.1 Planned Asset Management Strategy

Now our customers' homes have been improved to the WHQS we want to ensure standards are maintained and investment is planned to ensure this. The level of actual investment required will vary year-on-year and, consequently, detailed programmes of work will require adjustment on a yearly basis. The HRA business plan (see section 11) includes a provision for kitchens and bathrooms that were deemed as acceptable fails (e.g. customer refusal) to be improved as properties become vacant or our customers change their minds.

The business plan incorporates life cycles of property elements and budgetary commitments over a 30-year period. Due to the high amount of work completed on our customers' home in the run up becoming WHQS compliant a large number of elements become due for renewal in a short space of time. To ease budget constraints and improve efficiency of renewal replacement the business plan needs to go through a smoothing exercise.

The graph below shows the average lifespan and average costs of external components replacement.



Our database provides details of the improvements carried out to all of our customers' homes. It allows us to make accurate forecasts and to plan and cost our improvement programmes. It also allows us to achieve value for money by using our resources efficiently and effectively.

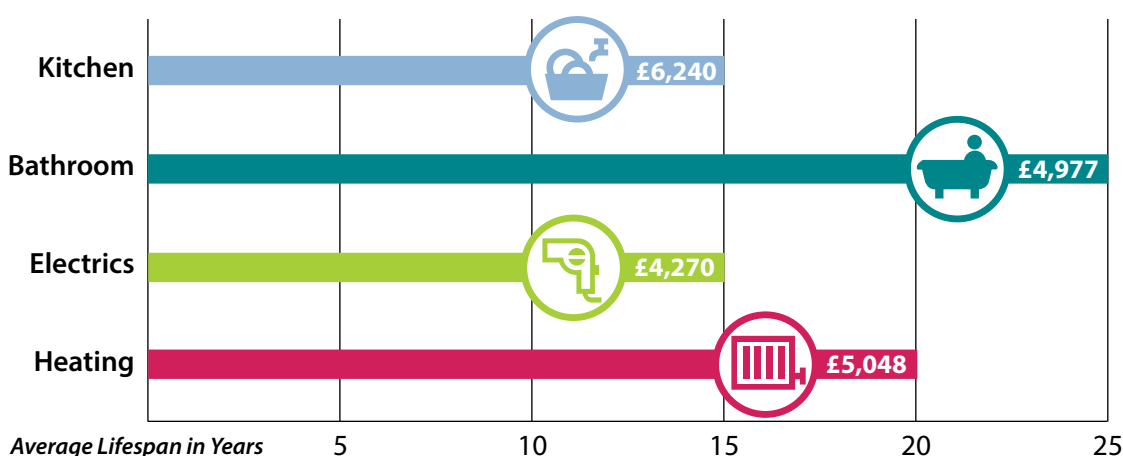
Sustainability is at the heart of everything we do. We work in partnership with suppliers and contractors to purchase the best quality materials at the best price. We ensure that environmental criteria are used when awarding contracts. When assessing value we consider the whole life cycle of a material, including installation, maintenance, and final disposal. Wherever possible we will purchase green energy and consider the suppliers environmental credentials, which means that the cheapest product does not necessarily deliver the best value for money.

We have used our database to produce a Post Asset Management Strategy (PAMS) programme to ensure that all our customers' homes are maintained to the WHQS following attainment in 2021. The PAMS was developed following a full consultation exercise with our stakeholders.

The programme for external works commenced in 2022, meaning all works will now be undertaken in accordance with the expected lifecycle of each component. A full external maintenance works programme based on a 5-year maintenance cycle has also been finalised. Year 1 has been surveyed and has been packaged into maintenance contracts, which are now being progressed by our own staff. In order to assist in the delivery of the programme we have set up a new unplasticised polyvinyl chloride (UPVC) window fabrication workshop and are manufacturing and fitting new windows within our customers' homes. This facility will provide assistance with the decarbonisation of our customers' homes and will also provide low maintenance, safety and security.

Similarly a program of internal replacement of key components based on condition will be implemented in 2024, taking into account the lifetime home standard to allow our customers to live in their own homes safely and independently.

The graph below shows the average lifespan and average cost of internal components replacement.



Our staff also assist with the maintenance of our customers' homes. Repairs are carried out in priority order. We normally undertake about 28,000 repairs annually.

4.2 Local Employment and Apprenticeships

We recognize the importance the investment we make in housing acting as an economic catalyst, delivering wider benefits including employment, training and apprenticeship opportunities. Providing employment, training and apprenticeship opportunities also helps us mitigate against the shortage of trades people in the construction industry.

We currently employ 11 apprentices and are in the process of recruiting another 10. We also provide a clear pathway for apprentices to be retained and moved into fulltime employment following the successful completion of their training. Approximately 20% of the current operational staff are former apprentices, which is testament to our workforce development practices.

We also work in partnership with local colleges to provide work placement opportunities for local people to gain on-site experience, assisting with their qualification requirement.



4.3 Developing Local Supply Chains

We recognise the importance of social value delivered through our investment in our customers homes in helping to develop local supply chains. Our aim is to work with small and medium enterprises to deliver maximum benefits to our communities, ensuring that every £1 spent in the borough is invested back into the local economy.

Robert Price is our single source materials supply partner. As part of the contract, they will supply our staff with all components and ancillary items. Operational and strategic aspects of the supply partner contract are overseen by a relationship manager.

4.4 Later Living Accommodation

We provide 931 homes to our customers requiring sheltered accommodation, and over 33 schemes. 28 of these schemes have received WHQS improvements works. A further 5 schemes were assessed as not being fit for purpose. Following an appraisal a decision was made to remodel these schemes. This work will cost £7m and is due for completion in 2023/24. The remodelling and future maintenance and improvements works to the 33 sheltered schemes will continue to be managed in house.



4.5 Fire Safety, Post-Grenfell

The safety of our customers in their homes is our utmost priority. We carry out Fire Risk Assessments, in accordance with the Fire Safety Order 2005, to better understand the potential risks to our customers' homes and identify the action required to improve fire safety precautions. Reports are developed where the assessment shows a potential fire safety hazard.

The reports include a full action plan detailing the improvement required and providing the recommended period of time within which the works should be completed. Tasks typically include works to fire doors, glazing, compartmentation, housekeeping within the communal area and relocation of bins to control risk of arson. We continue to implement weekly monitoring of housekeeping and escape routes within communal areas.

Works to comply with the FRA reports for our flats and sheltered housing schemes are currently ongoing. Planned works are also being undertaken in refurbished sheltered housing schemes to install sprinkler systems. The maintenance of these systems, including other active fire protection systems such as fire alarm systems and emergency lighting are routinely inspected.

We continue to work with South Wales Fire & Rescue Service to adhere to any recommendations following their audits of our sheltered housing schemes.

4.6 Leasehold Properties

We currently have 405 leaseholders who previously purchased their home from the Council on a leasehold basis. Leaseholders are responsible for maintaining the internal fabric of their homes and we are responsible for repairing and maintaining the structure, exterior and any shared parts of the building.

Extensive works were undertaken to the externals of all leaseholder properties during the WHQS programme. On average we spend £550k per year repairing and maintaining leaseholder properties.

5





Building New Homes



5.1 Summary of Housing Need

As of 1st March 2023 there were 6,456 total applications on the Common Housing Register. Of these total applications, 5,790 are currently active and being considered for housing. The table below provides a breakdown of these applications by priority band and bedroom need (assessed). It shows that 9% of applications have the highest level of priority (Band 1) and that 62% require 1 bedroom accommodation.

Active Applications by Priority Band and Bedroom Need

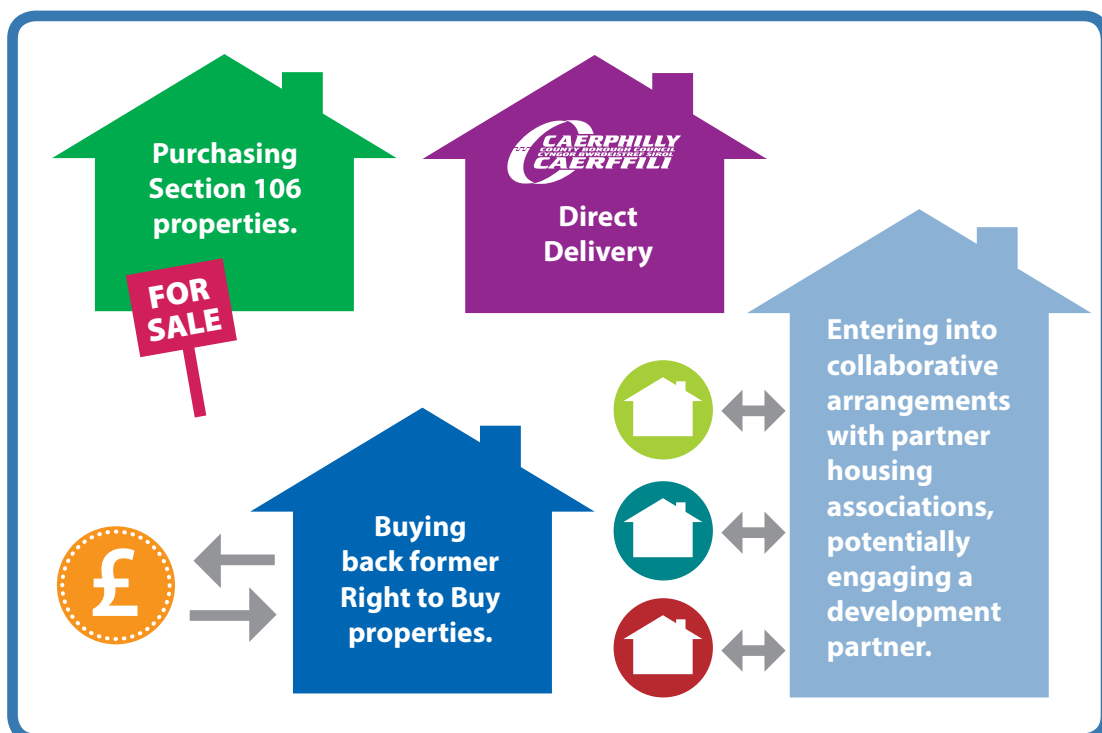
					Total
Band 1	341	111	30	20	502
Band 2	1,419	404	126	56	2,005
Band 3	1,834	997	364	88	3,283
Total	3,594	1,512	520	123	5,790

We know from looking at our data that there is a clear mismatch between the type of accommodation people on the common housing register require and the type of the accommodation we currently provide.

We are trying to address this mismatch by building new homes but the level and nature of need means that it will need to be addressed over the long-term and in partnership with local housing associations.

5.2 Our Ambition

In January 2020 the Cabinet approved the *Building Together* report which set out the Council's ambition to build 400 new affordable homes by 2025 through:





Time has moved on and there are a number of new strands to Council's development programme that over the next 12 months require further development, including the use of package deals and a dedicated small site workstream.

We are working on a development strategy. Currie & Brown are helping us to identify opportunities for development and undertake the work necessary to better manage development risks and understand viability. Many of the more viable sites in the county borough have already been developed and those that remain have significant abnormalities that require mitigation.

As part of the development of a new Local Development Plan (LDP) by the Council, we have submitted 27 potential sites for inclusion in the candidate site selection process. The new LDP is unlikely to be finalised until 2025/2026. In the interim, a number of sites have been identified and a development strategy is currently being formulated, that will help with meeting our 400 homes target.

We are actively seeking to address the need identified in the Local Housing Market Assessment and the Prospectus.

The availability of land suitable for development is a significant challenge and it is likely that in the future, the option to purchase land in private ownership will have to be explored. Further partnership working with Welsh Government on land that lies within the county borough and remains in their ownership will also be explored.

To increase the stock further, we are in the process of drafting an Acquisitions Policy which will see a ringfenced budget set, used specifically to purchase and improve (to ensure compliance with WHQS 2023) former Right to Buy properties and properties that assist us in meeting specific needs. We will set an annual target for the number of properties we intend to purchase.

5.3 Garage/Small Sites Workstream

We have identified a number of former garage or smaller sites within the HRA portfolio that could be suitable for small scale development (8 units or less) or which could be packaged together with other smaller sites to create a larger number that would be more attractive to a larger contractor / developer or could be built out by our in-house team. This work is ongoing and will feature more prominently in our development programme for 2024/25.

5.4 Section 106 Process

The ability to purchase affordable homes via the Section 106 process is a critical strand of our ambition to provide more homes. We have the first option to purchase homes where an affordable housing contribution is required. To date, 6 homes have been purchased with a further 2 Low-cost Home Ownership (LCHO) properties pending and a further 7 expected towards the final quarter of 2022/23 and early 2023/24.

5.5 Partnership/Collaboration with Housing Associations

We work closely with partner housing associations largely via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was established in October 2020. The purpose of MOU is to set out how providers of affordable housing within the county borough will work together on matters relating to affordable housing. This includes the development of new affordable housing, the management and allocation of homes, the allocation of Social Housing Grant funding, measures to tackle and address homelessness and all matters that relate to the management and delivery of housing at strategic level.

We meet with its housing association partners via the Affordable Homes Partnership on a bi-monthly basis and also meet quarterly to discuss the Programme Development Plan and Social Housing Grant allocation.



We are also part of the All Wales Net Zero Carbon timber frame working group and have committed to identifying and enabling the development of a small number of sites linked to the project.

5.6 Innovative Housing Programme Developments

In 2020/21, we secured £3.1m of Welsh Government funding to build 18 new passivhaus certified apartments in Tredomen and Trecenydd in partnership with construction experts Willmott Dixon and local steel frame manufacturer, Caledan Ltd. The apartments have been built to the highest standard of energy efficiency following the adoption of a fabric first approach and have been designed to lower the cost of energy bills to circa £100 per household per annum. The unique steel primaframe solution was designed specifically for these two developments by Caledan Ltd, a Caerphilly based company, which has invested in creating new jobs for local people as a result.

5.7 Former Oakdale Comprehensive School

We are currently looking to develop 85 as part of a mixed tenure scheme at the site of a former comprehensive school in Oakdale. The site is incredibly challenging due to the various levels and the existing ecology. We are working in partnership with Willmott Dixon through the SCAPE Framework to deliver a scheme that seeks to maximise the energy efficiency of homes through the adoption of a fabric first approach and learning derived from the Innovative Housing Programme funded sites in Trecenydd and Trethomas.

An innovative steel frame solution that was developed in Caerphilly by Caledan Ltd will be utilised to construct the homes, together with an innovative non- combustible highly insulated fabric first solution for the building envelope. We are currently exploring options relating to the environmental credentials and standards that will be applied to the scheme including Building Regulations 2025 and Passivhaus certified options. The ambition is to deliver a near or net zero carbon ready scheme using a fabric first approach and innovative design principles are embedded into the design principles of the evolving scheme.

5.8 Ty Darran

We have obtained outline planning approval to build 46 later living apartments at the site of a former care home in Risca. The later living apartments will exceed Beautiful Homes and Spaces standards and set the space and environmental standards for future later developments in county borough.

5.9 Future Developments

We are currently looking at a further five development sites as part of the evolving development strategy. Collectively the sites will deliver between 90 -125 homes and make a significant contribution towards our 400 affordable homes target.

5.10 Housing Led Regeneration

We know the positive impact that building new homes can have on town centres and communities. As a result, housing-led regeneration which is linked directly to the circular economy, climate resilience and mitigation will feature large in our plans to revitalise and transform targeted areas.

5.11 Transitional Accommodation Capital Funding Programme

We have secured funding from Welsh Government via the Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme, which has been introduced to support the quick delivery of new housing to help those people living in temporary accommodation including people fleeing the war in Ukrainian coming into Wales as a Nation of Sanctuary.

We have identified 4 new potential sites throughout the county borough that are close to amenities and transport networks. Investigations are underway to explore whether these sites are capable of accommodating a number of homes that could be provided via a 'turnkey' MMC (modern methods of construction) solution that would be manufactured and built off-site to an appropriate specification. At least two of the sites identified would require the homes to be built above an existing car park and require the support of the Council's planning and drainage teams.

The funding criteria requires that the homes would have to be built and onsite ready for occupation within an 18-month period following the grant approval. All homes provided via the TACP will be built to the required standard and absorbed into our housing stock portfolio.



6

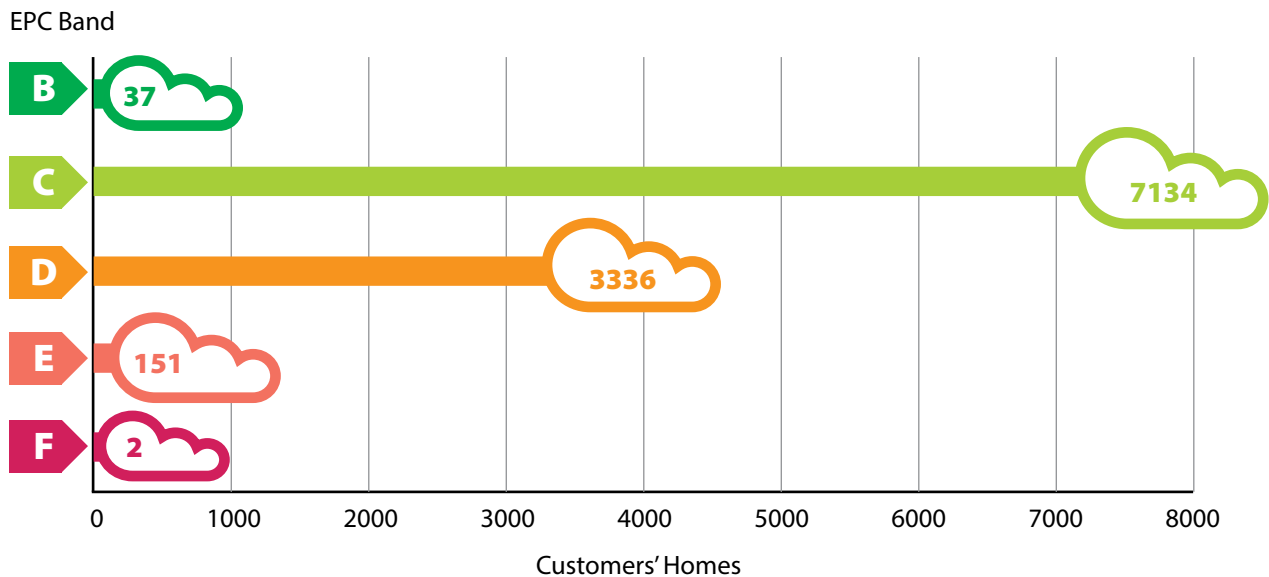
Mitigating Climate Change



6.1 Decarbonisation of the Existing Housing Stock

Research shows that existing housing accounts for a high percentage of carbon emissions in the UK. Reducing carbon emissions through decarbonisation of the existing housing stock will help to mitigate the effects of climate change.

WHQS currently requires that our customers' homes have a minimum Standard Assessment Performance (SAP) rating of 65 (Emergency Performance Certificate [EPC] rating of D). The graph below provides a count of our customers' homes by EPC band. It shows that the average SAP rating is 70.8 but a small number of our customers' homes are currently below the minimum rating.



Plans announced recently by Welsh Government to decarbonise the existing social housing stock will present significant challenges to all social housing landlords in Wales. A revised WHQS (2023) means that all of our customers homes will require further improvement and modernisation.

Proposed targets mean we will need to achieve the following:

STEP 1

Target a high SAP EPC C rating through fabric measures; EIR target to C. Compliance date 2029

STEP 2

Target SAP EPC B through fabric measures. Install energy generation and storage systems where appropriate. Effective implementation will prepare homes for step 3

STEP 3

Compliance date: 2031

STEP 4

Install only appropriate low carbon heat sources from 2026 onwards

Every effort will be made to improve the SAP ratings of our homes towards SAP 92 (A rated), where it is practical and feasible to do so. This will help tackle both fuel poverty and be part of the Council's overall response to the climate change emergency.

We will target the lower energy SAP properties first prior to moving towards the higher SAP properties via a fabric first approach to ensure we meet the new targets that will be set out within WHQS 2023.

To meet this new standard we will upskill our staff through the creation of new training and create pathways focused on energy efficiency and installing new, low carbon technologies. We will endeavour to take a circular economy approach, which will take account of embodied energy in materials and selection of specialist contractors to undertake improvements.

Most of our customers' homes have an "A" rated boiler (96%). Our aim is to get to 100%. From 2026 we will start to install low carbon heating, which could include Hybrid, Hydrogen, Air Source and Ground Source heating and Mechanical Ventilation Heat Recovery (MVHR) systems. We will also evaluate the potential of community heat networks. This will take place following the end of life of existing "A" rated boilers and several pilots will be required to establish the most appropriate system for a given house type.

As we strive to improve our customers' homes to the new WHQS standard, we plan to pilot several renewable energy sources such as solar Photovoltaic (PV), solar thermal and battery storage.

We anticipate that the cost of decarbonising Council homes will be significant and initially estimated at between £300m to £500m. We may need to access additional funding to help meet Welsh Government's new standard, including extending our borrowing limit.



6.2 Net Zero Carbon New Homes

Our ambition is to ensure that all our new affordable homes are as a minimum, net zero carbon ready. As a result, we are exploring ways in which to deliver a wholelife net zero carbon building solution with our construction partners. We are part of the All-Wales Consortium to deliver a net zero carbon timber frame building solution and as part of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Cabinet Member for Housing in March 2021 will be making a demonstrator site available as part of the project.

We have delivered two Passivhaus certified schemes on two sites in Caerphilly thereby ensuring that occupants receive the highest level of comfort and energy efficiency that can be achieved together with affordable fuel costs of circa £100 per annum. The learning from these schemes (funded by the Welsh Government's Innovative Housing Programme) will now be applied to the development of 85 new homes at the former Oakdale Comprehensive School site and also a 46 new home later living scheme at Ty Darran, Risca. We will be working with our private sector partners, Willmott Dixon and Caledan Ltd to evolve the solution created for the pilot schemes in order to seek economies of scale and further efficiencies in relation to the steel frame and the building fabric.

We are exploring the use of renewables on our new homes and the benefits that may result however, we are also mindful and aware of the ethical considerations that relate to the sourcing, manufacture and recycling of renewables. Our current focus is on the use and benefits of biophilic design and working with and enhancing the existing ecology and habitats on sites in order to maximise net biodiversity gain and reduce the overall amount of carbon emissions generated at a site masterplan level.

6.3 Decarbonisation of the Fleet

We currently lease 143 vehicles and have recently completed a review of their use and agreed to move to a more environmentally friendly fleet in the future. However, this move will not be straightforward due to the nature of the work and the way the service is delivered operationally. A three strand action plan has been proposed, involving:

- **Reviewing existing working practices;**
- **Assessing vehicle requirements (in the light of the review above); and**
- **Establishing infrastructure requirements.**

A task and finish working group has been established to co-ordinate and undertake a review of existing working practices. A number of options are being considered. It is likely that we will need a hybrid system including overnight charging at depots, rapid charging at depots, charging at a location near to the driver's home and probably home charging.

7

Listening to Customers



7.1 Customer Engagement

We see working with our customers as an essential part of the way we provide services. The way in which customer engage with us has needed to be adapted in the last couple of years due the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant public health restrictions. Our customers are now engaging through online meetings, online surveys, online focus groups, telephone calls and email.

7.2 Consultation and Communication

We send out regular emails to our customers to update them on topics, Council matters, Welsh Government initiatives such as the Renting Homes Act implementation and Covid-19 advice.

A monthly information exchange meeting is held online with participants also able to access via phone using audio only. The meeting focuses on various topics selected by the participants including Renting Homes Act, health and safety, digital inclusion, environmental programme and the Caerphilly Cares initiative.

Rent consultations were held in May this year via online surveys and online focus groups, with results being reported to the Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. The most recent consultation focused on affordability and potential use of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) Living Rent Model.

We have worked in partnership with Digital Wales to provide a small number of tablets and data to customers who could not otherwise participate in online meetings. We plan to roll this initiative out to other customers in the near future.

19 members of staff took part in Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) Cymru 'Vision Friends' training in 2020 to help people with sight loss access services and support.

We use a wide range of methods to communicate with our tenants and other stakeholders, including press releases issued to local media, regular posts across several social media channels, monthly 'Caerphilly Homes News' e bulletins, annual newsletters, attendance at face to face events, and use of video and digital content.

7.3 Tenant Satisfaction Survey 2021

All social landlords in Wales were required by Welsh Government to undertake a standardised tenant satisfaction survey. We asked ARP-Research to survey our customers, which took place between September and October 2021. The results of the survey were submitted by us to Welsh Government in March 2022.

The combined results of all social landlord surveys were then published by Welsh Government in June 2022. The results enable customers to compare the performance of their landlords against other social landlords in Wales. The results were published under the following headings:

- service provided by the landlord;
- quality of their home;
- repairs and maintenance;
- the neighbourhood;
- value for money;
- how well the landlord listens to them.

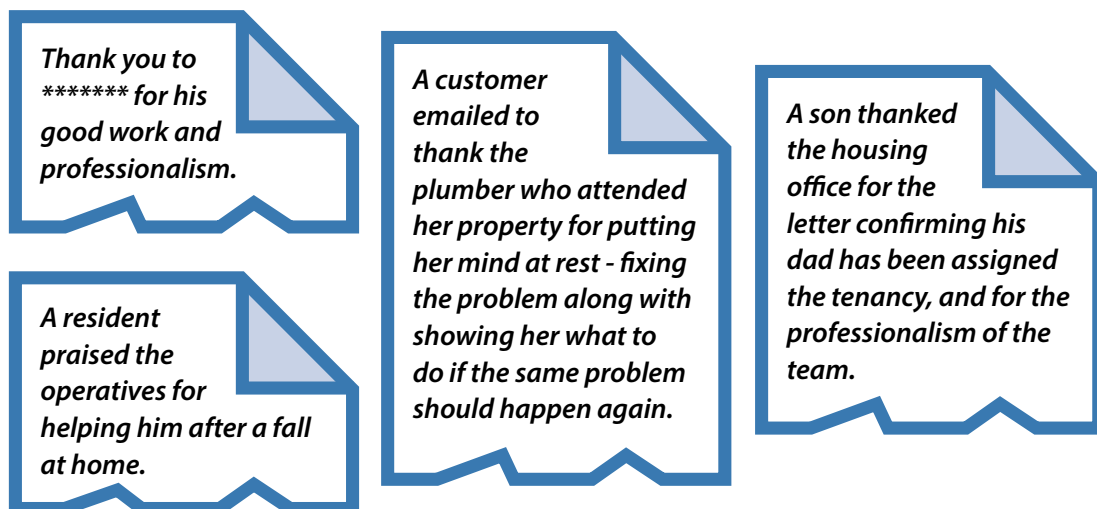
77% of our customers that responded to the survey told that they were satisfied with the services we provided, with 13% of customers saying they were dissatisfied. We are producing an action plan to address concerns expressed by our customers.

We plan to undertake a new survey in 2023.

7.4 Compliments and Complaints

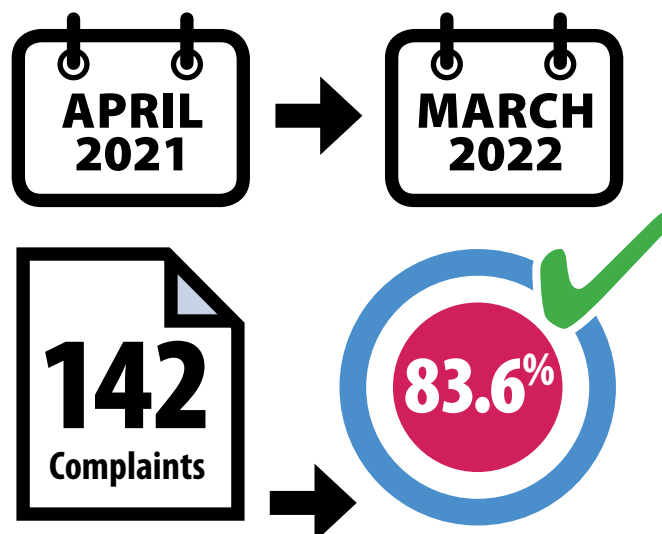
Compliments and complaints are processed in line with corporate standards. We view the recording and analysis of compliments and complaints is an important aspect of ensuring the effectiveness and quality of services we provide to our customers.

Between April 2021 to the end of March 2022, we received 64 compliments from customers and below are some examples:



Between April 2021 to the end of March 2022, we received 142 complaints, 83.6% were completed within the target times. We analyse complaints data using a range of measures, which provides an invaluable insight into our service delivery. They also provide an opportunity to identify and resolve issues which require a change to service delivery.

As such we welcome complaints from customers and are committed to dealing promptly and effectively with those we receive. We present reports to the Governance and Audit Committee at predefined intervals and data is also provided quarterly to the Complaints Standards Authority - Wales.



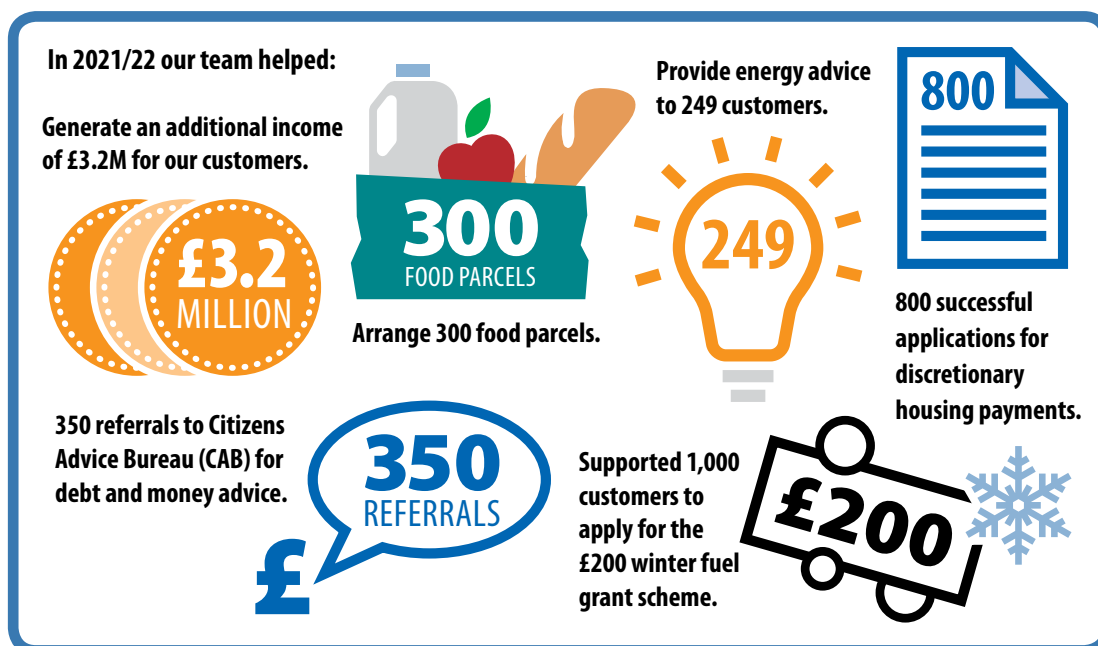
8

Supporting Customers



8.1 Customer Support

In 2012, we set up a dedicated team to support customers affected by the introduction of welfare reforms. The team deliver support by telephone, in our customers' homes and at community venues. Support ranges from right-sizing advice and help to benefit health checks to debt advice and energy advice.



8.2 Impact of Covid-19

We have put in place measures to assist our customers following the Covid-19 pandemic. We have transformed the way we work by embracing the following principals:

- **Creating the right culture:** adopting a person centred approach to support and enable our customers.
- **Prevention and early intervention:** working with a range of organisations to provide good quality and timely support to ensure the sustainability of all contracts.
- **Adapting a person centred approach:** staff have the discretion and flexibility to deal with the bespoke needs of individual customers.
- **Perseverance and help:** breaking down the barriers to engagement and tailoring communication to our customers' needs.

8.3 Managing Anti-Social Behaviour

If it is not managed quickly and effectively, anti-social behaviour can seriously affect the quality of people's life and the sustainability of the communities where our customers' homes are located. Caerphilly Homes is committed to tackling both the impact and cause of anti-social behaviour and has adopted a harm centred approach which means we will:

- Listen to residents reporting anti-social behaviour.
- Provide support, advice and guidance to residents reporting anti-social behaviour.
- Speak to the perpetrator of the report and provide them with advice, guidance and support.
- Take action that is both reasonable and proportionate when we have the evidence to do so.

Over the last 5 years we have received on average 780 reports per year, with noise, harassment, intimidation and threatening behaviour being identified as the main reasons. As part of our approach to managing anti-social behaviour we engage with a range of services and work with other organisations in order to provide support to all those involved in a complaint.

8.4 Safeguarding

We are committed to ensuring that everyone living within the Borough is safe and protected and that our statutory responsibilities to safeguard and protect children, young people and vulnerable adults are effectively met. We all share a responsibility to ensure that all children and adults are treated with respect and protected from others who may abuse them. All employees and contractors who come into contact with children or vulnerable adults in the course of their duties are expected to understand their responsibility and wherever necessary, our duty to take action to safeguard and promote their welfare.

Safeguarding responsibilities for all employees are emphasised from the point of recruitment and throughout their employment. There are clear lines of accountability, responsibility and support regarding safeguarding and these are achieved via relevant staff guidance, training, code of conduct and specific policies and procedures which all staff must adhere to. There is also a range of policies and procedures available to promote and support staff to raise concerns about the safety and welfare of children and adults.

We strive to ensure that through procurement processes, services commissioned and contracted on our behalf have safeguarding responsibilities built into contracts and that appropriate policies and staff training are in place. This includes an expectation that any person or organisation using our resources or premises adhere to our safeguarding standards.

8.5 Floating Support

Floating support services are provided to help our customers who might otherwise be struggling to cope or live independently in their home. They are focused on preventing people from losing their home and becoming homeless. Any of our customers that are experiencing difficulty are able to access a range of floating support services, provided by third sector organisations that have been commissioned by the Council's Supporting People team. These services complement the support services we also provide to our customers and those provided by Caerphilly Cares.



We know that from speaking to our customers during the Covid-19 pandemic that they may be experiencing multiple and complex challenges such as debt, financial capacity, unemployment and contract management, which are being made worse by the cost of living crisis. The person centred support offered by the floating support providers helps to address such problems and improve people's health and wellbeing. These service can be accessed at various locations across the borough.

8.6 Caerphilly Cares

The Covid-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis highlights further that more needs to be done to help the elderly and most vulnerable in our communities.

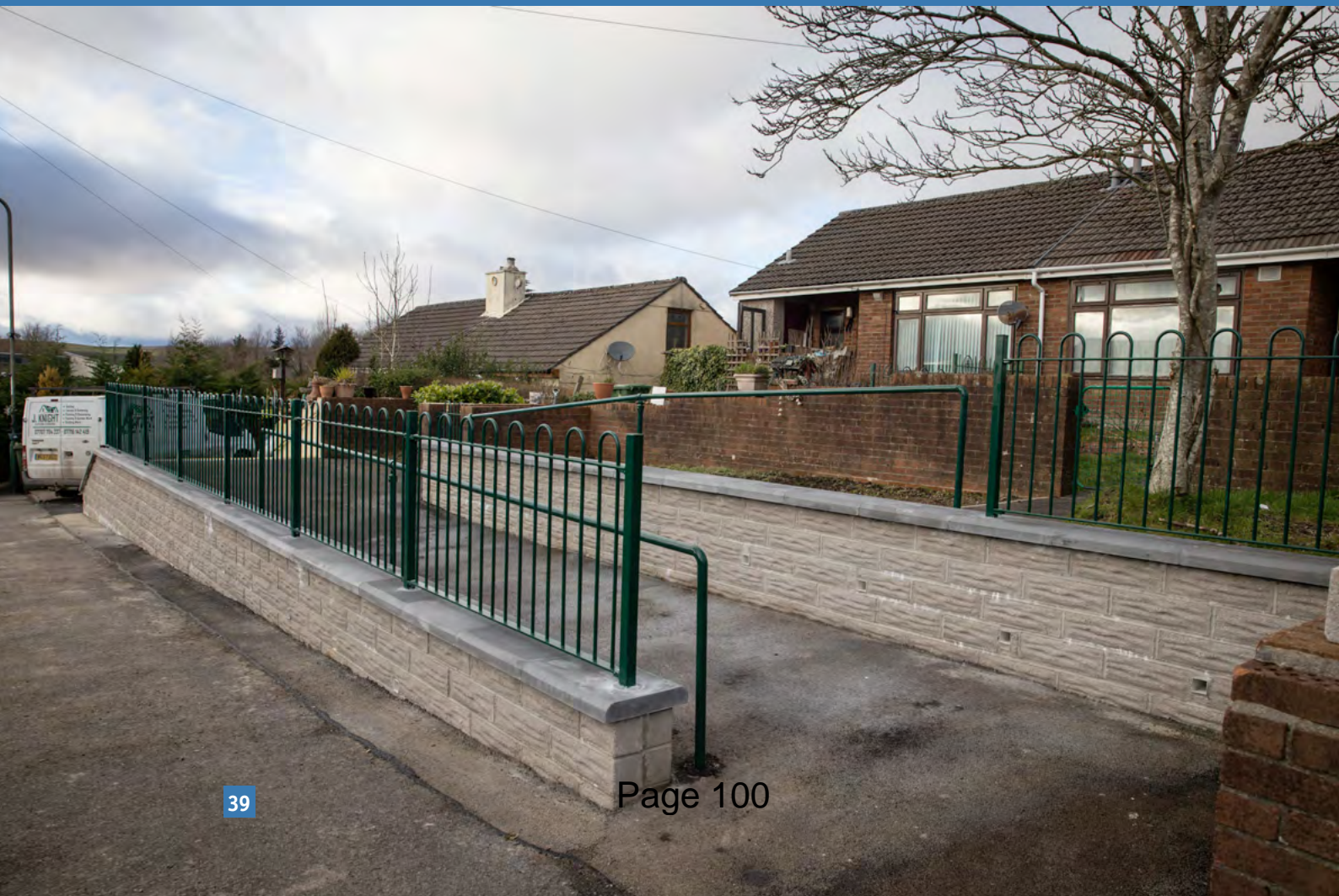
Caerphilly Cares has been established by the Council to do this and is now helping support people that may be affected by food poverty, debt or rent arrears, isolation or loneliness, issues which we know our customers often experience.

A referral pathway is now in place with Caerphilly Cares to ensure our customers receive the support they require when they need it most. Caerphilly Cares also funds 5 members of staff within our Rents Team, which has enabled us to increase the level of support now being provided to our customers.

The vision is for Caerphilly Cares to provide a much larger range of services in the future, potentially from hubs located in communities. This new approach will require us to change the way we currently provide some services to our customers so that we better meet their needs.

9

Addressing Customers Specific Requirements



9.1 Adaptation of Existing Homes

Housing adaptations play a vital role in supporting our customers to live safely and as independently as possible in their own homes for longer; making a significant contribution to our customers' quality of life, their physical health and mental well-being. A team of occupational therapists work closely with estate management officers to ensure that our customers' homes meet their individual needs. Below are some of the adaptation we have provided:

- Level/low access showers;
- Handrails and grab rails;
- Accessible kitchens;
- Improvements carried out to RNIB standards, where required (sensory loss);
- Stair lifts;
- External works e.g. ramped access.

Last year we carried out 517 adaptations, spending £870,749.

9.2 Later Living Accommodation

National population statistics show that people are living longer and that the size of the older persons' population is growing. 2021 Census data shows that 26% of the population in the borough is aged 60 years and over, which is a 3% increase from the 2011 Census.

As people get older, we know that their housing requirements often change. As a result we need to ensure that our housing offer for people in later life continues to meet their needs and match aspirations.

We currently provide 3,148 homes designated as later living including sheltered accommodation. Under our development programme we have plans in the short term to provide new later living accommodation in Risca, which will replace 3 sheltered housing schemes that are scheduled to be decommissioned. Each year we also carry out adaptations to our customers' homes to help keep them stay safe and promote independence.

9.3 Accessible Housing

We use the 'best-match approach' when letting our homes to ensure the most effective use and to enable our customers to live independently and safely. The best-match approach involves assessing the level of accessibility of our homes when they become empty and then matching the property with someone who requires that level of accessibility. Our new customers' accessibility requirements are assessed when they submit a Common Housing Register application.

Where our Occupational Therapists identify that one of our customers' homes fails to meet their needs and is incapable of being adapted, due to design or cost, we will provide advice and support to move to a new home.

Due to the design and location of some of our homes, there is a limited number of homes that reach high levels of accessibility. We are actively looking, as part of our development programme, to increase levels of accessibility.

Last year we used £56,471 of Welsh Government's ENABLE funding to pay for 20 projects aimed at increasing the accessibility of our customers' homes and improving accessibility in and around communal areas of sheltered housing and the general external environment.

19 staff members have recently attended a RNIB Cymru training event that offers an in-depth understanding of the needs of older people with sight loss. Through training we want to help people with sight loss to access the services and support that they need. We hope this approach will help to reduce the number of falls or accidents experienced by some of our customers and help them to stay independent within their homes for as long as possible. We hope to roll this training out later this year to other staff using a train the trainer approach.

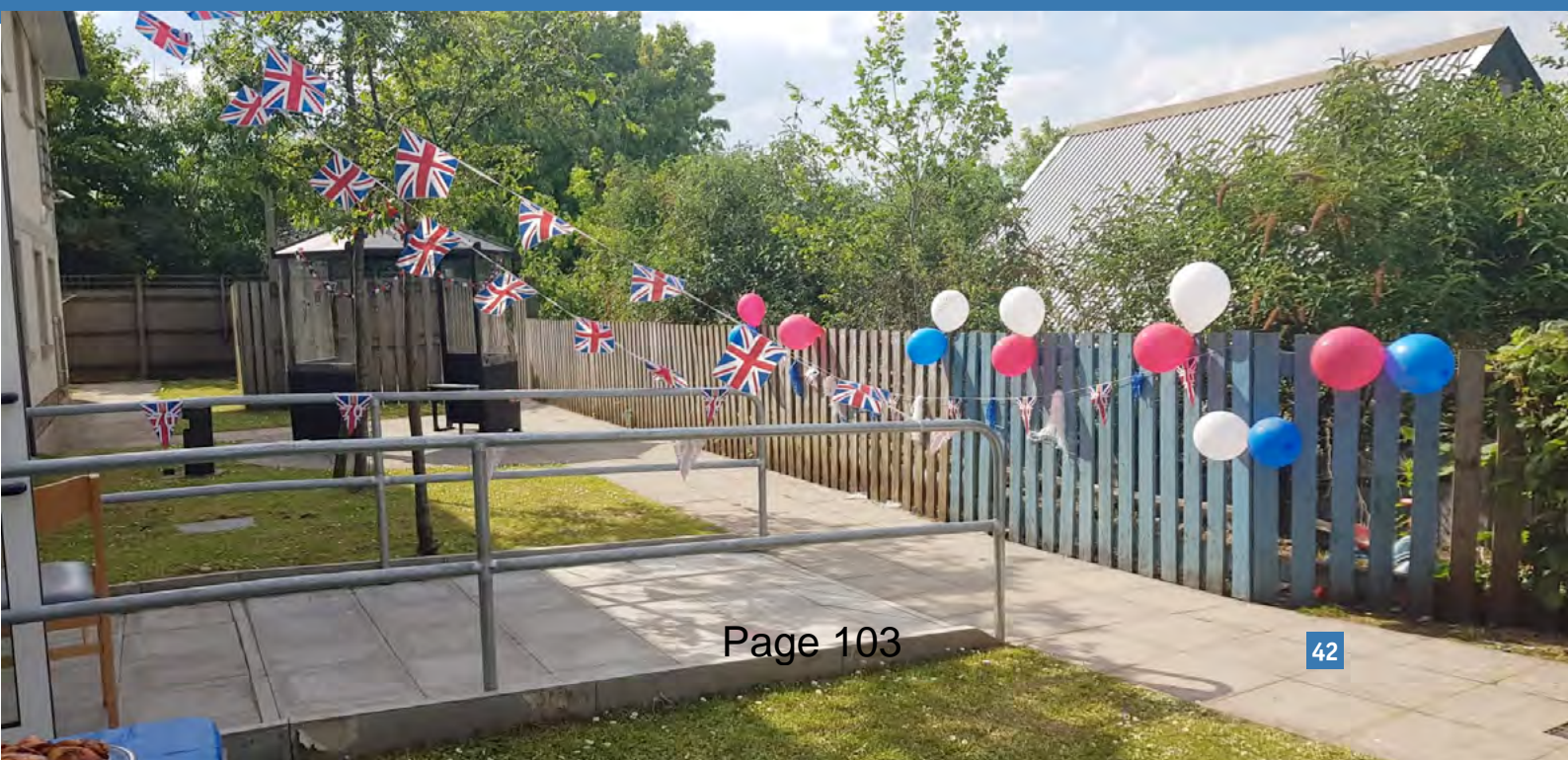
Out of the 517 works of adaptation in the public sector, 192 were classed as major and the remaining 325 are minor works. Out of the major lot the following works were completed:

9.4 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on public sector bodies, such as the Council, to reduce inequality of outcome and to reduce discrimination. Promoting a more equal, diverse and inclusive society is a key priority of the Council. We look to promote equality, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of service delivery and routinely carry out Integrated Impact Assessments when introducing new services or reviewing existing services in order to identify and assess any potential impacts. In 2021 we commissioned Civica to implement a new IT system which will allow us to improve the data we collect and ultimately improve service provision.

10

Ending Homelessness



10.1 Common Housing Register

We are responsible for the operational, day-to-day management of the CHR on behalf of all social housing landlords with housing in the county borough. Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic we have noticed an increase in the number of households waiting on the CHR. The total number of households now stands at over 6,000. With a mismatch between housing need and available stock we expect to see people waiting for extended periods before they are rehoused, which could result in an increased number of homelessness presentations.

All applications for social housing are made via the Common Housing Register. We provide support to people wishing to submit an application or update their existing application.

Anyone who wishes to access Social Housing within the county borough should apply via the online weblink or, if this is not possible, contact the Common Housing Register Team for alternative ways to complete the application - either over the telephone or in a face-to-face appointment. All applications are assessed by our staff in accordance with the Common Allocation Policy.

10.2 Rapid Rehousing Plan

Using guidance issued by Welsh Government we have produced a Rapid Rehousing Transitional Plan, covering the period 2022-2027. The plan outlines how we will deliver the vision:

To make homelessness rare, brief and unrepeated and to ensure that the primary focus is on prevention and early intervention of homelessness. Where this is not achievable to ensure that any access to and time spent in temporary accommodation is reduced and as short as possible maximising move on for the most vulnerable.


The plan contains the following 7 key objectives that have been produced to achieve the vision:



- 1 Prevention and early intervention**
- 2 Tackle rough sleeping within the borough**
- 3 Enhance the housing first provision**
- 4 Increase the supply and access to permanent accommodation within the borough**
- 5 Allocation policy review to ensure it reflects the objectives of rapid rehousing**
- 6 Increase access to the private rented sector under the local authorities pioneering caerphilly keys private rented scheme**
- 7 Remodel and restructure of temporary and supported accommodation within the borough**

10.3 Homelessness and Housing Need


We received a total of 2,663, homelessness applications in 2021/22, which was an increase from the previous year of 2020/21, and from 2022 to date a total of 2,382 applications have been received. Due to the cost-of-living crisis and implementation of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 we expect to see further increases over the next few years.


We offer a holistic service and will provide tailored advice and assistance to each individual subject to their specific housing and support need this can include:

Referrals to the Supporting People team to access relevant tenancy support. 

 **Advice and assistance specific to the housing situation.** 

Signposting to agencies if a statutory duty is not owed in order to address issues.

 **Refer to the Common Housing Register team where there is no threat of Homelessness.**

Process any applications for assistance in accordance with the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. 

We undertake housing and support needs assessments to ensure that we are able to provide viable options to alleviate the potential homelessness situation. Where a statutory duty under Section 66, 73 or 75 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 is owed then we will produce a tailored personal housing plan, detailing all housing and support options identified to prevent/relieve the homelessness situation. A referral is then made to the Supporting People team for tenancy related support to assist with achieving the actions outlined in the personal housing plan.

We primarily focus on preventing homelessness and have a number of partnership arrangements and pathways in place to address a range of support issues. Where homelessness cannot be prevented, we will produce a tailored solution to relieve the current situation and help to try and secure accommodation.

10.4 Single Homelessness and Vulnerable People

Single person households who find themselves homeless are the highest presenting household group. Meeting their accommodation and support needs can be challenging due to the lack of 1 bedroom accommodation available to rent within the borough, in our own housing stock and that of other social housing landlords. We are looking to address the shortage of 1 bedroom accommodation through our new build programme.

Single person households represent the largest group placed in temporary accommodation throughout the borough. In response to this issue our Rapid Rehousing Plan sets out our priorities over the next five years to build more accommodation and enhance services for this group, including a multi assessment centre hub and the introduction of a Housing First approach.

We also provide a range of housing and support of those people deemed vulnerable, including outreach support for those people rough sleeping, a dedicated domestic abuse support service, dedicated floating support services for mental health, dedicated floating support services for substance misuse, a dedicated mediation service for young people, a dedicated floating support service for prison leavers and a dedicated support service people in later life.

10.5 Homeless Families

Single parent, female households are our second highest homelessness presentation group after single homeless people. We have developed a range of options to address their housing and support needs of this group including a dedicated temporary accommodation, leased accommodation, floating support services and utilising Caerphilly Keys to maximise access to private sector.

We have a good range of housing available to meet the accommodation needs of this particular group of people.



11

Financial Planning



11.1 Financial Resources and Planning

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a ring-fenced account detailing income and expenditure arising from our landlord functions. Ring-fencing means that all income raised via customers' rent must be re-invested and spent only on council housing. Legislation means that we must separate the landlord functions from other Council services and record all income and expenditure separately in the HRA.

The same legislation means that we must prevent debit balances on the HRA, meaning the HRA cannot be set in a deficit position.

There are some housing related functions that cannot be funded by the HRA. These tend to be statutory services that are available to the whole community not limited to our customers which includes private sector housing and preventing homelessness.

All HRA functions are predominantly funded from the rental income received from our customers. This financial year the HRA estimates 98% of the services will be funded from rental income. The remaining 2% is from service charges, garage rent and some smaller shop and land rental charges.

The main services that this income funds are:

Building Maintenance	Includes response repairs, cyclical testing and inspections, and contributing to the capital programme.
Capital Financing Costs	Includes interest and debt repayment costs from borrowing.
Public Sector Housing	Includes the support from the Area Offices including Estate Management, Tenancy Enforcement, Rent Collection and Tenancy Support.
Strategy, Development and Performance Management	Includes increasing housing supply, The Local Housing Market Assessment and addressing statutory requirements from Central or Welsh Government.
Other	Includes central recharges from internal services, bad debt provision and IT costs.

Rental income is governed by Welsh Government in terms of its annual increases and ensuring affordability and other strategic objectives (see Section 11.6 for more detail).

Legislation and standard accounting practices requires us to hold HRA capital expenditure in the HRA Capital Account and not the HRA Revenue Account. The HRA Capital Account is predominantly funded from the rental income received from our customers.

This is called a Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) and funds activities like our building maintenance programme.

Each year we receive £7.3m of Major Repairs Funding (MRA) from Welsh Government to help maintain the condition of our customers' homes. Other funding available to us includes capital receipts (from asset sales), targeted grants (e.g. energy efficiency), and borrowing.

The 2022/23 HRA Capital Programme includes the cost we incur for building new homes, maintaining the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) through our Post Asset Management Strategy Programme (PAMS), Large Scale Voids, and Adaptations. There are also some one-off projects this year in Montclair Avenue Blackwood, George Street, Cwmcarn, and Bryn Carno, Rhymney.

This year the combined cost and funding for both the HRA Revenue (£55.8m) and HRA Capital (£35.6m) are £91.1m.

As part of the Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) criteria, we are required to submit a new business plan to Welsh Government each year. Failure to submit a new business plan could result in the MRA being withdrawn.

The business plan is a long-term, 30-year plan for managing our assets and financing any necessary investments. It is a key element in ensuring the effective long-term management and maintenance of our customers' homes. It a financial forecast reliant on key assumptions that identifies the resources and funding we require to ensure that our customers' homes meet the WHQS and is maintained thereafter, together with other strategic objectives such as increasing the supply of new homes.

11.2 HRA Business Plan Risk Matrix

The business plan is a long term model based on a number of assumptions, which can change frequently and alter the outcome of the plan.

To test the viability of the business plan we undertake an exercise called sensitivity testing. This shows if any deviations from our assumptions makes our plans unviable. If they do become unviable then we need to put in place a plan to rectify this. We do this to limit the risk against the business plan.

The table below shows the sensitivities analysed against the current plan:

	Year 1	Year 2
Rents reduced to CPI only	✓	
Rents reduced to 2%	✓	
Materials increased by 10%	✓	
Bad debts increased to 8%	✓	✓
Combination of 1 and 3 above	✓	

The sensitivities allow the Council to identify any potential risks to the plan and what type of action will be required to mitigate the risks.

11.3 Key Assumptions Used

The business plan is a 30-year model. It contains many assumptions necessary to project the financial picture over a long period of time. Welsh Government are not prescriptive in terms of the assumptions we use but ask that there are clear explanations as to why they are being used and how they are calculated.

Assumptions are basically estimates using current and historic data together with some element of knowledge to predict future impacts. This undoubtedly means there is a high degree of uncertainty within the plan as any variables within the assumptions can lead to a different outcome within the business plan.

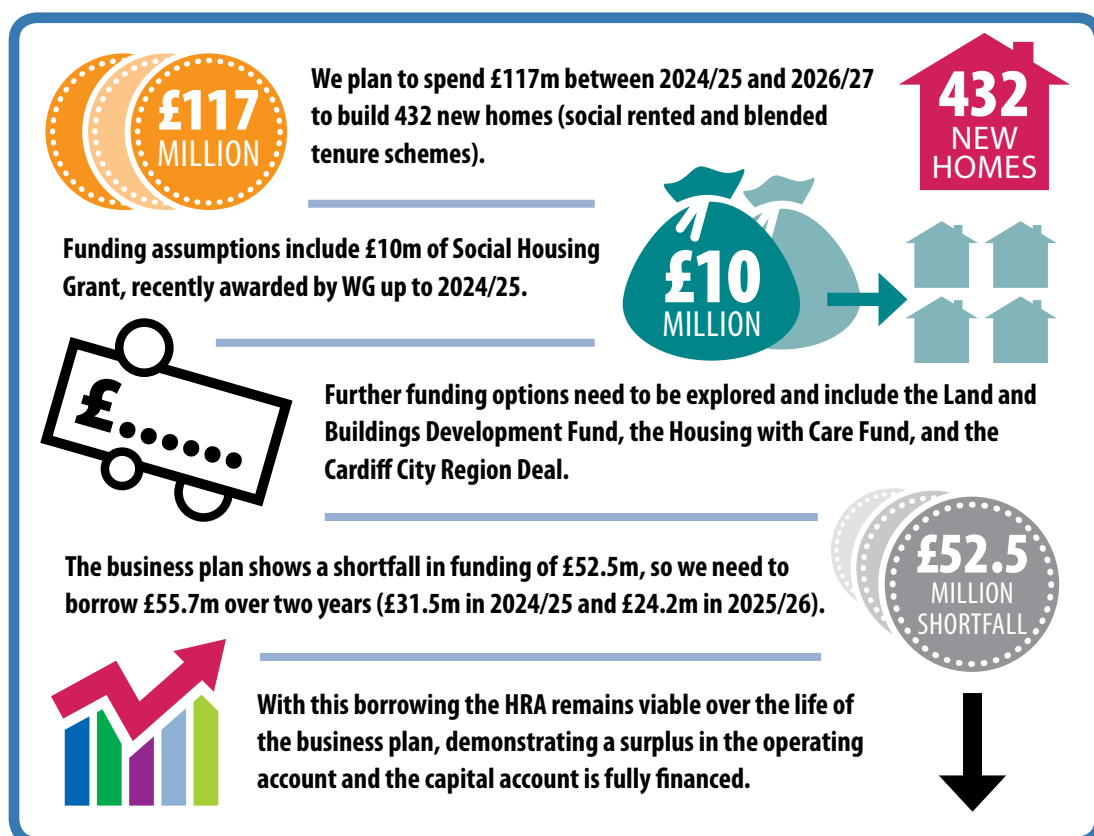
The table below contains the main assumptions we used in this year's business plan.

Area	Assumption	Rate/ Value	Comment - why have you included this rate/value in your base plan?	Comment - how has this changed from previous years?
General	General inflation rate	5%	The general 2% is unlikely to be sufficient in the short term UK RPI forecasts suggest inflation will fall sharply mid 2023.	This is an increase from the previously WG advised 2% due to the unprecedented inflation increases affected by Covid-19 and Brexit and The Ukraine Crisis.
Rental Income	Rent increases 2022/23	5%	As agreed by members.	Rent is not the same every year as it depends on the CPI level and other factors (e.g. this year the policy was overridden by WG due to the high inflation)
Rental Income	Rent increases beyond 2023/24	3-4%	Ranges between 3% and 4% assuming the plus 1% is not removed in future years (Early indications on the Joseph Rowntree Foundation affordability model suggests Caerphilly rents are lower on all of its stock so the maximum increase is assumed.	As above
Rental Income	Voids provision	2.5%	As at December 2021 void rate was 2.52% but has started to decrease slightly.	Voids have seen a steady increase since 2020 and peaked at 3.1% in February 2021 but recently starting to see it settle towards its typical average rate.

Area	Assumption	Rate/ Value	Comment - why have you included this rate/value in your base plan?	Comment - how has this changed from previous years?
Rental Income	Arrears	5.1%	As at December 2021 bad debt rate was 4.29% with a further increase predicted. This is due to tenants being supported to sustain their tenancies rather than evict.	Arrears have seen a sharp increase since 2020, some interventions have assisted, but with energy and food costs increasing, it is prudent to keep at this level for the following year.
Costs	Staff cost increases	0%	The assumptions have been considered against the Councils budget proposals for 2023/24 which includes forecasts for pay awards, national insurance and employers pension contributions. The inflation rates in the business plan account for these increases.	See above
Costs	Maintenance cost inflation	2%	A further 2% on top of base inflation is included in the plan on the expectation that prices will remain high across a range of areas.	BCIS has predicted a 16% rise from 2022 to 2027 so on average s 3.2% increase but this will not affect all materials that we use.
Costs	WHQS cost inflation	2%	As above	As above
Costs	Construction cost inflation		As above	As above
Debt	Debt pools		Consolidated pool	No change
Debt	CRI/MRP rates		MRP is a straight-line 2%. CRI is calculated based on the debt profile for the authority accounting for all the interest rates on all its loan types and dividing the total interest into the total debt to arrive at a consolidated average interest rate each year. The interest rate charged to the HRA is apportioned based on the volume of debt.	No change

11.4 HRA Business Plan Projections

The first year of the business plan should be the same as the current year HRA and Capital Programme, which has been approved via the annual rent increase process. This is then extended to a 30-year projection based on a number of assumptions and modelling (see section 11.3) and also any future commitments such as the new build programme. The business plan is then tested for viability in terms of its operating (revenue) account, level of reserves, capital account and its level of borrowing.



Welsh Government requires a number of sensitivity tests against the base plan, which models different stresses around key risks to the plan over the next 10 years. The sensitivities are not prescriptive but we are expected to consider global and local challenges and how this will impact on the HRA remaining viable, if the WHQS can still be maintained, and if borrowing remains affordable.

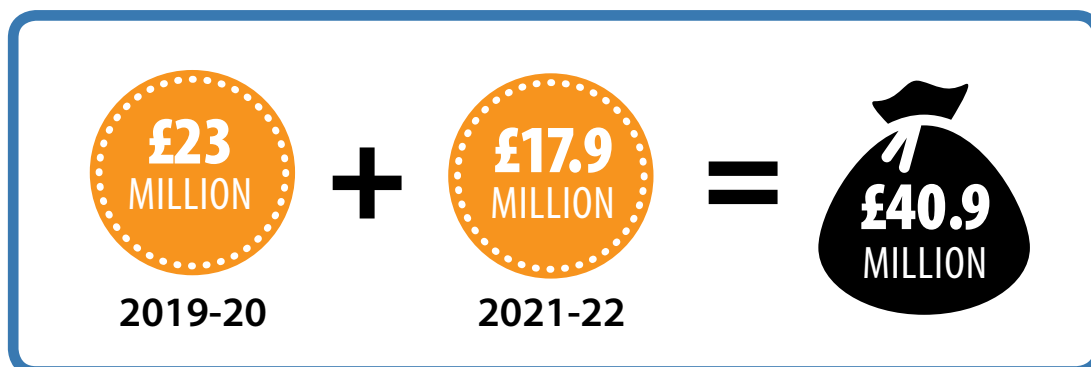
Welsh Government have introduced plans to revise the WHQS for 2023. One of the biggest changes of the new standard will be around affordable warmth and decarbonisation, and Welsh Government are considering how they can support delivery alongside a new Optimised Retrofit Programme (ORP). Welsh Government acknowledges that councils will not have yet produced any firm decarbonisation targets or measures to work with. We are not expected to provide comprehensive costed models in the current business plan.

We are currently working on some high-level costings to demonstrate the financial impact of decarbonisation ahead of the WHQS 2023 launch.

We report the business plan for Cabinet endorsement on an annual basis prior to submission to Welsh Government.

11.5 Prudential Borrowing Requirement

As with any major investment programme such as WHQS or building new homes, there will be occasions where the in-year funding streams are not sufficient to cover the total cost of the programme. So, we will need to borrow money to ensure the business plan remains viable. Borrowing has been accounted for in the business plan and is currently sourced from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) following the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.



A borrowing limit of £90m was originally agreed to fund the completion of the WHQS programme and progress with new build developments. To date we have borrowed £40.9m. With our ambitious new build programme, together with maintaining our customers' homes, we have needed to increase the borrowing limit to £100m. Although, we haven't yet fully assessed the financial impact of implementing WHQS 2023, we expect the borrowing limit to be extended in the near future.

11.6 Policy on Social Rents

Welsh Government's Review of Affordable Housing Supply, dated April 2019, made a number of recommendations to increase the supply of new homes. One of the recommendations concerned a sustainable rent policy, which would help determine long-term affordability for our customers and the viability of existing and new housing developments:

1. Welsh Government should implement a five-year rent policy from 2020-21. This has been based on CPI plus 1%, plus an additional £2.
2. There should be a focus on landlords considering Value for Money alongside affordability. An explicit annual assessment on cost efficiencies should be part of the rationale for justifying any rent increase.

Welsh Government expects all social landlords to set a rent and service charge policy that ensures rents for their customers' homes remain affordable for current and future occupants. As part of this process, each year we need to assess cost efficiencies, value for money and affordability for customers.

The Minister is also keen to continue with a number of new initiatives as part of the wider rental agreement, which include:



Strengthen approaches designed to minimise all evictions, working effectively with partners to deliver on a new agreement not to evict into homelessness.

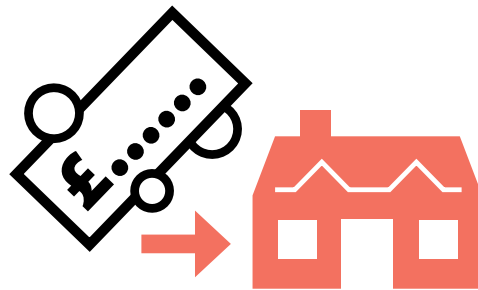


Undertake a standardised tenant satisfaction survey for publication on a central website to assist tenants in scrutinising and comparing landlord performance.

Build on existing commitments to deliver high quality homes, which comply with the new housing quality standard (WQQR 2021) across all tenures on sites that attract Welsh Government funding.



Continue to work towards an aspiration that all new build housing, regardless of tenure, achieves energy efficiency standards of no less than EPC A on sites that attract any Welsh Government funding.



All social landlords are required to make, and evidence, an annual assessment of affordability for their customers, cost efficiencies and to demonstrate their homes and services represent value for money as part of their decision on the rent uplift to be applied each year. In February we submitted a self-certification monitoring form to Welsh Government, which will be used to monitor our compliance with the Welsh Government Rent Standard.



The Council's annual rent is approved by Cabinet and is governed by Welsh Government's rent policy using the level of CPI from the previous September (which was 10.1%).

As the level of inflation was beyond expectations, The Minister for Climate Change announced on the 16th of November 2022 that from April 2023, the maximum limit which social rents can increase will be 6.5% which is well below the rate of inflation that also increased to 11.1% on the 16th November 2022, a 40 year high. However, having considered the review, along with wider factors such as the cost of living and its impact on tenants, the pressures arising from growing levels of homelessness, the need to decarbonise our existing stock, to maintain the Welsh Housing Quality Standard and to build new high-quality homes that are near zero carbon, The Minister has confirmed that given the existing and future financial outlook, it has been very difficult to consider the right level of rent increase for the social rent settlement 2023/24, and has therefore pursued a voluntary agreement from Councils and RSL's to ensure tenants are supported through the cost of living crisis.

In December, Cabinet agreed a £6.52 increase in rents. The average weekly rent our customers will pay this year is £99.90 over 52 weeks. Caerphilly Homes rent is still one of the lowest rents across all the Welsh Local Housing Authorities.

Caerphilly Homes along with all other social landlords in Wales have also voluntarily agreed there will be no evictions due to financial hardship for the term of the rent settlement in 2023-24, where contract holders engage with their landlords.

The principal objective at Caerphilly Homes is the management and sustainment of tenancies. Eviction is the last resort, fully embracing the Welsh Government aim of no evictions into homelessness. Adoption of a person centred, customer focused approach for supporting and enabling contract holders, has led to no evictions for financial hardship in the last 2 years.

We have been carrying out a review of our rent to determine affordability for our customers. We have used the Living Rent model developed by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to help us complete this exercise. The model states that a single person should not spend more than 28% of their net pay (after all deductions have been taken out) on rent for a standard single person unit of accommodation.

We found that 100% of our stock was below the 28% threshold, evidencing the rent we charge customers is affordable. However, for some of our customers it showed that the rent was unaffordable.

In July 2022, Cabinet agreed for us to use the model when setting future rent levels and we would welcome a consistent approach to an affordability model as requested by Welsh Government.



Gadewir y dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol



COUNCIL – 23RD MAY 2023

SUBJECT: FUTURE OF CAERPHILLY HOMES TASK GROUP

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For Council to consider and agree the future of Caerphilly Homes Task Group (CHTG) due to the completion of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) Programme and future work of Caerphilly Homes. The report was considered by the Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on the 27th February 2023 and Cabinet on the 8th March 2023; comments from the Committees are included in Section 10 of the report.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides background to the establishment of the CHTG and changes made to the Council's constitution. The report also considers the terms of reference for the CHTG which predominantly focused on the strategic direction and performance relating to the WHQS Programme.
- 2.2 With the WHQS Programme now completed in December 2021, following unavoidable delays necessitated by the Covid pandemic restrictions, it is considered appropriate to review the purpose and future of the group and to consider alternative methods of tenants/contract holder engagement, with specific reference to the imminent commencement of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard 2023 programme.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Council is asked:-
- 3.1.2 To approve the discontinuation of CHTG, for the reasons stated within the report. A special meeting was held in July 22 with the Repairs & Improvement Group and tenant members of CHTG following the completion of the WHQS programme to review the achievements and challenges, whilst also celebrating its successful conclusion.
- 3.2 To commend the CHTG for the contribution it has made towards achieving the Welsh Housing Quality Standard.
- 3.3 To acknowledge and approve the various existing and potential new methods to be explored by Caerphilly Homes for engagement with tenant/contract holders now and in the future. The proposals for effective and meaningful engagement will enable more

tenants/contract holders to have an opportunity to express views and be consulted on the future direction of Caerphilly Homes. Proposals for changing our engagement / consultation with tenants will be reported to Scrutiny Committee for consideration, prior to going to Cabinet for approval.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The CHTG has delivered on its Terms of Reference and contributed to the successful delivery of the largest project ever delivered by Caerphilly County Borough Council, which resulted in a total programme investment of approximately £270M.
- 4.2 There now needs to be more varied and impactful ways of engaging with contract holders to contribute to the way services are delivered across Caerphilly Homes.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Following the outcome of the ballot on housing stock transfer in February 2012, which resulted in the Council retaining its housing stock, the Council considered the mechanisms required to oversee the management and delivery of the WHQS Programme. This included housing service improvements that had been promised in the Offer Document/Addendum for the stock transfer, where there was a commitment to engage more effectively with tenants. To give effect to this the Council, at the meeting held on 29 February 2012, agreed to establish an all-party Housing Task Group with tenant representatives. Over time this group became the CHTG with the group operating more in a consultative role with its views on housing reports being sought and passed on to the relevant scrutiny committees for their consideration.
- 5.2 CHTG had not met since the start of the Covid pandemic, which impacted on face-to-face meetings, and the introduction of virtual meetings at that stage would have necessitated the issuing of new IT equipment and provision of training to CHTG members.
- 5.3 Since the establishment of CHTG, members of the group have been presented with 216 reports and various presentations over a total of 55 meetings.
- 5.4 Attendance at meetings has varied over the years and been disappointing on occasions. Whilst membership of the group has changed over time, many members have been attending since its inception and their continued contribution and commitment has been very much appreciated. However, future engagement by a wider cohort would be beneficial to ensure a broader range of tenants' views and opinions are considered.
- 5.5 With the WHQS Programme completed, and the Regeneration and Housing Scrutiny Committee now part of the corporate governance arrangements, it is proposed that CHTG be discontinued. A final meeting was held with all tenant CHTG members and members of the Repairs and Improvement Group in July 22 to review the achievement of WHQS and thank all tenants for their involvement and significant contributions.
- 5.6 From an officer's perspective the CHTG has delivered on its Terms of Reference and contributed to the successful delivery of the largest project ever delivered by CCBC, which resulted in a total programme investment of approximately £270m.

Future Tenant/Contract Holder Engagement

- 5.7 Caerphilly Homes recognises the importance of listening to and acting on tenant/contract

holder's views and remains committed to involving them in developing the strategic direction. The process of tenant/contract holder engagement and involvement in debating what services are required and delivered is under constant review. This results in new mechanisms and initiatives with a focus, not only on tenant/contract holder consultation, but also providing opportunities for tenant/contract holders to have a meaningful, positive impact on the delivery of services, thereby achieving measurable outcomes and improvements.

- 5.8 While the scope of WHQS 2023 is not yet finalised, the current draft standard and guidance sets out expectations for how social landlords should involve tenants/contract holders. Currently Welsh Government's aspiration is that within three years of the publication of the standard, social landlords need to have consulted with their tenants/contract holders on the draft programme. Caerphilly Homes will work with tenants/contract holders before then to develop a consultation policy. This will need to show how tenant/contract holders are involved in the important decisions that will need to be made to achieve the new standard. The standard has real challenges in terms of energy efficiency and decarbonisation, and tenant/contract holder views on how it is approached and then communicated will be key to its success. A decision will need to be made as to how tenants/contract holders are involved in WHQS23 following its launch and the publication of the consultation policy.
- 5.9 Caerphilly Homes continues to learn from tenant/contract holder engagement methods used to date and will utilise feedback from the recent tenant satisfaction survey on how tenant/contract holders want to engage. This has reinforced that listening to resident's views and acting on them is a key driver of satisfaction overall. There are also many other areas where tenant/contract holder input is needed.
- 5.10 Overall the future emphasis is that we will listen and engage with tenants/contract holders in a variety of ways. The range of activities/ mechanisms would develop through monitoring and regular review of what has worked, what hasn't, the outcomes of the activities and the impact on service delivery/improvement.
- 5.11 CHTG relied on a small number of voices and consequently only represented opinions of a few tenants. Officers have explored and developed new, diverse, effective and meaningful ways to engage. Moving forward there will need to be a variety of ways that tenants/contract holders can get involved, based on their interests and availability. This includes opportunities that would enable more tenants to express views, hopefully resulting in wider feedback. It is encouraging to note that a third of respondents to the latest tenant satisfaction survey indicated that they would be interested in having a say about the services we provide, with digital forms of consultation particularly popular amongst younger tenants.
- 5.12 The following ways of engaging with our tenants /contract holders are currently in place or will be by the end of the financial year and shows a significant level of involvement with more to come as plans for WHQS 2023 are developed.
- 5.13 Tenant Information Exchange (TIE)
TIE meets every 6 weeks, now meeting in person again but there is also the option to offer the meeting online. Proposal is to focus twice yearly on new ideas, initiatives, and current concerns, open to all tenants and supplemented with an online poll. Information will also be given on current consultations and other engagement activities.
- 5.14 Have Your Say Conversation Sessions
These structured conversations are an extension of the TIE and conducted through and at TIE meetings. Future outcomes of the conversation and any related supplementary

activities to be fed back in a report to Head of Housing/Cabinet Member. Actions to be developed from the conversations. Head of Housing/Cabinet Member to attend future conversation sessions to give feedback.

- 5.15 Housing Improvement Partnership (HIP)
The Group hasn't met since Covid but is now in a position to relaunch and is open to new participants. The HIP is an independent group of tenants not involved in any other groups. The HIP uses customer journey mapping principles to look at the experience tenants have when using Caerphilly Homes services.
- 5.16 The aim is for the Group to look at 2 areas of the service each year over 6-8 sessions using evidence such as letters, emails, transcription of telephone conversations and when available, call recording will also be utilised. Reports from this Group are sent to the appropriate service manager in Caerphilly Homes for consideration and if appropriate implementation of their recommendations to improve service delivery. This group has in the past looked at landlord's consent, income recovery, tenancy support service, floating support service, tenancy enforcement and mutual exchanges.
- 5.17 Tenant Participation Strategy
The current strategy is out of date (2019) and needs to be updated so there will be consultation on the current objectives and whether they are still fit for purpose or need to change in this financial year.
- 5.18 WHQS 2023
Tenant representation will be sought in any discussion on the new consultation framework that will need to be developed for WHQS 2023. This will start later this financial year as Welsh Government announce plans. By definition and context this will be a comprehensive survey of all tenant /contract holder views on the refurbishment and upgrades of all properties in Caerphilly Homes ownership focusing on affordable warmth and decarbonisation.
- 5.19 Review Groups
Where issues are raised by tenants/contract holders or staff there may need to be a review of an aspect of service in a different way to that undertaken by the HIP. These groups would be open to tenants/contract holders with recent experience of that aspect of the service under review, facilitated by Tenant and Community Involvement Team (TACI) and led by appropriate managers.
- 5.20 Tenant Satisfaction Survey Action Plan
Headlines of the findings of 2021 tenant satisfaction survey have been shared with tenants/contract holders. Later this calendar year the action plan to address some of these findings that need improvement will be published by Caerphilly Homes.
- 5.21 New Tenant Satisfaction Survey
There is a requirement to update the 2021 comprehensive survey, for submission to WG by March 2024. The new comprehensive survey is likely to be needed for distribution in the autumn of 2023. The results of this will help us shape our offer further to provide meaningful activities/consultation that is designed around how our tenants/contract holders want to be engaged. A leaflet sharing feedback on the last survey has been sent to all tenants.
- 5.22 Neighbourhood Days/Surgeries
Targeted opportunities for different sections of Caerphilly Homes to attend Neighbourhood Days/Surgeries and be open to all tenants/contract holders to give their

views on relevant consultations and to feedback on general issues. Makes the whole service more visible and relevant to tenants.

5.23 Social Media and online surveys

Caerphilly Homes are already making more use of social media to share timely and relevant information with tenants/contract holders. The EGov bulletin email service currently has around 2,000 tenants/contract holders registered for feedback. Use of social media to feed into any HIP sessions or review groups can be used to test whether issues that come out at the 'Have Your Say' conversation sessions are of relevance to all tenants/contract holders.

5.24 Tenant Portal

As part of the change to the new Caerphilly Homes IT system there is a tenant portal facility. The basic tenant portal has been built and will be tested with tenants/contract holders shortly. Full functionality won't be available until the full system has been migrated but it is planned to launch the basic version of the portal later this year. There will be opportunities for tenants/contract holders to view their own information e.g. rent statements and recent communications from Caerphilly Homes and also to send in queries or report certain issues. There will also be an option to let us know if they want to be involved in engagement activities.

5.25 Rent and Affordability Consultation

Since 2020 there have been annual surveys around rent and affordability. These have been supplemented by focus groups both online and in person. As well as the information from the surveys, outcomes have included tenant input into how the JRF Living Rent model is applied in the Borough and annual production of a leaflet to all tenants/contract holders showing how their rent money is spent was a direct result of what tenants/contract holders told us they wanted. A How your Rent is Spent leaflet has already been distributed to all tenants/contact holders.

5.26 As a result of the last survey in October 2022, 150 tenants said that they are happy to be contacted again in 2023 to discuss rent and affordability.

5.27 Engagement mechanisms/activities will be reviewed regularly to ensure they are still fit for purpose.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 There are no assumptions made with regard to this report.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's Strategic Equality Plan and supplementary guidance. No potential unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact has been identified. Therefore, a full IIA has not been carried out.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There have clearly been costs associated with the resourcing, implementation, running and management of the CHTG, therefore the proposed disbanding of the group will result in a cost saving, but these will be offset by alternative methods of tenant engagement.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications arising from the report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 Comments received have been taken into consideration within the report.
- 10.2 The report was presented to the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on the 27th February 2023 and Cabinet on the 8th March 2023.
- 10.3 The Scrutiny Committee noted the plans for current and future ways to engage with tenants and contract holders and CHTG was made up of both Tenants and Councillors, the committee asked how the future plans will involve Councillors.
- 10.4 Members were advised that the CHTG was set up for a specific purpose with an equal number of Tenants and Councillors and now the WHQS is complete. It should also be noted that the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee was also established after the CHTG and provides Members with a forum for consultation. Members asked if there is any intention to offer a co-opted position on the scrutiny committee to a tenant representative. The committee were advised that this is not something that has been proposed.
- 10.5 Members were advised that although the report focusses on future engagement with contract holders there will be engagement with Councillors as we go forward. There will be significant consultation for example on WHQS 2023 where Councillors will be involved. There will also be a tenant exchange group where tenants will have a direct link to the Head of Housing and the Cabinet Member for Housing and then back to this committee.
- 10.6 The Scrutiny Committee sought assurance that the Communication Strategy will allow for consultation with tenants who do not have internet access or social media. Will there be contact through tenant support officers actually visiting properties to gather information on what tenants think of our services and what they need.
- 10.7 Members were advised that the council uses all sorts of communication methods to contact tenants, such as newsletters and surveys, and do not to rely solely on email – although that is the most efficient.
- 10.8 Further detail was requested on the new methods of consulting highlighted in the report and whether the Cabinet Member was comfortable with the activities and noted that CHTG has not met since COVID.
- 10.9 Members were advised that the key feature will be the WHQS 2023 and how the consultation strategy will need to work around that. However, until Welsh Government announce their plans it is difficult to say how it will work. It was confirmed that CHTG had met in July to thank them for the work they had done but going forward the aim is to have a greater breadth and depth of those engaged and seek a wider range of opinions. The Cabinet Member stated that all Councillors regularly speak with tenants on housing issues and feed back to the housing department, the tenant exchange group referenced in the report will provide a mechanism for him to listen to tenants on any issues they may have.
- 10.10 The scrutiny committee sought clarification on the impact of the new contracts where contract holders are causing a nuisance and the Authority wishes to pursue an eviction.

Members were reminded that the new Contracts came about from the Renting Homes Wales Act 2016 and came into effect in December 2022. The terminology has changed from Tenant to Contract holder. In respect of antisocial behaviour there are different ways of looking at it in terms of who is the perpetrator and whether it is the actual contract holder and as yet there have not been any cases to consider. The Act provides the rent payer more rights and more protection for all types of rented accommodation, not just social landlords.

- 10.11 Members sought information on the outstanding WHQS works to sheltered accommodation complexes and referenced Britannia Complex which is currently having works undertaken. The committee asked what other outstanding works are required and why the report states that the WHQS is completed. Members were advised that under the WHQS there was a term 'Acceptable Fails' this applied to works that were over and above the WHQS criteria, and this applied to five sheltered housing complexes which needed longer term programs of work. Therefore, the Authority was permitted to exclude these from the WHQS completion numbers and are in the planned maintenance program. However, with reference to a previous question it should be noted they do have an impact on void figures and have to be excluded from true voids to get an accurate figure.
- 10.12 Members asked in respect of WHQS 2023 if there is a plan to set up another tenants group and if there is, why are we disbanding the CHTG. The committee were advised that there are no plans to have a similar task group and the consultation process will be outlined and specified by Welsh Government. This has been outlined within their preliminary advice on WHQS 2023 and they want a comprehensive consultation strategy for all residents and tenants. This will need to be robust transparent and enable all views and opinions to be brought in.
- 10.13 The Scrutiny Committee asked if there is any indication on the timescales for WHQS 2023. Members were advised that originally Welsh Government planned to announce last month but it is understood to be imminent. The original plan was a ten year program and our consultation response was that this is an ambitious time frame to achieve net zero across all stock, which will have an impact on the Business Plan, as this is not affordable currently.
- 10.14 The recommendations were moved and seconded and supported by the majority present at the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.
- 10.15 On the 8th March 2023, Cabinet noted that the report had been considered by the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on the 27th February 2023.
- 10.16 Consideration was given to the report which sought Cabinet agreement on the future of the Caerphilly Homes Task Group (CHTG) due to the completion of the Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS) Programme.
- 10.17 Cabinet placed on record their thanks to all the Tenant Representatives that sat on the Task Group for all their hard work and much valued contributions.
- 10.18 Given the strong representation from tenants on the Group, Members queried how tenant engagement would be maintained going forward. Officers confirmed that they would be exploring and reviewing engagement options on a more of an ongoing conversation basis. Officers would be utilising all forms of engagement and communication not just digital platforms on order to reach even those who tended not to engage.

10.19 Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved and by way of Microsoft Forms this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report:-

1. The comments of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee be noted.
2. The discontinuation of CHTG, for the reasons stated within the report. A special meeting was held in July 22 with the Repairs & Improvement Group and tenant members of CHTG following the completion of the WHQS programme to review the achievements and challenges, whilst also celebrating its successful conclusion be approved.
3. The CHTG for the contribution it has made towards achieving the Welsh Housing Quality Standard be commended.
4. The various existing and potential new methods to be explored by Caerphilly Homes for engagement with tenant/contract holders now and in the future. The proposals for effective and meaningful engagement will enable more tenants/contract holders to have an opportunity to express views and be consulted on the future direction of Caerphilly Homes be acknowledged and approved.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

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(Tel: 01443 864395, Email: taylor1@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Consultees: Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee - 27.02.2023
Cabinet - 08.03.2023

Cllr Sean Morgan	- Leader of Council
Cllr Shayne Cook	- Cabinet Member for Housing
Christina Harray	- Chief Executive
Dave Street	- Corporate Director for Social Services and Housing
Mark S Williams	- Corporate Director for Economy and Environment
Richard (Ed) Edmunds	- Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services
Robert Tranter	- Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Stephen R Harris	- Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer
Fiona Wilkins	- Housing Services Manager
Jane Roberts-Waite	- Strategic Co-ordination Manager
Lesley Allen	- Principal Accountant (Housing)
Catherine Edwards	- Head of Asset Maintenance and Repairs
Mandy Betts	- Tenant and Community Involvement Team