

Public Document Pack

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

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



www.caerphilly.gov.uk
www.caerffili.gov.uk

For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Sharon Kauczok
(Tel: 01443 864243 Email: kaucz@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Date: 27th May 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Cabinet** will be held in the **Sirhowy Room, Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Wednesday, 3rd June, 2015** at **2.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chris Burns'.

Chris Burns
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

	Pages
1 To receive apologies for absence.	
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 the 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 Cabinet held on 20th May 2015.	1 - 4
To receive and consider the following reports on which executive decisions are required: -	

A greener place Man gwyrddach



4	Land at Troedyrhiw, Ystrad Mynach.	5 - 84
5	Land adjoining Islwyn Indoor Bowls Centre.	85 - 92
6	Discretionary Housing Payments Policy.	93 - 106
7	Cabinet Forward Work Programme.	107 - 110
To receive and consider the following reports, which require a recommendation to Council:-		
8	Anti Poverty Strategy.	111 - 130
9	Corporate Plan and Improvement Objectives 2015/16.	131 - 188

Circulation:

Councillors Mrs C. Forehead, N. George, D.T. Hardacre, K. James, Mrs B. A. Jones, R. Passmore, D.V. Poole, K.V. Reynolds, T.J. Williams and R. Woodyatt,

And Appropriate Officers.



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH MAY 2015 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor K.V. Reynolds - Chair

Councillors:

Mrs C. Forehead (HR and Governance/Business Manager), D.T. Hardacre (Performance and Asset Management), N. George (Community and Leisure Services), K. James (Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development), R. Passmore (Education and Lifelong Learning), D.V. Poole (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing), T.J. Williams (Highways, Transportation and Engineering), R. Woodyatt (Social Services).

Together with:

N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services), D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services).

Also in Attendance:

T. Shaw (Head of Engineering Services), C. Campbell (Transportation Engineering Manager), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Mrs B. Jones (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. CABINET – 29TH APRIL 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2015 (minute nos.1-8) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

4. IMPROVING GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME UPDATE

Following on from the report presented to Cabinet on 2nd October 2014 and subsequent report to Council on 27th January 2015, the Improving Governance Programme (IGP) has continued the good progress achieved in 2014 and positively noted in the Follow-up CGI Inspection Report by Wales Audit Office in January 2015.

The list of the previously outstanding recommendations and relevant actions included in the original IGP, with information on the latest progress, is provided in Appendix 1 to the report. Since the report to Cabinet in October 2014, a further 4 recommendations/improvements have been addressed, namely: clarity and comprehensiveness of reports to committees; electronic Council (webcasting and committee documents system); strengthening risk management processes and clarification of roles and responsibilities for whistleblowing procedures.

The original IGP recommendations that are outstanding and therefore the focus of the current activities are set out in paragraph 4.4 of the report. Whilst one proposal for improvement has been completed the remaining 7 listed in paragraph 4.7 are well in progress. The IGP is continuing to meet regularly and to monitor the progress of the outstanding actions. The next report to Cabinet is scheduled for October 2015 when it is anticipated that the majority, if not all, of the outstanding actions will be complete.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, Cabinet noted the progress described in the report in addressing recommendations and proposals for improvements by the Wales Audit Office included in the WAO Public Interest Report on the Chief Officers Pay published in March 2013, the WAO Public Interest Report on Chief Officers Essential Car Users and Annual Leave Allowance published in December 2013, the Special Inspection Report published in January 2014 and the WAO Report Follow up of special inspection and reports in the public interest (January 2015).

5. PROPOSED PARK AND RIDE FOR YSTRAD MYNACH RAIL STATION

Councillor M. James, Ystrad Mynach Ward, had been granted permission by the Leader to address Cabinet in respect of this item.

The report sought Members' views on the proposal to use Council owned land off Cedar Way, Ystrad Mynach, managed by Ystrad Mynach Primary School, towards the provision of an additional park and ride facility for Ystrad Mynach rail station.

In order to facilitate the delivery of the scheme, a part of the recreational land currently used by local schools would be required to facilitate the access for the park and ride. The land in question provides less space than recommended in the building regulations but the proposed scheme would not impact on the current useable recreational grassed area. There is also the possibility of negotiating improvement and accommodation works as part of the scheme. A plan showing the land that would remain available for recreational activities is included in Appendix 4.

During his address, Councillor James outlined the concerns of the schools whose pupils use the recreational land for sporting events and curriculum and extra-curricular activities throughout the year. The land is also used by various clubs in the area. A copy of the letter of objection from the primary schools, together with officer responses/comments, is included in Appendix 3 to the report.

Councillor James sought clarification on the site visit referred to in paragraph 4.3 in the report. Mr Campbell, Transportation Engineering Manager, advised that the invitation to attend this had been sent by Network Rail to Cabinet members. Councillor James proceeded to outline the reasons why he felt that the scheme would have a detrimental impact on the local community and environment, referred to an alternative area of land that might be suitable for this purpose and asked Cabinet not to support the recommendations in the report.

Following Councillor James' address, Mr Campbell highlighted the key points in the report and responded to the issues raised. Members were advised that the recently completed station improvements and 'access for all' scheme at Ystrad Mynach rail station had presented an opportunity to consider a park and ride car park extension to the existing oversubscribed car park.

Welsh Government has expressed its strong support for the scheme and has engaged a consultant to develop a detailed proposal with a view to delivering it by April 2016, funded from its south east Wales Metro programme. The funding would need to be spent by the end of March 2016 and WG require confirmation by the end of May 2015 that the Council supports the scheme and would make available the land required to provide the access road. A copy of the latest scheme proposal is included in Appendix 2. The proposed layout offers 121 car parking spaces in addition to the existing 93 spaces. The need for the proposed scheme is set out in paragraphs 4.16 to 4.22 of the report under 'Strategic Considerations'.

Mr Campbell informed Members of the consultation that had been undertaken with the schools. The schools were initially advised of the proposal by email on 5th December 2014 including a preliminary plan proposal. Officers subsequently attended a meeting of the Ystrad Mynach primary school governing body in January 2015 at which the Headteacher of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Alta primary school was also in attendance. The scheme proposals were discussed along with the issues and concerns raised by the schools. The meeting concluded with the schools stating that they objected to the proposals. A letter was subsequently received via email on 23rd March 2015, a copy of which is attached at Appendix 3. A summary of the responses given together with the potential mitigation offered by the scheme is also included in Appendix 3. A further meeting has since been held with the Headteacher of Ystrad Mynach primary school and representatives of the governing body. Mr Campbell confirmed that he would have further discussions with the schools if the scheme proceeds.

Should the scheme proceed the access road would require planning permission. A public consultation would be undertaken as part of the planning process and WG has indicated that it would hold a public exhibition for the scheme for the local community.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the officer's report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

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

1. Cabinet agreed that part of the Council owned land off Cedar Way in Ystrad Mynach (as shown in Appendix 2 of the report) should be used to allow the provision of an additional park and ride facility for Ystrad Mynach rail station.
2. The operational responsibility for the land necessary to deliver the scheme be transferred to the Engineering Services Division and officers be delegated to continue liaising with Welsh Government and their consultant/partners to progress the scheme, including the submission of the relevant planning application.

The meeting closed at 2.48 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 3rd June 2015.

CHAIR



CABINET – 3RD JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: LAND AT TROEDYRHIW, YSTRAD MYNACH

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND S151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to dispose of land at Troedyrhiw Ystrad Mynach (as shown edged black on the plan at Appendix 1 - "the land").

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The land was acquired in 1953, with other land, as part of the development of the Troedyrhiw Housing Estate, but has never been developed.
- 2.2 The majority of the estate was sold as self-build plots, with the land edged black being retained by the Council. The land originally had grass and tarmac surfaces, the latter removed in 2012 and it is used now as a general amenity verge (informal open space).
- 2.3 Leisure Officers feel the area has never been treated or designated as a play area or local area of play and do not believe that the land is critical to local children's development.
- 2.4 Since the land is considered to be an area of informal open space, any proposal would need to adhere to Policy CW7 on the Protection of Open Space; in summary, it is considered that the release of this site for residential development is acceptable, as sufficient open space within the area will remain and the value of the site in recreational and visual amenity terms is not significant.
- 2.5 Local members object to the sale.
- 2.6 In line with the agreed procedure, the matter is being referred to Cabinet for a decision.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Under its approved Asset Management Objectives, the Authority aims to manage its land and buildings effectively, efficiently, economically, and provide a safe, sustainable and accessible living and working environment for all users.
- 3.2 The Authority has a medium term financial plan (MTFP), which includes cost saving targets resulting from the disposal of assets.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The land was acquired in 1953, with other land, as part of the development of the Troedyrhiw Housing Estate. It is bounded to the east by Ystrad Mynach College and to the north by an open watercourse, the other side of which is the Queen Elizabeth II Sunflower Field (dedicated to the National Playing Fields Association - Fields In Trust).
- 4.2 The land has an area of 0.42 hectare (1 acre, or thereabouts) and has no allocation within the adopted LDP; it does, however, lie within the settlement boundary, which defines the area within which development would normally be acceptable, subject to all other material considerations being met (Policy SP5 refers). Planning permission would be required for residential development.

5. BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The majority of the Council's landholding was sold as self-build plots during the 1960/70s. The land was retained by the Council and the tarmac area was originally used as a parking / reversing / turning area by buses etc serving the adjacent comprehensive school site. The rest of the land was grassed.
- 5.2 For reasons no longer extant, a row of bollards was erected to prevent vehicles using the tarmac area. The adjoining grass areas have always been cut by the Parks sections of Rhymney Valley District Council and, subsequently, Caerphilly County Borough Council. The Rhymney Valley 1990 Grounds Maintenance documents classed the land as a general amenity verge.
- 5.3 It is also clear, from a report considered by members in 1989 (see Appendix 4), that the former Rhymney Valley District Council had aspirations to sell the site for residential development.
- 5.4 During 1999, the Council determined to rationalise the number of playgrounds it held, due to the age of equipment and the cost of maintaining over 200 sites. As part of this programme, a number of premier parks was established, one being Ystrad Mynach Park, while many sites were cleared and grassed over.
- 5.5 The land is not referred to in the rationalisation programme.
- 5.6 The land remained unchanged until 2011, when Railtrack used it as a depot/compound in connection with a large engineering scheme on the nearby railway line.
- 5.7 The contractor was under an obligation to reinstate the land to its former condition once works were completed, but officers requested that the reinstatement works be changed to include the removal of the hard surface and soiling /seeding of the entire area, producing a completely green verge.
- 5.8 **Public Open Space Requirements (Under S123(2A) Local Government Act 1972)**
- 5.8.1 Since the land forms open space, section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 prohibits its disposal unless, before the disposal, the Council causes notice of the intention to do so to be advertised in 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper circulating in the area and considers any objections to the proposed disposal that may be made.
- 5.8.2 Such advertisements appeared in a copy of the Campaign Newspaper on 19th and 26th March 2014 with a final date for any objections to the sale being 4th April. Notices were also posted on and opposite the site. 74 written responses were received to the notices; these responses are available to view if required. The main heads of opposition can be condensed to:

Loss of a local play area: Residents advise that Caerphilly Urban District Council designated the area as a play area in 1958. They believe that:

- Use of the site has increased in recent years, as several young families have moved onto the estate.
- The area is safe and overlooked. It is accepted that there is other open space nearby - this consists of woodland and the formal park, which is accessed via the woodland. The woodland is not felt to be safe for unattended children; it is not overlooked by properties and is often frequented by youths consuming alcohol.
- The roads on the estate are narrow and are unsafe for play.
- The Council has reneged on its previous decision to retain the land for leisure use and is not interested in their views. The Government and Council advocate the development of safe local areas of play and ensure that such is provided on new developments.
- The loss of this area will have a massive effect on residents but only a small impact on Council finances. They do not feel that the short-term financial gain will justify the long-term affect on the health and well being of future generations.

Highway Issues

- The estate road is narrow .The College causes serious congestion and access/egress to the estate is a major issue, especially at peak times. Residents feel that additional development will exacerbate the existing problems.
- Due to the topography of the estate, access is very difficult during icy conditions - the land in question is at the bottom of a steep hill and on a 90-degree bend. During icy weather, vehicles can lose control on the hill and skid onto the open area; in addition, cars entering the estate are sometimes left along the frontage of the plot when they are unable to navigate the hill.

Visual Amenity. Residents feel the land forms an attractive open area at the entrance to the estate and its development will be detrimental to the visual amenity of the estate

5.8.3 Gelligaer Community Council object to the disposal of land on the on the grounds of loss of amenity and highways.

5.8.4 Local members also object to the disposal, on the basis that it is used extensively for informal recreation. Councillor Angel presented a petition to Council on 22nd April 2014 bearing the signatures of 135 local residents, who oppose the sale of an area, which they believe is designated for children on the estate.

5.9 The Leisure Perspective

5.9.1 Leisure Officers feel the area has never been treated or designated as a play area or local area of play, and do not believe that the land is critical to local children's development.

5.9.2 From a disability play or passive recreation play provision, they are of the opinion that the Council has built on its 1999 rationalisation plan in providing a full range of facilities at the premium play sites.

5.9.3 The provisions called for by the Welsh Government (under both its play policy and its Play Sufficiency Assessment) are addressed with the development of access paths, entrances, parking provision, security and information signs around Ystrad Mynach Park. Provision of the toilets/welfare facilities installed in the park was undertaken following past consultation and feedback from local children and families using the park, additionally the specific play equipment provided in the Park's play area was completed as a result of consultation with and guidance from staff and pupils at the nearby Trinity Fields School.

5.9.4 Agreement to the release of the land was in the knowledge of the opportunity for local children to play also on the new, well equipped play facility sited on the nearby Forge Mill Estate in Ystrad Mynach.

5.10 The Planning Perspective

5.10.1 Since the land is considered to be an area of informal open space any proposal would need to adhere to Policy CW7 on the Protection of Open Space. This policy states that developments on areas of open space within settlements will only be permitted where:-

- (a) The amount of open space remaining in the neighbourhood would still be adequate to serve local needs; and
- (b) The site has no significant value as a recreational resource or an area of visual amenity.

5.10.2 The proposal would also need to adhere to criterion B of Policy CW7. From a recreational amenity perspective, it is acknowledged that the land is a large flat area of open space, which has some recreational and visual amenity value. Given the proximity to the much larger area of open space at Ystrad Mynach Park, the recreational value of the land cannot be considered to be 'significant' as residents' recreational needs can be addressed nearby. In addition, the Troedyrhiw estate has an open feel, due to the prevalence of smaller areas of open space within the estate itself and its location east of open countryside and west of woodland and parkland; whilst the site is visually attractive, the value is less significant, given the openness of the area. It is therefore considered that the loss of this site would be acceptable with regards to criterion B.

5.10.3 Highways do not object to the principle of development and, based on the proposal to sell the land for 5-6 dwellings, Highways officers are happy that there will be little or no impact on the signalised road junction at The Coopers Public House.

5.10.4 The provision of a new footway along the frontage of the development would be required.

5.10.5 In summary, officers consider that the release of this site for residential development is acceptable, as sufficient open space will remain within the area and the value of the land in recreational and visual amenity terms is not significant.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance. No potential for unlawful discrimination and / or low level or minor negative impact have been identified and, therefore, a full EqIA has not been carried out.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The sale of the land will produce a capital receipt.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no personnel implications arising out of this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 Other than those referred to in paragraphs 0 to 0, there are no views expressed as a result of consultation that differ from the recommendation. Members are asked to note that, although not formally consulted on the report, the office of Jeff Cuthbert AM has made representations on behalf of his constituents, which representations are reflected in the report.

10. RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 That the land be sold on the open market for residential development.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 The land is not required operationally and is regarded as surplus.
- 11.2 There is sufficient open space nearby to serve the needs of the community.
- 11.3 The sale of the land will produce a capital receipt.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). This is a Cabinet function.

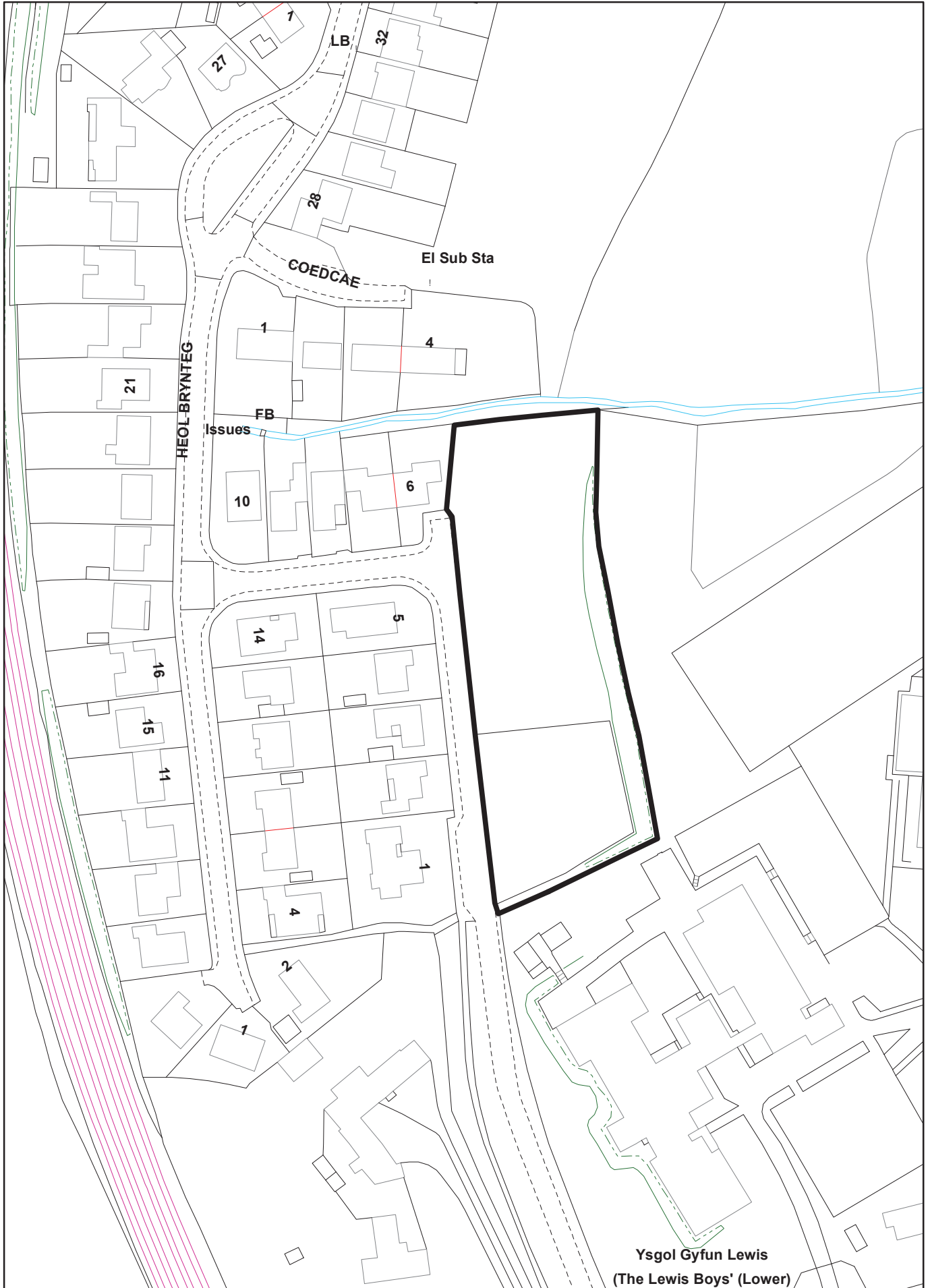
Author: Colin Jones, Head of Performance and Property Services
Consultees: Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive
Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services
Pauline Elliott, Head of Regeneration & Planning
Mark Williams, Head of Community & Leisure Services
Derek Price, Parks and Outdoor Facilities Manager
Clive Campbell, Transportation Engineering Manager
Rhian Kyte, Team Leader Strategic & Development Planning
Tim Stephens, Development Control Manager
John Rogers, Principal Solicitor
Angharad Price, Deputy Monitoring Officer
David A Thomas, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities & Welsh Language)
Cllr D Hardacre, Cabinet Member for Performance and Asset Management
Councillor Angel, Ward Member
Councillor James, Ward Member
Ceri Mortimer Clerk, Gelligaer Community Council

Background Papers: Responses to Notices of intention to dispose of the land can be viewed on Corporate Property IDOX file ID: 08443

Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Plan showing the land
Appendix 2: Playgrounds: the proposed response to the ROSPA risk assessments (July 1999)
Appendix 3: Report to Cabinet on 28th February 2000 on the replacement programme for playgrounds
Appendix 4: Copy of card index, Minutes from Policy and Resources 2nd May 1989 and Leisure Services 11th April 89, together with the Report of Officers referred to

This page is intentionally left blank



This page is intentionally left blank



Nelson Rd
Tredomen
Ystrad Mynach
CF82 7WF
Tel 01443 815588
Fax 01443 864202

Heol Nelson
Tredomen
Ystrad Mynach
CF82 7WF
Ffôn 01443 815588
Ffacs 01443 864202

Chief Executive
Malgwyn Davies Solicitor

Prif Weithredwr
Malgwyn Davies Cyfreithiwr

All Members and Officers.

Contact/Cysylltwch â

Mr. G. George

Direct line/Llinell Uniongyrchol

(01443) 864420

Direct Fax/Ffacs Uniongyrchol

Your ref/Eich Cyf

Our ref/Ein Cyf

GG/SAW

Date/Dyddiad

3 August 1999

Dear Sir/Madam,

SEMINAR - PLAYGROUNDS

The Cabinet has asked that a seminar be arranged for all members on the proposed response to the ROSPA risk assessments on playgrounds in the borough. A copy is attached.

This will be held on Monday 23rd August, 1999 at 5.00 pm at the Council Offices, Tredomen (Council Chamber). In Committee Room 1 there will be an exhibition related to this report which is open for viewing from 4.00 pm.

Following that seminar, the item will be considered at the Special Council meeting on Wednesday 25th August, 1999 at 3.00 pm.

Yours faithfully,

Gary George

for M. Davies
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Att...

PLAYGROUNDS

THE PROPOSED RESPONSE TO THE ROSPA RISK ASSESSMENTS

**PREPARED BY CLIENT AGENCY/COMMUNITY EDUCATION,
LEISURE AND LIBRARIES
JULY 1999**

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT
5712 S. UNIVERSITY AVE.
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

INDEX

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
1. Introduction.	1 - 2
2. The ROSPA Risk Assessments.	2
3. Reducing the Risks Identified to an Acceptable Level.	2 - 4
4. Conclusions and Financial Implications.	4 - 6
5. Other Considerations.	6 - 7
6. Recommendations.	7

Appendices

1. Playgrounds that required immediate action in Feb/March 1999.
2. Complete playgrounds proposed to be removed.
3. Individual items proposed to be repaired or removed.
4. List of sites requiring safety surfacing.
5. Current complete list of playgrounds.
6. Map of the authority showing the geographic affect of the proposed site removals.
7. Playgrounds for consideration as replacements for some of those removed (not Super Playgrounds)

Mendips D.C. which contributed to a child fatality. The focus on playground safety may well be about to be increased again because this authority along with a number of others were approached recently by the BBC for details of the amount of safety surfacing at playgrounds within the authority's area.

2. **The ROSPA Risk Assessment**

2.1 To deal with the issues arising from the ROSPA report, a Multi Directorate Working Party was formed to ensure that all aspects were considered. This report represents the findings of that Working Party.

2.2 Leading politicians of the outgoing administration were verbally made aware of the potential size of the problem in late April 1999 and an initial (brief) report was put to Corporate Management Team on the 13th May 1999.

2.3 The work arising from the ROSPA report falls into three types:

1. Repair of Equipment
2. Removal of Equipment
3. Safety Surfacing

2.4 With regard to the Repair or Removal of Equipment, ROSPA split that into 5 categories:

<u>Risk Score</u>	<u>Risk Categories</u>
1 - 3	Very low risk - (Monitor).
4 - 7	Low risk - (Monitor and take reasonable practical action if required).
8 - 12	Medium risk - Take action to reduce if possible, or available.
13 - 20	High risk - Take action immediately and access control measures.
21+	Unacceptable risk - remove or immobilise before taking immediate action and assessment of control measures.

2.5 The working group considered ROSPA's 3 volume, 300+ page report in detail and have made a recommendation on each site within the 8 - 12 risk and 13 - 20 risk categories. Items in the 21+ risk category have already been dealt with as per ROSPA's advice.

2.6 Items in the low risk categories, 1 - 3 and 4 - 7 will be monitored via the inspection regime and any work required carried out as part of the work 'ordered' following the inspections.

2.7 Advice was sought from the authority's insurers and their view was that the authority should complete the work required on the A1 list (removal) - Appendix 2 within 12 months approximately, and those on the A2 list (repair or removal) - Appendix 3 within 18 months. It will be necessary for items in the high risk category to be immobilised and cordoned off very shortly in advance of removal. The insurers advice was that the authority must have a plan to connect the issues identified from the risk assessment notwithstanding the availability of finance. The recommendations contained in this report form the basis for this plan which would be required as evidence in any action against the authority.

2.8 The recent Woolf reforms aimed at faster and cheaper justice will make it easier for individuals to claim against/sue the authority. Far more information will have to be disclosed in order to mount a successful defence. Claims and litigation are one issue but the most important aspect is to protect the children using the authority's equipment.

3. **Reducing the risks identified to an acceptable level.**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In 1997 following an accident at Treowen Playground in which a child was injured, the Health and Safety Executive examined Caerphilly's maintenance regime for playgrounds and playground equipment. Their investigation concluded that the links between fault reporting and repairs (etc.) taking place were inadequate.
- 1.2 A significantly improved three monthly detailed inspection and maintenance programme was implemented which met all of the HSE's recommendations, along with a less detailed weekly inspection of all playgrounds and equipment. The repairs required revealed during these inspections are then issued in the form of additional work (variation orders), usually to the in-house Grounds Maintenance DSO but sometimes to external contractors because of the specialist nature of the work required. All variation orders issued by the Client Agency require the work to be completed by a specific date.
- 1.3 Extra money has been made available for playground repairs in each of the last two years and in each year, the budget has necessarily been overspent to accommodate the essential work identified. The repairs identified from the inspection regime cover not only normal wear and tear, but also accidental damage and vandalism.
- 1.4 As part of the improvements agreed with the Health and Safety Executive, Risk Assessments were required for every playground site and every item of equipment. The specialist nature of these risk assessments meant that ROSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) was commissioned to carry them out towards the end of 1998. Their 3 volume, 300+ page report was received in late Feb. 1999 and work commenced on costing the implications arising and in some cases, taking immediate action to remove equipment as recommended (required?) by ROSPA. The full ROSPA report is available to members if required, but has not been included in this report because of its size. Unfortunately, there have been two recent serious accidents on sites identified by ROSPA as in the medium or high risk categories, both resulted in fractured skulls for the child concerned and claims against the authority have been received in both cases.
- 1.5 It must be borne in mind that the ROSPA report and this report could be used as evidence in any future prosecution of the authority and in any claim against the authority by an individual following an accident.
- 1.6 The number of playgrounds run by the authority, most of which are over 25 years old cannot be afforded within the budgets currently available, particularly because of the standards of safety now required at playgrounds. New European Union Regulations superseded the old BS5696 Parts 1-3 requirements. The potential costs involved are dealt with later in the report but also it became apparent in preparing it that Caerphilly does not have a refurbishment programme for equipment. As a considerable amount of the equipment is at or approaching the end of its working life, the significant costs of replacement will impact weightily on the number of playgrounds affordable in even the medium term. Some of the equipment requiring refurbishment is recommended by the officers involved to be removed, based upon the ROSPA assessment, provided this is agreed then the actual cost of any refurbishment programme reduce accordingly. Refurbishment costs are not included in the financial implications of this report but clearly it is an area that needs to be addressed and will be the subject of a report in the near future.
- 1.7 Public awareness of safety at playgrounds has increased in the recent past, because of a number of high profile, well publicised accidents, including the lack of safety surfaces at

3.1 The working group considered the risk assessments individually and from a whole authority perspective. From this consideration the A1 - sites for removal (Appendix 2) and A2 - sites/individual items for repair (Appendix 3) lists came forth. In determining the sites to be recommended for removal, the following were considered:

1. The age and general state of the equipment.
2. The level of risk assessed by ROSPA.
3. The estimated cost of repairs.
4. The age and general state of the other equipment on the specific site and the risks assessed by ROSPA of that other equipment.
5. Whether or not safety surfacing is also required.
6. The ongoing expenditure requirement for the authority.
7. Attempting to keep the overall cost of the exercise to a minimum.
8. Level of use.
9. Local community needs.

3.2 Apart from the option of removing 95 playgrounds, and replacing a significant proportion of them, consideration was given to keeping the 95 open and costs for this option are included in Section 4.

3.3 In summary, the following details the affect of the actions taken/proposed:

Number of sites at May 1999	176
Sites removed immediately following ROSPA report	0
Sites closed unrelated to ROSPA report	6
Sites added since the ROSPA report	5
Sites proposed to remain	
Sites proposed to remove all items	<u>95</u>
Sites to remain open	80
Plus	
Replacement sites	28
Total remaining/replacement sites	<u>108</u>

Of the sites proposed to remain open:

Those already with full safety surfacing	23
Those requiring full or part safety surfacing	57

3.4 In some locales, all of the playgrounds within easy travelling distance have been recommended for removal. In those areas it is suggested one replacement playground, cost in the £25,000 - £30,000 range is installed subject to available finance. The areas considered most eligible for a new playground are listed in Appendix 7.

3.5 In the medium - long term it would appear advisable to consider reducing the number of limited facility local playgrounds and installing a small number of 'super-playgrounds' at a cost of at least £75,000 each with the authority. Initially, it is proposed to install three

Super Playgrounds which could be sited:

1. Caerphilly - Morgan Jones Park
2. Crosskeys - Waunfawr Park
3. Rhymney - War Memorial Park

Total Estimated Cost = £225,000

Timing of the creation of these 'super-playgrounds' and the phasing out of the old playgrounds would be the subject of a further report but approval is sought for the concept of these 'super-playgrounds'. Members in considering the timescale will need to take into account the downgrading of play services caused by the removal of the 95 playgrounds.

3.6 It is believed that even after implementing these proposals, Caerphilly's playgrounds/equipment per head ratio will still be amongst the highest in Wales.

3.7 The issues raised by the ROSPA will require a considerable amount of money, much of it initially over a very short period. The finances are dealt with in full in the next section.

4. **Conclusions and Financial Implications**

4.1 Currently the 1999/00 budget for the repair and maintenance of playgrounds is £194,997 and all of this will be required to pay for the inspections and the 'wear and tear including vandalism' work necessary found during the inspections. The money identified in this section for option 1 or option 2 will therefore have to be found by the authority.

4.2 Removal of sites or individual items does significantly reduce the ongoing expenditure requirement for the authority and where proposed was the most economic overall option. Given that the safety requirements for playgrounds have increased significantly in recent years it appears logical that less playgrounds can now be afforded, even within a moderately increased budget. By removing a site that requires significant repairs in a number of instances removes the additional cost of providing safety surfacing. This was another factor considered by the officers in finalising the proposals.

4.3 **Repair all the current sites and make safe to ROSPA standards. Costs of this action are detailed below:**

OPTION 1

Repair sites to make safe to ROSPA Standards

Part 1A - To be completed by approximately December '00.

	£
Repairs	375K
Safety Surfacing	<u>336.5K</u>
Total cost of Repairs/Resurfacing	711.5K (within the next eighteen months)

Part 1B

Refurbishment could be spread over approximately 5 years.

Refurbishment Total Cost £1.5M - £2.85M * (over the next four-five years)

Total 'one off' costs

£2.21M - £3.56M

Plus

Maintenance costs of at least an additional £100K p.a.

* Equipment on most of the sites recommended for removal is at or beyond the end of its working life.

This first part of the option would make the playgrounds safe and would need to be funded from this and the next financial year. However, the playgrounds left would still need considerable refurbishment (£1.5M - £2.85M) over a longer period to add to the £711.5K needed to bring the identified playgrounds up to standard. The total cost therefore, would be between £2.21M and £3.56M over the next five years and there would be a requirement for £100K per annum extra needed to undertake the repairs and maintenance of all of the playgrounds, thus adding £500K to the cost over the next five years.

4.4 **Remove 95 playgrounds and replace some existing playgrounds to ensure good coverage of the borough council area.**

OPTION 2

Remove 95 playgrounds and create 3 super playgrounds/27 normal replacement sites.

Part 2A - Removal of playgrounds and removal/repair of individual items - to be completed by approximately December '00.

	£
Remove complete playgrounds and make good site	355K
Remove individual items and make good site	72K
Repair individual items	20K
Safety Surfacing required	<u>132K</u>
Total for removal/repair	579K(within the next eighteen months)

Part 2B - Replacement playgrounds could be spread over the next 3 - 5 years

Improve sites to create 3 super sites	225K
Create 27 normal replacement sites	<u>675K - 810K</u>

Total for replacements/improvements **900K - 1,035K**(over the next 3-5 years)

Total 'one off' costs

£1,479M - £1,614M

This option ensures that the playgrounds are safe and also removes the 95 playgrounds identified by ROSPA. There is a need to ensure that the borough has reasonable coverage of playgrounds. This requires the direct replacement of 27 sites detailed in Appendix 7, and the creation of 3 super sites, detailed in paragraph 3.5.

An option was also considered whereby in addition to the creation of 2 Super Playgrounds only 8 replacement playgrounds were to be provided. This did not prove a viable option, and has not been put forward for consideration because whilst it reduced the expenditure

The reduction in the number of playgrounds to close reduces the need for extra maintenance requirements although there can be no guarantee this action will eliminate totally the need for the refurbishment costs detailed in Option 1. The initial part of this option will need to be funded from this and the next financial year but the improvements/replacements could be funded over a longer period.

- 4.5 In the time available it has not been possible to estimate the cost of every item, instead the work required has been separated into categories and full, detailed costs built up for a number of items/sites within each category.
- 4.6 Adjacent authorities are known to be spending considerable sums on making their playgrounds safer. Torfaen for example, reportedly spent £230,000 on safety surfacing for 13 sites.
- 4.7 The Tree Survey currently underway will almost certainly identify some arboricultural work that is required with regard to playgrounds. The cost of such work is additional to the costs provided in this report.

5. Other Considerations

- 5.1 As mentioned previously there is concern that Caerphilly does not have a refurbishment (replacement) programme for its playgrounds. Just under half of the items potentially requiring refurbishment/replacement will be removed if the recommendations in this report are approved. There will still be a considerable amount remaining - possibly around 15% - 20% of the units remaining. The position of course will worsen year on year as the existing equipment gets older. To be added to the considerations already mentioned is that parts for the older equipment will become progressively more difficult and expensive to obtain as the numbers in use in the U.K. reduce.

It is therefore proposed that officers look in detail at the need for a refurbishment programme and of course the costs involved and prepare a formal report in the near future.

- 5.2 It is also proposed to investigate the issues involved which will include the level of supervision or attendance necessary, in the creation of Super Playgrounds as outlined earlier in this report and prepare a formal report in the future.
- 5.3 Consideration has also been given to the form of reinstatement for the playgrounds it is proposed to remove. To provide an economic low maintenance facility for the community to replace the playground, it will be possible in some instances to create a tarmacadam area complete with basketball hoops for adolescents particularly to use. The downside and unfortunately there is one, is that people living close to such areas have found that their 'quality of life' reduces because of:

Drug use
Unruly behaviour
Drunken behaviour
Car noise
Swearing
Noise generally
Late night noise
Etc.

It is however, an option and members may wish to consider this for some of the sites. The cost of upgrading this reinstatement has not been included in the costs quoted in Section 4.

- 5.4 An increase in the frequency of the cleansing of playgrounds, to remove broken glass etc. is currently being investigated by officers and will be reported at a future meeting.
- 5.5 New play areas require a higher level of provision than previously and this will further increase maintenance costs for the authority, e.g. increased fencing, dog proof gates, skateboard facilities.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 6.1 Members approve the action proposed in Option 2 of the paper (paras 4.4 page 5)
- 6.2 Members agree to consultation with local ward members on the siting of the playground replacements as indicated.

**APPENDIX 1 - PLAYGROUNDS THAT REQUIRED IMMEDIATE ACTION
FOLLOWING THE ROSPA REPORT**

SITE	RISK ASSESSMENT	SITE NO.	UNIT	DETAIL
Phillipstown Community Centre	22	22	Multiplay Unit	2 No. nuts on scramble net (70119) to be renewed. 1 No. clatter bridge (70124) to be renewed. Tighten nuts on sloping net. Remove nails from top of ramp. We are awaiting costs.
Hollybush Railway Terrace	22	42	Cantilever Swing	As this is an old item of unit and the manufacturer is unknown, I suggest we remove this item. It requires various new parts and safety surfacing.
Hilary Road, Pantside	22	55	Roundabout	This item has been removed.
Windsor Avenue	23	81	Multiplay Unit	This unit is now obsolete and parts unavailable. Infill panels are required. Handgrips are too large. Swings give minimum use zone failure. Tiles are too high and require relocating/removal. Jagged concrete at chute supports. I suggest we remove this item.
Pontymister Athletic	23	106	Cantilever Swing	ROSPA recommend this item be removed.
Hamen Place	23	131	Multiplay Unit	Persistent vandalism and previous repairs are the history of this item - suggest removal/relocation.
Penybryn - Penallta	22	132	Multiplay Unit	I met Wicksteed representative on site. Awaiting costs to refurbish unit.
Grange Close	24	161	Swings	Old type Wicksteed swing with no safety surfacing. Suggest removal.
	23	161	Multiplay Unit	I met Wicksteed representative on site. Awaiting costs to refurbish unit although this may not be viable.
Senghenydd Park	23	168	Paddling Pool	This item would not be covered by playground inspection schedule. Drain covers missing. Edging slabs missing. Coping stones on middle wall missing. Water evident in pool. Also glass in water. Should be drained and cleansed.

N.B. All variation orders for the work required were issued by 15.03.99 with the exception of the paddling pool at Senghenydd Park which is being dealt with separately because it is not a playground responsibility.

APPENDIX 2 - REMOVAL OF WHOLE PLAYGROUND

PRIORITY	LOCATION	TOTAL UNITS	UNITS 13+ HAZARD	PER CENT 13+ HAZ	COST CAT.	PAGE NO.
	<u>Eastern Contract</u>					
1	Greenfield Street	1	1	100	1	65
2	High Street, Crosskeys	2	2	100	2	93
3	Reeces Terrace	3	3	100	2	85
4	Newbridge Park	3	3	100	5	63
5	Tredegar Terrace	2	2	100	3	130
6	High Mead	4	4	100	5	40
7	Waunfawr B	1	1	100	4	129
8	Thorncombe Road	1	1	100	4	33
9	Ty Isaf Welfare	2	2	100	5	118
10	Caerllwyn Terrace	2	2	100	4	144
11	Birchgrove, Ty Sign	4	4	100	4	99
12	Hillary Road	3	3	100	3	1
13	Tonypistill Road	4	4	100	5	55
14	Civic Centre, Pont.	3	3	100	3	36
15	Wattsville	2	2	100	5	131
16	Ynysddu Welfare	5	5	100	4	137
17	Sycamore Crescent	3	2	67	4	104
18	Halls Road	3	2	67	5	34
19	Treowen	4	3	75	5	66
20	Rhwsswg Road	2	2	100	4	81
21	Soccer Field, Trinant	6	5	83	5	15
22	Marshfield	5	4	80	5	49
23	Viaduct Terrace	5	1	20	4	7
24	Phillips Street, Trinant	5	3	60	2	12
25	Penyfan Close, Trinant	6	1	17	5	18
26	Manor Park, Penllwyn	3	0	0	4	38
27	Snowden Close, Ty Sign	5	4	80	3	102
28	Thistle Way, Ty Sign	4	1	25	3	106

APPENDIX 2 - REMOVAL OF WHOLE PLAYGROUND

PRIORITY	LOCATION	TOTAL UNITS	UNITS 13+ HAZARD	PER CENT 13+ HAZ	COST CAT.	PAGE NO.
29	Woodview, Risca	2	1	50	2	108
30	Longbridge	4	1	25	3	124
31	Stanley St, Cwmfelinfach	6	2	34	3	134
32	Alexandra Road	5	2	40	2	142
	<u>Southern Contract</u>					
1	Ashgrove	2	2	100	3	31
2	Churchill Park	3	3	100	3	108
3	Hendre	3	2	67	4	96
4	Aeron Place	2	2	100	4	9
5	Hengoed Comm. Centre	1	1	100	2	29
6	Davies Street	4	4	100	3	32
7	Duffryn Street	4	4	100	5	34
8	Sir Stafford Close	2	2	100	1	70
9	Mountain View	4	4	100	5	62
10	Glyngaer Square	3	3	100	5	15
11	Brynmynach Avenue	5	4	80	5	38
12	Bartlett Street	6	4	67	5	78
13	Heol Coed Cae 1	5	0	0	2	3
14	Heol Coed Cae 2	4	0	0	2	6
15	Heol Coed Cae 3	4	0	0	2	5
16	Vere Street, Gilfach	2	1	50	2	10
17	Mount Pleasant	2	0	0	1	14
18	Hamen Place	3	1	34	2	17
19	Tawel Fan, Nelson	4	2	50	2	21
20	Heol Fawr, Nelson	2	0	0	2	23
21	Cefn Road	6	3	51	3	1
22	The Bryn, Trethomas	6	2	34	4	54
23	Graig y Rhacca	2	1	50	4	57

APPENDIX 2 - REMOVAL OF WHOLE PLAYGROUND

PRIORITY	LOCATION	TOTAL UNITS	UNITS 13+ HAZARD	PER CENT 13+ HAZ	COST CAT.	PAGE NO.
24	Trapwell	5	0	0	3	68
25	Van Road	4	0	0	3	75
26	Carmarthen Court	2	0	0	1	86
27	Caerleon Court	2	0	0	1	87
28	Heol Aneurin	3	0	0	2	92
29	Commercial Street	8	2	0	3	101
30	Stanley Street	4	2	50	3	104
31	Alexandra Terrace	5	3	40	3	106
	<u>Northern Contract</u>					
1	Commin Road	2	2	100	4	70
2	Brynglas	4	4	100	5	18
3	Groesfaen Terrace	1	1	100	2	30
4	Pentwyn, Fochriw	2	2	100	3	24
5	White Rose Way	1	1	100	2	36
6	School Street, Pontlottyn	2	2	100	4	13
7	Tredegar Road	1	2	100	2	34
8	Ty Fry Road	2	2	100	5	64
9	Sunny View	4	4	100	5	16
10	Factory Road	2	2	100	5	50
11	Railway Ter, Hollybush	3	3	100	3	76
12	Llancayo Street	4	4	100	5	53
13	Fairways, Bargoed	3	3	100	5	55
14	Carn y Tylla	5	4	80	5	8
15	Cwm Argoed Top	7	5	71	5	81
16	St. Davids	3	2	67	1	60
17	Rhodfa Ganol	2	2	100	3	22
18	Butetown	2	1	50	1	1
19	Ty Coch 1	1	0	0	1	4

APPENDIX 2 - REMOVAL OF WHOLE PLAYGROUND

PRIORITY	LOCATION	TOTAL UNITS	UNITS 13+ HAZARD	PER CENT 13+ HAZ	COST CAT.	PAGE NO.
20	Greensway	7	3	43	3	10
21	Queen Street	3	1	34	1	14
22	Bargoed Inn	1	0	0	1	26
23	Derlwyn Street	3	0	0	2	41
24	Lower Stanley Terrace	3	1	34	3	43
25	Upper Road	2	1	50	1	45
26	Bute Houses	7	3	43	2	48
27	Duffryn Street	3	1	34	2	65
28	Lewis Street	2	0	0	1	69
29	Cwm Argoed Bottom	2	1	50	2	81
30	Cwm Gelli	2	0	0	2	82
31	Warne Street	3	0	0	3	100
32	Fairview Top	Equipment already removed				

APPENDIX 3 - REMOVAL, REPAIR OF INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

PRICE CATEGORY	PRIORITY	LOCATION	EQUIPMENT	RISK NO.	PAGE NO.
		<u>Eastern Contract</u>			
3	Repair	Bryn Playing Fields, Pontllanfraith	Aerial Runway	20	44
3	Repair	Oakdale Recreation Ground	Lorry Climb Frame/Cantilever	20	25
3	Removal	Waunfawr Park A	Multi-play	20	127
4	Removal	Bryn Playing Fields, Pontllanfraith	Swings	20	44
4	Removal	Pontymister Athletic, Risca	Senior Multi-play	19	116
3	Removal	Bryn Playing Fields, Pontllanfraith	Multi-play	18	44
5	Removal	Fernlea, Ty Sign	Multi-play	19	95
2	Removal	Risca Park	Multi-Park	18	119
5	Removal	Hafodyrynys	Swings	17	5
3	Removal	Feeder Row, Cwmcarn	Multi-play	15	88
1	Removal	Oakdale Recreation Ground	Cradle Swings	14	27
5	Removal	Fields Park, Newbridge	Swings	13	57
2	Removal	Feeder Row, Cwmcarn	Swings	13	87
2	Removal	Feeder Row, Cwmcarn	Slide	13	88
1	Removal	Fields Park, Newbridge	Kickabout Area	13	58
		<u>Southern Contract</u>			
2	Repair	Llwyn yr Eos, Nelson	Roundabout	13	3
2	Repair	Llwyn yr Eos, Nelson	Multi-play	13	4
3	Repair	Maesycwmmmer	Multi-play	19	46
3	Repair	Penybryn, Penallta	Multi-play	22	20
3	Repair	Penyrheol Park	Multi-play	19	89
2	Repair	Penyrheol Park	Roundabout	13	91
5	Repair	Senghenydd Park	Paddling Pool	23	100
5	Repair	Tiryberth Welfare	Swings	14	5
5	Removal	Llanbradach Park	Multi-play	19	48

APPENDIX 3 - REMOVAL, REPAIR OF INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

PRICE CATEGORY	PRIORITY	LOCATION	EQUIPMENT	RISK NO.	PAGE NO.
5	Removal	Ffwrwm Road, Machen	Swings	17	61
3	Removal	Hartshorn Court, Lansbury Park	Multi-play	18	72
5	Removal	Llanbradach Park	Roundabout	16	50
5	Removal	Senghenydd Park	Swings (6 Seat)	18	99
5	Removal	Senghenydd Park	Swings (3 Seat)	16	98
5	Removal	Ffwrwm Road, Machen	Climbing Frame	15	59
5	Removal	Ffwrwm Road, Machen	Slide	15	60
2	Removal	Abertridwr Park	Cradle Swings	15	95
1	Removal	Senghenydd Park	Multi-play	14	99
5	Removal	Waunganol Park, Bedwas	Swings	14	51
5	Removal	Waunganol Park, Bedwas	Slide	14	51
5	Removal	Waunganol Park, Bedwas	Cradle Swing	13	53
		<u>Northern Contract</u>			
4	Repair	Phillipstown Community Centre	Multi-play	22	40
5	Removal	King George Field, Markham	Swings	20	73
5	Removal	Bargoed	Swings	18	59
3	Removal	Cefn Fforest Welfare	Swings	18	88
2	Removal	Showfield, Blackwood	Large Multi-play	16	85
3	Removal	King George Field, Markham	Cradle Swings	15	72
5	Removal	Garfield Street, Blackwood	Multi-play	14	92
4	Removal	Britannia	Swings	14	63
5	Removal	Glyn Deri, Deri	Climbing Frame	14	27
5	Removal	Glyn Deri, Deri	Slide	13	28
3	Removal	Rhymney Park	Slide and Swing Unit	13	7
1	Removal	Tan Lan Square, New Tredegar	Swings	13	37
1	Removal	Tan Lan Square, New Tredegar	Multi-play	13	38

APPENDIX 4 - SAFETY SURFACES REQUIRED

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL ROSPA REPORT - PLAYGROUNDS REQUIRING SAFETY SURFACING

LOCATION	ITEM	TYPE OF SURFACE	COST £	
HEOL COED CAE 1	SLIDE	EXTEND TILES	(1000)	R
VERE STREET	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
TAWEL FAN	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
HEOL FAWR	SLIDE	WETPOUR	(1000)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
CEFN ROAD	ROUNDABOUT	TILES	(1900)	R
	SLIDE	TILES	(1900)	R
	SWING	TILES	(2500)	R
	SLIDE	TILES	(1900)	R
LLANBRADACH PARK	MULTIPLAY UNIT	BARK	1000	
	SWING	TILES	2500	
	SWING	TILES	2500	
	SLIDE	TILES	2500	
	ROUNDABOUT	TILES	1850	
WAUNGANOL PARK	SWING	WETPOUR	2500	
	SLIDE	WETPOUR	1900	
	MULTIPLAY UNIT	BARK	1000	
	SEE / SAW	BARK	1000	
	SWING	WETPOUR	2500	
THE BRYN	SLIDE	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
DICKENS COURT	SPACE BUGGY	TILES	(1000)	R
	MULTIPLAY UNIT	TILES	(1000)	R
FFWRWM ROAD	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	1800	
	ARCH SWING	TILES	1800	
	ARCH SWING	TILES	1800	
	SLIDE	WETPOUR	1800	
	SWING	WETPOUR	2500	
MOUNTAIN VIEW	SLIDE	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
RUDRY	MULTIPLAY UNIT	WETPOUR	1200	
TRAPWELL	CLIMBER	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
	0' CLIMBER	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
	SLIDE	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
HARTSHORN COURT	MULTIPLAY UNIT	BARK	1000	
GWAUN NEWYDD	MULTIPLAY UNIT	WETPOUR	1000	
VAN TERRACE	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	2500	
	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	1800	
BARTLETT STREET	SLIDE	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	ROUNDABOUT	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
MORGAN JONES PARK	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	1800	
	SWING	WETPOUR	2500	
	SWING	WETPOUR	2500	
CAMARTHEN COURT	SLIDE	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
CAERLEON COURT	SLIDE	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
HEOL ANEURIN	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
SENGHENYDD PARK	SWING	WETPOUR	2500	
	SWING	WETPOUR	2500	
	SWING	WETPOUR	2500	
	MULTIPLAY UNIT	TILES	1000	
	SLIDE	WETPOUR	1800	
COMMERCIAL STREET	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
	SLIDE	WETPOUR	(1800)	R

N.B. R = Site or individual equipment recommended for removal

APPENDIX 4 - SAFETY SURFACES REQUIRED

**CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL ROSPA REPORT
- PLAYGROUNDS REQUIRING SAFETY SURFACING**

LOCATION	ITEM	TYPE OF SURFACE	COST £	
STATION ROAD	SWING	WETPOUR	2500	
WILLOW COURT	MULTIPLAY UNIT	TILES	1500	
HAFODYRYNYS	SWING	WETPOUR	2500	
	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	1800	
	SLIDE	WETPOUR	2000	
VIADUCT TERRACE	MULTIPLAY UNIT	BARK	(1000)	R
PHILLIP STREET	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	SLIDE	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
PENYFAN CLOSE	MULTIPLAY UNIT	TILES	(1800)	R
MANMOEL	SWING	WETPOUR	2500	
	SLIDE	WETPOUR	2500	
	SWING	WETPOUR	2500	
	SWING	WETPOUR	2500	
MANOR PARK	MULTIPLAY UNIT	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
WYLLIE	MULTIPLAY UNIT	WETPOUR	1800	
WINDSOR AVENUE	MULTIPLAY UNIT	BARK	1500	
CRUMLIN PARK	SWING	BARK	1500	
	SWING	BARK	1500	
	CLIMBING FRAME	BARK	1500	
	SLIDE	BARK	2000	
MARNE STREET	SWING	BARK	2000	
	MULTIPLAY UNIT	WETPOUR	1500	
	CLIMBING BAR	BARK	2000	
FEEDER ROW	CLIMBING BAR	BARK	2000	
	CLIMBING BAR	BARK	2000	
HIGH STREET	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	SLIDE	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
FERNLEA	MULTIPLAY UNIT	TILES	1800	
SNOWDON CLOSE	SLIDE	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(2000)	R
	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(2000)	R
THISTLE WAY	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	SLIDE	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
WOODVIEW	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
HERBERT AVENUE	SEE/SAW	TILES	1800	
RISCA PARK	MULTIPLAY UNIT	TILES	1800	
	SWING	TILES	1800	
LONGBRIDGE	SWING	WETPOUR	(2000)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2000)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2000)	R
	ROUNDBOUT	WETPOUR	(2000)	R
STANLEY ST.	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(2000)	R
	MULTIPLAY UNIT	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	SEE/SAW	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
ALEXANDER RD.	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	SLIDE	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
BUTETOWN	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
TY COCH 1	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
RHYMNEY PARK	MULTIPLAY UNIT	BARK	1500	
GREENSWAY	SLIDE	WETPOUR	(1800)	R
	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(2000)	R
	MULTIPLAY UNIT	TILES	(1800)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
QUEEN STREET	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
BRYNGLAS	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R
	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(2000)	R
	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(2000)	R
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R

N.B. R = Site or individual equipment recommended for removal

APPENDIX 4 - SAFETY SURFACES REQUIRED

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL ROSPA REPORT - PLAYGROUNDS REQUIRING SAFETY SURFACING

LOCATION	ITEM	TYPE OF SURFACE	COST £		
BARGOED INN	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R	
GLYNDERI	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	1800		
	SLIDE	WETPOUR	2000		
	ROUNDAABOUT	WETPOUR	2000		
TIRPHIL	SWING	WETPOUR	1500		
	SWING	WETPOUR	1500		
DERLWYN STREET	CLIMBING FRAME	TILES	(1800)	R	
	CLIMBING FRAME	TILES	(1800)	R	
LOWER STANLEY TCE BUTE HOUSES	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R	
	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(2500)	R	
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R	
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R	
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R	
	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(2500)	R	
ST. PETERS	CLIMBING FRAME	BARK	1500		
	SWING	BARK	1000		
BARGOED PARK	SLIDE	WETPOUR	1500		
ST. DAVIDS PENGAM	SLIDE	WETPOUR	(2500)	R	
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R	
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R	
DUFFRYN ST. ABERBA	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(1800)	R	
	CLIMBING FRAME	WETPOUR	(1800)	R	
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R	
KING GEORGE FLDS.	MULTIPLAY UNIT	BARK	2000		
CWM ARGOED BOTTO	SLIDE	WETPOUR	(1800)	R	
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R	
CWMGELLI	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R	
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R	
WARNE STREET	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R	
	SEE/SAW	WETPOUR	(1800)	R	
	SWING	WETPOUR	(2500)	R	
		TOTAL	£	336950	

N.B. R = Site or individual equipment recommended for removal

APPENDIX 5 - COMPLETE LIST OF CURRENT PLAYGROUNDS
PLAYGROUNDS - EASTERN CONTRACT

LOCATION	RETAIN	REMOVE
Hilary Road, Panside		✓
Willow Court, Panside	✓	
Hafodyrynys	✓	
Viaduct Terrace, Crumlin		✓
Kendon Hill, Crumlin	✓	
Phillip Street, Trinant		✓
Soccer Field, Trinant		✓
Penyfan Close, Trinant		✓
Manmoel	✓	
Croespenmaen	✓	
Oakdale Recreation Ground	✓	
Penmaen	✓	
Woodfieldside	✓	
Thorncombe Road		✓
Halls Road		✓
Civic Centre, Pontllanfraith		✓
Manor Park, Penllwyn		✓
Highmead, Penllwyn		✓
Bryn Playing Field	✓	
Wyllie	✓	
Marshfield, Pontllanfraith		✓
Springfield	✓	
Fox Avenue	✓	
Tonypistill Road		✓
Fields Park, Newbridge	✓	
Windsor Avenue, Newbridge	✓	
Newbridge Park		✓
Greenfield Street		✓
Treowen		✓
Crumlin Park		

APPENDIX 5 - COMPLETE LIST OF CURRENT PLAYGROUNDS
PLAYGROUNDS - EASTERN CONTRACT

LOCATION	RETAIN	REMOVE
Panteg Terrace	✓	
King George Field, Westend	✓	
Llanfach	✓	
Disillery, Abercarn	✓	
Rhwsswg Road		✓
Marne Street, Cwmcarn	✓	
Reeces Terrace		✓
Twyncarn Road, Crosskeys	✓	
Colliseum Site, Crosskeys		✓
Fernlea	✓	
Birchgrove, Ty Sign		✓
Ty Sign Open Space	✓	
Snowden Close, Ty Sign		✓
Sycamore Crescent, Ty Sign		✓
Thistle Way, Ty Sign		✓
Woodview Risca		✓
Herbert Avenue, Risca	✓	
Tan y Bryn	✓	
Pontymister Athletic	✓	
Ty Isaf Welfare		✓
Risca Park	✓	
Longbridge		✓
Waunfawr Park 'A'	✓	
Waunfawr Park 'B'		✓
Tredegar Terrace, Crosskeys		✓
Wattsville		✓
Brynawel	✓	
Stanley Street, Cwmfelinfach		✓
Ynysddu Welfare		✓

APPENDIX 5 - COMPLETE LIST OF CURRENT PLAYGROUNDS
PLAYGROUNDS - EASTERN CONTRACT

LOCATION	RETAIN	REMOVE
Bridge Street, Ynysddu	✓	
Alexandra Road		✓
Caerllwyn Terrace		✓
Rifleman Street, Risca	✓	
Feeder Row	✓	

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
LIBRARY

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
1/1/50
1/2/50
1/3/50
1/4/50
1/5/50
1/6/50
1/7/50
1/8/50
1/9/50
1/10/50
1/11/50
1/12/50
1/13/50
1/14/50
1/15/50
1/16/50
1/17/50
1/18/50
1/19/50
1/20/50
1/21/50
1/22/50
1/23/50
1/24/50
1/25/50
1/26/50
1/27/50
1/28/50
1/29/50
1/30/50
1/31/50

APPENDIX 5 - COMPLETE LIST OF CURRENT PLAYGROUNDS
PLAYGROUNDS - SOUTHERN CONTRACT

LOCATION	RETAIN	REMOVE
Bargoed Community Centre	✓	
Heol Coed Cae 1		✓
Heol Coed Cae 2		✓
Heol Coed Cae 3		✓
Maesygraig Street	✓	
Aeron Place		✓
Vere Street		✓
Hanbury Street	✓	
Mount Pleasant, Cascade		✓
Glyngaer Square		✓
Hamen Place, Gelligaer		✓
Penybryn, Penallta Road	✓	
Tawel Fan, Nelson		✓
Llwyn yr Eos, Nelson	✓	
Heol Fawr, Nelson		✓
Tiryberth Welfare	✓	
William Street, Tiryberth	✓	
School Street, Pengam	✓	
Cefn Road, Hengoed		✓
Hengoed Community Centre		✓
Ashgrove, Hengoed		✓
Davies Street		✓
Duffryn Street		✓
Station Road	✓	
Brynmynach, Tredomen		✓
Park Lane, Tredomen	✓	
Ystrad Mynach Welfare	✓	
Maescwmmmer Park	✓	
Llanbradach Park	✓	
Waunganol Park		

APPENDIX 5 - COMPLETE LIST OF CURRENT PLAYGROUNDS
PLAYGROUNDS - SOUTHERN CONTRACT

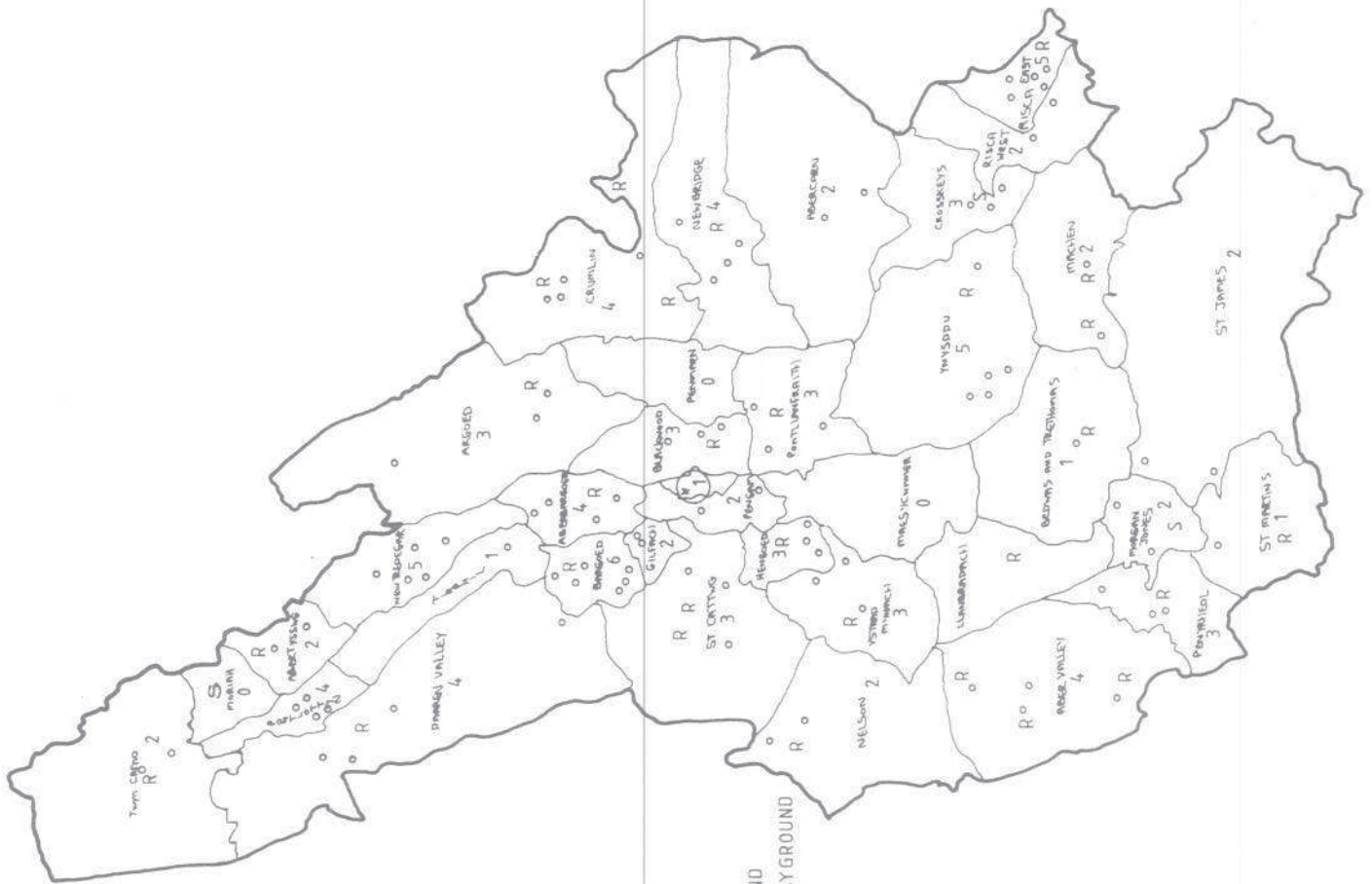
LOCATION	RETAIN	REMOVE
The Bryn, Trethomas		✓
Graig y Rhacca		✓
Ffwrwm Road, Machen	✓	
Mountain View		✓
Draethen Village	✓	
Rudry Village	✓	
Trapwell		✓
Sir Stafford Close		✓
Hartshorn Court	✓	
Gwaun Newydd	✓	
Van Road		✓
Bartlett Street		✓
Morgan Jones Park	✓	
Trecenydd Grange Close	✓	
Carmarthen Court		✓
Caerleon Court		✓
Penyrheol Park	✓	
Heol Aneurin		✓
Abertridwr Park	✓	
Hendre, Abertridwr		✓
Senghenydd Park	✓	
Commercial Street		✓
Stanley Street		✓
Alexandra Terrace		✓
Churchill Park		✓
Badham Close	✓	
Ashman Close	✓	
Clos y Pant	✓	

APPENDIX 5 - COMPLETE LIST OF CURRENT PLAYGROUNDS
PLAYGROUNDS - NORTHERN CONTRACT

LOCATION	RETAIN	REMOVE
Butetown		✓
Ty Coch Rhymney	✓	
Ty Coch 1		✓
Rhymney Park	✓	
Carn y Tylla Terrace		✓
Greensway		✓
School Street, Pontlottyn		✓
Queen Street, Pontlottyn		✓
Sunny View		✓
Brynglas		✓
Danygraig	✓	
Rhodfa Ganol		✓
Pentwyn Fochriw		✓
Bargoed Inn		✓
Glyn Deri	✓	
Groesfaen Terrace		✓
Tirphil School Street	✓	
Tredegar Road		✓
White Rose Way		✓
Tan Lan Square	✓	
Phillipstown Community Centre	✓	
Derlwyn Street		✓
Lower Stanley Terrace		✓
Upper Road		✓
Tennyson Terrace	✓	
Bute Houses		✓
Factory Road		✓
St. Peters	✓	
Llancayo Street		✓
Heolddu Crescent/Fairways		✓

APPENDIX 5 - COMPLETE LIST OF CURRENT PLAYGROUNDS
PLAYGROUNDS - NORTHERN CONTRACT

LOCATION		RETAIN	REMOVE
Bargoed Park	✓		
St. Davids, Pengam			✓
Britannia	✓		
Ty Fry Road			✓
Duffryn Street			✓
Yew Street	✓		
Lewis Street			✓
Commin Road			✓
King George Field, Markham	✓		
Hollybush Rugby Ground	✓		
Hollybush Railway Terrace			✓
Cwm Argoed Top			✓
Cwm Argoed Bottom			✓
Cwmgelli			✓
Showfield Blackwood	✓		
Cefn Fforest Welfare	✓		
Attlee Road	✓		
Garfield Street	✓		
Bryn Rhwydyn	✓		
Clos Gronw	✓		
Fairview Top			✓
Fairview Bottom	✓		
Warne Street			✓
Twyn Gardens	✓		



- ① - CEFN FOREST = 0
- S - SUPER PLAYGROUND
- R - REPLACEMENT PLAYGROUND



YSTRAD FAWR, YSTRAD MYNACH, HENGOED, MID GLAM CF8 7SF
 TELEPHONE: 01443 815588 FACSIMILE: 01443 863116

CLIENT AGENCY

JOB TITLE

PLAN OF C.C.B.C.

DRAWING TITLE

GEOGRAPHIC AFFECT OF PROPOSED
 PLAYGROUND SITE
 REMOVAL

SCALE N.T.S. DRAWN BY SCB

DATE 06.99 DRWG. No.



**APPENDIX 7 - PLAYGROUNDS FOR CONSIDERATION AS
REPLACEMENTS FOR SOME OF THOSE REMOVED.**

Ward Location

1	Butetown
3	Abertysswg (Location to be confirmed)
7	Fochriw (Location to be confirmed)
8	Argoed (Location to be confirmed)
9	Aberbargoed (Location to be confirmed)
10	Bargoed Park
12	East side of Blackwood (Location to be confirmed)
14	Hafodyrynys
14	Treowen
14	Trinant (Location to be confirmed)
15	St. Cattwgs (Location to be confirmed)
18	Newbridge, Windsor Avenue
19	Hengoed (Location to be confirmed)
20	Civic Centre, Pontllanfraith
22	Nelson (Location to be confirmed)
23	Ystrad Mynach Welfare
24	Cwmfelinfach (Location to be confirmed)
27	Senghenydd Park
27	Abertridwr Park
27	Alexander Terrace
28	Llanbradach Park
29	Bedwas & Trethomas, The Bryn
30	Ffwrwm Road, Machen
30	Graig y Rhacca
32	Ty Sign Open Space
33	Hendredenny
35	Bartlett Street

Local members will be consulted on the precise siting of these replacement playgrounds. Consideration should be given to siting replacement playgrounds at school sites where possible. Where a site is indicated above, it is a suggestion from the Playgrounds Working Group.

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF DALLAS

1900

Know all men by these presents, that I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the original of the same as the same appears from the records of the County of Dallas, State of Texas, to-wit:

...

Witness my hand and seal of office this 1st day of January, 1900.

CABINET –28TH FEBRUARY 2000

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME FOR PLAYGROUNDS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LEISURE

1. Members will find attached a paper outlining the results of the consultation exercise on playgrounds. This paper also outlines options that Council have in determining the speed and extent of the replacement programme for the playgrounds.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**
 - (a) Members are asked to note the outcomes of the consultation process.
 - (b) Members are asked to consider the recommendations outlined in paragraphs 10.

Author: Andrew Kerr, Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure
Consultees: Please see Section 10 (page 3).

PLAYGROUNDS

**A Report on the Seven Area Meetings undertaken following Full
Council on 25 August 1999 and the Response to the RoSPA Report**

November 1999

CONTENTS

SECTION	Page Nos
1. Introduction	4
3. Meetings held	5
4. General points from the meetings	5
5. Changes to the original removal/replacement list – agreed by Members at these meetings.	5
6. Additional playgrounds, requested and comments from individual meetings.	6
6.1 Additional replacements requested in response to the RoSPA Report.	
6.2 Additional replacements requested for the future.	
7. Summary	8
8. Timetable for removals, reinstatements and replacements.	9
9. Acknowledgements.	9
10. Consultation	
Consultation has already taken place and will continue with the following:-	
Planning	
Property Services	
Economic Development	
Procurement Services	

APPENDICES

1. Minutes of Full Council on 25.8.99
- 2-8 Original site by site tables with agreed amendments and the comments/requests made at each meeting, as follows:-
 2. Upper Rhymney
 3. Greater Bargoed
 4. Mid Valley West
 5. Mid Valley East
 6. Aber Valley
 7. Caerphilly Basin
 8. Lower Islwyn

1. Introduction

1.1 At Council on 25 August 1999 the following was resolved:-

- (i) option 2 of the report (paragraphs 4.4 on page 5) be approved:
- (ii) consultation be undertaken with local Ward Members on the siting of the playground replacements indicated in the report.

1.2 The report referred to in the above minute is 'The proposed response to the RoSPA Risk Assessments' prepared by the Client Agency/Community Education, Leisure and Libraries.

1.3 The action approved in paragraphs 4.4 on page 5 of the above report included:-

Remove complete playgrounds and make good site
Remove individual items and make good site
Repair individual items
Safety surfacing required.

1.4 Seven meetings were held between 26 October and 29 November 1999 and CCBC Members and Community Councillors were invited to attend the meeting for their Ward.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 Understandably, no proposed replacement playground was refused, or given to another Ward, but some are to be moved within the Ward. Consultation was proposed on a number of others. There is, therefore, no reduction in the original predicted cost of £1,479m - £1,614m.

2.2 If the ADDITIONAL replacement sites requested by Members in response to the RoSPA report were agreed than an ADDITIONAL £325,000 - £400,000 would also be required (Section 6.1 refers). It has not been possible to recommend that these ADDITIONAL replacement sites be included in the replacement programme because of the limitations of available finance. It is proposed that these ADDITIONAL replacements requested are added to the list of 'future replacements' requested by Members - to be dealt with "when finance becomes available".

2.3 A number of future replacements were also requested - "when finance becomes available" and these amount to further additional expenditure of £200,000 - £245,000 (Section 6.2 refers).

2.4 Other comments and requests were made at the meetings and these are detailed in Appendices 2 - 8. General comments, i.e. those coming from more than one meeting, are detailed in Section 4.

2.5 It has been proposed by CMT that the replacement programme is funded from the capital programme over three years.

3. Meetings Held

3.1	Aber Valley	-	26.10.99
	Caerphilly Basin	-	27.10.99
	Mid Valley West	-	8.11.99
	Lower Islwyn	-	10.11.99
	Mid Valley East	-	17.11.99
	Upper Rhymney	-	22.11.99
	Greater Bargoed	-	29.11.99

3.2 At these meetings Members were made aware that requests for additional replacements would require additional funding - unless any replacement was refused or given to another Ward.

4. General Points from the Meetings

- 4.1 A general point is one that came from more than one meeting. In the main these points emerged at most meetings. Full details of the comments made at each of the individual meetings are shown in Appendices 2 - 8.
- 4.2 Developers should always be asked (told?) to provide play facilities or contribute to their provision. The siting of such play facilities should not necessarily be on the site of development, but at the optimum place for the locale.
- 4.3 Savings achieved because of the size of any contracts let in response to the RoSPA Report should be used to provide additional replacement playgrounds.
- 4.4 All sites should be sufficiently fenced to keep out dogs - gates in the fences would be required for access.
- 4.5 The need for a Playground Strategy addressing all issues was agreed at all meetings. This will be provided to Members for discussion and decision in Spring 2000.
- 4.6 Consultation with Members on the equipment to be provided was agreed as essential at all meetings. Officers were always committed to this, but the mechanism for achieving it must now be created.
- 4.7 The proposed Vandalism Index was agreed as essential at all meetings. The possibility of a "league table" and reduced future expenditure for sites heavily or continuously vandalised was also discussed.
- 4.8 Local/individual company sponsorship, possibly for individual sites, should be investigated by the Leisure Department.

5. Changes to the Original Removal/Replacement List Agreed by Members at these Meetings

5.1 Understandably, no replacement playgrounds were refused or given to other Wards, but the siting of a number within the Ward was changed. Appendices 2 - 8 detail the original

proposals for each Ward and the changes agreed at these meetings. Requests for additional replacements are detailed in Section 6.1 or 6.2. Comments made at the meetings are detailed in Appendices 2 - 8. The following paragraphs (5.2-5.8) summarise changes to the original replacement list agreed at the meetings.

5.2 *Group 1 - Upper Rhymney*

Moriah/Abertysswg Ward - the replacement proposed for Greensway will be re-sited elsewhere after consultation to decide the siting.

5.3 *Group 2 - Greater Bargoed*

No amendments to the original list were proposed, but a number of additional replacements were requested.

5.4 *Group 3 - Mid Valleys West*

Nelson Ward - the replacement playground should be sited at the Wern Playing Fields instead of at Tawel Fan.

Hengoed Ward - the replacement playground should be sited at Cefn Road and not at the Community Centre.

5.5 *Group 4 - Mid Valleys East*

Argoed Ward - the replacement suggested for Cwm Argoed Bottom should be re-sited elsewhere in the Ward after local consultation.

Pontllanfraith Ward - the replacement for the Civic Centre locale should be re-sited to a more suitable position within the vicinity.

5.6 *Group 5 - Aber Valley*

Aber Valley Ward - the replacement suggested for Alexandra Terrace should be sited at Stanley Street.

Penyrheol Ward - the residents around Carmarthen Court, Hendredenny should be balloted before any final decision to site the replacement playground there is taken.

5.7 *Group 6 - Caerphilly Basin*

No amendments to the original list were proposed, but a number of additional replacements were requested.

5.8 *Group 7 - Lower Islwyn*

No amendments to the original table were agreed, but a number of additional replacements were requested.

6. Additional Playgrounds Requested

6.1 Additional replacement playgrounds were requested in response to the RoSPA Report.

6.2 The additional replacement playgrounds listed below were requested to go in at the same time as the originally listed replacements. Appendices 2 - 8 show the originally listed, proposed, replacement playgrounds Ward by Ward.

6.1.2.

- a) Replacement of another site for Lower Stanley Terrace (New Tredegar Ward).
- b) Replacement for White Rose Way (New Tredegar Ward).
- c) Partial replacement for Groesfaen Terrace (Darren Valley Ward).
- d) Replacement for Commin Road (Aberbargoed Ward).
- e) Replacement(s) for Heol Coed Cae (Bargoed Ward).
- f) Replacement for Aeron Place (Gilfach Ward).
- g) Replacement for Gelligaer (St. Cattwg's Ward).
- h) Replacement/new for Cefn Hengoed Youth Centre (Hengoed Ward).
- i) Premier playground for the Blackwood area (Blackwood Ward).
- j) Premier replacement and not a standard replacement for Windsor Avenue (Newbridge Ward).
- k) Partial replacement for Hendre (Aber Valley Ward).
- l) Partial replacement for Mountain View (Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen Ward).
- m) Replacement for Wattsville (Ynysddu Ward).

6.1.3 The additional cost of these requests for additional playgrounds is £325,000 - £400,000.

6.1.4 If additional funding is not agreed for all or part of the above, it is suggested that these requested playgrounds are placed on a priority list for future development, when additional finance becomes available. They should, however, be subjected to the criteria to be defined within the Playground Strategy regarding the definition of Playground Need. This is due to be presented to Members in Spring 2000.

6.2 Additional Replacements Requested for the Future

6.2.1 The additional replacement playgrounds listed below were requested for future development, when finance becomes available. Appendices 2 - 8 show the originally listed, proposed, replacement playgrounds Ward by Ward. All of these are standard replacements, unless indicated otherwise.

6.2.2

- a) Sunny View)
- b) Bryn Glas) (Pontlloftyn Ward)
- c) Queen Street)
- d) Phillipstown Community Centre playground should be moved to Derlwyn Street. Officers comment that this is likely to be at least as expensive as a replacement playground (New Tredegar Ward).

- e) Additional equipment was requested for Maes-y-Graig Street (Gilfach Ward).
- f) At least one playground to be developed on the eastern side of the Darren Valley (Darren Valley).
- g) Fairways (Bargoed Ward).
- h) Vere Street (Bargoed Ward).
- i) Pen-y-Fan Close (Crumlin Ward).
- j) Trapwell (St. James Ward).

6.2.3 The additional cost of these requests would be £200,000 - £245,000.

6.2.4 If additional funding is not agreed for all or part of the above, it is suggested that these requested playgrounds are placed on a priority list for future development, when additional finance becomes available. They should, however, be subjected to the criteria to be defined within the Playground Strategy regarding the definition of Playground Need. This is due to be presented to Members in Spring 2000.

7. Summary

7.1 Subject to confirmation from contract prices submitted, the original budget of £1.479m - £1.614m will still be required.

7.2 The projected cost of the additional replacement sites requested from the RoSPA response is:
£325,000 - £400,000

The projected cost of the additional replacement sites requested for future development is:
£200,000 - £245,000.

7.3 If the decision is to accede to these requests, then this will increase the one-off financing required by approximately 37%.

7.4 In addition, allowing just over £1,000 for maintenance costs per annum, the maintenance budget would need to be increased annually by approximately £25,000.

7.5 If the decision of Council is not to fund the additional replacements requested (paras 7.1 and 7.2) they could be classed as priority in the future, but subjected to the criteria to define playground need, that will be contained in the Playground Strategy to be presented in early 2000.

7.6 Officers will be assigned within an action plan to follow up the items raised as comments at the various meetings.

7.7 A vandalism index for repairs required not caused through fair wear and tear will be created from April 1st 2000.

8. Timetables

8.1 Removal

Following the approval of full Council on 25th August 1999, the contract for removal of the 95 playgrounds was tendered and awarded to Caerphilly's Grounds Maintenance DSO in February 2000. Completion of the removals is due at the end of March 2000 or early April 2000, before the commencement of the Easter school holidays.

8.2 Safety Surfacing etc.

The provision or replacement of safety surfacing at sites to remain open is in the process of being tendered and scheduled for completion by the end of April 2000. The small amount of repair or replacement of individual items at sites remaining open will also be completed during April 2000.

8.3 Reinstatement

The site reinstatement contract whereby the concrete/tarmac foundations will be removed from the vast majority of the sites, where the equipment is being entirely removed, will be let during March 2000. The target completion date is the end of June 2000.

8.4 Replacement

The replacements will now take place over a period of 3 years and the contract(s) for this operation will have to be let via the EC Procurement Procedures. This will almost certainly add 3-6 months to any letting timetable and will make it much more difficult to consult with Members on options for the equipment to be provided. It should, however, still be possible to involve selected Members in the selection process.

8.5 Members are therefore asked to agree to the above timetable and also agree that this should be financed from the capital programme over the next three years.

9. Acknowledgements

9.1 A high standard of discussion took place at each of the meetings and all Members represented their Wards well, but with a sound awareness of the overall picture. The officers involved would like to thank all Members and Community Councillors who attended these meetings for their contributions.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members:-

- a) agree to the replacement programme to include the changes in paragraphs (5.2-5.8), subject to Planning approval where required and discussion with Property Services where appropriate;

- b) agree that the selection of playgrounds for each of the three yearly phases be based upon the 10 criteria to determine playground need, which will form part of the Playgrounds Strategy;
- c) agree that all additional playgrounds (detailed in 6.1) be placed on a list of 'future requirements' to be dealt with "when finance becomes available";
- d) agree that requests for future replacements (detailed in 6.2) be placed upon the same list;
- e) agree that a replacement programme be funded over 3 years from the capital programme.

Extract from Special Council - 25.9.99

283 PLAYGROUNDS - RESPONSE TO THE ROSPA RISK DOCUMENT

Councillor D.M. Gray presented a petition in respect of the proposals in Crosskeys and the Chief Executive read a letter received from Councillor Mrs. B.M. Toomer who was unable to attend.

During the course of the discussions, Members related to specific playgrounds in their wards and the findings of the report generally. It was noted that it was the intention to convene 8 area meetings to discuss the proposals in detail at which the local members would have the opportunity to put forward their individual comments. The final report on that consultation will be subsequently referred to Council for determination.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) option 2 of the report (paragraphs 4.4 on page 5) be approved;
- (ii) consultation be undertaken with local ward members on the siting of the playground replacements indicated in the report.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AREAS (PLAYGROUNDS)

GROUP 1 - UPPER RHYMNEY			
WARD	Bute Town (Replacement)	Ty Coch (By shops) (Removal)	Ty Coch (Bryn Carno) (To Remain)
Twyn Carno			
Moriah/Abertysswg	Rhymney Park (Premier)	Cam y Tylla (Removal)	Greensway (Replacement) (Removal)* *Site for replacement to be decided after consultation
Pontlloftyn	School Street (Removal)	Sunny View (Removal)	Brynglas (Removal) Queens Street (Removal)
New Tredegar	Phillipstown Community Centre (To Remain)	Danygraig (To Remain)	Tan Lan Square (To Remain)
	Tredegar Road (Removal)	Upper Road (Removal)	
	Lower Stanley Terrace (Removal)	Derlwyn Street (Removal)	White Rose Way (Removal)
Darren Valley	Rhodfa Ganol (Replacement)	Bargoed Inn (Removal)	Glyn Deri (To Remain) Groesfaen Terrace (Removal)
Tirphil	School Street (To Remain)	Tennyson Terrace (To Remain)	Bute Houses (Removal)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AREAS (PLAYGROUNDS)

GROUP 2 - GREATER BARGOED					
WARD					
Aberbargoed	Commin Road <i>(Removal)</i>	Lewis Street <i>(Replacement)</i>	Yew Street <i>(To Remain)</i>	Duffryn Street <i>(Removal)</i>	Ty Fry Road <i>(Removal)</i>
	Factory Road <i>(Removal)</i>	St. Peters <i>(To Remain)</i>	Llancayo Street <i>(Removal)</i>	Fairways <i>(Removal)</i>	Bargoed Park <i>(Replacement)</i>
	P.E.P. (By Barleycom P.H.) <i>(To Remain)</i>				
	Heol Coed Cae - 3 Sites <i>(Removal)</i>				
Gillfach	Aeron Place <i>(Removal)</i>	Maes y Graig Street <i>(To Remain)</i>		Vere Street <i>(Removal)</i>	

COMMUNITY PLANNING AREAS (PLAYGROUNDS)

GROUP 3 - MID VALLEYS WEST							
WARD	Tiryberth Welfare (To Remain)	Mount Pleasant (Replacement) (Removal)*	Haman Place (Already removed)	Glyngaer (Removal)	Hanbury Street (To Remain)	Penybryn Penallta (To Remain)	William Street (To Remain)
Nelson	Tawel Fan (Replacement) (Removal)	Llwyn yr Eos (To Remain)	Heol Fawr (Removal)				
Replacement to be sited at the Wern Playing Fields							
Ystrad Mynach	Duffryn Street (Removal)	Davies Street (Removal)	Station Road (To Remain)	Ystrad Mynach Welfare (Replacement)			
	Park Lane (To Remain)		Brynmynach (Removal)				
Maescywimmer	The Park (To Remain)						
Hengoed	Ash Grove (Removal)	Community Centre (Replacement) (Removal)	Cefn Road (Removal) (Replacement)				

COMMUNITY PLANNING AREAS (PLAYGROUNDS)

GROUP 4 - MID VALLEYS EAST

WARD	Manmoel (To Remain)	Rugby Ground Hollybush (To Remain)	Railway Terrace (Removal)	King George Field (To Remain)	High Street (Removal)	Cwm Argoed Bottom (Replacement) (Removal) *
*Replacement site to be decided after consultation with Members.						
Penmaen	Woodfieldside (To Remain)		Penmaen (To Remain)			Oakdale Recr Ground (To Remain)
Cefn Fforest	Twyn Gardens (To Remain)		Clos Gronw (To Remain) <i>Is actually in the Pengam Ward</i>			
Pengam	Fairview Bottom (To Remain)	St. Davids (Removal)	School Street (To Remain)	Warne Street (Removal)	Britannia (To Remain)	
Pontllanfraith	Marshfield (Removal)	The Bryn (To Remain)	High Mead (Removal)	Penllwyn (To Remain)	Springfield (To Remain)	Civic Centre (Replacement) <i>Not on the existing site</i>
Crumlin	Hafodyrynys (Replacement)	Viaduct Terrace (Removal)	Kendon Hill (To Remain)	Croespenmaen (To Remain)	Treowen (Replacement)	
	Trinant Soccer Field (Replacement) <i>Consider elsewhere in the Ward</i>	Phillip Street (Removal)	Penyfan Close (Removal)	Crumlin Park (To Remain)		

COMMUNITY PLANNING AREAS (PLAYGROUNDS)

GROUP 5 - ABER VALLEY			
WARD			
Aber Valley	Alexandra Terrace <i>(Replacement)</i> <i>(Remove)</i>	Commercial Street <i>(Removal)</i>	Stanley Street <i>(Removal)</i> <i>(Replace)</i>
	Senghenydd Park <i>(Replacement)</i>	Hendre <i>(Removal)</i>	Abertridwr Park <i>(Replacement)</i>
Penyrheol	Carmarthen Court, Hendredenny <i>(Replacement)</i> <i>"Ballot" residents before finalising</i>		Caerleon Court, Hendredenny <i>(Removal)</i>
	Grange Close, Treceenydd <i>(To Remain)</i>	Penyrheol Park <i>(To Remain)</i>	Heol Aneurin <i>(Removal)</i>

COMMUNITY PLANNING AREAS (PLAYGROUNDS)

GROUP 6 - CAERPHILLY BASIN				
WARD				
Llanbradach	The Park <i>(Replacement)</i>			
Bedwas, Tretomas & Machen	Waunganol Park <i>(To Remain)</i>	The Bryn <i>(Replacement)</i>	Graig y Rhacca <i>(Replacement)</i>	Mountain View <i>(Removal)</i>
				Ffwrwm Road <i>(Replacement)</i>
St. James	Van Terrace <i>(Removal)</i>	Hartshorn Court <i>(To Remain)</i>	Gwaun Newydd <i>(To Remain)</i>	Trapwell <i>(Removal)</i>
				Rudry <i>(To Remain)</i>
	Draethen <i>(To Remain)</i>			
St. Martins	Badham Close <i>(To Remain)</i>	Ashmans Close <i>(To Remain)</i>	Clos y Pant <i>(To Remain)</i>	Bartlett Street <i>(Replacement)</i>
Morgan Jones	Morgan Jones Park <i>(Premier)</i>			
				Sir Stafford Close <i>(Removal)</i>

COMMUNITY PLANNING AREAS (PLAYGROUNDS)

GROUP 7 - LOWER ISLWYN

WARD	GROUP 7 - LOWER ISLWYN					
Ynysddu	Wyllie <i>(To Remain)</i>	Caerllwyn Terrace <i>(Removal)</i>	Alexandra Road <i>(Removal)</i>	Bridge Street <i>(To Remain)</i>	Ynysddu Welfare <i>(Removal)</i>	Bryn Awel <i>(To Remain)</i>
		Stanley Street <i>(Replacement)</i>			Wattsville <i>(Removal)</i>	
Abercarn	King George Field <i>(To Remain)</i>	Llanfach <i>(To Remain)</i>	Distillery Park <i>(To Remain)</i>	Rhwsswg Road <i>(Removal)</i>	Mame Street <i>(To Remain)</i>	Reeces Terrace <i>(Removal)</i> <i>(Now removed)</i>
	Feeder Row <i>(To Remain)</i>	Twyncarn Road <i>(To Remain)</i>	Colliseum Site <i>(Removal)</i>	Waunfawr Park 'B' <i>(Removal)</i>	Waunfawr Park 'A' <i>(Premier)</i>	
	Tredegar Terrace <i>(Removal)</i>					
Risca West	Ty Isaf Welfare <i>(Removal)</i>	Tan y Bryn <i>(To Remain)</i>	Pontymister Athletic <i>(To Remain)</i>	Rifleman Street <i>(To Remain)</i>	Risca Park <i>(To Remain)</i>	
		Longbridge <i>(Removal)</i>		Fernlea <i>(To Remain)</i>		
Risca East	Herbert Avenue <i>(To Remain)</i>	Ty Sign Open Space <i>(Replacement)</i>	Sycamore Crescent <i>(Removal)</i>	Snowden Close <i>(Removal)</i>		
	Birch Grove <i>(Removal)</i>	Thistle Way <i>(Removal)</i>		Woodview <i>(Removal)</i>		

GROUP 3 - MID VALLEYS WEST

Meeting with Members held on 8 November 1999

Comments/Requests

1. A new/replacement playground for Gelligaer was also sought (additional).
2. Basketball hoops should be installed at Tawel Fan after removal of the play equipment.
3. Basketball hoops should be installed at Davies Street after removal of the playground equipment and that the need for a playground there should go onto the priority list.
4. A new/replacement playground for Cefn Hengoed, to be sited by the Youth Centre was also sought (additional). If one replacement only in the Hengoed Ward is available, then that should be sited at Cefn Road and not at the Community Centre.
5. The replacement at the Wern Playing Fields should be sited on the top plateau to give it high visibility from the playing fields etc.

GROUP 4 - MID VALLEYS EAST

Meeting with Members held on 17 November 1999.

Comments/Requests

1. A Premier playground (additional) was requested for the Blackwood area, but not at the expense of replacement playgrounds already identified. Members made the point that on a demographic basis the case was extremely strong, possibly even irresistible.
2. A normal replacement for Penyfan Close was requested in the future when finances allow, although because of vandalism it may be better to re-site it.
3. The replacement playground for the Civic Centre should be re-sited, probably closer to the Civic Centre building. Members are to be consulted on the revised siting. There was agreement that this was the ideal place for the additional playground requested.
4. The replacement playground for Trinant Soccer field should be re-sited to a more suitable site within the ward. Members to be consulted on this potential re-siting.
5. The potential for another replacement to be provided as part of the Town Centre Development Plan was raised.
6. Windsor Avenue was mentioned as a suitable site for a Premier playground - if finances allowed (additional).
7. Local/individual company sponsorship, possibly for individual sites, should be investigated by the Leisure Department.
8. The siting of Premier playgrounds at Risca and Rhymney (particularly) was questioned on a demographic basis.

GROUP 5 - ABER VALLEY

Meeting with Members etc. held on 26 October 1999.

Comments/Requests

1. Comments were made that instead of providing Premier Playgrounds this money could be better utilised providing additional replacement playgrounds elsewhere. It was pointed out by officers that for the Premier Playground proposed for Morgan Jones Park no additional money would be released because at least 3 standard replacements would be required instead.
2. The need for a fully comprehensive Playground Strategy was agreed. This is already scheduled to be produced in early 2000.
3. Commercial Street should be considered for an enhanced play area.
4. Hendre should receive some limited, replacement equipment, spring animals etc. after removal (additional).

GROUP 6 - CAERPHILLY BASIN

Meeting with Members etc. held on 27 October 1999.

Comments/Requests

1. Timetable for replacements to go with the final report to Council.
2. Sweeping/cleansing - not sufficient at present. Programme to be in place after rationalisation is complete.
3. The Premier Playground has a catchment area well beyond the boundaries of Caerphilly town. Members would prefer the Premier Playground to be completed first.
4. The money spent on Bowling Greens was envied by the Members when compared to the provision previously for playgrounds.
5. Vandalism index to be provided for all sites from 1 April 2000.
6. Concerns were expressed about the removal of the Trapwell playground because of the roads to be crossed to other playgrounds. This takes account of the number of houses in the locale now and proposed for the future.
7. After removal of the equipment at Van Terrace the land should be returned to the Community Council.
8. Mountain View should receive a small amount of limited equipment after removal (additional).

GROUP 7 - LOWER ISLWYN

Meeting with Members held on 10 November 1999. The need for a playground in Wattsville (additional replacement) is based upon serious concerns about road safety with regard to children having to travel to other playgrounds.

Comments/Requests

1. Parking facilities will be required for the Premier Playground to be sited at Waunfawr Park.
A. Land may need to be purchased for this and the nearby allotments were mentioned.
2. Basketball hoops should be installed at Ynysddu Welfare and possibly the current site at Wattsville after the equipment has been removed.
3. A replacement for Wattsville was considered essential, particularly for road safety reasons, as part of the response to the RoSPA Report - but not at the present site (additional).
4. The need for Skateboard Parks at some sites within the authority, particularly at Crosskeys Park in this instance, was considered essential. A policy decision not to have any within the authority may need to be re-considered.
5. Following the removal of Ty Isaf, a light controlled pedestrian crossing should be provided en route to Pontymister Athletic playground.
6. Ty Isaf welfare should be placed on the priority list for future additional playground developments.
7. **Risca East**

A light controlled pedestrian crossing and double yellow lines should be provided at the required places following the equipment removals.
8. The Ty Sign replacement should have more equipment provided than a "normal" replacement site.
9. At Birchgrove the kerb should be dropped to facilitate its use for off-street parking following removal.
10. The verge along Ty Sign open space could have a number of humps left for the children to create a mountain bike and/or small home-made skateboard site. Officers considered that, even with the provision of suitable disclaimer notices, the authority would probably still be liable in the event of an accident - but they agreed to determine the legal position.

GROUP 1 - UPPER RHYMNEY

Meeting with Members held on 22 November 1999.

Comments/Requests

1. A general comment supported by all Members etc. present was that on the grounds of deprivation alone, these Wards should have been given greater priority in any replacement programme. The Members in attendance felt very strongly about this and it influenced many of the comments that follow.
2. The Premier playground at Rhymney Park was debated extensively. Members were torn between the need for a Premier playground in this area, albeit with many residents unable to travel to it, to ensure that this area does not feel further disenfranchised and the opportunity for two additional (normal) playgrounds with the money that could be released. No decision was taken, but the options were put forward for further consideration. The vandalism at Rhymney Park was recognised as a problem.
3. Three additional replacements were requested in the Pontlottyn Ward, not necessarily from this programme - although that was preferred, but at least in the future when additional funding becomes available. In Members order of priority, these are:-
 - 1) Sunny View
 - 2) Bryn Glas
 - 3) Queen Street
4. The relatively new playground at Phillipstown Community Centre should be moved to Derlwyn Street. Officers' comment - this is likely to be at least as expensive as a replacement playground.
5. The small playground at Lower Stanley Terrace, safety surfacing, replacement swings and some re-siting would be necessary should be replaced as part of this programme (additional). The Community Council may be prepared to contribute. The local children have been proactive in trying to retain it by holding Jumble Sales etc. to raise funding. Officers' comment - some painting to improve the appearance of the equipment and features on site was evident and no vandalism was apparent. The topography of this site unfortunately indicates that there is little space for play provision. Extensive re-modelling would be required to accommodate more equipment.
6. A replacement playground for White Rose Way was also requested as part of this programme (additional).
7. Groesfaen Terrace should receive a partial replacement of equipment as part of this programme because of the very difficult travelling to the other sites (additional).
8. Future sites (additional) for the eastern side of the Darren Valley were also requested.
9. Basketball hoops and five-a-side goals should be provided at Bute House following the equipment removal.

GROUP 2 - GREATER BARGOED

Meeting with Members held on 29 November 1999

Comments/Requests

1. Commin Road was requested for a replacement (additional) as part of the response to the RoSPA report or, in the future when finance becomes available. This request was based upon the number of children likely to use this site and the need to cross very busy roads for alternatives.

It was also felt that the Lewis Street replacement will find it difficult to cope with all of the potential use because of the number of houses it will serve.

2. The extra £10k proposed for the replacement in Bargoed Park was discussed and the meeting agreed that they would wish to consider using this money elsewhere in Bargoed for small, additional replacement sites.
3. The three small playgrounds within Heol Coed Cae were considered very important for the following reasons:-
 - a) Safety for children having to cross roads for alternatives;
 - b) Social exclusion reasons, given the apparent high number of single parents on this estate;
 - c) The overlooked position of the playgrounds made them ideal for younger children;
 - d) The number of children using these facilities and the strong local support for them.

The meeting requested that at least one of these three be replaced (additional) as part of the response to the RoSPA report. Ideally all three, as they are very limited equipment sites, should be replaced. If that did not prove possible, then they should be placed on the priority list for the future when finance becomes available. These three small playgrounds were unusually, reportedly provided from the HRA, officers should investigate the possibility of their replacement being funded in the same manner.

4. Basketball hoops should be considered for Llancayo Street.
5. Fairways was also considered as suitable for a replacement (additional), but it was not considered as important as Heol Coed Cae.
6. More equipment was requested, when finance becomes available, for Maes-y-Graig Street.
7. The two sites to be removed in the Gilfach Ward - Aeron Place and Vere Street, should be replaced when finance becomes available in the future, if not as part of the response to the RoSPA report (additional). Both were considered important strategically, but Aeron Place was considered the more important of the two because of its location to the east of the busy A.469. Both sites will be sadly missed because they are well sited and because of the lack of vandalism. Five hundred and twenty primary schoolchildren are served by the Vere Street

APPENDIX 2

PETITIONS RECEIVED IN RESPECT OF PLAYGROUNDS/WARDS ARE DETAILED BELOW:-

	<u>PLAYGROUND</u>	<u>WARD</u>
1.	HENDRE PARK	ABER VALLEY
2.	WAUNGANOL PARK REAR OF POLICE STATION	BEDWAS
3.	VERE STREET & AARON PLACE, GILFACH	BARGOED
4.	REAR OF GLENVIEW COURT, PENTWYNMAWR	NEWBRIDGE
5.	WATSVILLE	YNYSDDU
6.	CWMFELINFACH/YNYSDDU WELFARE PLAYAREA	YNYSDDU
7.	GILFACH FARGOED ESTATE	BARGOED
8.	PONTLOTTYN	PONTLOTTYN
9.	THORNCOMBE ROAD	BLACKWOOD
10.	PONTYWAUN FARM	CROSSKEYS
11.	LOWER STANLEY TERRACE	NEW TREDEGAR

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the report (a copy had been sent to each member).

1102 Control of Dogs in Parks

RESOLVED that this Committee adopts option 3 as its policy on these matters and appropriate signs be erected at all children's play areas and parks as soon as funds are available.

1103 Rhymney Cricket Club

RESOLVED that a parcel of land be leased to the cricket club for a period of 21 years subject to the inclusion of conditions to safeguard the Council's interest in the land should the Club cease to function for any reason and to ensure that the area should be kept in good order at all times.

1104 Charge for Hire of Bargoed Park Athletics Track

RESOLVED that the charge to the Club for the season be £250 and the casual charge be 40p per adult and 20p per child, the club to collect and retain any casual income.

1105 Allotments rear of Fothergills Road, New Tredegar

Councillor T.E. Evans attended the meeting to speak on this item.

RESOLVED that officers investigate and report to the next meeting of the Committee on the possibility of the new lease being granted for a further 21 years.

1106 Community Centre Caretaker/Cleaners

RESOLVED that determination of this matter be deferred for further investigation and report by officers.

1107 Rhymney Valley Festival

Councillor M.W. Thomas attended the meeting to speak on this item.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the status of the Festival be the subject of consideration in the Committees Annual Policy Review Cycle but the undertmentioned guidelines be used meanwhile;
- (ii) certain events be retained within the established festival week as an introduction to a concert/entertainment season, the week to probably comprise the following:-

This page is intentionally left blank

3.00 DISPOSAL OF LAND FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT - TROEDYNNIW ESTATE,
YSTRAD MYNACH

- 3.01 In 1986, the Policy and Finance Committee recommended an application for deemed planning consent be made for the land as shown on plan no. 2, the site thereafter be placed on the market for disposal.
- 3.02 Deemed outline consent was granted on 3rd April, 1986, ref. 5/5/86/0041 - the consent lapsing in April, 1989.
- 3.03 Marketing of the site was and has been held in abeyance pending the resolution of problems of drainage. A scheme in this respect was included in a schedule of bids for minor sewer works submitted to the WWA for 1986/87 with a priority of 5. This priority remained in 1987/88 slipping to 8 for 1988/89, and does not appear at all on the 1988/90 bids.
- 3.04 In mid February last problems of flooding and surcharging sewers, were experienced at this site. Investigations aimed at alleviating the problem are, being pursued.
- 3.05 RECOMMENDED that no application to extend the deemed consent be made at this time due to the continuing problems of drainage. Upon completion of remedial drainage works a further application for deemed planning consent be submitted at that time.

4.00 ERECTION OF ADVERTISEMENT HOARDING, RHYMNEY VALLEY NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 1990

- 4.01 An application for express consent is to be submitted to the Council by the National Eisteddfod Committee for planning permission to erect hoardings at suitable locations in the valley. These hoardings will advertise the Rhymney Valley National Eisteddfod and will be an important aspect of the campaign to increase public awareness of this prestigious national event.
- 4.02 A number of locations at which the Eisteddfod would like to erect hoardings are in the ownership of this Council:-
- (i) Land at Commercial Road, Machen (See Plan No. 3);
 - (ii) Former refuse tip, Llanbradach (See Plan No. 4); and
 - (iii) Land at Dynevor Terrace, Nelson (See Plan No. 5).
- 4.03 RECOMMENDED that permission be granted to the National Eisteddfod Committee to erect hoardings at the site outlined above subject to express consent being granted under planning legislation.

5.00 LAND TO THE REAR OF SCHOOL STREET, LLANBRADACH

- 5.01 An application has been received from Mr. G.D. Wheeler of 5 Dewinton Terrace, Llanbradach to lease an area of land at the above location for the purpose of building a privately owned double garage (as shown on plan no. 6).

LP150 ANNUAL POLICY REVIEW CYCLE

Consideration was given to the report of Management Team (a copy had been sent to each member).

RESOLVED that the annual policy review cycle arrangements as indicated in the report be approved.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the report (a copy had been sent to each member).

LP151 Area Housing Office, Park Lane, Caerphilly

RESOLVED that Caerphilly Town Council be granted a 12 month licence to occupy the meeting room at the Housing Office, Park Lane, Caerphilly on terms to be agreed subject to:

- (a) the occasional use by Rhymney Valley District Council;
- (b) the room being held available for use by other organisations outside the normal meetings of the Community Council.

LP152 Disposal of Land for Residential Development - Troedyrhiw Estate, Ystrad Mynach

RESOLVED that due to the continuing problems of drainage, no application to extend the deemed consent on the area of land be made at this time but on completion of remedial drainage works, a further application be submitted.

LP153 Erection of Advertisement Hoarding, Rhymney Valley National Eisteddfod 1990

RESOLVED that subject to express consent being granted under planning legislation, permission be granted to the National Eisteddfod Committee to erect hoardings at the sites outlined in the report and indicated on the amended plan displayed at the meeting.

LP154 Land Adjoining Old School House, Fochriw

RESOLVED that the application of Mrs. Davies to purchase the above area of land be deferred pending the establishment of a policy relating to the sale of land and its future use.

LP155 Land Adjacent to 56 High Street, Bargoed

RESOLVED that consideration of the application of Mr. and Mrs. H. Hopkins to purchase the above area of land be deferred pending officers identifying possible alternative uses for the site.



CABINET – 3RD JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: LAND ADJOINING ISLWYN INDOOR BOWLS CENTRE

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND S151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet's views on a proposal to sell a plot of land adjoining Islwyn Indoor Bowls Centre for residential development.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The land edged black on the plan is surplus to the requirements of the Leisure division.
- 2.2 The land is suitable in planning terms for a small residential development.
- 2.3 The Council has advertised its intention to dispose of this area of public open space and has received objections to the loss of this land.
- 2.4 Local members object to the sale.
- 2.5 In line with the agreed procedure, the matter is being referred to Cabinet for a decision.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The disposal of this site would contribute to the following strategic objective
- Priority P2 of the Single Integrated Plan: "Improve standards of housing and communities giving appropriate access to services across the borough".
- 3.2 Under its approved Asset Management Objectives, the Authority aims to manage its land and buildings effectively, efficiently, economically, and provide a safe, sustainable and accessible living and working environment for all users.
- 3.3 The Authority has a medium term financial plan (MTFP), which includes cost saving targets resulting from the disposal of assets.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The land edged black on the attached plan was considered for residential use during the preparation of the Local Development Plan (LDP) but was ruled out at that time on the grounds that there were aspirations to extend the Bowls Centre.
- 4.2 However, during 2013, the Sports and Leisure Services Manager confirmed that there were no plans for expansion and declared the site surplus to his requirements. The Head of

Performance and Property approved the sale of the land under his delegated powers, subject to there being no objections from local members or to a public open space advertisement.

- 4.3 Since the land forms open space, section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 prohibits its disposal unless, before the disposal, the Council causes notice of the intention to do so to be advertised in 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper circulating in the area and considers any objections to the proposed disposal that may be made.
- 4.4 The required public open space advertisement was placed in a free newspaper, which is circulated in the Pontllanfraith area, for two consecutive weeks (4th and 11th September 2013).
- 4.5 Notices were also posted on site and the Bowls Centre Committee was advised of the proposed sale.
- 4.6 The Bowls Centre Committee objected to the sale of the land, as they still wished to extend the existing premises in the future.
- 4.7 The sale of the land was put on hold while Leisure Officers worked with the Bowls Centre Committee to establish a sustainable proposal and produce a robust business case to support the expansion of the existing facility (by developing an outdoor bowling rink adjacent to the Indoor Bowls Arena). This work has now been concluded; such a development would be desirable and could help support the Bowls Centre through the summer months, but officers consider it to be not viable financially, a conclusion reluctantly accepted by the Bowls Centre Committee.

4.8 Planning Issues

1. The Adopted Local Development Plan seeks to protect areas of informal open space within urban areas from inappropriate development and only permits the loss of open space where it can be identified that there is sufficient existing open space to meet the needs of the local community. An open space assessment has been undertaken on this site and has identified that there is sufficient existing open space, excluding this site, to meet local needs.

As such, there are no planning policy objections to the disposal of the land, although the trees bordering the site should be protected, which can be addressed at planning application stage.

2. Initial discussions with Planning and Highways suggest that the site could accommodate a small development of 5-6 'executive-style' dwellings. The site can be accessed via the existing road to the Bowls Centre although this will probably need to be improved by increasing the width and providing pedestrian facilities.

4.9 Local residents objected, and based on these representations, ward members also objected to the sale; the main grounds were:

1. The proposed sale will result in the loss of a safe place for young children to play. The nearest alternative provision at The Bryn is too far away for young children to use and would involve crossing a busy road.
2. The wider community uses the land for informal recreation.
3. The loss of an area of natural beauty and a habitat to various species.
4. There are concerns that access to the new development will be through Dan-y-Bryn, which will dramatically increase traffic flow and be a danger to children living/playing on the estate.

5. The perceived lack of consultation.

- 4.10 A representative of the Bowls Centre also expressed the concerns of the Club regarding access to the site and noise issues. They feel that developing houses on this land would be disastrous for the Club, as they will not be able to hold functions due to possible noise nuisance and disturbance to residents of the new homes. The land is also used as an overspill car park.

Officers consider the majority of these objections to be planning matters, which will be dealt with at the planning application stage.

As to the “perceived lack of consultation”, disposal of public open space requires an advertisement to be placed in a newspaper circulating in the area, for two consecutive weeks (4th and 11th September 2013). Ward members were advised of the proposed sale, notices were posted on site, and the Bowls Centre Committee was notified of the proposal.

Officers are content that the rules on consultation have been observed.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An EQIA screening has been completed in accordance with the Council’s Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance and no potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or negative impact have been identified, therefore a full EQIA has not been carried out.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The sale of the land will produce a capital receipt.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are none.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The Bowls Centre Committee objected to the sale of the land, as they wished to extend the existing premises in the future.

- 8.2 A representative of the Bowls Centre also expressed the concerns of the Club regarding access to the site and noise issues. They feel that developing houses on this land would be disastrous for the Club, as they will not be able to hold functions due to possible noise nuisance and disturbance to residents of the new homes. The land is also used as an overspill car park.

- 8.3 Local residents presented a petition bearing 46 signatures, representing 25 households in Dan-y-Bryn (which immediately abuts the land in question) and 3 households elsewhere in Pontllanfraith. In addition, 15 individual letters of objection were received. The main grounds of objection are:

1. The proposed sale will result in the loss of a safe place for young children to play. The nearest alternative provision at The Bryn is too far away for young children to use and would involve crossing a busy road.
2. The wider community uses the land for informal recreation.
3. The loss of an area of natural beauty and a habitat to various species.

4. There are concerns that access to the new development will be through Dan-y-Bryn, which will dramatically increase traffic flow and be a danger to children living/playing on the estate.

5. The perceived lack of consultation.

8.4 Based on the above representations from their constituents, ward members also object to the sale and wish the land to be retained for leisure use.

8.5 These views have been addressed satisfactorily in paragraph 4, and cannot be incorporated in the recommendation as they are rejections of it, requiring the council to retain ownership of the land.

8.6 There are no other views expressed as a result of consultation that differ from the recommendation.

9. RECOMMENDATION

9.1 The land be sold on the open market for residential development.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

10.1 There are no plans to develop the land for formal leisure use.

10.2 The land is surplus to Leisure's requirements.

10.3 The sale of the land will produce a capital receipt.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Act 1972, Section 123 ("A) A principal council may not dispose..... of any land consisting or forming part of an open space unless before disposing of the land they cause notice of their intention to do so, specifying the land in question, to be advertised in two consecutive weeks in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the land is situated, and consider any objections to the proposed disposal which may be made to them. This is a Cabinet function.

Author: Colin Jones, Head of Performance and Property Services

jonesrc@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Nicole Scammell Acting Director of Corporate Services and S151 Officer

scammn@caerphilly.gov.uk

Pauline Elliott Head of Regeneration and Planning

elliop@caerphilly.gov.uk

Gail Williams Monitoring Officer

willige@caerphilly.gov.uk

John Rogers Principal Solicitor

rogeri@caerphilly.gov.uk

Rhian Kyte Team Leader Strategic and Development Planning

kyter@caerphilly.gov.uk

Lauren Hughes Communities First Cluster Manager (Mid Valleys East)

hughel2@caerphilly.gov.uk

Cllr D Hardacre Cabinet Member for Performance and Asset Management

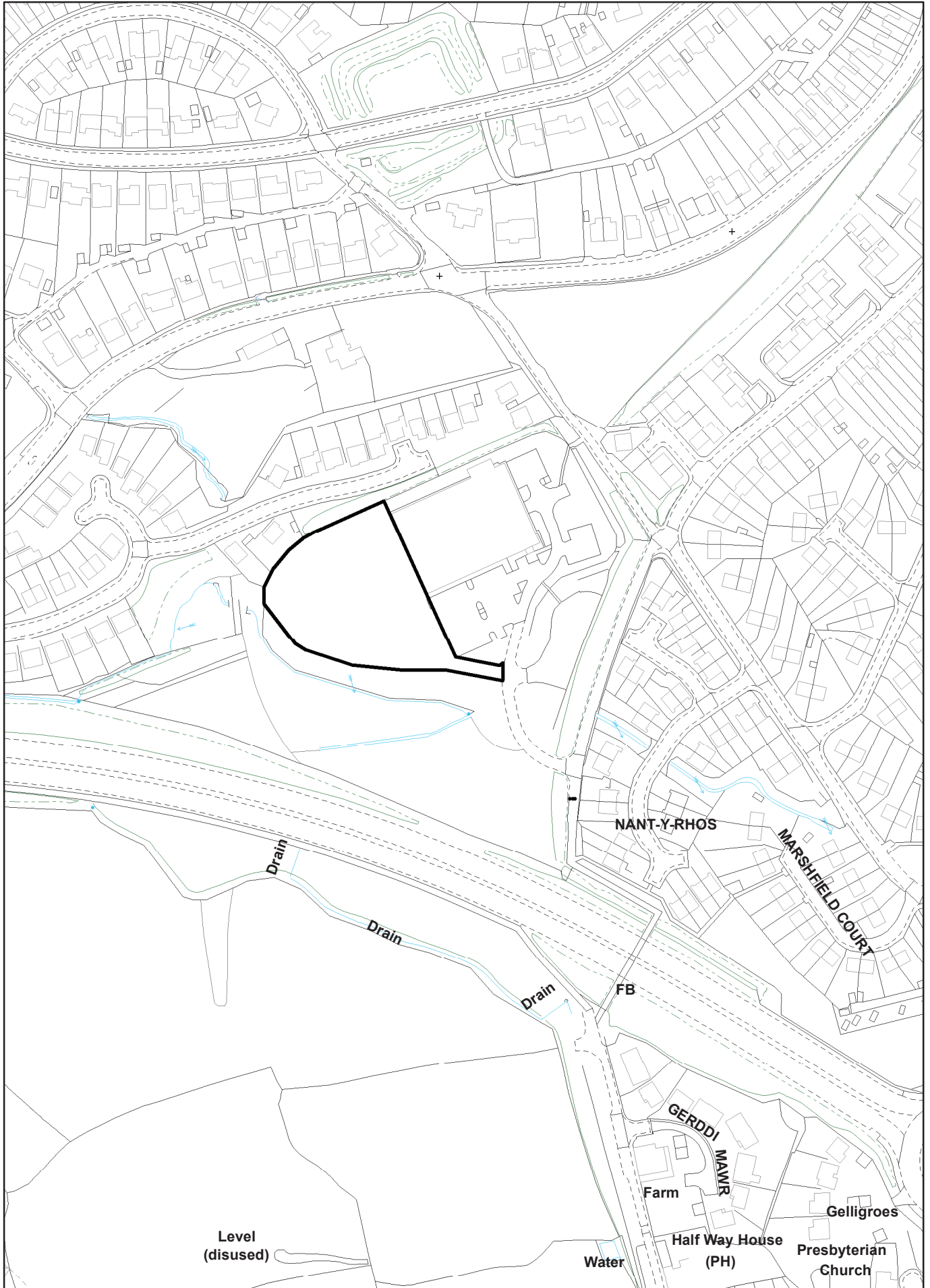
hardadt@caerphilly.gov.uk

Cllr M Adams Ward Member
adamsm3@caerphilly.gov.uk
Cllr C Gordon Ward Member
gordocj@caerphilly.gov.uk
Cllr. G Kirby
kirbyg@caerphilly.gov.uk

Background Papers:
Available for inspection at Tredomen House.

Appendices:
Appendix 1: Plan

This page is intentionally left blank



This page is intentionally left blank



CABINET – 3RD JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENTS POLICY

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND S151 OFFICER

- 1.1 The attached report was considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 2nd June 2015. The views expressed at the Scrutiny Committee will be reported verbally to Cabinet.

Author: S.M. Kauczok, Committee Services Officer - Ext. 4243

Appendix 1: Report to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee dated 2nd June 2015.

This page is intentionally left blank



POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2ND JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENTS POLICY

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the views of the Scrutiny Committee on the attached Discretionary Housing Payments Policy prior to consideration by Cabinet.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) are additional short-term payments made towards rent. They are only paid to customers already receiving Housing Benefit who need more help with their housing costs over and above their benefit award.
- 2.2 To help Local Authorities mitigate the impact of Welfare Reform, funding for DHPs has increased in recent years. However, it is important that the limited funding available is targeted at those most in need. With this in mind, the DHP policy appended to this report has been drafted. The policy complies with the Department for Work and Pensions Discretionary Housing Payments Guidance Manual (April 2014) and the Pan-Wales Discretionary Housing Payment Policy Framework.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The payment of Housing Benefit is a key element of the Council's anti-poverty and regeneration strategies.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Since July 2001, Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) have enabled Local Authorities to help those entitled to Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit who, in their opinion, require further financial assistance with housing costs.
- 4.2 From April 2013 DHPs were available only to those entitled to Housing Benefit as Council Tax Benefit ended in March 2013 and was replaced by the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which is not a Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) related benefit. Therefore, DHPs could no longer be used for help towards paying Council Tax.
- 4.3 Local Authorities have a responsibility to ensure that DHP funding is utilised effectively so that it is paid to those who have the most need. Decisions on assessments are made with reference to the relevant DWP Regulations. These are the Discretionary Financial Assistance Regulations 2001 [SI 2001/1167]. There is no set criterion but each claim has to go through a financial income and expenditure assessment.

- 4.4 Every Local Authority is required to have a written policy that provides clear guidelines on the assessment of DHP applications. Local Authorities have a duty to act fairly, reasonably and consistently when considering entitlement to a DHP award, thus ensuring that the most vulnerable receive the financial assistance they need.
- 4.5 The number of people supported with DHPs has increased significantly in recent years as shown in the table below: -

Year	Total Spend (£)	Number of Claimants Supported
2012/13	74,586	239
2013/14	388,788	1,207
2014/15	428,113	1,266

- 4.6 The funding allocated by the DWP for the 2015/16 financial year is £381,973 and the Council needs to consider the way in which this is allocated to ensure that those most in need are supported. It is therefore proposed to adopt the policy appended to this report to ensure that all claimants are treated fairly and those in most need are given the financial assistance they require to support them to maintain or achieve a solution to secure their tenancy.
- 4.7 It is important to stress that DHPs are principally short-term financial support towards long-term sustainable solutions and payment cannot be made indefinitely. It is fundamental when a DHP is awarded that a sustainable solution is sought and it is imperative that claimants work with their landlords and other support available so that financial advice can be given or affordable accommodation found.
- 4.8 Under the proposed policy payments granted will initially be for a maximum period of up to 3 months (13 weeks). In a limited number of cases where there are particular exceptional circumstances the award may be extended beyond this initial period subject to an assessment of on-going need.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The proposed policy will help the Authority ensure that it acts fairly, reasonably and consistently when considering entitlement to DHPs. The limited funding available will be targeted at those most in need of financial support.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As detailed throughout the report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

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

8. CONSULTATIONS

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

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members are asked to consider and comment upon the DHP policy appended to this report prior to consideration by Cabinet.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To ensure that the Scrutiny Committee has an opportunity to express its views on the proposed DHP policy.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Decisions on assessments are made with reference to the relevant DWP Regulations. These are the Discretionary Financial Assistance Regulations 2001 [SI 2001/1167] and associated amendments.

Author: Amanda Main, Acting Benefits Manager
E-mail: maina@caerphilly.gov.uk Tel: 01443 863356

Consultees: Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services & S151 Officer
Stephen Harris, Interim Head of Corporate Finance
Gail Williams, Interim Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer
David A. Thomas, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)
Cllr Barbara Jones, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

Appendices:
Appendix 1 Draft Discretionary Housing Payments Policy

This page is intentionally left blank

Discretionary Housing Payment Policy

Version of Scheme:	Version 1
Draft Number:	Draft 1
Scheme Ratified By:	
Date Ratified:	
Effective Date of Scheme:	15 th June 2015
Review Date:	Every 2 years
Applicable To:	Housing Staff, Benefits Staff, Support Officers, Housing Benefit Claimants.
Equalities Issues:	All Equalities considerations have been taken into account when drafting this Scheme.



INDEX

SECTION	PAGE
1. Introduction	3
2. Policy Objectives	3
3. Eligibility Criteria and Claim Process	4
4. Decision Process	5
5. Payment and Award Period	5
6. Finance and Monitoring	6
7. Overpayments and Disputed Decisions	6
8. Fraud	7
9. Data Access and Data Sharing	7
10. Review of the Scheme	8

1) Introduction

- 1.1 Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) provide claimants of Housing Benefit with further financial assistance to help meet housing costs. The payments are standalone, do not form part of the Housing Benefit entitlement and are additional to the Housing Benefit subsidy.
- 1.2 In 2011/12 the UK Government increased the level of DHP funding available to Local Authorities in order to help mitigate against some of the impacts of Welfare Reform.
- 1.3 The DHP scheme should be viewed as short-term financial support and should not be considered as an alternative to any current or future restrictions set out within the Housing Benefit scheme.

2) Policy objectives

- 2.1 The purpose of this policy is to specify how Caerphilly County Borough Council will operate the DHP scheme, and to indicate the factors that will be considered when making a decision on an award of a DHP. The policy should be viewed in conjunction with the Department for Work and Pensions Discretionary Housing Payments Guidance Manual (April 2014) (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/300220/discretionary-housing-payments-guide-apr-14.pdf) and the Pan-Wales Discretionary Housing Payment Policy Framework.
- 2.2 The purpose of the DHP is to support existing housing benefit claimants who may be in exceptional need and DHPs can be used to provide support to claimants affected by some of the key welfare reforms, including, but not limited to: -
 - introduction of the 'benefit cap'
 - introduction of size criteria in the social rented sector – the Spare Room Subsidy (sometimes called the 'bedroom tax');
 - reductions in Local Housing Allowance
- 2.3 Principally, the objective of DHPs is to offer short-term financial assistance to residents impacted upon by the changes described above and the objective of this policy is to ensure the Council administers DHPs: -
 - to assist those residents who demonstrate an exceptional financial need for support with housing costs and who are willing to accept the support available on a short-term basis in order to work towards a sustainable solution
 - within the allocated annual budget
- 2.4 Each application for DHP will be treated strictly on its own merits and all residents will be treated fairly and equally, and the Council will seek through the operation of this policy to: -
 - Help alleviate poverty
 - Help prevent homelessness

- Support vulnerable young people in the transition to adult life
- Encourage claimants to obtain and sustain employment
- Help keep families together
- Support the vulnerable in the community
- Help customers through personal crises and difficult events
- Provide advice on long-term possible solutions to meet unaffordable housing costs
- Improve financial capability by referral to an independent advisor e.g. Money Advice Service

2.5 The Council is committed to working with internal and external stakeholders and other interested parties to maximise the take-up of all available state benefits, and this will be reflected in the administration of the DHP scheme. Where evidence is provided in support of a DHP application that indicates that the applicant is not claiming another state benefit to which they are entitled, the Council will advise, and where applicable, support the applicant to make such a claim.

3) Eligibility Criteria and Claim Process

3.1 To be eligible for a Discretionary Housing Payment all the following conditions must be met for an award to be considered.

Applicants must: -

- a) Be in receipt of Housing Benefit (or the housing element of Universal Credit).
- b) Be able to demonstrate financial hardship or have experienced personal exceptional circumstances. Demonstrating financial hardship will be through the completion of an income and expenditure form during the assessment process.
- c) Be able to demonstrate steps have been (or are being) taken to achieve financial independence e.g. requesting and acting on guidance from the support provided. This may include moving to cheaper accommodation.
- d) Make an application on an approved format. The Regulations state that to make an award of DHP there must be a claim for DHP.

3.2 In order to make a claim for a DHP an assessment form must be completed. The form includes details such as household composition, income and expenditure and what the claimant can do to reduce the shortfall between their housing costs and their Housing Benefit or Local Housing award.

3.3 The Council reserves the right to request any additional evidence in support of the DHP application, and will act consistently and reasonably in doing so. Where the customer is unable to, or does not supply the required evidence, the Council will still consider the DHP application and will take into account any other evidence available, including documentation held on the housing/council tax benefit case file.

4) Decision Process

- 4.1 In deciding whether to award a DHP, the Council will take into account the following: -
- The shortfall between housing benefit, local housing allowance and the liability for rent
 - Any steps taken by the claimant to reduce their rental liability
 - Information gathered by the claimant when accepting a tenancy which falls under the local housing allowance scheme
 - The medical needs and circumstances of the claimant, their partner and any other persons in the household
 - Any savings or capital held by the claimants household
 - The claimants level of debt, their efforts to reduce it and their ability to demonstrate this
 - Whether the customer can change their spending pattern on non-essential items
 - The actions being taken by the claimant to improve or change their domestic, financial or personal situation to reduce or limit the amount of support that they will require in the future i.e. helping those that are trying to help themselves
- 4.2 A minimum of 95% of all applications for DHP will be looked at within 28 working days of being received.
- 4.3 There are certain elements of a claimant's housing costs that cannot be considered for DHP because the regulations exclude them.
- Excluded elements are: -
- a) Ineligible service charges
 - b) Increases in rent due to outstanding rent arrears
 - c) Certain sanctions and reductions in benefit
- 4.4 Whilst the DHP scheme is by definition discretionary, the Council has a duty to make decisions in accordance with recognised principles about good decision-making, i.e. administrative law, and in particular to act fairly, reasonably and consistently.

5) Payment and Award Period

- 5.1 The Council will decide the most appropriate person to pay any award of DHP based on the circumstances of each case. Payment frequency will be made in line with the Housing Benefit or Local Housing Allowance award.
- 5.2 Where an application for DHP is successful the customer and any other affected party will receive notification of: -
- The amount of the award

- The method of payment
- The start and end date of the award
- Their duty to report any change of circumstances that may affect their award
- The recoverability of any overpaid award of DHP
- The procedure to follow should a dispute arise

5.3 Consideration will be limited to the current financial year, and DHP will not be awarded for any period outside an existing Housing Benefit or Local Housing Allowance period.

5.4 Any payment granted under this policy will initially be for a maximum period of up to 3 months (13 weeks). However, it is accepted that there will be occasions where the award will be made for longer than 3 months due to the particular exceptional circumstances of the customer. In these circumstances on-going need will be reviewed before any extended award is made.

6) Finance and Monitoring

6.1 The Council will monitor the DHP budget on a monthly basis in order to ensure that the benefits of the scheme are maximised, and to ensure that any under or overspends are adequately controlled.

6.2 Although DHP funds are not 'ring-fenced' for specific impacts of Welfare Reform the DWP have introduced a new monitoring regime that requires the Council to record if the claimant has been affected by one of the following: -

- benefit cap
- social sector size criteria
- local housing allowance restrictions
- combination of reforms
- not impacted

7) Overpayments and Disputed Decisions

Overpayments

The Council reserves the right to recover any overpayment of DHP where the payment was made as a result of: -

- Misrepresentation or failure to disclose a material fact, fraudulently or otherwise
- An error made when the claim was determined

DHP overpayments must not be recovered from any on-going award of Housing Benefit or Local Housing Allowance, unless the customer requests this method of recovery. A standard overpayment notification letter will be issued and will contain the reason for the overpayment, the amount overpaid, the period to which the overpayment relates and the right of review.

7.2 ***Disputed Decisions***

DHP's are not subject to a formal appeals process by virtue that any decision to make a payment is discretionary.

Where an application is declined and a decision disputed for a reason other than one relating to exclusions from the DHP scheme an applicant or their representative may request a review.

All requests for reviews must: -

- a) Be made by the applicant or their representative.
- b) Set out the reasons why it is believed the decision should be reviewed.
- c) Be made within 1 calendar month of the original decision being notified.

7.3 An officer other than the person who made the original DHP decision will carry out the review. In the event that the customer is still dissatisfied with the decision after the review has been carried out, a panel of selected officers will reconsider the case: -

- Head of Corporate Finance
- Lead Officer, Benefits & Finance (Welfare Reform)
- Project Manager & Co-ordinator (Welfare Reform)

All available evidence will be considered and new evidence may be requested. A decision will be made within 14 working days of the referral or as soon as practicable afterwards and notified to the applicant in writing, setting out the reasons for their decision.

7.4 Where the panel decides not to revise the original decision this decision is final and binding and may only be challenged by way of judicial review or by a complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, if there is an allegation of maladministration. Decisions on DHP's cannot be appealed to the Tribunal Service, as they are not empowered to deal with them.

8) Fraud

8.1 Caerphilly County Borough Council Benefit's Service is committed to tackling fraud and abuse of public funds in all forms. A claimant who falsely tries to claim a DHP by deliberately misrepresenting their circumstances or providing a false statement or evidence in support of their application may have committed an offence. Where there is suspicion that that a fraud may have occurred, the matter will be investigated and this may lead to criminal proceedings being initiated.

9) Data Access and Data Sharing

9.1 The Council is allowed to collect data to support, evidence and to determine DHP awards. The scheme will operate to support principles for fair, reasonable and confidential data access and sharing at all times. This is to ensure that customers receive the correct benefits at all times and that public funds and the wider interest of local council tax payers are protected.

10) Review of the Policy

- 10.1 A review of this policy will take place every 2 years, or earlier if required as a consequence of legislative/funding changes. Consultation will depend on the extent of the changes.

DRAFT



CABINET – 3RD JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet endorsement of the Forward Work Programme for the period June to September 2015.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report outlines a proposed Forward Work Programme of future Cabinet reports.
- 2.2 The Forward Work Programme is updated on a monthly basis to reflect any amendments that are made to it since it was first agreed on 22nd January 2014.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Council is required to publish a Cabinet Forward Work Programme to assist in open and transparent decision-making.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Cabinet Forward Work Programme sets out the key reports that Cabinet expects to receive in the coming months. It is a legal requirement that such programmes are published. The programme is an important way of tracking progress against targets set in the Council's Improvement Plan.
- 4.2 Appendix 1 to this report sets out details of the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the period June to September 2015.
- 4.3 It should be noted that urgent and unanticipated reports could be added to the Cabinet Work Programme.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The principles of good governance are directly linked to the Council's Strategic Equality Objectives, stemming from duties under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. Equalities Implications are a standard part of all committee reports in order to ensure that due consideration has been given to the views of individuals and groups from the communities of Caerphilly county borough, regardless of their backgrounds and circumstances.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

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

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve the Forward Work Programme as outlined in Appendix 1.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To satisfy legislative requirements and to ensure more transparent and effective decision-making.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000.

Author: Angharad Price, Interim Head of Democratic Services
Consultees: Corporate Management Team
Cabinet Members
Gail Williams, Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

Appendices:
Appendix 1 Cabinet Forward Work Programme

CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME: JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2015

3RD JUNE 2015	
Corporate Plan – Improvement Objectives 2015/2016	Cllr Mrs B. Jones
Discretionary Housing Payment Policy.	Cllr Mrs B. Jones
Anti Poverty Strategy.	Cllr K.V. Reynolds
Land at Troedyrhiw, Ystrad Mynach.	Cllr D.T. Hardacre
Land Adjoining Islwyn Indoor Bowls Centre	Cllr D.T. Hardacre
17TH JUNE 2015	
Equalities and Welsh Language Annual Report.	Cllr Mrs B. Jones
The Strategic Review of Outdoor Sports Facilities.	Cllr N. George
Abertysswg/Pontlottyn Primary: Final Determination.	Cllr R. Passmore
Former Newbridge Library	Cllr D.T. Hardacre
Maintenance of Community Schemes Funding 2015/2016	Cllr N. George
ESIS Pension Deficit	Cllr Mrs B. Jones

CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME: JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2015

1ST JULY 2015	
No reports scheduled at present.	

17TH JULY 2015	
Public Space Protection Orders	Cllr N. George

30TH JULY 2015	
Social Media Policy	Cllr Mrs C. Forehead
Fastrack Disciplinary Policy	Cllr Mrs C. Forehead



CABINET – 3RD JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: ANTI POVERTY STRATEGY

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND S151 OFFICER

- 1.1 The attached report, which relates to a proposed Anti Poverty Strategy for the Council was considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 2nd June 2015 prior to being referred to Cabinet and Council. The views expressed at the Scrutiny Committee will be reported verbally to Cabinet.

Author: S.M. Kauczok, Committee Services Officer - Ext. 4243

Appendix 1: Report to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee dated 2nd June 2015.

This page is intentionally left blank



POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2ND JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: ANTI POVERTY STRATEGY

REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report relates to a proposed Caerphilly county borough Council Anti Poverty Strategy. The report is seeking the views of Members prior to its presentation to Cabinet and Council.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council delivers a significant programme of work that contributes to tackling poverty. An Anti Poverty Strategy has been developed which brings together that activity at a high level. The draft Strategy has been the subject of consultation and a final draft is appended to this report for views and approval. The draft Strategy sets out the Council's position and aims, actions and measures in relation to tackling poverty.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The proposed Anti Poverty Strategy supports all of the priorities within the single integrated plan, Caerphilly Delivers.
- 3.2 The Council's Corporate Priorities and Aspirations support the aim of tackling poverty.
- 3.3 The Children and Families (Wales) Measure places duties upon Local Authorities in relation to child poverty.
- 3.4 The proposed Anti Poverty Strategy supports Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan and Child Poverty Strategy.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Caerphilly Council delivers a significant programme of activity that contributes to tackling poverty. This includes the Welsh Government funded programmes of Communities First, Families First, Flying Start, and Supporting People as well as the Welsh Housing Quality Standard investment and a range of other services and activities. Caerphilly Council has a significant track record in regeneration and was the first in Wales to become a Living Wage Employer.

- 4.2 High levels of deprivation exist within Caerphilly county borough and not just within the valleys communities. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) is the Welsh Government's official measure of deprivation for small areas in Wales designed to identify where there are the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation. WIMD is calculated for all Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in Wales. 1909 LSOAs are defined in Wales with an average population of around 1600 per LSOA.
- 4.3 Caerphilly County Borough has 68.2% of its LSOAs within the top 50% most deprived category – this is the fourth highest proportion in Wales after Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff. In the 2014 release of the WIMD St James 3 is the most deprived LSOA in Wales, with Twyn Carno 1 also falling within the ten most deprived LSOAs in Wales. This relative disadvantage leads to significant inequalities across our communities so that, for example, the gap in life expectancy in males between the most and least deprived fifth is 8.5 years; for healthy life expectancy the gap is even bigger at 18.7 years.
- 4.4 The Anti Poverty Strategy at Appendix 1 has been drafted recognising that there are still individuals and households in the county borough living in poverty. It sets out the Council's position and brings together a range of actions all of which contribute to tackling poverty. Those actions have been set out under four areas as promoted by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation:
- Prospects:** policies concerned with improving the life chances of individuals and their families, so people are able to escape poverty in a sustainable way.
- Pockets:** policies concerned with boosting households' resources now – primarily by increasing their income – so they are better able to meet their needs.
- Places:** where people live shapes their lives, affecting their job prospects and access to essential goods and services and affordable housing.
- Prevention:** almost anyone can experience poverty during their lifetime, so policies that insure against sliding into poverty are important.
- 4.5 It is intended that the Strategy will be reviewed annually and progress reported. It is also proposed that an Anti Poverty Board is established to provide oversight of the Strategy. Membership would include the Member and Officer Anti Poverty Champions, the Chief Housing Officer, the Chief Education Officer, the Head of Regeneration and Planning, and others as the Board considered appropriate. There will be a standing invitation to the Leader and Chief Executive to attend. Representation would also be sought from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. There are a number of fora contributing to the tackling poverty agenda in the county borough and the Anti Poverty Board would also be tasked with determining the most appropriate structures and governance arrangements for these going forward.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Caerphilly Council is committed to ensuring that its residents are able to live fulfilled lives, regardless of who they are as an individual, and are not prevented from enjoying an acceptable standard of living due to economic, social or cultural disadvantage.
- 5.2 In this way, the Anti-Poverty Strategy links with the Strategic Equalities Plan and Welsh Language Scheme on an operational level where it matters most to the residents of the county borough, and operates on their behalf across the range of protected characteristics and wider equalities, human rights and language issues, and also ex-servicemen.

- 5.3 As examples, projects and action plans under Skills Development would ensure that people from different protected characteristic groups on low income receive support, as they could be doubly disadvantaged in terms of their ability to progress - disability issues around employment and training for instance. Parenting Skills would need to ensure that it covered all types of families and parenting models, not just the more traditional types of family.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no immediate financial implications for the Authority, as financial budgetary provision has been identified and provided to each Service area of the Authority, inclusive of any specific budgetary provision for service initiatives used to assist in anti poverty strategies.
- 6.2 Any identified need to provide additional financial resources in support of the Council's anti poverty strategy over and above that identified in the 2015/2016 budget would require further consideration and approval.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The report has been sent to the consultees listed below and all comments received are reflected in this report.
- 8.2 The Draft Anti Poverty Strategy was subject to a 4 week public consultation during April 2014 and subject to some amendments as a result. A summary of the consultation responses is included at Appendix 2 of this Report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Committee are asked for their views prior to presentation of this Report and Anti Poverty Strategy to Cabinet and Council for approval.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To seek Members' views.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000.

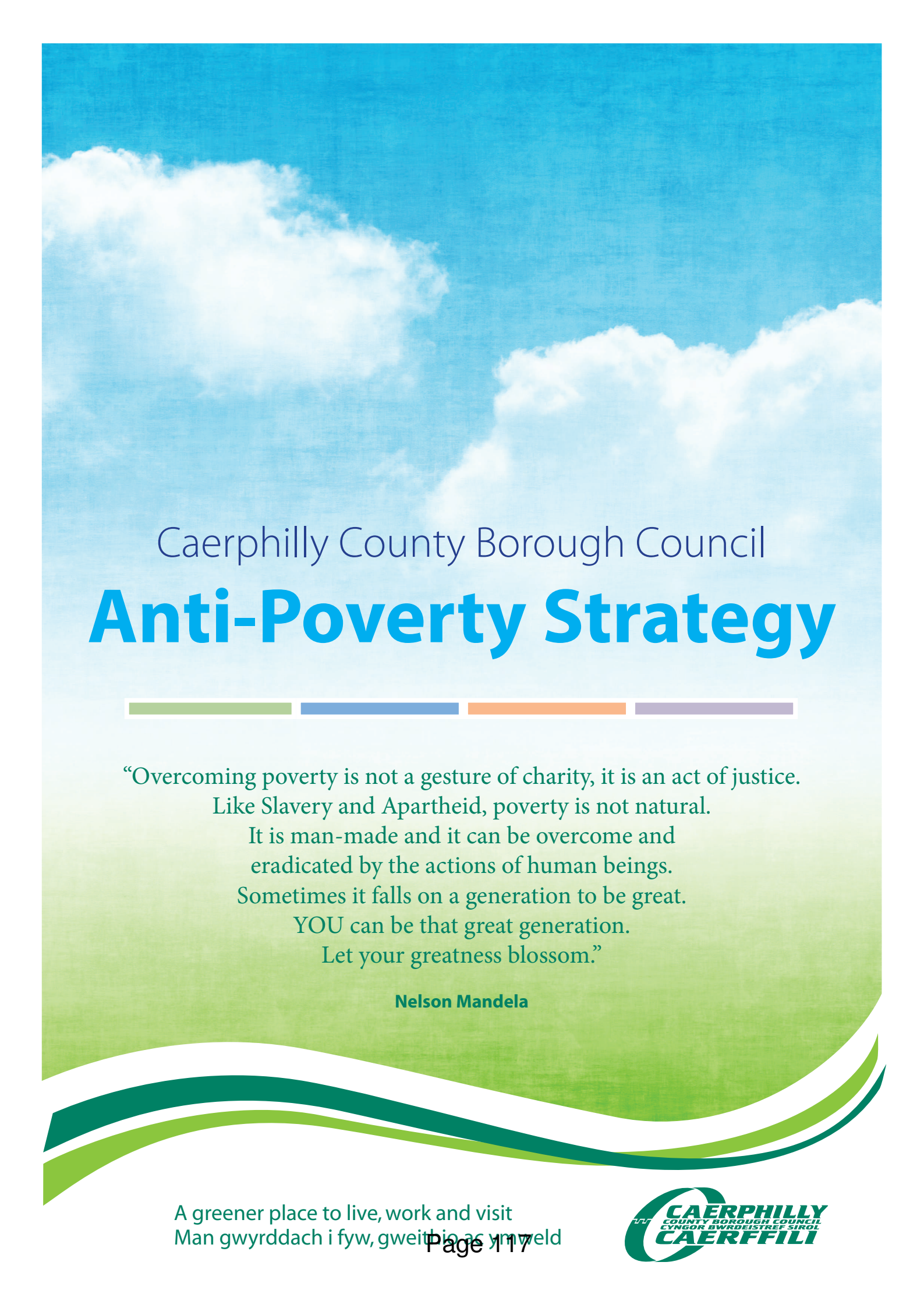
Author: Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection & Anti Poverty Champion
Consultees: Cllr Keith Reynolds, Leader
Cllr Elaine Forehead, Anti Poverty Champion
Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive,
Gail Williams, Interim Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer
Pauline Elliot, Head of Regeneration & Planning
Shaun Couzens, Chief Housing Officer
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Sian Phillips, Human Resources Manager
Mike Eedy, Finance Manager
David A. Thomas Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Caerphilly Anti Poverty Strategy

Appendix 2 Summary of Consultation Responses



Caerphilly County Borough Council

Anti-Poverty Strategy

“Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity, it is an act of justice.
Like Slavery and Apartheid, poverty is not natural.
It is man-made and it can be overcome and
eradicated by the actions of human beings.
Sometimes it falls on a generation to be great.
YOU can be that great generation.
Let your greatness blossom.”

Nelson Mandela

Introduction

Poverty harms people's prospects and damages their long term future. It also places a burden on public resources and service. It is in all our interests to tackle poverty.

Caerphilly Council has a long track record of tackling poverty through a range of core services as well as the four Welsh Government funded programmes, Communities First, Flying Start, Families First and Supporting People. As a landlord we provide good quality homes and work hard to support our tenants and we are building upon this with our Welsh Housing Quality Standard improvement programme. We also work actively with our partners to tackle this priority as reflected in our single integrated plan, Caerphilly Delivers.

This Anti Poverty Strategy clearly states Caerphilly Council's commitment to tackling poverty. It confirms the priority that we give to this issue. It also brings together the broad body of activity that we have in place to mitigate the impacts of poverty, to support people out of poverty, and to prevent poverty.

We need a comprehensive approach to tackling poverty and we realise that we cannot address poverty on our own, but we wish to set out our commitment to playing our part:

Caerphilly Council is committed to ensuring its residents are able to live fulfilled lives and are not prevented from enjoying an acceptable standard of living due to economic, social or cultural disadvantage.

In their publication "A UK Without Poverty" the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) define poverty as: When a person's resources are not enough to meet their basic needs. This includes the need to be part of society, by being able to participate in common customs and activities - like buying a birthday present for your partner or sending your child on a school trip.

JRF go on to state that interventions that either increase the resources available to households or reduce the costs of meeting their needs will help to reduce poverty.

Recognising that the experience of poverty is dynamic, and differs at different stages of life, JRF propose that thought must be given to policies that have an impact now, those that are investments in the future and those that provide insurance against future events. This can be summed up as four Ps:

This can be summed up as four P's:

Prospects: Policies concerned with improving the life chances of individuals and their families, so people are able to escape poverty in a sustainable way.

Pockets: Policies concerned with boosting households' resources now – primarily by increasing their income – so they are better able to meet their needs.

Places: Where people live shapes their lives, affecting their job prospects and access to essential goods and services and affordable housing.

Prevention: Almost anyone can experience poverty during their lifetime, so policies that insure against sliding into poverty are important.

Our Aims

Caerphilly Council is committed to ensuring its residents are able to live fulfilled lives, regardless of who they are as an individual, and are not prevented from enjoying an acceptable standard of living due to economic, social or cultural disadvantage.

1

Prospects

Caerphilly residents are able to develop employment skills, find work and progress within employment.

2

Pockets

Caerphilly residents are able to improve their income levels.

3

Places

Caerphilly residents are able to enjoy a high level of well-being in safe and sustainable housing and communities.

4

Prevention

Caerphilly residents who are affected or at risk of being affected by poverty have the skills and knowledge to improve their lives and achieve their potential.

What we want to achieve

1 Prospects

1. Working age people on low incomes are helped to develop skills, achieve qualifications (formal and informal), progress to employment and progress within employment.
2. Young people are provided with key employability skills, access to accredited training and support to secure sustainable employment.
3. Caerphilly residents are supported to improve prospects for employment through the provision of community education and employment programmes.
4. Flying Start Programme will be expanded to 25 areas to support child development and parental aspirations.

2 Pockets

1. Caerphilly residents are provided with information, advice and assistance on a range of social welfare issues to enable them to increase household income, manage debt and develop skills to improve their financial capability.
2. Caerphilly residents are supported to reduce the impacts of rising fuel costs.
3. Quality, accessible and affordable childcare provision is promoted to enable families to improve their income through accessing education, learning and employment.
4. Through working in partnership with local employers increase local employment opportunities and identify ways to increase employees incomes.
5. Ensure that all pupils eligible for Free School Meals are in receipt of their entitlement.

3 Places

1. Caerphilly Residents are able to live in homes that are affordable, warm and secure without the fear of homelessness.
2. Raise levels of healthy life expectancy across the borough and encourage residents to take responsibility for their own and their families health and well-being and make use of the opportunities and support available.
3. Working in partnership with families, parents and schools to increase participation and support the development of parenting skills.

4 Prevention

1. Identify and support vulnerable residents and families to reduce the impacts of poverty through the provision of targeted support.
2. Caerphilly residents are supported to manage the changes to welfare reform and prepared for the introduction of Universal Credit.
3. Improve pupil performance in all key stages through supporting and challenging schools to ensure that all pupils meet challenging targets set for them.
4. Reduce the levels of smoking and obesity.

1 Prospects

1. Working age people on low income are helped to develop skills, obtain qualifications (formal and informal) progress to employment and progress within employment.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Advice, support and training will be provided to help individuals gain the skills, qualifications and experience necessary to secure employment.	<p>Number of people supported by Communities First and Families First to gain an employment related qualification (eg First aid in the workplace, food hygiene).</p> <p>Number of people referred to employment support by Council Tenancy Support Officers and WHQS staff.</p> <p>Number of people supported through Bridges into Work (2), into employment.</p>
Caerphilly Council will provide access to IT equipment and basic IT courses in community venues for individuals who are digitally excluded to gain essential skills that may assist in securing employment.	<p>Number of people supported by Communities First to gain Basic IT skills.</p> <p>Number of adults supported by Get Caerphilly Online and Families First who gain IT accreditation.</p>

2. Young people are provided with key employability skills, access to accredited training and support to secure sustainable employment.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Young People (aged 16-24) who are not in employment, education or training are supported to access opportunities which help them to succeed in life.	<p>Number of young people supported by Communities First who gain an Employment related qualification (eg First Aid in the workplace, food hygiene).</p> <p>Number of young people supported by Communities First to secure a JGW Employment Opportunity.</p>

3. Caerphilly residents are supported to improve prospects for employment through the provision of community education and employment programmes.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Adult Community Learning will provide a range of interventions and support to help people improve skills and progress towards employment.	<p>Number of people gaining qualifications through Working Skills for Adults.</p> <p>Number of people achieving Basic Skills qualifications through Adult Community Learning.</p>
Working in partnership (Families First, Communities First, JCP, Basic Skills Unit and Coleg Y Cymoedd) a range of learning-based support will be provided to develop basic skills in literacy, numeracy and work related skills.	<p>Percentage of parents and families with low or no basic skills.</p> <p>Number of individuals engaged in basic skills community programmes.</p>

4. Flying Start Programme will be expanded to 25 areas to support child development and parental aspirations.

Services will be delivered across all identified 25 areas offering families with children aged 0-3years Enhanced Health Visiting, Early Language Development, Parenting Programmes and Family Support, and funded Childcare places.	<p>Number of children accessing the Flying Start programme.</p> <p>of 2 year olds reaching or exceeding their developmental milestones through the SOGS assessment.</p> <p>of 3 year olds reaching or exceeding their developmental milestones through the SOGS assessment.</p>
---	---

2 Pockets

1. Caerphilly residents are provided with information, advice and assistance on a range of social welfare issues to enable them to increase household income, manage debt and develop skills to improve their financial capability.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Services will be commissioned that will assist residents to increase income, reduce debt, provide skills to manage finances and deal with short term crisis.	<p>Number of council tenants referred and supported for money and debt advice as a direct result of face to face support on the impact of welfare reform.</p> <p>Number of other residents referred to commissioned debt support services.</p> <p>Number of people supported to access the benefits they are entitled to.</p> <p>Value of financial savings generated for tenants/residents as a direct result of support.</p>
Healthy Start Scheme providing vouchers for free fruit and vegetables will be promoted to increase uptake.	Number of Healthy Start Scheme vouchers issued.

2. Caerphilly residents are supported to reduce the impacts of rising fuel costs.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Energy efficiency measures are undertaken on properties through the WHQS and ARBED schemes and households are provided with specialist impartial energy use advice.	<p>Number of council tenants visited and provided with advice regarding energy saving measures and energy use.</p> <p>Number of tenants whose homes have been adapted as part of the WHQS works to meet their specific needs in accordance with Part 7.</p> <p>Number of homes benefiting from energy improvement measures under the Energy Companies Obligation (ECO), ARBED or similar government initiatives.</p> <p>Number applying to NEST scheme in private rented and owner occupier sector.</p> <p>Number of properties with improved energy efficiency levels through the WHQS improvements.</p>
Caerphilly Council will actively promote and support the use of collective community energy purchase schemes to benefit social and private sector households.	Number of residents registered to Cyd Cymru.

3. Quality, accessible and affordable childcare provision is promoted to enable families to improve their income through accessing education, learning and employment.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Provision of childcare through the assisted places scheme, supporting family outcomes and sustainability of childcare provision.	<p>Number of children accessing places through Flying Start Childcare and the Assisted Places Scheme.</p> <p>Number of childcare settings offering contracted places in the borough.</p>

2

Pockets

4. Through working in partnership with local employers increase local employment opportunities and identify ways to increase employees incomes.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
The Living Wage is promoted to businesses throughout the borough.	Businesses committing to the living wage.
Appropriate Council contracts to contain community benefit clauses such as targeted recruitment and training to create opportunities for local people.	Number of job created through WHQS targeted recruitment and training schemes.
Support the development of existing and new businesses.	Number of jobs created Number of jobs safeguarded.

5. Ensure that all pupils eligible for Free School Meals are in receipt of their entitlement.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Promote the take up of Free School Meals.	Percentage of eligible pupils taking up the opportunity to access Free School Meals.

3 Places

1. Caerphilly residents are able to live in homes that are affordable, warm and secure without the fear of homelessness

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Residents are supported to live independently in their own homes.	Number of residents supported by Supporting People, tenancy support officers and WHQS officers to live independently. Number of council homes adapted to comply with Part 7 of WHQS.
Existing council housing will be refurbished and future housing planned to meet the needs of the citizens of the county.	Number of properties refurbished to WHQS. Carbon savings achieved on council housing stock via insulation schemes.
We will engage with private sector housing to provide advice and guidance to landlords and advice and assistance to tenants to maintain or access affordable housing in the PRS.	Number of landlords and letting agents accredited. Number of PRS tenants supported to access or maintain existing tenancies.

2. Raise levels of healthy life expectancy across the borough and encourage residents to take responsibility for their own and their families health and well-being and make use of the opportunities and support available.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
A range of community based programmes will be provided to encourage healthy lifestyles.	Number of residents participating in Communities First, Flying Start and Families First healthy living programmes (eg Foodwise, Post and Pre Natal support package, mental health promotion, HENRY). SF-36 Mental Component Summary Score (Welsh Health Survey).

3. Working in partnership with families, parents and schools to increase participation and support the development of parenting skills.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Co-ordinate the provision of and access to Parenting Programmes to improve parenting skills.	Number of parents attending Families First and Flying Start Parenting Programmes. Percentage of parents reporting they understand their child's needs better.
Communities First, in partnership with the Parent Network, will work with selected Secondary Schools to support families to overcome barriers and engage in their child's education.	

4

Prevention

1. Identify and support vulnerable residents and families to reduce the impacts of poverty through the provision of targeted support.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Through structured training and awareness sessions Caerphilly Council staff are able to signpost and refer residents to appropriate advice and support across a range of service areas and partners.	Corporate training statistics.
Through Supporting Family Change project (Families First and ISCAN (Integrated Service for Children with Additional Needs)) facilitate and deliver "joined-up" and coordinated services for individuals and families who need multi-agency support over and above universal services.	Number of families in receipt of Supporting Family Change support. Percentage of families who feel that Supporting Family Change has made a positive difference to them on case closure.
Provide children and young people with access to educational or learning opportunities in non-formal and formal settings that contribute to reducing risk taking, anti-social behaviour and low level offending.	Number of young people achieving accredited outcomes through the Youth Service.
Provide targeted support to engage, build confidence and raise the aspirations of families who require more intensive support at a preventative level.	Number of families accessing universal services Number of families engaged in outreach and flexible group sessions.

2. Caerphilly residents are supported to manage the changes to welfare reform and prepared for the introduction of Universal Credit.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
CCBC website is kept up to date and promoted as an information resource for both staff and residents.	Number of 'hits' on selected pages.
Residents are visited in their own homes and provided with advice and support with the changes.	Number of residents visited by Supporting People and Tenancy Support Officers. Percentage of council tenants satisfied with the visit.

3. Improve pupil performance in all key stages through supporting and challenging schools to ensure that all pupils meet challenging targets set for them.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
Improve Key Stage 2, 3 and 4 results through supporting and challenging schools to ensure that all young people achieve the expected level at the end of each Key Stage.	Number / Percentage of children achieving Foundation Phase Indicator at of the Foundation Phase. Number /Percentage of children achieving Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage 2. Number /Percentage of children achieving Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage 3. Number /Percentage of young people achieving Level 2+. Threshold (5 GCSE's A* - C, including English/Welsh and Maths).

4

Prevention

3. Improve pupil performance in all key stages through supporting and challenging schools to ensure that all pupils meet challenging targets set for them.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
<p>Improve the performance of those pupils in receipt of Free School Meals against pupils who are not eligible for Free School Meals.</p>	<p>Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) who achieve the Foundation Phase Indicator (in teacher assessments) compared to pupils who are not eligible for free school meals.</p> <p>Number / Percentage of pupils eligible for FSMs who achieve the Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage2 (KS2), compared to pupils who are not eligible for free school meals.</p> <p>Number / Percentage of pupils eligible for FSMs who achieve the Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage3 (KS3), compared to pupils who are not eligible for free school meals.</p>
<p>Target key schools to improve attendance, reduce disengagement, improve social skills and reduce exclusions.</p>	<p>Number of young people with improved academic performance.</p> <p>Number of young people with increased attendance.</p> <p>Number/ Percentage of primary school attendance.</p> <p>Number /Percentage of secondary school attendance.</p>

4. Reduce the levels of smoking and obesity.

How we will achieve it	How will we know
<p>Smoking: Provide education in schools on the benefits of not smoking.</p> <p>Increase uptake of smoking cessation services.</p> <p>Train staff in brief intervention techniques for smoking.</p> <p>Obesity: Promote healthy eating and physical activity.</p>	<p>Percentage of adults who reported being a current smoker (Welsh Health Survey).</p> <p>Percentage of adults reporting eating 5 or more portions of fruit or vegetables per day (Welsh Health Survey).</p> <p>Percentage of adults reported being active on 5 or more days in the past week (Welsh Health Survey).</p>

Appendix 2

Anti-Poverty Strategy Summary of Consultation Responses

April 2015

Comments received	Actions Taken
Additional outcome under prospects – <i>Flying Start programme will be expanded to 25 areas to support child development and parental aspirations</i>	This can be included under Prevention (1. Identify and support vulnerable residents and families to reduce the impacts of poverty through the provision of targeted support)
CCBC 4 p's differ from JRF	Noted – JRF approach used as a guide, local outcomes specific to area and placed under most appropriate heading.
General comments on non-specific nature of targets	All targets have been re-visited and amended
ABHB commit to promoting strategy through its NCN and communications	Noted and welcomed
Pockets 1. – ABHB are scoping the development of a Gwent wide on-line based directory to help signpost residents to a range of information, support and advice	Noted and welcomed. More details to be sought
ABHB would welcome the opportunity to collaborate on outcomes identified under Places theme through Caerphilly Wellbeing Improvement Network and NCN.	Noted and welcomed

Reducing levels of smoking under Prevention theme is a key priority for NCN. Scoping of priorities and actions that read across NCN Plans and Strategy to determine how we can collaborate to ensure a strategic approach is developed.	
Public Health Wales have a number of PI's that would be useful for the strategy to adopt. These indicators are used by NCN to track progress and are being considered for incorporation into revised healthy themes action plans.	Agree we should seek consistency across plans.
The use of the word 'poverty' is used out of context and should be about dealing with 'deprivation'.	The use of the term "poverty" in this way is widely accepted and is consistent with other bodies such as Welsh Government.
The information on pages 2 and 3 could be included within pages 4 to 8 as this is an unnecessary duplication of information and wasteful of ink, paper and computer storage	At 8 pages this is a very slim strategic document. The layout adopted aims to lead the reader through the levels of the strategy from high level vision to more detailed actions. Whilst it may be possible to accommodate all of the text on less pages it is considered that this would compromise ease of understanding.
The use of # and % is not good reading practice and should be changes to Number and Percentage	The full wording will be used in the final version of the document
'How will we know' would read better as 'What can we Monitor'.	Noted and will be raised to steering group for consideration
Add 'regardless of who they are as an individual' to the Our Aims paragraph	Accepted and amended
Equalities issues need to be considered at an operational level (not necessarily at the strategy level). People from different protected	Noted – EIA will be completed and equality implications included within covering report.

<p>characteristic groups could be doubly disadvantaged in terms of ability to progress (eg skills development, ensuring all families are included under parenting models). Notes have been made on the covering council report and the EIA provided.</p> <p>Strategy to an operational activity having a positive impact.</p>	
<p>Pockets 4 – should also include businesses, tourism and town centres</p>	
<p>Places could include – To make town centres safe and secure environments for both residents and visitors.</p>	<p>Our town centres are safe</p>
<p>Prospects should refer to attracting higher paid employment opportunities along with inward development</p>	<p>Not included in these terms as it is not clear how it is proposed this would be delivered.</p>
<p>Living Wage outcome – needs rewording and there are no resources to promote/monitor it. What is it, how should it be promoted, what are the benefits to businesses.</p>	<p>Noted and amended.</p>
<p>Places should include the promotion of outdoor activities such as cycling and walking in improving health and wellbeing. Achieved through the numbers using country parks and outdoor activities</p>	<p>Health and Well being is addressed under Prevention within the draft Strategy.</p>

This page is intentionally left blank



CABINET – 3RD JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: CORPORATE PLAN AND IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES 2015/16

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND S151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Local Government Measure 2009 requires all local authorities in Wales to set and publish Improvement Objectives. The Wales Audit Office (WAO) will use these Improvement Objectives to evaluate the council's likelihood of improvement and following that, the level of actual improvement that is achieved for the citizens of Caerphilly. Additionally in June 2014 the Council published a Corporate Plan which detailed its longer term priorities and aspirations and this plan, duly reviewed, will be the vehicle for publishing the Improvement Objectives for 2015/16.
- 1.2 The Council is required to set or review their Improvement Objectives annually to ensure they remain relevant and current. This report details the outcome of this process and identifies the Cabinet recommended set of Priorities and Improvement Objectives for 2015/16.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 2.1 The Local Government Measure 2009 requires each authority to publish priorities for improvement called Improvement Objectives.

3. THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Objectives must be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year and although not explicitly stated in the Measure, the informal expectation is to publish no later than the end of the first quarter (June 2015). Although there is no requirement to publish a corporate plan, this is the chosen vehicle for publishing the Council's Improvement Objectives and its longer-term priorities and so the Corporate Plan (*Appendix 1 – Draft Corporate Plan*) must also be published before the end of June.
- 3.2 The Improvement Objectives for 2014/15 were assessed and reviewed as part of the process of setting the Improvement Objectives for 2015/16. The review asked the following questions to establish the objectives for 2015/16:
 - Relevance - Is this area still relevant where there is an 'unmet' need?
 - Consultation – are these still what the citizens want?
 - Funding – Does the Medium Term Financial Plan affect whether some of these activities can still be delivered? Has external (central government, home office etc) funding affected the delivery of these objectives?
 - Is there any new legislation, demographic or other changes that need to be taken into account?

- 3.3 Following the initial assessment and selection, a public consultation exercise was carried out to test the relevance of the selection and to gather public feedback on the proposed set. We asked whether respondents agreed with the proposed Improvement Objectives for 2015/16 and how important respondents thought the Improvement Objectives suggested were? This exercise also gave those who responded an opportunity to say what they felt was missing from the initial selection. The responses from the consultation activity for 2015/16 are summarised in the draft Corporate Plan (Appendix 1 – Draft Corporate Plan)
- 3.4 Below is a summary of each Improvement Objective proposed for 2015/16, following the assessment and consultation described above. The Council's statutory responsibility is to publish a full description of each Improvement Objective and its outcomes (what difference do we aim to make) and this is available in full in the draft Corporate Plan (Appendix 1 – Draft Corporate Plan)

Improvement Objective 2015/16		Outcomes
IO1	To help people make the best use of their household income and manage their debts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce policies concerned with boosting households' resources so that Caerphilly residents are able to improve their income levels
IO2	Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to under achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify groups of learners that are vulnerable to under achievement academically and work proactively to remove the barriers to learning to raise their aspirations and increase their opportunities to succeed
IO3	Close the gap in life expectancy for residents between the most and least deprived areas in the borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve the lifestyles of our local population so that people recognise and take responsibility for their own health and well being. To reduce the variation in healthy life expectancy so that health and well being of individuals experiencing disadvantage improves to the levels found among the advantaged.
IO4	Carbon Management: Reduce our carbon footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To take steps to reduce the Authority's carbon footprint and inform and assist others in the borough to do the same. The overall long-term objective is to reduce the Authority's carbon footprint by 45% by 2019
IO5	Investment in Council homes to transform lives and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to ensure all council homes meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard helping to improve the quality of life for our tenants. Create long-term arrangements to help sustain local jobs, offer skills development and training opportunities and deliver wider community benefits

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no equalities implications to this report that have not been considered or would adversely affect any individual or group who fall under one of the protected characteristics or wider issues as shown in the Council's Strategic Equality Plan.

4.2 Equalities and Welsh Language issues are crosscutting themes and to varying degrees, the Council's seven Strategic Equality Objectives support the implementation of each of the Improvement Objectives.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 A review of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan against the Improvement Objectives shows there are no cuts that will adversely affect their delivery at this time.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no personnel implications.

7. CONSULTATIONS

7.1 All responses from consultations have been incorporated into this report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Cabinet approve the draft Corporate Plan that details the Improvement Objectives for 2015/16 and recommend them to Full Council (9th June 2015).

9 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The Council has a statutory requirement to agree and publish its Improvement Objectives as soon as possible after the financial year.

10. STATUTORY POWER

10.1 Local Government Measure 2009.

Author: Lisa Howse Performance Office howsel@caerphilly.gov.uk ext 4236
Consultees: Cllr David Hardacre, Cabinet Member, Performance and Property
Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive
Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services & S151
Colin Jones, Head of Performance & Property
Ros Roberts, Performance Manager, Performance Management
David Thomas, Senior Policy Officer, Equalities

Appendices:
Appendix 1 – *Draft Corporate Plan*

This page is intentionally left blank

Caerphilly County Borough Council

Corporate Plan 2015/16



A greener place Man gwyrdach



Contents

Message from the Leader	3
Introduction	4
About Caerphilly County Borough	5
Caerphilly's Financial Position	6
How our plans and priorities fit together 2015/16	7
Our Medium term and Long term Partnership priorities	8-12
Review of 2014/15 Improvement Objectives	13-14
Setting the 2015/16 Improvement Objectives	15-17
The 2015/16 Improvement Objectives	18-52
1. To help people make the best use of their household income and manage their debts	19
2. Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement	25
3. Close the gap in life expectancy for residents between the most and least deprived areas in the borough	30
4. Carbon Management: Reduce our carbon footprint	39
5. Investment in Council homes to transform lives and communities	48
How to contact us	53





Message from the Leader

Cllr. Keith Reynolds

Caerphilly council is committed to continuous improvement and we have been working hard over recent years to raise standards and provide quality services to our residents.

However, local government is facing significant challenges at the moment in the face of severe funding cuts. This means that Caerphilly needs to achieve ambitious savings targets over the next few years, so we need to work smarter, more efficiently and prioritise our limited resources.

The new Improvement Objectives for 2015/16 focus on five priority areas and these will help us to target our resources more effectively. The Improvement Objectives cover a wide range of issues including better carbon management, improving education, tackling poverty, health improvement and transforming our housing stock.

They will provide a 'road map' for the year ahead and we will continually review our progress as part of this process which helps on-going improvement. Despite the challenges highlighted above, I firmly believe we can continue to improve as we have a dedicated and committed workforce who will make best use of the resources available to deliver key frontline services.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the development of the Improvement Objectives and I look forward to tracking progress moving forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. V. Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the main body of text.

Introduction

We are pleased to introduce our Improvement Objectives for 2015/16, which details the improvements we intend to make for our citizens over the year. In 2010, legislation required Council's to identify areas for improvement and called these 'Improvement Objectives'.

Caerphilly Council has always set 'areas for improvement' however our Improvement Objectives are sometimes a little different from our overall Council priorities in that they are based specifically on areas of unmet need from the public's point of view and where we want to place our focus in a shorter time frame. More importantly they are based on outcomes (or what difference these make for the public) and are often carried out in collaboration with other organisations. Periodically we identify things that:

- Are important to our citizens
- Are under performing
- Affects the sustainability of our communities and their surrounding environments
- Affects the health and well-being of individuals
- Help us deliver efficient, fair and productive services

These objectives were chosen because these are the areas where it was felt that we needed to improve or wanted to do more and following our consultation the public agreed. We also use a range of intelligence, from survey data, statistics and local knowledge was used to identify draft areas for improvement in 2015/16.

Having Improvement Objectives and Priorities does not replace nor stop us carrying out all the many other things that we do. In this time of financial constraint it is helpful to concentrate on a set of specific outcomes, focusing our efforts to make specific improvements, which are our Improvement Objectives for 2015/16, which can be found on pages 19-52.

Each Improvement Objective will have a detailed breakdown telling the reader why it was chosen and what we aim to achieve in the short term.

This Corporate Plan is Caerphilly County Borough Council's publication of improvement information, prepared under Section 15(3) of the local government (Wales) measure, which discharges our duties under Sections 2(1), 3(2), 8(7) and 13(1) of the measure.

About Caerphilly County Borough

The County Borough of Caerphilly is located approximately 9 miles from Cardiff and has a geographic area of 278 km². This area accounts for 1.3 per cent of the total area of Wales. Approximately 75% of the borough is classed as rural and has a wide range of countryside places to visit, with several country parks and many walking routes. Our largest town is Caerphilly with other towns in the borough being Bedwas, Risca, Ystrad Mynach, Nelson, Newbridge, Blackwood, Bargoed, New Tredegar and Rhymney.

Based on the latest census information (2011) the population has grown by 10,000 to 179,000 with the mid-year estimate (2014) increasing the population slightly to 180,000, which is the fifth largest population for all Welsh councils. Caerphilly has a divergent demographic profile with a higher proportion of children and people of retirement age than Welsh averages. It has the second lowest employment rate in Wales with comparatively higher levels of deprivation. The Council is the largest employer in the area with over 9,300 staff providing over 100 services from 'cradle to grave' social services, education, housing, highways maintenance, waste disposal and street cleaning to name a few. For the 2015/16 financial year, the Council has a combined net revenue and capital budget of £341 million.

For further information on the range of countryside places to visit including the best places to look for wildlife go to your.caerphilly.gov.uk/countryside. For places to stay and eat and enjoy additional activities within Caerphilly Borough please visit www.visitcaerphilly.com



Caerphilly's Financial Position

For the 2015/16 financial year the funding that Caerphilly CBC receives from the Welsh Government has been cut by 3.3%, resulting in a cash reduction of £8.89m. In light of this the Authority's Medium-Term Financial Plan has been reviewed on the assumption that similar cash reductions will be experienced in 2016/17 and 2017/18. This review has also considered cost pressures that will need to be met as we move forward and it is anticipated that the Authority will need to find savings of around £39m for the three-year period 2015/16 to 2017/18.

At its meeting on the 25th February 2015 Council agreed a budget for the 2015/16 financial year, which included savings totalling £11.96m. Prior to this, proposed savings for 2015/16 had been subject to an extensive consultation process that consisted of two public surveys, 'drop-in' sessions for members of the public to attend and separate consultation events with the Youth Forum, the Viewpoint Panel, the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee and the 50+ Forum. In addition, Town and Community Councils were also invited to comment upon the proposed savings. This thorough consultation process was invaluable in helping firm savings proposals to be put to Council for approval in February 2015.

The agreed savings for 2015/16 have had limited impact on front-line services and wherever possible Council priorities have been protected from cuts. Full details of the 2015/16 savings can be found in the 2015/16 Budget Report which is available through the following link.

<http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/My-Council/Performance,-budgets-and-spending/Council-budget.aspx>

Looking ahead the Council still has to find anticipated savings of circa £26m for 2016/17 and 2017/18. This will prove to be extremely challenging and as part of the process for identifying the savings required Council has agreed the following principles: -

- Protecting front-line services where we can and reducing expenditure on management and administrative costs.
- Increasing fees and charges where appropriate.
- Reducing, rather than removing services where possible.
- Focussing on priorities.
- Looking at alternative ways of delivering services (collaboration, partnerships, community trusts, etc.).

Detailed work is already underway to meet the financial challenges that lie ahead and savings proposals for the 2016/17 financial year will be subject to a further period of extensive consultation between November 2015 and January 2016.

How our plans and priorities fit together 2015/16

We have a long-term partnership plan which is a collaborative plan with our partners in the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Gwent Police, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) and Welsh Government. We carried out a 'needs assessment' of the borough and as a result defined our long-term vision for Caerphilly, which is for sustainable communities, supported by actions that enhance the quality of life for all. To realise our long-term vision we have identified **five key** outcomes listed on the next page

The Caerphilly Delivers plan reflects the Welsh Government's approach to developing our communities and is a challenge to the public, voluntary and private sector to work together with our communities, setting out what working together will achieve.

Our Local Service Board (LSB) is a body made up of the Police, the Local Authority, Aneurin Bevan Health University Board, Welsh Government and GAVO and is responsible for monitoring progress against the Caerphilly Delivers' action plans.

The Councils own priorities contained within this Corporate Plan and it's Improvement Objectives contribute towards the higher longer term goals contained in Caerphilly Delivers, and are illustrated in the tables on the following page. For further information about *Caerphilly Delivers*, please visit the Caerphilly Local Service Board website at: www.caerphilly.gov.uk/involved/Consultations/Search-consultations-database

Our Longer term Priorities 2013-17

We have 6 priorities and we will report on the progress of those in October 2015. We have used these as a basis for reviewing our 2014/15 Improvement Objectives and to help inform 2015/16 objectives. The diagram below shows how our priorities and objectives link together.



Where do the new 2015/16 Improvement Objectives fit in to Caerphilly's long and medium term priorities

Caerphilly Delivers (15 year plan)	Council Medium Term Priorities 2013/17	Council Improvement Objectives 2015/16
<p>Prosperous - P3 Provide support to enable local people to compete for all employment opportunities</p> <p>Learning - L2 Develop a multi-agency approach to address the impact of poverty on pupil attainment</p>	<p>People's social care needs are identified and met in a timely and appropriate way.</p>	<p>IO1 To help people make the best use of their household income and manage their debts</p>
	<p>Children and Adults are safeguarded from abuse.</p>	
<p>Learning - L1 Improve the level of basic skills and the number of achieved qualifications (formal and non-formal) to improve the life opportunities for families</p> <p>L3 children, young people and families have the skills and resources to access job opportunities</p>	<p>Improve standards across all year groups particularly key stages 3 & 4</p> <p>Identify vulnerable groups of learners and develop interventions to ensure needs are met.</p> <p>Reduce the gap in attainment between pupils in advantage and disadvantaged communities</p>	<p>IO2 Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement</p>

Caerphilly Delivers (15 year plan)	Council Medium Term Priorities 2013-17	Council Improvement Objectives 2015/16
<p>Healthier -</p> <p>H2 Improve lifestyles of the population in the County Borough so that people recognise and take responsibility for their own health and well-being, and make use of the opportunities and support available to them</p> <p>H3 Reduce the variation in healthy life expectancy in the County Borough so that the health and well-being of individuals experiencing disadvantage improves to the levels found among the advantaged</p> <p>Greener -</p> <p>G3 Maximise the use of the environment for health benefits</p>	<p>Promote the benefits of an active and healthy lifestyle.</p>	<p>IO3 Close the gap in life expectancy for residents between the most and least deprived areas in the Borough</p>
<p>Prosperous -</p> <p>P2 Improve standards of housing and communities, giving appropriate access to services across the county borough</p> <p>Safer -</p> <p>S4 ensure people are supported to live in their own homes and communities in safety</p>	<p>Invest in our Council homes and their Communities to transform lives.</p>	<p>IO5 Investment in Council homes to transform lives and communities</p>

Caerphilly Delivers (15 year plan)	Council Medium Term Priorities 2013-17	Council Improvement Objectives 2015/16
Greener - G2 Reduce the causes of and adapt to the effects of climate change	Affordability - To deliver the medium term financial plan aimed at providing a period of stability that helps the Authority to have a range of services in the future that are sustainable.	IO4 Carbon Management: Reduce our carbon footprint

Caerphilly Delivers 2013-17 – Single Integrated Plan

Key Outcome Area	Priority	Corporate Priority 2013-17 contribution	Improvement Objective 2015/16 contribution	
Prosperous	P1	Improve local employment opportunities including access to opportunities across a wider geographical area.	7	
	P2	Improve standards of housing and communities, giving appropriate access to services across the County Borough.	7	IO5
	P3	Provide support to enable local people to compete for all employment opportunities.		IO1
Safer	S1	Reduce incidents of anti-social behavior and reduce fear of becoming a victim of anti-social behavior for residents.	2	
	S2	Reduce crime and the fear of crime for the residents of the County Borough	2 & 5	
	S3	Reduce the harm caused to communities through substance misuse	6	
	S4	Ensure people are supported to live in their own homes and communities in safety.	1	IO5
Learning	L1	Improve the level of basic skills and the number of achieved qualifications (formal and non-formal) to improve the life opportunities for families.	3,4 & 5	IO2
	L2	Develop a multi-agency approach to address the impact of poverty on pupil attainment.	5	IO1
	L3	Children, young people and families have the skills and resources to access job opportunities	2 & 3	IO2

Caerphilly Delivers 2013-17 – Single Integrated Plan

Key Outcome Area	Priority	Corporate Priority 2013-17 contribution	Improvement Objective 2015-16 contribution
Healthier	H1	Address the inequities rate of low birth weight babies across the County Borough	
	H2	Improve lifestyles of the population in the County Borough so that people recognise and take responsibility for their own health and well-being, and make use of the opportunities and support available to them	4 & 5
	H3	Reduce the variation in healthy life expectancy in the County Borough so that the health and well-being of individuals experiencing disadvantage improves to the levels found among the advantaged	6
	H4	Improve the education, information, early intervention, prevention and harm reduction in relation to substance misuse in the County Borough	6
	H5	Ensure people are supported to live in their own communities to lead safe, fulfilled and independent lives	1 & 7
Greener	G1	Improve local environmental quality.	1 & 6
	G2	Reduce the causes of and adapt to the effects of climate change.	6
	G3	Maximise the use of the environment for health benefits.	1 & 4

Review of 2014/15 Improvement Objectives

We review our objectives on a routine basis to see if we are making progress or need to renew our efforts. Part of setting our objectives for 2015/16 is to carry out a review of last year's objectives to see what we need to carry forward or to know what has now been achieved. Below is a summary of the review of 2014/15 objectives. A full report on their performance will be published in our annual performance report in October 2015

IO 1. Ensure children and young people who are looked after are supported to achieve their full potential.

We have decided this objective was successful and there is no need to carry it forward into 2015/16 because the actions set to meet this objective have all been successfully met. Performance across Wales in Children's Services in our performance indicators are in the top quartile in Wales and our safeguarding arrangements were confirmed by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales to be 'effective'. Looked After Children will always be a statutory priority group for the council to support and will continue to be a daily priority.

IO 2. We want to Improve Job Opportunities so people can live better lives by implementing the Council's Passport Scheme. This will create wider employment and training opportunities.

We are unable to carry this objective into 2015/16 as the money that funded this project (mainly European funds) has finished and there are no more resources to continue. We class this objective to have been successful over the time we ran the passport scheme exceeding the target with 250 completing the programme and 199 gaining a successful outcome (e.g. employment)

IO 3. Develop an effective and accessible Youth Service that people supports the personal and social development of young people.

We class this as successful as the strategy for the service has now been developed and this strategy has become part of day-to-day business, therefore we do not need to carry this forward into 2015/2016.

IO 4. Improve awareness, access, variety and use of leisure, community and sporting facilities in our borough.

We have had this objective since 2010 and in that time made significant improvements and had some successes, however in recognition of the financial climate and the austerity measures impacting on the Council's budget we have to recognise that we may not be able to improve on the range and use of leisure services that we provide. Whilst we are looking at different ways to provide leisure, sporting and community facilities we believe we should not carry on with this objective at this time.

IO 5. Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) investment will transform Council homes and act as a catalyst to also transform lives and communities throughout the borough.

The objective had some partial successes in 2014/15 however the WHQS Programme is a corporate priority and there has been slippage that has arisen in 2014/15 so there needs to be an acceleration in the pace of completing the properties to the required standard. It has now been made a statutory requirement for achieving the WHQS by 2020 so we need to retain this objective and renew efforts to meet the targets.

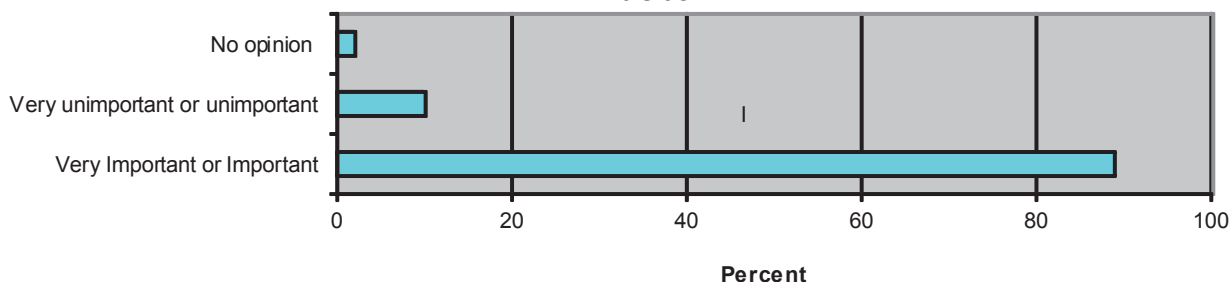
IO 6. Improve the availability of private and public sector housing to reduce the number of residents who may become homeless.

Newly enacted legislation requires us to change the way we provide our homelessness services and we are working on specific projects to enable the Council to discharge its homelessness duty. So whilst the homelessness function remains a high priority for the service we will not continue with this as a corporate improvement objective, as it already forms part of something we have to do anyway. This year we have achieved well in providing advice and assistance and supporting people to maintain their tenancies. We have also done well in preventing people becoming homeless but some of our actions were delayed, for example the introduction of a social lettings agency (to increase availability of homes), which fell behind due to delays in receiving external funding to fund the initiative (although this is now back on track), therefore we judge this objective to have been partially successful for 2014/15.

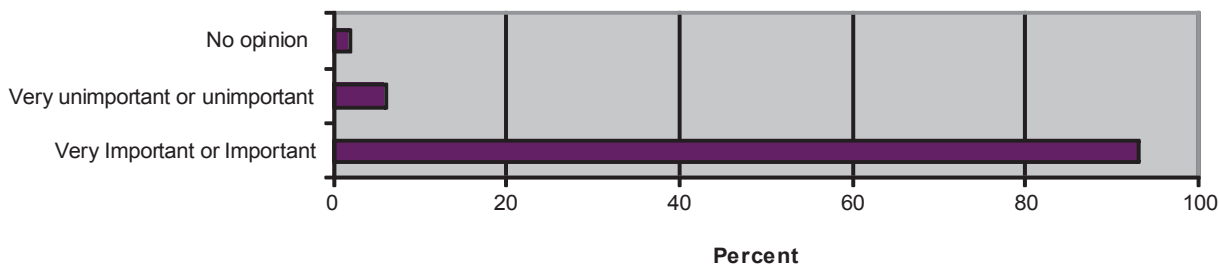
Setting the 2015/16 Improvement Objectives

In addition to our extensive budget consultation, April 2014-January 2015 we held a further consultation with the public throughout March and April. We asked whether you agreed with our objectives for improvement in 2015/16. The consultation was available online and with paper copies made available at libraries on request. We asked how important you thought the following priorities were? Your responses were as follows:

To help people make best use of their household income and manage debt

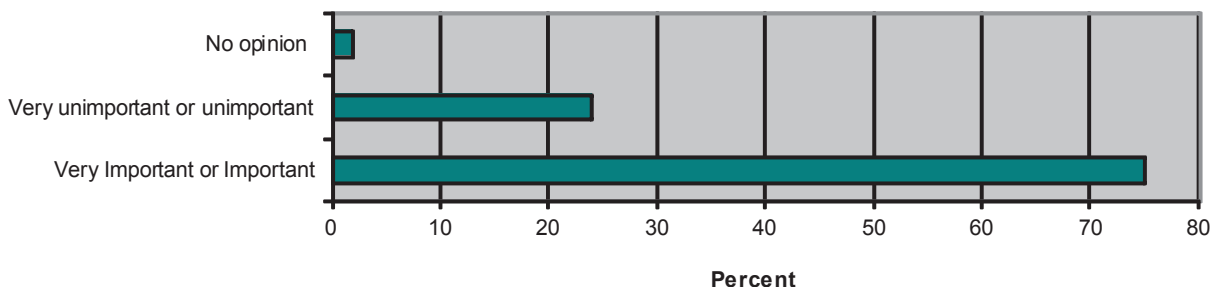


Improve outcomes for all learners particularly those vulnerable to underachievement

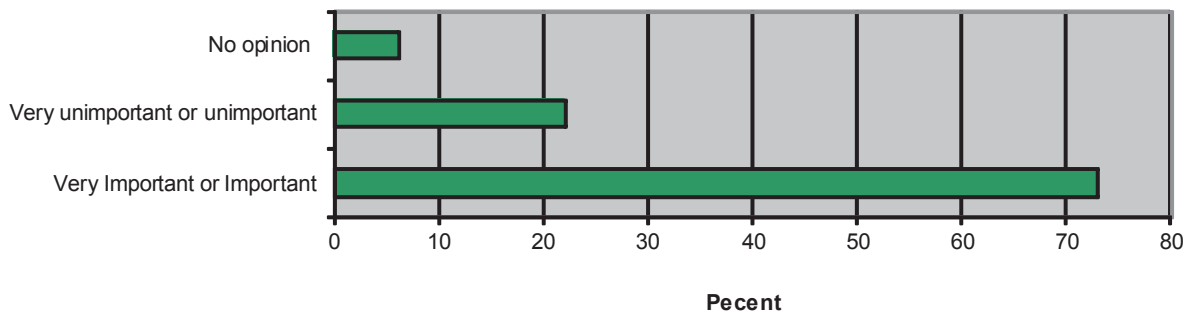


Our original question asked about health and well-being focusing on smoking cessation and obesity. Following your consultation results we have further developed the objective to say 'close the gap for residents life expectancy between the least and most deprived areas in the borough'.

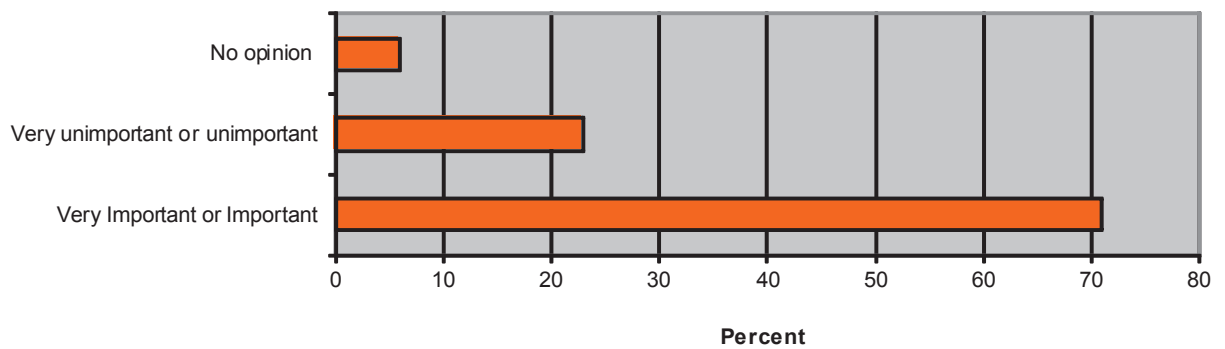
Close the gap in life expectancy for residents between the most and least deprived areas in the borough



Carbon Management: Reduce our carbon footprint

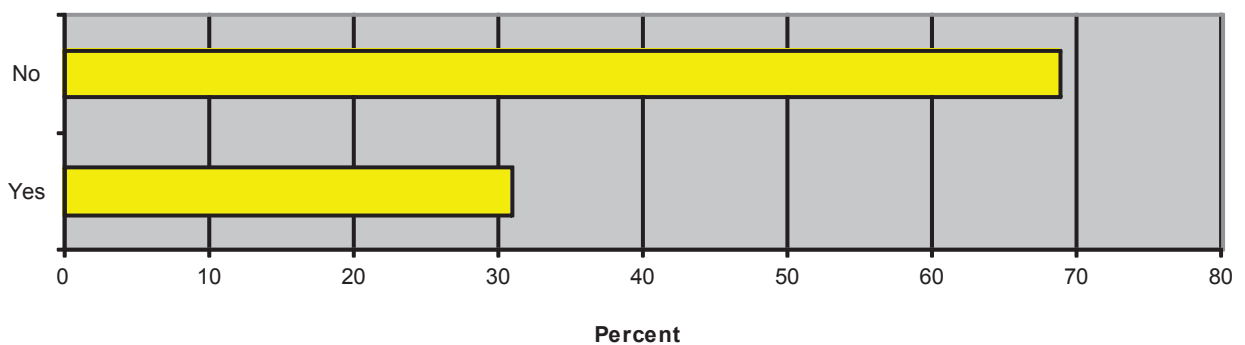


Investment in Council Homes to transform lives and communities



And lastly we asked the following:

In your opinion is there anything missing?



In response to the question ‘What is missing and why do you think it should be added?’ Consultees suggested managing balanced budgets as a priority. We have not made this an improvement objective as ‘affordability’ and delivering a sustainable medium term financial plan is already one of the Council’s medium to long term priorities published within last year’s corporate plan and we will report on progress in our Annual Performance Report. More information can be found on our financial position at www.caerphilly.gov.uk

A number of comments suggested that including the creation of work and new jobs should be included as part of tackling poverty. We agree this is important and have developed an Anti Poverty strategy, which has 4 main pillars. The issue of employment and developing skills is covered within this so we chose to pick a key area out of the strategy to focus on which is now called “*help people make the best use of their household income and manage their debts*”. Our Improvement Objective on pages 19-24 explains in more detail why we chose this.

In response to those who shared concerns about terms of economic growth and town centres, our long term plan ‘Caerphilly Delivers’ details the partnership work that we are carrying out to help provide employment support and this includes support for business including regeneration projects for town centres.

We would like to thank those who took the time to respond and to let you know further detail on our consultation is available on the www.caerphilly.gov.uk/involved/Consultations and how to get involved is on page 53 of this plan.

Monitoring and reporting the 2015/16 Improvement Objectives

We monitor and report on the performance of our improvement objectives on a frequent basis and also report progress or identify any risks to improvement. Twice a year we report on progress to Councillors at the various scrutiny committees. Every year in October we publish our full performance against our improvement objectives to tell the public how we performed. We invite comment on this and ways to do that can be found on page 53 at the end of this document.

Our 2015/16 Improvement Objectives

We have taken into consideration what our performance data tells us, the review of last years improvement objectives, our consultation results and the Medium Term Financial plan has helped us inform and set our new Improvement Objectives for 2015/16 as follows:

IO 1 – To help people make the best use of their household income and manage their debts

IO 2 – Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement

IO 3 – Close the gap in life expectancy for residents between the most and least deprived areas in the borough

IO 4 – Carbon Management: Reduce our carbon footprint

IO 5 – Investment in Council homes to transform lives and communities

Improvement Objective 1.

To help people make the best use of their household income and manage their debts

What difference do we plan to make?

To introduce policies concerned with boosting households' resources so that Caerphilly residents are able to improve their income levels and are better able to meet their own needs.

Why we have chosen this

Poverty harms people's prospects and damages their long term future. It also places a burden on public resources and services. It is in all our interests to tackle poverty. Caerphilly Council is committed to ensuring its residents are able to live fulfilled lives and are not prevented from enjoying an acceptable standard of living due to economic, social or cultural disadvantage.

In their publication 'A UK Without Poverty' the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) defines poverty as:

When a person's resources are not enough to meet their basic needs. This includes the need to be part of society, by being able to participate in common customs and activities, such as buying a birthday present for your partner or sending your child on a school trip.

JRF go on to state that interventions that either increase the resources available to households or reduce the costs of meeting their needs will help to reduce poverty.

Recognising that poverty is dynamic, and differs at different stages of life, JRF proposes that thought must be given to policies that have an impact now, those that are investments in the future and those that provide insurance against future events.

In addition, current welfare reforms are anticipated to have a large and disproportionate impact upon residents in our borough and knock-on consequences for our local economy, compared to the UK as a whole.

This is why at this point, this Improvement Objective is concentrated in the area of income maximisation and debt management for households most at risk of poverty across our borough.

Where are we now?

Caerphilly Council has a long track record of tackling poverty through a range of core services as well as the Welsh Government funded programmes; Communities First, Flying Start, Families First along with Supporting People. As a landlord we strive to provide good quality homes and work hard to support our tenants. We are building upon this with our Welsh Housing Quality Standard improvement programme, which continues to be the focus of another of our Improvement Objectives for 2015/16. We also work actively with our partners to tackle poverty as reflected in our single integrated plan, Caerphilly Delivers.

In addition to the above, we have recently developed an Anti-Poverty Strategy, which clearly states our commitment to tackling poverty. It confirms the priority that we give this issue. It also brings together the broad body of activity that we have in place to mitigate the impacts of poverty, to raise aspirations, to support people out of poverty, and to prevent poverty. We need a comprehensive approach to tackling poverty and we realise that we cannot address poverty on our own, but wish to set out our commitment to playing our part.

Our work to develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy in collaboration with a range of partners is based on the 4 P's called, Prospects, Pockets, Places and Prevention. This identifies areas that will be important to tackle; welfare, work, education, the cost of living, family, community and addressing complex needs emerging as crucial areas of focus

The Bank of England estimated in 2014 that personal consumer debt in the UK stands at £168 billion. For too many, debt becomes a serious problem with almost three million people said to be in problem debt in Britain. Common causes of problem debt are job loss, illness and relationship breakdown. Many are vulnerable to falling into problem debt following such life events, as too few have the financial resilience to cope. According to a 2013 survey by Step Change Debt Charity 13 million people do not have the savings to keep up with essential bills for even one month if their income dropped by a quarter.

Domestic energy prices have increased 62% since 2008, increasing 21% in the last two years. For those on low incomes, this is a dramatic increase on their energy bill. Those on low incomes are also more likely to be on pre-paid meters, who can pay £253 more per year than those paying by direct debit.

The past few years has seen an unprecedented increase in the use of food banks in Wales, with 35,919 people provided with food in 2012/13, increasing to 79,049 from 2013/14. Low-income households can spend 16.6% of their income on food.

Between October 2013 and August 2014, CAB debt support clinics funded via Caerphilly Homes and the Supporting People programme referred 262 residents for debt support which led to the identification of £2.53m debt (average of £9,565 per person).

What actions are we going to take to improve?

For this year we are going to be concerned with putting policies, programmes and activities in place, which help to boost households resources, primarily by increasing their income, so that they are better able to meet their needs. This is a focus on the 2nd P called 'Pockets', which is defined, as 'Caerphilly residents are able to improve their income levels'.

Key areas of focus will be:

- Providing residents with information and advice on a range of social welfare issues to enable them to increase household income, manage debt and develop skills to improve their financial capability.
- Supporting Council tenants to reduce the impact of rising fuel costs. The impact of this advice will be captured during follow up visits with a selection of the tenants.
- Promoting quality, accessible and affordable childcare provision to enable families to improve their income through accessing education, learning and employment.
- Ensuring all pupils eligible for Free School Meals are in receipt of their entitlement.

How will we know we have improved?

We will know we have improved when:

- The number of people referred to commissioned debt support services increases.
- The number of people supported to access the benefits they are entitled to improves.
- The amount of savings generated for residents through increased income improves.
- The number of residents visited and provided with advice regarding energy saving measures increases.
- The number of our staff who have undertaken the All Wales Academy e-learning Financial Inclusion & Tackling Poverty course.
- There is an increase in the number of children accessing childcare places through Flying Start Childcare and the Assisted Places Scheme.
- There is an increased take up of Free School Meals for eligible pupils. Accessing Free School Meals allows parents of school aged children to access additional grants to support them with other aspects of school life, including the purchase of school uniform. It is important that parents and carers are made aware of this support that is available as a method of maximising the use of the household income.

Who are we going to work with to deliver this objective?

The Anti-Poverty Strategy sets out Caerphilly Council's position, which is dependant on working jointly with our partners. In relation to this Improvement Objective this includes Citizens Advice Bureau, Food Banks, and Credit Unions in particular.

What resources do we have to deliver this objective?

We do not have a dedicated budget within our organisation to address Anti-Poverty so we are working with other areas and organisations to pool our resources to address the issues around poverty. For example, we will sign post citizens to a range of help and support that may be provided by other organisations or commission services from voluntary sectors such as the Citizens Advice Bureau to help citizens manage their finances, particularly help with debt support. We have been hosting the Gwent Money Advice Services Project, a collaborative project supported by the 5 Gwent Local Service Boards. The project has been researching the availability and need for money advice across the 5 Gwent Local Authority areas to develop a gap analysis. The project has developed an on-line signposting tool for front line staff along with an on-line training programme to ensure that non-specialist staff are aware of issues relating to poverty and how they can help residents. We have also implemented a new scheme and partnership with Age Cymru Gwent to assist vulnerable people with appeals regarding their Disability Living Allowance/Personal Independence Payments claims.

Measures	2014/15 Baseline	2015/16 Target
We will measure how much we are doing using the evidence below		
Number of council tenants visited and provided with advice regarding energy saving measures and energy use	New from Feb 15	Not set new from Feb 15
Number of children accessing childcare places through Flying Start (FS) Childcare and Assisted Places Scheme (APS)	489 FS 182 APS	400FS 88 APS
Number of council tenants referred for money and debt advice as a direct result of face to face support on the	187	130
Number of other residents referred to commissioned debt/financial support services	210	390
Number of tenants affected by welfare reforms who were visited in their own homes and provided with advice and support to minimise the impact of the changes	2,309	150
The number of our staff who have undertaken the All Wales Academy e-learning Financial Inclusion & Tackling Poverty course	New from June 15	Not set as new from June 15
We will measure how well we are doing using the evidence below		
% of eligible pupils taking up the opportunity to access Free School Meals	66.5%	67.5%
% of tenants and residents referred by the Council to CAB debt support service and responded to survey who rated the service as good or better.	76%	77%
We will measure whether anyone is better off using the evidence below		
Value of financial savings generated for tenants as a direct result of face to face support	£283,154	£170,000
Value of additional income generated for residents via social services as a direct result of support	£100,000	£100,000
The number of people supported to access the benefits they are entitled to	1,605	519

Improvement Objective 2.

Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement

What difference do we plan to make?

As a local authority our aim is that “every child should have the best start in life, and the opportunity to achieve success as a young person and as an adult” (Council Aspiration No.3). In achieving this we recognise that small groups of children and young people can face more challenges than others. This plan aims to identify groups of learners that are vulnerable to underachievement academically, and work proactively to remove the barriers to learning to raise their aspirations and increase their opportunities to succeed.

Why we have chosen this

Parents and young people have a right to expect the best from the education they receive. As a local authority, we will work with the regional consortia for school improvement and the schools Education Achievement Service (EAS) to ensure that all children and young people have access to high quality education, training and work experience, tailored to meet their needs.

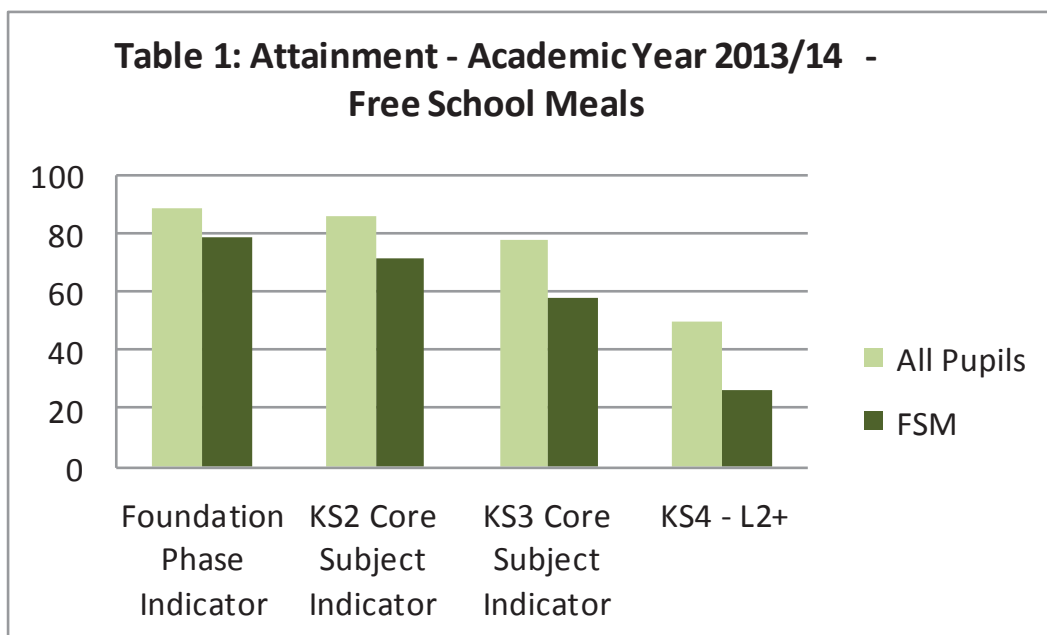
Vulnerability in education can be determined by a number of different factors including deprivation. It can also be determined by whether the child or young person has additional learning needs, or is a Looked After Child (LAC).

Data identifies that there is a performance gap between those within these groups and that of the overall population. We have chosen to undertake some intensive work in this area to try and reduce that gap, and ensure that all young people are provided with appropriate opportunities to help them achieve success, both in the classroom and beyond.

Where are we now?

In terms of academic attainment, the measurements are taken at the end of each phase of education, and pupils are measured against whether they have achieved the main performance indicators. Up until the age of 15 these are measured internally through teacher assessment. At the end of Key Stage 4, pupils are measured externally.

There are many factors which increase levels of vulnerability in learners, one of which is deprivation. The measure that is commonly used to measure deprivation is a pupil's eligibility to receive Free School Meals. The data below (Table 1) provides an insight into the performance of all pupils in comparison to the pupils in receipt of Free School Meals. This also highlights that the gap in performance increases throughout school life.



The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD), is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales and uses a number of deprivation measures to calculate deprivation. For Education, 31 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are in the top 20% most deprived in Wales, with St James 3 ranking 1st, as the most deprived. This area will be a focus for improvement throughout this plan. Please refer to LSOA table on page 31.

These small areas are referred to as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) in the index. The WIMD is currently made up of eight separate types of deprivation, education being one of these.

What actions are we going to take to improve?

- Work in partnership with the EAS to ensure that challenging targets are set for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement.
- Work with schools to maximise the benefits of the Pupil Deprivation Grant, to ensure that pupils in receipt of Free School Meals have full access to appropriate learning opportunities.
- Implement strategies to work towards closing the gap in performance between those in receipt of Free School Meals, and those who are not.
- Introduce an appropriate assessment for pupils educated in Trinity Fields and LA resource bases Performance Indicators for Value Added Targets Setting (PIVATS).
- Develop a multi agency strategy to provide improved learning opportunities in the St James area.

How will we know if we have improved?

Each year the school attainment results are published at a local authority level by the Welsh Government. This provides us with a benchmark for the academic achievements of all pupils. For a more in depth breakdown of the result, the www.mylocalschool.com website can be used to access Information at a school level. In addition, Performance Indicators for Value Added Targets Setting (PIVATS) will also be collected and analysed in relation to pupils educated in Trinity Fields and Local Authority Resource Bases.

The actions identified in this plan will be highlighted in strategic annual service plans and operational service delivery plans, and communicated to the regional Educational Achievement Service (EAS).

In addition future ESTYN inspections and reviews will monitor the progress made in improving outcomes for our children and young people through the strategies, services and initiatives that we deliver.

Who are we going to work with to deliver this objective?

The EAS and our schools will be key partners in working towards improved outcomes for our pupils. However, we are aware that aspirations are linked with the family and therefore Flying Start, Families First and other agencies working with families will also be key partners.

In addition, many studies have shown that raising aspirations and improving attitudes to learning is wider than just educational barriers. Therefore, strategies may require the support of services such as leisure, parks and countryside as a mechanism for engaging with children and young people.

What resources do we have to deliver this objective?

This objective is initially focused on aligning existing resources to provide targeted support in areas of need. During the course of the plan, any new strategies will analyse the financial implementation and ensure that they can be delivered either through existing budgets or by securing additional funding.

Measures	2014/5 Baseline	2015/16 Target
We will measure how much we are doing using the evidence below		
EDU/003 The percentage of pupils assessed at the end of Key Stage 2 achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI)	85.8	87.2
EDU/004 The percentage of pupils assessed at the end of Key Stage 3 achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI)	77.6	83.3
The percentage of pupils aged 15 who achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE pass at L2 in English or Welsh first language and mathematics	50	60.4
We will measure how well we are doing using the evidence below		
The percentage in receipt of Free School Meals achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) at Key Stage 2	71.4	74.2
The percentage in receipt of Free School Meals achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) at Key Stage 3	58.1	68.1
The percentage in receipt of Free School Meals achieving the Level 2 threshold including GCSE pass at L2 in English or Welsh first language and mathematics	26.5	37.3
The percentage of pupil attendance in Primary Schools	94.4	94.9
The percentage of pupil attendance in Secondary Schools	92.9	93.1
We will measure whether anyone is better off using the evidence below		
EDU002i The percentage of pupils aged 15 as at the preceding 31 August who leave compulsory education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	0.4	0.3
EUD002ii The percentage of pupils in local authority care, aged 15 as at the preceding 31 August who leave compulsory education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	0	0
The percentage of 16 year olds not in employment, education or training (NEET) in October	TBC	0.3

Improvement Objective 3.

Close the gap in life expectancy for residents between the most and least deprived areas in the borough

What difference do we plan to make?

The main intention of this priority is to improve the lifestyles of our local population so that people recognise and take responsibility for their own health and well being. In turn this will reduce the variation in healthy life expectancy so that health and well being of individuals experiencing disadvantage improves to the levels found among the advantaged.

Why we have chosen this?

The CCBC vision is that Caerphilly County Borough is a better place to live, work and visit. This must be for all residents. Residents living in areas of high deprivation have statistically significantly higher levels of ill-health including deaths from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, deaths from lung cancer, diabetes, mental illness and respiratory disease.

In Caerphilly County Borough there is an inequality gap in life expectancy of 8.5 years for males and 7.8 years for females. This is the difference in life expectancy between those people living in the most and least deprived communities across our county borough.

The gap for healthy life expectancy is 19.2 years for males and 17.4 years for females. This has increased in recent years and we wish to empower residents to improve their lifestyles.

Unhealthy lifestyle choices are significantly higher in more deprived areas and this creates risk factors that could impact upon the health of our residents, especially:

- Smoking
- Obesity
- Physical inactivity
- Unhealthy diet

It is a priority of Welsh Government (Fairer Outcomes for All 2011) that by 2020 we improve healthy life expectancy for everyone and close the gap between each level of deprivation by an average of 2.5%. There are 5 levels in total, 1 being the most affluent and 5 being the most deprived.

Where are we now?

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. These small areas are referred to as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the index. The WIMD is designed to identify those small areas where there are the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation.

WIMD is currently made up of eight separate types of deprivation called domains. These are: income; employment; health; education; access to services; community safety; physical environment and housing. Each domain is compiled from a range of different indicators.

In the 2014 WIMD, 14 of the 110 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Caerphilly County Borough fell within the 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales. This is equivalent to 12.7% of all LSOAs, which places us eighth for the highest proportion of most deprived LSOAs compared to the rest of Wales. All of these LSOAs are included within the current Communities First programme for our county borough.

Caerphilly County Borough LSOAs in the most deprived 10% for the overall index are:

LSOA Name	WIMD 2014 Rank - Wales	WIMD 2014 Rank - CCBC
St. James 3	1	1
Twyn Carno 1	6	2
Bargoed 4, Bedwas, Trethomas,	22	3
Machen 6	24	4
Moriah 3	60	5
New Tredegar 3	74	6
Hengoed 2	92	7
St. James 4	105	8
Penyrheol 8	116	9
Darren Valley 2	124	10
Newbridge 2	138	11
Penyrheol 4	139	12
Aberbargoed 2	189	13
Argoed 1	191	14

Caerphilly County Borough has 68.2% of its LSOAs within the top 50% most deprived category and this is the fourth highest proportion in Wales.

Health Evidence

Data is provided below based on a population approach across the whole of the County Borough. These percentages will increase significantly in the County's most deprived areas.

- Premature death rates (under 75 years of age) remain significantly higher than the Wales average.
- 22% of adults smoke in our borough, which is the same as the Welsh average. (Welsh Health Survey 2012/13). However, Welsh Government have set a target to reduce smoking levels in Wales to 16% by 2020.
- 71% of adults are currently not active enough to meet physical activity guidelines. (Welsh Health Survey 2012/13).
- In Caerphilly, 63% of adults can be categorised as overweight or obese. This is one of the highest obesity rates in Wales according to the Welsh Health Survey 2012/13, with the Welsh average at 58%, and the Welsh average is itself at a low level of health.
- The Child Measurement Programme for Wales reported in 2011/12 that 28.5% of children in Caerphilly County Borough aged 4-5 are overweight or obese. This is the 5th highest in Wales and above the Welsh average of 28.2%, which is again not considered to be at a good level.
- The Health Behavior in School-aged Children survey 2009/10 found that overweight and obesity levels amongst boys are higher in Wales than the rest of the UK, and most other European countries. The same survey reported that Wales has one of the highest rates amongst all European countries for obese teenage girls.
- Less than one third of adults (28%) eat the recommended 5 a day of fruit and vegetables. This is less than the Welsh Average at 33% (Welsh Health Survey 2012/13).

There is a need to develop more robust data sets that allow comparisons between our most affluent and most deprived communities.

What actions are we going to take to improve?

In order to start to address the health inequalities mentioned above, starting in 2015/16 we are planning to focus our activity on preventing obesity and smoking cessation. To help us achieve this we will:

- Develop and implement a Caerphilly response to achieving the actions set out in the Gwent Childhood Obesity Plan. This is a 5-year strategy and framework provided by Public Health Wales. This plan will focus on the following 7 key themes:
 - ◆ Social marketing and health literacy
 - ◆ Preconception and maternity
 - ◆ Whole school and early years settings
 - ◆ Active community environments
 - ◆ Improving the food environment
 - ◆ Active recreation and play
 - ◆ Specialist services for children and their families
- Reduce smoking prevalence by increasing the uptake of smoking cessation programmes
- Support Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Public Health Wales to implement the Living Well Living Longer programme (LWLL) in the Upper Rhymney Valley (URV) area. The aim of the project is to reduce the inequalities in premature mortality and emergency hospital admissions from cardio vascular disease. This is a pilot led by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and will entail asking 40-74 year olds to attend a Health MOT to prevent future health deterioration. By being proactive and advising or sign posting support for stopping smoking, reducing obesity and improving mental health or referring the citizen back to the GP we hope to enable people to improve their quality of life.
- Promoting broader participation in physical activity including walking, gardening, street games and play, as well as increasing community based opportunities.
- Increase residents knowledge by developing the Community Health Champions initiative. This is a community based initiative that up skills members of the community to choose healthier lifestyle behaviours.

How will we know if we have improved?

- Reduction in the difference in life expectancy between those people living in the most and least deprived communities
- Reduction in smoking rates
- Reduction in obesity rates
- Reduction in premature death rates
- Outcomes of LWLL programme (URV)

Data that shows what outcomes we are achieving (or what difference is being made) in the health fields cannot be provided frequently and the nature of the change is often provided by longer-term data. Recording the numbers of people attending different initiatives can be straightforward but health data that shows if differences are being made can be complex and trends can take 2-5 years to show a reversal in the areas as noted above.

New data sets will be developed by Public Health Wales to evidence the health needs of residents in the County's most deprived areas and how this compares to residents residing in our more affluent areas.

Who are we going to work with to deliver this objective?

The Caerphilly Well Being Improvement Network has agreed to prioritise workloads for 2015-16 and onwards to tackle the rates of Smoking and Obesity across the County Borough. This is a multi agency partnership and all partners will work towards the same two key priorities. These will also be the updated health improvement priorities for the Healthier Theme of our single integrated plan, Caerphilly Delivers.

Partners include Caerphilly County Borough Council, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Public Health Wales and Gwent Action Voluntary Organisation (GAVO).

What resources do we have to deliver this objective?

Communities First will use existing resources from Welsh Government to deliver this objective under the Healthier Communities Outcomes.

StreetGames fund a StreetGames worker for Caerphilly to lead on developing the initiative locally.

Communities First have successfully gained funding from StreetGames to deliver the US Girls programme in Caerphilly, focusing on inactive and semi-inactive girls aged between 13 to 19 to get more physically active. This programme will be delivered over a 2 year period and, across Wales, and aims to get 5,000 girls physically active.

The Living Well Living Longer Programme is funded by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

Healthy Schools is a Welsh Government funded programme delivered by Caerphilly Council.

Draft

Measures	2014/15 Baseline	2015/16 Target
We will measure how much we are doing using the evidence below		
Obesity:		
Number of 'Food Wise' courses (12 sessions including cooking)	21	*16
Number of community cooking sessions	150+	*100+
Delivery of Xpod courses (pre Diabetes, 6 weeks)	3	*10
Delivery of Healthy Hearts courses	0	*4
* Due to the increase in related illnesses of Heart disease and Diabetes we have prioritised the delivery of these courses, by increasing their targets. However as we have no additional resource we have had to reduce the targets for delivering the food wise and community cooking sessions.		
Number of Agored Level 1 Nutrition initiative	5	8
Delivery of Community Health Champions initiative	140	155
Promotion of Change4Life Number signed up to initiative	Families: 13,671 Local supporters: 172 (2013)	Not Applicable
Number of participants in delivery of community based self help support for people living with a mild to moderate mental health condition.	264	Under Development
Number of individuals taking part in led walks	2,846	2,900
Number of participants taking part in Street Games	799	1,200
Number of people participating in community based exercise referral scheme (Communities First)	New Measure	Under Development

Measures	2014/15 Baseline	2015/16 Target
Number of people taking part in community based physical activity opportunities	1,286	1,350
Number of National Standards courses delivered within schools Cycling programme.	20	20
We will measure how well we are doing using the evidence below		
Smoking:		
Number of staff trained in Brief Interventions Training	2	Under Development
Illegal tobacco campaign-number of intelligence reports received and resulting enforcements	New Measure	Under Development
Number of test sales of tobacco to young people carried out	21 Test purchase attempts 2 sales	20 Test purchases (all products)
Number of smokers treated by smoking cessation service	342 (up to February 2015)	5% of all smokers (NICE target)
Healthy Schools:		
% of schools that have achieved Phase 3	95%	96%
% of schools that have achieved Healthy Schools Phase 5	62%	65%
Number of settings in Healthy Early Years Scheme	41	45
LWLL programme for URV:		
Number of residents signposted from screening MOTs to additional services	New Measure	Under Development
We will measure how well we are doing using the evidence below		
Obesity:		
% Residents taking part in physical activity a recommended number of times per week	29% 2012/13	Not Appropriate*
% Residents eating the recommended 5 or more portions of fruit and veg per day	28% 2012/13	Not Appropriate*

Measures	2014/15 Baseline	2015/16 Target
% Adults categorised as overweight or obese in Caerphilly	63% 2012/13	Not Appropriate*
% Children aged 4/5 years categorised as overweight or obese in Caerphilly	28.5% 2012/13	Not Appropriate*
Smoking:		
% Adult Smokers in Caerphilly	22% 2012/13	16% by 2020 (Welsh Government target)
Healthy Schools:		
Number of schools that have achieved National Quality Award	5	8
We will measure whether anyone is better off using the evidence below		
Gap in healthy life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas across Caerphilly for Males	19.2 years	Not Appropriate*
Gap in healthy life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas across Caerphilly for Females	17.4 years	Not Appropriate*
Premature death rates for Adults	374.8 persons per 100,000 population 2007	Not Appropriate*

*Trends in health outcomes can only be seen over extended periods of time (years). Where data is obtained from the Welsh Health Survey this is conducted every two years and we will next be in a position to report on this in 2017. Additionally the behaviours that we are trying to influence are subject to complex, population based factors. In some cases maintaining the status quo may be seen as a success and in these circumstances setting a target can be arbitrary and therefore not appropriate. The key point is that unless we implement the interventions described we will not influence outcomes for the population.

Improvement Objective 4.

Carbon Management: Reduce our carbon footprint

What difference do we plan to make?

Our objective is to take steps to reduce the Council's carbon footprint and inform and assist others within the Borough to do the same.

The overall objective is to reduce the Council's carbon footprint of 26,035 tonnes by 45%, by 2019.

Why we have chosen this?

Our climate is undergoing dramatic changes as the direct result of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human activity. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the most significant and prevalent GHG emitted mostly from the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas.

The UK Government has committed to take action and has introduced the Climate Change Act with a target to cut carbon emissions by at least 80% by 2050, with a minimum reduction of 26% by 2020 across the UK.

CCBC is a large organisation and as such has a large carbon footprint. We have an obligation to take steps to minimise our carbon footprint and the associated negative impact on the Environment.

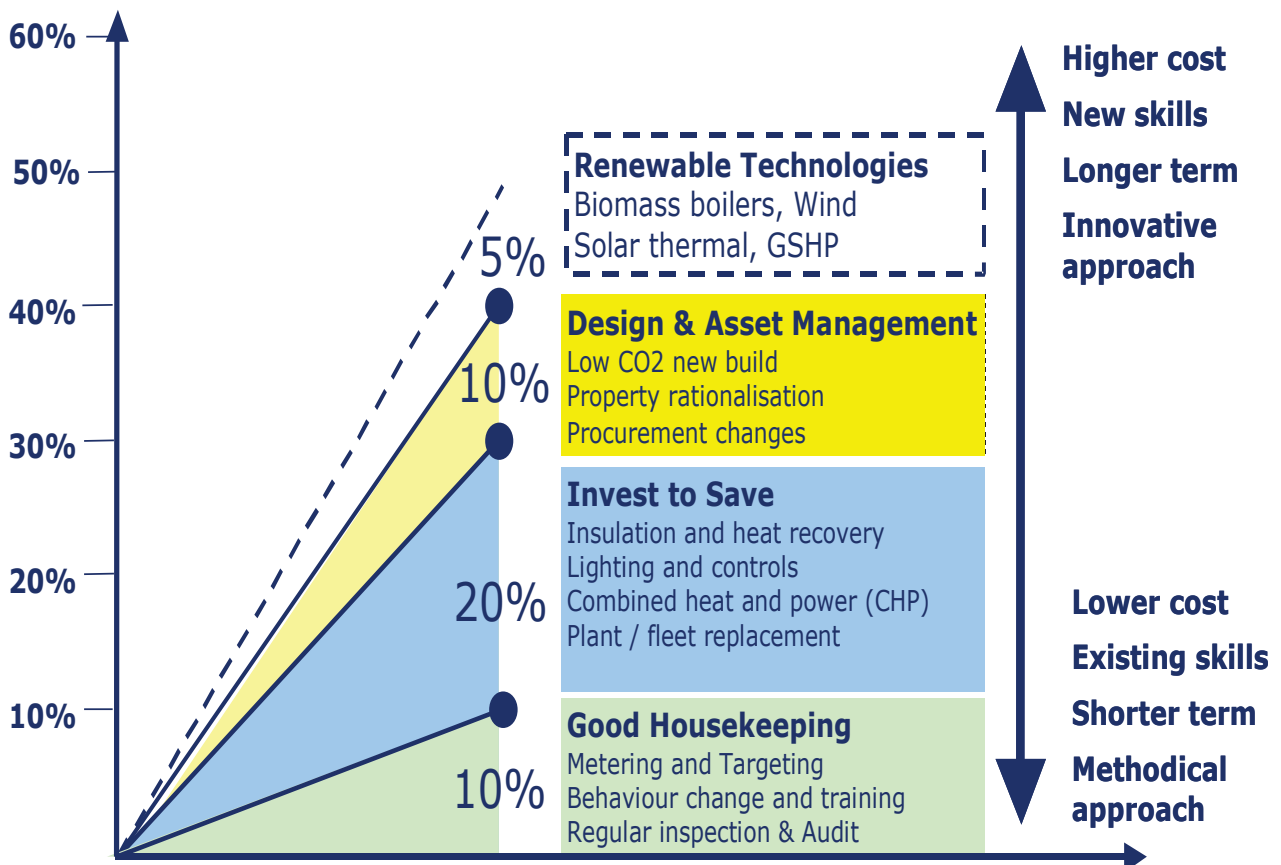
Where are we now?

The Council's energy management team, over the last decade, has instigated and registered impressive carbon and energy savings. This has resulted in annual carbon emissions being, 2,621 tonnes lower than where they would otherwise have been. These savings are registered through 220+ invest to save projects. Additional savings have been registered outside of this scheme, all of which result in a much more carbon efficient authority.

Legislative requirements are contributing to effect change, and incur fine/prosecution for non-compliance. Legislative demands assist in raising the profile for carbon improvements.

Our 10-year Carbon Reduction Strategy is due to end in 2019. Where other authorities have outsourced services such as leisure and housing, ours remain in house. This is an important consideration given that the age of buildings stock (fabric and building services) has a direct relationship with energy consumption.

The carbon reduction strategy has four key themes for achieving carbon improvement: Good Housekeeping; Invest to Save; Asset Management and Renewable Technology.



Good Housekeeping

Involves behaviour change, ensuring staff are aware that their actions contribute to carbon emissions and encouraging them to turn off lights, computers, or other equipment. These are simple changes that can be made immediately. This relies on raising awareness of issues through; education, training, energy audits or display energy certificates. It is supported by having good benchmarks and data for all buildings.

In our schools we will use the Eco Schools programme to continue to raise awareness of the importance of reducing energy use with pupils and staff.

Invest To Save

The application of new technology can reduce carbon emissions. More often than not there is a strong business case for the investment. Caerphilly aims to change street light lamps from 90 watt to a more energy efficient format called Light Emitting Diodes (LED's), which run at 19 watts, this will result in significant carbon reductions. Other standard technologies installed include building energy management systems, insulation, lighting upgrades and controls on equipment. Caerphilly CBC has a proven track record with this approach and compare favourably against other public sector organisations across the UK .

Design and Asset management

Choosing the correct buildings to retain or dispose of can have a significant bearing on carbon emissions and constructing energy efficient buildings, which generate less carbon than the buildings being replaced, also makes a significant contribution. For example, if Pontllanfraith House was to be disposed of, the annual carbon savings would be in the region of 409 tonnes. This would only be a carbon saving if the new or replacement building that housed the displaced staff, were to be more energy efficient than the former.

Under occupation of buildings results in increased carbon, for example when a school heats the whole school, for when only one room is needed for a community evening class.

Renewable technology

There is no Council budget for renewable technology. The correct approach is to implement good housekeeping, invest to save and asset management before looking to incorporate renewable technology. The Council has however, installed some renewables already, are installing photovoltaics (PV) on Islwyn Indoor Bowls (early 2015) and will have to install some renewable technology for new build projects as part of the BREEAM standards on Islwyn West Comprehensive.

What actions are we going to take to improve?

Good Housekeeping

- Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Training.
- General awareness raising through various media formats.
- Training key staff e.g. caretakers on building energy management systems.
- Re issue benchmark information to building managers.
- Re-issue energy audits.
- Workshops, events and training with staff and pupils in schools.

Note: – Several actions are unquantifiable in that we cannot always record the carbon emissions that result from taking the actions.

Invest-To-Save on Salix* funded projects e.g: **Salix Finance is an external organisation, which administers the finance on behalf of central government.*

- Various lighting upgrades for primary schools.
- Various building energy management systems.
- There is opportunity to replace existing street lighting lamps (90 watts) with high efficiency LED's (19 watts) units.
- Other technologies being considered include, insulation, voltage correction and controls.
- To promote understanding and benefits of water conservation through consumption management and control across schools, leisure, and other non-domestic buildings.

Asset Management

- Pontllanfraith offices are being considered for disposal, which has the potential for saving 409 tonnes of carbon per year.
- There are likely to be numerous properties considered for sale or disposal including the old cash office Risca and the old Caerphilly library which may bring some carbon savings.
- Training staff to make better use of our buildings e.g. advising schools to locate after school activities to smaller buildings rather than use the main teaching blocks which need more heating and lighting, however carbon savings would be unquantifiable.

Renewable Technology

- The forthcoming Islwyn West Comprehensive School in Oakdale is likely to require a PV system in the region of 72kwp, which would provide carbon savings in the region of 34 tonnes per year. This will require preparation consideration in 2015/16.
- Further promote internally the benefits and understanding of renewable technology at the Carbon Group and possibly other forums such as the School Budget forum.

How will we know if we have improved?

Good Housekeeping

- We will outline who has received carbon reduction commitment training and make the presentation material available
- We will log the number of activities that promote awareness
- We will log specific data distribution events such as issuing energy audits /display energy certificates or other benchmark information
- We will log the number of workshops, events and training with schools
- We will record the number of accreditations to Eco Schools Green Flag and Platinum Awards

Invest To Save.

- We will report all carbon (tonnes) and energy (kWh) savings which result from new technologies being installed through the Invest To Save scheme.

Asset Management

- We will log where we have provided guidance on the efficient use of buildings particularly those resulting in CO² savings

Renewable Technology

- We will identify and report on any renewable energy technologies that are installed such as Islwyn West Comprehensive photovoltaic scheme.
- Report annually the merits and benefits the Council has received from existing schemes and outline any potential new schemes or opportunities available to CCBC

Who are we going to work with to deliver this objective?

- We will liaise with members of staff across the Council such as head teachers, caretakers, facility staff and those who have a direct link to how energy is consumed within a building.
- We will use tried and trusted processes, suppliers and installers of energy improvement technologies and services to facilitate Invest To Save projects, such as:
 - ◊ Designated electrical installer(s)
 - ◊ Facilities team who deal with buildings
 - ◊ Building Energy Management system installers
 - ◊ Use existing framework arrangements to procure solar power systems
 - ◊ Resource Efficient Wales, who replaced the Carbon Trust in Wales.
- Street Lighting department will establish relevant procurement routes and identify appropriate installers to implement the street lighting improvements.
- We will work with pupils and staff in schools as part of the Eco Schools programme

What resources do we have to deliver this objective?

We have a well-established energy team who specialise in this subject, with many years experience dealing with procurement specialists, energy providers, technology providers, property designers, site managers, site caretakers, facilities managers and contractors.

The Council has been utilising the Salix Invest To Save scheme since Sept 2004. Salix provide £200k government funding and the Council has provided £500k. This funding mechanism is used as a loan system across all non-domestic properties to implement energy efficient technologies. This scheme has saved 2,621 annual tonnes of carbon off its current consumption levels. This has also provided lifetime savings of £4.5 million

Measures	2014/15 Baseline	2015/16 Target
We will measure how much we are doing using the evidence below		
The number of CRC training events delivered	2	4 groups depending on head teacher accessibility
The number of building energy audits completed and handed over to building managers	14	25
The number of Salix projects delivered within the year	12 (220 over the last 10 years)	No established target as identified projects must be tendered and evaluated for payback rates.
The number of renewable energy technologies (claiming Feed in Tariffs or Renewable Heat Incentive) that are installed, and the merits and benefits of existing renewable schemes reported to the Carbon Group.	7 current schemes	As a minimum we will report on the performance of these 7 schemes at the Carbon Group.
The number of Street Lights converted to Light Emitting Diode (LED) format.	New Measure	9,110
The number of workshops and events held with schools as part of the Eco Schools programme.	91	71
The number of energy awareness sessions delivered to schools	11	15
We will measure how well we are doing using the evidence below		
The number of Display Energy Certificates (DEC) and advisory reports generated and delivered to building managers.	90+	Aim for 100% compliance on DECs. Total number varies from year to year. Should be 90+ DECs.
Total lifetime energy savings (kWh) resulting from the street lighting conversions	New Measures	2,500,000 kWh annually (after all light conversions)

Measures	2014/15 Baseline	2015/16 Target
Percentage of our schools which achieve accreditation to Eco Schools Green Flag	71%	73%
The number of our schools which achieved a Platinum award under Eco Schools.	15	21
We will measure whether anyone is better off using the evidence below		
The annual carbon (tonnes) saved via the Salix investment projects	2,484 t	No established target as identified projects must be tendered and evaluated for
The lifetime carbon saved on converting to high efficiency street lighting (tonnes)	New Measure	1,235 annually (12,356 t over 10 years lifetime expectation)

Improvement Objective 5.

Investment in Council homes to transform lives and communities

What difference do we plan to make?

The Welsh Government and this Council believe that everyone in Wales should have the opportunity to live in a good quality home within a safe and secure community.

To help achieve this, the physical standard and condition of existing housing must be maintained and improved to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS).

The standard is seven main parts:

- In a good state of repair.
- Safe and secure.
- Adequately heated, fuel efficient and well insulated.
- Contain up-to-date kitchens and bathrooms.
- Well managed (for rented housing).
- Are located in attractive and safe environments.
- Meet and suit the specific requirements of the household (as far as reasonable and practicably possible). For example, catering for specific disabilities.

We will aim to ensure all Council homes meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS), helping to improve the quality of life for the people who live in those homes. The programme of work will create long-term arrangements, which will help sustain local jobs, offer skills development and training opportunities, and deliver wider community benefits.

By 2020 we want our communities to know:

- We delivered the best quality home improvements to our tenants.
- We did it with them and not to them.
- Their homes created real jobs in our communities.
- We delivered the whole project on time and in budget.

These ambitions can only be achieved with the entire Council and tenants and other key stakeholders working together and we are confident that with their support this Programme will transform Council homes, the lives of our citizens and our communities.

Why we have chosen this?

The long-term affordability of housing, effects of the current credit crunch, fuel poverty and improving the quality of housing in the social sectors, are some of the main challenges facing the Authority.

Council homes across our County Borough will require over £200 million investment over the next few years as part of a Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) programme.

In 2012 Council tenants took part in a ballot to have their say about the future management of their homes and they voted to remain with the Council as their landlord.

We have outlined major spending plans in the “Your Home Your Choice” document to give our housing stock a massive facelift to meet the requirements of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS). This is a major flagship programme that will be a boost to the local economy. In addition, the Council has set the ambition that money spent improving homes should be a catalyst to wider regeneration, improving lives and communities.

In 2008, we had an independent housing stock condition survey carried out by a company called Savills, to determine the scope of the works needed to bring our Council homes up to WHQS. We have also established a ‘Caerphilly Homes Task Group’ with 7 Councillors and 7 tenant representatives, who periodically meet and discuss progress within the WHQS programme and the improvements to the housing service. The Task Group is informed by a Tenant’s Repairs and Improvements Group.

Where are we now?

During 2014/15, we set ourselves very ambitious plans in order to progress the WHQS investment plan. However, delays and slippage in beginning the internal works contract, retendering for the external contracts and surveying issues has meant some major slippage in our work programme to date. Over 3,500 properties were scheduled for either, internal and/or external repairs and improvements during 2014/15, but we are only likely to complete around 1,000, which emphasises the importance of keeping this priority as a focus of importance.

What actions are we going to take to improve?

There needs to be a significant increase and emphasis in the work programmes during 2015/16 to address:

- Secure the appointment of critical front line staff (e.g. Surveyors, Clerk of Works, Tenant Liaison Officers).
- The continued delivery of the capital investment programme in respect of internal and external repairs and improvements.
- The continued pursuit of external funding opportunities to support energy improvement measures.
- The understanding and importance of carrying out timely and sensitive adaptations that meet specific needs of certain individual households.
- Adhere to the standards set out in the Charter for Trust. This applies to both the in house workforce and contractors.
- Achieve and maintain the high levels of tenant satisfaction with the work undertaken to their homes.
- The promotion, uptake and success of bids submitted to the Community Improvement Fund, enabling community projects to add further benefits to communities across the County Borough.

How will we know if we have improved?

We will be able to demonstrate that we have made improved changes to the quality of our social housing stock, their surrounding environments and tenants lives, through:

- The number of internal home improvements in accordance to the WHQS guidelines.
- The number of external home improvements in accordance to the WHQS guidelines.
- Tenant satisfaction levels with any works undertaken to their homes

Who are we going to work with to deliver this objective?

The Council will work with tenants, community groups, other public/private and third sector organisations, in-house work groups and contractors, to deliver the WHQS programme within Welsh Government guidelines and targets.

What resources do we have to deliver this objective?

The Welsh Government and the Council has committed to an investment programme of £200 million to meet the WHQS standards by 2020. We now have a well-established management structure in place and a recently reviewed investment strategy. Delivery of the necessary changes and improvements are, and will be, subject to certain physical resource constraints and at the mercy of wider market influences (such as the availability of quality and efficient tradesmen, contractors, access to homes and delivery of quality installation and repair products and technologies).

Further information regarding “The Welsh Housing Quality Standard” can be found in the revised guidance for the social landlords on interpretation and achievement of WHQS July 2008, or by access to the Welsh Government website as follows:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housing-and-regeneration/housing-quality/welsh-standard/?lang=en>

Measures	2014-15 Baseline	2015-16 Target
We will measure how much we are doing using the evidence below		
Number of homes compliant with WHQS in respect of their external elements		2,275
Number of homes compliant with WHQS in respect of their internal elements	*Data will be available in July 2015	2,242
Number of homes in local authority ownership brought up to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (the number of houses that achieved the standard in the year).		909
We will measure how well we are doing using the evidence below		
Internal work (all 4 internal components – Heating, Electrics, Kitchens and Bathrooms) completed within 20 days of start of works.	*Data will be available in July 2015	90%
Charter Trust Standards: The Charter for Trust developed in consultation with tenants and staff, which will be assessed by specific questions on the customer satisfaction survey. This sets out the standards that tenants can expect when work is being undertaken in their homes, which will be assessed by specific questions on the customer satisfaction survey (before, during and after works).	93%	90%
We will measure whether anyone is better off using the evidence below		
% of tenants whose homes have been improved internally through the WHQS programme who are satisfied with the complete works		80%
Number of tenants whose homes have been adapted as part of the WHQS works to meet their specific needs	*Data will be available in July 2015	Dependant on the needs Identified when delivering the WHQS programme, therefore we are unable to set targets for this

*The full results for 2014/15 will be published in the Councils Annual Performance Report in October 2015

How to contact us

Your views and opinions on the content of our performance reports and the priorities that we set each year are important to us. We welcome your input so that we can continue to provide meaningful information that helps inform you of the service focus, ensuring that we are working on the things that are important to making a difference to you, our citizens and our communities.

Please contact us by: Email: PMU@caerphilly.gov.uk OR by Web link:

[Caerphilly web link](#) and follow the instructions on screen:



Alternatively, please contact:

Ros Roberts

Performance Manager

Corporate Performance Management Unit

Caerphilly County Borough Council

Penallta House

Ystrad Mynach

Hengoed CF82 7PG

Tel: 01443 864238

E-mail: roberr@caerphilly.gov.uk

This document is also available in different languages and formats upon request.

Further information can also be found on our website: www.caerphilly.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank