



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

GWŶS I GYFARFOD PWYLLGOR

C Hanagan
Cyfarwyddwr Materion Cyfathrebu a Phennaeth Dros Dro'r Gwasanaethau
Llywodraethol
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf
Y Pafiliynau Parc Hen Lofa'r Cambrian
Cwm Clydach, CF40 2XX

Dolen gyswllt: Julia Nicholls - Democratic Services

DYMA WŶS I CHI i gyfarfod rhithwir o **GYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL RHONDDA CYNON TAF** sydd i'w gynnal ar **DYDD MERCHER, 10FED MAWRTH, 2021** am **4.00 PM.**

AGENDA

Tudalennau

1. DATGANIADAU O FUDDIANT

Derbyn datganiadau o fuddiannau personol gan Aelodau yn unol â'r Cod Ymddygiad.

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

2. BARGEN DDINESIG PRIFDDINAS-RANBARTH CAERDYDD

Derbyn cyflwyniad PowerPoint gan Gyfarwyddwr Bargaen Ddinesig Prifddinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd a Chadeirydd y Bartneriaeth Twf Economaidd Rhanbarthol, sy'n rhoi manylion i Aelodau ynghylch Rhaglen Bargaen Ddinesig Prifddinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd a'r gwaith sydd wedi'i gyflawni hyd yma.

3. CYHOEDDIADAU

4. COFNODION

Cadarnhau cofnodion o gyfarfodydd y Cyngor a gynhaliwyd ar y dyddiadau canlynol yn rhai cywir:

- 20 Ionawr 2021
- 10 Chwefror 2021

**5. ARCHWILIO CYMRU - CRYNODEB ARCHWILIAD BLYNYDDOL
2020: CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

39 - 54

LLYWODRAETHU AGORED:

6. DATGANIADAU

Yn unol â Rheol 2 o Weithdrefn Llywodraethu Agored Cyfarfodydd y Cyngor, derbyn datganiadau gan Arweinydd y Cyngor a/neu Gynghorwyr sy'n Aelodau Portffolio o'r Cabinet:

7. CWESTIYNAU GAN YR AELODAU

Derbyn cwestiynau'r Aelodau yn unol â Rheol 9.2 o Weithdrefn y Cyngor.

(**Nodwch:** Caniateir hyd at 20 munud ar gyfer cwestiynau.)

55 - 62

RHAGLEN WAITH Y CYNGOR – ER GWYBODAETH I AELODAU

ADRODDIADAU'R SWYDDOGION

8. DIFFYG PRESENOLDEB GAN GYNGHORYDD AM CHWE MIS

Derbyn adroddiad y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth – Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu.

63 - 68

9. STRATEGAETH CYLLIDEB REFENIW 2021/22

Derbyn adroddiad Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Digidol

69 - 124

10. PENDERFYNIAD TRETH Y CYNGOR 2021/22

Derbyn adroddiad Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Digidol

125 - 136

11. RHAGLEN GYFALAF 2021/22 - 2023/24

Derbyn adroddiad Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Digidol

137 - 156

12. STRATEGAETH REOLI'R TRYSORLYS

Derbyn adroddiad Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Digidol

157 - 174

13. ADRODDIAD STRATEGAETH GYFALAF 2021/22

Derbyn adroddiad Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Digidol

175 - 190

14. DATGANIAD Y CYNGOR AR Y POLISI CYFLOGAU 2021/22

Derbyn Adroddiad ar y Cyd Cyfarwyddwr Materion Adnoddau Dynol a Chyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol.

191 - 204

15. RHYBUDDION O GYNIGION

Trafod y Rhybudd o Gynnig canlynol sydd wedi'i gyflyno yn enwau Cynghorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol L. M. Adams, S. Bradwick, D. R. Bevan, H Boggis, J. Bonetto, J Brencher, A Calvert, G. Caple, A. Crimmings, A. Davies-Jones, L De Vet, J. Edwards, J Elliott, S. Evans, M Fidler Jones, M. Forey, A. Fox, E. George, M. Griffiths, J. Harries, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, G. Jones, R. Lewis, W Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen Jones, S Pickering, S. Powell, S. Rees, A. Roberts, J. Rosser, G Stacey, M Tegg, G Thomas, W Treeby, R K Turner, M. Webber, D. Williams, T. Williams, C. J. Willis a R. Yeo.

Mae pandemig byd-eang COVID-19 wedi bod yn eithriadol o anodd i fusnesau, gyda llawer o bobl ledled y wlad, y DU a thu hwnt yn gorfod cau wrth i ni geisio rheoli lledaeniad y feirws a chadw pobl yn ddiogel. Yn naturiol, mae hyn wedi cael effaith niweidiol ar y rhai sy'n gweithio yn y sectorau yr effeithir arnynt, gyda miliynau ledled y DU yn cael eu rhoi ar gynllun ffyrlo, a llawer o rai eraill yn colli eu swyddi. Yng ngoleuni'r sefyllfa ddigynsail yma, nid nawr yw'r amser ar gyfer anghydfodau ynghylch tâl ac amodau gwaith.

Mae'r Cyngor yma'n nodi'r anghydfod parhaus rhwng British Gas (a'i riant-gwmni Centrica) a'i weithwyr gweithgar - sydd wedi cael eu bygwth â cholli swyddi os nad ydyn nhw'n derbyn cyflog is ac amodau gwaeth. Oherwydd y streic a gefnogwyd gan fwyafrif helaeth y staff a'r peirianwyr, mae mwy na 100,000 o gwsmeriaid wedi'u gadael yn aros am wasanaeth, a bydd y nifer yma'n cynyddu dros yr wythnosau nesaf trwy gydol y gaeaf.

Mae'r anghydfod yma yn aflonyddwch diangen, gyda Centrica yn nodi elw sylweddol o £901 miliwn yn 2019 (cyn eitemau eithriedig a threth), tra bod proffidioldeb y busnes gwresogi cartrefi yn y DU wedi codi 27% yn ystod 6 mis cyntaf 2020, gyda chyfran sylweddol o'r boblogaeth yn gweithio gartref oherwydd y pandemig.

Mae'r Cyngor yma'n **nodi**:

- Y gwaith gwerthfawr y mae staff a pheirianwyr yn ei wneud i gadw cartrefi Prydain yn gynnes - gyda gweithwyr yn aml yn gorfod ymweld â chartrefi pobl yn ystod y pandemig i sicrhau bod gyda nhw fodd o wresogi'u cartref a'u bod nhw'n byw'n gyfforddus.
- Y gweithredoedd a'r bygythiadau anghyfiawn a wnaed gan Centrica i weithwyr British Gas - yn enwedig o ystyried sefyllfa ariannol ddiweddar y cwmni.

Mae'r Cyngor yma, felly, yn **penderfynu**:

- Gofyn i Arweinydd y Cyngor ysgrifennu at Centrica i amlinellu cefnogaeth y Cyngor yma i weithwyr British Gas lleol.

16. **MATERION BRYS**

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

Cyfarwyddwr Materion Cyfathrebu a Phennaeth Dros Dro'r Gwasanaethau Llywodraethol

At: Pob Aelod o'r Cyngor



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

CYNGOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Cofnodion cyfarfod rhithwir y Cyngor a gafodd ei gynnal ddydd Mercher, 20 Ionawr 2021 am 5.00pm

Cynghorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol – Aelodau o'r Cyngor a oedd yn bresennol:-

Y Cynghorydd S Powderhill (Cadeirydd)

Y Cynghorydd M. Adams	Y Cynghorydd S Belzak
Y Cynghorydd R. Bevan	Y Cynghorydd H. Boggis
Y Cynghorydd J. Bonetto	Y Cynghorydd S. Bradwick
Y Cynghorydd J. Brencher	Y Cynghorydd G. Caple
Y Cynghorydd A Chapman	Y Cynghorydd A. Cox
Y Cynghorydd A. Crimmings	Y Cynghorydd J. Cullwick
Y Cynghorydd G. Davies	Y Cynghorydd J. Davies
Y Cynghorydd M. Diamond	Y Cynghorydd J. Edwards
Y Cynghorydd J. Elliott	Y Cynghorydd S. Evans
Y Cynghorydd S. Evans	Y Cynghorydd M. Forey
Y Cynghorydd A. Fox	Y Cynghorydd H. Fychan
Y Cynghorydd E. George	Y Cynghorydd D. Grehan
Y Cynghorydd E. Griffiths	Y Cynghorydd M. Griffiths
Y Cynghorydd J. Harries	Y Cynghorydd G. Holmes
Y Cynghorydd L. Hooper	Y Cynghorydd G. Hopkins
Y Cynghorydd P. Howe	Y Cynghorydd J. James
Y Cynghorydd P. Jarman	Y Cynghorydd G. Jones
Y Cynghorydd K Jones	Y Cynghorydd L. Jones
Y Cynghorydd W. Jones	Y Cynghorydd R. Lewis
Y Cynghorydd W. Lewis	Y Cynghorydd C. Leyshon
Y Cynghorydd A. Morgan	Y Cynghorydd K Morgan
Y Cynghorydd S. Morgans	Y Cynghorydd M. Norris
Y Cynghorydd D. Owen-Jones	Y Cynghorydd W Owen
Y Cynghorydd M. Powell	Y Cynghorydd S Powell
Y Cynghorydd S. Rees-Owen	Y Cynghorydd S. Rees
Y Cynghorydd A. Roberts	Y Cynghorydd J Rosser
Y Cynghorydd G. Stacey	Y Cynghorydd E Stephens
Y Cynghorydd M Tegg	Y Cynghorydd G. Thomas
Y Cynghorydd W Treeby	Y Cynghorydd R. Turner
Y Cynghorydd L Walker	Y Cynghorydd M. Weaver
Y Cynghorydd M. Webber	Y Cynghorydd E. Webster
Y Cynghorydd D. Williams	Y Cynghorydd J. Williams
Y Cynghorydd T. Williams	Y Cynghorydd C. Willis
Y Cynghorydd R. Yeo	

Swyddogion oedd yn bresennol

Mr C Bradshaw, Prif Weithredwr
Mr B. Davies, Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Digidol
Ms G Davies, Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cynhwysiant
Mr R Evans, Cyfarwyddwr Materion Adnoddau Dynol
Mr C. Hanagan, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth – Gwasanaethau Democraidaidd a Chyfathrebu
Mr P Mee Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadran y Gwasanaethau Cymuned a Gwasanaethau i Blant
Mr N. Wheeler, Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadran – Ffyniant, Datblygu, a Gwasanaethau Rheng-flaen
Mr A. Wilkins, Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol

80 Ymddiheuriadau

Derbyniwyd ymddiheuriad o absenoldeb gan Gynghorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol A Calvert, A Davies-Jones, L De Vet, M Fidler Jones, G W Hughes, S Pickering.

81 Croeso a Chyflwyniadau

Cafodd chyflwyniadau eu gwneud gan Arweinwyr y Grwpiau a oedd yn bresennol:-

Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Morgan (Grŵp Llafur)
Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol P. Jarman (Grŵp Plaid Cymru)
Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol M. Powell (Grŵp Annibynnol)
Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol J. James (Grŵp y Ceidwadwyr)

82 Datganiad o Fuddiant

Yn unol â Chod Ymddygiad y Cyngor, cafodd y datganiadau o fuddiant canlynol eu gwneud ynglŷn â'r agenda:

Eitem 8 ar yr agenda - Cynllun Gostyngiadau Treth y Cyngor

- Cyfeiriodd Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol P. Jarman at ei gollyngiad a roddwyd gan y Pwyllgor Safonau ar 29 Tachwedd 2019 gan ddarparu "gollyngiad i'r aelod siarad a phleidleisio ar bob mater trwy gydol proses Cyllideb 2021-22, a'i mabwysiadu, yn rhinwedd ei swydd yn Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid."
- Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol E Stephens - "Rwy'n gweithio i'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau y cyfeirir ato yn yr adroddiad"

83 Munud o ddistawrwydd

Cynhaliodd yr Aelodau munud o ddistawrwydd i dalu teyrnged i'r unigolion sydd wedi marw o ganlyniad i Covid-19.

84 Cyhoeddiadau

- Cyhoeddodd Arweinydd y Cyngor fod trydydd aelod o staff y Cyngor wedi marw o ganlyniad i Covid ac estynnodd ei gydymdeimlad i'r teuluoedd.
- Talodd y Cynghorydd Bwrdeistref Sirol P Jarman deyrnged i'r holl deuluoedd sydd wedi colli anwyliaid yn ystod y Pandemig. Talodd deyrnged hefyd i gyn-Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol Terry Benney a gynrychiolodd Gorllewin Aberpennar ac a etholwyd i'r Cyngor cysgodol ym 1995. Yn 1999 cafodd ei aillethol a daeth yn Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion Tai a llwyddodd i adolygu gwaith ailfodelu Pen-rhys yng Nghwm Rhondda a Bryn y Rhedyn yn Aberpennar.
- Roedd Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol W Jones wedi canmol un o'i drigolion, Seren Lewis-Dawe sy'n 11 oed ac a oedd wedi ymrwymo i godi £3,300 ar gyfer Felindre trwy redeg 65 milltir ym mis Rhagfyr 2020, ar ôl i aelod o'i theulu gael triniaeth ar gyfer canser. Mae hi hefyd wedi cael ei

phenodi'n Llysgennad Iau ar gyfer Felindre.

- Talodd Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol M Powell deyrnged i'r cyn-Gynghorydd T Benney hefyd.
- Aeth y Cynghorydd Powell ymlaen drwy gydnabod bod ei gyd-Gynghorydd P Howe wedi ennill pedair gwobr gyntaf ar gyfer y 'Sioe Gomedï Orau' o'r enw 'Bryn Coombes' ac mae wedi cyrraedd y rownd derfynol ar gyfer pedair gwobr arall.
- Cyhoeddwyd hefyd bod Mr Gio Isingrini, sydd newydd ymddeol, wedi derbyn OBE yn Rhestr Anrhydeddau Blwyddyn Newydd y Frenhines.

85 Rheol 15.1 - Dull Gweithredu'r Cyngor

Cynigiodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd atal Rheol Gweithdrefn 15.1 y Cyngor, sy'n nodi y bydd mater yn cael ei benderfynu os bydd mwyafrif ymhlith yr Aelodau sy'n pleidleisio ac sy'n bresennol yn yr ystafell adeg y bleidlais - a hynny fel bod modd cynnal y cyfarfod ar-lein mewn modd didrafferth.

Yn dilyn trafodaeth **PENDERFYNWYD** atal Rheol Gweithdrefn 15.1 y Cyngor

86 Cofnodion

PENDERFYNODD y Cyngor gymeradwyo cofnodion o'r cyfarfod a gafodd ei gynnal ar 11 Tachwedd 2020 yn rhai cywir yn amodol ar gywiro Cofnod Rhif 48 - Cwestiynau gan Aelodau, sy'n cyfeirio at yr A470.

87 Datganiadau

Dywedodd Arweinydd y Cyngor fod system neges destun y Cyngor wedi'i sefydlu. Bydd y system yma'n rhoi gwybod i Aelodau am unrhyw faterion brys neu sylweddol megis tywydd garw neu lifogydd. Dywedodd fod y system yma wedi tynnu sylw'r Aelodau at rybuddion tywydd gwael yn ddiweddar. Roedd yr Arweinydd wedi annog unrhyw Aelodau sydd heb ddarparu rhif ffôn cyfredol i wneud hynny trwy gysylltu â'r Gwasanaethau i Aelodau.

88 Cwestiynau gan yr Aelodau

Cwestiwn gan Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol J Brencher i'r Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cynhwysiant, Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol J. Rosser:

"Pa gymorth sy'n cael ei ddarparu i ysgolion RhCT er mwyn galluogi a hwyluso dysgu o bell?"

Ymateb gan y Cynghorydd J Rosser:

"Esboniodd y Cynghorydd Rosser fod y Cyngor wedi cefnogi'r holl ysgolion trwy gydol y pandemig gan eu hannog nhw i fanteisio ar lwyfan Hwb Llywodraeth Cymru sy'n darparu pecyn dysgu cyfunol cynhwysfawr. Mae rhai enghreifftiau o

arfer da wedi'u nodi gan nifer o ysgolion RhCT, megis Ysgol Garth Olwg ac Ysgol Cwm Rhondda. Mae'r Cyfarwyddwr Addysg yn cynnal cyfarfodydd cyson â Phenaethiaid a Chyrff Llywodraethu i rannu'r newyddion diweddaraf. Mae cyflwyniadau mewn perthynas â dysgu cyfunol wedi'u darparu i Benaethiaid. Cafodd canllawiau mewn perthynas â dysgu eu darparu wrth baratoi ar gyfer disgyblion yn dychwelyd i'r ysgol a chafodd dogfennau canllaw mewn perthynas â dysgu cyfunol a dysgu o bell eu darparu gan Gonsortium Canolbarth y De. Mae partneriaid gwella wedi cefnogi ysgolion unigol gan ddarparu cymorth rhwng ysgolion i ddatblygu gweithdrefnau er mwyn darparu addysgu ar-lein. Rhoddodd y Cynghorydd Rosser wybod bod Awdurdod Lleol RhCT wedi cyflawni adolygiad Estyn mewn perthynas â gwaith cefnogi cymunedau dysgu mewn ysgolion ym mis Tachwedd 2020. Mae'r Awdurdod wedi derbyn Adroddiad Estyn cadarnhaol iawn sy'n tynnu sylw at gyfathrebu cryf rhwng meysydd gwasanaeth a chydweithio â chyfarwyddiaethau eraill a golwg penderfynol yr ysgolion ac arweinwyr i fynd i'r afael â'r heriau sydd wedi codi yn ystod y pandemig."

Nid oedd unrhyw gwestiwn atodol.

Cwestiwn gan Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol M Griffiths i Arweinydd y Cyngor, Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Morgan:

"All yr Arweinydd rannu'r newyddion diweddaraf mewn perthynas â pha sylwadau sy'n cael eu cyflwyno i Lywodraeth y DU gan Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a'r Awdurdod Lleol yma mewn perthynas â'r Gyllideb a fydd yn cael ei chyhoeddi ym mis Mawrth?"

Ymateb y Cynghorydd A Morgan:

"Dywedodd Arweinydd y Cyngor fod Llywodraeth leol wedi chwarae rhan hollbwysig yn y frwydr yn erbyn covid wrth i'w staff ymateb mewn modd hyblyg a chadarnhaol ac wrth i'w gwasanaethau addasu. O ganlyniad i hynny dylai Llywodraeth leol gael ei diogelu wrth lunio'r gyllideb yn y dyfodol. Dywedodd yr Arweinydd mai setliad dros dro Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer yr Awdurdod Lleol yma yw 3.8%, sy'n gadarnhaol. O ran y Gyllideb, sy'n cael ei chynnal ddydd Mercher, 3 Mawrth, mae nifer o fuddsoddiadau ychwanegol, yn hytrach na buddsoddiad ar gyfer y gwasanaethau craidd, megis gofal cymdeithasol, wedi'u nodi ar y cyd â'r Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol. Dywedodd yr Arweinydd fod trafodaethau wedi cael eu cynnal gyda Llywodraeth Cymru a'r Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol mewn perthynas â nifer o feysydd megis seilwaith cyfalaf a'r angen i drafod buddsoddiad arall yn y maes yma, yn enwedig wrth i'r cyfyngiadau symud gael eu llacio, er mwyn rhoi hwb i'r economi leol. Maes arall sy'n peri pryder yw rhewi cyflogau, oni bai am y staff hynny sydd ar y raddfa gyflog is ac felly'n derbyn cynnydd o £250, bydd hyn yn cael effaith ar staff sydd wedi gwneud ymdrech ychwanegol yn ystod y cyfyngiadau symud. Mae'r Awdurdod Lleol yn cyflwyno sylwadau i Lywodraeth y DU yn galw am ariannu cynllun codi cyflog cenedlaethol."

Cwestiwn atodol gan y Cynghorydd M Griffiths:

"Mae disgwyl i'r cyfraddau diweithdra gynyddu i 7.5%, yn enwedig ymhlith pobl ifainc a gan ystyried y bydd y gamreolaeth o ran Brexit yn sicrhau nad oes modd gweithredu cynllun adfer wedi'i seilio ar allforio, a yw'r Arweinydd yn cytuno bod angen i Lywodraeth y DU fod yn uchelgeisiol wrth fuddsoddi mewn cynllun adfer carbon isel a fyddai'n herio newid yn yr hinsawdd ac yn helpu'r broses o adfer yr economi?"

Ymateb y Cynghorydd A Morgan:

"Cytunodd y Cynghorydd Morgan y byddai economi carbon isel, gwyrdd yn cynnig yr ateb gorau ac y byddai'n rhoi hwb i'r economi wrth symud ymlaen"

Cwestiwn gan Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol J. Edwards i Arweinydd y Cyngor - Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Morgan:

"A wnaiff yr Arweinydd roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y tirlithriad diweddar yn Nhomen Wattstown?"

Ymateb gan Arweinydd y Cyngor, Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Morgan:

"Dywedodd y Cynghorydd Morgan fod tirlithriad wedi digwydd yn nhomen RH87 yn ardal Wattstown ar ddydd Sadwrn, 19 Rhagfyr 2020. Mae'r domen ar dir preifat ac roedd dros 2,000 tunnell o ddeunydd wedi llithro i lawr wyneb serth y llethr. Roedd cryn dipyn o law cyn i'r tirlithriad ddigwydd, ac roedd hynny wedi achosi'r tirlithriad. Mae archwiliadau wedi cael eu cynnal bob pythefnos ers sawl mis a bydd peirianyddion yn parhau i fonitro'r safle gan ddefnyddio synwryddion a dronau. Dywedodd yr Arweinydd fod tua 500 tunnell o ddeunydd ar ochr dde uchaf y domen sydd yn parhau i fod mewn perygl o symud. Cadarnhaodd fod trafodaethau yn parhau mewn perthynas â thomenni gyda grŵp gorchwyl sy'n cynnwys partneriaid megis Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru, yr Awdurdod Glo a'r Awdurdod Lleol ar lefel Llywodraeth y DU a Llywodraeth Cymru ac mae trafodaethau'n parhau i gael eu cynnal gyda pherchennog y tir yn nhomen Wattstown a'i asiant.

Doedd dim cwestiwn atodol.

Cwestiwn gan Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol S M Powell i Arweinydd y Cyngor, Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Morgan:

"Sut ydy'r Cyngor yn ymgysylltu â thrigolion er mwyn atgyfnerthu'r negeseuon iechyd cyhoeddus allweddol mewn perthynas â Covid-19?"

Ymateb y Cynghorydd A Morgan:

"Rhoddodd yr Arweinydd wybod bod llawer o wybodaeth anghywir mewn perthynas â Covid, y brechlyn a'r profion wedi cael ei rhannu yn ystod y pandemig felly mae cell cyfathrebu wedi cael ei sefydlu gyda Bwrdd Iechyd Cwm Taf Morgannwg, yr awdurdodau lleol cyfagos a Heddlu De Cymru i sicrhau bod negeseuon a gwybodaeth allweddol yn gyson. Mae'r wybodaeth sydd ddim yn gywir ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol yn cael ei monitro ac mae Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadran Gwasanaethau Cymuned a Gwasanaethau i Blant y Cyngor wedi chwarae rôl allweddol o ran ymgysylltu â chyfathrebu â'r Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol. Pwysleisiodd yr Arweinydd bwysigrwydd gwybodaeth leol a bod aelodau lleol yn chwarae rôl bwysig wrth rannu gwybodaeth â thrigolion. I gloi, pwysleisiodd yr Arweinydd bwysigrwydd anfon negeseuon cadarnhaol at drigolion yn ystod yr amser heriol yma".

Doedd dim cwestiwn atodol.

Cwestiwn gan Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol T. Williams i Arweinydd y Cyngor - Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Morgan:

"Yn dilyn ymestyn cynllun peilot y cynllun profi torfol yng Nghwm Cynon isaf, a wnaiff yr Arweinydd ddatganiad ar y canlyniadau a'r camau nesaf?"

Ymateb y Cynghorydd A Morgan:

“Dywedodd Arweinydd y Cyngor fod cyfanswm o 15,274 o brofion llif unffordd wedi cael eu cyflawni yn ardal Cwm Cynon Isaf rhwng 5 Rhagfyr a 22 Rhagfyr 2020. Roedd 372 o'r rhain yn bositif, roedd 2.4% o'r rhain yn achosion asymptomatig ac felly doedden nhw ddim yn arddangos symptomau ond roedd gofyn iddyn nhw hunanynysu. Yn rhan o'r cynllun profi, cafodd disgyblion Ysgol Gyfun Aberpennar eu profi, ar ôl ceisio caniatâd gan rieni. Cafodd 476 o ddisgyblion eu profi, a chafwyd un prawf positif. Mae hyn yn dangos bod ysgolion yn parhau i fod yn ddiogel. Cadarnhaodd yr Arweinydd fod 1506 o becynnau profi yn y cartref wedi cael eu dosbarthu i'r rheiny sydd ar y rhestr gwarchod rhwng 11 Rhagfyr 2020 ac 8 Ionawr 2021. Cafodd 673 prawf eu dychwelyd (sef 45%), mae hyn yn gadarnhaol. Ym Merthyr Tudful dim ond 36% o brofion gafodd eu dychwelyd.

Dywedodd yr Arweinydd y byddai cynnal profion ledled y Fwrdeistref Sirol yn gosod galw enfawr ar adnoddau staff, mae'n bosibl y byddai angen rhwng 500 a 600 aelod o staff. Byddai'r rhain hefyd yn cefnogi'r rhaglen frechu. Mae rhai trafodaethau wedi cael eu cynnal ynghylch cynnal profion wedi'u targedu ac o fewn ardaloedd penodol ac mae Llywodraeth Cymru hefyd wedi trafod cynnal cynlluniau profi torfol pellach.”

Doedd dim cwestiwn ategol.

Cwestiwn gan Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol S Bradwick i Ddirprwy Arweinydd y Cyngor, Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol M Webber:

“A wnaiff y Dirprwy Arweinydd ddatganiad ar gynnydd y Bil Llywodraeth Leol?”

Ymateb y Dirprwy Arweinydd:

“Rhoddodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd wybod bod y Bil Llywodraeth Leol wedi cael ei gyflwyno gan y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol ym mis Tachwedd 2019 a'i gymeradwyo gan y Senedd ym mis Tachwedd 2020. Mae gan y Bil gwmpas eang ac mae'n mynd i'r afael ag ystod o faterion democrataidd megis ymestyn yr hawl i bleidleisio yn ystod etholiadau i unigolion 16 ac 17 oed a dinasyddion o dramor sy'n byw yn gyfreithlon yng Nghymru, gan ehangu rôl Craffu ac Archwilio. Rhoddwyd gwybod bod Pwyllgor Archwilio'r Cyngor eisoes wedi cychwyn gwaith ar yr ail ran. Rhagor o wybodaeth mewn perthynas â sut mae'r Awdurdod Lleol yn gweithio gyda'r Cynghorau Tref a'r Cynghorau Cymuned ac yn eu cefnogi. Dywedodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd fod gwaith gyda'r Cynghorau Tref a Chynghorau Cymuned eisoes yn cael ei gydnabod ar ffurf cyfarfodydd cyson y Pwyllgor Cyd-gysylltu â'r Gymuned sy'n cefnogi'r cynghorau cymuned. Mae'r Pwyllgor Cyd-gysylltu â'r Gymuned yn gweithio'n agos gyda'r Clercod ac mae cefnogaeth barhaus yn cael ei chynnig gan aelodau etholedig i gynghorau tref a chymuned sy'n cynnwys hyfforddiant a chynghor a pharodrwydd i gymryd rhan mewn nifer o ddulliau partneriaeth. ”

Cwestiwn ategol gan y Cynghorydd S. Bradwick:

“Pa mor dda yw'r Cyngor wrth ymateb i'r gofynion sydd wedi'u gosod ar awdurdodau lleol o ran cynyddu cyfranogiad y cyhoedd?”

Ymateb y Dirprwy Arweinydd:

“Roedd y Dirprwy Arweinydd wedi ymateb trwy gynghori bod y Bil yn gofyn i'r Cyngor fod yn rhagweithiol wrth annog trigolion i gymryd rhan mewn llywodraeth leol ond hefyd i lunio strategaeth ymgysylltu. Yn 2019 lluniodd y Cyngor Brotocol Ymgysylltu â'r Cyhoedd sy'n gweithredu fel sail i'r gofyniad yma. Dywedodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd fod y Cyngor eisoes yn hyrwyddo dulliau ymgysylltu cadarnhaol ynghylch penderfyniadau ac mae'n sicrhau ei fod yn ymgysylltu â

thrigolion o bob oed. Rhoddodd wybod y bydd y cyfleusterau Gweddarlledu yn Siambr y Cyngor yn gwella hyblygrwydd ynghylch mynychu cyfarfodydd o bell, ac mae Dirprwy Arweinydd y Cyngor a Chadeirydd y Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau Democrataidd, y Cynghorydd M Diamond eisoes wedi gweld hyn"

89 Rhaglen Waith y Cyngor 2020/21

Rhannodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth - Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu'r newyddion diweddaraf mewn perthynas â Rhaglen Waith y Cyngor ar gyfer 2020/21. Dywedodd fod UBI RhCT wedi cael gwahoddiad i fynychu cyfarfod y Cyngor ym mis Chwefror a bydd y ddadl ar sefyllfa'r Fwrdeistref Sirol hefyd yn cael ei chynnal. Bydd rhagor o fanylion yn cael eu rhannu maes o law. Cafodd Aelodau wybod bod Trivallis wedi gofyn am gyfle i wneud cyflwyniad mewn perthynas â'u trefniadau ymgysylltu yn rhan o sesiwn cyn cyfarfod y Cyngor yn ystod mis Chwefror neu fis Mawrth 2021.

Yn rhan o ymateb i ymholiad mewn perthynas ag agendâu ar gyfer cyfarfodydd y Cyngor yn y dyfodol, rhoddodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu wybod y bydd angen adrodd yn ôl i'r Cyngor ar yr enwebiadau ar gyfer Rhyddid y Fwrdeistref yn ogystal â nifer o argymhellion eraill.

Cadarnhaodd hefyd y byddai Prif Weithredwr Prifddinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd yn gwneud cyflwyniad i'r Cyngor yma cyn diwedd y Flwyddyn Ddinesig hon fel y cytunwyd yn ystod cyfarfod o'r Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu.

90 Diweddariad Mewn Perthynas â'r Coronafeirws yn Rhondda Cynon Taf

Rhoddodd Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadran y Gwasanaethau Cymuned a Gwasanaethau i Blant ddiweddariad mewn perthynas â'r coronafeirws yn RhCT gan gyfeirio at gyflwyniad Powerpoint. Roedd y cyflwyniad yn mynd i'r afael â'r wybodaeth allweddol ganlynol:-

- Achosion Covid 19 wedi'u cadarnhau fesul 100,000 o'r boblogaeth yn y 7 diwrnod blaenorol
- Achosion Covid 19 wedi'u cadarnhau fesul 100,000 o'r boblogaeth yn y 7 diwrnod diwethaf fesul Awdurdod Lleol
- Cyfradd heintio Covid fesul 100,000 o'r boblogaeth dros gyfnod o 7 niwrnod
- Profion Covid Positif yn ardal CTM Fesul Dydd
- Gwyliadwriaeth Covid mewn Ardaloedd Lleol
- Disgwyliadau Cyflawni Llywodraeth Cymru
- Grwpiau Blaenoriaeth ar gyfer Cynllun Brechu'r Coronafeirws (Covid 19)
- Penawdau: Cynnydd hyd at 17 Ionawr 2021
- Ystyriaethau Cyflawni Gweithredol
- Y 4 wythnos nesaf hyd at ganol mis Chwefror

Yn dilyn y diweddariad, cafodd pob un o'r Arweinwyr Grŵp gyfle i ofyn cwestiynau.

Y Cynghorydd A Morgan, Arweinydd y Cyngor ac Arweinydd y Grŵp Llafur
Dywedodd y Cynghorydd Morgan fod canolfannau brechu torfol yn Abercynon ac yng Nghwm Rhondda ac mae cynlluniau ar y gweill i agor dwy ganolfan arall erbyn diwedd Ionawr 2021. Mae'r rhaglen brechu torfol yn dasg enfawr er mwyn sicrhau bod trigolion yn derbyn dau frechlyn, a chadarnhaodd y bydd y Cyngor

yn cynnig ei gefnogaeth i feddygfeydd a bydd staff yn cael eu hyfforddi ar sut i roi'r brechlyn. Mae'r Cyngor yn gweithio i helpu i nodi lleoliadau addas ar gyfer y rhaglen brechu torfol gan fod rhai meddygfeydd lleol yn fach ac yn methu â chynnig y brechlyn i niferoedd mawr o drigolion. O ganlyniad i hynny, mae nifer o feddygfeydd yn cydweithio er mwyn gweithio o'r canolfannau brechu, megis Canolfan Bowls Cwm Cynon.

Dywedodd yr Arweinydd y byddai'r Bwrdd Iechyd yn rhoi 20,000 brechlyn yr wythnos hon ac yn dilyn trafodaethau â Phrif Weithredwr y GIG yng Nghymru roedd modd iddo gadarnhau y byddai holl breswylwyr y Cartrefi Gofal i Oedolion, staff a chleientiaid yn cael eu brechu erbyn diwedd mis Ionawr 2021. At hynny, roedd y cynllun i gwblhau cynllun brechu Grwpiau blaenoriaeth 1-4 erbyn canol mis Chwefror ar y trywydd iawn.

Y Cyngorydd P Jarman (Arweinydd Grŵp, Grŵp Plaid Cymru)

Estynnodd y Cyngorydd Jarman ei diolch i holl staff y GIG a'r rheini yn y sector gofal a staff y Cyngor am eu cefnogaeth ac i'r holl wirfoddolwyr sydd wedi gwirfoddoli i ddarparu gwasanaethau sy'n gwneud gwahaniaeth i fywydau pobl. Gofynnodd y Cyngorydd Jarman y canlynol: -

Faint o farwolaethau sy'n gysylltiedig â Covid-19 sydd wedi cael eu nodi yn RhCT hyd yn hyn yn ystod y Pandemig?

Sut ydy'r brechlyn yn cael ei ddyrannu i Feddygfeydd unigol, a yw hyn yn cael ei bennu gan Cwm Taf neu Lywodraeth Cymru? Mae'n ymddangos nad yw rhai meddygfeydd yn derbyn lefel y brechlyn ar sail faint o bobl sydd wedi cofrestru â'r feddygfa.

Pwy sy'n gyfrifol am flaenoriaethu'r cleifion, a yw hyn yn cael ei wneud yn nhrefn yr wyddor?

A fydd y Ganolfan Bowls yn Aberpennar yn cael ei nodi fel lleoliad ar gyfer cynllun brechu torfol?

Cyfeiriodd y Cyngorydd Jarman at effeithiau Covid ar iechyd meddwl a lles ac roedd hi o'r farn na fu dadl na thrafodaeth ynglŷn â hyn. Er gwaethaf gwaith caled y Gyfarwyddiaeth Addysg, Athrawon a staff cymorth o ran darparu cyfleoedd dysgu ar-lein, mae gan rai ysgolion mwy o adnoddau nag eraill. Dywedodd y Cyngorydd Jarman fod y baich sy'n gysylltiedig â chostau yn annioddefol a dydy'r data sy'n cael ei gynnig ar ddyfeisiau talu wrth fynd ddim wedi cael ei lunio i ymdopi â darpariaeth dysgu ar-lein a fyddai rhai teuluoedd ddim yn gallu prynu rhagor o ddata. Os yw darpariaeth dysgu o bell yn mynd i barhau, beth mae modd i ni ei wneud fel Cyngor i geisio cywiro'r broblem o ran y cynnydd yn y bwlch tloti.

Cyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol M. Powell, Grŵp Annibynnol RhCT

Nododd y Cyngorydd Powell ei ddiolch i Athrawon, staff y Cyngor a gwirfoddolwyr am eu gwaith caled.

Cododd y Cyngorydd Powell bryder ynghylch diffyg dull wedi'i gydlynu mewn ysgolion o ran dysgu ar-lein gan nodi y dylai'r materion yma wedi derbyn sylw ar ddechrau'r cyfyngiadau symud a dydy hi ddim yn edrych fel bod y gwasanaeth dylai'r Cyngor fod yn ei ddarparu ar waith ar hyn o bryd.

O ran y rhaglen Frechu, nododd y Cyngorydd Powell fod tair Meddygfa yn ardal

Pontypridd wedi rhan 400 brechlyn rhyngddyn nhw a nododd fod lleoliadau, cyfleusterau a swyddfeydd sydd ddim yn cael eu defnyddio sy'n fwy addas ar gael yn y Sir a byddai modd i'r rhain gefnogi rhaglen frechu yn hytrach na gorfod defnyddio'r Meddygfeydd. Gofynnodd pa ganolfannau brechu sy'n cael eu sefydlu yn ardal Taf-Elái ac a fydd y canolfannau brechu yn gweithredu 24 awr, saith diwrnod yr wythnos?

Y Cynghorydd J James, Arweinydd Grŵp y Grŵp Ceidwadol

Ychwanegodd y Cynghorydd James ei ddiolch i'r staff a'r gwirfoddolwyr sy'n cynorthwyo â'r gwaith sy'n gysylltiedig â'r cyfyngiadau symud.

Holodd y Cynghorydd James ynglŷn â'r camau y mae'r Cyngor yn eu cymryd i sicrhau bod trigolion yn deall y neges ynghylch cadw pellter cymdeithasol ac yn parhau i gydymffurfio â'r rheolau?

Roedd Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadran Gwasanaethau Cymuned a Gwasanaethau i Blant wedi ymateb i'r ymholiadau canlynol:-

- Mae'r Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol yn nodi bod 1,085 o farwolaethau sy'n gysylltiedig â Covid 19 wedi'u nodi yn RhCT.
- Brechlynnau sydd wedi'u dyrannu i Feddygon Teulu a Lleoliadau Gofal Sylfaenol - Roedd y rhaglen yn canolbwyntio ar gleifion dros 80 oed i gychwyn, ond y Bwrdd Iechyd sy'n gyfrifol am y faint sy'n cael eu dyrannu i Feddygfeydd. Maen nhw wedi bod yn dibynnu ar gyflenwad o frechlyn Rhydychen sydd â llai o ofynion o ran storio ac felly mae wedi bod yn anodd sicrhau cyflenwad o'r brechlyn.
- Cafodd y naw grŵp â blaenoriaeth eu cytuno'n genedlaethol gan y Cydbwyllgor ar Imiwneiddio a Brechu. Mae'r grwpiau blaenoriaeth mwyaf wedi'u seilio ar oedran a'r rheiny sy'n agored i niwed yn glinigol a'r gweithlu ym maes iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol sy'n darparu cymorth i'r unigolion hynny.
- Mae Canolfan Bowls Cwm Cynon yn cael ei defnyddio i gefnogi Cynlluniau Clwstwr Meddygon Teulu ar gyfer y rhaglen frechu.
- Manteision y brechlynnau gwahanol - mae gan Pfizer gofynion penodol o ran sut i'w storio a bod angen ei ddefnyddio o fewn terfynau amser penodol. Dyna pam mae'r brechlyn yn cael ei ddefnyddio mewn ysbytai i frechu staff ac mewn canolfannau brechu torfol lle mae modd bodloni'r gofynion storio yma.
- Mae capasiti lonydd y ganolfan frechu yn cael ei gynyddu yn Nhŷ Trevithick er mwyn cynnwys 15 lôn ac i gynyddu nifer y bobl sy'n mynd i'r ganolfan bob dydd. Yr oriau gweithredu ar hyn o bryd yw 9-5pm, ond bydd y rhain yn cael eu hymestyn i gynnwys 7 diwrnod yr wythnos.
- Dylai'r mesurau barhau i gael eu gweithredu, er bod y brechlyn yn parhau i gael ei gynnig. Mae hunanynysu, golchi dwylo a chadw pellter cymdeithasol yn negeseuon hollbwysig sy'n cael eu pwysleisio gan garfanau gwahanol o fewn y Cyngor, megis y garfan gyfathrebu, y garfan iechyd a diogelwch y cyhoedd, carfanau olrhain cysylltiadau sy'n pwysleisio'r neges yma ym mhob galwad a'r garfan gorfodi, sy'n gweithredu ar y cyd â Heddlu De Cymru, sy'n cymryd camau gorfodi os bydd unrhyw un yn torri rheolau mewn perthynas â'r cyfyngiadau.

Roedd y Cyfarwyddwr Addysg wedi ymateb i'r ymholiadau a gafodd eu codi gan yr Arweinwyr y Grwpiau mewn perthynas â'r anawsterau y mae dysgwyr wedi'u heithrio'n ddigidol yn eu hwynebu. Yn dilyn archwiliad o'r dysgwyr wedi'u heithrio'n ddigidol, cafodd 2868 o ddyfeisiau eu darparu gan y Cyngor yn ystod

tymor y gwanwyn/haf y llynedd. Yn ddiweddar, cafodd adolygiad ei gyflawni a oedd yn nodi bod angen dyfeisiau ar 2,635 o ddysgwyr pellach; mae'r Cyngor hefyd yn y broses o ddarparu dyfeisiau i'r bobl ifainc yma.

Roedd y Cyfarwyddwr Addysg wedi siarad am broblemau cysylltu mewn rhai cartrefi, roedd Llywodraeth Cymru wedi darparu adnoddau fel bod modd i'r Cyngor ddarparu dyfeisiau DiWifr i sicrhau bod modd i deuluoedd gysylltu â'r We heb unrhyw gost.

Pwysleisiodd y Cyfarwyddwr fod pecyn hyfforddi cynhwysfawr ar gyfer dysgu o bell / cyfunol wedi'i ddarparu i bob ysgol ac mae'r holl adnoddau ar gael ar y wefan ac mae Consortiwm Canolbarth y De wedi darparu trosolwg o'r gwasanaethau sydd ar gael i'r Pwyllgor Craffu. Mae'r Cyngor wedi datblygu canllawiau ar gyfer yr holl ysgolion a chanllawiau ar gyfer rhieni a gwarcheidwaid a fydd yn cael eu rhannu cyn bo hir. Bydd hyn yn rhoi cyfle iddyn nhw roi adborth i'r Awdurdod Lleol mewn perthynas â'u profiadau o ddysgu ar-lein â'r ysgolion unigol, ar ffurf holiaduron. Mae adolygiadau manwl o'r gwaith sy'n cael ei gyflawni mewn ysgolion yn parhau i fynd rhagddo ac mae gan bartneriaid y Gwasanaethau Gwella rôl allweddol i'w chwarae wrth adolygu'r dystiolaeth sy'n cael eu cynnig gan ysgolion i'w teuluoedd i sicrhau bod darpariaeth dysgu o bell o safon ar gael iddyn nhw.

O ran lles disgyblion a dysgwyr, cyfeiriodd y Cyfarwyddwr at y gwasanaethau cymorth sydd ar gael i bobl ifainc sy'n teimlo'n unig ar yr adeg yma. Mae Gwasanaethau Cynhwysiant y Cyngor yn parhau i fod ar gael i ysgolion, rhieni a chynhalwyr. Yn ddiweddar, cafodd cyflwyniad ei wneud i'r pwyllgor craffu gan amlinellu'r gwasanaethau sydd ar gael i'r holl ddysgwyr ifainc.

91 Cyllideb Refeniw 2021/22 - Setliad Llywodraeth Leol Arfaethedig

Cyfeiriodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Digidol yr Aelodau at adroddiad sy'n rhoi gwybodaeth ynglŷn â'r Setliad Llywodraeth Leol Dros Dro ar gyfer 2021/2022, a gafodd ei gyhoeddi ar 22 Rhagfyr 2020, a'r sylwadau cychwynnol ar ei oblygiadau tebygol ar gyfer cyflwyno gwasanaethau'r Cyngor.

Rhannodd y Cyfarwyddwr ddata o'r setliad gyda'r Aelodau, gan gynghori bod y cynnydd yn y cyllid Grant Cynnal Refeniw a'r Ardrethi Annomestig ar gyfer 2021/22 (sef cyllid heb ei neilltuo), ar lefel Cymru gyfan, ac ar ôl addasu'r ffigur ar gyfer trosglwyddo, yn cyfateb i 3.8% (+£172miliwn).

Cafodd yr Aelodau wybod bod ffigyrau'r setliad ar gyfer 2021/22 yn cyfateb i gynnydd o **3.8%** sy'n cyfateb i'r cynnydd ar gyfartaledd ar gyfer Cymru gyfan. Mae ffigurau'r setliad yn amrywio o 2.0% i 5.6% ledled Cymru. Does dim mesurau diogelu wedi'u cynnwys ar gyfer 2021/22.

Cafodd yr Aelodau wybod nad yw cyllideb sylfaenol y Cyngor yn cynnwys costau'r goblygiadau sy'n ganlyniad uniongyrchol i'r pandemig ac rydyn ni'n rhagweld y bydd y rhain yn parhau i gael eu cefnogi ar wahân gan Lywodraeth Cymru.

Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr fod effeithiau cyfunol y diweddariad ar y bwlc yn y gyllideb wedi'u nodi yn nhabl 4 a'r bwlc yn y gyllideb sy'n weddill yw £4.057miliwn. I gloi, rhoddodd wybod y bydd y Cabinet yn trafod y strategaeth gyllideb ddrafft a fydd yn destun ail gam yr ymgynghoriad ar y gyllideb cyn iddi gael ei thrafod gan y Cyngor ym mis Mawrth.

Croesawodd yr Aelodau'r Setliad Llywodraeth Leol Arfaethedig ar gyfer 2021/22, a gafodd ei gyhoeddi gan Lywodraeth Cymru ac yn dilyn trafodaeth lle ymatebodd y Cyfarwyddwr i nifer o ymholiadau megis dulliau newydd y Cyngor o weithio sy'n ffurfio rhan o'r gwaith i nodi gofynion effeithlonrwydd, **PENDERFYNWYD:**

1. Nodi'r Setliad Llywodraeth Leol 2021/22 Arfaethedig, a gyhoeddwyd gan y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol ar 22 Rhagfyr 2020.
2. Nodi bod disgwyl i'r Setliad Llywodraeth Leol 2021/22 terfynol gael ei gyhoeddi ar ddiwedd mis Chwefror 2021: a
3. Nodi'r dull o ran ymgynghori ar gyllideb 2021/22, fel sydd wedi'i bennu eisoes.

92 Cynllun Gostyngiadau Treth y Cyngor

Cyflwynodd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Digidol ei adroddiad sy'n cyflawni'r gofyniad sydd wedi'i osod ar y Cyngor i drafod a ddylai adolygu neu ddisodli'r Cynllun Gostyngiadau Treth y Cyngor cyfredol ("CTRS") yn flynyddol a'r gofyniad i fabwysiadu cynllun 31 Ionawr 2021.

Roedd y Cyfarwyddwr wedi cyfeirio'r Aelodau at yr adroddiad sy'n tynnu sylw at y newidiadau i'r Cynllun Cyngor a gafodd eu cyflwyno ym mis Ebrill 2013 sy'n cynnwys y diwygiadau a gynigiwyd, y goblygiadau tebyg ac yn nodi canlyniadau'r ymgynghoriad sy'n caniatáu i'r Aelodau drafod mabwysiadu Cynllun Gostyngiadau Treth y Cyngor lleol y Cyngor ar gyfer blwyddyn ariannol 2021/22.

Ar ôl trafod yr adroddiad **PENDERFYNWYD** cytuno ar yr argymhellion canlynol:-

- a) Nodi a mabwysiadu darpariaethau'r rheoliadau a'r gofynion rhagnodedig a'r diwygiadau sydd wedi'u gwneud i'r rheoliadau hynny gan y Rheoliadau wedi'u Diwygio (fel y'u cymeradwywyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru (LIC) ar 12 Ionawr 2021) fel Cynllun Gostyngiadau Treth y Cyngor lleol y Cyngor ar gyfer 2021/22, yn amodol ar y disgrisiwn lleol y mae modd i'r Cyngor ei roi ar waith;
- b) Nodi canlyniad yr ymgynghoriad a gynhaliwyd gan y Cyngor ynglŷn â'r disgrisiwn sy'n berthnasol i'r Cynllun Gostyngiadau Treth y Cyngor ar gyfer 2021/22; a
- c) Cadarnhau'r disgrisiwn sy'n berthnasol i'r Cynllun Gostyngiadau Treth y Cyngor ar gyfer 2021/22 fel sydd wedi'i nodi ym mharagraff 5.3 (Tabl 2) o'r adroddiad hwn.

93 Penderfyniadau Brys o dan Swyddogaethau Gweithredol

Yn unol â Rheolau Gweithdrefn Trosolwg a Chraffu 17.2(a), adroddodd Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth – Gwasanaethau Democraidd a Chyfathrebu am y penderfyniadau brys a ddygwyd ymlaen trwy benderfyniad dirprwyedig allweddol

yn ystod y cyfnod Hydref – Rhagfyr 2020 a **PHENDERFYNWYD** nodi'r wybodaeth sy wedi'i chynnwys yn yr adroddiad.

94 Rhybudd o Gynnig

Trafod y Rhybudd o Gynnig isod sydd wedi'i gyflwyno yn enwau:
Y Cynghorwyr P. Jarman, H. Fychan, S. Rees-Owen, M. Weaver, K. Morgan, D. Grehan, E. Griffiths, J. Williams, A. Cox, J. Davies, J. Cullwick, G. Davies, E. Webster, S. Evans, A. Chapman, E. Stephens a L. Jones:-

Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf

1. Yn cydnabod y ffaith drallodus bod 30% o blant yng Nghymru yn byw mewn tlodi ac eto dim ond 13% sydd â hawl i brydau ysgol am ddim. Mae hyn yn bennaf oherwydd bod yr 17% o blant sy'n weddill yn byw mewn cartrefi â chyflog isel, sy'n mynd â nhw ychydig dros y meini prawf presennol ar gyfer hawlio prydau ysgol am ddim.
2. Yn nodi bod Lloegr a'r Alban yn darparu prydau ysgol am ddim cynhwysol i ddisgyblion yn yr adran fabanod, gyda holl ddisgyblion y dosbarth Derbyn, Blwyddyn 1 a Blwyddyn 2 yn gymwys. Dydy hyn ddim yn wir yng Nghymru.
3. Yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i gymryd camau brys i bennu cost a chyllidebu'r gwaith o ddarparu Prydau Ysgol am Ddim i bob plentyn sy'n byw mewn tlodi yng Nghymru ond sydd wedi'u heithrio rhag hawlio prydau o dan y meini prawf cymhwysedd presennol, a rhoi hyn ar waith.
4. Yn cytuno na ddylai unrhyw blentyn fod yn llwglyd ac y dylai hyn fod yn gam tuag at y nod o gyflwyno Prydau Ysgol am Ddim Cynhwysol i bob plentyn yng Nghymru fel y mae grwpiau amrywiol yng Nghymru yn galw amdano, gan gynnwys Grŵp Gweithredu ar Dlodi Plant a Chynulliad y Bobl

Yn dilyn trafodaeth, **PENDERFYNWYD** mabwysiadu'r Rhybudd o Gynnig.

(Nodwch: Ymatalodd Cyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol J. James rhag pleidleisio ar y mater)

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 7.20pm

Y Cyngorydd S. Powderhill
Cadeirydd



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

CYNGOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Cofnodion cyfarfod y Cyngor a gynhaliwyd ar-lein Ddydd Mercher, 10 Chwefror 2021 am 5.00pm

Cynghorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol – Aelodau o'r Cyngor a oedd yn bresennol:-

Y Cynghorydd S. Powderhill (Cadeirydd)

Y Cynghorydd R. Bevan	Y Cynghorydd H. Boggis
Y Cynghorydd J. Bonetto	Y Cynghorydd S. Bradwick
Y Cynghorydd J. Brencher	Y Cynghorydd A. Calvert
Y Cynghorydd G. Caple	Y Cynghorydd A. Chapman
Y Cynghorydd A. Cox	Y Cynghorydd A. Crimmings
Y Cynghorydd J. Cullwick	Y Cynghorydd G. Davies
Y Cynghorydd J. Davies	Y Cynghorydd L. De Vet
Y Cynghorydd M. Diamond	Y Cynghorydd J. Edwards
Y Cynghorydd J. Elliott	Y Cynghorydd S. Evans
Y Cynghorydd M. Fidler Jones	Y Cynghorydd M. Forey
Y Cynghorydd A. Fox	Y Cynghorydd H. Fychan
Y Cynghorydd E. George	Y Cynghorydd E. Griffiths
Y Cynghorydd G. Holmes	Y Cynghorydd L. Hooper
Y Cynghorydd G. Hopkins	Y Cynghorydd P. Howe
Y Cynghorydd G. Hughes	Y Cynghorydd P. Jarman
Y Cynghorydd G. Jones	Y Cynghorydd L. Jones
Y Cynghorydd W. Jones	Y Cynghorydd R. Lewis
Y Cynghorydd W. Lewis	Y Cynghorydd C. Leyshon
Y Cynghorydd A. Morgan	Y Cynghorydd S. Morgans
Y Cynghorydd M. Norris	Y Cynghorydd D. Owen-Jones
Y Cynghorydd S. Pickering	Y Cynghorydd M. Powell
Y Cynghorydd S. Powell	Y Cynghorydd S. Rees-Owen
Y Cynghorydd S. Rees	Y Cynghorydd A. Roberts
Y Cynghorydd J. Rosser	Y Cynghorydd G. Stacey
Y Cynghorydd E. Stephens	Y Cynghorydd G. Thomas
Y Cynghorydd W. Treeby	Y Cynghorydd R. Turner
Y Cynghorydd L. Walker	Y Cynghorydd M. Weaver
Y Cynghorydd M. Webber	Y Cynghorydd E. Webster
Y Cynghorydd J. Williams	Y Cynghorydd T. Williams
Y Cynghorydd R. Yeo	

Dyma'r Swyddogion oedd yn bresennol

Mr C. Bradshaw, Prif Weithredwr

Mr B. Davies, Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Digidol

Ms G Davies, Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cynhwysiant

Mr R Evans, Cyfarwyddwr Materion Adnoddau Dynol

Mr C. Hanagan, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth – Gwasanaethau Democraidd a Chyfathrebu

Mr P Mee Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadran y Gwasanaethau Cymuned a Gwasanaethau i Blant

Mr N. Wheeler, Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadran – Ffyniant, Datblygu, a Gwasanaethau Rheng-flaen

Mr A. Wilkins, Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol

96 Croeso ac Ymddiheuriadau

Croesawodd y Cadeirydd y sawl a oedd yn bresennol a derbyniwyd ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb oddi wrth Gynghorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol L. M.

Adams, S. Belzak, A. Davies-Jones, S. Evans, D. Grehan, M. Griffiths, J. Harries, J. James, K. L. Jones, K. Morgan, W. Owen, M. Tegg, G. Williams, D. Williams a C. Willis.

97 Datganiadau o Fuddiant

Yn unol â Chod Ymddygiad y Cyngor, cafodd y datganiadau o fuddiant canlynol eu gwneud:

- Datganodd Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol G. Davies fuddiant personol mewn perthynas ag Eitem 6 yr agenda, Cwestiynau gan Aelodau - 'Mewn perthynas â chwestiwn 2, rwy'n gweithio mewn Banc Bwyd';
- Datganodd Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol E. Stephens fuddiant personol mewn perthynas ag Eitem 9 yr agenda, Rhybudd o Gynnig – 'Rwy'n gweithio i'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau, sy'n darparu Credyd Cynhwysol, sef pwnc un o'r cynigion. Ni fyddaf yn cymryd rhan yn y drafodaeth a byddaf yn ymatal rhag pleidleisio';
- Datganodd Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol R. Lewis fuddiant personol mewn perthynas ag Eitem 6 yr agenda, Cwestiynau gan Aelodau – 'Mewn perthynas â chwestiwn 2, rwy'n gwirfoddoli ym Manc Bwyd Merthyr Cynon';
- Datganodd Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol E. George fuddiant personol mewn perthynas ag Eitem 6 yr agenda, Cwestiynau gan Aelodau – 'Mewn perthynas â chwestiwn 2, rwy'n gwirfoddoli ym Manc Bwyd Merthyr Cynon'.

98 Incwm Sylfaenol Cynhwysol

Derbyniodd y Cyngor ddiweddariad ar lafar gan Mr J. Williams (UBI Lab Cymru) a Mr S. Thomas (UBI Lab RhCT), a geisiodd ddarparu gwybodaeth i Aelodau am y gwaith sydd wedi'i gyflawni mewn perthynas ag Incwm Sylfaenol Cynhwysol o safbwynt lleol a safbwynt Cymru gyfan.

Cyn y cyflwyniad, manteisiodd y cynrychiolydd ar y cyfle i ddiolch i Gyngor RhCT am gefnogi a mabwysiadu'r Rhybudd o Gynnig mewn perthynas ag Incwm Sylfaenol Cynhwysol yn ei gyfarfod ar 16 Rhagfyr 2020.

Cafodd yr Aelodau wybod bod UBI Cymru yn hyb i'r labiau yn y Bwrdeistrefi yn y bôn, a'r uchelgais yw i Awdurdodau Lleol eraill ddilyn camre RhCT wrth gefnogi Incwm Sylfaenol Cynhwysol. Er mwyn cyflawni'i nod a gyrru'r drafodaeth am Incwm Sylfaenol Cynhwysol yn ei flaen, roedd UBI Cymru yn sefydlu labiau ar draws Cymru ac yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth â Chomisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol i gytuno ar ddiffiniad o Incwm Sylfaenol Cynhwysol yng nghyd-destun Cymru.

Yn ystod y cyflwyniad, rhoddodd y cynrychiolwyr wybodaeth fanwl i'r Aelodau am y canlynol:

- Y diffiniad o Incwm Sylfaenol Cyffredinol a pham yr oedd UBI Lab Cymru yn ei ystyried fel y polisi addas er mwyn goresgyn â heriau'r 21ain ganrif;
- Y treialon a'r deilliannau blaenorol;
- Cynllun peilot delfrydol UBI Lab Cymru; a
- Cyfleoedd cyllido posibl a'r posibilrwydd iddo redeg ochr yn ochr â'r

Chwyldro Diwydiannol Gwyrdd dros y degawd nesaf.

Manteisiodd Arweinydd y Cyngor ar y cyfle i ddiolch i'r unigolion am y diweddariad cynhwysfawr. Cydnabu'r Arweinydd yr amddifadedd y mae pobl yn ei brofi yn y Fwrdeistref, yn enwedig yn ystod y pandemig Covid-19, a nododd pe bai cyllid ar gael wrth Lywodraeth y DU neu Lywodraeth Cymru, bydd RhCT yn cefnogi treialu cynllun peilot Incwm Sylfaenol Cynhwysol. Pwysleisiodd yr Arweinydd ei fod yn bosibl y byddai canlyniadau'r cynllun peilot yn awgrymu nad Incwm Sylfaenol Cynhwysol yw'r ffordd orau ymlaen, ond roedd yn fodlon cefnogi ei dreialu.

Cyfeiriodd Cyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol P. Jarman at ddatganiad UBI Lab Cymru syn nodi fod 8% o bobl yn unig yn gwybod beth yw Incwm Sylfaenol Cynhwysol a gofynnodd sut y byddai gwybodaeth am y cynllun peilot yn cael ei chyfathrebu â chymunedau lleol. Dywedodd y cynrychiolydd y byddai'r labiau yn y Bwrdeistrefi yn ceisio ymgysylltu wyneb yn wyneb â chymunedau lleol, yn dibynnu ar reoliadau Covid-19 yn y dyfodol. Byddai hyn yn ychwanegol at ddefnyddio'r cyfryngau cymdeithasol a phapurau newyddion.

Soniodd Cyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol M. Powell am astudiaethau achos tebyg ac roedd yn fodlon cefnogi cynllun peilot yn RhCT. Awgrymodd yr Aelod y dylai'r cynllun peilot dargedu'r cymunedau sydd wedi'u hamddifadu fwyaf a theimlodd y byddai'n rhaid ei weithredu dros gyfnod estynedig, er mwyn gweld unrhyw fuddion a allai ddod ohono.

99

Cyhoeddiadau

1. Rhoddodd Cyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol P. Jarman wybod i'r Aelodau am Mrs Eva Cotter, a ddathlodd ei phen-blwydd yn 100 y llynedd, ac sydd newydd gael ei brechlyn Covid. Hi yw'r claf 100 oed cyntaf yn ei Meddygfa ym Mhenrhiwceiber. Soniodd y Cyngorydd Jarman am edmygedd Mrs Cotter o'r bobl sydd wedi datblygu'r brechlyn gan ei bod hi wedi byw mewn oes lle'r oedd y diciâu, y frech wen, y frech goch, rwbela a chlwy'r pennau yn rhemp yn ein cymunedau cyn bod brechlynnau ar gael. Ychwanegodd y Cyngorydd Jarman fod Mr Cotter yn ysbrydoliaeth i nifer a gofynnodd i lythyr gael ei anfon ati wrth y Faeres ar ran y Cyngor.
2. Manteisiodd Cyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol P. Jarman ar y cyfle i gydnabod cyflawniadau a charedigrwydd Amy MacKintosh, disgybl blwyddyn 9 yn Ysgol Gyfun Aberpennar, a oedd wedi ennill £1,000 ar ran Pwll Gerddi Leigh ym Mhenrhiwceiber yn y gystadleuaeth 'Rhowch Gymorth o Adref' gyntaf. Cafodd yr Aelodau wybod bod Amy wedi ymgymryd â'i phrosiect dan faner rhaglen ddysgu cymysg Addysg Grefyddol dan arweiniad ei hathro, Mr Dave Church. Gan weithio gyda Julie Cook, BEM, hyrwyddwr cymunedol yn archfarchnad Asda Aberdâr, dosbarthodd Amy de prynhawn a nwyddau hanfodol i 9 o gymdogion oedrannus. Dywedodd y Cyngorydd Jarman fod Amy'n destun balchder i'r ysgol gyfun a Phwyllgor Pwll Gerddi Leigh, a gofynnodd i'r Faeres anfon llythyr ati i gydnabod ei chyflawniad.
3. Llongyfarchodd Cyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol S. Rees-Owen yr actor lleol Callum Scott Howells am ei berfformiad yn nrama newydd Russell T. Davies, 'It's a Sin', a soniodd am lwyddiant Callum a'r sioe. Soniodd y Cyngorydd Rees-Owen am y cymeriad y buodd Callum yn ei chwarae,

a oedd wedi cyffwrdd â'r gwylwyr, a rhoi gobaith iddynt. Siaradodd yr Aelod am berfformiadau Callum yn Theatr y Parc a'r Dâr dros y blynyddoedd, gan gyfeirio at berfformiadau gydag Only Boys Aloud ac Ysgol Gyfun Treorci, lle y bu Callum yn brif fachgen. Cafodd yr Aelodau wybod bod Callum wedi diolch i'r sîn gelfyddydau leol am y cyfleoedd a'r llwyfannau a oedd ar gael iddo, er mwyn ei helpu i ddysgu a ffynnu. Nododd y Cynghorydd Rees-Owen y dyfodol disglair a chyffrous sy'n aros Callum a dymunodd y gorau iddo.

100 Rheol Dull Gweithredu'r Cyngor 15.1

Cynigiodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd atal Rheol Gweithdrefn 15.1 y Cyngor, sy'n nodi y bydd mater yn cael ei benderfynu os bydd mwyafrif ymhlith yr Aelodau sy'n pleidleisio ac sy'n bresennol yn yr ystafell adeg y bleidlais - a hynny fel bod modd cynnal y cyfarfod ar-lein mewn modd didrafferth.

Yn dilyn trafodaeth **PENDERFYNWYD** atal Rheol Gweithdrefn 15.1 y Cyngor

101 Cofnodion

PENDERFYNODD y Cyngor gymeradwyo cofnodion y 25 Tachwedd 2020 a 16 Rhagfyr 2020 yn rhai cywir.

102 Datganiadau

Datganiad gan y Dirprwy Arweinydd ac Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion Busnes y Cyngor

Rhoddodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd wybod i'r Aelodau am ffair yrfaeodd rithwir y Cyngor a oedd wedi digwydd yn y gynharach y diwrnod hwnnw. Nododd mai hon oedd y ffair yrfaeodd rithwir gyntaf i gael ei chynnal yng Nghymru. Roedd dros 30 o gyflogwyr yn cymryd rhan a 525 o swyddi gwag ar gael. Roedd yn cynnwys 30 gweminar, gan gynnwys manylion am gynllun prentisiaethau a rhaglen i raddedigion y Cyngor.

Cafodd yr Aelodau wybod bod 1604 o bobl wedi cofrestru ar gyfer yr achlysur, gyda 274 yn mewngofnodi yn ystod yr 20 munud gyntaf, a 660 yn mewngofnodi yn ystod y 2 awr gyntaf. Roedd yr achlysur wedi'i wyllo dros 6000 o weithiau.

Diolchodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd i staff yr Adran Adnoddau Dynol am y gwaith a wnaed i gynnal yr achlysur a roddodd gyfle i drigolion gyfranogi, a chanfod swyddi o safon uchel ar draws y Fwrdeistref Sirol, a gwneud cais amdanynt.

Datganiad gan yr Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion Menter, Datblygu, a Thai

Dywedodd yr Aelod Cabinet wrth yr Aelodau am gyfarfod yr aeth iddo ar 29 Ionawr gyda Mick Antoniw (Aelod o'r Senedd), Alex Davies-Jones (Aelod Seneddol) ac Aelod o AGB Pontypridd, a gyfarfu â chynrychiolwyr o HSBC. Cafodd yr Aelodau wybod am gynnig HSBC i gau'i ganghennau ym Mhontypridd a Thonysguboriau fel ei gilydd, a bod y rhesymeg, gan gynnwys data ynglŷn â defnyddwyr, wedi'i chyflwyno. Soniodd yr Aelod o'r Cabinet am geisiadau'r Aelodau i gadw'r canghennau neu fwrw ymlaen â llai o oriau/cynllun symudol o fewn y canghennau, ond gwrthodwyd y ddau gynnig. Dywedodd yr Aelod o'r

Cabinet pe bai'r canghennau'n cau yna ni fyddai cangen HSBC ar gael yn RhCT. Roedd cynrychiolwyr y banc wedi rhoi gwybod am drefniadau amgen y dylid eu trafod, gan gynnwys defnyddio swyddfydd post lleol a rheoli cyfrifon yng nghanhennau Caerffili a'r Bontfaen. Lleisiodd Aelodau eu pryder yn y cyfarfod ynglŷn ag hygyrchedd y canghennau amgen a oedd wedi'u cynnig a'r effaith ar drigolion sy'n agored i niwed. Cadarnhaodd cynrychiolwyr HSBC fod cyswllt eisoes wedi'i wneud â thrigolion o'r fath.

Daeth yr Aelod o'r Cabinet a'i ddatganiad i ben trwy gynghori bod cais wedi'i wneud am fanylion cyswllt uwch swyddogion rheoli'r DU yn y banc er na dderbyniwyd unrhyw beth hyd yn hyn.

103 Cwestiynau gan yr Aelodau

Cwestiwn gan Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol M. Forey i Ddirprwy Arweinydd y Cyngor, Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol M. Webber:

"A wnaiff y Dirprwy Arweinydd amlinellu pa gynlluniau sy'n cael eu datblygu i hwyluso cyfarfodydd hybrid yn y dyfodol pan fydd y cyfyngiadau'n caniatáu?"

Ymateb gan y Dirprwy Arweinydd, Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol M. Webber:

Dywedodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd wrth yr Aelodau y byddai'r Gwasanaethau Democrataidd yn ceisio rhoi dull hybrid ar waith ar gyfer cyfarfodydd unwaith y byddai'r cyfyngiadau yn caniatáu hynny. Bydd hyn yn digwydd fesul tipyn, yn debyg i'r ffordd yr aeth y Cyngor ati i gyflwyno cyfarfodydd rhithwir y llynedd. Dywedodd y byddai hyn yn darparu rhywfaint o hyblygrwydd i gynnal cyfarfodydd wyneb yn wyneb yn y dyfodol agos tra y byddai hefyd yn caniatáu cynnal arferion cadw pellter cymdeithasol. Ychwanegodd y dylai Aelodau gael penderfynu a ydyn nhw am gyfranogi o'r dull hwn.

Cwestiwn atodol gan y Cynghorydd Forey:

"Sut y gellid adeiladu ar hyn ar gyfer y dyfodol?"

Atebodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd trwy ddweud mai dyhead ehangach y Cyngor yw gwreiddio'r dull hwn, er mwyn galluogi Aelodau i gyfrannu yn y ffordd fwyaf hyblyg sy'n gweddu i'w sefyllfa, a bod y dull hwn ar gael i Awdurdodau Lleol drwy'r Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol newydd. Ychwanegodd y bydd y Cyngor eisiau gwneud y mwyaf o'i gyfleusterau gweddarlledu newydd, gan adeiladu ar ein profiadau hyd yma, ac roedd hi'n gobeithio y byddai'r dull yma hefyd yn cefnogi ac yn hyrwyddo mwy o amrywiaeth yn y dyfodol a rhoi cyfleoedd gwell o ran ymgysylltu a chyfranogi i Aelodau a thrigolion.

Cwestiwn gan Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol H. Boggis i'r Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion Cymunedau Cadarn, Llesiant a Gwasanaethau Diwylliannol, y Cynghorydd R. Lewis:

"Sut mae'r Cyngor yn parhau i gefnogi banciau bwyd lleol?"

Atebodd yr Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion Cymunedau Cadarn, Llesiant a Gwasanaethau Diwylliannol gan ddweud fod swyddog penodol yn cadw mewn cysylltiad rheolaidd â'r prif fanciau bwyd fel bod modd i'r Awdurdod ddarparu cymorth amserol yn ôl y galw. Ychwanegodd fod hyn yn cynnwys:

- Darparu cynhyrchion bwyd sy'n brin o'r Ganolfan Ddosbarthu Bwyd yn Llanilltud Faerdref;
- Sicrhau bod pobl ar gael i weithio yn ystod y gwyliau i fodloni'r galw am barseili bwyd mewn argyfwng (dim ond 2 oedd eu hangen dros wyliau'r Nadolig);
- Sicrhau bod cymorth ar gael ar gyfer derbyn nwyddau os oes angen (does neb wedi gofyn am hyn hyd yma); a
- Darparu mynediad i adeiladau'r Cyngor er mwyn eu defnyddio fel gofod storio (er enghraifft, mae Banc Bwyd Taf-Elái yn defnyddio Canolfan Oriau Dydd y Gilfach Goch i storio eitemau bwyd ar hyn o bryd).

Mae gallu'r Cyngor i brynu ar raddfa fawr wedi'i nodi fel rhywbeth sy'n arbennig o werthfawr i'r banciau bwyd ac maen nhw wedi awgrymu bod hyn yn rhoi sicrwydd iddynt pan mae eu cyflenwadau yn lleihau.

Mae Grant Cymorth Bwyd RhCT a sefydlwyd trwy gyfraniad o £10,000 oddi wrth y Cyngor a £10,000 oddi wrth Trivallis yn darparu adnoddau i fanciau bwyd a chynlluniau cymorth bwyd yn RhCT. Hyd yn hyn mae 14 o geisiadau am grantiau o £500 wedi'u derbyn a'u cymeradwyo.

Cwestiwn atodol gan y Cynghorydd H. Boggis:

"Beth mae'r Cyngor yn ei wneud i fynd i'r afael â'r materion ehangach sy'n gysylltiedig â thlodi bwyd?"

Atebodd yr Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion Cymunedau Cadarn, Llesiant a Gwasanaethau Diwylliannol fod dau gynllun penodol lle mae'r Cyngor yn mynd i'r afael â'r mater yma sef cynllun The Sustainable Food Places a Cychwyn Iach. Mae'r Cyngor wedi cyflwyno cais llwyddiannus am grantiau datblygu byr dymor o dan gynllun The Sustainable Food Places.

Nod y cynllun yw creu Rhwydwaith Ffyniant Bwyd a Llwybr Ymateb Bwyd yn y Sir sy'n canolbwyntio ar sefydlu system fwyd iachach a mwy cynaliadwy ar lefel Sirol. Y cam nesaf yw rhoi'r dulliau a'r modelau gorau ar gyfer partneriaethau a rhaglenni bwyd yn RhCT ar brawf. Bydd hyn yn cynnwys gweithdai ar-lein gyda derbynwyr grantiau eraill sydd wedi'u hwyluso gan garfan yr SFP.

Disgwylir i dderbynwyr grantiau weithio'n agos gyda charfan SFP UK a'u partneriaid cenedlaethol ac mae'r cynllun yn cynnwys dull partneriaeth rhwng Awdurdodau Lleol, cyrff iechyd cyhoeddus a sefydliadau eraill, ac yn gweithio gydag ystod o bartneriaid, busnesau a chymunedau.

Rhaglen â phrawf modd yw Cychwyn Iach sydd wedi'i dylunio i wella iechyd menywod beichiog incwm isel a theuluoedd ar fudd-daliadau a chredydau treth. Mae hawlwr a phlant cymwys rhwng 1 a 4 oed yn derbyn 1 taleb gwerth £3.10 bob wythnos i helpu i brynu rhai bwydydd sylfaenol. Gall plant dan 1 oed gael 2 daleb bob wythnos (£6.20). Mae llaeth buwch, ffrwythau a llysiau ffres / wedi'u

rhewi / tun, a llaeth fformiwla i fabanod ymhlith eitemau y mae modd eu prynu. Ychwanegodd fod y data mwyaf diweddar yn dangos bod tua 77% o'r rhai sy'n gymwys yn RhCT yn manteisio ar y cynnig hwn ac mae Swyddogion yn gweithio gyda Theuluoedd Cydnerth i fynd i'r afael â hyn.

Cwestiwn gan Gynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol J. Brencher i'r Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion yr Amgylchedd, Hamdden a Gwasanaethau Treftadaeth, Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Crimmings:

"A wnaiff yr Aelod o'r Cabinet ddarparu diweddariad am y gwaith ym Mharc Coffa Ynysangharad?"

Dywedodd yr Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion yr Amgylchedd, Hamdden a Gwasanaethau Treftadaeth fod y Cyngor wedi cyhoeddi ychydig cyn y Nadolig bod pecyn cyllid sylweddol wedi'i gadarnhau gan Lywodraeth Cymru, trwy raglen Parc Rhanbarthol y Cymoedd, a hefyd Cronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri Genedlaethol. Mae'r gwaith i gyflawni'r elfennau hynny sy'n rhan o gylch gorchwyl Parc Rhanbarthol y Cymoedd eisoes wedi dechrau, ac mae cynnydd gwych yn cael ei wneud. Mae'r rhan hon o'r gwaith yn canolbwyntio ar uwchraddio'r llwybrau troed y llwybrau canolog drwy'r parc ac o'i gwmpas, a'r bwriad yw ei gwneud yn lle mwy diogel a mwy deniadol i ymweld ag ef.

Ychwanegodd y byddai'r gwaith hwn hefyd yn cynnwys llwybr newydd i wella'r cyswllt o'r Lido i'r Brig Craig Ffug, y Safle Seindorf, y Gofeb Rhyfel a'r ganolfan hyfforddi newydd - sy'n rhan o Brosiect Cronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri Genedlaethol gwerth £1.9 miliwn. Yn ogystal â hyn, bydd y goleuadau ar hyd y llwybrau'n cael eu huwchraddio mewn modd sy'n ystyrlon o dreftadaeth y parc, a bydd mantais ychwanegol gan eu bod yn fwy effeithlon o ran ynni. Yn ddiweddarach eleni, bydd gwaith hefyd yn cychwyn ar y Prosiect Cysylltu Cymunedau, sy'n deillio o gyfanswm o £1.9m o gyllid gan Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri Genedlaethol, Llywodraeth Cymru a'r Cyngor.

Dywedodd fod hwn yn brosiect cyffrous iawn a fyddai'n gweld lluo o nodweddion newydd a gwell, gan gynnwys:

- Adeiladu canolfan ddysgu a lles newydd
- Gwelliannau o ran hygyrchedd a bioamrywiaeth
- Adfer nodweddion allweddol, fel y safle seindorf, yr ardd isel a'r brig craig ffug.

Cwestiwn atodol gan y Cynghorydd J. Brencher:

"A wnewch chi roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y cynnydd o ran atgyweirio Pont Droed Parc Ynysangharad?"

Dywedodd yr Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion yr Amgylchedd, Hamdden a Gwasanaethau Treftadaeth fod y bont wedi'i rhoi yn ei lle gan Centregreat, y prif contractwr. Mae angen atgyweiriadau pellach ac ailosod y gwifrau sefydlogi a'r mast, yn ogystal â gwaith gosod yn yr ardal o gwmpas y bont. Ychwanegodd fod y Cyngor yn disgwyl i'r contractwr orffen ei waith ymhen rhyw 4 wythnos, er

bod rhannau o'r gwaith adfer yn y Parc yn dibynnu ar y tywydd. Mae'r tymheredd sy'n effeithio ar baentio hefyd yn ffactor, yn ogystal ag aros i'r wifren sefydlogi newydd i gyrraedd.

Cwestiwn gan Gyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol M Powell i Arweinydd y Cyngor, Cyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol A. Morgan:

"A fydd y Cyngorydd Morgan yn rhoi diweddariad i'r Aelodau ynghylch ble mae'r Cyngor arni o ran atgyweirio neu ddymchwel Pont Heol y Berw os gwelwch yn dda?"

Ymateb gan y Cyngorydd A. Morgan:

Dywedodd yr Arweinydd fod monitro'r bont yn parhau gan Redstart. Roedd trafodaethau'n parhau gyda CADW ac ymgynghorwyr peirianeg treftadaeth (CARE), Mann Williams, ynglŷn â'r atgyweiriadau. Mae'r holl gyfleustodau wedi'u tynnu o'r bont - ar wahân i rai Wales and West Utilities, sy'n dal i weithio ar ei ddatrysiad gan fod ganddo oblygiadau mawr.

Rhoddodd yr Arweinydd wybod am y canlynol:

- Bod arolwg ac asesiad o'r sgwrfa wedi'u cyflawni gan gontractwyr arbenigol
- Bod y Cyngor wedi cynllunio cynigion i atgyweirio'r sgwrfa ac wedi gofyn am ddyfynbrisiau gan gontractwyr arbenigol (amcangyfrif £80-100k).
- Bod angen gwneud cais am Ganiatâd Adeilad Rhestredig er mwyn cyflawni'r atgyweiriadau sgwrfa.
- Bod trafodaethau'n mynd yn eu blaenau â Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru o ran amseru'r gwaith. (bydd hyn, o bosibl, mor gynnar ag Ebrill os bydd hynny'n cael ei ganiatáu ond byddai modd aros tan ganol mis Mai os yw CNC yn mynnu gwaharddiad).
- Bod arolygon o'r dyfrgwn i'w cynnal.
- Bod FRAP dros dro i'w gyflwyno a'i gymeradwyo gan y contractwr llwyddiannus.
- Unwaith y bydd yr atgyweiriadau sgwrfa wedi'u cwblhau a'r archwiliad yn cael ei gynnal ar y bont, yna yn amodol ar ganfyddiadau'r arolygiad, byddai modd ailagor y bont i draffig
- Ar hyn o bryd mae RhCT yn gweithio gyda'r ymgynghorwyr WSP, Mann Williams a'r arbenigwr atgyweirio concrit CRL i brofi atgyweiriadau i'r bont (gall y bont aros ar agor tra bo'r gwaith hwn yn parhau). Unwaith eto, bydd angen Ganiatâd Adeilad Rhestredig ar gyfer hyn a bydd yn digwydd yn ddiweddarach yn yr haf.
- Yn ddibynnol ar ganfyddiadau profi atgyweiriadau'r bont, bydd modd datblygu'r rhain yn gynllun adfer/atgyweirio llawn a fydd yn gofyn am Ganiatâd Adeilad Rhestredig.

- Roedd yn rhagweld y byddai gwaith atgyweirio yn dechrau ar y safle yn hwyr yn y gwanwyn neu yn haf 2022, yn ddibynnol ar gymeradwyaeth, a bydd gofyn am gau'r bont.

Cwestiwn gan Gyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol M. Griffiths i'r Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion Menter, Datblygu a Thai, Cyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol, D. R. Bevan:

"A yw polisi cynllunio CBSRhCT wedi'i addasu i ymateb i heriau newid yn yr hinsawdd ac, yn benodol, a oes gan y Cyngor bolisi sy'n ymwneud ag ailosod coed sy'n cael eu tynnu i wneud lle ar gyfer datblygu?"

Ymateb gan y Cyngorydd D. R. Bevan:

Atebodd yr Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion Menter, Datblygu, a Thai gan ddatgan fod penderfyniadau cynllunio mae'r Cyngor yn eu gwneud yn ystyried polisiâu cynllunio lleol a chenedlaethol – ac ar y ddwy lefel mae'n adlewyrchu'r angen dybryd i fynd i'r afael â newid yn yr hinsawdd. Bydd yr aelodau'n ymwybodol bod y Cyngor ar hyn o bryd yn cynnal adolygiad llawn o'i CDLI a bydd yn rhaid i'r CDLI "newydd" ddangos ei fod o leiaf yn cydymffurfio â'r targedau uchelgeisiol ar gyfer newid yn yr hinsawdd a nodwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Ychwanegodd y bydd arolygydd annibynnol yn craffu ar hyn. Mae'r rôl y mae modd i goed a 'Seilwaith Gwyrdd' ei chwarae wrth fynd i'r afael â newid yn yr hinsawdd yn cael ei gydnabod ar lefel leol a chenedlaethol. Ychwanegodd fod Mark Drakeford AS, y llynedd, wedi datgelu cynlluniau ar gyfer Coedwig Genedlaethol sy'n rhedeg ar hyd a lled Cymru.

Rhoddodd wybod i'r Aelodau fod coed a choedwigoedd yn amlwg yn rhan o ddatrys problemau newid yn yr hinsawdd yn fyd eang. Mae'n cael ei gydnabod fod coed yn tynnu carbon o'r aer ac yn ei ddal, yn lleihau bregusrwydd yn gymdeithasol ac o safbwynt yr ecosystem mewn hinsawdd sy'n newid, ac yn cyfrannu at lesiant pobl. Maent hefyd yn chwarae rhan bwysig wrth fod o fudd i gymunedau lleol a gwarchod natur a mynd i'r afael â cholli bioamrywiaeth ar draws ein bwrdeistref sirol.

Dywedodd yr Aelod o'r Cabinet nad oes gan y Cyngor bolisi penodol i ailblannu coed neu blannu rhai newydd. Mae'r polisi o fewn CDLI cyfredol y Cyngor yn gofyn am amddiffyn a gwella'r amgylchedd naturiol. Mae'n resyn colli coed o ganlyniad i ddatblygiad newydd, a phryd bynnag y bo hynny'n bosibl, caiff adeiladwr/datblygwr eu hannog i gadw coed. Ychwanegodd y byddai'r Cyngor, mewn achosion lle mae coed presennol yn cael eu colli, yn ceisio, lle bynnag y bo hynny'n bosibl, sicrhau bod tirlunio addas newydd yn cael ei ddarparu. Fodd bynnag, mae'n bwysig cydnabod mai dim ond pwerau cyfyngedig sydd gan y system gynllunio ac nad yw'n gallu rheoli pob achos o dynnu coed.

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Yn unol â Rheol Gweithdrefn 13.2 y Cyngor, nododd y Llywydd yr hoffai wahodd yr Arweinydd i gyfarch y Cyngor, wedyn byddai'n ymateb i sylwadau Aelodau ar ei Adroddiad Blynyddol.

Agorodd yr Arweinydd ei anerchiad trwy roi sylwadau ar ba mor unigryw oedd y sefyllfa oedd y Cyngor wedi'u hwynebu dros y flwyddyn gan roi sylwadau ar y llifogydd dinistriol ym mis Chwefror 2020 a hefyd y pandemig COVID-19 parhaus, sydd wedi trawsnewid bywydau pawb ac wedi cael effaith enfawr ar y cymunedau y mae'r Cyngor yn eu gwasanaethu.

Cofnododd yr Arweinydd ei ddiolch i holl staff y Cyngor sydd wedi darparu gwasanaethau hanfodol i drigolion Rhondda Cynon Taf, gan dynnu sylw at waith darparwyr gofal cymdeithasol rheng flaen, staff cyllid, staff profi, olrhain a diogelu sydd bellach yn cefnogi'r ymgyrch frechu a'r holl staff hynny sydd wedi parhau i ddarparu'r gwasanaethau bob dydd y mae trigolion yn dibynnu arnynt. Ychwanegodd yr Arweinydd, er gwaethaf yr heriau a gyflwynwyd, mae'r Cyngor wedi parhau i gyflawni ei uchelgeisiau er budd y Fwrdeistref Sirol gyfan. Cyn darparu diweddariadau penodol ar feysydd gwasanaeth, daeth yr Arweinydd â'i anerchiad agoriadol i ben trwy nodi bod effeithiau'r pandemig yn arbennig yn mynd i lywio'r dyfodol yn ystod gweddill tymor y Cyngor a thu hwnt, gan ychwanegu y bydd y Cyngor yn parhau i adeiladu ar y sylfeini cryf sydd eisoes yn bodoli i greu'r cyfleoedd addas i sicrhau dyfodol uchelgeisiol i Riondda Cynon Taf.

Gofal Cymdeithasol Oedolion a Phlant (Pobl)

Rhoddodd yr Arweinydd ddiweddariad manwl mewn perthynas â'r Gwasanaethau Gofal Cymdeithasol i Oedolion a Phlant gan roi gwybod am y gwasanaethau a oedd wedi'u darparu dros 2019/20

- 235 o Gymorthdaliadau Cyfleusterau i'r Anabl
- 820 o bobl wedi'u cefnogi trwy gronfa ENABLE y Cyngor o £316,000
- 352 o bobl wedi'u cefnogi trwy gynllun Tasgmon y Cyngor, a gostiodd £58,400.
- 71 o Grantiau Cymorth Atgyweirio Cynnal a Chadw wedi'u cyflwyno

Parhaodd yr Arweinydd trwy roi gwybod am y cynnydd da sydd wedi'i wneud o ran moderneiddio'r system ofal sydd ar gael ar gyfer preswylwyr hŷn yn y Sir gan gyfeirio at gynlluniau gofal ychwanegol ledled y Fwrdeistref Sirol.

Amlygodd yr Arweinydd lwyddiant y rhaglen Cadw'n Iach Gartref arobryn ac awgrymodd y dylid darparu gwybodaeth fanwl am hyn i'r Aelodau.

Gorffennodd yr Arweinydd yr agwedd hon ar ei ddiweddariad trwy roi gwybod am y Gwasanaeth Teuluoedd Cydnerth, sy'n parhau i ddarparu cefnogaeth, gyda 733 o atgyfeiriadau wedi'u gwneud eleni, a'r Gwasanaethau i Blant, gan roi gwybod i'r Aelodau bod y gwasanaeth wedi derbyn cysylltiadau mewn perthynas â 1,000 yn fwy o blant na'r llynedd, gyda'r potensial y gallai'r galw hwn gynyddu yn ystod y misoedd sydd o'n blaenau. Nododd ei bryderon ynglŷn â'r gostyngiad o 17% yng nghyfradd y plant sy'n dod yn 'blant sy'n derbyn gofal' yn ystod y cyfnod anodd hwn a'r posibilrwydd bod problemau yn cael eu colli.

Canolfannau yn y Gymuned

Soniodd yr Arweinydd am sefyllfa'r Canolfannau yn y Gymuned gan roi gwybod

i'r Aelodau fod y model hwn wedi cael ei ehangu i ddarparu ymateb lleol cydlynol yn ystod y pandemig, gyda'r Cyngor yn cydlynu dull amlbartneriaeth i roi cymorth i drigolion drwy ei 7 canolfan gydnerthedd.

Cafodd trigolion ar y Rhestr o Gleifion a Warchodir y cymorth canlynol:

- Cafodd 10,554 o alwadau rhagweithiol eu gwneud i weld a oedd angen cymorth;
- Gofynnodd 1,128 o drigolion am alwadau ffôn cyfeillgar parhaus;
- Nid oedd gan 1,698 o breswylwyr unrhyw gefnogaeth wrth deulu, ffrindiau na chymuned i gael gafael ar fwyd ac roeddent wedi'u cofrestru ar gyfer parseli bwyd wythnosol am ddim wrth Lywodraeth Cymru;
- Roedd darpariaeth Pryd-ar-glud ar gael i 182 o drigolion nad oedd yn gallu paratoi eu prydau eu hun;
- Derbyniodd 697 o bobl barseli bwyd brys gan Ganolfan Dosbarthu Bwyd y Cyngor gan fod ganddynt lai na 3 diwrnod o fwyd ar gael;

Ychwanegodd yr Arweinydd fod 4,030 o drigolion sy'n agored i niwed ar ben y rheini a nodwyd uchod wedi cysylltu â'r Cyngor i ofyn am gymorth, ac estynnodd yr Arweinydd ei ddiolch i'r Gwirfoddolwyr Cydnerthedd a nifer o wirfoddolwyr eraill a sefydliadau'r 3ydd sector am eu gwaith a'u cymorth yn helpu nifer o drigolion ar draws y Fwrdeistref Sirol.

Hamdden

Rhoddodd yr Arweinydd wybod i'r Aelodau fod y Cyngor, er gwaetha'r pandemig, wedi parhau i fuddsoddi mewn cyfleusterau Hamdden a rhoddodd fanylion am y buddsoddiadau a wnaed gan gyfeirio at y traciau athletau sydd bellach ar gael ar draws y Fwrdeistref Sirol.

Parciau a Mannau Chwarae

Nododd yr Arweinydd fod buddsoddiad sylweddol wedi'i gwneud ar draws parciau a manau chwarae a dywedodd y byddai'r Cyngor yn parhau i ymrwymo i'r buddsoddiad hwn yn y dyfodol.

Ailgylchu/Yr Amgylchedd/Newid Hinsawdd

Roedd yr Arweinydd yn falch iawn o roi gwybod am ffigurau ailgylchu cadarnhaol y Cyngor a gofnodwyd ar gyfer cyfnod y Nadolig, gyda dros 2,770 tunnell wedi'i gasglu - gan gynnwys dros 400 tunnell o wastraff bwyd. Dywedodd yr Arweinydd fod y Cyngor yn agos at gyrraedd targed 70% Llywodraeth Cymru.

Priffyrdd (Lle) a Chludiant (Ffyniant)

Gwnaeth yr Arweinydd sylwadau ar brosiect adfer tirlithriad Tip Tylorstown mewn perthynas â'r camau a gwblhawyd eisoes a'r rhai i'w cyflawni yn y dyfodol.

O ran Seilwaith rhoddodd yr Arweinydd fanylion mewn perthynas â phont droed Parc Ynysangharad, Dymchwel Pont y Bibell Gludo yn Abercynon ac atgyweiriadau brys amrywiol a wnaed i amrywiol bontydd, pontydd troed, waliau cynnal a chwferi ledled y Fwrdeistref Sirol yn dilyn Storm Dennis.

Ychwanegodd yr Arweinydd fod rhaglen fawr o fesurau lliniaru llifogydd tymor byr, canolig a hir wedi cael ei chyflawni ar draws y Fwrdeistref Sirol gyda rhaglen o Brosiectau Ffyrdd Gwydn, a ariannwyd gan grant o £3.1 miliwn, i liniaru effaith llifogydd ar y rhwydwaith priffyrdd.

O ran y Rhaglen Gyfalaf, cafodd yr Aelodau wybod fod y cyngor wedi parhau â'r rhaglen buddsoddi mewn trafniadaeth trwy'r rhaglen gyfalaf flynyddol a'r rhaglen 3 blynedd gwerth £23.5 miliwn, a rhestrodd yr Arweinydd rai o'r prif gynlluniau a gwblhawyd a phrosiectau mawr fel y Ffordd Gyswllt ar Draws y Cwm, y A4119 a Ffordd Osgoi Llanharan.

Dywedwyd wrth yr aelodau y byddai'r gwaith yn cychwyn yn yr haf gyda Chyfnewidfa Metro y Porth.

Canol Trefi/Menter

Diolchodd yr Arweinydd i'r garfan adfywio a'r garfan gyllid am eu cefnogaeth ar unwaith i fusnesau yng nghanol trefi a oedd wedi'u heffeithio gan Storm Dennis, trwy ddarparu cymorth ymarferol, cyngor a grantiau caledi gwerth £226,000.

Aeth yn ei flaen gan amlygu'r ymrwymadau roedd y Cyngor wedi'u bodloni ar draws canol ein trefi gan gyfeirio at y Wi-fi am ddim, Strategaeth Adfywio Canol Tref y Porth, a chaffael hen Neuadd Fingo Pontypridd yn rhan o gam cyntaf ailddatblygu'r safle canolog amlwg yma.

Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cynhwysiant

Gwnaeth yr Arweinydd sylwadau am waith a chefnogaeth yr holl staff dysgu a chymorth ar draws pob ysgol yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol yn ystod y pandemig, gan roi gwybod am y 25 hyb gofal plant mewn argyfwng a oedd ar waith yn ysgolion y brif ffrwd, ysgolion arbennig ac Unedau Atgyfeirio Disgyblion yn ystod y cyfnod clo cyntaf, gyda chyfanswm o 787 o blant yn defnyddio'r ddarpariaeth yn rheolaidd. Diolchodd yr Arweinydd unwaith eto i'r holl staff addysgu am y gwaith a wnaed dros y pandemig gan nodi bod ymroddiad a gwaith caled yr holl staff ysgol dan sylw wedi helpu i gadw'r wlad i fynd yn ystod y pandemig. Cyfeiriodd yr Arweinydd hefyd at y dulliau dysgu cymysg a'r gefnogaeth i Ddysgwyr sydd wedi'u Heithrio yn Ddigidol trwy ddarparu dyfeisiau.

O ran Rhaglen Ysgolion yr 21^{ain} Ganrif, nododd yr Arweinydd agoriad adeilad newydd Ysgol Gynradd Hirwaun, a thrafododd y cynnydd o ran adeiladau newydd ar gyfer Ysgolion Cynradd Pont-y-clun, Penygawsi a Llanilltud Faerdref. Croesawodd yr Arweinydd hefyd y cynnig sydd ynghanol proses ymgynghori ar y funud, sef adeiladu ysgol newydd gwerth £8.5 miliwn ar safle newydd i YGG Llyn y Forwyn.

Cyflogaeth.

O ran cyflogaeth, siaradodd yr Arweinydd yn gadarnhaol am y rhaglen i raddedigion a'r cynllun prentisiaethau a'r buddsoddiad sy'n cael ei wneud yn y cynlluniau a'r ffair yrfaedd rithwir gyntaf un a gynhaliwyd gan y Cyngor.

Llywodraethu

Gwnaeth yr Arweinydd sylwadau am waith Llywodraethu'r Cyngor a dywedodd fod y Cyngor yn un o'r Cynghorau cyntaf yng Nghymru i sefydlu cyfarfodydd ar-lein. Manteisiodd ar y cyfle hefyd i ddiolch i'r Pwyllgorau Craffu am eu gwaith herio hanfodol er mwyn cefnogi darpariaeth gwasanaethau a llywio penderfyniadau allweddol y Cyngor mewn perthynas â Gofal Preswyl, y Gyllideb a Storm Dennis. Dywedodd yr Arweinydd hefyd am y bwriad yn y dyfodol i gychwyn cyfarfodydd hybrid pan fydd cyfyngiadau yn caniatáu hynny, yn dilyn y buddsoddiad mewn technoleg well yn y Siambr a'r dull hirdymor yr oedd angen ei ddatblygu.

Gorffennodd yr Arweinydd ei anerchiad trwy nodi bod llawer o bethau cadarnhaol i'w dathlu ar ôl blwyddyn anodd iawn, ac y dylai'r Cyngor fod yn falch o'i gyflawniadau a'r gwasanaethau a ddarparwyd. Gorffennodd yr Arweinydd trwy ddiolch i Lywodraeth Cymru am yr arian a ddaeth i law, a fu'n helpu'r Cyngor i ddarparu gwasanaethau er budd ein trigolion.

Ymatebodd yr Arweinwyr Grŵp i ddadl yr Arweinwyr, gyda phob un yn talu teyrnged i'r GIG, staff y Cyngor, staff Ysgol a Gofal Plant, y sectorau manwerthu a gwirfoddol a llawer yn rhagor am eu gwaith caled a'u hymroddiad trwy gydol y pandemig.

Cyfeiriodd y Cynghorydd Jarman at y cydweithrediad trawsbleidiol a roddwyd ar waith wrth drafod nifer o hysbysiadau o gynnig dros y flwyddyn, gan nodi bod yr holl wrthbleidiau wedi cefnogi ymdrechion y Cyngor mewn perthynas â'r pandemig, dros yr hyn a fu'n 12 mis anodd i'r Cyngor. Cynigiodd pob un o'r Arweinwyr Grŵp gwestiynau i'r Arweinydd ar y canlynol, ac ymatebodd yr Arweinydd iddyn nhw.

- Y bwriad hirdymor ar gyfer staff y Cyngor sy'n rhan o'r cynllun ffyrlo ar hyn o bryd os nad yw'r cynllun yn ymestyn y tu hwnt i Ebrill 2021- Cadarnhaodd yr Arweinydd y bydd staff yn cael eu ni waeth beth fydd yn digwydd gyda'r cynllun ffyrlo ym mis Ebrill, gan ychwanegu fod hyn wedi'i gynnwys yn y Gyllideb arfaethedig sy'n mynd i gael ei chyflwyno i'r Cabinet.
- A fyddai'r Cyngor yn parhau i gefnogi'r darpariaethau cymorth pyllau padlo a gynigiwyd yn flaenorol gan y Cyngor, pe bai pyllau padlo yn agor yn ystod gwyliau'r Haf yn amodol ar gyfyngiadau Covid? - Pe bai cyfyngiadau'n cael

eu codi, dywedodd yr Arweinydd y byddai cefnogaeth bellach yn cael ei darparu i helpu gydag agor pyllau padlo, ond soniodd yr Arweinydd am yr angen i gael cyngor ffurfiol gan Lywodraeth Cymru, Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru a chyfarwyddwr y Cyngor ar hyfywedd agor atyniadau o'r fath oherwydd Covid.

- Beth yw cynllun y Cyngor mewn perthynas ag addysg i sicrhau bod cenedlaethau'r dyfodol yn cael yr holl gyfleoedd posibl er mwyn sicrhau eu bod nhw'n llwyddo yn y Byd? - Cyfeiriodd yr Arweinydd at y cynnydd o fewn y gyllideb arfaethedig ar gyfer Ysgolion ac Addysg, a chyfeiriodd hefyd at y trafodaethau gyda'r Gweinidog Addysg mewn perthynas â'r darpariaethau 'dal i fyny' yr oedd angen eu dwyn ymlaen, gan dynnu sylw hefyd at anghenion o ran addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg.
- Pa drafodaethau y mae'r Cyngor wedi'u cael gyda Trafnidiaeth Cymru yn dilyn y cyhoeddiad diweddar am oedi i gynllun Metro De Cymru, a fydd yn effeithio ar gymunedau ledled RhCT? - Cyfeiriodd yr Arweinydd at drafodaethau a gyda Phrif Weithredwr Trafnidiaeth Cymru, gan ddweud mai dim ond am gyfnod byr iawn y byddai'r oedi yma'n digwydd, soniodd hefyd am y gwaith sydd wedi mynd rhagddo eisoes i fwrw ymlaen â'r cynllun Metro.
- Pa effaith y mae Covid wedi'i chael ar raglen seilwaith fawr, gan gyfeirio'n arbennig at briffyrdd ledled RhCT? - Dywedwyd wrth yr Aelodau mai dim ond effaith fach a gafodd y pandemig ar y cynlluniau, gan roi diweddariad ar sefyllfa rhai o'r cynlluniau sydd ar waith ledled y Fwrdeistref Sirol.

Agorodd y Llywydd gwestiynau i'r holl Aelodau a dywedodd pe bai rhai Aelodau'n methu â chyflwyno eu cwestiwn oherwydd cyfyngiadau amser, byddai modd iddyn nhw gysylltu â'r Arweinydd yn uniongyrchol i gael ymateb.

- A4119 - Darparodd yr Arweinydd wybodaeth am yr amserlenni yr oedd y Cyngor yn gweithio iddyn nhw o ran cwblhau'r cynllun, gan nodi'r bwriad i fod ar y safle gyda'r gwaith adeiladu yn cychwyn ymhen 12 mis, yn dilyn y camau caniatâd cynllunio. Y bwriad yw y bydd y gwaith yn dod i ben yn 2024.
- Cynllun Metro De Cymru - Siaradodd yr Arweinydd am agweddau cadarnhaol ar y cynllun ar gyfer y Fwrdeistref Sirol, gan nodi y byddai'r metro yn darparu cynllun trafniadaeth mwy gwyrdd yn y dyfodol.
- Twristiaeth - Ymatebodd yr Arweinydd i'r cyfeiriad penodol a wnaed at 'ZipWorld' a soniodd am y manteision y byddai hyn yn eu cynnig i RCT, megis cyflogaeth, gan ychwanegu y bydd yr atyniad yn denu pobl drwy gydol y

flwyddyn. Ychwanegodd yr Arweinydd fod galw am ddatblygu llety ledled y Fwrdeistref Sirol er mwyn sicrhau bod twristiaid yn aros o fewn y Fwrdeistref Sirol.

- Ysgolion a chludiant - Dywedodd yr Arweinydd fod datblygiad ysgolion ledled y Fwrdeistref Sirol yn seiliedig ar anghenion yr ardal a'r cymunedau y cyfeiriwyd atynt lle crewyd ysgolion llai yn hytrach nag ysgolion 3-16 oed. Soniodd yr Arweinydd am yr adeiladau ysgol newydd ledled yr Awdurdod, a'r adeiladau mwy eco-gyfeillgar ac effeithlon a godwyd. Gorffennodd yr Arweinydd trwy drafod yr agenda werdd mewn perthynas â chludiant o'r cartref i'r ysgol, gan ddweud na fu cynnydd enfawr mewn trafndiaeth o'r cartref i'r ysgol gan ychwanegu y bu gostyngiad cyffredinol mewn rhai achosion.
- Addysg Arbennig - Dywedodd yr Arweinydd fod adolygiad wedi'i gynnal mewn perthynas ag ysgolion arbennig, a nododd y byddai adroddiad yn cael ei gyflwyno i'r Cabinet ar ganlyniadau'r adolygiad.
- Cynllun lleddfu llifogydd, Cwmbach - Rhoddodd yr Arweinydd ddiweddariad am y cynllun llifogydd gwerth £450k, a gafodd ei ddwyn ymlaen yn dilyn effaith llifogydd ar fusnesau yn yr ardal yma o ganlyniad i Storm Callum ac, yn ddiweddarach, Storm Dennis. Cyfeiriodd yr Arweinydd hefyd at drafodaethau gyda Llywodraeth Cymru ynghylch cynlluniau atal llifogydd yn y dyfodol.
- Gwasanaethau Ymatebol - Soniodd yr Arweinydd am fwy na 650 o wasanaethau a ddarperir gan y Cyngor sydd wedi galluogi staff i weithio'n hyblyg. Cyfeiriodd at y darpariaethau cymorth digidol sydd ar gael i staff pan fyddan nhw'n gweithio gartref a siaradodd am y nifer fach o feysydd lle nad yw gwasanaethau'n cael eu darparu mwyach oherwydd diogelwch staff a thrigolion.

Diolchodd y Llywydd i'r Arweinydd am ei ddadl a'i ymatebion i'r Aelodau.

105 Rhaglen Waith y Cyngor 2020/2021

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu ddiweddariad ynghylch Rhaglen Waith y Cyngor, gan nodi y byddai Cyfarwyddwr Bargen Ddinesig Prifddinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd a Chadeirydd y Bartneriaeth Twf Economaidd Rhanbarthol (REGP) yn dod i gyfarfod y Cyngor ym mis Mawrth.

106 Diweddariad mewn perthynas â'r Coronafeirws yn Rhondda Cynon Taf

Cyflwynodd Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadran Gwasanaethau'r Gymuned a Gwasanaethau i Blant ddiweddariad mewn perthynas â'r Coronafeirws yn RhCT gyda chymorth cyflwyniad PowerPoint a oedd yn nodi'r wybodaeth allweddol ganlynlol: -

- Achosion Covid 19 wedi'u cadarnhau fesul 100,000 o'r boblogaeth yn y 7 diwrnod blaenorol

- Achosion Covid 19 wedi'u cadarnhau fesul 100,000 o'r boblogaeth yn y 7 diwrnod blaenorol gan yr Awdurdod Lleol ar gyfer ardal Cwm Taf Morgannwg
- Tueddiadau o ran cyfraddau heintiau Covid cronnus 7 diwrnod fesul 100,00 o fewn CTM
- Niferoedd Dyddiol o Achosion Covid Positif o fewn CTM
- Gwylidwriaeth Covid mewn Ardaloedd Lleol
- Tueddiadau wythnosol mewn marwolaethau oherwydd Covid yn ôl lleoliad
- Nifer y brechlynnau a roddwyd yn rhanbarth CTM
- Cychwyn Cam 2 ar 1 Mawrth 2021

Yn dilyn y diweddariad, cafodd pob un o'r Arweinwyr Grŵp gyfle i ofyn cwestiynau.

Y Cynghorydd A Morgan, Arweinydd y Cyngor ac Arweinydd y Grŵp Llafur
 Roedd yr Arweinydd yn dymuno cofnodi ei ddiolch i'r holl staff a fu'n cefnogi'r rhaglen gyda'r Bwrdd Iechyd. Dywedodd y bydd rhagor o wybodaeth am agor canolfannau brechu pellach yn fuan iawn. Bydd hyn yn amlwg yn effeithio ar rai cyfleusterau pan fydd y cyfyngiadau'n codi, megis canolfannau hamdden sydd bellach yn ganolfannau brechu. Rhaid i'r gwaith o gyflwyno'r rhaglen frechu barhau i fod yn flaenoriaeth ar hyn o bryd, a gobeithio y byddai hyn yn cael ei gefnogi'n llawn gan aelodau a phreswylwyr. Dywedodd yr Arweinydd fod modd i bobl lenwi ffurflen ar-lein os ydyn nhw yng nghategori 1-4 a ddim wedi derbyn y brechlyn eto. Anogodd yr Aelodau i gyfeirio unrhyw un maen nhw'n eu hadnabod sydd o fewn y categorïau yma, ac sydd heb dderbyn brechlyn, at y ffurflen yma a rhoi cymorth iddyn nhw. Mae'r Bwrdd Iechyd hefyd yn bwriadu cyhoeddi rhif ffôn newydd y bydd modd i bobl ei ddefnyddio i archebu prawf os does dim modd iddyn nhw wneud hynny ar-lein.

Aeth yr Arweinydd ymlaen i ddweud y bydd plant cyfnod sylfaen yn dychwelyd i'r ysgol ymhen pythefnos ac roedd trafodaethau ar y gweill gyda'r Gweinidogion a'r undebau ynghylch sut mae modd i ysgolion uwchradd ddychwelyd yn ddiogel. Ychwanegodd y byddai datganiad yn ei enw yn cael ei gyhoeddi gan Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru yn ddiweddarach heno i nodi mai'r flaenoriaeth ar gyfer bob un o'r 22 Awdurdod Lleol yw i bob plentyn ddychwelyd i'r ysgol yn ddiogel cyn y caniateir i unrhyw siopau, tafarndai a bwytai eraill agor. Dywedodd y dylid defnyddio gyfleoedd sydd ar gael ar gyfer plant sy'n dychwelyd i fyd addysg, ac y byddai'n aros am arweiniad gan y prif swyddog meddygol ynghylch pryd mae hyn yn bosibl

Y Cynghorydd P Jarman (Arweinydd Grŵp, Grŵp Plaid Cymru)

Dywedodd y Cynghorydd Jarman mai dim ond pan fydd modd casglu'r data y bydd modd i ni ddeall pam mae nifer y marwolaethau yn ardal RhCT mor uchel. Roedd hi'n bryderus am gyfradd yr haint mewn rhai wardiau, Tylorstown er enghraifft, ond hefyd y gyfradd ledled y Fwrdeistref. Roedd hi'n awyddus i weld y data er mwyn canfod a allai'r rhain fod o ganlyniad i bobl sydd methu fforddio

colli'r gwaith wrth hunan-ynysu, gan nad ydyn nhw'n gymwys i dderbyn unrhyw fudd-daliadau.

Gofynnodd y Cynghorydd Jarman i'r Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadran, Gwasanaethau i Blant a Gwasanaethau'r Gymuned a oedd y rhaglen frechu Lefel 2 yn targedu pobl 60-70 oed yn unig?

Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadran, Gwasanaethau i Blant a Gwasanaethau'r Gymuned, bod y garfan rheoli digwyddiadau yn ymchwilio i achosion unrhyw glystyrau a nodir gan y carfanau Orlhain Cysylltiadau, ac yn nodi unrhyw gamau addas y mae modd eu rhoi ar waith. Ychwanegodd fod y garfan yn ymgymryd â "olrhain cysylltiadau am yn ôl" sy'n ddull ehagach ac sy'n mynd yn ôl ymhellach. Bydd yn gwneud hyn gydag unrhyw achosion newydd er mwyn nodi ffynhonnell yr achos a ddeall pam mae'r ardal benodol wedi achosi problem. Mae hyn hefyd yn digwydd o ran gweithleoedd a galwedigaethau.

O ran y rhaglen frechu, hysbysodd y Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadran yr Aelodau y byddai grwpiau 1-4 yn cael brechiad erbyn 14 Chwefror, a dywedodd y byddai'r ail gam (4-9) sef brechiad i bawb dros 50 oed, yn dod i ben erbyn diwedd mis Mai.

Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol M. Powell, Grŵp Annibynnol RhCT

Cyfeiriodd y Cynghorydd Powell at y data a oedd yn cael ei ddarparu i Aelodau, ac roedd yn pryderu nad oedd y wybodaeth yn ddigon clir, ac yn ei gwneud hi'n anodd gweld pa wardiau oedd yn wynebu'r effaith fwyaf niweidiol. Ychwanegodd y byddai wedi elwa ar gael golwg ar y data cyn y cyfarfod. Nododd nad yw'r data yn nodi trosglwyddiad yn yr ysbyty o hyd ac roedd yn pryderu y byddai'r manylion am rywun sy'n dal y feirws yn yr ysbyty yn cael ei gysylltu â chyfeiriad cartref yr unigolyn hwnnw, gan roi darlun anghywir o'r sefyllfa o ran trosglwyddo yn yr ysbyty. Gofynnodd am eglurhad ynghylch adleoli canolfannau brechu, a hefyd a oedd y grwpiau blaenoriaeth yn cynnwys gweithwyr hanfodol fel gweithwyr gofal cymdeithasol ac athrawon.

Ymatebodd Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadran, Gwasanaethau i Blant a Gwasanaethau'r Gymuned fod llawer o'r data ar gael i'r cyhoedd ac y gallai ddarparu'r dolenni i'r wybodaeth i'r Aelodau eu gweld. Ymddiheurodd nad oedd ganddo ddata fesul ward i'w ddangos.

O ran y data ar gyfer trosglwyddiadau a gafwyd mewn ysbytai, dywedodd fod y cyfraddau heintiau yn gostwng, ond roedd achosion o hyd mewn rhai ysbytai, er bod pethau'n gwella'n sylweddol. Mewn perthynas â'r data sy'n ymwneud â'r man preswyllo a throsglwyddiadau a gafwyd mewn ysbytai, dywedodd fod y niferoedd mor isel fel na fydden nhw'n cael unrhyw effaith ar yr wybodaeth a ddarperir yn y cyflwyniad, felly gobeithiodd y byddai hyn yn rhoi sicrwydd i'r aelodau fod yr hyn a gyflwynwyd yn adlewyrchu cynrychiolaeth gywir ar gyfer y wardiau hynny

Cadarnhaodd fod y canolfannau brechu yn ddibynadwy ar y cyflenwad o frechlynnau a gaiff eu derbyn, a chan fod nifer y brechlynnau Pfizer yn gyfyngedig, cafodd y rhain eu blaenoriaethu ar gyfer brechlynnau ail ddos, mae effaith hyn yn golygu y byddai rhai o'r canolfannau brechu yn cael eu cau dros dro ond y bydden nhw'n ailagor unwaith y byddai'r cyflenwad Pfizer wedi'i adnewyddu a cham dau yn dechrau.

Cadarnhaodd y Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadran fod y grwpiau blaenoriaeth 5-9 yn cynnwys preswylwyr dros 50 oed hyd at 65 oed, ac yn cynnwys y rhai sydd â

chyflyrau iechyd sylfaenol a restrwyd yn gyhoeddus. Roedd y grwpiau blaenoriaeth yn canolbwyntio ar atal marwolaethau a oedd yn ymwneud yn bennaf ag oedran.

Y Cynghorydd A Morgan, Arweinydd y Cyngor ac Arweinydd y Grŵp Llafur
Ychwanegodd yr Arweinydd y bydd diweddariad pellach yn cael ei gyhoeddi yfory am y canolfannau brechu torfol a'u hadleoliad er mwyn paratoi ar gyfer cam nesaf y rhaglen.

Rhoddodd sicrwydd i'r Aelodau nad oedd y broblem o ran cyflenwi'r brechlyn Pfizer yn fater sy'n ymwneud ag RhCT, a'i bod yn broblem ledled y wlad. Er y gallai'r Awdurdod Lleol a'r Bwrdd Iechyd agor llawer yn rhagor o ganolfannau brechu, dywedodd eu bod yn dibynnu ar y cyflenwad o frechlynnau sy'n dod i law, a bod y rhain yn cael eu dosbarthu yn ôl niferoedd y boblogaeth. Ychwanegodd fod y canolfannau brechu hefyd yn canolbwyntio ar ddosbarthu ail ddos o'r brechlynnau ac y byddai rhagor o wybodaeth yn cael ei chyhoeddi maes o law.

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Rhybuddion o Gynigion

A. Trafod y Rhybudd o Gynnig canlynol sydd wedi'i gyflyno yn enwau Cynghorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol M. Forey, J. Bonetto, L. M. Adams, D. R. Bevan, H. Boggis, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, A. Calvert, G. Caple, A. Crimmings, A. Davies-Jones, L. De- Vet, J. Edwards, J. Elliott, S. Evans, M. Fidler Jones, , A. Fox, E. George, M. Griffiths, J. Harries G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, G. Jones, R. Lewis, W. Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen Jones, S. Pickering, S.M. Powell, S. Rees, A. Roberts, J. Rosser, G. Stacey, M. Tegg, G. Thomas, W. Treeby, R. K. Turner, M. Webber, D. Williams, T. Williams, C. J. Willis ac R. Yeo

Mae effeithiau pandemig COVID-19 ar gymunedau, busnesau a theuluoedd ledled y wlad yn sylweddol ac fe'u trafodwyd mewn nifer o fforymau ac ar amrywiaeth o lwyfannau. Mae miliynau o bobl wedi dioddef colled ariannol ar ôl colli swyddi neu gwmpas o ran masnach, tra bod cyfnodau hir o gyfyngiadau wedi'u gosod ar eu bywydau beunyddiol.

Ar ddechrau'r pandemig, honnodd y Prif Weinidog a Changhellor y Trysorlys y bydden nhw'n "rhoi eu breichiau o gwmpas" pawb yn ystod yr argyfwng cenedlaethol, a chyflwynon nhw nifer o becynnau cymorth y wladwriaeth. Un o'r mesurau yma oedd cynydd o £20 yr wythnos i swm y taliad Credyd Cynhwysol, a oedd o fudd i bron i chwe miliwn o hawlwyd ledled y DU sydd naill ai ar incwm isel neu'n ddi-waith. Rhoddodd hyn gymorth sylweddol i'r rhai yr oedd angen y gefnogaeth fwyaf yn ystod y cyfnod digynsail yma, gydag elusennau a sefydliadau yn galw'r codiad yn "achubiaeth" a'r rhai a oedd yn derbyn Credyd Cynhwysol yn dweud ei fod yn golygu bod modd iddyn nhw gael "prin digon, yn hytrach na dim."

Nawr, bron i flwyddyn yn ddiweddarach - gyda'r pandemig yn dal i daflu cysgod dros ein bywydau beunyddiol, mae sôn bod Llywodraeth Geidwadol y DU yn adolygu'r cynnydd, ac mae honiad bod y Prif Weinidog yn bwriadu ei ddileu. Mae'r posibilrwydd o dynnu cymorth o'r fath yn ôl yn dangos unwaith eto nad yw Llywodraeth San Steffan yn ystyried teuluoedd yn flaenoriaeth, a hynny ar adeg pan mae pethau wedi gwaethygu i lawer, gyda rhagor o bobl

yn colli eu swyddi bob dydd o ganlyniad i'r pandemig.

Yn Rhondda Cynon Taf yn unig, mae tua 17,000 o bobl (ym mis Rhagfyr 2020) yn hawlio Credyd Cynhwysol a bydd cael gwared ar y taliad wythnosol yn ergyd i lawer yn ein cymunedau ar adeg pan mae cefnogaeth y wladwriaeth mor hanfodol.

Mae'r Cyngor yma'n nodi:

- Bod y taliad ychwanegol o £20 o Gredyd Cynhwysol yr wythnos yn hwb hanfodol i filiynau, ac na ddylid ei ddileu yn ystod y pandemig. Byddai hyn yn cael yr effaith galetaf ar gymunedau fel Rhondda Cynon Taf

ac yn **penderfynu**:

- Bydd Arweinydd y Cyngor ysgrifennu at Ganghellor y Trysorlys a'r Prif Weinidog cyn cyhoeddi'r gyllideb ar 3 Mawrth i amlinellu gwrthwynebiad y Cyngor hwn i'r bwriad o gael gwared ar y cynnydd o £20 yr wythnos mewn taliadau Credyd Cynhwysol tra bo'r pandemig yn parhau

Yn unol â Rheol Gweithdrefn 12.7 y Cyngor, cyflwynodd y cynigydd newid i'r Cynnig gwreiddiol, sef dileu'r cyfeiriad at y pandemig.

Dyma'r Cynnig wedi'i ddiwygio:

Mae effeithiau pandemig COVID-19 ar gymunedau, busnesau a theuluoedd ledled y wlad yn sylweddol ac fe'u trafodwyd mewn nifer o fforymau ac ar amrywiaeth o lwyfannau. Mae miliynau o bobl wedi dioddef colled ariannol ar ôl colli swyddi neu gwmp o ran masnach, tra bod cyfnodau hir o gyfyngiadau wedi'u gosod ar eu bywydau beunyddiol.

Ar ddechrau'r pandemig, honnodd y Prif Weinidog a Changhellor y Trysorlys y bydden nhw'n "rhoi eu breichiau o gwmpas" pawb yn ystod yr argyfwng cenedlaethol, a chyflwynon nhw nifer o becynnau cymorth y wladwriaeth. Un o'r mesurau yma oedd cynydd o £20 yr wythnos i swm y taliad Credyd Cynhwysol, a oedd o fudd i bron i chwe miliwn o hawlwyd ledled y DU sydd naill ai ar incwm isel neu'n ddi-waith. Rhoddodd hyn gymorth sylweddol i'r rhai yr oedd angen y gefnogaeth fwyaf yn ystod y cyfnod digynsail yma, gydag elusennau a sefydliadau yn galw'r codiad yn "achubiaeth" a'r rhai a oedd yn derbyn Credyd Cynhwysol yn dweud ei fod yn golygu bod modd iddyn nhw gael "prin digon, yn hytrach na dim."

Nawr, bron i flwyddyn yn ddiweddarach - gyda'r pandemig yn dal i daflu cysgod dros ein bywydau beunyddiol, mae sôn bod Llywodraeth Geidwadol y DU yn adolygu'r cynnydd, ac mae honiad bod y Prif Weinidog yn bwriadu ei ddileu. Mae'r posibilrwydd o dynnu cymorth o'r fath yn ôl yn dangos unwaith eto nad yw Llywodraeth San Steffan yn ystyried teuluoedd yn flaenoriaeth, a hynny ar adeg pan mae pethau wedi gwaethygu i lawer, gyda rhagor o bobl yn colli eu swyddi bob dydd o ganlyniad i'r pandemig.

Yn Rhondda Cynon Taf yn unig, mae tua 21,000 o aelwydydd (ym mis Rhagfyr 2020) yn hawlio Credyd Cynhwysol a bydd cael gwared ar y taliad wythnosol yn ergyd i lawer yn ein cymunedau ar adeg pan mae cefnogaeth y wladwriaeth mor hanfodol.

Mae'r Cyngor yma'n nodi:

- Bod y taliad ychwanegol o £20 o Gredyd Cynhwysol yr wythnos yn hwb hanfodol i filiynau, ac na ddylid ei ddileu. Byddai hyn yn cael yr effaith

galetaf ar gymunedau fel Rhondda Cynon Taf

ac yn **penderfynu**:

- Bydd Arweinydd y Cyngor ysgrifennu at Ganghellor y Trysorlys a'r Prif Weinidog cyn cyhoeddi'r gyllideb ar 3 Mawrth i amlinellu gwrthwynebiad y Cyngor hwn i'r bwriad o gael gwared ar y cynnydd o £20 yr wythnos mewn taliadau Credyd Cynhwysol.

Yn y cyfarfod, cyhoeddodd y Cadeirydd, yn unol â Rheol 10.4.1 o Weithdrefn y Cyngor, fod y diwygiad canlynol i'r Rhybudd o Gynnig gwreiddiol wedi'i dderbyn gan Gynghorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol P Jarman, H Fychan, E Webster, G Davies, A Chapman, S Evans, L Jones, E Stephens, S Rees Owen, M Weaver, J Williams, A Cox, D Grehan, E Griffiths, K Morgan, J Cullwick a J Davies.

Yng ngoleuni'r newid arfaethedig i'r Rhybudd o Gynnig gwreiddiol, penderfynodd Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol P Jarman dynnu'r diwygiad a gyflwynwyd gan grŵp Plaid Cymru yn ôl cyn iddo gael ei drafod.

Yn dilyn trafodaethau am y Rhybudd o Gynnig gwreiddiol, diwygiedig, **PENDERFYNWYD** mabwysiadu'r Rhybudd o Gynnig yma unol â Rheolau Gweithdrefn y Cyngor 12.7.

- B.** Trafod yr Hysbysiad o Gynnig canlynol yn enwau Cynghorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol M Powell, L Walker, P Howe, G Williams, M Diamond, K Jones, W Jones ac W Owen.

Mae'r Cyngor yma'n yn gofyn i adroddiad Swyddog gael ei gyflwyno i gyfarfod o'r Pwyllgor Llywodraethu Corfforaethol a Materion Cyfansoddiadol, sy'n nodi'r cynnig canlynol i'w ystyried:

Y dylai unrhyw gwestiynau a gaiff eu cyflwyno ar gyfer cyfarfod y Cyngor llawn gael eu gwrthod os oes modd dod o hyd i'r ateb yn hawdd ar wefan y Cyngor, neu os yw'r Gwasanaethau i Gynghorwyr wedi darparu'r wybodaeth yma i Gynghorwyr eisoes yn ystod y chwe mis diwethaf. Wedyn, dylid cyfeirio'r Aelod at yr wybodaeth berthnasol sydd ar gael yn hawdd

Yn y cyfarfod, cyhoeddodd y Cadeirydd, yn unol â Rheol 10.4.1 o Weithdrefn y Cyngor, fod y diwygiad canlynol i'r Rhybudd o Gynnig gwreiddiol wedi'i dderbyn gan Gynghorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol P Jarman, H Fychan, E Webster, G Davies, A Chapman, S Evans, L Jones, E Stephens, S Rees Owen, M Weaver, J Williams, A Cox, D Grehan, E Griffiths, K Morgan, J Cullwick a J Davies.

Roedd y Cynnig Diwygiedig yn nodi:

Mae'r Cyngor yma'n yn gofyn i adroddiad Swyddog gael ei gyflwyno i gyfarfod o'r Pwyllgor Llywodraethu Corfforaethol a Materion Cyfansoddiadol, sy'n nodi'r cynnig canlynol i'w ystyried:

Mae'r Cyngor yma'n rhagdybio bod y cynnig hwn wedi'i gyflwyno o ganlyniad i'r cwestiwn heb ei ateb a gyflwynwyd ar 11 Tachwedd 2020 yn ymwneud â

threfniadau cwestiynau.

Mae'r Cyngor yma'n yn gofyn i adroddiad Swyddog gael ei gyflwyno sy'n nodi'r protocol arfaethedig o ran derbyn Cwestiynau gan Aelodau a'u hateb. Bydd yr adroddiad yma yn cynnwys pa mor briodol neu amhriodol yw gwrthod cwestiwn trwy gymhwyso rheol 6 mis sy'n rhan o'r protocol y dibynnir arno yn rheol gweithdrefn 14.1 a 14.2 ar gyfer gwrthod cynigion coll neu i ddiddymu penderfyniad blaenorol y Cyngor.

Mae eisoes rheolau ar gyfer sesiynau holi ac ateb mwy cynhyrchiol a ddylai ddileu dyblygu ac ailadrodd, ond ni chânt eu dilyn yn gyffredinol.

Nodir y rhain yn Rheol gweithdrefn 9.5 y Cyngor hwn, sy'n ymwneud ag ateb cwestiynau a all fod ar ffurf (b) pan fo'r wybodaeth a ddymunir mewn cyhoeddiad gan y Cyngor neu waith cyhoeddedig arall, cyfeirir at y cyhoeddiad hwnnw. Bydd ateb o'r fath yn ddigonol ond ni ddibynnir arno byth. Yn lle hynny, mae ymatebion hir sy'n dibynnu ar wybodaeth a gyhoeddwyd yn flaenorol, yn gyffredin. Mae hyn yn ei dro hefyd yn lleihau'r cyfle i ofyn rhagor o gwestiynau yn y slot 20 munud a neilltuwyd ar gyfer Cwestiynau'r Aelodau.

Fel nad oes amheuaeth o ran cymhwyso rheol 9.6 sy'n ymwneud â chwestiynau atodol, mae hawl awtomatig i ofyn cwestiwn o'r fath yn ôl y Cyfansoddiad yn amodol ar ofyn ac ateb y cwestiwn cyntaf.

Diben a phwrpas y cynnig yw symleiddio a chynyddu'r cyfleoedd i Aelodau graffu ar Aelodau'r Cabinet a Chadeiryddion Pwyllgorau, trwy eu holi am faterion manwl neu ddiweddariadau ar faterion y gallent fod â chyfrifoldeb ac atebolrwydd drostynt, ond nad ydynt wedi cael eu gwneud yn hysbys yn gyffredinol neu'n gyhoeddus.

Dyma'r rhesymeg o ofyn bod adroddiad Swyddog yn cael ei gyflwyno i'r Pwyllgor Llywodraethu Corfforaethol a Materion Cyfansoddiadol er mwyn adolygu ac adnewyddu'r rheolau sy'n ymwneud â Chwestiynau Aelodau, os yw'n briodol}.

Yn dilyn trafodaeth ar y mater yma, cymerwyd y bleidlais mewn perthynas â'r diwygiad i'r Rhybudd o Gynnig a **PHENDERFYNWYD** peidio â'i mabwysiadu.

Yn dilyn trafodaethau bellach ar y cynnig gwreiddiol yr oedd **PENDERFYNWYD** peidio â mabwysiadu'r Rhybudd o Gynnig.

NODWCH:

- Yn ystod y drafodaeth **PENDERFYNWYD** parhau â'r cyfarfod yn unol â Rheol 8 - Dull Gweithredu'r Cyngor, er mwyn trafod gweddill yr eitemau ar yr agenda a pharhau â busnes y Cyngor.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 8.10pm

**Y Cyngorydd S. Powderhill:
Cadeirydd**

tudalen wag

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf

Crynodeb archwiliad blynyddol 2020



Dyma grynodeb o'n harchwiliad ar gyfer Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf. Mae'n dangos y gwaith a gwblhawyd ers yr Adroddiad Gwella Blynyddol diwethaf, a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Medi 2019. Mae'r crynodeb o'n harchwiliad yn rhan o ddyletswyddau Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru.

Mae rhagor o wybodaeth am y dyletswyddau hyn ar gael ar ein [gwefan](#).

Ynglŷn â'r Cyngor

Rhai o'r gwasanaethau a ddarperir gan y Cyngor



Ffeithiau allweddol

Mae gan y Cyngor 75 o gynghorwyr sy'n cynrychioli'r pleidiau gwleidyddol canlynol:

- Llafur Cymru 47
- Plaid Cymru 17
- Annibynnol 8
- Ceidwadwyr Cymreig 2
- Plaid Cwm Cynon 1

Gwariodd y Cyngor £529.1 miliwn ar ddarparu gwasanaethau yn ystod 2019-20, sef y gwariant uchaf ond un o blith y 22 cyngor unedol yng Nghymru.

Ar 31 Mawrth 2020, roedd gan y Cyngor £119.9 miliwn o gronfeydd ariannol wrth gefn y gellir eu defnyddio. Mae hyn yn cyfateb i 23% o wariant blynyddol y Cyngor ar wasanaethau, sef y 6ed canran uchaf o blith y 22 cyngor unedol yng Nghymru.

Ffeithiau allweddol

Bernir bod 27 (18%) o'r 154 ardal o fewn y Cyngor Bwrdeistref ymhlith y 10% ardal mwyaf diffreintiedig yng Nghymru, sef y trydydd uchaf (cydradd â chyngor arall) o blith y 22 cyngor unedol yng Nghymru¹.

Rhagwelir y bydd poblogaeth Rhondda Cynon Taf yn cynyddu 4.5% rhwng 2020 a 2040 o 241,492 i 252,418, gan gynnwys gostyngiad o 4.3% yn nifer y plant, cynnydd o 1.2% yn nifer y boblogaeth oedran gweithio a chynnydd o 2.3% yn nifer y bobl 65 oed a throsodd².

Dyletswyddau'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol

Rydym yn cwblhau gwaith bob blwyddyn i gyflawni'r dyletswyddau canlynol

- **Archwilio Cyfrifon**

Bob blwyddyn mae'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol yn archwilio datganiadau ariannol y Cyngor i sicrhau bod arian cyhoeddus yn cael ei gyfrifo'n briodol.

- **Gwerth am arian**

Mae'n rhaid i'r Cyngor roi trefniadau ar waith i gael gwerth am arian am yr adnoddau y mae'n eu defnyddio, a rhaid i'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol fod wedi'i fodloni ei fod wedi gwneud hyn.

- **Gwelliant parhaus**

Mae'n rhaid i'r Cyngor roi trefniadau ar waith hefyd i wneud gwelliannau parhaus, gan gynnwys cynlluniau ac adroddiadau cysylltiedig, ac mae'n rhaid i'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol asesu a yw'r Cyngor yn debygol o fodloni'r gofynion hyn (neu wedi gwneud hynny).

- **Egwyddor datblygu cynaliadwy**

Mae angen i gyrff cyhoeddus gydymffurfio â'r egwyddor datblygu cynaliadwy wrth bennu eu hamcanion llesiant a chymryd camau i'w cyflawni. Rhaid i'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol asesu i ba raddau y maent yn gwneud hyn.

¹Diffinnir ardal yn y cyd-destun hwn fel 'Ardal Cynnyrch Ehangach Haen Is'. Ffynhonnell: Stats Cymru

²Ffynhonnell: Stats Cymru



Ers Gwanwyn 2020, mae'r pandemig parhaus wedi effeithio ar ein gwaith archwilio. Rydym yn cydnabod y straen enfawr ar wasanaethau cyhoeddus ac wedi ail-lunio ein rhaglen waith a dod o hyd i ffyrdd newydd o weithio i leihau ei effaith ar ymateb cyrff cyhoeddus i COVID-19, gan barhau i gyflawni ein dyletswyddau statudol.



Er mwyn cyflawni dyletswyddau'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol, rydym yn cwblhau prosiectau penodol, ond rydym yn dibynnu ar waith archwilio arall hefyd, a gwaith rheoleiddwyr fel Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru ac Estyn (yr arolygiaeth addysg). Rydym yn ystyried canfyddiadau ein gwaith archwilio wrth asesu a yw'r Cyngor wedi rhoi trefniadau ar waith i sicrhau gwerth am arian. Ceir crynodeb o'n canfyddiadau a'n casgliadau isod.

Yr hyn a ganfuwyd gennym

Archwiliad o Gyfrifon 2019-20 Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf

Bob blwyddyn, rydym yn archwilio datganiadau ariannol y Cyngor.

Ar gyfer 2019-20:

- rhoddodd yr Archwilydd Cyffredinol farn ddiamod, gwir a theg ar ddatganiadau ariannol y Cyngor ar 26 Tachwedd 2020, pedwar diwrnod cyn y dyddiad cau statudol.
- paratowyd Datganiad Llywodraethu Blynnyddol ac Adroddiad Naratif y Cyngor yn unol â Chod CIPFA a chanllawiau perthnasol. Roeddent hefyd yn gyson â'r datganiadau ariannol a baratowyd gan y Cyngor a chyda'n gwybodaeth ni am y Cyngor.
- roedd ansawdd y datganiadau drafft a gyflwynwyd i'w harchwilio ar 14 Gorffennaf 2020 yn dda ar y cyfan.
- gwnaed nifer o newidiadau i ddatganiadau ariannol y Cyngor yn deillio o'n gwaith archwilio, a adroddwyd i'r Cyngor Llawn yn ein Hadroddiad Archwilio Datganiadau Ariannol ym mis Tachwedd 2020.
- yn ogystal â chyfrifoldebau'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol am archwilio datganiadau ariannol y Cyngor, mae'n gyfrifol am ardystio nifer o ffurflenni a hawliadau grant hefyd. Nid yw ein gwaith hyd yma wedi nodi unrhyw faterion arwyddocaol.
- mae'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol wedi cyhoeddi'r dystysgrif yn cadarnhau bod archwiliad cyfrifon 2019-20 wedi'i gwblhau.
- mae ffeithiau a ffigurau allweddol o ddatganiadau ariannol 2019-20 ar gael [yma](#).

Archwiliad Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol – Buddsoddi mewn Gwasanaethau Hamdden (Mawrth 2020)

Roedd yr archwiliad a gynhaliwyd gennym yn 2019-20 yn ystyried i ba raddau y mae'r Cyngor wedi gweithredu yn unol â'r egwyddor datblygu cynaliadwy wrth gyflwyno buddsoddiadau blaenoriaeth ar gyfer cyfleusterau hamdden er mwyn cynyddu cyfranogiad mewn ymarfer corff a chyfrannu at iechyd a llesiant trigolion. Daethom i'r casgliad bod enghreifftiau clir o sut mae'r Cyngor yn defnyddio'r egwyddor datblygu cynaliadwy wrth fuddsoddi mewn cyfleusterau hamdden, ond bod cyfleoedd ar gael i ddatblygu cynlluniau mwy hirdymor a chynnwys pobl wrth lunio darpariaeth hamdden yn y dyfodol. Gellir gweld yr adroddiad [yma](#).

Gwelliant Parhaus

Ar dystiodd yr Archwilydd Cyffredinol fod y Cyngor wedi cyflawni ei ddyletswyddau cyfreithiol ar gyfer cynllunio ac adrodd ar welliannau, ac mae o'r farn ei fod yn debygol o fodloni gofynion Mesur Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) 2009 yn ystod 2020-21.

Cynaliadwyedd Ariannol (Mawrth 2020)

Yn ystod 2019-20, buom yn archwilio cynaliadwyedd ariannol pob cyngor yng Nghymru. Yn Rhondda Cynon Taf daethom i'r casgliad bod y Cyngor mewn sefyllfa dda i reoli ei gynaliadwyedd ariannol dros y tymor byr a'r tymor canolig. Gellir gweld yr adroddiad [yma](#).

Y Fenter Twyll Genedlaethol

Ym mis Hydref 2020, cyhoeddodd yr Archwilydd Cyffredinol ei adroddiad ar ganfyddiadau ymarfer paru data diweddaraf y Fenter Twyll Genedlaethol (NFI) yng Nghymru. Roedd yr ymarfer yn helpu cyrff cyhoeddus yng Nghymru, gan gynnwys y 22 awdurdod unedol, i nodi twyll a gordaliadau gwerth £8 miliwn. Mae'r adroddiad ar gael ar ein gwefan [yma](#). Mae'r Fenter yn parhau i gael ei datblygu, ac yn yr ymarfer NFI arfaethedig (NFI 2020-2022), bydd gan awdurdodau lleol fynediad at ddata sydd wedi'i baru er mwyn helpu i nodi ceisiadau twyllodrus posibl ar gyfer grantiau cymorth busnes COVID-19.

Arolygiaethau Eraill

Ystyriwyd adroddiadau Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru (AGC) ac Estyn hefyd, ynghyd ag unrhyw gamau dilynol a gymerwyd gan y Cyngor mewn ymateb. Yn ystod 2019-20, cyhoeddodd AGC ei **Lythyr adolygu perfformiad awdurdod lleol 2019/20: Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf**. Gellir gweld y llythyr [yma](#).

Ym mis Ionawr 2021, ysgrifennodd Estyn at Brif Weithredwr y Cyngor yn amlinellu canlyniad ei adolygiad o waith Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf wrth gefnogi eu cymunedau dysgu mewn ysgolion ac unedau cyfeirio disgyblion (UCDau) yn ystod y cyfnod rhwng mis Mawrth a mis Hydref 2020. Adroddiad perthnasol arall yw adroddiad Cenedlaethol Estyn, **Cymorth awdurdodau lleol a chonsortia rhanbarthol i ysgolion ac UCDau i ymateb i COVID-19 – Adroddiad diweddar o Fehefin i Dachwedd 2020**, a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Ionawr 2021. Gellir gweld yr adroddiad [yma](#).

Astudiaethau Llywodraeth Leol

Yn ogystal â gwaith lleol ym mhob cyngor, bob blwyddyn rydym yn cynnal astudiaethau ledled y sector llywodraeth leol hefyd i wneud argymhellion ar gyfer gwella gwerth am arian. Ers yr adroddiad gwella blynyddol diwethaf, rydym wedi cyhoeddi'r adroddiadau canlynol:

Y 'Drws Blaen' i Ofal Cymdeithasol (Medi 2019)

Ystyriwyd effeithiolrwydd y 'drws blaen' newydd i ofal cymdeithasol, gan edrych yn benodol ar wasanaethau i oedolion. Er bod cynghorau'n atal y galw am ofal cymdeithasol, canfuwyd nad yw gwybodaeth, cyngor a chymorth yn effeithiol yn gyson. Gellir gweld yr adroddiad [yma](#).

Adolygiad o Fyrddau Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus (Hydref 2019)

Rydym wedi archwilio sut y mae Byrddau Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus yn gweithredu; gan edrych ar eu haelodaeth, eu cylch gorchwyl, amllder a ffocws cyfarfodydd, y modd y maent yn cyd-fynd â phartneriaethau eraill, adnoddau a threfniadau craffu. Daethom i'r casgliad nad yw Byrddau Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus yn debygol o wireddu eu potensial oni bai y rhoddir rhyddid iddynt i weithredu'n fwy hyblyg ac i feddwl a gweithredu'n wahanol. Gellir gweld yr adroddiad [yma](#).

Cynnydd o ran gweithredu'r Ddeddf Trais yn Erbyn Menywod, Cam-drin Domestig a Thrais Rhywiol (Tachwedd 2019)

Rydym wedi archwilio sut y mae dyletswyddau a chyfrifoldebau newydd y Ddeddf Trais yn erbyn Menywod, Cam-drin Domestig a Thrais Rhywiol (Cymru) yn cael eu cyflwyno a'u cyflawni. Gwelwyd fod dioddefwyr a goroeswyr cam-drin domestig a thrais rhywiol yn cael eu methu yn aml gan system anghyson, gymhleth a thameidiog. Gellir gweld yr adroddiad [yma](#).

Cysgu Allan yng Nghymru – Problem i Bawb; Cyfrifoldeb i Neb (Gorffennaf 2020)

Edrychwyd ar ba mor dda y mae gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yn ymateb i fater cysgu allan. Yn gyffredinol, gwelwyd fod ymateb i COVID-19 yn gyfle i gyrff cyhoeddus ddechrau mynd i'r afael â gwendidau hirsefydlog mewn trefniadau gweithio mewn partneriaeth sydd wedi eu hatal rhag mynd i'r afael â chysgu allan yn y gorffennol. Gellir gweld yr adroddiad [yma](#).

Deddfu Gwell (Medi 2020)

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn defnyddio pum adroddiad a gyhoeddwyd rhwng 2019 a heddiw yn edrych ar sut mae awdurdodau lleol yn ymateb i'r her o weithredu deddfwriaeth newydd. Mae rhoi deddfwriaeth ar waith yn dasg gymhleth, ac mae angen i Lywodraeth Cymru a'r Senedd roi ystyriaeth fanwl i'r dasg hon pan fyddant yn cynnig ac yn gwneud unrhyw ddeddfwriaeth newydd. Mae'r papur yn tynnu sylw at yr anawsterau a wynebir gan awdurdodau lleol a'u partneriaid yn y sector cyhoeddus wrth weithredu eu cyfrifoldebau newydd. Gellir gweld yr adroddiad [yma](#).

Masnacheiddio mewn Llywodraeth Leol (Hydref 2020)

Mae cynghorau wedi ymgymryd â gweithgarwch masnachol ers amser maith, ac mae llawer o gynghorau'n archwilio cyfleoedd masnachol ychwanegol i liniaru yn erbyn y pwysau ariannol y maent yn eu hwynebu. Mae'n hadroddiad wedi'i anelu'n benodol at helpu aelodau etholedig ac uwch-swyddogion i archwilio a dyfarnu ar yr effaith bosibl ar eu sefydliadau wrth ystyried a ddylid ymgymryd â gweithgareddau masnacheiddio. Bydd hefyd yn helpu cynghorau i ddangos pa mor dda y maent yn cyflawni eu cyfrifoldebau o safbwynt sicrhau gwerth am arian. Gellir gweld yr adroddiad [yma](#).

Gwaith sydd ar y gweill ar gyfer 2020-21

Edrychwyd hefyd ar yr heriau a'r cyfleoedd allweddol sy'n wynebu'r cyngor. Gallai'r risgiau hyn effeithio ar allu'r cyngor i gyflawni ei rwymedigaethau cyfreithiol mewn perthynas â'r egwyddor datblygu cynaliadwy, y defnydd o'i adnoddau a gwelliant parhaus.

Y risg a'r broblem fwyaf arwyddocaol sy'n wynebu cynghorau a'r sector cyhoeddus ehangach yn ystod 2020-21 yw pandemig COVID-19. Rydym wedi llunio ein gwaith i roi sicrwydd a her mewn ffordd sy'n helpu i gefnogi'r Cyngor drwy'r cyfnod hwn. Mae ein gwaith ar gyfer 2020-21 yn cynnwys:

- cynllunio adferiad mewn ymateb i bandemig COVID-19;
- prosiect dysgu COVID – helpu i nodi a rhannu dysgu o'r ffordd y mae cyrff cyhoeddus wedi ymateb i'r pandemig;
- sicrwydd ac asesu risg; ac
- adolygiad o gynaliadwyedd ariannol y Cyngor.

Mae'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol yn annibynnol ar y llywodraeth, ac fe'i penodir gan Ei Mawrhydi y Frenhines. Mae'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol yn ymgymryd â'i waith gan ddefnyddio staff ac adnoddau eraill a ddarperir gan Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru, sy'n fwrdd statudol a sefydlwyd at y diben hwnnw ac i fonitro a chynghori'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol. Mae Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru yn atebol i'r Senedd.

Mae'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol yn archwilio cyrff llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru, gan gynnwys awdurdodau unedol, yr heddlu, gwasanaethau prawf, awdurdodau tân ac achub, awdurdodau'r parciau cenedlaethol a chynghorau cymuned. Y mae hefyd yn cynnal astudiaethau gwerth am arian llywodraeth leol ac yn asesu cydymffurfiaeth â gofynion Mesur Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) 2009.

Y tu hwnt i lywodraeth leol, yr Archwilydd Cyffredinol yw archwilydd allanol Llywodraeth Cymru a'r cyrff cyhoeddus a noddir ganddi ac sy'n gysylltiedig â hi, Comisiwn y Senedd a chyrrff y Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol yng Nghymru.

Archwilio Cymru yw'r enw cyfunol anstatudol ar gyfer Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru a Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru, sy'n endidau cyfreithiol ar wahân y mae ganddynt ill dau eu swyddogaethau cyfreithiol eu hunain fel y disgrifir uchod. Nid yw Archwilio Cymru yn endid cyfreithiol.

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

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Saesneg hefyd.

tudalen wag

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Annual audit summary 2020

This is our audit summary for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. It shows the work completed since the last Annual Improvement Report, which was issued in September 2019. Our audit summary forms part of the Auditor General for Wales' duties.



More information about these duties can be found on our [website](#).

About the Council

Some of the services the Council provides



Key facts

The Council is made up of 75 councillors who represent the following political parties:

- Welsh Labour 47
- Plaid Cymru 17
- Independent 8
- Welsh Conservative 2
- The Cynon Valley Party 1

The Council spent £529.1 million on providing services during 2019-20, the second-highest spend of the 22 unitary councils in Wales.

As at 31 March 2020, the Council had £119.9 million of usable financial reserves. This is equivalent to 23% of the Council's annual spend on services, the sixth-highest percentage of the 22 unitary councils in Wales.

Key facts

The County Borough has 27 (18%) out of its 154 areas deemed the most deprived 10% of areas in Wales, this is the joint third highest of the 22 unitary councils in Wales¹.

Rhondda Cynon Taf's population is projected to increase by 4.5% between 2020 and 2040 from 241,492 to 252,418, including a 4.3% decrease in the number of children, a 1.2% increase in the number of the working-age population and a 2.3% increase in the number of people aged 65 and over².

The Auditor General's duties

We complete work each year to meet the following duties

- **Audit of Accounts**

Each year the Auditor General audits the Council's financial statements to make sure that public money is being properly accounted for.

- **Value for money**

The Council has to put in place arrangements to get value for money for the resources it uses, and the Auditor General has to be satisfied that it has done this.

- **Continuous improvement**

The Council also has to put in place arrangements to make continuous improvements, including related plans and reports, and the Auditor General has to assess whether the Council is likely to (or has) met these requirements.

- **Sustainable development principle**

Public bodies need to comply with the sustainable development principle when setting and taking steps to meet their well-being objectives. The Auditor General must assess the extent to which they are doing this.

¹ An area in this context is defined as a 'Lower Super Output Area'. Source: Stats Wales

² Source: Stats Wales



Since the Spring of 2020, the ongoing pandemic has affected our audit work. We recognise the huge strain on public services and have reshaped our work programme, and found new ways of working to reduce its impact on public bodies' response to COVID-19, while still meeting our statutory duties.



To meet the Auditor General's duties we complete specific projects, but we also rely on other audit work, and the work of regulators such as Care Inspectorate Wales and Estyn (the education inspectorate). We take the findings of our audit work into account when assessing whether the Council has put in place arrangements to secure value for money. Our findings and conclusions are summarised below.

What we found

Audit of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's 2019-20 Accounts

Each year we audit the Council's financial statements.

For 2019-20:

- the Auditor General gave an unqualified true and fair opinion on the Council's financial statements on 26 November 2020, four days ahead of the statutory deadline.
- the Council's Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report were prepared in line with the CIPFA Code and relevant guidance. They were also consistent with the financial statements prepared by the Council and with our knowledge of the Council.
- the quality of the draft statements presented for audit on 14 July 2020 was generally good.
- a number of changes were made to the Council's financial statements arising from our audit work, which were reported to Full Council in our Audit of Financial Statements Report in November 2020.
- in addition to the Auditor General's responsibilities for auditing the Council's financial statements, he also has responsibility for the certification of a number of grant claims and returns. Our work to date has not identified any significant issues.
- the Auditor General issued the certificate confirming that the audit of accounts for 2019-20 has been completed.
- key facts and figures from the 2019-20 financial statements can be accessed [here](#).

Well-being of Future Generations Examination – Investment in Leisure Facilities (March 2020)

The examination that we undertook in 2019-20 considered the extent to which the Council has acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle in the delivery of the priority investments for leisure facilities to increase participation in exercise and contribute to residents' health and well-being. We concluded that there are clear examples of how the Council is applying the sustainable development principle to its investment in leisure facilities, but there are opportunities to develop longer-term planning and involve people in shaping future leisure provision. The report can be viewed [here](#).

Continuous Improvement

The Auditor General certified that the Council has met its legal duties for improvement planning and reporting, and believes that it is likely to meet the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 during 2020-21.

Financial Sustainability (March 2020)

During 2019-20, we examined the financial sustainability of each council in Wales. In Rhondda Cynon Taf we concluded that the Council is well placed to manage its financial sustainability over the short and medium term. The report can be viewed [here](#).

National Fraud Initiative

In October 2020, the Auditor General published his report on the findings of the latest National Fraud Initiative (NFI) data-matching exercise in Wales. The exercise helped public bodies in Wales, including the 22 unitary authorities, identify fraud and overpayments amounting to £8 million. The report can be accessed on our website [here](#). NFI continues to be developed and in the forthcoming NFI exercise (NFI 2020-2022) local authorities will have access to matches designed to help identify potential fraudulent applications for COVID-19 business support grants.

Other Inspectorates

We also took into account the reports of Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and Estyn as well as any subsequent actions taken by the Council in response. During 2019-20, CIW published its **Local authority performance review letter 2019/20: Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**. The letter can be viewed [here](#).

In January 2021, Estyn wrote to the Council's Chief Executive outlining the outcome of their review of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's work in supporting their learning communities in schools and pupil referral units (PRUs) during the period from March to October 2020. Also relevant is Estyn's National report, **Local authority and regional consortia support for schools and PRUs in response to COVID-19 – Update report from June to November 2020**, published in January 2021. The report can be viewed [here](#).

Local Government Studies

As well as local work at each council, each year we also carry out studies across the local government sector to make recommendations for improving value for money. Since the last annual improvement report we have published the following reports:

The 'Front Door' to Social Care (September 2019)

We considered the effectiveness of the new 'front door' to social care, looking specifically at services for adults. We found that whilst councils are preventing social-care demand, information, advice and assistance are not consistently effective. The report can be viewed [here](#).

Review of Public Services Boards (October 2019)

We inspected how Public Services Boards are operating; looking at their membership, terms of reference, frequency and focus of meetings, alignment with other partnerships, resources and scrutiny arrangements. We concluded that Public Services Boards are unlikely to realise their potential unless they are given freedom to work more flexibly and think and act differently. The report can be viewed [here](#).

Progress in implementing the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act (November 2019)

We examined how the new duties and responsibilities of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act are being rolled out and delivered. We found that victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence are often let down by an inconsistent, complex and fragmented system. The report can be viewed [here](#).

Rough Sleeping in Wales – Everyone's Problem; No One's Responsibility (July 2020)

We looked at how well public services are responding to the issue of rough sleeping. Overall, we found that responding to COVID-19 is an opportunity for public bodies to start addressing long standing weaknesses in partnership working which has stopped them from tackling rough sleeping in the past. The report can be viewed [here](#).

Better Law Making (September 2020)

This report draws on five reports published between 2019 and today looking at how local authorities are responding to the challenge of implementing new legislation. Implementation is a complex task which needs to be fully thought through by the Welsh Government and the Senedd whenever they bring forward and make any new legislation. The paper highlights the difficulties faced by local authorities and their public sector partners in implementing their new responsibilities. The report can be viewed [here](#).

Commercialisation in Local Government (October 2020)

Councils have conducted commercial activity for a long time, and many councils are exploring additional commercial opportunities to mitigate against the financial pressures they face. Our report is specifically targeted at helping elected members and senior officers to examine and judge the potential impact on their organisations when considering whether to undertake commercialisation. It will also help councils to demonstrate how well they are discharging their value for money responsibilities. The report can be viewed [here](#).

Planned work for 2020-21

We also looked at the key challenges and opportunities facing the council. These risks could have an effect on the council's ability to meet its legal obligations in relation to the sustainable development principle, the use of its resources and continuous improvement.

The most significant risk and issue facing councils and the wider public sector during 2020-21 is the COVID-19 pandemic. We have shaped our work to provide assurance and challenge in a way which helps to support the Council through this period. Our work for 2020-21 includes:

- recovery planning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- COVID-learning project – helping to identify and share learning from the way in which public bodies have responded to the pandemic;
- assurance and risk assessment; and
- a review of the Council's financial sustainability.

The Auditor General is independent of government, and is appointed by Her Majesty the Queen. The Auditor General undertakes his work using staff and other resources provided by the Wales Audit Office, which is a statutory board established for that purpose and to monitor and advise the Auditor General. The Wales Audit Office is held to account by the Senedd.

The Auditor General audits local government bodies in Wales, including unitary authorities, police, probation, fire and rescue authorities, national parks and community councils. He also conducts local government value for money studies and assesses compliance with the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

Beyond local government, the Auditor General is the external auditor of the Welsh Government and its sponsored and related public bodies, the Senedd Commission and National Health Service bodies in Wales.

Audit Wales is the non-statutory collective name for the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit Office, which are separate legal entities with their own legal functions, as described above. Audit Wales is not a legal entity.

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

This document is also available in Welsh.

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

10th MARCH 2021

MEMBERS QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present the order of questions in respect of the Members Questions on Notice, following the amendment to the process agreed at the [Council AGM 2019](#).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Receive the Questions and any supplementary questions proposed, as in accordance with the running order advised upon in 4.3 of the report, which should not exceed a 20 minute time period.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 As agreed at the Council AGM on the 15th May, 2019, Members agreed to amend Council Procedure Rule 9.2 in respect of Members Questions on Notice.

4. MEMBERS QUESTION ON NOTICE

- 4.1 The closing date for receipt of Members Questions on Notice to the Council Business Unit for the 10TH March Council meeting was 5pm on the 25th February 2021.
- 4.2 24 questions were received and put forward to the Council Ballot held on the 1st March 2021, to determine the running order of the questions at the Council Meeting.
- 4.3 The results of the ballot are outlined below:-

Number	Corresponding Question
1	<p>From County Borough Councillor J. Bonetto to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:</p> <p>“Can the Leader give an update on the plans for the new Train Station in Treforest Estate?”</p>
2	<p>From County Borough Councillor M Powell to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:</p> <p>Would Cllr. Morgan state what the Councils policy or attitude is to reducing vehicular emissions to improve air quality in residential areas of RCT in light of the recent Southwark Coroners ruling, link below.</p> <p>"On 16 December, Southwark Coroner's Court in London found that air pollution "made a material contribution" to the death of nine-year-old Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah."</p> <p>https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-55352247</p>
3	<p>From County Borough Councillor T. Williams to the Cabinet Member for Education and Inclusion Services, County Borough Councillor J. Rosser:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member outline what support the Welsh Government and the Council are providing in terms of Free School Meals?”</p>
4	<p>From County Borough Councillor H. Boggis to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Can the Leader provide an update on discussions with the Welsh Government regarding the timeframe for the dualling of the Heads of the Valleys road now that work has started?”</p>
5	<p>From County Borough Councillor A. S. Fox to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:</p> <p>‘Will the Leader make a statement on the recent findings of the report on maternity services at Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB?’</p>

6	<p>From County Borough Councillor S. Morgans to the Cabinet Member for Education and Inclusion Services, County Borough Councillor J Rosser:</p> <p>“Will the cabinet member please provide an update of the latest position and the timescale for the community engagement plans for the development of a new school for YGG LLyn Y Forwyn.”</p>
7	<p>From County Borough Councillor E. Webster to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“The river wall at Swn Yr Afon, Treorchy, was seriously damaged during Storm Dennis. Is this council going to support the residents and repair the wall?”</p>
8	<p>From County Borough Councillor R. Yeo to the Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services and the Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member please make a statement on visiting arrangements at care homes across the County?”</p>
9	<p>From County Borough Councillor S. Bradwick to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Can the leader of the council provide an update on the progress of flood alleviation scheme bids for the forthcoming year please?”</p>
10	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Rees to the Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, County Borough Councillor S Rees-Owen:</p> <p>“What consideration has your Committee afforded to the Council’s response to support distanced learning during the pandemic period?”</p>
11	<p>From County Borough Councillor G. Caple to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Can the Council Leader give an update on Porth Interchange and the funding package that’s being assembled, including from the City Deal?”</p>
12	<p>From County Borough Councillor S. M. Powell to the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Wellbeing and Cultural Services, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:</p> <p>“How is this Council progressing plans for the introduction of Electric Charge Points throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf?”</p>

13	<p>From County Borough Councillor J. James to the Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services & Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor G Hopkins:</p> <p>“Could the relevant cabinet member make a statement on the current situation regarding Treforest Learning Curve?”</p>
14	<p>From County Borough Councillor W. Lewis to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Can the Leader provide an update on the recent land slip at Pentre?”</p>
15	<p>From County Borough Councillor G. Hughes to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Council Business, County Borough Councillor M Webber:</p> <p>“Can the Deputy Leader provide an update on progress of the Welsh Government’s introduction on lowering the voting age to 16 and what steps this Council is taking to engage with those who are or will be newly enfranchised?”</p>
16	<p>From County Borough Councillor G. Jones to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:</p> <p>“Can the council leader please provide an update on the Zipworld development and outline the expected local impact in terms of jobs and local economy”.</p>
17	<p>From County Borough Councillor G R Davies to the Cabinet Member for Enterprise Development and Housing, County Borough Councillor D R Bevan:</p> <p>“A wnech chi ddatganiad ar dwristiaeth yn mhen uchaf Cwm Rhondda Fawr?”</p> <p>“Will you make a statement on tourism in the Upper Rhondda Fawr area?”</p>
18	<p>From County Borough Councillor H. Fychan to the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Well-being & Cultural Services, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:</p> <p>“Could you provide an update on measures being undertaken in Pontypridd Town Centre to tackle anti-social behaviour?”</p>

19	<p>From County Borough Councillor E Griffiths to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, County Borough Councillor M Norris:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services make a statement outlining the progress that has been made to ensure the LA’s pension scheme is reducing the investments in companies profiteering from fossil fuel production”.</p>
20	<p>From County Borough Councillor S Rees-Owen to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:</p> <p>“Can you inform members of any Council involvement with the off-road vehicle situation in the county borough please?”</p>
21	<p>From County Borough Councillor G. Thomas to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Will the Leader please update on whether there are any planned programmes to address the ongoing flooding issue on Rhigos Road”.</p>
22	<p>From County Borough Councillor J. Elliott to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:</p> <p>“Can the Council Leader please provide an update on the various flood schemes planned and ongoing across RCT, including for the Cwmbach ward?”</p>
23	<p>From County Borough Councillor E. George to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Will the Leader please make a statement on the Community Testing programme in Rhondda Cynon Taf?”</p>
24	<p>From County Borough Councillor P. Jarman to the Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services & Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor G Hopkins:</p> <p>“Does the Council have Intergenerational Policies?”</p>

4.4 At the Council meeting a maximum of 20 minutes shall be allowed for Questions on Notice. Any questions that are not dealt with in this time limit shall fall. Any questions on notice not answered will need to be resubmitted to the Proper Officer for the next full Council meeting in accordance with these rules.

5. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 5.1 The amendment to the Council Procedure Rule in respect of Members Questions was considered and agreed at the Council AGM 2019, following consultation with the Corporate Governance & Constitution Committee

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The amendment to the Council procedure rule taken forward at the Council AGM, allows the opportunity for more Members to ask a question at Council

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.2.

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

- 9.1 The opportunity for Members to propose questions at Council meetings allows Members to receive information which potentially detail the Council priorities. It also embraces the Future Generations Act as all work and decisions taken by Council seek to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the County Borough.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 Detailing the procedure for Members Questions on Notice assists in transparency for both Members and for public engagement.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee – Overview & Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

10th MARCH 2021

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATION.**

Item: MEMBERS QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Background Papers

[Council AGM 2019.](#)

Officer to contact: Emma Wilkins, Council Business Unit

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL

10th MARCH 2021

**VACATION OF OFFICE BY A COUNCILLOR AS A RESULT OF
NON-ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATIONS**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides:

- (i) Members with details of the provisions of Section 85 and 86 of the Local Government Act 1972 (“LGA 1972”), which deal with a vacation of office by a Councillor because of a failure to attend meetings; and
- (ii) provides information in respect of the non-attendance at meetings by a Member of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC for over a six-month period, without permission for absence being approved by Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the detail provided within the report in respect of the non-attendance at meetings by Councillor G. Williams for over a six-month period without permission for absence being approved by Council; and
- 2.2 Considers this matter in line with Sections 85 and 86 of the Local Government Act 1972 and determines whether Councillor G. Williams’ office as a Member of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC (for the Penrhiwceiber Electoral Ward) should now be declared vacant.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The need to advise Members of the position in respect of a Member’s non-attendance at meetings for over a six-month period, without permission being approved by Council and the subsequent action needed to be taken forward.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Section 85(1) of the LGA 1972 requires a Member of a Local Authority to attend at least one meeting of that Authority within a six-month consecutive

period unless permission for the absence is granted by the Authority in advance. Without advance permission to be absent, loss of office is automatic and permission cannot be granted retrospectively

- 4.2 Attendance in an official capacity at a relevant meeting of the Council is defined as attendance at Cabinet, a Committee or a Sub-Committee of the Council or at any meeting of a joint Committee or other such body discharging functions of the Council or at any meeting as a representative of the Council is deemed to be a meeting of the Council.
- 4.3 Council is advised that if a Member loses their office through failure to attend for the six-month period, the disqualification cannot be overcome by the Member subsequently resuming attendance.
- 4.4 On the [18th March 2020](#) a joint report was presented to Council by the Service Director for Democratic Services and Communications and the Director of Legal Services, whereby it was agreed that in the event any Councillor listed in Appendix A of that report could not attend a Council meeting, for a period of six consecutive months owing to the Covid-19 virus, then their failure to attend any meetings was approved by the Council in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972. As the report stated it was unknown at that time when normal arrangements for Council meetings would be reinstated and therefore Members were asked to make that decision in the event that future meetings may have been some way off.
- 4.5 At that time it was also unclear what legislation would be made by the Senedd in respect of the operation of local authority meetings and Member attendance at those meetings, including the operation of the six-month rule.
- 4.6 On the 22nd April 2020 with the coming into force of the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020, provision was made for Council and Committee meetings to be able to be reconvened on a virtual basis, in-line with the ability provided by those regulations.
- 4.7 These regulations also further amended section 85 of the LGA 1972 by stating that the period from 22nd April 2020 to the first day on which a meeting is held (and which a Member could attend) is to be disregarded for the purpose of recording a Member's attendance at meetings and the operation of the six-month rule.
- 4.8 By virtue of the above a Member's attendance at meetings for compliance with the six-month rule was therefore recorded from July 2020 when Full Council meetings resumed and Members had received training (or the offer of training) in respect of the operation of remote meetings, including the use of Zoom software.

5. **FAILURE OF A MEMBER TO ATTEND A MEETING DURING A SIX-MONTH CONSECUTIVE PERIOD**

- 5.1 Since the commencement of virtual meetings attendance records show that Councillor G. Williams has not attended a Council meeting for over six-months and has not had a reason for his non-attendance approved by Council within that period. The Member has also not requested Officers present a report to Full Council asking that it considers a reason (or reasons) for his non-attendance. The Member last attended a meeting of the Council on the 4th March 2020.
- 5.2 Members are advised that reasonable efforts have been made to contact the Member. The Member has received written correspondence offering support and assistance to enable and if necessary, support his attendance at virtual meetings. The Member has also been telephoned by Democratic Services to enquire if there were any barriers preventing his attendance at meetings but were not able to make contact.
- 5.3 Provision of a reason by a Member to the Proper Officer, or taking advantage of the assistance offered, prior to expiration of the six-month period would have afforded the opportunity for Full Council to consider any extenuating circumstances and respond accordingly.
- 5.4 The Member has been written to by Officers, advising him of the intention to present this matter to Full Council.
- 5.5 Where a Member of an Authority ceases to be a Member of the Authority by reason of failure to attend meetings of the Authority the Authority shall forthwith declare their office to be vacant.

6. **CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

- 6.1 Not applicable

7. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 All Members are supported by the Council Business Unit to undertake their role and to attend meetings.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 A financial cost would arise due to the requirement to hold a by-election in the relevant Electoral Ward as a result of any Council declaration as to a vacation by a Member of their office.

9. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 The legal implications and relevant legislation are outlined in the body of the report.

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

10.1 Not applicable.

11. CONCLUSION

11.1 Members have a duty to attend a meeting of the Council within a consecutive six-month period in accordance with section 85 of the LGA 1972.

11.2 Councillor G. Williams has failed to attend a meeting for a consecutive six-month period and therefore Council is asked to determine whether Councillor G. Williams' office as a Member of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC (for the Penrhiwceiber Electoral Ward) should now be declared vacant.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

10th MARCH 2021

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATIONS.**

**ITEM: VACATION OF OFFICE BY A COUNCILLOR AS A RESULT OF
NON-ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS**

Background Papers

**Dispensation for Councillor Leave of Absence – All Councillors
Joint Report of the Service Director, Democratic Services and
Communication and Director of Legal Services - [18th March 2020](#)**

Officer to contact: Emma Wilkins, Council Business Unit

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020-2021

COUNCIL

10th MARCH 2021

THE COUNCIL'S 2021/22 REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY

AUTHOR: Barrie Davies, Director of Finance and Digital Services Tel. No. 01443 424026

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides information on the final local government settlement for 2021/22 and sets out the recommendations of the Cabinet with regard to the Council's Revenue Budget and the level of Council Tax for the year ending 31st March 2022.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the written statement from the Minister for Housing and Local Government (Julie James MS) and the table on the 2021/22 Final local government settlement, reproduced at Appendix 1;
- 2.2 Note the implications for the Council and the remaining budget gap as set out at section 5;
- 2.3 Agree a Council Tax increase for 2021/22 of 2.65%;
- 2.4 Agree the uplift to the aggregate Schools Budget as detailed at section 8;
- 2.5 Agree the budget strategy proposals as set out at paragraphs 10.3(a) to 10.3(i);

- 2.6 Agree the use of the 'Medium Term Financial Planning & Service Transformation Reserve' as transition funding, totalling £0.711M for 2021/22;
- 2.7 Approve Tables 3 and 4 in Section 13 of the report as the basis of allocating resources to the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), to other Council Services, and to meet its corporate financing requirements; and
- 2.8 Agree the Council's overall budget for 2021/22 at £527.903M, in order to pass the necessary statutory resolutions to set the Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year by the statutory deadline of the 11th March 2021.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the Council meeting on the 25th November 2020, the Council's audited accounts were presented which reported General Fund Balances amounting to £8.709M.
- 3.2 Given the continuing financial pressures the Council is working under, it remains the view of the Director of Finance and Digital Services (Section 151 Officer) that the Council should hold a minimum of £10M as General Fund Balances, (i.e. its working balance). This level is set given the context of the need for continued strong financial management that is felt to be essential to ensure that the Council maintains financial flexibility and stability going forward.
- 3.3 During the last financial year, 2019/20, our reserves were used to support our residents and businesses in the immediate aftermath of Storm Dennis. Whilst reducing our reserves below what is considered to be the minimum level, it was wholly appropriate that they were used in this way and for this purpose. The Director of Finance and Digital Services is satisfied that plans are in place to replenish General Fund Reserves to the minimum level over the period of our Medium Term Financial Plan (at £0.5M per year for the next 3 years).
- 3.4 Members will be aware that in addition to General Fund Reserves, the Council also holds a number of earmarked reserves that are kept under continuous review and are assessed each year by Audit Wales. Included in these reserves is a Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation Reserve that has successfully supported transitional funding as part of the Council's Medium Term Service Planning arrangements. It has achieved this through helping to smooth the delivery of budget savings over a number of years, whilst still allowing an annual balanced budget to be delivered. The starting point for the Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation Reserve as at the 31st March 2020 was £3.563M. As part of our ongoing strategy, we have continued to identify and deliver savings in-year which means we have been able to increase the level of transitional funding available and the latest position is that this reserve has now increased to £4.330M (additional in year savings to date of £0.767M).

- 3.5 Audit Wales continue to emphasise that we must remain disciplined at this crucial time, if we are to maintain our long-term goal of driving forward continuous improvement of key services, though this becomes increasingly harder to achieve following a period of such severe financial pressures.
- 3.6 The Audit Wales assessment is an accurate one and it is clear that Members continue to take their fiduciary duty extremely seriously as evidenced by the positive reports received from the regulators and the track record of budgetary control across services. The challenge, therefore, is to construct a prudent, equitable and fair revenue budget for the financial year ending the 31st March 2022. This must involve an approach which publicly demonstrates sound financial stewardship; which does not take unnecessary risks; which maximises income generation; continues to deliver (as far as possible, and where available) year on year efficiency savings and which delivers the services that are needed and we can afford, as well as protecting as many jobs as possible.
- 3.7 In the context of this overall financial position, the Cabinet, assisted by the Senior Leadership Team was able to commence initial work on its budget strategy for 2021/22. The broad objectives of next year's proposed strategy are to:
- (i) Support the delivery of our key strategic priorities -
 - People – Are independent, healthy and successful
 - Places – Where people are proud to live, work and play
 - Prosperity – Creating the opportunity for people and businesses to: be innovative; be entrepreneurial; and fulfil their potential and prosper
 - (ii) Retain the support of Audit Wales for the approach the Council has adopted to securing strong financial management;
 - (iii) Continue with the delivery of our key services and protect as many local jobs as possible; and
 - (iv) Take a responsible approach to the level of Council Tax.

4.0 THE 2021/22 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT

- 4.1 On the 2nd March 2021, the Minister for Housing and Local Government (Julie James MS) announced the Final 2021/22 Local Government Settlement. The Minister's statement and key data table is attached at Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The "headlines" of the 2021/22 Final Settlement are as follows:-
- a. The overall increase in Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) funding for 2021/22 (of unhypothecated funding) at an all Wales level, after adjusting for transfers is 3.8% (+£172M).

- b. The settlement for Rhondda Cynon Taf, amounts to an increase of **3.8%** which equates to the average all Wales increase. Settlement figures across Wales range from 2.0% to 5.6%.
- c. No 'floor' protection has been included for 2021/22.
- d. The Settlement figures for 2021/22 include transfers into the settlement in respect of the Teachers Pay Grant (£3.981M) and the Coastal Risk Management Programme (not applicable to this Council). The value of the Teachers Pay Grant for this Council is £0.328M. Whilst the part year (2020/21) implications of the Teachers Pay Grant transfer into the settlement, the additional full year implications are to be funded from within the settlement increase.
- e. There is no indication of settlement levels beyond 2021/22.
- f. Final figures and indicative estimates are included for specific grants, at an all Wales level. Of particular note, would be the continuation and increase (from £40M to £50M) in the Social Care Workforce Grant. This funds our core base budget. Also included is £206M in respect of extending the Local Government Hardship Fund for 6 months; this provides support to councils for additional costs and income losses due to the pandemic.
- g. The Council's General Capital Funding allocation has increased by £0.087M to £13.764M.

5.0 COUNCIL BASE BUDGET REQUIREMENT 2021/22

- 5.1 In anticipation of the 2021/22 local government settlement, the Council's service managers have constructed the base budget requirements for next financial year. Those initial calculations provided for:-
 - Estimated national wage awards, pension costs and National Insurance Contribution levels;
 - Non-pay (i.e. goods and services) inflation, including energy and fuel;
 - Corporate financing requirements and levies; and
 - Full year effects of any additional burdens imposed on the Council.
- 5.2 The Council's updated budget requirement was reported to Council on the 20th January 2021 alongside the implications of the Provisional Local Government Settlement which was announced on the 22nd December 2020.
- 5.3 After taking into account the updated budget requirement and the provisional settlement increase of 3.8%, in addition to the increased funding in respect

the Social Care Workforce Grant and the Council's updated Tax Base, the Council was faced with a **remaining budget gap of £4.057M**.

- 5.4 It was against this position which the Cabinet have considered their further budget strategy options for 2021/22.
- 5.5 The Final Settlement, as detailed in section 4, resulted in no change from the Provisional Settlement.

6.0 DEVELOPING AN EQUITABLE, DELIVERABLE AND BALANCED BUDGET FOR 2021/22

- 6.1 Notwithstanding the relatively positive settlement from Welsh Government (WG) for 2021/22, it does follow a sustained period of real term reductions to our funding levels and more recently significant storm damage and the pandemic, and it is against this context that we need to develop a balanced budget for next year. There remain significant pressures upon many of our services together with a limited ability to increase Council Tax income, and a low tax base. Within these parameters, we will therefore need to take appropriate decisions to ensure that next year's budget is equitable for all, does not compromise our financial stability and protects and develops our key services.
- 6.2 The Council's overall financial position was set out at Section 3 of the report. It is vital that we continue with the strategy we have adopted to date that takes account of the importance of sound financial management, including the level of General Fund balances and appropriate use of the "Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation Reserve" as transitional funding, whilst targeting any available resources toward our high priority, customer-focused public services.
- 6.3 Every year, there are certain corporate financial provisions that must be "top sliced" locally, before service budgets can be allocated. Next year will be no different. There will be a requirement for:
- a) A provision to meet levies from External Bodies;
 - b) A provision for Capital Charges;
 - c) A provision for all other "Miscellaneous Finance" items (Audit Fees, Insurance Costs, Bank Charges, etc.) which are non-specific to any particular Service Group; and
 - d) Resources to fund the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- 6.4 As part of our updated budget requirement, appropriate sums have been set aside for these corporate financial requirements.
- 6.5 Additional costs and income losses which we have incurred during this financial year specifically and directly attributable to the pandemic have been funded by WG, via a claims based Hardship Fund. WG are committed to

continuing this process into 2021/22 and accordingly our core base budget does not include provision for such additional costs. The Final Settlement confirms that WG have set aside funding (£206M) for the first 6 months of 2021/22.

7.0 COUNCIL TAX LEVELS

- 7.1 This Council has always acted reasonably when setting its Council Tax, balancing the impact upon services and the ability of the public to pay, recognising that those eligible will receive support through the Welsh Government's Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS). The proposal is to increase Council Tax in 2021/22 by 2.65%, that is, less than the 2.85% originally modelled. This proposed increase equates to 51p per week for a person living in a Band A property and 76p per week for a person living in a Band D property (42% of properties in Rhondda Cynon Taf are Band A). Increasing Council Tax by 2.65% will increase the remaining budget gap by £0.182M.
- 7.2 Members will be aware that the cost of the CTRS is impacted by changes in caseload and by changes to the level of Council Tax. This impacts on the net income generated through any increase in Council Tax. A 1% increase in Council Tax will generate an additional income for the Council of £1.157M (at the 2021/22 tax base level), but will also cost £0.247M in additional CTRS requirements. It therefore follows that a 1% increase generates a net additional income of £0.910M, or stated another way, 21% of any Council Tax increase is lost to support the increased costs associated with Welsh Government's CTRS.

8.0 SCHOOLS BUDGET (ISB)

- 8.1 Members have always viewed our schools as being a key priority and have ensured that they have been treated favourably in comparison with other council services.
- 8.2 The Schools Budget (ISB) is proposed to be increased to cover, in full, all inflationary and pupil number pressures, including NDR increased costs. Unlike other Council services there is no efficiency target or expectation albeit schools may need to take local action to absorb the financial implications of decisions taken locally.
- 8.3 In overall terms, the proposal sees the Schools Budget (ISB) increase from £161.6M to £163.8M, an increase of £2.2M. Schools are therefore fully funded for 2021/22.

9.0 EFFICIENCY

- 9.1 Council services have for many years now delivered against ambitious efficiency targets, making considerable budget reductions without adversely impacting on front line service provision.
- 9.2 As part of the current year's budget strategy, efficiencies of £6M were identified and delivered albeit it was noted that the ongoing sustainability of delivering efficiencies at this level would need to be considered.
- 9.3 The pandemic has clearly significantly impacted on our normal practises of considering our budget setting on a continuous basis, working across services in identifying efficiencies and budget reduction options and delivering on them early. The focus of our service managers has clearly and appropriately been prioritised on supporting and protecting our residents, businesses and communities.
- 9.4 Notwithstanding this however, our senior finance officers have continued to work alongside service managers and have again identified budget reduction measures which can be delivered without adversely impacting on our front-line services. Indeed, at as the quarter 2 performance report presented to Cabinet on the 17th November 2020, we were able to release £767k of in year base budget reductions.
- 9.5 Whilst at a slightly lower level than previous years, efficiencies have been identified amounting to £4.6M which can be delivered and removed from next year's base budget requirement.

10.0 BUDGET STRATEGY PROPOSALS

- 10.1 This Council has taken a proactive approach to dealing with the budget pressures it continues to face including delivery of saving proposals early with a clear focus maintained across the medium term planning horizon. The Council has continued to deliver robust, balanced budgets and taken the opportunity to use our Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation Reserve, as transition funding, to sensibly support the overall budget strategy. It is recommended that this approach is continued.
- 10.2 As a Cabinet we have always been focussed on protecting our front line services and have taken any opportunities to prioritise or reallocate resources to areas of priority.
- 10.3 For 2021/22, the following proposals are recommended to Council.
- a. **NDR Local Relief Scheme**

Cabinet last year (13th February 2020) determined to implement a local Business Rate Reduction Scheme for 2020/21. The scheme supplemented the Welsh Government High Street and Retail Rate Relief Scheme by providing a further relief of £300 per qualifying business.

It is proposed that this local relief is continued for 2021/22 and increased to £350 per qualifying business.

The cost of this proposal is **£50k**.

b. Car Park Charges

Our town centres have been significantly impacted by the restrictions placed on retail, leisure and hospitality businesses plus the need to put in place measures to adhere with social distancing and enhanced cleaning and hygiene regimes. In order to encourage visitors to our town centres and to aid the recovery of our valued businesses, it is proposed that we tailor our car parking charges, noting that in all of our town centres other than Pontypridd and Aberdare, parking is already free.

The proposal is that car parking is free after 3pm on Monday to Fridays and free all day (after 10am) on Saturdays.

The cost of this proposal in terms of income foregone is **£160k**.

c. Climate Change and Carbon Reduction

The Council's commitment to responding to climate change and carbon reduction has already been well documented, with the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group having met regularly since its inaugural meeting in November 2019. The initial work programme set out in December 2019 has been delivered alongside an ambition to be further impactful and a community leader in this area, recognising the wider role that our residents, businesses and partners must play.

In order to support this work, it is proposed that a core base budget is put in place in order that a lead coordination role can be established along with a resource which can commission work from third parties to continue and, where possible increase the pace of our work in this area.

The cost of this proposal is **£100k**.

d. Graduates

Our graduate programme has already provided the opportunity for over 100 graduates to join the Council and develop and progress into middle and senior management roles. It is a key part of our workforce planning strategy and service continuity arrangements, developing our own staff to meet the ongoing and changing needs across our services.

It is proposed that additional resources are set aside to enable a further 6 graduates to be appointed, over and above our existing commitment.

The cost of the proposal is **£200k**.

e. Well-Being Support

The performance and commitment of our staff resources has been exemplary during this period across all of our service areas, demonstrating an outstanding attitude to public service and to the well being of our residents, businesses and communities. This has been set against the backdrop of significant personal challenge for them themselves in terms of the restrictions placed on them and their families and the circumstances in which they have had to perform their responsibilities.

Our staff are without doubt our most valued asset – they are the front face of the Council and represent and uphold our key values as public servants. We recognise the challenges faced by staff and have ensured that we continue to support their welfare and wellbeing. The additional resource proposed will enable us to expand upon the current support programmes we have in place and further develop these programmes across the workforce.

The cost of the proposal is **£50k**.

f. Fees and Charges

A final report on the proposed level of Fees & Charges for 2021/22 was presented to and agreed by Cabinet on the 25th February 2021. The Cabinet's proposals with regard to fees and charges would see a standard increase of 1.7% (CPI), with a number of specific exceptions (noting that at the 25th February meeting, Cabinet determined to also freeze charges for the use of 3G pitches for 2021/22):

Area of Charge	Proposed Exception
Leisure for Life	Freeze
Car Park Charges	Freeze
Summer and Winter Playing Fees (sports clubs)	Freeze
Meals on Wheels / Day Centre Meals	10p per meal and then frozen until 2023
School Meals	Freeze (as per decision taken in 2020/21 to hold prices until April 2023)
Bereavement Fees	Freeze
Lido / Rhondda Heritage Park	Freeze
3G Pitches	Freeze

The impact of these draft proposals would cost **£187k**.

g. Public Health and Protection Services – Additional Resources

The Public Health and Protection service has played a key role this year in ensuring the public health and wellbeing of our communities, providing advice and guidance and leading on initiatives such as the Test Trace Protect programme.

The additional investment proposed in the service will enable additional resources to be employed, further strengthening the team and providing future resilience for the service.

The cost of the proposal is **£200k**.

h. Flood Prevention Support

Our communities continue to recover from the exceptional storm events during last winter, including Storm Dennis. Significant recovery work is ongoing across the County Borough to the infrastructure damaged.

Over 1,000 homes and 400 businesses were flooded during Storm Dennis. It is proposed that alongside all other support being provided, that an advisory role is put in place to ensure that our residents and businesses are supported in protecting themselves as far as possible from any storm damage, including for example insurance availability and physical property protection opportunities.

The cost of this proposal is **£50k**.

i. Overgrowth Team

Our local environment remains a key priority of the Council, keeping our physical places clean, removing eyesores and ensuring that our natural resources are appropriately maintained. We already have a number of teams who are responsible for ensuring that our overgrowth is effectively maintained and it is proposed that an additional team is put in place to further enhance this work.

The cost of this proposal is **£75k**.

10.4 The implications of the above strategy proposals, including the proposed reduction in the level of Council Tax increase and the delivery of efficiencies, on the remaining budget gap position is shown in table 1.

Table 1 : Budget Strategy Proposals 2021/22

	£'000	£'000
Remaining Budget Gap		4,057
Council Tax at 2.65%	182	
Efficiencies	- 4,600	
NDR Discretionary Relief	50	
Fees and Charges	187	
Car Park Charges	160	
Climate Change and Carbon Reduction	100	
Graduates	200	
Well being Support	50	
Public Health and Protection - Additional Resources	200	
Flood Prevention Support	50	
Overtgrowth Team	75	- 3,346
Remaining Budget Gap		711

- 10.5 *Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation Reserve (Transitional Funding)* – We have for many years used our transition funding reserve sensibly as part of our balanced budget strategy, at a level which does not compromise the robustness of our budget and which can be replenished with some certainty, given our ongoing strategy of delivering savings early.
- 10.6 As previously referenced the reserve currently stands at £4.330M, having been replenished during this year (2020/21) by £0.767M to quarter 2. Accordingly, to address the remaining budget gap, it is proposed that an allocation of £0.711M is made from this reserve for 2021/22. This would facilitate a balanced budget for 2020/21 and would leave £3.619M in the reserve (subject to the year-end assessment of reserves). Processes are now sufficiently well embedded to ensure that savings are achieved in-year and that this reserve can continue to be replenished.

Table 2 : Budget Strategy Proposals 2021/22 – Balancing the Budget

	£'000
Remaining Budget Gap	711
Use of Transition Funding	- 711
Remaining Budget Gap	-

- 10.7 The above provides a robust and balanced budget strategy for financial year 2021/22 which is now recommended to Council.

11.0 SERVICE PRIORITIES

- 11.1 Even within a period of significantly reducing resources and hence financial pressure on all services, this Council remains committed as far as it possibly can to continue to deliver its key services, stronger communities and social justice.
- 11.2 The Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2024 sets out that our key purpose is to provide strong community leadership and create the environment for people and businesses to be independent, healthy and prosperous.
- 11.3 In addition to our revenue base budget requirements, opportunities also continue to be taken to deliver investment in key strategic areas through one off funding made available via a risk based review of earmarked reserves and through the early identification of opportunities to deliver savings. The Council has already invested over £107M (over and above the normal Capital Programme) in areas supporting key Corporate Plan priorities since October 2015, the latest investment (£11.8M) being agreed by Council in March 2020.
- 11.4 A report setting out the updated capital programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24 will be reported for Members consideration alongside this revenue budget strategy.

12.0 THE 2021/22 BUDGET STRATEGY CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 12.1 As in previous years, the Council has been keen to consult with the public and other interested stakeholders on its general budget strategy and how services are delivered.
- 12.2 The approach to budget consultation for 2021/22 was set out in the Cabinet report dated 13th October 2020. It comprises 2 phases as follows:
- Phase 1** - provided residents and stakeholders with the opportunity to feedback their views on some of the key strategic building blocks used to construct the Council's budget.
- Phase 2** - once Cabinet agreed a draft budget strategy, and in light of the provisional local government settlement, then this draft strategy was consulted upon as part of Phase 2.
- 12.3 The Phase 1 Consultation report was considered by Cabinet on the 28th January 2021 alongside the initial budget proposals which were then consulted upon as part of Phase 2.
- 12.4 The Phase 2 Consultation report is now attached at Appendix 2. The phase 2 consultation process ran from the 29th January 2021 to the 12th February 2021 and included:

- On-line questionnaire;
- The option to attend an online Zoom public meeting;
- Young persons engagement including via Instagram and a presentation and survey sent to 3 colleges, 2 schools and members of the Youth Forum;
- Promotion through social media;
- Correspondence with the Disability Forum;
- On-line Zoom meetings with:
 - Older Persons Advisory Group (3rd February 2021);
 - School Budget Forum (4th February 2021);
 - The Council's Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee (4th February 2021); and
 - Community Liaison Community (5th February 2021).

12.5 With regard to the consultation activity undertaken with the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee and the School Budget Forum, the extracts of the minutes from these meetings are attached at Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 respectively.

13.0 THE 2021/22 MACRO REVENUE BUDGET

13.1 In arriving at a strategy for 2021/22, the Cabinet has taken into consideration its key commitments, its views on service delivery and relevant charges for services and the need to minimise the tax burden on local residents. Consequently, and after careful deliberation, the Cabinet has concluded that it can now propose a balanced revenue budget which will meet all of the fundamental requirements of its preferred strategy **and** minimise the Council Tax increase for next year.

13.2 Table 3 below illustrates how the revenue resources available to the Council could be utilised, with a Council Tax increase of 2.65%:

Table 3: Proposed Resources in 2021/22

	£M
2021/22 Net Revenue Spending	527.903
LESS: Revenue Support Grant & NDR Contribution	404.375
LESS: Social Care Workforce Grant	4.075
Sub total	119.453
LESS: Release of Earmarked Reserves	0.711
To be met from Council Taxpayers	118.742

- 13.3 Table 4 below, shows the overall effect on services of applying the principles of the Cabinet's recommended outline 2021/22 budget strategy.

Table 4: Application of the 2021/22 Outline Budget Strategy

BUDGET REQUIREMENTS	2020/21	2021/22	Increase/ (Decrease)
	£M	£M	£M
<u>Corporate Requirements</u>			
Capital Financing	19.713	19.950	0.237
Levies	12.438	12.862	0.424
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	24.680	25.334	0.654
Miscellaneous	13.641	14.429	0.788
	70.472	72.575	2.103
<u>Individual School Budgets (ISB)</u>			
Individual School Budgets	161.578	163.784	2.206
<u>Other Council Services</u>			
Community & Children's Services	162.681	171.372	8.691
Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services	55.928	60.955	5.027
Chief Executive's	27.039	26.809	(0.230)
Education & Inclusion Services	31.049	32.408	1.359
Net Revenue Spending	508.747	527.903	19.156

14.0 SPECIFIC GRANTS

- 14.1 For next year, the Welsh Government is to provide over £1BN in Specific Revenue Grants to Welsh Local Authorities.
- 14.2 Whilst specific grants dilute local accountability, such funding does enable us to undertake projects and deliver services that otherwise may not have been possible. Whilst we will continue to make representation for such funding to be transferred into the Revenue Support Grant, until they do so then specific grants will continue to supplement our base revenue budget.
- 14.3 By their nature, specific grants are often directed toward specific spend areas or policy objectives and are not certain in terms of their ongoing continuation nor value, presenting uncertainty in terms of forward planning.
- 14.4 The allocation of specific grants, however, remains a key feature of the annual local government settlement, albeit there is a commitment to reduce

such hypothecation. There are also a number of specific grants which have been introduced to deal with recurring cost pressures (eg Social Care Workforce Grant) and it is important that we seek to ensure their continuation beyond 2021/22.

15.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

15.1 In developing the recommended 2021/22 Revenue Budget Strategy, an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken to ensure that:

- i the Council meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duties; and
- ii due regard has been taken of the likely impact of the recommendations in terms of equality and discrimination.

16.0 CONSULTATION

16.1 Consultation and engagement has been undertaken as part of formulating the recommended 2021/22 Revenue Budget Strategy, the results from which are set out in Section 12 of the report.

17.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

17.1 The financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the main body of the Report.

18.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

18.1 The Council has a legal duty under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to set a balanced budget and also a legal duty under the Local Government Act 2000 for it to be reported to and approved by Full Council. The recommended 2021/22 Revenue Budget Strategy and its reporting to full Council ensures compliance with these legal duties.

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

19.1 The recommended 2021/22 Revenue Budget Strategy has been formulated to support the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities, as set out within the Corporate Plan "Making a Difference" 2020 – 2024. The plan is aligned to the goals and principles included within the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

20.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 20.1 The Council's overall financial position remains sound, with a clear plan in place to replenish the level of General Reserves to the recommended minimum level of £10M.
- 20.2 On the 2nd March 2021, the Minister for Housing and Local Government (Julie James MS) announced the Final 2021/22 Local Government Settlement which showed this Council's increase in resources was set at 3.8%.
- 20.3 The Cabinet's proposals properly address the corporate financial requirements of the Council and allocate an adequate financial uplift to the Individual Schools Budget. The remaining resources available are allocated to fund all other services and to support our key priorities in 2021/22.
- 20.4 The Cabinet has recommended setting the 2021/22 revenue spending and budget at £527.903M which will require a Council Tax increase of 2.65% for the financial year ending the 31st March 2022.
- 20.5 The Council to date has been able to deliver year on year balanced budgets alongside an investment programme supporting key priorities. The challenge does remain for positive and proactive management from the Senior Leadership Team and clear direction from Members to produce a robust and financially sustainable budget into the medium term in what continues to be a challenging financial climate.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE **Final Local Government Settlement 2021-22**

DATE **2 March 2021**

BY **Julie James MS, Minister for Housing and Local Government**

Following today's announcement of the Welsh Government's Final Budget, I am publishing details of the core funding allocations for unitary authorities for the forthcoming financial year through the Final Local Government Revenue and Capital Settlements for 2021-22 (the Settlement).

In preparing the final Settlement, I have given careful consideration to the responses I received to the consultation on the provisional settlement, which closed on 9 February. The responses did not identify any matters which required a change of approach for the final Settlement. For 2021-22 local authorities will receive £4.65 billion from the Welsh Government in core revenue funding and non-domestic rates to spend on delivering key services. Adjusting for transfers, the core revenue funding for local government in 2021-22 will increase by 3.8% on a like-for-like basis compared to 2020-21.

In addition to this, I am publishing information on revenue and capital grants planned for 2021-22. These amount to over £1 billion for revenue and over £760 million for capital, with further grants to support local authorities through the pressures faced by the Coronavirus pandemic. We are providing these grant values to enable local authorities to plan their budgets efficiently.

I have allocated all available funding into the provisional settlement to give as much early certainty as I could to authorities. I have no further funding currently available. I am not therefore providing for a funding floor since any floor which would be put in place would have to redistribute funding.

As set out in today's budget, the Welsh Government's funding priorities continue to be health and local government services. This is undoubtedly a good Settlement for local government; however, I am aware a second good settlement in as many years does not make up for 10 years of the UK government's austerity agenda.

I know local government has been facing significant pressures, particularly arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the budget, the Finance Minister announced that we have extended the Local Government Hardship Fund for 6 months, with £206m to support councils with ongoing additional costs and loss of income due to the pandemic.

In setting the overall Settlement at this level the Government has responded to the negative impact of the pandemic on Non Domestic Rate (NDR) collection and the freeze of the NDR multiplier by a compensating rise in the revenue support grant element of the Settlement.

Attached to this statement is a summary table setting out the Settlement allocations by authority. The allocations are derived using the formula developed and agreed in partnership with local government. As a result of the formula and related data, the table shows the range of the funding allocations, from a 2.0% increase over the 2020-21 settlement to a 5.6% increase.

Further details on the Settlement will be sent to all local authorities and published on the Welsh Government's website:

<https://gov.wales/local-government-revenue-and-capital-settlement-2021-2022>

General capital funding for 2021-22 will be set at £198 million. This includes £20 million for the public highways refurbishment grant and a continuation of an additional £35m provided for in the budget for 2020-2021. This will help enable authorities to continue to respond to our joint priorities of decarbonisation, the climate emergency and economic recovery following Covid-19.

I know that authorities will have already made tough choices in setting their budgets. The setting of budgets, and in turn council tax, is the responsibility of each local authority and authorities will need to take account of the full range of sources of funding available to them, as well as the pressures they face, in setting their budgets for the coming year.

The motion for the Senedd to approve the Local Government Finance Report (No.1) for 2021-22 is scheduled for debate on 9 March 2021.

Summary Table

2021-22 final settlement – comparison of 2020-21 AEF (adjusted for transfers) and 2021-22 final AEF, and distribution of the 2020-21 Council Tax Reduction Schemes funding (distributed within AEF) (£000s)

Unitary authority	2020-21 adjusted AEF ¹	2021-22 final AEF ²	% change on adjusted 2020-21 AEF	Rank	Council Tax Reduction Schemes (within AEF)
Isle of Anglesey	101,369	104,825	3.4%	18	5,186
Gwynedd	188,409	194,793	3.4%	19	8,541
Conwy	161,181	166,906	3.6%	17	9,138
Denbighshire	153,089	158,632	3.6%	16	8,920
Flintshire	199,267	206,778	3.8%	14	9,609
Wrexham	184,569	188,856	2.3%	21	9,062
Powys	184,554	191,897	4.0%	8	8,775
Ceredigion	107,545	109,658	2.0%	22	5,122
Pembrokeshire	172,502	179,387	4.0%	7	8,187
Carmarthenshire	274,355	284,820	3.8%	13	13,996
Swansea	339,445	352,642	3.9%	10	19,264
Neath Port Talbot	227,198	236,680	4.2%	6	15,977
Bridgend	203,540	212,192	4.3%	5	13,088
The Vale Of Glamorgan	160,455	168,316	4.9%	2	9,062
Rhondda Cynon Taf	389,403	404,375	3.8%	11	21,936
Merthyr Tydfil	96,973	101,476	4.6%	3	5,595
Caerphilly	283,708	292,367	3.1%	20	12,372
Blaenau Gwent	116,112	120,361	3.7%	15	8,067
Torfaen	140,308	146,340	4.3%	4	8,331
Monmouthshire	97,673	101,483	3.9%	9	5,753
Newport	228,000	240,796	5.6%	1	10,083
Cardiff	469,913	487,913	3.8%	12	27,934
All Unitary Authorities	4,479,570	4,651,494	3.8%		244,000

Note: Total may not sum correctly due to rounding

1. 2020-21 AEF adjusted transfers of £5.127m (at 2020-21 prices) into the Settlement
2. The 2021-22 final AEF is unchanged from provisional settlement.

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Budget Consultation 2021/22 (Phase 2)

*Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough
Council*

February 2021



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This section provides a summary of the main findings from the Phase 2 Budget Consultation 2021/22.
- The consultation was conducted in-house. The consultation period ran from the 29th January and ended on the 12th February 2021.
- The 'digital by default' approach included the following methods to consult with a range of stakeholders:
 - An online questionnaire;
 - The option to attend a Public Zoom meeting;
 - Promotion through social media;
 - A Facebook Takeover event;
 - An online Older Persons Advisory Group Meeting (OPAG);
 - Correspondence with the Disability Forum;
 - Presentation and Survey sent to 3 Colleges, 2 Schools and members of the Youth Forum;
 - Series of polls via the Youth Engagement and Participation Service Instagram page;
 - Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee virtual meeting;
 - Community Liaison Committee virtual meeting;
 - School Budget Forum virtual meeting;
 - Promotion with the Citizen's Panel; and
 - An email sent to key stakeholders, including Community and Town Councils, Trade Unions, Councillors, Local Members of the Senedd and Members of Parliament.
- The Council provided a number of alternatives to online engagement, as it is important to continue to consider hard to reach groups, those having reduced or no access to the Internet and those who prefer to engage through traditional methods.
- The majority of respondents felt that the proposed 2.65% increase in Council Tax was reasonable (76%).
- 81% of respondents agreed with the proposals for the delivery of efficiency savings for next year.
- 87% of respondents agreed with the proposals for fees and charges.
- 87% of respondents agreed with the proposed additional investment of £50K in the Local Business Rate Reduction Scheme.
- 83% of respondents agreed with the proposed £160K investment in car parking.

- 79% of respondents agreed with proposed £100K investment to support the ongoing work on climate change and carbon reduction.
- 70% of respondents agreed with the proposed £200K investment in the graduate programme.
- 81% of respondents agreed with the proposed £50K investment in well-being support for Council staff.
- 86% of respondents agreed with the proposed £200K investment to provide additional resources to Public Health and Protection Services.
- 91% of respondents agreed with the proposed £50K investment to support flood prevention.
- 82% of respondents agreed with the proposed £75K investment in an Overgrowth Team.
- 90% of respondents agreed with the use of £0.709M in transitional funding to address the remaining budget gap.
- 338 people were engaged in the phase 2 budget consultation.
- Overall (including Phase 1) almost 1,500 people were engaged in the Council's budget setting process.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of the Phase 2 Budget Consultation 2021/22.
- 1.2 Section 2 outlines some brief background to the consultation process.
- 1.3 Section 3 details the methodology.
- 1.4 Section 4 provides the results of the questionnaire and the feedback received from the Older Persons Advisory Group and Disability Forum.
- 1.5 Section 5 provides feedback on the young persons' engagement.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council undertakes a comprehensive approach to its annual budget consultation, involving a large number of residents and key stakeholders.
- 2.2 The widespread approach we use and the range of views we capture provides senior managers and Cabinet Members with the necessary information they need to set the budget for the year ahead.
- 2.3 Rhondda Cynon Taf's 2021/22 Budget Consultation is a phased approach, so that we can ensure residents and stakeholders have as much opportunity as possible to provide views on the budget and to make sure that views are informed by the most up to date and relevant information.
- 2.4 Phase 1 provided residents and stakeholders with the opportunity to feedback their views on some of the key strategic building blocks used to construct the Council's budget.
- 2.5 The Phase 1 Consultation report was available to support the preparation of the budget strategy proposals and was presented to Cabinet on the 28th January 2021, where a draft budget strategy was agreed.
- 2.6 This report presents the findings of **phase 2** of the budget consultation, which asked for views on the draft budget strategy for 2021/22.
- 2.7 Phase 2 started on the 29th January and ended on the 12th February 2021.

3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 This section provides a summary of the main findings from the Phase 2 Budget Consultation 2021/22. The consultation was conducted in-house.
- 3.2 The consultation period ran from the 29th January and ended on the 12th February 2021.
- 3.3 The 'digital by default' approach included the following methods to consult with a range of stakeholders:
- An online questionnaire;
 - The option to attend a Public Zoom meeting;
 - Promotion through social media;
 - A Facebook Takeover event;
 - An online Older Persons Advisory Group Meeting (OPAG);
 - Correspondence with the Disability Forum;
 - Presentation and Survey sent to 3 Colleges, 2 Schools and members of the Youth Forum;
 - Young Person engagement via the Youth Engagement and Participation Service Instagram polls;
 - Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee virtual meeting;
 - Community Liaison Committee virtual meeting;
 - School Budget Forum virtual meeting;
 - Promotion with the Citizen's Panel; and
 - An email sent to key stakeholders, including Community and Town Councils, Trade Unions, Councillors, Local Members of the Senedd and Members of Parliament.

Note: Views from the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee and School Budget Forum have been recorded separately in the respective minutes of those virtual meetings.

- 3.4 The Council provided a number of alternatives to online engagement, as it is important to continue to consider hard to reach groups, those having reduced or no access to the Internet and those who prefer to engage through traditional methods. This included:
- A telephone consultation option working with the Council's Contact Centre. The Contact Centre number was made available for people to discuss their views or as a minimum to request consultation materials.
 - Individual call backs were offered if required.
 - Paper surveys and information available on request.
 - Consultation freepost address for postal responses.
- 3.5 The Team designed an Easy Read/Plan English Document in paper format and online, to simplify some of the consultation materials.

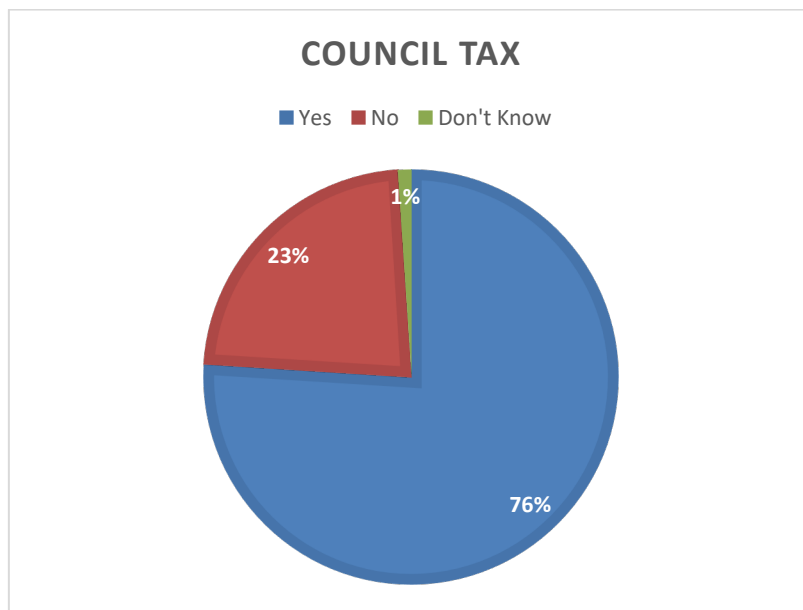
- 3.6 338 people were engaged in the phase 2 budget consultation. Overall (including Phase 1) almost 1,500 people were engaged in the Council's budget setting process.

4. Consultation Findings

- 4.1 The following section outlines the results from the phase 2 budget consultation questionnaire (236 responses) and the feedback received from the Older Persons Advisory Group and Disability Forum members. A selection of comments are provided and the full list of comments will be provided to Cabinet and senior officers to assist with decision making.

Council Tax

- 4.2 The Council is proposing that Council Tax be increased by 2.65% for next year. **The majority of respondents felt that the increase was reasonable (76%).**



Note: Where figures do not add up to 100% this is due to rounding.

- 4.3 The comments on Council Tax, included those who thought the increase of 2.65% was reasonable:

"A very reasonable increase."

"Considering the bad year, it's very reasonable".

"Satisfied with the increase to maintain services".

“While any rise will have some people objecting, I’m happy to support this as it’s modest and lower than first planned.”

- 4.4 There were some suggestions that the increase should be higher than 2.65%;

“Would not object to the initial 2.85%”

“I would prefer it slightly higher.”

“I would be happy for a higher increase”.

- 4.5 And there were those who were against any increase or would prefer a lower increase, mainly due to the financial impact of the current pandemic.

“due to current crisis, I don’t believe the council should increase the council tax”.

- 4.6 OPAG members overall agreed with the proposed Council Tax level of 2.65%.

“I agree, we know it has to go up, due to the responsibilities the Council has.”

“Very reasonable. If the Council can do this without cutting vital services, then that is brilliant.”

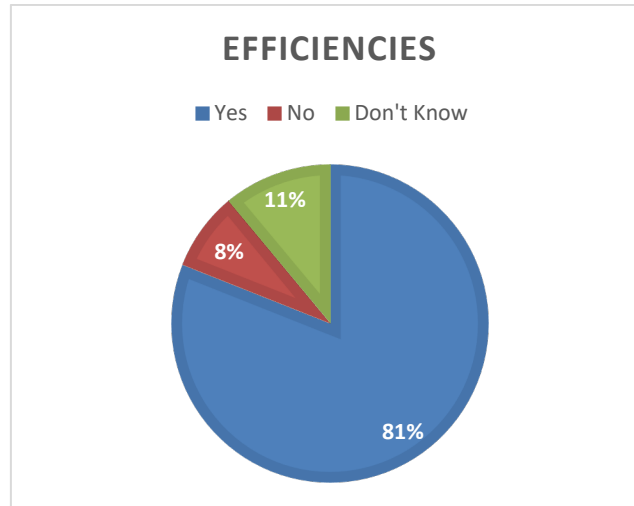
- 4.7 Disability Forum member responses on council tax levels included:

“There’s no need to increase anything for anything COVID-19 related. The Government can do this and has enough money to fund this by reducing pensions.....”

“I agree with a Council tax increase of 2.65% for this.”

Efficiencies

- 4.8 The Council's budget strategy has identified efficiency savings amounting to £4.6M for 2021/22 that will not impact on frontline services.



81% of respondents agreed with the proposals for the delivery of efficiency savings for next year..

Comments included:

"...it's really good to see the Council continue to look to the way it operates to make savings instead of making residents pay."

"The council will need to keep making efficiency savings".

"It must be difficult to make these efficiency's year on year".

- 4.9 A number of the respondents were happy with the level of efficiencies identified, but stressed that this must not be outright cuts to services:

"If these efficiencies are truly efficiencies and not just cuts, then, yes..."

"If these are indeed measures which don't affect services then they are welcome."

Budget Strategy Proposals

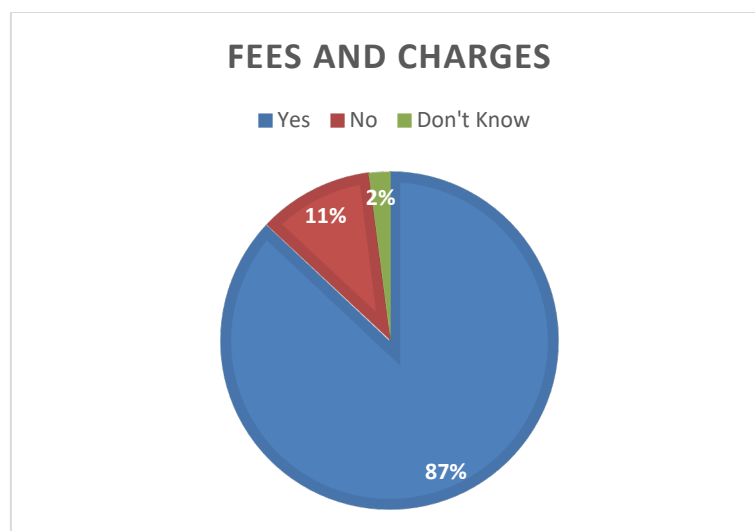
Fees and Charges

- 4.10 A standard increase of 1.7% (in line with the Consumer Prices Index) is proposed on all fees and charges with a number of specific exceptions.

Area of Charge	Proposed Exception
Leisure for Life	Freeze
Car Park Charges	Freeze
Summer and Winter Playing Fees (sports clubs)	Freeze
Meals on Wheels / Day Centre Meals	10p per meal and then frozen until 2023
School Meals	Freeze (as per decision taken in 2020/21 to hold prices until April 2023)
Bereavement Fees	Freeze
Lido / Rhondda Heritage Park	Freeze

The impact of these draft proposals would cost **£185k** more than if the Council increased all fees and charges by 1.7%.

87% of respondents agreed with the proposals for fees and charges.



- 4.11 Overall the approach to fees and charges was welcomed:

“Excellent thank you”.

“People expect some increase”.

“Freezing these fees is good”.

“Very pleased to see so many price freezes”.

- 4.12 There were some concerns about the 10p per meal proposed for meals on wheels and day centre meals:

“Meals on wheels and day centre meals should not be increased. The individuals relying on these meals are already struggling. I would much rather the elderly get fed and not be put in hardship and pay an extra 10p to park.”

- 4.13 Some of the comments suggested that the fees for the Lido and Heritage Park should be increased:

“I think the Lido could be increased.”

“Charges for the Lido & Heritage Park should be increased. These are optional non-statutory services, and those using them should be paying for their upkeep by paying higher fees at the very least in line with inflation.”

“Lido fees can definitely go up; residents will happily pay more as the charges are so low and they want to see it open for years to come”.

“Agree with all of them apart from Lido and Heritage park. I can’t see no reason for not putting the prices up unless they had gone up a bit before they were closed due to the pandemic.” (Disability Forum)

- 4.14 The OPAG were generally supportive of the approach.

“Looks ok to me.”

“I can’t see any problem with them.”

Members questioned the meal charges:

“Strange figure for meals on wheels, could it be rounded bit odd.”

“Doesn’t make sense to stick a 5p on the end, as most older people would use cash for meals on wheels”.

The Lido increase of 50 pence was discussed:

“The Lido was shut last year due to COVID, this although not the Council’s fault, seems unfair.”

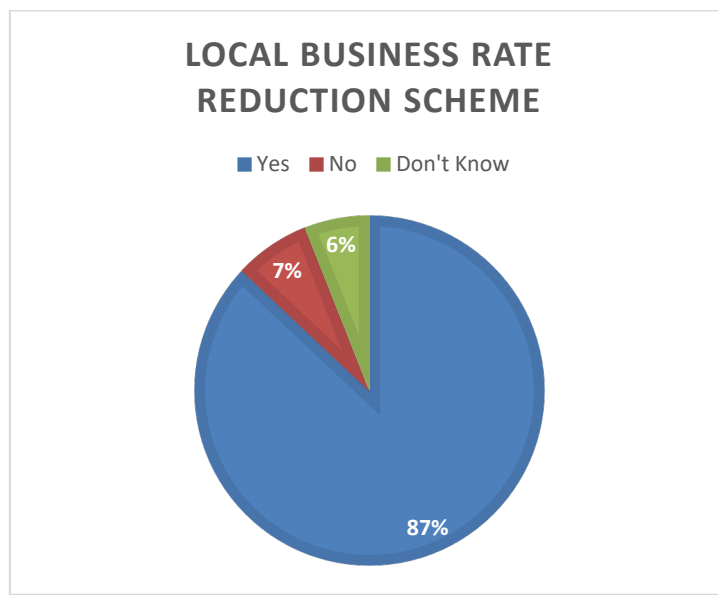
OPAG members were happy that the Council was planning to freeze services that encourage people to get outside.

Local Business Rate Reduction Scheme

- 4.15 Cabinet last year (13th February 2020) determined to implement a local Business Rate Reduction Scheme for 2020/21. The scheme supplemented the Welsh Government High Street and Retail Rate Relief Scheme by providing a further relief of £300 per qualifying business.

An additional investment of £50K is proposed so this local relief can be continued for 2021/22 and increased to £350 per qualifying business.

87% of respondents agreed with the proposed additional investment.



Note: Where figures do not add up to 100% this is due to rounding.

The comments were overwhelmingly positive and included:

“Businesses needs all the help available”.

“Businesses have really suffered this year, directly or indirectly, and any additional support and help will make the effort of the owners and staff members just feel that little more valued.”

“I would welcome any strategy available to help Local Businesses as in my area they have suffered greatly and cannot compete with the larger retail businesses that have been springing up everywhere....”

“This is good news for businesses”.

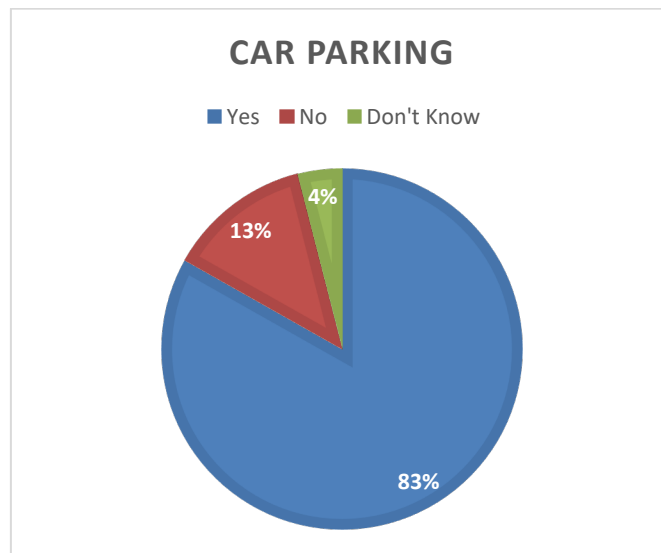
“Definitely, small business needs all the support they can get.” (OPAG)

Car Parking

- 4.16 The Council's town centres have been significantly impacted by the restrictions placed on retail, leisure and hospitality businesses plus the need to put in place measures to adhere with social distancing and enhanced cleaning and hygiene regimes. In order to encourage visitors to the town centres and to aid the recovery of our valued businesses, it is proposed that we tailor car parking charges, noting that in all town centres other than Pontypridd and Aberdare, parking is already free.

The proposal is that car parking is free after 3pm on Monday to Fridays and free all day (after 10am) on Saturdays. The cost of this proposal in terms of income foregone is **£160k**.

83% of respondents agreed with the proposed investment in car parking.



- 4.17 Those in agreement with this investment included:

"I think longer term plans need to reduce the need for car use. Offering free parking after 3:00 seems a reasonable suggestion".

"Hopefully this will help encourage people into town instead of retail parks".

"Funds from parking up to 3pm Monday to Friday as proposed will cover over a period of time the lost income. Why are Pontypridd & Aberdare not free parking??"

- 4.18 Some of the respondents suggested that free parking would need to be brought in alongside other investment, to make the town centres more appealing;

“Would rather investment in town centre as nothing to shop for if shops keep closing”.

“I do not think this will encourage people in given the risk of the Pandemic and how used to shopping online everybody is. I do not think free parking would be enough. There needs to be enticing shops, Pontypridd for example needs to attract a better range of shops and cafe's.....”

“I'm not sure that car parking is what is stopping people attending town centres but if evidence points to that then yes, I would agree. I believe it's the content of the town centres is what has led to a reduction in footfall even before the pandemic.”

- 4.19 Some of the respondents questioned the timing of the proposed free parking and thought it should be earlier:

“3pm is too late in the day.”

Timing was also mentioned in the virtual OPAG meeting:

“If you do after 3pm, little open, should be earlier maybe from lunch time instead of 3pm.”

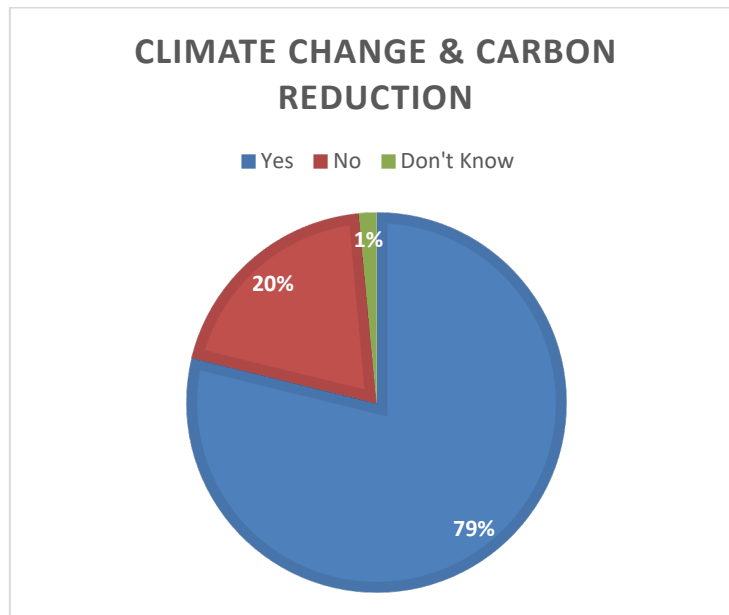
“Good after 10am, as people working in town will not fill the spaces.”

Climate Change and Carbon Reduction

- 4.20 The Council's commitment to responding to climate change and carbon reduction has already been well documented, with the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group having met regularly since its inaugural meeting in November 2019. The initial work programme set out in December 2019 has been delivered alongside an ambition to be further impactful and a community leader in this area, recognising the wider role that our residents, businesses and partners must play.

In order to support this work, it is proposed that a core base budget is put in place in order that a lead coordination role can be established along with a resource which can commission work from third parties to continue and, where possible increase the pace of our work in this area. The cost of this proposal is **£100k**.

79% of respondents agreed with this proposed investment.



- 4.21 There was widescale support for this proposal:

“More money should be invested in this”.

“The amount invested needs to be higher - this is a major issue and needs strong input and support.”

“This investment needs to be higher. I think we are already directly witnessing the impacts of climate change in RCT as we have already seen with the devastating impact of flooding throughout 2020.....”

“This needs to be agreed as we do face a real climate emergency”.

“Yes, agree and we need to show an example to other local authorities.”
(OPAG).

- 4.22 Although some of the respondents suggested that the Council should utilise existing resources to take this forward:

“utilise current employees & diversify their roles”.

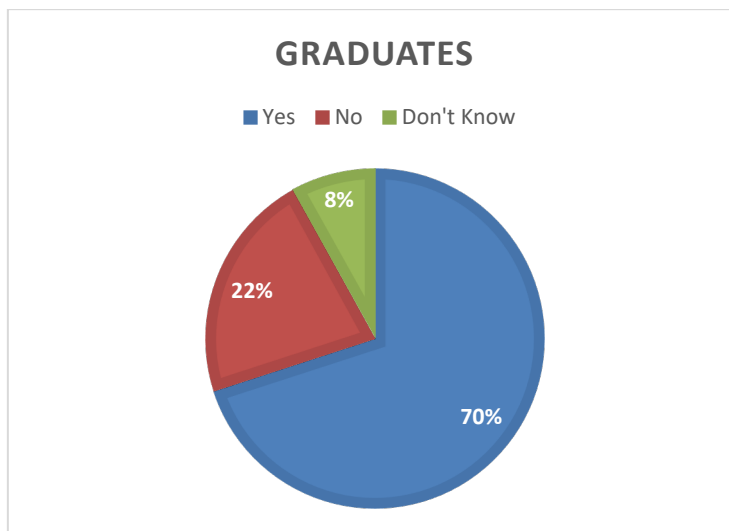
“If this involves using consultants, then No. If it’s to tackle and combat climate change then Yes.” (Disability Forum Member).

Graduates

- 4.23 The Councils’ graduate programme has already provided the opportunity for over 100 graduates to join the Council and develop and progress into middle and senior management roles. It is a key part of the workforce planning strategy and service continuity arrangements, developing our own staff to meet the ongoing and changing needs across our services.

It is proposed that additional resources are set aside to enable a further 6 graduates to be appointed, over and above our existing commitment. The cost of the proposal is **£200k**.

70% of respondents agreed with this proposed investment.



Comments in support of the proposal included:

“Good to see the Council supporting people and giving opportunities”.

“There needs to be jobs for our younger people.”

“Important to provide opportunities for apprenticeships and graduates”.

“Totally support this.” “Think it’s great.” (OPAG)

“Yes if they are required, if they are value for money. If they are doing something” (Disability Forum Member).

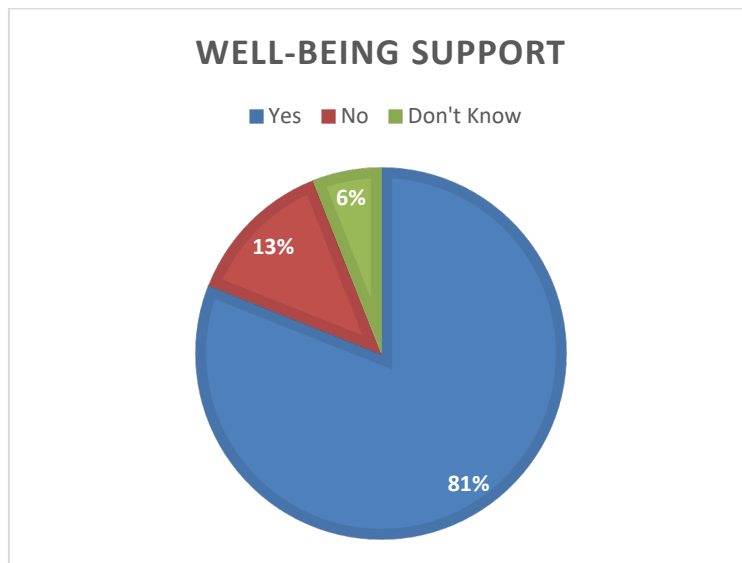
- 4.24 There were some suggestions that existing staff could be utilised and trained up to undertake the roles.

“Promote & train from within, recruit base level employees from job centre”.

Well-Being Support

- 4.25 The Council staff are without doubt our most valued asset – they are the front face of the Council and represent and uphold our key values as public servants. We recognise the challenges faced by staff and have ensured that we continue to support their welfare and wellbeing. An additional resource of **£50k** is proposed to enable us to expand upon the current support programmes we have in place and further develop these programmes across the workforce.

81% of respondents agreed with this proposed investment.



- 4.26 The majority of comments were in support of this proposal:

“This is badly needed.”

“It’s important to look after the staff”.

“Counselling is a key demand from employees so if this investment is in that area of support then I fully support that move”.

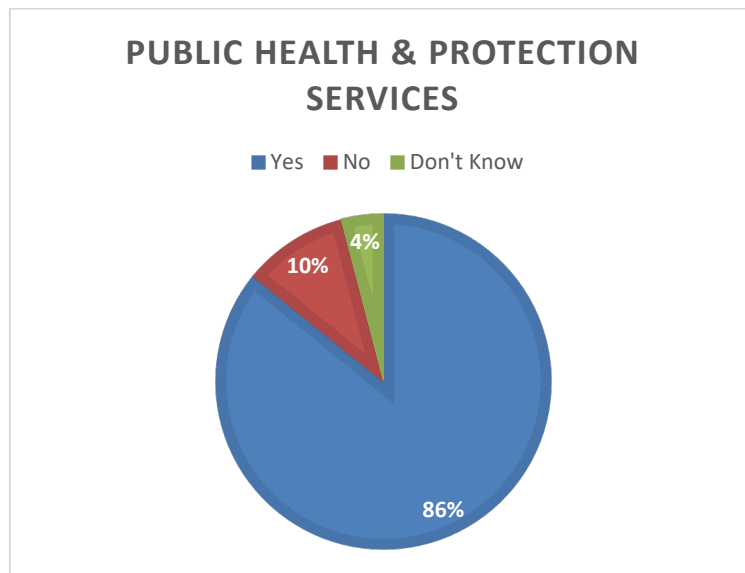
“Staff support in these uncertain times are well received.”

Public Health and Protection Services – Additional Resources

4.27 The Public Health and Protection service has played a key role this year in ensuring the public health and wellbeing of our communities, providing advice and guidance and leading on initiatives such as the Test Trace Protect programme.

The additional investment proposed in the service will enable additional resources to be employed, further strengthening the team and providing future resilience for the service. The cost of the proposal is **£200k**.

86% of respondents agreed with this proposed investment.



The majority of comments were in support of this proposal:

“We have to be ready for future situations.”

“Absolutely vital, probably for a good few years to come.”

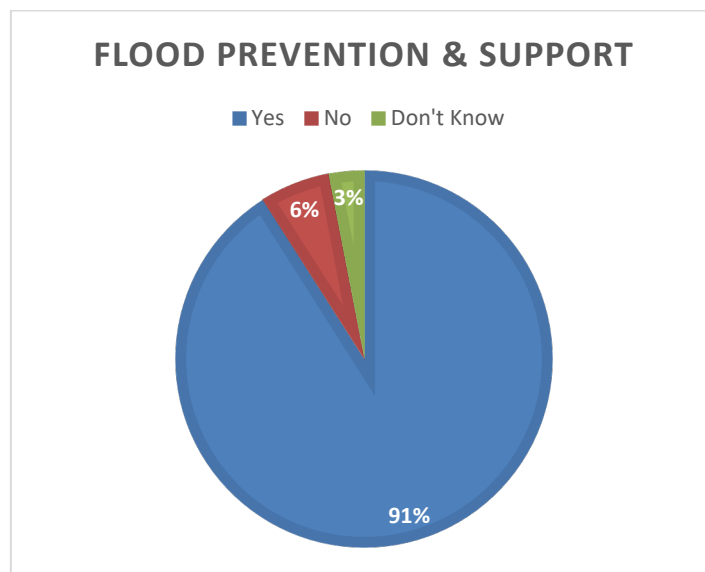
“With COVID-19 this last year this extra £200k will be needed”.

“Seems a good investment.”

Flood Prevention Support

4.28 Over 1,000 homes and 400 businesses were flooded during Storm Dennis. It is proposed that alongside all other support being provided, that an advisory role is put in place to ensure that our residents and businesses are supported in protecting themselves as far as possible from any storm damage, including for example insurance availability and physical property protection opportunities. The cost of this proposal is **£50k**.

91% of respondents agreed with this proposed investment.



4.29 Most of the comments were in support of the proposal:

"This is vital, and the urgency is of the utmost importance."

"It needs to happen for communities devastated by these floods. More investment needs to be put into this area to prevent further reoccurrence".

"So many homes have been devastated so this is needed".

"Vital - likely to see more damage from flooding over the coming months & years so money must be found."

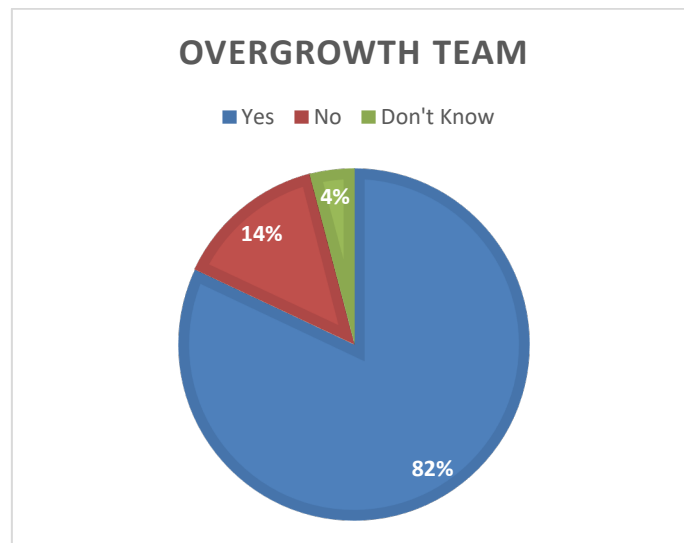
"I agree with the £50k." (Disability Forum Member)

OPAG members supported the funding proposal and suggested it may need an even larger investment.

Overgrowth Team

- 4.30 Our local environment remains a key priority of the Council, keeping our physical places clean, removing eyesores and ensuring that our natural resources are appropriately maintained. We already have a number of teams who are responsible for ensuring that our overgrowth is effectively maintained, and it is proposed that an additional team is put in place to further enhance this work. The cost of this proposal is **£75k**.

82% of respondents agreed with this proposed investment.



- 4.31 Comments in support of this proposal included:

“Really important as more residents have been walking/visiting the countryside in RCT”

“Investment needs to be higher, with more teams being put in place. I would also like to see council organise more local litter-picking events, so the community can take joint ownership of improving and maintaining our local environment.....”

Although some of the respondents suggested that the Council should utilise existing resources/staff:

“This should already be part of what we pay for”.

“make better use of current resources”.

- 4.32 OPAG members agreed with the proposal and asked if there was any scope to use volunteers to help the Council.

- 4.33 A number of comments mentioned leaving the grass verges overgrown:

“.... People don't want to see aggressive over mowing of grass verges etc obliterating any chance for biodiversity. I hope this money can be invested in managing council land better to attract more biodiversity which could go hand in hand with the climate change commitment and making our towns more attractive to investment.....”

“The slightly overgrown and wild verges added much needed colour last spring and I'd like to see these continue”.

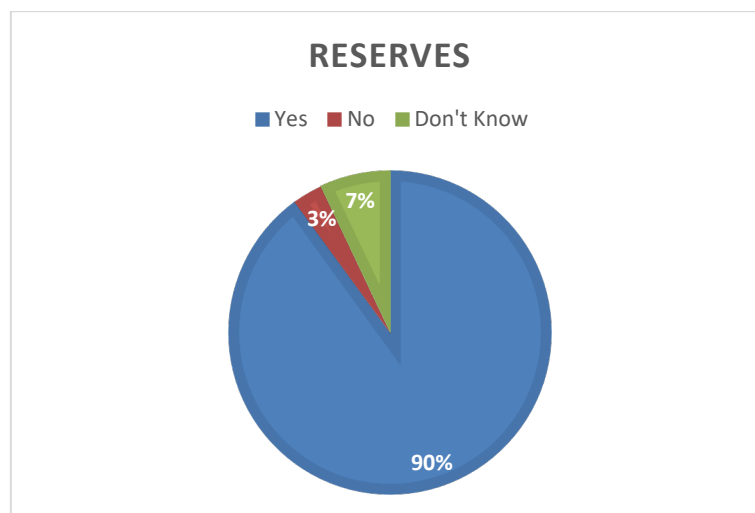
“Overgrowth of plants I'm assuming needs to be managed long term and replaced with more sustainable planting”.

“i would like to see improvements as regards to the roadside verges. i think it would be viable for the council to consider a less and later mow routine and the end of weed killers/pesticides..the restoration of native wildflowers to these areas would be a welcome addition to all, if careful consideration is applied further savings could be achieved.”

Use of Council Reserves

4.34 After taking account of the above proposals, proposed level of Council Tax, the delivery of efficiencies and other budget requirements the remaining budget gap is £0.709M. It is proposed that an allocation of £0.709M is made from the Transitional Funding reserve (i.e. a specific reserve set aside for this purpose) for 2021/22. This would facilitate a balanced budget for 2021/22 and would leave £3.621M in the Transitional Funding.

90% of respondents agreed with the use of this transitional funding.



Comments included:

“Replenishment is essential could this figure be increased”.

“I'd encourage greater use of these reserves to better protect your residents and businesses from increases at such a difficult time....”

“Must keep reserves for emergencies like that big storm last year”.

Other Comments

- 4.35 A number of further comments were made on the proposed budget strategy and these included:

Positive;

“I think in general they are doing a good job”.

“The budget looks like a well thought out and sound financial budget”.

“It seems fair given the various constraints the council operates under.”

“Welcome the engagement”.

- 4.36 There were a number of comments that mentioned the need for services to assist with the aftermath of the pandemic:

“You've a difficult task this year, and I don't envy you the job. I do, however, hope that every resident's needs, regardless of level of education, health, wealth, background, or any other identifying characteristic will be taken into account as, more than ever, we face a difficult time emotionally, mentally and psychologically which no one is immune to.”

“The council needs to invest in services that will help residents with their personal resilience and mental health and wellbeing after what has been and continues to be a very traumatic event”.

- 4.37 The move to remote working was seen as a positive and something that the Council should continue with post COVID, with potential savings through optimising the use of buildings and also generating income from further rationalisation of buildings.

“Maybe sell council offices and encourage staff to desk share or work from home”.

“I think that the council could save money by getting rid of a number of buildings. The staff that are struggling and need to be in the office, given an office space when the pandemic is over, and it is safe to do so. As

things are unlikely to ever return to the way they were before, there will be no need to have all the office space...

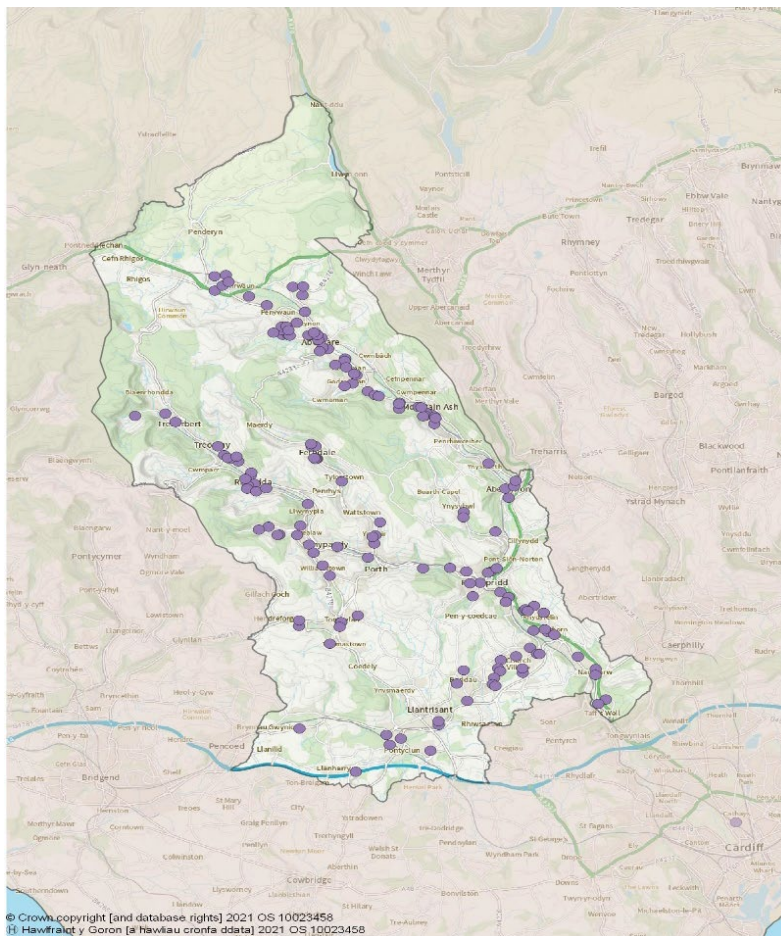
About You

4.38 The majority of respondents to the survey were residents (89.2%).

Base	100.0%
Are you responding as?	
a local resident	89.2%
a local business	4.1%
an employee of the Council	25.2%
a member of a voluntary / community group	5.4%
other	0.5%

Note: This was a multiple response question.

4.39 The following map shows the postcodes of those people who responded to the survey.



5. YOUNG PERSON ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1 As part of our engagement with Young People we utilised the Youth Engagement and Participation Service Instagram page to promote the consultation and ran a series of poll questions over the course of a week. The questions were based on the information in the full survey and asked young people whether they agreed or not with the proposals.
- 5.2 The posts were spread over 5 days and asked Young People whether they agreed or disagreed with the proposals on Council Tax levels, Fees and Charges, Efficiency savings and 5 areas of investment. These were Public Health and Protection Services, the Council's Graduate Scheme, Climate Change, Flood Prevention Support and Car Parking.
- 5.3 The table below shows the results of these polls:

Day / Topic	Question	Yes	No
1 – Council Tax Levels	Do you think a Council Tax increase of 2.65% is fair?	10	16
2 – Efficiency Savings	Should the Council continue to look at ways of saving money?	19	2
3 – Fees and Charges	Do you agree with these proposals?	8	2
4 – Investments: Graduate Scheme / Public Health and Protection	Do you think these investments are a good use of Council money?	13	2
5 – Investments: Car Parking / Flood Prevention Support / Climate Change	Do you think these investments are a good use of Council money?	2	0

- 5.4 We also created a PowerPoint presentation and shared this with the schools and colleges that had taken part in Phase 1 of the consultation. We engaged with Coleg Y Cymoedd groups from Rhondda, Aberdare and Treforest campuses along with Y Pant and St John Baptist Church In Wales High School. A tailored version of the survey was also created and this link was shared with the schools / colleges. They were asked to share the information with their groups and invite them to take part. We also shared these materials with members of the Youth Forum.
- 5.5 The table below shows the results for the questions based on Council Tax levels, Efficiency savings and Fees and Charges:

Question	Yes	No	Don't Know
Do you agree that 2.65% is a reasonable increase in Council Tax?	2	1	3
Do you agree with the approach to efficiency savings for next year?	3	-	2
Do you agree with the Council's approach to fees and charges?	1	2	2

Comments:

“The costs for the meals on wheels program should be frozen and the minor cost increase proposed should instead be levied on car parking charges.”

- 5.6 We also provided information about a range of budget investment proposals and asked whether young people agreed with these. The table below shows the results:

Proposed Investment Area	Yes	No	Don't Know
Local Business Rate Reduction Scheme	3	-	2
Car Park charges	2	-	3
Climate Change and Carbon Reduction	3	1	2
Graduate scheme	2	-	3
Well-Being support for staff	1	1	3
Public Health and Protection Services – Additional Resources	3	-	2
Flood Prevention Support	3	-	2
Overgrowth Team	2	-	3

Comments:

“More money should be invested in Well being for staff, more for climate change and a little less for the Overgrowth team.”

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee held virtually on
Thursday, 4 February 2021 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 S. Rees-Owen
Councillor J Williams Councillor T Williams
Councillor J Cullwick Councillor A Fox
Councillor T Williams Councillor W Owen
Councillor J Edwards Councillor S Rees

Co-Opted Members

Mr Jeff Fish

Officers in attendance

Mr Paul Griffiths – Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services
Ms Stephanie Davies – Head of Finance – Education and Financial Reporting
Mr Christian Hanagan – Service Director Democratic Services and Communication
Mr Andy Wilkins – Director of Legal Services
Ms Julia Nicholls – Principal Democratic Services Officer
Mrs Sarah Daniel – Senior Democratic Services Officer

Apologies

Councillor M Adams
Councillor G Caple

30 Declaration of Interest

Cllr S Bradwick declared a personal interest in item 3 as Chair of Governors of Aberdare Community School. He further declared a personal interest as the levy for the South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority was mentioned during the meeting and Cllr Bradwick is a member of the Board which sets this budget.

Extract from minutes

THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT 2021/22 REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation the Service Director – Finance and

Improvement Services provided Members with an overview of the:

- The Council's current financial position (2020/21);
- Feedback from phase 1 of the Budget Consultation process that ran from 26 October to 7 December 2020;
- The provisional Local Government Settlement for 2021/ 22; and
- Cabinet's proposed Budget Strategy 2021/22 – which included proposals around Council Tax, School Budgets, Efficiencies, Fees and Charges, Targeted Investment and Use of Reserves.

The Chairman thanked the Officer and the following questions were raised.

The Co-opted Member referred to the legislative changes that will come into effect in 2021/22 in respect of Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and requested clarity on whether the anticipated additional costs would relate to the Council or Schools. The Service Director fed back that the proposed Budget Strategy builds in additional resources for the forthcoming year to support the preparation and implementation of the changes that come into force from September 2021. The Service Director added that this budget is proposed to be allocated to the Education and Inclusion Services Directorate within the Council and that the Council and Schools will continue to work together to plan and assess resource requirements on an on-going basis.

The Co-opted Member also referred to ALN virements and asked if this was in relation to the recently announced Transformation Grant funding of up to £1,000 from Central South Consortium or if this was additional funding from another source. The Service Director fed back that specific grants received by schools would sit outside the Cabinet's budget strategy proposals and the Head of Finance – Education and Financial Reporting added that Schools had been informed that they can access different grants for this area if specific training or activities are undertaken.

A Member referred to the General Fund Balances which currently stood at £8.709M, with plans to replenish to £10M over the next 3 years, and stated that this was a good idea and requested clarity on whether this was a set requirement from the external auditor.

The Service Director fed back that the plan to replenish General Fund balances to £10M over the next 3 years was a Council led decision as part of its Medium Term Financial Planning arrangements. The Service Director went on to indicate that the Council's Section 151 Officer keeps this position under on-going review and takes into account a number of factors in determining the minimum level of general fund balances to be maintained, including, the Council's financial position and financial environment it is operating within. The Service Director added that the Council provides on-going updates to Audit Wales, the Council's external auditor, in this regard.

The Chairman referred to waste management costs increasing and asked the Service Director to explain why this was.

The Service Director fed back that waste management costs had increased throughout the pandemic due to more people working from / staying at home resulting in more residential kerbside collection. The Service Director added that

there has also been a change in the composition of waste collected and this was resulting in an increase in the volume of residual waste. The Service Director went on to indicate that the Council's Waste Management Service had recommenced engaging with residents, where safe to do so and observing social distancing requirements, to promote the importance of recycling.

A Member stated that this was also discussed at a recent Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee.

A Member referred to page 15 of the Phase 1 Budget Consultation report, which set out feedback from respondents on which Council Services to protect and prioritise, and was disappointed to note that the bottom three services were 'Cultural, Tourism and Heritage Services', 'Music Services' and 'Leisure Services'. The Member stated that it was very important to remember that without these services throughout the lockdown periods many people would have struggled further and felt they provided an invaluable service and hoped there will be a level of protection built into the budget strategy for these areas. The Chairman supported these comments.

Feedback on the Cabinet's proposals for Council Tax:

A Member referred to the Council Tax increase proposal of 2.65% which was lower than the originally modelled Council Tax increase of 2.85%. The Member raised concerns of litter throughout the County Borough and stated that there was a need to improve the cleanliness of villages and towns, and indicated that if the Council Tax was increased to the originally proposed 2.85%, the extra funding raised could go towards street cleansing.

A Member fed back that officers from the Council's Streetcare Service were re-purposed for a temporary period during the pandemic to aid the delivery of other immediate priorities and indicated that these officers have now returned to their streetcare roles that focus on maintaining the cleanliness of the County Borough.

Two members agreed with the proposal of a 2.65% increase in Council Tax and fed back that it should not be increased any higher due to the impact the global pandemic has, and is continuing to have, on residents in terms of employment and reduced pay where individuals have been furloughed. The Members added that they anticipated the proposed Council Tax increase would be favourable when compared to Council Tax increases proposed by other local authorities across Wales.

The Service Director advised the Committee that the existing Street Cleansing budget was approximately £2.5 million and the proposed budget strategy includes specific additional investment in this area to further enhance the Council's Overgrowth Team.

Feedback on the Cabinet's proposal for the Schools Budget

The Co-opted Member expressed concern on the requirement for efficiency planning for decisions taken locally by schools. The Service Director advised that the proposed schools increase built into the Budget Strategy covers all inflationary pressures, pupil number changes and Non-Domestic Rate increased costs, and indicated that where schools make local decisions, for example, changes to the staffing establishment, delivery of specific projects, the financial

impacts would be the responsibility of schools to manage and fund.

The Co-opted Member referred to the increase in budget of £2.2million for schools and asked how this equates in percentage terms.

The Service Director fed back that this equated to a 1.35% increase and went on to provide further context to the Committee on the Council viewing schools as a key priority and its long-term commitment to protect this sector as much as possible. The Service Director added that between financial years 2012/13 to 2020/21 the Schools budget had increased, in cumulative terms, by 22% compared to non-schools budgets reducing by 1% over the same period, and also noted that over this time there has been a requirement for efficiency planning at an individual school level.

Some Members added that the proposed increase for schools was less than in previous years and should there be the requirement for schools to deliver efficiency savings as a result of local decisions made, this will be challenging.

The Head of Finance – Education and Financial Reporting advised that efficiency savings may need to take place where individual schools have a historical deficit, with this work being supported through a deficit recovery plan being put in place for these schools covering a 3 to 5 year period.

Another Member shared the concern on the proposed increase compared to previous years and requested clarity on the extent of work undertaken with Headteachers to support schools in their recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic including children catching up.

The Service Director advised that the Council's Finance staff continue to work closely with all schools as part of in-year budget monitoring arrangements and, with regard to Covid-19, specific work is on-going with schools to identify and claim for additional costs incurred in the current year via the Welsh Government's Hardship Fund. The Service Director added that the Council and Schools also positively engage as part of the Rhondda Cynon Taf School Budget Forum, where key issues such as the challenge of supporting children catching up are considered. In this regard, the Head of Finance – Education and Financial Reporting advised Members that specific grant funding has been made available to schools for both 2020/21 and 2021/22, and, more recently there had been an addition to the grant for learners in exam years. The Head of Finance added that schools had already been informed of their allocation.

A Member asked if further clarification on this matter could be shared at a future meeting as this was still a major concern for many Members.

A Member commented that school staff and parents should be praised for their recent efforts in ensuring children still had access to learning whilst schools were closed. He added that officers need to be mindful of the impact on children not being in school and there will need to be funding available for a catch-up programme for all learners.

Another Member commented that we need to ensure children can catch-up as they could be at a disadvantage, for example, if their parents are working from home and the challenges of home-schooling at the same time as working. The Member added there needs to be a provision to get the children back to where they need to be.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services stated that at the School Budget Forum meeting on the 4th February 2021, this information had been presented to Head teachers and, overall, the £2.2 million uplift in their funding was welcomed. He added that they do have concerns around catch-up and it is currently being discussed at a national level.

The Chairman referred to the consultation document and indicated that it would have been useful for demographic information on respondents to be included within the document.

The Chairman also referred to the need to convey to residents the level of funding the Council receives from Welsh Government compared to the amount it raises from Council Tax and to provide information on where and how the Council spends the funding it receives.

The Chairman also requested for the breakdown of Council Tax by community area to be followed up.

Feedback on the Cabinet's proposal for Efficiencies:

A Member fed back that over the past 10 years the Council has identified and delivered significant levels of efficiency savings and this has been an important tool in helping to minimise Council Tax increases and protect frontline services during a challenging financial climate. The Member also fed back that there is likely to be a limit to the level of efficiency savings the Council can continue to deliver into the future and expressed his opinion that it is a misplaced perception that local government is inefficient. The Member went on to note that Adult and Community Services have and are continuing to face significant pressures, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Feedback on the Cabinet's proposals for Fees and Charges:

A Member asked how many meals are produced per week by the Meals on Wheels Service. The Service Director responded that a few hundred per day but would request up-to-date information from the Service and circulate to Committee Members.

A Member asked whether the proposed increase in the Day Centre meal price was linked to the Centres being closed and resulting income lost during the pandemic. The Service Director fed back that proposed price levels are based on setting an affordable and competitive price that contributes to the cost of maintaining and, where possible, improving services, and also having regard to estimated costs and level of inflation for the year ahead. The Service Director added that where the Council has lost income as a result of Covid-19, this is currently reclaimed via the Welsh Government's Hardship Fund.

A Member asked how much revenue the 10p proposed increase for Meals on Wheels and Day Centre meals would generate. The Service Director fed back that it would be approximately £4k in respect of Meals on Wheels and approximately £2.5k for Day Centres.

A Member asked what income would be generated if the Council increased car parking charges by 1.7% instead of applying a freeze. The Service Director fed back that this would generate approximately £11k of income and the Member indicated that he would favour the charges being raised on car parking rather

than raising the cost of Meals on Wheels and Day Centre meals.

A Member asked how the Meals on Wheels charges compared to other local authorities in Wales. The Service Director fed back that the Council's charge is competitive compared to other local authority based provision, with prices ranging from £3.30 to £5.65 across Wales.

The Chairman stated that it was not always helpful to compare with other local authorities as each area has a different demographic, adding that Rhondda Cynon Taf was a socially deprived area. He stated that he would like to see if there had been a decrease in the uptake of the meals due to the increase.

A Member stated he could not support increasing the car parking charges as he believed it would be of detriment to the villages and towns as it would deter residents from visiting if they had to pay increased costs to park. The Service Director fed back that Pontypridd and Aberdare were chargeable car parks, with car parking already free in all other areas of the County Borough.

Another three members agreed that they could not support increasing car parking charges on the basis of it discouraging residents from shopping locally and potentially encouraging visits to out-of-town shopping centres where free car parking was provided. The Members fed back that encouraging residents back into local communities and not internet shopping should be prioritised as local jobs depended on it. One Member added that he would like to see the car parking charges abolished altogether.

A Member asked how much revenue the Authority generates through car parking charges at Pontypridd and Aberdare. The Service Director advised that the income budget was £640k and indicated that he would make enquiries on the breakdown between Pontypridd and Aberdare.

Feedback on the Cabinet's proposals on Additional Investment:

Two members commented on the Public Health and Protection Services and the Overgrowth Team, and stated that they do a brilliant job and they have faced an immense challenge during the pandemic; both Members fully supported the investment in these areas.

As there were no other comments on the presentation the Service Director thanked the Committee for their time and indicated that the feedback provided would form part of the report to Cabinet on 25th February 2021.

This meeting closed at 19:24

**Cllr M Powell
Chairman.**

SCHOOL BUDGET FORUM MEETING 4TH FEBRUARY 2021

THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT 2021/2022 REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY

Extract from minutes

The Service Director - Finance and Improvement Services provided Forum Members with a PowerPoint presentation which provided an overview of:

- The 2021/22 Draft Revenue Budget Strategy;
- The Council's current financial position (2020/21);
- Details of the budget consultation (phase 1); and
- The headlines and implications for the Council in respect of the provisional Local Government Settlement 2021/22.

The Service Director concluded the presentation with the Cabinet's proposed budget strategy for 2021/22 and requested feedback from Forum Members.

Council Tax

Forum Members were advised that the Cabinet were proposing Council Tax be increased by 2.65% for 2021/22 (lower than the originally modelled Council Tax increase of 2.85%) at a cost of £182k to the Council.

Members commented positively on the proposed Council Tax level, noting that the level proposed would likely be one of the lowest in Wales.

Schools Budget

The Service Director informed Forum Members that the proposal would see the Schools Budget increase from £161.6M to £163.8M, an increase of £2.2M. He added that the increase would cover, in full, all inflationary and pupil number pressures, including NDR increased costs.

Members welcomed the proposal to cover inflationary and pupil number pressures and NDR increased costs.

Efficiencies

The Service Director informed Members that for 2021/22, efficiencies totalling £4.6M had been identified for incorporation into the proposed strategy that would not impact on frontline services.

Forum Members spoke of the efficiencies identified and considered it a positive that the proposed savings would not impact on front-line services. The Service Director commented on the areas where such efficiencies had been secured, that included savings through the transformational changes implemented during the pandemic such as maximising use of digital technology to reduce consumable expenditure and home working that is reducing staff travel and premises related costs.

A Forum Member commented on the difficulties of achieving such efficiency levels year-on-year and paid tribute to the work of staff and the Senior Leadership Team in this regard.

Fees & Charges

Forum Members were advised that a standard increase of 1.7% (in line with the forecasted Consumer Prices Index) was proposed on all fees and charges with a number of specific exceptions, which the Service Director highlighted within his presentation. He added that the proposals would cost the Council £185k more than if the Council increased all fees and charges by 1.7%.

Forum Members welcomed the freeze in charges on school meals and also commented on the importance of free school meals to the families that they support. Forum Members spoke of the importance of leisure facilities and the need to promote recreation and exercise for all residents in the County Borough following the pandemic and the health and mental health benefits such facilities provide; therefore freezing the prices in this area to help ensure such facilities were accessible was another positive measure.

Proposed Targeted Additional Investment

A Forum Member queried whether any additional investment had been received from Welsh Government in respect of flood prevention support. The Service Director advised that the Welsh Government provided funding through its Emergency Financial Assistance Scheme to support the Council in its immediate response to Storm Dennis and work is on-going with Welsh Government to secure further funding to support a medium to long term programme of repairs to the Council's infra-structure, including flood prevention schemes. The Service Director added that with specific regard to the flood prevention support investment of £50k included in the proposed budget strategy, this related to putting in place an advisory role to help ensure residents and businesses are supported in protecting themselves from future storm damage.

A Forum Member also highlighted that the Council's on-going work in improving playgrounds and parks facilities was important, and more so during the pandemic, giving young people good quality areas to play that helps promote both health and wellbeing benefits.

Use of Reserves

The Service Director advised that after taking account of the implications of Cabinet's budget strategy proposals, the remaining budget gap would be £0.709M. The Service Director informed Forum Members that it is proposed for an allocation of £0.709M be made from the Council's Transitional Funding which would leave a remaining balance of £3.621M.

Members discussed the need to utilise the Transitional Funding reserve to close the budget gap and spoke of the importance of the Transitional Fund going forward and commented on the prudent work of the Council in being able to maintain this funding at an appropriate level on an on-going basis.

The Chair thanked Members for their contribution to the meeting and the Service Director closed the presentation by advising of the timeline for setting the Council's 2021/22 Revenue Budget and noted that the feedback of Forum Members would form part of the report to Cabinet at its meeting on 25th February 2021.

tudalen wag

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

10th MARCH 2021

COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2022

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & DIGITAL SERVICES

Author: Mr. Barrie Davies (Tel No. 01443 424026)

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The report provides Members with details of the calculation of the Authority's Council Tax for the financial year ending 31st March 2022 prior to passing the necessary statutory resolutions.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Members:

- i) Note the level of the precept from the Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales;
- ii) Note the level of the Community Council Precepts, as detailed in Appendix 1;
- iii) Pass the formal Council Tax resolutions for the financial year ending 31st March 2022, as contained in Appendix 2; and
- iv) Note my comments upon robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves as detailed at paragraph 9.2.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 At the Cabinet meeting held on 17th November 2020, Members confirmed the Council Tax Base for 2021/22 as £77,197.81. This means that each £1 of Council Tax levied on dwellings within the County Borough in 2021/22 would yield an estimated Council Tax income to the Authority of £77,198.

3.2 Earlier in today's meeting Council was asked to agree the total budget for the financial year ending 31st March 2022, at £527.903M (net), the result of that earlier decision will be reported by the Council's Section 151 Officer.

4.0 NON-DOMESTIC RATES

4.1 On 10th February 2021, Welsh Government set the Non-Domestic Rate multiplier (rate in the pound) for 2021/22 at 53.5p (no change from the current year). The multiplier rate is normally updated based on the annual percentage change in the CPI (Consumer Price Index) but for the forthcoming financial year Welsh Government have determined to “freeze” the multiplier.

5.0 GOVERNMENT GRANTS

5.1 The Council will receive the following grants from the Welsh Government in 2021/22:

Table 1

Type of Grant	£M
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	325.125
Redistributed Non Domestic Rates (NDR)	79.250
Total	404.375

6.0 POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR SOUTH WALES - PRECEPT

6.1 The Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales notified the Council on 3rd February 2021 that the precept for the financial year ending 31st March 2022 will rise by **5.3%** to £22,211,354 which equates to a Council Tax on a Band D property of £287.72, an increase of 5.50%.

7.0 COMMUNITY COUNCIL - PRECEPTS

7.1 Appendix 1 provides details of the precepts levied by the twelve Community Councils within the Rhondda Cynon Taf area. The precepts for the services rendered by the Community Councils are also expressed as Band D equivalents.

8.0 COUNCIL TAX LEVELS FOR 2021/22

8.1 The net amount that the Council needs to raise from local Council Taxpayers is shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2

2021/22 Net Budget Requirement

	Budget	Band D Equivalent
	£M	£. p
2021/22 Net Revenue Spending	527.903	
Less: Revenue Support Grant	325.125	
Less: Non Domestic Rate Grant	79.250	
Less: Social Care Workforce Grant	4.075	
Sub-Total	119.453	
Less: Release of Earmarked Reserves	0.711	
Council's Requirement from Taxpayers	118.742	1,538.15
Add: Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales Precept	22.211	287.72
2021/22 Council Tax	140.953	1,825.87

- 8.2 If agreed at the Council meeting earlier today, the County Borough Council's revenue budget for the financial year ending 31st March 2022 will result in a Council Tax increase of 2.65% (excluding Community Council precepts).
- 8.3 However, the 5.50% Band D increase agreed by the Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales will have the effect of raising the composite Band D Council Tax by **3.09%** (excluding Community Council precepts).
- 8.4 The figures in Table 2 above exclude Community Council Precepts. Those taxpayers living in areas where a Community Council Precept is payable will, therefore, have to pay an additional amount. The Band D figures for Community Councils are shown in Appendix 1.

9.0 ROBUSTNESS OF ESTIMATES AND ADEQUACY OF RESERVES HELD

- 9.1 Under the Local Government Act 2003 (Commencement) (Wales) Order 2003, as Responsible Finance Officer (per Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972), I have a duty to report to the Council on:
- (a) The robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations; and
 - (b) The adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- 9.2 My view upon the above matters is:

(a) Robustness of Estimates

I am satisfied that the detailed calculations which underpin the agreed budget have been undertaken in a consistent and robust manner and reflect actual budgetary

requirements across the Council at this point in time. As part of the budget process, efficiency savings have been identified which, along with other components of the budget strategy have allowed us to match service requirements against available resources.

The base budget as constructed does not include additional costs which are likely to arise as a direct consequence of the pandemic which Welsh Government are committed to continue to fund outside of the local government settlement (as has been the case through 2020/21). The final settlement confirms that WG have set aside funding (£206M) for the first 6 months of 2021/22 in this regard. Our budget requirements are also modelled on a best estimate of demand across our services; we will continue to closely monitor spend against our budget in the knowledge that there may be volatility in demand and spend (for example in social care) as we recover from the pandemic.

(b) Adequacy of Financial Reserves

It remains my view that the Council should maintain a minimum level of General Fund Balances of £10M. I consider this necessary given the continuing financial pressures the Council is working under and the overall quantum of our budget (for 2021/22 set at £527.903M net). Whilst this reflects the view we have held for some years, this minimum level is set in the context of the need for continued strong financial management that is felt to be essential to ensure that the Council maintains financial flexibility and stability going forward.

The figure is, of necessity, not based upon any defined formula, but is a judgement by myself, as the Responsible Finance Officer.

At the 31st March 2020, the level of General Fund Balances stood at £8.709M and I am satisfied that plans are in place to replenish General Fund Balances to the minimum level over the period of the Council's current Medium Term Financial Plan i.e. to 2023/24.

10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 As part of developing the recommended 2021/22 Revenue Budget Strategy, including the proposed Council Tax increase, an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken to ensure that:

- (a) the Council meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duties; and
- (b) due regard has been taken of the likely impact of the recommendations in terms of equality and discrimination.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 Consultation on the level of Council Tax for the forthcoming year has been undertaken as part of the Council's 2021/22 Budget Strategy Consultation process.

12.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

12.1 The financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the main body of the Report.

13.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

13.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires each local authority to calculate its budget requirement for each financial year and the authority's council tax must be set to take into account the budget requirement. This report ensures compliance with the legal duty in respect of council tax setting.

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

14.1 The recommended budget and council tax level for 2021/22 have been formulated to support the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities, as set out within the Corporate Plan "Making a Difference" 2020-2024. The Council's Corporate Plan is aligned to the goals and principles included within the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

15.0 CONCLUSION

15.1 Should the Council agree the net revenue budget at £527.903M for 2021/22, it is now in a position to pass the formal resolution required by statute to set the respective levels of its Council Tax for the financial year ending 31st March 2022.

Community Council Precepts - 2021/22

Community Area	2021/22 Precept	Band D	Precept Variance to Previous Year
Gilfach Goch	£21,000.00	£20.80	-62.5%
Hirwaun	£64,345.54	£39.16	5.0%
Llanharan	£198,735.69	£64.56	-0.3%
Llanharry	£111,594.00	£70.00	-12.7%
Llantrisant	£230,841.00	£43.00	0.2%
Llantwit Fardre	£254,313.00	£38.76	-0.2%
Pontyclun	£128,105.00	£36.84	4.9%
Pontypridd	£745,903.34	£71.57	1.3%
Rhigos	£16,000.00	£56.70	3.2%
Taffs Well	£35,854.00	£26.29	-4.6%
Tonyrefail	£241,073.00	£60.54	0.0%
Ynysybwl & Coed-y-Cwm	£57,000.00	£40.48	0.0%
Total	£2,104,764.57		

Appendix 2

It is recommended that Members:

1. Confirm, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995 (as amended) made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), the following amounts for the year 2021/22:

(a) £77,197.81 being the amount calculated by the Council as the Council Tax Base for the year;

(b) Parts of the Council's area

Community Area	2021/22 Tax Base
Gilfach Goch	£1,009.62
Hirwaun	£1,642.94
Llanharan	£3,078.31
Llanharry	£1,594.20
Llantrisant	£5,368.41
Llantwit Fardre	£6,561.23
Pontyclun	£3,477.63
Pontypridd	£10,421.88
Rhigos	£282.21
Taffs Well	£1,363.80
Tonyrefail	£3,982.18
Ynysybwl & Coed-y-Cwm	£1,408.10

being the amounts calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which special items relate;

Appendix 2

2. Agree that the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2021/22 in accordance with Section 32 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act, 1992:
- (a) **£745,483,160.07** ~ being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (d) of the Act;
 - (b) **£220,686,525.50** ~ being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act;
 - (c) **£524,796,634.57** ~ being the amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year;
 - (d) **£403,950,055.00** ~ being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of Revenue Support Grant and redistributed Non-Domestic Rates (less discretionary Non-Domestic Rate relief);
 - (e) **£1,565.41** ~ being the amount at 2(c) above less the amount at 2(d) above, all divided by amount at 1(a) above calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;
 - (f) **£2,104,764.57** ~ being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act;
 - (g) **£1,538.15** ~ being the amount at 2(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2(f) above by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates;

Appendix 2

(h) Parts of the Council's Area:

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2(g) above, the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;

Community Area	Band D
Gilfach Goch	£20.80
Hirwaun	£39.16
Llanharan	£64.56
Llanharry	£70.00
Llantrisant	£43.00
Llantwit Fardre	£38.76
Pontyclun	£36.84
Pontypridd	£71.57
Rhigos	£56.70
Taffs Well	£26.29
Tonyrefail	£60.54
Ynysybwl & Coed-y-Cwm	£40.48

Appendix 2

(i) Parts of the Council's Area

Local Precepting Authority	Band A (£.p)	Band B (£.p)	Band C (£.p)	Band D (£.p)	Band E (£.p)	Band F (£.p)	Band G (£.p)	Band H (£.p)	Band I (£.p)
Gilfach Goch	1,039.30	1,212.52	1,385.73	1,558.95	1,905.38	2,251.81	2,598.25	3,117.90	3,637.55
Hirwaun	1,051.54	1,226.80	1,402.05	1,577.31	1,927.82	2,278.33	2,628.85	3,154.62	3,680.39
Llanharan	1,068.47	1,246.55	1,424.63	1,602.71	1,958.87	2,315.02	2,671.18	3,205.42	3,739.66
Llanharry	1,072.10	1,250.78	1,429.46	1,608.15	1,965.52	2,322.88	2,680.25	3,216.30	3,752.35
Llantrisant	1,054.10	1,229.78	1,405.46	1,581.15	1,932.52	2,283.88	2,635.25	3,162.30	3,689.35
Llantwit Fardre	1,051.27	1,226.49	1,401.69	1,576.91	1,927.33	2,277.76	2,628.18	3,153.82	3,679.46
Pontyclun	1,049.99	1,224.99	1,399.99	1,574.99	1,924.99	2,274.98	2,624.98	3,149.98	3,674.98
Pontypridd	1,073.14	1,252.01	1,430.86	1,609.72	1,967.43	2,325.15	2,682.86	3,219.44	3,756.02
Rhigos	1,063.23	1,240.44	1,417.64	1,594.85	1,949.26	2,303.67	2,658.08	3,189.70	3,721.32
Taffs Well	1,042.96	1,216.79	1,390.61	1,564.44	1,912.09	2,259.74	2,607.40	3,128.88	3,650.36
Tonyrefail	1,065.79	1,243.43	1,421.05	1,598.69	1,953.95	2,309.22	2,664.48	3,197.38	3,730.28
Ynysybwl & Coed-y-Cwm	1,052.42	1,227.82	1,403.22	1,578.63	1,929.44	2,280.24	2,631.05	3,157.26	3,683.47
All Other Parts of Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,025.43	1,196.34	1,367.24	1,538.15	1,879.96	2,221.77	2,563.58	3,076.30	3,589.02

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2(g) and 2(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands, as set out below:

Appendix 2

3. Note that for the year 2021/22, the Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Major Precepting Authority	Band A (£.p)	Band B (£.p)	Band C (£.p)	Band D (£.p)	Band E (£.p)	Band F (£.p)	Band G (£.p)	Band H (£.p)	Band I (£.p)
Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales	191.81	223.78	255.75	287.72	351.66	415.60	479.53	575.44	671.35

4. Agree that having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(i) and 3 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2021/22 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Total Council Tax Demand	Band A (£.p)	Band B (£.p)	Band C (£.p)	Band D (£.p)	Band E (£.p)	Band F (£.p)	Band G (£.p)	Band H (£.p)	Band I (£.p)
Gilfach Goch	1,231.11	1,436.30	1,641.48	1,846.67	2,257.04	2,667.41	3,077.78	3,693.34	4,308.90
Hirwaun	1,243.35	1,450.58	1,657.80	1,865.03	2,279.48	2,693.93	3,108.38	3,730.06	4,351.74
Llanharan	1,260.28	1,470.33	1,680.38	1,890.43	2,310.53	2,730.62	3,150.71	3,780.86	4,411.01
Llanharry	1,263.91	1,474.56	1,685.21	1,895.87	2,317.18	2,738.48	3,159.78	3,791.74	4,423.70
Llantrisant	1,245.91	1,453.56	1,661.21	1,868.87	2,284.18	2,699.48	3,114.78	3,737.74	4,360.70
Llantwit Fardre	1,243.08	1,450.27	1,657.44	1,864.63	2,278.99	2,693.36	3,107.71	3,729.26	4,350.81
Pontyclun	1,241.80	1,448.77	1,655.74	1,862.71	2,276.65	2,690.58	3,104.51	3,725.42	4,346.33
Pontypridd	1,264.95	1,475.79	1,686.61	1,897.44	2,319.09	2,740.75	3,162.39	3,794.88	4,427.37
Rhigos	1,255.04	1,464.22	1,673.39	1,882.57	2,300.92	2,719.27	3,137.61	3,765.14	4,392.67
Taffs Well	1,234.77	1,440.57	1,646.36	1,852.16	2,263.75	2,675.34	3,086.93	3,704.32	4,321.71
Tonyrefail	1,257.60	1,467.21	1,676.80	1,886.41	2,305.61	2,724.82	3,144.01	3,772.82	4,401.63
Ynysybwl & Coed-y-Cwm	1,244.23	1,451.60	1,658.97	1,866.35	2,281.10	2,695.84	3,110.58	3,732.70	4,354.82
All Other Parts of Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,217.24	1,420.12	1,622.99	1,825.87	2,231.62	2,637.37	3,043.11	3,651.74	4,260.37

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020-2021

COUNCIL

10th MARCH 2021

THE COUNCIL'S THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 – 2023/24 INCORPORATING A REVIEW OF EARMARKED RESERVES

REPORT OF THE CABINET

**AUTHOR: BARRIE DAVIES, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES
(01443) 424026**

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report sets out the Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24, following receipt of the final local government settlement for 2021/22.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

2.1 Note the detail of the final 2021/22 local government settlement for capital expenditure, reproduced at Appendix 1;

2.2 Agree to the release of the Earmarked Reserve balances as detailed in paragraph 5.3;

2.3 Agree to the reallocation of resources as detailed in paragraphs 5.5 – 5.8;

2.4 Agree to allocate the funding released from Earmarked Reserves and existing core capital funding to the investment priorities as detailed in paragraph 6.2;

2.5 Agree the proposed 'core' three year programme detailed at Appendix 2;

2.6 Agree the proposed total three-year Capital Programme, detailed at Appendices 3 (a) to (d), which includes the following non core capital funding:

- Prudential borrowing to support 21st Century School Schemes and Highways Improvements schemes;
- Capital grants for specific schemes;
- Third party contributions;
- Additional Council resources previously allocated to support existing schemes and Corporate Plan investment priorities; and
- The investment priorities detailed in paragraph 6.2, which are funded by additional one off Welsh Government capital funding detailed in paragraph 3.2, the release of Earmarked Reserves as per paragraph 5.3, and reallocation of resource as per paragraphs 5.5 – 5.8.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Members will be aware that each year the Council is allocated a sum of unhypothecated “Supported” borrowing and General Capital Grant from the Welsh Government (WG). Details of the final allocation for 2021/22 are shown at Appendix 1. The funding for 2021/22 totals £13.764M, which includes our share of the continuation of an additional £35M of General Capital funding at an all Wales level. Our estimate of the annual base allocation for 2021/22 is £10.985M and our estimated share of the additional allocation is £2.779M. Even with this additional funding, there is still a reduction of £3.542M compared to 11 years ago:

Year	WG Capital Support
2010/11	£17.306M
2011/12	£13.856M
2012/13	£12.828M
2013/14	£11.328M
2014/15	£11.194M
2015/16	£11.154M
2016/17	£11.164M
2017/18	£11.232M
2018/19	£11.214M
2019/20	£13.441M
2020/21	£13.677M
2021/22	£13.764M

3.2 In determining our core capital programme we have included an annual allocation of £10.985M, with £2.779M allocated to fund the investment priorities proposed in paragraph 6.2. As referenced in paragraph 3.1, WG have included an additional £35M in total General Capital funding for 2021/22.

3.3 This base allocation, together with estimated Capital Receipts and the utilisation of Capital Reserves, represents the Council's ‘Core’ capital funding. The wider overall capital programme however includes approved prudential borrowing, specific grants and agreed additional investment in our key priorities.

4.0 THE NEW THREE YEAR PROGRAMME (2021/22 TO 2023/24)

- 4.1 The proposed new 3 year capital programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24 represents a total investment of **£116.024M**. This comprises:
- A Core programme of £42.300M over the next 3 years;
 - Prudential borrowing of £12.446M to support the 21st Century Schools Programme and Highways Improvements schemes;
 - Specific grants of £12.838M;
 - Third party contributions of £1.185M;
 - Earmarked reserves and revenue contributions previously allocated to schemes and investment priorities of £27.327M;
 - Capital resources, in addition to the 3 year core allocation, of £10.528M; and
 - If agreed, reallocated earmarked reserves of £5.484M and reallocated core funding of £1.137M to fund the proposed investment priorities detailed in paragraph 6.2, alongside the one off WG capital funding of £2.779M.
- 4.2 Having due regard to the level of available capital resources, both from WG and from our own capital receipts, the new core programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24 is set at £14.1M per year. This represents a fully funded £42.3M core programme across the 3 years.
- 4.3 There remains a risk that the projected capital receipts are less than anticipated and projections will continue to be closely monitored.
- 4.4 Whilst allocating core resources for three years, there remains the requirement for us to continue to review and challenge any commitments made into years two and three, to robustly monitor capital receipt projections and to position ourselves to respond as appropriate and necessary as we move forward.
- 4.5 Given the timing of external funding approval processes, it will be necessary to maintain flexibility of funding across individual schemes in order to ensure the most efficient delivery of the overall programme.
- 4.6 Details of the overall capital programme for the 3 year period are set out in Section 7 of this report.

5.0 REVIEW OF EARMARKED RESERVES AND AVAILABLE FUNDING

EARMARKED RESERVES

- 5.1 As reported to Council in the Statement of Accounts (25th November 2020), the Council has revenue stream earmarked reserves at the 31st March 2020 of £39.028M (£41.867M at 31st March 2019) which are set aside for a variety of purposes. In addition, there are specific reserves relating to Capital Funding, Insurance and Treasury Management.
- 5.2 The level and use of earmark reserves is constantly reviewed as part of the Council's robust financial management arrangements. Budget setting and accounts closure traditionally provide opportunities for more in depth reviews and Cabinet have specifically requested that the Section 151 Officer undertake a detailed risk assessment of earmarked reserves with a view to:

- Assessing the underlying financial risk for which they have been set aside to determine if it remains or whether circumstances have changed;
 - The extent to which any amounts set aside for investment (Prior Year Commitments – Service “Carry Forwards”) have been contractually committed;
 - Being clear on the reasons for holding reserves and ensuring that they are sufficient, but not excessive; and
 - The need for continued support of a robust Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 5.3 With the review complete, Cabinet have now been able to take a view on the extent to which any amounts could be released. These are listed below:

a) Investment/Infrastructure (£6.235M as at 31st March 2020)

Sums are set aside to fund current and future costs of maintaining and enhancing infrastructure across the County Borough.

Following review and alongside the investment requirements identified below, it is proposed that a sum of **£5.484M** is released from this reserve.

- 5.4 The total amount of reserves therefore which are proposed to be released amounts to **£5.484M**.

EXISTING CORE CAPITAL FUNDING

- 5.5 Capital expenditure and commitments are closely monitored throughout the year and as a result of reviewing actual expenditure and commitments in preparation for the new 3 year capital programme, some core capital underspend has been identified.
- 5.6 Maintaining our core capital programme at the current levels for the next 3 years provides flexibility with regard to any underspend and it is proposed that this underspend is now reallocated.
- 5.7 Reallocating this resource has no impact on the level of core allocation for the next 3 years and therefore no impact on the level of budget available or service delivery.
- 5.8 The total amount identified which is available to reallocate is **£1.137M**.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

- 5.9 The Section 151 Officer is content that releasing the above resource does not compromise our financial standing. As such, Cabinet have carefully considered the options available and investment requirements and opportunities. A key consideration continues to be supporting the delivery of the Council’s Corporate Plan “Making a Difference” 2020 – 2024 and the strategic outline capital investment programme, as agreed by Cabinet on the 25th January 2018, of in excess of £300M over the 5 year period to 2023 (over and above the recurring Capital Programme).
- 5.10 As such, Cabinet are content to propose to utilise the £5.484M of earmarked reserves and reallocate £1.137M of core capital funding which, with the additional WG capital funding of £2.779M (referenced in paragraph 3.2) results in total

available funding of **£9.400M**.

6.0 INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

- 6.1 The Cabinet believe that the most appropriate use of these one off resources is to invest in our infrastructure and to support the aspirations and priorities of the Corporate Plan as presented in the reports referenced above.
- 6.2 In being able to support the above objectives, Cabinet have identified the following specific areas which it is proposed that Council agree can be invested in, with funding available through use of one off reserves, existing resources and additional WG funding:

Investment Priority	£M
Highways & Roads	3.000
Highways Structures	1.500
Parks Structures	0.750
Making Better Use/Traffic Developments	0.300
A4059 Footbridge	1.500
Porth Interchange	1.500
Business and Community Grants	0.100
Parks & Green Spaces	0.500
Play Areas	0.250
Total Council Investment	9.400

- 6.3 Further details on these investments are included in section 7.

7.0 THE THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 – 2023/24

- 7.1 The details of the 3 year proposed programme for each Service Group are provided below.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S GROUP

- 7.2 The latest projections show expected full year capital spend of £3.136M for the Chief Executive's Group in 2020/21.
- 7.3 The total resources for 2021/22, as outlined in the proposed three-year Capital Programme is £1.900M.
- 7.4 As part of the Council's on-going programme to ensure high standards of health and safety and operational efficiency within its premises, appropriate resources continue to be allocated to our operational accommodation, the management and remediation of Asbestos and Legionella.

PROSPERITY, DEVELOPMENT AND FRONTLINE SERVICES

- 7.5 The latest projections show expected full year capital spend of £76.445M for Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services in 2020/21.
- 7.6 The total resources for 2021/22, as outlined in the proposed three-year Capital Programme is £48.342M.
- 7.7 As identified at paragraph 6.2 additional investment has been provided in Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services in the following areas:
- Highways & Roads - £3.000M
 - Highways Structures - £1.500M
 - Parks Structures Improvements - £0.750M
 - Transport Infrastructure - £3.300M (Making Better Use/Traffic Developments, A4059 Footbridge, Porth Interchange)
 - Business and Community Grants - £0.100M

This additional investment is included in the figures presented in Appendix 3b.

PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT

- 7.8 The Council's Capital Programme continues to provide a long term funding commitment to the economic regeneration of the County Borough and in doing so supports one of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities: 'Prosperity – Creating the opportunity for people and businesses to: be innovative; be entrepreneurial; and fulfil their potential and prosper'.
- 7.9 In addition to the above, sustained investment has been maintained across a range of funding streams, supported by external funding and the Corporate Plan Investment Priorities. This has enabled a wide range of regeneration activity to be delivered to benefit the local economy.
- 7.10 The Council will continue to work with partners to develop and progress exciting and innovative schemes such as:
- Pontypridd YMCA – Redeveloping the YMCA to be fit for the future as a community centre for creative arts facilitating social enterprise, training opportunities and community involvement;
 - Development of modern business accommodation with new units at Robertstown, Aberdare;
 - Townscape Enhancements across our key town centres – a targeted approach to upgrading town centre buildings for increased business and commercial use and continuing to improve the quality of the townscape providing business investment and employment growth;
 - Development of a new integrated Transport Hub at Porth as part of the Porth Town Centre Regeneration Strategy;
 - Strategic Opportunity Areas – a number of Strategic Opportunity Areas have been developed to deliver economic growth and job creation in Rhondda Cynon Taf. These areas are:
 - Cynon Gateway – Energising the Region;
 - The Wider Pontypridd, Treforest – Edge of the City, heart of the Region;
 - Pontypridd Town – Pivotal in the Region;
 - A4119 Corridor – Regional Rhondda Gateway; and

- Llanilid on the M4 – Driving the Regional Economy.

7.11 The programme of regeneration projects will add value to the significant regeneration investment that has already taken place and will act as a catalyst for further regeneration activity.

PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING

7.12 A budget for 2021/22 of £13.522M has been allocated and the programme comprises the following schemes to contribute to one of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities: 'People – Are independent, healthy and successful':

- Disabled Facilities Grants, Maintenance Repair Assistance Grants and Renovation Grants in Exceptional Circumstances;
- Empty Properties Grants Investment scheme;
- Community Regeneration budget which provides grants to support a number of initiatives underpinning the affordable warmth and energy efficiency agenda; and
- Tackling Poverty Fund.

FRONTLINE SERVICES

Highways Technical Services

7.13 A budget for 2021/22 of £12.949M has been allocated to the next phase of the Council's Highways Improvement programme and in doing so supports one of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities: 'Places – Where people are proud to live, work and play'. Schemes comprise:

- Road surface treatments and resurfacing – £6.804M;
- Car park improvements – £0.045M;
- Major repairs to structures such as bridges and walls – £4.990M;
- Parks Structures Improvements - £0.750M;
- Street lighting replacement and upgrades – £0.200M; and
- Traffic Management - £0.160M.

Strategic Projects

7.14 A budget for 2021/22 of £12.076M has been allocated to Strategic Projects for major transportation infrastructure schemes and to extend and enhance the programme of pinch-point and highways network improvement projects as well as road safety, traffic management and drainage improvements. Schemes comprise:

- Transportation Infrastructure which includes Park & Ride schemes, Llanharan Bypass, A4119 Coed Ely Dualling, Cynon Gateway North, Gelli – Treorchy Link Road, and the Making Better Use programme – £11.936M; and
- Drainage Improvements – £0.140M.

7.15 In recent years a number of grants have been made available by WG for delivery of projects on the transportation network. These include Local Transport Fund, Local Transport Network Fund, Active Travel, together with two new grants; Resilient Road Fund and Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Fund, as well as Road Safety Grant, Safe Routes in the Community Grant and Flood Alleviation Schemes. Guidance has been issued and bids are in progress. It is anticipated that available grants will be confirmed during March 2021.

- 7.16 A supplementary report on the detail of proposed schemes for Highways, Transportation & Strategic Projects will be presented to Cabinet shortly.

WASTE STRATEGY

- 7.17 The budget for 2021/22 is £0.888M. This relates to the Eco Park at Bryn Pica.

FLEET

- 7.18 The 3 year rolling programme for replacement vehicles continues. The 3 year allocation is £5.227M. This service area is subject to ongoing assessment and continuous review of requirements.

EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES

- 7.19 The latest projections show expected full year capital spend of £20.992M for Education & Inclusion in 2020/21.
- 7.20 The total resources available to Education & Inclusion for 2021/22, as outlined in the proposed three-year Capital Programme is £24.735M and will support one of the Council's Corporate Plan priorities: 'Prosperity – Creating the opportunity for people and businesses to: be innovative; be entrepreneurial; and fulfil their potential and prosper'.

SCHOOLS

- 7.21 The Council will continue to deliver and support its long-term strategic investment programme of modernisation to create school environments that meet the needs of our communities and provide the best learning provision and outcomes for young people and the wider community. The programme of capital investment is supported with Council funding, WG 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme Band B Capital Grant, WG Increasing Welsh Medium Provision Capital Grant, WG Childcare Grant, WG Community Hub Grant and Community Infrastructure Levy funding. The following key school projects are either in progress or planned, and are included in the overall strategic programme and include a combination of refurbishments, remodelling, demolitions and new buildings:

- Ffynnon Taf Primary – to create a community room/childcare facility and construct a four-classroom extension and hall to increase capacity at the school;
- YGG Abercynon – to create and establish a new childcare setting into dedicated premises on the school site to expand identified need in the community;
- Cwmlai Primary – to deliver dedicated childcare facilities on the school site, to expand identified need in the community and refurbish areas of the existing school. School capacity to be increased.
- Dolau Primary – to create and establish dedicated childcare facilities on the school site to expand identified need in the community;
- YGG Aberdar – to construct a four-classroom extension to increase capacity; car parking provision; and to create a dedicated Meithrin, to expand identified need in the community delivering additional fee-paying childcare services for

the area.

PLANNED MINOR CAPITAL WORKS

- 7.22 The planned minor capital works programme allocation for 2021/22 is £7.170M. The allocation includes an on-going rolling programme for kitchen refurbishments/remodelling, window & door replacements, essential works, electrical rewiring, fire alarm upgrades, toilet refurbishments, Equalities Act/compliance works, access condition surveys, boiler replacement, roof renewal, improvements to schools, asbestos remediation works, capitalisation of IT hardware/software & licences and improvements to schools
- 7.23 A supplementary report detailing proposals of works for consideration within the above-mentioned programme will be presented to Cabinet shortly.

COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- 7.24 The latest projections show expected full year capital spend of £7.579M for Community and Children's Services in 2020/21.
- 7.25 The total resources available to Community and Children's Services for 2021/22, as outlined in the proposed three year Capital Programme, is £6.336M.
- 7.26 As identified in 6.2 additional investment has been provided in Community and Children's Services in the following areas:
- Parks & Green Spaces - £0.500M
 - Play Areas - £0.250M

This additional investment is included in the figures presented in Appendix 3d.

ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- 7.27 The programme for Adult and Children's Services includes a budget of £4.703M in 2021/22. This will continue to fund the essential refurbishment and improvement works to the Council's Adult & Children's Services establishments, including the extra-care programme, in line with care standards and health & safety legislation. Also included are additional costs associated with Telecare Services.
- 7.28 These investments will support one of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities: 'People – Are independent, healthy and successful'.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND PROTECTION

- 7.29 The Public Health and Protection programme has a budget of £1.633M in 2021/22. This budget is allocated across the ongoing rolling programmes for Parks Improvements, Cemeteries and Community Safety measures. Also included in this budget are allocations for investment and improvement works at Leisure Centres and Play Areas. These areas of investment support one of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities: 'Places – Where people are proud to live, work and play'.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 In developing the Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24, an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken to ensure that:

- i the Council meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duties; and
- ii due regard has been taken of the likely impact of the recommendations in terms of equality and discrimination.

9.0 CONSULTATION

9.1 Consultation and engagement has been undertaken as part of formulating the revised programme and this was also built into the wider consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the recommended 2021/22 Revenue Budget Strategy, particularly in respect of investment priorities and community benefits.

10.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

10.1 The financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the main body of the report.

11.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

11.1 The Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24 complies fully with all legal requirements.

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

12.1 The Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24 has been formulated to support the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities, as set out within the Corporate Plan "Making a Difference" 2020 – 2024, with these documents being aligned to the goals and principles included within the Well-Being of Future Generations Act.

13.0 CONCLUSIONS

13.1 The three year Capital Programme is a key component of the overall Medium Term Financial Planning and Resources Strategy for this Council. Targeted capital investment can make a significant impact on service delivery and used effectively, is able to underpin the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities, where relevant.

13.2 This report sets out the capital investment priorities for the Council through to March 2024. It represents an ambitious and significant level of investment (£116.024M) over the next 3 years.

- 13.3 The programme includes some element of slippage identified throughout 2020/21, which is subject to change when final spend for the capital programme is known and the 2020/21 accounts are finalised. Any changes to slippage will be reported to Members in the quarterly performance reports.
- 13.4 This report has also identified the opportunity to invest £9.400M of additional resources in our local area including our own assets in order to improve the services which are available to our residents.
- 13.5 As the year progresses, changes will be made to the programme, for example where new schemes can be supported by specific grants. Approval from Members will be sought as these opportunities arise throughout 2021/22.

Welsh Local Government Revenue Settlement 2021-2022

Final

Table 2a: Breakdown of General Capital Funding (GCF), by Unitary Authority, 2021-22

Unitary Authority	General Capital Funding 2021-22 (1)	of which:	
		General Capital Grant (2)	Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing (3)=(1)-(2)
Isle of Anglesey	4,321	2,163	2,158
Gwynedd	8,164	4,087	4,077
Conwy	6,851	3,430	3,421
Denbighshire	6,036	3,022	3,014
Flintshire	8,091	4,051	4,040
Wrexham	7,007	3,508	3,499
Powys	9,184	4,598	4,586
Ceredigion	5,785	2,896	2,889
Pembrokeshire	7,517	3,764	3,753
Carmarthenshire	11,866	5,941	5,925
Swansea	12,762	6,390	6,372
Neath Port Talbot	8,918	4,465	4,453
Bridgend	7,916	3,963	3,953
The Vale of Glamorgan	6,867	3,438	3,429
Rhondda Cynon Taf	13,764	6,891	6,873
Merthyr Tydfil	3,136	1,570	1,566
Caerphilly	9,698	4,856	4,842
Blaenau Gwent	3,816	1,911	1,905
Torfaen	5,401	2,704	2,697
Monmouthshire	4,869	2,438	2,431
Newport	8,155	4,083	4,072
Cardiff	17,713	8,868	8,845
Total unitary authorities	177,837	89,037	88,800

(1) General Capital Funding is split into Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing (USB) and General Capital Grant (GCG).

(2) General Capital Grant is distributed in proportion to total General Capital Funding.

(3) The USB is derived by subtracting the General Capital Grant allocations from the General Capital Funding.

PROPOSED "CORE" THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME

2021 / 2024

SERVICE GROUPS	2021-22 £M	2022-23 £M	2023-24 £M
Chief Executive's Group	1.325	1.325	1.325
Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services	7.870	7.870	7.870
Education & Inclusion Services	3.915	3.915	3.915
Community & Children's Services	0.990	0.990	0.990
Total Capital Expenditure	14.100	14.100	14.100

Estimated Resources Required to Fund Capital Programme

Welsh Government General Capital Funding

Supported borrowing	6.873	6.873	6.873
General Capital Grant	6.891	6.891	6.891
Total WG Funding	13.764	13.764	13.764

Additional one off WG capital funding reallocated to fund
Investment Priorities

- 2.779 - 2.779 - 2.779

Total Available to fund the Core Programme

10.985 10.985 10.985

Council Resources

Council Resources	3.115	3.115	3.115
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**Total Resources Required to Fund the
"Core" Capital Programme**

14.100 14.100 14.100

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2021 - 2024			
	2021/2022 Budget	2022/2023 Budget	2023/2024 Budget	Total 3 Year Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Finance & Digital Services

CIVICA Financials	200	200	200	600
Capitalisation of Computer HW/SW & Licences	500	500	500	1,500
Total Finance & Digital Services	700	700	700	2,100

Corporate Estates

Major repair/refurbishment and/or rationalisation of Service Group Accommodation	150	150	150	450
Strategic Maintenance	50	50	50	150
Asset Management Planning	50	50	50	150
Asbestos Management	175	175	175	525
Asbestos Remediation Works	50	50	50	150
Legionella Remediation Works	275	275	275	825
Legionella Management	175	175	175	525
Taffs Well Spring	275	0	0	275
Total Corporate Estates	1,200	925	925	3,050

Group Total	1,900	1,625	1,625	5,150
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**Chief Executive
Head of Finance**

**Chris Bradshaw
Martyn Hughes**

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2021 - 2024			
	2021/2022 Budget	2022/2023 Budget	2023/2024 Budget	Total 3 Year Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Prosperity & Development

Planning & Regeneration

Enterprise Investment Fund	350	200	200	750
Flood Resilience Grants	200	0	0	200
Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Programme Regional	300	0	0	300
Regeneration Investment	850	400	400	1,650
Robertstown Development	2,927	163	0	3,090
Coed Ely Development	59	0	0	59
RCT Tracks and Trails Development	40	0	0	40
Pontypridd YMCA	500	0	0	500
Porth Interchange Metro+ LTF	1,500	0	0	1,500
Total Planning & Regeneration	6,726	763	600	8,089

Private Sector Housing

Disabled Facilities Grants/Adaptations (DFG)	4,200	4,000	4,000	12,200
Maintenance Repair Assistance (MRA)	450	450	450	1,350
Renovation Grants Exceptional Circumstances & Home Improvement Zones	450	450	450	1,350
Empty Properties Grants Investment	1,232	0	0	1,232
Valleys Taskforce RCT+ Empty Homes	6,000	0	0	6,000
Affordable Housing	600	800	0	1,400
Tackling Poverty Fund	270	0	0	270
Community Regeneration	320	250	250	820
Total Private Sector Housing	13,522	5,950	5,150	24,622

Total Prosperity & Development	20,248	6,713	5,750	32,711
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Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2021 - 2024			
	2021/2022 Budget	2022/2023 Budget	2023/2024 Budget	Total 3 Year Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Frontline Services

Highways Technical Services

Highways Improvements	6,804	1,100	1,100	9,004
Car Parks	45	45	45	135
Structures	4,990	300	300	5,590
Parks Structures	750	0	0	750
Street Lighting	200	200	200	600
Traffic Management	160	160	160	480
Total Highways Technical Services	12,949	1,805	1,805	16,559

Strategic Projects

Transportation Infrastructure	11,936	25	25	11,986
Drainage Improvements	140	140	140	420
Total Strategic Projects	12,076	165	165	12,406

Waste Strategy

Waste Strategy	888	0	0	888
Total Waste Strategy	888	0	0	888

Fleet

Vehicles	2,081	1,573	1,573	5,227
Total Fleet	2,081	1,573	1,573	5,227

Buildings

Buildings	100	100	100	300
Total Buildings	100	100	100	300

Total Frontline Services	28,094	3,643	3,643	35,380
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Group Total	48,342	10,356	9,393	68,091
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Group Director
Head of Finance

Nigel Wheeler
Martyn Hughes

Education and Inclusion Services

APPENDIX 3C

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2021 - 2024			
	2021/2022 Budget	2022/2023 Budget	2023/2024 Budget	Total 3 Year Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Schools

School Modernisation Rhondda and Tonyrefail	2,690	0	0	2,690
School Modernisation	4,904	140	140	5,184
Ffynnon Taf Primary Refurbishment and Extension	2,160	61	0	2,221
SRIC - School Modernisation Programme	511	0	0	511
WG Welsh Medium Capital Grant	90	0	0	90
WG Childcare Grant	2,343	44	0	2,387
21st Century Schools Band B				
YGG Aberdar School Modernisation	4,162	82	0	4,244
Hirwaun Primary School	705	15	0	720
Total	17,565	342	140	18,047

Supplementary Capital Programme

Planned Kitchen Refurbishments	360	200	200	760
Window & Door Replacements	230	150	150	530
Essential Works	1,510	400	400	2,310
Capitalisation of Computer HW / SW & Licences	292	250	250	792
Roof Renewal	745	700	700	2,145
Boiler Replacement	250	250	250	750
Equalities Act/Compliance Works	275	225	225	725
Education & Inclusion Services Condition Surveys	50	50	50	150
Electrical Rewiring	250	200	200	650
Asbestos Remediation Work	2,600	900	900	4,400
Fire Alarm Upgrades	108	100	100	308
Toilet Refurbishments	400	350	350	1,100
Improvements to Schools	100	100	100	300
Total	7,170	3,875	3,875	14,920

Group Total	24,735	4,217	4,015	32,967
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Director of Education and Inclusion Services
Head of Finance

Gaynor Davies
Stephanie Davies

Community and Children's Services

APPENDIX 3D

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2021 - 2024			
	2021/2022 Budget	2022/2023 Budget	2023/2024 Budget	Total 3 Year Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Adult & Children's Services

Modernisation Programme (Adults)	4,183	1,700	200	6,083
Modernisation Programme (Childrens)	50	50	50	150
Asbestos Remediation	70	45	45	160
Telecare Equipment (Inc of Carelink Equipment)	400	200	200	800
Total Adult & Children's Services	4,703	1,995	495	7,193

Public Health, Protection & Community Services

Leisure Centre Refurbishment Programme	90	90	90	270
Parks & Countryside	620	100	100	820
Play Areas	605	50	50	705
Cemeteries Planned Programme	161	135	135	431
Community Safety Initiatives	50	50	50	150
Culture	57	20	20	97
Buildings	50	50	50	150
Total Public Health, Protection & Community Services	1,633	495	495	2,623

Group Total	6,336	2,490	990	9,816
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Group Director
Head of Finance

Paul Mee
Neil Griffiths

Capital Programme from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024

Group	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
	£M	£M	£M	£M
Chief Executive	1.900	1.625	1.625	5.150
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	48.342	10.356	9.393	68.091
Education and Inclusion Services	24.735	4.217	4.015	32.967
Community and Children's Services	6.336	2.490	0.990	9.816
Total	81.313	18.688	16.023	116.024

Estimated Resources Required to Fund Capital Programme

Supported Borrowing	6.873	6.873	6.873	20.619
Unsupported Borrowing	12.409	0.037		12.446
Total	19.282	6.910	6.873	33.065

Capital Grants

General Capital Grant annual base allocation	4.112	4.112	4.112	12.336
General Capital Grant additional allocation 2021/22	2.779			2.779
General Capital Grant additional allocation 2020/21	0.060			0.060
WEFO ERDF Modern Industrial Units Developments	1.518	0.082		1.600
WG Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing	0.032			0.032
WG Valleys Taskforce RCT+ Empty Homes Grant Ph1 & Ph2	6.000			6.000
WG Welsh Medium Capital Grant	0.090			0.090
WG 21st Century Schools	2.339	0.060		2.399
WG 21st Century Schools & Education Programme - Community Hubs Capital Scheme	0.406			0.406
WG Childcare Offer Capital Grant Programme	2.234			2.234
Grantscape Windfarm Community Benefit Fund	0.017			0.017
Total	19.587	4.254	4.112	27.953

Third Party Contributions	1.141	0.044	0.000	1.185
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Council Resources

Revenue Contributions	27.384	3.504	1.923	32.811
General Fund Capital Resources	13.919	3.976	3.115	21.010
Total	41.303	7.480	5.038	53.821

Total Resources Required to Fund Capital Programme	81.313	18.688	16.023	116.024
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Difference Total Spend to Total Resources	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020 / 2021

COUNCIL

10th MARCH 2021

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY INCORPORATING INVESTMENT STRATEGY, TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP) STATEMENT FOR 2021/22

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES

AUTHOR:- BARRIE DAVIES (01443) 424026

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to set out the Council's:-
- Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22;
 - Investment Strategy for 2021/22;
 - Treasury Indicators for 2020/21 (actuals to date) and 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24; and
 - Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Approve the Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy, Treasury Indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement as set out in the report.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure the Council complies with its legal duty under the Local Government Act 2003 and in doing so is in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

4.0 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 CIPFA defines Treasury Management as:
“The management of the local authority’s investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”
- 4.2 The Local Government Act 2003 and supporting regulations require the Council to have regard to the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Treasury Management Code of Practice and the CIPFA Prudential Code. This report also meets the requirements of Welsh Government Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Guidance and Welsh Government Investment Guidance.
- 4.3 This Treasury Management Strategy details the expected activities of the Treasury Management function in the forthcoming financial year (2021/22).
- 4.4 The Prudential Code is produced by the CIPFA and is underpinned by the Local Government Act 2003 and the Capital Financing Regulations (Wales) 2004. The Code sets out a framework for self regulation of capital spending, in effect allowing Councils to invest in capital projects without any limit as long as they are affordable, prudent and sustainable.
- 4.5 It is a statutory requirement under Section 33 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for the Council to produce a balanced budget. In particular, Section 32 requires revenue costs from capital financing decisions to be included in the budget requirement.
- 4.6 The implementation of MiFID II (Market in Financial Instruments Directive) reclassified local and public authorities as retail investors, by default, from 3rd January 2018. Such a reclassification would increase costs for financial advice and potentially restrict access to certain financial products. To avoid such additional costs and restrictions the Council has elected for a return to professional status (“opt up”) in order to ensure there is access to the full range of services and products required. The conditions of professional status require local authorities to have an investment balance of at least £10M and the person authorised to make the investment decision must have at least one year’s relevant professional experience. The Council’s money market brokers and treasury management advisors have confirmed our professional client status.

5.0 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2021/22

- 5.1 The proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22 is based on officers’ views on likely interest rates, supplemented with forecasts provided by the Council’s independent treasury advisors. The strategy covers:

- Current Portfolio Position;
- Prospects for Interest Rates;
- Borrowing Strategy (including borrowing in advance of need); and
- Debt Rescheduling Opportunities.

5.2 Information is also provided on the use of Treasury Management advisors and relevant training that has taken place.

6.0 **Current Portfolio Position**

6.1 The Council's treasury portfolio position as at the end of December 2020 comprised:

		£M	Av. Rate
<u>Debt</u>			
Fixed Rate	PWLB	233.561	2.60%
	Market	54.500	5.00%
	Market(LOBO)	31.000	4.50%
Variable Rate	Market	18.000	0.70%
		337.061	3.06% *
<u>Investments</u>			
Variable Rate	Public Bodies	5.000**	0.05%

* Estimated weighted average rate of borrowing for 2020/21 is 3.32%

** Does not include investment with Trivallis or Cynon Taf Community Housing Group

6.2 A LOBO is a financial instrument called a "Lender's Option Borrower's Option". It provides a lower rate of interest for the initial period and a higher rate for the rest of its term (reversionary period), albeit that the higher rate was comparable with interest rates prevailing at the time the loans were taken. At the end of the initial period and at six monthly intervals, the lender has the option to increase the interest rate payable. This provides the Council with the option to repay the loan if the terms are not acceptable.

7.0 **Prospects for Interest Rates**

7.1 The level of the Bank Rate (set by the MPC – Monetary Policy Committee) tends to be the main factor which determines the rate of interest the Council receives on its short term investments. The Bank of England's

Monetary Policy Committee on the 4th February 2021 maintained the Bank Rate at 0.1%.

- 7.2 The Coronavirus (COVID 19) pandemic has increased the risk that the Bank of England will set its Bank Rate at or below zero, which is likely to feed through to negative interest rates on all low risk, short term investments.
- 7.3 The impact on the UK from Coronavirus (COVID 19), lockdown measures, the rollout of the vaccines, as well as the new trading arrangements with the European Union, will remain major influences on the economic environment.
- 7.4 Generally, the Council borrows its long term funding from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). Long term PWLB rates increase and decrease in line with gilt yields (government bonds). The Council's Treasury Management advisors latest forecast of interest rates is as follows:

	5 yr	10 yr	20 yr	50 yr
2021/22	0.95%	1.20%	1.55%	1.45%
2022/23	1.05%	1.30%	1.65%	1.55%
2023/24	1.05%	1.40%	1.70%	1.60%

- 7.5 On 26th November 2020, after the response to its consultation on future lending terms, HM Treasury reduced PWLB interest rates by 1%, thereby reversing the previous increase on 9th October 2019. This decreases the cost of borrowing, enabling improved affordability for capital programmes.

8.0 Borrowing Strategy (including borrowing in advance of need)

- 8.1 The Council's borrowing requirement for 2021/22 is currently £19.3M based on the updated Capital Programme 2021/22 – 2023/24 (being considered elsewhere on this agenda (Council, 10th March 2021)). The opportunities afforded by the Prudential Code increase the possibility of further borrowing being required during the year. The strategy, Prudential Indicators and Limits may need to be refined accordingly in light of future decisions. Further details of Prudential Indicators and Limits are detailed within the Capital Strategy being considered alongside this report on the same agenda.
- 8.2 Uncertainty over future interest rate prospects increase the risks associated with treasury activity. As a result the Council will continue to take a cautious approach to its treasury strategy.
- 8.3 The policy will be to continue to maximise “internal borrowing”, running down cash balances and foregoing interest earned at historically low rates. This also minimises counterparty risk (risk that an investment may become irrecoverable). This continues to be our favoured approach (referred to as maintaining an “underborrowed” position), meaning that the capital

borrowing need (the Capital Financing Requirement - CFR) has not been fully funded with loan debt. We will though take the opportunity to lock in longer term debt as and when the opportunity arises, in line with advice from our Treasury Advisors.

- 8.4 Short term borrowing could be taken from the money market or other public bodies such as local authorities by the Treasury Management team for day to day cashflow purposes.
- 8.5 The majority of the Council's borrowing is from the PWLB. Long-term borrowing rates are influenced by gilt yields and these are expected to remain low, with short term yields likely to remain close to zero.
- 8.6 PWLB loans are no longer available to Councils planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield or solely for exploiting commercialisation opportunities.
- 8.7 The Council may arrange forward starting loans where the interest rate is fixed in advance, but the cash is received at a later date, up to a maximum of one year. This would enable certainty of costs without suffering a cost of carry in the intervening period. The cost of carry is the cost incurred where funds are borrowed prior to being required
- 8.8 There are uncertainties associated with the forecasts detailed above. Alternative approaches given different interest rate forecasts are shown below:
 - Risk of sharp fall in long and short term rates – long term borrowing will be postponed and potential rescheduling from long term to short term borrowing could be considered.
 - Risk of sharper than forecast rise in long and short term rates – fixed rate borrowing taken whilst rates still cheap.
- 8.9 The Section 151 Officer (or in his absence the Deputy Section 151 Officer), under delegated powers, will take the most appropriate form of borrowing depending on the prevailing interest rates and forecasts at the time, taking into account advice provided by our advisors and an assessment of risk. Members will be advised of borrowing activity during the year as part of the Council's quarterly performance reporting arrangements and the Mid Year Treasury Management Stewardship review.
- 8.10 The Codes of Practice require Councils to specify their approach in terms of "Borrowing in Advance of Need". In line with the Prudential Code, Councils are able to borrow funds above their Capital Financing Requirement (ie its underlying borrowing requirement) for use in future years, thereby providing a degree of flexibility in terms of timing during the most favourable interest rate conditions. As evident in the Capital Strategy this Council's levels of debt is estimated to remain lower than our CFR and it is not anticipated that borrowing in advance of need is a course of action that this Council would pursue in the short to medium term. Consequently, there is no need to set a limit in terms of value or period of time. Risks and

opportunities associated with borrowing in advance of need will continue to be monitored during the year and reported in the mid year review of treasury management activities.

9.0 Debt Rescheduling Opportunities

- 9.1 Debt rescheduling refers to the premature repayment of existing debt and replacing it with alternative cheaper borrowing.
- 9.2 The difference in rates applied to new borrowing and repayment of existing debt has meant that PWLB rescheduling is now less attractive. Consideration would need to be given to the large premiums which would be incurred on repaying debt early.
- 9.3 Early repayment of debt could be considered. This would run down investment balances as short term rates on investments are likely to be lower than that on debt. However, premium costs may be expensive and our investment balance estimates for 2021/22 are relatively low, therefore such a course of action is unlikely to be viable.
- 9.4 Any rescheduling and repayment of debt is likely to impact upon the Council's debt maturity profile and this will need to be considered in accordance with the relevant indicator.
- 9.5 The Council has previously taken advantage of maximising debt rescheduling opportunities. The reasons for any rescheduling to take place could include:
- the generation of savings, at minimum risk;
 - to help fulfil the strategy outlined in section 8 above; or
 - to enhance the balance of the long term portfolio (amend the maturity profile and/or the balance of volatility).
- 9.6 The Section 151 Officer will monitor prevailing rates for any opportunities during the year based upon information provided by the Council's Treasury advisors.

10.0 Treasury Management Advisors

- 10.1 The Council's Treasury Management advisors are Arlingclose Ltd. The company provides a range of services including:
- Technical support on treasury matters, capital finance issues and suggested report formats;
 - Economic and interest rate analysis;
 - Debt services which includes advice on the timing of borrowing;
 - Debt rescheduling advice on the existing portfolio;

- Generic investment advice on interest rates, timing and investment instruments; and
 - Credit ratings/market information service.
- 10.2 Whilst the advisors provide support to the Council's treasury function, the final decision on any treasury matter remains with the Council.
- 10.3 The Council ensures that quality of service is maintained via feedback at regular online meetings with key contacts.

11.0 Member and Officer Training

- 11.1 During 2020/21, officers with Treasury Management responsibilities have attended webinars facilitated by our advisors.
- 11.2 As part of continued professional development, officers will continue to keep up to date with emerging issues via webinars, research and regular information provided by advisors and other sources.
- 11.3 If any emerging issues arise, specific training sessions can be arranged for Members facilitated by our advisors.
- 11.4 The Council's Senior Accountant, Pension Fund and Treasury Management holds the Certificate in International Treasury Management – Public Finance, a professional qualification of CIPFA and the Association of Corporate Treasurers in the fundamentals of treasury management for the public service.

12.0 Reporting and Scrutiny

- 12.1 The Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee will continue to undertake the required scrutiny function for treasury management activities. This is in line with the relevant Codes of Practice, including CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Sector 2017, and will include:
- Quarterly updates (as part of the Council's Performance Reporting arrangements);
 - Strategy report (as reported to full Council);
 - Formal mid year review of treasury management (as reported to full Council); and
 - Annual review (as reported to full Council).

13.0 INVESTMENT STRATEGY

- 13.1 The Council's investment strategy has regard to the Welsh Government's Guidance on Local Government Investments and the CIPFA Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral

Guidance Notes. The Council's investment priorities will be security first, liquidity second and then yield (return).

13.2 The guidance on Local Government Investments places additional reporting requirements upon local authorities that are not integral to treasury management processes and covers investments such as commercial investments and other investments relevant to Council functions.

13.3 The statutory guidance also requires local authorities to categorise investments as either Financial or Non-Financial. Financial investments can be further sub categorised into Specified, Loans and Non-Specified.

13.4 **Financial Investments**

13.5 The key requirements of both the Code and the investment guidance are to set an investment strategy, as part of its annual treasury strategy for the following year, covering the identification and approval of the following:

- **Specified investments.** These are high security (i.e. high credit quality, this is defined by the Council), and high liquidity investments in sterling and with a maturity of no more than a year.
- **Loans.** These are written or oral agreements where a local authority temporarily transfers cash to a third party, joint venture, subsidiary or associate who agrees a return according to the terms and conditions of receiving the loan.
- **Non-specified investments.** These are investments not meeting the definition of a specified investment or loan.

13.6 The intention of the strategy is to provide security of investment and minimisation of risk.

Specified Investments

13.7 An investment is a Specified Investment if all of the following apply:

1. the investment is denominated in sterling
2. it is not long term
3. it is not defined as capital expenditure
4. it is of high credit quality or with one of the following public sector bodies:
 - a. the UK government; or
 - b. a local authority in England or Wales (as defined in S23 of the 2003 Act) or similar body in Scotland or Northern Ireland

- 13.8 These investments are sterling investments of not more than one-year maturity, or those which could be for a longer period but where the Council has the right to be repaid within 12 months if it wishes. These are considered low risk assets where the possibility of loss of principal or investment income is small. These would include sterling investments which would not be defined as capital expenditure with:
- The UK Government (such as the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility, UK Treasury Bills or a Gilt with less than one year to maturity).
 - A local authority, parish council or community council.
 - A body that is considered of a high credit quality. This covers bodies with a minimum long term rating of A- (or the equivalent) as rated by Fitch rating agency or equivalent.
 - Within these bodies, and in accordance with the Code, the Council has set additional criteria to set the time and amount of monies which will be invested in these bodies.
- 13.9 The Code of Practice requires Councils to not rely solely on credit ratings but to supplement it with other information. The other information referred to includes quality financial press, credit default swaps, share prices, annual reports, statements to markets, information on government support for banks, credit ratings of that government support, rates being paid, what other banks are saying, information provided by advisors, market price (and movement of market price) of existing debt securities issued by counterparties. This represents a significant pool of “other information”.
- 13.10 The review of all such information will be incorporated into the Council's decision making processes although it will not be a simplistic and quick process and will need to be considered alongside the relative benefits of making one investment over another (e.g. versus the Debt Management Office - DMO) and the relative risks of exposing the Council's resources.
- 13.11 Members will recall that all of the Council's investments were transferred to the DMO DMADF (Debt Management Account Deposit Facility) upon the onset of the national and international economic crisis which started in 2008. The cost of this security in terms of loss of interest is negligible as rates offered by banks for short term deposits are comparable to rates offered by the DMO DMADF and other public bodies.
- 13.12 It is proposed that these arrangements continue for 2021/22, that is, that all Council investments will be with the DMADF or with other Government backed Public Sector Bodies, and that these arrangements should be kept under constant review.
- 13.13 These investments could also include the Council's own banker if it fails to meet the high credit criteria. In all instances balances are minimised by transferring monies to the DMO but there is a possibility that not all sums can be transferred. For example, the DMO has a minimum deal size of £1M and deposits are on occasion transferred into the Council's bank account after the deadline for daily trading / cash transfer. In such circumstances the Council's exposure is limited to overnight.

Loans

- 13.14 At its meeting on the 20th July 2016, Council agreed to supplement our existing investment strategy by approving lending to organisations upon which we would undertake appropriate due diligence **and** put in place appropriate security arrangements. This could result in the Council being able to achieve better investment returns at an acceptable level of risk and to secure base budget savings over the short to medium term to protect frontline services.
- 13.15 Such transactions are classified as “Loans” within the “Financial” investments category.
- 13.16 Decisions on these financial investments will be subject to S151 officer determination, following appropriate due diligence and subject to appropriate and acceptable security arrangements being put in place as part of a commercial agreement. Such loan arrangements should align with and be led by the Council’s own corporate priorities.
- 13.17 A maximum exposure for this type of investment is set at £25M with a maximum maturity limit of 30 years.
- 13.18 The Council has 2 commercially agreed loan agreements. These are treated as financial investments and are part of the Investment Strategy enabling lending to organisations, subject to S151 officer determination, following appropriate due diligence and subject to appropriate and acceptable security arrangements. The total balance outstanding as at 1st April 2021 is £6.650M.

Non-Specified Investments

- 13.19 Non-specified investments are any other type of investment (i.e. not defined as Specified or a Loan above).
- 13.20 The non-specified investments held by the Council are:
- Cynon Valley Waste Disposal Company Ltd, trading as Amgen Cymru Ltd. The principal activities of the company are the provision of recycling services and waste disposal facilities.
 - Amgen Rhondda Ltd. The principal activities of the company are the stewardship of a closed landfill site and associated opportunities for income generation.

These are shown in the Council’s 2019/20 balance sheet as £3.017M, under “Investment in Subsidiaries”. These are the only non-specified

investments we hold, the value of which changes in line with the net assets on the balance sheet of the companies.

13.21 Non-Financial Investments

13.22 The Council has one investment it categorises as a non-financial and commercial investment. Ty Dysgu at Cefn Coed Business Park, Nantgarw was approved and funded via the capital programme. As a result of a change of use for the building, the asset was reclassified as an investment property within the balance sheet. The building and site has a fair value of £3.8m, with an annual rental of £322k.

13.23 The Council has investments it categorises as non-financial and other investments relevant to Council functions. These buildings have a fair value of £17.8m, with an annual rental of £1.1m. They relate to 50-53 Taff St, Pontypridd; Unit 1 Cambrian Industrial estate, Clydach Vale; Rhos Surgery, Mountain Ash; and Llys Cadwyn, Pontypridd.

13.24 Under the International Financial Reporting Standard 9, Financial Instruments (IFRS 9), the accounting for certain investments depends on the Council's "business model" for managing them. The Council aims to achieve value from its internally managed treasury investments by a business model of collecting the contractual cash flows (interest) and therefore, where other criteria are also met, these investments will continue to be accounted for at amortised cost in the balance sheet, as principal amount outstanding plus any interest due.

14.0 Risk Benchmarking

14.1 In accordance with Welsh Government guidance (revised 2019), this Investment Strategy sets out the Council's policies for giving priority to firstly, the security of investments, secondly liquidity, and thirdly yield. It sets out the Council's criteria for choosing investment counterparties and limiting the exposure of risk of loss.

14.2 The codes and statutory guidance require the consideration, approval and monitoring of security and liquidity benchmarks. Yield benchmarks are currently widely used and less subjective than those relating to security and liquidity.

14.3 The benchmarks for security, liquidity and yield are targets, not limits and as such, may be breached from time to time. The purpose of the benchmark is to monitor trends and act as early warning signals. Actual activity levels will be reported in the mid year and annual reports.

14.4 Security

14.5 Investment limits are set by reference to the lowest published long term credit rating from a selection of external rating agencies. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.

14.6 When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations, this is not generally reflected in the credit ratings, but can be seen in other market measures. In these circumstances, the Council will restrict its investments to those organisations of higher credit quality and reduce the maximum duration of its investments to maintain the level of security.

14.7 Liquidity

14.8 This is defined as having adequate, though not excessive cash resources, borrowing arrangements, overdrafts or standby facilities. The Council maintains a bank overdraft facility of £5.5m.

14.9 It is recommended that the Council sets limits for:

- Liquid short term deposits available with a week's notice.
- Weighted Average Life benchmark and maximum. The shorter the weighted average life of the portfolio implies less risk.

As we are maintaining low levels of cash to minimise credit risk, the setting of such targets / limits is not appropriate.

14.10 Any investment for greater than 365 days will be made with a prudent approach to cashflow requirements and in accordance with above limits.

14.11 Yield

14.12 The benchmark used is 7 day LIBID.

15.0 Forecast for Investment Returns

15.1 Traditionally, investments which would have been invested longer would secure better returns, however uncertainty over counterparty creditworthiness suggests short dated investments in higher credit quality establishments will provide better security. The Council will continue to favour security above return.

15.2 Expectations on shorter-term interest rates, on which investment decisions are based, show rates to remain low. Our projected interest receipts will be prudent, reflecting our low risk strategy.

16.0 TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS AND LIMITS FOR 2021/22

- 16.1 To comply with both the Prudential Code and Treasury Management Code, the Council has to determine and set Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators in relation to capital expenditure, external debt and treasury management activities. The purpose of the indicators is to provide a framework for Capital Expenditure decision making.
- 16.2 To comply with the Codes every Council is required to agree a set of prudential indicators prior to the start of the financial year. These indicators are prepared by the Chief Finance Officer and presented to Council, as part of the budget setting process. The indicators cover a three year period and must be monitored during the year.
- 16.3 The indicators are purely for internal use by the Council and are not intended for use as comparators (i.e. between Councils) nor should they be viewed individually. The real value will arise as a result of monitoring the movement in indicators over time.
- 16.4 The following indicators are required (by the Prudential Code) to be approved and are included in the Capital Strategy:
- Capital Expenditure
 - Capital Financing Requirement
 - External Debt
 - Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement
 - Authorised Limit
 - Operational Boundary
 - Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream
- 16.5 The following indicators are required (by the Treasury Management Code) to be approved:
- Debt Maturity Profile
 - Total Principal sums invested for periods longer than a year.
- 16.6 The Debt Maturity Profile indicator sets gross limits to reduce the Council's exposure to large sums falling due for refinancing annually. This indicator now includes variable debt and LOBO loans which are deemed to have a maturity date of the next call date.

Indicator : Debt Maturity Profile

	2020/21 Projected Outturn as at 31/12/20	Upper Limit	Lower Limit
Under 12 months	13%	70%	0%
12 months to 2 years	4%	70%	0%
2 years to 5 years	10%	60%	0%
5 years to 10 years	16%	70%	0%
10 years to 20 years	6%	90%	0%

20 years to 30 years	0%	90%	0%
30 years to 40 years	51%	90%	0%
40 years to 50 years	0%	90%	0%

16.7 In order to maximise investment returns there may be opportunities for sums to be invested for longer than one year. This would only be undertaken with a prudent view of the primary considerations of security and liquidity.

16.8 The following indicator takes account of projected resources available for investment and cashflow forecasts.

Indicator : Total principal funds invested for periods longer than a year

Maximum principal sums invested for periods longer than a year	£25M
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16.9 For measuring the Council's exposure to interest rate risk, the following table shows the revenue impact of a 1% rise or fall in interest rates (based on borrowing and investments as at 31st December 2020):

Interest Rate Risk	Impact £M
One year revenue impact of a 1% rise/fall in interest rates	0.189

16.10 LOBO's are included as fixed rate debt. Although not a requirement of the Prudential Code, an internal limit of LOBO debt is set as follows:

	£M	% of Debt Portfolio
LOBO limits	50	20

The amount of LOBO debt held is £31m being 9.2% of our total debt portfolio. This internally set limit may be temporarily exceeded as a consequence of debt restructuring activities.

17.0 THE MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP) POLICY STATEMENT

17.1 In accordance with legislative requirements applicable to local government (Local Government Act 2003), there is a requirement to charge an amount to revenue each year in respect of capital expenditure. This charge is known as the "Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)".

17.2 The implementation of the Prudential Code in 2004 (and subsequent updates) provided greater flexibilities for Councils to borrow to fund capital

projects over and above their previous level of capital approvals - referred to as prudential or unsupported borrowing.

17.3 In 2008, and to complement the flexibilities afforded by the Prudential Code, Welsh Government amended the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 (the 'Regulations') to provide for a number of differing options for charging to revenue costs incurred in respect of Capital Expenditure. The regulations also required the approval by full Council of this MRP Policy Statement.

17.4 In November 2018 the Welsh Government issued revised guidance on MRP, with effect from 1st April 2019. The main amendments to the guidance are:

- A revised definition of a prudent provision – “To ensure that the cost of debt is charged to a revenue account over a period that is commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefit”;
- If there is a change in the method of calculating MRP, and the MRP reduces, then this does not give rise to an overpayment;
- Asset lives should not normally exceed 50 years; and
- MRP extends to investment properties where their acquisition is fully or partially funded by an increase in borrowing (as depreciation is not charged on investment properties, the depreciation method is not a suitable approach).

17.5 Supported Borrowing – The MRP on supported borrowing is written off on a straight line basis over 40 years, linked (broadly) to the lives of the Council's assets.

17.6 Unsupported Borrowing - 3 options are detailed:

- Asset life method (equal instalments);
- Asset life method (annuity method); or
- Charge in accordance with the depreciation of the asset.

17.7 Each of these methods might be appropriate depending on the type of asset being created / funded by Prudential borrowing. It is also feasible that an alternative method might be appropriate (for example, linked to a payback period or the period over which the asset provides benefits to the Council) - this is also recognised in the relevant Welsh Government guidance. The Regulations also allow for the commencement of MRP to be in line with the asset being brought into use. Accordingly, a decision upon the relevant method to apply should be made as part of the option appraisal decision to proceed with any Prudential borrowing on a project by project basis.

17.8 Lease schemes - MRP is equivalent to the principal value of repayments as detailed in the Welsh Government Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision.

18.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

18.1 The report details the Council's Treasury Management activities for 2021/22. As a result, no Equality Impact Assessment is required for the purposes of this report.

19.0 CONSULTATION

19.1 Following consideration by Council, this report will be presented to the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee in line with the laid down Codes of Practice and also the Terms of Reference for this Committee.

20.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

20.1 The financial results / implications of the Council's Treasury Management arrangements will be incorporated into quarterly Performance Reports during the year.

21.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

21.1 The report ensures the Council complies with its legal duty under the Local Government Act 2003 and in doing so is in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

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

22.1 This report supports the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-24 "Making a Difference" through the 'Living Within Our Means' theme by pursuing optimum treasury management performance or return at the same time as managing associated risk.

22.2 The report also supports the Well-being of Future Generations Act in particular 'a globally responsible Wales' through responsible management and investment of the Council's resources.

23.0 CONCLUSIONS

23.1 This report provides the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy, details the Treasury Management Indicators and MRP policy for 2021/22.

23.2 With regard to the Treasury Management Strategy, a cautious approach will continue to be followed. The Section 151 Officer (or in his absence the

Deputy Section 151 Officer) will monitor the interest rate environment and adopt a pragmatic approach to any changing circumstances, in consultation with the Council's independent treasury advisors.

- 23.3 With regard to the Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators, these will be monitored throughout the financial year with details reported to Members as part of the Council's quarterly performance reporting framework and scrutiny process.

Other information:

Relevant Scrutiny Committee – Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL 10TH MARCH 2021

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES

**Item: 2021/22 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY INCORPORATING
INVESTMENT STRATEGY, TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS AND
MRP STATEMENT**

Background Papers

- 10th March 2021 Council meeting – Report: 2021/22 Capital Strategy report
- 10th March 2021 Council meeting – Report: The Council’s Capital Programme 2021/22 – 2023/24.
- 10th March 2021 Council meeting – Report: The Council’s 2021/22 Revenue Budget

Officer to contact: Barrie Davies (Director of Finance and Digital Services)



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020 / 2021

COUNCIL

10TH MARCH 2021

2021/22 CAPITAL STRATEGY REPORT INCORPORATING PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES
AUTHOR:- BARRIE DAVIES (01443) 424026

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the Capital Strategy report is to provide a high level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of Council services along with an overview of the associated risk, its management and the implications for future financial sustainability.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Approve the Capital Strategy report incorporating the Prudential Indicators.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure compliance with the 2017 edition of the Prudential Code requiring local authorities to produce a Capital Strategy Report.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Prudential Code¹ sets out a framework for self-regulation of capital spending for local authorities, in effect, allowing Councils to invest in capital

¹ Prudential Code - produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and is underpinned by the Local Government Act 2003 and the Capital Financing Regulations (Wales) 2004

projects without any limit as long as they are affordable, prudent and sustainable.

4.2 The Council has developed this Capital Strategy document to support its strategic and financial planning arrangements, and also complement other key strategies and plans in place. The Capital Strategy does not duplicate information included within other key strategies and plans such as the Treasury Management Strategy, Three Year Capital Programme and Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024, and should be read in conjunction with them.

4.3 The Council's Capital Strategy covers the following areas:

- Strategic Context
- Capital Expenditure and Financing
- Asset Management
- Asset Disposals
- Treasury Management
- Other Long Term Liabilities
- Revenue Budget Implications
- Knowledge and Skills

5.0 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

5.1 The Council's Capital Strategy is inherently linked to and informed by other key strategy documents.

[The Council's Corporate Plan 2020-24 "Making a Difference"](#)

5.2 Capital investment by the Council is guided by the priorities within the Corporate Plan that sets out its ambition through a vision 'To be the best place in Wales to live, work and play, where people and businesses are independent, healthy, and prosperous' and focussing on three priorities:

1. Ensuring **People: are independent, healthy and successful;**
2. Creating **Places: where people are proud to live, work and play; and**
3. Enabling **Prosperity: creating the opportunity for people and businesses to: be innovative; be entrepreneurial; and fulfil their potential and prosper.**

Other Key Strategies and Plans

5.3 The Council also has a number of other key strategies and plans that inform service delivery and its programme of capital investment. These include²:

- Revenue Budget Strategy – setting out the Council's annual revenue budget requirement that includes its Capital Financing budget to support the delivery

² A brief summary of the strategy or plan is provided where it is not covered elsewhere within the Capital Strategy

of the Capital Programme. The Council's Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 is to be approved by Council alongside this report on the same agenda.

- Three Year Capital Programme – setting out capital expenditure plans and funding. The Council's Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 is to be approved by Council alongside this report on the same agenda.
 - Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) – setting out a forecast of revenue spending and funding for the period 2020/21 to 2023/24 (and includes a Capital Financing budget projection over this period). The latest MTFP can be viewed by clicking [here](#).
 - Treasury Management Strategy.
 - Corporate Asset Management Plan.
 - Service Delivery / Recovery Plans – a plan for each service area setting out key priorities, measures and risks.
 - Cwm Taf Well-Being Plan - a long term partnership plan for the Cwm Taf area (Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil) in line with the Well-Being of Future Generations Act. The Cwm Taf Well-being Plan can be viewed by clicking [here](#).
- 5.4 In [January 2018](#) the Council set out a strategic outline capital investment programme in excess of £300M over the next 5 years over and above its recurring annual capital programme. This commitment was aligned to the Council's strategic plans by supporting long term investment in highways infrastructure, 21st Century Schools, new housing, community assets and town centre and economic regeneration.

6. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCING

- 6.1 Capital expenditure is where the Council spends money on assets such as property or vehicles that will be used for more than one year. The Council does have some limited discretion over what it deems to be capital expenditure, for example, assets costing less than £10k are not capitalised and are charged to revenue in-year.

Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24

- 6.2 The Council is to consider its capital programme on 10th March 2021 totalling a proposed £116.024M over three years.
- 6.3 All capital expenditure must be financed either from external sources (e.g. grants and third party contributions), the Council's own resources (e.g. revenue and capital receipts) or borrowing (e.g. loans, leasing). A summary of available capital

resources for the Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 is included at 'Indicator 1 : Capital Expenditure'.

- 6.4 The Council's Capital Programme continues to provide a long term funding commitment to the economic regeneration and well-being of the County Borough and in doing so supports the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities.
- 6.5 In addition to the above, sustained investment has been maintained across a range of funding streams, supported by external funding and the Corporate Plan Investment Priorities. This has enabled a wide range of regeneration activity to be delivered to benefit the local economy.
- 6.6 The Council will continue to work with partners to develop and progress exciting and innovative schemes such as:
- Pontypridd YMCA – Redeveloping the YMCA to be fit for the future as a community centre for creative arts facilitating social enterprise, training opportunities and community involvement;
 - Development of modern business accommodation with new units at Robertstown, Aberdare;
 - Townscape Enhancements across our key town centres – a targeted approach to upgrading town centre buildings for increased business and commercial use and continuing to improve the quality of the townscape providing business investment and employment growth;
 - Development of a new integrated Transport Hub at Porth as part of the Porth Town Centre Regeneration Strategy;
 - Strategic Opportunity Areas – a number of Strategic Opportunity Areas have been developed to deliver economic growth and job creation in Rhondda Cynon Taf. These areas are:
 - Cynon Gateway – Energising the Region;
 - The Wider Pontypridd, Treforest – Edge of the City, heart of the Region;
 - Pontypridd Town – Pivotal in the Region;
 - A4119 Corridor – Regional Rhondda Gateway; and
 - Llanilid on the M4 – Driving the Regional Economy.
- 6.7 There is a statutory duty under the Local Government Act 2003 for the Council to determine and keep under review how much it can afford to borrow. The Council must have due regard to the **Prudential Code** when setting its affordable borrowing limit ("Authorised Limit"). This requires the Council to ensure that total capital investment and borrowing remains affordable, sustainable and prudent.
- 6.8 To comply with both the Prudential Code and Treasury Management Code, the Council has to determine and set Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators in relation to capital expenditure, external debt and treasury management activities. The purpose of the indicators is to provide a framework for Capital Expenditure decision making.
- 6.9 To comply with the Codes every Council is required to agree a set of prudential indicators prior to the start of the financial year. These indicators must be

prepared by the Chief Finance Officer and presented to Council, as part of the budget setting cycle. The indicators cover a three year period and must be monitored during the year.

- 6.10 The indicators are purely for internal use by the Council and are not intended for use as comparators (i.e. between Councils) nor should they be viewed individually. The real value will arise as a result of monitoring the movement in indicators over time.
- 6.11 Capital Expenditure is predominantly funded by Welsh Government support, capital grants and capital resources. General capital funding from the Welsh Government takes the form of General Capital Grant plus “supported borrowing”. The remaining balance of expenditure will form a borrowing need and be classed as unsupported and will have an impact on the Council Tax (unless extra borrowing costs are funded through existing budgets).
- 6.12 The following indicators are required (by the Prudential Code) to be approved:
- Capital Expenditure
 - Capital Financing Requirement
 - External Debt
 - Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement
 - Authorised Limit
 - Operational Boundary
 - Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

Capital Expenditure and the Capital Financing Requirement

- 6.13 The Capital Expenditure plans of the Council will be financed through various sources such as capital resources, grants and other contributions. The remaining element which cannot be immediately financed from resources will constitute our borrowing requirement. The estimated level of available capital resources is provided in summary as the Capital Expenditure Indicators below.

Indicator 1 : Capital Expenditure

	2020/21 Projected Outturn £M	2021/22 Estimate £M	2022/23 Estimate £M	2023/24 Estimate £M
Supported spend	87.011	68.904	18.651	16.023
Unsupported spend	21.141	12.409	0.037	0.000
Total spend	108.152	81.313	18.688	16.023
Financed by:-				
Borrowing	27.970	19.282	6.910	6.873
Other Capital Resources (e.g. Grants, Capital Receipts)	80.182	62.031	11.778	9.150

- 6.14 The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) represents the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. The CFR is capital expenditure that has not yet been paid for from either revenue or capital resources.
- 6.15 The expected movement in the CFR over the next three years is dependent on the level of supported and unsupported capital expenditure and decisions taken during the budgeting cycle.
- 6.16 The unsupported element of borrowing relates to the capital expenditure freedom allowed under the Prudential Code. The Prudential Code anticipates that these freedoms would enable Councils to enter into projects such as "spend to save" schemes or decisions to allocate additional resource from revenue to capital, to enable service / asset enhancements. Members have already shown their willingness to use this option for schemes such as investment in schools and highways.
- 6.17 The main factor limiting the Council's ability to undertake unsupported capital expenditure is whether the revenue resource is available to support in full the implications of capital expenditure, i.e. both borrowing costs and running costs. In other words, can the Council afford the implications of the unsupported capital expenditure?
- 6.18 The Council's expectations for the CFR in the next three years is shown below.

Indicator 2 : Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

	2020/21 31/03/21 Projected Outturn £M	2021/22 31/03/22 Estimate £M	2022/23 31/03/23 Estimate £M	2023/24 31/03/24 Estimate £M
CFR	507.897	512.804	504.866	496.271
Net movement in CFR		4.907	(7.938)	(8.595)

- 6.19 A key risk is that the level of Welsh Government support has been estimated and is, therefore, subject to change. Similarly, some of the estimates for other sources of funding, such as capital receipts, may also be subject to change over this time. Officers will continue to monitor the totality of capital resources and will report back to Members if further action is required.
- 6.20 The expected external debt for each year is as detailed below.

Indicator 3: External Debt

	2020/21 31/03/21	2021/22 31/03/22	2022/23 31/03/23	2023/24
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	Projected Outturn £M	Estimate £M	Estimate £M	31/03/24 Estimate £M
Borrowing	402.226	477.807	474.842	472.876
Other long term liabilities	0.583	0.583	0.583	0.581
Total External Debt 31 st March	402.809	478.390	475.425	473.457
Net movement in External Debt		75.581	(2.965)	(1.968)

6.21 Other Long Term Liabilities includes an estimate of the Council's future finance lease liabilities. The accounting change for leases has been delayed in line with CIPFA guidance. These changes are not reflected in the indicators in this report.

Limits to Borrowing Activity

6.22 The first key control over the Council's activity is to ensure that, over the medium term, borrowing will only be for a capital purpose. The Council needs to ensure that external borrowing does not exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimate of the additional capital financing requirement for the next three financial years. This allows some flexibility within a three-year period to deliver an effective treasury management strategy.

Indicator 4: Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement

	2020/21 31/03/21 Projected Outturn £M	2021/22 31/03/22 Estimate £M	2022/23 31/03/23 Estimate £M	2023/24 31/03/24 Estimate £M
Gross Borrowing	402.809	478.390	475.425	473.457
Capital Financing Requirement	507.897	512.804	504.866	496.271

6.23 As the above shows, gross borrowing is below the relevant CFR for current and future years. This is termed "under-borrowing". This view takes into account current commitments, existing plans and the proposals in the latest 3 year capital programme. Again, this indicator will be monitored and revised at Council, if necessary, during the three-year period.

6.24 The Authorised Limit represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited, and needs to be set, monitored and revised by Members. It reflects the maximum level of borrowing to fund existing capital commitments, which could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable. It is the expected maximum borrowing need, with some added headroom for unexpected movements.

6.25 This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003. The Government retains an option to control either the total of all Councils' plans or those of a specific Council. The Government has not yet exercised this control.

Indicator 5 : The Authorised Limit

	2020/21 31/03/21 Projected Outturn £M	2021/22 31/03/22 Estimate £M	2022/23 31/03/23 Estimate £M	2023/24 31/03/24 Estimate £M
Gross Borrowing Limit	402.226	530.000	530.000	530.000
Other long term liabilities	0.583	2.000	2.000	2.000
Authorised Limit	402.809	532.000	532.000	532.000

6.26 The Operational Boundary is based on the probable external debt during the course of the year; actual borrowing could vary around this boundary, for short times, during the year. It should act as an indicator to ensure the Authorised Limit is not breached.

Indicator 6 : The Operational Boundary

	2020/21 31/03/21 Projected Outturn £M	2021/22 31/03/22 Estimate £M	2022/23 31/03/23 Estimate £M	2023/24 31/03/24 Estimate £M
Gross Borrowing Limit	402.226	480.000	480.000	480.000
Other long term liabilities	0.583	1.000	1.000	1.000
Operational Boundary	402.809	481.000	481.000	481.000

Affordability Prudential Indicators

6.27 Previous sections have covered overall capital and control of borrowing indicators, but there is also a requirement to assess the affordability of capital

investment plans. This provides an indication of the impact of the capital investment plans on the overall Council finances.

- 6.28 The Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing costs net of interest and investment income), against the "net revenue stream". The net revenue stream for the General Fund is the amount collectable from Council Tax payers added to the Council's Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and Non Domestic Rates (NDR). The key use of this indicator is to compare trends in the ratio of financing costs to the net revenue stream, over time.

Indicator 7 : Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

	2020/21 Comparator	2021/22 Estimate	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate
General Fund	4.98%	5.10%	5.16%	5.16%

Governance

- 6.29 The rolling Three Year Capital Programme is constructed in line with the Council's agreed strategies and plans on an annual basis, reviewed by Cabinet and if deemed acceptable, is recommended to full Council for approval each year.
- 6.30 Throughout the year, capital programme updates are made public through the Council's quarterly Performance Reports that are reported to Cabinet for approval and thereafter scrutinised by the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee.

7.0 ASSET MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 To ensure that capital assets are managed in a proactive and efficient way, and continue to be of long term use, the Council has a Corporate Asset Management Plan (CAMP). The CAMP outlines the vision and approach to the strategic management of the assets of the Council and sets out the primary aims: to maximise the benefits derived from the Council's land and buildings; to support the delivery of its priorities; to meet service requirements; to raise revenue through rental income; and to comply with regulatory and statutory duties.

8.0 ASSET DISPOSALS

- 8.1 When a capital asset is no longer needed it may be sold so that proceeds, known as capital receipts, can be spent on new assets or to repay debt. Capital receipts are used as part of the overall General Fund Capital Resources to fund the Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 as set out below. Capital receipts are used to fund the Capital Programme across years and so the figures below

will not align with those estimated to be received within each year as included in the CAMP.

			2021/22 Estimate £M	2022/23 Estimate £M	2023/24 Estimate £M
General Resources	Fund	Capital	13.919	3.976	3.115

9.0 TREASURY MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 CIPFA defines Treasury Management as “The management of the local authority’s investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”
- 9.2 Treasury management is concerned with keeping sufficient but not excessive cash available to meet the Council’s spending needs, while managing the risks involved. Surplus cash is invested until required, while a shortage of cash will be met by borrowing, to avoid excessive credit balances or overdrafts in the Council’s bank current account.
- 9.3 The Council’s Treasury Management Strategy Incorporating Investment Strategy, Treasury Management Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement for 2021/22 (from hereon, the Treasury Management Strategy) is being considered alongside this report on the same agenda.

Borrowing Strategy

- 9.4 The Council’s policy will continue to be to maximise “internal borrowing”, running down cash balances and foregoing interest earned at historically low rates. We will though take the opportunity to lock in longer term debt as and when the opportunity arises, in line with advice from our Treasury Advisors.
- 9.5 Where the Council does need to borrow to fund the Capital Programme, its main objective is to achieve a low but certain cost of finance while retaining flexibility should there be changes in the financial market. The Council seeks a balance between lower cost short term loans and longer term fixed rate loans where the future cost is known and secured.

Investment Strategy

- 9.6 The Council’s policy on treasury investments is to prioritise security and liquidity over yield and to focus on minimising risk rather than maximising returns.
- 9.7 The Welsh Government statutory guidance on Local Government Investments categorises investments as either Financial or Non-Financial. Financial investments can be further sub categorised into Specified, Loans and Non

Specified. All Investments are also categorised as either Commercial Investments, Other Investments Relevant to Council Functions or Treasury Management Investments. Details of the Council's Investment Strategy is set out within its Treasury Management Strategy.

- 9.8 Cash that is likely to be spent in the near term is invested with the Debt Management Office (DMO) and other public bodies. Longer term investments include lending to organisations, subject to S151 officer determination, following appropriate due diligence and subject to appropriate and acceptable security arrangements. These type of investments provide support for the delivery of investment aligned to the Council's own strategic objectives.

Commercialisation

- 9.9 This section sets out the Council's high-level approach and appetite for commercial opportunities:

- Property acquisitions will be regeneration led and whilst there may be a commercial aspect, that is very much a by-product of our regeneration priority where for example public ownership will maximise the potential for property to be brought back into use, improve the viability and sustainability of our town centres and guard against properties being mothballed and a blight on our town centres and communities;
- We will not acquire assets outside of Rhondda Cynon Taf, other than via the auspices of the Cardiff Capital Region Joint Committee, where the asset is of regional significance;
- In line with our Treasury Management Strategy we will lend to other public sector organisations for the purpose of supporting and enabling them to contribute positively to our own corporate priorities and deliver projects from which the Council, our residents and communities will benefit. We will not lend money solely for income generation;
- We will continue to operate in the commercial market place where we have historically been a service provider, for example Trade Waste, Building Regulations, Waste Disposal and providing services to other public bodies, including local Registered Social Landlords. We will not develop our services to enter market places where there is sufficient supply and alternative providers other than where we can provide significant and demonstrable benefit to our residents, businesses and communities. We will continue to deploy our Community Asset Transfer arrangements as part of our work with communities and the voluntary sector to explore alternative delivery models to maintain services and facilities.

9.10 We summarise our approach further in the table below.

Commercial Skills	Our staff development activities and programmes will incorporate opportunities for our staff to develop and enhance their commercial awareness and exploit opportunities, including appropriate risk management;
Efficient and Effective Organisation	Already a pillar within our Corporate Plan, our robust self-assessment and service delivery planning arrangements will require all our services to consider commercial opportunities;
Procurement	We will ensure that our purchasing activities are focussed on achieving best value and will negotiate the best deals we can secure for the Council taking into account both cost and quality considerations. In doing so, we will also consider opportunities to ensure that local suppliers and service providers have the opportunity to compete for contracts we bring to the market;
Use of Assets	We will take advantage of our existing scale, breadth of activities and our asset base to identify opportunities where we can add value and generate income whilst not adversely destabilising existing markets and where the private sector can already provide excellence at good value;
Charging	We will continue to review and update our charging policy annually as part of setting our budget and seek to balance income generation alongside provision of our valued services at affordable prices and not seek to disincentivise our customers based on price;
Trading	We will continue to trade commercially through our wholly owned company, Amgen seeking opportunities to extend trading operations and maximise income generation and profit;
Investing	We will invest in line with the prudential code principles where it is prudent, sustainable and affordable; we will lend commercially where there are clear service and/or regeneration benefits which align with the Council's priorities;

9.11 Decision making on commercial activities will be in line with Council's constitution, approved strategies and policies and will in all instances be with the express approval of the Council's Section 151 Officer and the Director of Legal Services.

Governance

9.12 Decisions on investments are made by the S151 Officer in line with the criteria and limits approved by Council in the Treasury Management Strategy. Property and other regeneration and commercial investments can be capital expenditure

and therefore will be approved via the appropriate decision making arrangements.

- 9.13 Following approval by full Council, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Capital Strategy Report incorporating Prudential Indicators are reported to the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee at the start of each financial year. A Mid-Year Treasury Management Stewardship Report and an Annual Treasury Management Review Report (following year-end) are reported to full Council and thereafter scrutinised by the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee. The role of scrutiny is a specific requirement of the laid down code of practice “CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services 2017” and also the Terms of Reference for this Scrutiny Committee.

10.0 OTHER LONG TERM LIABILITIES

- 10.1 The Council is committed to making future payments to cover its pension fund liabilities (deficit) on the Pensions Reserve of £658M within the Council's balance sheet, under unusable reserves.
- 10.2 The Council has short term and long term provisions set aside amounting to £4.4M, the majority of which (£4.2M) is to cover Insurance and Land Compensation claims.
- 10.3 The Council's latest audited Statement of Accounts for the 2019/20 financial year can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

11.0 REVENUE BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Council's borrowing or debt is only a temporary source of finance, since loans and leases must be repaid over time, usually from Revenue which is known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The interest costs and principal repayment of debt, net of any investment income, are known as financing costs and are determined in line with the Council's MRP policy.
- 11.2 The Council's net capital charges form part of the revenue budget and actual spend against budget is reported to Cabinet as part of quarterly Performance Reports. They are also set out within the Mid-Year Treasury Management Stewardship Report and Annual Treasury Management Review Report. The Council also has a Treasury Management Earmarked Reserve in order to mitigate short / medium term volatility against this budget.

12.0 KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

- 12.1 The Council employs professionally qualified and experienced staff in senior positions with responsibility for making capital expenditure, borrowing and investment decisions. The Council also employ Treasury Management advisors

to provide a range of specialist services including interest rate analysis, investment advice and technical support.

13.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The report provides a high level overview of how the Council's capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services along with an overview of how associated risks are managed. As a result, no Equality Impact Assessment is required for the purposes of this report.

14.0 CONSULTATION

- 14.1 Subject to approval of the Capital Strategy, 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.

15.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 15.1 The financial results / implications of the Council's Treasury Management arrangements will be incorporated into quarterly Performance Reports during the year.

16.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 16.1 The report ensures the Council complies with its legal duty under the Local Government Act 2003 and in doing so is in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

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

- 17.1 This report supports the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-24 "Making a Difference" through the 'Living Within Our Means' theme by pursuing optimum treasury management, capital and revenue performance or return at the same time as managing associated risk.
- 17.2 The report also supports the Well-being of Future Generations Act in particular 'a globally responsible Wales' through responsible management and investment of the Council's resources.

18.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 18.1 The Capital Strategy Report incorporating Prudential Indicators sets out a high level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of Council services along with an overview of the associated risk, its management and the implications for future financial sustainability.
- 18.2 With regards to the Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators, these will be monitored throughout the financial year with details reported to Members as part of the Council's quarterly performance reporting arrangements and scrutiny process.

Other information:

Relevant Scrutiny Committee – Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL 10th MARCH 2021

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES

Item: 2021/22 CAPITAL STRATEGY REPORT INCORPORATING PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

Background Papers

- 10th March 2021 Council meeting – Report: The Council’s Capital Programme 2021/22 – 2023/24.
- 10th March 2021 Council meeting – Report: The Council’s 2021/22 Revenue Budget

Officer to contact: Barrie Davies (Director of Finance and Digital Services)



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020 / 2021

COUNCIL

10th MARCH 2021

THE COUNCIL'S 2021/22 PAY POLICY STATEMENT

JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES

Authors: Richard Evans, Director of Human Resources
Andrew Wilkins, Director of Legal Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information in respect of the Council's 2021/22 Pay Policy Statement.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council approves, the Pay Policy Statement at Appendix A of this report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Under Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011 (the 'Act'), the Council is required to produce a pay policy statement, which must be prepared each financial year. The provisions of the Act do not apply to local authority schools and therefore teaching staff need not be brought within the scope of the Council's pay policy statement.
- 3.2. Each local authority is an individual employer in its own right and has the autonomy to make decisions on pay that are appropriate to local circumstances and which deliver value for money for local taxpayers. The provisions in the Act do not seek to change this or to determine what decisions on pay should be taken or what policies individual employing authorities should have in place. Rather, they only require that authorities are open about their own local policies and how local decisions are made.
- 3.3 The Act requires that the Council include in its pay policy statement, its approach to the publication and access to information relating to the remuneration of chief officers. Remuneration includes salary or payment for a

contract for services, expenses, bonuses, and performance related pay as well as severance payments. The definition of chief officers includes the head of paid service, statutory chief officers and non-statutory chief officers and those who report to them.

- 3.4 Section 38(2) of the Act also requires the Council to set out its policy on remuneration for its highest paid staff alongside its policies towards its lowest paid employees.
- 3.5 The Council must, in setting pay policy statements have regard to any guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers. In May 2017, the Welsh Government published updated guidance under Section 40 of the Act entitled 'Pay Accountability in Local Government in Wales'. Due regard has been given to this guidance in the preparation of the proposed Pay Policy Statement. The Pay Policy Statement also has due regard to the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.
- 3.6 The Pay Policy Statement must be approved by a resolution of full Council before it comes into force. Once in force it must be complied with, although full Council may amend it during the relevant financial year. It must be published on the Council's website as soon as reasonably practicable after approval or amendment.
- 3.7 Members will be aware that back in November 2020, despite warnings from employers and the trade unions, the UK Government determined to introduce an Exit Cap on payments above £95,000. Whilst consultation on this cap was a few years ago, Members may also recall that the original intention of the cap was to stop any excessive payments, in particular to senior managers within organisations. Despite this initial intention, when the legislation was finally passed it did not distinguish between any level of employee and the UK Government also determined to include the 'pension strain cost' within the cap. Members will recall from reports that have previously come to Council that the pension strain is a cost to the employer and not a payment that an employee would actually receive. As a consequence of introducing the cap, this would have an immediate impact on employees as low as Grade 8 within this authority that where due to finish by reason of voluntary early retirement with redundancy.
- 3.8 Employers and trade unions determined to lodge judicial reviews against this decision and prior to the cases proceeding, the UK Government announced on the 12th February 2021 that following a review, they had now determined that the Exit Cap be disapplied. The wording that accompanied the announcement was as follows. *"The Government has concluded that the Cap may have had unintended consequences and the Regulations should be revoked. HM Treasury [HMT] Directions have been published that disapply the Cap until the Regulations have been revoked."*

This means the exit cap does not now apply to exits that took place on or after 12 February 2021, but the guidance was not clear on whether the 2020 Regulations will be revoked retrospectively. However, the Welsh Government has confirmed that, in their view, the exit cap no longer applies to exit

payments made by a devolved Welsh authority. In terms of this Council, thankfully we had no employees impacted by the Cap whilst it was in operation between November 2020 and the 12th February 2021.

- 3.9 A Pay Policy Statement meeting the legal requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and having regard to the Welsh Government guidance is attached at Appendix A and is recommended for approval by Council.
- 3.10 This report has been prepared and written by the Director of Human Resources and Director of Legal Services and the Pay Policy reflects the current grading of those officers. Given previous cases where concerns have been expressed about Officers being involved in the preparation of reports that affect their own pay, this point is explicitly drawn to the attention of Members of the Council.
- 3.11 It should be noted however that any officer of the Council writing this report would be in the same position. It is also important to note that this Pay Policy statement provides an accurate summary of the Council's current policy for the purposes of publication under the Localism Act. What is also important to note is that this policy is not specifically about the authors in an individual capacity otherwise than as part of the Council's group of Chief Officers.

APPENDIX A

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

PAY POLICY STATEMENT

2021/2022

Contents

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- 4. Senior Pay Remuneration**
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- 11. Independent Remuneration Panel**
- 12. Accountability and Decision Making**
- 13. Reviewing the Policy**

1. Introduction & Purpose

Leader's Introduction

- 1.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf Council recognises the importance of administering pay fairly, objectively and consistently in a way that encourages employees to make a positive contribution to the Council's business. The decisions that are taken regarding pay and grading are crucial to maintaining equality across the Council.
- 1.2 In setting its pay structure, the Council reflects on its corporate priorities, the important role that senior leadership plays in achieving those aims and also seeks to continually demonstrate value for money to the residents of the County Borough.

Purpose

- 1.3 Under Section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the "power to appoint officers on such reasonable terms and conditions as the authority thinks fit". This Pay Policy Statement (the 'statement') sets out the Council's approach to pay policy in accordance with the requirements of Section 38 and Section 40(2) of the Localism Act 2011 (the Act).

2. Legislative Framework

- 2.1 In determining the pay and remuneration of all of its employees, the Council will comply with all relevant employment legislation.

3. Pay Structure

- 3.1 The Council has adopted and implemented an objective, analytical job evaluation system based on job demands and developed a pay and grading structure based on spot salaries.
- 3.2 This determines the salaries of the majority of the Council workforce. The features of the pay & grading structure are as follows:
- Fifteen spot salaries;
 - There are no bonus payments;
 - There are no overtime or weekend enhancement payments.
- 3.3 The pay and grading structure applies to all employees covered by the NJC for Local Government Services.

- 3.4 The Council has been and is committed to the payment of the Foundation Living Wage (FLW) rate that has previously applied to Grades 1 to 3 of the fifteen spot salary scale detailed above. Members may recall that in last year's pay policy, due to the nationally negotiated pay increases in 2019, the minimum hourly rate from April 2019 was equal to the FLW rate so the Council did not need to process any additional payments during 2019/20 financial year. The next NJC pay award in 2020 resulted in a new hourly rate being introduced of £9.25 per hour from April 2020 but at the same time, the new FLW rate was raised to £9.30 per hour, which resulted in the Council having to make a pay adjustment to any employee on Grade 1 of our pay structure.

Despite ongoing national discussions between employers and the trade unions, at present there is no proposal currently in place for a NJC pay award uplift from the 1st April 2021. However, the FLW rate has changed and in accordance with the agreement we have in place with our trade union colleagues, the new rate of £9.50 will be introduced from the 1st April 2021. This will mean that based on the current salary values, then Grade 1 (£9.25 per hour) and Grade 2 (£9.43 per hour) would be affected, until such time as clarity is provided on any pay award for 2020/21.

- 3.5 Employees covered by Soulbury terms and conditions have their pay determined by the Soulbury Committee. There are no overtime, weekend enhancement or bonus payments for this group of employees.
- 3.6 The Council makes payments in respect of a 'holiday pay' supplement which was implemented to ensure all holiday payments to staff are made in accordance with the European Working Time Directive.
- 3.7 The determination of salary scales for employees covered by JNC for Local Authority Chief Executives and Chief Officers are dealt with under paragraph 4 below.
- 3.8 In addition to basic salary, the Council will reimburse all reasonable business travel and subsistence expenses on production of receipts and in accordance with the Council's scheme for payment of travelling expenses, subsistence allowances and redeployment expenses. The Council operates a single scheme that applies to all employees.
- 3.9 All other pay related allowances are the subject of either nationally or locally negotiated rates, having been determined from time to time in accordance with collective bargaining arrangements and/or as determined by the Council's Constitution and the Scheme of Delegation contained therein. In determining its grading structure and setting remuneration levels for all posts, the Council takes account of the need to ensure value for money in respect of the use of public funds, balanced against the need to recruit and retain

employees who are able to meet the requirements of providing high quality services to the community, delivered effectively and efficiently and at times at which those services are required.

- 3.10 The process for paying any temporary additional payments for undertaking additional responsibilities are in accordance with the Council's Honoraria and Secondment Policies that apply to all Council employees (including Chief Officers).
- 3.11 The Council does not operate a performance related pay system for any of its employees (including Chief Officers).
- 3.12 There are occasions where it is necessary to take account of the external pay market through the payment of a 'market supplement', in order to attract and retain employees with particular experience, skills and capacity. Where necessary, the Council has ensured that such requirements are objectively justified by reference to evidence of relevant market comparators, using appropriate data sources available from within and outside the local government sector.

4. Senior Pay Remuneration

Definition of Chief Officer Remuneration

- 4.1 For the purposes of this statement, 'chief officers' are as defined within Section 43 of the Act. The posts falling within the statutory definition are set out below:

- Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
- Group Directors
- Directors
- Service Directors
- Heads of Service

Role of the Chief Executive

- 4.2 The role of the Chief Executive, as the senior officer, is to advise and support the Council's Cabinet to:

- Provide leadership, vision and strategic direction;
- Develop strategic policies to fulfil the Authority's objectives;
- Define the corporate culture and promote core values;
- Ensure the Authority meets its statutory obligations and exercises sound corporate governance and effective resource management;
- Ensure the performance of the Authority is managed effectively.

- 4.3 Rhondda Cynon Taf had a Net Revenue Budget of £508.747M for 2020/21 financial year and a 3-year capital programme of £190.962M (Quarter 2

Performance Report). The proposed revenue budget for 2021/22 is £527.903M and the updated 3-year capital programme for the period 2021/22 to 2023/24 amounts to £116.024M (both subject to Council approval). The Council delivers a wide range of services employing approximately 10,600 staff.

- 4.4 In Rhondda Cynon Taf the Chief Executive salary is determined by the criteria set out in the JNC for Local Authority Chief Executives National Agreement for Pay and Conditions of Service. The Chief Officer salary structure is based on a percentage of the Chief Executives salary and within the Education & Inclusion Services directorate, there are some Heads of Service positions which are remunerated at the senior Soulbury pay scale level. For details of the Chief Officer salary structure, please refer to Section 6 below.
- 4.5 Any change to the existing Chief Executive and Chief Officer pay structure for Rhondda Cynon Taf can only be determined by the Council's Cabinet and full Council as necessary. Should any changes to the existing value of the pay structure be considered, then due regard will be given to the Independent Remuneration Panel which is covered in Section 11 below.

5. Recruitment of Chief Officers

- 5.1 The Council's policy and procedures with regard to recruitment are set out within the Officer Employment Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Council Constitution.
- 5.2 When recruiting to all posts the Council will take full and proper account of its own Equalities, Recruitment and Management of Change Policies.
- 5.3 The determination of the remuneration to be offered to any newly appointed chief officer will be in accordance with the pay structure and relevant policies in place at the time of recruitment. Welsh Government recommends that full Council should be offered the opportunity to vote on salary packages of £100,000 and above in respect of new appointments.
- 5.4 Where the Council is unable to recruit to a post at the designated grade, it will consider the use of market forces supplements in accordance with its relevant policies.
- 5.5 Where the Council remains unable to recruit chief officers under a contract of employment, or there is a need for interim support to provide cover for a vacant substantive chief officer post, the Council will, where necessary, consider engaging individuals under 'contracts for service'. These will be sourced through a relevant procurement process ensuring that the Council not only meets its statutory obligations but can also demonstrate the maximum value for money benefits in securing the relevant service.
- 5.6 The Council does not currently have any chief officers engaged under such arrangements.

6. Additions to Salary of Chief Officers

- 6.1 The Council does not apply any bonuses, performance related pay, or any other benefits to its chief officers.

Chief Officer Remuneration Details

- 6.2 The Council publishes in the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts details of remuneration in respect of chief officer posts where the annual sum paid is at least £60,000. It is important to note that whilst Teaching posts are outside the scope of this Pay Policy, any Teacher whose earnings are over the £60,000 threshold will still be recorded within the Council's Statement of Accounts. The Council's Annual Statement of Accounts can be accessed via the following link:-

<http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/PerformanceBudgetsandSpending/StatementofAccounts.aspx>

- 6.3 The Council must appoint a returning officer (currently the Director of Legal Services). All fees paid in relation to the performance of the returning officer duties are determined by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and published in the Fees Order for the relevant election/referenda or in the case of County Borough elections by the Council itself. The details of any such fees paid are published in the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts. The Council has determined that no fees shall be payable to the returning officer for duties associated with undertaking the County Borough elections.

7. Payments on Termination

- 7.1 The Council's approach to statutory and discretionary payments on termination of employment, prior to reaching normal retirement age, apply to all staff including chief officers and is set out within its policy statement in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations 2006 and Regulations 30(6), 30(7) and 30(8) of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.

- 7.2 Applications under these schemes are made in accordance with the Council Constitution and Scheme of Delegation and are agreed by the Council's Voluntary Early Retirement Committee (and full Council as necessary). All applications for early retirement will be considered objectively. The schemes will apply to the following groups of staff:

- JNC for Chief Executives
- JNC for Chief Officers

- NJC for Local Government Services
- Staff employed under Soulbury terms and conditions

7.3 Redundancy Payments are made in accordance with the Redundancy Payments (Continuity of Employment in Local Government) (Modification) Order 1999, for the purposes of continuous service, as is any such declared re-employment by a body covered by the Modification Order.

7.4 Welsh Government recommends that full Council should be offered the opportunity to vote before severance packages for chief officers of £100,000 and above are approved for staff leaving the organisation. Within Rhondda Cynon Taf, any such severance package will firstly be considered by the Voluntary Early Retirement Committee. This Committee will make a recommendation to full Council as to whether or not the Council should agree a particular severance package. Following consideration by full Council a vote will be taken on whether to agree the severance package.

7.5 However Members must be made aware of the statutory or contractual entitlements due to an employee and the consequences of non approval by Council which may allow an employee to claim damages for breach of contract.

The Welsh Government considers the following components of a severance package for chief officers should be included when determining whether the package exceeds £100k:

- (i) salary paid in lieu;
- (ii) lump sum redundancy / severance payment; and
- (iii) cost to the authority of the strain on the pension fund.

7.6 Any other payments falling outside the provisions or the relevant periods of contractual notice shall be subject to a formal decision made in accordance with the Council Constitution and Scheme of Delegation.

8. Re-employment

8.1 The Council will not re-employ or re-engage either as an employee, agency worker or consultant, any officer in receipt of an enhanced severance or redundancy payment which formed part of their early retirement. Those officers not of retirement age who accepted an enhanced severance payment as part of their voluntary redundancy will be precluded from being an employee, agency worker or consultant for a two year period following their termination.

9. Publication

9.1 Upon approval by the full Council, this statement will be published on the Councils website.

10. Pay Relativities

- 10.1 The lowest paid employee of the Council is paid at Grade 1 of the Council's pay and grading structure.
- 10.2 The relationship between the rate of pay for the lowest paid and chief officers is determined by the processes used for determining pay and grading structures as set out earlier in this statement.
- 10.3 In accordance with the requirements of Section 38(2) of the Act this statement must state the relationship between the remuneration of chief officers and the remuneration of its employees who are not chief officers.
- 10.4 The statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers under Section 40(2) of the Act recommends the use of pay multiples as a means of measuring the relationship between pay rates across the workforce and that of senior managers, as included within the Hutton 'Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector' (2010).
- 10.5 Hutton recommended the publication of an organisation's pay multiple -the ratio between the highest paid employee and the median average earnings across an organisation, as a means of illustrating that relationship and concluded that the most relevant measure for the median earnings figure should be the full time equivalent earnings of all staff employed.
- 10.6 In accordance with the recommendation of the Hutton report the ratio between the Chief Executive's pay and the median earnings of the workforce calculated using current pay levels within the Council is 1:7.
- 10.7 Whilst there is no legal requirement within Wales to publish separately, in the interests of transparency and equity, it is considered good practice to report on the Gender Pay Gap. Utilising the recommended calculation method, the combined pay gap within Rhondda Cynon Taf has reduced again and now stands at 10.41% (previously reported 11.66%, Pay Policy 20/21; 13.17%, Pay Policy 19/20 & 14.06%, Pay Policy 18/19). Further details will be contained within the Council's Annual Equality Report 2019/20 which will be published at the end of March 2021 and will be accessed at <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/EqualityandDiversity/AnnualEqualityReport.aspx>

11. Independent Remuneration Panel

- 11.1 In accordance with the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013, a new section 143A has been inserted into the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011. This provision gives the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales ("the IRP") powers to make recommendations in relation to any policy

in an authority's pay policy statement which relates to the salary of the head of paid service.

- 11.2 If the Council proposes to change the salary value of the head of paid service (except one which is commensurate to a change affecting the authority's other staff more generally) then the Council is obliged to consult the IRP about the proposed change. The Council is then required to have regard to the IRP's recommendations on the proposal.

12. Accountability and Decision Making

- 12.1 The Council Constitution and Scheme of Delegation sets out the procedure for decision making in relation to the recruitment, pay, terms and conditions and severance arrangements in relation to all employees of the Council.

13. Reviewing the Policy

- 13.1 This Pay Policy Statement will be kept under review and developments considered in the light of external best practice and legislation. The Council will ensure the Pay Policy Statement is updated on an annual basis in line with the requirement of the Localism Act 2011. The annual Pay Policy Statement will be submitted to full Council each year for approval.

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