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For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Andrea Jones
(Tel: 01443 864420   Email: jonesa23@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Date: 3rd January 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

A multi-locational meeting of the **Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee** will be held in Penallta House, and via Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday, 9th January, 2024** at **5.30 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. Councillors and the public wishing to speak on any item can do so by making a request to the Chair. You are also welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, both these requests require a minimum notice period of 3 working days. A simultaneous translation will be provided on request.

Members of the public or Press may attend in person at Penallta House or may view the meeting live via the following link: https://civico.net/caerphilly

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

Yours faithfully,

Christina Harrhy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

Pages

1   To receive apologies for absence.

A greener place   Man gwyrddach

Correspondence may be in any language or format | Gallwch ohebu mewn unrhyw iaith neu fformat

2   Declarations of Interest.

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

To approve and sign the following minutes: -

3   Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held on 7th November 2023.

4   Consideration of any matter referred to this Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.

5   Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.

6   To receive and consider the following Cabinet reports*: -

1. Annual Report on The Corporate Complaints Received for The Period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 – 15th November 2023;
2. Revised Town Centre Management Module – updated report – 15th November 2023;
3. Corporate Plan (including Well-Being Objectives) 2023 to 2028 – 15th November 2023;
4. Mobilising Team Caerphilly Governance Arrangements – 15th November 2023;
5. Write -Off Debts Over £20,000 – Business Rate Arrears for Ltd Companies – 15th November 2023;
6. Draft Greater Blackwood Masterplan – 13th December 2023;
7. Listed Buildings at Risk Register and Strategy – 13th December 2023;
8. Council Tax Base 2024/25 – 13th December 2023;
9. Consultation On Proposals to Implement Council Tax Premiums on Long-Term Empty Properties and Second Homes – 13th December 2023;
10. Cwm Ifor Solar Farm Update Report – 13th December 2023.

If a member of the Scrutiny Committee wishes for any of the above Cabinet reports to be brought forward for review at the meeting please contact Andrea Jones, 01443 864420, by 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 8th January 2024.

To receive and consider the following Scrutiny reports: -

7   Cyber/Information Security Update.

8   Community Benefits Guidance - For Projects And Developments with the Potential for Significant Community Impact.

Circulation:

Councillors M.A. Adams, Mrs C. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, G. Enright, A. Gair, D.C. Harse, L. Jeremiah, Ms J.G. Jones, G. Johnston (Chair), S. Kent, C.P. Mann, A. McConnell (Vice Chair), M. Powell, D.W.R. Preece, C. Thomas, L.G. Whittle, W. Williams and C. Wright

And Appropriate Officers

HOW WE WILL USE YOUR INFORMATION

Those individuals that attend committee meetings to speak/give evidence will be named in the minutes of that meeting, sometimes this will include their place of employment or business and opinions expressed. Minutes of Meetings including details of speakers will be publicly available to all via the Council website at www.caerphilly.gov.uk. except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items.

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CORPORATE AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD IN PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor G. Johnson - Chair
Councillor A. McConnell - Vice Chair

Councillors:

M. Adams, G. Enright, C. Forehead, A. Gair, L. Jeremiah, J. Jones, S. Kent, M. Powell, D. W. R, Preece, C. Thomas, L. Whittle, W. Williams, and C. Wright

Cabinet Members:

Councillors P Leonard (Planning and Public Protection), C. Morgan (Waste, Leisure, and Green Spaces), and J. Pritchard (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change).

Also in attendance:

Councillors C. Andrews and T. Heron and Speaker Ms C Rogers (Ruperra Castle Preservation Trust)

Together with:

M. S. Williams (Corporate Director for Economy and Environment), R Kyte (Head of Regeneration and Planning), P. Hudson (Business Enterprise Renewal Team Leader), P. Thomas (Heritage and Placemaking Officer), R. Thomas (Planning Services Manager), D. Lucas (Team Leader Strategic Planning), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Manager), and A. Jones (Committee Services Officer).

RECORDING, FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting was being live-streamed and recorded and would be made available following the meeting via the Council's website – Click Here to View   Members were advised that voting on decisions would be taken via Microsoft Forms.

1.   **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Harse, J. Fussell, C. Mann

2.   **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest were received from the following members:

Councillor A McConnell declared a personal interest on agenda item 9 as she is a Trustee of Ruperra Trust. Councillor McConnell could remain in the meeting and vote whilst the item was discussed.

Councillor G. Johnston declared a personal interest on agenda item 9 as he is a Member of Cadw. Councillor Johnson could remain in the meeting and vote whilst the item was discussed.

Councillor C Wright declared a personal interest on agenda item 9 as she is a Member of Cadw. Councillor Wright could remain in the meeting and vote whilst the item was discussed.

Councillor J. Pritchard also declared a personal interest on agenda item 9 as has signed a petition in support of Ruperra Castle. As a Cabinet Member he would not be part of the debate or vote.

3.   **CORPORATE AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 26TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2023 be approved as a correct record and by way of Microsoft Forms (and in noting there were 13 for, 0 against and 1 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

> RESOLVED that the minutes of the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee held on 26th September 2023 (minute nos. 1 – 5) be approved as a correct record.

4.   **CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALL-IN PROCEDURE**

There had been no matters referred to the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.

5.   **CORPORATE AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Scrutiny Officer presented the report, which outlined details of the Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme (FWP) for the period November 2023 to March 2024.

It was moved and seconded that the report recommendation be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms (and in noting there were 13 for, 0 against and 1 abstention, which included 1 verbal vote) this was agreed by the majority present.

> RESOLVED that the Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme as appended to the meeting papers be published on the Council's website.

6. CABINET REPORTS

It was confirmed that there had been no requests for any of the Cabinet reports listed on the agenda to be brought forward for discussion at the meeting.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

7. NOTICE OF MOTION – PRIDE IN VETERANS STANDARD

Councillor Andrews as LGBTQ+ Champion and Councillor Heron as the Armed Forces Champion request that the Scrutiny Committee consider the Notice of Motion and make appropriate recommendation to Council adopt the Pride in Veterans Standard (PiVS) to visibly demonstrate its commitment to providing inclusive and welcoming support to LGBT+ Veterans serving personnel and their families. The Notice of Motion was introduced as set out in 5.1 of the report.

The Chair invited members for questions.

The Leader of the Plaid group confirmed that the Plaid party fully supports the Notion of Motion and wished to congratulate the Council on holding their first Pride Event.

A member sought clarification on why a separate flag was being used for gay veterans. Members were advised that there were numerous reasons but it's about recognising the wrongs of the past, correcting them and ensuring there is equality in all areas. Additional information will be shared to members following this meeting.

Following consideration of the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendations be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms (and in noting there were 14 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions, which included 1 verbal vote) this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED that:-

The Notice of Motion as outlined in paragraph 5.1 be supported.

8. DRAFT GREATER BLACKWOOD MASTERPLAN

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change introduced the report and thanked the Members who represent the Greater Blackwood area that met with him to discuss the Draft Greater Blackwood Masterplan. The report seeks the views of the Scrutiny Committee on the draft Masterplan prior to its presentation to Cabinet. The draft Masterplan seeks to stimulate economic, social, and cultural activity, making the most of the area's town centre, employment sites, leisure venues and tourist attractions. It sets out a development strategy and framework for delivering these outcomes and will form the basis for bids from funding streams for projects in the area. Members were advised that the Council has worked in partnership with the UK Government, Cardiff Capital Region, the Private Sector and CCBC are tasked with working together for the benefit of the Region. Following the debate of this committee the draft Masterplan will go to Cabinet on 15th November 2023 and a six week public consultation will go live on the 3rd of January 2024.

The Scrutiny Committee were pleased to see the mention of a train station at Crumlin in the plan, members felt that there are excellent links to Oakdale Business Park and tourist opportunities for Penmaen Park that could benefit. In addition, it was stated that development of the Navigation Colliery Site into business units could be a possibility. The committee were advised that Crumlin station would be a direct strategic link to Oakdale, any development at Navigation however would need to be considered against flood risks.

Members highlighted the significant issues with bus services for residents wishing to travel to Blackwood, where some areas have a limited hourly service, which can be cancelled several times per week making it difficult to plan and have confidence that there will be return journeys available. These issues are reported to the bus company and copied to MP's and Welsh Government. It was therefore suggested that this could be included in the Masterplan. Members highlighted the recent debate at Joint Scrutiny and that this was an issue both locally and nationally.

The Scrutiny Committee were advised that bus services are not part of the Masterplan which is related to land use. However, the issues of bus services are recognised as a serious matter. There have been meetings with Welsh Government officials and Ministers to discuss these issues and we are awaiting news; however, we are not optimistic that there will be a positive solution with a significant factor being the reduced level of passengers that have not returned to pre-covid levels.

Members commented that many people are not aware of the old railway lines abandoned many years ago, some of which are overgrown or used as cycle tracks, these provided transport links into many areas not covered by railways at present, for example the Scenic drive in Cwmcarn.

The Scrutiny Committee commented on the comprehensive document which is meant to provide a regeneration response to the economic situation we are in. It was suggested that more in-depth analysis and detail will be needed for the individual projects listed in the plan as well as costs. Concerns were expressed on whether there will be funding available to bring these plans to fruition. The committee were informed that the Masterplan sits underneath the Regeneration Strategy, individual project in each Masterplan will be developed with detailed analysis and costs should they move forward. The plan shows our ambition and will form a basis for any bids for funding.

Following consideration of the report it was moved and recommendations be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms (and in noting there were 14 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED that:-.

1. The Draft Greater Blackwood Masterplan be endorsed by the Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and that it is recommended to Cabinet for the draft Masterplan be published for comment for a six-week period.

2. The Draft Masterplan be published for comment for a Six-week period between the 3 January and 14 February 2024.

9.   **LISTED BUILDINGS AT RISK REGISTER AND STRATEGY**

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection presented the report which provides the Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to consider the Listed Buildings at Risk Register and Strategy that sets out a framework for the preservation and enhancement of listed buildings at risk over the period 2023-2028.

Members were advised that a survey has been carried out on all listed buildings throughout the Caerphilly Borough by The Handley Partnership Consultants who have surveyed 433 structures of which the majority are privately owned and are well maintained, it has revealed that there are 72 buildings which are at risk and are either in disrepair, disuse or are derelict. An allocation of £400k from the Shared Prosperity Fund is to be utilised to implement a grants programme to upgrade and maintain several of these historical buildings. Members were requested to note the report and provide any comments prior to the report going to Cabinet.

The Chair invited the Guest Speaker from Ruperra Castle to speak to the Committee.

The Guest Speaker introduced herself as a Caerphilly resident and Trustee of the Ruperra Castle Preservation which is a membership led charity whose main aim is to preserve Ruperra Castle. Members were advised that a free community event is run by the charity to encourage people to celebrate their heritage and as part of this external first aid training was funded by the Council for which the speaker thanked the Council and would also like to thank the Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection and Officers for commissioning the survey and analysing the results. The Survey highlights challenges in stopping decay and identifies in the Action Plan that Ruperra Castle as the highest priority Building at Risk in the whole of the County.

The Castle is the only example of a pageant Castle in Wales which has deteriorated since the fire in 1941 and is a scheduled Monument and a Grade 2* listed building. The Charity is seeking to add 3 additions to the action plan which would be in the public interest and in the Councils control. The first addition suggests that making the Castle safe should be a priority to ensure it is no longer a danger to the public and residents.

A Map illustrating the issues was shared on the screen for Members showing the Castle and its surrounding grounds it was highlighted and discussed how the condition of the Castle and surrounding grounds has deteriorated and concerns for public safety and the building. Following talks with Caerphilly Public Rights of Way and Cadw another closure is in place until May 2024 to ensure public safety. It was stated that planning permission had been granted for a nearby stables to be converted into flats but there is a real risk of the Castle falling onto it, and onto the track which will be used by residents and visitors. So up to 36 people could live on site, but there are currently no plans to make the Castle safe.

Members were asked to recommend that the following are added to the action plan for Ruperra Castle on page 35:

1. Press Cadw and the owner to undertake a structural survey of Ruperra Castle, a vital first step to making the Castle safe for the public and residents.

2. Determine a safe radius around the Castle while essential repairs are undertaken by the owner.

3. Refuse to accept any further planning applications for Ruperra unless accompanied by a Conservation Management Plan for the entire site.

The speaker thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Trust and hoped that action will be taken before it is too late, or another tower at Ruperra Castle falls.

The Chair thanked the Speaker and invited members to ask any questions.

A Member requested confirmation as to who controls the Churches when they are sold on and converted for example into houses, especially where cemeteries are in the grounds. Members were advised that Listed buildings fall under the responsibility of the local planning authority, some exceptions for Churches which are in ecclesiastical, where churches are

still being used as a church and they have their own decision making bodies and the local planning authority do not deal with these but will deal with them if the church is no longer in use. Scheduled Monuments like Ruperra Castle would be the responsibility of Cadw. The Heritage and Placemaking Officer offered to meet any councillors on site to talk through any sites and can also provide a briefing note on the legislation and who has responsibilities for the listed buildings and will also investigate and feedback on burial grounds.

A Member sought clarification as to what the meaning of a holistic approach in dealing with the listed buildings as mentioned in the report. Members were advised a holistic approach is where the opportunity to bring back into use one building on a site with multiple listed buildings, that will be considered as the best way forward. This is because buildings have a better chance when they are in use, so on some sites buildings may be brought into use one at a time and then move on to the next.

A Member requested that a meeting with Cadw should be arranged to discuss how the spending of monies on preserving historical buildings and request that they work with the Ruppera Conservation Trust and Officers within the Council and then move onto The Site at Crumlin where the monies should be used to preserve that site next. The Head of Regeneration and Planning confirmed that the Council meet regularly with Cadw and there is a meeting tomorrow where this will be raised. A verbal update will then be provided to Cabinet.

Following consideration of the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendations be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms (and in noting there were 13 for, 0 against and 1 abstention) this was agreed by the majority present.

> RECOMMENDED that:-
>
> 1. The contents of this report and the 2023 Buildings at Risk Register be noted.
>
> 2. Cabinet note the comments of the Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on the report.

10. REVISED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT MODEL – UPDATE REPORT

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change introduced the report to update Scrutiny Committee on the pilot of the Town Centre Stakeholder Meetings, which were originally approved for a 12-month trial and to ask Members to recommend to Cabinet to adopt this new Town Centre Management Model on a permanent basis and formally disband the old Town Centre Management Groups. the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee in November 2021 unanimously agreed to trial alternative. The new format has been held over the 18 months. Meetings are now being held at venues within each town centre to make attendance more convenient and at a time more desirable for businesses. Often the venues are private businesses not only to support town centre businesses but to encourage the business community to come together and support one another. Town centre stakeholders have positively received the new model.

A Member acknowledged how this is an important function throughout the town centres and how it is working well.

The Head of Regeneration and Planning requested to put on record that the improvement of working with businesses is a testament to the hard work of the Town Centre Team who have only been fully staffed over the last 18 months. The survey demonstrates that the hard work is starting to pay off. The officers are on the ground talking to businesses every day and it is starting to pay dividends. It was acknowledged that this is a key role within the

regeneration team in terms of driving forward beneficial changes to our town centres and is a critical discretionary service and thanked the Member for acknowledging this.

The Chair stated that Newbridge town centre has recently gone online with free Wi-Fi helping people to connect within the town, which is a good thing and can see that the Council are looking to encourage people into the town centres. It is good to see that the Council is looking to cover all areas.

Following consideration of the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendations be approved. By way of Microsoft forms (and in noting there was 10 for, 0 against and 2 abstentions which included 1 verbal vote) this was agreed by the majority present.

RECOMMENDED that:-

1. The adoption of the new Town Centre Stakeholder meetings as part of the new Town Centre Management Model be approved.

2. Agree the formal disbanding of the old Town Centre Management Groups be agreed.

3. The new Terms of Reference for the Town Centre Stakeholder Meetings as set out in Appendix 1 of this report be approved.

The meeting closed at 18:41 p.m.

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th January 2024.

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CHAIR

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CORPORATE AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 9TH JANUARY 2024

SUBJECT: **CORPORATE AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

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

1.   PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1   To report the Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.

2.   SUMMARY

2.1   Forward Work Programmes are essential to ensure that Scrutiny Committee agendas reflect the strategic issues facing the Council and other priorities raised by Members, the public or stakeholder.

3.   RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1   That Members consider any changes and agree the final forward work programme prior to publication.

4.   REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1   To improve the operation of scrutiny.

5.   THE REPORT

5.1   The Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee forward work programme includes all reports that were identified at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on Tuesday 7th November 2023. The work programme outlines the reports planned for the period January 2024 until March 2024.

5.2   The forward Work Programme is made up of reports identified by officers and members. Members are asked to consider the work programme alongside the

cabinet work programme and suggest any changes before it is published on the council website. The Scrutiny committee will review this work programme at every meeting going forward alongside any changes to the cabinet work programme or report requests.

5.3   The Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1, which presents the current status as at 19th December 2023. The Cabinet Work Programme is attached at Appendix 2. A copy of the prioritisation flowchart is attached at appendix 3 to assist the scrutiny committee to determine what items should be added to the forward work programme.

5.4   **Conclusion**

The work programme is for consideration and amendment by the scrutiny committee prior to publication on the council website.

6.   ASSUMPTIONS

6.1   No assumptions are necessary.

7.   SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1   As this report is for information only an Integrated Impact Assessment is not necessary.

8.   FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1   There are no specific financial implications arising as a result of this report.

9.   PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1   There are no specific personnel implications arising as a result of this report.

10.   CONSULTATIONS

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

11.   STATUTORY POWER

11.1   The Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Mark Jacques, Scrutiny Officer jacqum@carphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services

Mark S. Williams, Corporate Director for Economy and Environment
Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer
Lisa Lane, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer, Legal Services
Councillor Gary Johnston, Chair of Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Amanda McConnell, Vice Chair of Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Appendices:
Appendix 1   Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme
Appendix 2   Cabinet Forward Work Programme
Appendix 3   Forward Work Programme Prioritisation Flowchart

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Forward Work Programme - Corporate and Regeneration - Appendix 1				
Date	Title	Key Issues	Author	Cabinet Member
09/01/24 17:30	IT Security Update	Seeking assurance on the Councils Cyber Security arrangements.	Lucas, Liz;	Cllr. George, Nigel;
09/01/24 17:30	Community Benefits from Renewable Energy Developments Strategy	Setting out the council's position on the how community benefits contributions from renewable energy developments within the county borough would be agreed and distributed.	Delonette, Heather	Cllr. Pritchard, James;
09/01/24 17:30	Information Item - Corporate Services and Miscellaneous Finance 2023/24 Budget Monitoring Report (Period 7)	To inform Members of projected revenue expenditure for the Directorate of Corporate Services and Miscellaneous Finance for the 2023/24 financial year.	Roberts, Dave;	Cllr. George, Nigel;
09/01/24 17:30	Information Item - Economy and Environment 2023/24 Budget Monitoring Report (Period 7)	To inform Members of projected revenue expenditure for the Regeneration & Planning Division for the 2023/24 financial year.	Roberts, Dave;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
09/01/24 17:30	Information Item - 2022/23 Capital Outturn Report	To inform Members of the provisional capital expenditure outturn position for the 2022/23 financial year.	Williams, Rhiann;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
09/01/24 17:30	Information Item - 2023/24 Capital Expenditure Monitoring Report (Period 7)	To inform Members of projected capital expenditure for the 2023/24 financial year.	Williams, Rhiann;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
09/01/24 17:30	Information Item - Treasury Management and Capital Financing Prudential Indicators Outturn Report 2022/23	To present Members with details of Treasury Management activities and Capital Financing, together with the related Prudential Indicators for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.	Williams, Rhiann;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
09/01/24 17:30	Information Item - Treasury Management and Capital Financing Prudential Indicators Quarter 2 Monitoring Report (1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023).	To present Members with details of Treasury Management activities and Capital Financing, together with the related Prudential Indicators for the period 1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023.	Williams, Rhiann;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
20/02/24 17:30	Recruitment Update	Impact of new team.	Donovan, Lynne;	Cllr. George, Nigel;
20/02/24 17:30	Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28		Cullinane, Anwen;	Cllr. George, Nigel;
20/02/24 17:30	Capital Strategy Report 2024/25	To present the report to the Scrutiny Committee prior to consideration by Council on the 27th of February 2024.	Williams, Rhiann;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;

20/02/24 17:30	Treasury Management Annual Strategy, Capital Finance Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2024/25	To present the report to the Scrutiny Committee prior to consideration by Council on the 27th of February 2024.	Williams, Rhiann;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
20/02/24 17:30	Information Item - Workforce Development Strategy 2021-24 - annual update	To provide Members with an annual update with the progress against the Workforce Development Strategy.	Donovan, Lynne;	Cllr. George, Nigel;
20/02/24 17:30	Information Item - Employee Well being Strategy 2021-24 - annual update	To provide Cabinet with an annual update with the progress against the Employee Well being Strategy.	Donovan, Lynne;	Cllr. George, Nigel;
20/02/24 17:30	Information Item - Corporate Services and Miscellaneous Finance 2023/24 Budget Monitoring Report (Period 9)	To inform Members of projected revenue expenditure for the Directorate of Corporate Services and Miscellaneous Finance for the 2023/24 financial year.	Roberts, Dave;	Cllr. George, Nigel;
20/02/24 17:30	Information Item - Economy and Environment 2023/24 Budget Monitoring Report (Period 9)	To inform Members of projected revenue expenditure for the Regeneration & Planning Division for the 2023/24 financial year.	Roberts, Dave;	Cllr. George, Nigel;
20/02/24 17:30	Information Item - 2023/24 Capital Expenditure Monitoring Report (Period 9)	To inform Members of projected capital expenditure for the 2023/24 financial year.	Williams, Rhiann;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
20/02/24 17:30	Information Item - Treasury Management and Capital Financing Prudential Indicators Quarter 3 Monitoring Report (1st April 2023 to 31st December 2023).	To present Members with details of Treasury Management activities and Capital Financing, together with the related Prudential Indicators for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st December 2023.	Williams, Rhiann;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
20/02/24 17:30	Information Item - Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2022-23		Cullinane, Anwen;	Cllr. George, Nigel;

Cabinet Forward Work Programme – 2nd January 2024   **Appendix 2**

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
17/01/2024 13:00 p.m.	Audit Wales Output Report on Setting of well-being objectives for Caerphilly County Borough Council 22-23	To receive the Audit Wales examination report on whether the Council applied the sustainable development principle in the setting of its Well-being Objectives for 2022-23	Ros Roberts/Sue Richards Sarah-Jayne Byrne/Ian Phillips (attending remotely) (Audit Wales)	Cllr Eluned Stenner
17/01/2024	Caerphilly Cares Support Package for families eligible for free school meals	Welsh Government withdrawal of free school meals for eligible families during the school holidays.	Tina McMahon	Cllr Carol Andrews
17/01/2024	Grass Cutting Regimes – 2024 Season	To consider options and proposals for grass cutting for the 2024 cutting season.	Rob Hartshorn	Cllr Chris Morgan
17/01/2024	Appointment of Public and Agricultural Analysts	The Authority has a statutory duty to enforce the Food Safety Act 1990, which requires the authority to appoint a Public Analyst to analyse food for foreign bodies and compositional and labelling purposes. There are similar provisions in the Agriculture Act 1970 relating to the need to appoint an Agricultural Analyst. This report seeks Cabinet approval for amendment to such appointments due to changes in personnel.	Jacqui Morgan	Cllr. Philippa Leonard
17/01/2024	Amendments to Authorisation of Officers Within Public Protection	Officers within the Public Protection Division require	Jacqui Morgan	Cllr. Philippa Leonard

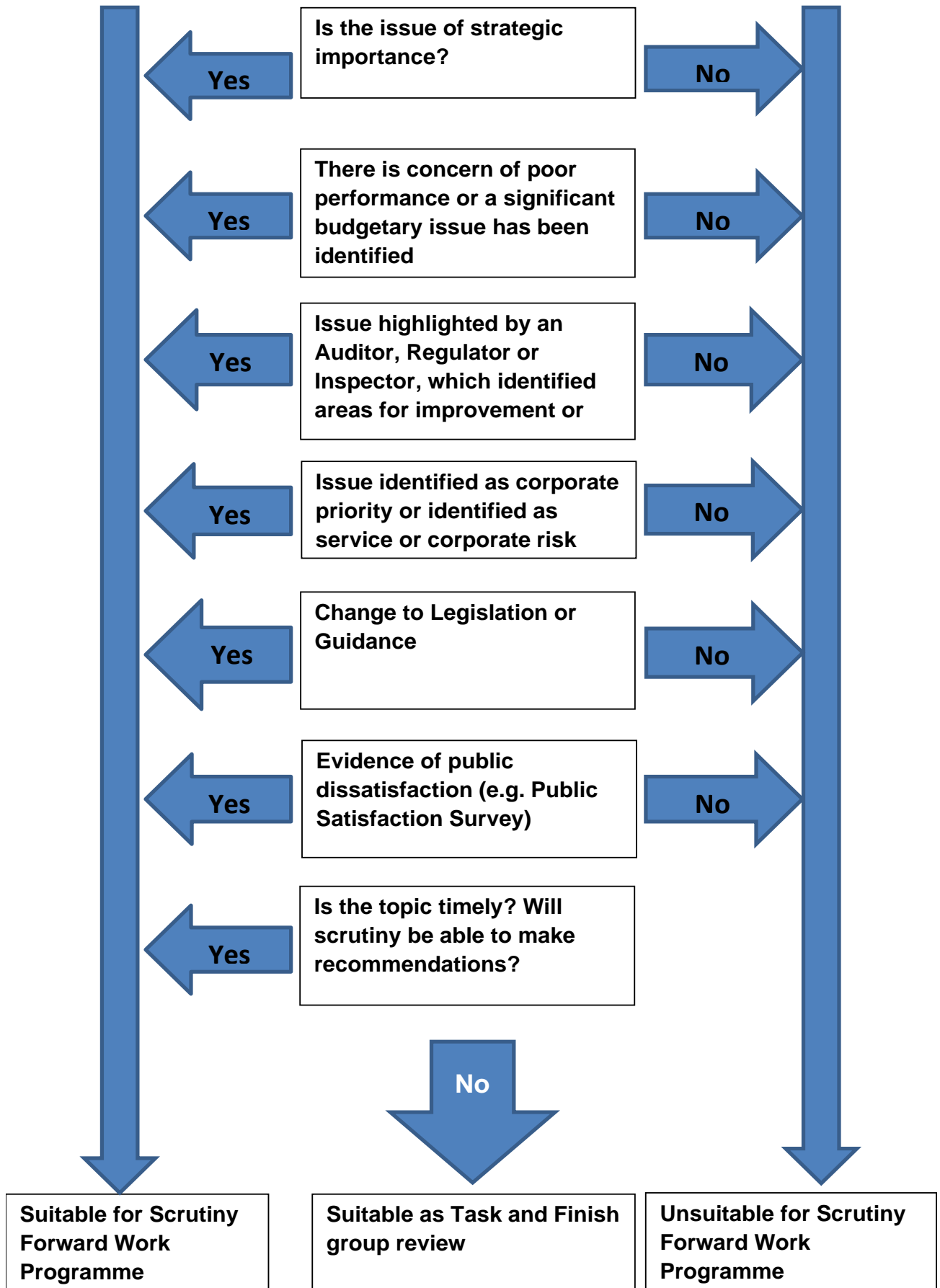| Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
		additional authorisation under a number of Acts of Parliament in order to enforce the legislation and carry out their duties. The Environmental Protection (Single-Use Plastic Products) Wales Act 2023 bans the sale or supply of certain single-use plastic products in Wales, unless an exemption applies. The Animals (Low-Welfare Activities Abroad) Act 2023 came into force on 18 November 2023 and prohibits the sale and advertising of activities abroad which involve low standards of welfare for animals.		
17/01/2024	Draft Waste Strategy	To approve the draft waste strategy for public consultation.	Marcus Lloyd/Hayley Jones	Cllr Chris Morgan
17/01/2024	Development of a new Children's Home	To agree allocation of capital funding to complete the purchase of a suitable property and to confirm the intended use of that property.	Gareth Jenkins	Cllr Elaine Forehead
17/01/2024	Draft Budget Proposals for 2024/25	To present Cabinet with details of the draft budget proposals for the 2024/25 financial year to allow for a period of consultation prior to a final decision by Council on 27 February 2024.	Christina Harrhy/ Stephen Harris	Cllr Eluned Stenner

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
17/01/2024	Surrender and Relet Proposal - Units 3 and 4 Bryn Brithdir, Oakdale Business Park, Blackwood - EXEMPT ITEM	Subject to Public Interest Test.	Allan Dallimore	Cllr James Pritchard
21/02/2024 13:00 p.m.	Support for pupils unable to attend school (formerly "Tuition" report).	To seek Cabinet approval for proposals for revising the model of support for pupils accessing tuition.	Keri Cole	Cllr Carol Andrews
21/02/2024	Community Benefits Guidance - for projects and developments with the potential for significant community impact	Setting out the council's advice on how community benefits contributions from projects and developments within the county borough might be agreed and distributed.	Sue Richards/Heather Delonnette	Cllr James Pritchard/Cllr Philippa Leonard
21/02/2024	Nant Cylla watercourse, Ystrad Mynach	To provide Cabinet with an update in relation to erosion of the Nant Cylla watercourse and to request authorisation for a spend of £270k for detailed design of a stabilisation scheme and a £100k contingency fund for temporary stabilisation works should these be required whilst the full scheme is being developed and procured.	Marcus Lloyd	Cllr Nigel George
21/02/2024	Caerphilly Station footbridge review	To consider the options available regarding the future provision and alternative options of a pedestrian rail crossing at Caerphilly Railway Station.	Marcus Lloyd	Cllr Nigel George

Cabinet Forward Work Programme – 2nd January 2024   **Appendix 2**

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
21/02/2024	Private Wire Arrangement from Bryn Group to Tredomen Campus – EXEMPT ITEM	Subject to Public Interest Test	Ben Winstanley/ Paul Cooke/ Anna Lewis	Cllr James Pritchard/ Cllr Nigel George
27/02/2024 13:00 p.m.	Budget Proposals for 2024/25	To seek Cabinet endorsement of the 2024/25 budget proposals prior to final determination by Council on 27th February 2024.	Stephen Harris	Cllr Eluned Stenner
06/03/2024	Allocation Criteria for Artificial Sports Pitches and the Ystrad Mynach Centre for Sporting Excellence	To seek Cabinet approval for amendments to the criteria for the allocation of bookings at Caerphilly Council managed artificial sports pitches (3G and ATP) and the Ystrad Mynach Centre for Sporting Excellence and to approve the delegation of future amendments to the allocation criteria to the relevant Director or Head of Service in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member.	Jared Lougher/ Rob Hartshorn	Cllr Chris Morgan
06/03/2024	Food Standards Agency Audit of Caerphilly Food Hygiene and Food Standards Service Planning and Delivery	For Cabinet to consider the Food Standards Agency audit findings and Action Plan and any recommendations from the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee.	Rob Hartshorn	Cllr Philippa Leonard
06/03/2024	Strategic Equality Plan 2024-2028	For Cabinet to discuss and approve the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-2028, prior to being considered at Full Council	Anwen Cullinane/Kath Peters	Cllr Eluned Stenner

Cabinet Forward Work Programme – 2nd January 2024   **Appendix 2**

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
		(18/04/2023) for approval and publication on the Council's website.		
06/03/2024	Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2022-2023	To discuss and approve the content of the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2022-2023, for publication on the Council's website.	Anwen Cullinane/Kath Peters	Cllr Eluned Stenner
06/03/2024	Council Self-Assessment year-end Report 2022-2023	The Council's Self-Assessment 22/23 is the Council's public position on how it has assessed and judged itself in its effectiveness of its organisational systems and processes, with any planned improvement needs. This includes the year-end performance of the last year of the 5 year set of (2018-23) Well-being Objectives.	Ros Roberts/Sue Richards	Cllr Eluned Stenner

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Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme Prioritisation

Is the issue of strategic importance?

Yes → | No →

There is concern of poor performance or a significant budgetary issue has been identified

Yes → | No →

Issue highlighted by an Auditor, Regulator or Inspector, which identified areas for improvement or

Yes → | No →

Issue identified as corporate priority or identified as service or corporate risk

Yes → | No →

Change to Legislation or Guidance

Yes → | No →

Evidence of public dissatisfaction (e.g. Public Satisfaction Survey)

Yes → | No →

Is the topic timely? Will scrutiny be able to make recommendations?

Yes → | No ↓

Suitable for Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

Suitable as Task and Finish group review

Unsuitable for Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

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**CORPORATE AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
9TH JANUARY 2024**

SUBJECT: **CYBER/INFORMATION SECURITY UPDATE**

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee with a status update in relation to the Council's approach to Cyber/Information Security.

1.2 This update is aligned to the Council's Cyber Security Strategy ('Strategy') and Associated Action Plan, which were formally endorsed by Cabinet on 30 November 2022 and implemented in December 2022.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 Since implementation of the Strategy positive progress has been made in all of the critical success factors within the Strategy and Action Plan. It is important to acknowledge that the Council can never be 100% secure and there is further work to progress, however we are in a much stronger position than in December 2022.

2.2 Highlights the continuation of the positive work undertaken within both the Corporate and Education Cyber Security Forums, which are held regularly on a variety of Cyber Security issues. A positive example of the impact of the Education group, can be seen in Section 5.9 of this report. Within the Corporate domain, positive examples can be seen in the progress detailed within Section 5.10 of this report.

2.3 Introduction of a new Matobo 'Cyber Ninja' Training for all staff, with the ability to audit and track those who have completed the training. Circa 97% (as of mid-October 2023) of all corporate staff having completed the course.

2.4 To further illustrate our progress, the Council has the ability to track our Microsoft Secure Score, which is a KPI generated on the Microsoft platform on how secure our Microsoft 365 environment is. In July 2023, our score was circa 65% and as of October 2023 it is in excess of 80% with further improvements expected over the coming months. For context, the average score for similar organisations is 47%.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To note the status update and the progress made in relation to Cyber/Information Security since the implementation of the Council's Cyber Security Strategy and Associated Action Plan in December 2022.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 To ensure that the Council is continuously monitoring and improving its Governance and Cyber/Information Security arrangements.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 ACCREDITATION

5.1.1 Positive progress in achieving PSN compliance has been made, on our most recent submission the Council were deemed 'In Remediation' and since that point, there has been continued communication with our assessor regarding our application. It is hoped that PSN accreditation will be secured ahead of the results of our upcoming Information Technology Health Check ('ITHC'). The outcome of the ITHC is due in January 2024.

5.1.2 If it is not possible to secure the accreditation in the coming months, the Council will be in a good position to achieve PSN compliance moving into 2024 due to the positive relationship we have now developed with our assessor, leading to a more complete understanding of the requirements and mitigations expected.

5.1.3 Due to the conversations undertaken with our assessor, approval is now being sought from JARD to enable our staff in Trading Standards to access a particular platform, which is used to manage Confiscation Orders. This is currently one of the biggest issues caused by the Council not being PSN compliant and again are hopeful to resolve imminently, regardless of our PSN status.

5.1.4 Participation in a phase 1 pilot of the Cyber Assessment Framework ('CAF') in early 2023, this exercise introduced us to the CAF process and a different method of evaluating our organisation. Since then, we have closely followed both the Welsh and English pilot schemes and the lessons learnt for further developments.

5.1.5 Whilst we await next steps from Welsh Government in relation to CAF, the Council has been able to align more closely to the requirements through the work completed to date, together with the projects we have planned moving forward. It is anticipated that we will revisit and measure ourselves against the CAF in early 2024 to highlight our progress, together with identifying additional areas to strengthen our approach to Cyber/Information Security.

5.2 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

5.2.1 One of our most prominent key performance indicators ('KPIs') used to measure our overall progress has been our Microsoft Secure Score. Also, another key metric being the completion information in relation to the Matobo Cyber Ninjas Training.

5.2.2 Our Microsoft Secure Score is a Microsoft generated KPI of how 'secure' the Council is from the viewpoint of our Microsoft Defender suite. This includes scoring on how well configured our different Defender aspects are, together with the rules that are established on our system. Previously our score was consistently in the range of 60-65%. However, due to the ongoing work in this area, we have seen this increase to in excess of 80%. For context, an average Council estate scores in the range of 45-50%.
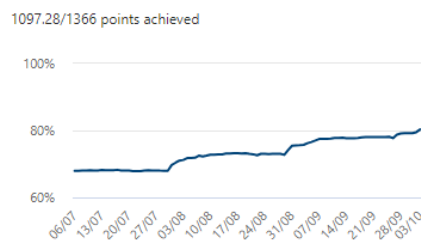
Figure 1- Microsoft Secure Score

5.2.3   Additionally, due to the audit capabilities of the Matobo 'Cyber Ninja' Training, there is the ability to track the percentage of all staff that have completed the training, which hadn't been possible previously. The progress made in this area, both in terms of numbers and evidence will go a long way to ensuring the Council can positively answer these criteria in the various audits that are used to measure our organisational cyber posture.

5.3   TRAINING

5.3.1   The Matobo 'Cyber Ninja' Training has been a big success. As of mid-October 2023, 2785 members of staff have completed the training, which equates to circa 97% of those staff members with a corporate email account. Furthermore, a significant amount of positive feedback about the approach and presentation of the training has been received.

5.3.2   Similarly, 10 Councillors have completed their version of the Matobo 'Cyber Ninja' Training and 3 are currently in progress. With positive feedback being received from those who have so far completed the training. Help and assistance have and will continue to be offered to Councillors with the opportunity to meet and complete the training with one of the Security Team to help explain and talk through some of the queries that may arise throughout the course.

5.3.3   Work is continuing in relation to our Incident Response Policy and Procedure, with the aim of conducting exercises for key members of staff to run through the process. This will allow those involved the chance to see how the procedure works 'in practice', as well as providing the chance for the procedure to be tested and to highlight any blind spots or areas that need further clarification.

5.4   CULTURE

5.4.1   The Cyber Security culture within the organisation is growing, and despite sometimes being seen as a blocker, we are in a good position due to a combination of awareness raising, training and various pieces of work to implement controls on certain key areas, such as the implementation of Azure AD Password Protection for all corporate staff.

5.4.2   Currently carrying out an awareness campaign for Cyber Security Awareness Month, which has involved us providing communications to all staff via email and the intranet across a variety of subjects, such as QR code phishing and ransomware, throughout the month of October. Numerous communications have also been issued throughout the year, especially if there has been a rise in a particular type of phishing email as an example.

5.4.3   Security staff continue to participate in the Warning Advisory and Reporting Point (WARP) and Gwent Local Resilience Forum (LRF) meetings, which provides the

latest information on Welsh/Gwent Cyber projects. Most recently, the introduction and implementation of the Gwent LRF Cyber Incident Response Plan, which provides all participating organisations in the area with the required procedure should an incident occur which requires the notification of the wider group.

5.4.4 In addition to the above, the Council's Security Team remains vigilant to the changing landscape of Cyber Security and endeavour to recommend best practice processes and procedural changes that will allow the Council to strengthen our Cyber resilience not only for the next week but in excess of 3 years plus. Examples includes the evaluation of passwordless authentication, if and how the Council can use the various generative AI tools that are being introduced, such as the upcoming Microsoft copilot. Also ensuring the creation of adaptable policies, where it's possible, so that the Council is able to adjust with the landscape without having to continue to re-write policies.

5.5 SUPPLY CHAIN

5.5.1 A vitally important area that requires further development, however it is important to highlight that all public and private sector organisations understand the need to learn and improve ways of working. It is well publicised that more and more organisations are being compromised via their supply chain. Work has begun in conjunction with staff across Procurement and Information Services that will aim to ensure we understand and ask the right questions of our third parties at the outset and also ensure regular checks and due diligence is undertaken via proactive contract management. Ensuring that we maintain up to date and accurate information throughout the lifespan of applicable contracts.

5.5.2 As part of the above project, the initial phase is aimed at our critical digital services/ IT suppliers. This will allow us to evaluate a crucial aspect of our supply chain, thus adding to and strengthening our Security posture and building upon the work that has already been done in this area, such as the development of our Cloud Compliance Assessment for all cloud services, which is based on the NCSC's Cloud Security Principles.

5.6 INCIDENT REPORTING

5.6.1 The Gwent LRF Incident Response Plan has now been published and is live. The document provides the Council with a step-by-step guide should an incident occur, that is of sufficient size and impact that we would need to alert other local organisations. Whilst this is a process that would be expected of us as a member of the Gwent LRF forum, there is now a clear procedure to follow, together with other important and relevant information.

5.6.2 This information has proven useful and beneficial when updating our own Incident Response Plan, which is currently underway. The Gwent LRF Plan will be used and where applicable incorporated within the Council's specific Plan thus ensuring a consistent approach that escalates appropriately depending on the severity and impact of an incident. The Plan also includes incident-specific playbooks. These are adjusted actions to be taken for specific scenarios. For example, but not limited to, if the Council is hit by a Phishing attack the response will be different than being hit by a Ransomware attack.

5.6.3 In addition to the above policies and procedures, an exercise program is currently being considered that will enable the Council to undertake a run through of our policies and procedures. It is anticipated that this will be undertaken on an annual basis together with multiple table-top exercises to hopefully ensure that our plans, processes and procedures remain relevant and accurate, so if an incident were to happen then

our response is fit-for-purpose.

5.7 DOCUMENT REVIEW

5.7.1 As stated in Section 5.6 immediately above, work is well underway on reviewing and updating our Cyber Incident Response Policy and Plan.

5.7.2 To support our approach with the Supply Chain, updates have been incorporated within the Council's Data Processing Agreement. Together with the inclusion of additional Cyber/Information questions within the Council's e-tendering system, Proactis. In time this will allow the Council to search and filter on economic operators within our Supply Chain that have accreditation to a Cyber Security standards together with the associated evidence. In addition, this will allow us to identify economic operators that require further development in this vitally important area, thus allowing the Council to implement risk mitigation measures if and when necessary.

5.7.3 In the immediate, future work will be commencing on updating our Cyber/Information Security Policy. The revision will incorporate and reflect our current working practices, bringing together a number of our recent policy/procedural changes, such as formalising our approach on Bring Your Own Device (BYOD), including mention of the Conditional Access Policy as well as our Cyber Incident Response Policy and Playbooks.

5.8 SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTRE ('SOC') / SECURITY INFORMATION AND EVENT MANAGEMENT ('SIEM') PROJECT

5.8.1 The Welsh Government are looking to introduce a cross-council Security Operations Centre ('SOC') solution. This will involve the Council 'plugging into' the SOC and provide information already created and available, in the form of logs, so they can monitor and highlight any possible malicious patterns and activities.

5.8.2 There has been delays with the Welsh Government procurement procedure, which is currently planned to commence and go live at the end of October 2023, it is currently hoped the implementation will commence in early 2024. There remains uncertainty regarding the extent of the project and potential solutions as undoubtedly there will be differences between bidding organisations. However, once the procurement procedure commences further information will be available to understand matters in more detail.

5.8.3 Due to the prevalence of E3 and E5 Microsoft licensing across Welsh Councils, it is highly likely the solution will be compatible with Microsoft. Therefore, to ensure the Council can take advantage of any potential solution work has been undertaken and will continue on better utilising and configuring our Microsoft Defender suite, in line with Microsoft recommendations. This will undoubtedly benefit the Council on whether the SOC project is implemented or not, subject to the outcome of the procurement procedure.

5.8.4 Furthermore the Council is due to undertake a Microsoft funded Proof of Concept ('PoC') with a third party, namely Bridewell. This PoC will further enhance our knowledge and understanding of how the current information within Microsoft Defender can be used within Microsoft Sentinel. This will also be beneficial in terms of understanding potential costs and implementation if this platform is identified as the preferred option following conclusion of Welsh Government's Procurement procedure.

5.9 EDUCATION

5.9.1 The Education Cyber Security Forum ('ECSF') have continued on a monthly basis since the first meeting in May 2022. The ECSF includes staff from Schools Support, Information Security and Information Governance attending and working to improve the Cyber/Information Security within the learning domain. Undoubtedly the ECSF has been a catalyst for the improvements made across the Learning domain as an example the improvements made in software patching (amongst others).

5.9.2 Work is continuing on the outstanding vulnerabilities and issues with the aim of maintaining this level of Cyber/Information Security, however it is important to highlight the impact that has been achieved in the recent past.

5.9.3 Staff with ECSF have strengthened ties and working relationships with School representatives in a variety of ways. Examples include:

- Schools Cyber Incident Report Procedure was drafted and ratified by the ECSF and subsequently issued to all Schools for ratification via Governing bodies.

- ECSF issued a 'Newsletter' containing pertinent and succinct information relating to Cyber/Information Security and regular communications will continue with positive feedback received.

- In April 2023 an initial meeting was arranged with the Secondary Schools Network Managers to discuss a variety of issues. Additional meetings have and will continue as business as usual.

- In June 2023, access to Lansweeper was given to Secondary Schools Network Managers, to benefit from the technical data all the PCs and Servers within their individual Schools. The response has been very positive, the provision of direct access to reports for the Network Managers will undoubtedly assist the Council in our aims, but also demonstrates trust and collaborative working with our Schools.

- Members of the Security Team have joined the Jisc Cyber Security Community, made up of over 1000 professionals responsible for Cyber Security matters across the Education sector in the UK.

- Discussions being held with representatives of a third party, namely, NCC Group with the aim of conducting a gap analysis against the technical requirements of the Education Digital Standards, thus enabling the Security Team to further enhance our knowledge and prioritise our next phase of work across of Learning domain.

- Continue to build upon the positive work in relation to our Corporate approach to Password Security and look to implement a comparable standard (if not the same) within the Learning domain.

5.10 CORPORATE

5.10.1 Similarly, the Corporate Cyber Security Forum ('CCSF') has continued on a monthly basis. The CCSF includes staff from Information Security, Digital Solutions, Digital Infrastructure and Corporate Support attending and working to improve the Cyber/Information Security within the Corporate domain, in line with the Critical Success Factors within our Cyber Security Strategy. As with the ECSF, the CCSF has been a catalyst for the improvements made across the corporate domain, as an example the improvements made with regard to our corporate passwords (amongst others).

5.10.2 The Council introduced and implemented Azure AD Password Protection. This prevents users from setting passwords which don't meet our required complexity standard and allows certain passwords/words to be blacklisted. In essence all those passwords that were 'cracked' have been added to the blocked list and cannot be used.

5.10.3 As of mid-October 2023 and in preparation for the next ITHC a password cracking exercise was undertaken. The exercise included checking passwords against the last 5 years of 'cracked' passwords internally, together with against the most frequent 100,000 passwords globally. The upcoming ITHC may identify further password vulnerabilities as the organisation utilises more up to date and complex methods.

5.10.4 Staff within CCSF have strengthened ties and working relationships corporately in a variety of ways. Examples include:

- CCSF have worked to remediate the vulnerabilities found in the latest ITHC and ensure they are not present across the corporate domain, as well as in the 10% checked in the ITHC, with the majority of the remaining vulnerabilities being issues with our Supply Chain and work is ongoing to address these.

- Multiple project groups have been established with members of Information Security and Digital Services involved from the start to manage IT projects across the Council. One group has been involved with the ongoing work to move the critical applications to Software as a Service (SaaS) solutions to improve our resilience. Another such group was set up in preparation for the 2012 servers end of life (10 October 2023).

- There have been general positive communications through updates and informational messaging through the Communications Unit between the Security Team, the SIRO, the Director and the Council, such as the current communications around Cyber Security Awareness Month, as well as previous communications sent to all users on Password Day and when we see a noticeable uptick in certain phishing tactics.

- CCSF have worked on vulnerability reduction and increasing our security posture in general. Ensuring the latest NCSC guidance and 10 Steps to Cyber Security is being followed, such as ensuring the latest patches are installed where necessary, especially where the vulnerability is actively being exploited or poses an imminent risk. An example of where this approach has helped protect the Council is where Digital Infrastructure Manager Jonathan James was able to update our Citrix NetScaler on the 19 July 2023 and mass exploitation of the issue by cybercriminals began on the 20 July 2023.

- The CCSF, and the wider Security and Digital Services Team have begun shifting focus to Windows 10, which will be unsupported after 14 October 2025. This early focus will allow the upgrade away from Windows 10 to become BAU and mean as we close in on the 2025 deadline, any 'problem' systems would have been identified and have an approach and any mitigations agreed in a timely manner.

- The Security Team are in the process of implementing the use of Microsoft Attack Simulator. This will be used to send fake phishing emails to staff twice a year to determine areas needing further education/training and act as 'little and often' training in addition to our annual training resource, currently the Matobo 'Cyber Ninja' Training.

- The Council have signed up to a variety of NCSC approved schemes to provide additional monitoring, such as Police Cyber Alarm and NCSC Notifications. Additionally, the Security Team continue to participate in a variety of wider

forums, such as Warning, Advice and Reporting Point (WARP) and Gwent LRF and provide updates to the CCSF as necessary.

5.11   Conclusion

5.11.1 The Council is in a much stronger position than in December 2022 as progress has been made across all critical success factors within the Strategy and Action plan.

5.11.2 The Corporate and Education Cyber Security Forums continue to have a positive impact on the Council's Cyber Security posture and act as a key contributor for new and ongoing improvements.

5.11.3 The rollout of the new Matobo Cyber Security Training has been a success, with circa 97% (as of mid-October 2023) of all corporate staff having completed the training.

6.   ASSUMPTIONS

6.1   There are no assumptions in respect of the current recommendations of this report.

7.   SUMMARY OF THE INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1   There is no Integrated Impact Assessment in respect of the current recommendations of this report.

8.   FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1   There are no financial implications in respect of the current recommendations of this report.

9.   PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1   There are no personnel implications in respect of the current recommendations of this report.

10.   CONSULTATIONS

10.1   This report has been sent to the Consultees listed below and all comments received are reflected within this report.

11.   STATUTORY POWER

11.1   NCSC 10 Steps to Cyber Security

Author: Matthew Cuthbert, Information Security Manager
                   (cuthbm@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Consultees: Cllr Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Property and Highways,
                   Corporate Management Team (CMT) on 16 November 2023,
                   Richard (Ed) Edmunds, Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services,
                   Elizabeth Lucas, Head of Customer and Digital Services,

Ian Evans, Procurement and Information Manager,
Customer and Digital Services Management Team,
Wesley Colyer, Senior Information Security Officer,
Edward Thomson, Information Security Officer,
Mackenzie Evans, IT and Digital Support Apprentice.
Cyber Security Forum, Corporate,
Cyber Security Forum, Education.

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CORPORATE AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 9TH JANUARY 2024

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY BENEFITS GUIDANCE- FOR PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENTS WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY IMPACT

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

1.   PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1   To seek the views of Members on the proposed Community Benefits Guidance for projects and developments with the potential for significant community impact, before decision by Cabinet in February.

1.2   To highlight the role of Caerphilly County Borough Council in working with private sector partners, in partnership with our local communities, to secure meaningful and sustainable benefits.

2.   SUMMARY

2.1   The report explains the role of the Council in promoting community benefits in collaboration with private sector partners.

2.2   It outlines the process of developing this Community Benefits Guidance for projects and developments with the potential for significant community impact.

3.   RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1   That Scrutiny Committee consider the guidance and provide comments to Cabinet. The aim of the guidance is to establish the Council's stance on standards for developers when delivering Community Benefit Contributions (CBCs) to local communities within the County Borough.

4.   REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1   There are numerous opportunities for renewable energy developments across Caerphilly County Borough. In addition, other projects such as tip restoration can

have a prolonged and adverse effect on communities. Developments can help to support local and national net zero and decarbonisation objectives and improve the natural amenity of the county borough. However, the adverse burden on the host communities should be recognised by developers and should be compensated by long-term and sustainable CBCs.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 This report outlines the draft version of the Community Benefits Guidance for projects and developments with the potential for significant community impact. It recognises the need for such guidance given the numerous potential opportunities for major projects and developments including low carbon energy developments- wind, solar, hydro-electric and hydrogen and potentially, decommissioning and remedial projects. This guidance is intended for developers seeking to work with, harness and utilise the resources of the county borough and to ensure that communities derive the maximum benefit from hosting such developments in their locality through the provision of direct voluntary community benefits.

Community Benefit Contributions Definitions

5.2 Community Benefit Contributions are 'goodwill' financial contributions voluntarily donated by a developer for the benefit of communities hosting a development.

5.3 Community Benefit Contributions can be monetary, or the delivery of projects and activities to improve the social, environmental, economic and cultural well-being of the area. CBCs can contribute to a range of national and local objectives.

5.4 CBCs are often made by the developers of projects where the adverse burden is recognised in communities, but suitable mitigation measures would be difficult to invoke. CBCs are an arrangement between the developer and the community, and entirely outside the statutory planning role of the Council. Such contributions are unconnected to the procurement of contracts by the Council and are a best described as a relationship between the developer and the community in which the development is located.

5.5 CBCs are a mechanism to deliver social value in projects. However, CBCs should not be considered as the only way to deliver social value. Developers are encouraged to consider all elements of their project, including, for example, designing in environmental improvements such as habitat provision, or landscaping provision beyond screening out potential nuisance.

Role of Caerphilly County Borough Council

5.6 CBCs are NOT a mechanism to make a development more acceptable in planning terms and they are not taken into account when determining any application for planning consent.

5.7 Teams within the Council will work regularly and closely with local community groups, and the formalised third sector, to provide insight and community intelligence that will be available to support the development of CBCs.

5.8 The Council has a well-being power under local government legislation (Local Government Act 2000) to do anything it considers will improve the well-being of the

area and for this reason it will take an active role in the development of CBCs in its area.

5.9   The Council will encourage developers to use this guidance and communicate directly with us at the earliest opportunity to secure the greatest level of benefits possible for local communities.

Establishing CBC Schemes

5.10   A number of mechanisms are readily available to support the establishment of the Community Benefit Scheme.

5.11   Data and assessment of local communities is readily available from the Council. CBCs should set out how their contributions have been developed to meet the particular needs of the local community by referencing its unique position and building on the existing assets of the community.

5.12   Community engagement and effectively involving the full breath of a local community in developing a CBC is crucial. The Council has a key role in ensuring that as wide as possible representation is heard, especially from groups in the community whose voices are less well heard. Insights, intelligence and the community voice are key aspects of the Council's delivery and again, the Council has a broad base of contacts and local community groups which should be used in developing CBCs. Advice should be sought at the earliest opportunity to ensure effective engagement and involvement.

5.13   Proximity should be considered in the context of benefits and should be directed to geographic areas with regards to the level of impact they experience, the level of any impact expected in a community should be reflected in the proportion of benefits provided to that community. The Council believes that the most affected communities should receive a proportional benefit and the CBC should not be averaged over a wider area.

5.14   Community Benefit schemes should cover the whole of the lifecycle of a project or development and recognise the stages in its lifecycle. Decommissioning of a project and the restoration of the land involved has the potential to have as adverse an effect on communities as commissioning and build. Recognition of this phase of a project should be built into the amount, type and scheduling of the CBCs offered.

Use and Purpose

5.15   The purpose of the guidance is to achieve the best CBC outcome for local communities   and to ensure that local data and community engagement is used in determining the use, and purpose, of CBCs. The guidance recognises the burden that may be placed on communities that host renewable energy and other developments.

5.16   This guidance will seek to serve social, economic and cultural purposes. Each community is different and CBC funded projects will also be different. However, projects should support the long-term well-being of those communities and projects developed using these contributions. They should support, thriving, prosperous and resilient communities, with good infrastructure, facilities and local nature amenity. The guidance sets out the Council's preferred uses.

5.17   The partners in a CBC are the developer and the affected community, or communities. CBCs are not an agreement between the Council and the developer and the Council's role is to guide the development of CBCs and advocate on behalf of communities. However, for the reasons set out above the Council has a key role to play in ensuring the maximum possible monetary and well-being benefit. The Council will work with developers to support any proposed mechanism for delivery but will seek to ensure that key principles are followed and that openness, transparency and accountability are embedded in the CBC.

5.18   The support for the delivery of this Guidance and negotiation with developers will be provided by the Council's Regeneration Team.

Conclusion

5.19   It is anticipated that this guidance will support our communities impacted by major developments to maximise the monetary and social potential provided by CRCs. It will also provide developers with a consistent understanding of the expectations of communities in the county borough.

6.   ASSUMPTIONS

6.1   There are no assumptions.

7.   SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1   The Guidance is intended to support communities in their CBC negotiations with developers. While the guidance aims to support significant additional resources available to community projects, how any funds are ultimately used cannot be assessed. The guidance itself does not adversely impact on any groups.

Link to IIA

8.   FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1   As this is a voluntary agreement between developers and communities there are no direct financial implications for the council. There may some costs associated with existing Regeneration staff assisting communities in the negotiations, this will be absorbed within staffing costs.

9.   PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1   There are no personnel implications.

10.   CONSULTATIONS

10.1   This guidance is still being developed. The views of the Council's Planning and Regeneration teams and GAVO have been included. Further engagement with key stakeholders, including with Caerphilly Cares, Town and Community Councils and developers, is still to take place, and will further inform the final guidance. The views of this committee are sought.

10.2   The draft report and guidance were distributed as detailed below. All comments received have been reflected within the report.

11.   STATUTORY POWER

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

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Community Benefits Guidance – for Projects and Developments with the Potential for Significant Community Impact

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Caerphilly County Borough Council

Community Benefits Guidance- for projects and developments with the potential for significant community impact

Contents:

AIMS

Caerphilly County Borough Council welcomes major projects and developments that have the potential to deliver positive economic, societal, and environmental change.

The Council is committed to supporting and enabling Community Benefit Contributions (CBCs) for the county borough from all major developments to improve the well-being of local communities, improve quality of life and provide long term, sustainable community investment.

The Council has no power to compel developers to provide voluntary CBCs, however, we will be proactive, consistent, and transparent in our approach to working with private and public sector partners, in partnership with our local communities, to secure meaningful and sustainable benefits.

This guidance is aimed at developers and communities and sets out the Council's expectations in relation to CBCs. It serves as a source of advice to both sides of the

CBC equation, the developer, and the local community in which the development is situated.

INTRODUCTION

The county borough area provides numerous opportunities for major projects and developments, including, **but not limited to**, low carbon energy developments- wind, solar, hydro-electric and hydrogen. This guidance is intended for use by developers seeking to harness and utilise the resources of the county borough, to ensure that communities derive the maximum benefit from hosting such developments in their locality through the provision of direct voluntary community benefits.

The scale and significance of projects has a direct impact on communities. The Council will seek to ensure that social value can be derived from these developments to the benefit of those most impacted by them and to provide a lasting and sustainable legacy for future generations.

Community Benefit Contributions have the potential to support and contribute to the wellbeing of communities and the people living within them. They can be used to improve quality of life, alleviate poor socio-economic situations, improve multiple deprivation factors, improve local biodiversity, empower resilient communities and support community participation and engagement. This could be via direct support for projects in the community, or monetary contributions to recognised and constituted community groups. Statutory land use and planning seek to ensure that adverse impacts on communities are avoided, minimised or mitigated wherever possible.

Under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended, contributions can be sought from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure, the need for which has arisen as a result of a new development taking place. This funding is commonly known as 'Section 106'. Community Benefit Contributions are unrelated to the Town and Country Planning Act, however they are increasingly voluntarily offered by developers to recognise that the location of some projects has the potential for adverse impact on communities, and by way of mitigation they provide benefits direct to the community concerned. The impacts a community may experience could include accommodating disruption from construction, changes in the landscape, changes in the way land is used and accessed, and intangible but important aspects such as changes in the sense of place and qualities such as tranquillity and nature amenity.

The Council is committed to enabling this process and will offer its data, assessments, and its linkages into local communities to facilitate it.

The Council recognises that renewable energy developments can contribute towards both the UK and Welsh Governments' targets that have been set for the generation of energy, which are a key part of their commitment to decarbonisation and tackling the climate emergency. Building a more resilient and equitable low-carbon economy and helping to meet carbon reduction targets are equally important to the Council,

are part of its **Corporate Plan (2023-2028)** commitments and contribute to our own well-being objectives for the area and the national well-being goals for Wales. Our well-being objective- **Enabling Our Environment to be Greener** includes an outcome to promote and explore green energy opportunities for the council, communities and local businesses. However, this guidance is intended to be equally applicable to other projects and developments that have the potential to impact on the community in which they are located.

WHAT ARE COMMUNITY BENEFIT CONTRIBUTIONS?

Community Benefit Contributions (CBCs) are 'goodwill' financial contributions voluntarily donated by a developer for the benefit of communities hosting a development. They can be monetary, or the delivery of projects and activities to improve the social, environmental, economic and cultural well-being of the area. CBCs can contribute to a range of national and local objectives. They are often offered by developers of projects where the adverse impact is recognised in communities, but suitable mitigation measures would be difficult to invoke. They provide an opportunity to recognise the objectives in the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the socio-economic aims of public bodies, including the Council. The Council's role is to support CBCs recognising that they are an arrangement between the developer and the community, and entirely outside the statutory planning role of the Council as the Local Planning Authority. Such contributions are unconnected to the procurement of contracts by the Council and are a best described as a relationship between the developer and the community in which the development is located.

Social Capital

Social capital relates to societal, environmental, economic and cultural well-being which in turn derive from sustainable development goals and principles. CBCs are one mechanism to deliver social capital in projects. However, CBCs should not be considered as the only way to deliver social capital and developers are encouraged to consider this in all elements of their project, including, for example, designing in environmental improvements such as habitat provision, or landscaping provision beyond screening out potential nuisance. The Council will seek to ensure that CBCs reflect social capital objectives by:

- Asking that they align with Welsh Government social value objectives.
- Engaging effectively with the affected communities.
- Asking that they seek to alleviate any particular socio-economic context of the community in question.
- Measuring and reporting on social value outcomes as part of CBC monitoring.

Local Ownership

Local ownership offers the opportunity to buy shares or make an investment in developments. This opportunity can be for individuals or communities. By taking a share in projects, local communities can directly benefit from the profits of a project. If local ownership forms part of a CBC proposal, the Council's view is that this would be more equitably offered to the community rather than individuals living within the area, as the most socio-economically disadvantaged will likely lack the purchasing power to avail themselves of the offer.

Industry Standard

As of December 2023 Welsh Government's current Community Benefit Fund assumptions for wind (£5k/MW) matches the level suggested by Scottish Government and RenewableUK, a lower level for solar (£2.5k/MW) is suggested due to the lower yield per MW associated with solar, as a starting point for discussions between developers and communities.

Role of Caerphilly County Borough Council

CBCs are NOT a mechanism to make a development more acceptable in planning terms and they are not taken into account when determining any application for planning consent. No Councillor or Officer will be permitted to be involved in any discussions or negotiations in respect of a CBC, and then also participate in a land use planning (decision-making) process that corresponds to the development.

The Council holds a wealth of data and information about its communities including the current local assessment of well-being that divides the county borough into five geographical areas for community planning processes.

Gwent Well-being Assessment - Gwent Public Services Board Gwent Public Services Board (gwentpsb.org)

Teams within the Council work regularly and closely with local community groups and the formalised third sector, and have a wealth of insight and community intelligence that will be available to support the development of CBCs.

The Council has a well-being power under local government legislation (Local Government Act 2000) to do anything it considers will improve the well-being of the area and for this reason it will take an active role in the development of CBCs in its area.

The Council will encourage developers to use this guidance and communicate directly with us at the earliest opportunity to secure the greatest level of benefits possible for local communities. The Council has a longstanding and supportive relationship with the community and voluntary sector through the Third Sector Partnership Agreement. Its partners include the Gwent

Association of Voluntary Organisations, Gwent Police and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Natural Resources Wales, Public Health Wales and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

Council officers that facilitate or assist in the data, assessments and community engagement to support CBCs will hold roles entirely outside of the statutory planning process.

ESTABLISHING THE COMMUNITY BENEFIT SCHEME

Community Benefit Contributions should seek to support place-shaping initiatives which improve and increase access to community assets, including public spaces and anything that collectively improves community well-being.

Data and Assessment
The Council and its public sector partners hold a wealth of data, both quantitative and qualitative around local communities. Developers will find this data on the Gwent Public Services Board's website as hyperlinked above and further insight can be obtained from teamcaerphilly@caerphilly.gov.uk.

CBCs should set out how their contributions have been developed to meet the particular needs of the local community by referencing its unique position and building on the existing assets of the community.

Community Engagement
Effectively involving the full breadth of a local community in developing a CBC is vitally important in ensuring that a few groups, or voices, do not hold undue influence over the decisions that will be taken as part of the CBC development.

The Council has a key role in ensuring that as wide as possible representation is heard, especially from groups in the community whose voices are less well heard. Insights, intelligence and the community voice are key aspects of the Council's delivery and again, the Council has a broad base of contacts and local community groups which should be used in developing CBCs. Advice should be sought at the earliest opportunity to ensure effective engagement and involvement. An engagement plan should be developed at the outset of a CBC and shared with the Council for comment and advice.

The Third Sector
The community and voluntary sector in the county borough are vibrant, effective and hard-working. Local voluntary groups are key to ensuring the resilience of local communities and offer a representative voice for the people living in the area.

The formalised local Community Voluntary Council - the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) works well with the Council and its other partners through the local Third Sector Partnership Agreement. CBCs should seek to support the sector and these arrangements in the county borough.

Local Representatives

Many areas of the county borough are served by Town and Community Councils. As the tier of democracy closest to communities they will have a vested interest in the development of CBCs where any are proposed in their areas. Noting that not all of the county borough area has this tier of democracy.

The Council's own 69 elected members cover 30 wards across the county borough and these members are the democratically elected representatives of the residents in the area. Their role means they have a range of insight and views on the development of their local communities that should be factored into the development of CBCs. However, like the separation role of officers of the Council, they are unconnected to planning decisions in their local areas.

Proximity Principle

The proximity principle simply provides that benefits should be directed to geographic areas with regards to the level of impact they experience; the level of any impact expected in a community should be reflected in the proportion of benefits provided to that community. The cumulative impact and concentration of other projects should be considered when developing the CBC. The most affected communities should receive a proportional benefit and the CBC should not be averaged over a wider area.

The Council advises a transparent, equitable and well-publicised approach to decisions around proximity and acknowledges that developers will seek to ensure that the distribution of CBCs reflects localised impacts. Openness and the ability to influence proximity decisions should be part of the engagement process when developing CBCs.

Amount and Timing of Contributions

The amount of benefit provided by the CBC will vary with each project or development. The time at which benefits become available may also depend on the nature of the project. However, the Council will seek to ensure that benefits become available to communities at the earliest point possible in the project lifecycle. CBCs are expected to be provided for the whole of the operational life of the project. The amount, type and scheduling of CBCs should be set out at the beginning of their development and be part of engagement with communities.

The approach to community benefits has been widely adopted for renewable energy projects and the Council will expect developers to commit to provide

community benefits equivalent to the current industry standard per MW of installed capacity, or equivalent benefits-in-kind, directly to host communities.

For other projects and developments, the industry standards are less well developed and understood, although they are evolving. The Council will, again, seek to ensure that a fair and representative amount is offered to local affected communities with an equitable proximity calculation built in.

Decommissioning

Community Benefit schemes should cover the whole of the lifecycle of a project or development and recognise the stages in its lifecycle. Decommissioning of a project and the restoration of the land involved has the potential to have as adverse effect on communities as commissioning and build. Recognition of this phase of a project should be built into the amount, type and scheduling of the CBCs offered.

USE AND PURPOSE OF THE COMMUNITY BENEFIT SCHEME

The Council's role is to achieve the best CBC outcome for local communities and to ensure that local data and community engagement is used in determining the use and purpose of CBCs. It may be appropriate for the Council to administer the funds allocated to the CBC, which has happened for renewable energy schemes in the past. GAVO also administers CBC schemes on behalf of communities. However, this is not intended to be the standard approach and the best administration mechanism will be determined as part of the CBC development.

Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural purposes

The unique data, intelligence and engagement with communities will determine the most appropriate criteria for each CBC. However, the long-term sustainability of communities will be the focus of development and the Council will seek agreement that long-term projects will be developed using contributions. Projects that support the long-term well-being of future generations, thriving, prosperous and resilient communities, with good infrastructure, facilities and local nature amenity will be preferred. Indicative areas would be:

- Investing in young people by promoting skills development and apprenticeship opportunities;
- Supporting the local economy through targeted training and recruitment of local labour, sourcing materials, contractors and services locally etc. reducing the need to travel and improving sustainability;
- Providing means of alleviating disadvantageous circumstances and raising aspirations amongst individuals and groups, for example, through scholarships to local universities and colleges, work placements and visits to operational facilities;

- Supporting services which improve community cohesion and quality of life for example, youth engagement and participation projects;
- Making investments which contribute to sustainable long-term projects in communities;
- Supporting the sustainability of community owned/managed assets i.e community buildings, allotments:
- Promoting and enhancing local identity, distinctiveness and culture recognising the desire to support the Welsh language;
- Providing enhanced support and recognition of the needs of residents with protected characteristics;
- Making contributions to electric vehicle charging infrastructure and the collective imperative of targeting net zero;
- Providing resources for citizens to pursue the low carbon agenda through community-based energy efficiency measures, or community-based energy clubs;
- Providing open space improvements, biodiversity net gain projects, providing or supporting landscape reinstatement or enhancement schemes;
- Providing communities with the opportunities to invest in the proposed development and with the tools to enable them to make better use of their local energy assets; and
- Adding value to existing community projects.

DELIVERY MECHANISMS

The partners in a CBC are the developer and the affected community, or communities. CBCs are not an agreement between the Council and the developer and the Council's role is to guide the development of CBCs and advocate on behalf of communities. However, for the reasons set out above the Council has a key role to play in ensuring the maximum possible monetary and well-being benefit. The Council will work with developers to support any proposed mechanism for delivery but will seek to ensure that key principles are followed and that openness, transparency and accountability are embedded in the CBC.

Key principles
1. The proposal must deliver a defined benefit to local communities, in accordance with the proximity principle and with clear objectives around the outcomes to be achieved.
2. The administration of the fund must involve local people in decision making; while the developer can set the parameters of what the CBC can be used for, they should involve local people in this decision and involve local people in decisions on precise projects and schemes.
3. Funding should be provided to properly constituted community groups rather than individuals, unless an element of the scheme is devoted to educational purposes such as bursaries, or apprenticeships. Funding

bodies should ensure due diligence when determining which groups and projects to support.

4. All processes should be publicised and transparent, the existence of funding and how it will be used and has been used must be easily publicly available. Dedicated websites and social media platforms should be used. However, recognised digital exclusion should be an important part of openness and transparency, options for face-to-face events in communities should be taken to ensure that people with protected characteristics are equally able to contribute.

5. The use of funds should be reported on. An annual report setting out how funds have been used, what projects or schemes have been supported and what outcomes this has resulted in, should be produced and made available to local communities.

6. The holding of CBC funds should be properly managed and audited. Accounts showing the application of funds, including deductions for administrative costs, should be made publicly available at the end of each year of operation to assist the understanding of communities, partners and their representative.

Delivery support

- **Caerphilly Cares** The 'Caerphilly Cares' team, a team of established Caerphilly County Borough Council staff, offers a centralised coordination and response triage service for those county borough residents in need of support for issues such as food poverty, debt or rent arrears, isolation or loneliness. 'Caerphilly Cares' aims to offer the individual a single point of contact with the team, who will assist that individual in getting to the root cause of their issue, meaning they will only need to explain their situation once. The team links up with existing services, both within Caerphilly County Borough Council and with partners, including the voluntary sector and local community groups, supporting that individual through their journey with those various services, from end to end. The team plays a key role in community development and works with local community groups to maximise community and individual well-being.

- **GAVO** Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) is the county voluntary council in Caerphilly. GAVO is one of 19 intermediary bodies in Wales and is an umbrella organisation providing support, advice and information to the voluntary and community sector, with over 800 members in the county borough. GAVO is an invited member representing the voice of the voluntary sector at the Caerphilly Public Services Board, and at a strategic level across the county borough. GAVO supports joint working through the Caerphilly Well-being Plan, the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee and forums and networks.

- **GAVO Community Development and Volunteering Officers** provide governance, sustainable funding and volunteering, support & advice to

the Third Sector in Gwent, including community and voluntary groups as well as individuals who are interested in helping and supporting their community.

CONTACT

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