

CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of the **CABINET** will be held at the Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX
Tuesday, 18th December, 2018 at 10.30 am

Contact: Emma Wilkins - Principal Executive & Regulatory Business Officer (Tel No. 01443 424110)

Councillors and members of the public wishing to request the facility to address the Cabinet on any of the business as listed below, must request to do so by 5pm on the Friday, 14 December 2018 Councillors and Members of the public should stipulate if this address will be in the medium of English or Welsh.

It must be noted that the facility to address the Cabinet is at the discretion of the Chair and each request will be considered based on the agenda items being considered, the public interest/interest of the member in each matter and the demands of the business on that day. To make such a request please email:- ExecutiveandRegulatoryBusinessUnit@rctcbc.gov.uk

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive disclosures of personal interest from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Note:

1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest; and
2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they **must** notify the Chairman when they leave.

2. MINUTES

To receive the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 21st November, 2018 as an accurate record.

3. CONSULTATION ON VOTES AT 16

To receive the report of the Group Director, Community & Children's Services informing Cabinet Members of the outcomes of the 'Votes at 16' Consultation, in response to the UK Youth Parliament National Make Your Mark Campaign.

(Pages 21 - 28)

4. HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2018-2022

To receive report of the Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services seeking approval for the Rhondda Cynon Taf Homelessness Strategy 2018-2022 prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

(Pages 29 - 86)

5. OUT & ABOUT TWO: THE RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF 2019-2029

To receive the report of the Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services seeking Members approval for the Out & About Two: The Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf.

(Pages 87 - 126)

6. A COUNCIL WIDE PLAN FOR THE DELIVERY OF ACCESSIBLE ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCHES (ATP) AND 3G PITCHES

To receive the report of the Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services proposing the development of a Council wide plan for full public access to artificial turf pitches (ATP) and 3G pitches with a common pricing policy.

(Pages 127 - 140)

7. CABINET WORK PROGRAMME: 2018- 19

To receive the report of the Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services providing Members with an update on the proposed list of matters requiring consideration by Cabinet over 2018-19 Municipal Year.

(Pages 141 - 178)

8. TO CONSIDER PASSING THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

"That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act (as amended) for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of the exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of the Schedule 12A of the Act".

9. MOUNTAIN ASH TOWN CENTRE: DRAFT REGENERATION FRAMEWORK

To receive the report of the Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing providing Members with the draft regeneration framework to coordinate the current investment package that delivers improvements for Mountain Ash Town Centre.

(Pages 179 - 198)

**10. FOSTERING SERVICES - REGIONAL COLLABORATION TO
CREATE A FRONT DOOR FOR FOSTER CARER RECRUITMENT**

To receive the report of the Group Director, Community & Children's Services containing exempt, information providing Cabinet with a proposal to create a Cwm Taf Regional front door for Fostering.

(Pages 199 - 212)

11. WRITE OFF OF IRRECOVERABLE DEBTS

To receive the report of the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services containing exempt information, providing Members with a position statement on irrecoverable debt.

(Pages 213 - 236)

**12. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S SENIOR AND ASSOCIATED
MANAGEMENT POST STRUCTURE**

To receive report of the Chief Executive containing exempt information, outlining proposed revisions to the Council's Senior and Associated Management post structure.

(Pages 237 - 272)

13. URGENT ITEMS

To consider any urgent business as the Chairman feels appropriate.



Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services

Circulation:-

Councillors: Councillor A Morgan (Chair)
Councillor M Webber (Vice-Chair)
Councillor R Bevan
Councillor A Crimmings
Councillor G Hopkins
Councillor M Norris
Councillor J Rosser
Councillor R Lewis
Councillor C Leyshon

Officers: Chris Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Chris Jones, Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Christian Hanagan, Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services
Chris Lee, Group Director Corporate & Frontline Services
Gio Isingrini, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Colin Atyeo, Director of Corporate Estates & Procurement
Jane Cook, Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing
Nigel Wheeler, Director of Highways & Streetcare Services
Paul Mee, Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services
Richard Evans, Director of Human Resources
Simon Gale, Service Director, Planning
Gaynor Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion Services
Derek James, Head of Regeneration and Prosperity



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday, 21 November 2018 at 2.30 pm at the Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.

County Borough Councillors - Cabinet Members in attendance:-

Councillor A Morgan (Chair)

Councillor M Webber Councillor R Bevan
Councillor A Crimmings Councillor G Hopkins
Councillor M Norris Councillor R Lewis
Councillor C Leyshon

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Mr C Jones, Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr C Hanagan, Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services
Mr C Lee, Group Director Corporate & Frontline Services
Mr G Isingrini, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Mr C Atyeo, Director of Corporate Estates & Procurement
Mr N Wheeler, Director of Highways & Streetcare Services
Mr P Mee, Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Ms G Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion Services
Ms L Davies, Head of Public Protection
Mr N Elliott, Service Director, Adult Services
Mr D James, Head of Regeneration and Prosperity

Others in attendance

Councillor P Jarman
Councillor S Powderhill
Councillor R Yeo
Councillor M Weaver

73 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations of interest were received:-

- County Borough Councillor R Bevan – Agenda Items 3 and 5: “As granted by the Standards Committee on the 8th December, 2017 I have a dispensation to speak and vote on all matters relating to the Community and Children's Services Group, save for any specific matters that directly affect my daughter, who is employed by the Council in the Community and Children's Services Group as the Service Manager for Access and Enablement.”
- County Borough Councillor R Bevan declared a personal and

prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 4 and left the meeting when the item was discussed and voted upon: " I have a family Member who is employed in this area"

- Mr N Wheeler, Director Highways & Streetcare Services declared an interest in respect of agenda item and left the meeting when the item discussed "I am on the Amgen Board"
- Mr B Davies, Director, Financial Services declared an interest in respect of agenda item and left the meeting when the item was discussed "I am on the Amgen Board"

74 APOLOGY

An apology for absence was received from County Borough councillor J Rosser for the meeting.

75 MINUTES

The Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 3rd October, 16th October and 18th October as accurate reflections of the meeting.

76 MODERNISATION OF RESIDENTIAL CARE AND DAY CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

The Group Director, Community & Children Services provided Members with a detailed overview of his report in respect of modernisation of residential care and day care for older people within Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Members were reminded that In September 2017 Cabinet requested that a comprehensive review of residential and day care services for older people be undertaken in order to determine future opportunities for service delivery in line with the Council's strategy for accommodation for older people and provision of extra care. Following Cabinet's request the Council commissioned Practice Solutions Ltd to undertake an independent review of residential and day care services for older people within Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The Group Director provided details in respect of the residential provision and day care provision within the County Borough before expanding on the options identified by the review undertaken. The Group Director sought Cabinet approval to consult with people in receipt of care and support, their families and carers, staff and other stakeholders on the options for residential care homes and day care provision to enable the Council to make an informed decision on the future of this provision in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services & Welsh Language spoke of the positive opportunities the review had brought forward, for Members to review the current provision and allow the Council to continue

with its duties that it owes to its residents for the here and now and also the duty it owes for the future generations. The Cabinet Member spoke of the Extra Care Strategy and the review options, commenting that it was important that the Council continues to retain a presence within the care market within RCT and the good geographical spread. The Cabinet Member welcomed the consultation proposal, and spoke of the importance of the voice of the public which would assist Cabinet in its deliberations when looking at the best way forward.

At this point in the meeting County Borough Councillor P Jarman and Mr P Crews (on behalf of the Joint Trade Union Group – Unison, GMB and Unite) spoke on the item.

The Leader responded to the comments speaking on the concerns raised in respect of staffing and the Leader assured Members that no compulsory redundancies would be made as part of the review. He also took the opportunity to speak of the high standards of work undertaken by the dedicated staff within the provision. He also acknowledged that independent advocacy would be provided within the consultation.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED:**

1. That following detailed consideration of the report and the results of the independent review undertaken by Practice Solutions Ltd in respect of the future service delivery model for the Council's Residential Care Homes and Day Care Services within Rhondda Cynon Taf:-
 - a) To initiate a 12 week public, resident and staff consultation on the future service delivery model for the Council's Residential Care Homes and specifically on the proposed preferred option, as set out in section 6 of the report, namely that the Council retains a level of provision of Residential Care Homes which are focussed on providing complex care and respite. The level of provision retained would be based on a determination of the market share and need required in each of the Rhondda, Cynon and Taf geographical areas.
 - b) To receive a further report summarising the results of the consultation exercise and feedback received prior to any decision being made in relation to the proposal.
 - c) That on commencement of the consultation process restricts admissions to the Council's internal Residential Care Homes, other than in exceptional circumstances where an appropriate alternative placement that can meet the assessed need is not available. This is in order to minimise any potential impact on service users until such time as Cabinet considers the results of that consultation exercise and any decision it may take in relation to the proposal.

- d) To Initiate a 12 week public and staff consultation on the options regarding the future of the Council's day service provisions for older people and specifically on the proposed preferred option, as set out in section 7 of the report, namely a phased decommissioning of the Council's day services as part of a planned programme of transformation in line with a proposed new service model; and
- e) To receive a further report summarising the results of that consultation exercise and feedback received prior to any decision being made in relation to the proposals.

77 SUPPORT @HOME MAESTRISANT SERVICE

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services updated Cabinet on the outcome of the consultation to change the dedicated internal Support @Home Service at Maestrisant in Talbot Green to another domiciliary care provider. He advised Members that while it was initially identified that costs could be reduced by a change of domiciliary care provider, the engagement with the people receiving care and support had identified the significant benefit they receive both physically and mentally from the knowledge, experience and continuation of care provided by the Support @Home Maestrisant Service. He continued by adding that on review, it was also identified that other residents at Maestrisant could be included, where appropriate and following assessment of need, in the dedicated Support @Home Service, and thereby allowing the current Service to maximise the value for money and potentially better quality services to the residents of Maestrisant by being on site.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED:**

1. That following detailed consideration to the responses to the consultation undertaken in respect of the potential change to the dedicated internal Support @Home Service at Maestrisant in Talbot Green to another domiciliary care provider, agreed:
 - I. To maintain the dedicated internal Support @Home Service at the Maestrisant Housing Scheme in Talbot Green and not change to another domiciliary care provider.
 - II. To provide, where appropriate and following assessment of need, other residents living at Maestrisant with care and support from the dedicated internal Support @Home Service rather than use other domiciliary care providers.

(N.B as referred in Minute 73 County Borough Councillor R Bevan left the meeting when the item was discussed and voted upon)

78 EXTRA CARE HOUSING - PROVISION OF CARE AND SUPPORT

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services referred Members to his report which sought Cabinet approval for the commissioning model for the provision of care and support services in existing and future extra care housing. Members were advised that the proposed commissioning model and subsequent procurement methodology outlined within the report would support the Council's strategy to modernise accommodation options for older people and deliver extra care housing in Rhondda Cynon Taf. He continued by adding that the model would deliver services to people who are eligible for accommodation in extra care housing schemes, thereby retaining their independence in the community while offering flexible and responsive care and support arrangements to meet their needs, enhance quality of life and improve outcomes.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services & Welsh Language referenced the previous discussions Members took forward in respect of the modernisation of residential care report, commenting that the report before Members provided the assurances that the Council should retain a presence within the care market, providing a good quality of service to the population of RCT.

The Leader commented on the report and again reiterated the need to maximise on the good staffing that the Council already have in place.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To approve the proposed preferred commissioning model for the provision of care and support services in existing and future extra care housing as set out in Section 5 of the report; namely that the Council develops an internal extra care support service to provide a strategic market share in each of the Rhondda, Cynon and Taf geographical areas that supports the highest possible quality of life for people needing extra care housing.
2. To delegate authority to agree, where applicable, the procurement processes and award of contracts for care and support to external providers for existing and future extra care housing to the Group Director, Community and Children's Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, as set out in paragraphs 6.8 to 6.13 of the report, namely:
 - The current contract for the provision for care and support at Ty Heulog, due to end 31st August 2019, be renewed through an agreed procurement process.
 - The contract for provision of care and support services at Aberaman extra care housing scheme be externally commissioned.

- The care and support services be provided at the future Pontypridd and Mountain Ash extra care housing schemes, by an internal extra care domiciliary care team with a service level agreement.
3. That the provision of care and support services at the Treorchy and Porth extra care housing schemes will be appraised at a later date in line with the proposed delegated authority approval to the Group Director, Community and Children's Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and in accordance with the principles set out in 2 above.

79 CWM TAF REGIONAL STATEMENT OF INTENT FOR SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services presented his report to Members for consideration and endorsement of the final draft of the Cwm Taf Regional Statement of Intent for Supporting Children and Young People.

The Group Director provided Members with detail of the statement which sets out the shared vision, principles and objectives which will direct the work of all partners when addressing Welsh Government legislation. He added that It would also, where necessary, ensure high quality accessible and integrated services to help children, young people, families and communities effectively.

The Cabinet Member for Children & Young People welcomed the statement of intent and the provision made available for children within the statement. The Cabinet Member commented on the poor response to the engagement strategy that was undertaken, which would have provided assurance that the statement matched the shared needs and expectations of colleagues, partners, organisations and local citizens.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To endorse the Cwm Taf Regional Statement of Intent for Supporting Children and Young People.
2. The outlined next steps, as detailed within the report.

80 PROPOSAL TO DECLARE A NEW ADDITIONAL LICENSING SCHEME FOR HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION IN 2019

The Head of Public Protection provided Members with a detail account of the effectiveness of the 2014 Additional Licensing Scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and continued by proposing that the Council declare a New Additional Licensing Scheme for HMOs from April 2019, in

accordance with the provisions of the Housing Act 2004.

Members were advised of the consultation undertaken and a summary of the responses received was provided which demonstrated there was significant support for the declaration of a new Scheme. Members were also advised of the scrutiny undertaken of the additional licensing scheme by the Health & WellBeing Scrutiny Committee.

The officer advised that the evaluation of the 2014 Additional Licensing Scheme shows the positive impact that the licensing regime has had on HMO standards, however she acknowledged that there was clear evidence of the need for ongoing regulation of the sector to protect tenants from poor housing standards and to protect communities from the adverse impact of poorly managed HMOs.

The Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Well-being & Cultural Services commented on the need for HMOs within the County Borough and the changing needs for residents and added that in light of this it was important that as a Council the Cabinet ensures that the highest quality of housing is available across all sector providers. He thanked those who participated within the consultation and the local Member for Treforest for his representation and commented that the feedback was positive for an additional licensing scheme to be introduced. He spoke of the findings witnessed with 97% of properties subject to an application for a HMO licence found to be non-compliant with the legal requirements, adding that such statistics demonstrated why the additional scheme was needed.

Both the Leader and Deputy Leader spoke in support of the proposed additional licensing scheme adding on the need to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents and commented on the need to review the fee arrangements currently in place.

At this point in the meeting County Borough Councillor S Powderhill spoke on the item.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the findings of the Evaluation of the 2014 Additional HMO Licensing Scheme in Rhondda Cynon Taf.
2. To note the feedback from the Health and Well-being Scrutiny Committee held on 9th October 2018 and the actions taken in response, as detailed in paragraph 5.2 and 5.5 of the report.
3. To approve the declaration of a New Additional Licensing Scheme for HMOs in Rhondda Cynon Taf, to come into force when the current scheme ends on the 31st March 2019 and instruct officers to make the necessary arrangements in accordance with the provisions of the Housing Act 2004.

4. To approve the continued inclusion of all types of HMO within the scope of the new Scheme.
5. To approve the standard licensing conditions to be placed on all HMO licences granted by the Council under both the Mandatory Licensing Scheme, and the new Additional Licensing Scheme from April 2019 (in addition to any bespoke conditions relevant to individual licences).
6. To Instruct the Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services to develop a specific Strategy to promote and improve the Private Rented Housing Sector in RCT, for future consideration by Cabinet.

81 RCT TOGETHER - REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER PROCESS.

The Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services provided Members with an overview of his report which looked to revise the Councils approach to the RCT Together approach to better align the process and supporting arrangements with its current strategic priorities for community based services and assets.

The Director commented that RCT Together had played an important and successful role since 2015 supporting a number of community groups and third sector organisations in the County Borough to secure accommodation and thereby enabling the development of their activities and services that benefit our residents. He added that following a realignment of services the process had been reviewed and it is proposed to align the approach with the development of Community Hubs and their associated Neighbourhood Networks to ensure the process of community asset transfers delivers the Council's strategic and service requirements.

Members were advised of the proposed way forward to establish the new approach advising that following a gap analysis in provision a report would be compiled with strategic recommendations on what buildings and organisations are needed as a Community Hub; as part of the neighbourhood network and those that are surplus to requirements and can be disposed of.

The Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Well-being & Cultural Services spoke positively of the RCT approach and the support that has been made available to the voluntary sector to take forward new projects through asset transfer. He continued by commenting on the positive approach proposed to be taken forward, with shaping communities through Community Hubs.

County Borough Councillor P Jarman also spoke on the item.

The Leader also commented on the proposal and spoke of the RCT Together process and the Community Enabling Fund which assisted groups to take forward and successfully run previous Council assets.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To approve the proposed changes to the RCT Together process, establishing a more strategic approach aligned with the Council's Community Hub development programme.
2. To approve the proposed changes to the Community Enabling Fund, broadening eligibility criteria, allowing multiple applications and consolidating the Community Action Fund within the Community Enabling Fund.

(N.B at this juncture in the meeting, County Borough Councillor S Powderhill left the meeting).

82 PROPOSALS TO REVIEW THE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY DAY CENTRES IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

The Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services provided Members with his report which proposed a focussed consultation be undertaken with service users and the local communities of the remaining Community Day Centres to inform a subsequent decision on their future.

The Director advised that the Council's Community Day Centres have provided an important opportunity for older people within the communities of RCT to access a hot meal each week day and participate in a range of activities that help tackle social isolation and loneliness. However, numbers of meals provided are declining slowly each year and on the evidence of the small number of service users it could reasonably be argued that the existing model no longer caters for the needs of the majority of older people. The Director continued by advising of the proposal to undertake a six week focussed consultation with service users and the local communities on the future of the remaining four Community Day Centres (excluding Alec Jones Day Centre which is subject to a separate consultation), exploring opportunities for alternative service delivery models either through the developing Community Hub model where appropriate or through existing third sector organisations located in the communities concerned.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services & Welsh Language welcomed the consultation opportunity commenting that it was important for the Council to deliver services that were appropriate for the community and for the future generations to come, allowing provision to move and reflect the times that we live in.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. To approve a six week focussed consultation with service users and the local communities on the future of the remaining four Community Day Centres.
2. That a further report on the outcome of the consultation exercise with recommendations concerning the Community Day Centres is presented to Cabinet for consideration.

(**N.B.** At this juncture in the meeting County Borough Councillor M Weaver left the meeting.)

83 PRESCRUTINY- DRAFT EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY

The Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services provided Members with details of the pre-scrutiny undertaken by the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 9th October in relation to the Empty Homes Strategy.

Members were advised of the constructive comments put forward by the Committee in respect of Awareness raising – raising awareness in respect of the work of the Council and the provisions available for residents to take forward ; The introduction of a grant for landlords in order for them to buy empty properties to help with the supply of affordable housing in high demand areas and finally the affect empty houses have on the amenities of the neighbourhood – Potential of demolition of buildings.

The Cabinet then received the Head of Regeneration and Prosperity who provided Members with details of the draft strategy for approval, following pre-scrutiny. He advised Members of the rationale for the strategy and the targets set by Welsh Government in relation to empty properties adding that the Strategy would provide a framework for assisting the Council to achieve this target.

The Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Housing welcomed the strategy commenting on the affects empty properties have on local communities and commented on the successful grants schemes available to support the restoration of empty properties. The Cabinet Member also thanked Scrutiny for the work undertaken in this area.

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the comments and observations of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee as attached at Appendix A of the report.
2. To endorse the recommendations outlined within the Empty Homes Strategy as listed below:
 - I. To approve implementation of the draft Empty Homes Strategy.

84 UNDERSTANDING THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF BREXIT AND IN PARTICULAR A "NO DEAL" BREXIT ON THE COUNCIL

Members were provided with the report of the Chief Executive which looked to provide details of 'Brexit', ensuring Members were aware of the potential impact of Brexit, in its various forms; to help inform future Council decision making; and supporting local residents and businesses that could be affected by the significant economic change in the relationship between the UK and EU.

The Chief Executive noted that many changes had taken place in respect of the Brexit Deal taken forward by the Prime Minister since publication of the paper. Members were referred to section 6 of the report which looked at how Brexit could impact local Government.

The Leader thanked the Chief Executive for the update and spoke of the concerns that he had raised with the WLGA in respect of Brexit and the impact this may have on the Council going forward. He referred to the potential convergence funding replacement which may see substantial funds coming directly through to the regions within Wales, bypassing the devolution process. The Leader also spoke of the uncertainty going forward and the potential impact Brexit may have with food supplies and the potential of a period of civil unrest. He added that procurement were looking into the current food provision to try to establish any impact.

Members of the Cabinet commented on the report and the uncertainty going forward with Members agreeing that a further briefing report should be provided at Council, to ensure all Members were aware of the current position.

County Borough Councillor P Jarman also spoke on this item.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the information contained within the report.
2. To request further briefings in the period to 29th March 2019.
3. That a report on Brexit be presented to the Council meeting on the 28th November, 2018.

(**N.B.** County Borough Councillors M. Adams joined the meeting during this item.)

85 CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The Parking Services & Streetcare Manager referred Members to his report which sought approval from Cabinet for the Council to provide civil

parking enforcement (CPE) back-office Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) processing functions on behalf of additional Local Authorities across South Wales. Members were reminded that RCT had significant experience of operating a CPE service and since April 2018, had been providing back-office PCN processing services for Merthyr Tydfil CBC. He added that in addition to the stated desire of the former Gwent Councils to externalise their back-office processing, there may also be scope for RCT to offer such services for other Local Councils as well.

The Officer also continued to provide Members with a brief update with regards to the Council's mobile camera parking enforcement service, which had recently been introduced to help tackle problem parking outside schools, adjacent to pedestrian crossing points and in bus stop clearways. Members were advised that preliminary data indicated that almost 822 motorists had already been caught parking unlawfully by the Council's Parking Enforcement Vehicle up to the end of October. The Officer further continued by advising that the Motorists observed parking unlawfully were issued with formal warning Notices for the first 2 weeks, with PCNs only being issued from the third week of operation. Over this period, 172 warning Notices were initially issued.

The Leader supported the collaboration working proposed within the report commenting on the previous positive collaborative working undertaken within this area.

County Borough Councillor P Jarman also spoke on this item.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. That a regional hub for the processing of Penalty Charge Notices issued by Local Authorities across South Wales, be established, with RCT as the lead Authority.
2. To support implementation requirements for the new regional service, including the appointment of appropriate additional staff resources in Highways and Streetcare Services.
3. To duly note the update provided regarding the mobile camera parking enforcement service.

(N.B at this juncture in the meeting County Borough Councillor M Adams, P Jarman and R Yeo left the meeting).

86 COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT - 30TH SEPTEMBER 2018 (QUARTER 2)

The Director, Financial Services provided Members with an overview of the Council's performance, both from a financial and operational perspective, based on the first six months of the financial year (to the 30th September 2018).

The Director discussed in detail the Executive Summary of the report which included financial data and progress against the Council's Corporate Plan priorities. The officer also drew out exceptions highlighted within each of the detailed sections for Members benefit.

The Cabinet Member, Corporate Services commented on the positive position of the Council noting the pressures placed within both the Adult Social Services and Children Services. He also commented on the external factors attributing to some of the PI targets.

The Leader also commented on the report and the pressures within Social Care and referenced the Barnet consequential and the potential funding that may be made available in respect of these pressures.

It was **RESOLVED**:

Revenue

1. To note and agree the General Fund revenue position of the Council as at the 30th September 2018 (Section 2 of the Executive Summary) and to note that the allocation of additional one-off Welsh Government funding to support sustainable social services will be incorporated into Performance Reports later in the year.
2. To approve the virements listed in Sections 2a - d of the Executive Summary that exceed the £0.100M threshold as per the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

Capital

3. To note the capital outturn position of the Council as at 30th September 2018 (Sections 3a – f of the Executive Summary).
4. To note the details of the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators as at the 30th September 2018 (Section 3g of the Executive Summary).

Corporate Plan Priorities

5. To note the quarter 2 position regarding progress made against the agreed Corporate Plan priorities (Sections 5 a – d of the Executive Summary), Other National Measures (Section 5e of the Executive Summary) and comparison of 2018/19 targets set against prior year and 'All Wales Average' performance information (Section 5f of the Executive Summary).

87 COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2019/20

The Director, Finance presented Members with his report which looked to

set the Council Tax base for the financial year 2019/20. Members were reminded of the statutory requirement to agree and set the Council Tax Base for the forthcoming financial year prior to 31st December each year.

The Director provided details to Members in respect of the calculations advising

the gross Council Tax Base calculated for 2019/20 is £78,844.31. It is proposed that the collection rate continues to be estimated at 97.5%. This produces a net Council Tax Base of £76,873.20. This means that for every £1 levied in Council Tax next year, a sum of £76,873 will be generated to meet the budget requirement of the Council.

The Cabinet Member, Corporate Services spoke of the importance of setting the Council Tax base to assist with the budget setting and following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED:**

1. That in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995 as amended, the amount calculated by the Council as its net tax base for the financial year 2019/20, shall be £76,873.20.
2. That for each area of the County Borough, the 2019/20 tax base for Council Tax setting purposes, shall be as set out at Appendix 1 of the report.

88 exclusion of the press and public:

RESOLVED – that the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended) for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in: Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to the financial affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). Transparency in the conduct of local authority business is desirable; however, personal financial information will be discussed and considered. Consequently it is considered; the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing information by virtue of which the meeting is likely not to be open to the public during its consideration.

89 CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018-2023

The Director of Corporate Estates and Procurement, provided Members with his report which contained exempt information, detailing the draft Corporate Asset Management Plan for Property Assets 2018-2023, which included the strategic direction and policy framework for the plan period.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED:**

1. To accept and adopt the Corporate Asset Management Plan (CAMP) for 2018-2023, as attached to the report.
2. To receive periodic update reports on progress of the key themes within the strategic framework of the CAMP.
3. The amendments to the policy for considering requests to transfer assets from the Council set out at Appendix 3 of the CAMP be adopted.
4. That the Water Management Strategy set out at Appendix 6 of the CAMP be adopted as policy.

90 STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY AREAS: ACQUISITIONS

The Head of Regeneration provided a summary of the report which contained exempt information, which sought delegated approval (in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members) from Cabinet to acquire land and buildings within the agreed Strategic Opportunity Areas, subject to best value and a robust due diligence process, in order to facilitate the delivery of the Council's objectives for these areas.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED:**

1. To authorise the Director of Corporate Estates to acquire key buildings and land within the five agreed Strategic Opportunity Areas, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Enterprise Development and Housing and the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and subject to appropriate business case completion and funding approvals as necessary. The five Strategic Opportunity Areas are:
 - Cynon Gateway – *Energizing the Region*
 - The Wider Pontypridd, Treforest – *Edge of the City, Heart of the Region*
 - Pontypridd Town – *Pivotal in the Region*
 - A4119 Corridor: *Regional Rhondda Gateway*
 - Llanilid on the M4: *Driving the Regional Economy*

91 CYNON VALLEY WASTE DISPOSAL COMPANY LIMITED AND AMGEN RHONDDA LIMITED - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Director, Legal & Democratic Services provided Members with an overview of his report which contained exempt information. Members were referred to the appendices of the report which provided the financial statements of the Companies which are to be presented to the Annual General Meetings ('AGM's') of the Cynon Valley Waste Disposal

Company Limited and Amgen Rhondda Limited (the 'Companies'), to be held at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 6th December 2018 at the Amgen Education Centre, Bryn Pica, Llwydcoed, Aberdare.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED**:

1. That The current intention to continue the operation of Cynon Valley Waste Disposal Company Limited and Amgen Rhondda Limited (the 'Companies') as Local Authority controlled companies into the future is confirmed;
2. That subject to the Group Director, Corporate and Frontline Services (or his nominated representative) being satisfied that there are no irregularities in the accounts of the 'Companies' that the accounts be received on behalf of the Council;
3. That Baldwins Audit Services Limited be re-appointed as auditors to the Companies for the year ending 31st March 2019;
4. The Directorships of the Director of Highways and Streetcare Services and the Director of Financial Services for both Companies continue;
5. That a Non-Executive Director be appointed to the board of the Companies with responsibility for their appointment being delegated to the Companies' Directors, in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services;
6. That the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and/or his nominee be authorised to exercise the Council's vote at the Annual General Meetings of the Companies in accordance with recommendations 2 to 5 above.
7. That the Council be represented at the Companies' Annual General Meetings by a Cabinet Member.

(N.B As referenced in Minute 73, Mr N Wheeler and Mr B Davies left the meeting when the item was discussed and voted upon.)

This meeting closed at 4.45 pm

**Cllr A Morgan
Chairman.**

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

18th DECEMBER 2018

CONSULTATION ON VOTES AT 16

REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNCILLOR C LEYSHON

Author: Zoe Lancelott, Head of Community Wellbeing and Resilience

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Cabinet Members of the outcomes of the Votes at 16 Consultation as requested by Cabinet Member, Councillor Leyshon, in response to the UK Youth Parliament National Make Your Mark Campaign.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Support the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Youth Forum with its Votes at 16 campaign activities by promoting them via the Council's formal communication channels including the corporate website and social media platforms.
- 2.2 Support the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Youth Forum to conduct further research into the type of information members of the public would like to see available to improve their knowledge and understanding of voting in response to the consultation findings.
- 2.3 Make a commitment to improve the information and communication available to residents of all ages on politics, local government and voting within Rhondda Cynon Taf prior to the next election period.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Make Your Mark National Campaign, through the British Youth Council, has made Votes at 16 their Annual Campaign following 101,041 young people in the UK stating this as their top issue for change. Following this campaign in Wales, Merthyr Tydfil CBC, Cardiff City Council, and Carmarthenshire CBC have already passed a motion of support to Welsh Government on this issue.

- 3.2 Welsh Government has since made a commitment to ensuring votes at 16 are in place in time for the 2022 local elections. Rhondda Cynon Taf publically stating their support for the campaign will show its residents and voting population that the Council is behind this change in voting laws, which could have a positive impact upon voter engagement within Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 3.3 Votes at 16 has had a wide spread of support on a national level. Consultations carried out on a local level, with both young people and current voters, have identified strong support for Votes at 16 within Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 3.4 A large concern from residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf regarding the Votes at 16 campaign relates to their belief that there is a lack of education and information available to everyone, not just young people. A commitment to improve education and more readily available information could have a significant positive impact on voter engagement including the 5,253 potential additional voters within Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 3.5 Rhondda Cynon Taf has already, in a Cabinet paper relating to electoral reform (September 2017), shown their support for Votes at 16, subject to 16 year olds also being able to vote at all Welsh Local Government elections including the Welsh Assembly elections and Town/Community Councils.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The 2017 UK Youth Parliament, Make Your Mark Campaign, saw 954,766 young people across the UK vote on the issue most important to them. 9.4% of the votes equating to 101,041 young people voted that Votes at 16 was the most important issue to them. Votes at 16 subsequently became the National Campaign of the UK Youth Parliament. In Rhondda Cynon Taf 4,687 young people voted in the Make Your Mark Campaign with 469 (10%) of young people stating Votes at 16 being their most important issue.
- 4.2 Within the National Votes at 16 Campaign, Carmarthenshire County Borough Council, Merthyr County Borough Council and Cardiff City Council have passed a motion of support to the campaign.
- 4.3 In May 2018 Rhondda Cynon Taf's current Members of UK Youth Parliament met with Councillor Christina Leyshon, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, to discuss the Votes at 16 Campaign. Councillor Leyshon invited the young people to undertake a consultation in order to gain further information on views surrounding

Votes at 16 in Rhondda Cynon Taf and to present the findings to the Council's Cabinet.

- 4.4 In October 2018 the National Assembly for Wales gave its approval to the Assembly Commission's decision to introduce legislation to lower the voting age for Assembly elections to 16 by 2021.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child requires the Council to demonstrate that decision making has paid due regard to the rights of children and young people.

6. CONSULTATION/INVOLVEMENT

- 6.1 The aim of the 8 week consultation was to gain the views of RCTs residents; including young people under 16, young people 16-18 years old, and the adult residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf. The young person consultation was delivered for a 4 week period between 5th September and the 26th September. Similarly the adult consultation was delivered for a 4 week period from the 19th September to the 17th October.

- 6.2 The methodology adopted for the young person consultation was an online questionnaire and a paper questionnaire. Locations for paper consultation questionnaires included:

- Nantgarw College
- Aberdare College
- Rhondda College
- Ferndale Youth Club
- Pontypridd Youth Club
- Gwenifor Park Youth Club

- 6.3 The methodology adopted for the adult consultation was an online questionnaire and a paper questionnaire. Locations for paper consultation questionnaires included:

- Ty Trevithick
- Ty Elai
- Aberdare Library
- Treorchy Library
- Rhydyfelin Library

- 6.4 The link to the online questionnaire was posted on the Youth Engagement and Participation Service social media accounts, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

- 6.5 A total of 452 young people completed the consultation in both online and paper format. A total of 161 residents completed the adult questionnaire. Paper questionnaires were input into the online survey in order to enable effective analysis.
- 6.6 Out of the 452 responses from young people 40% (180 young people) stated that they currently take an interest in politics. However, 76% (344 young people) stated that they do not feel there is enough education on politics and voting to support young people to vote once they reach voting age.
- 6.7 Furthermore 77% (349 young people) stated that they are in support of the Votes at 16 campaign with 67% (304 young people) stating that if able to they would engage in voting processes in the future.
- 6.8 Out of the 161 responses from RCT residents, 152 (95%) responded stating that they currently vote in local elections. However, 100 (63%) of respondents stated that they do not feel there is currently enough information available to enable residents to know how to vote, and 155 (98%) of respondents stated they feel young people should be provided with improved education and information in order to empower them to vote. 99 (62%) of respondents stated they would also like additional information regarding voting for themselves.
- 6.9 Complimentary to the young people survey 111 (69%) of adult respondents stated that they support the Votes at 16 campaign.
- 6.10 Comments received regarding what would encourage more people to vote included:
- Voting online in a quick and accessible format.
 - There needs to be more education about politics and how it affects young people. Young people need to be able to relate to politics and voting otherwise they will not see the need to vote. We also need to talk about issues that face young people and how the vote can improve current issues.
 - Information to be simplified so that young people can understand.
 - Relevant information, not just at election time, starting from secondary school. Many adults are also not sure about the process either, therefore more information in the community too.
 - Education in schools covering how local government works, and what local councillors are responsible for. Along with this general information on politics and how it has affect on everyone.
- 6.11 A debate held in the RCT County Youth Forum on 3rd October co-chaired by Councillor Leyshon and a young person, Oliver Hopkins, gave the opportunity for young people to share their views. Out of 35 young people present 32 young people (92%) stated that they

supported the Votes at 16 campaign. 3 young people (8%), however, stated that they did not feel votes at 16 should be approved. Through the debate the young people presented a valid argument that their lack of support in the campaign came from their belief that young people are not adequately educated. All 3 young people stated they would support the campaign if it included better education for all.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 There would be no financial implications of the proposed recommendations.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 There are no legal implications aligned with this report.

9. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 9.1 This proposal links to the corporate priority of promoting independence and positive lives for everyone by making a commitment to better education on politics, local government and voting within Rhondda Cynon Taf and support to submit a motion to Welsh Government with regards to the Votes at 16 Campaign.
- 9.2 The proposal will appropriately support the Council's strategic plans and priorities in order to deliver **long term** improvements on voter engagement across RCT. The proposal offers **early intervention** by offering improved education to young people prior to them reaching voting age and **preventing** the further decline of voter engagement. By **integrating** multi-agency support to improve education and information available will empower residents to vote in local elections. The proposal will support **collaboration** with communities, including young people, involving them in the consultation process for the Votes at 16 Campaign.
- 9.3 The new priorities and delivery model will contribute to the following wellbeing goals:
- **A prosperous Wales** – The proposal will seek to empower young people to vote at local elections and raise their aspirations in living and working in RCT building the prosperity of the communities in which they live.
 - **A resilient Wales** – The proposal supports the improving of resilience of young people, the wider family and the community as a whole across RCT.

- **A healthier Wales** – The proposal will support young people to have access to the full range of entitlements as well as opportunities to grow and develop socially and educationally.
- **A more equal Wales** – Through enabling voting at the age of 16 we bring equal rights to young people who are able to contribute to their society by working and paying tax compared to those aged 18 and older. This will create a more equal Rhondda Cynon Taf and an equal Wales.
- **Wales of cohesive communities** – By supporting the proposal young people will have the opportunity to become more visible members of their communities. It also serves to break down perceived barriers between young people and adults leading to a more supportive and cohesive community environment.
- **A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language** – Existing working relationships with Welsh language partners will be maintained to ensure that access to information and education will be provided through the medium of Welsh.
- **A globally responsible Wales** – Supporting the proposal within existing resources provides the opportunity for the Council to ensure resources are being used efficiently.

10 CONCLUSION

- 10.1 This report has provided Cabinet Members with details of the outcomes of the public consultation in relation to the Votes at 16 campaign.
- 10.2 Upon consideration of the consultation findings within this report, Cabinet Members are in a position to make a fully informed decision in relation to the suggested recommendations.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

18TH DECEMBER 2018

**REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S
SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO
HOLDER COUNCILLOR C LEYSHON**

CONSULTATION ON VOTES AT 16

Background Papers

None

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

18th DECEMBER 2018

HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2018-2022

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR RHYS LEWIS

Author: Louise Davies, Head of Public Protection

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval for the Rhondda Cynon Taf Homelessness Strategy 2018-2022 prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the feedback in respect of the Draft Homelessness Strategy 2018-2022 from the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on the 6th November 2018 and the actions taken in response, as detailed in paragraph 6.4.
- 2.2 Approve the Rhondda Cynon Taf Homelessness Strategy 2018-2022 (attached as Appendix 1).

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Council has a statutory duty under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 to undertake a homelessness review for its area. Based on the findings of that review, there is a further duty to formulate and adopt a Homelessness Strategy that will prevent homelessness and ensure suitable accommodation and satisfactory support is available for people who are or who may become homeless.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 New homelessness legislation in Wales became operational on the 28th April 2015 via Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. This Act

placed new duties on Local Authorities to help anyone seeking housing advice and assistance, with an emphasis on prevention of homelessness via early intervention to tackle the causes of homelessness in a strategic and co-ordinated way.

- 4.2 Homeless prevention is defined as an intervention on the part of a service that enables a person who is threatened with homelessness to either remain in their current accommodation or to make a planned move to alternative suitable housing which is available for their occupation for at least 6 months.
- 4.3 The Act requires all Welsh Local Authorities to carry out a review of homelessness for their area and formulate and adopt a Homelessness Strategy by the end of 2018, with a new Homelessness Strategy every fourth year thereafter.
- 4.4 Welsh Government introduced a national performance indicator (PI) that each Local Authority has to report on annually to give some measure of how effective the new legislation is in preventing homelessness across Wales. This PI asks Councils to calculate “the percentage of clients (who are confirmed to be at risk of homelessness within the next 56 days) who have their homelessness successfully prevented following advice and assistance from the Council”. In 2017/18, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC’s performance was 75%, ranking us as the second highest performing Council in Wales in respect of this measure. This compares with a performance of 63% in 2016/17 and 49% in 2015/16.

5. REVIEW OF HOMELESSNESS IN RCT

- 5.1 The review of our current homelessness services in RCT highlights how the Council has a very well developed and established multi agency approach, introduced prior to the new homelessness legislation. This includes help to prevent homelessness, ensuring suitable advice and assistance for people who are homeless and that satisfactory support is available for people who are or may become homeless.
- 5.2 RCT provides a comprehensive housing advice and information service through our Housing Solutions Team based at the Housing Advice Centre in Sardis House, Pontypridd, ensuring a preventative, person centred and outcome focused approach to those who contact the service. This includes a key worker support service to help clients remain in their current home or find alternative accommodation.
- 5.3 Demand for homelessness services is increasing and the Council has a statutory duty to assist all persons who present as homeless or who are threatened with homelessness. In 2017/18, 764 households were

threatened with homelessness and contacted the Council for support. This represents an increase of 34% compared to 2016/17.

5.4 The legislation also places a duty on the Council to provide accommodation where individuals are accepted as homeless and in priority need. Due to the improved focus on the prevention agenda, more people are offered advice and assistance before they become homeless and can be referred to preventative services. This has enabled the numbers of households accepted as homeless to remain relatively static over the last two years, even though there has been an overall increase in demand for preventative services. The review highlighted the causes of homelessness are varied and complex but the three main reasons for being accepted as homeless in RCT over the last three years are:

1. Loss of rented or tied accommodation;
2. Parents unwilling to accommodate;
3. Breakdown of relationship due to violence.

5.5 The review highlights a range of specialist services that support the homelessness work, in particular:

1. There are specialist Mental Health workers co-located with the Housing Solutions Team to provide support to clients with a mental health need and deliver services to co-ordinate housing advice in The Royal Glamorgan Hospital Mental Health Unit.
2. The Council's Supporting People Team leads on commissioning all support services and ensures services are focused on early intervention and prevention as well as helping people live independently in their own homes and communities.
3. The Council, through Supporting People, commissions 93 units of accommodation for a range of client groups, including young people and those with a substance misuse and mental health need.
4. Rough sleeper numbers in RCT are very low and the Street Smart service commissioned by the Council in partnership with Adref assists any rough sleepers with access to essential facilities and advice.
5. The Council has reviewed the Housing Allocation scheme for access to social housing and along with Homefinder partners have implemented the Choice Based Lettings process to allow applicants for social housing to bid for properties, giving more choice and transparency when allocating social housing to those in greatest housing need. The new allocation Policy also ensures priority is given to ex-service personnel making an application for social

housing, including families who have to leave their accommodation because their husband, wife or civil partner died in service.

5.6 The review highlighted that although there are a wide range of prevention services across RCT that are working well, there are areas where more work is required to address need:

- There are limited services for male victims of domestic abuse.
- A high proportion of clients who present as homeless have complex needs with substance misuse and mental health problems increasing.
- Bed and breakfast accommodation is still used to place young people and those with a mental health need.
- There is a shortage of single person accommodation across RCT.
- Access to suitable affordable housing is difficult, particularly one bed single person accommodation.
- Demand for social housing is very high.
- There is a need to make better use of the private rented sector.
- A lack of specialist accommodation with support for young people.

5.7 The Homelessness Strategy 2018-22 (Appendix 1) has been developed in response to the findings of the review and outlines the strategic objectives which the Council, assisted by partners and stakeholders will strive to achieve over the next four years. Detailed actions have been identified under each of the three key objectives:

- **Objective 1:** Preventing homelessness and repeat homelessness from occurring, wherever possible, therefore reducing homelessness.
- **Objective 2:** Ensuring that appropriate support and accommodation, including temporary and emergency accommodation, is available to meet the needs of homeless and potentially homeless people.
- **Objective 3:** Ensuring people with housing support needs have these fully assessed and have access to services to maintain independent living.

6. CONSULTATION/INVOLVEMENT

6.1 In undertaking the review of homelessness, the Council consulted with service users at the Housing Advice Centre and clients in temporary accommodation to get views on their experiences of what works well in homeless services in RCT and what barriers they faced when seeking support. In total, 24 clients shared their opinions over a four week period and the comments below illustrate the main themes from the feedback:

Positive: *“very helpful at Sardis House”; “to be honest all worked well”; “no problems, got my key worker”; “helped me a lot ,bidding for properties was easy”; “helpful staff explained options well so I understood”; “what works – support worker”*

Negative: *“long waiting time to be seen”; “personal issues discussed on reception”; “more contact from Housing Officer needed as situation is stressful”; “more supported accommodation needed”; “More affordable housing”*

6.2 The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 requires local authorities to consult with such relevant stakeholders, including voluntary organisations, as it considers appropriate in relation to their proposed Homelessness Strategy. Such a consultation was undertaken between the 1st October and the 9th November, a period of 6 weeks. The Draft Strategy was sent to a range of organisations including the following:

- Registered Social Landlords operating in RCT
- Interlink
- Shelter Cymru
- Tai Pawb
- Cwm Taf University Health Board
- South Wales Police
- RCT 50+ forum
- RCTCBC- Housing Strategy
- RCTCBC- Equalities and Diversity Team
- RCTCBC- Adults and Children’s Services Teams

6.3 Nine detailed responses were received to the consultation. The feedback was broadly supportive of the review content and the strategic objectives and the document was considered to be very clear and well structured. Other specific comments can be summarised as follows:

- The good working relationships fostered by the local authority with housing partners are undersold.
- Additional actions to develop projects that sustain tenancies should also be added as well as actions to prevent or mitigate impact on individuals of possession proceedings.
- There is a need to strengthen the strategic links between this and other strategic plans. The recent funding announcements for a single housing grant should also be included.
- The good work being done in relation to victims of domestic abuse and to commission specialised support services was welcomed.
- The needs of 16+ young people cannot be met by using bed and breakfast accommodation and improved housing options must be

explored. Shelter Cymru in particular asked the Council to stop using bed and breakfast accommodation for any 16+ clients.

- The impact of welfare reform should be kept under constant review to ensure any actions required to mitigate impact are taken by the Council and partners.
- There is a need to develop a detailed action plan to ensure delivery and monitoring of progress against the Strategy.
- Health Partners should be more involved with improving services for people with mental health and substance misuse needs in particular.
- An Executive Summary and glossary of projects on offer should be produced to ensure the document is easily understood by all audiences, in particular our service users.

6.4 The Draft Homelessness Strategy 2018-22 was subject to scrutiny by the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the 6th November 2018. At that meeting, Members broadly welcomed the document and considered it to be comprehensive. The Strategy and the objectives set out were supported with specific comments made as follows:

- There was concern at the lack of emergency accommodation for young people and a welcome for the review of temporary accommodation use that is being undertaken.
- Services for people with mental health issues should be improved given the rise in clients presenting with that need.
- Welfare reform and changes to benefits have had a negative impact on many communities and changes with universal credit will exacerbate these. Members wish to see actions that help mitigate impact for tenants.
- The moves to reduce the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for all client groups were welcomed and members sought reassurance that the impact on communities from the use of such accommodation for challenging clients were fully considered by officers prior to making placements.
- Members welcomed actions to be delivered with RSL partners to sustain tenancies, particularly for individuals with complex needs.
- There was concern about the lack of small unit accommodation in the housing stock and a request that the needs of this strategy inform the local housing market assessments undertaken by the Council and future housing investment priorities developed with RSLs.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 A full Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The assessment identified that although the Strategy does not have an adverse impact on any particular group, information regarding homeless people with certain protected characteristics is not available

making a full evaluation of impact difficult. The key action going forward as part of the Strategy is, therefore, to improve monitoring in relation to black and minority ethnic groups, people with a learning disability, all groups within the sexuality strands and all groups within the religious strand.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 From the 1st April 2019 the Flexible Funding Grant from Welsh Government will be replaced by a new two grant approach i.e. the Children and Communities Grant and the Housing and Support Grant. The latter will create a ring fenced grant incorporating Supporting People, Homelessness Prevention Grant and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement funding. This funding will assist in the delivery of many of the actions identified in this Strategy. Other funding streams such as the Social Housing Grant from Welsh Government support delivery of increased social housing provision in the County Borough.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 Section 50 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 states:

(1) A local housing authority must (periodically, as required by this Section)-

- (a) carry out a homelessness review for its area, and*
- (b) formulate and adopt a homelessness strategy based on the results of that review.*

(2) The authority must adopt a homelessness strategy in 2018 and a new homelessness strategy every fourth year after 2018.

- 9.2 Section 51 of the Act relates to Homelessness reviews and states:

(1) A homelessness review under section 50 must include a review of—

(a) the levels, and likely future levels, of homelessness in the local housing authority's area;

(b) the activities which are carried out in the local housing authority's area for the achievement of the following objectives (or which contribute to their achievement)—

- (i) the prevention of homelessness;*
- (ii) that suitable accommodation is or will be available for people who are or may become homeless;*
- (iii) that satisfactory support is available for people who are or may become homeless;*

(c) the resources available to the authority (including the resources available in exercise of functions other than its functions as local

housing authority), other public authorities, voluntary organisations and other persons for such activities.

9.3 Section 52 of the Act relates to Homelessness strategies and states:

(1) A homelessness strategy under section 50 is a strategy for achieving the following objectives in the local housing authority's area—

(a) the prevention of homelessness;

(b) that suitable accommodation is and will be available for people who are or may become homeless;

(c) that satisfactory support is available for people who are or may become homeless.

(2) A homelessness strategy may specify more detailed objectives to be pursued, and action planned to be taken, in the exercise of any functions of the authority (including functions other than its functions as local housing authority).

(3) A homelessness strategy may also include provision relating to specific action which the authority expects to be taken—

(a) by any public authority with functions which are capable of contributing to the achievement of any of the objectives mentioned in subsection (1), or

(b) by any voluntary organisation or other person whose activities are capable of contributing to the achievement of any of those objectives.

(4) The inclusion in a homelessness strategy of any provision relating to action mentioned in subsection (3) requires the approval of the body or person concerned.

(5) In formulating a homelessness strategy the authority must consider (among other things) the extent to which any of the objectives mentioned in subsection (1) can be achieved through action involving two or more of the bodies or other persons mentioned in subsections (2) and (3).

(6) A homelessness strategy must include provision relating to action planned by the authority to be taken in the exercise of its functions, and specific action expected by the authority to be taken by public authorities, voluntary organisations and other persons within subsection (3), in relation to those who may be in particular need of support if they are or may become homeless, including in particular—

(a) people leaving prison or youth detention accommodation,

(b) young people leaving care,

(c) people leaving the regular armed forces of the Crown,

(d) people leaving hospital after medical treatment for mental disorder as an inpatient, and

(e) people receiving mental health services in the community.

(7) A local housing authority must keep its homelessness strategy under review and may modify it.

(8) Before adopting or modifying a homelessness strategy a local housing authority must consult such public or local authorities, voluntary organisations or other persons as it considers appropriate.

10 LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

10.1 Homelessness is a key national priority as demonstrated by the Welsh Government Ten Year Homelessness Plan (2009-2019). This strategy, therefore, supports that national agenda as well as local priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan and Single Integrated Plan. Homelessness services are person centred and are, therefore, wholly consistent with the People Priority of the Council which seeks to ensure that people are able to maintain independent and positive lives. Many of the actions in the Strategy will also support the Place priority of the Single Integrated Plan which aims to ensure that in RCT we “create neighbourhoods where people are proud to work and live”.

10.2 The Strategy embraces an early intervention and preventative approach to homelessness and outlines a medium to long term commitment to improving the services and housing options available to people who are or are at risk of being homeless. The Strategy has been developed following a review which involved service users as well as partners in formulating the objectives and key actions. The strategy can only be delivered collaboratively with our partners and stakeholders and its success requires an integrated approach over the four years of the strategy. The strategy is, therefore, made in full consideration of the sustainable development principles. The strategy will also support the Council to contribute to four of the seven well-being goals, namely:

1. A more equal Wales
2. A prosperous Wales
3. A Wales of cohesive communities
4. A healthier Wales

11. CONCLUSION

11.1 The homeless review found that our existing services and prevention activity have helped deliver effective results in the face of increasing demands on services. It is anticipated there will be further increasing demands on Housing Advice, Homelessness and Supporting People services going forward.

11.2 The Homelessness Review and the Strategy developed ensure the Council discharges its obligations under Section 50 of the Housing

(Wales) Act 2014. Should the recommendation to approve the Homelessness Strategy be supported, the key strategic objectives will allow the Council to meet its statutory duties to homeless people and to prevent homelessness in accordance with the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and build on the good work already in progress.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

18th DECEMBER 2018

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT
PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR RHYS LEWIS**

HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2018-2022

Background Papers

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Meeting - 6th November 2018

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Draft
Rhondda Cynon Taf
Homelessness Strategy
2018 - 2022

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Appendix 1
Homelessness Prevention Services in Rhondda Cynon Taf

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All Wales Local Authority Comparative Performance Data 2017/18

1. INTRODUCTION

This new strategy sets out Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's approach to preventing and tackling homelessness across the borough. As required by the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 it has been shaped by the findings of a review of homelessness in the Borough and developed within the national legislative and local policy context, and takes account of the current positive and effective practice in Wales and beyond.

It is important that our efforts to reduce homelessness are part of a wider agenda which includes tackling the causes of social and economic exclusion and improving access to health and social care services. To achieve this in the current economic climate requires greater emphasis on prevention and early intervention through multi agency working including, sharing of resources and continuously looking for creative and innovative solutions. The reduction in homelessness will require a co-ordinated, whole council response and effective engagement with our partners.

The Housing (Wales) 2014 has changed how local authorities in Wales respond to homelessness by placing a greater emphasis on prevention of homelessness and early intervention and tackling the causes of homelessness in a strategic and co-ordinated way.

The Act requires each Wales local authority to carry out a review of homelessness for its area, and formulate and adopt a homelessness strategy by the end of 2018 with a new homelessness strategy every fourth year.

The development of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Homelessness Strategy draws on collective experience and achievements to date and focuses on preventing and tackling homelessness, not just on the effective assessment of homeless applications. It is an important aspect of the Council's vision in addressing the causes of homelessness and the improvement of services for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

The strategy will exist within the context of an uncertain economic climate, reductions in public sector funding and changes to welfare benefits. There are significant challenges arising from recent housing and welfare changes, and public sector expenditure cuts that will require working even harder in collaboration with partners to ensure we can find sustainable solutions for those threatened with homelessness and other households in housing need in the Borough. Partnership working and early intervention underpin the delivery of the aims and priorities in this strategy.

Reducing homelessness remains a key priority for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. The outcome of the recent review highlights that preventative services have helped in preventing homelessness and levels of rough sleeping in the borough over the past three years. The strategy sets out a response with respect to homelessness to the above challenges.

2. THE COUNCIL'S VISION

The Council's Corporate Plan 2016 /2020 sets out the following vision:

“For a County Borough that has high aspirations, is confident and promotes opportunity for all “

The Council's Purpose and Priorities:

The Council's purpose and the reason why it exists are: to provide strong community leadership and effective services for the people of Rhondda Cynon Taf to enable them to fulfil their potential and prosper.

The Council is focused on the following three priorities:

- 1. People – Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone.**
- 2. Place – Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work.**
- 3. Economy – Building a strong economy.**

In order to meet our purpose in delivering these priorities, and respond to the significant financial challenges we face, the Council has to operate in a different way. The following priorities will apply to everything we do.

- **Provide essential services well:** our role is to make sure that local people get good quality outcomes from their services.
- **Helping people and their communities help themselves:** The council is at its most effective when it is helping people to live successful lives as independently as possible and when it is helping communities to help themselves. We want to work closely with RCT's voluntary and community sector to stimulate innovation and encourage communities to step forward and take on new roles in providing local services and solutions.

This will include better timed and co-ordinated delivery of targeted services that deliver better results, reduce demand and release resources for early intervention and other universal services.

Early intervention and prevention services not only provide a safety net but also help people to maintain their independence.

3. THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Key policies and strategies have undergone significant change as a result of national legislative changes, including welfare reform and devolved legislation in Wales. The Homelessness Strategy supports the vision, aims and objectives of a number of high level partnerships and strategies these include:

The Welsh Assembly Government 10 year Homelessness Plan 2009-19

In 2009 the Welsh Government published its 10 Year Homelessness Plan for Wales. The 10 year plan sets out some guiding principles for the development and delivery of homelessness services. The strategic aims underlying this plan are:

- Preventing homelessness where possible
- Working across organisational and policy boundaries
- Placing the service user at the centre of service delivery
- Ensuring social inclusion and equality of access to services.
- Making the best use of resources.

The Housing (Wales) Act 2014

Part two of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 created multiple changes in the duties that local authorities owe to people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days. These changes include:

- New duties for local authorities to help prevent homelessness for anyone who asks for help.
- Involving people in designing their own solutions by jointly developing a personal housing plan to help address the underlying issues
- Intervening early – within 56 days of homelessness to prevent problems escalating.
- Removing automatic priority need for prison leavers
- Placing new duties on housing associations to co-operate in homelessness prevention.
- Allowing local authorities to discharge homelessness duties with an offer of private accommodation.

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies to carry out their functions in a sustainable way which improves the economic, social, environmental and cultural well being of the population– in practice, this means delivering preventative services considering both short term and long term needs and working in collaboration with partners to deliver better outcomes and avoid duplication.

The Social Services and Well-Being Act (Wales) 2014

This Act provides the legal framework for improving the well being of people who need care and support and for carers who need support and for transforming social services in Wales. The Act changes the way people's needs are assessed and the way services are delivered, giving people more say in the care and support they receive.

Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015

On 29th April 2015 Welsh Government enacted the Violence against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act. The legislation aims to improve the public sector response in Wales to abuse and sexual violence.

Working Together to Reduce Harm Substance Misuse Strategy for Wales 2008 - 2018.

'Working together to Reduce Harm' recognises that housing and homelessness prevention services have a vital role to play in helping substance mis-users to access the accommodation they need. Housing must be seen as a core element of wrap around services and be reflected in the planning mechanisms.

The RCT Working Together to Reduce Harm Delivery Plan 2016 -18 sets out the vision for the delivery of integrated substance misuse services in RCT.

The Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016

The Renting Homes (Wales) Act aims to make it simpler and easier to rent a home replacing various complex pieces of existing legislation with one clear framework.

At the heart of the Act are the new occupation contracts which, with a limited number of exceptions, replaces all current tenancies and licenses with just two types of occupation contract.

- Secure contract – modelled on the current secure tenancy.
- Standard contract – modelled on the current assured short hold tenancy used mainly in the private rented sector.

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4. BACKGROUND

The Housing (Wales) Act 2014

The new homelessness legislation in Wales was implemented on the 28th April 2015 through Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. This Act places new duties on local authorities to help anyone seeking housing advice and assistance.

The new duties under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 fall under the following stages

Section 66 - Duty to provide advice and assistance which prescribes help to prevent duties relating to applicants found to be threatened with homelessness?

Section 73 - Duty to prevent homelessness which prescribes help to secure accommodation duties for those found to be homeless (including cases where an applicant threatened with homelessness under Section 66 proves unsuccessful)

Section 75 Duty to secure accommodation which prescribes the duty to secure accommodation for applicants assessed as un-intentionally homeless and in priority need and for whom efforts to relieve their housing situation have proved unsuccessful.

Section 95 – Duty to Co-operate gives Housing Associations a legal responsibility to co-operate with local authorities to help discharge homelessness duties

In terms of developing the strategy and interpreting any of the monitoring data for the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 at both a national and local level, it must be noted that complexity arises from the fact an applicant may be recorded under more than one of the above duties.

This would apply to those entitled to assistance under Section 66 who may if their case was unsuccessfully prevented appear as qualifying for help under Section 73. They may then appear under the S.75 duty if efforts to secure accommodation have also been unsuccessful.

It is therefore possible for a household to be counted up to three times if they are subject to assistance under all three duties. This means there is scope for double counting which may not always provide an accurate picture of need and demand. Improving how effectively the Council gather and interpret homelessness data is a key priority going forward to inform and guide strategic policy decisions going forward.

5. DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS

For the purpose of developing the Strategy, the definition of homelessness has been agreed and adopted from Section 55 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014

1. A person is homeless if he or she has no accommodation in the UK or elsewhere which is available for his or her occupation and which that person has a legal right to occupy.
2. A person will also be homeless where they have accommodation but cannot secure entry to it or where they have accommodation that is a moveable structure, such as a caravan or houseboat and there is no place where it can be placed in order to provide accommodation.
3. A person who has accommodation is to be treated as homeless where it would not be reasonable for them to continue to occupy it.
4. Where a person lacks accommodation

Examples of this definition will include:

- *Sleeping rough*
- *Living in insecure / temporary housing (excluding assured short hold tenants).*
- *Moving frequently between friends and family*
- *Squatting*
- *Unable to remain in , or return to housing due to poor conditions including overcrowding, affordability problems, domestic abuse, harassment, mental, physical and or sexual abuse.*
- *Unable to remain as a result of emergency due to fire / flood damage or structural danger.*
- *Threatened with losing their home and without suitable accommodation for any reason, e.g. domestic abuse.*
- *Leaving hospitals, Police custody, Prisons, the Armed Forces and other institutions or supported housing without a home to go to.*
- *Required to leave by family or friends or due to relationship breakdown.*
- *Within 56 days of the end of tenancy, facing possession proceedings or threat of eviction*

6. ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Our understanding of homelessness has changed. This change in understanding has influenced the design of services and the objectives for strategic responses to homelessness. We recognise homelessness is complex and is not just about housing those to whom the Council has a statutory duty to accommodate. As a consequence, we work collaboratively with a significant number of key partners to address health, training, and support needs.

These require work at a strategic and operational level to co-ordinate and provide a wide range of services, and ensuring there are robust joint working arrangements in place to meet the needs of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The Council has a very well developed multi agency approach which was introduced prior to the implementation of the new homelessness legislation and has been in place for a number of years. This includes help to prevent homelessness, ensuring suitable advice and assistance for people who are homeless and that satisfactory support is available for people who are or may become homeless.

This approach has helped people to stay in their existing homes or to find a new home before they become homeless.

Our strong partnership approach to tackling homelessness is increasingly contributing to wider social priorities around helping people and families to live independently in their communities. The Council has made considerable progress in developing services and partnerships to tackle homelessness prior to and following the introduction of the new homelessness legislation April 2015.

As a consequence of an ongoing review of the factors which contribute to homelessness in the borough, including measuring trends and outcomes, we have developed services that aim to meet the needs of homeless people by identifying trends and patterns to help reduce the long term levels of homelessness.

The 2018 – 2022 Homelessness Strategy describes the progress that has already been made towards the vision and the current challenges faced in driving down levels of homelessness in the borough.

A number of key achievements for improving services for homeless people in RCT to date are summarised below:

Improving our Homelessness Services and Providing Enhanced Housing Options.

- We provide a comprehensive housing advice and information service through our Housing Solutions Team ensuring a preventative, person centred and outcome focused approach to those who contact our service.
- We introduced a new “Homelessness ICT” system to improve case recording and management.

- Introduced key worker support service to all persons to whom we have a legal duty to assist under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. This ensures that all households including single people and families have access to a dedicated worker providing 121 housing support for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- Provision of specialist Mental Health Housing Advice workers, who are co –located with the Housing Solutions Team. We also provide support to those with a mental health need and deliver services in the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Mental Health Unit.
- Developed pathways and close working arrangements with a wide range of partners, including those funded by Supporting People Grant, to deliver housing related services, hostels and other supported accommodation for vulnerable people.

Preventing Homelessness and Reducing the Use of Temporary Accommodation.

- Continually review of services and implement interventions to prevent homelessness.
- Developed pathways with our hostel and refuge providers to ensure seamless services in and out of provision for service users.
- Built awareness of prevention strategies with key partners and service users.
- Utilised homelessness prevention funding to prevent homelessness associated with the key reasons for people presenting as homeless.
- Commissioned a 10 bedroom hostel for young people aged 16 -21.

Improving Support to People who are Vulnerable

- The Council's Supporting People Team leads on commissioning of all support services and has reviewed all of its support provision over the past three years. This ensures services are focused on early intervention and prevention, as well as helping people to live independently in their own homes and local communities.
- A pathway has been developed with the Housing Solutions Team and Women's Aid RCT to minimise time spent in refuge and ensure all women have access to a wide range of housing options
- Commissioned a specialist mental health worker who works closely with women in refuge. This ensures a responsive service to deal with any mental issues they may face personally and help them to leave refuge in a planned way.
- Piloted multiple needs tenancy related support services to minimise voids, reduce waiting lists and provide on demand support services for a wider client group.

- Commissioned a 5 bedroom supported housing project for care leavers and homeless young people aged 16 – 21.
- Reviewed our Allocation Policy to ensure priority is given to ex service personnel making an application for social housing, including families who have to leave their accommodation because their husband, wife or civil partner died in service .We also ensure help and support is available to help veterans and their families in partnership where appropriate with the Royal British Legion and SSAFA to help them maintain their accommodation.

Tackling the Wider Causes of Homelessness.

- Established a Welfare Reform Working Group to understand the local impact of welfare reform and develop the appropriate interventions.
- Reviewed our e- learning Domestic Abuse arrangements with Learning Industries and our housing association partners, to provide awareness of domestic abuse and offer advice and guidance to front line staff in dealing with a disclosure of domestic abuse.
- Increased focus on homelessness prevention including the development of target hardening arrangements to allow people experiencing domestic abuse the option of remaining within their own home.
- Implemented a shared holistic assessment framework for young people and their families for the Family Resilience model including action planning and support to meet needs.
- Commissioned emotional support services to respond to the complex needs of people experiencing domestic abuse including group work and therapeutic support.
- Set up the GRAMO (Get Ready and Move On) project, a pre-tenancy course, to provide advice on setting up a new home for young people and those living in hostel provision and supported accommodation.

Providing More Settled Homes

- Provided more affordable homes
- Provided financial assistance to help households access the private rented sector
- Reviewed our Allocation Scheme to ensure sufficient priority is given to those moving on from supported accommodation, leaving institutional care and those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- Implemented Choice Based Lettings in partnership with our Home finder partners to enable people to bid on line for properties in the social housing sector allowing for more choice.

7. HOMELESSNESS IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Main Causes of Homelessness in RCT

The Council's Housing Solutions Team based at Sardis House, Pontypridd are responsible for investigating homelessness applications and the provision of advice and assistance to assisting all persons who present as homeless or threatened with homeless in line with the Council's duties under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. Due to our prevention agenda more people are offered advice and assistance at the time of presenting as homeless as well as being referred to preventative services.

Table 1: Breakdown of Homelessness Applications

<u>Section 66 Duty</u>	<u>2015 /16</u>	<u>2016 /17</u>	<u>2017/18</u>
Households threatened with Homelessness in 56 days	755	567	764
Households threatened with Homelessness in 56 days rate per 10,000 household	72	55	74
Homelessness prevented	357 (49%)	357 (63%)	571 (75%)
<u>Section 73</u>			
Households assessed as homeless and owed a duty to secure	375	504	572
Households successfully relieved from homelessness.	153 (41%)	249 (50%)	307 (54%)
<u>Section 75</u>			
Households unintentionally homeless and in priority need - Number (Section 75)	60	78	75
Households positively discharged - Number (Section 75)	57 (93%)	66 (85%)	61 (81%)
Total Households	1,190	1,149	1,411

Source: Stats Wales – Welsh Government

We have made good progress over the past three years following the implementation of the new legislation with a steady improvement year on year on our prevention performance indicator for Section 66 and Section 73 cases.

Early prevention on **Section 66** cases in particular sees a raise from **49%** in 15/16 to **75%** in 17/18 – a result which places the Council in 2nd place across Wales in 17/18 (when the top prevention rate in Wales was 76%) and ahead of the all Wales average prevention rate of 66%.

A Section73 prevention rate of 54% puts the Council in the top quartile across Wales in 17/18 and ahead of the all Wales result of 41%

Our performance in positively discharging our Section 75 duty in 17/18 was at 81% and is ahead of the Wales average of 78%.

Clients who are not recorded as a successful prevention case have in many cases found accommodation themselves, but fail to engage with the council further and their case is closed through lack of contact.

Table 2: Priority Need Categories

The below table provides a breakdown of accepted homeless households under the Section 75 duty by priority need category. The demographics are broadly similar prior to the introduction of the Act with the main households accepted under the Section 75 duty being single person households (male) with a mental health need, fleeing domestic abuse and households with dependent children being the primary reason for a priority need decision in 2015 /16, 2016 /17 and 2017 /18.

Priority need categories	2015 /16	2016/17	2017/18
Households homeless in an emergency		1	0
16 or 17 year old	14	9	8
Fleeing domestic violence	10	8	17
Former Prisoner	1	0	1
Mental Illness	12	18	14
Vulnerable old age	0	3	0
Vulnerable other	0	0	0
Vulnerable physical disability	4	8	18
Care leaver or an 18 – 21 year old at risk of exploitation	3	0	4
Household where a member is pregnant	1	2	4
Household with dependent child(ren)	16	30	9
Total	61	79	75

The other significant groups accepted were vulnerable due to a physical disability.

These figures help to demonstrate the varying support needs of whom the Council has a legal duty to assist under the homelessness legislation and the challenges faced in securing temporary and affordable permanent accommodation for single person households.

Table 3: The Causes of Homelessness 2015 /16, 2016/17 & 2017/18

	<u>2015 /16</u>	<u>2016/17</u>	<u>2017/18</u>
Current property unaffordable	0	4	0
Homeless in an emergency	0	0	0
Illegal eviction	0	0	0
In institutional care	1	0	2
Loss of rented or tied accommodation	12	30	15
Mortgage arrears	0	0	2
Breakdown of relationship – non violent	1	6	5
Breakdown of relationship – Violent	11	12	17
Other forms of violence and harassment.	3	0	1
Family / friends unable to accommodate	8	9	10
Parents unwilling to accommodate	19	13	9
Prison Leaver	3	3	7
Property unsuitable other	1	0	0
Racially motivated violence or harassment	1	0	0
Rent arrears – social sector	0	1	3
Rent arrears – private sector	1	1	3
Returned from abroad	0	0	1
Sleeping rough	0	0	0
Total	61	79	75

The causes for homelessness acceptances are varied and complex with the primary three reasons for being accepted as homeless in RCT during 2015 /16, 2016 /17 and 2017/18 as follows:

- 1) **Breakdown of relationship due to violence.**
- 2) **Loss of rented or tied accommodation**
- 3) **Parents unwilling to accommodate**

1. BREAKDOWN OF RELATIONSHIP - VIOLENT (DOMESTIC ABUSE)

Loss of home due to breakdown of relationship is the third highest reason for homelessness in the borough with the number of applications accepted as homeless increasing year in year since 2015 /16.

Victims of domestic abuse are referred to the Council funded Oasis Centre, which provides a one stop shop service offering specialist advice and support to both male and female individuals. In order to promote the safety of victims where they wish to remain in their own homes we offer target hardening arrangements and support in their own homes from Care and Repair Cymru, the IDVA service and Women's Aid RCT.

Client reported outcomes and reduction in abuse were very positive: *In 2016/ 17 at exit from the Oasis Centre (85%) of clients felt that they were safer with (82%) reporting an improved quality of life and (93%) had the confidence to access support. The proportions of clients with positive outcomes in terms of safety, quality of life and confidence increased in all three positive outcome measures from 2015*

Women's Aid RCT

Women's Aid RCT are commissioned to provide refuge provision to vulnerable women and children in need of emergency accommodation and floating support services to both female and male victims living in their own home

Table 4: RCTCBC - Supporting People Funded Domestic Abuse Services - commissioned 2017 – 2018

Code	Provider	Project	Spaces
W1	Women's Aid RCT	Floating support	25
W2	Women's Aid RCT	Refuge	22

280 referrals were made to Women's Aid RCT for refuge provision with **169** women were supported in refuge in Rhondda Cynon Taff in **2017 /18**

In recognition of the increasing number of women presenting with mental health, substance misuse and an offending background a Complex Need Worker is located within the refuge with the aim of:

- Increasing opportunities to mental health support
- Increasing well-being
- Increasing engagement with services
- Increasing ability to maintain tenancy

The project is delivered by a specialist support worker with the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver effective interventions. Meeting with women within the first few days of their stay in refuge, enables the specialist worker to learn more about the individuals needs, and being an earlier intervention, reducing the potential for crisis mental health intervention.

Table 5: Complex Needs Worker Caseload 2017/18

<u>Complex Needs Worker</u>	2017/18
Number of referrals received	91
Number of referrals supported	91
Number of referrals not accepting support	0
Reasons for not accepting support	n/a
<u>Support Needs</u>	
Mental Health (Diagnosed)	42
Mental Health (Un diagnosed)	49

In the first year, **91 women** have been directly supported by the project. Support needs have included - PTSD, anxiety, depression, paranoid thoughts, panic attacks, childhood trauma, multiple trauma, suicidal ideation, personality disorders, insomnia, flashbacks and intrusive thoughts.

A range of tools have been used to support those requiring additional support for their mental health including; well-being plans, stress reduction techniques, advocacy, GP support, meditation, one to one support, referrals into support services, CBT, use of motivational techniques to support attendance and engagement in mental health and substance support services

Floating support

The floating support scheme provided by Women's Aid RCT provided support to 49 women who are experiencing or have experienced Domestic Abuse. in 2017 /18 in their own home or tenancy which is a 32% increase on women supported in 2016/17.

The Safe Project

Identifying domestic abuse at the earliest opportunity is key to keeping people safe. The SAFE project provides an accessible service based within the local community to support those who have experienced or are currently experiencing domestic violence and are identified through risk assessment or Public Protection Notices (PPN) as low to medium risk.

The project delivers this in a variety of ways including

- One to one support / advocacy (short term)
- Life skills sessions including domestic abuse awareness programme and confidence building.
- Direct referral pathways to other support agencies.
- Access to legal advice and debt management surgeries.

Perpetrator Programme

In recognition of the need to work with perpetrators to change behaviour, innovative approaches are being piloted including the DRIVE project operating in Cwm Taf. A Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme (DVPP) located at the Oasis Centre and funded via the Home Office is able to offer counselling work on a one to one basis or

through group work sessions. Further work is being undertaken to consider joint commissioning opportunities with Children Services, to develop a corporate approach for the delivery of a DVPP and work with couples experiencing domestic abuse with outcomes linked to Child Protection arrangements and re-uniting families.

2. LOSS OF RENTED ACCOMMODATION

The loss of private rented accommodation is the highest reason for homelessness in Rhondda Cynon Taff which is mainly attributable to affordability and the impact of the Local Housing Allowance particularly in the Taff area. Households are facing growing challenges to access and sustain accommodation, particularly where they are expected to meet rent shortfalls putting pressure on tight household budgets.

The Government's welfare reform changes have placed further pressure on those with the least financial resources. Whilst shortfalls of rents for those on benefits can in some cases be covered by discretionary housing payments, housing in some parts of the borough remain unaffordable, particularly for those on low incomes and in receipt of housing benefit.

A key area of concern is the impact of debt upon the incidence of homelessness. Tight household finances raise the prospect of households not being able to afford rent payments or other essential household bills, including heating fuel. It is anticipated that these pressures may be further compounded by the introduction of Universal Credit which is to be rolled out to new applicants in Rhondda Cynon Taf from November 2018.

The Council has a Private Rented Sector Officer who has built links with local landlords and runs a well attended Landlords Forum to help engage with our Housing Advice service and assist in sourcing private rented accommodation.

We recognise the critical role played by the rented sector in preventing homelessness and will continue to work proactively with the private rented sector to improve relationships and provide a package of financial incentives and offer more specialised support for tenants and landlords.

3. PARENTS UNWILLING TO ACCOMMODATE

The second highest reason for homelessness in Rhondda Cynon Taf is relationship breakdown with parents.

The Council has a particular responsibility for vulnerable 16 – 17 year olds and care leavers. We want to ensure that our young people have the best start in life and are able to develop well so that they can fulfil their potential and their aspirations.

Prevention is focused on supporting young people to remain at home with their family or wider family networks. We believe it is in the best interests of 16 and 17 year olds to live in the family home unless it would be unsafe or unsuitable for them to do so because they would be at risk of violence or abuse. Continuing to commission effective homelessness prevention services for 16 and 17 year olds will prevent short term risk and safe guard young people from becoming homeless.

In consideration of the likely future levels of homelessness for young people presenting as homeless, greater focus is to be placed on working with Children Services and Education Services and engaging with young people and their parents before a relationship breakdown has occurred and before problems escalate to the point of homelessness.

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8. HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

What is homelessness prevention?

*A homeless prevention is an intervention on the part of a service that enables a person who is threatened with homeless **to either remain in their current accommodation or to make a planned move to alternative suitable housing which is available for their occupation for at least 6 months.***

This strategy will focus on maximising homelessness prevention outcomes through supporting initiatives that the Council either provides or commissions.

Homelessness Prevention Tools.

We have a wide has range of preventative interventions in place in Rhondda Cynon Taf that are effective and cost effective to assist people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness and ensure we are meeting our statutory duties.

These include resources to meet duties to help take reasonable steps, help to prevent homelessness occurring and access housing. (See Appendix 1)

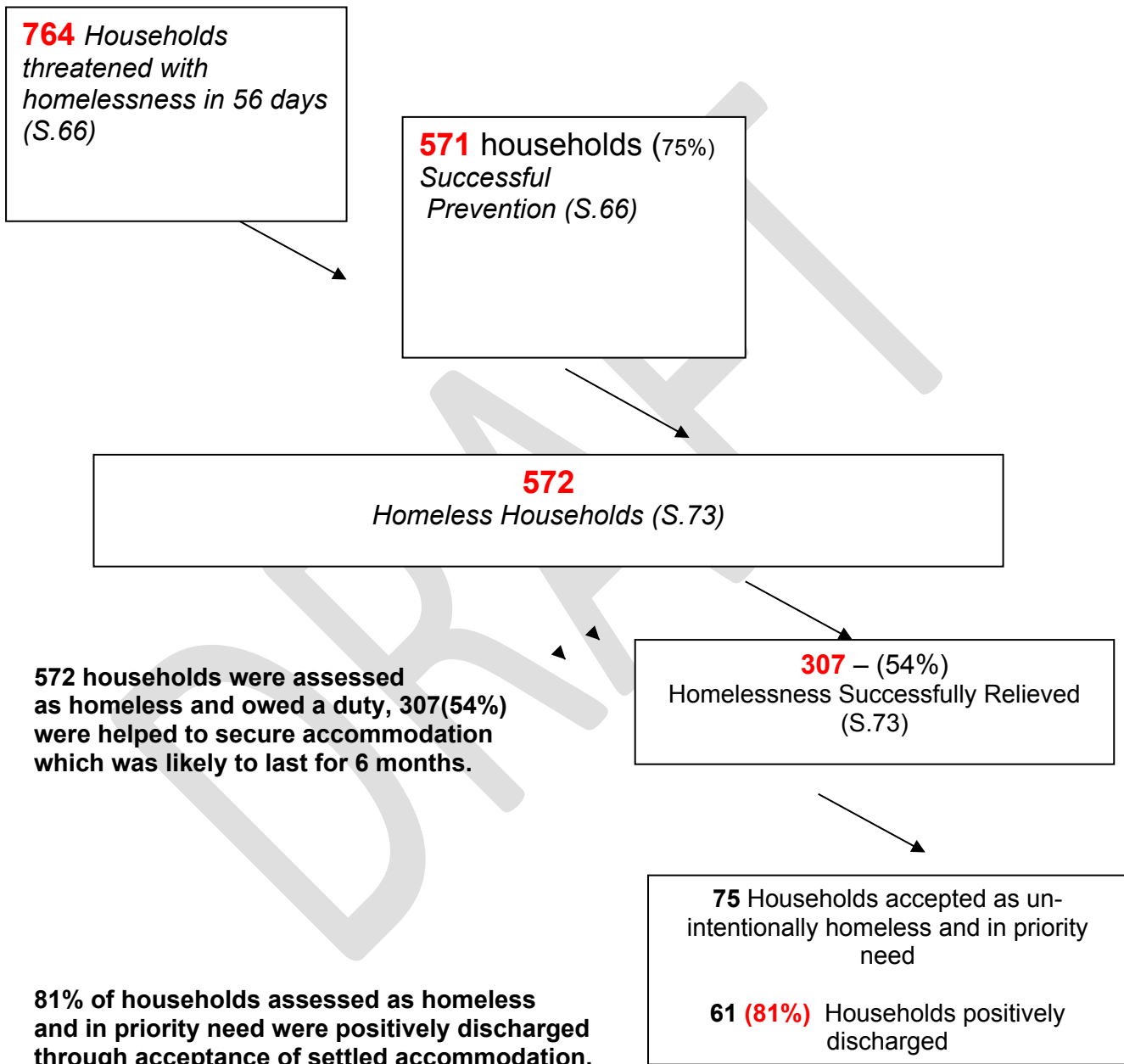
The most effective interventions in 2017/18 included:

- Early Intervention and Prevention projects
- Financial assistance to access the private rented sector and or prevent loss of accommodation and or to access the private rented sector
- Key worker support at the point of being threatened with homelessness.
- Placement in supported accommodation

Losing a home can have a devastating effect on a household but despite our interventions and range of preventative services to address the reasons for homelessness in the borough. We recognise that there is small high need, high cost group of homeless people whose needs are not being fully met by existing services, whose homelessness is sustained or recurrent and who often make expensive use of publicly funded services. These include people with high and complex needs, entrenched rough sleepers and homeless people with recurrent and sustained experience of homelessness.

RCT HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION DATA

The data below focuses on activity during 2017/18. The data indicates the total number of cases in 2017/18 where homelessness was prevented or relieved by the Housing Solutions Team and or partner organisations. These show that 764 were assessed as threatened with homelessness in 56 days and 571 (75%) households had their homelessness successfully prevented for at least 6 months thereafter.



Prevention – Supporting People Services

The Rhondda Cynon Taf Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan is responsible for identifying the level of support needs and outlines the Supporting People Grant (SPG) funded projects including the priorities for the funding of SPG services. A review of Supporting People Services has been undertaken to ensure they meet the homelessness prevention agenda.

The Councils Supporting People Team operates a Single Point of Access and processed over 2,000 applications for support services in 2016 /17.

Table 6: Number of People Who Received a Housing Related Support Service

Support required	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017 /18
Supported Accommodation	177	178	192
Floating Support	1,638	1,778	1,854

Service User Feedback 2018 (RCT Supporting People Services)

- *Support has helped me from becoming homeless.*
- *My support worker has helped me to motivate me to do more for myself.*
- *I would have been homeless without the support and am very grateful to my support worker for all the hard work.*
- *I am due to come off scheme but would like to know that I can ring my support worker at any time if I need help and they can come back to work with me rather than someone I do not know.*
- *I would like ongoing support with the same worker rather than a referral to another provider.*
- *My quality of life is better as a result of receiving support just wished I had received it sooner.*
- *Some people do not realise how vital support is to each individual. It saved my life. I am now in a position when I can open my mail and not worry about what it is.*

Lack of appropriate support can severely affect a person’s ability to sustain a tenancy leading to loss of accommodation and repeat cases of homelessness. In consideration of the high number of referrals received for tenancy related support services in RCT, this has led to long waiting lists for support, particularly for some lead need groups particularly those with a mental health need.

Floating Support Projects.

In consideration of the high service demand, we consulted with our service users to help with review and redesign of our floating support provision. In addition, we piloted multiple need projects to help us consider new and innovative ways of working. The review also explored how we provide services for some of our most vulnerable clients particularly those with challenging behaviours and backgrounds that are currently falling through the net as they are passed between providers and services.

Our proposed new floating support model aims to provide a seamless transition, between each level of support and the interventions required based on an individual's level of presenting housing and support needs. This will aim to ensure households can access support as and when required and are able to live independently and be supported within their local communities. This approach will mean easier access to support and services without having to negotiate with different agencies.

The new service will adopt a trauma based approach to working with vulnerable individuals, including an understanding of any barriers to how we currently try to support them. This will ensure our housing officers and support workers are fully trained in delivering trauma based interviewing techniques in consideration of the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) agenda.

Static Provision

The Council commissions **93 units of static accommodation** for a range of client groups including young people and for those with a mental health and substance misuse need.

The opening of the Old Bakery Project in 2017 enabled 6 young people with high support needs including those leaving care, to access supported accommodation to help develop independent living skills in their own self contained accommodation.

In recognition of the high demand for young person's 24/7 accommodation, a review of Supporting People Grant funding has enabled monies to be released following the approval of the Supporting People Planning Group. The funding will be used to ensure all young people's supported accommodation can offer 24/ 7 provision by the end of 2018 to meet all levels of young people presenting with support needs.

Housing First

Housing First is an international model providing accommodation and intensive support to homeless people with complex needs.

In recognition of the increasing number of single homeless people with an offending background, who have contact with the Criminal Justice System and who present as homeless or make repeat homelessness applications, the Wisdom Housing Project has been developed in consideration of this response and is based on the principles of Housing First offering housing and support to individuals who are part of the Wisdom cohort in RCT.

The delivery of the project is through multi agency working arrangements including Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Trivallis, Gwalia, South Wales Police and the Probation Service and aims to provide a sustainable exit from homelessness. This includes an offender having rapid access to an independent social housing tenancy and providing intensive flexible support arrangements from both a dedicated housing management and a housing related support worker as long as needed to sustain a tenancy.

It is early days and the project is still very much in its infancy in respect of learning and understanding of the next steps and in consideration of a wider roll out of the Housing

First model and principles. We recognise Housing First is not designed for all forms of homelessness and needs to form part of a range of services including preventative services and lower –intensity support services for homeless people with less complex needs.

However the project outcomes to date have been positive with 5 high risk offenders accepted onto the project.

A key focus will be to further embed the Housing First approach and ensure all partners are committed to the model and provide appropriate support and housing for complex individuals.

The council has secured funding under the WAG Housing First Trail Blazer Programme 2019/ 20 to develop an assertive outreach service for individuals with complex needs. The worker will aim to connect with those who are excluded from support services and the Common Housing Register due to behaviour and high risk to build trust and help them to engage with services in the longer term.

The worker will link with the Wisdom Housing Project Support Team to provide a holistic support service to individuals with challenging and complex needs. Links have also been made Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Supporting People Team to explore regional opportunities for a Housing First approach.

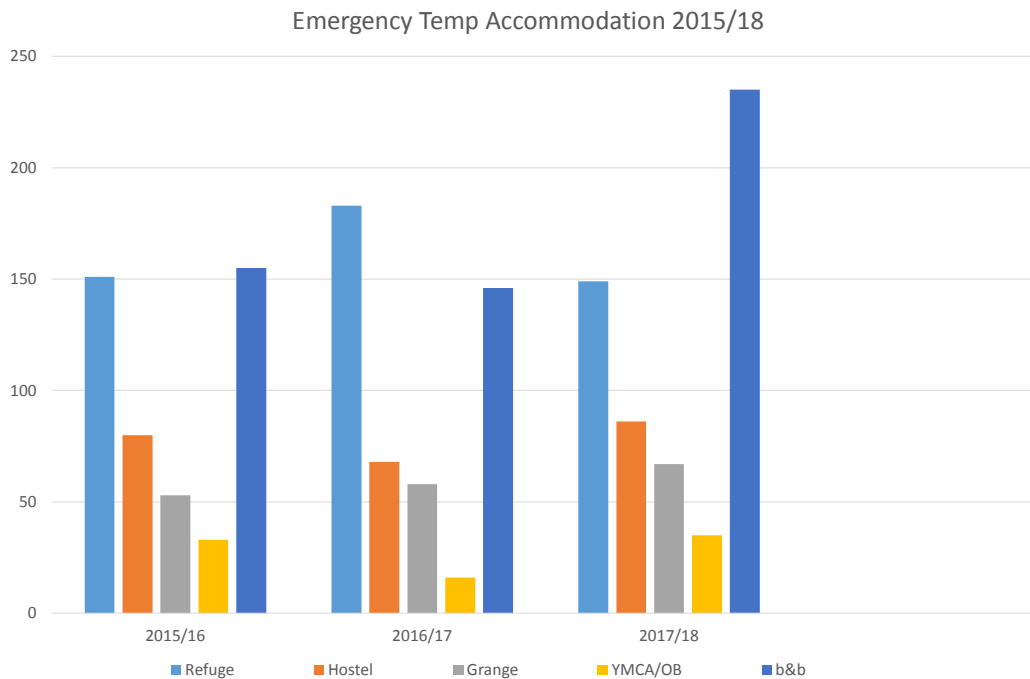
9. TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

There is a statutory duty to provide accommodation for an applicant, if they are considered homeless and in one of the priority need categories. Other Council departments also have accommodation duties, normally where the housing service does not have a duty to accommodate. This includes people who have no recourse to public funds due to their immigration status.

Temporary Accommodation in RCT is accessed via referrals from the Housing Solutions Team, when an individual presents as homeless. A Housing Solutions Officer makes a referral to the Temporary Accommodation Officer who then allocates the appropriate accommodation.

In order to fulfil its legal obligation to accommodate people the Council has procured a variety of alternative forms of temporary accommodation which include hostel bed spaces, refuge accommodation, RSL and Private Sector leased self contained units and emergency provision for young vulnerable individuals.

The chart illustrates the number of people placed in Emergency Accommodation throughout 2015/2016 ,2016/2017 and 2017 /18 .The highest placements were for Refuge; B+B's and hostels with the highest increase in placement for the Grange and Refuge.



Temporary Leasing Scheme

Private Sector Leasing Schemes include properties that are either leased from a private landlord or provided by a housing association for a contracted period of time.

Rhondda Cynon Taff's leasing scheme is managed by Cartrefi Hafod and offers a total of 23 units of which 11 are leased from a private landlord and 12 of which are Hafod's own stock.

Bed and Breakfast Accommodation.

RCTCBC regularly makes use of four premises for B+B provision, two of which have been used for a number of years by the Council to house homeless households. Each B+B is assessed to determine that it meets the needs of the client being placed, having regard in particular to the other clients and users of that hotel.

In addition to the above, B+B is used by other Council departments which places further pressure on the availability of accommodation. We are committed to stopping the use of Bed and Breakfast to place 16 and 17 year olds and recognise it is not a suitable or desirable outcome. However there may be instances where an emergency accommodation placement in a B+B is necessary but in such cases placements will be monitored to ensure young people are moved on as quickly as possible to more suitable accommodation.

On occasions out of borough accommodation is used when there is no availability in the above premises. The Code of Guidance for Local authorities on the Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness (2016) states that where accommodation is made available outside of the LA area, the placing LA must by law notify the host LA with the location and details of the individual or household placed within 14 days of the placement as set out in Section 91 Housing (Wales) Act 2014. However the Welsh Government strongly recommends where accommodation is being made available in another local authority area, the placing LA should contact the host area before placement to assist with ensuring the placement is safe and suitable. The Welsh Government encourages the development of an out of area placement protocols to help manage this type of scenario.

a) Reasons for Placement in B + B

The Code of Guidance for Local Authorities on the Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness 2016 states that Local Authorities are encouraged to reduce the usage of Bed and Breakfast accommodation wherever possible and should only be used on an exceptional basis and for a limited period of time. B+ B accommodation is not regarded as suitable for families with children, pregnant women and 16 and 17 year olds and should only be used for these client groups in an emergency.

B+B's have limited facilities for applicants and where used Local Authorities should ensure that households have the use of rooms during the day and access to cooking facilities.

By law, local authorities must consider whether the temporary accommodation is affordable, however the cost of TA can exceed the cost of living in settled

accommodation particularly where there are no cooking facilities and where residents have to vacate the premises for part of the day.

Whilst the prevention approach has worked for many, there are still those we find it difficult to prevent homelessness because of an unforeseen event, or they contact us too late which means we have to use B+B as a necessary means of temporary accommodation in the first instance.

Numbers of placements in Bed and Breakfast increased from 140 in 2016/17 to 235 in 2017/18 as we include placements under our severe weather plan for the first time. It is noted that numbers are increasing further in the first half of 2018/19 as more and more residents with a priority need find themselves in an emergency homeless situation.

Table 7: Reasons for placement in Bed and Breakfast Accommodation by Client Group

Priority need Group	2015/ 16	2016/17	2017/18
16 / 17 year old	15	22	14
Care Leaver (18-21)	5	4	13
Household with dependent children	7	0	12
Domestic abuse (F)	5	17	32
Domestic abuse (M)	1	1	0
Old age	2	1	1
Emergency	0	1	1
Fleeing violence	2	2	0
Mental health	25	47	43
Physical health	7	21	42
Prison Leaver	83	8	8
Pregnant	3	8	7
Vulnerable	1	7	18
Army discharge	0	0	0
Out of hours*	0	1	8
Cold weather provision	Not recorded	Not recorded	36
Total	156	140	235

*This figure for Out of Hours placements relates only to clients who did not subsequently have a priority need following full assessment.

During **2017/18 (April – December)** three people were placed in B+B on more than one occasion. Two of the placements were homeless and in priority need for the following reasons:

- **Household 1** -fleeing domestic violence or threatened with violence
- **Household 2** - where a member is vulnerable – mental illness.

Between the period **2015/16 to 2017/18 (April – December)** three households have been placed in B+B accommodation on multiple occasions. Their homelessness priority need reasons are:

- **Household 1** - *Household where a member is vulnerable – mental illness*
- **Household 2** - *Household where a member is vulnerable – mental illness*
- **Household 3** - *Household where a member is vulnerable – physical disability*

b) Time spent in Temporary Accommodation

In 2016/17, we reduced the time spent in B+B for all homeless households, based on our performance targets. This improved performance continued in 2017/18.

The longest number of weeks spent in B+B accommodation is steadily decreasing from 33 weeks in 2015/16, 28 weeks in 2016/17 and 20 weeks for the period April – December 2017/18. These cases were single males indicating a delay in move on to permanent accommodation for this type.

Despite the reduction in the use of B+B accommodation, we recognise the need more for alternative forms of temporary accommodation to meet service demand, predominantly from single homeless people.

It is also imperative that 16 and 17 year olds are not placed in bed and breakfast accommodation, unless it is an emergency, and no alternative accommodation can be found. If used for an emergency, there is a commitment from both Housing Services and Children's Services that it should be used for the shortest time possible and support is offered during their stay. Young people placed in B+B indefinitely can lead to consequences such as increased emotion and mental health problems, further estrangement from family members and possible exposure to the use of drugs and alcohol.

A review of temporary accommodation arrangements is being undertaken with the aim of further reducing the use of B+B provision. This included analysing the demand for temporary accommodation, to inform decisions relating to supply and exploring alternative options such as the expansion of the current leasing scheme and developing other private rented sector options in the form of shared properties.

10. ROUGH SLEEPING in RCT

Definition of Rough Sleeping

People who are sleeping, or bedded down, in the open air, people in buildings or other places not designed for habitation.

This definition will include for example, people sleeping on the streets in doorways, in parks, in bus shelters or buildings not designated for habitation, such as barns, sheds, car parks, derelict boats, stations, squats, tents or make shift shelters.

Welsh Assembly Government

Whilst there has been an undisputed rise in rough sleeping in Wales, the numbers in consideration of the above definition within Rhondda Cynon Taf have continued to remain static over the last three years.

There is a perception of increased rough sleeping in the borough particularly in locations such as Pontypridd and Aberdare. This is mostly linked to increased visibility of single people in shop doorways, who are of no fixed abode gravitating to the town centre locations. There is also some evidence of street begging from individuals who are not local to the area.

The annual rough sleeper count undertaken in Rhondda Cynon Taff in November 2016 and 2017 identified only two people sleeping rough on the night. This is consistent with figures from night counts undertaken in previous years with the 2018 night count finding no rough sleepers.

In order to ensure services are available to anyone who is faced with the prospect of rough sleeping, the Street-Smart Project has been commissioned by the Council in partnership with Adef to offer:

- Support with housing issues, access to private rented and/or social housing, negotiating DHP payments etc.
- Referrals to Supporting People
- Access to a laundry, showers, hot and cold food and beverages.
- Provision of sleeping bags, survival blankets and gender specific essential items packs
- A 'care of' address and a point of contact for other services e.g. probation, substance misuse, mental health.

The service is available to people directly accessing the hostel and through referral from the Housing Solutions Team and other agencies. The Council has developed a Severe Weather Plan and during periods of extreme weather all persons identified as rough sleeping will be offered temporary accommodation through financial support made available by the Council. All persons placed are offered support to help understand their

reasons for needing to sleep rough and help provide the best housing options to meet their housing and support needs.

The data from the Street-Smart project, the night count and the questionnaires completed by the Housing Solutions Team for people claiming to be sleeping rough are regularly analysed to help provide a better understanding of the needs and aspirations of people sleeping rough in the borough.

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11. PARTNERSHIPS – WORKING TOGETHER

Co-operation between local authorities and their partners is a core theme of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The Act strengthens the duty to co-operate on specified public bodies. In addition to this particular change, the statutory framework is predicated upon highly developed collaboration between local authorities and their partners to achieve its objectives on early intervention and assistance to find the best available solution as quickly as possible.

Rhondda Cynon Taf has a strong record of working in partnership with other statutory and voluntary Sector Organisations in the delivery of its homelessness and support services.

Working with Registered Social Landlords.

S.95 of the Act places a duty on Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) to co-operate with the Local Authority in exercising their homelessness duties.

The Registered Social landlords operating in RCT play a vital role in helping to prevent and alleviate homelessness and in supporting the Council in the delivery of its strategic housing role.

This includes being key partners in the development of our Common Housing Register "Homefinder" which provides access to over 15,000 rented homes in Rhondda Cynon Taf. We also operate common allocation policy for the allocation of social housing. Each of the housing associations play an active role in the operation of our multi agency 'Move on' and Eligibility Panels which assess the needs of vulnerable applicants seeking housing.

We also work closely with our RSL partners to ensure new homes are as affordable as possible and available in range of sizes, types and tenure to meet a range of housing needs and support mixed balanced and sustainable communities

12. FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

Local authorities have received Transitional Housing Funding from the Welsh Assembly Government over the past three years to help with the implementation of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

In Rhondda Cynon Taff this has assisted with a number of areas, including the purchase of a new ICT system and additional staffing resources to ensure we are fully meeting the legal requirements of the Act. In addition, the fund has enabled the payment of financial incentives to landlords to help provide access to the private rented sector, prevented the loss of accommodation by helping with the payment of debts including rent arrears and the purchase of furniture packs.

Target hardening measures also offer security equipment to be provided to support victims of domestic abuse who wish to remain in their own homes.

As from the 1st April 2018 the Transitional Housing Fund will no longer be received as a specific grant made available from Welsh Government. Councils have instead received additional financial resources for homelessness via their Revenue Support Grant (RSG) which will also include funding for temporary accommodation arrangements. In addition to the RSG monies provision of WAG annual Homelessness Prevention Grant Funding is made available through a separate application process in consideration of specific client criteria.

Housing Support Grant

As from the 1st April 2019 the Flexible Funding Grant will be replaced by a new two grant approach i.e. the Children and Communities Grant and the Housing and Support Grant. The latter will create a ring fenced grant incorporating Supporting People, Homelessness Prevention Grant and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement funding.

This new funding approach is still in the early stages of implementation but will align with other local strategies including the Housing (Wales) Act 2015, local Well being plans, Public Service Board priorities and the goals of the Well – being of future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Supporting People Grant (SPG)

The Council receives Supporting People Grant (SPG) funding annually of over 9 million.

This is used to fund housing related support services including static and tenancy related projects and preventative services for vulnerable client groups.

These include

- Those fleeing domestic abuse,
- People with mental health needs
- People with a substance misuse and or offending history
- Older people,
- Vulnerable families

- Care leavers
- Young people.

A strategic review of our Supporting People funding and services has ensured alignment between Supporting People services and the homelessness prevention agenda. Through remodelling, decommissioning and re-commissioning of services, Supporting People Grant is used effectively to provide early intervention and preventative homelessness support services linked with the Housing Solutions Team.

External Funding

The Council has worked with its partners to bring in new money to support continuous improvement and will seek to capitalise on any additional opportunities to draw down funding to support homelessness and related services including supporting our voluntary sector partners to seek funding from sources that may be exclusively available to them.

Funding secured from the Oak Foundation over the last three years has supported the development of the Step by Step Project, which is a successful partnership with Merthyr and the Valley Mind Cymru. The project provides a proactive response to the housing and support needs of single homeless people with the support workers co-located within the Housing Solutions Team

An evaluation report produced by the Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care (University of South Wales and Cardiff University) highlighted the high success rate of the project in achieving positive outcomes. This included helping single person households to secure accommodation in the private rented sector.

The Step by Step project is now funded directly by the Council through the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) in recognition of the projects success and the outcomes achieved in preventing homelessness and securing accommodation particularly for single homeless people.

Additional 3 year funding from the Oak Foundation confirmed from the 1st January 2019 has been approved for the roll out of the Merthyr and Valley Mind Resilience Project to all Supporting People funded supported accommodation refuge and hostel projects in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)

The Council has a strong track record in utilising DHP to prevent homelessness and has effective joint working arrangements between the Housing Solutions Team and Housing Benefit Teams. A Housing Benefit Officer is funded to offer a dedicated role for HB referrals made in respect of persons who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. This helps with the processing time for applications helping to prevent homelessness or help access accommodation. DHP's are also helping to assist private tenants affected by Local Housing Allowance restrictions and others in need of assistance with meeting their shortfall in rental costs

The delivery of the actions set out in this strategy will rely upon the resources of the council and partners. To maximise combined resources, it will be important to work

together, sharing expertise, good practice and avoiding duplication, identifying and meeting gaps in provision, jointly funding or procuring projects and making joint bids for any available funding streams to secure additional resources to help tackle homelessness in the borough.

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13. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS- HOMELESSNESS REVIEW

We have carried out a review of the homelessness services we provide and looked at the patterns of homelessness in Rhondda Cynon Taf to help understand the nature of homelessness in the borough and the reasons why people become susceptible to it.

This included the current levels of homelessness and numbers of people at risk of becoming homeless and the increasing demand for help and assistance going forward in 2018/19. The review also highlighted the level of resources and services available across the County Borough to support effective prevention of homelessness.

The homeless review found that our existing strategic aims and prevention activity have helped to deliver effective results in the face of increasing demands on services.

We recognise we are entering difficult times as far as the wider economy and its impact on household budgets and the housing market are concerned. It is anticipated there will be further increasing demands on housing advice, homelessness and Supporting People Services. The introduction of Universal Credit will also have an impact as households face further financial challenges.

Service users including families and single people users were contacted as part of the review and asked about:

- their reason(s) for homelessness
- what, if anything, could have prevented homelessness occurring
- their experience of the service they accessed
- their views on improvements that could be made
- Any other issues they wanted to raise.

Summary of the Review Findings.

- There are a wide of range of prevention services in RCT, supported by strong partnership arrangements. (See Appendix1)
- There are limited services for male victims of domestic abuse. Victims of violence and abuse need to be more aware of the services that are available so they can access information, advice and assistance when they need it.
- A high proportion of people who present as homeless or request support via the Single Point of Access (SPA) have complex needs. These include mental health needs and this is often an underlying cause of their homelessness stemming from events experienced in early life. In addition debt and money issues were a source of emotional problems and family conflict.
- The bed and breakfast accommodation is still used to place vulnerable young single persons and those with a mental health need.

- There is a mismatch between the profile of those presenting as homeless and the accommodation available to re-house them, in particular a shortage of single person's accommodation in the more popular areas of the County Borough.
- Access to affordable housing in some parts of the borough is challenging. Demand for social housing is high, particularly 1 bedroom single person accommodation.
- There is a lack of specialist accommodation with support for young people including those with complex needs and those leaving care
- Substance misuse is becoming an increasing problem within Rhondda Cynon Taf which has a significant impact on the wider community.
- A high percentage of people presenting as homeless have a mental health need, with a long wait to access therapeutic and counselling services.
- There is a need to make better use of the private rented sector, as an alternative to social housing in the areas where little is available.
- There are concerns about the impact of Universal Credit and the impact this will have on people's ability to sustain current accommodation.
- There are difficulties for ex-offenders accessing permanent accommodation,
- The majority of clients surveyed found the service provided by the Housing Solutions service to be accessible. A few users commented the service is usually very busy and sometimes there is a long wait to be seen. The provision of information in the reception was welcomed although some users felt that the reception and interview rooms could be bigger to allow for more privacy.

14. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This last section of the strategy sets out in summary how the three objectives of the homelessness strategy will be implemented.

Objective 1-

Preventing homelessness and repeat homelessness from occurring, wherever possible, therefore reducing homelessness.

Objective 2.-

Ensuring that appropriate support and accommodation, including temporary and emergency accommodation, is available to meet the needs of homeless and potentially homeless people

Objective 3-

Ensuring people with housing support needs have these fully assessed and have access to services to help sustain independent living

**Actions - Objective One:
Preventing homelessness and repeat homelessness from occurring
wherever possible, therefore reducing homelessness**

1. We will continuously strive to improve the delivery of our homelessness services and will deliver the action plan developed in response to the recommendations of the National Wales Audit Office Report on homelessness services in Wales - (8th January 2018).
2. We will continue to secure financial resources to ensure we are able to operate homelessness services and assist with access to the private rented sector and other prevention activity.
3. We need to improve the monitoring and recording of prevention work including the homelessness services we provide to ensure we are clear about what interventions work and are effective. This will ensure we are reviewing services and that investment is targeted at the right interventions in consideration of the cause and effect
4. We will continue to identify the underlying causes of homelessness, ensuring everyone gets advice at the earliest possible stage to prevent them from experiencing homelessness.
5. The council will work to improve its data collection and reporting mechanisms for service users particularly for equalities information. This will help identify the causes of homelessness for all client groups and allow for early planning of prevention focused work ensuring that no one is discriminated against.
6. We will give particular focus to young people and their families and the reasons for family breakdown.
7. We will continue to work closely with Children's Services to assist with the implementation of a positive youth pathway and assist in the implementation of the "Accommodation and Review Strategy for Young People 16 + Years of Age Leaving Care." This will be supported by the Councils wider corporate agenda, such as aiming to raise education and training opportunities and improve health and well being for this client group.
8. Ensuring early engagement with drug and alcohol services will remain critical for identifying and helping those at risk of homelessness
9. Support for a multi agency approach to preventing homelessness including the development of clear housing pathways for each specific client group such as those leaving prison, hospital or adult social care placement that includes appropriate accommodation and support
10. Provide services to help divert and prevent perpetrators of domestic abuse re-offending.

11. We will continue to improve service user involvement to ensure they are able to have their say in service design, development and delivery.
12. Review the pathway from prison to accommodation to develop stronger links with Probation services and Prisons to plan earlier for residents who will be homeless on release from prison.

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**Actions - Objective Two:
Ensuring that appropriate support and accommodation, including temporary and emergency accommodation, is available to meet the needs of homeless and potentially homeless people**

1. Reducing the use of temporary accommodation will be an ongoing priority
2. We will continue to keep the use of bed and breakfast, at the lowest levels possible and ensure we do not place any young persons aged 16 and 17 in such accommodation or place families in bed and breakfast for longer than 6 weeks.
3. We will complete a review of our temporary accommodation arrangements to ensure we are providing a range of options which meet the needs of all our vulnerable client groups.
4. Further develop independent living solutions utilising the principles of the Housing First Model and investigate the feasibility of adopting the full model.
5. We will continue to develop links with the private rented sector through the development of our own in house lettings service
6. Adopt trauma and psychologically informed approaches to supporting people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness by ensuring support staff are sufficiently trained to deliver psychologically informed services in consideration of Adverse Childhood Experiences.(ACE's)
7. We will work with our housing provider partners on new investment and funding models to develop a range of housing option and ensure affordable housing delivery is maintained
8. Develop partnerships with private landlords to ensure a good supply of affordable accommodation including the development of a cohesive Private Rented Sector Strategy.
9. Work with housing partners to develop a pre-action protocol agreement before any possession proceedings commence to reduce stress and legal costs and improve the possibility of homeless prevention.
- 10 Review our equality data to help us better understand the cultural and the linguistic needs of the different communities in RCT including understanding of the barriers faced by some groups in accessing homelessness and support services.
- 11 Ensure ex- service personnel are easily identified by housing and other agencies and offered bespoke advice, including a clear pathway for housing and support.

Actions - Objective Three:
Ensuring people with housing support needs, have these fully assessed and have access to services to help sustain independent living.

1. Commission our new locality floating support service (1st April 2019) to ensure we are providing wider community support, by helping people to remain in their own home and feel in control of their lives. The new service will offer support on demand and include early intervention and prevention activity, financial advice, signposting and advocacy for other services including social opportunities.
2. Whilst effective partnership arrangements have been key to achieving our prevention agenda. We recognise we cannot stand still and will continue to working closely with other partners including our housing and support providers and our colleagues in other Council departments i.e. Children Services and Adult Social Care to develop services.
3. Work with our Health colleagues to re-prioritise the development, review and implementation of the homeless and vulnerable group service standards for improving the Health and Wellbeing of homeless people and vulnerable client groups to include the increasing number of people who self neglect and self harm and are prone to hoarding.
4. Work with our partners including Health, Adult Social Care and Children's Services, to ensure homelessness is addressed when planning services in consideration of the outcomes of the Population Needs Assessment.
5. Share appropriate information to improve assessment of needs and access to health and support services and support planning.
6. Develop links with and Substance misuse Area Planning Board (APB) regional teams to develop protocols and services for our front line homelessness and support services who are working with individuals who have chronic substance misuse and mental health needs.
7. To continue our work with Adult Social Care colleagues to help find housing solutions for people who are ready to step down and leave institutional settings residential care settings.
8. Roll out the Merthyr and Valleys Mind Resilience Project to all supported accommodation and hostel provision to help service users to build and improve emotional reliance and promote good health through psycho-education and wellbeing interventions.

15. GOVERNANCE AND DELIVERY OF THE STRATEGY

EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

The Homelessness Strategy aims to prevent homelessness support and have a positive impact on all service user groups, particularly those who present as homeless. However, it is acknowledged that there is insufficient evidence to decide if some groups would receive a positive benefit these include

- Black and minority ethnic groups
- People with a learning disability
- All groups within the sexuality strands
- All groups within the religious strand

Therefore actions will need to be undertaken to improve our monitoring to include:

1. Undertake additional equality monitoring for all people seeking housing advice, through to a homelessness application, securing temporary accommodation, applications to the Common Housing Register to allocation of permanent accommodation.
2. Ensure officers receive training and are aware of equality and diversity issues particularly in relation to housing services.

UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS OF SERVICE USERS.

In order to ensure we are identifying and providing services which meet the needs of service users we will ensure we develop appropriate mechanisms to consult with service users who actively use the services on a regular basis. The feedback we receive will help shape our services in accordance with their needs.

Some examples of service user feedback in 2018 via our client questionnaire (24 responses):

- “very helpful at Sardis House”
- “no problems, got my key worker”
- “no barriers (to services) as of now”
- “long waiting time to be seen”
- “helped me a lot ,bidding for properties was easy”
- “to be honest all worked well”
- “personal issues discussed on reception”
- “helpful staff explained options well so I understood”
- “more contact from Housing Officer needed as situation is stressful”
- “more supported accommodation needed”
- “More affordable housing”
- “what works – support worker”

MONITORING and REVIEWING THE STRATEGY

The ultimate responsibility for driving through this strategy and ensuring it delivers its key objectives rests with the Director Public Health, Protection and Community Services supported by a range of colleagues from other council departments and agencies.

The strategy has been developed in partnership with others including service users and stakeholders and they will continue to be involved in the ongoing review and delivery of the objectives and delivery plan.

The RCT Homelessness Forum will be re established and made up of colleagues from statutory and voluntary agencies across the borough who will take the lead in monitoring delivery against targets and measuring outcomes.

a) Monitoring

It is important to develop effective performance monitoring arrangements to help inform the local profile of homelessness. The regular review of statistical data can also help identify where service pressures are likely to arise and help provide the intelligence to inform the allocation of resources and future shaping of services.

Proposed monitoring includes:

1. Number of people assisted under each of the duties and prevention data i.e.
 - Section 66
 - Section 73
 - Section 75
2. The number of repeat homelessness presentations
3. Understanding the main causes of homelessness
4. Number of households in bed and breakfast by client group
5. Reasons for the use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation.
6. Number of 16 and 17 year placed in bed and breakfast
7. Number of families placed in bed and breakfast for longer than 6 weeks.
8. Length of time spent in bed and breakfast for all client groups
9. Number of repeat temporary accommodation placements
10. Number of tenancies breaking down within 6 months of letting after a homeless acceptance

b) Review

The requirement of the Welsh Assembly is that the homelessness strategy is fully reviewed at least every four years.

It has become apparent throughout the development of this strategy that there are changes on the horizon, including changes to government policy and the financial landscape.

In view of this the strategy aims to be a flexible document and although the vision will remain the same it is likely that the strategic objectives and the action plan will change and will be reviewed every year to ensure that the tasks remain relevant and are revised where appropriate

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Appendix 1

Homelessness Prevention Services in Rhondda Cynon Taf

The Financial Project developed with Pontypridd Citizens Advice Bureau funded by WAG Homelessness Prevention Grant offers specialist support to help with benefit maximisation, PIP appeals and other welfare benefit issues. Referrals to this service are made by the Housing Solutions Team as well as referrals for individuals who are in receipt of a Supporting People funded housing related support service.

The Step by Step Project is based within the local authority's Housing Solutions Team and provides key worker support delivered on an individual basis to offer housing assistance to single person homeless households to help secure a successful outcome including helping to access a range of housing and support options

The Homelessness Intervention Project (HIP) is managed by Rhondda Housing Association and offers key worker support for all persons who present to the council as homeless or threatened with homelessness by supporting an applicant with their short term needs and helping with their reasonable steps and delivery of actions outlined in their personal Housing and Support Plans

Get Ready and Move On (GRAMO) is a pre tenancy project, funded by Supporting People Grant delivered in partnership with Trivallis who also financially contribute to the project. The project works with care leavers and residents placed in our hostels, supported accommodation and those stepping down from specialist adult care placements providing information on all aspects of having a tenancy and being a good tenant. This is delivered through group work and one to one sessions which also link back to support plans where a client is deemed to need more support.

The Resilience Project is a collaboration between Merthyr and the Valleys Mind and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. The Project aims to build and improve emotional reliance and promote good health through psycho-education and wellbeing interventions. This will offer one-to-one case work to vulnerable tenants using Mind's Resilience products which focus on self-directed support and provide group psycho-educational which focuses on individual and community resilience in partnership with Adref, Gwalia and Cynon Taf Community Housing Group to the following projects:

- **Mill Street Hostel**
- **The Grange**
- **Martins Close**
- **Early Intervention and Prevention Project**
- **Gwalia - Multiple needs Housing Related Support Project**
- **Adref - Multiple Needs Housing Related Support Project**

Complex Needs Worker In order to reduce the number of single homeless people who present as homeless with high and complex support need who are asked to leave our hostel and supported accommodation for non compliance with rules, a Complex needs worker has been commissioned to offer support to residents in hostel and supported accommodation provision to help effectively manage and support individuals leaving

services without their homelessness ever being resolved or resulting in a revolving door of service use and homelessness.

The worker also co-ordinates referrals to other services including, health, mental health and social care. The worker will also be co-located in one of our accommodation based projects to help provide specialist support provision.

Gofal Cymru This comprises a team of three workers based within the Housing Solutions Team who provide a seamless service for those who have a mental health need and experiencing housing difficulties. The service also links with the Royal Glamorgan Hospital Mental Health unit to provide advice and assistance to anyone placed on ward in housing need.

Mediation. The Mediation Project is managed by Llamau with a Homeless Mediation Officer in RCT located within the Housing Solutions Team who works with young people aged 16 -21 who present as homeless as a consequence of parental breakdown. Where possible the officer works with each family to attempt reconciliation and to make plans for the young person to return home in the short or long term.

The Emphasis Project provides an advice and support service that will enable young people to avoid homelessness and remain or help them return to their home environment. The project is delivered by Llamau and funded by WAG Homelessness Prevention Grant to offer interventions through early targeted help, including helping educate and provide information and advice for young people and their families and other agencies about the realities of youth homelessness / welfare reforms impacts etc

The project worker role is based with the RCT Resilient Families Service and Engagement in Education and Training (SEET) team to identify, and offers support to young people and to those families which are specifically at risk of their young people presenting as homeless.

The outcomes for the project include:

- Fewer Homelessness presentations from 16-24 age group. (again could be 14+)
- The number of Children and Young People able to remain at home with ongoing support.
- The number engaging in WTE
- Number of young people who have a better level of self-management, taking responsibility for their own actions / understanding potential consequences for the young person.
- Number of young people who recognise the right time to ask for help to prevent a crisis for both the young person and caregiver.
- Number of young people who are aware of who to contact if they are homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- Number of schools attended in RCT to promote awareness of homelessness in order to raise awareness about the housing options and the reality and risk of homelessness.

Street-smart Project. The aim of the service is to provide a flexible, innovative outreach service for rough sleepers in RCT to include:

- Help move people from the streets to safe and secure accommodation if that is what they require.
- help people who are homeless / rough sleeping access health services
- collect information on rough sleeping and consult with people who use the service to identify gaps in provision and help direct the service.
- Identify where there are gaps in support and offer up effective solutions.
- to complete the rough sleeper questionnaires throughout the Project to inform the end of year report and rough sleeping statistical data collections and information to inform local strategy and commissioning arrangements.
- Consult with staff teams and clients to seek ideas and involve them any new service approach.

Care and Repair Cymru The scheme is delivered in partnership with Care and Repair Cymru and aims to reduce homelessness by enabling victims of domestic abuse, where safe and appropriate to do so to remain in their homes by providing security measures to help them and their families feel safe and secure. The scheme is open to all victims of domestic abuse with referrals made by through the Oasis Centre. As part of this referral process a range of housing options will be discussed and offered to enable the client to make an informed decision about the options that best suits their needs and circumstances.

Equipment is provided free of charge and in some cases and if the victim is living in social housing ,security works may aslo be supplemented by equipment provided by their landlord.

Security measures can include the provision of equipment as well as some works to the property. The following is a guide to the equipment and works available.

- Change of window and door locks
- Window and door alarms
- Door jammers/chains
- Personal Alarms
- CCTV
- Security lighting with
- Fire safety equipment including extinguishers/fire blankets/fireproof letter boxes
- External Letterboxes

Appendix 2

ALL WALES LOCAL AUTHORITY COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE DATA 2017/18

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

18th DECEMBER 2018

OUT & ABOUT TWO: THE RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF 2019-2029

REPORT OF DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH COUNCILLOR ANN CRIMMINGS, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, LEISURE AND HERITAGE SERVICES

**Author: David Batten, Head of Leisure, Parks & Countryside
Tel: 01443 562202**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks Members approval of the Out & About Two: The Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf (as attached at Appendix 1 of the report), prior to consideration by Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Endorse to Council the adoption of the 'Out & About Two: The Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf 2019-2029'.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 requires all Local Highway Authorities to prepare a Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The first Plan was adopted in 2007. Out & About Two is the decennial review of this Plan.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In 2016, the Welsh Government published guidance regarding the decennial review of Rights of Way Improvement Plans. A report on the Assessment stage was taken to the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee in December 2017

and it was determined that a review of the Plan was required. The Cabinet Member authorised the formal 12 week consultation on the draft Plan in June 2018 and Scrutiny Committee received a presentation on the draft Plan in September 2018. The final Plan has now been produced, incorporating approximately 38 amendments arising from the consultation. The final Plan, the summary of the consultation responses (4 pages) and the full consultation responses document (248 pages), are available for inspection.

- 4.2 'Out and About Two: The Rights of Way Improvement Plan' for Rhondda Cynon Taf 2019-2029 will guide the Council in work relating to Public Rights of Way and other access opportunities within Rhondda Cynon Taf. It seeks to align with the Council's overall priorities and with the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan.
- 4.3 The introduction provides the legal background for preparing the Plan and describes the area covered. Section two provides a brief background on the first Rights of Way Improvement Plan and a summary of the evaluation of that Plan.
- 4.4 Section three provides a summary of the Assessment undertaken in 2017 to inform the review of the Plan. It considers the current condition of the access opportunities, future public need, Active Travel, the Public Services Board and the Well-being Plan and the conclusions of the Assessment; namely to prepare a revised Plan.
- 4.5 Section four provides a background to the Statement of Action. The aims and priorities from the Assessment are described, and the long term strategic commitments identified. The consultation on the draft Plan and the resulting changes are summarised. The purpose and content of delivery plans is explained and the proposed process of policy change set out.
- 4.6 Section five is the Statement of Action. Unlike the first ROWIP, detailed actions are not included. Instead key themes for action are identified under each of the six objectives. The objectives are as follows:
 - Promote outdoor countryside activity for health, regeneration, tourism and recreation;
 - Walking and cycling as transport options;
 - Protect the access resource;
 - Improve provision for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, off road vehicles and users with mobility or sensory disabilities;
 - Involving local community and voluntary organisations in the development, promotion and use of access opportunities;

- Develop a more efficient management system for statutory Rights of Way work, including the Definitive Map. Appendix 2.
- 4.7 Section six explains how Delivery Plans will be used to implement the Statement of Action. Section seven considers monitoring, reporting and Plan Review.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In developing this proposal, an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening has been undertaken, which has identified that a full EqIA is not required.
- 5.2 It is considered that the Council meets the requirements of its Public Sector Equality Duty, in that due regard has been taken of the likely impact of the decision in terms of equality, diversity and discrimination.

6. CONSULTATION/INVOLVEMENT

- 6.1 The draft Plan was subject to a statutory twelve week consultation during the Summer of 2018. The draft Plan has been made available for public inspection in key Council Offices, in all Council Libraries and on request. The document was also available on-line together with a survey about the draft plan. The consultation has been promoted on-line, via leaflets and to an extensive list of consultees via letter or email and all Councillors were advised of the consultation. In addition, some informal consultation exercises were held at public events and in parks around the County Borough.
- 6.2 A total of 335 responses were received. 170 on-line questionnaires and 103 paper questionnaires, 7 written (including email) comments were submitted. A further 54 people contributed to informal discussions at; at least 4 locations together with observations from the Council's Scrutiny Committee. The Local Access Forum also provided observations.
- 6.3 A detailed (248 page) report and an accompanying data spreadsheet has been produced, which records all the comments and the resulting actions or changes. A four page summary is also available. Appendix 3.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 The Council has a legal duty to produce a Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The implementation of the Plan will be subject to the Council's normal budgetary considerations, although there are no immediate financial requirements arising from this report. The Plan will also support any Council or partnership bids for grant funding.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 As indicated above, the duty to produce and review the Rights of Way Improvement Plan is set out in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The Welsh Government Guidance also requires that the Plan should address issues arising from the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, the Active Travel (Wales) Act, the Environment (Wales) Act and the Equality Act 2010.

9. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 9.1 The Plan has been prepared in parallel with the first Cwm Taf Well-being Assessment and the Well-being Plan. The Plan development has sought to address the five ways of working set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. As a result of the consultation, a number of respondents have expressed an interest in helping to implement aspects of the Plan.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 'Out & About Two; The Rights of Way Improvement Plan' for Rhondda Cynon Taf 2019-2029 provides the objectives and key themes for actions to guide Council's work relating to Public Rights of Way and other access opportunities within Rhondda Cynon Taf over the next ten years. It seeks to align with the Council's overall priorities and with the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

18th DECEMBER 2018

REPORT OF DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH COUNCILLOR ANN CRIMMINGS, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, LEISURE AND HERITAGE SERVICES

OUT & ABOUT TWO: THE RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF 2019-2029

Background Papers

Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee:

12th December 2017

27th September 2018

Officer to contact: David Batten, Head of Leisure, Parks & Countryside
Tel: 01443 562202

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Out & About Two: The Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf 2019-2029

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Executive summary

This is the second edition of 'Out & About; the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf' (ROWIP).

The introduction provides the legal background for preparing the Plan and describes the area covered. Section two provides a brief background on the first Rights of Way Improvement Plan and a summary of the evaluation of that Plan.

Section Three provides a summary of the Assessment undertaken in 2017 to inform the review of the Plan. It considers the current condition of the access opportunities, future public need, Active Travel, the Public Services Board and the Well-being Plan and the conclusions of the Assessment: namely to prepare a revised Plan.

Section Four provides a background to the Statement of Action. The aims and priorities from the Assessment are described and, the long term strategic commitments identified. The consultation on the draft Plan and the resulting changes are summarised. The purpose and content of delivery plans is explained and the proposed process of policy change set out.

Section Five is the Statement of Action. Unlike the first ROWIP, detailed actions are not included. Instead key themes for action are identified under each of the six objectives. The objectives are as follows:

- Promote outdoor countryside activity for health, regeneration, tourism and recreation
- Walking and cycling as transport options
- Protect the access resource
- Improve provision for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, off road vehicles and users with mobility or sensory disabilities
- Involving local community and voluntary organisations in the development, promotion and use of access opportunities
- Develop a more efficient management system for statutory Rights of Way work, including the Definitive Map

Section Six explains how Delivery Plans will be used to implement the Statement of Action. Section Seven considers monitoring, reporting and Plan Review.

1. Introduction

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) required local highway authorities to produce a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) for their area. In Rhondda Cynon Taf this was called 'Out & About' and included open access land, Key Countryside Sites, parks and other permissive access as well as public rights of way. It was published in 2007/8.

The CROW Act specified that plans should be assessed and considered for review within 10 years of publication. In 2016, Welsh government published guidance on the review of ROWIPs in Wales and this has informed the review of Out & About.

The area covered by the Review is the same as for the previous Plan, namely the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf excluding the Brecon Beacons National Park. (See map in Appendix Three.) The National Park is also undertaking a review of their previous Plan. RCT is taking an active role in the development of this Plan

2. Out & About: the first Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf

2.1 Background

The initial ROWIP was based on an assessment of the access resource, the extent to which it met current and likely future needs of the public and the opportunities provided for exercise, open air recreation and enjoyment. The ROWIP provided a strategic plan, a means of bidding for resources and the basis for developing work programmes. It contained 75 actions relating to six specific objectives.

The process of developing the plan took several years and involved a number of stages, each of which included stakeholder and public consultations (issues, assessment, draft plan and final plan). Once the Plan had been adopted by the Council, the implementation of the Plan was monitored through quarterly meetings with an annual summary report presented to the Local Access Forum. This monitoring continues.

2.2 Evaluation

An evaluation of the existing Plan was undertaken as part of the assessment of whether or not to Review the Plan. This was completed in 2017 and used the quarterly monitoring information to consider progress over the last ten years. The evaluation considered both the detailed actions and the broader scope of work carried out under each of the six objectives. This was published as appendices (2 and 3) to the Assessment (2017). A summary is included here.

Individual actions

These were categorised as completed, ongoing, modified, no progress or abandoned. In 2017, of the 75 actions;

- 27 (36%) were completed,
- 30 (40%) were ongoing,
- 6 (8%) had been modified,
- 2 (2.8%) had made no reported progress and
- 10 (13.3%) had been abandoned.

The 2 actions where there had been no reported progress relate to 'Lost Ways' and re-opening PROW on Welsh Government forestry land. Actions have been modified where circumstances, organisations, funding streams or legislation have led to a different approach. Some actions have been abandoned, for example when the lead organisation has closed or not progressed with the project or where an anticipated role has not developed.

Welsh government undertook an evaluation of ROWIPs in 2013. Nationally, at the half way stage evaluation; 74% of actions were completed, part-completed or recurring and 24% abandoned (pii summary)

Objectives

The evaluation found that the objectives had stood the test of time better than the individual actions. In general, the priorities identified in the first ROWIP still reflect current concerns and had, to some extent, anticipated new legislation and guidance.

Objective 1: Promote outdoor countryside activity for health, regeneration, tourism and recreation was the means of ensuring that Out & About reflected the broader concerns of the Local Authority and that actions were co-ordinated. The evaluation concluded that this will continue to be important, particularly in the context of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (see below).

Objective Two: Walking and cycling as transport options preceded the Active Travel legislation but provided a focus for relevant Public Rights of Way (PROW) and broader access concerns pertaining to transport.

Objective Three: Protect the access resource and

Objective Four: Improve provision were the main focus of the statutory rights of way work and are likely to continue to be important considerations for the future.

Objective Five: Involving local community and voluntary organisations has been a vital component of the plan implementation. This way of working is a key feature of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and reflects the sustainable development principles. It also reflects the issues raised by the public in the CwmTaf Well-being assessment (see below). Finally

Objective Six: management system was central to improving the resources and organisational approach to rights of way and access issues.

3. Summary of the Assessment (2017)

In an addition to the evaluation of the existing plan, the guidance stipulated a number of other issues the assessment should consider. A summary of the findings are presented here.

3.1 Current condition

RCT was well provided with access opportunities and this has not changed much over 10 years. The population in the south of the area has increased slightly, there has been a small increase in open access land and in Key Countryside Sites associated with new developments (such as at Cefn yr Hendy and the Church Village Community route). A ward by ward breakdown was appended (4) to the Assessment (2017)

Welsh Government Performance indicator for public rights of way, which was collected from 2000/1 until 2013/14 shows a steady improvement in %'easy to use' for Rhondda Cynon Taf from 21.1% in the first year to 78.79% in the final year.

The Countryside Access Management System (CAMS) has been used to manage the rights of way network since 2011. At the outset, a survey of all paths was undertaken and photos, conditions, limitations and issues were recorded on the system. There are 2576 items of furniture on the network including bridges, gates, stiles and steps. The Assessment considered the types of issues that are logged on CAMS and the rate at which they are resolved. Vegetation issues are the most frequent, followed by issues relating to furniture. More issues are being resolved than added each year but there is still a significant backlog.

The condition of the legal documentation of PROW was also assessed and the works in hand to review the 1971 definitive map for the Taff Ely area described. The need for work to update the Cynon (1995) and Rhondda (1992) definitive maps was also noted. Definitive Map Modification Orders were reviewed. There were 44 applications on the Register, 8 have been determined with a further 2 being investigated.

3.2 Future public need

The assessment of future public need drew on the findings of the CwmTaf Well-being Assessment (2016), the Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey 2008 and 2011, some of the emerging results from the Wales National survey 2016 and the general trends identified in the Welsh Government 'Future Trends' report 2017. The Local Access Forum also considered future public need. Mobility and Equalities issues are

addressed and finally, the Welsh Government's 2017 consultation on Access to Outdoors.

The key themes emerging were that the population is generally more sedentary and less fit than 10 years ago and that 'traditional' activities such as hill walking and horse riding are minority concerns. The areas of growth are in sight-seeing, short walks, family excursions, dog walking, and to some extent active pursuits like cycling/ mountain biking and running. There is a good understanding of the importance of the outdoors for good physical and mental health and for children's development. The focus on the health and social benefits of the outdoors was a strong feature of the Well-being Assessment, together with the promotion of tourism based on a stunning natural environment with excellent access opportunities. Involving and supporting people in developing opportunities, in managing local green spaces, in improving their own health etc. was also a key theme. There is a need to cater for a huge diversity of minority concerns, not just in the traditional areas but, for example, for those with disabilities or protected characteristics, for Welsh speakers or those without access to a car.

3.3 Active Travel

The assessment described the steps undertaken by the Council under the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. There is a close working relationship between Active Travel and Countryside staff, and a mechanism is in place for joint working across the authority. More detail is given in s 4.2 below.

3.4 Public Service Board and Well-being Plan

The Well-being Plan for Cwmtaf has been developed under the provisions of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015. The plan is being prepared by the Public Service Board (PSB) and covers the areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr. The PSB is a collection of public bodies working together to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of people who live, work and visit Cwm Taf. The Well-being Assessment undertook extensive public and stakeholder consultation, in 2015/16, which informed the ROWIP assessment. The draft objectives for the Well-being Plan were published in autumn 2017 and the final Well-being Plan will be published in May 2018.

3.5 Conclusions

The purpose of the ROWIP assessment was to ascertain whether or not the first Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf was in need of review. The conclusion was that a review is required, largely because the legislative background has evolved significantly since the first Plan was written. A Report to Scrutiny Committee in December 2017 **RESOLVED:-**

1. That a formal review of Out & About: the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf is necessary; and
2. That the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee will pre scrutinise the review of 'Out & About' ; the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf at a future meeting and feedback to Cabinet.

4. Background to Statement of Action

4.1 Aims and priorities from the assessment

The assessment identified that the first Rights of Way Improvement Plan provided a useful framework for identifying, prioritizing and monitoring action across the County Borough. The objectives had stood the test of time, while many of the individual actions were ongoing, others had been completed, modified or abandoned with changing circumstances. Very few actions had made no progress. The objectives were considered to provide an appropriate framework for the revised Rights of Way Improvement Plan and reflected the priorities and the legislative change highlighted in the guidance.

The assessment identified the contribution of new public open space, created as part of new housing developments through S106 planning agreements. This was of particular importance in the south of the County Borough where the population has increased since the previous ROWIP.

The use of the Countryside Access Management System has dramatically improved the recording, monitoring and management of the rights of way network. The system provides scope for further improvement but this is currently constrained by a lack of resources (both financial and staff time).

Progress with practical works on the ground has been similarly constrained by the budget cuts arising from austerity. The number of ranger teams and the budget for contractors have both been reduced. Work with volunteers has also declined due to the lack of ranger time to co-ordinate, assist and monitor work. Despite this the percentage of the rights of way network that was 'easy to use' had steadily improved, although there is still a significant backlog of practical work.

Administrative and legal work to update the Definitive Map and Statement has commenced, using funding from the Welsh Government. Completion of the Taff Ely area (relevant date 01/01/1971) is a priority, with further work needed to update Cynon (15/12/1995) and Rhondda (11/11/1992).

The assessment of future public need identified a number of key themes of relevance to the revised ROWIP.

- *Active travel*, that is walking and cycling for journeys with a purpose rather than solely for recreation, is now a government priority. Ensuring that there is continuing close liaison with the Council's strategic transport planning team (who deal with the Active Travel legislation) and that the ROWIP reflects the Council's policy on active travel will be important. The active travel legislation only applies within the built up area. In RCT the links between settlements, and into the settlements from the surrounding countryside, will continue to be important for journeys with a purpose.
- Improving *public health* through the use of the outdoors has emerged as a serious policy concern at national and local level. Rising levels of obesity and poor mental health are areas where outdoor activity is seen as part of the solution. The population is generally more sedentary and less fit than 10 years ago.
- As mentioned above, the *types of outdoor activity* that people take part in is changing. 'Traditional' activities such as hill walking and horse riding, although popular, are minority concerns. The areas of growth are in sight-seeing, short walks, family excursions, dog walking, and to some extent active pursuits like cycling/ mountain biking and running.
- Declining *childhood experiences of the outdoors*, both at home with families or peers and at school, is leading to a loss of knowledge of the local countryside and of the skills to explore and enjoy it. Perceptions of risk have changed and contribute to reducing outdoor freedom and a lack of challenging activities for young people.
- *Tourism*, based on a stunning natural environment with excellent access opportunities continues to be a local and national priority.
- *Involving* and supporting *people* in all aspects of the outdoors is still a priority. This is about much more than volunteering. Some local people want to be involved in developing access opportunities, learning and sharing countryside skills, in managing local green spaces, discovering local history or wildlife, in improving their own health etc.
- There is a need to cater for a huge diversity of *minority concerns*, not just in the traditional areas but, for example, for those with disabilities or protected characteristics, for Welsh speakers or those without access to a car.

4.2 Long term strategic commitments

4.2.1 Sustainable Development and the Wales Well-being Goals

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 places a duty on all public bodies (including local authorities) to carry out sustainable development, which is defined as

The process of improving economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.

The sustainable development principle means *meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs* and applying the following five ways of working.

- **Long term:** the importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long-term needs
- **Prevention:** how acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives
- **Integration:** Considering how public body's well-being objectives may impact on each of the well-being goals, on their objectives and on the objectives of other public bodies.
- **Collaboration:** Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives
- **Involvement:** The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area that the body serves.

The Well-being Goals for Wales are :

A prosperous Wales	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.
A resilient Wales	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).
A healthier Wales	A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are

	understood.
A more equal Wales	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).
A Wales of cohesive communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.
A globally responsible Wales	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

4.2.2 Well-being Plan for Cwm Taf

The Well-being Plan for CwmTaf has been prepared by the Public Service Board under the Well-being of Future Generations Act. It was published in May 2018 and contains 3 objectives each with immediate, short to medium term steps and a long term vision. See figure x overleaf. Within the Plan there are many references to the value that people have for their local environment, the importance of the outdoors for health and well-being, the opportunities for tourism and for being involved in managing and improving the local environment. These cut across the objectives of ‘thriving communities’, ‘healthy people’ and ‘strong economy’.

Specific proposals include

- Utilising the strength of communities to support volunteering
- Community zones
- Helping local groups to adopt green spaces and develop creative activities
- Regular physical activity and use of ‘social prescribing’
- Integrate outdoor activity into daily life: daily mile, outdoor learning in schools
- Planning for walking, cycling and access to the outdoors, so all ages can enjoy their local environment
- Cycling and mountain biking networks, walking routes in every community
- Marketing the Valleys and supporting the Valleys Landscape Park
- Making the most of the Metro proposals
- Green infrastructure
- Protecting the countryside

The Plan on a Page:

Cwm Taf Well-being Objectives and Steps

Cross-cutting Objective: Immediate	TACKLING LONELINESS & ISOLATION We will work in new ways to channel the undoubted strengths of our communities, including volunteering to tackle more effectively the loneliness and isolation which often exists within many of them.		
OBJECTIVES	THRIVING COMMUNITIES	HEALTHY PEOPLE	STRONG ECONOMY
	1 To promote safe, confident, strong, and thriving communities improving the well-being of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.	2 To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges.	3 To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.
STEPS: Immediate (1-2 years)	1.1 Develop Community Zones as an area or place based approach focussing support to improve outcomes for our areas with the greatest challenges.	2.1 Work with our communities to make sure everyone has the best chance to live long and happy lives e.g. First 1000 days, working with older people to stay fit and healthy for as long as possible.	3.1 Stimulate and boost the aspirations and skills of our people to meet public and private sector career opportunities.
STEPS: Short to Medium Term	1.2 Work with our communities to provide consistent messages, links and signposting to community, public sector and business support within and close to communities.	2.2 Collectively promote healthy lifestyles by encouraging "One More Healthy Behaviour" for all staff and citizens.	3.2 Growth and promotion of tourism using the assets of our beautiful natural environment, heritage and culture for the health, prosperity and benefit of the whole community and alongside the development of the Valleys Landscape Park.
STEPS: Short to Medium Term	1.3 Work with and support communities who want to manage and improve their local environment.	2.3 To work together as public services and with our communities to reduce levels of obesity.	3.3 To make the most of the investment and return opportunities of the £1.229 billion City Deal locally within Cwm Taf.
STEPS: Short to Medium Term			3.4 Further explore the opportunities for sustainable housing and renewable energy developments with associated community funds.
VISION: Long Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well coordinated community volunteers and public services with ACE informed and thriving communities. A safe, healthy environment which people use, value and enjoy. The communities shaping services to meet the needs of residents and visitors. A better understanding of our natural assets and how our actions impact on them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the frailty of our ageing population by improving the rates of the population that have 4 or 5 healthy behaviours to 20%. Improve the rates of healthy life-expectancy and life expectancy in Cwm Taf to the average Wales. People of all ages spend time outdoors, using and enjoying their local environment to improve their health and well-being. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage opportunities for development and regeneration as the City Deal delivers jobs and returns on its investments, including attracting hotels. Supporting the development of a clean economy. A sustainable, energetic and expanding economy with employment rates equaling the UK average. A vibrant tourist industry attracting people from near and far, enjoying our natural environment, history and culture.

4.2.3 Area Statement for South Central Wales

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is required to produce Area Statements, under the provisions of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, to implement the priorities set out in the National Natural Resources Policy (2017). These are

- Delivering nature-based solutions;
- Increasing renewable energy and resource efficiency; and
- Taking a place-based approach

Seven areas across Wales have been identified and RCT falls within the South Central area with Cardiff, the Vale, Bridgend and Merthyr. Engagement with partners about data and issues to inform the statements is due to commence in spring 2018 with the Area Statements likely to be completed in 2019

4.2.4 Local Development Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf

The existing Local Development Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf was adopted in March 2011. The LDP provides a land use framework which forms the basis on which decisions about future development in the County Borough are based. Policy AW7 includes protection for public rights of way, cycletracks and open space. Policies NSA 23 and SSA 21 list the proposed cycle network improvements which are also shown on the proposals map. The design and place making policies AW5 and AW6 promote sustainable transport options and a few developments have included new or improved walking and cycling infrastructure in their proposals. The LDP is subject to ongoing monitoring, culminating in an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The Council are considering the results of these AMR's as part of the formal review procedure.

Recent changes in planning legislation (including the Planning (Wales) Act 2015) has put in place the opportunity for Strategic Development Plans (SDP's) to be prepared across various regions in Wales. Consideration is currently being given for such an SDP to be prepared across South East Wales, focused on Cardiff and 9 other authorities including the Valleys. There is also an opportunity to prepare replacement LDPs or reduced scale LDP 'Light' once SDP's, or certain stages of it, have been prepared and agreed. There is also the opportunity to work on elements of LDP and LDP Light preparation with other Local Authorities, or to actually prepare Joint LDP's/ LDP Lights.

Welsh Government is considering introducing Green Infrastructure Assessments (Draft PPW10). These may provide further opportunities to integrate open space, PROW and active travel.

4.2.5 Local Transport Plan

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) is prepared by Highway authorities under the provisions of the Transport Act 2000 and as amended by the Transport (Wales) Act 2006, often working in partnership across a wider area. There are strong links

between the ROWIP and the LTP in Rhondda Cynon Taf. The Regional Walking and Cycling Strategy was a feature of the SE Wales Transport Plan and generated significant European funding for cycle / community route development and upgrading. The South East Wales Transport Alliance, which published the Regional Walking and Cycling Strategy no longer exists and this document has been replaced by a number of Local Transport Plans for South East Wales. More recently, a Regional Transport Authority for the Cardiff Capital Region has been established in order to take forward the City Deal investment for transport in the area which will include proposed programmes and projects which aim to improve connectivity across the region and achieve a modal shift from car use, including the Metro proposals. Their initial Strategy was published in early 2018 for consultation. It contains a number of proposals for new stations and rail-lines, park and ride, bus / rail interchange, bus corridor improvements and road proposals in RCT. The current Local Transport Plan, together with a number of other policy and strategy documents, is available to view at:

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Travel/TransportSchemesandPolicies/TransportSchemesandPolicies.aspx>

4.2.6 Active Travel in Rhondda Cynon Taf

The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 aims to promote walking and cycling for everyday short distance journeys. Initially the Council was required to produce a map of the existing network of walking and cycling routes within the built up area and audit them against the Active Travel quality standards (The Existing Routes Map and Statement 2015). The second stage was to compile an Integrated Network Map containing proposals for developing routes over 5, 10 and 15 years (2016). This was approved in February 2018 by Welsh Government. Both stages involved public consultation and engagement. The results informed the final proposals and the planned works programme. The proposals are available on line at <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Travel/ActiveTravelandCycling.aspx> and Welsh Government funding allocations will be based on the approved proposals.

4.2.7 Valleys Taskforce/ Valleys Landscape Park

The Ministerial Taskforce for the Valleys was set up to develop a fresh approach to improve prosperity in the south Wales valleys. The high –level plan ‘Our Valleys, Our Future’ was published in 2017. Under their ‘my community’ theme: by 2021 they propose to create a Valleys Landscape Park to help communities celebrate and make the most of the natural resources and heritage.

4.2.8 Corporate Plan: Economy, People, Place

In 2016, The Council launched its Corporate priorities for the period to 2020 under the title 'The Way Ahead' In 2017, the Plan was refreshed to reflect the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Each year the Council sets out its priorities for the economy, for people and for place.

4.2.9 Summary of the consultation responses on the draft Plan

The draft Plan was published for a twelve week consultation period in summer 2018. A survey form was available on line and in paper format and, in addition, a number of informal consultations were undertaken by Council staff and by Local Access Forum members. Some written, verbal and email responses were also received. The draft was presented to the Council's Scrutiny Committee in September.

A total of 335 representations were received. A detailed (200 page) report and an accompanying data spreadsheet has been produced. This records all the comments and the resulting actions or changes. A summary is also available.

The consultation responses generally supported the overall approach of the Plan and the six objectives. However, a number of changes have been made to the text of the Plan and in particular to the priority themes under each objective as a result of the observations made. Numerous suggestions were made relating to each of the Objectives and these have been collated into an 'ideas list' which will help to inform the work programme to be set out in the annual Delivery Plan. A number of respondents also volunteered to assist with various aspects of the Plan. This is a tremendous resource and all those did so and gave contact information will be approached to discuss their interests.

4.3 Purpose and content of delivery plans

The Guidance produced by Welsh Government for the review of ROWIP introduced the concept of Delivery Plans. These are not included in the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 and are therefore non-statutory. The guidance suggests that Statement of Action, included in the statutory ROWIP, should only include actions that are sufficiently long-term and strategic to avoid them becoming obsolete during the 10 year term of the Plan. It suggests that shorter-term commitments and work plans should be included in Delivery Plans and that these should be included as an annex to the ROWIP.

The guidance also notes that the Planning Inspectorate are unlikely to consider the content of delivery plans as 'material provisions' under the 1980 Act and suggests

that content that should be considered in this regard be included in the core ROWIP rather than Delivery Plans.

It is proposed that a brief annual delivery plan will be produced to deliver the Statement of Action set out in section 5 below.

4.4 Process of Policy Change

The original Out & About did not specifically address policy or policy change. However, the pressure on resources arising from austerity and the Welsh Government guidance for the plan review suggests a more comprehensive policy framework for Public Rights of Way should be developed.

In October 2011, the Council adopted Policy Guidelines for determining claims under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, in order to provide a clear rationale for prioritising work on claimed RoW, against the background of limited resources and increasing demands on those resources.

The following list for the initial review or development of policy and guidance is proposed. Further detail will be included in the relevant delivery plans.

Policy or guidance topic

Legal Orders
Volunteering
Maintenance
Planning
Diversions
Promoted routes
Enforcement
General access

The procedure to be followed in developing each policy or guidance note will be as follows.

- Review existing
- Collate evidence re best practice (including discussion with LAF, local organisations, other stakeholders, other LAs)
- Draft document
- Internal consultation including legal, amend as required
- Consult Local Access Forum and others as necessary
- Amendment as required, re-consult for any significant change.
- Cabinet member approval

Once the Policy or Guidance Note has been adopted it will be utilised by the Council in decision making and will be a 'material consideration' where cases are taken before the Planning Inspectorate.

5 Statement of Action

Introduction

S.60 of the CROW Act 2000 requires that ROWIP includes a Statement of Action the authority proposes to take for the management of local rights of way, meeting the needs and developing the opportunities identified in the Assessment.

The approach taken in this review of the ROWIP is similar to that taken in the first ROWIP. It considers public rights of way and other access opportunities (such as community routes, open access, parks and key countryside sites) and uses similar objectives to focus action. As described in s 4.3 above, detailed actions will be set out in the annual Delivery Plan, with the priority themes for each objective outlined here.

Objective 1: Promote outdoor countryside activity for health, regeneration, tourism and recreation

The Wales well-being goals and ways of working, encourage public bodies to 'join up' policy and action to achieve multiple benefits for local residents and visitors. The Well-being Plan for Cwm Taf is focusing on a 'place-based' approach, using the local assets and strengths to support new ways of working. The countryside has been identified as an important asset, often very close to where people live. It could make a contribution to addressing issues as diverse as community cohesion, adverse childhood experiences¹, air quality, economic regeneration and local pride. The value of the countryside as an asset in Rhondda Cynon Taf was overwhelmingly supported in the response to the consultation on the draft Plan.

This objective provides support for actions which promote outdoor countryside activity and utilise the rights of way network, community routes, open access resources and Council owned parks and Key Countryside Sites. Suggestions from the public consultation also included the protection and promotion of wildlife and heritage.

Actions will focus around the following themes:

1.1 Health	Actions under this theme could include support for social prescribing ² ; liaison with 'hubs' developed for the Well-being Plan; Walking for Health groups; short circular walks near
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	doctor's surgeries; specific ideas generated by local communities or voluntary groups; practical work; promotion and community engagement.
1.2 Regeneration	Actions under this theme are primarily focused on local residents and businesses and could include local trails of historic or cultural interest, countryside running or walking route/app for a hotel or fitness business, initiatives in Parks, links to public transport.
1.3 Tourism	Although there will be some cross over with 1.2 above, actions under this theme are primarily focused on visitors. The outdoors is an important part of the local tourism 'offer' and actions to develop, market and maintain existing facilities, such as the Taff Trail and the Pontypridd Circular Walk, and to develop new opportunities are covered here. Tourism has a 'digital strategy' to promote on-line information.
1.4 Recreation	Actions under this theme could include many of the 'traditional' countryside activities such as led walks, ramblers and riding groups, dog walking, visits to parks, family outings and areas of growth, such as mountain biking and running.
1.5 Education	Actions under this theme could include Walk to the Wild for primary schools; continued project working with the University of South Wales students; the 'daily mile'; ideas developed by pupils and their teachers, cycle and road safety training, adventurous play and outdoor activity

Footnotes

¹ *Adverse childhood experiences can affect peoples' life chances. Minimising them is a key priority of Welsh Government, the Health Service, Police, Local Council and other public services*

² *Social prescribing can be an alternative or additional therapy and may include outdoor activities such as walking*

Objective Two: Walking and cycling as transport options

Walking and cycling as transport contributes to a variety of policy agendas including:

- climate change (reducing carbon emissions from transport),
- physical activity (for public health benefit),
- social inclusion and regeneration (access to employment and services for those without a car)
- independent mobility for children and young people and some disabled users
- local environmental quality (reduced air and noise pollution, green corridors)
- green infrastructure
- tourism promotion

As discussed above, the Active Travel legislation has raised the status of walking and cycling as transport options. Whilst the legislation only applies within the built up area, the existing community route network (largely on disused rail lines) and a number of public rights of way outside the built up area continue to be important for transport purposes. The model standards published by the Welsh government

relating to active travel routes are generally more onerous than for public rights of way, and will not be appropriate for many routes, especially in the countryside,

The public consultation on the draft Plan suggests that whilst people often support Active Travel, many consider it is not practical for them. Distance, terrain, time constraints and lack of suitable routes were frequently mentioned. Safety, maintenance, the continuity and standard of routes were also of concern. These issues will need to be addressed in all of the action themes below. Positive suggestions included promotion, bike hire, cycle parking, facilities at work, and better links with public transport.

Actions will focus around the following themes:

2.1 strategic input	Actions under this theme could include input to policies in the Local Development Plan, the Local Transport Plan and the Active Travel network, local priorities and standards. It could also include regional working and cross border initiatives.
2.2 community routes	Actions under this theme would focus on existing and new community routes including the Taff Trail, Cynon Trail, Celtic Trail (route 4 and 47), the Rhondda Fach trail.
2.3 Rhondda Fawr and other Active Travel priorities	The Integrated Network Map has identified a number of priorities for development and actions under this theme would contribute to their achievement. The absence of a dedicated community route in the Rhondda Fawr is a particularly challenging priority.
2.4 schools	Actions under this theme would continue work to improve active travel routes to schools, in particular addressing issues raised by school pupils, parents and teachers.
2.5 wider network	Actions under this theme could include links to the Active Travel network, links between towns, routes to public transport connections.

Objective Three: Protect the access resource

The initial ROWIP identified the range of duties that the local Highways Authority has to manage and protect the Rights of Way network. These duties remain and this objective provides the focus for the Council's policies with regard to their implementation.

The Local Development Plan for RCT (2011) includes policies to protect rights of way and public open space, as well as more general countryside protection policies. Any new development plans (regional/ strategic or local) should seek to retain protection for the access resource.

Managing the network involves joint working with the Council's highway managers, development control and legal officers, public health and street care and the police,

as well as practical works on the ground. Maintenance, including signage, was a particular concern for many respondents to the consultation on the draft Plan. Protection also embraces issues such as rubbish dumping and anti-social behaviour that can damage the resource as well as deter users. This was also reflected in the observations on the draft plan. Some respondents were dissatisfied with the current performance of the Council, especially in relation to routine works. In particular, improving public information and ways of reporting problems were raised. Additional text has been added to Objective 6 to address these issues.

Actions will focus around the following themes:

3.1 strategic planning	Actions under this theme could include input to the new Cardiff area Strategic Plan; the review of the Local Development Plan; Local Transport Plan; highways policy; the metro proposals, working with neighbouring Local Authorities.
3.2 Welsh Government woodland estate	Actions would include continuing to press NRW to remove obstructions for PROW on the forested estate and to promote use of the majority of the estate that is dedicated as 'open access'. Temporary closures for operational reasons can be accommodated through normal processes.
3.3 Lost ways	In the CROW Act, 2026 is the deadline for claiming paths not currently registered as PROW. Welsh Government has consulted on the possibility of removing this deadline but it is not yet clear whether this will occur. Actions may be required during the Plan period.
3.4 routine works	Actions under this theme include inspection, enforcement; changes to the network; temporary closures; maintenance works; management of Key Countryside sites; observations on planning applications.
3.5 Level Crossings	Proposals to increase train service frequencies and reduce journey times along Valleys Routes to Treherbert, Aberdare and Merthyr Tydfil as part of the South Wales Metro development will require the railway operator to review level crossing risk. Actions may be required during the Plan period.

Objective Four: Improve provision for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, off road vehicles and users with mobility or sensory disabilities.

Improvements to the existing network, and in particular providing additional facilities suitable for particular groups of users remains a priority. This area of work is heavily dependent on external funding, especially as 'austerity' has inevitably focused local authority spending on statutory duties. Some existing facilities mentioned by the public in the draft Plan consultation are under pressure, for example public transport and toilets.

The priorities for improvement are likely to be driven by the external funders. For example the Active Travel legislation is likely to focus spending on the Council's priorities for routes within the built up area, making it harder to attract funding for 'rural' routes such as the Taff Trail.

Seeking new sources of funding for improvement priorities, for example relating to health initiatives or community projects will become increasingly important. It will also continue to be important to take advantage of funding opportunities in non priority areas which can create improvements that benefit local residents or visitors.

The public consultation provided a range of priorities for improvement, with walking, cycling and access for all being particularly favoured. Off road vehicles were the generally the lowest priority but a number of respondents suggested a dedicated facility for them. Some respondents considered that Objective 3 (protecting the resource) should have priority over any improvement.

Actions will focus around the following themes:

4.1 Funding for improvements	Actions under this theme could include developing partnerships; joint projects; grant applications; S106 agreements relating to planning consents;
4.2 Access for all	Actions under this theme could include active travel improvements that create new opportunities for users with mobility or sensory issues; kissing gate replacements for stiles; support for new users;
4.3 tackling anti-social behaviour	Actions under this theme could include waste and littering prevention; reducing motorbike trespass; tackling dog fouling; supporting local community initiatives: promoting local pride.
4.4 Permissive routes	Permissive routes are valuable for securing additional access and for improving the safety and attractiveness of the existing rights of way network. Actions under this theme will be dependent on funding and driven by priorities from Tourism, Health etc.

Objective Five: Involving local community and voluntary organisations in the development, promotion and use of access opportunities

The initial ROWIP recognised the importance of grassroots participation and utilised this objective to promote actions being promoted by user groups, Communities First, and a diverse range of local community and voluntary groups. Whilst many of the organisations have changed in the intervening period, the importance of the third sector¹ in outdoor activity remains pivotal. Involvement is one of the five ways of working identified in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Working with people who use the countryside provides an important perspective. Similarly those who

don't use the countryside can shed light on barriers to participation as well as their aspirations. The Well-being assessment identified a broad interest in the countryside and outdoor activity and highlighted a number of specific concerns (examples see below).

- young people expressed concern at the lack of challenging outdoor activities for them to take part in,
- some local groups wanted greater involvement in the use and management of Council owned land in their area,
- individuals wanted more information about where they could go,
- local organisations had formed around proposals to develop specific facilities
- more recently, a social prescribing initiative has identified outdoor activity as an area of demand with limited provision for beginners or those needing support.

The Well-being Plan includes proposals relating to 'community zones' and Community hubs which can provide information, advice and support which could be utilised to forward this objective. It also includes proposals relating to volunteering, which could support a broader engagement agenda.

The Local Access Forum will continue to provide the statutory input from user groups, landowners and other interested parties to the local recreation and access agenda.

The public consultation response to the draft Plan generally supported this objective and many people offered assistance. Following these up is a priority. Suggestions included utilizing local groups, clubs and community councils, encouraging local pride, using local knowledge and learning from elsewhere. Others referred to timing (around work), promotion, providing proper support for volunteers, ensuring the Council doesn't 'off-load' its liabilities and responsibilities and providing flexibility to allow individuals and families, as well as groups to become more involved.

Actions will focus around the following themes:

5.1 Local Access Forum	The LAF provides the statutory mechanism for users and landowners to contribute to policy, priorities and action relating to rights of way and countryside access. Each LAF has a term of 3 years, after which a new LAF is advertised and appointed.
5.2 Create your Space	This theme focuses on the two community based, seven-year lottery funded programmes in Treherbert (Welcome to our Woods) and Ynysybwl (Ynysybwl Vision) who are developing new approaches to their local countryside.
5.3 Voluntary and community participation	This theme is a focus for actions arising from or developed with other local community and voluntary organisations. It could include developing relationships with the Well-being Plan 'hubs'

	to understand their aspirations for their local countryside and rights of way; developing a volunteering policy in conjunction with Interlink;
5.4 Adopt a Path	This theme would continue actions to support and promote the 'adopt a path' scheme and to develop initiatives like that with the Taff Ely Ramblers who have adopted the Pontypridd Circular walk.
5.5 Community Councils	This theme includes actions promoted or developed by Community Councils and includes the agency agreements that some Councils and the Brecon Beacons National Park have entered into.

Footnote

¹ *third sector = the social economy*

Objective Six: Develop a more efficient management system for statutory Rights of Way work, including the Definitive Map

Whilst significant progress has been made in this area in the last 10 years, there is still much to be done. The pressures of austerity have slowed the anticipated progress with the updating of the Definitive Map, but completion of this work remains a high priority, albeit currently dependant on external (Welsh Government) funding. Technological developments are continuing to provide opportunities for efficiencies in management systems and for service improvements. These are rarely without an 'up front' and often recurring annual cost.

The public consultation of the draft Plan suggests that improvements are required to the information provided to the public, its promotion, and in particular the means of reporting problems relating to the rights of way network.

Actions will focus around the following themes:

6.1 Definitive Map	Actions under this theme will focus on completing the updating of the Taff Ely Definitive Map and statement and then progressing to the Rhondda and Cynon.
6.2 policy and guidance	Actions under this theme will include the review or development of a range of policy and guidance notes as set out in para 4.4 above.
6.3 protocols for routine tasks	Actions under this theme could include proformas for responses to planning applications and land searches, for surveys and inspections; standard letters; recording of practical works;
6.4 CAMS and other technological support	Actions under this theme could include hardware; software; training; adding layers such as the Active Travel network and permissive routes; website and social media (bilingual).

6 Delivery Plans

Non statutory Annual Delivery Plans are proposed to provide the detail of actions to be undertaken each year. The first Delivery Plan for 2019/20 will be published as an Annex to the Plan in due course. The content of this and subsequent delivery plans will be informed by the objectives set out in the Statement of Action in Section Five above and by the resources available, including staff, capital and revenue funding, grant aid, voluntary and community support.

The Local Access Forum will have a role in determining the content of the Delivery Plan but the responsibility will remain with the Local Authority.

7 Monitoring, Reporting and Plan Review

The internal Council quarterly monitoring of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan will continue and will consider both the overall Statement of Action (section 5 above) and the detail of the annual Delivery Plan. Each year, the Local Access Forum will receive a report of progress against each objective.

Welsh Government guidance suggests that the Rights of Way Improvement Plan will require a further round of assessment and potential review in ten years (2028/9).

Appendix One Timetable and Consultation list

Timetable

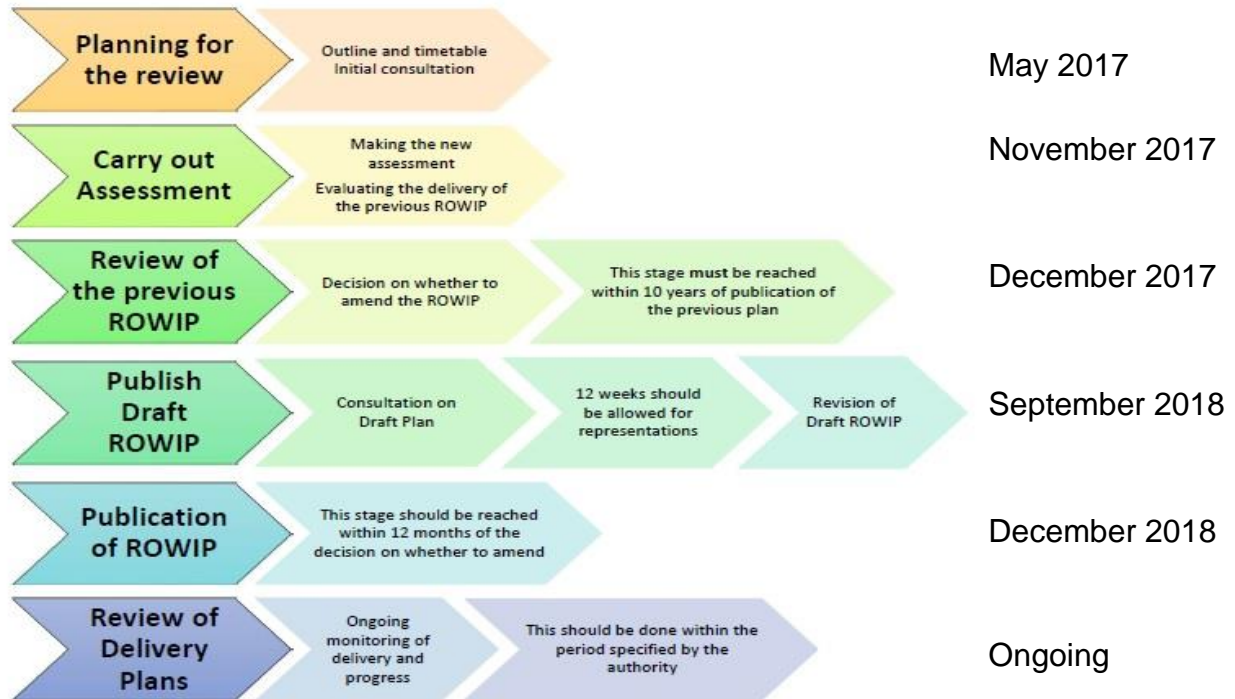


Diagram 1: Summary of the ROWIP process and timetable

Consultation List (Overleaf) : **2019 ROWIP**

Community Councils

Ynysybwl & Coed Y Cwm CC, Jeanette Wattle
Rhigos CC, Susan Harvey Powell
Hirwaun and Penderyn CC, Emma Nelves
Pontypridd Town Council, Gethin Williams
Llantwit Fardre CC, Leanne Handley
Llantrisant CC, Cath Craven
Llanharry CC, Gillian Lewis
Tonyrefail CC, Pauline Williams
Gilfach Goch CC, E Jones
Pontyclun CC, Julius Roszkowski
Taffs Well CC, Derek Allinson

County Councillors

Aberaman North, Linda Marty DeVet
Aberaman North, Sheryl Evans
Aberaman South, Anita Calvert
Aberaman South, Tina Williams
Abercynon, Elaine George
Aberdare East, Steven A Bradwick
Aberdare East, Michael Forey
Aberdare West / Llwydcoed, John Davies
Aberdare West / Llwydcoed, Sharon Rees
Beddau, Richard Yeo
Brynna, Roger K Turner
Church Village, Graham Stacey
Cilfynydd, Stephen Belzak
Cwmbach, Jeffrey Elliot
Cymmer, Margaret Tegg
Cymmer, Gareth Cagle
Ferdale, Susan Morgans
Ferdale, Philip Howe
Gilfach Goch, Aurfron Roberts
Glyncoch, Doug H Williams
Graig, Jayne Brencher
Hawthorn, Martin Fidler Jones
Hirwaun, Karen Morgan
Llanharry, Wayne Owen
Llantrisant Town, Glynne Holmes
Llantwit Fardre, Mike Diamond
Llantwit Fardre, Joel S James
Llwynypia, Wendy Lewis
Maerdy, Jack Harries
Mountain Ash East, Pauline Jarman
Mountain Ash West, Wendy Treeby
Penrhiwceiber, Adam S Fox
Penrhiwceiber, Gavin D G Williams
Pentre, Shelley Rees-Owen
Pentre, Maureen Weaver
Penygraig, John L Culwick
Penygraig, Joshua R Davies
Penywaun, Helen Boggis
Pontyclun, Kate L Jones
Pontypridd Town, Heledd Fychan
Porth, Julie Williams
Porth, Alun G Cox
Rhigos, Graham Philip Thomas
Rhondda, Robert W Smith
Taffs Well, Jill Bonetto
Talbot Green, Steven Powell
Tonteg, Lewis Hooper

Tonteg, Lyndon Walker
Tonypany, Gareth Wyn Hughes
Tonyrefail East, Danny Grehan
Tonyrefail East, Dan Owen Jones
Tonyrefail West, Alexandra Davies-Jones
Trallwng, Michael J Powell
Treforest, Steve Powderhill
Treherbert, Geraint R Davies
Treherbert, Will Jones
Treorchy, Alison Chapman
Treorchy, Sera M Evans-Fear
Treorchy, Emyr John Webster
Tylorstown, Mark Adams
Tyn-y-nant, Clayton J Willis
Ynysybwl, Darren Macey
Ynysybwl, Sue Pickering
Ystrad, Lorraine Jones
Ystrad, Elyn Stephens

Neighbouring Authorities

Brecon Beacons National Park, Eifion Jones
Bridgend County Borough Council, Andrew Mason
Caerphilly County Borough Council, Andrew Powell
Cardiff County Borough Council, Jennifer Griffiths
Merthyr County Borough Council, Cheryl Jones
Neath Port Talbot C B Council, John Griffiths
Vale of Glamorgan C B Council, Gwyn Teague
Powys County Borough Council, Mark Stafford

Other Organisations

Abercynon Action Team
Aberdare Business and Tourism Association
Action for Hirwaun
Angling Association (Taff Bargoed)
Arts Factory
Assembly of Welsh Counties
Auto Cycle Union
Black Environment Network
Caerphilly Commoners and Brinkers Association
British Association of Shooting and Conservation
British Horse Society
British Mountain Bike Federation
British Mountaineering Council
British Trust For Conservation Volunteers
British Trust for Ornithology
Bruton Knowles (Chartered Surveyors)
Bryncynon Angling Association (F.O.R.T.)
Bryncynon Strategy (Green Valley)
Butterfly Conservation
Byways & Bridleways Trust
CADW
Cadw Welsh Historic Monuments
Cambrian Lakeside – Leisure
Secretary of the Cambrian Mountains Society
Camping & Caravaning Club
Cardiff Conservation Volunteers
Cardiff Cycling Campaign
Cascade Angling Association (F.O.R.T.)
CLA Cymru
Cefn Pennar Welfare Association
Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation
Commission for Racial Equality
Community Education Centre (Blaengwawr)

Council for National Parks
 Country Land and Business Association
 Country Landowners Association
 Countryside Management Association
 Cwmparc Community Rivercare Group
 Cwmparc Community Association
 Cynon Culture Community Learning
 Cynon Valley Ramblers
 Cynon Valley Museum
 Dai Davies Community Centre
 Dare Valley Riding School
 Daerwynno Outdoor Centre
 Disability Wales
 Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
 Ebbw Vale and District Development Trust
 Farmers Union of Wales
 Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
 Ferndale & District Womens Institute
 Fernhill Rhondda Conservation Group
 Field Studies Council
 Forest Enterprise Wales
 Friends of Aberdare Park
 Glamorgan & Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd.
 Glamorgan Badger Group
 Glamorgan Bat Group (east)
 Glamorgan Bird Club
 Glamorgan Federation of womens Institutes
 Gelligaer YFC (Young Farmers Club)
 Gower YFC (Young Farmers Club)
 Llantrisant YFC (Young Farmers Club)
 Maendy YFC (Young Farmers Club)
 Neath YFC (Young Farmers Club)
 Wick YFC (Young Farmers Club)
 Glamorgan Fungus Group
 Glamorgan Mission to the Deaf
 Glamorgan Moth Recording Group
 Green Days Project
 Groundwork Wales
 Hirwaun YMCA
 Interlink RCT
 Keep Wales Tidy
 Land Access & Recreation Association
 Llanharan Community Development Project Ltd
 Mid Fach Rivercare Group (F.O.R.T.)
 Mountain Ash Rivercare Group
 Mountain Ash YMCA
 Motoring Organisations' Land
 Mountain Leader Training Board
 National Caravan Council Ltd
 National Association of Local Councils
 National Trust
 National Parks Wales
 Natural Resources Wales
 Open Spaces Society
 Osprey Fly Fishers Association (F.O.R.T.)
 Pedestrians Association
 Pen Y Rhondda Trust
 Penywaun Riverfield Group (F.O.R.T.)
 Pontypridd Canal Conservations Society
 Pontypridd Historical Cultural Centre
 Pony Club -Cantref Riding Centre
 Pony Club- Cardiff Riding School
 Public Health Wales, Amy Lewis
 Ramblers Cymru 3
 RCT Access Group

Rhondda Civic Society
 Rhondda Mencap (Mencap Cymru)
 River Care
 Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
 Royal Welsh Agricultural Society
 S A F E
 South Wales Fire & Rescue Service
 South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group
 Spider Recording Scheme
 Sports Council for Wales
 Sustrans
 Taff Ely 50+ Forum
 Taff Ely Ramblers
 Taffs Well and Nant Garw Community Garden
 Tanglewood
 The Fern Partnership
 The Forum of Older People
 Treherbert Gardening Group
 Timber Growers United
 Wales Association of Community Councils
 Wales Tourist Board
 Wales Environment Link
 Welsh Cycling Union
 Welsh Orienteering Association
 Welsh Trail Riders Association
 Wildlife Trust South and West Wales
 WWF Cymru
 Ynysybwll Regeneration Partnership
 Youth Hostel Association England & Wales
 Yr Urdd

Cabinet Members

Leader of the Council and Chair of the Cabinet,
 Andrew Morgan
 Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Council
 Business, Maureen Webber
 Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning,
 Joy Rosser
 Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Well-being
 & Cultural Services, Rhys Lewis
 Cabinet Member for Children and Young People,
 Christina Leyshon
 Cabinet Member for Enterprise Development and
 Housing, Robert Bevan
 Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage
 Services, Ann Crimmings
 Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services &
 Welsh Language, Geraint E Hopkins
 Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Mark A Norris

Regional Assembly Members

David Melding– South Wales Central (Conservative)
 Gareth Bennett AM – South Wales Central (UKIP)
 Neil McEvoy, South Wales Central (Independent)
 Mohammad Asghar, SW East (Conservative)
 Mick Antoniw, Pontypridd (Labour)
 Vikki Howells, Cynon Valley (Labour)
 Leanne Wood, Rhondda Plaid Cymru

Appendix Two: significant changes from first ROWIP

The original Out & About was published following a three year long process of consultation with an Issues Paper, Assessment and Draft Plan preceding the final document. As such, Out & About drew on a major collation of evidence and information about countryside access and opportunities in Rhondda Cynon Taf, not gathered together before. The Welsh Government (WG) guidance for the Review of the Plan sets a shorter timeframe and focuses on areas in need of change. The Assessment (2017) sought to identify these areas.

The major changes in the Welsh policy framework, identified in the Guidance, are reflected in the new ROWIP. The WG strategy 'Climbing Higher', which was used to establish monitoring indicators for the first ROWIP, is no longer relevant. New legislative requirements have been addressed.

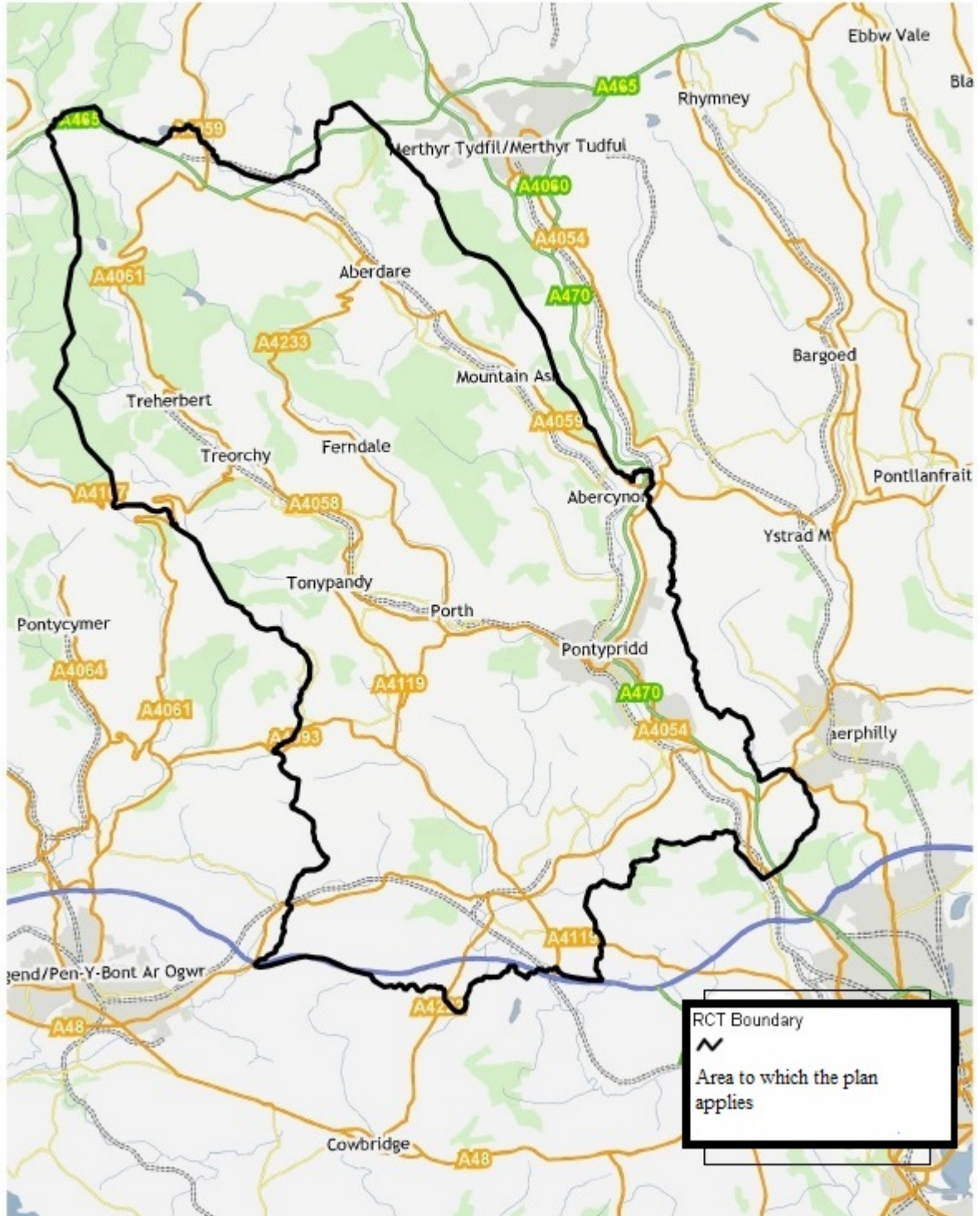
Changes to policy and structures within Rhondda Cynon Taf, voluntary and community organisations and statutory bodies have been reflected in the new Plan. Any new issues identified by the review of the policy framework have been considered in the Plan.

Changes in the needs of different users and the use, demand and reasons for access have been considered and future public need identified in the Assessment (2017).

The Assessment also considered what had been achieved by the first ROWIP and the continuing relevance of the original objectives. The objectives in the new Statement of Action remain broadly the same but detailed actions have been omitted and instead broad themes for priority actions identified. Detailed actions will be included in the non-statutory annual delivery plan.

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**OUT & ABOUT TWO
MAP**



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Summary of the Consultation Report for the draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf

October 2018.

Introduction

The draft updated Rights of Way Improvement Plan was published for a 12 week public consultation on 25th June 2018. The consultation was advertised in the local press, on the Council's website, in Council libraries, by email or post to the consultee list (see appendix one) and via the Local Access Forum (LAF). The closing date for observations was 17th September 2018. A questionnaire was provided on the Council's consultation webpage (see appendix two). In addition, a number of informal consultation events were held by Council Officers and LAF members at sites or with groups during the summer holidays.

The Response

A total of 335 responses were received. 170 on line questionnaires and 103 paper questionnaires, 7 written (including email) comments were submitted. A further 54 people contributed to informal discussions at; at least 4 locations. The draft was presented to the Council's Scrutiny Committee in September.

A detailed (248 page) report and an accompanying data spreadsheet has been produced, which records all the comments and the resulting actions or changes. This is a summary of the detailed report.

An excel spreadsheet holds all the data from the 273 completed questionnaires. Most of the respondents are regular users of outdoor space (weekly or daily), with parks and paths/tracks most frequently mentioned, closely followed by hills/mountains. A wide spectrum of reasons were given with walking the predominant. Health, leisure, family/social and dog walking were also popular. Places visited covered the whole of Rhondda Cynon Taf and most also visited outdoor space elsewhere, mostly in south Wales but some further afield.

Not all respondents gave their post code, but of those who did, most lived in Rhondda Cynon Taf with representation from 42 of the 52 wards in the County Borough.

The consultation responses generally supported the overall approach of the Plan and the six objectives. However, a number of changes have been made to the text of the Plan including some changes to the priority themes under each objective as a result of the observations made. The methodology used is described below.

The detailed responses relating to the draft Plan were collated in a series of tables covering

- general comments, including Delivery Plan comments

- comments relating to each of the six objectives
- comments relating to q14 'Any other information / comments'.

Each table has columns for the

- respondents reference number
- their verbatim response
- officer 'observation' (keyword summary)
- officer 'comment'
- officer proposed 'response or action'

It is likely that many of the respondents completing the questionnaire survey had not read the whole of the draft Plan. As a result, some observations made in response to the survey questions were already covered by existing wording in the Plan and this was recorded in the 'comment' column and 'no change' recorded in the 'response or action' column.

For the observations requiring revised or additional text, the proposed location was given in the 'comments' column and the text changes in the 'response or action' column.

Respondents offered a wealth of information and ideas relevant to the Plan and in particular the Objectives. Not all of these could be easily accommodated in the Plan format but have been collated into an 'ideas list', which will help to inform the work programme to be set out in the annual Delivery Plan. This has been noted in the 'response or action' column.

A number of respondents also volunteered to assist with various aspects of the Plan. The availability of contact details is given in the 'comments' column and 'contact volunteer' noted in the 'response or action' column where appropriate.

Some respondents raised specific queries, not relating to the Plan. Some of these will be passed to other Council departments for their information or action and others will be followed up with the respondent (where contact information was supplied). In both cases this is noted in the 'response or action' column.

Conclusions

Summary of responses re **Objective One:** *'People have said that the countryside of RCT is an asset and should be used to promote tourism and regeneration as well as health and recreation. What do you think?'*

There is overwhelming support for the countryside as an asset and its role in promoting tourism, regeneration, health and recreation. A number of concerns were raised about issues such as safety, litter, dog fouling, maintenance, signage, flooding etc. that detract or deter use. Suggestions were made about promotion, information, innovative tourism ventures, the importance of wildlife and heritage, the proximity to communities and public transport.

Summary of responses re **Objective Two**: *‘What do you think of walking and cycling as transport options? Welsh government is keen to promote active travel, not just for fun or recreation but for everyday journeys. We have a good network of community routes like the Taff Trail and the Church Village Bypass path. Do you use these routes? Would you like to walk and cycle more instead of driving?’*

This objective is supported by some but for many people active travel, for example to work, is not practical because of distance, terrain, time constraints and lack of suitable routes. Health, age, family commitments and work requirements are also cited. Many people are concerned about safety, the standard and continuity of routes, maintenance, signage, lighting, promotion and conflict between users (vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians). A number of suggestions were made for route improvements, cycle hire, parking and changing facilities at work.

Summary of responses re **Objective Three**: *‘We have legal responsibilities to look after public rights of way (footpaths, bridleways etc.) and that includes taking enforcement action when paths are blocked. We can also use policies and work with others to protect all the different access opportunities that exist in RCT. What do you think?’*

Whilst most people think we should be protecting public rights of way and other access routes/areas, there are a variety of views on current performance and priorities. The need for more inspections, better reporting, better maintenance and a higher priority for enforcement action are all noted. There are also suggestions for liaison with the police, neighbouring local authorities, community and town councils, voluntary organisations and community groups. Other issues raised include blocked paths and pavements, antisocial behaviour (including litter, flytipping and motor bike trespass) and overgrowth management.

Summary of responses re **Objective Four**: *‘Improve provision for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, off road vehicles and users with mobility or sensory disabilities. This is the biggest challenge because there is not much public money available for new projects. The priorities are likely to be driven by funding bodies and we will need to be creative to make the most of any funding opportunities. What do you think the priorities should be?’*

The main priorities identified by respondents are ‘users with mobility or sensory issues’ and ‘walkers and cyclists’. Provision for off-road vehicles generated divided views; with low or zero priority from some and suggestions for dedicated provision from others. Some respondents suggested the promotion and information provision should be the priority. A significant number of respondents considered that the priority should be for the protection and maintenance of the existing network etc. (see Objective 3) rather than improving provision. Suggestions for funding opportunities and potential for collaboration with others were also made.

Summary of responses re **Objective Five**: *‘What do you think about involving local community and voluntary organisations in the development, promotion and use of access opportunities? In the earlier consultations some people said they wanted to be more involved in their local greenspace, in developing ideas in their local community. Is this something you might want to be involved in?’*

This question generated a mixed response with regard to personal involvement. A total of 81 volunteers (with contact details) have been recorded. This is a significant resource for the future. Information was also provided about current volunteering, as well as the importance of family circumstances, work responsibilities, location, age, health etc. Where people provided additional information there was much support for both individual and group involvement and plenty of ideas to progress this. The involvement of local people in local spaces was a common theme, supporting community pride, utilizing local knowledge and expertise. Concerns were expressed about the Council ‘off-loading’ responsibilities, and the need for community engagement to be properly resourced and supported.

Summary of responses re **Objective Six**: *‘We have legal duties to manage Rights of Way work and we are proposing to develop a series of policies and guidance notes that set out how we will do that work. Is this something you would be interested in? or have suggestions?’*

A number of people suggested that they would be interested in getting involved in policy development. These people will be contacted, where contact information is available. Others suggested that there should be wider consultation on draft policies and guidance or offered other ideas for groups to be engaged. Not all respondents supported policy development and there were practical concerns regarding the speed of preparation, officer time, diversion of available resources from implementation etc. There were also practical suggestions to assist the process and suggestions for improving reporting of issues and the availability of information.

Summary of responses re **Question 14**: *‘Is there anything else you think we should be including into our rights of way improvement plan?’*

There was a wide range of responses to this question, most reflected earlier comments although some additional suggestions for the ideas list and some minor text amendments resulted.

Overall, approximately 38 changes have been made to the Plan as a result of the consultation, ranging from minor wording changes to additional priority themes under some of the Objectives. A brief description of the responses has also been included relating to each of the Objectives in the final Plan.

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

18^h DECEMBER 2018

A COUNCIL WIDE PLAN FOR THE DELIVERY OF ACCESSIBLE ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCHES (ATP) AND 3G PITCHES

REPORT OF DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH COUNCILLOR ANN CRIMMINGS, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, LEISURE AND HERITAGE SERVICES AND COUNCILLOR JOY ROSSER, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Authors: David Batten, Head of Leisure, Parks & Countryside and Andrea Richards, Head of 21st Century Schools.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose the development of a Council wide plan for full public access to artificial turf pitches (ATP) and 3G pitches with a common pricing policy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet

- 2.1 Consider and, if appropriate, approve the proposed full public access plan alongside the common pricing policy for ATP and 3G pitches as set out in Section 5 of this report.
- 2.2 Consider that Leisure and Parks, with 21st Century Schools, continually engage with Secondary Schools in the development and implementation of the proposed full public access plan and common pricing policy

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 A Council wide public access plan and pricing policy for ATPs and 3G pitches would further enhance the Council's commitment to sport across the County Borough.
- 3.2 Fully accessible ATP and 3G pitches allows the Council to develop junior sport hubs with curricular, extra-curricular and sports club

training and fixtures taking place on ATP and 3G pitches throughout the year.

- 3.3 Fully accessible ATP and 3G pitches encourages the further development of close links between schools and the local community. It provides pupils with local opportunities to participate in sport, improving both their physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- 3.4 Maximising usage of all Council ATP and 3G pitches will positively affect both junior and adult participation rates across the County Borough.
- 3.5 A Council wide pricing policy would ensure that the top quality facilities are affordable regardless of location.
- 3.6 A single access point for information on all Council owned ATP and 3G pitches links in with the outcomes and objectives for the proposed Community Hubs.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Council has committed to achieve its aim of every resident to live within a 3-mile radius of a 3G pitch.
- 4.2 The Council, through a collaborative approach between Leisure and Parks with 21st Century Schools, has invested in the development of 3G pitches over the last 3 years. A list of all current locations are included in Appendix 1.
- 4.3 There is existing full access, both curricular and community, with a common price across facilities managed and maintained by Leisure and Parks. Within school sites, there is limited weeknight and weekend community access with a disparity in prices.
- 4.4 The ATP and 3G pitches present the Council with an opportunity to develop a pro-active, collaborative approach to junior sport.
- 4.5 School based sport will have access to top quality facilities for curricular and extra-curricular opportunities as well as school sports teams.
- 4.6 Working with the local leagues, sports clubs and the National Governing Bodies of Sport, the Council will develop opportunities for the mini and junior age groups to train and play on a top quality surface, encouraging more children and young people to become active throughout the County Borough.

- 4.7 The 3G pitches can assist the Council to further protect the existing stock of grass sports pitches. The all-weather surface allows for continued usage during inclement weather. It also allows for back-to-back usage with no need to 'rest' the pitch in between sessions or seasons.

5. THE FUTURE PROPOSAL

- 5.1 The proposal for the future development and delivery of ATP and 3G pitches is multi faceted. For the purpose of this report, each element is specifically defined – public access, pricing and maintenance.

5.1 Public Access Plan for ATP and 3G Pitches

- 5.1.1 Currently the management of Council ATP and 3G pitches lies with the Leisure and Parks Department and specific Schools.

- 5.1.2 This proposal would result in Leisure and Parks operating all ATP and 3G pitches outside of school hours i.e. weeknights and weekends.

- 5.1.3 The proposal would ensure that schools have access to the facilities for curriculum and extra-curriculum sessions (8am – 5pm) with full public access from 5pm on weeknights and over the weekend (9am – 5pm on both days).

- 5.1.4 Leisure and Parks recognise that resources will need to be made available to manage the public access time. Discussions with Schools regarding site security, access and egress of facility users and the deployment of staff will need to take place as part of the process.

- 5.1.5 Leisure and Parks, using the Gladstone system, will undertake the administration of ATP and 3G pitches bringing the process in line with current Leisure booking procedures, including online bookings, payment via debit and credit card and casual bookings.

- 5.1.6 This system will continue to ensure that existing block bookings made by sports clubs and community groups are protected, as well as regular maintenance time allocated.

- 5.1.7 Further discussions will take place on how income from the public access bookings are allocated to the Schools that have an ATP or 3G on site.

- 5.1.8 The full public access alongside streamlined administration procedures would ensure that access to top quality sports facilities are maximised by those that live, work and visit Rhondda Cynon Taf.

5.2 The Common Pricing Policy

5.2.1 The current situation is that there is no consistency in the pricing of ATP and 3G pitches between Leisure and Parks and individual School sites.

5.2.2 The current 3G price structure in Leisure and Parks is based on the old pricing structure for ATP's, and has not been renewed for a number of years. The current Leisure and Parks prices are as follows:-

	Junior		Adult	
	With Lights	Without Lights	With Lights	Without Lights
Full Pitch	£27.00	£8.75	£54.05	£36.05
Half Pitch	£13.55	£4.40	£27.00	£18.00

A comparison of current prices across Leisure and Parks and school sites can be found in Appendix 2.

5.2.3 As can be seen from the Leisure and Parks prices outlined in 5.2.2, there is no real logic underpinning the pricing structure. It is therefore recommended that the Council takes the opportunity to introduce a coherent pricing policy which all users will be able to understand. The suggested revised prices are as follows:

	Junior	Adults
Full Pitch	£25.00	£55.00
Half Pitch	£12.50	£27.50

The rationale behind the suggested revised prices is based on the following criteria:

- A new year-round single price point eliminating the differential between 'with lights' and 'without lights' pricing.
- This single price point still ensures that junior sport is affordable.
- This will have minimal impact on sports clubs over the course of the season as the majority of usage for clubs, both junior and adult, is aligned to the current 'with lights' price taking place between September and April (traditional winter sports season). (See

Appendix 3 for a summary of the impact of revised pricing on clubs based on a comparison with actual 2017/18 charges).

5.2.4 In order to align consistency of access to School ATP and 3G pitches, it is proposed that the revised pricing structure detailed in 5.2.3 above is rolled out to all Schools. This measure has the potential to realise a considerable increase in the usage of facilities across the County Borough, and will reduce travel times and costs for those teams looking to keep their costs as low as possible.

5.2.5 There has been an increase in the number of commercial organisations charging premium prices to users whilst accessing the Council subsidised rate. Therefore, it is proposed that the Council also introduces a commercial rate for ATP and 3G pitches as follows:

	Junior and Adults
Full Pitch	£110.00
Half Pitch	£55.00

5.2.6 The proposed new commercial rate would ensure that the Council maximise income through the private sector whilst maintaining affordable opportunities for voluntary sector organisations.

5.2.7 Further work will need to be done to ensure that a commercial pricing policy is developed and introduced across Leisure and Parks.

5.3 The Maintenance of ATP and 3G Pitches

5.3.1 Currently the maintenance of Council ATP and 3G pitches lies with the Leisure and Parks Department and specific Schools.

5.3.2 Through the proposal, Leisure and Parks will carry out the maintenance of all Council owned ATP and 3G pitches.

5.3.3 Leisure and Parks recognise that resources will need to be made available to carry out this level of maintenance.

5.3.4 The Council recognises that a robust maintenance schedule needs to be developed in order to protect the considerable investment into the facilities.

5.3.5 Further discussions with Rhondda Cynon Taf Education and Schools will take place on how the management and maintenance of ATP and 3G pitches is planned and delivered going forward, ensuring that they are available for future generations.

6. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. A full report is not required at this time.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 The proposed single price point will result in a marginal increase in income although some of the clubs see an increase and some see a decrease (depending on their previous mix of with lights or without lights) (see Appendix 3).
- 7.2 To offset any potential concerns from the users it is proposed that the revised prices are introduced from April 2019 and are frozen until April 2021.
- 7.3 Overall, the proposal is unlikely to incur additional cost to the Council. This is without taking into consideration additional income from the proposed commercial rate for private organisations.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 There are no legal implications at this time.

9. CONSULTATION

- 9.1 Regular consultation with Sport Wales and the National Governing Bodies of Sport through the RCT Collaboration Group.
- 9.2 Consultation occurs with the local football leagues through annual meetings with the Head of Service, Cabinet Member and Council Leader.
- 9.3 Leisure and Parks alongside 21st Century School have carried out consultation with a number of Secondary Schools in relation to public access of ATP and 3G pitches.

10. LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN/OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/SIP/FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 10.1 Improved accessibility of facilities and increased opportunities within local communities will have a positive impact on the lives of people that live and work in the County Borough.
- 10.2 The development of new facilities throughout communities in Rhondda Cynon Taf, alongside increased participation supports the seven well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and

Council priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan, The Way Ahead 2016-2020.

- 10.3 Improved local facilities support the development of neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work promoting health and well-being and positive lives for everyone.

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 Both ATP and 3G pitches maximises the Council's commitment to sport in Rhondda Cynon Taf for current as well as future generations.
- 11.2 Increased public access to sports facilities will improve the health and wellbeing of those that live, work and visit Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 11.3 The proposed single price point will give clarity to the users and will be easier to administer but more importantly still remains affordable for all users.
- 11.4 The facilities present the Council with all-weather sports pitches that encourages participation whilst protecting the current stock of grass pitches. Affordable and accessible ATP and 3G pitches encourages sports clubs to train, and where possible play complete fixtures, at an alternative venue reducing the usage of the Council's grass pitches and therefore increasing their longevity for years to come.
- 11.5 The development of junior sports hubs located at ATP and 3G pitches allows the Local Authority to maximise opportunities for children and young people to participate in sport in their local community.
- 11.6 The strategic framework maximises opportunities for sports clubs across the County Borough to train and play on state of the art facilities.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

18TH DECEMBER 2018

REPORT OF DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH COUNCILLOR ANN CRIMMINGS, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, LEISURE AND HERITAGE SERVICES AND COUNCILLOR JOY ROSSER, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

A COUNCIL WIDE PLAN FOR THE DELIVERY OF ACCESSIBLE ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCHES (ATP) AND 3G PITCHES

Background Papers

None.

Officer to contact: David Batten, Head of Leisure, Parks & Countryside and Andrea Richards, Head of 21st Century Schools.

APPENDIX 1: Current list of ATP and 3G pitches

	Leisure and Parks Management	School Management
Cynon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sobell Sports Centre 3G • Caedrawnant Park 3G (rugby) • Abercynon Sports Centre 3G • Blaengwawr ATP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abercynon Primary ATP (TS) • YG Rhydywaun 3G**
Taf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tonyrefail Sports Centre 3G • Maritime 3G 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawthorn High School ATP • Tonyrefail Comprehensive ATP • YG Garth Olwg 3G • Y Pant Comprehensive 3G • Bryncelynnog Comprehensive 3G**
Rhondda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darran Park, Ferndale ATP • Pentre Park 3G • Rhondda Fach SC (Indoor) 3G • Treherbert Park ATP (TS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treorchy Comprehensive ATP • Tonypandy Comprehensive 3G • Porth Comprehensive 3G (rugby) • Ferndale Comprehensive 3G

TS – Training size

Unless stated all 3G pitches are football standard.

An IRB test certificate is necessary for full contact rugby to be played.

**Due to open in March 2019

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APPENDIX 2: Price Comparison of ATP and 3G Pitches per Hour

Leisure and Parks proposed current prices

	Junior	Adults
Full Pitch	£22.00	£55.00
Half Pitch	£11.00	£27.50

RCT Schools:

Y Pant Comprehensive School 3G

	Junior and Adult
Full Pitch	£70

Ysgol Nant Gwyn 3G

	Junior and Adult
Full Pitch	£75.00
Half Pitch	£32.50

YG Garth Olwg 3G

	Junior	Adults
Full Pitch	£35 inc VAT	£80 + VAT

Hawthorn High School ATP

	Junior and Adult	
		Blocking booking
Full Pitch	£51	20% discount
Half Pitch	£30	20% discount

Tonyrefail Comprehensive ATP

	Junior and Adult
Full Pitch	£40.00

Treorchy Comprehensive ATP

	Junior and Adult	
	With Lights	Without Lights
Full Pitch	£25 + VAT	£20 + VAT
Half Pitch	£12.50 + VAT	£10 + VAT

Other Providers:

University of South Wales Sports Park (Community Organisations Rate)

	Outdoor	Indoor
Full Pitch	£78 + VAT	£200 + VAT

There is no differential between Adult and Junior Rates.

Ystrad Mynach Centre of Excellence

	Junior	Adult
Full Pitch	£38	£70
Half Pitch	£19	£35

This price is the same for the football standard 3G pitch and the rugby standard 3G pitch.

APPENDIX 3: Financial impact on clubs as a result of the proposed price changes

September 2017-March 2018					Proposed Prices	
Team	Usage	Hours	Hourly Rate	Total Cost	Hourly Rate	Total Cost
Club 1- Juniors	Half Pitch W/Lights	117	£13.15	£1,538.55	£12.50	£1,462.50
	Full Pitch W/Lights	23	£26.25	£603.75	£25.00	£575.00
	Half Pitch No Lights	38	£4.25	£161.50	£12.50	£475.00
	Full Pitch No Lights	7	£8.50	£59.50	£25.00	£175.00
				£2,363.30		£2,687.50
Club 1 - Seniors	Half Pitch W/Lights	25	£26.25	£656.25	£27.50	£687.50
	Full Pitch W/Lights	23	£52.50	£1,207.50	£55.00	£1,265.00
				£1,863.75		£1,952.50
Club 2 - Juniors	Half Pitch W/Lights	16	£13.15	£210.40	£12.50	£200.00
	Full Pitch W/Lights	16	£26.25	£420.00	£25.00	£400.00
	Half Pitch No lights	25	£4.25	£106.25	£12.50	£312.50
	Full Pitch No lights	8	£8.50	£68.00	£25.00	£200.00
				£804.65		£1,112.50
Club 2 - Seniors	Half Pitch W/Lights	20	£26.25	£525.00	£27.50	£550.00
				£525.00		£550.00
Club 3 - Seniors	Half Pitch W/Lights	27	£26.25	£708.76	£27.50	£742.50
				£708.76		£742.50
Clubs 3 - Juniors	Half Pitch W/Lights	28	£13.15	£368.18	£12.50	£350.00
	Full Pitch W/Lights	58	£26.25	£1,522.50	£25.00	£1,450.00
				£1,890.68		£1,800.00
Club 4 - Senior	Half Pitch W/Lights	7	£26.25	£183.75	£27.50	£192.50
				£183.75		£192.50
Club 4 - Juniors	Half Pitch W/Lights	12	£13.15	£157.80	£12.50	£150.00
	Full Pitch W/Lights	68	£26.25	£1,785.00	£25.00	£1,700.00
				£1,942.80		£1,850.00
Club 5 - Juniors	Half Pitch W/Lights	4	£13.15	£52.60	£12.50	£50.00
	Full Pitch W/Lights	119.5	£26.25	£3,136.87	£25.00	£2,987.50
				£3,189.47		£3,037.50

Club 6 - Senior	Half Pitch W/Lights	18	£26.25	£315.00	£27.50	£495.00
				£315.00		£495.00
Club 7 - Juniors	Half Pitch W/Lights	52	£13.15	£683.80	£12.50	£650.00
	Full Pitch W/Lights	12	£26.25	£315.00	£25.00	£300.00
				£998.80		£950.00
Club 8 - Juniors	Half Pitch W/Lights	24	£26.25	£630.00	£27.50	£660.00
				£630.00		£660.00

£15,415.96

£16,030.00

+£614.04

DRAFT



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

18th DECEMBER 2018

CABINET WORK PROGRAMME: 2018- 19 MUNICIPAL YEAR.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL.

Author: Emma Wilkins, Council Business Unit – Democratic Services (01443 424110)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present, for Cabinet Members' comment and approval, an update on the Cabinet Work Programme on the proposed list of matters requiring consideration by Cabinet over the 2018-19 Municipal Year. The Work Programme will guide and direct the activities of other arms of the Council, as well as the Cabinet itself.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet approve the Work Programme for the 2018-19 Municipal Year (with appropriate amendment where necessary) and receive a further update on a 3 monthly basis.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 In accordance with paragraph 12.1 (Part 4) of the Council's Constitution, the Cabinet Work Programme should be prepared to cover a period of three months, with an updated version provided at the end of this period.
- 3.2 Following the amendments to the Leaders Scheme of Delegation at the Council AGM on the 25th May, 2016 it was agreed that going forward a detailed Cabinet Work Programme be published for a 6 month period, allowing sufficient notice and opportunity for consultation and / or pre scrutiny.
- 3.3 The updated Work Programme is attached to this report for Members' consideration and covers the 2018-19 Municipal Year.

- 3.4 For ease of reference the work programme will also be available on the main Cabinet [webpage](#) for Members and members of the public information.

4. CABINET REPORTS

- 4.1 The proposed work programme is a rolling work programme for the 2018/19 Municipal Year, which is reported to Cabinet on a 3 month cycle to allow for regular updates and amendments.
- 4.2 An updated work programme is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 4.3 During the period outlined, the Work Programme may be subject to further change to take into account any additional/deletion reports, including any new consultative documents or legislative initiatives from the Welsh Government, which require urgent attention.
- 4.4 In accordance with paragraph 2.5 (Part 4) of the Council's Constitution, any Member of the Council may also request the Leader to put an item on the agenda of a Cabinet meeting. There is also the ability for a resolution to be made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the full Council that an item be considered by the Cabinet, which could alter the forward Work Programme.
- 4.5 In addition to publishing the Cabinet work programme on the main Cabinet web page, the Work Programme is will also be published on a standalone 'Work Programme page' on the website to again assist Members of the public, by improving transparency.

5. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 5.1 The work programme has been compiled by members of the Senior Leadership Team in discussion with the relevant portfolio holder(s) and has been consulted upon with the relevant scrutiny committees in respect of pre-scrutiny.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 12.1 (Part 4) of the Council's Constitution.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

- 9.1 The Cabinet work programme encompasses all of the Council priorities as it indicates reports coming forward across the Directorates which may impact upon the Council's corporate priorities and others. It also embraces the Future Generations Acts as all future decisions taken by the Cabinet seek to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the County Borough.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 An updated Cabinet work programme for the 2018-19 Municipal Year is attached.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee – Overview & Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

18TH DECEMBER 2018

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIM HEAD OF
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LEADER AND
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL.**

Item: CABINET WORK PROGRAMME: 2018- 19 MUNICIPAL YEAR.

Background Papers

- Paragraph 12.1 (Part 4) of the Council's Constitution.

Officer to contact: Emma Wilkins, Council Business Unit.

Cabinet Work Programme.

Forward plan of proposed Cabinet Business for the 2018/19 Municipal Year

Specific Period: -May 2018 – April 2019.

(Summary of proposed Key Decisions coming forward for Cabinet Members consideration.)

N.B – The work programme is subject to change to take account of any additional / deletion of reports, including any new consultative documents or legislative initiatives from the Welsh Government, which require urgent attention.

Contact: Emma Wilkins (Tel No. 01443 424110)

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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Chief Executive

Cabinet Work Programme	In line with the Council's Constitution there is a need to advise and publish the Cabinet Work Programme.	Continuous	Cabinet	Every 3 months June 18 September 18 December 18 March 19	Leader of the Council, Councillor A Morgan. Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services – C Hanagan	Open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Members • SLT • Overview & Scrutiny
Leaders Scheme of Delegation	To formally receive the Leaders Scheme of Delegation following the 2018 Council AGM	Complete	Cabinet	June 2018	Leader of the Council, Councillor A Morgan. Secretary to the Cabinet – C Hanagan	Open	Cabinet Members
Technical Advice Note (TAN)1 – Joint Housing Land Availability Studies	To approve the response to Welsh Government	Complete	Delegated Decision	June 2018	Cllr R Bevan Director Regeneration, Planning & Housing.	Open	
Council's Corporate Performance Report	To consider the Councils Performance Report and recommend its endorsement by Council	Complete	Cabinet	July 2018	Leader of the Council, Councillor A Morgan. Chief Executive – C Bradshaw	Open	Finance & Performance Scrutiny
Establishment of Further Business Improvement BIDs	Identifying additional BID towns across RCT and utilising	Complete	Delegated Decision	July 2018	Councillor R Bevan, Director, Regeneration,	Open	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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	Welsh Government Funding				Planning & Housing – J Cook		
Owner Occupier Loans & Owner Occupier Repayable Financial Assistance	To provide Owner Occupier Loans & Owner Occupier Repayable Financial Assistance to enable homeowners to improve their homes so they are safe, warm & secure	Complete	Delegated Decision	July 2018	Councillor R Bevan, Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook	Open	
Town Centre Maintenance Grant – Review of pilot	To consider the findings following the pilot of the Town Centre Maintenance Grant.	Complete	Cabinet	July 2018	Councillor R Bevan Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook	Open	
Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme - Welsh Government Funding	To consider the targeted Regeneration Investment Programme - Welsh Government Funding	Complete	Delegated Decision	July 2018	Councillor R Bevan Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook		
Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme - Welsh Government Funding	To consider the targeted Regeneration Investment		Delegated Decision	September 2018	Councillor R Bevan Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing –		

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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	Programme - Welsh Government Funding - Thematic Project				J Cook		
Leaders Scheme of Delegation	To advise Members of the changes to the scheme following updates to Membership		Cabinet	September 2018	Leader of the Council – A Morgan. Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services– C Hanagan		
Porth Town Centre Strategy	To advise Members of the strategy going forward		Cabinet	October 2018	Councillor R Bevan Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook		
Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report	To consider the Annual report of the Corporate Parenting Board.	Draft	Cabinet	October 2018	Councillor G Hopkins & Cllr C Leyshon Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services– C Hanagan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Parenting Board • Children & Young People Scrutiny
Notice of Motion – Snow Warden Update	To receive the recommendations of the Snow Warden Scrutiny group		Cabinet	October 2018	Councillor M Webber Director of Communications and Interim Head of Democratic Services		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Public Services, Community and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

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List Of Standardised Welsh Place Names	To receive the recommendations of the Welsh Language Steering Group		Cabinet	October 2018	Councillor G Hopkins Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services		Welsh Language Steering Group
HR initiatives– Update report	To receive an update report in respect of the HR initiatives being taken forward across the Council.	Draft	Cabinet	October 2018	Deputy Leader, Councillor M Webber Director, Human Resources – R Evans		
Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) - Use of RIPA in 2017-18 by RCTCBC	To enable Members to review the Council's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA')		Cabinet	October 2018	Deputy Leader, Councillor M Webber. Director, Legal & Democratic Services – C Jones	Open	
Pontypridd Strategic Opportunity Area: Implementation	Providing Members with details of a strategic opportunity within Pontypridd		Cabinet	October 2018	Councillor R Bevan, Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook	Exempt	New Item
Community infrastructure levy annual monitoring report	CIL regulations require a report to update Cabinet on the performance of CIL during the last year and make any		Cabinet	October 2018	Councillor R Bevan Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook	open	Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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	amendments deemed necessary.						
Introduction of a financial Wellbeing Solution within the staff benefits programme	Implementation of the Staff Panels recommendation		Delegated Decision	October 2018	Deputy Leader, Councillor M Webber. Director, HR – R Evans		New item Staff Panel
Planning Annual Performance Report	To approve the Planning Annual Performance Report , prior to submission to Welsh Government		Delegated Decision	October 2018	Councillor R Bevan Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook	Open	
Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)	To approve the LDP annual monitoring report, prior to submission to Welsh Government on 31st October		Delegated Decision	October 2018	Councillor R Bevan Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook	Open	
Budget Consultation Report	To inform Members of the proposed approach to resident engagement and consultation in respect of the 2019/20 budget.		Cabinet	October 2018	Councillor M Webber Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services – C Hanagan	Open	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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Pontypridd Strategic Opportunity Area: Implementation – Acquisition of 50/53 Taff street	To seek approval for the acquisition of 50/53 Taff Street		Delegated Decision	October 2018	Councillor R Bevan Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook	Exempt	New Item
WG targeted regeneration investment programme	To submit an application to WG		Delegated Decision	October 2018	Councillor R Bevan Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook		New item
Enterprise support programme – amendments to support business affected by Storm Callum	To seek approval for amendment to the eligibility criteria for the Enterprise Support Programme		Delegated Decision	October 2018	Councillor R Bevan Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook	Open	New Item
Pre Scrutiny - Empty Properties Strategy	The need to provide Cabinet Members with the Council's Empty Properties Strategy		Cabinet	November 2018	Councillor R Bevan Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook		Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny
Brexit	To provide Members with an update in respect of Brexit		Cabinet	November 2018	Councillor A Morgan Chief Executive – C Bradshaw.		
Strategic Opportunity Area	To receive a report outlining the		Cabinet	November 2018	Councillor R Bevan Director,	Exempt	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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	Strategic Opportunity Areas				Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook		
Cynon Valley Waste Disposal Company Limited and Amgen Rhondda Limited – Annual General Meeting	To provide Members with details of the AGM in respect of the Cynon Valley Waste Disposal Company Ltd and Amgen Rhondda Ltd.		Cabinet	November 2018	Councillor A Crimmings Director, Legal & Democratic Services	Exempt	
Cynon Gateway – Energising the Region – Welsh Government Enabling Natural Resources and Well-Being Grant	To provide Members with details of the WG Grant		Delegated Decision	December 2018	Councillor R Bevan Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook		
Review Of The Council’s Senior And Associated Management Post Structure	To provide Members with details of the recent review taken forward		Cabinet	December 2018	Councillor A Morgan – Leader; Chris Bradshaw – Chief Executive	Exempt	
Mountain Ash Town Centre: Regeneration Framework Draft	To receive the report outlining a draft regeneration framework to coordinate the current investment package that		Cabinet	December 2018	Councillor R Bevan Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook	Exempt	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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	delivers improvements for Mountain Ash Town Centre						
Development Plan	To consider the next steps to develop planning policy for the area/region.		Cabinet	February 2019	Councillor R Bevan Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook	Open	
Corporate Assessment	To consider the Council's Corporate Assessment.		Cabinet	February 2019	Leader & Deputy Leader, Councillor A Morgan & M Webber. Chief Executive – C Bradshaw	Open	
Strategic Equality Plan	To provide Members with details of the Council's Strategic Equality plan		Cabinet	February 2019	Deputy Leader, Councillor M Webber Director, Human Resources – R Evans	Open	
Robertstown / Coedely – Update and progress report	The need to provide Members with an update and progress report in respect of Robertstown / Coedely development		Cabinet	March 2019	Councillor R Bevan Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook	Open	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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Mountain Ash Guto Square Flood Consequences Assessment	To provide Members with an update in respect of the assessment.		Cabinet	March 2019	Councillor R Bevan Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook	Open	
Annual Equalities Report	To receive the report of the Director, Human Resources in respect of the Annual Equalities Report.		Cabinet	March 2019	Deputy Leader, Councillor M Webber Director, Human Resources – R Evans	Open	
Affordable Warmth Strategy	The need to advise Cabinet Members of the Councils Affordable Warmth Strategy		Cabinet	March 2019	Councillor R Bevan Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook		
Taff Vale Update and Business Plan	Taff Vale Update Report.		Cabinet	When appropriate	Councillor R Bevan Director, Regeneration, Planning & Housing – J Cook	Open	
Corporate Plan – Updates on delivery	To receive reports outlining delivery and ambition of the Corporate Plan		Cabinet	When Applicable	Leader of the Council, Councillor A Morgan & Chief Executive, C Bradshaw	Open	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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Cardiff Capital Region - City Deal	The need to advise of the progress being made in respect of the City Deal		Cabinet	When Applicable	Leader of the Council, Councillor A Morgan & Chief Executive, C Bradshaw	Open	
Staff Panel Report	To receive details of the proposals put forward by the Council's Staff Panel in respect of efficiency savings and smarter ways of working		Cabinet	When Applicable	Councillor M Webber & Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services - C Hanagan	Open	
Scrutiny Recommendations	To receive recommendations coming forward following a scrutiny review.		Cabinet	Continuous	Specific to the Scrutiny Review undertaken	Open	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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Corporate & Frontline Services

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Council's Performance & Resources Report	To provide Cabinet with an overview of the Council's performance, both from a financial and operational perspective	Continuous	Cabinet	Quarter 4 – July 2018 Quarter 1 – September 2018 Quarter 2 – November 2018 Quarter 3 – March 2019	Councillor M Norris. Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services	Open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report is presented to Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee following consideration by cabinet
Strategic Partnership Opportunity	To receive details of a Strategic Partnership Opportunity	Complete	Cabinet	June 2018	Councillor M Norris. Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services		
Collaboration Opportunity - Internal Audit Services	To receive details of a collaboration opportunity in respect of internal Audit services	Complete	Cabinet	June 2018	Councillor M Norris. Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services		

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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Digital Strategy Work Programme Requirements	To provide Members with details of the requirements needed to be taken forward in respect of the Digital Strategy Work Programme	Complete	Cabinet	June 2018	Councillor M Norris. Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services		
A4119 Ely Valley Road Dualling – Llantrisant Business Park to Coed Ely Roundabouts	To obtain authority to submit a planning application in respect of the roadscheme	Complete	Cabinet	June 2018	Leader of the Council Councillor A Morgan. Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services		
Medium Term Financial Planning - Sale Of The Garage Portfolio And Increase In Rent	To take forward the sale of the Council's garage portfolio and increase in rent		Delegated Decision	June 2018	Councillor M Norris. Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services		
Medium Term Financial Plan Update	To provide Members with an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2018/19 – 2021/2022	Complete	Cabinet	July 2018	Councillor M Norris. Group Director Corporate & Frontline Services	Open	
General Data Protection Review Update	To receive an update in respect of the GDPR	Complete	Cabinet	July 2018	Councillor M Norris. Group Director Corporate & Frontline Services	Open	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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Updated Parking Enforcement Policy 2018	Providing Members with details of the Policy update		Delegated Decision	October	Leader of the Council Councillor A Morgan Director of Highways & Streetcare – N Wheeler		
Community Transport Funding	Award of grant funding to community transport		Delegated Decisions	October 2018	Councillor A Crimmings Director of Highways & Streetcare – N Wheeler		
A465 Heads of the Valleys Dualling.	To provide Members with details of the dualling of the A465 Heads of the valley - Dowlais Top to Hirwaun		Cabinet	October 2018	Leader of the Council Councillor A Morgan. Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services	Open	
Highways, Transportation And Strategic Projects - Highway Asset Investment Strategy	To provide Members with the highway asset investment strategy		Cabinet	October 2018	Leader of the Council Councillor A Morgan. Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services		New item
Major Transportation Infrastructure Projects Update	updating Cabinet on the current status in respect of a number of key strategic transportation infrastructure projects		Cabinet	October 2018	Leader of the Council Councillor A Morgan. Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services		New item
Processing Of Mixed	To provide Members		Cabinet	October 2018	Leader of the Council	Exempt	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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Kerbside Recycling	with a Business Case in respect of the opportunities of investment into processing of Mixed Kerbside Recycling				Councillor A Morgan. Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services		
Council Investment Priorities	To consider any potential investment opportunities		Cabinet	October 2018	Leader of the Council Councillor A Morgan. Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services		
Flood and Water Management Act 2010: Commencement of Schedule 3	To advise Members of the commencement of Schedule 3 'Sustainable Drainage		Cabinet	October 2018	Leader of the Council Councillor A Morgan. Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services		
Civil Parking Enforcement	To receive an update in respect of Civil Parking Enforcement		Cabinet	November 2018	Leader of the Council Councillor A Morgan. Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services		
Corporate Asset Management Plan Interim Update	To brief members on progress with the plan		Cabinet	November 2018	Councillor M Norris. Group Director Corporate & Frontline Services	Exempt	
Council Tax Base 2019/20	To receive the report in respect of setting the Council Tax Base		Cabinet	November 2018	Leader of the Council, Councillor A Morgan. Group Director,	Open	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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	2019/20				Corporate & Frontline Services – C Lee		
Write off of irrecoverable Debts	Need to provide Cabinet with a position statement on irrecoverable debts		Cabinet	December 2018	Leader of the Council, Councillor A Morgan & Councillor M Norris. Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services – C Lee	Exempt	
Strategic Partnership Opportunity	To provide Members with an update in respect of the Strategic Partnership Opportunity following the agreed Procurement process		Cabinet	January 2019	Cllr Norris Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services – C Lee		Trade Unions / Staff

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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Budget Report	The need to adopt a budget strategy to recommend to Council as the basis of the budget strategy for the financial year ending March 2020, following consideration of the consultation feedback		Cabinet	February 2019	Leader of the Council, Councillor A Morgan. Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services - C Lee	Open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Consultation - Service Users, Road shows, School Budget Forum & Scrutiny.
Council Fees & Charges	The need to advise Cabinet of the proposed Council Fees and Charges for the financial year 2019/20		Cabinet	February 2019	Leader of the Council, Councillor A Morgan. Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services – C Lee	Open	
Capital Programme	To propose to Council the three year capital programme		Cabinet	February 2019	Leader of the Council, Councillor A Morgan. Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services – C Lee	Open	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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Digital Strategy – Update	To receive an update in respect of the delivery of the Digital Strategy Programme		Cabinet	February 2019	Cllr M Norris Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services – C Lee	Open	
Supplementary Capital Programme - Highways, Transportation & Strategic projects	The need to seek approval for detailed investment within the service following Council's approval of the 3 year Capital Programme.		Cabinet	March 2019	Leader of the Council, Councillor A Morgan. Director, Highways & Streetcare Services – N Wheeler	Open	
Corporate Asset Management Plan 2013 – 2019 Biannual Update	Need to brief Members on the progress with implementation of the work plan of the Corporate Asset Management Plan.		Cabinet	Continuous / When Applicable	Councillor Mark Norris. Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services – C Lee	Exempt	
Write off of irrecoverable Debts	Need to provide Cabinet with a position statement on irrecoverable debts		Cabinet	Continuous / When Applicable	Leader of the Council, Councillor A Morgan & Councillor M Norris. Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services – C Lee	Exempt	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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Review of Mainstream School Transport Provision	Need to provide Cabinet with the outcomes of the periodic review of the Council's mainstream School Transport Provision		Cabinet	Periodic Review / when applicable	Leader of the Council, Councillor A Morgan. Director, Highways & Streetcare Services – N Wheeler	Open	
Scrutiny Recommendations	To receive any recommendations coming forward following a scrutiny review.		Cabinet	Continuous / When Applicable	Specific to Scrutiny Review undertaken	Open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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Community & Children's Services

Consultation Responses – St George's Day Centre	To receive the consultation responses to the proposal of closing St George's Day Centre	Complete	Cabinet	June 2018	Councillor G Hopkins Group Director Community & Children's Services - G Isingrini	Open	
Parliamentary Review in to Health and Social care	To receive information in respect of the Parliamentary review into health & Social Care	Complete	Cabinet	June 2018	Councillor G Hopkins Group Director Community & Children's Services - G Isingrini		
Children Looked After – Quality Assurance Panel	To receive an update report in respect of the work undertaken by the Quality Assurance Panel with Children Looked After within RCT	Complete	Cabinet	June 2018	Councillor G Hopkins Group Director Community & Children's Services - G Isingrini		
Right of Way Improvement Plan	To commence the statutory consultation in respect of the Right of Way	Complete	Delegated Decision	June 2018	Cllr A Crimmings Director, Public Health, Protection & Housing	Open	Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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	Improvement plan						
Director Social Services Annual Report (Draft)	Statutory required- Annual report on the delivery, performance, risks & planned improvements to the Social Services function of the Council	Draft	Cabinet	July 2018	Councillor G Hopkins & Councillor C Leyshon - Group Director Community & Children's Services - G Isingrini	Open	Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
Cwm Taf Carer's Annual Report	To approve for submission to WG the annual report.	Complete	Cabinet	July 2018	Councillor G Hopkins & Group Director Community & Children's Services - G Isingrini	Open	multi agency Cwm Taf Carers Partnership
Supported Living accommodation development	To advise cabinet Members of a proposed development in respect of supported living accommodation	Draft	Cabinet	July 2018	Councillor G Hopkins & Group Director Community & Children's Services - G Isingrini	Exempt	
RCT Together – Community Asset Transfer Rhydyfelin Community Centre	To advise Members of the Community Asset Transfer: Rhydyfelin Community centre		Delegated Decision	August 2018	Councillor R Lewis Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services		

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Report Status	Decision Maker (Cabinet / Delegated Decision (DD))	Proposed Date	Cabinet Member / responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation to be undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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RCT Together – Community Asset Transfer Pentre Park Paddling Pool	To advise Members of the Community Asset Transfer: Pentre Park Paddling Pool		Delegated Decision	August 2018	Councillor R Lewis Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services		
Charges for Aberdare Athletics Track	To agree the charges for Aberdare Athletics Track		Delegated Decision	August 2018	Councillor A Crimmings Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services		
Adult Social Care Charges	To consider the report advising of the charges for Adult Social Care	Draft	Cabinet	September 2018	Councillor G Hopkins & Group Director Community & Children's Services - G Isingrini		
Council Run Day Nursery Provision	To provide Members with the consultation feedback following consideration of the proposal to cease Ynyscynon Day Nursery Provision		Cabinet	September 2018	Councillor C Leyshon - Group Director Community & Children's Services - G Isingrini	Open	Public Consultation
Mobile Library Consultation	To receive a report outlining the mobile library consultation responses		Cabinet	September 2018	Councillor R Lewis Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services	Open	
Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Annual Report	In accordance with the SSWB Act, the need to report the Cwm Taf		Cabinet	October 2018	Councillor G Hopkins & Councillor C Leyshon Group Director Community & Children's Services – G	Open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board

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	Safeguarding Annual Report to the Cabinet, setting out their priorities for the coming year.				Isingrini		
Social Services Annual Complaints Report	Provide Cabinet with an overview of the operation & effectiveness of the Council's Social Services complaints procedure		Cabinet	October 2018	Councillor G Hopkins Group Director Community & Children's Services – G Isingrini	Open	Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
Director Social Services Annual Report	To receive the final report of the Director, Social Services prior to its publication		Cabinet	October 2018	Councillors G Hopkins & T Leyshon. Group Director Community & Children's Services – G Isingrini	Open	Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
Safeguarding Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation within Cwm Taf	To receive a presentation in respect of the work of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board in this area		Cabinet - **To be taken forward at a Council meeting for all Members information.	October 2018	Councillor G Hopkins & Group Director Community & Children's Services - G Isingrini	Exempt	

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Gambling Policy	To receive a report advising of the amendments to the Gambling Policy		Cabinet	October 2018	Councillor R Lewis Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services		Licensing Committee
Investment Update - Leisure, Parks, Play Areas, Heritage And Visitor Attractions	To provide Members with an update in respect of the service areas		Cabinet	October 2018	Clr A Crimmings Director, Public Health, Protection & Housing		
Funding Flexibility	To consider the report outlining funding flexibility		Cabinet	November 2018	Councillor R Lewis Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services		
RCT Together – Review of the Community Asset Transfer Process	To consider the report of the Director, outlining proposals coming forward		Cabinet	November 2018	Councillor R Lewis Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services		
Proposals to review the provision of Community day centres in RCT	To provide Members with proposals for consideration		Cabinet	November 2018	Councillor G Hopkins and Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services		
HMO Licensing Review 2019	To provide Cabinet with the HMO Licensing Review undertaken		Cabinet	November 2018	Councillor R Lewis Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services	Open	Health & Wellbeing
Cwm Taf Regional Statement of Intent for Supporting Children and Young People and Families	To provide Cabinet with the Statement of Intent		Cabinet	November 2018	Councillor C Leyshon and Group Director Community & Children's Services – G Isingrini		

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Modernisation of Residential Care and Day Care for Older People	To provide Members with details of the modernisation of residential care within the County Borough		Cabinet	November 2018	Councillor G Hopkins and Group Director Community & Children's Services – G Isingrini		
Extra Care Housing – Provision of Care and Support	To provide Members with an update in respect of Extra Care Housing		Cabinet	November 2018	Councillor G Hopkins and Group Director Community & Children's Services – G Isingrini		
Support @Home Maestrisant Service	To provide Members with details of the service		Cabinet	November 2018	Councillor G Hopkins and Group Director Community & Children's Services – G Isingrini		
Relocation of Flying Start Nursery Provision in Llwynypia	To provide details of a relocation of Flying Start Nursery provision		Delegated Decision	December 2018	Councillor C Leyshon and Group Director Community & Children's Services – G Isingrini		
A Council Wide Plan For The Delivery Of Accessible Artificial Turf Pitches And 3G Pitches	To provide Members with a proposal relating to a Council Wide plan for the delivery of 3G pitches		Cabinet	December 2018	Cllr A Crimmings Director, Public Health Protection & Community Services		
Right of Way Improvement Plan	To consider the Right of Way Improvement plan		Cabinet	December 2018	Cllr A Crimmings Director, Public Health, Protection & Housing	Open	Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

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	following the statutory consultation						
Homeless Strategy	To receive a report outlining the Council's Homeless Strategy		Cabinet	December 2018	Councillor R Lewis Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services		
Consultation On Votes At 16	To inform Cabinet Members of the outcomes of the Votes at 16 Consultation		Cabinet	December 2018	Councillor, C Leyshon and Group Director Community & Children's Services – G Isingrini		Young persons consultation
Regional Fostering	To consider the report regarding regional Fostering		Cabinet	December 2018	Councillor G Hopkins, C Leyshon and Group Director Community & Children's Services – G Isingrini	Exempt	
LD Review and Accommodation	To provide Members with details of the review		Cabinet	February 2019	Councillor G Hopkins and Group Director Community & Children's Services – G Isingrini		
National Adoption Annual Report	To receive the National Adoption Annual Report		Cabinet	January 2019	Councillor G Hopkins, C Leyshon and Group Director Community & Children's Services – G Isingrini	Open	

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Adult Community Learning	To provide Members with details of Adult Community Learning within the Authority		Cabinet	February 2019	Councillor G Hopkins Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services		
Regional Transformation Agenda	To receive an update on the regional transformation agenda		Cabinet	February 2019	Councillor G Hopkins and Group Director Community & Children's Services – G Isingrini		
Advocacy	To provide Cabinet with an update in respect of advocacy		Cabinet	March 2019	Councillor G Hopkins and Group Director Community & Children's Services – G Isingrini		
Community Hubs – Asset Transfer	To provide Members with strategic Recommendations in respect Community Buildings across RCT		Cabinet	February 2019	CLLr R Lewis Director, Public Health Protection & Community Services		
Proposals to review the provision of Community day centres in RCT	To receive the consultation responses		Cabinet	February 2019	Councillor G Hopkins and Director, Public Health Protection & Community Services		Public Consultation

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Modernisation of Residential Care and Day Care for Older People	To receive the consultation responses		Cabinet	February 2019	Councillor G Hopkins and Group Director Community & Children's Services – G Isingrini		Public Consultation O&S
Library Strategy & Action Plan	To provide Members with the strategy and Action Plan in respect of the Library Service		Cabinet	February / March 2019	CLLr R Lewis Director, Public Health Protection & Community Services		
Employment Strategy	To provide members with details of a potential employment strategy		Cabinet	February / March 2019	CLLr R Lewis Director, Public Health Protection & Community Services		
Local Toilet Strategy	To consider the Local Toilet strategy following the required consultation		Cabinet	May 2019	CLLr R Lewis Director, Public Health Protection & Community Services		Public Engagement Public Service Delivery Scrutiny Committee
Cwm Taf Safeguarding Annual Plan	To receive the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Annual Plan		Cabinet	May 2019	Councillor G Hopkins. Group Director Community & Children's Services – G Isingrini	Open	
SS&WB Board Development	To consider any updates as appropriate in respect of the SS&WB Board		Cabinet	Continuous / When Applicable	Councillor G Hopkins. Group Director Community & Children's Services – G Isingrini	Open	

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Development of Community Hubs	To consider the development of Community Hubs across the County Borough		Cabinet	Continuous / When Applicable	Councillor R Lewis Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services	Open	
Extra Care Strategy	To receive update reports on the Councils progress in respect of delivery of the Extra Care Strategy		Cabinet	Continuous / When Applicable	Councillor G Hopkins. Group Director Community & Children's Services – G Isingrini	Open	
Cwm Taf MASH Annual Report	To receive the Annual report of the Cwm Taf MASH		Cabinet	When Applicable	Councillor G Hopkins. Group Director Community & Children's Services – G Isingrini	Open	
Social Services & Wellbeing Act	To provide updates as and when necessary on the Council's duties in respect of the Act		Cabinet	Continuous / When Applicable	Councillor G Hopkins. Group Director Community & Children's Services – G Isingrini	Open	
Local Air Quality Management Reports	To provide details of the Local Air Quality Management Reports		Delegated Decision	Continuous / When Applicable	Councillor R Lewis Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services	Open	
Scrutiny Recommendations	To receive any recommendations		Cabinet	Continuous / When	Specific to Scrutiny Review undertaken	Open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutiny

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	coming forward following a scrutiny review.			Applicable			
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Education & Inclusion Services

Increasing Welsh Medium Provision – Welsh Government Capital Grant.	Submission of a Business Case to WG.	Complete	Delegated Decision	May 2018	Councillor J Rosser Director, Education & Lifelong Learning - E Thomas	Open	
Support for the School Uniform Scheme	To continue support for the School Uniform Scheme	Complete	Delegated Decision	June 2018	Councillor J Rosser Director, Education & Lifelong Learning – E Thomas	Open	
RCT SACRE Annual Report	To receive the annual report of RCT SACRE		Cabinet	July 2018	Councillor J Rosser. Director, Education & Lifelong Learning - E Thomas	Open	
Partnership with UWC	To provide Members with details of the opportunities to partnership with UWC		Cabinet	September 2018	Councillor J Rosser ; Cllr C Leyshon & Director, Education & Inclusion Services -G Davies		
21 st Century Schools Programme - Proposals To Improve Education Provision In Cynon Valley	To provide Members with details of proposed improvements		Cabinet	September 2018	Councillor J Rosser & Chief Executive ; Director, Education & Inclusion Services -G Davies	Open	New Item
Continuing To Improve	To provide Members		Cabinet	September	Councillor J Rosser &	Open	

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Primary Education Provision In Rhondda Cynon Taf	with details of proposed improvements			2018	Director, Education & Inclusion Services -G Davies		
Proposals To Establish Primary Education Provision For The Llanilid Housing Development	To consider proposals to establish primary education for the Llanilid Housing Development		Cabinet	September	Councillor J Rosser & Director, Education & Inclusion Services -G Davies	Open	
Page 176 SEN – ALN Support Class Review	To consider a review undertaken in respect of ALN support class provision		Cabinet	October 2018	Councillor J Rosser & Director, Education & Inclusion Services -G Davies	Open	
21 st Century Schools Programme - Proposals To Improve Education Provision In The Greater Pontypridd Area	To provide Members with details of proposed improvements		Cabinet	October 2018	Councillor J Rosser & Chief Executive ; Director, Education & Inclusion Services -G Davies	Open	New Item
Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2&3 and Key Stage 4 outcomes for 2017	To provide Members with initial feedback on the Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2, 3 & 4 outcomes for 2017.		Cabinet	October 2018	Councillor J Rosser & Director, Education & Inclusion Services -G Davies	Open	
Pre Scrutiny - School Attendance Report	To consider the school attendance		Cabinet	October 2018	Councillor J Rosser & Director, Education &	Open	Children & Young People Scrutiny committee

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	protocol				Inclusion Services -G Davies		
Key stage 4 and 5 outcomes	To receive the final data from Welsh Government in respect of the Educational Outcomes for RCT		Cabinet	January 2019	Councillor J Rosser & Director, Education & Inclusion Services -G Davies	Open	
Review of Learning Support Class Provision within RCT	To receive the feedback following the consultation undertaken		Cabinet	February 2019	Councillor J Rosser & Director, Education & Inclusion Services -G Davies	open	Cabinet Formal Consultation
C21st Schools Programme – proposals to improve education provision in cynon valley	To receive the feedback following the consultation undertaken		Cabinet	February 2019	Councillor J Rosser & Director, Education & Inclusion Services -G Davies	Open	Cabinet Formal Consultation
Proposals to establish primary education provision for the Llanilid Housing Development	To receive the feedback following the consultation undertaken		Cabinet	February 2019	Councillor J Rosser & Director, Education & Inclusion Services -G Davies	Open	Cabinet Formal Consultation
C21st school programme – proposals to improve education provision in the greater Pontypridd area	To receive the feedback following the consultation undertaken		Cabinet	February 2019	Councillor J Rosser & Director, Education & Inclusion Services -G Davies	Open	Cabinet Formal Consultation
Childcare Sufficiency Update	The need to provide details of the		Cabinet	March 2019	Councillor J Rosser. Director, Education &	Open	Children & Young People Scrutiny committee

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	Childcare Sufficiency Audit undertaken, in line with Welsh Government Requirements				Inclusion Services -G Davies; Childcare Officer - D Humphries		
Supplementary Capital Programme – Education & Inclusion Services	The need to seek Cabinet approval for further detailed investment within the service following Council’s approval of the 3 year Capital Programme.		Cabinet	March 2019	Councillor J Rosser. Director, Education & Inclusion Services -G Davies	Open	
Scrutiny Recommendations	To receive any recommendations coming forward following a scrutiny review.		Cabinet	Continuous / When Applicable	Specific to Scrutiny Review undertaken	Open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutiny
21 st Century Schools	To receive any updates in respect of the 21 st Century Schools Programme		Cabinet	Continuous / When Applicable	Councillor J Rosser. Director, Education & Inclusion Services -G Davies	Open	
Partnership with United World Colleges (UWC) Atlantic College	To receive a progress report on the partnership working		Cabinet	September 2019	Councillor J Rosser. Director, Education & Inclusion Services -G Davies		Cabinet – September 2018

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