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For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Andrea Jones
(Tel: 01443 873575 Email: jonesa23@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Date: 8th May 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, 14th May, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissy', enclosed in a large, loopy oval shape.

Christina Harrhy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

	Pages
1 To receive apologies for absence.	

A greener place Man gwyrddach



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 20th February 2024. 1 - 8
- 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. 9 - 20
- 6 To receive and consider the following Cabinet reports*: -

1. Community Benefit Contributions Guidance- For Projects and Developments with The Potential for Significant Community Impact – 21st February 2024;
2. Caerphilly Station Footbridge Review – 21st February 2024;
3. Demolition Of the Former Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School – 21st February 2024;
4. Private Wire Arrangement Between Bryn Group and Caerphilly County Borough Council – (EXEMPT) - 21st February 2024;
5. Whole-Authority Revenue Budget Monitoring Report (Month 9) – 27th February 2024;
6. Update On Reserves – 27th February 2024;
7. Budget Proposals for 2024/25 – 27th February 2024;
8. Strategic Equality Plan - Objectives and Actions 2024-2028 – 6th March 2024;
9. Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2022-2023 – 6th March 2024;
10. Annual Self-Assessment Report (Including Well-Being Objectives) 2022/23.- 6th March 2024;
11. Publication Of Gender Pay Gap Data 2023 - Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017 - 6th March 2024;
12. Welsh Government Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rate Relief Scheme 2024/2025 – 6th March 2024;
13. Consultation Outcome – Proposals to Implement Council Tax Premiums on Long-Term Empty Properties and Second Homes – 20th March 2024;
14. Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan – 20th March 2024;
15. UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund - Virements and Project Approvals – 3rd April 2024;
16. Caerphilly Ffos Caerffili -WEFO Funding Update – 3rd April 2024;
17. Resourcing Mobilising Team Caerphilly – Delivery – 3rd April 2024;
18. Six Month Update on The Corporate Complaints Received for The Period 1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023 – 1st May 2024;
19. Health and Safety Policies – 1st May 2024.

**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 873575, by 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 13th May 2024.*

To receive and consider the following Scrutiny reports: -

- 7 Use Of Performance Information And Service User Perspective And Outcomes Report From Audit Wales.

8	Procurement Reform.	41 - 60
9	UK Shared Prosperity Fund - 6 Monthly Monitoring Update Report.	61 - 138

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

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Agenda Item 3



CORPORATE AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD IN PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY 2024 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

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

Cabinet Members:

Councillor P. Leonard (Planning and Public Protection), Councillor N. George (Corporate Services, Property and Highways) and Councillor E. Stenner (Finance and Performance),

Together with:

Officers: R. Edmunds (Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), D. Beecham (Electoral Services Manager), L. Donovan (Head of People Services), K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager), A. Cullinane (Senior Policy Officer – Equalities and Welsh Language), L. Sykes (Deputy Head of Financial Services and s151 Officer), R. Williams (Group Accountant Treasury and Capital), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Manager), and A. Jones (Committee Services Officer).

Also in Attendance:

Councillors S. Morgan (Leader of Council), J. Pritchard, Deputy Leader (Regeneration and Climate Change), K. Etheridge and J. Blair (Director of Electoral Reform Society Cymru) – Speaker on Agenda item 7.

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 J. Fussell and M. Powell.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. CORPORATE AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 9TH JANUARY 2024

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2024 be approved as a correct record and by way of Microsoft Forms and verbal votes (and in noting there were 15 for, 0 against and 1 abstention) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held on 9th January 2024 (minute nos. 1 – 6) 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 February 2024 to March 2024.

It was moved and seconded that the report recommendation be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal votes (and in noting there were 16 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions), this was unanimously agreed.

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

There had been no requests for any of the Cabinet reports to be brought forward for discussion at the meeting.

7. NOTICE OF MOTION – YES TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON SCRAPPING FIRST PAST THE POST

The Chair invited Councillor Etheridge to present the Notice of Motion to the Committee.

Councillor Etheridge confirmed that the Notice of Motion had been emailed to all Councillors and that he was hoping to get support from across all parties to introduce a fairer system regarding proportional representation to help democracy. Members were asked to support the Notice of Motion to allow it to go onto full Council to enable all

Members to have a view on it. Councillor Etheridge referred to a letter he had received from Mark Drakeford MS confirming that the Senedd was introducing a list system, for the next Senedd elections in 2026 and suggested that Caerphilly Council should consider following this example for the next County Borough Elections.

Councillor Etheridge stated he was disappointed with the report as he felt it did not give a balanced view and Officers could have contacted Gwynedd and Powys Councils as part of their research. Councillor Etheridge highlighted 5.7 of the report where it stated there is no provision for electronic counting, therefore counting a STV election would be a lengthy and complex process, with counts taking up to 3 days to complete. Cllr Etheridge disputed this and felt this report gave a negative view to Members.

The Chair invited the Director of Electoral Reform Society Cymru to speak to the Committee.

The Director of the Electoral Reform Society in Wales introduced herself and advised that they are a campaigning organisation that works to make a better democracy and they support the Notice of Motion to consult on a different way to do democracy at a local level in Wales. Members were given a presentation on the current Single Transferable Vote (STV) electoral systems operating in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

A Member sought clarification on whether election staff, candidates and election agents would all be fully informed prior to any new system if introduced. Members were advised that counting would take longer without an electronic counting system, and that there was no finance available to purchase a system. The Electoral Services Manager clarified that the Senedd was looking to go to a list system that is different to the single transferrable vote. It was also confirmed that there was some evidence of an increase in spoils under an STV system.

A Member requested that an explanation of what 5.6 within the report means. The Electoral Services Manager advised that if the Council changed to a STV voting system it would require larger multi member wards to allow the voting mechanism to work. Legislation says that each ward would need to be between three (minimum) and six (maximum) members. To achieve those new wards then the Council would need to undergo a review of the Boundary Commission who are responsible for principal area wards.

A Member sought clarification on 8.1 and asked who would pay any costs. The Electoral Services Manager confirmed that any costs for changing the voting system would fall to the Council to pay.

The Chair had received questions from a member that sought confirmation from the mover of the motion that asked if any investigation on additional costs of pursuing all the necessary consultation processes if this motion was adopted and where would the additional costs be found. It was confirmed that no investigation had been undertaken on additional costs.

Members fully discussed and debated the Notice of Motion and expressed their views on the matter.

Following consideration of the report it was moved and seconded that the Notice of Motion, be supported. By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal votes (and in noting there were 4 for, 10 against and 0 abstention) this was rejected by the majority present. Therefore, the Motion fell.

RESOLVED that the Notice of Motion as outlined in paragraph 5.1 of the Officers report, not be supported.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

8. STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN – OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS 2024-2028

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance introduced the report which sought the views of the Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on the Council's draft Strategic Equality Plan 2024-2028

The Committee were advised that the Public Sector Equality Duty in Wales came into force on the 6th April 2011 and included a requirement for public authorities to develop and publish a Strategic Equality Plan every four years. The Council has had a Strategic Equality Plan in place since 2012 and must now update this for the next 4-year cycle, 2024-2028.

Strategic Equality Plans since 2012 have ensured that the Council has a good foundation in place to continue to improve on our objectives and to assist us in meeting three of the well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The recommendation sought the views of the Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on the draft Strategic Equality Plan 2024-2028, to inform a version to be presented to Cabinet and Council for approval and adoption as Council Policy.

A Member praised the report and noted the significant number of Welsh speakers in the county borough. It was suggested that a Welsh language centre or hub where people (particularly younger people) can meet and use the Welsh language would be of benefit, to encourage its use in social situations. It was suggested that contact with young people to ask what they would like would also be helpful.

The Scrutiny Committee was advised that there is a Welsh Language Forum co-ordinated by Menter Iaith Caerffili which the Council are a member of. This brings together Welsh language organisations including Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RHAG), Mudiad Meithrin, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, local schools, and colleges, etc. which works on different projects with several projects in the pipeline. Caerphilly officers visit schools to discuss the importance of the Welsh language and the benefits of the skills in the workplace. There is a visit planned next week to Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini for example, with Year 10 students to discuss careers and Welsh language skills, with another visit to St Cenydd Comprehensive School the week after to deliver a Year 10 assembly on the same subject.

The Member made some suggestions regarding encouraging Welsh language singers or groups at Caerphilly events to promote it further.

A Member asked if it would be possible to hold short Welsh language sessions for Members to teach some simple words or phrases. It was suggested that this could be arranged prior to Council meetings as a drop-in session for any Member.

The Scrutiny Committee was informed that this was something that could be arranged and there was also a resource available called 'Incidental Welsh' developed by Welsh Government which has been shared with other organisations.

A Member commented on his visits to both Welsh medium schools and English medium schools where Welsh was used very effectively both in the classroom and encouraged in the playground.

Members praised the equality statement, with the LGBTQ content worth highlighting. The Member particularly mentioned the Pride event held in Caerphilly last year and planned again for this year. The Member thanked everyone involved in organising these events. It was clarified that the Pride event this year will be held in Caerphilly again and this was following the survey from last year when people stated they would like to come back to Caerphilly.

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

RECOMMENDED that the views of the Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on the draft Strategic Equality Plan 2024-2028, to be used to inform a version presented to Cabinet and Council for approval and adopted as Council policy.

9. RECRUITMENT UPDATE

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Property and Highways introduced the report which updated the Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on the work undertaken to address the recruitment and retention challenges the Council is experiencing.

Scrutiny Members were made aware from the report to Council on 24th November 2022 entitled 'Workforce Capacity and Associated Challenges' that the Council was facing recruitment and retention challenges across the whole organisation in many service areas and the services affected seem to be under increasing demand in accordance with the national picture. Members were also advised that this was not just a specific challenge to Caerphilly.

Members were advised that a Cabinet meeting held on 19th October 2022 agreed funding for the appointment of a specialist Internal Recruitment Team and that this report provided information of the work undertaken to date by this team and the wider People Services teams and their planned work for the future. Members were asked to note the content of the report.

A Member stated that they were disappointed with the report and felt that it lacked substance and requested for the next report that more information be provided, using 5.11 as an example more information is provided on natural wastage, retirement, those left due to sickness, those gone on disciplinarys to provide a fuller picture. In addition, there is nothing on graduate and sponsorship programs. The program Network 75 was mentioned as an example that works with colleges and universities whereby an organisation would be a sponsor for those individuals doing the course. The Member also asked in relation to 5.12.3 if the numbers of those that declined offers could be provided and if future reports could include how many took up the new appointments.

The Head of People Services confirmed that the numbers were not available but would be provided following the meeting. The committee were advised that the team members had only been in posts for five months and the wider people services team have been doing this function previously. The recruitment team has been working on the priorities within the council for Catering, Housing and Care with a lot of work carried out in the background. It was difficult to know how much detail to put in the report and officers were happy to have discussions with the Chair on the content for any future reports to the committee. In relation to the reasons employees leave, it was clarified that they are reported in the Directorate Performance Assessment reports that are reported regularly to members and the link can be provided to all members.

The Chair thanked the Head of People Services and asked members of the committee to send any information that they would like to see in the reports to him to discuss with the Head of People Services going forward.

The Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services accepted that a lot more detail could have been added to the report and stated that it was important to recognise achievements of the team and put his thanks on record to the team for a fantastic job they have done so far.

RESOLVED that following consideration of the report the Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of this report.

10. CAPITAL STRATEGY REPORT 2024/2025

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance introduced the report which updated the Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on the report prior to its presentation to Council on the 27th February 2024, the Authority's Capital Strategy report for the 2024/25 financial year in accordance with the Prudential Code that was introduced by the Local Government act 2003.

The report cross references to the report by the Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services on Revenue and Capital Budgets ('the budget report') and the Treasury Management Annual Strategy, Capital Finance Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Report for 2024/2025.

The Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee were asked to note the content of the report prior to it being submitted to Council for approval.

Following consideration of the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendations be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal votes (and in noting there were 12 for, 0 against and 0 abstention) this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the Annual Capital Strategy Report be approved.

11. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL STRATEGY CAPITAL FINANCE PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY FOR 2024/2025

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance introduced the report to the Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for consideration prior to its presentation to Council on the 27th February 2024, the Authority's Annual Strategy for Treasury Management.

For consideration prior to its presentation to Council a dataset of Prudential Indicators relevant to Treasury Management and Capital Finance. The report also cross-references to the report by the Deputy Chief Executive on Revenue and Capital Budgets (The Budget Report) also considered in this meeting.

For consideration prior to its presentation to Council the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy to be adopted by the Authority for 2024/2025.

Following consideration of the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendations be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal votes (and in noting there were 11 for, 0 against and 1 abstention) this was agreed by the majority present.

The Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Considered and commented on the report and Appendices and

RECOMMENDED to Council the following: -

1. The Strategy be reviewed quarterly within the Treasury Management monitoring reports presented to the Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and any changes recommended be referred to Cabinet in the first instance and to Council for a decision. The Authority will also prepare quarterly reports on Treasury Management activities.
2. The Prudential Indicators for Treasury Management be approved as per Appendix 5.
3. The Prudential Indicators for Capital Financing be approved as per Appendices 6 & 7.
4. The MRP policy as set out in Appendix 8 be adopted.
5. The 2023/24 investment strategy and the lending to financial institutions and Corporates in accordance with the minimum credit rating criteria disclosed within this report be continued.
6. The Authority continues to adopt the investment grade scale as a minimum credit rating criterion to assess the credit worthiness of suitable counterparties when placing investments.
7. The monetary and investment duration limits as set in Appendix 3 of the report be adopted.

The meeting closed at 18:53 p.m.

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th May 2024.

CHAIR

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CORPORATE AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14TH MAY 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 20th February 2024. The work programme outlines the reports planned for the period May 2024 until March 2025.
- 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 22nd April 2024. 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 jacqu@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 Scrutiny - Appendix 1

Date	Title	Key Issues	Author	Cabinet Member
14/05/24 17:30	Procurement Reform	<p>An update in relation to the UK Central Government and Welsh Government procurement reform agendas.</p> <p>An overview of three new separate legislative requirements coming into force that supports the agendas, namely: Procurement Act 2023, Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023 and Health Service Procurement (Wales) Bill.</p> <p>The Council's approach and position in readiness for the formal implementation of the above-mentioned Acts.</p>	Evans, Ian;	Cllr. George, Nigel;
14/05/24 17:30	Audit Wales – Performance Information Report		Byrne, Sara-Jayne;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
14/05/24 17:30	Shared Prosperity Fund – 6 Monthly Monitoring Update	To provide an update to Scrutiny Committee on the delivery of the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) within Caerphilly CBC as part of the UK Government's Levelling Up programme.	Dallimore, Allan;	Cllr. Pritchard, Jamie;
25/06/24 17:30	Presentation on Recruitment		Donovan, Lynne;	Cllr. George, Nigel;
25/06/24 17:30	Draft Economic Regeneration Strategy	To provide Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to comment on and contribute to the Council's new ten year Economic Regeneration Strategy prior to consideration by Cabinet.	Dallimore, Allan;	Cllr. Pritchard, Jamie;
25/06/24 17:30	Information Item - Welsh Language Standards Annual Report		Cullinane, Anwen;	Cllr. George, Nigel;
24/09/24 17:30				
05/11/24 17:30				
07/01/25 17:30				
18/02/25 17:30				
01/04/25 17:30				

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Cabinet Forward Work Programme – 7th May 2024

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
05/06/24	Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2023/24	To inform Cabinet and seek their endorsement of the progress made during the financial year 2023-2024 against four specific areas of Welsh language work, as required under the regulatory framework for implementing the Welsh Language Standards	Anwen Cullinane /Kath Peters	Cllr Eluned Stenner
05/06/24	The federation of the Cwmaber Infants School and Cwmaber Junior School	To seek Cabinet approval to move to formal consultation, in partnership with each Governing Body, for the federation of Cwmaber Infants School and Cwmaber Junior School	Sue Richards / Andrea West	Cllr Carol Andrews
05/06/24	School Inspection Update - Estyn	To update members on recent Estyn school inspections and to offer an analysis of themes for comment and observations.	Keri Cole	Cllr Carol Andrews
05/06/24	Proposed Changes to Caerphilly CBC's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy	To seek Cabinet approval of a proposed change to the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy in relation to rateable value limits.	Glenn Edwards/ Sean O'Donnell	Cllr Eluned Stenner
05/06/24	Residential Parking Permit Inquiry – Final Report	To advise on the final recommendations of the Scrutiny Task and Finish inquiry into the potential implications of changes to the current Residents' Parking Policy	Mark Jacques	Cllr Nigel George
05/06/24	Exempt Item - Tourism Review: Memorandum of Understanding in respect of Cwmcarn	This item is subject to a public interest test	Allan Dallimore	Cllr James Pritchard

Cabinet Forward Work Programme – 7th May 2024

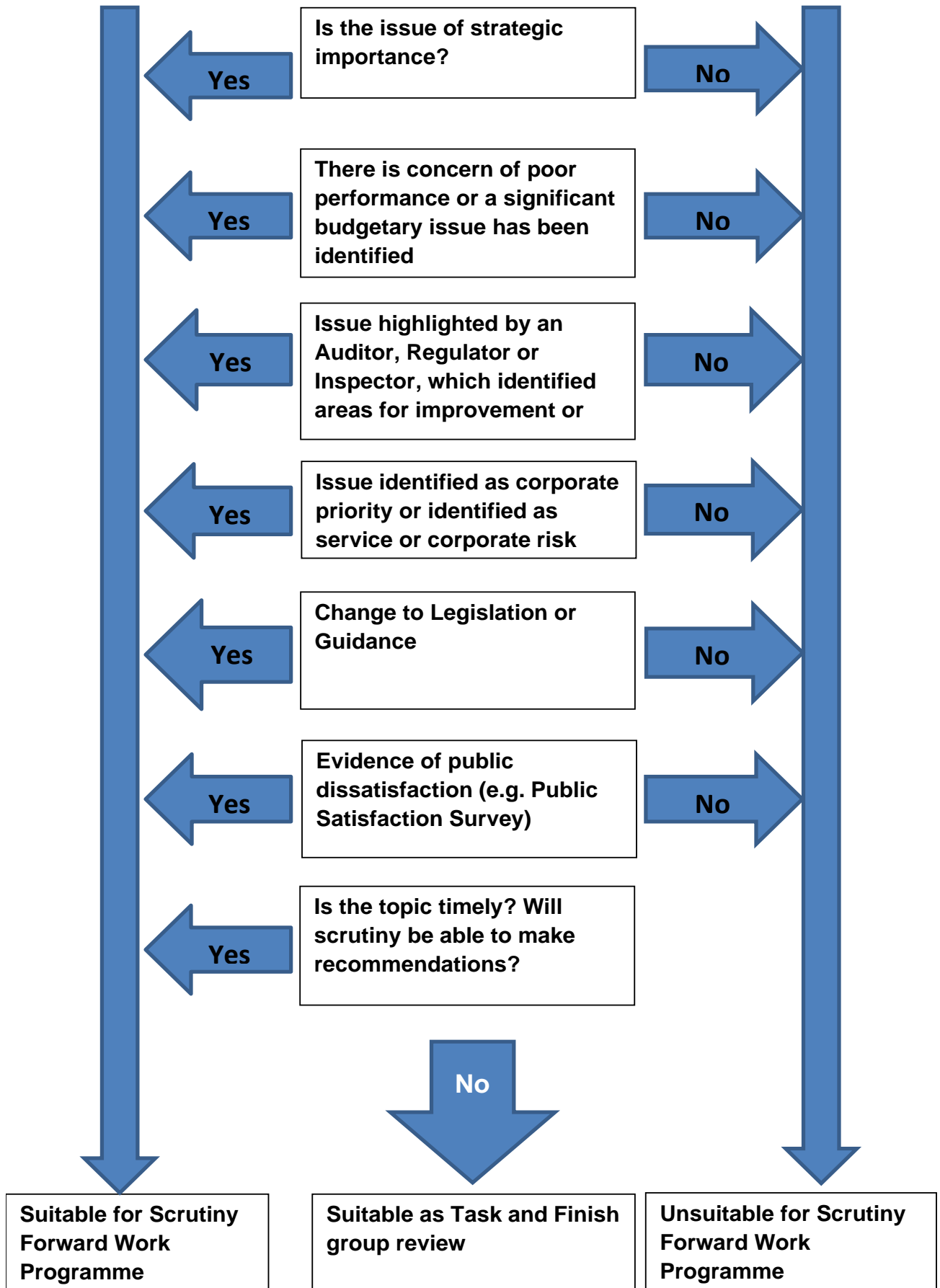
Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
	Forest with Natural Resources Wales			
26/06/24 13:00 p.m.	Sport Caerphilly Disability Sports Camps	To seek approval to replace the current programme of Sport Caerphilly disability sports camps with an offer that is more tailored for the attendees and their changing needs.	Jared Lougher	Cllr Chris Morgan
26/06/24	Local Housing Market Assessment and the Welsh Government Prospectus	To discuss and approve the LHMA and the Prospectus. Welsh Government requires all Local Authorities to undertake a Local Housing Market Assessment and a Prospectus. The documents set out the requirement for housing within the county borough and is utilised to inform the LDP, the allocation of Social Housing Grant and the Council's own Caerphilly Homes development programme.	Nick Taylor-Williams/Jane Roberts-Waite/ Mark Jennings	Cllr Shayne Cook
24/07/24 13:00 p.m.	Proposed Waste Strategy and Consultation Feedback.	Consideration of public consultation feedback in regard Draft Waste Strategy and finalisation of new Waste Strategy to allow development of Full Business case for submission to Welsh Government.	Marcus Lloyd/Hayley Jones/ Hayley Lancaster	Cllr Chris Morgan
24/07/24	Leasing Scheme Wales	To seek Cabinet agreement to adopt the Welsh Government leasing scheme Wales to increase access to the private rented sector	Nick Taylor -Williams	Cllr Shayne Cook

Cabinet Forward Work Programme – 7th May 2024

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
24/07/24	Social Services - Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report	To present the 2023-24 Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report, Forward Work Programme and Safeguarding Key Activity Data for information to ensure Cabinet is fully aware of the Council's arrangements for corporate safeguarding and is satisfied that these arrangements are effective.	Gareth Jenkins	Cllr Elaine Forehead
24/07/24	Public Protection Annual Report	To update Cabinet on the enforcement activities of the public protection division for 2023/24	Rob Hartshorn	Cllr Philippa Leonard
24/07/24	Amalgamation of Hendre Infants and Junior Schools	To seek approval to proceed to Consultation	Sue Richards, Andrea West	Cllr Carol Andrews
24/07/24	Proposal for the closure of Rhydri Primary School	For Scrutiny Members to consider the Objection Report and endorse the recommendation to Cabinet, via vote, to implement the proposal	Sue Richards, Andrea West	Cllr Carol Andrews

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Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme Prioritisation



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CORPORATE AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 14TH MAY 2024

**SUBJECT: USE OF PERFORMANCE INFORMATION AND SERVICE USER
PERSPECTIVE AND OUTCOMES REPORT FROM AUDIT WALES**

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to the committee, the Audit Wales Report, called the 'Use of performance information: Service User perspective and Outcomes which was issued in February 2024. Audit Wales will present their report.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Audit Wales conducted a review across each Authority of how service user perspective and outcome information is provided to senior leaders and how the information is used in performance reporting. The review used the performance reporting through the Directorate Performance Assessment as the evidence base.
- 2.2 Audit Wales notes that "we focused on the performance information provided to senior officers and senior members (senior leaders) about service user perspective and outcomes, and how this information is used. We did not undertake a full review of the Council's performance management arrangements or an in-depth review of the quality of the data that the Council collects. Neither did the review focus on engagement with service users on specific service changes or the development of policies and strategies"
- 2.3 The high-level summary from the review was that "*Overall, we found that the Council provides limited performance information to enable senior leaders to understand the perspective of service users and the outcomes of its activities and thus, effectively manage its performance*" The report is attached as appendix A
- 2.4 Audit Wales made three recommendations for improvement as noted in paragraph 5.4 below, and the Council's Organisational Response Form (ORF) is attached as appendix B

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Scrutiny review and note the report as presented by Audit Wales.
- 3.2 Actions to address the recommendations for improvement will be monitored by Governance and Audit Committee through the 'Regulator Tracker'.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Scrutiny are updated on an external view of how service user perspectives are used in performance reporting.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Audit Wales provided a project brief early 2023 and finalised the project brief in May 2023. The work included provision of the Directorate Performance Assessments and a series of interviews with relevant officers.
- 5.2 Audit Wales provided a draft outcome report to the Council in December 2023. Following the clearance process the final report was received in February 2024. An Organisational Response Form (ORF) in response to their recommendations were returned to Audit Wales (appendix B).
- 5.3 The final Report concluded "*Overall, we found the performance information provided to senior leaders, in Corporate and Directorate Performance Assessments, and the Council's self-assessment report, does not enable senior leadership to have a comprehensive understanding of the service user perspective*"
- 5.4 As such, Audit Wales made three recommendations for improvement which were:
 - R1** Information on the perspective of the service user • The Council should strengthen the information it provides to senior leaders to enable them to understand how well services and policies are meeting the needs of service users
 - R2** Information on progress towards outcomes • The Council should strengthen the information provided to senior leaders to help them evaluate whether the Council is delivering its objectives and intended outcomes.
 - R3** Quality and accuracy of data • The Council needs to assure itself that it has robust arrangements to check the quality and accuracy of the service user perspective and outcomes data it provides to senior leaders
- 5.5 The Council response to the report recommendations is attached (appendix B).
- 5.6 In addition the recommendations and actions to address them as noted in 5.3 will be monitored by Governance and Audit committee twice a year.

Conclusion

Audit Wales will present their findings of Use of performance information: Service User perspective and Outcomes to the Scrutiny Committee and provide fuller details of their findings as noted in Appendix A. The recommendations made have been accepted and action is underway to address the recommendations. In addition to monitoring of the progress at different organisational levels, there will also be monitoring as part of our standard tracking process which is reported to Governance and Audit twice a year.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 No assumptions have been made in this covering report.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 This report is for information and has no decision-making requests, so the Council full Integrated Impact Assessment process does not need to be applied.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no financial implications within this report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no personnel implications within this report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 The report includes the views of the listed consultees.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 The Report was undertaken to help discharge the Auditor General's duties under section 17 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the 2004 Act), and section 15 of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.

Author: Ros Roberts, Business Improvement Manager roberr@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Dave Street, Deputy Chief Executive
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director, Corporate and Education.
Mark S Williams, Corporate Director, Economy, and Environment
Councillor Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member of Performance
Councillor Gary Johnston, Chair of Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny
Councillor Amanda McConnell, Vice Chair of Corporate and Regeneration
Stephen Harris, Head Financial Services and Section 151 Officer
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning and Strategy
Kathryn Peters, Corporate Policy Manager

Background:

Appendices:

Appendix - A Use of performance information: Service User perspective and Outcomes.

Appendix B – Caerphilly County borough council Organisational Response Form

Appendix A

Use of performance information: Service User perspective and Outcomes - Caerphilly County Borough Council

Audit year: 2022-23

Date issued: February 2024

Document reference: FINAL

This document has been prepared as part of work performed in accordance with statutory functions.

In the event of receiving a request for information to which this document may be relevant, attention is drawn to the Code of Practice issued under section 45 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The section 45 code sets out the practice in the handling of requests that is expected of public authorities, including consultation with relevant third parties. In relation to this document, the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit Office are relevant third parties. Any enquiries regarding disclosure or re-use of this document should be sent to Audit Wales at infoofficer@audit.wales.

We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg. This document is also available in Welsh.

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Report summary

- 1 We considered the service user perspective and outcome information provided to senior officers and senior members (senior leaders), and how this information is used.
- 2 Overall, we found that **the Council provides limited performance information to enable senior leaders to understand the perspective of service users and the outcomes of its activities and thus, effectively manage its performance.**
- 3 We have made three recommendations to strengthen the information given to senior leaders.
- 4 Our findings are based on fieldwork we did between May and June 2023.

What we looked at – the scope of this audit

- 5 We focused on the performance information provided to senior officers and senior members (senior leaders) about service user perspective and outcomes, and how this information is used. We did not undertake a full review of the Council's performance management arrangements or an in-depth review of the quality of the data that the Council collects. Neither did the review focus on engagement with service users on specific service changes or the development of policies and strategies.
- 6 We have set out our audit questions and audit criteria in **Appendix 1**. The audit criteria essentially sets out what good looks like and what we would expect to find.
- 7 Overall, we were looking for performance information to be shared with senior leaders to help them understand how well services and policies are meeting the needs of service users and how well they are helping the Council to achieve the outcomes it is working towards. We were also looking to see that senior leaders use this information to monitor progress and take action where necessary to improve outcomes.
- 8 This is an important part of arrangements to ensure that councils are securing value for money in the use of their resources. It is also an important way in which the Council can assure itself that it is acting in accordance with the 'involvement' way of working in taking steps to meet its well-being objectives. Without this information, it is difficult to see how senior leaders can understand whether their policies and actions are having the intended impact and make changes where they are not.
- 9 Our findings are based on document reviews and interviews with the Cabinet Member, Director and senior officer with responsibility for the Council's performance management arrangements. The evidence we have used to inform our findings is limited to these sources.

- 10 We set out to answer the question '**Does the Council's performance data enable senior leaders to understand the service user perspective and the outcomes of its activities to effectively manage its performance?**' We did this by exploring the following questions:
- Does the performance information provided to senior leaders include appropriate information on the perspective of service users?
 - Does the performance information provided to senior leaders include appropriate information on the outcomes of the Council's activities?
 - Does the Council have robust arrangements to ensure that the data provided is accurate?
 - Does the Council use the information to help it achieve its outcomes?
 - Does the Council review the effectiveness of its arrangements?

Why we undertook this audit

- 11 This audit was undertaken to help fulfil the Auditor General's duties under section 17 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the 2004 Act) and section 15 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 12 We sought to:
- gain assurance that the performance information the Council provides to senior officers and elected members enables them to understand the service user perspective and the outcome of its activities;
 - gain assurance that this information forms part of the Council's arrangements to secure value for money in the use of its resources and its application of the sustainable development principle; and
 - identify opportunities for the Council to strengthen its arrangements.

The Council's performance reporting arrangements

- 13 The Council produces annual self-assessment reports, which include details of service performance and progress towards the Council's well-being objectives.
- 14 The Council provides a Corporate Self-Assessment (CPA) and Directorate Performance Assessments (DPA) to Cabinet, Governance and Audit Committee, as well as Scrutiny Committees every six months. The Education Directorate also produces Monitoring and Evaluation Reports.
- 15 Our review focused on these key performance reporting mechanisms.

What we found

The Council provides limited performance information to enable senior leaders to understand the perspective of service users and the outcomes of its activities

The performance information provided to senior leaders gives them limited insight into the perspective of service users

- 16 Overall, we found the performance information provided to senior leaders, in Corporate and Directorate Performance Assessments, and the Council's self-assessment report, does not enable senior leadership to have a comprehensive understanding of the service user perspective.
- 17 We found some examples of information which would help senior leaders understand the perspective of service users, such as the tenant satisfaction surveys and information within the Monitoring Evaluation Reports used in the Education Directorate. The Directorate Performance Assessments also include a section to record customer information. This is mainly complaints and compliments and some services have acknowledged this doesn't necessarily provide a representative reflection of the perspective of service users.
- 18 However, where examples were found within some areas, this was not the case across all services and reports. It is, therefore, difficult to see how senior leaders would be able to fully understand how well services and policies are meeting the needs of service users from the information they are given.

Performance information provided to senior leaders mostly focuses on outputs and activities rather than evaluating impact

- 19 There is information within the Education Monitoring and Evaluation reports which would help senior leaders understand the impact of its services. But largely, we found that the performance data and quarterly performance assessments that are publicly reported by the Council, contain limited information on outcomes. Most of the information focuses on outputs and activities.
- 20 For example, the Council's Directorate Performance Assessments include sections for directorates to record their progress in achieving outcomes. But directorates generally provide information about activities and outputs in this section, rather than evaluating the outcomes of those activities. This makes it difficult for senior leaders to understand the impact of the Council's activities and if it is meeting its objectives.

The Council has limited arrangements to ensure that the performance data reflecting the service user perspective and outcomes information is accurate

- 21 The Council has limited arrangements to check the accuracy and quality of data and performance information relating to the service user perspective and outcomes. As set out earlier in our report, such information is limited in the Council's performance reports anyway.
- 22 The Council trusts its staff to be familiar with the data it uses. The performance team 'sense-checks' performance information, focusing on anomalies from anticipated levels of performance. The Council provided examples where the performance team's checks had helped identify and address inaccuracies in data. However, the Council does not have arrangements in place to routinely check the accuracy of its performance information. As a result, there is a risk of actions being taken and resources deployed based on inaccurate information.

As the information provided on outcomes and the perspective of service users is limited, the extent to which the Council can use this information to help it achieve its outcomes is also limited

- 23 The Council provides limited performance information to its senior leaders. This information is to enable them to understand the service user perspective and the outcomes of its activities. However, it is logical that, with this information being limited, the extent to which the Council uses the service user perspective and outcomes information, to help it achieve its outcomes, will also be limited.
- 24 Where we did find examples of the Council providing information on the perspective of service users and outcomes, we found some examples of the Council then using this information to make changes. For example, following its evaluation of the Youth Development Forum, the Council has identified actions to improve engagement with youth groups and the communication of outcomes.

The Council's reviews of its performance information arrangements have not focused on improving information to help senior leaders better understand the service user perspective and outcomes

- 25 In July 2020, as part of its response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Council commissioned a review of information, insight, and intelligence. This review was intended to help the Council understand and improve its use of data. The Council

also introduced Directorate Performance Assessments (DPA), designed to use information to help understand what the Council does well and what it can do better. However, our review has found that the information review and the DPAs have not resulted in the Council strengthening the information it provides to senior leaders to help them understand the service user perspective and outcomes of its activities.

- 26 The Council does not compare the type of information it collects, or its collection methods on service user perspective or outcomes with the information collected by similar organisations. We do not mean comparing performance per se, but to help it learn how other organisations are providing information about service user perspectives and outcomes to help strengthen its own arrangements. This is an important element of arrangements to secure value for money.

Recommendations

Exhibit 1: recommendations

R1 Information on the perspective of the service user

- The Council should strengthen the information it provides to senior leaders to enable them to understand how well services and policies are meeting the needs of service users.

R2 Information on progress towards outcomes

- The Council should strengthen the information provided to senior leaders to help them evaluate whether the Council is delivering its objectives and intended outcomes.

R3 Quality and accuracy of data

- The Council needs to assure itself that it has robust arrangements to check the quality and accuracy of the service user perspective and outcomes data it provides to senior leaders.

Appendix 1

Key questions and what we looked for

Exhibit 2: key questions and what we looked for

The table below sets out the question we sought to answer in carrying out this audit, along with the audit criteria we used to arrive at our findings.

Level 1	
Does the Council's performance data enable senior leaders to understand the service user perspective and the outcomes of its activities to effectively manage its performance?	
Level 2	Audit Criteria ¹ (what we are looking for)
2.1 Does the performance information provided to senior leaders include appropriate information on the perspective of service users?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The information is:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– relevant to the objectives the Council has set itself;– sufficient to enable an understanding of the service user perspective;– sufficient to provide an understanding of progress towards the outcomes the Council is planning to achieve;– drawn from the diversity of service users including groups who share protected characteristics; and– used to inform comparisons with the performance of similar bodies where relevant.• The Council has involved service users in determining which information to collect.
2.2 Does the performance information provided to senior leaders include appropriate information on the outcomes of the Council's activities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The information draws on a range of evidence sources to provide a holistic view of progress.• The information enables senior leaders to monitor progress over the short, medium and long term.• The information enables senior leaders to monitor the delivery of outcomes that cover multiple service areas and/or organisations.

¹ Our audit criteria have been informed by our cumulative knowledge of previous audit work, as well as the question hierarchy and positive indicators we have developed to support our sustainable development principle examinations.

Level 1

Does the Council's performance data enable senior leaders to understand the service user perspective and the outcomes of its activities to effectively manage its performance?

Level 2

Audit Criteria¹ (what we are looking for)

2.3 Does the Council have robust arrangements to ensure that the data provided is accurate?

- The Council has clear arrangements to check the quality and accuracy of the data it provides to senior leaders.
- Where weaknesses in data quality are identified, the Council addresses them.

2.4 Does the Council use the information to help it achieve its outcomes?

- Where poor performance is identified, the Council uses the information to make changes/interventions.
- There is evidence of the Council improving its progress towards its outcomes as a result of interventions.

2.5 Does the Council review the effectiveness of its arrangements?

- The Council reviews the information provided to senior leaders to ensure it is appropriate and relevant.
- The Council compares the information it collects with the information collected by similar organisations to identify opportunities to strengthen its arrangements.



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Organisational response – Appendix B

Report title: Use of performance information: Service User perspective and Outcomes - Caerphilly County Borough Council

Completion date: March 2024

Document reference:

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Ref	Recommendation	Organisational response Please set out here relevant commentary on the planned actions in response to the recommendations	Completion date Please set out by when the planned actions will be complete	Responsible officer (title)
R1	<p>Information on the perspective of the service user</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council should strengthen the information it provides to senior leaders to enable them to understand how well services and policies are meeting the needs of service users. 	<p>The Council will seek to review the data that is provided to senior leaders in respect of a service user perspective on performance information and will implement changes as appropriate.</p> <p>In the context of the Directorate and the Corporate Performance Assessment (as this was the evidence looked at by AW) in terms of service user perspective the mechanism exists in the reports, however, more needs to be done to encourage and make the links with user perspective and the DPA</p>	<p>Review May to June 2024</p> <p>Ongoing as part of the DPA / CPA timetable</p>	<p>RR</p> <p>CMT</p>
R2	<p>Information on progress towards outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council should strengthen the information provided to senior leaders to help them evaluate whether the Council is delivering its objectives and intended outcomes. 	<p>The Wellbeing Objective's and the Corporate Plan have been published December 2023 with outcomes and key measures of success already agreed. Progress against the Wellbeing Objectives is reported annually to Council as part of the self-assessment process.</p> <p>The Performance Framework for the WBO's is being further developed as is noted within the Self-Assessment 2022/23 as a future action.</p> <p>This will include a new Corporate Plan performance dashboard that will enable the recommended monitoring to take place and for service user information to feature more prominently.</p>	<p>Nov 24</p>	<p>RR</p>

R3

Quality and accuracy of data

- The Council needs to assure itself that it has robust arrangements to check the quality and accuracy of the service user perspective and outcomes data it provides to senior leaders.

The Service Managers responsible for providing accuracy are aware of the importance of providing accurate performance data.

The Performance Team already provide an additional tier of checks for the data submitted, as do the Senior Management and Corporate Management Teams that review the DPA and CPA dashboards.

The Council's prior experiences in PI testing did not yield value in improved accuracy or material change but did consume resources.

Any testing arrangement must balance these issues and as such the Council carry out a limited number of tests on the PI's within the Corporate Plan 2023-28 as these are high profile measures measuring the Council's priorities.

The Council will also continue to promote and communicate the benefits of data accuracy with data collectors.

May 24 – May 25

RR

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CORPORATE AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14TH MAY 2024

SUBJECT: PROCUREMENT REFORM

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members of the Scrutiny Committee with an update in relation to the UK Central Government and Welsh Government procurement reform agendas.
- 1.2 To provide an overview of three new separate legislative requirements coming into force that supports the agendas, namely:
 - Procurement Act 2023;
 - Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023;
 - Health Service Procurement (Wales) Act 2024.
- 1.3 To provide an update on the Council's approach and position in readiness for the formal implementation of the above-mentioned Acts.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The rules governing public procurement in Wales are changing, this is due to three new separate legislative requirements, as summarised below:

Procurement Act 2023

- 2.2 The Procurement Act aims to improve the way procurement is regulated to:
 - Create a simpler and more flexible commercial system that better meets the country's needs while remaining compliant with our international obligations.
 - Open up public procurement to new entrants such as small businesses and social enterprises so that they can compete for and win more public contracts.
 - Taking tougher action on underperforming suppliers and excluding suppliers who pose unacceptable risks.
 - Embed transparency throughout the commercial lifecycle so that the spending of taxpayers' money can be properly scrutinised.
- 2.3 The Procurement Act, which will reform the existing procurement rules, received Royal Assent in October 2023 and is expected to 'go live' in October 2024. The existing legislation will apply until the new regime goes live and will also continue to apply to procurements started under the existing procurement rules. The Procurement Act 2023 is included within **Appendix 1 to this report.**

Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023

2.4 The Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023 ('SPPP Act') provides a framework to promote the well-being of the people of Wales by enhancing sustainable development (including by improving public services) through social partnership working, promoting fair work and socially responsible procurement. The SPPP Act includes provisions for:

- The establishment of a Social Partnership Council.
- Improving the economic, environmental, social, and cultural well-being of Wales (including by improving public services) by embedding the principle of social partnership in the operation of public bodies in Wales.
- Setting objectives in relation to well-being goals, and to publish a procurement strategy.
- Carrying out contract management duties to ensure that socially responsible outcomes are pursued through supply chains.
- Covering the full procurement cycle i.e. planning, procurement, contract management, review and compliance. Public bodies and Welsh Government will have reporting duties in relation to the social partnership duties and procurement duty.
- A statutory duty on certain public bodies to seek consensus or compromise with their recognised trade unions (or where there is no recognised trade union) other representatives of their staff, when setting their well-being objectives and delivering on those objectives.

2.5 The SPPP Act, will work alongside the Procurement Act 2023 and received Royal Assent in May 2023 and is expected to 'go live' in October 2024. The SPPP Act is included within **Appendix 2 to this report.**

Health Service Procurement (Wales) Act 2024

2.6 The Health Service Procurement (Wales) Act 2024 ('HSP Act') allows Welsh Ministers to disapply provisions within the Procurement Act 2023 in relation to services provided as part of Health Care Services in Wales. The HSP Act also amends the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 to enable Welsh Ministers to make specific (alternative) provision in relation to procuring services provided as part of Health and certain Social Care requirements.

2.7 Welsh Government recently consulted on the proposed changes to the way that Health and certain Social Care Services, provided as part of the NHS and Councils, are procured in Wales. The future regulations and accompanying statutory guidance to support the HSP Act will set out the operational details of the proposed new Health Service procurement regime in Wales.

2.8 The consultation was an important opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the operational principles of the proposed regime; and whether it should align with, or diverge from, proposals detailed in the UK government's Department of Health and Social Care's Provider Selection Regime. The Council participated in a collaborative response to the consultation led by the Welsh Local Government Association. The consultation period was November 2023 to February 2024 and Welsh Government released a summary of responses in April 2024.

2.9 Next steps for Welsh Government will be to review and analyse the responses to the consultation process and this will inform the development of the policy and the regulations that will underpin the proposed new Health Service procurement regime in Wales.

- 2.10 The HSP Act will work alongside the Procurement Act 2023 and received Royal Assent on 5 February 2024, it is anticipated this will 'go live' in October 2024. The HSP Act is included within **Appendix 3 to this report**.

Caerphilly CBC ('Council') Approach and Implementation

- 2.11 The Council is in a good position in readiness for the new procurement regime. However, it is important to have an action plan established to hopefully ensure a smooth transition in preparation for October 2024. The 'Getting Ready' Action Plan developed follows UK and Welsh Governments advice and guidance and considers four key areas, namely, people, processes and policies, systems and transitions.
- 2.12 The current 'Getting Ready' Action Plan for the Council is included within **Appendix 4 to this report**.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Scrutiny Members notes:

- 3.1 The current status of the UK Central Government and Welsh Government procurement reform agendas via the three new separate legislative requirements; and
- 3.2 The Council's approach to implementing the new procurement regime.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To inform Scrutiny Members of the significant changes to the procurement rules coming into force from October 2024.
- 4.2 To ensure the Council has a planned and fit for purpose approach for the implementation of the new rules.

5. THE REPORT

Procurement Act 2023 ('The Act')

- 5.1 The Act, which will reform the existing procurement rules, received Royal Assent in October 2023 and is expected to 'go live' in October 2024. The existing legislation will apply until the new regime goes live and will also continue to apply to procurements started under the existing procurement rules.
- 5.2 The Act aims to improve the way procurement is regulated to:
- Create a simpler and more flexible commercial system that better meets the country's needs while remaining compliant with our international obligations.
 - Open up public procurement to new entrants such as small businesses and social enterprises so that they can compete for and win more public contracts.
 - Taking tougher action on underperforming suppliers and excluding suppliers who pose unacceptable risks.
 - Embed transparency throughout the commercial lifecycle so that the spending of taxpayers' money can be properly scrutinised.

Structure and Objectives of the Act

- 5.3 The Act signifies fundamental structural changes to the current procurement landscape, by combining the overarching regimes which currently regulate procurement. Contracts

awarded under the separate procurement regimes governing the award of general public contracts, utilities contracts, concession contracts and defence and security contracts will all sit under the umbrella of the new Act.

- 5.4 Procurement objectives have also changed under the Act. Previous drivers required the Council to treat economic operators equally and without discrimination, and to act in a transparent and proportionate manner: requirements flown down from European Directives. Under the Act, key considerations and objectives for the Council will include delivering value for money, maximising public benefit and acting and being seen to act with integrity.
- 5.5 The Council will also be required to have regard to national procurement policy statements for Wales reflecting the UK centric nature of the Act. In terms of treatment, the Council must treat suppliers the same unless a difference between the suppliers justifies different treatment that does not put a supplier at an unfair advantage or disadvantage. This subtle change reflects one of the motivations behind the Act and a theme which runs throughout: that is, achieving greater flexibility in the procurement process.

Flexibility

- 5.6 The Act allows greater flexibility, for example, rather than setting prescriptive procurement procedures, it is up to the Council to decide whether to use an open procedure or another kind of competitive procedure of their choice (***please refer to sections 5.8 to 5.10 below for further detail***). Similarly, the Council will be able to make changes to the terms of a procurement even after it has been started but before certain key deadlines, such as prior to the deadline for submitting tenders in an open procedure, provided timelines are flexed to account for the changes.
- 5.7 There is flexibility in selecting award criteria (which itself will change with contracts being awarded based on the new "most advantageous tender" rather than the "most economically advantageous tender"). The Council will be entitled to refine award criterion during a competitive procedure provided they have catered for that in the tender notice or tender documents and the refinement would not have allowed previously excluded suppliers to progress in the procurement process.

Procurement Procedures

- 5.8 The Council may award contracts to the bidder who submitted the 'most advantageous' tender, being the tender which best meets the award criteria in light of the assessment methodology. This is awarded based on a competitive tendering procedure, which is either:
- a single-stage procedure without a restriction on who can submit tenders (like the current open procedure); or
 - such other competitive procedure that the Council considers appropriate (this is a procedure which can be designed by the Council).
- 5.9 A competitive procedure other than an open procedure gives scope for greater flexibility. While the Council will have greater flexibility to design their own procedures, it will be interesting in the short term to see whether we can continue to conduct procurements following similar procedures to the current regime for expediency.
- 5.10 There are increased abilities to directly award contracts in certain circumstances if considered necessary to "protect human, animal or plant life or health, or protect public order or safety", which appears to have arisen following lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Transparency and Notices

- 5.11 The Act introduces several new requirements for publishing notices throughout the procurement lifecycle from planning through to contract expiry. This is with a view to increasing transparency, but this may make aspects of the overall process more

administratively burdensome particularly during the life of a contract. Examples include:

- planned procurement notices and preliminary market engagement notices (replacing PIN notices under the current regime);
- pipeline notices;
- transparency notices on the direct award of a contract;
- mandatory contract change notices; and
- termination notices on the termination of a public contract.

Excluding Suppliers

- 5.12 The Act contains provisions on excluded and excludable suppliers and how they should be dealt with by the Council. The list of grounds for mandatory exclusion of suppliers is broadly similar to the current regime, with the addition of new offences such as theft, corporate manslaughter and competition law infringement. In relation to discretionary exclusion grounds, the current regime provides that prior poor performance should be considered where there has been a breach of contract which resulted in a serious repercussion such as termination or damages. This is extended in the Act to cover poor performance and where the supplier has not improved their performance despite being given the opportunity to do so.
- 5.13 Another point of difference is that suppliers can be excluded by reference to the status of their associated suppliers and subcontractors, not just their own performance.
- 5.14 The Act also introduces a central debarment list, where the name of a supplier who is an excluded or excludable supplier will be held; which, as above, may be based on previous poor performance. Suppliers on the list will be debarred from applying for public contracts for a specified period but may apply for their removal from the list if there has been a material change in circumstances.

Key Performance Indicators

- 5.15 There is a new requirement to publish key performance indicators ('KPIs') where the Council must set and publish at least three KPIs (unless the Council considers that the supplier's performance could not appropriately be assessed by reference to KPIs). There is a value threshold to this requirement (currently £5 million, however this value threshold may reduce overtime) and there are some other exceptions, including for framework agreements. Where KPIs are published, at least once every twelve months, the Council has obligations to assess the supplier's performance against these KPIs, and to publish information relating to that assessment.

Standstill Period

- 5.16 Under the current regime, the Council may not enter into a contract until 10 days after the issue of a compliant award decision notice to all suppliers. The Act provides that the standstill period should be 8 working days from the day on which a contract award notice is published. The standstill does not apply in certain cases, for example where there has been a direct award because of 'extreme or unavoidable' urgency, or where a contract is awarded in accordance with a framework.

Remedies

- 5.17 Many of the remedies under the current procurement regime are replicated in the Act, however, changes have been made including to the language used. For example, declarations of ineffectiveness are no longer referred to as such although the equivalent remedy remains as "set aside" proceedings. Another example is the introduction of a new test for consideration when making interim orders such as to lift automatic suspensions in relation to the entry into or modification of contracts.

Termination of Contracts

- 5.18 The Act extends the implied rights that the Council has to terminate public contracts. The grounds now include where:
- the contract was awarded or modified in material breach of the Act which could reasonably result in a successful legal challenge;
 - a supplier has become an excluded or excludable supplier; and
 - subject to certain pre-conditions, a sub-contractor of the supplier is an excluded or excludable supplier.

Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023 ('The SPPP Act')

- 5.19 The SPPP Act, will work alongside the Procurement Act 2023 and received Royal Assent in May 2023 and is expected to 'go live' in October 2024. The SPPP Act is aligned with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ('WFGA 2015').
- 5.20 In summary the SPPP Act provides a framework to promote the well-being of the people of Wales by enhancing sustainable development (including by improving public services) through social partnership working, promoting fair work and socially responsible procurement. The SPPP Act includes provisions for:
- The establishment of a Social Partnership Council.
 - Improving the economic, environmental, social, and cultural well-being of Wales (including by improving public services) by embedding the principle of social partnership in the operation of public bodies in Wales.
 - Setting objectives in relation to well-being goals, and to publish a procurement strategy.
 - Carrying out contract management duties to ensure that socially responsible outcomes are pursued through supply chains.
 - Covering the full procurement cycle i.e. planning, procurement, contract management, review and compliance. Public bodies and Welsh Government will have reporting duties in relation to the social partnership duties and procurement duty.
 - A statutory duty on certain public bodies to seek consensus or compromise with their recognised trade unions (or where there is no recognised trade union) other representatives of their staff, when setting their well-being objectives and delivering on those objectives.

The Social Partnership Council

- 5.21 The Social Partnership Council is to be established with the mandate to provide information and advice to Welsh Ministers in relation to social partnership duties under the SPPP Act, the pursuit of the "a prosperous Wales" well-being goal by public bodies when carrying out sustainable development under the WFGA 2015 and/or in relation to socially responsible procurement.
- 5.22 Information or advice can be provided on Social Partnership Council's own accord or when requested. There are specific provisions in the Act as to who its members are, appointments, operational matters and sub-groups. There is also provision for a specific sub-group to be established on public procurement so that it can provide advice and information to the Social Partnership Council about the functions of the Council regarding socially responsible procurement.

Social Partnership and Sustainable Development

- 5.23 For the purposes of improving economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being (including improving public services), this Part of the Act:

- imposes new social partnership duties as part of the well-being duty in the WFGA 2015; and
- amends the “a prosperous Wales” well-being goal to be pursued by public bodies when carrying out sustainable development under the WFGA 2015 so that securing fair work, rather than the older definition ‘decent’ work is part of the description of the goal.

Socially Responsible Public Procurement

- 5.24 This sets out the socially responsible public procurement duty in respect of major construction contracts, outsourcing services contracts, social public works clauses in contracts and sub-contracts, reporting obligations, public services outsourcing and workforce code, social public workforce clauses in outsourcing services contracts and sub-contracts, putting in place a procurement strategy and reporting and accountability obligations.
- 5.25 In addition, the Welsh Ministers may investigate the Council that carries out public procurement and may make recommendations, publish a report and lay a copy of any report published before the Senedd.

Social Partnership Duty

- 5.26 In carrying out sustainable development, the Council must, in so far as is reasonable seek consensus or compromise with recognised trade unions or other representatives of its staff on:
- the well-being objectives to be set under section 3(2)(a) of the WFGA 2015; and
 - decisions of a strategic nature to be made about the reasonable steps the body has taken (in exercising its functions) to meet those objectives.
- 5.27 The Act sets out how the Council is to demonstrate that it has sought consensus or compromise and for the purpose of what is reasonable, it must take into account guidance published by Welsh Ministers.

Social Partnership Report

- 5.28 The Council is required to prepare for each financial year, a report to demonstrate what has done to comply with the social partnership duty overall and not just the procurement aspects.

Socially Responsible Procurement Duty

- 5.29 This duty requires the Council to seek to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area by carrying out public procurement in a socially responsible way. The Council does this by taking action in accordance with the sustainable development principle aimed at contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals listed in section 4 of the WFGA 2015. The Council is required to set and publish objectives referred to as “socially responsible procurement objectives”, which are to be revised and reviewed.
- 5.30 In order to contribute to the achievement of the socially responsible procurement objectives, the Council must:
- take all reasonable steps to meet its objectives when carrying out public procurement in respect of prescribed contracts; and
 - take prescribed actions when procuring major construction contracts or outsourcing services contracts.
- 5.31 However, importantly the Council is not required to include provisions in a prescribed contract that:
- are not proportionate (taking into account the estimated value of the contract); and
 - would conflict with any other enactment or rule of law relating to public procurement.

Major Construction Contracts

5.32 In respect of major construction contract, it is important to note that the threshold is low as it relates to any contract with a value of £2 million or more that is a public works contract, works contract or a works concession contract. However, even so the obligation is for the Council to:

- have regard to model social public works clauses published by Welsh Ministers;
- as part of the procurement process to consider whether the contract is to include social public works clauses;
- in negotiating and awarding contracts, to take all reasonable steps to include social public works clauses and ensure the clauses included can be implemented; and
- in managing the contract to take all reasonable steps to ensure such clauses are implemented.

5.33 Welsh Ministers are to publish model clauses for major construction contracts within specified categories which are: payments, employment, compliance, training, sub-contracting and environment. Officers within the Council are actively participating in this process.

Outsourcing Services Contracts

5.34 A similar approach applies to outsourcing services contract in relation to which the Council is required to:

- have regard to the public services outsourcing and workforce code published by Welsh Ministers;
- as part of a procurement process to consider whether the contract should include social public workforce clauses;
- in negotiating and awarding the contract, take all reasonable steps to include relevant social public workforce clauses and ensure the clauses can be implemented; and
- in managing the contract take all reasonable steps such clauses are implemented.

5.35 The Welsh Ministers are to publish the public services outsourcing and workforce code, which is to include model contract clauses, although the SPPP Act does provide some guidance as to what they should cover with the focus being on protecting terms and conditions of staff that are transferred or employed.

Sub-Contracts – Major Construction Contracts and Outsourcing Services Contracts

5.36 The Council is also required to take all reasonable steps to ensure that obligations in the social public works clauses/social public workforce clauses are implemented where the contractor enters into a sub-contract with any other economic operator. The SPPP Act provides examples as to how the Council can demonstrate that they have taken reasonable steps.

Reporting Obligations (Social Public Works Clauses/Social Public Workforce Clauses)

5.37 The Council is under an obligation to notify Welsh Ministers where:

- the Council does not intend to include the applicable clauses;
- the applicable clauses are not included in the relevant contract;
- there is no process to ensure that obligations in the applicable clauses are implemented; and
- there is no process in place for ensuring that obligations in the applicable clauses are implemented when sub-contracted. Welsh Ministers then have certain obligations when dealing with such notifications including the ability to give a direction to the Council.

Procurement Strategy

- 5.38 The Council is required to prepare a procurement strategy setting out how the Council intends to carry out public procurement. The strategy must state:
- how the Council intends to ensure that it will carry out public procurement in a socially responsible way;
 - meet its socially responsible procurement objectives;
 - state how the Council intends to make payments promptly.
- 5.39 The procurement strategy is to be reviewed in each financial year and revised as appropriate.

Reporting

- 5.40 If the Council awards prescribed contracts during a financial year there will be a need to publish an annual report after the end of that year with specific information to be included as set out in the SPPP Act.

Contracts Register

- 5.41 The Council must create, maintain and publish a contract register. This is to include registerable contracts (to be determined by the Welsh Ministers through regulations). The register is to contain prescribed information regarding registerable contracts unless there are legitimate reasons for not including them in the register as set out in the Act relating to: prejudice of commercial interests, competition, impeding law enforcement or contrary to public interest. It is important to highlight that procurement already publishes information in relation to contracts awarded and a contract pipeline, however this will need to be extended across the Council.

Health Service Procurement (Wales) Act 2024

- 5.42 The Health Service Procurement (Wales) Act 2024 ('HSP Act') will work alongside the Procurement Act 2023 and received Royal Assent on 5 February 2024 and is expected to 'go live' in October 2024.
- 5.43 The HSP Act allows Welsh Ministers to disapply provisions within the Procurement Act 2023 in relation to services provided as part of Health Care Services in Wales. The HSP Act also amends the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 to enable Welsh Ministers to make specific (alternative) provision in relation to procuring services provided as part of Health and certain Social Care requirements.
- 5.44 Welsh Government recently consulted on the proposed changes to the way that Health and certain Social Care Services, provided as part of the NHS and Councils, are procured in Wales. The future regulations and accompanying statutory guidance to support the HSP Act will set out the operational details of the proposed new Health Service procurement regime in Wales.
- 5.45 The consultation was an important opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the operational principles of the proposed regime; and whether it should align with, or diverge from, proposals detailed in the UK government's Department of Health and Social Care's Provider Selection Regime. The Council participated in a collaborative response to the consultation led by the Welsh Local Government Association. The consultation period was November 2023 to February 2024 and Welsh Government released a summary of responses in April 2024.
- 5.46 Next steps for Welsh Government will be to review and analyse the responses to the consultation process and this will inform the development of the policy and the regulations that will underpin the proposed new Health Service procurement regime in Wales.

Caerphilly CBC Approach and Implementation

- 5.47 The Council is in a good position in readiness for the new procurement regime. However, it is important to have an action plan established to hopefully ensure a smooth transition in preparation for October 2024. The 'Getting Ready' Action Plan developed follows UK and Welsh Governments advice and guidance and considers four key areas, namely, people, processes and policies, systems and transitions.
- 5.48 The current 'Getting Ready' Action Plan for the Council is included within **Appendix 4 to this report.**

Conclusion

- 5.49 The new procurement regime will introduce a major shake-up to the way the Council purchases goods, services and works. Whilst the new changes are not due to come into force until October 2024 at the earliest, plans are underway to ensure the Council are ready to take advantage of the increased flexibility and transparency associated with the new rules.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 All details stated within this report are reflective of all issues known as of March 2024.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The new procurement regime positively impacts all aspects of the IIA, however a full IIA has not been completed.
- 7.2 Procurement is one of the seven corporate areas for change in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ('Act') statutory guidance and must be a key area of focus for public bodies in meeting their obligations under the Act.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial implications.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications.

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 Procurement Act 2023, Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023 and Health Service Procurement (Wales) Act 2024.
- 11.2 The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

Author: Ian Evans, Procurement and Information Manager; evansi1@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Cllr Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services Property and Highways,
Dave Street, Deputy Chief Executive,
Richard (Ed) Edmunds, Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services,
Elizabeth Lucas, Head of Customer and Digital Services,
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer,
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer,
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services,
Natasha Ford, Business and Supply Chain Manager,
Gareth Day, Contract Management Support Services Manager,
Kath Peters, Corporate Policy Manager, Service Improvement and Partnerships.

Background Papers:

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Link to: [Procurement Act 2023 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)
Appendix 2 Link to: [Social Partnership and Public Procurement \(Wales\) Act 2023 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)
Appendix 3 Link to: [Health Service Procurement \(Wales\) Act 2024 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)
Appendix 4 'Getting Ready' Action Plan
Appendix 5 Transparency Briefing Paper

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Appendix 4 Procurement Reform - 'Getting Ready' Action Plan

KEY AREA	PROGRESS TO DATE
PEOPLE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify staff within the organisation who would benefit from undertaking relevant training on the new rules. UK Government are developing a programme of learning, and supplementary bilingual training will be available from Welsh Government, which will cover specific Welsh requirements, such as the Wales Procurement Policy Statement (WPPS) and the SPPP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Procurement and Information Services staff are actively involved in UK Central and Welsh Governments programme of learning which covers all aspects of the new rules. Information is also being disseminated and presented across the Council in readiness for October 2024. ▪ Procurement and Information Services staff attending WG, WLGA and Legal Briefings. ▪ HR and Policy Unit Staff are aware of the new SPPP and implications in relation to workforce/ trade union relationships and reporting requirements aligned to Corporate Plan and Well-being Objectives.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consider the procurement and contract management capacity and capability across your organisation, especially around the contract management requirements set out under the SPPP's Socially Responsible Procurement Duty, and the requirement in the Procurement Act to set and publish key performance indicators for contracts above £5m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Investment has been made to develop and enhance contract management capacity and capability across the Council with the appointment of a Contract Management Support Services Manager. Additional staff being considered. ▪ Established Contracts Management Module within existing e-Procurement system that is utilised by Procurement and Information Services with a view of rolling out throughout the Council.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sign up to relevant newsletters to receive the latest updates in relation to procurement reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Procurement and Information Services staff are all signed up to the necessary newsletters in relation to Procurement Reform and information disseminated and presented across the Council in readiness for October 2024.
PROCESSES & POLICIES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review procurement strategies to make sure that they align to the well-being goals and the principles within the WPPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Procurement strategy currently in place until the end of 2024, however we are in the process of establishing a new procurement strategy which will take in to account the legislative requirements within each of the Acts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Update processes to ensure we are ready for the new requirements in the Procurement Act, such as the below threshold transparency requirements (see WPPN 02/22) and the requirement to publish a redacted copy of the contract and / or contract modifications for call-offs from non-Welsh Frameworks and Dynamic Markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Processes and systems currently being reviewed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Familiarise yourselves with the requirements of the new noticing regime. There will be a range of new notices created by the Procurement Act, some of which will be required at various stages of the procurement lifecycle and some which are organisational notices that will need to be published, such as the pipeline notice. This will mean that existing procurement processes will need to be adapted to incorporate the new noticing requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing Procurement Pipeline (Procurement Forward Workplan) and details of Contracts Awarded are already published on Council website, however this will need to be extended across the Council. ▪ Familiarisation underway to ensure requirements of the new noticing regime will be incorporated into existing and future procurement processes.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Make sure your current processes and procedures are robust on areas such as premarket engagement, conflicts of interest and supplier evaluation/assessment, with governance documents that record key decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Established process in place for premarket engagement in line with existing Procurement strategy (Programme for Procurement). ▪ Established governance arrangements in place which records key decisions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review your organisation's tender documentation, including any standard terms and conditions, so that you can identify where any amendments will be needed when the new rules come into force 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of existing tender documentation including standard terms and conditions underway by Procurement and Information Services staff.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Make sure your finance systems are set up to pay valid and undisputed invoices within 30 days of receipt of the invoice, and familiarise yourselves with the requirement to publish a payment compliance notice every 6 months setting out how well your organisation has performed against this requirement to pay invoices within 30 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing finance system is setup to pay all valid and undisputed invoices within 30 days of receipt of invoice, further enhancements to improve invoice processing times will be delivered through the deployment of Invoice Capture solution during 2024. ▪ Process to export data for payment compliance notices to be published every 6 months to be discussed with Corporate Finance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Make sure you regularly check the published Wales Procurement Policy Notes, which can be found via: https://www.gov.wales/procurement-policy-notes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mechanisms in place to ensure published Wales Procurement Policy Notices are regularly checked by Procurement and Information Services staff.
SYSTEMS	
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 54</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Start thinking about whether your teams need to change the way they use your existing eprocurement systems (including your finance and invoicing systems) to meet the requirements of the Acts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Established e-Procurement system in place and utilised by all Procurement and Information Services staff. Work currently being undertaken to review and enhance system processes within sourcing and contracts management module to ensure compliance with the requirements of the procurement reform agenda.
<p>If you are due to retender your e-procurement system, make sure that you consider the requirements of the new legislative platform, for example OCDS compliance, etc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Established e-procurement system in place that will meet the requirements of the new legislative platform.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review the data you collect to identify potential for improving the measurement of well-being impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Data collection and review in place e.g. analysis of third party spend data. Further work to identify improvements to be completed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consider how prepared your organisation is to meet the new transparency requirements in the Act. This could include identifying where relevant data currently resides in your existing systems. Separate communications covering systems and transparency in more detail are available on Sell2Wales, and future updates will be provided as this work progresses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Briefing paper developed and shared with CMT & Leadership in late 2022 outlining the guidance issued by WG via Welsh Procurement Policy Note (WPPN) 02/22: Transparency – publication of contract award notices. ▪ Agreement received that with effect from January 2023 the Council to publish all contracts awarded where the value exceeds £30,000 (inclusive of VAT) via Sell2Wales. Please refer to Appendix 5 of the Report. ▪ Requirements of the transparency regulations shared with staff within Procurement and Information Services and advice and guidance provided to Directorate service areas to reiterate the requirements.

TRANSITIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure that contract registers and details are up to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Corporate Contracts Register administered by Procurement Services established via e-Procurement solution. In line with Council's Standing Orders for Contracts all arrangements over the value of £10,000 must be entered onto the Contracts Register.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct a review of pipelines to identify any planned procurement activity over the next 18 months with a contract value in excess of £2m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing Procurement Pipeline (Procurement Forward Workplan) and details of Contracts Awarded are already published on Council website, however this will need to be extended across the Council.

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SUBJECT: TRANSPARENCY – PUBLICATION OF CONTRACT AWARD NOTICES

REPORT BY: IAN EVANS, PROCUREMENT AND INFORMATION MANAGER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise on the guidance issued by Welsh Government via the Welsh Procurement Policy Note (WPPN) 02/22: Transparency – publication of contract award notices.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The WPPN recommends that all Contracting Authorities that are not Central Government Authorities such as Caerphilly CBC publish all contracts awarded where the value is at least **£30,000 inclusive of VAT**. The intention is to provide greater visibility to the public by publishing contract award notices on Sell2Wales. *It should be noted that Welsh Central Government Bodies will be required to publish all contracts awarded where the value is at least £12,000 inclusive of VAT.*
- 2.2 The WPPN will also support the introduction of the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS)* throughout the procurement lifecycle. This is consistent with the Welsh Government's decision to align itself with the UK Government's Green Paper: Transforming Public Procurement **.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The content of the report is noted.
- 3.2 Agree to implement the WPPN in preparation for the new Procurement Legislation that is planned to come into effect during the autumn of 2023.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the Council continuously improves its Procurement and Governance arrangements in accordance with the associated Procurement Legislation and best practice.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Procurement Reform agenda will result in a step change to working practices and tools as well as the introduction of new Legislation.
- 5.2 Transparency is key to ensuring that Contracting Authorities supports the 'digital' concept, which will help to improve tracking and detection of positive/negative trends throughout the Procurement lifecycle.

Link to Open Contracting Data Standard

Link to Gov.UK Consultations Green-paper- Transforming Public Procurement

- 5.3 Based on the recommendations of a review by Lord Young, Part 4 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015) set out additional rules to be followed for certain below-threshold Procurements with an estimated value (inclusive of VAT) of £10,000 or more (for central government authorities), or £25,000 or more (for sub-central authorities and NHS Trusts).
- 5.4 Except for certain provisions specified in Regulation 1(8A) of the PCR 2015, Part 4 of the PCR 2015 does not apply to a Contracting Authority if its functions are wholly or mainly Welsh devolved functions such as Caerphilly CBC. However, it is envisaged that the above provisions will apply to Welsh devolved functions via the new UK Procurement Legislation, which is currently being considered by Parliament, House of Lords and Welsh Government. A separate briefing paper will be produced and circulated within the Council on the wider Procurement Legislation in due course.
- 5.5 The intention of the WPPN is to provide greater visibility to the public of Contracting by publishing contract award notices on Sell2Wales. Once a contract has been awarded via any of the following methods or otherwise:
- Open competition
 - Framework Agreement (e.g. as a result of a mini competition), or
 - Direct award without competition (e.g. where quotations have been sought, single tender action has been undertaken etc.),

as a minimum, the following information must be published on Sell2Wales:

1. the full name of the winning contractor
 2. the date on which the contract was entered into (Award Date)
 3. the total value of the contract in pounds sterling, and
 4. an indication of whether the contractor is a Small Medium Enterprise (SME) or a Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise (VCSE).
- 5.6 The OCDS enables disclosure of data and documents at all stages of the Contracting process by defining a common data model. It was created to support organisations to increase Contracting transparency and allow deeper analysis of Contracting data by a wide range of users.
- 5.7 If a Contract Opportunity Notice already exists on Sell2Wales, this should be updated with the award details. If no opportunity notice exists on Sell2Wales (for example if the contract was not openly competed or is a direct award or mini competition call off from a framework agreement or via a dynamic purchasing system), then a separate Contract Award Notice should be published.
- 5.8 Contract Award Notices must be published on Sell2Wales within thirty (30) calendar days of the Contract Award Date. 'Award Date' means the date on which the contract was signed by the last Contracting party. The first calendar day after the Contract is signed counts as day one (1). Where the deadline date for publication ends on a non-working day, the authority has until the end of the next working day to publish the award.
- 5.9 The Council has a mature and well embedded approach to Procurement across the organisation. However, there will be a need to ensure budget holders and authorised officers with responsibility for third party spend are aware of this requirement. Furthermore,

there will be a need to ensure all Contract Awards are inputted into the Council's contract management module (CMM) within Proactis. This requirement is in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders for Contracts.

- 5.10 There are on going discussions between key stakeholders such as Welsh Government, Councils and third-party system providers, namely Proactis exploring the possibility of integrating systems such as Proactis and Sell2Wales. It is envisaged that this will reduce the administrative burden on organisations together with having consideration for the wider introduction of the new Procurement Legislation. However, in the short-term additional processes will need to be implemented by the Corporate Procurement Unit to meet this requirement.

5.11 **Conclusion**

The WPPN advises Contracting Authorities such as Caerphilly CBC to apply this guidance as best practice to meet transparency requirements in readiness for the introduction of the new Procurement Legislation (including OCDS).

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 There are no assumptions associated with this report.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 The Council will be unable to deliver its Well-being objectives in the absence of effective Procurement arrangements.
- 7.2 Strong corporate governance arrangements are a key element in ensuring that the Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 are met. The Well-being goals supported by this approach includes; ***a prosperous Wales, a more equal Wales, a Wales of more cohesive communities and a globally responsible Wales.***
- 7.3 The approach supports the Digital Strategy for Wales and specifically; ***Mission 4: digital economy***, Procurement practices and policies support innovation and economic prosperity, allowing businesses in Wales to thrive and support public sector in working with a responsive market of companies and ***Mission 6: data and collaboration***, Public sector data is made available and published openly, where it is appropriate (i.e. not personal data), in formats that support transparency, re-use and accountability.
- 7.4 There are no other equalities implications arising from this report in relation to other equalities issues.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

9. **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

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

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 All comments have been reflected in this report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government and Elections Act 2021.

Author: Ian Evans, Procurement and Information Manager

Consultees: Elizabeth Lucas, Head of Customer and Digital Services
Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Deb Gronow, Acting Internal Audit Manager
Stefano Jefferson, Procurement Reform Manager
Natasha Ford, Business Relationship Manager
Derek Morris, Contracts Manager
CCBC Leadership Team

Dated: 27 July 2022



CORPORATE AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 14TH MAY 2024

**SUBJECT: UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND - 6 MONTHLY
MONITORING UPDATE REPORT**

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update to Scrutiny Committee on the delivery of the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) within Caerphilly CBC as part of the UK Government's Levelling Up programme.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK Government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula.
- 2.2 The UKSPF is intended to support the UK Government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives. The primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride in place, and increase life chances, across the UK.
- 2.3 Underneath the overarching aim of building pride in place, and increasing life chances, there are three UKSPF investment priorities: **Communities and Place; Supporting Local Business; and People and Skills.**
- 2.4 Caerphilly County Borough has an allocation of £28,272,298, and an allocation of £5,901,499 for *Multiply (*UK Gov Adult Numeracy Programme).

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Scrutiny Committee:
 - (i) Note the detail of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund update and six-monthly monitoring report and the opportunities for the programme to

contribute to the Council's own Place Shaping, Transformation and Regeneration agendas.

- (ii) Recognise the progress officers and stakeholders have made in mobilising a significant investment programme within the time constraints afforded by the funding programme.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To enable the Scrutiny Committee to have effective oversight of the SPF Programme as part of the effective management, administration, and delivery of the UKSPF Programme for Caerphilly CBC.
- 4.2 To ensure that the Authority is fully prepared to maximise funding opportunities from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for the benefits of CCBC citizens and communities.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK Government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition.
- 5.2 The UKSPF is intended to support the UK Government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives to:
 - Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging.
 - Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest.
 - Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been-lost.
 - Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.

The primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. It aligns with the Levelling Up fund proposals which were considered in a previous report to Cabinet.

- 5.3 Underneath the overarching aim of building pride in place and increasing life chances, there are three UKSPF investment priorities: **Communities and Place**; **Supporting Local Business**; and **People and Skills**.
 - The **communities and place** investment priority will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting and building pride in place.
 - The **supporting local business** investment priority will enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow.

- The **people and skills** investment priority can provide funding to help reduce the barriers people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. This theme can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.
- 5.4 Within the context of the fund's aims, each place has the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging.
- 5.5 To enable access to the UKSPF funding, regional Lead Local Authorities (in Wales) needed to complete an Investment Plan, setting out, how they intended to use and deliver the funding. From the Council's perspective, Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT), as Lead Local Authority for the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR), submitted a Regional Investment Plan on behalf of the ten local authorities that comprise the Cardiff Capital Region in August 2022 to the UK Government. Further, Cabinet endorsed the Local Investment Plan for Caerphilly County Borough, on 26 September 2023.
- 5.6 The UK Government announced the acceptance of investment plans across the UK in December 2022, delayed from October 2022. Draft funding agreements, based on the UK Government's Memorandum of Understanding, were subsequently circulated by Rhondda Cynon Taf Council in January 2023 and a final agreement was signed in April 2023.
- 5.7 In January 2023, CCBC established a Shared Prosperity Programme Board (the Board), to provide executive leadership and oversight of the delivery of the projects within the Local Investment Plan. As part of the Board's Terms of Reference, it was determined that the Board will provide regular progress updates on the delivery of the Local Investment Plan to Scrutiny Committee.
- 5.8 Subsequently, good progress was made in terms of mobilising a number of the projects identified in the Local Investment Plan. In June 2022 Cabinet provided approval for identified projects that could proceed at risk, in advance of the UK Government's formal endorsement of the Regional Investment Plan.
- 5.9 Consequently, officers were able to submit a claim at the end of the first year of the programme for the period 2022-23 of £2.041M against an allocated budget of £5,131M, allowing for contributions to RCT for their administrative role as lead authority.

Table 1 – First Year Claim

Investment Pillar	Spend	Budget
Communities & Place	£625,511.86	£1,514,083.39
Local Business	£1,201,722.80	£1,397,760.00
People & Skills	£128,330.83	£382,016.79
Multiply	£82,827.16	£1,712,807.31
Management & Administration	£3,345.84	£125,166.69
Total	£2,041,738.49	£5,131,834.18

- 5.10 The second-year claim submitted in April 2024 shows a spend for 2023-24 of £8,647,804.73 against an allocated budget of £11,714,951.29 (Note: this is still subject to validation by the Lead Authority).

Table 2 – Second Year Claim (See Appendix 1)

Investment Pillar	Spend	Budget
Communities & Place	£1,779,142.10	£2,709,768.06
Local Business	£2,886,196.43	£3,350,395.31
People & Skills	£2,816,406.48	£3,452,689.94
Multiply	£1,008,019.66	£1,976,315.17
Management & Administration	£158,040.06	£225,782.81
Total	£8,647,804.73	£11,714,951.29

- 5.11 Due to the programme start delay incurred in 2022-23, across all Welsh Authorities, there was a recognition and identification, that certain outputs and outcomes for the Multiply Programme, were not likely to be achieved in Year 1. It was therefore agreed that the Year 1 Multiply funding allocation would be reduced by £906.360. It was subsequently agreed by UK Government, that this allocation could be ¹carried forward to 2023-24 (Year 2 of the programme) along with other 2022-23 Multiply underspends, and it could either be kept within the 2023-24 Multiply allocation or transferred to People and Skills interventions. In CCBC the funding was transferred to People and Skills interventions.
- 5.12 In relation to the delay to the inception of the programme and the pattern of spend being achieved across the country and the flexibility around the use of Multiply funding, the Welsh Local Government Association has written to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities seeking a six month extension to the UKSPF programme in order to maximise the benefits of the programme and a replication of the flexibility in relation to the Multiply allocations , a copy of the letter and the reply from the Secretary of State is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 5.13 The Monitoring and Evaluation team have been undertaking extensive engagement with the various Project Lead Officers across the authority to support the delivery and monitoring of the Local Investment Plan and where appropriate, engagement with stakeholders in the community has been initiated in relation to a number of projects.

Overview of projects

- 5.14 Projects that delivered in the first two years of the programme include:
- Caerphilly Enterprise Fund provided financial support to 121 businesses, contributing to the creation of 225 jobs and helping to safeguard 883 jobs.
 - 350 sq. m. of public realm and general improvements in town centres and green spaces.

¹ Carry forward funding is subject to UK Government approval and RCT validation of the claim submitted.

- Enhanced the Council's Cost of Living Scheme: activity included identifying 1,500 properties with an EPC rating of F and G to offer targeted support, Energy Crisis Grant launched, 331 household visits undertaken to provide energy efficiency advice. Energy efficient lightbulbs installed in forty-eight (48) newly let CCBC properties, 1,250 landlords contacted reinforcing Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards requirements. Tracking of carbon reduction also indicates 128 tonnes of carbon saved to date due to measures implemented.
- Support to the development of the new Ffos Caerfilli Market that opened in April 2024.
- Engagement with 754 community members through a community safety initiative that delivered funding to various community groups aimed at intervention and prevention work.
- Enhanced events programme delivering increased footfall to town centres including new events for Blackwood and Ystrad Mynach generating additional footfall in our town centres of 42,975.
- Placemaking Plans for Blackwood and Bargoed town centres under development with first drafts shared with stakeholders in each of the two town centres.
- Meanwhile Use Space created in Bargoed due to open May 2024.
- New Vzta App launched to support businesses across our principal town centres.
- Streetwave project initiated to support improved connectivity with existing phone networks.
- Free Wi-Fi operational in seven town centres: Blackwood, Risca, Ystrad Mynach, Bargoed, and Rhymney, Caerphilly and Newbridge.
- Llamau commissioned to provide support to 50 economically inactive young people aged 16-24.
- Delivering training pathways to provide skills and training for 'skills gap' sectors such as PTS - Rail, Plant and Civil training, Teaching Assistant training, Call Centre training and developing training pathways in sectors including advanced manufacturing, digital and creative industries linking with regional partners.
- Coleg Gwent and Coleg Y Cymoedd commissioned to provide 1-2-1 support to 365 young people aged 16-24 across the Borough to prevent them becoming NEET and remain in education.
- 13 participants have completed 8-week paid work placements in departments across the Council. IT, Caerphilly Homes, Employment Support Team, Residential Homes, Leisure, Tourism, Adult Education and Libraries.
- The Inspire Project, based in Education, has Support Officers based in 12 comprehensive schools across the County Borough supporting pupils with attendance, attainment, and behaviour in Key Stage 3 (KS3) via 1-2-1 support.
- Coleg-Y-Cymoedd have been procured to deliver on the following interventions:
 - W48: Maths modules embedded into other vocational courses.
 - W49: Innovative programmes delivered together with employers to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace.
 - W50: Level 2 maths in Wales.
- Threshold Das have been procured to deliver:
 - W53 Money Management, and
 - W46 Prisoners released or on temporary licence.
- 417 participants have attended Multiply courses either as groups or one to one, many of whom have completed accreditations. Courses span

across several interventions ranging from first steps cooking, family learning to employability type courses linked to numeracy.

- The Multiply profile is constantly being raised through community events such as woodland explorers, coffee mornings and general community engagement.
- 5.15 A copy of the SPF bulletin is attached at **Appendix 3** detailing some of the projects delivered so far in the first two years of the programme and a full list of the Projects for the programme is attached at **Appendix 4**.
- 5.16 In line with the agreed governance arrangements for the SPF programme, Cabinet considered and agreed to support two significant projects on 3rd April 2024, subject to identifying the release of funds within the current programme:
- W03 Cleaner and Greener - £995,000
 - W24 Retrofit Hub, Coleg Y Cymoedd - £1,000,000
- 5.17 The Cleaner and Greener project aims to enhance and improve the Street scene of the most popular spaces in our communities for the benefit of those who live, work, or visit in the county borough. These improvements are over and above minimum and statutory service levels with a view to promoting well-being. Good quality surroundings enable people to feel safe and secure, use facilities and services and socialise. These factors support good physical and mental health and well-being and are regularly fed back to the Council as priority areas for the public.
- 5.18 The Retrofit Centre aims to contribute to the provision of a training hub at Coleg y Cymoedd, Ystrad Mynach Campus, to provide housing providers (including Caerphilly Homes) with the skills necessary to retrofit residential properties to meet the commitment to make all homes net zero by 2050. The new training hub will also serve to bring a currently underused property on Campus back into beneficial use.
- 5.19 There is a shortage of available skilled staff in the construction sector within the Council's workforce to support the decarbonisation of current and new residential properties. The Retrofit project will support a collaborative approach to developing the skills required to meet both industry requirements and the Council's house building plans. Caerphilly Homes are exploring opportunities with Coleg Y Cymoedd to ensure that the retrofit and decarbonisation elements of the WHQS23 programme benefit directly from the proposed investment. This will include opportunities to upskill the existing workforce and ensure that the capacity and the expertise is available to inform workforce development.

Conclusion

- 5.20 The 2023-24 period spend was 74% of the allocated budget, an improvement from the 40% spend profile achieved for the financial period 2022-23 demonstrating the momentum and mobilisation of projects within the Local Investment Plan and the effectiveness of the SPF Board in managing the programme.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 Delivery of the programme is challenging with funding at risk if it is not committed in accordance with the in-year allocations and in line with the designated output and outcome measures.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 Refer to the Integrated Impact Assessment link,

[Link to IIA](#)

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The UK Government has recently received the end of year claim for 2023-24 and we await their decision on whether to agree to RCT's request for underspends from 2023-24 to be carried-forward into 2024-25, including all unallocated, and unspent Multiply funding.
- 8.2 Including the 2023/24 underspend, CCBC's allocation for 2024//25 is expected to be £22,448,403.56 across all four pillars.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 This programme is significant and challenging in terms of delivery and will place additional pressure on those service areas engaged in the programme, to provide the necessary staff support, in particular, Regeneration and Finance. A small team is already in place to support the administration and monitoring requirements of the programme.
- 9.2 There are around 80 staff that are currently funded by SPF employed in delivery and operational roles that will be affected to varying degrees once the programme ends in March 2025, if there is no successor programme in place.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 Consultation responses have been included in this report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000, Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Local Government and Elections Act 2021.

Author: Paul Hudson, Business Enterprise Renewal Team Leader

Consultees: Cllr Sean Morgan, Leader of Council.
Cllr. Jamie Pritchard, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change.
Cllr. Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance.
Cllr. S Cook, Cabinet member for Housing.
Cllr. Elaine Forehead, Cabinet Member for Social Care.
Cllr. Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Property and Highways.
Cllr. Philippa Leonard, Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection.
Cllr. Chris Morgan, Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure and Green Spaces.
Cllr. Carol Andrews, Cabinet Member for Education and Communities.
Cllr. Gary Johnston, Chair of Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.
Cllr. Amanda McConnell, Vice Chair of Corporate and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.
Dave Street, Deputy Chief Executive.
Mark S. Williams, Corporate Director for Economy and Environment.
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services.
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer.
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services.
Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning.
Liz Lucas, Head of Customer and Digital Services.
Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure.
Nick Taylor Williams, Head of Housing.
Allan Dallimore, Regeneration Services Manager.
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer.
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning and Strategy.
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services.
Ian Raymond, Principal Project Officer.
Dave Roberts, Principal Group Accountant.

Appendix 1: 2023-24 Summary Claim Submitted.

Appendix 2: WLGA Letter to Secretary of State for DLUHC

Appendix 2A – Response letter from Secretary of State for DLUHC

Appendix 3: Year End Bulletin.

Appendix 4: Outline list of projects funded by UKSPF.

Appendix 1

2023-24 Financial Year Claim Submitted (Subject to Validation by Lead Authority)

	2023/24 Allocation				Spend (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024).				Full Year Variance (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024).		
Core	Capital	Revenue	Total	%	Capital	Revenue	Total	%	Capital	Revenue	Total
Communities & Place (Intervention & Capital M&A)	£821,276.83	£1,888,491.23	£2,709,768.06	27.97%	£389,763.52	£1,389,378.58	£1,779,142.10	23.35%	-£431,513.31	-£499,112.65	-£930,625.96
Local Business (Intervention & Capital M&A)	£1,946,246.59	£1,404,148.72	£3,350,395.31	34.58%	£1,982,969.84	£903,226.59	£2,886,196.43	37.88%	£36,723.25	-£500,922.13	-£464,198.88
People & Skills (Intervention & Capital M&A)	£880.61	£3,451,809.33	£3,452,689.94	35.63%	£0.00	£2,816,406.48	£2,816,406.48	36.96%	-£880.61	-£635,402.85	-£636,283.46
Core Revenue Management & Administration (60% of 4% retained by LA Partner). Please record spend for Revenue M&A only.	£0.00	£176,374.93	£176,374.93	1.82%	£0.00	£137,861.88	£137,861.88	1.81%	£0.00	-£38,513.05	-£38,513.05
Total	£2,768,404.03	£6,920,824.21	£9,689,228.24	100.00%	£2,372,733.36	£5,246,873.53	£7,619,606.89	100.00%	-£395,670.67	-£1,673,950.68	-£2,069,621.35
	2023/24 Allocation				Spend (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024).				Full Year Variance (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024).		
Multiply	Capital	Revenue	Total	%	Capital	Revenue	Total	%	Capital	Revenue	Total
Multiply	£0.00	£1,976,315.17	£1,976,315.17	97.56%	£0.00	£1,008,019.66	£1,008,019.66	98.04%	£0.00	-£968,295.51	-£968,295.51
Multiply Management & Administration (60% of 4% retained by LA Partner)	£0.00	£49,407.88	£49,407.88	2.44%	£0.00	£20,178.18	£20,178.18	1.96%	£0.00	-£29,229.70	-£29,229.70
Total	£0.00	£2,025,723.05	£2,025,723.05	100.00%	£0.00	£1,028,197.84	£1,028,197.84	100.00%	£0.00	-£997,525.21	-£997,525.21
Grand Total	£2,768,404.03	£8,946,547.26	£11,714,951.29		£2,372,733.36	£6,275,071.37	£8,647,804.73		-£395,670.67	-£2,671,475.89	-£3,067,146.56

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Dr Chris Llewelyn

Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive

**Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru
Welsh Local Government Association**

Un Rhodfa'r Gamlas

Heol Dumballs

Caerdydd

CF10 5BF

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One Canal Parade

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Cardiff

CF10 5BF

Tel: 029 2046 8600

Ein Cyf / Our Ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 1st March 2024

Gofynnwch am / Please ask for: Tim Peppin

Llinell uniongyrchol / Direct line: 07747 483761

Ebost / Email: tim.peppin@wlga.gov.uk

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing and Communities
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Dear Secretary of State

Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) – request for extension of programme

I am writing to you further to our correspondence last year (your ref: 30107328; 14/09/23). In your response you noted that your officials were turning their attention to future funding in line with timelines for the next SR, and that updates would be communicated as that work progressed. In light of current discussions between our respective officials, I believe it is now a good time to revisit the issues I raised in my original letter to you dated 7th August.

Good progress continues to be made in all four regions of Wales delivering the SPF. All four lead councils are working at pace to maximise spend across the programme, working collaboratively and effectively with councils in their regions to deliver key local interventions within agreed strategic approaches. These are making a real difference to local communities, businesses and people. As I said in my previous letter, the progress has been remarkable in the time available.

The message from all regions remains, however, that more time is needed to ensure the best possible outputs and outcomes are realised. To stress again, WLGA first flagged concerns over the timescale for programme delivery in correspondence with a previous Minister, Neil O'Brien, at the outset of SPF in April 2022. Having then waited for RIPs to be approved and for the release of funding, the time available for delivery was squeezed further. At present, the SPF is due to finish at the end of March 2025. If no funding can be spent after that date, projects will have to complete by around December 2024 in order to undertake the steps necessary for programme closure. That will mean councils have had only around 16 months to deliver.

As WLGA's Spokesperson on Economy, I am writing on behalf of all four regions and all 22 councils once again to request a targeted, focused and limited extension of the SPF programme by **six months**. That would give projects a more realistic timescale in which to deliver intended benefits and outcomes. I would reiterate that this is not a request for additional funding, but for more time to spend what is already committed to the programme.

We hope that you are able to give this serious consideration as we all share the objective to achieve as much success from the SPF as possible. If, however, you are unable to extend the timescale for the programme itself, we would request as a minimum permission to spend the 4% available for administrative purposes beyond the end of March 2025. Being able to undertake programme closure after that date would enable projects to continue for a few more months, enable efficient project and programme closure and deliver agreed outcomes.

I would like, also, to raise the issue of flexibility in the use of Multiply funding once again. WLGA first raised this with the previous Secretary of State for Wales in July 2022. We have welcomed the steps already taken to allow allocation of Year 1 Multiply underspends to support People and Skills activity in Year 2. We would like to see that flexibility continued to avoid a potential underspend situation. All regions continue to undertake creative steps to maximise Multiply spending but will struggle to spend the full amounts available. In contrast, bids for other interventions have been way in excess of the level of funding available. Having the flexibility to use Multiply funding for complementary interventions which support the goal of improving people's life chances would seem sensible and proportionate.

We are now in a critical phase in terms of delivery, with (currently) only just over a year left to maximise spend, bring projects to an end and close the programme. Clarity on closure is now vital in order to manage the closing down of individual projects and the overall programme. A decision on the timescale for the end of the programme is therefore vital and needs to be communicated as soon as possible to all lead councils, even if the decision remains to close the programme at the end of March 2025. That would enable lead councils to make the necessary arrangements to enable efficient closure.

Finally, WLGA is keen to have a discussion and work with both yourselves in UK Government and the Welsh Government as soon as possible on plans for a successor programme. I believe it is crucial that local authorities input to that forward planning as part of a tripartite arrangement. We can contribute significantly to the shaping and delivering of any future programme, building on our experience, learning and successes to date.

I hope you are able to agree to the above proposals and would be very happy to discuss them with you if you feel that would be helpful. I am copying this letter to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the Secretary of State for Wales and the Welsh Government Minister for Economy.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Stewart', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Councillor Rob Stewart
WLGA Deputy Leader and Spokesperson for Economy

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Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP

Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Minister for Intergovernmental Relations

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

Cllr Rob Stewart
Welsh Local Government Association
One Canal Parade
Dumballs Road
Cardiff
CF10 5BF

Our reference: MC2024/05730

28th March 2024

Dear Rob,

Thank you for your letter of 1 March regarding the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). The UKSPF is a central pillar of the Government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda, and I welcome the excellent progress being made in all parts of Wales to deliver projects which are making a real difference to communities, businesses, and people.

I acknowledge your concerns regarding the timescale for delivery. I understand my officials are in regular communication with lead local authorities, and local authorities from their respective regions to ensure we are able to maximise delivery of funding available for both core UKSPF and Multiply.

I should note that decisions regarding funding beyond March 2025 are ultimately a matter for the next Spending Review. I can assure you, however, that we will continue to use your feedback, and the feedback we receive from local authorities and other partners across the UK, as we approach the next Spending Review. Officials from our Wales Area Team will continue to discuss these matters with local authorities, the respective lead local authorities and the Welsh Local Government Authority (WLGA) as we enter the final year of the UKSPF.

The Government is also committed to working with local partners across the UK to consider future simplification reforms at the next Spending Review. Our vision is to explore better join up across interconnected policy areas and investment programmes, reducing burdens for local authorities and fund bidders.

Multiply remains an integral part of the UKSPF, and I would like to acknowledge the important role local authorities in Wales are playing in driving forward the rollout of projects which are helping to improve adult numeracy skills. Officials from across the Government are exploring ways in which we can collectively offer flexibilities to Multiply which maximise delivery whilst maintaining the integrity of the programme within the UKSPF.

In addition to flexibilities permitted in allowing Year 1 Multiply allocations to be transferred to the People and Skills priority, we also recently expanded the eligibility definition to capture a wider cohort of individuals. This now includes individuals who already hold a Level 2 qualification but whose numeracy skills no longer meet the functional standard, or those individuals where Multiply could be helpful in supporting their progression into work, in their career or on to higher levels of training.

I hope these additional flexibilities will encourage further innovation in the delivery of Multiply, help local authorities and their partners to take full advantage of the available funding, and ultimately benefit more individuals across Wales.

I remain encouraged and grateful for the leadership offered by local government in Wales in the delivery of the fund, and in wider UK Government Levelling Up programmes.

I appreciate you taking the time to write. Thank you again for your letter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ms.' followed by a stylized flourish that ends in an arrow pointing to the right.

RT HON MICHAEL GOVE MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Minister for Intergovernmental Relations



2023 - 2024

UKSPF YEARLY SUMMARY



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Team Caerphilly
Better Together



Funded by
UK Government

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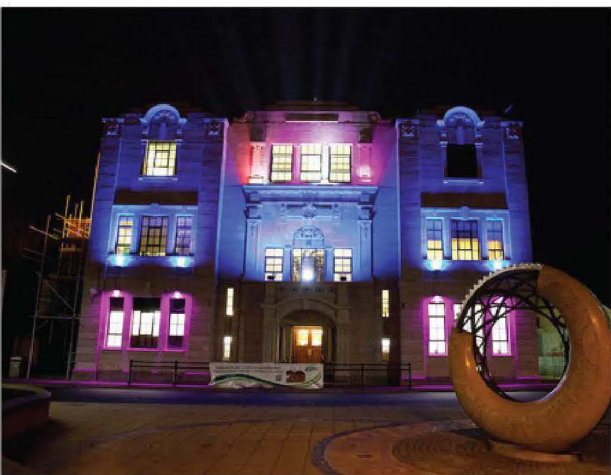
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- Overview Pages 4-5
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- Supporting Business Pages 28-39
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- Multiply Pages 45-46
- Caerphilly Town 2035 Pages 47-51



Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg, ac mewn ieithoedd a fformatau eraill ar gais.
This document is available in Welsh, and in other languages and formats on request.

Collage of eleven photos showing numerous community events and locations across the Caerphilly county borough.



OVERVIEW

What is the UK Shared Prosperity Fund?

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK, investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills.

The UKSPF will support the UK government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging.
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest.
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost.
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.

How much money does Caerphilly County Borough receive?

Caerphilly County Borough has a conditional allocation of **£28,272,298**, and an allocation of **£5,901,499** for *Multiply (*UK Gov Adult numeracy programme) up to March 2025.

How is the money being spent?



Communities and Place - to enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships, and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level.



Supporting Local Business - to enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow.



People and Skills - to help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. Places can also target funding.



Multiply - helping transform the lives of adults across the UK, by improving their functional numeracy skills.

Data provided in this summary is subject to validation and verification

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Food resilience programme – Food4Growth
Rural innovation and investment fund

CULTURAL HERITAGE

TOWN CENTRE & REGENERATION

Choose Local
VZTA
Events
Tour Of Britain
Town Enhancement

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

Business Enterprise & Renewal Team
Business Advice Clinics
Business Development Grants
Business Development Grants Case Studies
Business Support Project Fund
Business Support Project Fund Case Studies
International Trade Support
International Trade Support Grants Case Studies
Industrial Development

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Cost of living grant
Funding & Support for
Community Spaces - Project
W11
Digital
Transport and Accessibility
Streetwave
Free Town Centre Wifi

HEALTH & WELL BEING

Sport Caerphilly Facility Grant
Support for local arts, cultural,
heritage and creative activities

PEOPLE & SKILLS

Aims and objectives
UKSPF Academy Awards
Partnership Events

MULTIPLY

CAERPHILLY 2035

Ffos Caerfilli
Pentrebane Street





Communities

Communities & Places

To enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT



FOOD RESILIENCE PROGRAMME – FOOD4GROWTH

To provide and deliver support that increases and promotes the production and processing of food and drink within Caerphilly County. The Food4Growth project, will, alongside partner initiatives across Gwent, fund interventions and projects to sustain a resilient food sector that delivers for the local economy in a sustainable way. Grant funding is available for projects that will result in an increase in production, processing, skills or support social and community initiatives to create a sustainable and circular food system in Caerphilly. The Food4Growth Community Fund is for a maximum of 80% of reasonable eligible costs, up to a maximum grant award of £30,000.00 exclusive of VAT.



Investments could include the development and creation of community growing spaces, food distribution initiatives, community cooking spaces, processing projects or basic and foundational food skills.

The Food4Growth Community Fund is open to applications that deliver community based or community focussed food projects across Caerphilly and projects can be based in urban, rural or semi-rural areas.

A broad overview of the type and scope of projects that are eligible to apply to request support include the following:

- **Community growing activities**
- **Social engagement and volunteering activities with food, growing or processing**
- **Cultural and heritage initiatives around food and drink that contribute to a sustainable food place**
- **One off events**
- **Skills and training initiatives focussed around growing, processing or using food and drink**



RURAL INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT FUND

Investment in a minimum of 10 rural businesses / initiatives that support the enhancement of Caerphilly's Rural Economy. Investments examples include marketing and staff investments to increase rural competitiveness, shorten supply chains and to introduce new products. The Rural Industry and Innovation Fund is for a maximum of 80% of reasonable eligible costs, up to a maximum grant award of £30,000.00 exclusive of VAT.

Physical investments into equipment and machinery to diversify farm businesses, boost social enterprises and support businesses to invest in new products. Previous grant support has supported new food businesses, increased drink makers production, supported new manufacture of land-based products and supported rural businesses to increase productivity and competitiveness to overcome the barriers to operating in rural locations.

The fund will target farm diversification directly and measures to boost alternative produce to combat global supply issues and reduce food miles. Measures to reduce the carbon intensity of agriculture will be trialled.



Investments examples could include capital investments into equipment and machinery to diversify farm businesses, boost social enterprises and support businesses to invest in new products.

The fund can also be used to support revenue costs such as marketing and staff investments to increase rural competitiveness, shorten supply chains and to introduce new products.

Previous grant support has supported new food businesses, increased drink makers production, supported new manufacture of land-based products and supported rural businesses to increase productivity and competitiveness to overcome the barriers to operating in rural locations.

The fund will target farm diversification directly and measures to boost alternative produce to combat global supply issues and reduce food miles and will consider measures to trial reducing the carbon intensity of agriculture.

A broad overview of the type and scope of projects that are eligible to apply to request support include the following:



- **Agriculture and Agricultural associated activities**
- **Tourism, hospitality and visitor economy**
- **Research and Innovation in rural areas**
- **Land based production, processing and supply chains**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Creative Industries**
- **IT**

CULTURAL HERITAGE

In 2024 the Council will publish and adopt its Buildings at Risk Strategy using data provided by Cadw. The Strategy is being considered by the Council's Cabinet in December 2023 and will identify an action plan to tackle these nationally important buildings and prevent them being lost forever.

The Strategy accepts that given the range in scale of listed buildings and their sometimes, complex issues there is a need to identify a range of options to tackle buildings at risk.

As part of this Strategy, a Historic Building Grant is being development and being made available from April 2024 to owners of listed buildings at risk within the Borough through the Shared Prosperity Fund. If successful, applicants will see the Council provide financial assistance to help fund the costs of a restoration project for buildings qualifying for the scheme.

The Historic Buildings Grant is being developed to support owners of listed buildings at risk through the provision of a capital funding grant that will enable owners to repair their buildings and preserve these nationally significant buildings for future generations.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Establish a Community Grants Programme for use by community groups/third sector/voluntary sector.

COST OF LIVING GRANT



- Establish a Cost-of-Living Crisis Support Fund to provide programmes and campaigns to encourage the uptake of energy efficiency measures for homes such as heat pumps, water pumps, increased insulation etc.
- Target the most deprived communities across the county borough with support via an Energy Efficiency Fabric First Programme.
- Provide support for local foodbanks, social supermarkets and Fair Share Schemes to assist residents.

FUNDING & SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY SPACES - PROJECT W11

The aim is to establish Community Grants Programme for use by community groups/third sector/voluntary sector. Funding for community spaces, such as village halls, libraries or community centres for local civil society and community groups to use. Training programmes to support local civil society and community group leaders. **Page 85**



Developing the Community Support Fund & Mobilising Engagement

Capitalising on the development of Caerphilly Cares since its inception in ensuring the needs of residents are at the heart of delivery, the team have engaged with groups, individuals and organisations across the borough primarily dealing with Cost-of-Living issues emanating from our communities.

They have prioritised working closely with internal departments and organisations while cutting across SPF priorities using an existing workforce in meeting the required aims and objectives of each work stream.



Outcomes & Notable Achievements to Date

- 86 community groups supported across 24 wards within the borough. Groups are assisted to access funding and or training to help achieve long term sustainability.
- 70 Welcoming Spaces established and maintained.
- From April 23 to February 24, 1,265 welcoming spaces sessions have been held, where 3,126 individuals attended, and 126 referrals made to the Caerphilly Cares gateway to receive appropriate support.
- Caerphilly Cares Gateway have taken over 5,000 calls and received over 1,500 emails requesting help. The key issues raised by residents are as follows:
 - Food & Fuel Poverty (referrals made to local foodbanks & CAB)
 - Income Maximisation (referrals made to Tenancy Support & CAB)
 - Loneliness & Isolation (residents signposted to existing groups & services)
 - Poor Mental Health (residents signposted to existing groups & services)
- The gateway ensures residents are appropriately signposted to existing provision and will support individuals until they are ready to move on.
- Cross cutting collaborative work and establishing resident focused initiatives, processes, and projects in collaboration with partners.

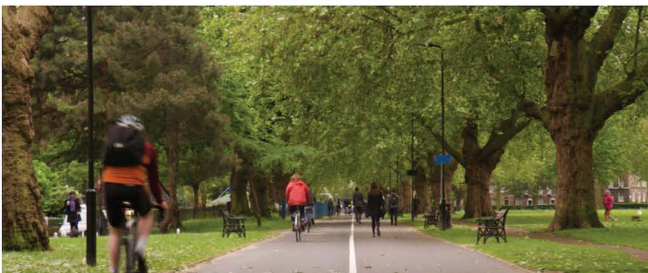


DIGITAL

- Increase the accessibility and availability of digital infrastructure in local communities.
- Identify key sites that need digital infrastructure improvements plus various employment sites.
- Improve Wi Fi/digital connectivity in town centres and offer support to local businesses via the Caerphilly Enterprise Fund (CEF) to enable businesses to buy and implement new industrial digital technology solutions to add value to their offer.
- Develop a digital application e.g. Near me Now which will enable residents to access the nearest shop, bank, restaurant online and allow independent companies to advertise appointment or promotional offers on the local high street.

TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

- Support initiatives that contribute to active travel use such as the provision of new or improved cycleways/paths and an Active Travel Promotional Budget to promote their use.
- Increase Electric Vehicle charging points at key destinations.



STREETWAVE

£15.5k allocated to undertake studies on network coverage within the authority. The aim is to improve connectivity with existing networks.



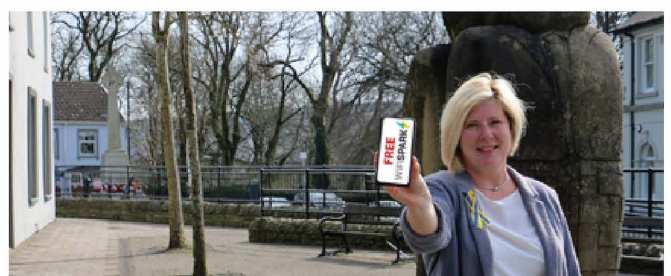
FREE TOWN CENTRE WIFI

Upkeep and running of the free town centre wifi programme created in Bargoed, Blackwood, Risca, Rhymney, Ystrad Mynach, Newbridge and Caerphilly town centres.

Cllr. Jamie Pritchard Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change

"Keeping people connected while utilising our high streets is a massive boost for our town centres. This provision is another exciting opportunity to draw people back to local town centres.

Free public access Wi-Fi offers opportunities for people with limited or no broadband to access vital online local council, government and health care services. The service will also allow residents and local businesses to engage digital solutions to help improve the overall visitor experience for all".



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- Promote the importance of community sports facilities and engaging in sports.
- Establish a CCBC Sports and Recreation Grants programme for community groups to support community sports leagues.
- Make provision for 3G pitches at a local Community School to improve the provision of sports facilities to create a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- Make provision for Area Co-ordinators to signpost and link to existing services to improve health and well-being in the community.
- Provide a programme of Fitness Suite Enhancements to increase the number of facilities supported/created with the aim of increasing the number of users of facilities/amenities.
- Strengthen our social fabric and foster a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.



SPORT CAERPHILLY FACILITY GRANT

Sporting Clubs that reside in Caerphilly County Borough can now apply to access this funding (**up to £2,000 per club**) to enhance their facility, which in turn help increase opportunities for participation!

The Sport Caerphilly Facility Grant has been developed to support community clubs within the borough. It aims to assist clubs through a Capital funding grant that will enable clubs to grow and improve their settings to benefit residents within our borough.



SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ARTS, CULTURAL, HERITAGE AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES - W60

The project has focused on developing creative community hubs that are co created by local people to address their needs. This may be addressing well being, creative or social issues. It enables people to reach their full potential with a forward-thinking approach. The skills of people in communities and employed artists are used as the catalysts to develop social cohesion and better well being. The aim is to mentor and support communities to help themselves and find their own creative solutions to their day to day life.

Zenfest was a week long arts festival that targeted 4 distinct communities around the county that we identified as having both low creative opportunities and identified Social needs that we discussed through partners and officers working around the county.

- Day 1 Markham Community Centre**
- Day 2 Nelson Community Centre**
- Day 3 Risca Library**
- Day 4 Caerphilly Miners/Newbridge Library**



Over 850 people attend during the week with many staying all day to participate in range of activities such as circus skills, music, storytelling, drama games, arts and crafts and writing skills. This has led us to develop projects around these 4 areas and form partnerships with many of the creative people and organizations.

Follow up of the 4 main areas:



- Mother and toddler drama group in Markham
- Inclusive arts and crafts group in Markham
- Developing whole family projects to bring people together
- Working with Inside Out Cymru at Markham Community house to deliver work that address low level mental health issues
- Working with the creative project manager for Bute Energy developing long term programmes of work in Nelson
- Through partnering with the library we've worked with Caerphilly creatives to extend inclusive arts to Newbridge
- Worked with Menter Iath to establish a Welsh language youth theatre at Caerphilly Miners
- Supported the creative industries so that they can work in the area through a small bursary scheme that mentors and develops 4 local creatives to become self employed
- The project has also supported the pilot of the talking shop which is based in Blackwood shopping precinct



TOWN CENTRE & REGENERATION

As part of the Business Enterprise and Renewal Team, the Town Centre Management Team takes a proactive approach to the development, promotion, and marketing of our town centres and the business communities within them to ensure the economic success of the County Borough.

Our support is focused but not limited to the five principal town centres of Bargoed, Blackwood, Caerphilly, Ystrad Mynach and Risca, where we work closely alongside other directorates within the Council, Town Councils, and external partners to create diverse, sustainable and thriving places for communities to live in, work and enjoy





What is Choose Local?

There are five principal town centres within Caerphilly County Borough: Caerphilly, Blackwood, Risca, Bargoed and Ystrad Mynach. They are supported by the four local centres of Newbridge, Rhymney, Nelson and Bedwas. Each town centre has their own characteristics and attractions that make them great places to shop, work, live and enjoy.



Objectives:

- Encourage and engage with the public to shop their local high street.
- Encourage a community feel of supporting their local businesses.
- Increase footfall and business for the local economy.

What is the VZTA Smart Towns App?

Caerphilly Council and Near Me Now Ltd have collaborated to bring the VZTA Smart Towns App to the County Borough's five principal town centres, Caerphilly, Blackwood, Bargoed, Ystrad Mynach and Risca.



For Consumers:

The purpose of the app is to provide a digital Highstreet that makes it easy for people to shop local with local product listings, events, and services available at the click of a button. VZTA Smart Towns app is free to download and use by all members of the public.

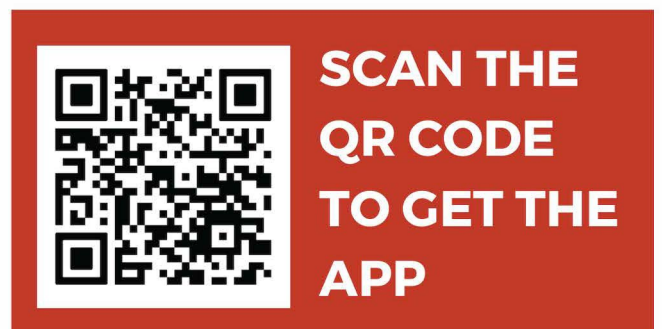


For Businesses:

VZTA equips businesses with the tools necessary to compete online and communicate quickly and easily with locals and visitors to their town centre. Businesses can promote their products and services, raise the profile of town centre events and work collaboratively with their town centre business community to create a sense of place online.



VZTA Smart Towns app is free to use for any business with a physical presence currently within the designated town centre boundary of the County Borough's five principal towns.





EVENTS

All over Caerphilly Borough, UKSPF has allowed us to put on many fantastic seasonal events throughout the year. From Spring & Summer Fairs, Beach Parties, Food Festivals, The Little Cheese, and of course our various Christmas Fairs, we are able to put on a variety of events.

2022-23 UKSPF-funded Town Centre Events

Event	Footfall
Blackwood Spring Fair 2023	8,058
Bargoed Spring Fair 2023	76,470
Caerphilly Food & Drink Festival 2023	70,977
Risca Beach Party 2023	2,533
The Little Cheese Festival 2023	77,737
Caerphilly Pride	7,704
Ystrad Mynach Winter Food & Craft Fair 2023	5,385
Blackwood Winter Food & Craft Fair 2023	7,627
Caerphilly Winter Food & Craft Fair 2023	9,326
Ystrad Mynach Spring Fair 2024	5,623

RECORD NUMBERS OF ATTENDANCE SEEN AT MANY OF THE EVENTS.



RED boxes indicate highest footfall on record for that event.



Town Centre Events - Businesses' Feedback



“On behalf of Risca RFC, we were very grateful for the advertising, we did also get on every local social media page. The day was fantastic, we were busy all day and totally sold out of burgers and hot dogs. It was great to see so many people in Risca town and there is no doubt other businesses would have benefited from the day. Bring on next year’s Risca Beach Party!”

**Louise Jenkyn, Club Secretary at Risca RFC
Risca Beach Party 2023**

“Good community spirit, ticked all the boxes, lovely for the kids, the petting zoo and pantomime were very popular.”

**Memories
Ystrad Mynach Spring Fair 2023**



“It may have been called the Little Cheese, but there was nothing little about this year’s festival. It was fantastic, Caerphilly shone. There were so many happy faces, lots of laughter, dancing in the High St. It was amazing, all the small business who joined us at Caerphilly Artisan Market were blown away. A perfect weekend, in a beautiful town. Well done to everyone involved and thank you.”

**Christopher Hall, Caerphilly Artisan Market
The Little Cheese Festival 2023**



“Lots of smiling happy faces all day long. Best street fair we’ve ever seen, there were more market stalls. Very well organised. Really positive event. Blackwood was kept spotless throughout the day and lots to do for the kids too!”

**Sarah, Darren and Sharon from
Woodies
Blackwood Spring Fair 2023**



Tour Of Britain 2023



Carlos Rodriguez on his way to winning this year's final stage of the Tour Of Britain, here in Caerphilly.

The Tour of Britain is the UK's biggest cycle race, and featured its first return to the legendary Caerphilly Mountain climb since 2013 to conclude a spectacular final stage in South Wales.

Event attendance 45,000. Net visitor expenditure £725,501.00

Stage eight of the Tour saw over 100 of the world's best riders race from the picturesque Margam Country Park to the finish line in the shadows of the spectacular Caerphilly Castle.

WOUT VAN AERT CROWNED TOUR OF BRITAIN CHAMPION IN CAERPHILLY

Wout van Aert became only the third rider in history to win the Tour of Britain twice after withstanding multiple attacks in Sunday's dramatic final stage in South Wales.

94% visitors to the event rated it very enjoyable

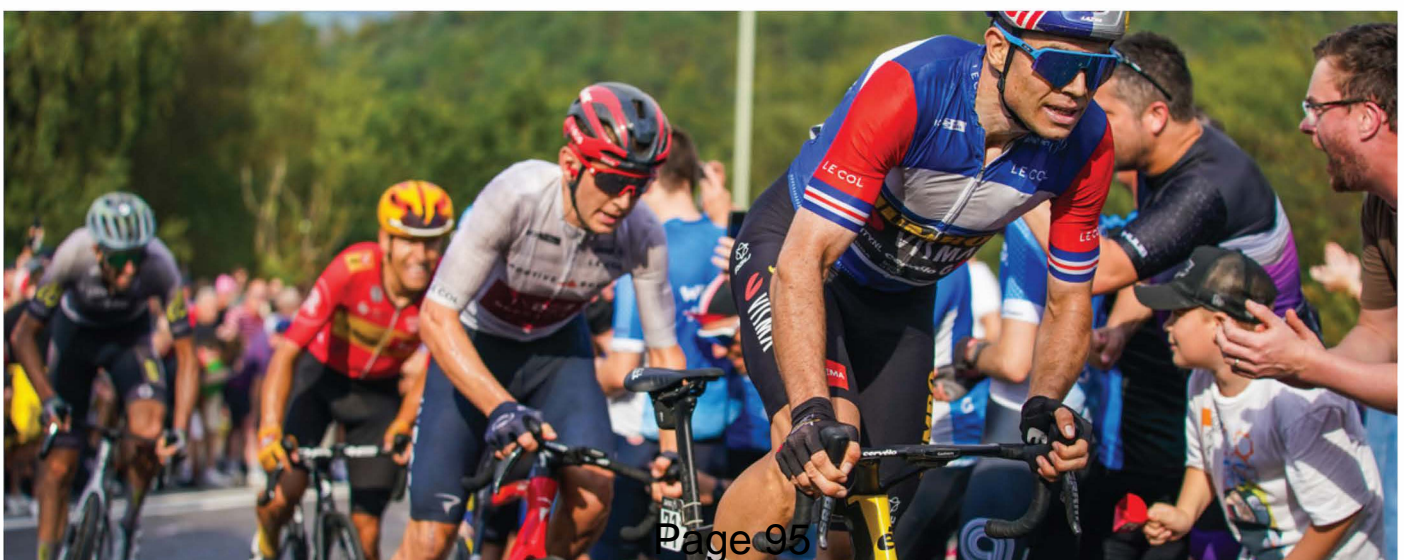
76% of visitors came from outside the area

85% would visit the area again

57% of visitors inspired to cycle more often

Andy Hawes | Route Director

"I must thank Caerphilly Council for their support in pulling together what has been hailed as one of our greatest final stages ever!"





Town Centre Enhancement

Town centres were audited and as a result of the audit it was recognised that enhancements were required to create places that attracted visitors, increase dwell time and provide sustainable places.

Ongoing improvements were required to upgrade and create an improved visual enhancement in order to attract additional town centre users, create a sense of well being and enhance the sense of place. This will contribute to the sustainability through the improvement of green spaces within the centres.

Conversations were held with councillors, town councils and stakeholders in each town centre to determine priorities. Deep cleansing, seating upgrades, algae removal, painting, and green space enhancements were carried out in the key areas.

Town Centre Enhancements have been broken down into:

- Seating improvements
- Town centre audit enhancements
- Meanwhile Space

Seating improvements

We have replaced a significant number of benches within Caerphilly and Risca and some in Blackwood after the Town Centre Team noted the condition of town centre benches during on-site audit inspections. The new benches are aesthetically pleasing and made of recycled plastic that should ensure better sustainability, greater accessibility and reduced maintenance. We have also introduced additional seating for town centre users.

9 benches removed

43 benches replaced in total **Cost - £56,566.00**



Improved accessibility

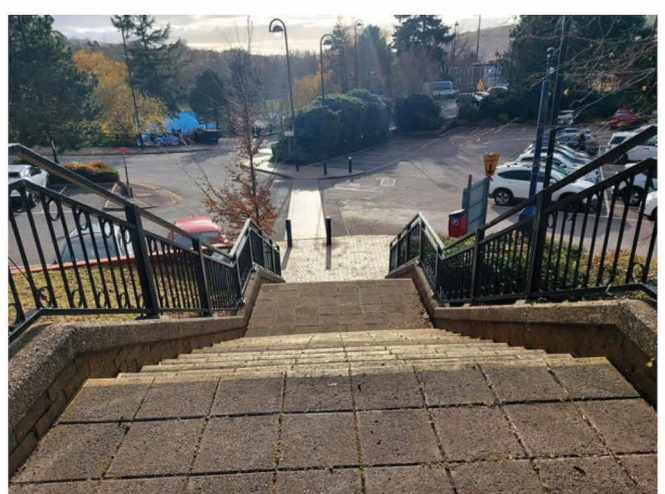
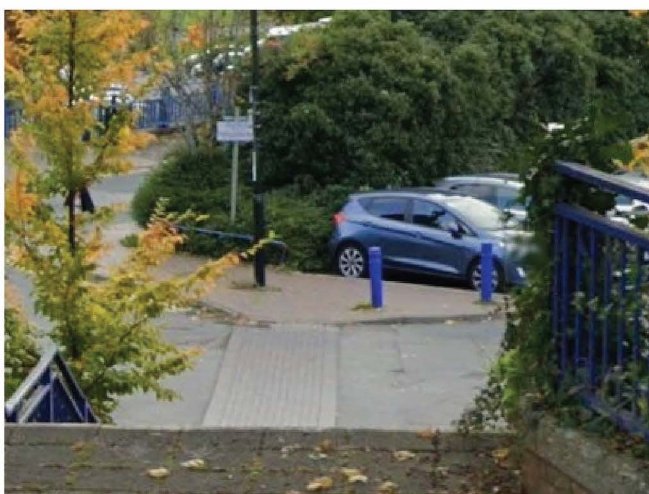


YSTRAD MYNACH

£17,036 invested in Ystrad Mynach

SPF Projects examples

- Siloh Square - town centre enhancement.
- Penallta Road - town centre enhancement.
- High Street - benches as a town centre enhancement.
- Pengam Road - town centre enhancement.
- Oakfield Street Car Park - EPG Feasibility Study to examine the feasibility of creating ramped access to the car park in Year 3, with the intention of improving DDA accessibility and connectivity to the town centre.

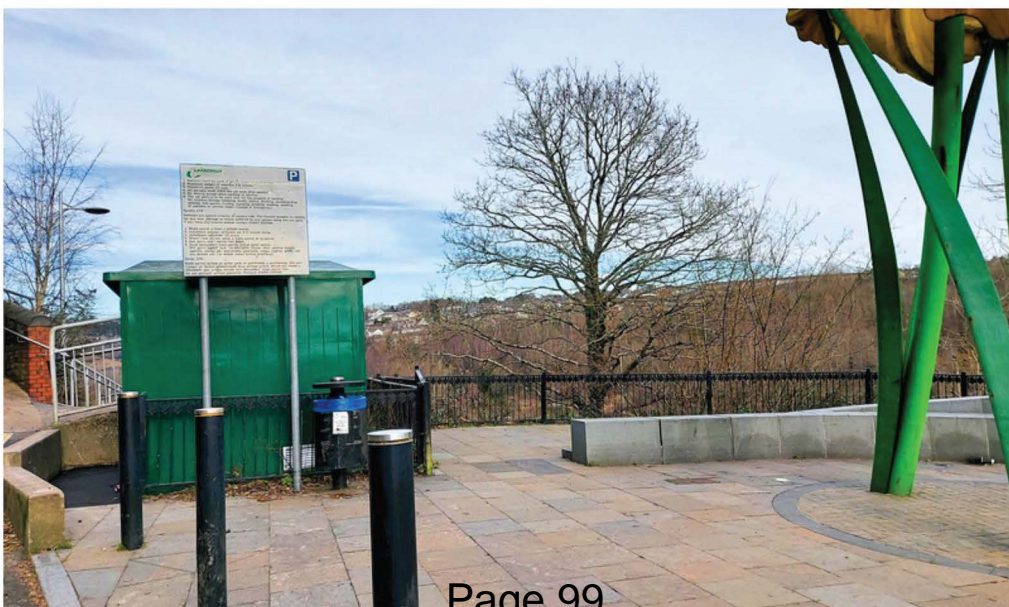


BARGOED

£74,365 invested in Bargoed

SPF Projects examples

- Gateway Steps - enhancement works to retaining wall.
- Miners' Heads - fabrication, and seating to enhance the visual amenity of the area.
- Hanbury Road Steps enhancements - barrier stabilisation and repointing of brickwork.
- Royal Square - seating enhancement.
- Bargoed Gateway Steps – the creation of a soft landscaping seating area as a town centre enhancement is being progressed and will include picnic benches and pebble seating once completed.



Bargoed Miners' Head Sculpture

£3850 invested



The much loved sculpture in Bargoed was in need of enhancement to bring it back to its former glory and to prevent future damage and provide additional seating.

Enhancement to areas of Bargoed including the High Street, St Gwladys Car Park, Upper High Street, Emporium Car Park, Bus Station, Chisholm's Lane, Hanbury Road, Community Gardens, Royal Square, Lower Plaza Square, Colliers Walk, Cardiff Road and Hanbury Road Car Park.

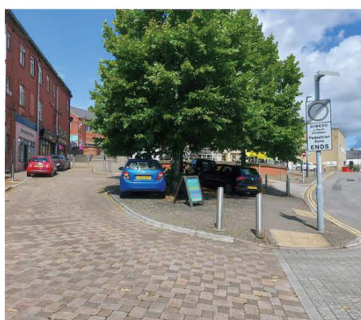


BLACKWOOD

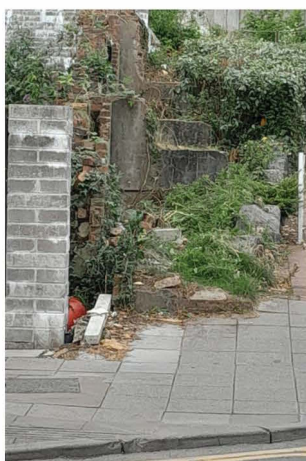
£52.421 invested in Blackwood

SPF Projects examples

- Land next to 54 High Street - enhance to seating area amenity.
- Gravel Lane - enhancements to pavement following fire damage.
- Woodbine Road - Landscaping works to include removal of hoarding, excavation of rubbish and existing bed, import soil and supply and plant new plants. Recapping and rendering of boundary wall to ensure the safety of town centre users.
- High Street - Boots to Woodbine Road - installation of vehicle mitigation bollards to improve visitor safety and pedestrian access to town centre.
- Hall Street - Installation of a knee rail to improve safety and prevent on pavement parking.



Enhancement to areas of Blackwood including Bus Station, Bus Station Car Park, Gravel Lane, High Street and restoration of sculptures

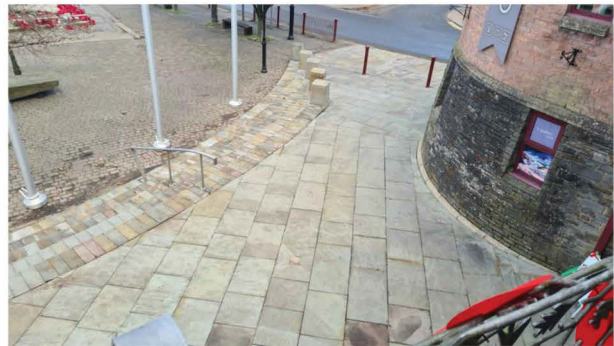


CAERPHELLY

£58,643 invested in Caerphilly

SPF Projects examples

- Cardiff Road - enhance the visual amenity of the area.
- Station Terrace / Mountain Road - Relay slabs around the trees and bottom of handrail to enhance public access.
- Cardiff Road - Removal surplus parklet from Bargoed and relocated to Caerphilly as a seating enhancement.
- Clive Street - modification to two parklets to ensure safety.
- Relaying of Yorkstone slabs around the Cenotaph for visual improvement and visitor safety.



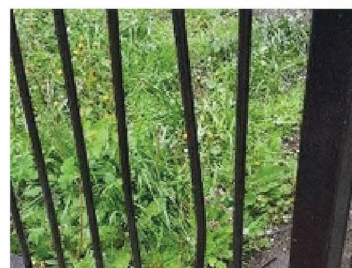
Enhancement to areas of Caerphilly including Station Terrace to Mountain Road, Obelisk area, Cardiff Road, Castle Street, and Cenotaph.

RISCA

£41,138 invested in Risca

SPF Projects examples

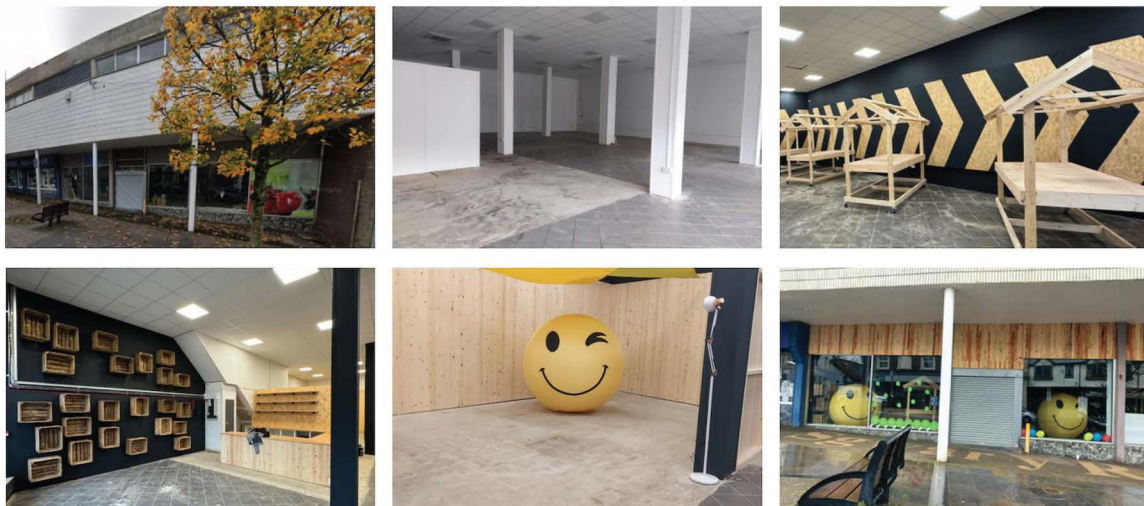
- Enhancement to street lighting to enable stakeholders to provide seasonal lighting.
- Work has begun on land next to Commercial Street roundabout (Pontymister) - this is the redevelopment of the soft landscaping seating area as a town centre enhancement.
- New benches and seating area to enhance the town centre.



- Tredegar Park - railings fabrication to enhance visual amenity of area.
- Tredegar Street - remedial works to dipped paving to improve public access to town centre.
- Tredegar Street - modification to two parklets to enhance public access.



MEANWHILE SPACE **£22,250 invested**



A Meanwhile Space refers to the temporary use of vacant units, sometimes referred to as Pop-Ups, generally at low cost or no rent. Meanwhile Spaces can have direct financial benefits to landlord and reduces potential additional costs, improves perception of the area, and adds activity and vibrancy that can in turn support wider development. Meanwhile Spaces can support start-ups to test the market, create employment opportunities and increase an areas sense of community.

The SPF funding for the piece of scoping work that was carried out in Year 1 to identify a suitable pilot for such a space. 28-29 High Street, Bargoed was identified as being appropriate for such a project due to the number of years vacant, having a large shop front that was not pleasing on the eye and being in a central location that would address the perception of the area by introducing activity with a business and community focus.

The project has been completed and is due to open early May and will provide business accommodation at no risk for potential businesses, it will include community areas for workshops, training, co working opportunities and bring activity and vibrancy into a previously vacant property.



Supporting Local Business



SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

To enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow.

Business Enterprise & Renewal Team

HELPING TO BUILD BUSINESS



Funding new initiatives and growth can be difficult. Various help is available to help achieve these goals.

The Business Enterprise Renewal Team can help with grant applications and oversee various business grants, such as:

- **UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund Business Grants**
- **CEF Business Grants**
- **UKSPF Start up Business Grants**
- **UKSPF Business Support Project Grant**
- **Rural Development Grants**
- **Community grants**

They can also help advise on other Welsh Government grants and investment loans available. Regular Business Clinics are organised throughout the authority, check social media for dates in your area.

Adam Sadler - Principal Business Development Officer

"The Business Enterprise Renewal team offers bespoke tailored advice and guidance for new and existing businesses around the Caerphilly borough. This ranges from grant and funding support to international trade advice and town centre development as well as business marketing, promotion and regeneration project management. The Shared Prosperity Fund has enabled us to offer enhanced support through the delivery of various projects including match funded grant distribution and has helped make a positive impact on the businesses we have supported."



Business Support & Funding Clinics

10 CLINICS AND 130 BUSINESSES HELPED



The Business Enterprise & Renewal Team host numerous clinics throughout the Borough where businesses can find out more about local support available from a variety of organisations. Working together we can provide funding to start or expand a business, supporting you with funding in order to purchase new equipment or even to buy a business.

The clinics have been an ideal opportunity to meet with local business and explain the UKSPF grants that could be available to grow their companies.

Business Development Grants

2023 - 2024 STATS



UKSPF - CEF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT
68 AWARDED AND OVER £904,000.00 GRANTED



UKSPF - CEF BUSINESS START-UP GRANT
4 AWARDED OVER £18,700.00 GRANTED

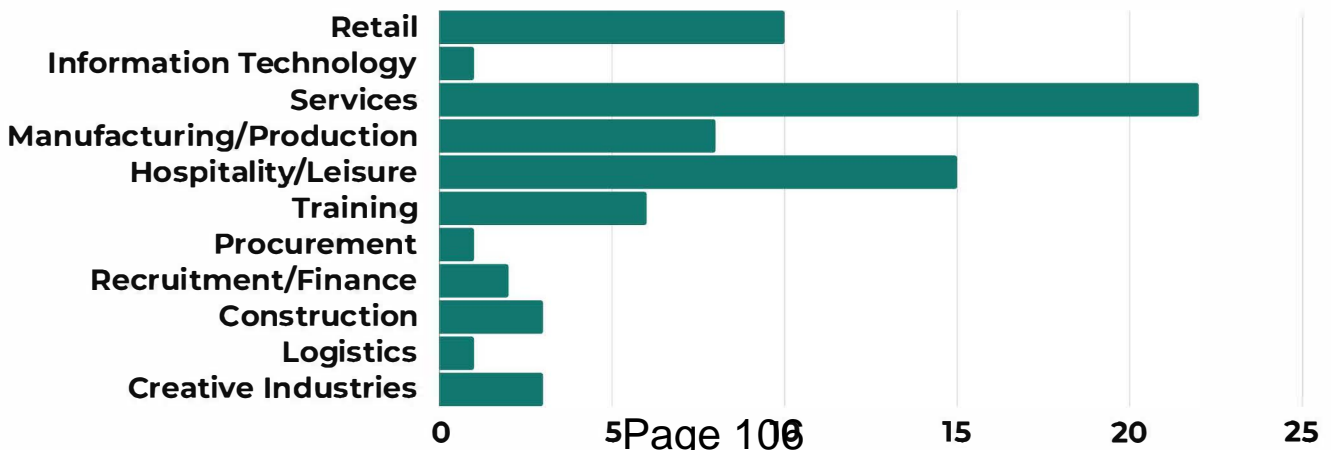


JOBS CREATED - 156
JOBS SAFEGUARD - 431



Grants supporting local businesses and businesses relocating to Caerphilly 2023 - 2024.

Types of Sectors grants allocated



Business Case Studies

As part of the UKSPF Levelling Up funding Caerphilly Council's Business Enterprise and Renewal Team have been making a real impact to business throughout the borough with grant support. Here are just a highlight of some of the businesses supported.



Smugglers Equestrian Centre

Smugglers Equestrian Centre, based at Penderi Farm Lane Manmoel, Blackwood, offer Livery to the local community and Riding lessons, Horsebox Hire, Facility Hire as well as holding events. Smugglers Equestrian Centre received £9000.00 from the UK Government through the CCBC UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

There grant was to support with the purchase of a mechanical horse so they are able to offer riding lessons to complete beginners, also to enable other riders to perfect their dressage movements and basic arena movements buy practicing balance. The Centre is the only facility in the whole of Wales to offer this facility.

The new project has safeguarded 2 employment positions enhancing the various roles of these employees. It also provides another source of income for them and attracts custom from further afield.

Owner Melissa Bules

"The grant we received from CCBC enabled us to offer a wider range of equestrian services by providing specific dressage, general riding and Riding for the Disabled (RDA) sessions via our mechanical horse. This has been an invaluable asset to our centre. This new addition has secured jobs by adding a further source of income. Without the Grant from Caerphilly Council, we would not have been able to fund this new venture as the risk of the investment was too great."

HUBU

HUBU are a Accountancy and Business Advice company who have been operating since 2008.

In 2021 Greg took on new business' premises in Bargoed Town centre, they applied for a Transforming Towns grant and was awarded £25,000 to start the refurbishment works on the property.

In 2022 awarded £10,000 from the UK Government through the CCBC UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which was to help finish of the refurbishment of the building. Works included a new Kitchen area for staff, refurbishment of Shop Frontage, office furniture and IT equipment for staff.

In 2023 Greg awarded a further £10,000 from the UK Government through the CCBC UK Shared Prosperity Fund. to help with finishing the works which included Rear Access Works, refurbishment of bathroom area and creation of a staff area.

These works enabled Greg to take on 2 new members of staff and refurbishment what had been an empty property on Bargoed High Street.

CEO Greg Hughes

"With further expansion and recruitment of more staff the business has grown from a home business into a large, much needed service for our clients. We couldn't have done it without the support from Caerphilly Council and the UKSPF grants."



More Business Case Studies



CB Refrigeration Ltd

CB Refrigeration has been in business for over 50 years and in 2016 relocated their main office to Caerphilly. Since then, owner Andrew Hall has seen the business grow from strength to strength with turnover now more than £4.3 million and increasing by 25% this year alone. They specialise, throughout the UK, in supplying, maintaining and fitting refrigeration and air conditioning for Retail, Hospitality and Distributor sectors, with some of the major blue-chip companies in hospitality among their clients.

CB Refrigeration received £11,877.75 from CCBC through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to refit their offices to accommodate their new staff, build a new reception area and purchase the new IT needed to allow the business to grow. The expansion of the company saw a further 18 new staff being taken on in various roles throughout the company.

CEO Andrew Hall

"We have seen a dramatic growth in our business in the last few years so the help and support from Caerphilly Council's Business Team was very much welcomed. The whole process of applying for the grant was made very easy by the Team, who have been there to advise and support us all the way."

SPORTTAPE Ltd

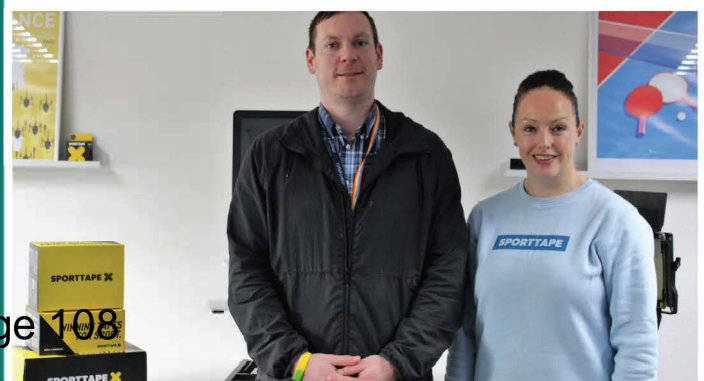
The brand was born out of a passion to help other athletes (get injured less and recover faster). Fortunately, in 2012 Sports tape LTD managed to supply Team GB for the London Olympics and that propelled them to fame. They have now sold over 5 million meters of our flagship kinesiology tape and it has been worn by Olympians and World Champions.

Sports Tape Ltd received £4515.25 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to help the purchase of IT and filming equipment to help with advertising product to break into other markets such as Amazon online retail.

The company has seen a 30% growth and an earmarked to achieve a £2million turnover this year with projected figures of £3 million next year. The company is currently working on 3 sites and plans to find premises in the Caerphilly area to bring it all under one roof.

Kate-Anne Kelly, Founder, SPORTTAPE.

"As a Caerphilly based business, being able to access funding through the CEF Business Development grant has helped expedite the purchase of much needed technical equipment. As a result, we are now able to professionally film online educational content in house for our customers which promotes the full range of SPORTTAPE products we offer. More recently with this content, we have expanded onto new social platforms including TikTok and now have over 280k followers with more than 75 million video views taking our South Wales business truly global."



More Business Case Studies



Libanus Lifestyle

Libanus Lifestyle is a registered Community Interest Company, whose profits are put straight back in to the Libanus Centre. As part of the gateway to Blackwood High Street the grounds and venue had seen better times, so in 2014, Libanus Lifestyle was created to provide a community hub, cafe, and garden, providing a wide range of health and wellbeing services and venue hire for meetings, events, and community needs.

Libanus Lifestyle received £25,000 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This grant was dedicated towards Libanus Lifestyle through Caerphilly County Borough Council's intervention of UKSPF funds. The grant was matched funded and was used to replace the roof of their premises.

Director Karen James

"The support from Caerphilly Council has been amazing, the ease of applying for the grant and the support given, made what we thought would be a daunting process into an easy one. The funding has meant we can now make the centre sustainable as a commercial building with plans to access the attic space for further use. The worth of the help is more than just financial and will see us provide a long-term benefit to the community as a whole."

Terry's Patisserie

Terry's Patisserie is an award-winning specialist food manufacturing business, providing hand-crafted patisserie products to hotels, restaurants, stadiums, and venues throughout the UK as well as the local community.

The company employs 14 people, including highly skilled chefs from all around the world, as well as recruiting local talent. The company also works with Cambrian Training to upskill their recruits to the level required to succeed in their roles.

Around the UK, Terry's Patisserie has worked with clients including RHS Chelsea Flower Show, Ascot Races, as well as numerous notable football clubs, hotels, and venues, representing some of Britain's iconic hospitality events.

The company received £25,000 (£22,000 capital and £3,000 revenue) from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). This grant was 50% match funded by Terry's Patisserie and dedicated towards the company through Caerphilly County Borough Council's intervention of the UKSPF. The equipment bought using this grant has allowed the company to elevate business productivity, attain Safe and Local Supplier Approval (SALSA) accreditation and gain a NOUVEM software system.

Director Rhys Williams

"It was a very simple process, and it was great to be able to easily reach someone on the phone. And the fact that the team have been flexible to suit the business is brilliant."



More Business Case Studies



Street Food Factory

Street Food Factory, operating since 2019, have expanded their business with a new bespoke mobile food kitchen to keep up with demand for their products and service. The company has gone from strength to strength since the pandemic with revenue and sales up over 23%.

They received £24,249.00 from CCBC through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The grant was match funded by the business and made up of £20717.49 as a capital grant, and £3531.51 in a revenue grant.

The grant supported the conversion of the mobile kitchen with the purchase of the kitchen equipment needed to create a space where food can be prepared. The support also helped towards the costs of the 2 new staff members, their training, staff uniform, Staff Reward Scheme and also payment software for touchscreen payments.

Owner Mathew Whitcombe

"The grant has been a huge factor in allowing us to expand our business and provide what our customers needed. The application process was very easy to apply for and the Business Teams support in the process was very reassuring. It has really helped kickstart our plans to make the business bigger and better than ever!"

The Westgate Rymney Brewery

Rymney Brewery is a local brewery that invests in growth in local communities all over South Wales. They have converted a vacant property in Blackwood High Street to a New Public House.

This is a standalone business that serves Rymney Brewery Beer. The pub will be the only true real ale bar in Blackwood offering all their brewery's real ales and is the 13th bar they have now opened.

The new bar is a step forward in improving Blackwood's nighttime economy.

Rymney Brewery received £20,870.00 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This grant was dedicated towards Rymney Brewery through Caerphilly County Borough Council's intervention of UKSPF funds. They also received £5000 from Caerphilly County Council's UKSPF business start up grant. The grants were used to help the renovation of all walls and ceiling in the property, making it an inviting place for customers.

Managing Director - Steve Evans

"The application process to apply for the grants was the best and most straight forward I have encountered. The Business Team at Caerphilly Council were very supportive and helpful making the process as seamless as I could wish for. The grant has allowed to bring this much needed bar to Blackwood and create 6 new jobs in the area."



New grants for 2024-2025



UKSPF TOURISM GRANT

Friendly faces, Fascinating places!

What is the grant for?
The Tourism Grant provides targeted financial assistance to new and existing Tourism attractions or Accommodation enterprises throughout the County Borough to help small and medium sized businesses (SMEs).
Eligible items may include:
• Revenue - E-Commerce/ website/ one off marketing costs
• Capital - property refurbishment or enhancement and capital equipment

UP TO £25,000 MATCH FUNDED CAPITAL & REVENUE GRANTS

Who can apply?
The Fund is open to existing Businesses and new Business Start Ups in Tourism specifically attractions and accommodation businesses.

More information and how to apply
Tel: 01443 866220
Email: business@caerphilly.gov.uk
WWW.CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK

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The **Tourism Grant** aims to support a range of development activities with a focus on helping enterprises achieve their long-term business ambitions, through quantifiable economic, environmental and social outputs that will add value to their operations through an enhancement of their production, service and output capabilities.

Business Development (Revenue) – The grant for this theme will be a maximum of 50% of reasonable eligible costs, up to a maximum grant award of £5,000 exclusive of VAT (if applicable).

Business Development (Capital) – The grant for this Theme will be a maximum of 50% of reasonable eligible costs, up to a maximum grant award of £25,000 exclusive of VAT

Business Development (Capital & Revenue) – For business looking to apply for a mixture of both elements the maximum Grant for the Revenue element will be £5,000 and the maximum grant for the Capital element will be £20,000 making a maximum total as a whole award of £25,000.



UKSPF IT DEVELOPMENT GRANT

50% Match Funded REVENUE GRANTS UP TO £7500

What is the grant for?
The IT Development Grant provides targeted financial assistance to new and existing enterprises throughout the County Borough to help small and medium sized manufacturing businesses (SMEs) in the Caerphilly Borough develop and grow to help drive Wales's economic recovery.

Who can apply?
The Fund is open to existing Businesses and new Business Start Ups, Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, established Community Groups or Social Enterprises; Sole Traders; Partnerships, Limited Companies, Community Businesses, Co-operatives and Registered Social Landlords within the Caerphilly Borough.

More information and how to apply
Tel: 01443 866220
E-mail: business@caerphilly.gov.uk
www.caerphilly.gov.uk

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The **IT Development Grant** aims to support with a focus on helping enterprises achieve their long-term business ambitions, through quantifiable economic, environmental and social outputs that will add value to their operations through an enhancement of their production, service and output capabilities.

Business Development (Revenue)– The grant for this theme will be a maximum of 50% of reasonable eligible costs, up to a maximum grant award of £7,500 exclusive of VAT (if applicable)

UKSPF BUSINESS SUPPORT PROJECT FUND



10 local providers awarded. The project is expected to run between 1 September 2023 to 31 March 2025 with only Revenue expenditure available this financial year. A small Capital allocation can be applied for from April 2024 at around 10% of Revenue spend. The fund allows bids up to £150,000 and is limited to the South Wales region.

10 PROJECTS AWARDED

ORGANISATION	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	AWARDED OVER 2 YEARS
Welsh ICE	Caerphilly IGNITE, Revitalising High Streets	Welsh ICE, Town Sq Spaces, and Caerphilly Business Club have teamed up to offer a package that revitalises high streets across Caerphilly.	£150,000.00
Welsh ICE	Caerphilly Enterprise HUB	HUB offers subsidised Workspace for pre-start businesses, support for established businesses, training and events, digital learning platform, tailored support, community connections.	£165,000.00
Welsh ICE	ICE Academy: 5-9 clubs and Hackathons	Entrepreneurship training & support programmes designed to assist aspiring entrepreneurs, early-stage startups, and established businesses. Delivered through 5-9 clubs.	£150,000.00
ESPORTS WALES CIC	Digital & Creative industry pathways programme	Expand our Industry Pathways Programme by providing training, networking and business support to young people aspiring to work in the digital or creative sectors.	£165,000.00
Business in Focus	Focus Futures	Community based engagement and business support service.	£149,110.76
CEMET	CEMET Caerphilly SPF programme	Support Caerphilly based start-ups, micros companies, SMEs and social enterprises through a bespoke 6-8 week SPF funded programme.	£140,573.52
Town Square Spaces Ltd	Elevate Caerphilly	Project looks to deliver targeted support for pre starts, start ups and businesses with high growth potential.	£139,233.00
Cardiff Metropolitan University	Leading and Growing Business	The project is organised around cohorts who will attend workshops, write assignments, and produce a Strategic Growth Project based on the requirements of their businesses.	£149,832.00
CWMPAS	Building community wealth in Caerphilly	Provision of specialist business and consultancy support and market development activity to enhance the delivery capacity of Social Business Wales (SBW) and support social businesses in Caerphilly to start up and grow.	£122,130.00
Cardiff Metropolitan University	Clean Growth Innovation Community Programme	The Clean Growth Innovation Community programme (CGIC) will support businesses and third sector organisations in Caerphilly, through a Programme Community of Practice (PCoP), to develop their innovation and Circular Economy (CE) capabilities.	£82,816.00

INTERNATIONAL TRADE SUPPORT



Helping to develop companies export strategy, access training and masterclasses, linking to specialist export advisers and helping make the most of Welsh Government and Department for International Trade's (DIT's) global network to grow your presence on the global stage.

Whether they are looking to export for the first time, looking for support to grow into new or existing markets our International Trade Support Officer can support with:-



- **Advice / Guidance.**
- **Signposting.**
- **Organise events.**
- **Identifying and Generate Commercial Opportunities.**
- **Unlock Export Potential.**
- **Develop and Maximize Your Presence on the International Stage.**
- **Grants for :-Training, Publications/Subscriptions, Certifications/Accreditations, Overseas Marketing*, and visits to Trade Fairs & Exhibitions.* (* assessed on a case-by-case basis)**

£2000 MATCH FUNDED GRANT

UKSPF INTERNATIONAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT GRANT

What is the grant for?

The International Trade Development Grant provides targeted financial assistance to new and existing enterprises throughout the County Borough to help small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) in Wales relaunch, develop, their import/export capabilities. Eligible items may include:

- Training.
- Publications / Subscriptions.
- Certifications / Accreditations.
- Overseas marketing. (Assessed on a case by case basis)
- Visit to Trade Fairs and Exhibitions. (Assessed on a case by case basis)

Who can apply?

The Fund is open to existing SME Businesses and new Business Start Ups.

More Information and how to apply

- Tel: 01443 860220
- Email: business@caerphilly.gov.uk
- WWW.CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK

Funded by UK Government

LEVELLING UP

CAERPHILLY

UKSPF TRADE GRANT

The International Trade Development Grant provides targeted financial assistance to new and existing enterprises throughout the County Borough to help small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) in Wales relaunch, develop, their import/export capabilities and grow to help drive Wales' economic recovery.

The International Trade Development Grant aims to support a wide range of development activities with a focus on helping enterprises achieve their long-term business ambitions, through quantifiable economic, environmental and social outputs that will add value to their operations through an enhancement of their production, service and output capabilities.

Business Development & Support (Revenue)– The grant for this theme will be a maximum of 50% of reasonable eligible costs, up to a maximum grant award of £2000 inclusive of VAT.

UKSPF TRADE GRANT CASE STUDIES



Atlantic Service Company, based in Blackwood, has been manufacturing in South Wales since the 1970s. Manufacturing band saw blade material for the meat and fish industries using high quality European steel and follow strict quality guidelines., with a business turnover around £10m.

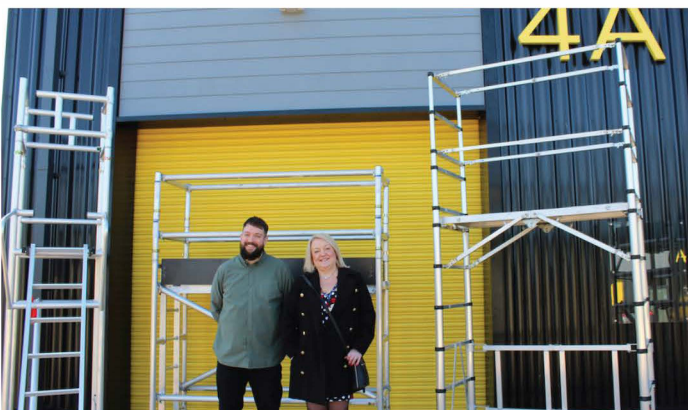
They were awarded a UKSPF International Trade Grant From CCBC to the sum £1,122.74 to help finance a trip to the Andina Pack International Trade Fair in Bogota Columbia.

The trip was a success receiving approximately £124k of orders for Q1 2024 with 1 more order currently being negotiated. It also helped build on existing relationships and future expansion plans in South America.



Asbri Golf Ltd based in Caerphilly, was founded in 2001 and was originally a product design consultancy which was commissioned to design sporting footwear, apparel and accessories to many global brands including Fila, Kappa, Puma and Umbro. Utilising this product design, developing, and sourcing knowledge, Asbri Golf was launched in 2003.

They secured an UKSPF International Trade Grant of £2000.00 from CCBC to assist with financing a recent trade visit to Canada assisting their Canadian Distributors with their largest national trade exhibition. Their visit helped their Canadian Distributors secure large orders for delivery Spring this year and have taken on new staff to join the ever-growing business.



Ben Williams, of IAE Hire

IAE Hire are a business that supply, hire and manufacture scaffolding systems for business and household consumer hire. Business owner Michael Wong and his colleague Ben Williams moved into the Ty Du business units in August 2022 after originally being based in Hong Kong.

"The benefit of the Business Enterprise Renewal Team has been immense. From the stability to trade, the networking to local businesses and groups, help with grant information, event and exhibition opportunities, Sarah and Adam have been there to help us bridge the gap of working in a new country and to grow our business."

Our International Trade Support Officer, Sarah Gaze and Principal Business Development Officer, Adam Sadler recently represented CCBC at the fantastic Explore Export Wales Conference 2024 in Cardiff.

The event is the biggest Export Conference in Wales seeing all of the major organisations and Government bodies attending. CCBC was the only Local Authority in Wales to attend.

Sarah Gaze International Trade Officer

"It was an excellent event to explore important avenues and contacts that will help us to benefit the County's businesses in achieving their exporting goals. It was also fantastic to see so many companies and entrepreneurs from our area attend the event."



INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The market for employment property and sites in south-east Wales has improved over the past decade, with a range of enquiries for industrial land in the mid and upper Valleys for businesses seeking functional employment floorspace for manufacturing, trade counter or local distribution / administration base.

Oakdale Business Park sits within the Northern Valley and benefits from its proximity to the A465 which has benefited from a significant investment in the dualling of the trunk road. Plateau 2 within the business park currently sits within the ownership of the Council and is a reclaimed colliery site that has around 19 acres of undeveloped brownfield land to the South of the site.

As part of the plan to unlock this site for development around £1.5m of the SPF programme has been identified to extend the access road within the site to service the undeveloped land based on the masterplan to allow for the creation of new industrial space which could create over 130 jobs initially.





People and Skills

PEOPLE AND SKILLS

The People and Skills investment priority will help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education.

AIMS TO DELIVER SUPPORT, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

- Make provision for employment support for economically inactive people.
- Jointly commission FE, ACL and locally procured bespoke courses which address skills gaps, address recruitment issues linked to skills gaps, and focus on growth areas in the local labour market including Creative and Digital, Green skills and green industries, Lower carbon sectors etc.
- Enable those employed in high carbon sectors locally to retrain / develop skills in lower carbon sectors.
- Jointly commissioning the FE sector to provide keyworker & wrap-around support (including counselling, financial inclusion, enrichment activities, health & wellbeing advice, hook courses, alternative qualifications etc) for those who are at risk of disengaging from EET within the FE setting.
- Deliver and procure work related qualifications.
- Provide individual support for people who are in work and would like to progress or change their career direction. Work related qualifications and interview skills and job search skills will be the focus.
- Set courses or learner led and cover topics such as – numeracy refresh, budgeting, managing your energy bills, shopping on a budget, cooking on a budget, and much more). One -to-one sessions will also be offered for those furthest away from engagement.
- Large scale events will be held over the life of the project to engage and enthuse the public/potential learners with the Multiply Programme.



Employment support for economically inactive people including intensive and wrap-around one to one support to move people closer to mainstream provision and to gain and retain employment.

Examples include tailored and intensive support delivered through mentors / key workers and referrals to local training, skills and specialised support.

The Caerphilly Employment Support team have provided Employability support to 375 people through the People and skills programme. 195 of these have accessed in-work support. 127 customers have completed a qualification.



ACADEMY AWARDS CASE STUDIES

Caerphilly Employment Support Mentors and their participants recently celebrated their journeys and the support they've received through the Caerphilly Employment Support Programmes. The UKSPF funding has made an enormous impact on the ability to provide this scheme.

Louise Aston - Team Leader - Employability Programmes

"The merger of the 2 teams has allowed us to provide a streamlined and flexible service to meet the needs of the Caerphilly residents in relation to employment support via Welsh Government and UK Shared Prosperity Team."

Kirstie Harris Mentor - Julie Davila

Kirstie was referred to the SPF programme in October 2023. Julie Davila was appointed Kirstie Employment support Mentor. Kirstie had worked for herself since she was 17 years old and had started her own business called The Little House of Beauty in Blackwood. Kirstie was feeling frustrated when Julie first met her as she explained she was struggling to keep ahead with all the training that was required to remain competitive. Together they were able to identify that it would be beneficial for Kirstie to attend a nail extension technique course. This would give Kirstie the ability for her business to remain competitive in frequently changing industry. After completing the Nail extension course Kirstie was able to offer the most up-to-date nail extension packages in time for the busy Christmas period.

Kirstie had also been funding training for her employees, which proved costly. To help Kirstie overcome this financial barrier she enquired if the SPF programme would be able to support and fund her attending a Beauty educators' course. This was approved and Kirstie is currently in the process of completing this course. Once completed this will enable Kirstie to train staff herself and will save her business thousands of pounds in the future.



Kirstie Harris

"The SPF programme has allowed me to work with a fantastic mentor to help in achieving my aim to help with educating and upskilling my staff. I am now working on a new business to set up a training academy for nail technicians and I am very grateful for the support I have received through the project."

Carolyn Beddis – Employment Manager

"We as a management team are extremely proud of all the work our mentors are undertaking to support residents of Caerphilly to overcome barriers and move closer to reaching their potential and securing work."

Catherine Penney
Mentors - Cerian Thomas / Vicky Hughes

Catherine has worked with both Cerian Thomas and Vicky Hughes over the past 18 months and has thrown herself into job searching and learning. She has been supported by both CFW+ and SPF funded projects and is known to the Caerphilly Basin team as dedicated and focussed on finding work.

Catherine is diligent and enthusiastic in all she does and despite a few knock-backs at interview she has always been ready to rise to the next challenge. Catherine is always positive about constructive feedback and has always shown willing to develop her skills. Catherine's confidence has gone from strength to strength over this time and is getting ever closer to finding employment.

Catherine's determination is un-wavering and she is always looking for the next challenge. Alongside volunteering at three different locations, Catherine completed the CFW+ hospitality pathway course in December 2023 and is now looking to access a Paid Work Placement at a CCBC care home with the support of the Academy team in the near future.



Katie Howells
Mentor - Kelsey Pitt

Katie was referred to the SPF programme in April 2023. Kelsey Pitt was appointed Katies Employment support Mentor. Initially Katie wanted support to find employment as she had been unemployed for many years due to taking care of both of her parents. Sadly, both Katie's parents passed away in a matter of a year of each other. After a few sessions of Kelsey talking to Katie and her auntie and uncle who are great support to her, they decided to focus on overcoming Katies barriers before looking for employment. Katie showed an interest in improving her numeracy and money skills so Kelsey made a referral to Multiply where she undertook a 6 week money management course and is interested in attending more sessions.

Kelsey supported Katie with her volunteering work as Katie volunteers for Tenvous every Friday. Katie really enjoys this and it gives her a sense of purpose. Katie was also referred to Cruse for bereavement support, Katie says this has helped her a great deal.

Kelsey helped with producing an up to date CV for Katie and she has now completed a Customer Service Level 2 Course which is now included on her new CV. Not only did this help with developing her skills and knowledge, it will hopefully lead to employment in the future.

Kelsey expressed how Katie is a very caring individual who also volunteers every Tuesday at her local food bank. Katie also attends church on a weekly basis and choir practice every Monday this is something that she says her parents would be extremely proud of. Kelsey recognises just how much Katie has achieved within such a difficult year in her life and the support of the scheme will help her achieve her goals.

Lewis Colborne Mentor Emma Griffiths-Price

Lewis was a self-referral to the SPF Project in March 2023. Emma Griffiths-Price was appointed Lewis Employment support mentor.



Lewis was a very shy and extremely quiet individual when he first joined the project, and despite having excellent qualifications and a clear career plan, a level 2 plastering qualification and CSCS card, Lewis explained that he wasn't sure how to move forward and take the next step towards securing employment.

His mentor identified a number of barriers to Lewis moving forward in his employment journey some of these included lack of employment experience, the disruption covid had had on his studies, limited job search and interview experience, a lack of routine and a transport barrier.

A voluntary placement was sourced labouring with the Caerphilly Homes Team, and in addition to gaining valuable experience and confidence – Lewis grew as a person in so many other ways. Lewis explained he had a better daily routine. Lewis was always on time for his morning pick-up and said that that he felt much more motivated now that he has a better routine, and this is something that he has maintained throughout his time with SPF.

Lewis gained eight months' experience volunteering with the Caerphilly Homes team working Monday to Friday full time. He has since completed an 8-week paid placement within the Caerphilly Homes Team.

Greg Roach – Employment Manager

"The SPF programme has dovetailed effortlessly with Communities For Work Plus, providing pre-employability support. It has also enabled us to deliver paid work placements providing individuals with invaluable work experience and skills."

PARTNERSHIPS EVENTS



A special partnership event, hosted by Caerphilly Council at their Penallta House HQ, highlighted the support that is available to employers and their employees from the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP), the council and a range of other partner organisations.

The event focused on promoting the support that is available including mid-careers reviews & personal learning accounts, myth busting around the 16-hour limitation to accessing Universal Credit and promoting supplementary



Multiply

MULTIPLY

Multiply is a new programme designed by the UK Government to help transform the lives of adults across the UK, by improving their functional numeracy skills.

MULTIPLY



Courses available

- **Money Management**
- **Numeracy First Steps**
- **Employability**
- **General Numeracy**

Numeracy is the ability to understand and use maths in daily life, at home, and in work. Improving your numeracy could help you achieve a number of goals ranging from understanding recipes and helping children with homework to managing your finances and accessing new job opportunities.

If you are looking to boost your confidence in numeracy in your home life or your work life, we will be here to help.

Coleg-Y-Cymoedd and their partners are focusing on interventions W48,W49,W50 these mainly focus on:

- Maths modules embedded into other vocational courses.
- Innovative programmes delivered together with employers to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace.
- Level 2 maths in Wales.

We have also asked CYC to deliver all interventions but solely through the medium of Welsh.

Threshold who are out other procured partners are concentrating on W53 Money Management and W46 Prisoners released or on temporary licence.



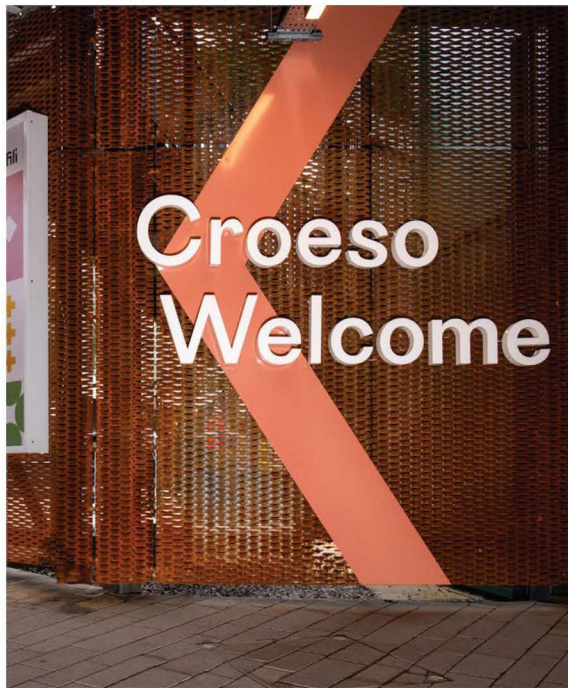
Caerphilly Town 2035

CAERPHILLY TOWN 2035

Caerphilly Town 2035 is a bold and ambitious plan for the future of Caerphilly, which includes numerous projects to enhance and regenerate the town. Caerphilly County Borough Council, in partnership with Welsh Government and Transport for Wales, has launched the Caerphilly Town 2035 to make Caerphilly a better place to live, work and visit.

More info at: www.caerphillytown2035.co.uk

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The future of Caerphilly

New developments, better connections

The projects have been developed to enhance and revitalise Caerphilly Town with a series of new schemes. The first stage of the developments will include Ffos Caerffili market, Caerphilly Leisure & Wellbeing Hub, Pentrebane St revitalisation and the Leisure Quarter.

Ffos Caerffili - Park Lane Market Development

Built from shipping containers, Ffos Caerffili is an eco-friendly, fresh, modern, multifunctional space; home to a mix of twenty-eight eateries, independent shops and work spaces. Ffos Caerffili will create an exciting and vibrant focal point within the town.



- *Container-style market built on a currently vacant lot on Park Lane in Caerphilly.*
- *Will provide 28 small-scale units and space for additional 'pop-up' market traders.*
- *Will also house an external events venue to further enhance the visitor attractions on offer within the town centre.*

Businesses opened and created

- *Two Shot Takeaway*
- *Eco Play Box*
- *Welsh ICE*
- *Lock Up Bottle Shop*
- *Castle Tackle & Bait*
- *Upmarket Butchers*
- *Joe's Plant Place*
- *Circular Studio*
- *Joy House Creations*
- *Bab Haus*
- *ACME Burger*
- *Bao Selecta*
- *Eastraneo*
- *Two Shot Social*
- *Keralan Karavan (monthly pop up)*

Ffos Caerffili is one of the first projects to be developed within the Caerphilly 2035 Placemaking Plan, providing stimulus for further investment throughout the town, with projects such as the redevelopment of Pentrebane Street.

PENTREBANE STREET

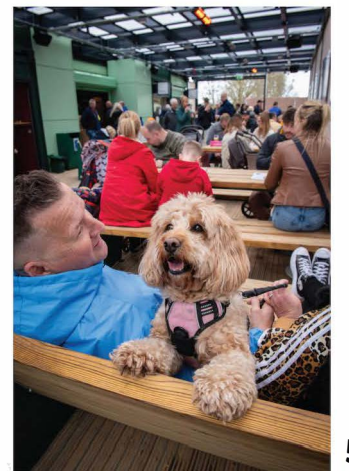
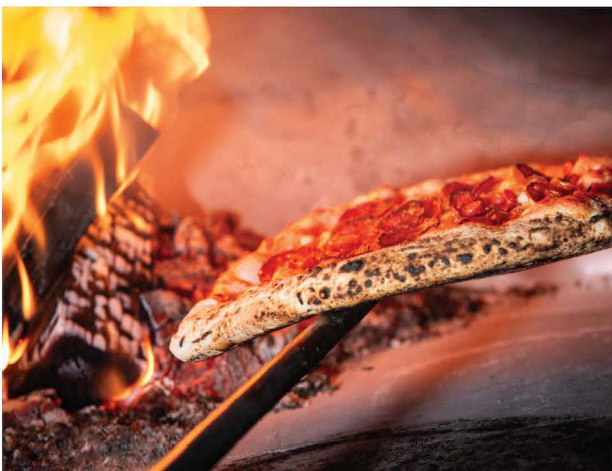


Caerphilly County Borough Council has secured funding from the Welsh Government to redevelop Pentrebane Street, bringing exciting changes to the area.

Our vision is to create a vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive community that caters to the needs of residents and businesses. The plan includes the acquisition of properties along Pentrebane Street, including the indoor market, to make way for the construction of a ground floor commercial space.

We are partnering with Linc Cymru Housing Association to create a mixed-use development featuring co-working spaces, retail units, and a café, all in one convenient location.







Team Caerphilly
Better Together

POWERED BY
**LEVELLING
UP**

 Funded by
UK Government



UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Local Investment Plan

CCBC

Outline List of projects funded by UKSPF

2022/25 Interventions and Projects

As at

01-04-2024.

**FFYNIANT
— BRO —**

**LEVELLING
— UP —**



Interventions and Projects List

General Overview

At present, the funding allocations for 2022 to 2025 have been fully subscribed across numerous service departments, wider partnership arrangements, and a diverse range of community programmes.

The funding allocations are directed by the UK Government, based on a formula distribution, across three core Intervention Priorities, namely,

- **Communities and Place**
- **Supporting Local Businesses**
- **People and Skills.**

This funding stream is further supplemented by additional monies allocated for an investment priority called **Multiply**, which is a new government-funded programme to help adults improve their numeracy skills.

Across the UK, £2.6 Billion has been allocated, and across Wales, £585 Million.

Within the South-East Wales Regional Group (more details outlined below), there is an allocation totalling £278.5 Million.

Specifically for Caerphilly County Borough Council, the original allocation was, £34,173,795.

SPF Total		Multiply Total
£28,272,297	Total Values	£5,901,498
£3,431,104	2022-23	£1,784,174
£6,862,208	2023-24	£2,058,662
£17,978,985	2024-25	£2,058,662

Caerphilly forms part of an agreed South-East Wales Regional Group, with, Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen, Vale of Glamorgan.

With Rhondda Cynon Taf appointed as the Lead Authority and co-ordinator.

There are two documented plans that will drive this programme delivery and the suite of identified priorities, namely.

- A Regional Investment Plan (for the Regional Group)
- A Local Investment Plan (for Caerphilly)

Current Interventions and Projects

The following tables outline the revised total budget allocations, number of projects, as phased over the 3-year programme for Caerphilly (Local Investment Plan), and the suite of project reference names.

• Communities and Place

Allocations	Capital Spend Yr 1	Revenue Spend Yr 1	Capital Yr 2	Revenue Yr 2	Capital Yr 3	Revenue Yr 3	Total Capital	Total Revenue	Intervention Project Total
Value (£'s)	6,831	618,681	801,445	1,888,491	2,539,875	4,700,617	3,348,151	7,207,789	10,555,940
No of Projects	7	17	12	22	17	24	17	20	32

• Supporting Local Businesses

Allocations	Capital Spend Yr 1	Revenue Spend Yr 1	Capital Yr 2	Revenue Yr 2	Capital Yr 3	Revenue Yr 3	Total Capital	Total Revenue	Intervention Project Total
Value (£'s)	985,436	216,287	1,903,379	1,404,148	3,117,690	2,678,517	6,006,505	4,298,952	10,305,457
No of Projects	2	9	4	18	8	19	9	20	22

• People and Skills

Allocations	Capital Spend Yr 1	Revenue Spend Yr 1	Capital Yr 2	Revenue Yr 2	Capital Yr 3	Revenue Yr 3	Total Capital	Total Revenue	Intervention Project Total
Value (£'s)	0	128,331	0	3,451,810	10,592	3,908,926	10,592	7,489,952	7,499,658
No of Projects	0	8	0	8	1	9	1	9	9

And Multiply

Allocations	Capital Spend Yr 1	Revenue Spend Yr 1	Capital Yr 2	Revenue Yr 2	Capital Yr 3	Revenue Yr 3	Total Capital	Total Revenue	Intervention Project Total
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Value (£'s)		82,827		1,976,314		1,976,315		4,035,456	4,035,456
No of Projects		10		10		10		10	10

Communities and Place

Project Ref

W01. Public realm enhancement, street furniture, bin storage, railing and other decorative improvements.

W01. Town Response Team to deal with Audit issues.

W02. Visitor Centre Improvements – Cwmcarn, enhancement of unused carpark – Pontymister.

W03. Green Space Team set up - to work under the management of our Parks Department.

W03. Gwent Green Grid partners.

W03. Parc Cwm Darren - Enhancement to boundary, security, and safety, and includes biodiversity enhancements.

W04. Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural and heritage offer. Fund to bring dilapidated buildings back into use

W04. Repairs and enhancement to the Twisted Chimney (Rhymney) monument.

W05. Funding to improve street or public street safety in conjunction with Gwent Police. Introduce counter terrorism measures (Hostile Vehicle Mitigation & Public Safety).

W05. Review of existing ASB prevention measures and new technology available. Funding to tackle anti-social behaviour problems at key hotspots (e.g., Morrisons Car Park - Bargoed - physical measures. Continuation of the Smart Water Project to support business owners to design out crime. Increased security in areas targeted by fly-tipping.

W05. Crime and Disorder Prevention Project – The project will run across all three sectors of the SPF, supporting each category by dealing with fundamental challenges that crime and disorder brings when trying to improve / support local communities.

W05. Crime and Disorder Prevention Project – The project will run across all three sectors of the SPF, supporting each category by dealing with fundamental challenges that crime and disorder brings when trying to improve / support local communities.

W06. Expand town centre events programme, increased event funding administered by events staff.

Communities and Place

Project Ref

W06. Funding for cultural, heritage and art & craft events. Funding for maker spaces. Funding for local art galleries/museums/libraries for exhibitions. Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities. Support for displays for artists to showcase work. Locally led music and theatre performances, tours, author events and film screenings. Funding for cultural, .and creative events. Support for outreach/engagement/participatory programmes as part of wider local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities. Support for the establishment/development of cultural/heritage collaborative networks to share knowledge locally. Support to re-introduce Community Carnivals. Support for Community Art and Community Competitions such as Towns in Bloom. Work with local schools to develop Tourist Trails and develop apps signposting to arts/community competitions.

W06. Create a 'Talking Shop' - (6mths ~ 10 weeks Pilot in Year 2) - Cultural, Education, Information Advice and Guidance, Community Engagement, Bought in Services, Property Rental.....Town Centre Pop-up shop.

W07. Active travel promotional budget - To support initiatives that support active travel use.

W08. Northern Valley Initiative - Site enhancements to Park Cwm Darren (PCD) - Community facilities and accessibility improvements.

W09. Rural Engagement and Resilience Programme.

W09. Food 4 Growth: Gwent Resilience Framework.

W09. Community focussed projects e.g., community orchards led by 3rd sector organisations.

W10. The establishment of a CCBC Sports and Recreation grants programme for community groups. Support for community sports leagues. Improve provision of sports facilities in county borough. Workshops to promote the importance of community sports facilities and engaging in sports.

W10. Support for community leagues and tournaments, e.g. Caerphilly 10k, Tour of Britain

W10. 3G Pitches at key locations.

W10. Fitness suite enhancement programme - Purchase of recreational equipment to support increased activity and peripatetic leisure support staff.

W11. Establish Community Grants Programme for use by community groups/third sector/voluntary sector. Funding for community spaces, such as village halls, libraries or community centres for local civil society and community groups to use. Training programmes to support local civil society and community group leaders.

W13. Establish cost of living crisis support fund - Programmes/campaigns to encourage uptake of energy efficiency measures for homes, including, heat pumps, water pumps and increased insulation. Support for local foodbanks. Social supermarkets. Fair Share Scheme. Energy Efficiency fabric first Programme to tackle cost of living crisis and fuel poverty.

Communities and Place

Project Ref

W13. Decarb 1 - Support local communities, households, and organisations in working to achieve net zero.

W14. Creation of Action Plans focused on using land for locally grown products. Based on the opportunities identified through the current Community Renewal Fund programme Food4Growth - Development and establishment of a local food strategy, support and maintain the development of the Caerphilly Food Network and build on the links between the social and private food sector.

FW14. Feasibility plans to develop projects from placemaking plans in train under Welsh Government Transforming Towns

W14. Wider feasibility budget for various identified projects. Funding to create Town Centre Green Strategies. Funding to identify alternative uses for the Mon mouth & Brecon Canal such as the introduction of water sports.

Supporting Local Businesses

Project Ref

W16. Investment in open markets and investments to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure with wrap around support for small businesses. Increase budget of CEF fund to include retail/night-time economy and tourism sub threads, decarbonisation & feasibility studies.

W16. Develop a meanwhile uses support programme.

W16. Improve Wi Fi/digital connectivity in town centres and offer support to local businesses to enhance digital connectivity.

W16. Funding programme to support start-up businesses / entrepreneurial support. Increase Business start-up grant. Offer up to £5k.

W16. Facilitate relocation of market tenants out of current accommodation and facilitate new market in Caerphilly.

W16. Extend and expand Choose Local campaign. Increase budget of the CCBC Marketing team to expand offer.

W17. Development of 'experience/ tastebud tourism' (result of Hackathon). Marketing drive to increase 'tastebud tourism' within the brough. Help to improve websites and interaction with potential customers.

W17. Support and promote the LA's visitor portfolio. Marketing drive specifically designed for promoting visitor offer throughout the county borough, support for CTA.

W18. Match funded grants to enable firms to buy and implement new industrial digital technology solutions. CCBC led grant under CEF umbrella to support businesses looking to implement new industrial digital technology solutions.

W22. Funding for increasing scope and reach of Welsh Ice / Town Squared, etc. To include Introduction of satellite hubs and extension of the 5-9 club, boot camps etc. plus entrepreneurial support and new projects.

W22. Physical improvements to the Business and Innovation hub at the Tredomen campus, a site for SME's and smaller start-up units in the county borough to support businesses to innovate, scale and reach new investment as part of a Property portfolio improvement programme to modernise the offer across through a number of project interventions.

Supporting Local Businesses

Project Ref

W22. Install access road infrastructure to support the development of starter units on Oakdale Business Park and modular build construction factory on reclaimed colliery employment site.

W23. Supply Voids – Where there is limited supply base to demonstrate good competition in response to an advertisement for a defined requirement.

W23. Competitive fund for 3rd and private sector business support projects to bid into to deliver across business interventions e.g. Co work, Town Square, Cwmpas, Caerphilly Business Club, Welsh Ice, CRF projects.

W28. Support existing International Trade Support Officer by allocating a budget to develop a tailored export strategy. Grant available to ISO to help support International Trade within the borough by developing a tailored export strategy plus additional funds to extend officer support.

W29. Allow the RDP team to continue past ESF funding to continue its Rural Engagement plan and resilience programme.

W29. Allow the RDP team to continue past ESF funding. Deliver a Rural Innovation and Investment Fund.

W29. Allow the RDP team to continue past ESF funding. Deliver a Rural Engagement and Resilience Programme- for community spaces, initiatives, groups, and rural communities.

W29. Allow the RDP team to continue past ESF funding to continue its Rural Engagement plan and resilience programme. Research & development, publicity, evaluation.

W29. Roll out Electric Vehicle Charge Points at key locations across the County Borough. Funding to provide Electric Vehicle charge point at industrial park locations owned by the Council.

W29. Decarb 2 - Engagement with local Businesses to achieve net zero within Caerphilly County borough.

W31. Report to be conducted by CCBC Communications and Platform Engineers to identify sites that need digital infrastructure improvements. Group with Digital plus various employment development schemes.

People and Skills

Project Ref

W34: Employment support for economically inactive people.

W35: Courses including basic & life skills for people not economically inactive.

W36: Enrichment & volunteering.

W38: Tailored support for the employed to access courses.

W39: Support for local areas to fund local skills needs.

W40: Green skills courses.

W41: Retraining & upskilling support for those in high carbon sectors.

W43: Funding to support engagement and softer skills development for young people, with regard to the work of Careers Wales/Working Wales.

Regional - Stage: Remaining in FE

W43: Funding to support engagement and softer skills development for young people, with regard to the work of Careers Wales/Working Wales.

Local - Interventions with young people pre 16 who are at risk of becoming NEET as identified by STRIVE.

Multiply Project Ref

W44: Courses designed to increase confidence with numbers for those needing the first steps towards formal qualifications.

W45: Courses for parents wanting to increase their numeracy skills in order to help their children and help with their own progression.

W46: Courses aimed at prisoners, those recently released from prison or on temporary licence.

W47: Courses aimed at people who can't apply for certain jobs because of lack of numeracy skills and/or to encourage people to upskill in order to access a certain job/career.

W48: Additional relevant maths modules embedded into other vocational courses.

W49: Innovative programmes delivered together with employers – including courses designed to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace.

W50: New intensive and flexible courses targeted at people without Level 2 maths in Wales, leading to an equivalent qualification.

W51: Courses designed to help people use numeracy to manage their money.

W52: Courses aimed at those 19 or over that are leaving, or have just left, the care system

W53: Activities, courses or provision developed in partnership with community organisations and other partners aimed at engaging the hardest to reach learners – for example, those not in the labour market or other groups identified locally as in need.