



**CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL**  
**RHONDDA CYNON TAF**  
**COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**GWŶS I GYFARFOD O'R CYNGOR**

C.Hanagan  
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf  
Y Pafiliynau  
Parc Hen Lofa'r Cambrian  
Cwm Clydach CF40 2XX

Dolen gyswllt: Sarah Handy - Members' Researcher & Scrutiny Officer  
(07385401942)

**DYMA WŶS I CHI** i gyfarfod rhithwir o **PWYLLGOR CRAFFU - CYLLID A CHYFLAWNIAD** yn cael ei gynnal ar **DYDD LLUN, 21AIN RHAGFYR, 2020** am **5.00 PM**.

Caiff Aelodau nad ydyn nhw'n aelodau o'r pwyllgor ac aelodau o'r cyhoedd gyfrannu yn y cyfarfod ar faterion y cyfarfod er bydd y cais yn ôl doethineb y Cadeirydd. Gofynnwn i chi roi gwybod i Wasanaethau Democrataidd erbyn Dydd Iau, 17 Rhagfyr 2020 trwy ddefnyddio'r manylion cyswllt uchod, gan gynnwys rhoi gwybod a fyddwch chi'n siarad Cymraeg neu Saesneg.

**AGENDA**

**Tudalennau**

**1. DATGANIAD O FUDDIANT**

Derbyn datganiadau o fuddiannau personol gan Gynghorwyr, yn unol â gofynion Cod Ymddygiad y Cyngor.

Nodwch:

1. Mae gofyn i Aelodau ddatgan rhif a phwnc yr agendwm mae eu buddiant yn ymwneud ag ef a mynegi natur y buddiant personol hwnnw; a
2. Lle bo Aelodau'n ymneilltuo o'r cyfarfod o ganlyniad i ddatgelu buddiant sy'n rhagfarnu, rhaid iddyn nhw roi gwybod i'r Cadeirydd pan fyddan nhw'n gadael.

**2. COFNODION**

Derbyn cofnodion o gyfarfod blaenorol y Pwyllgor Craffu – Cyllid a Chyflawniad a gafodd ei gynnal ar 16 Tachwedd 2020.

## **ADRODDIAD Y CYFARWYDDWR GWASANAETH – GWASANAETHAU DEMOCRATAIDD A CHYFATHREBU**

### **3. DOLENNI YMGYNGHORI**

Gwybodaeth mewn perthynas ag [ymgyngoriadau](#) perthnasol i'w hystyried gan y Pwyllgor.

## **ADRODDIADAU'R SWYDDOGION**

### **4. ADRODDIAD Y CYFARWYDDWR GWASANAETHAU CYLLID A DIGIDOL**

Trafod Adroddiad Cyflawniad y Cyngor ar gyfer yr Ail Chwarter (2020/21).

15 - 82

### **5. Y DIWEDDARAF MEWN PERTHYNAS Â STRATEGAETH DWRISTIAETH (DDRAFFT) RHCT**

83 - 90

### **6. ADOLYGIAD Y CADEIRYDD A DOD Â'R CYFARFOD I BEN**

Adlewyrchu ar y cyfarfod a'r camau gweithredu i'w dwyn ymlaen.

### **7. MATERION BRYD**

Trafod unrhyw faterion sydd, yn ôl doethineb y Cadeirydd, yn faterion brys yng ngoleuni amgylchiadau arbennig.

## **Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democraidd a Chyfathrebu**

### **Cylchreliad:-**

Y Cyngorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol Y Cyngorydd M Powell a Y Cyngorydd G Thomas – Cadeirydd ac Is-gadeirydd, yn y drefn honno

### **Y Cyngorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol:**

Y Cyngorydd S Bradwick, Y Cyngorydd R Yeo, Y Cyngorydd S. Rees-Owen, Y Cyngorydd J Williams, Y Cyngorydd T Williams, Y Cyngorydd J Cullwick, Y Cyngorydd G Caple, Y Cyngorydd A Fox, Y Cyngorydd S Evans, Y Cyngorydd S Rees, Y Cyngorydd J Edwards and Y Cyngorydd W Owen

Y Cyngorydd Bwrdeistref Sirol S Belzak – Aelod ex officio

Y Cyngorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol L.M.Adams a W Lewis – Cadeirydd ac Is-gadeirydd y Pwllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu yn y drefn honno

## **Aelodau Cyfetholedig Addysg er gwybodaeth-**

Mr A Ricketts, Cynrychiolydd Awdurdodau Esgobaethol â'r hawl i bleidlais

Ms A Jones, Cynrychiolydd UNITE

Mr J Fish, Cynrychiolydd Rhiant-Lywodraethwr wedi'i ethol

Mr M Cleverley, Cynrychiolydd Cymdeithas Genedlaethol yr Ysgolfeistri ac Undeb yr

Athrawesau a'r Panel Athrawon

Mr C Jones, Cynrychiolydd GMB

Mr D Price, Cynrychiolydd UNSAIN/UNISON

Mrs C Jones, Cynrychiolydd Undeb Cenedlaethol yr Athrawon a'r Panel Athrawon

Mrs R Nicholls, Cynrychiolydd Rhiant-Lywodraethwr wedi'i ethol

Mr L Patterson, Cynrychiolydd Rhiant-Lywodraethwr wedi'i ethol

Mr G Davies – Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Archwilio

Tudalen wag



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee held on Monday, 16 November 2020 at 5.00 pm.

### **County Borough Councillors - Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee Members in attendance:-**

Councillor M Powell (Chair)

Councillor G Thomas    Councillor S Bradwick  
Councillor R Yeo    Councillor J Williams  
Councillor T Williams    Councillor J Cullwick  
Councillor G Caple    Councillor A Fox

### **Officers in attendance:-**

Mr P Griffiths, Service Director – Finance & Improvement Services  
Mr A Wilkins – Director of Legal Services  
Mr C Davies – Corporate Policy and Consultation Manager  
Mrs S Handy – Members' Researcher and Scrutiny Officer  
Mrs C Hendy – Senior Democratic Services Officer

### **County Borough Councillors in attendance:-**

Councillor M Adams – Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### **Others in attendance:-**

Mr Fish – Voting Parent / Governor Representative

## **13 Welcome**

The Chair welcomed Members to the second virtual meeting of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

## 14 Apologies

Apologies of absence were received from County Borough Councillor S. Rees-Owen, W. Owen and J. Edwards.

## 15 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

## 16 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

## 17 Consultation Links

The Chair referenced the consultation links, which were available through the 'RCT Scrutiny' website. Members were reminded that information is provided in respect of relevant consultations for consideration by the Committee, which are circulated on a monthly basis.

## 18 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, the Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services introduced the Council's 'Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2023/24'.

Members were asked to consider the Council's 'Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2023/24', attached as Appendix A and were informed that the information will also aid the Committee's considerations in its role as a consultee of the 2021/22 budget consultation process.

The Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services covered the following areas:

- The Council's 2020/21 budget and financial position; and
- An overview of the Council's updated MTFP (2020/21 – 2023/24).

Following the overview, Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions.

Councillor Cullwick referred Members to page 50 of the report and sought clarification on the reason for the difference in the forecasted 'inescapables' figure in Table 10.1 of £9,558k to that included in Table 7.2 / page 42 of £11,133k. The Service Director fed back that the difference of £1,575k was schools forecasted 'inescapables' that was shown separately in Table 10.1 within the specific line 'Schools (Uplift)'.

Discussions ensued and Councillor Fox raised a query in respect of Brexit and sought clarification on the impact on Council finances if the UK were to leave the European Union without a deal. The Service Director informed Members that the Council has on-going arrangements in place to keep abreast of Brexit negotiations and to also inform service planning and delivery. The Service Director added that these arrangements also inform the Council's Medium Term Financial Planning processes, with the Plan being updated on an on-going basis to take account of cost pressures and savings opportunities, including the impact of Brexit.

A further query was raised by Councillor Thomas in respect of Storm Dennis and Covid-19, and the Councillor sought clarification as to whether the cost implications would be fully funded by the UK Government or whether these costs need to be factored into the Council's financial planning projections. Councillor Thomas also queried the use of the term "efficiency" and asked whether the Council could continue to maintain service levels and quality at the same time as making year-on-year efficiency savings. In respect of Storm Dennis, the Service Director advised Members that the Council accessed Welsh Government resources to part-fund the immediate recovery costs and dialogue is on-going with Welsh Government and the UK Government in terms of resources to fund repairs to infrastructure across the County Borough. With regard to Covid-19, the Service Director fed back that Welsh Government has set up a monthly claims process for local authorities to claim back additional expenditure and loss of income incurred as a result of the pandemic, with terms and conditions in place that provide clarity on areas that are eligible / not eligible for reimbursement. The Service Director added that regular dialogue takes place with Welsh Government on this area and the Council's budget monitoring arrangements take account of areas of expenditure / income loss that are not deemed eligible. With regard to efficiencies, the Service Director indicated that the year-on-year identification and delivery of significant efficiency savings is becoming more difficult to achieve; however the Service Director added that robust service and financial planning arrangements are in place across the Council that enables all areas of the Council's work to be reviewed on an on-going basis to support the early identification and delivery of efficiency savings. The Service Director went on to inform Members that the transformation of service delivery that has taken place to adapt to the pandemic, such as remote or home working, is providing cost saving opportunities and these are in the process of being quantified for consideration as part of the Council setting its budget for the forthcoming year.

Discussions continued and Councillor Bradwick sought information in respect of the population changes per Council area in Wales and emphasized that this could potentially affect the Council's budget setting process. The Service Director advised that with specific regard to Rhondda Cynon Taf, the population changes are marginal and should not have a significant impact on changing the allocation of funding received by the Council.

Mr Fish, the Voting Parent/Governor Representative, sought clarification on the revenue budget positions reported for Quarters 1 and Quarter 2 of 2020/21, and whether the cumulative forecast for the year was the £2.9M overspend reported in quarter 1 plus the £1.8M reported in quarter 2. Mr Fish also queried the timescales for schools to receive reimbursement for additional expenditure incurred as a result of Covid-19 and whether consideration could be given to a central approach to the provision of agency cover where school-based staff are required to self-isolate. The Service Director confirmed that the Council's latest revenue budget projected outturn position for the year, forecasted as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, is an improving position compared to quarter 1 and is projected to be a £1.8M overspend. The Service Director added that work is on-going across all Council Services with the aim of bringing the Council's spend closer in line with budget. With regard to reimbursing schools for additional Covid-19 expenditure incurred, the Service Director explained that the claim process involves schools compiling and submitting claims to the Council on a monthly basis, the Council's Accountancy Service reviewing all claims to ensure they are in line with Welsh Government terms and conditions, and following this, the claims are submitted to Welsh Government for review and where deemed eligible, payment. The Service Director added that this process takes several weeks and assured Committee that as soon as Welsh Government funding is received, this will be paid to schools. In respect of arrangements for agency staff, the Service Director informed the Committee that he would make enquiries with relevant Council services and feedback to Members.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED**:

1. To acknowledge the information contained within the Council's 'Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2023/24'; and
2. To use the information contained within the 'Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2023/24' to inform the Committee's feedback as a consultee of the Council's 2021/22 Budget Consultation process.

## **19 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES**

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, the Service Director – Finance & Improvement Services provided Members with an overview of the 2021/22 Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation and updated Committee on the following areas:

- General Approach for 2021/22
- Consultation
  - Council Budget 2021/22
  - The Council's Priorities
  - Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Following the update, the Service Director indicated that the overview intended to assist Members in formulating their responses to a number of



questions to be posed to the Committee, in line with its Terms of Reference and as a consultee as part of the 2021/22 Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation process.

The Service Director sought feedback from the Committee on a number of areas and the views of Members are noted below.

- **Schools Budget**

In respect of school budgets, Committee Members agreed that the Council should provide sufficient resources to fully cover increased pay and non-pay cost pressures in schools.

- **Fees and Charges**

Councillor Thomas indicated that providing feedback is more difficult due to there being no information comparing the UK Consumer Prices (CPI) Index rate and a specific rate for Rhondda Cynon Taf. The Service Director fed back that to provide further context, the key funding sources to fund Council Services were Welsh Government funding and Council Tax, with fees and charges also providing an important contribution to the overall cost of service delivery.

Councillor Cullwick fed back that he felt that the increases set out in Table 6.1 of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2023/24 seemed very sensible.

Discussions ensued and Councillor Caple raised a query in respect of fixed penalty notices for envirocrimes such as fly tipping and expressed his view that the public would welcome an increase higher than the CPI rate. The Service Director advised Members that the feedback would be noted and added that for certain areas there may be a maximise level at which a fixed penalty notice can be set at. Councillor Bradwick advised that as Chair of the Public Service Delivery and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee he believed this to be correct and that there are 'caps' in place in terms of the level of fixed penalty notice that can be charged for specific envirocrimes. Councillor Bradwick also fed back his view that where permissible, fixed penalty notice charges should be increased.

The Chair emphasised that if Members would like to acquire further information on this area, they should contact the appropriate Service Director.

The Chair sought further information in respect of the Pontypridd Lido and queried whether the current budget modelling includes a proposed increase in fee for the use of pool equipment by children such as floats, noting that children have free entrance to the Lido. The Chair also enquired whether this approach had been applied to cinema entrance fees at the Park and Dare and Coliseum theatres. The

Service Director fed back that the current budget modelling position assumes a 1.7% uplift on fees and charges for 2021/22, including the charges for the use of pool equipment at the Pontypridd Lido and all chargeable services provided at the Parc and Dare and Coliseum theatres including cinema entrance fees. The Chair fed back that he would support a nil increase in the charge for the use of pool equipment at the Lido and advised that he would put a list together of different areas and send his views to the Service Director directly for consideration as part of the consultation process.

The Director for Legal Services advised the Committee that Members can put forward their own comments and that the comments will be noted as part of the consultation process.

- **Council Service Priorities**

Members were provided with a list of Council services and were asked which services should be protected and prioritised for additional resources in 2021/22. Committee Members were of the view that all services listed in the slide should be protected.

- **Council Tax**

Members were provided with four options in respect of Council Tax increases for 2021/22. Councillor Thomas and Councillor Bradwick were of the view that the preferred option should be 2.85% and Councillor Thomas noted that this should be in the context of maintaining frontline services at their current levels.

Discussions ensued and Mr Fish, the Voting parent/Governor Representative, noted that there is an increased demand for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) due to changes in household personal circumstances and queried how many people would be brought into the CTRS by a 2.85% increase in Council Tax. The Service Director advised Members that eligibility for the CTRS is based on the individual's income levels and for the first 3 months of the current year for example eligible applications had increased by over 1,000. The Service Director added that additional CTRS costs are being funded by Welsh Government, via Covid-19 funding made available, with the Council forecasting full year increased costs of £1.2M.

Discussions continued and Councillor Yeo fed back his agreement with the current proposed level, and noted that the public should be made aware of how the budget is set for the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales and also for elected Members to be informed of this. Councillor Yeo added that in respect of efficiency savings, it was the Councillor's opinion that there will be a continued requirement for the Council to deliver efficiency savings unless grant funding from the UK Government is increased. The Corporate Policy & Engagement

Manager informed Members that he would make enquiries and provide feedback to Members in respect of the budget setting arrangements for the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales.

Councillor Thomas emphasised that it will be important appropriate context is provided to the general public as part of the consultation process, such as noting the potential impact if a lower Council Tax increase is agreed. The Service Director advised Members a video will be played at public engagement events setting out key information and Finance Officers will be present to provide additional details as required.

- **Efficiencies**

Mr Fish, the Voting Parent/Governor Representative noted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic more Local Government employees are currently working from home and queried whether accommodation savings are being factored into the process in terms of efficiency savings. The Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services informed Members that more efficient use of the Council's accommodation is an area being progressed, taking into account the transformation that Council services have introduced during the pandemic. The Service Director added that the delivery of accommodation related budget savings will be an on-going programme of work as opportunities are identified and implemented.

Discussions continued and Councillor Yeo expressed his view that technology advancements will also drive and shape service delivery, and provide opportunities to become more efficient, and emphasised that the continued delivery of efficiency savings will be key in helping the Council to maintain frontline services.

In respect of accommodation savings, the Chair noted that whilst efficiency saving opportunities will arise from staff working from home, this will likely to be over the medium term rather than short term, and reinforced the need for all Council services to continue to become more efficient.

Councillor Cullwick queried whether there was potential for efficiency savings through the use of electric vehicles. The Service Director fed back that the Council is currently trialling the use of electric vehicles to assess 'fit for purpose' and is committed to continuing to explore this area to support the Council's carbon reduction ambitions and at the same time consider the financial implications.

Discussions ensued and Councillor Williams expressed her view that it will not always be possible to deliver the same quality of services at the same time as delivering more efficient services. In respect of home working, Councillor Williams emphasised that there are positives of

attending and working in an office environment and that it was important for staff well-being that there is an appropriate balance between home and office working in the future.

- **Council Reserves**

Councillor Yeo stated his view that the Council should continue with the strategy of keeping reserves and emphasised their importance during the unprecedented Storm Dennis adverse weather event in February 2020. Councillor Bradwick also noted his agreement. Councillor Thomas also agreed and emphasised the importance for the Council's reserves to be replenished going forward.

- **Council Priorities / Council Investment Priorities**

The Service Director informed Members that the Council focuses on five key areas to maximise resources and deliver improved services, these being Digitalisation; Commercialism; Early Intervention; Independence; and, Efficient and Effective Organisation.

Members agreed that the Council should continue to focus on these five areas going forward.

The Service Director then indicated that despite reductions to public sector funding, the Council's prudent approach to financial management has ensured significant investment can still take place in priority areas. The Service Director set out key areas for investment and requested Members' feedback in terms of should the Council continue to invest in these areas. Members fed back their support for the Council to continue to invest in the areas listed in the presentation.

- **Corporate Plan**

Members fed back that they were in agreement with the Vision, Purpose and priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan.

- **Council Tax Reduction Scheme**

- **Extended Payments:**

Committee Members agreed that 4 weeks was a reasonable period to continue paying Council Tax Reduction when someone returns to work. The Chair requested Council Tax information by Community Area and the Service Director indicated that he would request this from the service and provide feedback.

- **Disregard War Disablement Pensions/War Widow's Pensions income**

Members noted their agreement that it is reasonable for the

Council to continue to totally exclude War Disablement and War Widow's Pensions income when assessing entitlement to the CTR Scheme.

- **Backdating Claims**

Members agreed that 6 months is a reasonable period to backdate claims for working age and pensioners.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the views of Members as outlined above be fed into the consultation process.

## **20 CHAIR'S REVIEW AND CLOSE**

The Chair thanked Members for attending and reminded Members that the next meeting of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020. The Chair asked if the budget presentation could be sent to Members and that the further information requested by Members is fed back to Committee.

## **21 URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business to report.

**This meeting closed at 7.01 pm**

**CLLR M. POWELL  
CHAIR.**

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## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/21

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21<sup>st</sup> December 2020

AGENDA ITEM 4
COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT – 30 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 QUARTER 2

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To introduce the Quarter 2 Council Performance Report (to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020).

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Scrutinise the Council's financial and operational performance position as at 30<sup>th</sup> September (Quarter 2).
- 2.2 Consider whether they wish to scrutinise in greater depth any matters contained in the report.

#### 3. QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 3.1 The Council's Quarter 2 Performance Report (to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020) was presented to the Cabinet meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and is replicated for the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee's review at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 The report contains revenue and capital budget performance; Treasury Management prudential indicators; Organisational Health information including staff turnover, sickness and Council strategic risks; and Corporate Plan priority action plan updates (including investment updates).
- 3.3 In addition, Table 1 sign-posts a selection of other reports presented to Committees during Quarter 2 with the aim of providing Members with as full a picture as possible of business activity during the period in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan priority areas. Members will note that the information included in Table 1 is not an exhaustive list.

**Table 1 – Other reports presented during Quarter 2**

<b>Council Wide</b>		
<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Report</b>
22 July 2020	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	<a href="#">Consideration of the Council's response to Covid-19 (Detail of the Cabinet Reports considered on the 21<sup>st</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020)</a>
28 July 2020	Cabinet	<a href="#">Update on covid-19 position in Rhondda Cynon Taf - Recovery Plans</a>
30 July 2020	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
14 Sept 2020	Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	<a href="#">Consideration of the Council's response to Covid-19 – Adult Services elements</a>
24 Sept 2020	Cabinet	<a href="#">The Council's Supplementary Capital Programmes 2020/21</a>

<b>Corporate Plan Priority - PEOPLE</b>		
<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Report</b>
28 July 2020	Cabinet	<a href="#">The Council's Corporate Safeguarding Arrangements</a>
09 Sept 2020	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	<a href="#">Consideration of the Council's response to Covid-19 – Children's Services elements</a>

<b>Corporate Plan Priority - PLACES</b>		
<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Report</b>
28 July 2020	Cabinet	<a href="#">Changes to the rules of association – Trivallis Housing Limited (Trivallis)</a>
24 Sept 2020	Cabinet	<a href="#">Establishing a Social Letting Agency</a>
		<a href="#">Proposed extension and variation to Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC's dog control public spaces protection orders</a>
		<a href="#">Cynon Gateway North (Aberdare Bypass)</a>



**Corporate Plan Priority - PROSPERITY**

Date of meeting	Committee	Report
28 July 2020	Cabinet	<a href="#"><u>Proposals to approve an amended delivery agreement for the preparation of the rhondda cynon taf revised local development plan.</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>Standard advisory council on religious education (sacre)</u></a>
29 July 2020	Council	<a href="#"><u>Proposals to approve an amended delivery agreement for the preparation of the rhondda cynon taf revised local development plan</u></a>
11 Sept 2020	Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<a href="#"><u>Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee</u></a>
14 Sept 2020	Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee	<a href="#"><u>Central South Consortium Joint Education Service</u></a>
24 Sept 2020	Cabinet	<a href="#"><u>21st century schools and colleges programme – mutual investment model (mim) 21st century schools welsh education partnership – strategic partnering agreement (spa)</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>Review of regeneration business grants portfolio</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>Approval for rct theatres to produce a digital christmas performance to share on-line in december 2020</u></a>

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## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### CABINET

17<sup>th</sup> November 2020

#### COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (Quarter 2)

#### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER (CLLR NORRIS)

**AUTHOR: Paul Griffiths, Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services (01443) 680609**

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an overview of the Council's performance, both from a financial and operational perspective, based on the first six months of this financial year (to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020).

#### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the continued unprecedented circumstances Council Services are operating within as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

##### **Revenue**

- 2.2 Note and agree the General Fund revenue outturn position of the Council as at the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (Section 2 of the Executive Summary) including the on-going Welsh Government Covid-19 funding to support service delivery.

##### **Capital**

- 2.3 Note the capital outturn position of the Council as at the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (Sections 3a – e of the Executive Summary).
- 2.4 Note the details of the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators as at the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (Section 3f of the Executive Summary).

## **Corporate Plan Priorities**

- 2.5 Note the Quarter 2 progress updates for the Council's agreed Corporate Plan priorities (Sections 5 a – c of the Executive Summary).

### **3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To agree the Council's financial and operational performance position as at the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 to enable elected Members and other stakeholders to scrutinise the performance of the Council.

### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 This report provides Members with the second update of the Council's financial and operational performance position for the financial year ending the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.
- 4.2 The aim of the report is to bring together the Council's performance into an Executive Summary and make available more detailed information to the reader through electronic links. Information contained in the Executive Summary includes financial data and progress against our Corporate Plan priorities, and exceptions are highlighted within the detailed sections to ensure that elected Members and other readers are able to quickly identify the key issues.
- 4.3 As Members will be aware from the first quarter Performance Report for 2020/21, the Covid-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented and widespread challenges in the delivery of Council Services alongside significant additional cost and income losses that have, to date, been funded by Welsh Government. The second quarter Performance Report continues to be set within this context and further information in this regard is included within the Executive Summary.

### **5.0 QUARTER 2 REPORT**

- 5.1 The Quarter 2 report is attached and comprises:
- **Executive Summary** – setting out, at a glance, the overall performance of the Council as at Quarter 2 (i.e. 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020);
  - **Revenue Monitoring** – sections 2a – e setting out the detailed projected financial spend against budget across our Revenue Budget with exceptions highlighted;

- **Capital Monitoring** – sections 3a – e setting out capital spend across our Capital Programme with exceptions highlighted and section 3f covering Prudential Indicators;
- **Organisational Health** – includes information on turnover, sickness absence, organisational health related investment areas and Council strategic risks; and
- **Corporate Plan Priorities** – three action plans (Sections 5a – c) setting out progress updates for the priorities of People, Places and Prosperity.

## **6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council’s Performance Report provides an update on financial and operational performance for the first six months of 2020/21; as a result, no Equality Impact Assessment is deemed required for the purposes of this report.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Following consideration by Cabinet, this Report will be presented to the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee for review, challenge and where deemed required, the scrutiny of specific areas in more detail.

## **8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

## **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 There are no legal implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

## **10.0 LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

- 10.1 The Corporate Plan progress updates included within this report align with the priorities as set out within the Council’s Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 “Making a Difference”. With regard to the [Well-being of Future Generations Act \(Wales\) Act 2015](#), at the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Council meeting, it was agreed that the Corporate Plan priorities would also serve as its Well-being Objectives in line with the Act.

## **11.0 CONCLUSION**

- 11.1 This report sets out the financial and operational performance of the Council as at Quarter 2 2020/21, that is, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- 11.2 The second quarter revenue budget position is projecting a £1.853M overspend. As part of the Council's robust service and financial management arrangements, work is underway across all services to contribute to bringing the financial position closer in line with budget.
- 11.3 The above position is also set in the unprecedented context of Covid-19 and takes into account additional Welsh Government funding received for the first six months of the year, and that forecasted to be received for the remainder of the year, in respect of additional expenditure incurred and income loss as a result of the pandemic. Work will continue to closely monitor the Council's financial position, refresh financial forecasts for the full year as updated information becomes available and also continue to engage with Welsh Government to highlight the importance of providing additional funding to meet on-going permanent cost pressures.
- 11.4 Capital investment as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 is £32.5M, with projects across the programme continuing to progress during Quarter 2, taking account of Covid-19 safety requirements.
- 11.5 Progress across the Council's three Corporate Plan priorities of People, Places and Prosperity has continued to focus on, in the main, providing essential support to residents and businesses to help counter the significant impact Covid-19 is having on local communities.

### **Other Information:-**

**Relevant Scrutiny Committee: Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee**

**Contact Officer: Paul Griffiths**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**17<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (Quarter 2)**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES IN  
DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER (CLLR NORRIS)**

**Item: 4**

**Background Papers**

Officer to contact: Paul Griffiths

**COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT  
QUARTER 2 2020/21  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Contents**

**Section 1 – INTRODUCTION**

**Section 2 – REVENUE BUDGET**

**Revenue Budget Performance** – more detailed breakdowns are included in the following sections:

- 2a Education and Inclusion Services;
- 2b Community and Children’s Services;
- 2c Chief Executive;
- 2d Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services; and
- 2e Authority Wide Budgets.

**Earmark reserve update** – Section 2f provides a breakdown of expenditure against service areas.

**Section 3 – CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

**Capital programme budget** – more detailed breakdowns are included in the following sections:

- 3a Chief Executive;
- 3b Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services;
- 3c Education and Inclusion Services;
- 3d Community and Children’s Services; and
- 3e Capital Programme Funding.

**Prudential Indicators** – a detailed breakdown is included in Section 3f.

**Section 4 – ORGANISATIONAL HEALTH**

- Turnover;
- Sickness Absence;
- Organisation Health related investment areas; and
- Council Strategic Risks.

**Section 5 – CORPORATE PLAN**

**Corporate Plan priority progress updates** – Quarter 2 position statements are included within the following sections:

- 5a – People;
- 5b – Places; and
- 5c – Prosperity.

## Section 1 – INTRODUCTION

The Quarter 1 Performance Report set out the context Council services were operating within further to the introduction of national lockdown measures in March 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This Executive Summary, bringing together and summarising the Council's financial and operational performance position as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, continues to be set within the context of Council service delivery operating within a very challenging and unprecedented environment as a result of the on-going impact of Covid-19. This has required the Council, like all local authorities in Wales, to continue to adapt and change the way it provides services, many in partnership with others, to help meet the needs of residents and businesses.

Where appropriate, service specific information has been included within this Executive Summary to provide the reader will a full as picture as possible in this regard. In addition, throughout the Executive Summary electronic links have been included that enable the reader to access more detailed information, as required.

## Section 2 – REVENUE BUDGET

### Revenue Budget Performance

Service Area	2020/21 – as at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 (Quarter 2)		
	Full Year Budget £M	Projected Expenditure as at Quarter 2 £M	Variance Over / (Under) £M
<a href="#">Education &amp; Inclusion Services (2a)</a>	192.312	192.251	(0.061)
<a href="#">Community &amp; Children's Services (2b)</a>	162.598	164.388	1.790
<a href="#">Chief Executive (2c)</a>	26.789	26.458	(0.331)
<a href="#">Prosperity, Development &amp; Frontline Services (2d)</a>	55.809	56.359	0.550
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>437.508</b>	<b>439.456</b>	<b>1.948</b>
<a href="#">Authority Wide Budgets (2e)</a>	71.239	71.144	(0.095)
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>508.747</b>	<b>510.600</b>	<b>1.853</b>



## Welsh Government Covid-19 funding incorporated within the full year projected position at Quarter 2

The full year revenue budget variance, projected as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, is a £1.853M overspend. This forecasted position assumes that additional costs and income losses will be offset by additional funding being made available by Welsh Government to all local authorities in Wales. Specific financial assistance is being provided to local authorities for additional expenditure incurred as a result of Covid-19 (for example, additional costs incurred in respect of housing / homelessness, free school meal payments, Adult Social Services, staff cover due to absence / shielding and increased demand for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme) and also income loss where there has been a need to temporarily suspend or reduce service provision (for example, Leisure Centres and the provision of school meals).

The Table below sets out the total forecasted full-year additional costs and income losses assumed to be recoverable.

### Full Year Projection of Additional Costs and Income Losses Associated with Covid 19 and Assumed to be Fully Funded by Welsh Government

Service Area	Actual Additional Costs / Income Loss Recovered (Quarters 1 and 2)	Projected Additional Costs / Income Losses (Quarters 3 and 4)	Total Full Year Additional Costs / Income Losses (Actual and Projected)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education & Inclusion Services	-6,489	-3,462	-9,951
Community & Children's Services	-8,543	-10,077	-18,620
Chief Executive	-627	-133	-760
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	-3,005	-1,576	-4,581
Authority Wide	-2,917	-1,018	-3,935
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-21,582</b>	<b>-16,266</b>	<b>-37,848*</b>

\* Excludes additional costs incurred / projected in respect of Test, Trace and Protect, the funding for which is being made available by Welsh Government.

The forecasted costs and income losses are subject to ongoing review in light of national updates on restrictions and the associated impact on Council Services.

## Revenue budget variances at Quarter 2

### 1. Community and Children's Services

#### ADULT SERVICES

- Long Term Care & Support (£0.506M overspend);
- Commissioned Services (£0.498M overspend);
- Provider Services (£0.342M overspend);
- Short Term Intervention Services (£0.977M underspend); and
- Fairer Charging (£0.211M overspend).

#### CHILDREN SERVICES

- Safeguarding & Support (including Children Looked After) (£2.300M overspend);
- Early Intervention (£0.269M underspend);
- Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service (£0.190M underspend); and
- Intensive Intervention (£0.674M underspend).

#### TRANSFORMATION

- Group & Transformation Management (£0.078M overspend); and
- Service Improvement (£0.058M underspend).

#### PUBLIC HEALTH AND PROTECTION

- Community Services (£0.063M overspend).

### 2. Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services

#### FRONTLINE SERVICES

- Transportation (£0.179M underspend);
- Street Cleansing (£0.053 underspend);
- Facilities Cleaning (£0.105M underspend);
- Waste Services (£0.786M overspend); and
- Fleet Management (£0.142M underspend).

### 3. Chief Executive

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE

- Human Resources (£0.096M underspend);
- Legal Services (£0.091M underspend);
- Finance & Digital Services (£0.056M underspend) and
- Corporate Estates (£0.072M underspend).

### 4. Authority Wide Budgets

- Capital Financing (£0.250M underspend); and
- Miscellaneous (£0.157M overspend).

## Earmark Reserve Update

- A breakdown of committed expenditure against approved earmark reserves for Service Areas can be viewed at Section 2f by clicking [here](#).

### **Section 3 – CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The Council and its contractors / suppliers have built on the preparatory work undertaken in quarter 1 to ensure safe working arrangements continued and, in doing so, enabled the on-going delivery of capital programme projects during quarter 2.

#### **Capital Programme Budget**

Service Area	2020/21 - as at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	
	Capital Budget £M	Actual Expenditure £M
<a href="#">Chief Executive (3a)</a>	3.173	0.637
<a href="#">Prosperity, Development &amp; Frontline Services (3b)</a>	89.208	23.307
<a href="#">Education &amp; Inclusion Services (3c)</a>	27.465	7.711
<a href="#">Community &amp; Children's Services (3d)</a>	8.841	0.918
<b>Total</b>	<b>128.687</b>	<b>32.573</b>

#### **Key Capital Variances at Quarter 2**

- Re-profiling of a number of projects to reflect changes in the total cost of schemes and revised delivery timescales.
- Grant approvals introduced into the Capital Programme: Welsh Government (WG) Local Transport Fund (£1.515M); WG Active Travel Fund (£0.600M); WG Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant (£2.382M); and WG Flood Recovery Fund (£6.827M).

For information on how the Capital Programme is funded see section 3e by clicking [here](#).

#### **Prudential Indicators**

For a detailed breakdown of Prudential Indicators, see section 3f by clicking [here](#).

## Section 4 – ORGANISATIONAL HEALTH

- Turnover

Service Area	2020/21		2020/21		2019/20	
	As at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2020		As at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2019		As at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020	
	Staff Nos.	% Turnover	Staff Nos.	% Turnover	Staff Nos.	% Turnover
<b>Turnover – Council Wide</b>	<b>10,716</b>	<b>3.52</b>	<b>10,533</b>	<b>6.49</b>	<b>10,670</b>	<b>9.85</b>
Community & Children’s Services	2,931	2.87	2,855	4.73	2,883	8.50
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	957	2.61	961	3.54	964	8.40
Education & Inclusion Services	1,269	2.84	1,257	4.77	1,265	8.14
<u>Schools</u>	<u>4,875</u>	<u>4.41</u>	<u>4,758</u>	<u>8.70</u>	<u>4,855</u>	<u>11.64</u>
Primary	3,048	4.07	3,010	7.08	3,066	9.95
Secondary	1,827	4.98	1,748	11.50	1,789	14.53
Chief Executive’s Division	684	2.49	702	5.84	703	8.11

- Sickness Absence

With specific regard to Covid-19 and the recording of sickness absence, where staff have been unavailable for work due to self-isolating; being part of the shielded list; have underlying conditions that places an individual at risk, such as being pregnant; or lives in the same household as someone that needs to be shielded, these occurrences have not been categorised as ‘sickness absence’ and as such are excluded from the analysis below.

Service Area	2020/21	2019/20	
	As at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 %	As at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2019 %	As at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020 %
<b>% days lost to sickness absence – Council Wide</b>	<b>3.19</b>	<b>3.80</b>	<b>4.16</b>
Community & Children’s Services	5.53	5.42	5.59
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	4.37	3.91	4.74
Education & Inclusion Services	2.19	3.33	3.70
<u>Schools</u>	<u>2.02</u>	<u>3.13</u>	<u>3.56</u>
Primary	2.21	3.31	3.79
Secondary	1.70	2.83	3.16
Chief Executive’s Division	1.65	2.39	2.39

For a more detailed breakdown of Quarter 2 2020/21 sickness absence information, click [here](#).

## **Organisation Health related investment areas**

There will be a continued focus on investing in organisational health related areas, for example, IT infrastructure and invest to save energy efficiency schemes, with projects being delivered operationally within services across the Council.

- **Council Strategic Risks**

The Council's Quarter 2 Strategic Risk Register can be viewed by clicking [here](#), with specific updates included setting out the implications to date of Covid-19 and the work being undertaken / planned to mitigate the impact as much as possible.

As part of the update process, it has not been deemed necessary to revise Strategic Risk Register risk ratings further to the review undertaken during quarter 1. This position will however be kept under on-going review and, where revisions are considered necessary, these will be included in future Strategic Risk Register updates.

## **Section 5 – CORPORATE PLAN**

The quarter 1 Performance Report reported Corporate Plan priority progress updates in narrative form for the three Corporate Plan priorities of People, Places and Prosperity.

Since this time, Corporate Plan priority action plans have been reported to and approved by full Council, on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020. A summary of the progress made across the three priorities as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 is set out in Sections 5a – c and electronic links have been included to each approved action plan, providing more detailed information on progress.

### **Corporate Plan Priority Progress Update**

#### ○ **PEOPLE** (Section 5a)

##### **PEOPLE – Are independent, healthy and successful**

##### **Summary of progress to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

We continue to prioritise hospital discharges and this work has increased over the summer period. However, capacity to take on new work has become more limited and delays arranging care packages and care homes placements (dementia and nursing dementia) are increasing and some discharges are taking longer to complete. Covid-19 outbreaks at Royal Glamorgan Hospital and Prince Charles Hospital sites at the end of September 2020 have significantly impacted patient discharges and new enhanced protocols have been developed to ensure that people with care and support needs are safely and expediently discharged.

Construction of Cwrt yr Orsaf Extra Care in Pontypridd has continued with good progress made through the summer period and work is on-going to consider development options for Extra Care provision in Porth.

We continue to work in partnership with housing providers to deliver modern additional supported housing accommodation for vulnerable people. The Crown Avenue (Treorchy) refurbishment was completed in early October 2020; assessments of new tenants have started and the first tenants are planned to move in during November 2020. Construction of supported housing accommodation at Oxford Street (Mountain Ash) has also made good progress through the summer period and is due to be completed in spring 2021.

Following an increase in the number of positive Covid-19 cases and introduction of additional local restriction measures across Rhondda Cynon Taf, the Council made temporary changes to visiting arrangements at local care homes on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The changes mean that until further notice, friends and family members are no longer able to see their loved ones in either outdoor visits or indoor visits, although allowances are being made in circumstances where residents are nearing the end of their lives and with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment requirements in place.

National Shielding was paused on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020. During the week preceding this, Council staff in the 7 Community Resilience Hubs contacted all residents in receipt of food support, either from Welsh Government or the Council, to ensure a pro-active offer was made in relation to any ongoing food support needs and Lifeline Plus.

With regard to Track, Trace & Protect (TTP), further recruitment has taken place to ensure sufficient capacity is available to manage the increase in cases in recent weeks and this has been temporarily supported by staff being requested to return to the TTP Service from their substantive roles (this also including staff from Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil Councils). The

## **PEOPLE – Are independent, healthy and successful**

Service is continuing to develop and learn to ensure it meets the needs of the community and those of our partners.

The Welsh Government funded Coronavirus Childcare Assistance Scheme (C-CAS) has been delivered by the Childcare Team within Education and Inclusion Services. Places were allocated based on the submission of a successful application and children were placed with childcare settings that had remained open. The scheme ran from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, with over 750 children offered placements and using 102 childcare providers.

We continue to encourage residents to lead active and healthy lifestyles and maintain their mental wellbeing. We introduced online exercise classes via our Leisure For Life App in March 2020 and these continue to be made available. We also introduced some open-air classes, utilising our parks and 3G pitches, to allow customers to exercise in a safe manner outdoors in line with social distancing requirements. Our Sports Development Team also delivered safe, socially distanced exercise opportunities in the summer HUB schools. As at 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020, gym facilities re-opened in line with social distancing and public health guidelines. This was followed by the introduction of indoor fitness classes on 17<sup>th</sup> August and swimming pools from 24<sup>th</sup> August.

A range of weekly wellbeing classes are provided online as part of our Adult Education programme, including Aromatherapy, Singing for wellbeing and lung health, All About Me and Crafts for Wellbeing. A variety of wellbeing self-help videos have also been provided through our social media platforms, including support for individuals with anxiety. Learners on our courses have also received wellbeing calls from course tutors.

Priority is being given to safely visiting and hearing the voices of children on the child protection register and those looked after. Review Conferences are now taking place and progress has been made with the IT arrangements to begin delivering hybrid Child Protection Conferences (with a successful virtual conference attended by family members having taken place). However suitable accommodation being available to Children's Services and accompanying facilities accessible by service users will be essential to future development.

Youth Engagement & Participation Service (YEPS) staff have returned to secondary school sites to deliver face-to-face support for young people. A service delivery pathway has been established in partnership with the Attendance and Wellbeing Service, Resilient Families Service, Educational Psychology Service and Eye 2 Eye Counselling to support young people to return to school. The virtual youth offer remains available including virtual youth clubs, live Q&A sessions and live chat sessions. Planning is underway for YEPS to commence proactive street-based youth work in quarter 3 across RCT, working alongside the Youth Offending Service, Community Safety Partnership (including CCTV) and BAROD.

The full action plan can be viewed by [clicking here](#)

## Investment Priority Progress Update – Quarter 2

<b>Progress in our Investment Priorities – PEOPLE</b>		
<b>Investment Area</b>	<b>Investment Value<sup>1</sup> £M</b>	<b>Quarter 2 Update</b>
Leisure Centre Changing Rooms	0.088	This investment funding relates to works at Sobell Leisure Centre for changing room refurbishment and was completed in August 2020.
Extracare Housing	6.974	Works at the former Maesyffynnon Home for the Elderly site were completed in early 2020 and the first residents moved into the new facility in May 2020. Works commenced at the Pontypridd site in July 2019 and is progressing well, and consideration of development proposals for Porth, Treorchy and Mountain Ash schemes are on-going.
Tackling Poverty Fund	0.300	This investment funding is to help address areas where there are high levels of poverty (including fuel poverty) to increase the disposable income of households, for example, by supporting households to reduce energy bills, helping to overcome barriers to find employment.
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.362</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Investment Value – relates to LIVE projects / works only that have been allocated additional investment funding.



o **PLACES** (Section 5b)

**PLACES - Where people are proud to live, work and play**

**Summary of progress to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

Street cleaning and waste services have returned to normal working and the Enforcement Team have provided Covid-19 related support e.g. marshalling at Covid-19 test centres and supporting Public Health with Covid-19 compliance measures and enforcement. Community Recycling Centres continued to operate within required guidelines and recycling rates remain positive at 70.05% (compared to 68.92% at the same point in 2019/20).

The Highways Improvement Programme for 2020/21 continued as planned during quarter 2 and work in urban areas has now recommenced. The weather delayed Mountain Ash Cross Valley Link opened on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and we continue to progress plans for the Cynon Gateway North (Aberdare Bypass), Llanharan Bypass and the planned A4119 dualling. The Capital Work Programme also continues together with Storm Dennis Recovery.

Our Transportation Service has been focussed on the September return to school: ensuring timetable arrangements with local bus services are in place; information is available for schools, parents/carers and young people; providing operator advice and guidance that includes personal protective equipment, cleaning and required action when a Covid-19 case is identified; and reminders to all regarding social distancing and staying safe.

With regard to air quality monitoring, information collected will be analysed to establish the impact on air quality resulting from Covid-19 travel restrictions.

Substance Misuse service users were offered more face-to-face support meetings in July and August as Covid-19 restrictions were eased, but these were replaced with 'virtual' support following the introduction of local lockdown measures in September. Domestic abuse support via the IDVA service and Drop-in Support continues to be delivered remotely with minimal face-to-face support delivered via other agency outlets as required.

Progress continues to be made around community cohesion and, in particular, the Syrian Resettlement Programme and planning for [Hate Crime Awareness week in October](#). In addition, other community cohesion work has commenced, including the [Safe Places](#) Project, Back to Community Life and the Hope Project.

We continue to invest in our green spaces and increase biodiversity with the purchase of a second cut and collect machine. A yellow Brimstone butterfly logo will be used to enable members of the public to identify areas which are being left uncut/cut less frequently for biodiversity. Cutting of wild flower areas will begin in October and delivery of trees for planting is expected at the end of November. We will also recommence our Climate Change Steering Group in the coming months.

Good progress continues to be made in preparing the Lido for reopening and we are progressing our Parks/Play Programme, including the re-opening of the play area at Dare Valley Country Park over the summer.

The full action plan can be viewed by [clicking here](#)

## Investment Priority Progress Update – Quarter 2

Progress in our Investment Priorities – PLACES		
Investment Area	Investment Value <sup>2</sup> £M	Quarter 2 Update
Highways Infrastructure Repairs	8.624	The additional resources are being used in conjunction with existing resources to deliver a programme of highways infrastructure repairs between 2020/21 and 2022/23.
Play Areas	0.662	There are 28 schemes which form the planned programme of works for 2020/21. As at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2020, 7 had been completed, 1 under construction, 14 had been designed, costed and scheduled and 6 are to be designed.
Skate Parks/Multi Use Games Areas	0.184	There are 4 schemes which form the planned programme of works for 2020/21 and include rebuilding and line marking. As at 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2020, 2 were under construction and 2 are to be designed.
Cynon Gateway South – Mountain Ash Cross Valley Link	4.750	On Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> October, the link road between the A4059 and B4275 Misikin Road was opened – remaining works are currently scheduled to be completed during quarter 3.
Structures: St Albans Bridge and Brook Street Footbridge	2.574	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. Alban's Bridge – a significant milestone was reached in the progress of this scheme when large steel beams were delivered to the site and installed in July 2020. Works are ongoing and the scheme is expected to be completed in the last half of the financial year.</li> <li>• Brook St. Footbridge – detailed design options completed, tenders received for construction stage and an Active Travel funding bid has been made for 2020/21. As part of the pre-construction planning period, residents of approximately 100 nearby properties received a letter from the Council in September to inform them of the nature of the work involved and information on how they could feed in their views to the Council. The estimated start date for works is the first half of 2021.</li> </ul>
Structures	2.791	<p>The investment funding has been allocated to support structure projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed schemes – Williamstown Footbridge and Station Street bridge (Treherbert);</li> <li>• On-going / new schemes – including repairs and strengthening works to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Castle lfor (Hopkinstown) – works are anticipated to be completed in quarter 3;</li> <li>○ Gwawr Street (Aberaman - repairs to walls), B4273 Ynysybwl/Glyncoch and culvert strengthening at Rhydyfelin - where works are ongoing; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Investment Value – relates to LIVE projects / works only that have been allocated additional investment funding.

Progress in our Investment Priorities – PLACES		
Investment Area	Investment Value <sup>2</sup> £M	Quarter 2 Update
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bodringallt bridge (Ystrad) - where works are due to start early in 2021.</li> </ul>
Parks Structures	1.335	<p>The investment funding has been allocated to support various footbridge repairs and replacements within Parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Station Street River Wall (Treherbert) - works have now been completed;</li> <li>● Bridge replacement of Nant Lonydd Bridge (Upper Boat) - works are ongoing;</li> <li>● Bridge deck and parapet replacement of Maesyfelin Footbridge (Pontyclun) – contracting process in progress; and</li> <li>● Various inspections and surveys continue to be undertaken as advance preparation for future schemes.</li> </ul>
Parks and Green Spaces	1.000	<p>This investment funding is supporting drainage, pavilion and infrastructure improvements to various parks sites, with 88 schemes planned for 2020/21 (85 schemes originally scheduled).</p>
Cemeteries	0.088	<p>This investment funding has been allocated to deliver works at 4 cemetery locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Trealaw - drainage works;</li> <li>● Maes Yr Arian, Mountain Ash - replace entrance gate and fence;</li> <li>● Byn Yr Gaer, Hirwaun - repair of damaged palisade; and</li> <li>● Glyntaff Cemetery - additional roadworks, waste removal, additional top car park, introduction of security measures, materials and decoration of South Chapel and public conveniences and supply and erect timber fence.</li> </ul>
Llanharan Bypass	2.000	<p>This investment funding is supporting various stages of ongoing design works and ecology investigations, and also the design / tender of ground investigation works. As reported in Quarter 1, Cabinet agreed the route on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019 after taking into consideration the feedback received during the public consultation.</p>
A4119 Dualling (Stinkpot Hill)	6.000	<p>This investment funding is supporting the dualling of this section of the highway. Preliminary designs have been completed and Cabinet agreed to progress with a number of key elements of the scheme on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019. Progress to date includes: ground investigations being undertaken; design work on the footbridge has now commenced; and diversion works relating to British Telecom have also commenced.</p>
Community Hubs	0.401	<p>This investment funding relates to supporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Porth Plaza – works were completed on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020; and</li> </ul>

<b>Progress in our Investment Priorities – PLACES</b>		
<b>Investment Area</b>	<b>Investment Value<sup>2</sup> £M</b>	<b>Quarter 2 Update</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treorchy – works to be undertaken to improve the proposed site of Treorchy Community Hub at Treorchy Library (cladding and new windows). Design works are on-going.</li> </ul>
Gelli/Treorchy Link Road	0.400	This investment funding relates to investigatory works for a solution which will help alleviate congestion at Stag Square. Feasibility and preliminary design options are ongoing.
Cynon Gateway (North), Aberdare Bypass	2.000	This investment funding relates to the preliminary design for a bypass continuation from A4059 Aberdare to Hirwaun. Ground investigation has been completed and ecology, preliminary design and procurement is ongoing. During quarter 3, a public consultation exercise will be undertaken setting out detailed plans and inviting local residents' views.
Bryn Pica Eco Park	1.400	This investment funding is to support enabling works, planning and ecology for the development of an Eco Park at the Waste Management Facility. The RIBA Stage 2 report has been approved and work to progress the design development of RIBA Stages 3 and 4 is progressing. High voltage infrastructure works to serve the Eco Park commenced in October 2020.
Dinas Community Recycling Centre	0.250	This investment funding relates to the provision of a new office building and improvements on the site of Dinas Community Recycling Centre since the demolition of the previous site building. The new office building and service connections are scheduled to be completed during quarter 3.
Land Drainage	0.750	<p>This investment funding is supporting drainage and culvert network works. The ongoing programme includes works at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abercynon (Plantation Road) – works have now been completed);</li> <li>• Porth Relief Road – works are substantially complete with further surfacing works being undertaken; and</li> <li>• Cwmbach - advance works started in September 2020 and the main scheme is scheduled to start in quarter 3.</li> </ul>
<b>Total</b>	<b>35.209</b>	

o **PROSPERITY** (Section 5c)

**PROSPERITY - Creating the opportunity for people and businesses to: be innovative; be entrepreneurial; and fulfil their potential and prosper**

**Summary of progress to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

Review and refocussing of business grants has produced a comprehensive package of business support to help businesses survive, adapt and diversify in the current economic conditions. This has included a new Covid business grant to support town centre businesses with external modifications, a new Flood resilience grant, a new major project investment fund and refocussing of the Enterprise Investment Fund and town centre maintenance grants.

Construction of the Llys Cadwyn development was completed, with handover of the final building to the Council on 19<sup>th</sup> October, and Transport for Wales due to take occupancy of the largest office building in November. The bridge linking Llys Cadwyn to Ynysangharad Park was opened to the public during August.

Good progress continues on major regeneration projects including Guto square in Mountain Ash, now at the advanced design stage; the Integrated transport hub in Porth, where detailed design development is underway; construction of a business unit at Coedely Business park, which is due for completion at the end of December; and business units at Robertstown where site clearance and set up work is underway.

A stage 1 funding application to MALD for the internal refurbishment of Treorchy library has been successful and development of the business and project plan is now underway for submission in January.

Welsh Government funding totalling £555,567 has been secured for Homelessness and Housing related support, which will fund a Social Housing Letting Agency Scheme, Capital Modern Methods of Construction development and a joint health and homelessness project within Cwm Taf Morgannwg. 14 housing schemes are under development as part of the social housing grant programme, totalling investment of just under £18M.

Support and guidance on safe reopening in line with Covid safety measures continues to be provided to childcare settings and schools. Schools have been given guidance on distance, digital and blended learning including live streaming and we continue to work closely with Central South Consortium in delivering this support. Welsh Government grant funding for wellbeing is being used to further develop and embed whole school approaches to wellbeing and enhance counselling provision, as well as providing pre-counselling support and exit from counselling strategies through a range of Covid safe activities.

Completion of the external works to Tonyrefail Community School represents the completion of all Band A 21<sup>st</sup> Century school projects. In the second wave of Band B projects, Hirwaun primary school is nearing completion, and YG Rhydywaun and YGG Aberdar have received business case approval from Welsh Government.

An interim process has been put in place for referrals to employment support and online sessions are under development, with a phased approach to face-to-face meetings with clients planned. 12 Apprentices have been recruited to Council services with further apprentice and graduate posts currently being recruited.

The full action plan can be viewed by [clicking here](#)

## Investment Priority Progress Update – Quarter 2

Progress in our Investment Priorities – PROSPERITY		
Investment Area	Investment Value <sup>3</sup> £M	Quarter 2 Update
Empty Property Grant	1.500	At present, all empty property grant applications are processed via the Welsh Government funded Valley Taskforce Scheme and this approach will continue until the Welsh Government scheme closes on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021.
Schools	0.836	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schemes on-going include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cymmer Primary – demolition of the canteen and erection of fencing was completed in August 2020.</li> <li>○ Ferndale Community School – works completed for the main swimming pool hall, construction of new retaining wall and entrance path.</li> <li>○ Gelli Primary - internal refurbishment, two classroom extension and additional external works completed. On-going works include fencing and new kitchen windows which are scheduled to be completed in quarter 3.</li> <li>○ Llanharan Primary – works to remodel/refurbish foundation phase classrooms, extend yard, alter/fence-in carpark complete. Works to provide 2 classroom extension (including toilets and associated external works) on-going and are due to be completed in quarter 3.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Transport Infrastructure	2.500	<p>This investment funding is supporting a wider programme of highways capital works including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highway Network Improvement completed on the A4059 (near Cwmbach / Aberaman) to improve traffic flow at a roundabout / extending the two-lane approach;</li> <li>• Pedestrian crossings completed in Trealaw, Penrhiwceiber and Mountain Ash to improve road safety and promote active travel. In addition, design of various pedestrian crossings to be progressed including Tonyrefail, Groesfaen and Llanharan (to also improve road safety and promote active travel); and</li> <li>• A4058 Asda Tonypandy junction - design and development ongoing to improve junction capacity and traffic flow.</li> </ul>
Tonyrefail Roundabout	0.500	This investment funding relates to Tonyrefail Roundabout for feasibility and design to improve the congestion and compliment the strategic development at Coed Ely. Works on-going include preliminary design and ground investigation work, and drainage surveys are due to take place in quarter 3.
Llys Cadwyn Development	2.024	Despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, positive progress has been made and the development was officially complete on

<sup>3</sup> Investment Value – relates to LIVE projects / works only that have been allocated additional investment funding.

<b>Progress in our Investment Priorities – PROSPERITY</b>		
<b>Investment Area</b>	<b>Investment Value<sup>3</sup> £M</b>	<b>Quarter 2 Update</b>
		19 <sup>th</sup> October. Positive progress has also been made with the new footbridge which was opened to the public on 15 <sup>th</sup> August. Soft landscaping works and the installation of the permanent gates will be undertaken during quarter 3.
Park and Ride Programme	1.000	This investment funding is supporting the development work needed to create additional ‘park and ride’ car parking spaces at Pontyclun (feasibility / preliminary design is on-going) and Porth (Phase 3 feasibility design is complete, a design option has been agreed and preliminary design has commenced).
Strategic Regeneration Investment	0.200	This funding has been approved for the Guto Square development (Mountain Ash) that will provide a bigger and improved area for public use in the heart of the town centre for community, event and business uses and also additional car parking spaces for visitors to the town. The development is at the detailed design stage with site assembly through property acquisition currently underway with demolition and construction to be programmed.
Robertstown and Coed Ely ERDF Match Funding	4.200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robertstown – a principal contractor has been appointed and initial investigatory, survey and ecology works are underway alongside the procurement of long lead time items such as structural frames, roof and wall cladding.</li> <li>• Coed Ely – works are on-going with progress on-site being subject to some restrictions to ensure adherence to Covid-19 guidelines. Progress includes: completed works in respect of the drainage system, warehouse floor and lift shaft structure (in readiness for lift installation); and work on-going in respect of internal walls and mechanical and electrical works.</li> </ul>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.760</b>	

## Education & Inclusion Services Revenue Budget - to 30th September 2020/21

Revised budget as at 30th June	Service Area	Virements as at 30th September	Revised budget as at 30th September	Projected Outturn as at 30th September	Variance	ISSUES	Reasons For Variances	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000				
<b>Delegated Schools</b>									
22,269	Middle		22,269	22,269	0				
69,982	Primary		69,982	69,982	0				
60,178	Secondary		60,178	60,178	0				
9,149	Special		9,149	9,149	0				
161,578		0	161,578	161,578	0				
<b>Total Individual School Budgets</b>									
161,578		0	161,578	161,578	0				
<b>Education &amp; Inclusion Services</b>									
1,124	School Achievement		1,124	1,134	10				
866	Education Improvement Grant		866	866	0				
437	Service Transformation & Education Information Systems	-21	416	369	-47				
5,959	Additional Learning Needs		5,959	5,972	13				
2,778	Education Other than at School		2,778	2,780	2				
682	Attendance and Wellbeing Service		682	709	27				
5,173	Nursery & Early Years	-315	4,858	4,838	-20				
2,626	Group Directorate		2,626	2,579	-47				
135	Music Service		135	135	0				
19,780		-336	19,444	19,382	-62				
<b>21st Century Schools</b>									
1,381	School Planning & Reorganisation	21	1,402	1,415	13				
3,018	Asset Management / Financing		3,018	3,018	0				
6,870	Catering		6,870	6,858	-12				
11,269		21	11,290	11,291	1				
<b>Total Non School Budgets</b>									
31,049		-315	30,734	30,673	-61				
<b>Overall Total Budget</b>									
192,627		-315	192,312	192,251	-61				

Director of Education & Inclusion Services

Gaynor Davies

Head Of Finance

Stephanie Davies



## Education & Inclusion Services Revenue Budget - to 30th September 2020/21

### 30th September Virement Report

<b><u>Education &amp; Inclusion Services Group</u></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Delegated Schools</b>	<b>Schools &amp; Community</b>	<b>Access Engagement &amp; Inclusion</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Revised Budget as at 30th June</b>	<b>192,627</b>	<b>161,578</b>	<b>19,780</b>	<b>11,269</b>
<b>Virements proposed to 30th September</b>				
Staff budget transfer from Service Transformation & Education Information Systems (to School Planning and Reorganisation)	-21		-21	
Staff budget transfer to School Planning & Reorganisation (from Service Transformation & Education Information Systems)	21			21
Early delivery of 2021/22 efficiencies transferred to 'MTFP - In Year Budget Reductions - Transition Funding' (to Council Wide Budgets)	-315		-315	
<b>Proposed Revised Budget - 30th September</b>	<b>192,312</b>	<b>161,578</b>	<b>19,444</b>	<b>11,290</b>

Tudalen 41



Virements that require approval by the Executive, in accordance with

Section 4.8 of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules

## Community & Children's Services Revenue Budget - to 30th September 2020/21

Revised budget as at 30th June	Service Area	Virements as at 30th September	Revised budget as at 30th September	Projected Outturn as at 30th September	Variance	ISSUES	Reasons For Variances	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000				

### Adult Services

7,654	Long Term Care & Support	0	7,654	8,160	506	■	Projected overspend mainly due to staffing costs (including Agency costs) partly offset by underspends on non-pay budgets	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Neil Elliot
57,532	Commissioned Services	-46	57,486	57,984	498	■	Projected overspend in the main relates to Specialist Learning Difficulties and Mental Health placements together with External Supported Living Services	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Neil Elliot
19,528	Provider Services	-2	19,526	19,868	342	■	Projected overspend due to under-achievement of income in Home for the Elderly establishments partly offset by staffing vacancies, underspends on non-pay budgets and the inclusion of Welsh Government Hardship Funding (Covid-19 related) that had not been confirmed as at Quarter 1	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Neil Elliot
9,635	Short Term Intervention Services	0	9,635	8,658	-977	■	Projected underspend mainly due to Intermediate Care & Reablement (including In house Support@Home) together with Prevention and Early Intervention	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Neil Elliot
-4,353	Fairer Charging	0	-4,353	-4,142	211	■	Projected overspend due to decrease in client contributions as a result of Covid-19 and higher than anticipated Provision for Bad Debt cost	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Neil Elliot
3,050	Management, Safeguarding & Support Services	0	3,050	3,048	-2				
93,046		-48	92,998	93,576	578				

### Children Services

27,958	Safeguarding & Support (inc. Children Looked After)	0	27,958	30,258	2,300	■	Projected overspend mainly due to external placements and in-house residential placements, partly offset by projected underspend on in-house family placements	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Annabel Lloyd
8,072	Early Intervention	-4	8,068	7,799	-269	■	Projected underspend mainly due to Youth Service activity budgets partly offset by overspend on the Rapid Intervention and Response Team	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Annabel Lloyd
997	Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service	0	997	807	-190	■	Projected underspend mainly due to staffing vacancies and lower than anticipated expenditure across non-pay budgets	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Annabel Lloyd
11,940	Intensive Intervention	-1	11,939	11,265	-674	■	Projected underspend due temporary staff vacancies along with lower than anticipated legal costs and aftercare payments	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Annabel Lloyd
1,970	Management & Support Services	0	1,970	1,975	5				
50,937		-5	50,932	52,104	1,172				

# Community & Children's Services Revenue Budget - to 30th September 2020/21

Revised budget as at 30th June	Service Area	Virements as at 30th September	Revised budget as at 30th September	Projected Outturn as at 30th September	Variance	ISSUES	Reasons For Variances	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000				

## Transformation

720	Regional Training Unit	0	720	691	-29				
751	Group & Transformation Management	-2	749	827	78	■	Projected overspend due to costs resulting from Storm Dennis not covered by insurance	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Giovanni Isingrin
1,096	Service Improvement	0	1,096	1,038	-58	■	Projected underspend mainly due to staffing vacancies and lower than anticipated expenditure across non-pay budgets	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Giovanni Isingrin
22	Purchasing & Commissioning	0	22	18	-4				
2,589		-2	2,587	2,574	-13				

## Public Health and Protection

5,333	Public Protection	0	5,333	5,345	12				
4,525	Community Services	0	4,525	4,588	63	■	Projected overspend due to staffing costs relating to Community Hubs offset by projected underspends across non-pay budgets	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Paul Mee
900	Communities & Wellbeing	0	900	895	-5				
5,197	Leisure, Parks & Countryside and Community Facilities	0	5,197	5,180	-17				
154	Group Directorate	-28	126	126	0				
16,109		-28	16,081	16,134	53				
162,681		-83	162,598	164,388	1,790				

Group Director **Giovanni Isingrini**

Head of Financ **Neil Griffiths**

## Community & Children's Services Revenue Budget - to 30th September 2020/21

### 30th September Virement Report

<b><u>Community &amp; Children's Services Group</u></b>	<b>Total £'000</b>	<b>Adult Services £'000</b>	<b>Children's Services £'000</b>	<b>Transformation £'000</b>	<b>Public Health &amp; Protection £'000</b>
<b>Revised Budget as at 30th June</b>	<b>162,681</b>	<b>93,046</b>	<b>50,937</b>	<b>2,589</b>	<b>16,109</b>
<b>Virements proposed to 30th September</b>					
Early delivery of 2021/22 efficiencies transferred to 'MTFP - In Year Budget Reductions - Transition Funding' (to Council Wide Budgets)	<b>-83</b>	-48	-5	-2	-28
<b>Proposed Revised Budget - 30th September</b>	<b>162,598</b>	<b>92,998</b>	<b>50,932</b>	<b>2,587</b>	<b>16,081</b>

Virements that require approval by the Executive, in accordance with Section 4.8 of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules

## Chief Executive's Division Revenue Budget - to 30th September 2020/21

Revised budget as at 30th June	Service Area	Virements as at 30th September	Revised budget as at 30th September	Projected Outturn as at 30th September	Variance	ISSUES	Reasons For Variances	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000				

### Chief Executive's Division

391	Chief Executive	0	391	391	0				
2,913	Democratic Services & Communications	0	2,913	2,897	-16				
6,670	Human Resources	0	6,670	6,574	-96	■	Higher than anticipated external income and temporary staffing vacancies	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Richard Evans
1,636	Legal Services	0	1,636	1,545	-91	■	Temporary staffing vacancies	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Andy Wilkins
11,717	Finance & Digital Services	0	11,717	11,661	-56	■	Higher than anticipated external income and temporary staffing vacancies	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Barrie Davies
3,712	Corporate Estates	-250	3,462	3,390	-72	■	Higher than anticipated external income	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Dave Powell
27,039		-250	26,789	26,458	-331				

### Total Chief Executive's Division

27,039		-250	26,789	26,458	-331				
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Chief Executive

Chris Bradshaw

Head of Finance

Martyn Hughes

## Chief Executive's Division Revenue Budget - to 30th September 2020/21

### 30th September Virement Report

<b><u>Chief Executive's Division</u></b>	<b>Total £'000</b>	<b>Chief Executive £'000</b>	<b>Democratic Services &amp; Communications £'000</b>	<b>Human Resources £'000</b>	<b>Legal Services £'000</b>	<b>Finance &amp; Digital Services £'000</b>	<b>Corporate Estates £'000</b>
<b>Revised Budget as at 30th June</b>	27,039	391	2,913	6,670	1,636	11,717	3,712
<b>Virements proposed to 30th September</b>							
Early delivery of 2021/22 efficiencies transferred to 'MTFP - In Year Budget Reductions - Transition Funding' (to Council Wide Budgets)	-250						-250
<b>Proposed Revised Budget - 30th September</b>	26,789	391	2,913	6,670	1,636	11,717	3,462

Virements that require approval by the Executive, in accordance with Section 4.8 of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules

# Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services Revenue Budget - to 30th September 2020/21

Revised budget as at 30th June	Service Area	Virements as at 30th September	Revised budget as at 30th September	Projected Outturn as at 30th September	Variance	ISSUES	Reasons For Variances	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000				

## Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services

### Prosperity & Development

2,791	Prosperity & Development	0	2,791	2,832	41				
2,791		0	2,791	2,832	41				

### Frontline Services

3,495	Highways Management	0	3,495	3,538	43				
14,089	Transportation	0	14,089	13,910	-179	■	Projected underspend due to higher than anticipated external funding and savings as a result of contract gatekeeping arrangements	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Roger Waters
249	Strategic Projects	0	249	289	40				
4,637	Street Cleansing	0	4,637	4,584	-53	■	Projected underspend due temporary staffing vacancies	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Nigel Wheeler
970	Facilities Cleaning	0	970	865	-105	■	Projected underspend due higher than anticipated income	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Nigel Wheeler
4,076	Highways Maintenance	0	4,076	4,116	40				
17,981	Waste Services	0	17,981	18,767	786	■	Projected overspend due to increased costs in relation to waste disposal and increase in demand for recycling bags	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Nigel Wheeler
2,165	Fleet Management	0	2,165	2,023	-142	■	Projected underspend due to temporary staffing vacancies and a reduction in vehicle maintenance costs as a result of new vehicles being in operation	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Nigel Wheeler
3,715	Parks Services	0	3,715	3,760	45				
1,760	Group Directorate	-119	1,641	1,675	34				
53,137		-119	53,018	53,527	509				

### Overall Total Budget

55,928		-119	55,809	56,359	550				
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Group Director

Nigel Wheeler

Head of Finance


Martyn Hughes

# Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services Revenue Budget - to 30th September 2020/21

## 30th September Virement Report

<b><u>Prosperity, Development &amp; Frontline Services Group</u></b>	<b>Total £'000</b>	<b>Prosperity &amp; Development £'000</b>	<b>Frontline Services £'000</b>
<b>Revised Budget as at 30th June</b>	<b>55,928</b>	<b>2,791</b>	<b>53,137</b>
<b>Virements proposed to 30th September</b>			
Early delivery of 2021/22 efficiencies transferred to 'MTFP - In Year Budget Reductions - Transition Funding' (to Council Wide Budgets)	-119		-119
<b>Proposed Revised Budget - 30th September</b>	<b>55,809</b>	<b>2,791</b>	<b>53,018</b>

Tudalen 48

 Virements that require approval by the Executive, in accordance with

Section 4.8 of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules



## Council Wide Revenue Budget - to 30th September 2020/21

Revised budget as at 30th June	Service Area	Virements as at 30th September	Revised budget as at 30th September	Projected Outturn as at 30th September	Variance	ISSUES	Reasons For Variances	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000				
19,713	Capital Financing		19,713	19,463	-250	■	Projected underspend due to lower than forecasted borrowing costs (due to lower interest rates)	Continue to monitor during the year.	Barrie Davies
12,438	Levies		12,438	12,438	0				
13,216	Miscellaneous		13,216	13,373	157	■	Projected overspends on authority wide budgets	Continue to monitor during the year.	Barrie Davies
425	NNDR Relief		425	423	-2				
24,680	Council Tax Reduction Scheme		24,680	24,680	0				
0	MTFP - in Year Budget Reductions - Transition Funding	767	767	767	0				
70,472		767	71,239	71,144	-95				

# Council Wide Budgets - to 30th September 2020/21

## 30th September Virement Report

Tudalen 50

<b>Council Wide Budgets</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Revised Budget as at 30th June</b>	<b>70,472</b>
<b>Virements proposed to 30th September</b>	
Early delivery of 2021/22 efficiencies transferred to 'MTFP - In Year Budget Reductions - Transition Funding' (to Council Wide Budgets):	
Education and Inclusion Services	315
Community and Children's Services	83
Chief Executive's Division	250
Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services	119
<b>Proposed Revised Budget - 30th September</b>	<b>71,239</b>

*Virements that require approval by the Executive, in accordance with Section 4.8 of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules*



At the end of the last financial year (2019/20) there were a number of commitments and proposed projects which had not been completed by 31st March 2020. These have been set up as Earmark Reserves for 2020/21 and shown below is committed expenditure against each Service Area.

Service Area	Earmarked Reserves	Committed Expenditure as at	Committed Expenditure as at	Committed Expenditure as at	Full Year Expenditure as at
		30th June 2020	30th September 2020	31st December 2020	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
<b>Prior-Year Commitments:</b>					
Education & Inclusion Services	1.858	1.773	1.773		
Community & Children's Services	1.866	0.334	0.284		
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	2.428	1.952	2.010		
Chief Executive's Division	1.716	1.393	1.393		
Authority Wide Budgets	0.548	0.171	0.384		
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.416</b>	<b>5.623</b>	<b>5.844</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2020 - 2023						2020/2021 Actual Spend as at 30th September 2020 £'000	Issues	Commentary	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
	2020/2021 Budget as at 30th June 2020 £'000	2020/2021 Budget Variance £'000	2020/2021 Budget as at 30th September 2020 £'000	2021/2022 Budget £'000	2022/2023 Budget £'000	Total 3 Year Budget £'000					
<b>Finance &amp; Digital Services</b>											
CIVICA Financials	244	0	244	200	200	644	254				
Capitalisation of Computer HW/SW & Licences	500	0	500	500	500	1,500	0				
<b>Total Finance &amp; Digital Services</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>2,144</b>	<b>254</b>				
<b>Corporate Estates</b>											
Major repair/refurbishment and/or rationalisation of Service Group Accommodation	160	0	160	150	150	460	158				
Strategic Maintenance	50	0	50	50	50	150	11				
Asset Management Planning	50	0	50	50	50	150	0				
Corporate Improvement	6	0	6	0	0	6	6				
Asbestos Management	175	0	175	175	175	525	8				
Asbestos Remediation Works	50	0	50	50	50	150	1				
Legionella Remediation Works	275	0	275	275	275	825	26				
Legionella Management	175	0	175	175	175	525	51				
Housing & Regeneration	137	0	137	0	0	137	2				
Carbon Reduction Programme	591	760	1,351	0	0	1,351	120	■	Update Capital programme in line with latest cost projections	Introduce revenue funding into the Capital Programme	Steve Lock
<b>Total Corporate Estates</b>	<b>1,669</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>2,429</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>4,279</b>	<b>383</b>				
<b>Group Total</b>	<b>2,413</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>3,173</b>	<b>1,625</b>	<b>1,625</b>	<b>6,423</b>	<b>637</b>				

Chief Executive  
Head of Finance

Chris Bradshaw  
Martyn Hughes

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2020 - 2023						2020/2021 Actual Spend as at 30th September 2020 £'000	Issues	Commentary	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
	2020/2021 Budget as at 30th June 2020 £'000	2020/2021 Budget Variance £'000	2020/2021 Budget as at 30th September 2020 £'000	2021/2022 Budget £'000	2022/2023 Budget £'000	Total 3 Year Budget £'000					
<b>Prosperity &amp; Development</b>											
<b>Planning &amp; Regeneration</b>											
Enterprise Investment Fund	257	0	257	200	200	657	112				
Flood Resilience Grants	0	300	300	0	0	300	0	■	Scheme realigned from Private Sector Housing - Storm Dennis Emergency Flood Recovery Grant	Reallocate the Council's own resources within the Capital Programme as per Cabinet report 24/09/2020 - Review of Regeneration Business Grants Portfolio	Simon Gale
Taff Vale Development	7,061	0	7,061	0	0	7,061	2,781				
Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Programme Regional	1,087	0	1,087	300	0	1,387	160				
TRI Bingo Hall (Pontypridd)	1,341	0	1,341	0	0	1,341	78				
Major Projects Investment Fund	0	100	100	0	0	100	0	■	New scheme	Reallocate the Council's own resources within the Capital Programme as per Cabinet report 24/09/2020 - Review of Regeneration Business Grants Portfolio	Simon Gale
Regeneration Investment	827	150	977	550	400	1,927	279	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Reallocate the Council's own resources within the Capital Programme.	Simon Gale
Robertstown Development	5,123	-1,906	3,217	2,927	163	6,307	9	■	Update Capital programme in line with latest cost projections	Introduce additional WEFO ERDF grant and re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22 and 2022/23	Simon Gale
Coed Ely Development	3,106	-404	2,702	59	0	2,761	1,062	■	Update Capital programme in line with latest cost projections	Reallocate the Council's own resources within the Capital Programme	Simon Gale
Elwau Industrial Estate	14	0	14	0	0	14	4				
RCT Tracks and Trails Development	120	0	120	40	0	160	0				
Pontypridd YMCA	1,461	0	1,461	0	0	1,461	497				
ERP Discovery Gateways Dare Valley Country Park	388	0	388	0	0	388	176				
ERP Discovery Gateways Ynysangharad War Memorial Park	310	0	310	0	0	310	0				
Porth Interchange Metro+ LTF	30	820	850	0	0	850	42	■	Update Capital programme in line with latest cost projections	Introduce WG Local Transport Fund Grant into the Capital Programme	Simon Gale
Transforming Town Centres - Green Infrastructure	35	0	35	0	0	35	1				
<b>Total Planning &amp; Regeneration</b>	<b>21,160</b>	<b>-940</b>	<b>20,220</b>	<b>4,076</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>25,059</b>	<b>5,201</b>				
<b>Private Sector Housing</b>											
Disabled Facilities Grants/Adaptations (DFG)	4,004	-496	3,508	4,000	4,000	11,508	579	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Reallocate the Council's own resources within the Capital Programme	Simon Gale
Maintenance Repair Assistance (MRA)	450	0	450	450	450	1,350	113				
Renovation Grants Exceptional Circumstances & Home Improvement Zones	767	0	767	450	450	1,667	91				
Empty Properties Grants Investment	500	0	500	1,032	0	1,532	37				
Valleys Taskforce RCT+ Empty Homes	7,772	0	7,772	0	0	7,772	329				
Affordable Housing	333	90	423	600	800	1,823	50	■	Update Capital programme in line with latest cost projection	Introduce Capital Receipt Funding to the Capital Programme	Simon Gale
Storm Dennis - Emergency Flood Recovery Grant	800	-300	500	0	0	500	30	■	Scheme partly realigned to Planning & Regeneration - Flood Resilience Grants	Reallocate the Council's own resources within the Capital Programme as per Cabinet report 24/09/2020 - Review of Regeneration Business Grants Portfolio	Simon Gale
Tackling Poverty Fund	300	-200	100	200	0	300		■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Simon Gale
Community Regeneration	250	-100	150	250	250	650	4	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Reallocate the Council's own resources within the Capital Programme	Simon Gale
<b>Total Private Sector Housing</b>	<b>15,176</b>	<b>-1,006</b>	<b>14,170</b>	<b>6,982</b>	<b>5,950</b>	<b>27,102</b>	<b>1,233</b>				
<b>Total Prosperity &amp; Development</b>	<b>36,336</b>	<b>-1,946</b>	<b>34,390</b>	<b>11,058</b>	<b>6,713</b>	<b>52,161</b>	<b>6,434</b>				

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2020 - 2023						2020/2021 Actual Spend as at 30th September 2020 £'000	Issues	Commentary	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
	2020/2021 Budget as at 30th June 2020 £'000	2020/2021 Budget Variance £'000	2020/2021 Budget as at 30th September 2020 £'000	2021/2022 Budget £'000	2022/2023 Budget £'000	Total 3 Year Budget £'000					
<b>Frontline Services</b>											
<b>Highways Technical Services</b>											
Highways Improvements	8,095	0	8,095	3,804	1,100	12,999	4,373				
Car Parks	76	0	76	45	45	166	0				
Structures	6,571	2,022	8,593	300	300	9,193	2,042	■	Update Capital programme in line with latest cost projection	Introduce revenue funding into the Capital programme	Roger Waters
Parks Structures	1,335	0	1,335	0	0	1,335	336				
Street Lighting	278	0	278	200	200	678	77				
<b>Total Highways Technical Services</b>	<b>16,355</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>18,377</b>	<b>4,349</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>24,371</b>	<b>6,828</b>				
<b>Strategic Projects</b>											
Transportation and Travel Schemes	1,593	947	2,540	0	0	2,540	692	■	Update Capital programme in line with latest cost projection	Introduce additional Local Transport Fund WG Grant and Active Travel Fund Grant into the Capital Programme	Roger Waters
Safe Routes in Communities	420	0	420	0	0	420	22				
Transportation Infrastructure	10,141	434	10,575	5,752	25	16,352	3,528	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Reallocate the Council's own resources within the Capital Programme	Roger Waters
Traffic Management	941	-8	933	160	160	1,253	123				
Drainage Improvements	4,303	2,412	6,715	140	140	6,995	1,225	■	Update Capital programme in line with latest cost projection	Introduce additional Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant into the Capital Programme	Roger Waters
Land Reclamation	0	6	6	0	0	6	6				
<b>Total Strategic Projects</b>	<b>17,398</b>	<b>3,791</b>	<b>21,189</b>	<b>6,052</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>27,566</b>	<b>5,596</b>				
<b>Storm Dennis Flood Recovery</b>											
Storm Dennis Flood Recovery	0	6,827	6,827	0	0	6,827	0	■	New scheme	Introduce WG Flood Recovery Funding	Roger Waters
<b>Total Storm Dennis Flood Recovery</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,827</b>	<b>6,827</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,827</b>	<b>0</b>				
<b>Waste Strategy</b>											
Waste Strategy	2,690	0	2,690	0	0	2,690	288				
<b>Total Waste Strategy</b>	<b>2,690</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,690</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,690</b>	<b>288</b>				
<b>Fleet</b>											
Vehicles	6,244	-666	5,578	1,573	1,573	8,724	4,161	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Reallocate the Council's own resources within the Capital Programme	Nigel Wheeler
<b>Total Fleet</b>	<b>6,244</b>	<b>-666</b>	<b>5,578</b>	<b>1,573</b>	<b>1,573</b>	<b>8,724</b>	<b>4,161</b>				
<b>Buildings</b>											
Buildings	157	0	157	100	100	357	0				
<b>Total Buildings</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>0</b>				
<b>Total Frontline Services</b>	<b>42,844</b>	<b>11,974</b>	<b>54,818</b>	<b>12,074</b>	<b>3,643</b>	<b>70,535</b>	<b>16,873</b>				
<b>Group Total</b>	<b>79,180</b>	<b>10,028</b>	<b>89,208</b>	<b>23,132</b>	<b>10,356</b>	<b>122,696</b>	<b>23,307</b>				

Group Director  
Head of Finance

Nigel Wheeler  
Martyn Hughes

# Education and Inclusion Services

# Section 3c

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2020 - 2023						2020/2021 Actual Spend as at 30th September 2020 £'000	Issues	Commentary	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
	2020/2021 Budget as at 30th June 2020 £'000	2020/2021 Budget Variance £'000	2020/2021 Budget as at 30th September 2020 £'000	2021/2022 Budget £'000	2022/2023 Budget £'000	Total 3 Year Budget £'000					
<b>Schools</b>											
Aberdare School & Sports Centre	9	0	9	0	0	9	0				
School Modernisation Rhondda and Tonyrefail	7,321	-2,368	4,953	2,420	0	7,373	1,600	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Chris Bradshaw
School Modernisation	6,557	-4,761	1,796	4,901	140	6,837	237	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Chris Bradshaw
Cwmaman Community Primary School	3	0	3	0	0	3	0				
Flynnon Taf Primary Refurbishment and Extension	1,363	-480	883	1,717	61	2,661	161	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Chris Bradshaw
St John Baptist Church in Wales High School	6	-2	4	0	0	4	4				
Reducing Infant Class Sizes	892	0	892	0	0	892	360				
SRIC - School Modernisation Programme	571	0	571	0	0	571	5				
WG Welsh Medium Capital Grant	395	0	395	0	0	395	0				
WG Childcare Grant	4,008	70	4,078	720	50	4,848	294	■	Update Capital programme in line with latest cost projection	Introduce revenue funding into the Capital programme	Chris Bradshaw
WG Flying Start	115	0	115	0	0	115	18				
<b>21st Century Schools Band B</b>											
Hirwaun Primary School	6,255	256	6,511	74	24	6,609	3,495	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2021/22 into 2020/21	Chris Bradshaw
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,495</b>	<b>-7,285</b>	<b>20,210</b>	<b>9,832</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>30,317</b>	<b>6,174</b>				
<b>Supplementary Capital Programme</b>											
Planned Kitchen Refurbishments	393	55	448	200	200	848	143	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Reallocate the Council's own resources within the Capital Programme	Gaynor Davies
Window & Door Replacements	247	0	247	150	150	547	0				
Essential Works	1,835	6	1,841	400	400	2,641	237				
Capitalisation of Computer HW / SW & Licences	267	0	267	250	250	767	225				
Roof Renewal	1,050	-55	995	700	700	2,395	366	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Reallocate the Council's own resources within the Capital Programme	Gaynor Davies
Boiler Replacement	350	0	350	250	250	850	177				
Equalities Act/Compliance Works	298	0	298	225	225	748	15				
Education & Inclusion Services Condition Surveys	126	0	126	50	50	226	0				
Electrical Rewiring	217	0	217	200	200	617	55				
Asbestos Remediation Work	1,417	0	1,417	1,600	900	3,917	1				
Fire Alarm Upgrades	130	0	130	100	100	330	57				
Toilet Refurbishments	420	0	420	350	350	1,120	200				
Schools Investment Programme	954	-555	399	0	0	399	61	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Reallocate the Council's own resources within the Capital Programme	Gaynor Davies
Improvements to Schools	100	0	100	100	100	300	0				
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,804</b>	<b>-549</b>	<b>7,255</b>	<b>4,575</b>	<b>3,875</b>	<b>15,705</b>	<b>1,537</b>				
<b>Group Total</b>	<b>35,299</b>	<b>-7,834</b>	<b>27,465</b>	<b>14,407</b>	<b>4,150</b>	<b>46,022</b>	<b>7,711</b>				

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Director of Education and Inclusion Services  
Head of Finance

Gaynor Davies  
Stephanie Davies

# Community and Children's Services

# Section 3d

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2020 - 2023						2020/2021 Actual Spend as at 30th September 2020 £'000	Issues	Commentary	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
	2020/2021 Budget as at 30th June 2020 £'000	2020/2021 Budget Variance £'000	2020/2021 Budget as at 30th September 2020 £'000	2021/2022 Budget £'000	2022/2023 Budget £'000	Total 3 Year Budget £'000					
<b>Adult &amp; Children's Services</b>											
Modernisation Programme (Adults)	4,161	40	4,201	2,700	2,700	9,601	48				
Modernisation Programme (Childrens)	292	0	292	50	50	392	21				
Asbestos Remediation	45	0	45	45	45	135	0				
Telecare Equipment (Inc of Carelink Equipment)	379	0	379	200	200	779	76				
<b>Total Adult &amp; Children's Services</b>	<b>4,877</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>4,917</b>	<b>2,995</b>	<b>2,995</b>	<b>10,907</b>	<b>145</b>				
<b>Public Health, Protection &amp; Community Services</b>											
Leisure Centre Refurbishment Programme	397	14	411	90	90	591	259				
Parks & Countryside	1,372	89	1,461	100	100	1,661	160	■	Update Capital programme in line with latest cost projections	Introduce WG Local Places for Nature Grant into the Capital Programme	Dave Batten
Phondda Heritage Park	89	0	89	0	0	89	23				
Play Areas	976	0	976	50	50	1,076	46				
Cemeteries Planned Programme	259	0	259	135	135	529	104				
Community Safety Initiatives	53	67	120	50	50	220	89	■	Update Capital programme in line with latest cost projections	Introduce WG Substance Misuse Grant into the Capital Programme	Paul Mee
Community Hubs	401	0	401	0	0	401	76				
Culture	57	0	57	20	20	97	16				
Buildings	150	0	150	50	50	250	0				
<b>Total Public Health, Protection &amp; Community Services</b>	<b>3,754</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>3,924</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>4,914</b>	<b>773</b>				
<b>Group Total</b>	<b>8,631</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>8,841</b>	<b>3,490</b>	<b>3,490</b>	<b>15,821</b>	<b>918</b>				

Group Director  
Head of Finance

Giovanni Isingrini  
Neil Griffiths



## Section 3e

### Capital Programme from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2023

Group	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
	£M	£M	£M	£M
Chief Executive	3.173	1.625	1.625	6.423
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	89.208	23.132	10.356	122.696
Education and Inclusion Services	27.465	14.407	4.150	46.022
Community and Children's Services	8.841	3.490	3.490	15.821
<b>Total</b>	<b>128.687</b>	<b>42.654</b>	<b>19.621</b>	<b>190.962</b>

#### Estimated Resources Required to Fund Capital Programme

Supported Borrowing	6.829	6.829	6.829	20.487
Unsupported Borrowing	22.520	9.752	0.024	32.296
<b>Total</b>	<b>29.349</b>	<b>16.581</b>	<b>6.853</b>	<b>52.783</b>

#### Capital Grants

General Capital Grant annual base allocation	4.156	4.156	4.156	12.468
General Capital Grant additional allocation 2020/21	2.692			2.692
WEFO ERDF Modern Industrial Units Developments	3.610	1.518	0.082	5.210
WG Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Programme	1.768			1.768
WG Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing	0.100	0.032		0.132
WG Valleys Regional Park Discovery Gateways Capital Grant	0.546			0.546
WG Transforming Towns - Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity	0.035			0.035
WG Valleys Taskforce RCT+ Empty Homes Grant Ph1 & Ph2	7.772			7.772
WG Local Transport Fund	3.777			3.777
WG Active Travel Fund	0.721			0.721
WG Active Travel Fund Core Allocation	0.319			0.319
WG Local Transport Network Fund	0.828			0.828
WG Local Road Refurbishment Grant	1.261			1.261
WG Safe Routes In The Community	0.420			0.420
WG Road Safety Grant	0.162			0.162
WG Local Sustainable Transport Covid Response	0.552			0.552
WG Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant	2.615			2.615
WG Strategic Flood Risk Area	0.015			0.015
WG Flood Recovery Funding	6.827			6.827
WG Resilient Roads Fund	3.110			3.110
WG Museums, Archives & Libraries Division	0.081			0.081
WG Welsh Medium Capital Grant	0.395			0.395
WG Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) Waste Programme in Wales Grant	1.012			1.012
WG 21st Century Schools	4.762			4.762
WG 21st Century Schools & Education Programme - Community Hubs Capital Scheme	0.636			0.636
WG Reducing Infant Class Sizes	0.370			0.370
Substance Misuse Grant (WG)	0.067			0.067
WG Flying Start Grant	0.303			0.303
WG Childcare Offer Capital Grant Programme	4.758	0.022		4.780
WG ENABLE	0.317			0.317
WG Local Places for Nature Grant	0.089			0.089
Grantscape Windfarm Community Benefit Fund	0.017			0.017
Sport Wales Grant	0.012			0.012
<b>Total</b>	<b>54.105</b>	<b>5.728</b>	<b>4.238</b>	<b>64.071</b>

<b>Third Party Contributions</b>	<b>0.910</b>	<b>1.103</b>	<b>0.050</b>	<b>2.063</b>
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#### Council Resources

Revenue Contributions	33.334	11.563	4.504	49.401
General Fund Capital Resources	10.989	7.679	3.976	22.644
<b>Total</b>	<b>44.323</b>	<b>19.242</b>	<b>8.480</b>	<b>72.045</b>

<b>Total Resources Required to Fund Capital Programme</b>	<b>128.687</b>	<b>42.654</b>	<b>19.621</b>	<b>190.962</b>
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<b>Difference Total Spend to Total Resources</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>
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**Prudential Indicators 2020/21 (as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020)**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>2020/21 Actual as at 30<sup>th</sup> September £'000</b>	<b>2020/21 Outturn as at 30<sup>th</sup> September £'000</b>	<b>2020/21 Estimate / Limit £'000</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Indicator : Limits to Borrowing Activity (Net Borrowing)</b>				
Gross Borrowing	320,873	430,809	419,686	Gross borrowing should not exceed the Council's Capital Financing requirement.
Capital Financing Requirement	509,276	509,276	515,651	
<b>Indicator : The Authorised Limit</b>				
Gross Borrowing	320,436	430,226	530,000	The limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited.
Other long term liabilities	437	583	8,100 <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Indicator : The Operational Boundary</b>				
Gross Borrowing	320,436	430,226	425,000	This indicator acts as a warning signal to protect the authorised limit.
Other long term liabilities	437	583	2,877	

<sup>1</sup> Indicator: The Authorised Limit (Other Long Term Liabilities - The '2020/21 Estimate / Limit' of £8,100k, as set out in the '2020/21 Capital Strategy Report Incorporating Prudential Indicators' approved by Council on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020, included figures for future lease liabilities, as per accounting regulations at the time of producing the Strategy Report. These requirements have since been delayed until the 2021/22 financial year; therefore, for the Quarter 2 Performance Report, only current finance lease liabilities are included in the actual and outturn columns of the above table.

Indicator	2020/21 Actual as at 30 <sup>th</sup> September	2020/21 Outturn as at 30 <sup>th</sup> September	2020/21 Estimate / Limit	Comments
<b>Indicator : Maturity Structure</b>				
Under 12 months	13%	13%	0% - 70%	These limits protect the Council from being exposed to large fixed rate loans becoming repayable and due for refinancing within similar timescales.
12 months to 2 years	4%	4%	0% - 70%	
2 years to 5 years	10%	10%	0% - 60%	
5 years to 10 years	16%	16%	0% - 70%	
10 years to 20 years	6%	6%	0% - 90%	
20 Year to 30 years	0%	0%	0% - 90%	
30 years to 40 years	51%	51%	0% - 90%	
40 years to 50 years	0%	0%	0% - 90%	
<b>Indicator : Total principal funds invested</b>				
Maximum invested over 1 yr	£6.65 million *	£6.30 million *	£25 million	To ensure that day to day cash-flow requirements are not compromised by investing for long periods.

\*The total value of the long term investment at year-end is £6.30 million of which £0.35 million is being repaid within one year

## Summary of Council Sickness Absence by Group and Service Area

<b>QUARTER 2 2020/21</b>	<b>% Total</b>	<b>% &lt;28 Days</b>	<b>% &gt;28 Days</b>	<b>Staff Turnover</b>
<b>COUNCIL WIDE</b> (Headcount 10,716)	3.19	0.54	2.65	3.52% 377
<b>COMMUNITY &amp; CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b> (Headcount 2,931)	5.53	1.05	4.48	2.87% 84
<b>PROSPERITY, DEVELOPMENT &amp; FRONTLINE SERVICES</b> (Headcount 957)	4.37	0.55	3.82	2.61% 25
<b>EDUCATION &amp; INCLUSION SERVICES</b> (Headcount 1,269)	2.19	0.27	1.92	2.84% 36
<b>SCHOOLS</b> (Headcount 4,875)	2.02	0.33	1.69	4.41% 215
<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DIVISION</b> (Headcount 684)	1.65	0.32	1.33	2.49% 17

<b>COMMUNITY &amp; CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>	<b>% Total</b>	<b>% &lt;28 Days</b>	<b>% &gt;28 Days</b>	<b>Staff Turnover</b>
<b>Total</b> (Headcount 2,931)	5.53	1.05	4.48	2.87% 84
<b>Accommodation Services</b> (Headcount 512)	12.49	2.32	10.17	3.71% 19
<b>Adult Direct Services (and Group Director)</b> (Headcount 171)	6.80	1.24	5.56	3.51% 6
<b>Adult Short Term Intervention</b> (Headcount 526)	6.24	1.53	4.71	3.99% 21
<b>Adult Social Work Services</b> (Headcount 173)	4.20	0.99	3.21	4.05% 7
<b>Business Support Adults</b> (Headcount 36)	7.62	0.09	7.53	2.78% 1
<b>Children's Services<sup>1</sup></b> (Headcount 671)	4.03	0.65	3.38	2.87% 19
<b>Public Health &amp; Protection &amp; Community Services</b> (Headcount 762)	1.90	0.31	1.59	1.31% 10
<b>Safeguarding<sup>2</sup></b> (Headcount 15)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00% 0
<b>Transformation</b> (Headcount 65)	3.70	0.37	3.33	1.54% 1

<sup>1</sup> Includes Children's Commissioning Consortium Cymru (Headcount 8)

<sup>2</sup> Includes Regional Commissioning Unit (Headcount 3)

<b>PROSPERITY, DEVELOPMENT &amp; FRONTLINE SERVICES</b>	<b>% Total</b>	<b>% &lt;28 Days</b>	<b>% &gt;28 Days</b>	<b>Staff Turnover</b>
<b>Total</b> (Headcount 957)	<b>4.37</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>3.82</b>	<b>2.61%</b> <b>25</b>
<b>Frontline Services (and Group Director)</b> (Headcount 836)	<b>4.73</b>	<b>0.61</b>	<b>4.12</b>	<b>2.75%</b> <b>23</b>
<b>Prosperity &amp; Development</b> (Headcount 121)	<b>1.99</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>1.65%</b> <b>2</b>

<b>EDUCATION &amp; INCLUSION SERVICES</b>	<b>% Total</b>	<b>% &lt;28 Days</b>	<b>% &gt;28 Days</b>	<b>Staff Turnover</b>
<b>Total</b> (Headcount 1,269)	<b>2.19</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>1.92</b>	<b>2.84%</b> <b>36</b>
<b>Education Improvement &amp; Inclusion Services (and Group Director)</b> (Headcount 224)	<b>2.47</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>1.99</b>	<b>4.46%</b> <b>10</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools</b> (Headcount 1,045)	<b>2.13</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>1.91</b>	<b>2.49%</b> <b>26</b>

<b>SCHOOLS</b>	<b>% Total</b>	<b>% &lt;28 Days</b>	<b>% &gt;28 Days</b>	<b>Staff Turnover</b>
<b>Total</b> (Headcount 4,875)	<b>2.02</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>1.69</b>	<b>4.41%</b> <b>215</b>
<b>Primary Schools</b> (Headcount 3,048)	<b>2.21</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>1.87</b>	<b>4.07%</b> <b>124</b>
<b>Secondary Schools</b> (Headcount 1,827)	<b>1.70</b>	<b>0.31</b>	<b>1.39</b>	<b>4.98%</b> <b>91</b>

<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DIVISION</b>	<b>% Total</b>	<b>% &lt;28 Days</b>	<b>% &gt;28 Days</b>	<b>Staff Turnover</b>
<b>Total</b> (Headcount 684)	<b>1.65</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>1.33</b>	<b>2.49%</b> <b>17</b>
<b>Cabinet Office &amp; Public Relations (and Chief Executive)</b> (Headcount 27)	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b> <b>0</b>
<b>Corporate Estates</b> (Headcount 88)	<b>1.75</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>0.00%</b> <b>0</b>
<b>Financial &amp; Digital Services</b> (Headcount 259)	<b>1.77</b>	<b>0.51</b>	<b>1.26</b>	<b>3.86%</b> <b>10</b>
<b>Human Resources</b> (Headcount 267)	<b>1.84</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>2.25%</b> <b>6</b>
<b>Legal Services</b> (Headcount 43)	<b>0.56</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>2.33%</b> <b>1</b>

STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER UPDATES 2020/21

Strategic Risk	COUNCIL PRIORITY	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	RISK DESCRIPTION	CONTROLS & ACTIONS	Risk Rating QTR 2 2020/21			QTR 2 UPDATE 2020/21
					I	L	RATING	
1	LIVING WITHIN OUR MEANS	Barrie Davies	If the Council does not ensure that the investment and financial planning decisions are aimed at long term stability and sustainability, it will be unable to deliver effective services to residents and businesses within the County Borough.	<p><b>CONTROLS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decision making arrangements need to demonstrate links with the Council's Corporate Plan priorities (that are themselves aligned to the Well-being of Future Generations Act);</li> <li>Investment and financial planning decisions are subject to Cabinet approval and where appropriate pre-scrutiny; and</li> <li>A requirement for the Council to forecast its revenue budget over the medium term and set a rolling three year Capital Programme.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget holders and Finance / Performance officers working together to ensure:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robust and deliverable annual revenue budgets and 3 year capital programme are set taking into account Corporate Plan priorities.</li> <li>In year operational performance results are in line with targets and the agreed capital / revenue resources and additional investment funding approved.</li> <li>The Council's year-end Statement of Accounts (SoA) receive an unqualified opinion (i.e. clean bill of health) and General Balances are at an appropriate level as determined by the Responsible Finance Office i.e. a minimum of £10M.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The public reporting of financial and operational performance information during the year to enable results to be scrutinised and designated elected members and officers held to account; and</li> <li>Applying a medium term financial planning approach to service planning to enable the Council to effectively plan future service delivery in line with expected resources available.</li> </ul>	5	4	20	<p>ORIGINAL RISK RATING 5x4=20</p> <p>The second quarter revenue budget position for 2020/21 is projecting a £1.853M overspend (i.e. a 0.4% variance against a total revenue budget of £508.747M) - this position incorporates projected additional costs and income losses in relation to the unprecedented impact of Covid-19 amounting to £37.8M (the projected additional costs / income losses as a result of Covid-19 are assumed to be fully funded through additional resources being made available by Welsh Government). The projected position of £1.853M represents an improving picture in comparison to quarter 1 (where the projected position was £2.903M) and work is on-going across all service areas to take action to contribute to bringing the financial position closer in line with budget as well as the continuation of robust and timely arrangements to monitor, update and claim for the financial impact of Covid-19.</p> <p>Good progress is being made on the external audit of the Council and Pension Fund Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 - Audit Wales provided a verbal update to the Council's Audit Committee on 5th October 2020 and indicated that, to date, no significant areas of concern had arisen for the Committee to be made aware of.</p> <p>During quarter 2 the Council refreshed its Medium Term Financial Plan (2020/21 to 2023/24), setting out the current position on the financial challenges facing the Council in the medium term and forecasting that, subject to the level of funding from Welsh Government, a significant budget gap is likely to be faced in 2021/22 and the following 2 years.</p> <p>Looking ahead to quarter 3, work will continue as part of preparations for 2021/22 budget setting - this will include: refreshing expenditure projections; taking account of the Welsh Government provisional local government settlement; undertaking phase 1 of the budget consultation process; and progressing the on-going programme of work to identify the required budget savings to enable a balanced revenue budget strategy to be set.</p>
2	PEOPLE	Annabel Lloyd	If the priorities for Children's Services (CiN, CPR & CLA) are not managed effectively then the ability of the Council to effectively support vulnerable children and families and meet the requirements of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act may be compromised.	<p><b>CONTROLS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C&amp;S – monitored through Children Services Management Team on a quarterly bases.</li> <li>CP: Monitored through the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Quality Assurance Group that reports to the Safeguarding Board on a quarterly bases.</li> <li>CLA: Monitored through the CLA Strategic Group and CLA Quality Assurance Group that meets monthly.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CLA - plan in place to continue to work to reducing CLA. This covers close monitoring of those who come into the system and those who need to leave the system. This includes putting in systems that challenges decision making at relevant points in process, auditing, monitoring and analysis trends.</li> <li>CP - the quality assurance group have a plan of auditing a number of aspects of those children on the child protection register that fall into a number of identified categories: i.e. those who have been on the register for over a year.</li> <li>C&amp;S – Plan to redesign the delivery of Early Intervention Services (Resilience Families Programme) to look at how early intervention services are delivered.</li> </ul>	5	3	15	<p>ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 5x3=15</p> <p>No change from the previous quarter.</p> <p>This continues to be a strategic risk and no amendment to the risk rating should be made. We continue to see an increase in the number of children accessing services. Due to the complexity of needs, families require services longer which puts continued pressures on services across Children's Services. The impact of Covid 19 means that looked after numbers may increase in year due to delays in work on safe exits from the looked after system and both placement availability and stability are affected. The rate of referral has now increased as partners have adjusted their services following lock down, demand is growing and recruitment and retention in frontline social work services continues to be challenging. Preventative face to face work with families has begun to recommence, but there will be further delay now. The impact for vulnerable families of having to stay at home is likely to lead to an increase in demand for statutory children's services</p>
3	PEOPLE	Neil Elliott	The changing demographics and potential increase in demand to social services may impact on the ability of the Council to safeguard its vulnerable adults and keep citizens independent for longer. If we do not continue to modernise services (working with partners including Health and Third Sector) in line with the SS@WB Act this may result in inappropriate care and support and increased costs of providing services.	<p><b>CONTROLS</b></p> <p>The multi-agency Transformational Leadership and Strategic Partnership groups are now in place reporting to the Cwm Taf Social Services &amp; Wellbeing Board and Cwm Taf Public Service Board to maximise integration opportunities across the region.</p> <p><b>ACTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stay well @ Home Service in place</li> <li>Statement of Intent for Older People's Services</li> <li>Population needs assessments</li> <li>Adult Services Improvement/development plans being developed with partners focusing on early intervention, prevention and support.</li> </ul>	5	3	15	<p>ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 5x3=15</p> <p>Quarter 2 has again been dominated by our continued response to COVID-19 across Adult Services and our main priorities remained the same as Quarter 1, i.e. to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>support and safeguard our most vulnerable people and their carers to stay safe and well in the community</li> <li>respond to critical and immediate care and support requirements</li> <li>work with partners to support timely and safe discharge from hospital</li> <li>support our care providers to deliver quality and safe services and to respond to the risks associated with COVID-19</li> <li>develop and refocus community services to respond quickly to help people who may be isolated and in need of support</li> </ul> <p>As a result, there continues to be some temporary disruption to services while we continue to prioritise care and support offers, based on assessed need and risk.</p> <p>Assessments continue to take a person-centred approach as far as practicable. However, workloads across adult services remain high and caseloads are becoming increasingly more complex as the current COVID-19 pandemic continues and there is a waiting list of cases awaiting allocation in some areas. Additional external support continues to be commissioned to reduce assessment and review backlogs across care and support social work teams.</p> <p>In addition, accessing service provision is becoming more difficult due to, new lockdown restrictions, capacity issues and increasing staff absence. All our care and support services are under regular review with the aim of ensuring people receive the care and support based on their assessed need and risk.</p>



Strategic Risk	COUNCIL PRIORITY	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	RISK DESCRIPTION	CONTROLS & ACTIONS	Risk Rating QTR 2 2020/21			QTR 2 UPDATE 2020/21
					I	L	RATING	
6	LIVING WITHIN OUR MEANS	Tim Jones	If the Council does not manage its information assets in accordance with requirements set down within legislation then it may be faced with financial penalties and possible sanctions that hinder service delivery.	<b>CONTROLS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governance Structures are in place and the Council has a designated SIRO.</li> <li>Policies and Procedures are in place.</li> <li>Designated team in place that provides on-going training and also undertake investigations that involve potential breaches.</li> <li>External Reviews &amp; Accreditation e.g. PSN, PCI, WAO.</li> </ul> <b>ACTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GDPR gap analysis to be completed in readiness for May 2018.</li> <li>Continue to review technology measures and update as necessary.</li> <li>Continue to investigate and report potential events/incidents.</li> <li>Continue with external reviews and attain accreditations for PSN/PCI.</li> <li>Deliver risk-based training / regular communication, face to face and via e-learning, staffing bulletins, global emails.</li> </ul>	5	2	10	ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 4x3=12  The Information Management Team continues to provide specialist advice, information and support to Services during the quarter, ensuring that any new or changes to existing business processes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and alternative working arrangements are GDPR compliant - thus minimising the risk of a personal data breach and enforcement action by the Information Commissioner. Key deliverables during the quarter include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development and publication of a COVID-19 Regional Contact Tracing privacy notice</li> <li>Signing of the national TTP Joint Controller Data Sharing Agreement</li> <li>Finalisation of the COVID-19 Contact Tracing Data Protection Impact Assessments (V1.0)</li> <li>Review and update of COVID-19 Shielding Privacy Notice following end of shielding period.</li> <li>Development of Microsoft Teams Live Events and Meeting Recording protocols.</li> <li>Review of data sharing agreements and protocols to support COVID-19 grant payments.</li> <li>Preparation underway in readiness for BACS external Audit (Oct 2020).</li> <li>Preparation underway in readiness for PSN external accreditation (Jan 2021).</li> </ul>
11	PROSPERITY	Simon Gale	If projects aimed at regenerating the local communities through the Council's investment programme are not planned, procured and managed effectively by the Council, then delivery could be severely compromised and the benefits lost.	<b>CONTROLS and ACTIONS</b> Robust service delivery arrangements and governance structures are in place to ensure the successful delivery of key strategic regenerations projects. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing effective business cases for individual projects to ensure they are viable and cost effective.</li> <li>Involving stakeholders to support the delivery of key interventions from across the Council, other public Bodies, Welsh Government and the private sector.</li> <li>Establishing project boards responsible for overseeing the delivery of individual projects.</li> <li>A Project Protocol which is made available for project development and implementation that identifies the mechanisms needed to structure successful project delivery.</li> <li>The establishment of an External Funding Officer Group which reviews externally funded project activity across the Council at least quarterly.</li> <li>Regular update reports considered by SLT and the Council's Cabinet</li> </ul> <b>ACTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that all projects adhere to the project protocol procedures the completion of which is overseen by Officers from Regeneration and Finance.</li> <li>To ensure that all such funding bids are compliant with funding terms and conditions.</li> </ul>	4	4	16	ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 4x3=12  No change from the previous quarter The risk rating was updated in Quarter 1 as a result of the continued presence of the coronavirus pandemic and the real risk this presents to the ability to deliver schemes on time and on budget. Nevertheless, the Prosperity and Development Service has continued to deliver/co-ordinate the largest economic investment programme in the Council's history. Despite the coronavirus lockdown, and through working closely with our contractors, significant progress has still been made on the delivery of key regeneration projects as set out in the Service's delivery plan although there have been some inevitable delays. This includes the redevelopment of Taff Vale, the development of light industrial business units at Robertstown and Coedely, and the delivery of the objectives set out in the Council's five strategic opportunity areas and town centre masterplans. All projects and programmes have established robust service delivery arrangements and governance structures, which is ensuring the successful management of these schemes.
13	PEOPLE	Paul Mee	If the resources the Council has available are reduced or not targeted in a coherent way that meets need, then the ability to tackle the root causes of poverty and help build sustainable and resilient communities through an early intervention and preventative approach may be compromised thereby creating greater pressure on statutory services, and thereby reducing the impact on wellbeing priorities.	<b>CONTROLS</b> The following controls have been put in place to manage risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delegated team in place to manage risk.</li> <li>Regular monitoring of tackling poverty grants to ensure compliance, impact and value for money.</li> <li>Regular meetings with Welsh Government as part of the Building Resilient Communities national work programme.</li> <li>Liaising with Cabinet Members to provide regular updates.</li> </ul> <b>ACTIONS</b> To develop and deliver services that focus on building more involved and resilient communities to tackle poverty and promote well-being. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementing the recommendations following a review into all Families First Commissioned services, with a focus on prevention, integration, collaboration and</li> </ul>	5	4	20	ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 5x2=10  Quarter 2 has continued to be dominated by the response to COVID19. WG have allowed greater flexibility in the use of grant funding during this period to facilitate our response to COVID19 and to support service providers who may otherwise have not been sustainable during lockdown. Services for homeless people continue to be under pressure due to extended COVID19 responsibilities but we are managing to find temporary accommodation for those in need. The revised business case for the early years pathfinder grant has been approved by WG during quarter 2 and we are working with partners across the region to deliver the projects, although it will prove challenging to achieve spend targets within the limited timescales that remain.  No change to risk rating.
14	PROSPERITY	Gaynor Davies	More comprehensive schools than ever are facing a financial deficit as they seek to maintain sixth form provision with falling pupil numbers and funding. This could have an adverse impact on KS3 & 4 provision. If schools reduce teaching capacity to help deliver the savings required to manage deficits, then the ability to deliver positive educational outcomes at KS 3 & 4 may be compromised in the medium to longer term.	<b>CONTROLS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open communication with Head teachers.</li> <li>Support available from key officers from within the Council.</li> </ul> <b>ACTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaise with all Head teachers to communicate the financial pressures that the Council is under and re-iterate their involvement in aiming to realise more efficient working practices.</li> <li>Work with Schools in order to identify possible areas to increase efficiency.</li> </ul>	4	4	16	ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 4x3=12  The level of risk remains the same as at quarter 1 but school budgets will continue to be monitored closely due to the adverse impact of staff absence on supply budgets and the growth in the numbers of staff self-isolating due to Covid 19 diagnoses or close contact with confirmed cases. Delays in the implementation of staffing restructures and management of change processes are possible due to school leaders focus on managing the impact of Covid 19 on staff and learners. An appeal relating to the Judicial Review judgement for the greater Pontypridd 21st Century Schools Proposals is now planned and these delays will inevitably impact on secondary school budgets of the schools at the heart of these proposals as they continue to maintain small and financial unviable 6th forms.
15	PLACES	Nigel Wheeler	The Council has a comprehensive highways infrastructure that relies on many significant structures such as bridges and retaining walls to ensure constant traffic movement. Many of these structures are of a considerable age and the risk of potential failure, which results in road closures, is significant. If unforeseen road closures occur then these can have a major impact on local communities and the local economy.	<b>CONTROLS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routine monitoring of the entire highways network.</li> <li>Regular reports to SLT &amp; Cabinet.</li> <li>We have appointed a additional staff; this means we have appropriate in-house capability to manage this complex and significant asset.</li> </ul> <b>ACTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest additional monies in road, highways infrastructure and pavement networks over the next four years, on top of the previous investment since 2011.</li> <li>Provide an up date on the impact of key investment projects in 2016/17/18 through the investment programme</li> <li>Provide an up date to Scrutiny Committee on delivery of the Highways / Transportation infrastructure investment programme.</li> <li>Review and update the Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP) to ensure that the principal assets have been identified and form part of the Plan, and relevant document and service standards agreed.</li> </ul>	4	2	8	ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 4x2=8  The level of risk remains unchanged due to the comprehensive programme of work for structures, retaining walls and bridges both on the Highway network and in parks. The Highways Project Board (HPB) monitors the investment that is evidencing on-going improvement to the network; there are however challenges in terms of recruiting qualified staff (when competing with the private sector) and limited numbers of both consultants and contractors to support our staff. The HPB will continue to monitor these issues and ensure the capital programme is delivered and the highway network effectively maintained.  No change to risk rating.

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18	LIVING WITHIN OUR MEANS	Richard Evans	If the Council does not develop and invest in its staff, transforming the way it delivers its services to meet future demographic and financial pressures will be more difficult. It will also have an adverse impact on the retention and recruitment of staff.	<b>CONTROLS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workforce planning arrangements are in place that aim to identify possible gaps now and in the future.</li> <li>Staff consultation and communication.</li> </ul> <b>ACTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue with the apprenticeship and graduate schemes and ensure that placements are focussed on areas where workforce planning issues may become apparent in the future.</li> <li>Review training that is available to staff and ensure that it is suitable.</li> </ul>	4	3	12	ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 4x3=12  1st cohort of 12 apprentices commenced employment with RCT on 14th September 2nd cohort – 14 Apprentices – to commence employment January 2021 Additional 10 apprenticeship posts to be advertised November – start date tbc.  21 Graduates appointed and to commence employment October/November 2020 Additional 2 Grads posts to be advertised November – start date tbc.  Staff induction, pre-retirement, Mercury, ILM and Transform programmes have been revised and are being delivered virtually.
20	LIVING WITHIN OUR MEANS	Tim Jones	If the Council's I.T infrastructure is not continuously reviewed to confirm that it is fit for business use and secure, then access to information and systems could be hindered, by for example cyber risk/attack, resulting in interruption to service delivery.	<b>CONTROLS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disaster Recovery Plan in place should an interruption be experienced.</li> <li>Digital Strategy – Infrastructure Theme/Plan.</li> <li>Governance Structure.</li> <li>Policies and Procedures in place e.g. patch management, change control.</li> <li>External Reviews &amp; Accreditation e.g. PSN, PCI, WAO, 3rd party suppliers.</li> <li>Staff Training / 3rd Party Support Contracts.</li> </ul> <b>ACTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refresh &amp; upgrade end of life infrastructure &amp; software.</li> <li>Prepare for the PSN inspection.</li> <li>Monitor and measure Infrastructure Availability &amp; Performance.</li> <li>Implement recommendations from external review / accreditation.</li> <li>Train Staff in order to ensure that they have the appropriate skills to use new systems and software.</li> </ul>	5	4	20	ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 5x3=15  The migration to the Data Centre is 90% complete. Final stages unable to be completed due to flooding and Covid19. A plan is in place to complete as part of Service Recovery and also to add more resilience (the additional resilience is to be built into Ty Elai for increased local resilience and for faster DR capability). The Ty Elai DR project is underway and the target date to finish is by the end of the 2020 calendar year and progress has been made to procure the services and devices needed. Several legacy applications still reside on the hardware and application support will prevent the movement of these (which will now be tied into application refresh (e.g. Payroll/Gladstone). Schools local infrastructure network has been fully refreshed. Wifi in core sites has been refreshed with a new hardware and software solution and this is being rolled out to corporate sites inline with plan. Additional access methods to services added with a VPN approach for better homeworking. Plan underway to address end of life for Windows servers that are approaching end of support. PSN plan in place to meet the end of year timeframe for renewal.  Performance Information Q2: Key Applications / Servers Availability 99.85% WAN Availability 99.86% No change to risk rating.
21	LIVING WITHIN OUR MEANS	Chris Bradshaw	Given the shift in approach to services being delivered on a regional footprint, if services are delivered to citizens and staff of Rhondda Cynon Taf using this method, then appropriate arrangements must be in place to ensure that the interests of all current stakeholders are appropriately represented and that service delivery does not fall / suffer.	<b>CONTROLS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal agreements between local authorities are in place; Governance and scrutiny functions in place; Regular reporting of performance is available.</li> </ul>	5	3	15	ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 5x3=15  No change from the previous quarter The positive response to recent events have shown the current collaborative arrangements are working well. A good example is the TTP response from Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB and the three Councils working together, to create one team. The recent Covid 19 incident in a meat processing factory in Merthyr Tydfil has proved that the team can effectively respond to such incidents. We will continue to monitor these arrangements to ensure they are sustained, with a view to reducing the Risk Rating. Other collaborations such as the Cardiff Capital Region arrangements are working effectively.
22	LIVING WITHIN OUR MEANS	Chris Bradshaw	The risk of a No Deal Brexit seems ever more likely and whilst the Council can put contingency arrangements in place to manage some impacts of a No Deal these arrangements are temporary. Therefore, there will be economic and other risks that could materialise that are outside of our control, which will impact on the Council and local community.	<b>CONTROLS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) led by the Chief Executive are leading on issues relating to Brexit</li> <li>Dedicated Lead Brexit Officer and Cabinet Member have been identified to monitor progress on Brexit and manage risk.</li> <li>Regular updates reported to Elected Members, SLT and Cabinet.</li> </ul> <b>ACTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with the WLGA through the Brexit Transition Support Programme, set up to help local authorities prepare for Brexit.</li> <li>Complete the WAO call for evidence and self assessment in relation to Brexit Preparedness.</li> <li>Implementation of the self assessment findings.</li> </ul>	5	4	20	ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 5x2=10  Progress is being made between the UK Government and the EU in negotiating a suitable Trade Deal. The Council has reviewed its No Trade Deal plans and awaits confirmation from the UK Government of the outcome of the talks, which are due by the end of October.
23	PROSPERITY	Chris Bradshaw/Gaynor Davies	If projects are not delivered on time and/or on budget then this could impede the delivery and intended (positive) impact of the 21st Century Schools Band B Programme within the Council.	<b>CONTROLS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A designated project board is in place that oversees the delivery of the Council's 21st Century programme.</li> <li>Regular updates are reported to the Welsh Government.</li> <li>Individual projects are managed using PRINCE2 methodology.</li> </ul> <b>ACTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission and approval of all business cases within Band B of the 21st Century Schools Programme.</li> </ul>	5	3	15	No change from the previous quarter  During the Covid 19 pandemic, work has continued on the new school for Hirwaun and completing existing schemes at Tonyrefail and Treorchy.



Strategic Risk	COUNCIL PRIORITY	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	RISK DESCRIPTION	CONTROLS & ACTIONS	Risk Rating QTR 2 2020/21			QTR 2 UPDATE 2020/21
					I	L	RATING	
24	PEOPLE, PLACES & PROSPERITY	Chris Bradshaw	Given the expectations placed upon the Council to become net zero by 2050 in respect of its carbon emissions, if residents and businesses do not actively engage with the Council and Welsh Government to reduce their energy consumption, reduce their use of plastics, and adopt sustainable approaches to travel, then the full benefits will not materialise.	<p>The Council's approach to implementing net zero has been set out in the report presented to Cabinet at its meeting held on 18th June 2019.</p> <p><b>CONTROLS</b> Using the information that we have available to calculate a baseline. Regular monitoring &amp; reporting arrangements have now been put in place to monitor delivery of the detailed actions outlined within the Cabinet report noted above.</p> <p><b>ACTIONS</b> Calculating a baseline of the Council's Carbon and other greenhouse gases will enable the Council to identify short term and long term actions to change the way we work, procure and deliver our services, and highlight those changes that will have the greatest effect on reducing the Council's carbon footprint.</p> <p>Detailed actions are contained within the report presented to Cabinet, and these are not fully replicated in this document. They cover the following main headings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy &amp; Energy Efficiency</li> <li>• Vehicles &amp; Mobility</li> <li>• Greening Our Local Environment</li> </ul> <p><b>SUMMARY</b> The Council's Corporate Plan – The Way Ahead 2016-2020, will need to be replaced in March 2020 and a new Corporate Plan produced for the next five years. It is proposed that the Council's response to the Committee on Climate Change report is incorporated into the new Corporate Plan and is taken into account in preparing the Council's Medium term Financial Plan for the period 2020/2023.</p>	5	4	20	<p>In the early part of 2020, the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group made good progress on addressing the issues relating to the Authority's carbon footprint and related projects. Unfortunately, since then further meetings have not been able to take place, initially due to the impact of Storm Dennis and then by the ongoing impact of Covid 19. However, the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group is now provisionally scheduled to meet in mid-November and has a number of important reports to consider in respect of Biodiversity, Strategic and Local Development Plans, Reducing the use of all single use plastics, the local procurement of supplies and services and green energy generation schemes.</p> <p>Whilst some of the corporate work on delivering the aims and decisions of the Climate Change Steering Group has been able to continue it has been severely affected, initially by the impact of Storm Dennis and then the ongoing impact of Covid 19. However, significant progress has been made in a number of areas, such as the Carbon Reduction Programme and the tender for the Taffs Well Thermal Spring and the latest position on this work will form part of the information and reporting process for the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group.</p>
25	PEOPLE, PLACES & PROSPERITY	Chris Bradshaw/Paul Mee	<p>The impact of the global Covid 19 pandemic arising from coronavirus is continuing to principally effect the health and economic well-being of the County Borough. The Council reconfigured services to deliver essential support to vulnerable people during the early lockdown phases and is now making good progress in implementing Recovery Plans to open up other services, safely, within Welsh Government guidelines. Covid-19 is still with us and will be until such time as an effective vaccine is available. There are three separate but connected risks.</p> <p>- If there is a resurgence of the virus in RCT then the Council, and its key partners such as the UHB, Police and PHW, must take immediate steps to put in place controls and enforcement measures to limit the spread of infection, to protect communities, support businesses and alleviate pressure in the health system.</p> <p>- The pandemic has changed the way in which people live their lives, from shopping, to working, to travelling, often as a result of digital alternatives. This has had an adverse effect on local businesses, in particular sectors such as retail and hospitality. The risk is that town centres and other key retail locations become redundant and neglected as businesses fail. The Council working with local businesses and partners need to respond to these lifestyle changes by supporting and facilitating the economic development and resurgence of local businesses and town centres; and also modernising public services.</p> <p>- Longer term, the Council must ensure it learns from the Covid-19 pandemic and is better placed to plan and prepare its services to residents and businesses in the event of future pandemics in order to minimise the significant cumulative effect on the Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural well-being of the County Borough</p>	<p>The Council's ongoing approach to managing its response to the Covid-19 pandemic has been set out in the reports presented to Cabinet on 21 May, 25 June, 28 July and the Leader's Executive Decision on 14 August in respect of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Covid 19 Prevention &amp; Response Plan.</p> <p><b>CONTROLS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chief Executive is part of the joint Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB Health Board and Local Authorities Group.</li> <li>• Director of Public Health, Protection &amp; Community services is a member the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Strategic Regional Oversight Group and is currently the Regional Lead for Contact Tracing and Case Management within the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Prevention and Response Plan.</li> <li>• A specific internal Board, Covid Tactical Group (CTG) has been established, chaired by the Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services and which comprises representatives from all front line services and also the Emergency Planning, Resilience and Sustainability Adviser. The CTG group reports directly to the Council's Senior Leadership Team, through which it regularly reports to Cabinet.</li> <li>• The Director of Prosperity, Development &amp; Frontline Services represents the Council on the South Wales Local Resilience Forum.</li> <li>• Regular updates are reported to the Welsh Government.</li> <li>• Council has put in place Service Recovery and Contingency Plans in the event of a resurgence of the virus.</li> <li>• Monitoring &amp; reporting arrangements have been put in place to monitor delivery of the detailed actions outlined within the Cabinet report noted above.(or they will be)</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short Term – the Council will continue to work with partners to reduce the spread of the virus and reduce its impact on the Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural Well-being of the County Borough. This will be monitored through the regular reports to Cabinet, relevant current and future partnership arrangements, the Council's Regulators as required and Welsh Government.</li> <li>• Long Term – the Council will work with partner organisations and will use the lessons learnt from the local, national and global approaches to the pandemic to strengthen its approach to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- minimise the effect of infectious disease,</li> <li>- reduce the risk of illness or death,</li> <li>- be better able prepare for and respond to future incidents,</li> <li>- put in place the resources required to mitigate and manage the risk.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	5	5	25	<p><b>NEW RISK FOR 2020/21</b></p> <p>Throughout September, we have seen a significant increase in positive Covid19 cases across the County Borough and on 17th September additional restrictions were placed upon the residents of the County Borough in order to reduce the rise in cases. Similar restrictions are now in place across the most of South East Wales. The Council continues to maintain the delivery of services as well as undertake additional duties such as the Test Track and Protect Service for Cwm Taf Morgannwg and undertake a range of business support and enforcement duties to ensure residents and businesses comply with the new regulations imposed upon the County Borough. The early indications are that the additional measures have resulted in the number of cases plateauing and showing a very slight decrease, but for the two key indicators that measure the number of infections, the number of cases per 100,000 population and the positivity rate percentage, the prevalence of the virus is still very high.</p>

**Council's Priority 2020-24:**

**PEOPLE – ensure people are independent, healthy and successful**

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Q2 Progress	Additional Information
Supporting our residents who are older, vulnerable or who have disabilities, to remain independent and have a good quality of life	Continue to assess and prioritise cases, in accordance with the flexibilities afforded by the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) 2014 Act, based on need and risk in a way that safeguards people and involves them and their families in decision making.	Adult Services	Some Progress	<p>Adult Services continues to work within the statutory duties of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, although there continues to be some temporary disruption while we prioritise services and modify care and support offers, based on assessed need and risk. Accessing service provision is becoming more difficult due to capacity issues in some areas and increasing staff absence. This continues to be subject to ongoing review with the aim of ensuring people receive the care and support based on their assessed need.</p> <p>Assessments continue to take a person-centred approach as far as practicable and visits by social work staff are undertaken safely, where necessary. However, workloads across adult services (including Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHP) work) remain high and caseloads are becoming increasingly more complex as the current COVID-19 pandemic continues and there remains a waiting list of cases awaiting allocation, across Care and Support and in the ACE (Occupational Therapy) Team. Additional external support continues to be commissioned to reduce assessment and review backlogs across Care and Support (this is now required to be undertaken over the phone in line with local Covid-19 travel restrictions).</p>
	Continue to work with NHS Partners to ensure people are discharged safely and timely from hospital and supported in the community with appropriate health and social care support.		Some Progress	<p>Hospital discharges have continued to be a priority for adult services and its providers – this work has increased over the summer period. However, capacity to take on new work has become more limited and delays arranging care packages and care homes placements (dementia and nursing dementia) are increasing and some discharges are taking longer to complete.</p> <p>COVID-19 outbreaks at Royal Glamorgan Hospital and Prince Charles Hospital sites at the end of September 2020 have significantly impacted patient discharges and new enhanced protocols have been developed to ensure that people with care and support needs are safely and expediently discharged.</p>
	Continue to work in partnership with Linc Cymru to deliver the extra care housing schemes at Pontypridd and Porth and enable more people to live independently in their own home		Progressing as planned	<p>Construction of Cwrt yr Orsaf Extra Care in Pontypridd has continued with good progress made through the summer period, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•External brickwork on the lower ground floors commenced in August and is ongoing</li> <li>•Internal boarding and internal partitions along with mechanical and electrical first fix works are ongoing from lower floors upwards</li> </ul> <p>Development options for Porth Extra Care continue to be considered with Linc Cymru.</p>
	Continue to work in partnership with housing providers to deliver modern additional supported housing accommodation for vulnerable people, including Crown Avenue, Treorchy and Oxford Street, Mountain Ash		Adult Services	<p>Crown Avenue refurbishment completed in early October 2020 and open days planned at Crown Avenue in September 2020 were cancelled in line with the introduction of local COVID-19 restrictions. Assessments of new tenants have started and the first tenants are planned to move in during November 2020.</p> <p>Construction of the Oxford Street, Mountain Ash has made good progress through the summer period and is due to be completed in spring 2021.</p> <p>Development of a new housing with care and support strategy for vulnerable adults is underway to confirm the Council's approach to ensure that it can adapt and respond to future service demands and requirements.</p>

Tudalen 66

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Q2 Progress	Additional Information
Supporting our residents who are older, vulnerable or who have disabilities, to remain independent and have a good quality of life	Continue to ensure that care homes and other care providers receive appropriate ongoing operational and financial support as the situation continues to evolve in line with Welsh Government guidance.	Adult Services	Progressing as planned	<p>A range of measures remain in place to ensure, where possible, the resilience of our commissioned care providers in ensuring safety, capacity and sustainability provision. The Council continues to facilitate extra funding allocated by Welsh Government to help meet the additional costs adult social care providers are incurring as a result of Covid-19.</p> <p>Feedback from our commissioned care providers continues to be positive in that they have found this supportive and reinforcing long-established relationships.</p> <p>The Council along with its regional health and local authority social care partners contributed over the summer period to the independent expert rapid review of care home operational experience in accordance with the requirements set out by Welsh Government. We expect the review to be published in the autumn to identify areas of good practice and learning to inform our support planning for care homes in preparation for the winter.</p>
	Work with care homes to implement procedures with them to safely accommodate visits from friends and family in line with Welsh Government guidance.	Adult Services	Some Progress	<p>Following an increase in the number of positive Covid-19 cases and the introduction of additional local restriction measures across Rhondda Cynon Taf, the Council made temporary changes to visiting arrangements at local care homes on 17/09/2020.</p> <p>In line with similar arrangements that have also been established in several other Welsh local authority areas, the changes mean that until further notice, friends and family members are no longer able to see their loved ones in either outdoor visits or indoor visits, although allowances are being made in circumstances where residents are nearing the end of their lives and with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements in place.</p> <p>The changes have been introduced at all local authority and independent care homes as a precautionary measure to protect the health and wellbeing of vulnerable residents and staff. Virtual and online visits are being encouraged.</p> <p>The changes, which are regularly reviewed, have been shared with all local independent care homes to ensure a consistent approach can be maintained.</p>
	Continue to review options for phased opening of day and respite services in line with demand and social distancing guidelines.		Progressing as planned	<p>Following an increase in the number of positive Covid-19 cases and introduction of additional local restriction measures across Rhondda Cynon Taf, the Council made temporary changes to our day service and respite offer on 21/09/2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Older People Day Centres - Tonyrefail Day Centre and Abercynon Day Centre have temporarily closed following their re-opening in August.</li> <li>•Older People with Dementia Day Centres; Learning Disability Day Centres and Learning Disability Accommodation based Respite – these services have been prioritised only to those people assessed and agreed by a practitioner as critical due to their own needs or crisis situations. The following day centres are currently open: Cwmni Dda (Trecynon); Lewis Merthyr Day Unit (Treorchy) and Tonteg Day Unit Pontypridd).</li> </ul> <p>Adult Services are ensuring, where necessary, based on assessed need and risk, that there is alternative care and support at home through outreach services and direct payments for people and their families affected by these temporary changes.</p>

Tudalen 67

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Q2 Progress	Additional Information
Supporting our residents who are older, vulnerable or who have disabilities, to remain independent and have a good quality of life	Work with regional partners to continue the phased reopening of regional equipment services to full capacity and restarting of windows manufacturing at Vision Products.	Adult Services	Progressing as planned	<p>The Community Equipment Service at Vision Products continues to provide a full range of services, based on prioritised need and increases in demand, to health and social care partners across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region. Vision Products have been commissioned to provide regional management of Welsh Government issued PPE from November 2020, following agreement by Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf Adult Services.</p> <p>Plans are in place to recommence manufacture and installations of PVCu windows on a phased basis from October 2020.</p>
	Work with partners to restart Stay Well@Home (Phase 2), Assistive Technology and Enhanced Primary Care regional transformation projects from July 2020.		Complete	<p>As lockdown restrictions eased in the early part of summer 2020, the Regional Health and Social Care Transformation Projects restarted in July. Further information of the two Projects managed by Adult Services:</p> <p>Assistive Technology (New Lifeline+ Service) – implementation of the Service began on 20th January 2020; however, full implementation has been delayed due to Covid-19. Whilst, the mobile responder element of the service has continued to operate flexibly throughout this period and provided a level of resilience and reassurance to residents, the proactive calling element has been delayed, but is now progressing. With changes for people in the shielding group changing from 16th August 2020, we have contacted them to offer on-going support through the New Lifeline+ Service, along with wider marketing of the service to all Rhondda Cynon Taf residents.</p> <p>Stay well@ Home 2 - Implementation of the service in Rhondda Cynon Taf began on 20th January 2020 and continued during Covid-19, although demand for support changed and the service offered reduced operationally to reflect this. Rhondda Cynon Taf restarted full operation of the Service (7 days a week, including out of hours) from 6th July 2020 and this was extended to Merthyr Tydfil from 20th July 2020. Adult Services and our partners are working on winter plans, with the occurrence of Covid-19 representing an unprecedented position for health and social - Safe Well @Home 2 will be key to reducing unnecessary attendance to hospital, in particular by the Welsh Ambulance Service, by supporting people to remain as safety at home.</p>
	Continue support for NHS shielded patients and liaise with Test, Track & Trace colleagues to provide support to residents diagnosed with Covid-19 and required to shield for 2 weeks.	Community Services	Progressing as planned	<p>The systems which ensure residents can request assistance have been reviewed and amended to reflect local circumstances within Rhondda Cynon Taf, with the primary alteration being that the online e-form and RCTCBC web site now reflect the support being provided for residents to 'come out' of their homes as National Shielding paused. Partnership work continues to hold us in a good position, with TTP developments moving at some pace to ensure those who are concerned about any health implications of being contacted by this service, also receive support. Welsh Government continued to offer prescription delivery through pharmacies until 30th September and priority supermarket delivery slots have been maintained for people on the Shielded Patients List after the ending of free weekly Welsh Government food parcels on 16th August. Council staff contacted all those residents in receipt of food support, either from Welsh Government or RCTCBC, to ensure a proactive offer was made in relation to any ongoing food support needs and Lifeline Plus. NHS Shielded Patients are expected to receive additional guidance from Welsh Government during quarter 3 signposting residents to local authorities for support.</p>



Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Q2 Progress	Additional Information
Supporting our residents who are older, vulnerable or who have disabilities, to remain independent and have a good quality of life	Transition towards the co-ordination of Community Resilience Centres including identifying community need and deploy a timely response to ensure households are supported to maintain adequate food provision, obtain medication, dog walking etc.	Community Services	Complete	7 Community Resilience Centres (CRCs) were established in April supported by a wide range of partner organisations who provided virtual support to each centre. Council staff whose services were no longer operational due to the lockdown were transferred over to support the CRCs. A Core Community Support Steering Group was established and chaired by the Council to coordinate the support offered to all those who were vulnerable or in need. This Group included representatives from all the Registered Social Landlords, Age Connect Morgannwg, Homestart, Interlink, Citizen's Advice, Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) as well as a wider range of Council services. Processes and procedures were agreed and the Council's Contact Centre was identified as the contact for dealing with requests for help and support as well as offers of help from volunteers. Significant work was undertaken by a range of services to establish these and identify the best way to capture and record the information. In addition to the phone calls to assess the support needs of 11,200 people on the Shielded List, 3,089 individual residents have been supported between 23 March and the beginning of August, for example, with shopping, picking up prescriptions, friendly phone calls, dog walking and employment and benefits advice. In order to further support residents who are vulnerable a Food Distribution Centre (FDC) was established to prepare food parcels, deliver food boxes on behalf of Welsh Government as well as providing additional supplies for Food Banks who were experiencing difficulties to meet demand. The number of food boxes provided by the FDC between 13 April and 7 August was 4,804.
	Consider the future of CRC / Community Hub development post Covid-19.		Complete	With National Shielding paused on 16 August 2020 the Team actioned the agreed Transition plan for Community Resilience Hubs (CRH) gradually moving residents away from dependency on support and to enable staff re-deployed to return to their substantive posts in Employment Support. The transitional period came to a conclusion on 11 September 2020, with the Community Development Team assuming responsibility for the support delivered through the 7 CRH's. As the timing and nature of any relaxation of restrictions was uncertain, consideration was given to all options in order to create a flexible re-opening plan that will allow us to react quickly to any changes that occur. RCTCBC's web site and area for residents to access support has been updated to reflect the changing circumstances in RCT. <a href="https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/EmergenciesSafetyandCrime/InformationforResidentsCoronavirus/NEWCoronavirusCOVID19latestinformation/Supportforresidents/CommunitySupportandShieldingAssistance.aspx">https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/EmergenciesSafetyandCrime/InformationforResidentsCoronavirus/NEWCoronavirusCOVID19latestinformation/Supportforresidents/CommunitySupportandShieldingAssistance.aspx</a> RCTCBC have confirmed arrangements and made available the additional resource required to continue with the current arrangements up to the end of March 2021
	Restore 'At Home' library service from Rock Grounds		Complete	The @homelibrary service was re-instated on 24th June and was welcomed by residents and some additional customers have been added to the list.

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Q2 Progress	Additional Information
Encouraging residents to lead active and healthy lifestyles and maintain their mental wellbeing	Exploring ways that technology can support more people to exercise at home or minimise face to face contact.	Leisure Services	Progressing as planned	Classes are available via the Leisure For Life APP and are posted on our Facebook pages. These have been in existence since the end of March 2020.
	Introduce some open air classes, utilising our parks, 3G pitches to allow customers to exercise in a safe manner outdoors.		Complete	Classes started on 20th July with sessions taking place at 5 open air locations in RCT. Customers are able to book and pay for classes on line and via the APP. All systems implemented to ensure social distancing, 2 staff members will be present at every class.
	Continue to develop and improve our digital communications and services to sports organisations and residents, especially the promotion of "essential exercise" for physical and mental health benefits.		Progressing as planned	Independent and small group outdoor activities are promoted on all social media platforms and through the Leisure For Life app, along with key "benefits of regular activity" messages - for example, information to enable local walking, cycling and family activities. Support is also being provided to sports clubs and organisations to access the Sport Wales Be Active Fund.
	Work with other Council services such as Education and YEPS to deliver safe, socially distanced exercise opportunities where services are being delivered e.g. summer HUB schools.		Progressing as planned	Summer activity programmes were run during the summer holidays in the summer Hub schools. Sports Development led on 2 Hubs and provided 12 delivery staff.
	Invest in programmes which enhance wellbeing through engagement with cultural activities and learning opportunities	Community Services	Progressing as planned	A range of weekly wellbeing classes are provided online as part of our Adult Education programme, including Aromatherapy, Singing for wellbeing and lung health, All About Me and Crafts for Wellbeing. A variety of wellbeing self help videos have been provided through our social media platforms, including support for individuals with anxiety. Learners on our courses also receive wellbeing calls from course tutors.
Integrating health and social care and providing support for those with mental health problems and complex needs	Deliver an effective and efficient Contact, Track and Trace Service for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) and the wider region, as part of the Regional Agreement for RCTCBC to host the service as part of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Response, to control the prevalence of Coronavirus in the community.	Public Protection	Progressing as planned	Work is ongoing with departments in the local authorities to improve the quality of the data in the CRM system. Processes are being developed for different settings to assist the staff in decision making on any action required. Development work is also being progressed for a helpline for members of the public to contact with any queries relating to coronavirus. Some RCT staff still remain in the service until recruited staff are trained on the CRM system and familiar with the role.
	Ensure a sustainable Regional workforce model is developed and deployed to deliver Contact Track and Trace on behalf of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region Partners for the duration of the Pandemic.		Progressing as planned	Recruitment is ongoing to cope with an increase of cases in recent weeks. Staff have been recalled into the service from their substantive posts to help us manage the increase. Staff have also been recalled from Merthyr and Bridgend Councils to assist. Communicable Disease Enforcement Assistants have been employed to help the service target areas where there is intelligence of non-compliance in premises. These officers will also assist in the non-responders to the TTP Service and the Service is developing to meet the needs of the community and those of our partners.

Tudalen 70

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Q2 Progress	Additional Information
Integrating health and social care and providing support for those with mental health problems and complex needs	Ensure vulnerable children have access to Education and emergency childcare provision, including ensuring sufficient childcare provision is available for vulnerable children aged 0-4 throughout the summer holidays and for eligible Flying Start children when service resumes.	Education & Children's Services	Progressing as planned	Emergency childcare provision was available for 0-4 year old children of key workers and for those children who were deemed vulnerable. The Coronavirus Childcare Assistance Scheme (C-CAS) was funded by Welsh Government and delivered by the Childcare Team within the Education Directorate. Places were allocated based on the submission of a successful application and children were placed with childcare settings that had remained open. The scheme ran from 1st April to 31st August 2020. Over 750 children were offered placements, using 102 childcare providers Educational Psychology Service staff have returned to secondary school sites to deliver face-to-face support for young people. Service delivery pathway established in partnership with Attendance Wellbeing Service, Resilient Families Service, Educational Psychology Service and Eye 2 Eye Counselling to support young people to return to school.
	Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements working with partners in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board.	Children's Services	Progressing as planned	Full Board arrangements have resumed, and the subgroup structure supporting the Executive Board and Operational Committee has been amended to take account of the learning and good practice identified during the first lockdown.
Improving services for children and young people and ensuring the needs of children are considered in everything we do	Develop a safe, sustainable service delivery model to provide Children's Services statutory responsibilities that will meet anticipated Welsh Government guidance. This means incrementally increasing the service that can safely be made available to the public with the goal of achieving a return to a full service in line with Welsh Government Guidance. This will commence with the review of child protection conferences and increasing the number of children who we see and whose voices we hear.	Children's Services	Some Progress	Children's Services continues to work to the Welsh Government statutory guidance, subject to risk assessment and physical distancing requirements, adapting methods of service delivery as necessary. Priority is being given to safely visiting and hearing the voices of children on the child protection register and those looked after. However, we are working within a 30% social work vacancy factor in our Intensive Intervention Services, which has a significant impact on service provision and is consequently subject of a risk management plan. Review Conferences are now taking place and progress has been made with the IT arrangements to begin delivering hybrid Child Protection Conferences, a successful virtual conference attended by family members has taken place. However suitable accommodation being available to Children's Services and accompanying facilities accessible by service users will be essential to future development.
	Improving availability of sustainable quality accommodation options for children and young people with complex needs through experiencing trauma. - Development of additional residential placement provision with a model of care which follows the trauma recovery model. Enabling RCT to meet its statutory requirements for placement sufficiency.	Children's Services	Complete	Carn Igli is now registered with Care Inspectorate Wales and open. There have been some positive outcomes for the young people who have moved on to lower dependency provisions. An example of young person experience is : "I feel like this is the first time I can breathe properly in ages, I feel safe here" " before I came here, I didn't do any school or work, I didn't have any friends...now I'm in training for mechanics, got a work placement and really good friends since I joined rugby, it's like my life is completely different"
	YEPS - Continue to offer virtual open access activities and plan for re-introduction of face-to-face provision and provide virtual information, advice and guidance to vulnerable young people utilising wicid tv and YouTube.	Community Well-being and Resilience - YEPS	Progressing as planned	Youth Engagement & Participation Service (YEPS) staff have returned to secondary school sites to deliver face to face support for young people. Service delivery pathway established in partnership with Attendance Wellbeing Service, Resilient Families Service, Educational Psychology Service and Eye 2 Eye Counselling to support young people to return to school. Virtual youth offer remains available including virtual youth clubs, live Q&A sessions, live chat sessions. Planning is underway for YEPS to commence proactive street based youth work by mid October across RCT working alongside, the Youth Offending Service, Community Safety Partnership (including CCTV) and BAROD.

Tudalen 71

Council's Priority 2020-24:	PLACES - Where people are proud to live, work and play			
Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Progress	Qtr 2 Update
Keeping RCT clean through efficient street cleaning services, minimising the amount of waste we send to landfill, achieving our recycling targets through weekly recycling and regular refuse collections, and reducing our carbon footprint	<b><u>Street cleaning and recycling</u></b> Continue waste and cleaning services with appropriate safe working arrangements in place, to include clean up after recent floods.	Streetcare and Waste	Progressing as planned	Most services in Streetcare returned to normal during Quarter 2 with the exception of Enforcement who have partially returned to some enforcement duties whilst also providing some support to Covid related issues (marshalling of Covid Testing Centres, supporting Public Health in spot checking premises in towns to ensure compliance with Covid control measures). Street Cleansing, grass cutting, fly tipping clearance etc., have generally returned to normal but with changes to operational practices to ensure the staff are as safe as possible e.g. working from home/starting from home, additional PPE, sanitising measures both for staff and vehicles, additional support vehicles to minimise number of staff in vehicles.
	Monitor the implications/impact of demand for Community Recycling Centre Sites following reopening e.g. arising from arrangements to ensure social distancing.		Progressing as planned	The Community Recycling Centres have returned to normal operations with Covid control measures in place, including limits to vehicles permitted, distancing and time limits on site. The temporary sites set up in Abercynon and Tylorstown have now been removed.
Keeping the County Borough moving, including improvements to roads and pavements and public transport, whilst also improving air quality	Continue with 2020/21 Highways Improvement Programme including the design, planning and delivery of major infrastructure projects including the A4119 Dualling at Coed Ely, the Cynon Valley Gateway North Link and the Llanharan By-Pass and the repair of bridges.	Highways	Progressing as planned	Works continues on the Highway Improvement Programme resurfacing of roads and footways. Works have also recommenced in urban areas whilst adhering to social distancing and coronavirus regulations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major Economic Infrastructure Projects (our big road schemes) and Transportation Investment (Metro, etc.)</li> <li>• Highways Infrastructure – structures, highways, etc.</li> <li>• Flood Alleviation</li> </ul>		Progressing as planned	The Mountain Ash Cross Valley Link opened on Friday 16th October. Design work progressed well on the Cynon Gateway North (Aberdare Bypass) with a pre-planning application consultation due to commence in October, as did the preliminary design work on the Llanharan Bypass and the detailed design stage for the A4119 dualling. Works continue on the design of highways and parks structures on both capital programme and Storm Dennis recovery. There are a number of projects completed, on site and others shortly due to commence.



Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Progress	Qtr 2 Update
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Tudalen 73</p> <p>Keeping the County Borough moving, including improvements to roads and pavements and public transport, whilst also improving air quality</p>	<p>Continue the rollout of Civil enforcement to ensure safe parking for our residents particularly as shops reopen after lockdown.</p>	<p>Highways</p>	<p>Progressing as planned</p>	<p>Civil parking enforcement continues to be undertaken throughout the County Borough. Staff have also been recently used to help manage traffic at the temporary testing sites within RCT due to the recent increase in coronavirus cases which resulted in a local lockdown.</p>
	<p>Continue to deliver and manage the Council's contracted passenger transport requirements in the most effective, integrated and safe manner, with particular reference to school and community transport, within the constraints and the additional transport demands of the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Progressing as planned</p>	<p>The Council's Transportation Service has been working to existing delivery plan priorities, reacting to requests and delivering passenger transport. This work has been impacted by Covid-19 and focussed on agreeing and communicating ramped up timetables for local bus services in readiness for the return of schools and colleges in September, responding to associated enquiries and putting in place transport for vulnerable children to attend the various Summer Childcare Hubs. Following the re-opening of schools from 29 June 2020, as part of 'Check in, Catch up Prepare for summer and September', the service has turned its attention to putting in place and delivering safe and effective transport arrangements in preparation for this and September's return to school arrangements. Working closely with education colleagues, this has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identifying reduced capacities in line with social distancing, eventually re-opening the selling of a limited number of spare seats from 28 September 2020,</li> <li>• preparing guidance for schools, parents/carers and young people to support the safe transportation of learners to and from schools,</li> <li>• ensuring that operators, and their drivers and escorts, are provided with appropriate advice and in particular guidance on cleaning and PPE,</li> <li>• identifying action needed where pupils travelling on dedicated school transport test positive for COVID-19, and</li> <li>• providing timely information to remind parents and pupils to adhere to social distancing on their way to / from school.</li> </ul>
	<p>Continue to monitor air quality following WG guidelines in RCT hot spots, particularly the impact of travel restrictions imposed during lockdown (Covid-19).</p>	<p>PHP</p>	<p>Progressing as planned</p>	<p>Air Quality Monitoring has continued during this period and the data gathered will be utilised to establish the impact of Covid 19 related restrictions on local air quality.</p>

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Progress	Qtr 2 Update
Ensuring the County Borough is one of the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion and where residents feel safe	<b>Substance Misuse</b> Resume face to face Substance Misuse Client Support meetings.	PHP	Some Progress	Through July and August as restrictions relaxed, commissioned services offered more face to face meetings where required and continued with telephone and virtual meetings for 1-1 and group work, according to need and service user choice. In early September however, as Covid-19 infection numbers rose in RCT, services reacted to the local lockdown restrictions and implemented Covid measures as required. Office opening hours were again reduced (10-3 for Barod) but specialist needle and syringe provision was maintained. Virtual Service User Groups and recovery groups continue weekly and are appreciated by service users.
	<b>Domestic Abuse</b> Resume face to face IDVA client meetings and drop in support at the Oasis Centre.		Some Progress	As a result of the recent increase in COVID 19 cases during September 2020, the earlier service plan to support a potential return to the Oasis Centre building and resume face to face client contact is delayed. Domestic abuse support via the IDVA service and Drop In Support worker continues to be delivered remotely with minimal face to face support delivered via other agency outlets where client need requires this.
Ensuring the County Borough is one of the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion and where residents feel safe	Increase proactive community cohesion and engagement work.	PHP	Some Progress	Despite staff remaining in TTP due to high incidence rates, there has been some progress. The Syrian resettlement is progressing with case workers. This quarter plans have been put in place to deliver Hate Crime Awareness Week in October, including working with various media (social media and local radio). Other community cohesion work has commenced, including: Safer Places Project, Back to Community Life and the Hope Project.
	Continue to work in partnership to ensure the residents of RCT are safe, to include updates on ASB, Rogue traders, scams, etc.		Some Progress	Quarter 2 has seen all Public Health and Protection resource diverted to COVID response, advice and enforcement. This has meant that partnership work in ASB and Rogue Trading has been severely compromised. The appointment of COVID Enforcement officers at the end of Q2 / beginning of Q3 will hopefully mean that activity can recommence in this area as soon as possible.
Getting the best out of our parks by looking after and investing in our greenspaces	Increase biodiversity across RCT e.g. by reviewing grass cutting schedules, introducing wildflower grass management.	Not in a plan	Progressing as planned	Purchase of a second cut and collect machine completed. Cutting of wild flower areas to begin in October 20 using both machines. As part of the biodiversity project, we have been looking to create some signage to enable members of the public to identify areas which are being left uncut/ cut less frequently for biodiversity. The identification will be through the use of a yellow Brimstone butterfly logo. We are in the process of getting discs produced using the logo along with timber posts to place on road verges in order to identify those areas. Trees ordered for delivery from end of November, planting to take place thereafter.
	<b>Managing the impact of flood damage in our Parks and open spaces</b> this includes ensuring the Lido Pontypridd is reopened as planned in 2021, and the rebuild/repair work in Ynysangharad Park is completed.	Leisure	Progressing as planned	Good progress continues to be made in preparing the Lido for re-opening.

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Progress	Qtr 2 Update
Getting the best out of our parks by looking after and investing in our greenspaces	Continue to invest in playgrounds, sports pitches and parks buildings, encouraging use of green spaces for physical activity.	Leisure	Some Progress	The 2020/21 Parks/Play area capital programme is progressing although the initial lockdown led to a significant shortage of materials and availability of contractors. Dare Valley Country Park play area is complete and was opened after lockdown and the response to the refurbishment has been positive. Grass pitches continue to be maintained and made available for training in line with Welsh Government guidelines and the opportunity to train has been well received by clubs, although for pitches without floodlights the darker nights will reduce opportunity.
	Recommend the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group to agree and progress actions that will contribute to the Council's response to Net Zero.	Various	Some Progress	Meeting scheduled for 19 October was postponed to allow focus on impact of the national 'fire break'. Meetings have now been scheduled for November and January.

Council's Priority 2020-24:	PROSPERITY – create the opportunity for people and businesses to be innovative, entrepreneurial and fulfil their potential and prosper			
Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Progress	Additional Information
Investing in our town centres, bringing jobs and homes into our town centres to create vibrant, thriving places people wish to live, work and socialise	Facilitate safe social distancing arrangements in the towns and green spaces. Also work with the business community to help them meet new challenges and opportunities, including development of a recovery grant.	Regeneration	Progressing as planned	Arrangements for a new Covid 19 recovery grant to support town centre businesses with external improvements to help trading arrangements was agreed by Cabinet in September. This scheme has now been launched and detailed communication with eligible town centre businesses is underway. This will include making sure that businesses have access to the developing package of Covid related support available to them. Work is also continuing with Aberdare, Treorchy and Pontypridd Business Improvement Districts to ensure they are well placed to support their business members. New key town centre redevelopment schemes such as at Guto Square in Mountain Ash will significantly help with better pedestrian access and social distancing, and will be better placed to host street markets and events. Guto Square is now at advanced design stages with land assembly in place with a Compulsory Purchase Order for a parcel of derelict land and adjacent property purchase now completed.
	Develop and deliver a package of support for businesses in recovery, including through encouraging local marketing, purchasing and supply chain development.		Progressing as planned	The business grant offer has been reviewed and refocussed in light of the current economic conditions created by Covid 19 and earlier flood events. These include the new Covid business grant mentioned above, a new Flood Resilience Grant for town centre businesses, a new Major Projects Investment Fund along with a refocussed Enterprise Investment Fund and Town Centre Maintenance Grant. This comprehensive package of support will help businesses to survive and adapt and diversify in response to the current economic circumstances. In addition to this, the Means (external expertise to support regeneration work) have produced draft recommendations for consideration for town centre business sustainability and resilience. Furthermore, plans are also being developed in partnership with Welsh Government's South East Wales Regional Team to deliver a package of focussed support for manufacturing businesses in RCT.
	Deliver a programme of key property developments in town centres leading to a more sustainable future such as those at Dunraven Street Tonypany, Hannah Street Porth, Mountain Ash Town Hall and the Black Lion in Aberdare.		Progressing as planned	The pipeline of key town centre property developments continues to make good progress. Key schemes such as the redevelopment of Mountain Ash Town Hall have submitted planning and listed building applications which are now being determined and a contractor procurement process is underway. The Black Lion redevelopment (Aberdare) is continuing on site with practical completion due in Spring 2021. Other private sector developer led schemes in Hannah Street Porth and Oxford Street Mountain Ash are at advanced development stage, with Oxford Buildings on programme and due for completion in March 2021.

Tudalen 76

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Progress	Additional Information
Tudalen 77 Delivering major regeneration and transportation schemes, maximising the impact of the new South Wales Metro, to create better places to live and work, whilst protecting and enhancing the County Borough	Plan and deliver a post Covid-19 Tourism Strategy, and refocus on major projects such as Zip World Tower, accommodation strategy.	Tourism & Events	Progressing as planned	The RCT Tourism Strategy has been adapted to take into account the potential effects of Covid-19 and to make the content more relevant to the current economic circumstances. An Economy Recovery Strategy is in the process of being written across the service and this will ultimately touch upon elements relating to Tourism and associated businesses. In parallel, a Tourism Business Recovery Guidance document (July 2020) has been produced, in line with Welsh Government advice, and this is live across both corporate and district digital channels. An RCT business survey during Covid-19 has been conducted to assess the position and general feeling at that time. Whilst major projects such as Zip World were put on hold during lockdown, the lifting of restrictions have meant that communication has resumed for work to begin again on site for a 2021 opening. Cardiff Airport advertising will also assist with future promotion of major attractions in RCT. Renovation work at Dare Valley Country Park as part of Valleys Regional Park has recommenced with the completion of the children's play area and an overall completion date of around October 2020 expected. Digital promotional campaigns aimed at UK residents undertaking staycations have been launched, in an attempt to assist the visitor economy within RCT. These have since been put on hold following the requirement for local lockdown restrictions. Baseline information is being gathered in advance of a bed stock analysis which will inform the accommodation strategy; this analysis has been delayed due to Covid-19's impact on the sector and will be undertaken once the industry has had time to re-open fully.
	Develop revised delivery plan for the Local Development Plan review.	Planning	Progressing as planned	The Delivery Agreement was sent to Welsh Government and approved on the 14th September. Preparation of the Revised LDP continues, with the official Call for Candidate Sites to begin from the end of October. Consultants have been procured to undertake the statutory Integrated Sustainability Appraisal of the Revision process.
	Deliver the Llys Cadwyn/Taff Vale redevelopment project, including the footbridge to Ynysangharad Park to generate new jobs, increase visitor numbers and spend in the local economy.	Regeneration	Progressing as planned	The construction contract for the Llys Cadwyn development has progressed well and reached the practical completion stage during October. The new footbridge between Llys Cadwyn and Ynysangharad War memorial park opened to the public during August with soft landscaping works continuing. The flagship tenant for the largest office building at Llys Cadwyn, Transport for Wales, will take their occupation and tenancy from November. The marketing process for the remainder of the available space is progressing well.
	Deliver a modern 30,000 square foot business unit at Coedely Business Park to generate new investment and employment.		Progressing as planned	Construction contract progressing well and practical completion target date is for end of December 2020. The development is now being actively marketed to prospective business tenants and there is an active pipeline of interest and enquiries which are being progressed.
	Deliver a new integrated Transport Hub in Porth for seamless bus and rail travel to take advantage of the new Metro services as part of the Porth Regeneration Strategy		Progressing as planned	Good progress is being made. Detailed design development is continuing to RIBA Stage 4 with the planning application submitted for consideration. Detailed development discussions are continuing with Transport for Wales in order to achieve the best outcome in terms of an integrated transport facility.

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Progress	Additional Information
Tudalen 78	<p>Redevelop the derelict former goods yard site at Robertstown Aberdare with up to 20 state of the art small business units to generate sustainable local investment and jobs.</p>	Regeneration	Progressing as planned	Construction contractor is now on site at Robertstown. Site set up works and ecological clearance is underway in advance of the main construction phase.
	<p>Develop Dare Valley Country Park as a Valleys Regional Park Discovery Gateway providing new family friendly bike trails, new adventure play area, bike hire station, hotel refurbishment and shower block extension.</p>		Progressing as planned	Good progress on the works is continuing onsite with practical completion due on all elements within the next quarter with the different onsite contractors working to the current Covid 19 construction regulations. The current work elements include bike trails, cycle pump tracks, shower block extension, hotel refurbishment and cycle storage and hire facility.
	<p>Further develop Ynysangharad Park alongside flood recovery work as a VRP Discovery Gateway including improved visitor facilities and restoration of key features such as the bandstand.</p>		Progressing as planned	Construction of the Changing Places facility in the Lido Visitor Centre continues on site and will be completed in the next quarter. Detailed design on footpath and lighting improvements is now at RIBA Stage 4 and will be progressing to contractor procurement and appointment.
	<p>Repurpose and redevelop the YMCA building in Pontypridd as a hub for social enterprise and community arts activity.</p>		Progressing as planned	Construction contract continues onsite and complying with Covid 19 construction regulations on this constrained town centre site. Demolition elements onsite now complete and building redevelopment work now underway.
	<p>Redevelop the Bingo Hall site in Pontypridd including demolition to provide a key development site for investment such as a hotel at the gateway to the town.</p>	Progressing as planned	Detailed site investigation and testing is now completed. Initial demolition contract for substantial asbestos strip and removal is now in place and contractor has commenced works onsite. Preparation for procuring a demolition contractor is currently underway with tender information going out in November.	
	<p>Redevelop Oxford Buildings, Mountain Ash (a significant disused retail block ) for new residential use with an emphasis on supported living.</p>	Housing Strategy	Progressing as planned	Slight delays on building work due to Covid-19, however this work has now started back up and the scheme is progressing well and due for completion in March 2021.
	<p>Continue to deliver other Capital projects across the Council estate, providing recovery opportunities for local contractors and businesses.</p>	Regeneration/Corporate Estates	Progressing as planned	Capital projects continue to be delivered as planned.
	<p>Seek funding to develop a cultural hub in Treorchy, building on the existing theatre and library.</p>	Community Services	Progressing as planned	An application for funding was submitted to Museums, Archives and Libraries Division (MALD) Welsh Government for the internal refurbishment of Treorchy Library. Following a successful stage 1 application we have been invited to submit a full business and project plan by January 15th.

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Progress	Additional Information
<p>Increase the number of quality homes available and affordable to provide greater housing choice for residents</p>	<p>Continue to process Emergency Flood Recovery Grants for those individuals that are in temporary accommodation or at risk of becoming homeless.</p>	<p>Housing Strategy</p>	<p>Progressing as planned</p>	<p>Continue to offer the Flood Recovery Grants, however the uptake of the grant is now very low.</p>
	<p>Deliver the integrated Homelessness Recovery Plan and respond to current and emerging housing need in response to Covid-19 including homelessness, temporary accommodation and landlord support.</p>	<p>PHP/Housing Strategy</p>	<p>Progressing as planned</p>	<p>Phase 2 Planning Guidance for Homelessness and Housing Related Support Services was published by Welsh Government (WG) on the 3rd June 2020. In response to this, RCT put forward a proposal to develop an RCT Social Housing Letting Agency Scheme, a Capital Modern Methods of Construction development, a Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health and Homelessness joint project, a Women's Aid project and funding to remodel a property, totalling £555,567.00. WG has now confirmed that our funding application has been successful. Progress is now being made on implementing the Social Housing Lettings Agency Scheme, Capital MMC development and the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health and Homelessness joint project.</p>
	<p>Develop a Registered Social Landlord Covid-19 recovery plan and complete the social housing grant for 2020/21, to continue to support the development of affordable houses that meet local needs.</p>	<p>Housing Strategy</p>	<p>Progressing as planned</p>	<p>Registered Social Landlord Covid-19 recovery plans complete and shared with Public Health and Protection. Ongoing support offered to Registered Social Landlords through monthly meetings with CEO's and more regular meetings with operational staff. 14 Housing Schemes are under development as part of the Social Housing grant programme, totalling an investment of just under £18 million. In addition to this, a further 9 Social Housing schemes requiring a further grant of £16M have been worked up, all with planning and ready for development if additional grant funding is secured as part of WG's economic recovery fund.</p>
<p>Ensuring we have good schools so all children have access to a great education</p>	<p>Ensure effective learning opportunities by supporting early years settings and schools to deliver blended onsite and distance learning, including overcoming the barriers to digital exclusion. Support the safe and successful transition of learners back to full time schooling in line with WG policy.</p>	<p>Education</p>	<p>Progressing as planned</p>	<p>Guidance has been disseminated to support early years childcare settings to reopen safely and in line with Covid safety measures. This is updated regularly. Guidance documents have been developed, reviewed and disseminated to schools on distance, digital and blended learning. Schools were also offered a webinar to support and explain the blended learning guidance.</p> <p>All Senior Challenge Advisers and Challenge Advisers met to discuss the Continuity of Learning review collated by LA officers and used the information gathered to support schools in need during the summer term by brokering good practices alongside the usual strategic team support available.</p> <p>A guidance document for live streaming has been disseminated to schools, this being reviewed as new and revised guidance has been received from a National perspective. Officers have provided support and ensured expectations are clear during Headteacher meetings throughout the pandemic.</p> <p>From the intelligence gathered to date, schools have identified curriculum priorities as a result of their own self-evaluation practices and agreed expectations that align to Welsh Government and Local Authority guidance that enables learners to receive an education that offers up a broad and balanced curriculum allowing them to thrive and progress. For example, one school has enabled the learners to follow as normal a timetable as possible, whereas another school identified literacy and numeracy as a priority and have made adjustments accordingly. Schools have assessed and managed risks in the delivery of practical lessons. For example, the use of IT rooms have been limited to where essential, with keyboards and equipment cleaned between use; PE is delivered outdoors, with learners arriving in kit for these days.</p>



Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Progress	Additional Information
<p>Ensuring we have good schools so all children have access to a great education</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Tudalen 80</p>	<p>Support the wellbeing and additional learning needs of all pupils across all year groups</p>	<p>Education</p>	<p><b>Progressing as planned</b></p>	<p>The Wellbeing &amp; Behaviour Action plan 2019/20 was amended during school closure to include Covid specific related actions, all of which were completed. A new action plan for 2020/21 has been drafted and submitted to the Wellbeing Steering Group for consultation and sign off. A broad training offer for wellbeing was put in place during the school closure period for head teachers, staff and parents. This included the development of wellbeing packs, further roll out of PERMA in schools, enhanced training for Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs) and emotion coaching. WG grant funding for wellbeing 2020/21 has been accessed to further develop and embed sustainable whole school approaches to wellbeing and a clear action plan is in place. Additional funding to enhance counselling provision enabled additional counselling support for pupils during Easter and Summer school holiday periods. Counsellors have accessed training to ensure effective online counselling can be provided during Covid restrictions. The counselling service has also extended its services to primary phase pupils in Y3 - 6 by providing Lego play sessions. Grant funding has also been used to provide pre- counselling support / exit from counselling strategy through a range of individual and group based Covid safe activities such as Instagram chats and online youth clubs. Local Authority wide training for nurture and behaviour will be rolled out to schools during this academic year.</p> <p>Access and Inclusion service delivery methods were modified to support schools to make appropriate provision for learners either through distance learning or via attendance at childcare hubs. This work continues with a focus upon supporting learners with Additional Learning Needs through blended learning. All SEN duties were maintained during lock down and schools were provided with guidance on holding virtual annual reviews, use of the portal and amending statement provision for distance learning. Learner Support Class staff were provided with clear guidance on supporting the needs of LSC pupils throughout school closure and specialist staff were deployed swiftly to ensure appropriate staffing capacity in LSCs and mainstream hubs. Support has been provided to schools with Multi Ethnic pupils by the Multi Ethnic Achievement Service (MEAS) and Covid relevant guidance and support / advice for parents has also been signposted via the website and directly to schools. Guidance was issued to schools on safe practices relating to behaviour management and managing health needs and individual risk assessments through Covid specific addenda to existing policies. A Vulnerable Learner protocol was devised and disseminated to schools via a guidance document that outlined a clear process for making contact with the pupils considered to be the most vulnerable / at risk. As a result, the Attendance &amp; Wellbeing Service has amended its service delivery model to provide more effective direct contact with families; this model will continue to operate this academic year and initial feedback from schools is positive. The Educational Psychology Service telephone helpline for schools and parents has been well received and will continue to operate this term. A COVID specific page was created on the Access &amp; Inclusion website with useful resources and guidance for schools, parents and pupils. Liaison with Health ensured that pupils requiring input from health services continue to access this support via risk assessed Covid safe approaches.</p>



Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Progress	Additional Information
Ensuring we have good schools so all children have access to a great education	Continue to deliver the 21st Century schools investment programme	Education	Progressing as planned	Excellent progress has been made with the completion of external works to Tonyrefail Community School thus finalising the completion of Band A projects. Significant progress is being made with the Council's second wave of school investment with Band B projects progressing. Hirwaun Primary School is nearing completion, YG Rhydywaun and YGG Aberdar receiving business case approvals from WG and design in progress with successful contractors. Cabinet have approved entering into a Strategic Partnership Funding stream with WG and 3 pathfinder business schemes are currently being worked up for WG and Cabinet approval. Projects included in Band B subject to a legal challenge are currently in abeyance.
Helping people into work and better paid employment	Reinstate new referrals for employment support and develop digital/remote provision.	Employment support	Some Progress	All employment support grant funded staff returned to normal duties early in September. An interim process for receiving referrals from the local Job Centre Plus across RCT has been put in place albeit not consistent due to Job Centre Plus having different processes for delivery themselves. Numbers have started to increase but normal practices are not expected to resume in the near future. Teams is being trialled to start carrying out one to one sessions with clients and group sessions will be developed by the end of Qtr 3 (subject to national / local guidance / restrictions). A phased approach to resuming face to face meetings with clients in library buildings is planned for Qtr 3.
	Deliver the Council's apprenticeship and graduate schemes and increase the number of opportunities available across the Council.	Employment, Education & training Team (HR)	Progressing as planned	12 Apprentices have been recruited in cohort 1. Two posts in this cohort were deferred due to covid-19 restrictions which have caused practical difficulties in supervising and mentoring more than one apprentice within a single service area. Currently interviewing for graduate posts with the successful applicants due to commence employment on 26th October 2020. Vacancies for 14 apprentice posts in Cohort 2 are currently live on the Council website, with employment due to commence in January 2021.

Tudalen 81

Tudalen way



## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/21

### FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21 DECEMBER 2020

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Author: Ian Christopher, Strategic Manager, Prosperity & Development

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the status of the draft Tourism Strategy for Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) in light of the recent unexpected COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members:

- (1) Consider the updates and how certain elements of the Tourism Strategy have moved forward despite COVID-19 and its implications.
- (2) Approve a later than planned consultation process with partners, due to restrictions imposed in the Delegated Decision and the negative perceptions that currently exist within the tourism sector due to COVID-19.
- (3) Approve an early 2021 start to the process of establishing the RCT Strategic Board (who will help deliver the Strategy), when it is hoped a more positive outlook on tourism will be realised.

#### **3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 On 24 March 2020 a delegated decision was passed to enable the draft Tourism Strategy to go out to public consultation, where any form of consultation would only commence when it was deemed appropriate in light of the situation posed by COVID-19.
- 3.2 At the start of the national lockdown (23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020) all attractions and accommodation providers as well as visitor businesses were instructed to close in order to adhere to health and safety guidelines. Despite Government

funding/grant packages, this put massive pressures on visitor related businesses.

- 3.3 It was several months before Welsh Government relaxed this ruling and provided guidance on how the tourism and hospitality sector had to operate if it was to reopen. This guidance however did mean that many visitor businesses were unable to reopen.
- 3.4 A stint of local lockdowns and fire breaker lockdowns then ensued, meaning many of the visitor businesses had to deliver their offerings in a completely different manner and to a different audience. Others were forced to close until a more practical response became available.
- 3.5 As such, the tourism and hospitality sector was one of the worst to be hit, with businesses unable to operate as they once did, leading to diminishing income and job losses across the industry. Visitors have become worried and more aware of safety practices and are less inclined to travel. Many businesses have had to close permanently, with many more putting all hope upon a vaccination to enable things to return to normal.
- 3.6 Partners within the tourism sector currently hold a pessimistic view on the future of the industry due to COVID-19 and its effects, and as such it would be beneficial to delay any consultation until perceptions improve to avoid a negative bias response.

#### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 On 23 July 2019 members from the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee provided comment and approved the proposed direction of the RCT Tourism Strategy which replaced Destination Rhondda Cynon Taf 2014 - 2020.
- 4.2 The RCT Draft Tourism Strategy Cabinet Report was presented to Senior Leadership Team (SLT) on 28 February 2020, where it was approved.
- 4.3 On 24 March 2020 a Delegated Decision was made to pass the draft RCT Tourism Strategy for public consultation. However, it was included that any form of consultation would only commence when it was deemed appropriate in light of the situation posed by COVID-19.

#### **5.0 UPDATES**

##### ATTRACTIONS

- 5.1 Both Dare Valley Country Park (DVCP) and Ynysangharad War Memorial Park (YWMP) have been identified as Discovery Gateway Sites for the Valleys Regional Park (VRP) and have successfully gained VRP funding (£1,054,000 and £885,000 respectively) to make improvements:

- DVCP has two brand new family bike pump tracks with uplift facility, which will be officially opened in 2021 as a key visitor attraction for the Cynon area. These tracks are complemented by brand new cycle storage and washout facilities.
- A brand new children's adventure play area at DVCP was officially opened in August 2020 and is already popular with visitors.
- YWMP works are due to commence in December 2020 and be completed in 2021. These will include upgrades to the current footpaths and lighting to bring it up to standard and more appealing during low light seasons.
- Further funding applications (£1.9million) have been made to the Heritage Lottery for the Park for the People Initiative Fund, which if successful will be used to make improvements that complement the park facilities such as a new training and community facility and upgrades to key features such as the bandstand and sunken garden.
- In August 2020, benefiting from £800k funding through the Welsh Government Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme, a new foot bridge between Llys Cadwyn and YWMP was built, creating an important new link for pedestrians and connecting the area.

5.2 Work is currently underway on the Zip World Tower site with the zip line under construction and tree felling underway. Planning application has been received for their second attraction on the Tower Colliery site, with their proposed coaster being the only two seated roller coaster of its type in Europe.

5.3 There are no major updates to report in regards to the Rhondda and Abernant Tunnels, with a business case being put forward which partners are discussing (Rhondda Tunnel), and funding secured to progress preparatory work associated with the eventual reopening (Abernant Tunnel).

### ACCOMMODATION

5.4 VRP funding has also enabled the refurbishment and modernisation of the hotel facilities on the DVCP site. Welsh Government Guidelines in relation to the accommodation sector has meant the hotel is yet to open however. Funds have also been used to improve the caravan campsite shower block, with the caravan park also being extended and modernised in readiness for the start of the 2021 season (March/April).

5.5 The Cardiff Arms Bistro came across building work complications in relation to the accommodation provision, and as such development has only recently commenced. Original plans have changed and there will be less rooms than originally planned – with 16 in total. The owner is looking at accessing further grants to develop a distillery onsite and offer a rounded visitor experience, with stay, sample and eat concept.

5.6 The rise of Airbnb is evident and the renting of a room or an entire house/apartment is providing hugely popular in RCT. From January 2017 to December 2019, the amount of available listings increased by 309% for entire

place listings, and by 110% for private room availability, with booked listings rising by 452% in entire place listings, and 193% in private room listings.

### COVID-19 RELATED SUPPORT

- 5.7 A joint effort between the Regeneration and Tourism Services has meant that throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses have been provided with regular and up-to-date information, advice and guidance on a variety of national and local funding opportunities available to them. These funding opportunities include (but are not limited to) the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the Economic Resilience Fund Development Grant (currently in Phase 3), the Lockdown Business Fund, and Freelancer Grant.
- 5.8 A COVID-19 Business Review Survey was undertaken (again via the Regeneration and Tourism Services) to determine the impact COVID-19 was having at that particular point in time and had had in the lead up to it taking place, so that any response was based upon local factual information.
- 5.9 A COVID-19 Business Recovery Guidance document was written, to assist businesses deal with the effects COVID-19 had brought about, as well as provide the necessary advice and guidance as well as examples of best practice to move forward and continue business practices (be it in a potentially different manner).
- 5.10 Furthermore, several web pages dedicated to providing supplementary information to businesses in relation to COVID-19 were set-up on the RCT Corporate website. Information ranges from COVID-19 specific risk assessment tools and guidance to information relating to support from external partners such as Business Wales.

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/EmergenciesSafetyandCrime/InformationforResidentsCoronavirus/NEWCoronavirusCOVID19latestinformation/SupportandAdviceforBusiness/SupportandAdviceforbusinesses.aspx>

- 5.11 Regular information (daily during certain months) from Welsh Government has been disseminated to RCT businesses in real time, including the Visit Wales e-Newsletter and the roll-out of the national initiative “We’re Good To Go”, which is an industry-wide certification enabling businesses to show they have taken the necessary health and safety precautions when welcoming back visitors.
- 5.12 RCT is represented on regional and national meetings and forums, such as the South East Wales Tourism Forum, by the Tourism Service. Here the views and issues faced by the local businesses can be raised and considered.

### **6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full report is not required at this time.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 It is recommended in this report that the draft RCT Tourism Strategy be consulted upon with a variety of partners early 2021.

## **8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION**

- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications in delivering the RCT Tourism Strategy, but as the opportunities are developed, the financial implications will be fully assessed and necessary approval sought.

## **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 There are no current legal implications, but as the opportunities are developed, the legal implications will be fully assessed.

## **10.0 LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES / SIP / FUTURE GENERATIONS - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

- 10.1 The delivery of the RCT Tourism Strategy will contribute to the Council's corporate priorities:

- Economy
- People
- Place

- 10.2 The RCT Tourism Strategy's primary objective is to increase and sustain the economic growth of tourism in RCT, encouraging skills development and providing well paid secure employment for the local workforce. Tourism product development, especially in the outdoors (trails development, for example) will have an associated outcome of providing wellbeing opportunities for residents, enabling greater access to their outdoors and green leisure corridors.

- 10.3 The Sustainable Development Principle and five ways of working have been incorporated into the RCT Tourism Strategy in the following ways:

- i. Long term - Immediate short term tourism developments shall take into account long term requirements. For example, well paid, sustainable job creation and the consideration of biodiversity and eco systems management within tourism product planning
- ii. Integration - Integration of wellbeing plans and goals from different organisations will be taken into account by undertaking partnership

working. Wellbeing Tourism has been identified as a theme to explore further within the strategy

- iii. Collaboration & Involvement - The Tourism Strategy will involve a number of relevant partners and organisations in its delivery and collaborate with them to ensure strategic objectives are met.
- iv. Prevention - By working with the right people at the right time, as identified in the “Next Steps” section of the Tourism Strategy, we will seek to mitigate against any risks and problems presenting themselves to achieve the best possible wellbeing outcomes for our communities by implementing actions to deliver against the strategic tourism objectives

10.4 This approach makes a direct contribution to the seven national well-being goals, in particular:

- i. A Healthier Wales (allowing greater access to the outdoors through trails and product development)
- ii. A Prosperous Wales (providing an environment within which home grown tourism businesses can flourish)
- iii. Resilient and cohesive communities (the unique selling point of our Destination is our communities and the warm welcome they provide to visitors. The Tourism Strategy will support the vibrancy of such communities through localised infrastructure, connectivity and product development)
- iv. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language (our culture will be celebrated as a reason to visit RCT and opportunities have been identified for bespoke Welsh Language tourism packages to be developed).

10.5 The Tourism Strategy will also seek to address priorities within:

- i. Prosperity For All: The National Strategy 2017
- ii. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- iii. Cardiff Capital Region City Deal & Valleys Task Force Delivery Plans
- iv. Our Cwm Taf – Public Service Board (PSB) Well-Being Plan 2018-2023
- v. Rural Development Programme (RDP) – Cwm Taf Local Development Plan

## 11.0 CONCLUSIONS



- 11.1 Following the approval by SLT of the draft RCT Tourism Strategy, ambitions and expectations were high, with much hope placed upon not only sharing the Strategy with partners, but formalising and delivering on many of the projects.
- 11.2 However, the COVID-19 pandemic has meant that the tourism and hospitality sector has been hit, and hit hard worldwide, with many visitor businesses having to close down, some permanently.
- 11.3 There is an overall uncertainty and pessimistic view within the industry with regards to the future, and this has meant that it is even more important that a Tourism Strategy for RCT is not only produced but delivered in conjunction with partners.
- 11.4 What has become apparent, is that despite these unprecedented times, individuals, couples, groups and families within the UK are still keen to travel and visit new locations, and this can be seen through the travelling habits once lockdowns were eased. It is evident that there is a key audience that is attracted to offerings RCT has as unique selling points, with the outdoors, landscape and cultural heritage all important factors, when people chose to 'visit local' in the midst of this pandemic, This bodes well for tourism in 2021, when restrictions on travelling and tourism and hospitality industry ease.

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