



During this first 2 quarters of 2020/21:

- Delivered business support (grants/relief) at pace in partnership with Welsh Government (WG) in response to the pandemic.
- Refocused services to deliver services to vulnerable residents (buddy scheme, foodbank deliveries, track and trace).
- Reviewed service delivery and back office systems to maintain Planning and Regeneration services remotely.
- Concluded the public consultation on the Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Masterplan.
- Secured £1m investment from NRW to reopen the Cwncarn Forest Drive and worked in close partnership to progress.
- Despite the effects of the pandemic, front line services have generally been delivered seamlessly to our residents and businesses.
- Although there have been considerable challenges caused by the pandemic, generally service priorities have been progressed (as can be seen from this Directorate Performance Assessment - DPA).

Currently, there are some significant challenges that lie ahead for 2020/21.

In particular:

- The pandemic has adversely affected performance in some services and it will be challenging to reverse these effects (e.g. waste tonnages & recycling effect on performance) in 2020/21.
- A review of the structure and resources required to deliver a long term waste collection and cleansing service in line with scrutiny review recommendations.
- As a result of the review of the CPE after 6 months operation, a Scrutiny Task and Finish Group has re-convened to review Council Policy in relation to the provision and use of its network of car parks.
- Development of a plan to deal with ash die back across the Authority.
- The final Air Quality Action Plan for Hafodyrynys and its recommendations have been approved by WG and the acquisition of the 23 properties has progressed. In addition, the Minister has granted an extension to the Authority's air quality direction to enable a more thorough evidence base to be composed.
- Commencing the development of the Authority's new Local Development Plan (LDP) and its resultant evidence base.
- Completion of the Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Masterplan and resultant sign off by Council.
- Adoption of the Authority's new Decarbonisation Plan and implementation of its resultant Action Plan.
- Reviewing and implementing a new funding model for Highways Infrastructure.
- Completion of the Tourism venues service review and implementation of recommendations.
- Continuation of the partnership work with Natural Resource Wales (NRW) to secure the re-opening of the Cwncarn Forest Drive and improve its financial position.
- Progressing key actions arising from the Caerphilly Transformation Agenda.
- The Metro/City Deal poses some challenges for 20/21 and beyond. The challenges are related to timely decision making and funding and resource availability to deliver the relevant aspects within the stipulated timeframes
- Completion of LED transfer and part night lighting (Medium Term Financial Plan - MTFP savings and carbon reductions).
- Fleet renewal (upgrading) - for key front line services combined with a phased move to electric vehicles where possible.
- After a successful programme of Directorate 'Summits' further sessions are planned in Quarter 4 to feedback on progress against actions agreed in sessions held in January 2020.
- Work commencing on Placemaking Strategy for the County Borough to help in form capital investment stragglers and resultant decisions in late 2020.
- A Green Infrastructure Strategy has been developed and is due for Cabinet sign off in November 2020.
- Work with WG has commenced on a Placemaking Plan for Caerphilly Town and Transport Interchange, but implementation will be both challenging and resource intensive. Cabinet sign off of the first stage of the plan (Ness Tar Site) is expected in October/November 2020.
- The continuation of the pandemic combined with the risk of severe winter weather presents a challenge which will need to be addressed in a "Winter Covid Resilience" plan.

Good News –

The organisational response to the Covid-19 pandemic in the first 6 months of the year has been very positive. This has included staff commitment and flexibility to re-purpose services combined with continued seamless frontline service delivery. The "Team Caerphilly" ethos has really been demonstrated in this period.

