



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMITTEE SUMMONS

C Hanagan
Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
The Pavilions
Cambrian Park
Clydach Vale, CF40 2XX

Meeting Contact: Sarah Handy (01443 424098)

YOU ARE SUMMONED to a virtual meeting of the **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held on **TUESDAY, 13TH APRIL, 2021** at **5.00 PM**.

Non-Committee Members and Members of the public may request the facility to address the Committee at their meetings on the business listed although facilitation of this request is at the discretion of the Chair. It is kindly asked that such notification is made to Democratic Services by Friday, 9 April 2021 on the contact details listed above, including stipulating whether the address will be in Welsh or English.

AGENDA

**Page
No's**

SCRUTINY RESEARCH FUNCTION

A scrutiny research facility is available within the Council Business Unit to support Members' scrutiny responsibilities and their roles as Elected Members. Such research strengthens scrutiny committee work programmes to ensure outcome-based topics are identified. For any scrutiny research requirements please contact Scrutiny@rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

Note:

1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the

personal interest: and

2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they must notify the Chairman when they leave.

2. MINUTES

To receive the minutes of the previous meeting of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee held on 15th March 2021.

5 - 10

3. CONSULTATION LINKS

Information is provided in respect of relevant [consultations](#) for consideration by the Committee.

4. RHONDDA CYNON TAF'S EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2019 - 2021

To receive an update in respect of the Council's Employment and Skills Strategy and Action Plan.

11 - 30

5. TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & DIGITAL SERVICES.

To consider the Quarter 3 Performance Report.

31 - 112

6. 2021/22 CAPITAL STRATEGY REPORT AND 2021/22 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REPORT

To consider the reports of the Director of Finance & Digital Services.

113 - 150

7. TO CONSIDER PASSING THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:-

"That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act".

8. CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

To receive an update from the Director of Corporate Estates.

151 - 172

9. CHAIR'S REVIEW AND CLOSE

To reflect on the meeting and actions to be taken forward.

10. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items, which the Chairman, by reason of special

circumstances, is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency

Circulation:-

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee (County Borough Councillor M Powell and County Borough Councillor G Thomas respectively)

County Borough Councillors:

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

County Borough Councillor S Belzak – Ex officio Member

County Borough Councillors L.M.Adams a W Lewis – Chair & Vice Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee – for information

Education Co-Opted Members – For information

Mr A Rickett, Voting Diocesan Authorities' Representative

Ms A Jones, Representing UNITE

Mr J Fish, Voting Elected Parent / Governor Representative

Mr M Cleverley

Mr C Jones, Representing GMB

Mr D Price, Representing UNISON

Mrs C Jones, Representing the National Union of Teachers and Teachers' Panel

Mrs R Nicholls, Voting Elected Parent / Governor Representative

Mr L Patterson, Voting Elected Parent / Governor Representative

Councillor G Davies – Chair, Audit Committee

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting held on
Monday, 15 March 2021 at 5.00 pm

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

Councillor G Thomas	Councillor S Bradwick
Councillor R Yeo	Councillor J Williams
Councillor T Williams	Councillor J Cullwick
Councillor G Caple	Councillor A Fox
Councillor S Evans	Councillor S Rees
Councillor J Edwards	Councillor W Owen

County Borough Councillors in attendance:-

Councillor M Adams - Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Others in attendance:-

Mr Fish – Voting Parent / Governor Representative

Officers in attendance

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr P Griffiths, Service Director – Finance & Improvement Services
Mr S Gale - Director of Prosperity & Development
Mr I Christopher- Strategic Manager, Prosperity & Development
Mr T Jones, Service Director – ICT & Digital Services

38 Chair

In the absence of the Chair, County Borough Councillor M Powell, the Vice Chair, County Borough Councillor G Thomas took the meeting.

39 Apologies

An apology was received from County Borough Councillors S Rees-Owen and M Powell (Chair).

40 Declaration of Interest

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

41 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 4th February 2021 as an

accurate reflection of the meeting.

Matters Arising

The Service Director Performance and Improvement provided an update on two specific areas where feedback had been requested at the previous meeting: -

The uptake on Meals on Wheels –

2018/19 – The average mid-week number of meals provided per day was 500

2019/20 – The average mid-week number of meals provided per day was 477

2020/21 – The average mid-week number of meals provided per day, to date, is 503

At the start of the pandemic, 600 meals per day were being provided which demonstrates a slight reduction during the pandemic.

Car Parking Charges: -

The Council has a budget of £640,000 for the two car parking areas of Aberdare & Pontypridd – there is a temporary freeze on car parking charges during the pandemic, the approximate split between the two areas is 48% Aberdare and 52% Pontypridd which equates to £307,000 – Aberdare, £333, 000 – Pontypridd. An assessment will be undertaken to identify the income budget going forward.

42 Consultation Links

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

43 The Role of Digitalisation in Supporting Transformation During Covid

The Service Director - Digital & ICT introduced the power point presentation to members on the role of digitalisation in supporting transformation during Covid.

He highlighted the following areas for Members in the presentation:

- Background & Context

The Service Director Digital & ICT described the focus of the service area which has been to respond to the recent unprecedented events, the Pandemic and Storm Dennis flooding through the delivery of digital service to the communities of RCT. Staff within the service have delivered well to ensure the best services as possible during a difficult time.

The Service Director alluded to the Digital Strategy 2017/20 which Members had previously endorsed had set the foundations to enable the rapid response. A willingness to embrace new ways of working and adopt new opportunities has transformed how the council delivers digital for the future.

- Supporting Officers, Schools & Members

The Service Director Digital & ICT stressed that the key focus of the service has been to ensure the ongoing support and to enable service continuity and recovery. Technology was deployed in a short period of time to enable staff to

work from home, to make this new solution a more sustainable and resilient one through tools such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom, transitioning staff to laptops and equipping them with monitors and other equipment. This included the completion of the new data centre in the Rhondda Fach.

The Service Director advised that the Hwb Schools Transformation has also been supported, refreshing the school's infrastructure and delivering new platforms, with all being completed by May 2021. Supporting digitally excluded learners has also delivered approximately 5,500 devices.

- Supporting Citizens

Digital has been supporting the local communities to enable residents to access a range of support packages and digital processes such as the establishment of the Community Resilience Centres, providing tablets to the elderly and children's homes to help maintain contact and supporting service recovery such as the Library click and collect service.

- Regional Collaborative Working

The Service Director acknowledged the alignment within Cwm Taf Morgannwg and in some instances the wider close working relationship with Powys Council which have enabled an effective support to key services such as Track, Trace and Protect and mass testing and vaccination programmes through the deployment of digital infrastructure. The Council's Contact Centre has remained at the heart of providing guidance and support to residents and remain at the forefront of the vaccination programme and bookings across Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

The Service Director advised that the Service Area has successfully bid for a digital transformation grant from Welsh Government.

- Digital – The Next Steps

The Service Director advised that a new Digital Strategy for 2021 would be brought before the Finance & Performance Committee in due course.

The Service Director invited general questions from the Committee.

A large number of positive comments were made by Members in respect of the support provided to Elected Members by the Council's ICT & Digital Service, specifically the support in relation to the roll out of virtual meetings. Committee also acknowledged the support packages provided across the Council to schools and officers at the beginning of the pandemic by ICT & Digital Services in quick response to the Covid-19 pandemic and to the ongoing virtual support to elected members.

In response to a query as to whether the opportunity to undertake training on the Zoom platform had been afforded to all Members, the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications advised that in June and July 2020 all Members were offered training via open door sessions and 'mock' meetings, in addition to the smaller sessions and follow up one to one sessions which were tailored specifically to the needs of individual members with the support of the

ICT & Digital teams. He advised that further training would be undertaken in the new municipal year when the live webcasting facility is rolled out on an incremental basis to allow for experience to be gained with the live system operations.

Members discussed the compatibility of their current devices with the webcasting functionality and the requirements of Chairs and Vice Chairs when hosting meetings, this was an area to be reviewed in due course to ensure they are fit for purpose and suitable for Members' needs. The Service Director ICT & Digital Services wished to formally recognise the collaboration between the Council's ICT & Digital Services and Democratic Services and Human Resources which enabled the packages of training and support to be provided to all Elected Members during the pandemic and the initial roll out of the Zoom platform.

The co-opted Member present asked for clarification regarding the HWB platform which is hosted by Welsh Government, specifically about the local resilience and future long-term plan for Hwb. The Service Director ICT & Digital Services clarified that the Hwb is hosted and managed by Welsh Government which the local authority is able to plug into, but it is for the local authority to ensure the infrastructure is resilient and fit for purpose for local schools and across the local authority. The Service Director agreed that Hwb has been a very successful digital platform for schools throughout the pandemic and advised that he is working in collaboration with the Director of Education and Inclusion Services to develop a digital strategy for education and schools across the county borough which will set out the long term vision.

A query was raised in respect of the unsatisfactory quality and content of the food parcels distributed to elderly and vulnerable residents, as referred to in the presentation as part of the support packages to residents and businesses. The Director of Legal Services pointed out the differences between the Welsh Government food parcels and the initial problems encountered with their content as they were distributed by a third party and those delivered by the council which have been undertaken in coordination with the service users. He spoke of the shopping that had also been provided for those elderly and vulnerable residents as part of the support packages offered by the council.

The Chair thanked the Service Director ICT & Digital Services for his presentation and acknowledged that there would be future presentations to the scrutiny committee with further progress updates.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the information within the presentation which outlined the improving, delivering and supporting services over the last 12 months by the ICT & Digital Services.

44 Tourism Strategy Update

The Director of Prosperity & Development provided a verbal update on the status of the draft Tourism Strategy for Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and since the last report to committee in December 2020.

The Director advised that due to Covid-19 restrictions, the consultation process has been delayed but assured Members that at the earliest convenience the consultation would commence. The Director outlined some of the key projects which have been developed such as the RCT Tourism Hub, established for any group or organisation invested in the visitor economy in RCT to sign up to, free

of charge, to receive updates on training, guidance, opportunities for funding, best practice approaches and will provide an opportunity for all involved to share views and communicate. A Strategic Steering Group is being set up with the key players from the tourism industry such as Zip World, Penderyn Whiskey Distillery, Edwards Coaches to use their expertise and knowledge and to get feedback from the visitors to RCT to be able to identify the successes and those areas requiring further development.

The Director advised that consultants are currently running a 'bed stock' survey amongst the 65 major accommodation providers, the results of which will be shared with the scrutiny committee in the future. There has been an increase in the numbers of planning applications for a range of accommodation developments such as glamping which demonstrates the 'buy in' to the tourism strategy. Further to other queries, the Director confirmed that further information around the detail of the bed stock survey would be provided to committee at a future date.

The Director of Prosperity & Development was pleased to announce that Zip World Tower is ready to open as soon as Welsh Government announce that it is safe to do so. He also referred to Dare Valley Country Park where work on the Gravity Family Bike Park is nearing completion and the new look Café is completed. In conclusion, committee was advised that material for the marketing of RCT as a destination and when the time is appropriate will be ready to promote and progress.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions of the Director in relation to the issues raised.

The co-opted member asked what measures RCT has in place to track the queries on social media regarding accommodation around the Zip World attraction and direct them appropriately. He also raised a query regarding the location of the electric charging points across RCT to encourage visitors to the area.

The Director advised that electric charging points across RCT is a subject of a separate report outlining a strategy for delivering the electric charging points for both visitors and residents in RCT. With regards to the promotion of accommodation across the county borough, the Strategic Manager, Prosperity & Development explained that work is ongoing to contact all 65 of the key accommodation providers and plans are in place to set up an accommodation sector working group within RCT to drive forward future provision.

Following a query as to whether there are appropriate sites available in the area to attract the large hotel chains and private hospitality businesses, the Director confirmed that the council is exploring the opportunity and feasibility for a future hotel development on the former Bingo Hall site in Pontypridd, and that Officers are currently engaging the commercial sector in relation to this aspiration. With regards to existing attractions, such as Ynysangharad War Memorial Park, it was reported that with Heritage Lottery Funding and Valleys Regional Park Funding, work to upgrade the park has been ongoing to improve the accessibility of toilets, improve the bandstand area, progress the community facilities and repair the Marks and Spencer's Bridge, soon to be completed. The Director acknowledged the volume of work that the Council's Planning and Development Department is receiving through applications and developments as an encouraging sign for the local economy. He assured committee that measures

and resources are well placed to manage the volume of applications.

Following the discussions, it was **RESOLVED** to note the verbal update as delivered by the Director of Prosperity & Development and Strategic Manager, Prosperity & Development and that a future progress would be reported to committee at a future date.

45 Chair's Review and Close

The Vice Chair thanked Members for their attendance and summarised the key points raised during the meeting.

Members were advised that the next Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee would be held on the 13th April 2021 and the items to be considered at the meeting were announced in line with the forward work programme.

This meeting closed at 18.07

**Cllr G Thomas
Chairman.**



RHONDDA CYNON TAF



The Employment and Skills Strategy 2019/21

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be?
- How do we get there?
- Outcomes and impacts
- Actions

Where were we?

- The rate of economic inactivity for people aged 16 – 64 years had reduced steadily over the previous 3 years and in July 2019 stood at 35,200.
- Annual unemployment figures based on the previous full financial year showed a slight increase to 6,800. The July figure was 4,385 (2.9%) which was consistent with the average for Wales.
- The rate of unemployment in the age range that was higher than the comparative data for Wales was that for young people aged 18-24.
- 16,100 people of working age in RCT had no qualifications (Dec 2018)



Where do we want to be?

We want to live in a community where:

- all people have access to the support they need to develop their skills and knowledge so that they can achieve their potential and live healthy and rewarding lives;
- everyone who wants to work is supported to gain and stay in employment;
- those who want to progress in work are able to benefit from opportunities to further develop their skills and gain promotion;
- there is access to training and learning throughout a person's life as a commitment to lifelong learning is essential for prosperity.



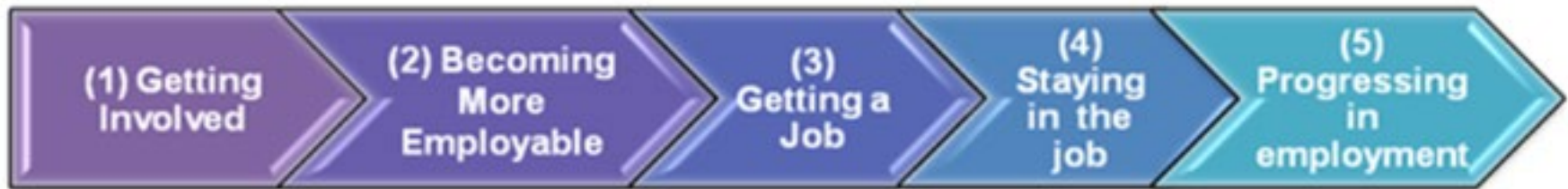
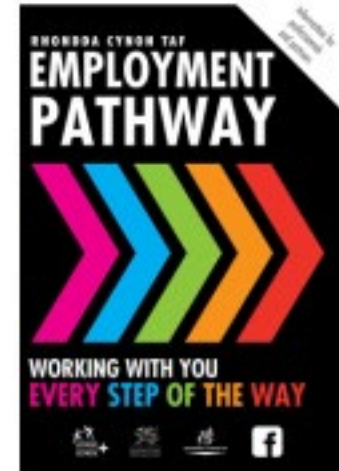
RHONDDA CYNON TAF

How do we get there?

Key priorities:

1. Work with partners to maximise the resources available in Rhondda Cynon Taf for skills development and employment support so that more people are supported to:
 - gain skills for life
 - gain skills for employment
 - secure and stay, and progress in paid employment
2. Work with employers to identify and respond to current and projected skills gaps;
3. Prepare for the impact of Brexit by exploring alternative options for supporting employment programmes in the county e.g. harnessing community benefits to better support the development of employment opportunities for residents.

Delivering on priorities



Provision

- Adult Community Learning Programme
- Communities for Work Plus
- Employment Routes
- Communities for Work (ESF)
- Inspire2Work (16-24 years) (ESF)
- Staying Well@Work (ESF)
- DWP Kickstart Scheme
- Creative and cultural programmes
- Youth programmes to address the needs of young people
- Education, Employment and Training programmes – traineeships, apprenticeships, graduate schemes, support for education

Delivering on priorities – CfW, CfW+, I2W employment support programmes

Outcome	Up to end Dec 2020
Clients engaged	5952
Entering employment	1667
Gaining a qualification	2040

CfW / CfW+ Community Engagement Plan	2019/20
Number of partners referring in	51
Total number of referrals	3780
Number of jobs fairs (including sector-specific e.g. care sector)	9
Number of start and finish engagement activities	1214
Number of regular activities: Work Club, Digital Fridays	1410
Social media followers	3692

Illustration of Covid impact on CfW+ Delivery

Outcome	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Clients engaged	1144	918	478
Clients entering employment	393	434	201
Gaining a vocational qualification	406	303	115

Impact of Covid on Legacy Delivery

Legacy Fund	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
More positive about mental well-being	920	957	0
Increased physical activity	69	82	0
Employment support from Job Club	1385	1491	524
Gaining basic digital skills	267	330	0
Know how to access support	428	398	212
Feel part of the community	364	360	185
Gained one or more qualifications		240	25

Delivery during Lockdown – Support for learners and jobseekers (1)

- Online provision for courses – expanded access to employability provision through a partnership with the Digital College.
- Remote telephone provision or through Teams for job support/mentoring.
- Loan of tablets and computers to customers/ learners to enable them to continue to engage with us.
- Well-being champions and sessions to support tutors and learners
- Mental health support developed with partner organisations.
- The Council's Graduate and apprenticeship schemes continued to offer opportunities.
- Stay Well @ Work – support for employees.

Delivery during Lockdown – Support for vulnerable residents

Staff supported residents through community hubs. Between April and the end of August 2020 3,333 individual residents were supported:

Support required	Individuals requesting support
Friendly phone call	820
Help understanding advice	91
Picking up shopping	1,971
Picking up prescriptions	1,524
Employment/financial advice	85
Dog walking	112
Posting mail	138
Using the internet	39
Other	2,619

Support for employers

- Employment Routes programme – developed in partnership with employers
- Successfully applied to be a Gateway employer (intermediary) on the UK Government's Kickstart scheme
- Appointed additional Employer Liaison Officer roles, one of whom is based with the Regeneration team
- Extension provided by WEFO to the Stay Well@Work project that supports businesses and their employees
- Establishment of an internal Business, Skills and Employment Group

Impact of provision on customers

Employment support – Nicola's journey (video clip)

Feedback from Employers

Looking ahead - Challenges

The strategy and Action plan are due to be reviewed at the end of 2021 and a new plan developed.

There are 4 major challenges currently:

- The loss of European Social Funds which support a number of significant employability programmes and uncertainty of WG CfW+ and Legacy Fund grants continuing beyond March 2022;
- The ending of the furlough scheme in April;
- The longer-term impact of Covid-19 on individuals, businesses, and communities;
- National government programmes potentially affecting local delivery e.g. DWP 'JETs' and 'RESTART' commissioned provision.



The impact of Covid on unemployment

	Total Claimants for out-of-work benefits	18-24	18-21	25-49	50+
December 2018	2,930	705	450	1,505	715
December 2019	4,750	1,170	730	2,540	1,035
December 2020	9,090	2,180	1,270	4,960	1,935

Looking ahead - opportunities

- The positive impact of the development of community hubs on access to learning and employment support
- New developments – Canolfan Calon Taf
- Increased WG investment in adult learning and employment support
- Regionalisation of Adult Community Learning Partnership
- Improvements in IT enables staff to engage remotely with learners/jobseeker
- The UK Government's Community Renewal Fund and Shared Prosperity Fund
- Opportunities through CCR and VRP

Conclusion

- Services adapted their delivery well to meet the new circumstances.
- Services are continuing to work with a wide range of partners to support residents and businesses.
- Blended provision of support is expected to continue going forward and has attracted new learners.
- Outcomes for the main employability programmes have recovered swiftly and the vast majority of targets are likely to be met within the necessary timescale.
- Some areas will take longer to recover – adult community learning.
- There will be further challenges during 2021/22 but working together across the Council and with partners will ensure we can provide the best support possible to those who need it.

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/21

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13th April 2021

AGENDA ITEM 5
COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT – 31 st DECEMBER 2020 QUARTER 3

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To introduce the Quarter 3 Council Performance Report (to 31st December 2020).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Scrutinise the Council's financial and operational performance position as at 31st December 2020 (Quarter 3).
- 2.2 Consider whether they wish to scrutinise in greater depth any matters contained in the report.

3. QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 3.1 The Council's Quarter 3 Performance Report (to 31st December 2020) was presented to the [Cabinet meeting of the 25th March 2021](#) and is replicated for the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee's review at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 The report contains revenue and capital budget performance; Treasury Management prudential indicators; Organisational Health information including staff turnover, sickness and Council strategic risks; and Corporate Plan priority action plan updates (including investment updates).
- 3.3 In addition, Table 1 signposts a selection of other reports presented to Committees during Quarter 3 with the aim of providing Members with as full a picture as possible of business activity during the period in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan priority areas. Members will note that the information included in Table 1 is not an exhaustive list.

Table 1 – Other reports presented during Quarter 3

Council Wide		
Date of meeting	Committee	Report
13-Oct	Cabinet	Representations, Compliments and Complaints Procedures Annual Report 2019/20
21-Oct	Council	Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 To 2023/24 (also reported to Cabinet on 13th October 2020)
		Council Tax Discounts – Prescribed Class of Dwellings
		The Council's Draft Corporate Performance Report 2020/21
16-Nov	Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group	Local Procurement of Supplies and Services
17-Nov	Cabinet	Council Tax Base For 2021/22
		Brexit

Corporate Plan Priority - PEOPLE		
Date of meeting	Committee	Report
13-Oct	Cabinet	Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Annual Plan 2020/21
04-Nov	Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee	Children's Services: Recovery and Contingency Planning
		Care Inspectorate Wales – Inspection Outcomes
17-Nov	Cabinet	Draft Director of Social Services Annual Report 2019/20
		Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2019/20
		Cwm Taf Morgannwg Carers Annual Report for 2019/20
01-Dec	Corporate Parenting Board	Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP) Cymru Update
		Miskin and the Therapeutic Families Team Annual Reports
01-Dec	Special Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Modernisation of the Council's Residential Care Home Service for Older People
02-Dec	Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee	Integrated Wellbeing Support for Children and Young People in RCT
03-Dec	Cabinet	Modernisation of the Council's Residential Care Home Service for Older People
08-Dec	Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Adult Services: Covid-19 - Response and Winter Planning

Corporate Plan Priority - PLACES

Date of meeting	Committee	Report
13-Oct	Cabinet	Active Travel: Review of Integrated Network Map
14-Oct	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Consideration of the Impact of Flooding in RCT during 2020
12-Nov	Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee	Report on the Impact of Covid 19 on Recycling and Residual Waste Performance for the First Six Months of 2020/2021
16-Nov	Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group	Nature's Assets
		Reducing the Use of Single Use Plastics in all Council Contracts and Premises
17-Nov	Cabinet	Highways, Transportation and Strategic Projects - Supplementary Capital Programme 2020/21
25-Nov	Council	Flooding in RCT during 2020
09-Dec	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Position Statement – Scrutiny of Flooding in RCT during 2020
18-Dec	Cabinet	A4119 Ely Valley Road Dualling – Llantrisant Business Park to Coed Ely Roundabouts
		Review of the Council's Response to Storm Dennis

Corporate Plan Priority - PROSPERITY

Date of meeting	Committee	Report
22-Oct	Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee	Update of The Council's Latest Position In Response To Covid-19 from an Education Prospective
06-Nov	Community Liaison Committee	Community Liaison Committee Update Report
		Community Infrastructure Levy ('Cil') – Cil 123 List
16-Nov	Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group	Strategic and Local Development Plans - Their Policies and Commitments to Ensuring Housing, Transportation and Business Infrastructure Minimises the Carbon Footprint
17-Nov	Cabinet	Community Infrastructure Levy 'Cil'
		21st Century Schools Capital Programme – Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar
18-Nov	Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee	Movement of Pupils in Welsh Medium Schools
		Central South Consortium Blended and Distance Learning Offer
16-Dec	Central South Consortium Joint Education Service	Central South Consortium Joint Education Service 16-Dec-2020 Papers
18-Dec	Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Overview And Scrutiny Committee	Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee 18-Dec-2020 Papers
21-Dec	Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee	Draft RCT Tourism Strategy Update

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

13th April 2021

COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT – 31st December 2020 (Quarter 3)

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION

Item: 5

Background Papers

None.

Officer to contact: Paul Griffiths



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

25th March 2021

COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT – 31st December 2020 (Quarter 3)

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

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

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an overview of the Council's performance, both from a financial and operational perspective, based on the first nine months of this financial year (to the 31st December 2020).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

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

Revenue

- 2.2 Note and agree the General Fund revenue outturn position of the Council as at the 31st December 2020 (Section 2 of the Executive Summary) including the on-going Welsh Government Covid-19 funding to support service delivery.

Capital

- 2.3 Note the capital outturn position of the Council as at the 31st December 2020 (Sections 3a – e of the Executive Summary).
- 2.4 Note the details of the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators as at the 31st December 2020 (Section 3f of the Executive Summary).

Corporate Plan Priorities

- 2.5 Note the Quarter 3 progress updates for the Council's agreed Corporate Plan priorities (Sections 5 a – c of the Executive Summary).
- 2.6 Note the progress update to enhance the Council's short term and long term response to extreme weather events (Section 6 of the Executive Summary).

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To agree the Council's financial and operational performance position as at the 31st December 2020 to enable elected Members and other stakeholders to scrutinise the performance of the Council.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 This report provides Members with the third update of the Council's financial and operational performance position for the financial year ending the 31st March 2021.
- 4.2 The aim of the report is to bring together the Council's performance into an Executive Summary and make available more detailed information to the reader through electronic links. Information contained in the Executive Summary includes financial data and progress against our Corporate Plan priorities, and exceptions are highlighted within the detailed sections to ensure that elected Members and other readers are able to quickly identify the key issues. The report also sets out a position statement of progress in implementing the recommendations agreed by Cabinet on the 18th December 2020 to enhance the Council's short term and long term response to extreme weather events.
- 4.3 As Members will be aware from the first and second quarter Performance Reports for 2020/21, the Covid-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented and widespread challenges in the delivery of Council Services alongside significant additional cost and income losses that have, to date, been funded by Welsh Government. The third quarter Performance Report continues to be set within this context and further information in this regard is included within the Executive Summary.

5.0 QUARTER 3 REPORT

- 5.1 The Quarter 3 report is attached and comprises:
- **Executive Summary** – setting out, at a glance, the overall performance of the Council as at Quarter 3 (i.e. 31st December 2020);

- **Revenue Monitoring** – sections 2a – e setting out the detailed projected financial spend against budget across our Revenue Budget with exceptions highlighted;
- **Capital Monitoring** – sections 3a – e setting out capital spend across our Capital Programme with exceptions highlighted and section 3f covering Prudential Indicators;
- **Organisational Health** – includes information on turnover, sickness absence, organisational health related investment areas and Council strategic risks;
- **Corporate Plan Priorities** – three action plans (Sections 5a – c) setting out progress updates for the priorities of People, Places and Prosperity; and
- **Enhancing the Council's response to extreme weather events** - Section 6 setting out progress made to implement the recommendations agreed by Cabinet on 18th December 2020.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

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

7.0 CONSULTATION

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

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

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

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

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

11.0 CONCLUSION

11.1 This report sets out the financial and operational performance of the Council as at Quarter 3 2020/21, that is, 31st December 2020.

11.2 The third quarter revenue budget position is projecting a £1.049M overspend, this representing an improved picture compared to quarters 1 and 2 and reflects the continuation of key pressures primarily within Children's and Adult Services. The position is also set in the unprecedented context of Covid-19 and takes into account additional Welsh Government funding received for the first nine months of the year, and that forecasted to be received for the remainder of the year, in respect of additional expenditure incurred and income loss as a result of the pandemic. As part of the Council's robust service and financial management arrangements, work is continuing across all services to contribute to bringing the financial position closer in line with budget; refresh financial forecasts for the full year as updated information becomes available; and engagement with Welsh Government to highlight the importance of providing additional funding to meet on-going permanent cost pressures.

11.3 Capital investment as at 31st December 2020 is £57.483M, with projects across the programme continuing to progress during Quarter 3, taking account of Covid-19 restrictions and safety requirements.

11.4 Good progress has been made across the Council's three Corporate Plan priorities of People, Places and Prosperity during quarter 3, with a continued focus on providing essential support to residents and businesses to help counter the significant impact Covid-19 is having on local communities and, alongside this, progressing the delivery of major projects.

11.5 The first progress update on the delivery of recommendations to enhance the Council's response to extreme weather events shows a positive position, with key actions being taken forward that provide a clear direction for the future.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee: Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee

Contact Officer: Paul Griffiths

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

25th March 2021

COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT – 31st December 2020 (Quarter 3)

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

Item: 15

Background Papers

Officer to contact: Paul Griffiths

**COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT
QUARTER 3 2020/21
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Contents

Section 1 – INTRODUCTION

Section 2 – REVENUE BUDGET

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

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

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

Section 3 – CAPITAL PROGRAMME

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

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

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

Section 4 – ORGANISATIONAL HEALTH

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

Section 5 – CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan priority progress updates – Quarter 3 position statements are included within the following sections:

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

Section 6 – ENHANCING THE COUNCIL’S RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

Progress update on the implementation of recommendations agreed by Cabinet on 18th December 2020 to enhance the Council’s response to extreme weather events.

Section 1 – INTRODUCTION

The Quarter 1 and 2 Performance Reports set out the context Council services were operating within further to the introduction of national lockdown measures in March 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This Executive Summary, bringing together and summarising the Council's financial and operational performance position as at 31st December 2020, continues to be set within the context of Council service delivery operating within a very challenging and unprecedented environment as a result of the on-going impact of Covid-19. This has required the Council, like all local authorities in Wales, to continue to adapt and change the way it provides services, many in partnership with others, to help meet the needs of residents and businesses.

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

Section 2 – REVENUE BUDGET

Revenue Budget Performance

Service Area	2020/21 – as at 31 st December 2020 (Quarter 3)		
	Full Year Budget £M	Projected Expenditure as at Quarter 3 £M	Variance Over / (Under) £M
Education & Inclusion Services (2a)	191.845	191.676	(0.169)
Community & Children's Services (2b)	159.852	160.981	1.129
Chief Executive (2c)	30.644	30.208	(0.436)
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services (2d)	55.167	55.753	0.586
Sub Total	437.508	438.618	1.110
Authority Wide Budgets (2e)	71.239	71.178	(0.061)
Grand Total	508.747	509.796	1.049

Welsh Government Covid-19 funding incorporated within the full year projected position at Quarter 3

The full year revenue budget variance, projected as at 31st December 2020, is a £1.049M overspend. This forecasted position assumes that additional costs and income losses will be offset by additional funding being made available by Welsh Government to all local authorities in Wales. Specific financial assistance is being provided to local authorities for additional expenditure incurred as a result of Covid-19 (for example, additional costs incurred in respect of housing / homelessness, free school meal payments, Adult Social Services, staff cover due to absence / shielding and increased demand for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme) and also income loss where there has been a need to temporarily suspend or reduce service provision (for example, Leisure Centres and the provision of school meals).

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

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

Service Area	Actual Additional Costs / Income Loss Recovered (Quarters 1 - 3)	Projected Additional Costs / Income Losses (Quarter 4)	Total Full Year Additional Costs / Income Losses (Actual and Projected)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education & Inclusion Services	-9,699	-2,754	-12,453
Community & Children's Services	-15,827	-5,671	-21,498
Chief Executive	-1,840	-685	-2,525
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	-5,124	-566	-5,690
Authority Wide	-3,497	-346	-3,843
TOTAL	-35,987	-10,022	-46,009

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

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

Revenue budget variances at Quarter 3

1. Community and Children's Services

ADULT SERVICES

- Long Term Care & Support (£0.593M overspend);
- Commissioned Services (£0.634M overspend);
- Provider Services (£0.391M overspend); and
- Short Term Intervention Services (£0.840M underspend).

CHILDREN SERVICES

- Safeguarding & Support (including Children Looked After) (£2.497M overspend);
- Early Intervention (£0.531M underspend);
- Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service (£0.214M underspend); and
- Intensive Intervention (£0.946M underspend).

TRANSFORMATION

- Group & Transformation Management (£0.057M overspend); and
- Service Improvement (£0.084M underspend).

PUBLIC HEALTH AND PROTECTION

- Community Services (£0.247M underspend); and
- Leisure, Parks & Countryside and Community Facilities (£0.104M underspend).

2. Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services

FRONTLINE SERVICES

- Transportation (£0.150M underspend);
- Facilities Cleaning (£0.093M underspend);
- Waste Services (£0.689M overspend);
- Fleet Management (£0.109M underspend); and
- Group Directorate (£ 0.053M overspend).

3. Chief Executive

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

- Human Resources (£0.125M underspend);
- Legal Services (£0.095M underspend);
- Finance & Digital Services (£0.073M underspend); and
- Corporate Estates (£0.097M underspend).

4. Authority Wide Budgets

- Capital Financing (£0.250M underspend); and
- Miscellaneous (£0.193M overspend).

Earmark Reserve Update

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

Section 3 – CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Council and its contractors / suppliers have continued to build on the work undertaken in quarters 1 and 2 to ensure safe working arrangements and, in doing so, enabled the on-going delivery of capital programme projects during quarter 3.

Capital Programme Budget

Service Area	2020/21 - as at 31 st December 2020	
	Capital Budget £M	Actual Expenditure £M
Chief Executive (3a)	3.136	1.026
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services (3b)	76.445	41.651
Education & Inclusion Services (3c)	20.992	12.975
Community & Children's Services (3d)	7.579	1.831
Total	108.152	57.483

Key Capital Variances at Quarter 3

- Re-profiling of a number of projects to reflect changes in the total cost of schemes and revised delivery timescales.
- Grant approvals introduced into the Capital Programme: Welsh Government (WG) Valleys Regional Park Discovery Gateways Capital Grant (£0.589M); WG Valleys Taskforce RCT+ Empty Homes Grant (£2.000M); WG Valleys Taskforce Regional (£0.299M); WG Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant (£0.609M); WG 21st Century Schools (£2.399M); All Wales Play Opportunity Grant (£0.248M); Integrated Care Fund (£0.339M); and WG Circular Economy (£1.526M).

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

Prudential Indicators

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

Section 4 – ORGANISATIONAL HEALTH

- **Turnover**

Service Area	2020/21		2019/20		2019/20	
	As at 31 st December 2020		As at 31 st December 2019		As at 31 st March 2020	
	Staff Nos.	% Turnover	Staff Nos.	% Turnover	Staff Nos.	% Turnover
Turnover – Council Wide	10,881	5.52	10,555	8.32	10,670	9.85
Community & Children’s Services	2,974	5.01	2,858	6.58	2,883	8.50
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	930	4.84	952	5.36	964	8.40
Education & Inclusion Services	1,257	5.57	1,263	7.13	1,265	8.14
<u>Schools</u>	<u>4,893</u>	<u>6.27</u>	<u>4,785</u>	<u>10.41</u>	<u>4,855</u>	<u>11.64</u>
Primary	3,058	6.05	3,026	8.79	3,066	9.95
Secondary	1,835	6.65	1,759	13.19	1,789	14.53
Chief Executive’s Division	827	3.63	697	7.32	703	8.11

- **Sickness Absence**

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

Service Area	2020/21	2019/20	
	As at 31 st December 2020 %	As at 31 st December 2019 %	As at 31 st March 2020 %
% days lost to sickness absence – Council Wide	3.84	3.98	4.16
Community & Children’s Services	5.96	5.53	5.59
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	5.03	4.44	4.74
Education & Inclusion Services	3.00	3.49	3.70
<u>Schools</u>	<u>2.78</u>	<u>3.35</u>	<u>3.56</u>
Primary	3.07	3.57	3.79
Secondary	2.31	2.97	3.16
Chief Executive’s Division	2.45	2.35	2.39

For a more detailed breakdown of Quarter 3 2020/21 sickness absence information, [click here](#).

Organisation Health related investment areas

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

- **Council Strategic Risks**

The Council's Quarter 3 Strategic Risk Register can be viewed by clicking [here](#), with specific updates included setting out the implications to date of Covid-19 and the work being undertaken / planned to mitigate the impact as much as possible.

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

Section 5 – CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan priority action plans for 2020/21 were reported to and approved by full Council on the 21st October 2020 covering the three priorities of People, Places and Prosperity. A summary of the progress made across the three priorities as at 31st December 2020 is set out in Sections 5a – c and electronic links have been included to each approved action plan, providing more detailed information on progress.

Corporate Plan Priority Progress Update

- **PEOPLE** (Section 5a)

PEOPLE – Are independent, healthy and successful

Summary of progress to 31st December 2020

Assessments continue to take a person-centred approach as far as practicable, although our focus will be on those with greatest need. Under Alert Level 4 restrictions, there has been a need to return to doing more work over the phone and, for a lot of people, we can do everything we need to do in this way. However, as the pandemic continues, we experience growing pressures as more people need care and support, and workloads across Adult Services remain high and caseloads become increasingly more complex. There remains a waiting list of cases to be allocated across Care and Support and in the ACE (Occupational Therapy) Team. Additional external support continues to be commissioned to address increased levels of assessment and review workloads across Care and Support.

We continue to prioritise hospital discharges and the period since the beginning of December 2020 has continued to be demanding, although the position is now starting to stabilise. Care homes are supporting the admission of patients from hospital, wherever possible and if they can provide the appropriate care safely; however, on-going Covid-19 outbreaks and the subsequent Public Health Wales (PHW) Covid free restrictions placed on admissions is limiting care home placements (in particular, nursing and dementia) resulting in some discharges taking longer to complete. From 26th October 2020 to 7th January 2021, Adult Services supported 191 in-patient discharges and 155 Stay Well @ Home discharges. The success of this response is testament to the strength of the established partnership with CTMUHB and our providers.

The Cwrt yr Orsaf development in Pontypridd continues to make progress towards completion in Summer 2021, despite the significant challenges faced by Contractors due to Covid-19. Proposals to create a new 60-unit extra care housing scheme in Porth in line with the Council's strategy to modernise options for older people and deliver extra care housing as part of the redevelopment of the Dan y Mynydd Care Home were agreed by the Council's Cabinet on 3rd December 2020.

We continue to work in partnership with housing providers to deliver modern additional supported housing accommodation for vulnerable people. The Crown Avenue (Treorchy) refurbishment was completed in early October 2020 and people will move in from January 2021, a slight delay to ensure the installation of telecare equipment at the scheme. Construction of supported housing accommodation at Oxford Street (Mountain Ash) has also made good progress and is due to be completed in spring 2021. Assessments of new tenants will start in the new year.

The Council along with its regional Health and local authority partners have recently started to work with our commissioned care providers to plan and support the roll out of asymptomatic lateral flow testing to frontline social care staff, along with the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccination programme.

PEOPLE – Are independent, healthy and successful

The majority of care homes have been subject to PHW Covid free restrictions since 20th December 2020, resulting in limited opportunity to provide outdoors visits since the start of the new Alert Level 4 restrictions. However, where possible, some outdoor “window visits” have taken place in line with risk assessments and PHW and Welsh Government guidance. The Council and care home providers recognise the importance of visiting to residents and their families, and we will continue to review risk assessments and arrangements for visiting in light of the current and any new guidance. In the interim, the Council and care home providers support opportunities, where possible, with virtual visits and calls through various forms of technology to ensure residents remain connected with family members.

Whilst the majority of our day and respite services remain temporarily closed, we have continued to support our most vulnerable people, assessed as critical due to their own or carer’s needs, in their own homes and in the community.

We restarted full operation of the Stay Well@Home 2 service (7 days a week, including out of hours) from 6th July 2020 and this was extended to Merthyr Tydfil from 20th July 2020. Adult Services and our partners are delivering winter plans, with the occurrence of Covid-19 representing an unprecedented position for health and social - Stay Well @Home 2 will be key to reducing unnecessary attendance to hospital, in particular by the Welsh Ambulance Service, by supporting people to remain safely at home.

We reinstated our seven Community Resilience Centres following the introduction of local and national restrictions. From 1st April 2020 to 31st December 2020, a total of 3,393 individual residents have been supported, for example, with shopping, picking up prescriptions, friendly phone calls, dog walking, employment and benefits advice etc.

Performance in tracing cases and their contacts remains very high, this being in the context of a significant surge in cases in December 2020. Staffing capacity for the service has been increased, with staffing resources secured from all three Local Authorities in December to support the change in demand; the Service coped well during this period and ensured appropriate training and completion of workloads. On-going focus is being afforded to ensuring the quality of data within the CRM system and processes are being developed for different settings e.g. care homes and schools, to assist the staff in decision making on any action required.

The Welsh Government funded Coronavirus Childcare Assistance Scheme (C-CAS) has been delivered by the Childcare Team within Education and Inclusion Services. Places were allocated based on the submission of a successful application and children were placed with childcare settings that had remained open. The scheme ran from 1st April to 31st August 2020, with over 750 children offered placements and using 102 childcare providers. Flying Start childcare resumed in September 2020 and has remained fully operational since. Settings are managing staffing challenges well with minimal impact on availability of provision

We continue to encourage residents to lead active and healthy lifestyles and maintain their mental wellbeing. We introduced online exercise classes via our Leisure For Life App in March 2020 and these continue to be made available. We also introduced some open-air classes, utilising our parks and 3G pitches, to allow customers to exercise in a safe manner outdoors in line with social distancing requirements. Our Sports Development Team also delivered safe, socially distanced exercise opportunities in the summer HUB schools. As at 10th August 2020, gym facilities re-opened in line with social distancing and public health guidelines. This was followed by the introduction of indoor fitness classes on 17th August and swimming pools from 24th August. However, during the firebreak lockdown in October and following the implementation of the Alert Level 4 restrictions on the 20th December 2020, gyms were closed

PEOPLE – Are independent, healthy and successful

and indoor and outdoor classes were cancelled in line with WG restrictions on meeting people outside of your household. In addition, support is also being provided to sports clubs and organisations to access the Sport Wales Be Active Fund and all messages are in line with Welsh Government restrictions e.g. exercising alone or with your household during Level 4 restrictions.

A range of weekly wellbeing classes are provided online as part of our Adult Education programme, including Aromatherapy, Singing for wellbeing and lung health, All About Me and Crafts for Wellbeing. A variety of wellbeing self-help videos have also been provided through our social media platforms, including support for individuals with anxiety. Learners on our courses have also received wellbeing calls from course tutors. An online programme of arts activity and performances has been curated and is available through the theatres' Facebook pages and RCT Theatres' YouTube page

Children's Services continues to work to Welsh Government statutory guidance, subject to risk assessment and physical distancing requirements, adapting methods of service delivery as necessary. This guidance was revised in December 2020 to take account of the Alert Level 4 national coronavirus restrictions. Consequently, Children's Services are now once again focusing activity on the four critical areas of work previously identified: access to services and family support, safeguarding duties, children looked after and youth offending. Priority is being given to safely visiting and hearing the voices of children most at risk (children on the child protection register) and those looked after where there is potential placement breakdown or those where input is critical to maintain them at home. We continue to look after children in both residential and foster care, prioritising children and carers most in need of support. We have commissioned UKICS to increase social work capacity in our Intensive Intervention Services. Child Protection Conferences and Children Looked After reviews are now taking place virtually attended by partners and family members where possible.

Youth Engagement & Participation Service (YEPS) staff remain in secondary schools and the support for learners pathway is still in place to ensure those young people who are struggling to return to school have the support to do/ re-engage with school and learning. Proactive street based youth work provision was established in October, with all YEPS staff re-directed to providing information, advice, guidance and emotional support to young people in communities 5 nights a week. In the 8 weeks between October and the end of December (excluding the 2 week fire-break period) 2,699 contacts were made with young people across the County Borough. The Virtual Youth Offer remains available including virtual youth clubs, live Q&A sessions and live chat sessions involving BAROD and Sexual Health Nurses from the local health board.

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

Investment Priority Progress Update – Quarter 3

Progress in our Investment Priorities – PEOPLE		
Investment Area	Investment Value¹ £M	Quarter 3 Update
Leisure Centre Changing Rooms	0.088	This investment funding relates to works at Sobell Leisure Centre for changing room refurbishment and was completed in August 2020.
Extracare Housing	6.974	Works at the former Maesyffynnon Home for the Elderly site were completed in early 2020 and the first residents moved into the new facility in May 2020. Works commenced at the Pontypridd site in July 2019 and is progressing well, and are due to complete in 2021. Proposals for the extracare housing scheme in Porth were agreed by the Council's Cabinet on 3 rd December 2020 and consideration of development proposals for Treorchy and Mountain Ash schemes are on-going.
Tackling Poverty Fund	0.300	This investment funding is to help address areas where there are high levels of poverty (including fuel poverty) to increase the disposable income of households, for example, by supporting households to reduce energy bills, helping to overcome barriers to find employment.
Total	7.362	

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

o **PLACES** (Section 5b)

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

Summary of progress to 31st December 2020

Street cleaning and waste services continue with normal working and this has included grass cutting and fly-tipping activities with Covid-19 safety measures incorporated within operational practices. The Enforcement Team continue to provide additional Covid-19 related support e.g. marshalling at Covid-19 test centres and supporting Public Health with Covid-19 compliance measures and enforcement. Community Recycling Centres continued to operate within required guidelines. Over the Christmas/New Year period, recycling rates significantly increased to 69.08% (67.09% last year) with additional resources deployed to support recycling performance, for example, Cleansing & Parks teams undertaking Christmas tree collections.

The Highways Improvement Programme for 2020/21 continued as planned during quarter 3. Completed projects include St Albans bridge replacement, Rhydyfelin culverts refurbishment and Gwawr Street retaining wall. Work continues on repairs as a result of Storm Dennis with good progress made on Tylorstown Tip and Ynysangharad Park footbridge.

Following the return to school in September, our Transportation Service has been managing the safe delivery of the home to school transport provision within required Welsh Government and Public Health Wales guidelines.

With regard to air quality monitoring, provisional data indicates a positive decrease in nitrogen dioxide levels particularly in urban areas. It should be noted that it could be some time before the immediate and longer term impacts of Covid-19 travel restrictions are fully understood.

Substance Misuse service users continue to be supported by telephone, virtual and face to face meetings where appropriate. Recovery and Relapse Prevention Groups are facilitated via the Zoom platform and the Barod website now offers a live chat facility to encourage engagement particularly for those who are not yet accessing services. Offices continue to remain open to provide advice, support and naloxone alongside sterile needle exchange equipment.

We continue to support the Syrian Resettlement Programme arranging face to face support where it is required by families. [Hate Crime Awareness week](#) took place in October, via online videos and messaging and face to face engagement. We continue to work closely with the Police to address community tensions and Community Cohesion meetings are undertaken virtually.

During the quarter, a rise in realistic looking media and internet scams has resulted in closer partnership working with the National Trading Standards Team and North Yorkshire Trading Standards to take down media accounts and websites from which such scams were originating. To support residents, we have also increased scam messaging warnings through social media. New partnership working with the Information Commissioner's Officers (ICO) has commenced and data from Truecall Units is now feeding into a multi-local authority programme managed by Carmarthenshire Trading Standards to further improve the prioritisation of support provided to Truecall customers who are subject to scam callers.

Doorstep crime and rogue trader activity is prevalent with case levels being similar to those being reported across the region. We continue to work alongside South Wales Police to tackle this key area and ensure our residents are protected.

The Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) team have continued to work throughout the pandemic, contacting perpetrators remotely whenever possible. Victims of ASB have been supported and

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

those at high-risk provided with face to face support as required; however, due to on-going restrictions as a result of the pandemic, the main line of communication is by telephone. Our ASB officers have also been involved in multi-agency engagement operations targeted at ASB hotspot areas.

Prior to the December lockdown, we started the process of more engagement work in Pontypridd Town Centre and assisted in developing a Town Centre Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. This will be run by the businesses with support from the Council and the Police.

We continue to invest in our green spaces and increase biodiversity. During November and December, 300 trees were planted in various parks and open spaces, and improvement works continued across our parks and play areas, with the completion date for some projects being re-scheduled for 2021/22 to take account of the on-going impact of the pandemic. We will also recommence our Climate Change Steering Group in the coming months.

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

Investment Priority Progress Update – Quarter 3

Progress in our Investment Priorities – PLACES		
Investment Area	Investment Value ² £M	Quarter 3 Update
Highways Infrastructure Repairs	8.624	The additional resources are being used in conjunction with existing resources to deliver a programme of highways infrastructure repairs between 2020/21 and 2022/23.
Play Areas	0.675	There are 28 schemes which form the planned programme of works for 2020/21. As at 31 st December 2020, 12 had been completed, 2 were under construction, 9 had been designed, costed and scheduled and 5 are to be designed. It is anticipated that 7 of the schemes will be carried forward and completed in 2021/22 due to the need to prioritisation team resources and contractor restrictions/delays.
Skate Parks/Multi Use Games Areas	0.184	There are 4 schemes which form the planned programme of works for 2020/21 and include rebuilding and line marking. The on-going Covid-19 restrictions has impacted on contractor availability with 2 schemes under construction and 2 to be designed. It is anticipated that the 4 schemes will be carried forward and completed in 2021/22.
Cynon Gateway South – Mountain Ash Cross Valley Link	4.750	On Friday 16 th October the link road between the A4059 and B4275 Miskin Road was opened.
Structures: St Albans Bridge and Brook Street Footbridge	2.574	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Alban's Bridge – the bridge was opened on 11th December 2020 with some reinstatement works scheduled for quarter 4, for example, panel replacement; and • Brook St. Footbridge – the estimated start date for works is summer 2021 and discussions are on-going with Transport for Wales in respect of the work to be undertaken.
Structures	2.791	<p>The investment funding has been allocated to support structure projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed schemes – Williamstown Footbridge, Station Street bridge (Treherbert), Castell Ifor (Hopkinstown), Rhydyfelin Culverts, Gwawr Street (Aberaman - repairs to walls) and Phase 1 of B4273 Ynysybwll/Glyncoch Retaining Walls; and • New scheme – Bodringallt bridge (Ystrad) - where works are due to start in mid 2021.
Parks Structures	1.335	The investment funding has been allocated to support various footbridge repairs and replacements within Parks:

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

Progress in our Investment Priorities – PLACES		
Investment Area	Investment Value² £M	Quarter 3 Update
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works completed - Station Street River Wall (Treherbert) and Bridge replacement of Nant Lonydd Bridge (Upper Boat); • Contracting process in progress - Bridge deck and parapet replacement of Maesyfelin Footbridge (Pontyclun); and • Various inspections and surveys continue to be undertaken as advance preparation for future schemes.
Parks and Green Spaces	1.000	This investment funding is supporting drainage, pavilion and infrastructure improvements to various parks sites, with 85 schemes planned for 2020/21.
Cemeteries	0.088	<p>This investment funding has been allocated to deliver works at 4 cemetery locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works completed - Maes Yr Arian, Mountain Ash (replace entrance gate and fence) and Byn Yr Gaer, Hirwaun (repair of damaged palisade); • Trealaw - drainage works underway; and • Glyntaff Cemetery - additional roadworks, waste removal, additional top car park, introduction of security measures, materials and decoration of South Chapel and public conveniences and supply and erect timber fence. The majority of works are complete and public convenience work is ongoing.
Llanharan Bypass	2.000	This investment funding is supporting various stages of development, preliminary design, ground investigations and ecology investigations which were completed during quarter 3. The next stage programmed will be pre-Planning Application Consultation that will be undertaken in the first half of 2021.
A4119 Dualling (Stinkpot Hill)	6.000	This investment funding is supporting the dualling of this section of the highway. Preliminary designs have been completed and Cabinet agreed to progress with a number of key elements of the scheme on 18 th July 2019 and also 18 th December 2020. Progress to date includes: submission of a planning application for an active travel bridge at the north of the scheme and submission of the Compulsory Purchase Order for the land required for the scheme. Detailed design is on-going.
Community Hubs	0.401	<p>This investment funding relates to supporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Porth Plaza – works were completed on 8th June 2020; and • Treorchy – procurement process underway for works to be undertaken to improve the proposed site of Treorchy Community Hub at Treorchy Library (cladding and new windows).

Progress in our Investment Priorities – PLACES		
Investment Area	Investment Value² £M	Quarter 3 Update
Gelli/Treorchy Link Road	0.400	This investment funding relates to investigatory works for a solution which will help alleviate congestion at Stag Square. Feasibility and preliminary design options are ongoing.
Cynon Gateway (North), Aberdare Bypass	2.000	This investment funding relates to the preliminary design for a bypass continuation from A4059 Aberdare to join the A465 Heads Of the Valleys road. During the quarter, preliminary design was completed and pre-Planning Application Consultation has taken place. The feedback received as part of the consultation is being evaluated and will be taken into account as part of considering next steps e.g. submission of a Planning Application.
Bryn Pica Eco Park	1.400	This investment funding is to support enabling works, planning and ecology for the development of an Eco Park at the Waste Management Facility. The RIBA 3 report has been approved and work to progress the design development of RIBA Stage 4 is progressing. High voltage infrastructure works to serve the Eco Park continue with the delivery of the substation due in quarter 4.
Dinas Community Recycling Centre	0.250	This investment funding relates to the provision of a new office building and improvements on the site of Dinas Community Recycling Centre following the demolition of the previous site building. The new office building and service connections have been rescheduled due to Covid-19 impacting on the availability of contractors; these works are anticipated to be progressed during quarter 4.
Land Drainage	0.750	This investment funding is supporting drainage and culvert network works. The ongoing programme includes works at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abercynon (Plantation Road) – works complete; • Porth Relief Road – works substantially complete with further surfacing works being undertaken; • Cwmbach - advance works started in September 2020 and the main scheme is scheduled to start in quarter 4; • Nant yr Ffrwd – surveys completed; and • Property Flood Resistance Programme – 360+ properties offered interim expandable barriers. To date, over 120 agreements returned and surveys to commence in quarter 4.
Total	35.222	

o **PROSPERITY** (Section 5c)

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

Summary of progress to 31st December 2020

Renewed grant offers for businesses in light of Covid 19 and earlier flood events are now being delivered, including the first grants awarded under the new Covid business grant. Since September the refocussed Enterprise Investment Fund has supported 30 businesses with grant awards totalling £165k, and 4 businesses in Pontypridd town centre have benefited from Flood Resilience Grants. Plans are also being developed in partnership with Welsh Government's South East Wales Regional Team to deliver a package of focussed support for manufacturing businesses in RCT.

Construction has completed at the £3.9m Coed Ely business unit, which was handed over to the Council on 15th January, and considerable interest has already been received from potential tenants. Construction for 20 modern business units in Robertstown is now well underway.

Key town centre schemes are under development which will help improve pedestrian access and social distancing, including the Guto Square scheme in Mountain Ash where works will start in quarter 4. In Pontypridd, Transport for Wales have begun their tenancy at Llys Cadwyn and the new footbridge to the park has been completed. Work is also progressing on redevelopment of the YMCA building and Bingo Hall site. Property improvement schemes in town centres are also progressing well, including the Black Lion development which is scheduled for completion this spring 2021. Draft recommendations for improvements to town centre resilience are currently under consideration.

Longer term developments continue to promote RCT as a tourism destination when restrictions allow, including a review of the accommodation sector. Construction of new attractions at Zip World and Dare Valley Country Park are ongoing and a significant National Lottery fund grant awarded in December will allow further improvements at Ynysangharad War Memorial Park. We continue to engage with local tourism businesses, and encourage people to 'stay safe, visit later' through media campaigns.

Work continues on the Local Development Plan review, with the call for candidate sites currently open and work underway on scoping the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal.

Early years childcare settings are being supported to remain open safely in line with covid measures through the provision of updated guidance. Schools continue to be offered support on distance, digital and blended learning, including specific guidance to support pupils with statements of special educational needs. Effective use of grant funding is supporting strategic actions for wellbeing and a helpline for professionals, pupils and families has been maintained.

Significant progress is being made on the second wave of school investments in Band B, with Phase 1 of Hirwaun Primary School completed and design in progress for YG Rhydywaun and YGG Aberdar. Following a successful legal challenge, remaining Band B projects will now be progressed.

Engagement numbers for virtual employment support have increased, with Communities for Work+ supporting 212 people into employment between April and December 2020. A Routes to Employment training course is now available online and the Welsh Government / Digital Communities chromebooks loan scheme is being implemented in RCT. In addition, the Council recruited a further 21 graduates in October 2020 and a further 17 apprentices are due to commence work in January 2021.

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

Investment Priority Progress Update – Quarter 3

Progress in our Investment Priorities – PROSPERITY		
Investment Area	Investment Value ³ £M	Quarter 3 Update
Empty Property Grant	1.500	At present, all empty property grant applications are processed via the Welsh Government funded Valley Taskforce Scheme and this approach will continue until the Welsh Government scheme closes on 31 st March 2021.
Schools	0.836	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schemes on-going include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cymmer Primary – demolition of the canteen and erection of fencing was completed in August 2020. Carpark works to be completed during summer 2021; ○ Ferndale Community School – works completed for the main swimming pool hall, construction of new retaining wall and entrance path. New signage to be finalised and installed (delayed due to Covid-19); ○ Gelli Primary - internal refurbishment, two classroom extension, additional external works, fencing, new kitchen windows completed in quarter 2 and resurfacing of driveway and line marking completed in quarter 3; and ○ Llanharan Primary – works to remodel/refurbish foundation phase classrooms, extend yard, alter/fence-in carpark completed in quarter 2 and 2 classroom extension (including toilets and associated external works) completed in quarter 3.
Transport Infrastructure	2.500	<p>This investment funding is supporting a wider programme of highways capital works including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highway Network Improvement completed on the A4059 (near Cwmbach / Aberaman) to improve traffic flow at a roundabout / extending the two-lane approach; • Pedestrian crossings completed in Trealaw, Penrhiwceiber and Mountain Ash to improve road safety and promote active travel; • Design work has commenced at further pedestrian crossing locations including Tonyrefail, Groesfaen and Llanharan (to improve road safety and promote active travel); • A4058 Asda Tonypandy junction - design and development ongoing to improve junction capacity and traffic flow; and • A4059 / Bowls Club junction, feasibility study commenced to investigate improving the junction to improve traffic flow along the A4059.
Tonyrefail Roundabout	0.500	This investment funding relates to Tonyrefail roundabout for feasibility and design to improve the congestion and compliment

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

Progress in our Investment Priorities – PROSPERITY		
Investment Area	Investment Value ³ £M	Quarter 3 Update
		the strategic development at Coed Ely. Works on-going include preliminary design of the main junction together with Active Travel improvements. Further ground investigation work and drainage surveys have been carried out in quarter 3, and design work is continuing.
Llys Cadwyn Development	2.024	Work continued on-site during the period to complete the remaining public realm and highways works and to finalise the fit-out works for Transport for Wales at 3 Llys Cadwyn (with practical completion of the project delivered in October 2020).
Park and Ride Programme	1.000	This investment funding is supporting the development work needed to create additional ‘park and ride’ car parking spaces at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pontyclun - feasibility design has been carried out and preliminary design is due to commence; and • Porth – phase 3 feasibility design is complete and preliminary design is underway.
Strategic Regeneration Investment	0.200	This funding has been approved for the Guto Square development. The redevelopment of Guto Square in Mountain Ash will provide a bigger and improved area for public use in the heart of the town centre for community events and business uses, and also additional car parking spaces for shoppers and visitors to the town. It will comprise improvements to the existing area and also to a larger area through the Compulsory Purchase of the adjacent derelict parcel of land and acquisition of adjacent disused properties which will provide an improved interface with the Mountain Ash Workingmen’s Club. The project is now at the demolition stage, which is due to commence in January 2021, and will then be followed by the construction phase.
Robertstown and Coed Ely ERDF Match Funding	4.200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robertstown – with the principal contractor in place, progress includes: ground improvement works and foundations have been completed on specific plots; culvert diversion work is underway; and preparatory work is progressing to enable site levelling works and steel frame installation from quarter 4 onwards; and • Coed Ely - progress includes: the Building, including all internal and external works, are substantially complete and is being cleaned; and Building Control and Fire Officer inspections are scheduled for January 2021.
Total	12.760	

Section 6 – ENHANCING THE COUNCIL’S RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

The 18th December 2020 Cabinet meeting agreed a series of recommendations to enhance the Council’s short and long term response to extreme weather events and which limit the impact of flooding on those communities most at risk.

The progress made by Council Services to implement the recommendations can be viewed [here](#) and will be scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Education & Inclusion Services Revenue Budget - to 31st December 2020/21

Revised budget as at 30th September £'000	Service Area	Virements as at 31st December £'000	Revised budget as at 31st December £'000	Projected Outturn as at 31st December £'000	Variance £'000	ISSUES	Reasons For Variances	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
Delegated Schools									
22,269	Middle		22,269	22,269	0				
69,982	Primary		69,982	69,982	0				
60,178	Secondary		60,178	60,178	0				
9,149	Special		9,149	9,149	0				
161,578		0	161,578	161,578	0				
Total Individual School Budgets									
161,578		0	161,578	161,578	0				
Education & Inclusion Services									
1,124	School Achievement		1,124	1,119	-5				
866	Education Improvement Grant		866	866	0				
416	Service Transformation & Education Information Systems		416	387	-29				
5,959	Additional Learning Needs	-467	5,492	5,443	-49				
2,778	Education Other than at School		2,778	2,731	-47				
682	Attendance and Wellbeing Service		682	679	-3				
4,858	Nursery & Early Years		4,858	4,831	-27				
2,626	Group Directorate		2,626	2,616	-10				
135	Music Service		135	133	-2				
19,444		-467	18,977	18,805	-172				
21st Century Schools									
1,402	School Planning & Reorganisation		1,402	1,423	21				
3,018	Asset Management / Financing		3,018	3,018	0				
6,870	Catering		6,870	6,852	-18				
11,290		0	11,290	11,293	3				
Total Non School Budgets									
30,734		-467	30,267	30,098	-169				
Overall Total Budget									
192,312		-467	191,845	191,676	-169				

Director of Education & Inclusion Services

Gaynor Davies

Head Of Finance

Stephanie Davies

Education & Inclusion Services Revenue Budget - to 31st December 2020/21

31st December Virement Report

<u>Education & Inclusion Services Group</u>	Total	Delegated Schools	Education and Inclusion Services	21st Century Schools
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Revised Budget as at 30th September	192,312	161,578	19,444	11,290
Virements proposed to 31st December				
Business Support Review - budget transfer to Chief Executives (Human Resources)	-467		-467	
Proposed Revised Budget - 31st December	191,845	161,578	18,977	11,290



Virements that require approval by the Executive, in accordance with

Section 4.8 of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules

Community & Children's Services Revenue Budget - to 31st December 2020/21

Revised budget as at 30th September	Service Area	Virements as at 31st December	Revised budget as at 31st December	Projected Outturn as at 31st December	Variance	ISSUES	Reasons For Variances	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000				

Adult Services

7,654	Long Term Care & Support	0	7,654	8,247	593	■	Projected overspend mainly due to staffing costs (including Agency costs) partly offset by underspends on non-pay budgets	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Neil Elliot
57,486	Commissioned Services	0	57,486	58,120	634	■	Projected overspend in the main relates to Specialist Learning Difficulties and Mental Health placements together with External Supported Living Services	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Neil Elliot
19,526	Provider Services	0	19,526	19,917	391	■	Projected overspend due to under-achievement of income in Home for the Elderly establishments partly offset by staffing vacancies, underspends on non-pay budgets and the inclusion of Welsh Government Hardship Funding (Covid-19 related) that had not been confirmed as at Quarter 1	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Neil Elliot
9,635	Short Term Intervention Services	0	9,635	8,795	-840	■	Projected underspend mainly due to Intermediate Care & Reablement (including In house Support@Home) together with Prevention and Early Intervention	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Neil Elliot
-4,353	Fairer Charging	0	-4,353	-4,362	-9				
3,050	Management, Safeguarding & Support Services	-1,443	1,607	1,563	-44				
92,998		-1,443	91,555	92,280	725				

Children Services

27,958	Safeguarding & Support (inc. Children Looked After)	0	27,958	30,455	2,497	■	Projected overspend mainly due to external placements and in-house residential placements, partly offset by projected underspend on in-house family placements	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Annabel Lloyd
8,068	Early Intervention	0	8,068	7,537	-531	■	Projected underspend mainly due to Youth Service activity budgets partly offset by overspend on the Rapid Intervention and Response Team	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Annabel Lloyd
997	Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service	0	997	783	-214	■	Projected underspend mainly due to staffing vacancies and lower than anticipated expenditure across non-pay budgets	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Annabel Lloyd
11,939	Intensive Intervention	0	11,939	10,993	-946	■	Projected underspend due temporary staff vacancies along with lower than anticipated legal costs and aftercare payments	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Annabel Lloyd
1,970	Management & Support Services	-1,589	381	374	-7				
50,932		-1,589	49,343	50,142	799				

Community & Children's Services Revenue Budget - to 31st December 2020/21

Revised budget as at 30th September	Service Area	Virements as at 31st December	Revised budget as at 31st December	Projected Outturn as at 31st December	Variance	ISSUES	Reasons For Variances	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000				

Transformation									
720	Regional Training Unit	0	720	687	-33				
749	Group & Transformation Management	-69	680	737	57	■	Projected overspend due to costs resulting from Storm Dennis not covered by insurance	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Paul Mee
1,096	Service Improvement	0	1,096	1,012	-84	■	Projected underspend mainly due to staffing vacancies and lower than anticipated expenditure across non-pay budgets	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Paul Mee
22	Purchasing & Commissioning	0	22	18	-4				
2,587		-69	2,518	2,454	-64				

Public Health and Protection									
5,333	Public Protection	0	5,333	5,367	34				
4,525	Community Services	355	4,880	4,633	-247	■	Projected underspend mainly due savings across staffing and non pay budgets	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Louise Davies
900	Communities & Wellbeing	0	900	861	-39				
5,197	Leisure, Parks & Countryside and Community Facilities	0	5,197	5,093	-104	■	Projected underspend mainly due savings across staffing and non pay budgets	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Louise Davies
126	Group Directorate	0	126	151	25				
16,081		355	16,436	16,105	-331				

162,598		-2,746	159,852	160,981	1,129				
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Group Director **Paul Mee**

Head of Finance **Neil Griffiths**

Community & Children's Services Revenue Budget - to 31st December 2020/21

31st December Virement Report

<u>Community & Children's Services Group</u>	Total £'000	Adult Services £'000	Children's Services £'000	Transformation £'000	Public Health & Protection £'000
Revised Budget as at 30th September	162,598	92,998	50,932	2,587	16,081
Virements proposed to 31st December					
Business Support Review - budget transfer to Chief Executives (Human Resources)	-2,295	-706	-1,589		
Transfer of Purchasing & Commissioning Team budget (from Community & Children's Services to Chief Executives (Human Resources))	-737	-737			
Transfer of One4aLL Service budget to Community and Children's Services (Public Health and Protection) from Finance & Digital Services (Customer Care)	286				286
Transfer of budget responsibility for third sector service level agreement	0			-69	69
Proposed Revised Budget - 31st December	159,852	91,555	49,343	2,518	16,436

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

Chief Executive's Division Revenue Budget - to 31st December 2020/21

Revised budget as at 30th September £'000	Service Area	Virements as at 31st December £'000	Revised budget as at 31st December £'000	Projected Outturn as at 31st December £'000	Variance £'000	ISSUES	Reasons For Variances	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
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Chief Executive's Division

391	Chief Executive	0	391	392	1				
2,913	Democratic Services & Communications	0	2,913	2,866	-47				
6,670	Human Resources	5,327	11,997	11,872	-125	■	Higher than anticipated external income and temporary staffing vacancies	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Richard Evans
1,636	Legal Services	0	1,636	1,541	-95	■	Temporary staffing vacancies	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Andy Wilkins
11,717	Finance & Digital Services	-1,015	10,702	10,629	-73	■	Higher than anticipated external income and temporary staffing vacancies	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Barrie Davies
3,462	Corporate Estates	-457	3,005	2,908	-97	■	Higher than anticipated external income	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Dave Powell
26,789		3,855	30,644	30,208	-436				

Total Chief Executive's Division

26,789		3,855	30,644	30,208	-436				
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Chief Executive

Chris Bradshaw

Head of Finance

Martyn Hughes

Chief Executive's Division Revenue Budget - to 31st December 2020/21

31st December Virement Report

Chief Executive's Division	Total £'000	Chief Executive £'000	Democratic Services & Communications £'000	Human Resources £'000	Legal Services £'000	Finance & Digital Services £'000	Corporate Estates £'000
Revised Budget as at 30th September	26,789	391	2,913	6,670	1,636	11,717	3,462
Virements proposed to 31st December							
Business Support Review - budget transfer to Human Resources (Transactional Services) from:							
Corporate Estates ¹	0			457			-457
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services (Group Directorate) ¹	642			642			
Community and Children's Services ¹	2,295			2,295			
Education and Inclusion Services ¹	467			467			
Finance and Digital Services	0			729		-729	
Transfer of Contact Centre & E Government Team within Finance and Digital Services (from Customer Care to ICT & Digital Services)	-1,311					-1,311	
Transfer of Contact Centre & E Government Team within Finance and Digital Services (from Customer Care to ICT & Digital Services)	1,311					1,311	
Transfer of One4aLL Service budget from Finance & Digital Services (Customer Care) to Community & Children's Services	-286					-286	
Transfer of Purchasing & Commissioning Team budget (from Community & Children's Services to Chief Executives (Human Resources))	737			737			
Proposed Revised Budget - 31st December	30,644	391	2,913	11,997	1,636	10,702	3,005
1 - Business Support Review (Corporate Estates, Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services, Community and Children's Services and Education and Inclusion Services) - budgets initially transferred to Finance and Digital Services (Customer Care) for consolidation and thereafter transferred to Human Resources							

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

Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services Revenue Budget - to 31st December 2020/21

Revised budget as at 30th September	Service Area	Virements as at 31st December	Revised budget as at 31st December	Projected Outturn as at 31st December	Variance	ISSUES	Reasons For Variances	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000				

Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services

Prosperity & Development

2,791	Prosperity & Development	0	2,791	2,837	46				
2,791		0	2,791	2,837	46				

Frontline Services

3,495	Highways Management	0	3,495	3,534	39				
14,089	Transportation	0	14,089	13,939	-150	■	Projected underspend due to higher than anticipated external funding and savings as a result of contract gatekeeping arrangements	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Roger Waters
249	Strategic Projects	0	249	292	43				
4,637	Street Cleansing	0	4,637	4,614	-23				
970	Facilities Cleaning	0	970	877	-93	■	Projected underspend due to higher than anticipated income	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Nigel Wheeler
4,076	Highways Maintenance	0	4,076	4,120	44				
17,981	Waste Services	0	17,981	18,670	689	■	Projected overspend due to increased costs in relation to waste disposal	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Nigel Wheeler
2,165	Fleet Management	0	2,165	2,056	-109	■	Projected underspend due to temporary staffing vacancies and a reduction in vehicle maintenance costs due to new vehicles being in operation	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Nigel Wheeler
3,715	Parks Services	0	3,715	3,762	47				
1,641	Group Directorate	-642	999	1,052	53	■	Projected overspend due to an increase in the required level of provision for bad debt for the group	Service area to closely monitor and review the position through to year-end	Nigel Wheeler
53,018		-642	52,376	52,916	540				

Overall Total Budget

55,809		-642	55,167	55,753	586				
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Group Director

Nigel Wheeler


Head of Finance

Martyn Hughes

Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services Revenue Budget - to 31st December 2020/21

31st December Virement Report

Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services Group	Total £'000	Prosperity & Development £'000	Frontline Services £'000
Revised Budget as at 30th September	55,809	2,791	53,018
Virements proposed to 31st December			
Business Support Review - budget transfer from Frontline Services (Group Directorate) to Chief Executives (Human Resources)	-642	0	-642
Proposed Revised Budget - 31st December	55,167	2,791	52,376

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

Council Wide Revenue Budget - to 31st December 2020/21

Revised budget as at 30th September £'000	Service Area	Virements as at 31st December £'000	Revised budget as at 31st December £'000	Projected Outturn as at 31st December £'000	Variance £'000	ISSUES	Reasons For Variances	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
19,713	Capital Financing	0	19,713	19,463	-250	■	Projected underspend due to lower than forecasted borrowing costs (due to lower interest rates)	Continue to monitor during the year.	Barrie Davies
12,438	Levies	0	12,438	12,438	0				
13,216	Miscellaneous	0	13,216	13,409	193	■	Projected overspends on authority wide budgets	Continue to monitor during the year.	Barrie Davies
425	NNDR Relief	0	425	421	-4				
24,680	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	0	24,680	24,680	0				
767	MTFP - in Year Budget Reductions - Transition Funding	0	767	767	0				
71,239		0	71,239	71,178	-61				

Council Wide Budgets - to 31st December 2020/21

31st December Virement Report

<u>Council Wide Budgets</u>	Total
	£'000
Revised Budget as at 30th September	71,239
Virements proposed to 31st December	0
Proposed Revised Budget - 31st December	71,239

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



Section 2f

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

Service Area	Earmarked Reserves	Committed Expenditure as at	Committed Expenditure as at	Committed Expenditure as at	Full Year Expenditure as at
		30th June 2020	30th September 2020	31st December 2020	31 st March 2021
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Prior-Year Commitments:					
Education & Inclusion Services	1.858	1.773	1.773	1.773	
Community & Children's Services	1.866	0.334	0.284	0.260	
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	2.428	1.952	2.010	1.993	
Chief Executive's Division	1.716	1.393	1.393	1.448	
Authority Wide Budgets	0.548	0.171	0.384	0.386	
Total	8.416	5.623	5.844	5.860	0.000

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2020 - 2023						2020/2021 Actual Spend as at 31st December 2020 £'000	Issues	Commentary	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
	2020/2021 Budget as at 30th September 2020 £'000	2020/2021 Budget Variance £'000	2020/2021 Budget as at 31st December 2020 £'000	2021/2022 Budget £'000	2022/2023 Budget £'000	Total 3 Year Budget £'000					
Finance & Digital Services											
CIVICA Financials	244	0	244	200	200	644	195				
Capitalisation of Computer HW/SW & Licences	500	0	500	500	500	1,500	165				
Total Finance & Digital Services	744	0	744	700	700	2,144	360				
Corporate Estates											
Major repair/refurbishment and/or rationalisation of Service Group Accommodation	160	61	221	150	150	521	205	■	Update Capital programme in line with latest cost projections	Introduce revenue funding into the Capital Programme	Dave Powell
Strategic Maintenance	50	0	50	50	50	150	11				
Asset Management Planning	50	0	50	50	50	150	5				
Corporate Improvement	6	2	8	0	0	8	8				
Asbestos Management	175	0	175	175	175	525	8				
Asbestos Remediation Works	50	0	50	50	50	150	1				
Legionella Remediation Works	275	0	275	275	275	825	59				
Legionella Management	175	0	175	175	175	525	73				
Housing & Regeneration	137	0	137	0	0	137	2				
Carbon Reduction Programme	1,351	-350	1,001	0	0	1,001	293	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Reallocate the Council's own resources within the Capital Programme	Steve Lock
Taffs Well Thermal Spring	0	250	250	275	0	525	1	■	New Scheme	Reallocate the Council's own resources within the Capital Programme and introduce revenue funding	Steve Lock
Total Corporate Estates	2,429	-37	2,392	1,200	925	4,517	666				
Group Total	3,173	-37	3,136	1,900	1,625	6,661	1,026				

Chief Executive
Head of Finance

Chris Bradshaw
Martyn Hughes

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2020 - 2023						2020/2021 Actual Spend as at 31st December 2020 £'000	Issues	Commentary	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
	2020/2021 Budget as at 30th September 2020 £'000	2020/2021 Budget Variance £'000	2020/2021 Budget as at 31st December 2020 £'000	2021/2022 Budget £'000	2022/2023 Budget £'000	Total 3 Year Budget £'000					
Prosperity & Development											
Planning & Regeneration											
Enterprise Investment Fund	257	-50	207	250	200	657	168	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Simon Gale
Flood Resilience Grants	300	-200	100	200	0	300	0	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Simon Gale
Taff Vale Development	7,061	0	7,061	0	0	7,061	4,076				
Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Programme Regional	1,087	0	1,087	300	0	1,387	325				
TRI Bingo Hall (Pontypridd)	1,341	0	1,341	0	0	1,341	475				
Major Projects Investment Fund	100	0	100	0	0	100	0				
Regeneration Investment	977	-300	677	850	400	1,927	470	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Simon Gale
Robertstown Development	3,217	0	3,217	2,927	163	6,307	379				
Coed Ely Development	2,702	0	2,702	59	0	2,761	2,159				
Hirwaun Industrial Estate	14	0	14	0	0	14	4				
RCT Tracks and Trails Development	120	0	120	40	0	160	0				
Pontypridd YMCA	1,461	-500	961	500	0	1,461	647	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Simon Gale
WRP Discovery Gateways Dare Valley Country Park	388	0	388	0	0	388	206				
WRP Discovery Gateways Ynysangharad War Memorial Park	310	589	899	0	0	899	0	■	Update Capital programme in line with latest cost projections	Introduce WG Valleys Regional Park Grant	Simon Gale
South Interchange Metro+ LTF	850	0	850	0	0	850	174				
Transforming Town Centres - Green Infrastructure	35	0	35	0	0	35	6				
VTF Courthouse, Llwynypia	0	299	299	0	0	299	0	■	New scheme	Introduce WG Valleys Task Force Grant	Simon Gale
Total Planning & Regeneration	20,220	-162	20,058	5,126	763	25,947	9,089				
Private Sector Housing											
Disabled Facilities Grants/Adaptations (DFG)	3,508	-1,400	2,108	5,400	4,000	11,508	1,330	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Simon Gale
Maintenance Repair Assistance (MRA)	450	0	450	450	450	1,350	202				
Renovation Grants Exceptional Circumstances & Home Improvement Zones	767	-300	467	750	450	1,667	164	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Simon Gale
Empty Properties Grants Investment	500	-300	200	1,232	0	1,432	103	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Simon Gale
Valleys Taskforce RCT+ Empty Homes	7,772	-3,900	3,872	6,000	0	9,872	675	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Simon Gale
Affordable Housing	423	0	423	600	800	1,823	50				
Storm Dennis - Emergency Flood Recovery Grant	500	0	500	0	0	500	51				
Tackling Poverty Fund	100	-70	30	270	0	300	0	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Simon Gale
Community Regeneration	150	-70	80	320	250	650	9	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Simon Gale
Total Private Sector Housing	14,170	-6,040	8,130	15,022	5,950	29,102	2,584				
Total Prosperity & Development	34,390	-6,202	28,188	20,148	6,713	55,049	11,673				

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2020 - 2023						2020/2021 Actual Spend as at 31st December 2020 £'000	Issues	Commentary	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
	2020/2021 Budget as at 30th September 2020 £'000	2020/2021 Budget Variance £'000	2020/2021 Budget as at 31st December 2020 £'000	2021/2022 Budget £'000	2022/2023 Budget £'000	Total 3 Year Budget £'000					
Frontline Services											
Highways Technical Services											
Highways Improvements	8,095	-6	8,089	3,804	1,100	12,993	8,006				
Car Parks	76	0	76	45	45	166	0				
Structures	8,593	-2,980	5,613	3,490	300	9,403	3,962	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Roger Waters
Parks Structures	1,335	-210	1,125	0	0	1,125	505	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Reallocate the Council's own resources within the Capital Programme	Roger Waters
Street Lighting	278	0	278	200	200	678	103				
Total Highways Technical Services	18,377	-3,196	15,181	7,539	1,645	24,365	12,576				
Strategic Projects											
Transportation and Travel Schemes	2,540	45	2,585	0	0	2,585	989				
Safe Routes in Communities	420	10	430	0	0	430	82				
Transportation Infrastructure	10,575	-4,426	6,149	10,136	25	16,310	5,247	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Roger Waters
Traffic Management	933	14	947	160	160	1,267	206				
Drainage Improvements	6,715	609	7,324	140	140	7,604	2,317	■	Update Capital programme in line with latest cost projections	Introduce WG Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant.	Roger Waters
Land Reclamation	6	1	7	0	0	7	7				
Total Strategic Projects	21,189	-3,747	17,442	10,436	325	28,203	8,848				
Storm Dennis Flood Recovery											
Storm Dennis Flood Recovery	6,827	0	6,827	0	0	6,827	3,088				
Total Storm Dennis Flood Recovery	6,827	0	6,827	0	0	6,827	3,088				
Waste Strategy											
Waste Strategy	2,690	382	3,072	888	0	3,960	1,236	■	Update Capital programme in line with latest cost projections	Introduce WG Circular Economy Grant Funding.	Nigel Wheeler
Total Waste Strategy	2,690	382	3,072	888	0	3,960	1,236				
Fleet											
Vehicles	5,578	0	5,578	2,081	1,573	9,232	4,230				
Total Fleet	5,578	0	5,578	2,081	1,573	9,232	4,230				
Buildings											
Buildings	157	0	157	100	100	357	0				
Total Buildings	157	0	157	100	100	357	0				
Total Frontline Services	54,818	-6,561	48,257	21,044	3,643	72,944	29,978				
Group Total	89,208	-12,763	76,445	41,192	10,356	127,993	41,651				

Group Director
Head of Finance

Nigel Wheeler
Martyn Hughes

Education and Inclusion Services

Section 3c

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2020 - 2023						2020/2021 Actual Spend as at 31st December 2020 £'000	Issues	Commentary	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
	2020/2021 Budget as at 30th September 2020 £'000	2020/2021 Budget Variance £'000	2020/2021 Budget as at 31st December 2020 £'000	2021/2022 Budget £'000	2022/2023 Budget £'000	Total 3 Year Budget £'000					
Schools											
Aberdare School & Sports Centre	9	0	9	0	0	9	0				
School Modernisation Rhondda and Tonyrefail	4,953	-329	4,624	2,690	0	7,314	3,152	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Chris Bradshaw
School Modernisation	1,796	-637	1,159	4,904	140	6,203	510	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Reallocate the Council's own resources within the Capital Programme	Chris Bradshaw
Cwmaman Community Primary School	3	-3	0	0	0	0	0				
Ffynnon Taf Primary Refurbishment and Extension	883	-344	539	2,160	61	2,760	311	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Chris Bradshaw
St John Baptist Church in Wales High School	4	2	6	0	0	6	5				
Reducing Infant Class Sizes	892	48	940	0	0	940	795				
SRIC - School Modernisation Programme	571	-511	60	511	0	571	17	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Chris Bradshaw
WG Welsh Medium Capital Grant	395	-90	305	90	0	395	0	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Chris Bradshaw
WG Childcare Grant	4,078	-1,525	2,553	2,343	44	4,940	495	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Chris Bradshaw
WG Flying Start	115	-1	114	0	0	114	57				
21st Century Schools Band B											
WG Aberdar School Modernisation	0	139	139	4,162	82	4,383	32	■	New Scheme	Introduce WG 21st Century Schools grant approval and Unsupported Borrowing into the Capital programme as per report to Council on 25th November 2020	Chris Bradshaw
Hirwaun Primary School	6,511	-622	5,889	705	15	6,609	5,275	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Chris Bradshaw
Total	20,210	-3,873	16,337	17,565	342	34,244	10,649				

Education and Inclusion Services

Section 3c

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2020 - 2023						2020/2021 Actual Spend as at 31st December 2020 £'000	Issues	Commentary	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
	2020/2021 Budget as at 30th September 2020 £'000	2020/2021 Budget Variance £'000	2020/2021 Budget as at 31st December 2020 £'000	2021/2022 Budget £'000	2022/2023 Budget £'000	Total 3 Year Budget £'000					
Supplementary Capital Programme											
Planned Kitchen Refurbishments	448	-160	288	360	200	848	166	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Gaynor Davies
Window & Door Replacements	247	-80	167	230	150	547	14	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Gaynor Davies
Essential Works	1,841	-1,110	731	1,510	400	2,641	324	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Gaynor Davies
Capitalisation of Computer HW / SW & Licences	267	-42	225	292	250	767	225				
Roof Renewal	995	-45	950	745	700	2,395	550				
Boiler Replacement	350	0	350	250	250	850	300				
Equalities Act/Compliance Works	298	-50	248	275	225	748	140	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Gaynor Davies
Education & Inclusion Services Condition Surveys	126	0	126	50	50	226	0				
Electrical Rewiring	217	-50	167	250	200	617	99	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Gaynor Davies
Asbestos Remediation Work	1,417	-1,000	417	2,600	900	3,917	2	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Gaynor Davies
Fire Alarm Upgrades	130	-8	122	108	100	330	80				
Toilet Refurbishments	420	-47	373	400	350	1,123	268				
Schools Investment Programme	399	-8	391	0	0	391	158				
Improvements to Schools	100	0	100	100	100	300	0				
Total	7,255	-2,600	4,655	7,170	3,875	15,700	2,326				
Group Total	27,465	-6,473	20,992	24,735	4,217	49,944	12,975				

Director of Education and Inclusion Services
Head of Finance

Gaynor Davies
Stephanie Davies

Community and Children's Services

Section 3d

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2020 - 2023						2020/2021 Actual Spend as at 31st December 2020 £'000	Issues	Commentary	Management Action Agreed	Responsible Officer
	2020/2021 Budget as at 30th September 2020 £'000	2020/2021 Budget Variance £'000	2020/2021 Budget as at 31st December 2020 £'000	2021/2022 Budget £'000	2022/2023 Budget £'000	Total 3 Year Budget £'000					
Adult & Children's Services											
Modernisation Programme (Adults)	4,201	-1,195	3,006	4,183	2,700	9,889	94	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Neil Elliott
Modernisation Programme (Childrens)	292	143	435	50	50	535	132	■	Update Capital programme in line with latest cost projection	Introduced additional WG Flying Start grant and ICF Funding.	Annabel Lloyd
Asbestos Remediation	45	-25	20	70	45	135	0				
Telecare Equipment (Inc of Carelink Equipment)	379	-200	179	400	200	779	141	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Neil Elliott
Capitalisation of Computer HW / SW/Licences & Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Total Adult & Children's Services	4,917	-1,277	3,640	4,703	2,995	11,338	367				
Public Health, Protection & Community Services											
Leisure Centre Refurbishment Programme	411	88	499	90	90	679	330	■	Update Capital programme in line with latest cost projections	Introduce revenue funding into the Capital Programme	Dave Batten
Parks & Countryside	1,461	47	1,508	120	100	1,728	430				
Shondda Heritage Park	89	0	89	0	0	89	58				
Play Areas	976	-57	919	355	50	1,324	319	■	Realign budgets in line with latest cashflow forecasts	Re-profile budget from 2020/21 into 2021/22	Dave Batten
Cemeteries Planned Programme	259	-26	233	161	135	529	129				
Community Safety Initiatives	120	0	120	50	50	220	103				
Community Hubs	401	0	401	0	0	401	78				
Culture	57	-37	20	57	20	97	17				
Buildings	150	0	150	50	50	250	0				
Total Public Health, Protection & Community Services	3,924	15	3,939	883	495	5,317	1,464				
Group Total	8,841	-1,262	7,579	5,586	3,490	16,655	1,831				

Group Director
Head of Finance

Paul Mee
Neil Griffiths

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

Group	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
	£M	£M	£M	£M
Chief Executive	3.136	1.900	1.625	6.661
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	76.445	41.192	10.356	127.993
Education and Inclusion Services	20.992	24.735	4.217	49.944
Community and Children's Services	7.579	5.586	3.490	16.655
Total	108.152	73.413	19.688	201.253

Estimated Resources Required to Fund Capital Programme

Supported Borrowing	6.829	6.829	6.829	20.487
Unsupported Borrowing	21.141	12.409	0.037	33.587
Total	27.970	19.238	6.866	54.074

Capital Grants

General Capital Grant annual base allocation	4.156	4.156	4.156	12.468
General Capital Grant additional allocation 2020/21	2.632	0.060		2.692
WEFO ERDF Modern Industrial Units Developments	3.610	1.518	0.082	5.210
WG Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Programme	1.768			1.768
WG Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing	0.100	0.032		0.132
WG Valleys Regional Park Discovery Gateways Capital Grant	1.135			1.135
WG Transforming Towns - Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity	0.035			0.035
WG Valleys Taskforce RCT+ Empty Homes Grant Ph1 & Ph2	3.772	6.000		9.772
WG Valleys Taskforce Regional	0.299			0.299
WG Local Transport Fund	3.777			3.777
WG Active Travel Fund	0.721			0.721
WG Active Travel Fund Core Allocation	0.319			0.319
WG Local Transport Network Fund	0.828			0.828
WG Local Road Refurbishment Grant	1.261			1.261
WG Safe Routes In The Community	0.420			0.420
WG Road Safety Grant	0.162			0.162
WG Local Sustainable Transport Covid Response	0.552			0.552
WG Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant	3.224			3.224
WG Strategic Flood Risk Area	0.015			0.015
WG Flood Recovery Funding	6.827			6.827
WG Resilient Roads Fund	3.110			3.110
WG Museums, Archives & Libraries Division	0.081			0.081
WG Welsh Medium Capital Grant	0.305	0.090		0.395
WG Circular Economy Fund	1.526			1.526
WG Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) Waste Programme in Wales Grant	0.550			0.550
WG 21st Century Schools	4.762	2.339	0.060	7.161
WG 21st Century Schools & Education Programme - Community Hubs Capital Scheme	0.230	0.406		0.636
WG Access Improvement Grants	0.067			0.067
WG Reducing Infant Class Sizes	0.370			0.370
WG Waste & Resource Efficiency	0.094			0.094
Substance Misuse Grant (WG)	0.067			0.067
WG Flying Start Grant	0.375			0.375
WG Childcare Offer Capital Grant Programme	2.668	2.234		4.902
WG ENABLE	0.317			0.317
WG Local Places for Nature Grant	0.089			0.089
Grantscape Windfarm Community Benefit Fund	0.000	0.017		0.017
Sport Wales Grant	0.012			0.012
All Wales Play Opportunity Grant	0.248			0.248
Intergrated Care Fund	0.339			0.339
Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	0.019			0.019
Total	50.842	16.852	4.298	71.992

Third Party Contributions	1.075	1.141	0.044	2.260
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Council Resources

Revenue Contributions	23.479	21.900	4.504	49.883
General Fund Capital Resources	4.786	14.282	3.976	23.044
Total	28.265	36.182	8.480	72.927

Total Resources Required to Fund Capital Programme	108.152	73.413	19.688	201.253
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Difference Total Spend to Total Resources	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
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Prudential Indicators 2020/21 (as at 31st December 2020)

Indicator	2020/21 Actual as at 31st December £'000	2020/21 Outturn as at 31st December £'000	2020/21 Estimate / Limit £'000	Comments
Indicator: Limits to Borrowing Activity (Net Borrowing)				
Gross Borrowing	337,498	402,809	419,686	Gross borrowing should not exceed the Council's Capital Financing requirement.
Capital Financing Requirement	507,897	507,897	515,651	
Indicator: The Authorised Limit				
Gross Borrowing	337,061	402,226	530,000	The limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited.
Other long term liabilities	437	583	2,000*	
Indicator: The Operational Boundary				
Gross Borrowing	337,061	402,226	425,000	This indicator acts as a warning signal to protect the authorised limit.
Other long term liabilities	437	583	1,000*	

*Estimates / Limits for other long term liabilities were amended in the 2020/21 Mid Year Treasury Management Stewardship Report approved by Council on 25th November 2020.

Indicator	2020/21 Actual as at 31st December	2020/21 Outturn as at 31st December	2020/21 Estimate / Limit	Comments
Indicator: Maturity Structure				
Under 12 months	13%	13%	0% - 70%	These limits protect the Council from being exposed to large fixed rate loans becoming repayable and due for refinancing within similar timescales.
12 months to 2 years	4%	4%	0% - 70%	
2 years to 5 years	10%	10%	0% - 60%	
5 years to 10 years	16%	16%	0% - 70%	
10 years to 20 years	6%	6%	0% - 90%	
20 Year to 30 years	0%	0%	0% - 90%	
30 years to 40 years	51%	51%	0% - 90%	
40 years to 50 years	0%	0%	0% - 90%	
Indicator: Total principal funds invested				
Maximum invested over 1 yr	£6.40 million	£6.30 million **	£25 million	To ensure that day to day cash-flow requirements are not compromised by investing for long periods.

**The total value of the investment at 31st March 2021 is £6.65 million of which £0.35 million is being repaid in one year.

Summary of Council Sickness Absence by Group and Service Area

QUARTER 3 2020/21	% Total	% <28 Days	% >28 Days	Staff Turnover
COUNCIL WIDE (Headcount 10,881)	3.84	0.88	2.96	5.52% 601
COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES (Headcount 2,974)	5.96	1.22	4.74	5.01% 149
PROSPERITY, DEVELOPMENT & FRONTLINE SERVICES (Headcount 930)	5.03	0.76	4.27	4.84% 45
EDUCATION & INCLUSION SERVICES (Headcount 1,257)	3.17	0.86	2.31	5.57% 70
SCHOOLS (Headcount 4,893)	2.78	0.80	1.98	6.27% 307
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DIVISION (Headcount 827)	2.45	0.50	1.95	3.63% 30

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES	% Total	% <28 Days	% >28 Days	Staff Turnover
Total (Headcount 2,974)	5.96	1.22	4.74	5.01% 149
Accommodation Services (Headcount 510)	12.92	2.58	10.34	5.10% 26
Adult Direct Services (and Group Director) (Headcount 170)	7.52	1.38	6.14	5.29% 9
Adult Short Term Intervention (Headcount 526)	7.70	1.86	5.84	7.79% 41
Adult Social Work Services (Headcount 177)	5.57	1.02	4.55	5.08% 9
Business Support Adults (Headcount 13)	0.39	0.39	0.00	7.69% 1
Children's Services¹ (Headcount 593)	4.69	0.74	3.95	4.65% 27
Public Health & Protection & Community Services (Headcount 905)	1.99	0.49	1.50	3.87% 35
Safeguarding² (Headcount 15)	0.94	0.33	0.61	0.00% 0
Transformation (Headcount 65)	3.57	0.43	3.14	1.54% 1

¹ Includes Children's Commissioning Consortium Cymru (Headcount 12)

² Includes Regional Commissioning Unit (Headcount 3)

PROSPERITY, DEVELOPMENT & FRONTLINE SERVICES	% Total	% <28 Days	% >28 Days	Staff Turnover
Total (Headcount 930)	5.03	0.76	4.27	4.84% 45
Frontline Services (and Group Director) (Headcount 829)	5.31	0.82	4.49	4.83% 40
Prosperity & Development (Headcount 101)	2.73	0.23	2.50	4.95% 5

EDUCATION & INCLUSION SERVICES	% Total	% <28 Days	% >28 Days	Staff Turnover
Total (Headcount 1,257)	3.00	0.73	2.27	5.57% 70
Education Improvement & Inclusion Services (and Group Director) (Headcount 203)	3.17	0.86	2.31	7.88% 16
21st Century Schools (Headcount 1,054)	2.97	0.71	2.26	5.12% 54

SCHOOLS	% Total	% <28 Days	% >28 Days	Staff Turnover
Total (Headcount 4,893)	2.78	0.80	1.98	6.27% 307
Primary Schools (Headcount 3,058)	3.07	0.82	2.25	6.05% 185
Secondary Schools (Headcount 1,835)	2.31	0.76	1.55	6.65% 122

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DIVISION	% Total	% <28 Days	% >28 Days	Staff Turnover
Total (Headcount 827)	2.45	0.50	1.95	3.63% 30
Cabinet Office & Public Relations (and Chief Executive) (Headcount 28)	0.09	0.09	0.00	3.57% 1
Corporate Estates (Headcount 81)	2.46	0.25	2.21	2.47% 2
Financial & Digital Services (Headcount 255)	2.84	0.75	2.09	6.27% 16
Human Resources (Headcount 421)	2.53	0.45	2.08	2.38% 10
Legal Services (Headcount 42)	0.96	0.29	0.67	2.38% 1

STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER UPDATES 2020/21

Strategic Risk	COUNCIL PRIORITY	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	RISK DESCRIPTION	CONTROLS & ACTIONS	Risk Rating QTR 3			QTR 3 UPDATE 2020/21
					I	L	RATING	
1	LIVING WITHIN OUR MEANS	Barrie Davies	If the Council does not ensure that the investment and financial planning decisions are aimed at long term stability and sustainability, it will be unable to deliver effective services to residents and businesses within the County Borough.	<p>CONTROLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision making arrangements need to demonstrate links with the Council's Corporate Plan priorities (that are themselves aligned to the Well-being of Future Generations Act); Investment and financial planning decisions are subject to Cabinet approval and where appropriate pre-scrutiny; and A requirement for the Council to forecast its revenue budget over the medium term and set a rolling three year Capital Programme. <p>ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget holders and Finance / Performance officers working together to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robust and deliverable annual revenue budgets and 3 year capital programme are set taking into account Corporate Plan priorities. In year operational performance results are in line with targets and the agreed capital / revenue resources and additional investment funding approved. The Council's year-end Statement of Accounts (SoA) receive an unqualified opinion (i.e. clean bill of health) and General Balances are at an appropriate level as determined by the Responsible Finance Office i.e. a minimum of £10M. The public reporting of financial and operational performance information during the year to enable results to be scrutinised and designated elected members and officers held to account; and Applying a medium term financial planning approach to service planning to enable the Council to effectively plan future service delivery in line with expected resources available. 	5	4	20	<p>ORIGINAL RISK RATING 5x4=20</p> <p>The third quarter revenue budget position is projecting a £1.049M overspend (i.e. a 0.21% variance against a total net revenue budget of £508.747M). This position incorporates projected full year additional costs and income losses in relation to the unprecedented impact of Covid-19 amounting to £46M (assumed to be fully funded through additional resources being made available by Welsh Government). The projected position of £1.049M represents an improving picture in comparison to quarters 1 and 2 (where the positions were projected overspends of £2.903M and £1.853M respectively). Work is on-going across all service areas to take action to contribute to bringing the financial position closer in line with budget as well as the continuation of robust and timely arrangements to monitor, update and claim for the financial impact of Covid-19.</p> <p>Key actions completed / progressed during the third quarter were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet agreed its approach to the 2021/22 revenue budget consultation process (13th October 2020), with phase 1 running from 26th October to 7th December 2020 The Council updated its Medium Term Financial Plan (2020/21 to 2023/24) (MTFF) and the updated document was reported to Cabinet (13/10/20), Council (21/10/20) and reviewed by the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee (16/11/20) – in line with the approved allocation of £1.5M from General Fund balances in 2019/20 to support the recovery work from Storm Dennis (General Fund balances being £8.709M at 31/3/20), the updated MTFF document sets out a plan to replenish General Fund balances to £10M over the next 3 years (i.e. by 2023/24). The external audit of the Council's and Pension Fund 2019/20 Statement of Accounts were completed by Audit Wales and reported to the 25/11/20 full Council meeting (the audit opinions reported were both unqualified i.e. 'clean bills of health'). <p>Key actions to complete in quarter 4 are: the Senior Leadership Team formulating a proposed budget strategy for 2021/22 for Cabinet's consideration (taking into account the phase 1 budget consultation feedback, provisional local government settlement information (announced on 22/12/20), key strategic priorities and updated base budget requirements and proposals to deliver further significant budget savings); Cabinet's proposed 2021/22 revenue budget strategy consulted upon, the results of which to be reported back to Cabinet for consideration and for Cabinet to then recommend a revenue budget strategy and level of Council Tax for 2021/22 to full Council; Cabinet to consider a new 3 year Capital Programme (2021/22 to 2023/24) and recommend its approval at the March 2021 full Council meeting; and full Council on 10th March to consider Cabinet's recommended 2021/22 revenue budget strategy, level of Council Tax for the forthcoming year and new 3 year Capital Programme (2021/22 to 2023/24).</p> <p>No change to the risk rating.</p>
2	PEOPLE	Annabel Lloyd	If the priorities for Children's Services (CIN, CPR & CLA) are not managed effectively then the ability of the Council to effectively support vulnerable children and families and meet the requirements of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act may be compromised.	<p>CONTROLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C&S – monitored through Children Services Management Team on a quarterly bases. CP: Monitored through the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Quality Assurance Group that reports to the Safeguarding Board on a quarterly bases. CLA: Monitored through the CLA Strategic Group and CLA Quality Assurance Group that meets monthly. <p>ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLA - plan in place to continue to work to reducing CLA. This covers close monitoring of those who come into the system and those who need to leave the system. This includes putting in systems that challenges decision making at relevant points in process, auditing, monitoring and analysis trends. CP - the quality assurance group have a plan of auditing a number of aspects of those children on the child protection register that fall into a number of identified categories: i.e. those who have been on the register for over a year. C&S – Plan to redesign the delivery of Early Intervention Services (Resilience Families Programme) to look at how early intervention services are delivered. 	5	3	15	<p>ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 5x3=15</p> <p>The likely mid-term impact of the Pandemic for vulnerable families means that we are unable to alter the risk rating. We continue to see an increase in the number of children and families accessing services. Due to the complexity of needs, families require services longer which puts continued pressures on services across Children's Services. Although we have seen a 27% decrease in the rate of children becoming looked after, the impact of Covid 19 means that looked after numbers may increase due to delays in work on safe exits from the looked after system, and both placement availability and stability are affected, most significantly for those young people with most complex needs. The cost of care has, and will continue to increase. The rate of referral has now increased, demand is growing, and recruitment and retention in frontline social work services remains challenging. Preventative face to face work with families continues to be constrained, albeit every effort to work by phone and video is being deployed. The impact for vulnerable families of having to stay at home is likely to lead to an increase in demand for statutory children's services in the mid term. Low take up of school places for vulnerable learners (10%) also compounds the risk.</p>
3	PEOPLE	Neil Elliott	The changing demographics and potential increase in demand to social services may impact on the ability of the Council to safeguard its vulnerable adults and keep citizens independent for longer. If we do not continue to modernise services (working with partners including Health and Third Sector) in line with the SS@WB Act this may result in inappropriate care and support and increased costs of providing services.	<p>CONTROLS</p> <p>The multi-agency Transformational Leadership and Strategic Partnership groups are now in place reporting to the Cwm Taf Social Services & Wellbeing Board and Cwm Taf Public Service Board to maximise integration opportunities across the region.</p> <p>ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay well @ Home Service in place Statement of Intent for Older People's Services Population needs assessments Adult Services Improvement/development plans being developed with partners focusing on early intervention, prevention and support. 	5	3	15	<p>ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 5x3=15</p> <p>No change in risk rating this quarter.</p> <p>Quarter 3 has again been dominated by our continued response to COVID-19 across Adult Services and our main priorities remained the same as in previous quarters; namely, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support and safeguard our most vulnerable people and their carers to stay safe and well in the community; respond to critical and immediate care and support requirements; work with partners to support timely and safe discharge from hospital; support our care providers to deliver quality and safe services and to respond to COVID-19 risks; and refocus community services to respond quickly to help people who may be isolated and in need of support. <p>There continues to be some temporary disruption to services while we continue to prioritise care and support offers, based on assessed need and risk. Workloads remain high and caseloads are becoming increasingly more complex as the current COVID-19 pandemic continues and there is a waiting list of cases to be allocated in some areas. Additional external support continues to be commissioned to reduce backlogs. In addition, accessing service provision remains difficult due to new lockdown restrictions, capacity issues and increasing staff absence. All our care and support services are under regular review with the aim of ensuring people receive the care and support based on their assessed need and risk.</p>
6	LIVING WITHIN OUR MEANS	Tim Jones	If the Council does not manage its information assets in accordance with requirements set down within legislation then it may be faced with financial penalties and possible sanctions that hinder service delivery.	<p>CONTROLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance Structures are in place and the Council has a designated SIRO. Policies and Procedures are in place. Designated team in place that provides on-going training and also undertake investigations that involve potential breaches. External Reviews & Accreditation e.g. PSN, PCI, WAO. <p>ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDPR gap analysis to be completed in readiness for May 2018. Continue to review technology measures and update as necessary. Continue to investigate and report potential events/incidents. Continue with external reviews and attain accreditations for PSN/PCI. Deliver risk-based training / regular communication, face to face and via e-learning, staffing bulletins, global emails. 	5	2	10	<p>ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 4x3=12</p> <p>The Information Management Team continues to provide specialist advice, information and support to Services during the quarter, ensuring that any new or change to business processes as a result of COVID-19 pandemic and alternative working arrangements are GDPR compliant - thus minimising the risk of a personal data breach and enforcement action by the Information Commissioner. Operationally a key focus remains to support incident response and investigation.</p> <p>Cyber Security communications have been increased following reports of external attacks to government, local authorities and Schools. The Council is continuing with its proactive approach to mitigate risk around cyber security. Key deliverables during the quarter include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead organisation for the National All Wales TTP Data Mapping group. Development and review of data sharing agreements and protocols to support COVID-19. Continued work on the potential impact of Brexit on the Council in relation to personal data flows from the EU to the UK. Supported the review and signing of the MAPPA information sharing agreement between the National Probation Service, South Wales Police, HM Prison Services and Agencies. Accreditation of the BACS Bureau as result of external Audit (Oct 2020). Development of a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) ahead of the Public Services Network external accreditation. Review of Security Technical Measures.

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11	PROSPERITY	Simon Gale	If projects aimed at regenerating the local communities through the Council's investment programme are not planned, procured and managed effectively by the Council, then delivery could be severely compromised and the benefits lost.	CONTROLS and ACTIONS Robust service delivery arrangements and governance structures are in place to ensure the successful delivery of key strategic regeneration projects. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing effective business cases for individual projects to ensure they are viable and cost effective. Involving stakeholders to support the delivery of key interventions from across the Council, other public Bodies, Welsh Government and the private sector. Establishing project boards responsible for overseeing the delivery of individual projects. A Project Protocol which is made available for project development and implementation that identifies the mechanisms needed to structure successful project delivery. The establishment of an External Funding Officer Group which reviews externally funded project activity across the Council at least quarterly. Regular update reports considered by SLT and the Council's Cabinet ACTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that all projects adhere to the project protocol procedures the completion of which is overseen by Officers from Regeneration and Finance. To ensure that all such funding bids are compliant with funding terms and conditions. 	4	4	16	ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 4x3=12 No change from the previous quarter It has been necessary to upgrade the risk rating (as per the Quarter 1 Performance Report) as a result of the presence of the coronavirus pandemic and the real risk this presents to the ability to deliver schemes on time and on budget. Nevertheless, the Prosperity and Development Service has continued to deliver/co-ordinate the largest economic investment programme in the Council's history. Despite the coronavirus lockdown, and through working closely with our contractors, significant progress has still been made on the delivery of key regeneration projects as set out in the Service's delivery plan although there have been some inevitable delays. This includes the redevelopment of Taff Vale, the development of light industrial business units at Robertstown and Coed Ely, and the delivery of the objectives set out in the Council's five strategic opportunity areas and town centre masterplans. All projects and programmes have established robust service delivery arrangements and governance structures, which is ensuring the successful management of these schemes.
13	PEOPLE	Paul Mee	If the resources the Council has available are reduced or not targeted in a coherent way that meets need, then the ability to tackle the root causes of poverty and help build sustainable and resilient communities through an early intervention and preventative approach may be compromised thereby creating greater pressure on statutory services, and thereby reducing the impact on wellbeing priorities.	CONTROLS The following controls have been put in place to manage risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delegated team in place to manage risk. Regular monitoring of tackling poverty grants to ensure compliance, impact and value for money. Regular meetings with Welsh Government as part of the Building Resilient Communities national work programme. Liaising with Cabinet Members to provide regular updates. ACTIONS To develop and deliver services that focus on building more involved and resilient communities to tackle poverty and promote well-being. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing the recommendations following a review into all Families First Commissioned services, with a focus on prevention, integration, collaboration and involvement (5 ways of working). Implementation of the Team around the Family review recommendations in order to improve the long term prospects of the family and prevent problems from escalating. Implement a revised Communities First programme in line with Welsh Government priorities for 2017/18. 	5	4	20	ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 5x2=10 Indicative allocations of grant funding in respect of Children and Communities Grant and Housing Support Grant (HSG) have been received during quarter 3 including additional funding for 21/22 in respect of HSG in recognition of the need to mainstream transitional funding activity and Covid related enhanced services going forward. Spending plans and approvals will be progressed during quarter 4. Services continue to experience pressure due to the implications of Covid-19 but service providers are being supported to maintain service provision in challenging circumstances. No change to the risk rating.
14	PROSPERITY	Gaynor Davies	More comprehensive schools than ever are facing a financial deficit as they seek to maintain sixth form provision with falling pupil numbers and funding. This could have an adverse impact on KS3 & 4 provision. If schools reduce teaching capacity to help deliver the savings required to manage deficits, then the ability to deliver positive educational outcomes at KS 3 & 4 may be compromised in	CONTROLS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open communication with Head teachers. Support available from key officers from within the Council. ACTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with all Head teachers to communicate the financial pressures that the Council is under and re-iterate their involvement in aiming to realise more efficient working practices. Work with Schools in order to identify possible areas to increase efficiency. 	4	4	16	ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 4x3=12 No change from previous position. The majority of secondary schools are making progress with budget deficit plans with a few small exceptions. Three comprehensive schools are revising their budget deficit plans as the Council has agreed to delay the removal of their 6th forms for a further 12 months. This adjustment is necessary as the Council is awaiting a Ministerial decision on the removal of the 6th form from one faith school. This will ensure that learners are able plan for their educational progression in September 2021 without further delay.
15	PLACES	Nigel Wheeler	The Council has a comprehensive highways infrastructure that relies on many significant structures such as bridges and retaining walls to ensure constant traffic movement. Many of these structures are of a considerable age and the risk of potential failure, which results in road closures, is significant. If unforeseen road closures occur then these can have a major impact on local communities and the local economy.	CONTROLS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine monitoring of the entire highways network. Regular reports to SLT & Cabinet. We have appointed an additional staff; this means we have appropriate in-house capability to manage this complex and significant asset. ACTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest additional monies in road, highways infrastructure and pavement networks over the next four years, on top of the previous investment since 2011. Provide an up date on the impact of key investment projects in 2016/17/18 through the investment programme Provide an up date to Scrutiny Committee on delivery of the Highways / Transportation infrastructure investment programme. Review and update the Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP) to ensure that the principal assets have been identified and form part of the Plan, and relevant document and service standards agreed. 	4	2	8	ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 4x2=8 The level of risk remains unchanged due to the comprehensive programme of work for structures, retaining walls and bridges both on the Highway network and in parks. The Highways Project Board (HPB) monitors the investment that is evidencing on-going improvement to the network; there are however challenges in terms of recruiting qualified staff (when competing with the private sector) and limited numbers of both consultants and contractors to support our staff. The HPB will continue to monitor these issues and ensure the capital programme is delivered and the highway network effectively maintained. No change to risk rating.
18	LIVING WITHIN OUR MEANS	Richard Evans	If the Council does not develop and invest in its staff, transforming the way it delivers its services to meet future demographic and financial pressures will be more difficult. It will also have an adverse impact on the retention and recruitment of staff.	CONTROLS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workforce planning arrangements are in place that aim to identify possible gaps now and in the future. Staff consultation and communication. ACTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with the apprenticeship and graduate schemes and ensure that placements are focussed on areas where workforce planning issues may become apparent in the future. Review training that is available to staff and ensure that it is suitable. 	4	3	12	ORIGINAL RISK RATING 4x3=12 12 Apprentices started in September 2020, 17 in January 2021 and 4 due to start February 2021 – total 33 21 Graduates started in October 2020 with a further 5 starting Jan/Feb 2021 – total – 26. Staff induction, pre-retirement, Mercury, ILM and Transform programmes have been revised and continue to be delivered virtually.

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20	LIVING WITHIN OUR MEANS	Tim Jones	If the Council's I.T infrastructure is not continuously reviewed to confirm that it is fit for business use and secure, then access to information and systems could be hindered, by for example cyber risk/attack, resulting in interruption to service delivery.	<p>CONTROLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disaster Recovery Plan in place should an interruption be experienced. Digital Strategy – Infrastructure Theme/Plan. Governance Structure. Policies and Procedures in place e.g. patch management, change control. External Reviews & Accreditation e.g. PSN, PCI, WAO, 3rd party suppliers. Staff Training / 3rd Party Support Contracts. <p>ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refresh & upgrade end of life infrastructure & software. Prepare for the PSN inspection. Monitor and measure Infrastructure Availability & Performance. Implement recommendations from external review / accreditation. Train Staff in order to ensure that they have the appropriate skills to use new systems and software. 	5	4	20	<p>ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 5x3=15</p> <p>The migration to the Data Centre is still at 90% complete. Final stages are unable to be completed due to continued work toward Covid19 measures and an increased focus on uptime and service provision. A plan is in place to complete this as part of Service Recovery and also to add greater resilience (the additional resilience to be built into Ty Elai for increased local resilience and for faster DR capability). The Ty Elai DR project is in progress, with its target date to finish revised for completion by the end of the Q1 2021.</p> <p>Schools infrastructure upgrades continue to move in line with WG plan.</p> <p>Wi-Fi at core sites has been refreshed with a new hardware and software solution and this is being rolled out to wider corporate sites. Additional access services have been added with the VPN approach for better homeworking. Plan is still underway to address end of life for Windows servers that are approaching end of support. PSN plan in place to meet the end of year timeframe for renewal. The Council is continuing with its proactive approach to mitigate increased risk around cyber security.</p> <p>Performance Information Q3: Key Applications / Servers Availability 99.92% WAN Availability 99.89% No change to risk rating.</p>
21	LIVING WITHIN OUR MEANS	Chris Bradshaw	Given the shift in approach to services being delivered on a regional footprint, if services are delivered to citizens and staff of Rhondda Cynon Taf using this method, then appropriate arrangements must be in place to ensure that the interests of all current stakeholders are appropriately represented and that service delivery does not fall / suffer.	<p>CONTROLS</p> <p>Legal agreements between local authorities are in place; Governance and scrutiny functions in place; Regular reporting of performance is available.</p>	5	3	15	<p>ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 5x3=15</p> <p>No change from the previous quarter.</p> <p>The regional TTP team has been enhanced and Joint Enforcement teams with South Wales Police were in place after the first firebreak in November. This joint approach to enforcing the Covid 19 regulations is working effectively, responding to many issues prior to the Christmas lockdown. The mass testing centres in the lower Cynon Valley were established in partnership with UK & Welsh Governments along with CTMUHB. The Council staffed and managed the centres, and the engagement by the local communities was excellent. Joint planning is also being undertaken in respect of the Vaccination Programme with the Council offering various sites for mass vaccination centres, along with staff to manage the process, similar to the approach adopted at the mass testing centres. The first vaccinations of care home residents started before Christmas.</p>
22	LIVING WITHIN OUR MEANS	Chris Bradshaw	The risk of a No Deal Brexit seems ever more likely and whilst the Council can put contingency arrangements in place to manage some impacts of a No Deal these arrangements are temporary. Therefore, there will be economic and other risks that could materialise that are outside of our control, which will impact on the Council and local community.	<p>CONTROLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) led by the Chief Executive are leading on issues relating to Brexit Dedicated Lead Brexit Officer and Cabinet Member have been identified to monitor progress on Brexit and manage risk. Regular updates reported to Elected Members, SLT and Cabinet. <p>ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with the WLGA through the Brexit Transition Support Programme, set up to help local authorities prepare for Brexit. Complete the WAO call for evidence and self assessment in relation to Brexit Preparedness. Implementation of the self assessment findings. 	5	4	20	<p>ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 5x2=10</p> <p>Shortly before Christmas, the UK and EU agreed on a Trade Deal that has prevented a No Deal Brexit. This has reduced the potential risks of food and medicine shortages in the UK. However, with changes in the administrative requirements to import and export goods between the UK and the EU, the additional paperwork and legislative requirements will inevitably cause delay in the first few months as issues are identified and addressed. Therefore, whilst the likelihood risk could drop from a 4 to a 3 moving forward, the issues associated with the transfer of goods between the EU and UK still remain uncertain, particularly due to the pandemic and borders closing at short notice.</p>
23	PROSPERITY	Chris Bradshaw/Gaynor Davies	If projects are not delivered on time and/or on budget then this could impede the delivery and intended (positive) impact of the 21st Century Schools Band B Programme within the Council.	<p>CONTROLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A designated project board is in place that oversees the delivery of the Council's 21st Century programme. Regular updates are reported to the Welsh Government. Individual projects are managed using PRINCE2 methodology. <p>ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission and approval of all business cases within Band B of the 21st Century Schools Programme. 	5	3	15	<p>ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 5x3=15</p> <p>No change from the previous quarter. Tonyrefail Community School project achieved practical completion for the whole project. Phase 1 of Hirwaun Primary School was completed on programme and staff/pupils are using the new facility. Phase 2 works are progressing well and remain on programme. Good progress is being made with the design stages of YG Rhydywaun and YGG Aberdar. It is still necessary to revisit the timescales for the Pontypridd Schools projects as a result of the recent Judicial Review process.</p> <p>Before Christmas, the Court of Appeal determined that the Council had complied with the legislative requirements in consulting and making a decision on plans to reorganise the Pontypridd Schools and overturned the earlier Judicial Review decision. This decision now allows the Council to review its 21st Century School Programme, discuss the impact the delay has had on the respective projects and discuss with schools the revised timeframes for delivery. The Council is also waiting for the decision of the Welsh Government Education Minister on the proposal to close the sixth form at Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive School. Once this decision has been made in the New Year, the planned programme will be made public in due course.</p>
24	PEOPLE, PLACES & PROSPERITY	Chris Bradshaw	Given the expectations placed upon the Council to become net zero by 2050 in respect of its carbon emissions, if residents and businesses do not actively engage with the Council and Welsh Government to reduce their energy consumption, reduce their use of plastics, and adopt sustainable approaches to travel, then the full benefits will not materialise.	<p>The Council's approach to implementing net zero has been set out in the report presented to Cabinet at its meeting held on 18th June 2019.</p> <p>CONTROLS</p> <p>Using the information that we have available to calculate a baseline. Regular monitoring & reporting arrangements have now been put in place to monitor delivery of the detailed actions outlined within the Cabinet report noted above.</p> <p>ACTIONS</p> <p>Calculating a baseline of the Council's Carbon and other greenhouse gases will enable the Council to identify short term and long term actions to change the way we work, procure and deliver our services, and highlight those changes that will have the greatest effect on reducing the Council's carbon footprint.</p> <p>Detailed actions are contained within the report presented to Cabinet, and these are not fully replicated in this document. They cover the following main headings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy & Energy Efficiency Vehicles & Mobility Greening Our Local Environment <p>SUMMARY</p> <p>The Council's Corporate Plan – The Way Ahead 2016-2020, will need to be replaced in March 2020 and a new Corporate Plan produced for the next five years. It is proposed that the Council's response to the Committee on Climate Change report is incorporated into the new Corporate Plan and is taken into account in preparing the Council's Medium term Financial Plan for the period 2020/2023.</p>	5	4	20	<p>ORIGINAL RISK RATING: 5x4=20</p> <p>The Council's original commitment to net Zero was agreed by Cabinet in June 2019</p> <p>CONTROLS</p> <p>A cross party Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group has been put in place to further strengthen the planning and monitoring arrangements for meeting the Council's carbon reduction commitments. The Group also includes representatives from community groups.</p> <p>ACTIONS</p> <p>The Council's new Corporate Plan got 2020-24 - 'Making a Difference' reinforces the Council's commitment to reducing its Carbon footprint and in its Community Leadership role encouraging, supporting and facilitating community action to reduce carbon across the County Borough. More detailed actions and targets continue to emerge through the Steering Group.</p> <p>The Chief Executive sits on the Local Government Decarbonisation Strategy Panel convened by Welsh Government to support the implementation of its strategy Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales and its response to the more recent report from the Climate Change Committee, The Path to Net Zero and progress on reducing emissions in Wales</p>

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25	PEOPLE, PLACES & PROSPERITY	Chris Bradshaw/Paul Mee	<p>The impact of the global Covid 19 pandemic arising from coronavirus is continuing to principally effect the health and economic well-being of the County Borough. The Council reconfigured services to deliver essential support to vulnerable people during the early lockdown phases and is now making good progress in implementing Recovery Plans to open up other services, safely, within Welsh Government guidelines. Covid-19 is still with us and will be until such time as an effective vaccine is available. There are three separate but connected risks.</p> <p>- If there is a resurgence of the virus in RCT then the Council, and its key partners such as the UHB, Police and PHW, must take immediate steps to put in place controls and enforcement measures to limit the spread of infection, to protect communities, support businesses and alleviate</p> <p>- The pandemic has changed the way in which people live their lives, from shopping, to working, to travelling, often as a result of digital alternatives. This has had an adverse effect on local businesses, in particular sectors such as retail and hospitality. The risk is that town centres and other key retail locations become redundant and neglected as businesses fail. The Council working with local businesses and partners need to respond to these lifestyle changes by supporting and facilitating the economic development and resurgence of local businesses and town centres; and also modernising public services.</p> <p>- Longer term, the Council must ensure it learns from the Covid-19 pandemic and is better placed to plan and prepare its services to residents and businesses in the event of future pandemics in order to minimise the significant cumulative effect on the Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural well-being of the County Borough</p>	<p>The Council's ongoing approach to managing its response to the Covid-19 pandemic has been set out in the reports presented to Cabinet on 21 May, 25 June, 28 July and the Leader's Executive Decision on 14 August in respect of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Covid 19 Prevention & Response Plan.</p> <p>CONTROLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chief Executive is part of the joint Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB Health Board and Local Authorities Group. Director of Public Health, Protection & Community services is a member the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Strategic Regional Oversight Group and is currently the Regional Lead for Contact Tracing and Case Management within the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Prevention and Response Plan. A specific internal Board, Covid Tactical Group (CTG) has been established, chaired by the Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services and which comprises representatives from all front line services and also the Emergency Planning, Resilience and Sustainability Adviser. The CTG group reports directly to the Council's Senior Leadership Team, through which it regularly reports to Cabinet. The Director of Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services represents the Council on the South Wales Local Resilience Forum. Regular updates are reported to the Welsh Government. Council has put in place Service Recovery and Contingency Plans in the event of a resurgence of the virus. Monitoring & reporting arrangements have been put in place to monitor delivery of the detailed actions outlined within the Cabinet report noted above.(or they will be) <p>ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short Term – the Council will continue to work with partners to reduce the spread of the virus and reduce its impact on the Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural Well-being of the County Borough. This will be monitored through the regular reports to Cabinet, relevant current and future partnership arrangements, the Council's Regulators as required and Welsh Government. Long Term – the Council will work with partner organisations and will use the lessons learnt from the local, national and global approaches to the pandemic to strengthen its approach to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimise the effect of infectious disease, reduce the risk of illness or death, be better able prepare for and respond to future incidents, put in place the resources required to mitigate and manage the risk. 	5	5	25	<p>NEW RISK FOR 2020/21</p> <p>Quarter 3 of 20/21 has been very difficult with significant increases in the positive Covid 19 cases across the County Borough. During this period Welsh Government introduced a two week Firebreak. Whilst, this had a positive impact on reducing the number of cases, within a short period after the firebreak ended the number of cases rose significantly across Wales. As a result, shortly before Christmas, Welsh Government introduced a national lockdown and is restricting movement across Wales, encouraging everyone to stay home wherever possible. We have continued to provide Welsh Government support to businesses over the firebreak and lockdowns and provide direct payments to parents/carers of children on free school meals. However, the impact of the pandemic and the necessary lockdowns on individuals, families, businesses and communities will not be fully realised for many months. Inevitably, this will bring forward short and longer term issues for public services to respond to in the coming months. Nevertheless, the regulatory approval of the Pfizer-Biontech and the Oxford vaccines before Christmas are very welcome and hopefully over the next year, everyone will be vaccinated and life will return to some form of normality. The financial implications of Covid-19 in terms of additional expenditure and income losses are significant, as set out in the report, and the Council will continue to closely monitor and identify the additional financial implications and submit claims for reimbursement to the Welsh Government's Covid019 hardship fund (this action also links to Strategic Risk 1 above)</p> <p>The increase in case numbers experienced towards the end of September continued into October, where there was a peak in case numbers followed by a reduction and then a further significant increase in case rates from the end of November leading to a further peak in mid December. This led to further national alert level 4 lockdown restrictions being introduced from midnight on 19th December, which are likely to continue into quarter 4. The case rates and associated deaths due to Covid-19 in Cwm Taf Morgannwg and RCT have been the highest in Wales. The Council has maintained its essential services throughout this challenging period, adapting to new ways of working and delivering services, enhancing the capacity within the TTP contact tracing service to meet the increased demand. In addition whole area testing has been successfully piloted in the lower Cynon Valley during December utilising lateral flow device tests to identify asymptomatic cases in the population. The Regional Oversight Group continues to meet fortnightly to oversee the TTP programme and a regional Incident Management Team meets weekly to coordinate the response to outbreaks in our communities. Outbreaks in district general hospitals combined with increased hospital admissions have put pressure on the NHS and hospital discharge arrangements to care and support are being managed between the UHB and Adult Services to support the hospitals. Many care homes have been affected and infection control and practical support is being provided to maintain services and standards of care. At the end of quarter 3 case rates per 100,000 and positivity rates remain very high and the pandemic will continue to be a priority and key risk to the Council for the foreseeable future. No change to risk rating.</p>

Council's Priority 2020-24:	PEOPLE – ensure people are independent, healthy and successful
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Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Q3 Progress	Additional Information
Supporting our residents who are older, vulnerable or who have disabilities, to remain independent and have a good quality of life	Continue to assess and prioritise cases, in accordance with the flexibilities afforded by the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) 2014 Act, based on need and risk in a way that safeguards people and involves them and their families in decision making.	Adult Services	Some Progress	<p>Adult Services continues to work within the statutory duties of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, although there continues to be some temporary disruption while we prioritise services and modify care and support offers, based on assessed need and risk.</p> <p>Assessments continue to take a person-centred approach as far as practicable, although our focus will be on those with greatest need. However, under Alert Level 4 restrictions, there has been a need to return to doing more work over the phone – for a lot of people we can do everything we need to do in this way. This will reduce the number of visits to people but, where necessary, we will continue to undertake some critical visits in agreement with the person and, where applicable, their carer. Single Point Access (SPA) and social work duty arrangements will also continue to operate across all our Teams to ensure people can speak to skilled staff about their care and support needs and, where relevant, appropriate action is taken.</p> <p>However, as the pandemic continues, we experience growing pressures as more people need care and support, and workloads across Adult Services remain high and caseloads become increasingly more complex. There remains a waiting list of cases to be allocated across Care and Support and in the ACE (Occupational Therapy) Team. Additional external support continues to be commissioned to address increased levels of assessment and review workloads across Care and Support.</p>
	Continue to work with NHS Partners to ensure people are discharged safely and timely from hospital and supported in the community with appropriate health and social care support.	Adult Services	Progressing as planned	<p>The period since the beginning of December 2020 has continued to be demanding in relation to hospital discharges, although the position is now starting to stabilise. The Council is continuing to work in partnership with Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB) and our commissioned providers to support individuals, with care and support needs, to discharge safely from hospital.</p> <p>Additional Winter Protection Plan funds for 2020/21, covered in the update to the Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee on 8th December 2020, are being used by Adult Services to increase social work assessment and home care capacity across “Discharge to Recover and Assess” pathways, which is impacting positively on discharges and ensuring people are able to return home from hospital as quickly as possible.</p> <p>However, despite care homes supporting the admission of patients from hospital, wherever possible and if they can provide the appropriate care safely, on-going Covid-19 outbreaks and the subsequent Public Health Wales (PHW) Covid free restrictions placed on admissions is limiting care home placements (in particular, nursing and dementia), resulting in some discharges taking longer to complete.</p> <p>From 26th October 2020 to 7th January 2021, Adult Services supported 191 in-patient discharges and 155 Stay Well @ Home discharges. The success of this response is testament to the strength of the established partnership with CTMUHB and our providers.</p>

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Q3 Progress	Additional Information
Supporting our residents who are older, vulnerable or who have disabilities, to remain independent and have a good quality of life	Continue to work in partnership with Linc Cymru to deliver the extra care housing schemes at Pontypridd and Porth and enable more people to live independently in their own home	Adult Services	Progressing as planned	<p>The Cwrt yr Orsaf development in Pontypridd continues to make progress towards completion in Summer 2021, despite the significant challenges faced by Contractors due to Covid-19, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Externally, alongside the completion of all areas of the roof and the brickwork façade, progress is being made with the cladding to all elevations. Aluminium windows and screens have been installed and glazed throughout. Internally, skim plastering to the walls is ongoing, along with the fitting of kitchens and internal doors to the lower ground floor and upper ground floor apartments. Bathroom and kitchen tiling in these apartments also continues to progress. Mechanical and electrical installations are nearing completion to the top floor, while all three stairwells are now installed. <p>Proposals to create a new 60-unit extra care housing scheme in Porth in line with the Council's strategy to modernise options for older people and deliver extra care housing as part of the redevelopment of the Dan y Mynydd Care Home were agreed by the Council's Cabinet on 3rd December 2020.</p>
	Continue to work in partnership with housing providers to deliver modern additional supported housing accommodation for vulnerable people, including Crown Avenue, Treorchy and Oxford Street, Mountain Ash	Adult Services	Progressing as planned	<p>Crown Avenue refurbishment complete and people will move in from January 2021 (a slight delay to ensure installation of telecare equipment at the scheme).</p> <p>Refurbishment of the Oxford Street (Mountain Ash) scheme continues to make good progress through the pandemic and is due to complete in spring 2021. Assessments of new tenants will start in the new year.</p> <p>Development of a new housing with care and support strategy for vulnerable adults is progressing well to confirm the Council's approach to ensure that it can adapt and respond to future service demands and requirements.</p>
	Continue to ensure that care homes and other care providers receive appropriate ongoing operational and financial support as the situation continues to evolve in line with Welsh Government guidance.	Adult Services	Progressing as planned	<p>A range of measures remain in place to ensure, as much as possible, the on-going resilience of our commissioned care providers in ensuring safety, capacity and sustainability of provision. This includes continued support to adult social care providers to mitigate the Covid-19 impact through the distribution of the Covid Hardship Fund (where additional costs / income losses have been incurred as a result of pandemic).</p> <p>Feedback from our commissioned care providers continues to be positive and supportive, reinforcing our long-established relationships.</p> <p>The Adults Purchasing and Commissioning Team also continues to work closely with colleagues in Environmental Health, PHW and Health to support providers to manage the stringent requirements on infection control and PPE to keep the people they support safe.</p> <p>As mentioned above, the Council along with its regional Health and local authority partners have recently started to work with the sector to plan and support the roll out of asymptomatic lateral flow testing to frontline social care staff, along with the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccination programme.</p>

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Q3 Progress	Additional Information
Supporting our residents who are older, vulnerable or who have disabilities, to remain independent and have a good quality of life	Work with care homes to implement procedures with them to safely accommodate visits from friends and family in line with Welsh Government guidance.	Adult Services	Some Progress	<p>Since the introduction of the Alert Level 4 restrictions on 20th December 2020, in line with Welsh Government guidance, the position relating to care visiting changed removing the ability to arrange risk assessed internal visiting, except in exceptional circumstances only, including, but not restricted to, end of life, as they have been throughout the pandemic. For compassionate reasons, care home visits are permitted under Alert Level 4 restrictions, but these should be restricted to outdoor visits, or visits within visitor pods or similar enclosed spaces. These outdoor visiting arrangements will be suspended in the event of a Covid-19 outbreak at a care home.</p> <p>The Covid-19 outbreak status at individual care homes changes frequently, and the majority of care homes have been subject to PHW Covid free restrictions since 20th December 2020, resulting in limited opportunity to provide outdoors visits since the start of the new Alert Level 4 restrictions. However, where possible, some outdoor "window visits" have taken place in line with risk assessments and PHW and Welsh Government guidance.</p> <p>The ultimate decision on whether, and in what circumstances care home visits take place, rests with the individual care home provider, which includes the Council for our in-house care homes. In each case, the care home needs to put in place appropriate risk assessments, social distancing and safety measures before allowing visits.</p> <p>The Council, and care home providers, recognise the importance of visiting to residents and their families, and we will continue to review risk assessments and arrangements for visiting in light of the current and any new guidance. In the interim, the Council and care home providers, support opportunities, where possible, with virtual visits and calls through various forms of technology to ensure residents, where possible, remain connected with family members.</p>

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Q3 Progress	Additional Information
Supporting our residents who are older, vulnerable or who have disabilities, to remain independent and have a good quality of life	Continue to review options for phased opening of day and respite services in line with demand and social distancing guidelines.	Adult Services	Progressing as planned	<p>Services continue to offer essential care and support, even during the new Alert Level 4 restrictions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Older People Day Centres - Whilst these centres remain temporarily closed, we have developed a new temporary outreach service to support people, assessed as critical due to their own or carer's needs in their own homes and community. •Older People with Dementia Day Centres - The Council operated Cwmni Dda Day Centre in Trecynon remains open to provide a limited prioritised day service only for those people assessed as critical due to their own needs or crisis situations. The Health run Lewis Merthyr Day Unit in Treorchy and Tonteg Day Unit in Pontypridd have been temporarily closed following the start of the new Alert Level 4 restrictions, which is attributable in part to some staff being realigned to support critical pressures in hospital settings. As a result, we contacted people to ensure that there was alternative care and support at home for those affected by the temporary closures. •Learning Disability Day Centres - Some centres and specialist provision for people with autism remain open to provide prioritised day care and support only for those people assessed as critical due to their own needs or crisis situations, including: Llwynypia Learning Curve, Abercynon Learning Curve, Gadlys (Aberdare) Learning Curve, Dan y Mynydd Autism Centre in Porth and the Autism Life Centre in Trealaw. Treforest, Gilfach Goch and Wattstown Learning Curves and work-based projects have been closed throughout Covid-19. •Learning Disability (accommodation based) Respite - Services continue, but only for people assessed and agreed as essential due to their own needs or crisis situations. All Council learning disability respite homes (excluding Clwyd Wen in Miskin, Pontyclun) and the facility commissioned from DRIVE in Brynsadler, Pontyclun remain open. Clwyd Wen is currently supporting an emergency accommodation placement and cannot be used for additional respite at this time. During the pandemic, we have ensured, where necessary, based on assessed need and risk, that there is alternative care and support at home for people affected by the reduced service offer.
	Work with regional partners to continue the phased reopening of regional equipment services to full capacity and restarting of windows manufacturing at Vision Products.	Adult Services	Progressing as planned	<p>A range of essential services have continued to operate at Vision Products during the pandemic and will continue during current new Alert Level 4 restrictions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Equipment Services, focusing on urgent deliveries and collections in Rhondda Cynon Taf and for other regional local authority partners and Health •Telecare installations and equipment servicing •Regional PPE service from 1st December 2020 <p>UPVC window manufacturing recommenced in October 2020 but has temporarily stopped again due to the new Alert Level 4 restrictions, and, where applicable, staff have utilised elsewhere in Vision Products.</p>

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Q3 Progress	Additional Information
Supporting our residents who are older, vulnerable or who have disabilities, to remain independent and have a good quality of life	Work with partners to restart Stay Well@Home (Phase 2), Assistive Technology and Enhanced Primary Care regional transformation projects from July 2020.	Adult Services	Complete	As lockdown restrictions eased in the early part of summer 2020, the Regional Health and Social Care Transformation Projects restarted in July. Further information of the two Projects managed by Adult Services: Assistive Technology (New Lifeline+ Service) – implementation of the Service began on 20th January 2020; however, full implementation has been delayed due to Covid-19. Whilst, the mobile responder element of the service has continued to operate flexibly throughout this period and provided a level of resilience and reassurance to residents, the proactive calling element has been delayed, but is now progressing. With changes for people in the shielding group changing from 16th August 2020, we have contacted them to offer on-going support through the New Lifeline+ Service, along with wider marketing of the service to all Rhondda Cynon Taf residents. Stay well@ Home 2 - Implementation of the service in Rhondda Cynon Taf began on 20th January 2020 and continued during Covid-19, although demand for support changed and the service offered reduced operationally to reflect this. Rhondda Cynon Taf restarted full operation of the Service (7 days a week, including out of hours) from 6th July 2020 and this was extended to Merthyr Tydfil from 20th July 2020. Adult Services and our partners are working on and delivering winter plans, with the occurrence of Covid-19 representing an unprecedented position for health and social - Stay Well @Home 2 will be key to reducing unnecessary attendance to hospital, in particular by the Welsh Ambulance Service, by supporting people to remain as safety at home.
	Continue support for NHS shielded patients and liaise with Test, Track & Trace colleagues to provide support to residents diagnosed with Covid-19 and required to shield for 2 weeks.	Community Services	Progressing as planned	Significant additional work has taken place to ensure resilience for the remainder of the year, and to support the whole area Testing pilot in Lower Cynon Valley during December 2020.
	Transition towards the co-ordination of Community Resilience Centres including identifying community need and deploy a timely response to ensure households are supported to maintain adequate food provision, obtain medication, dog walking etc.	Community Services	Progressing as planned	Focussed work has been undertaken during the year to date to ensure residents are supported appropriately. From 1st April 2020 to 31st December 2020 a total of 3393 individual residents have been supported, for example, with shopping, picking up prescriptions, friendly phone calls, dog walking, employment and benefits advice etc.
	Consider the future of CRC / Community Hub development post Covid-19.		Progressing as planned	Such have been the changes to National and Local Lockdowns during September to December 2020, the Community Hubs have reopened to ensure residents are supported appropriately.
	Restore 'At Home' library service from Rock Grounds		Complete	The @homelibrary service was suspended on the 23rd October 2020 after the introduction of an all Wales Firebreak. The service was reinstated on the 23rd November and has remained operational since. 17 new members have been added since the 23rd October 2020.
Encouraging residents to lead active and healthy lifestyles and maintain their mental wellbeing	Exploring ways that technology can support more people to exercise at home or minimise face to face contact.	Leisure Services	Progressing as planned	Classes are available via the Leisure For Life APP and are posted on our Facebook pages. These have been in existence since the end of March 2020.
	Introduce some open air classes, utilising our parks, 3G pitches to allow customers to exercise in a safe manner outdoors.		Complete	Classes started on 20th July with sessions taking place at 5 open air locations in RCT. Customers were able to book and pay for classes on line and via the APP. All systems implemented to ensure social distancing, 2 staff members will be present at every class. During the firebreak lockdown in October / November classes were cancelled in line with WG restrictions on meeting people outside of your household.

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Q3 Progress	Additional Information
Encouraging residents to lead active and healthy lifestyles and maintain their mental wellbeing	Continue to develop and improve our digital communications and services to sports organisations and residents, especially the promotion of "essential exercise" for physical and mental health benefits.	Leisure Services	Some Progress	Independent and small group outdoor activities are promoted on all social media platforms and through the Leisure For Life aAPP, along with key "benefits of regular activity" messages - for example, information to enable local walking, cycling and family activities. Support is also being provided to sports clubs and organisations to access the Sport Wales Be Active Fund. All messages are in line with WG restrictions e.g. exercising alone or with your household during Level 4 restrictions.
	Work with other Council services such as Education and YEPS to deliver safe, socially distanced exercise opportunities where services are being delivered e.g. summer HUB schools.		Complete	Summer activity programmes were run during the summer holidays in the summer Hub schools. Sports Development led on 2 Hubs and provided 12 delivery staff.
	Invest in programmes which enhance wellbeing through engagement with cultural activities and learning opportunities	Community Services	Progressing as planned	An online programme of arts activity and performances has been curated and is available through the Theatres' Facebook pages and RCT Theatres' YouTube page. The Arts & Creative Industries Team continue to deliver the Youth Arts and SONIG Youth Music Industry provision through online sessions for children and young people. Externally funded projects such as Forte also continue to be delivered digitally.
Integrating health and social care and providing support for those with mental health problems and complex needs	Deliver an effective and efficient Contact, Track and Trace Service for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) and the wider region, as part of the Regional Agreement for RCTCBC to host the service as part of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Response, to control the prevalence of Coronavirus in the community.	Public Protection	Progressing as planned	Performance in tracing cases and their contacts remains very high in spite of the significant surge in cases in December 2020. Additional staffing resources were secured from across all three Local Authorities in December in order to support service delivery and manage changes in demand, with the service coping well during this period and ensured appropriate training and completion of workloads. On-going focus is being afforded to ensuring the quality of data within the CRM system and processes are being developed for different settings e.g. care homes, schools, to assist the staff in decision making on any action required.
	Ensure a sustainable Regional workforce model is developed and deployed to deliver Contact Track and Trace on behalf of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region Partners for the duration of the Pandemic.		Progressing as planned	The communicable disease enforcement officers are now in post and working as part of the Joint Enforcement Teams with South Wales Police across RCT and Merthyr. We continue to use redeployed staff in the TTP service from across the 3 LA's full time or as casuals to assist the team, its workload and annual leave requests.
	Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements working with partners in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board.	Children's Services	Progressing as planned	The Board operating arrangements remain the same. Capacity and staffing challenges across agencies is beginning to have an impact on progress in some areas of work and in light of the introduction of Tier 4, discussions have taken place at Board level in order to reprioritise the work of the Board.

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Q3 Progress	Additional Information
Improving services for children and young people and ensuring the needs of children are considered in everything we do	Develop a safe, sustainable service delivery model to provide Children's Services statutory responsibilities that will meet anticipated Welsh Government guidance. This means incrementally increasing the service that can safely be made available to the public with the goal of achieving a return to a full service in line with Welsh Government Guidance. This will commence with the review of child protection conferences and increasing the number of children who we see and whose voices we hear.	Children's Services	Some Progress	<p>Children's Services continues to work to Welsh Government statutory guidance, subject to risk assessment and physical distancing requirements, adapting methods of service delivery as necessary. This guidance was revised in December 2020 to take account of the Alert Level 4 national coronavirus restrictions. Consequently, Children's Services are now once again focusing activity on the four critical areas of work previously identified: access to services and family support, safeguarding duties, children looked after and youth offending.</p> <p>Priority is being given to safely visiting and hearing the voices of children most at risk this includes those on the child protection register, those looked after where there is potential placement breakdown or those where input is critical to maintain them at home. We continue to look after children in both residential and foster care, prioritising children and carers most in need of support.</p> <p>We have commissioned UKICS to increase social work capacity in our Intensive Intervention Services (where there are social worker vacancies); this being identified as a key risk for the Council and service to manage. Child Protection Conferences and CLA reviews are now taking place virtually attended by partners and family members where possible.</p>
	Improving availability of sustainable quality accommodation options for children and young people with complex needs through experiencing trauma. - Development of additional residential placement provision with a model of care which follows the trauma recovery model. Enabling RCT to meet its statutory requirements for placement sufficiency.	Children's Services	Complete	<p>Carn Igli is registered with Care Inspectorate Wales and open. There have been some positive outcomes for the young people who have moved on to lower dependency provisions. An example of a young person experience is : "I feel like this is the first time I can breathe properly in ages, I feel safe here"</p> <p>" before I came here, I didn't do any school or work, I didn't have any friends...now I'm in training for mechanics, got a work placement and really good friends since I joined rugby, it's like my life is completely different"</p>
	YEPS - Continue to offer virtual open access activities and plan for re-introduction of face-to-face provision and provide virtual information, advice and guidance to vulnerable young people utilising wicid tv and YouTube.	Community Well-being and Resilience - YEPS	Progressing as planned	<p>YEPS staff remain in secondary schools and the support for learners pathway is still in place to ensure those young people who are struggling to return to school have the support to do/ re-engage with school and learning. Proactive street based youth work provision was established in October, with all YEPS staff re-directed to providing information, advice, guidance and emotional support to young people in communities 5 nights a week. In the 8 weeks between October and the end of December (excluding the 2 week fire-break period) 2,699 contacts were made with young people within the following areas - Aberdare, Mountain Ash, Abercynon, Pontypridd Town, Glyncoch Church Village, Beddau, Rhydyfelin, Treorchy, Tonypandy, Ferndale, Porth, Pontyclun, Tonyrefail and Llanhari. The Virtual Youth Offer remains available including virtual youth clubs, live Q&A sessions and live chat sessions involving BAROD and Sexual Health Nurses from LHB.</p>

Council's Priority 2020-24:	PLACES - Where people are proud to live, work and play			
Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Qtr 3 Progress	Qtr 3 Update to end December 2020
Keeping RCT clean through efficient street cleaning services, minimising the amount of waste we send to landfill, achieving our recycling targets through weekly recycling and regular refuse collections, and reducing our carbon footprint	Street cleaning and recycling Continue waste and cleaning services with appropriate safe working arrangements in place, to include clean up after recent floods.	Streetcare and Waste	Progressing as planned	Most services in Streetcare have continued during Quarter 3 with the exception of Enforcement who have partially returned to some enforcement duties whilst also providing some support to Covid related issues (marshalling of Covid Testing Centres, supporting Waste on recycling bag distribution, Facilities Cleaning for enhanced cleaning in schools). Street Cleansing, grass cutting, fly tipping clearance etc., have operated normally with little exception, but with changes to operational practices to ensure the staff are as safe as possible e.g. working from home/starting from home, additional PPE, sanitising measures both for staff and vehicles, additional support vehicles to minimise number of staff in vehicles. Waste & Recycling collections have operated normally (with Covid measures such as use of support vehicles, etc in place). Christmas/New Year period presented significant increases in waste/recycling to be collected with additional resources in place to cope including deploying Cleansing & Parks teams to undertake Christmas tree collections and Enforcement Officers delivering recycling bags.
	Monitor the implications/impact of demand for Community Recycling Centre Sites following reopening e.g. arising from arrangements to ensure social distancing.		Progressing as planned	The Community Recycling Centres have continued to operate normally (with Covid control measures in place, including limits to vehicles permitted, distancing and time limits on site).
Keeping the County Borough moving, including improvements to roads and pavements and public transport, whilst also improving air quality	Continue with 2020/21 Highways Improvement Programme including the design, planning and delivery of major infrastructure projects including the A4119 Dualling at Coed Ely, the Cynon Valley Gateway North Link and the Llanharan By-Pass and the repair of bridges.	Highways	Progressing as planned	Works continues on the Highways Investment Programme with excellent progress made. Work continues in all areas i.e. from rural to urban.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Economic Infrastructure Projects (our big road schemes) and Transportation Investment (Metro, etc.) • Highways Infrastructure – structures, highways, etc. • Flood Alleviation 		Progressing as planned	Cynon Gateway North pre-planning application process completed. A4119 detailed design ongoing with planning application submitted for active travel bridge. CPO and SRO made and submitted to Welsh Govt. Llanharan Bypass still in preliminary design stage. Capital programme for highways structures ongoing with a number of projects recently completed including St Albans bridge replacement, Rhydyfelin culverts refurbishment and Gwawr St retaining wall. Work continues on repairs as a result of Storm Dennis with good progress made on Tylorstown Tip and Ynysangharad Park footbridge.

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Qtr 3 Progress	Qtr 3 Update to end December 2020
<p>Keeping the County Borough moving, including improvements to roads and pavements and public transport, whilst also improving air quality</p>	<p>Continue the rollout of Civil enforcement to ensure safe parking for our residents particularly as shops reopen after lockdown.</p>	<p>Highways</p>	<p>Progressing as planned</p>	<p>Civil parking enforcement continues throughout the County Borough.</p>
	<p>Continue to deliver and manage the Council's contracted passenger transport requirements in the most effective, integrated and safe manner, with particular reference to school and community transport, within the constraints and the additional transport demands of the Covid -19 pandemic.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Progressing as planned</p>	<p>The Council's Transportation Service has been working to existing delivery plan priorities, reacting to requests and delivering passenger transport. This work has been impacted by Covid-19 and focussed on agreeing and communicating timetable changes for local bus services in line with the Welsh Government fire break and Tier 4 restrictions, responding to associated enquiries, as well as managing school transport and putting in place transport for vulnerable children when schools were closed except for online learning for other learners.</p> <p>Following the return to school in September 2020, the service has managed the delivery of safe and effective transport arrangements in accordance with Welsh Government and Public Health Wales Guidance. Working closely with education, health and safety and public health colleagues, this has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifying reduced capacities in line with social distancing, • re-opening the selling of a limited number of spare seats from 28 September 2020, • keeping guidance for schools, parents/carers and young people up to date to support the safe transportation of learners to and from schools, • ensuring that operators, and their drivers and escorts, are provided with latest and most appropriate operational advice and particularly in relation to cleaning, sanitising and PPE, • identifying action needed where pupils travelling on dedicated school transport test positive for COVID-19, • providing timely information to remind parents and pupils to adhere to social distancing and the wearing of face coverings on their way to / from school, and • managing the school crossing patrol service, maintaining safe practices in line with social distancing.
	<p>Continue to monitor air quality following WG guidelines in RCT hot spots, particularly the impact of travel restrictions imposed during lockdown (Covid-19).</p>	<p>PHP</p>	<p>Progressing as planned</p>	<p>Air Quality Monitoring has continued during this period and the provisional data indicates there has been a decrease in Nitrogen Dioxide levels, with certain urban areas experiencing greater reductions than elsewhere. However the impact of Covid related travel disruption on local air quality has been complex and it may take some time before the immediate and longer term consequences are fully understood.</p>
<p>Ensuring the County Borough is one of the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion and where residents feel safe</p>	<p><u>Substance Misuse</u> Resume face to face Substance Misuse Client Support meetings.</p>	<p>PHP</p>	<p>Progressing as planned</p>	<p>Substance Misuse Services continue to offer a choice of telephone, virtual and face to face meetings where appropriate and when determined by service user choice and clinical need. Recovery and relapse Prevention groups are facilitated via the Zoom platform and the Barod website now offers a live chat facility to encourage engagement particularly for those who are not yet accessing services. Offices continue to remain open to provide advice, support & naloxone alongside sterile needle exchange equipment.</p>
	<p><u>Domestic Abuse</u> Resume face to face IDVA client meetings and drop in support at the Oasis Centre.</p>		<p>Progressing as planned</p>	<p>As a result of the COVID restrictions continuing, domestic abuse support via the IDVA service and drop in support service continues to be delivered remotely. Minimal face to face support has been delivered in extreme circumstances when client needs require this.</p>

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Qtr 3 Progress	Qtr 3 Update to end December 2020
<p>Ensuring the County Borough is one of the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion and where residents feel safe</p>	<p>Increase proactive community cohesion and engagement work.</p>	<p>PHP</p>	<p>Some Progress</p>	<p>The Syrian resettlement programme is still being supported, mainly in a remote manner. There have been occasions during the quarter where face to face support has taken place as a result of the particular needs of the families. Hate Crime Awareness week took place in October. This was a mixture of on-line videos, on-line messaging and face to face engagement. The week was very innovative and successful and something we will be looking to replicate next year. Proactive monitoring of community tensions is taking place, linking in closely with the Police, and community cohesion meetings continue to take place virtually.</p>
	<p>Continue to work in partnership to ensure the residents of RCT are safe, to include updates on ASB, Rogue traders, scams, etc.</p>		<p>Progressing as planned</p>	<p>A rise in realistic looking media and internet scams has resulted in closer partnership working with the National Trading Standards Team and North Yorkshire Trading Standards to take down media accounts and websites from which such scams were originating. We have also increased scam messaging with the RCT media team. Q3 saw new partnership working with the Information Commissioner's Officers (ICO) relating to one of our TrueCall users. This is now part of an ongoing investigation led by the ICO. The data from our installed TrueCall units are now feeding into a multi-authority programme managed by Carmarthenshire Trading Standards - monthly data is entered into the programme and the results identify patterns and scams, ensuring that we are concentrating on the worse hit TrueCall customers by blocking the scam callers permanently.</p> <p>Doorstep crime continues to be high, and we are continuing to work alongside South Wales Police in this area. There is also a continuing trend of rogue home maintenance traders. Our cases are representative of doorstep crime across the region and work is on-going to ensure our residents are protected.</p> <p>The Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) team have continued to work throughout the pandemic, with the focus being on remote contact with perpetrators whenever possible. This has worked well and conversations have mainly taken place over the telephone. We have continued to provide support to victims of ASB and face to face support was provided to high risk victims of ASB, however, due to the current situation the main line of communication is now by telephone. Our ASB officers have also been involved in multi-agency engagement operations targeted at ASB hotspot areas.</p> <p>Prior to the December lockdown, we started the process of more engagement work in Pontypridd Town Centre and assisted in developing a Town Centre Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. This will be run by the businesses with support from the Council and the Police.</p>

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Qtr 3 Progress	Qtr 3 Update to end December 2020
Getting the best out of our parks by looking after and investing in our greenspaces	Increase biodiversity across RCT e.g. by reviewing grass cutting schedules, introducing wildflower grass management.	Not in a plan	Progressing as planned	Plans in place for resumption of grass cutting in 2021/22 cutting season. Tree planting exercise took place in November and December with 300 trees in various parks and open spaces.
	<u>Managing the impact of flood damage in our Parks and open spaces</u> this includes ensuring the Lido Pontypridd is reopened as planned in 2021, and the rebuild/repair work in Ynysangharad Park is completed.	Leisure	Progressing as planned	The majority of works at Ynysangharad Park including the play area, tennis court and bowls pavilion are now complete. There is still some work outstanding on the Lido but this is being progressed for an Easter opening as scheduled.
Getting the best out of our parks by looking after and investing in our greenspaces	Continue to invest in playgrounds, sports pitches and parks buildings, encouraging use of green spaces for physical activity.	Leisure	Some Progress	Work has been completed on various playgrounds including Lido Play following storm damage at the beginning of 2020. Contracting issues / issues with supply materials have resulted in a delay in completing some of these capital projects. These will now be carried forward and completed in 2021/22.
	Recommend the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group to agree and progress actions that will contribute to the Council's response to Net Zero.	Various	Progressing as planned	The latest meeting of the Steering Group was held in November 2020, with recommendations reported to 28 January Cabinet.

Council's Priority 2020-24:	PROSPERITY – create the opportunity for people and businesses to be innovative, entrepreneurial and fulfil their potential and prosper			
Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Progress	Additional Information
Investing in our town centres, bringing jobs and homes into our town centres to create vibrant, thriving places people wish to live, work and socialise	Facilitate safe social distancing arrangements in the towns and green spaces. Also work with the business community to help them meet new challenges and opportunities, including development of a recovery grant.	Regeneration	Progressing as planned	Arrangements for a new Covid 19 recovery grant to support town centre businesses with external improvements to help trading arrangements was agreed by Cabinet in September. This scheme has now been launched and detailed communication with eligible town centre businesses is underway. This will include making sure that businesses have access to the developing package of Covid related support available. Work is also continuing with Aberdare, Treorchy and Pontypridd BIDS to ensure they are well placed to support their business members. The first grants have now been awarded and a pipeline of further applications is being developed and processed for delivery. New key town centre redevelopment schemes such as at Guto Square in Mountain Ash will significantly help with better pedestrian access and social distancing and will be better placed to host street markets and events. Guto Square is now ready to be delivered with design stages with land assembly in place, with a CPO for a parcel of derelict land and adjacent property purchase now completed. Tender processes for demolition and construction contractors has been completed and works will start in Quarter 4
	Develop and deliver a package of support for businesses in recovery, including through encouraging local marketing, purchasing and supply chain development.		Progressing as planned	The grant offer for businesses has been reviewed and refocussed in light of the current economic conditions created by Covid 19 and earlier flood events. These include the new Covid business grant mentioned above, a new Flood Resilience Grant for town centre businesses, a new Major Projects Investment Fund along with a refocussed Enterprise Investment Fund and Town Centre Maintenance Grant. This comprehensive package of support will help business to survive, adapt and diversify in response to the current economic circumstances. Since September the refocussed Enterprise Investment Fund has supported 30 businesses with grant awards totalling £165k. 4 businesses in Pontypridd Town Centre have benefitted from Flood Resilience Grants. Several significant projects are at advanced stages of development with awards expected imminently in the next quarter. In addition to this, the Means have produced draft recommendations for consideration for town centre business sustainability and resilience. Furthermore, plans are also being developed in partnership with Welsh Government's South East Wales Regional Team to deliver a package of focussed support for manufacturing businesses in RCT.

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Progress	Additional Information
Investing in our town centres, bringing jobs and homes into our town centres to create vibrant, thriving places people wish to live, work and socialise	Deliver a programme of key property developments in town centres leading to a more sustainable future such as those at Dunraven Street Tonypanyd, Hannah Street Porth, Mountain Ash Town Hall and the Black Lion in Aberdare.	Regeneration	Progressing as planned	Key town centre property developments and improvements continue to make good progress towards delivery in the next quarter. Key schemes such as the redevelopment of Mountain Ash Town Hall are now close to the delivery stage. This project has completed tender and all statutory procedures and grant approval and start of works will take place early in the next quarter. A grant award has been made to Rhondda Housing for the purchase and demolition of the badly fire damaged properties in Dunraven Street Tonypanyd, which will see a new future housing development. The Black Lion redevelopment is continuing on site with practical completion due in Spring 2021. Other private sector developer led schemes in Hannah Street Porth and Oxford and Commercial Streets Mountain Ash are at advanced development stage, with grant awards and start of works expected early in the next quarter.
Delivering major regeneration and transportation schemes, maximising the impact of the new South Wales Metro, to create better places to live and work, whilst protecting and enhancing the County Borough	Plan and deliver a post Covid-19 Tourism Strategy, and refocus on major projects such as Zip World Tower, accommodation strategy.	Tourism & Events	Progressing as planned	<p>An update on the draft RCT Tourism Strategy and support for the hospitality and tourism sector during Covid was reported to Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee on 21st December.</p> <p>https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/CouncillorsCommitteesandMeetings/Meetings/FinanceandPerformanceScrutinyCommittee/2020/12/21/Reports/FPReportRCTTourismStrategy2020.pdf</p> <p>Engagement with partners and the development of the RCT Strategic Board is due to begin in Q4 when the outlook on tourism, hospitality and events may be less pessimistic. Quotations from research companies have been received to undertake a Bedstock survey, which will provide a fuller picture of the accommodation sector in RCT and accurately assess the number of establishments and bed spaces available. This project will be match funded by Visit Wales, with the outcome of the tender process in the next reporting period. The Zip World Tower project has gathered momentum and construction on the Zip Line attraction has continued. A separate planning application was submitted and approved by RCTCBC for the building of the Tower Coaster and both attractions are due to open in Spring 2021. Other key projects include the regeneration of Dare Valley Country Park as part of Valleys Regional Park. Construction of the playground area and hotel accommodation has been completed with the family bike pump tracks and caravanning facilities still on course to be finished in Qtr 4. The Service is still represented at the South East Wales Tourism Forum (SEWTF) meetings with Visit Wales and continue to represent and feedback to businesses with information on the current COVID-19 situation, funding opportunities, partnership working and Visit Wales' Development updates. Partnership working continues despite the lockdown situation with the Service forming part of the Southern Wales group. Small media campaigns promoting a 'stay safe, visit later' theme have been undertaken. Work on the Cardiff Airport visuals continues with an early 2021 go live date likely – these visual will assist in the promotion of RCT to inbound and outbound visitors. Further marketing includes work on a 'Visit RCT' television ad which will look to promote RCT as a visitor destination, focussing on attractions such as Zip World Tower, the Welsh Mining Experience, Lido Ponty, Dare Valley Country Park, Penderyn Whisky Distillery, and the Royal Mint Experience. Recruitment during the period means that the team is now fully staffed.</p>

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Progress	Additional Information
Delivering major regeneration and transportation schemes, maximising the impact of the new South Wales Metro, to create better places to live and work, whilst protecting and enhancing the County Borough	Develop revised delivery plan for the Local Development Plan review.	Planning	Progressing as planned	We are currently within the the Call for Candidate Sites phase. This is the process where people can submit their land, or on behalf of a landowner, to be considered for allocation for a wide range of landuses in the revised LDP. The Call for Candidate sites has been open since October 20 and will continue through until the end of March 21. Another agreed stage within the Delivery Agreement on which work is underway is the Scoping for the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Plan, which has also been undertaken.
	Deliver the Llys Cadwyn/Taff Vale redevelopment project, including the footbridge to Ynysangharad Park to generate new jobs, increase visitor numbers and spend in the local economy.	Regeneration	Progressing as planned	The construction contract for the Llys Cadwin has progressed well and has reached practical completion during this quarter. The new footbridge between Llys Cadwyn has now opened to the public with some works to be completed such as the installation of the gates. The flagship tenant for the largest office building at Llys Cadwyn, Transport for Wales, have begun their occupation and tenancy from November. The marketing process for the remainder of the available space is progressing well and significantly two of the ground floor commercial units have been let - one to the locally based Bradleys Coffee which has now opened and the other to the Loungers brand.
	Deliver a modern 30,000 square foot business unit at Coedely Business Park to generate new investment and employment.		Progressing as planned	Construction contract progressing well and practical completion target date is during January 2021. The almost completed building is of a high quality Grade A business unit specification that will stand out in the South East Wales business property market. The development is now being actively marketed to prospective business tenants and there is an active pipeline of interest and enquiries which are being progressed.
	Deliver a new integrated Transport Hub in Porth for seamless bus and rail travel to take advantage of the new Metro services as part of the Porth Regeneration Strategy		Progressing as planned	Good progress is being made. Detailed design development is continuing to RIBA Stage 4 with the planning application submitted for consideration. Detailed development discussions are continuing with Transport for Wales in order to achieve the best outcome in terms of an integrated transport facility. The construction tender process is underway and will be completed during the next quarter
	Redevelop the derelict former goods yard site at Robertstown Aberdare with up to 20 state of the art small business units to generate sustainable local investment and jobs.	Regeneration	Progressing as planned	The construction programme for the 20 modern business units at Robertstown is now well underway. Preliminary works are complete and good progress is now being made on the main construction phase, with groundworks largely completed and erection of steelwork for the units commencing.
	Develop Dare Valley Country Park as a Valleys Regional Park Discovery Gateway providing new family friendly bike trails, new adventure play area, bike hire station, hotel refurbishment and shower block extension.		Progressing as planned	Good progress is continuing onsite with practical completion due on all elements within the next quarter with the different onsite contractors working to the current Covid 19 construction regulations. The current works elements include bike trails, cycle pump tracks, shower block extension, hotel refurbishment and cycle storage and hire facility. The construction of the new adventure play area has been completed and open to the public when restrictions allow.

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Progress	Additional Information
Delivering major regeneration and transportation schemes, maximising the impact of the new South Wales Metro, to create better places to live and work, whilst protecting and enhancing the County Borough	Further develop Ynysangharad Park alongside flood recovery work as a VRP Discovery Gateway including improved visitor facilities and restoration of key features such as the bandstand.	Regeneration	Progressing as planned	Construction of the Changing Places facility in the Lido Visitor Centre has been completed to a high standard and will be a valuable additional facility for the Lido's reopening. Detailed design on footpath and lighting improvements is complete and the subsequent tender process has also been completed with the contract awarded and contractor on site in early January. The significant National Heritage Lottery Fund grant approval worth almost £2 million awarded in December will allow a further significant phase of improvements in the Park to commence in 2021/22.
	Repurpose and redevelop the YMCA building in Pontypridd as a hub for social enterprise and community arts activity.		Progressing as planned	Construction contract continues onsite, complying with Covid 19 construction regulations on this constrained town centre site. Demolition elements onsite now complete. Significant progress is now being made on the main construction phase with the steelwork frame erection completed and work on securing the floors and roof underway.
	Redevelop the Bingo Hall site in Pontypridd including demolition to provide a key development site for investment such as a hotel at the gateway to the town.	Regeneration	Progressing as planned	Detailed site investigation and testing is now completed. Initial demolition contract for substantial asbestos strip and removal is now almost complete. This phase has been more significant than originally planned with far more extensive asbestos on site needing treatment and removal. The procurement and tender exercise for the main building demolition contract has been completed with contract award and start of main demolition anticipated to take place in the next quarter.
	Redevelop Oxford Buildings, Mountain Ash (a significant disused retail block) for new residential use with an emphasis on supported living.	Housing Strategy	Progressing as planned	Good progress being made, with the scheme now back on track following some delays due to Covid. Work is progressing well with internal plumbing and electrical works being carried out. Kitchen and shower rooms are now in the process of being fitted along with external door fixtures. The scheme is on track to complete in March 2021.
	Continue to deliver other Capital projects across the Council estate, providing recovery opportunities for local contractors and businesses.	Regeneration/Corporate Estates	Progressing as planned	We continue to progress with Capital projects across the Council's estate.
	Seek funding to develop a cultural hub in Treorchy, building on the existing theatre and library.	Community Services	Progressing as planned	The Stage 1 application was successful and we were invited to submit a stage 2 application. This has been completed and submitted on the 15th January. If we are successful at this stage then funding will be provided.
Increase the number of quality homes available and affordable to provide greater housing choice for residents	Continue to process Emergency Flood Recovery Grants for those individuals that are in temporary accommodation or at risk of becoming homeless.	Housing Strategy	Progressing as planned	No new referrals since the last quarter, 3 referrals ongoing as work continues on the properties
	Deliver the integrated Homelessness Recovery Plan and respond to current and emerging housing need in response to Covid-19 including homelessness, temporary accommodation and landlord support.	PHP/Housing Strategy	Progressing as planned	All projects as part of the phase 2 funding are on track. The Capital Modern Methods of Construction development is progressing well, further funding was required due to unforeseen ground works, WG have therefore increased the funding for this project to cover these costs. The Social Housing Lettings Agency Scheme is also progressing well, the new team to deliver this project have been recruited and started their employment with the Council. There has been positive engagement with landlords and therefore the scheme is on track to meet its target of 10 properties signed up to the scheme by March 2021.

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Progress	Additional Information
Increase the number of quality homes available and affordable to provide greater housing choice for residents	Develop a Registered Social Landlord Covid-19 recovery plan and complete the social housing grant for 2020/21, to continue to support the development of affordable houses that meet local needs.	Housing Strategy	Progressing as planned	Continued ongoing support to Registered Social Landlords through monthly meetings with CEOs and more regular meetings with operational staff. 14 Housing Schemes are under development as part of the Social Housing grant programme, totalling an investment of just under £18 million. In addition to this, a further 9 Social Housing schemes requiring a further grant of £16M has been worked up, all with planning and ready for development if additional grant funding is secured as part of Welsh Government's economic recovery fund.
Ensuring we have good schools so all children have access to a great education	Ensure effective learning opportunities by supporting early years settings and schools to deliver blended onsite and distance learning, including overcoming the barriers to digital exclusion. Support the safe and successful transition of learners back to full time schooling in line with WG policy.	Education	Progressing as planned	<p>Guidance has been reviewed and updated to support early years childcare settings to remain open safely and in line with covid safety measures as set out by WG. Guidance documents continue to be developed, reviewed and disseminated to schools on distance, digital and blended learning from local authority (LA) officers and Central South Consortium (CSC). Schools continue to be offered support on the blended learning guidance and practices. This is now in the form of bespoke packages and to meet individually identified needs.</p> <p>All Principle Improvement Partners and Senior School Improvement officers meet regularly to discuss the Blended Learning reviews collated by LA officers and CSC, and this is used to inform appropriate support. Good practice is shared through Best Practice case studies locally and regionally. An updated guidance document for live streaming has been disseminated to schools. Officers have delivered expectations of this guidance during Headteacher meetings throughout the pandemic.</p> <p>From the intelligence gathered to date, schools continue to identify curriculum priorities as a result of their own self-evaluation practices and agreed expectations that align to Welsh Government and Local Authority guidance that enables learners to receive an education that offers up a broad and balanced curriculum allowing them to thrive and progress. For example, many secondary schools are providing as normal a timetable as possible through live streaming methods, whereas another school identified literacy and numeracy as a priority and have made adjustments accordingly. Schools have re-assessed risks in line with the most recent WG guidelines.</p>

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Progress	Additional Information
Ensuring we have good schools so all children have access to a great education	Support the wellbeing and additional learning needs of all pupils across all year groups	Education	Progressing as planned	<p>Work continues to implement the actions in the Wellbeing and Behaviour Action Plan. A revised Access & Inclusion Brochure has been put in place to ensure that online training is available for all areas of Additional Learning Needs (ALN) but with an enhanced emphasis upon wellbeing training.</p> <p>Effective use has been made of individual grants to direct funding to support overarching strategic action plans for wellbeing and ALN transformation. Examples include a two year LA approach to professional development to build the capacity of schools in nurture approaches from Nurture UK. Further development of Person Centred Planning approaches based on review of school self evaluations and enhanced counselling, provision of additional specialist resources for specialist provision/Pupil Referral Units and Elective Home Education learners. The PERMA wellbeing model has continued to be rolled out to schools; those not yet engaged have been contacted. Additional resources were provided to schools following a successful proposal to increase the number of Step 3/4 provisions to support pupils with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties. Funding has been agreed to support 11 Step 3/4 provisions in 13 schools. A monitoring and governance group consisting of LA officers, Headteacher and School Improvement Partners was established in Sept 2020 to oversee the implementation of Step 3/4. The Step 3/4 Operational Group provides direct support to schools to set up the provisions and has provided clearly defined actions to be implemented in the Spring term. Quarter 3 actions in the RCT ALN Action plan progressed as planned with no concerns identified by the Welsh Government CSC Transformation Lead Officer.</p>
Ensuring we have good schools so all children have access to a great education	Support the wellbeing and additional learning needs of all pupils across all year groups	Education	Progressing as planned	<p>A comprehensive ALN transformation professional learning programme based on a Team around the Cluster model was established and will continue during quarter 4. Sessions have been well attended with very positive feedback.</p> <p>Statutory duties continue to be maintained. Following the return of schools in September, normal service delivery was resumed. However, the additional Educational Psychology Service helpline established during the first lockdown was maintained to provide wellbeing support to professionals, pupils and their families. Revised guidance was issued to support schools to provide remote/blended learning for pupils with statements and a review of returns from schools has informed priorities for further support during Spring term.</p> <p>A multi - agency group was established between Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, Education and Children's Services to support the safe return of pupils with physical/medical needs to school. This group will continue to meet on a termly basis. Support for families continued to be a priority with virtual coffee mornings held in partnership with SNAP Cymru and the continued implementation of the Family Engagement Action plan.</p>

Commitments	Actions that will support the delivery of the Priority	Responsible Service	Progress	Additional Information
Ensuring we have good schools so all children have access to a great education	Continue to deliver the 21st Century schools investment programme	Education	Progressing as planned	Excellent progress has been made with the completion of external works to Tonyrefail Community School thus finalising the completion of Band A projects. Significant progress is being made with the Council's second wave of school investment with Band B projects progressing. Hirwaun Primary School is nearing completion, YG Rhydywaun and YGG Aberdar receiving business case approvals from WG and design in progress with successful contractors. Cabinet have approved entering into a Strategic Partnership Funding stream with WG and 3 pathfinder business schemes are currently being worked up for WG and Cabinet approval. Following successful legal challenge, remaining projects in Band B will now be progressed in Q4.
Helping people into work and better paid employment	Reinstate new referrals for employment support and develop digital/remote provision.	Employment support	Progressing as planned	Return to some face to face delivery has been delayed due to the continued Covid restrictions in place. However, engagement numbers of new clients into our employment support programmes have increased and staff have continued to provide ongoing virtual employment support. From April to December 2020 we have engaged with 474 individuals and supported 212 people into employment, and so are on target to meet the CfW+ agreed reduced annual targets by the end of March (500 engagements and 250 job entries). CfW programme numbers have also increased to only slightly less than pre-Covid with some real successes in job entries being achieved. Adult Education commissioned provision and Routes to Employment training programmes are now in the main available online and we are being supported by ICT colleagues to implement the WG/Digital Communities Wales chromebooks loan scheme in RCT.
	Deliver the Council's apprenticeship and graduate schemes and increase the number of opportunities available across the Council.	Employment, Education & training Team (HR)	Progressing as planned	21 graduates recruited and commenced employment in October 2020, with a further 5 graduates starting in January/February 2021. 17 Apprentices started in January 2021 with a further 4 apprentices due to start in February 2021. All other programmes on track.

**Update of actions arising from the recommendations contained in the review of the Council's response to Storm Dennis [Cabinet Report 18 December 2020](#)
(this update aligns to the Q3 reporting period)**

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No	Agreed Actions	Update
1.	Strengthen plans to respond to extreme weather events	<p>A Strategic Flood Risk Management Board for Rhondda Cynon Taf has been established. The Board is chaired by Cllr Andrew Morgan, Leader of RCT Council and comprises senior representation from the Council, Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Dwr Cymru. The Board's work plan will include the management of investment opportunities and funding applications and the development of a comprehensive integrated emergency response. The first formal meeting of the Board took place on 9 February 2021.</p> <p>This Action plan agreed by Cabinet on 18 December, will be monitored by the Council's Cabinet and scrutinised by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>
2.	Undertake a further comprehensive review of the County Borough to identify the high risk residential and industrial areas likely to be at most risk of flooding in the future as climate change takes effect and identify the possible longer term alleviation and mitigation measures that could be put in place.	<p>We are making good progress in our comprehensive review of high risk residential and industrial areas likely to be at most risk of future flooding. Early findings from the review have indicated that alongside this work there need to be wider awareness raising and involvement with residents and businesses to support them to better manage their risk. This review will also contribute to the strategic flood risk areas analysis that will inform the revised Flood Risk Management Plan. The Flood Risk Management Plan is due to be submitted to Welsh Government later this year. Longer term flood alleviation and mitigation measures are being developed, see below.</p>
3.	Create a Flood Support Team alongside the Housing Grants Service, that supports landowners, residents and businesses in high risk flood areas to procure local flood prevention measures, provides advice and guidance.	<p>We are considering the appropriate level of resources required to support landowners, residents and businesses so that we make best use of the Council expertise and relationships with communities across RCT. An example of our work to date includes working with businesses and insurance providers in Treforest Industrial Estate to ensure appropriate future flood insurance cover is provided for flood risk purposes. We are also considering how we can best support residents so that they are more informed about the level of insurance that affords them more appropriate cover. This work will be informed by the findings of the recent on line flood survey which closed on 27 January.</p>

No	Agreed Actions	Update
4.	Request that individual landowners and property owners, particularly in high flood risk areas, consider and evidence how best they can protect their land, homes, and businesses through local measures.	<p>We are strengthening the advice and availability of information provided to land and property owners in respect of the local measures that they can use to better protect their land, homes and businesses This includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making it easier to find relevant information to warn and inform on our website • Making best use of social media to communicate directly with residents and businesses etc. • Using the feedback from our Flood Risk Management public engagement exercise to inform future information requirements. • Recruiting a Flood Support Team that will support residents, businesses and landowners to comply with insurance conditions and also enforce if necessary. • Using Welsh Government funding to implement Flood Resilience Project. 393 properties at risk of flooding have been invited to participate. This project provides the opportunity for residents/owners to receive floodgates, vents (on loan) and ‘floodsax’ to enable them to better protect their properties against flooding. To date, 177 people have formally joined the FRP. 85 surveys have been carried out to identify those products that will best protect the property. These products have been ordered and delivery has started.
5.	Further update the Emergency Plan to ensure that in the event of a major incident we provide local community responses centres within the communities most affected.	<p>The work to identify local community response centres is continuing as part the wider review of the Council’s Emergency Plan. The local community response centres will be required to meet a set of accessibility and availability criteria and early work to establish potential sites continues. Using Trallwn Community Centre as a model of local best practice together with the experience we have gained from more recent flood events and the steps that were put in place to flood warnings in February, a more detailed progress report will be provided as part of the next update.</p>

No	Agreed Actions	Update
6.	<p>Maximise the benefits of our current infrastructure by undertaking comprehensive maintenance and introducing some enhancement so this infrastructure operates at the optimum level in its response to extreme weather events.</p>	<p>We continue to enhance our infrastructure maintenance arrangements in response to extreme weather events. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaking scour¹? risk assessments in conjunction with the planned bridge maintenance programme. • Developing a prioritised programme of specialist inspections of key highways river walls and structures • Considering how long term vegetation management can be incorporated into the highways structural asset maintenance strategy • Undertaking a programme of prioritised culvert inspections (900mm+) and recent works including Campbell Terrace Culvert, Mountain Ash and culvert strengthening at Elm, Oak and Holly Street in Rhydyfelin • Holding discussions with NRW to identify river walls that serve as flood defences. The outcome of these discussions will inform risk assessment requirements. A programme to strengthen and improve key river walls will then be developed, subject to funding. • Preparing a maintenance contract to undertake culvert repairs that will ensure that scour defects are repaired in a timely manner. This is subject to funding and will go out to tender. • Undertaking general inspections of highway assets adjacent to rivers when there is low river flow, or arranging specialist inspections to identify the presence of scour. <p>Note: Regional discussions in respect to river bed levels to be initiated and discussed with NRW.</p>
7.	<p>Digitalise and remotely monitor key flood defences, which will include key culverts, outlets and other drainage systems via a central control room.</p>	<p>An Emergency Control Centre was opened in January, in Ty Elai, which will coordinate and use information to strategically manage major safety incidents within RCT including flooding, see item 8. This includes monitoring information for key flood defences.</p> <p>To further strengthen flood defences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment inspections/repairs have been completed in 14 existing locations. • An order placed for £120k of additional equipment to update/enhance existing provision. • Installation of the new equipment at additional locations is being discussed • Software collecting data from existing technology/equipment has been revamped to be used in Control Centre. Recent testing during storms has been a great success.

¹ Scour is an engineering term used to describe what happens when holes (also known as scour holes) are caused by active water currents that occur around bridge piers or abutments. When severe erosion of the material at the base of the supporting structure takes place, scour can lead to structural failure of the bridge.

No	Agreed Actions	Update
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further grant bids will be made for additional funding in 2021/22 for further equipment/installation.
8.	Create the capacity to be able to provide timely Elected Member and Public Information during Major Emergencies	<p>We are continuing to strengthen the suite and speed of information to residents, businesses and Councillors. The new Emergency Control Centre was put in place in January 2021 to support the coordination of ‘flood intelligence’ from existing and revamped technology. This ‘intelligence’ will allow key individuals to access timely and accurate information and data that will inform critical strategic and operational decisions. The information will also help to direct timely communication with residents and businesses etc. The Centre was designed to facilitate wider strategic management of a major incident. In the case of severe weather/flooding, the Centre provides access to accurate and timely information from various sources, including the cameras on river walls. The Centre was used to manage decisions and communications during storm Christophe in February 2021 with improvements in information flow noted. A new text messaging service to inform Councillors of key information was also rolled out. A further, more detailed update will be provided in Quarter 4.</p>
9.	Create two dedicated Pluvial Drainage Teams, an East and a West team. The teams will increase the staffing compliment in the Drainage teams from 20 to 31 staff, comprising a service manager, two senior drainage engineers and 8 additional operational staff.	<p>Service changes are in progress to improve surface water drainage maintenance services. These changes will put in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage services based in Dinas and Abercynon depots, which will operate separately from highway functions. A new organisation structure, increased staffing resources including additional drainage engineers Allocation of vehicles to support the delivery of the new service. A specialist ‘Vactor’ contractor, providing 365-day access to heavy drainage clearance and operatives. The Procurement process for this work is in progress.
10.	Produce on-line information and booklets for flooded households that set out the support available from the Council, and its partners in responding to a household’s needs, from securing alternative accommodation, financial support and advice, applications for home repairs assistance, health and wellbeing support, environmental health advice on how to safely	<p>The communication focus will continue on warning and informing our residents to ensure that they are prepared for storm events.</p> <p>The online flood survey conducted during January 2021, see above, attracted a positive response from residents. 300+ residents provided images and individual stories of their own personal experiences following the four storms that hit RCT in 2020. The evidence provided from the responses, has informed 19, Section 19 Flood Investigation Reports. Section 19 reports are a statutory requirement of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. As lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), RCT will publish a report based on the investigation findings and recommended actions for all risk management authorities involved, including NRW. This report will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>

No	Agreed Actions	Update
	clean your home after a flood, and other offers of support from the third sector.	
11.	Publish a comprehensive Environmental Strategy by 31 March 2021 that sets out the action the Council will take to ensure it is a Net Zero organisation by 2030 and how it will engage with local communities and businesses to change behaviours to significantly reduce the carbon footprint of the County Borough.	Work to develop a draft Climate Change Strategy is nearing completion and will be considered by the Cabinet and the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group. This strategy will include an initial plan to engage and involve residents, staff and their representatives and businesses. This will be further developed to include face to face engagement particularly with young people in schools and eco councils when it safe to do so.

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AGENDA ITEM 6

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020 / 2021

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13th April 2021

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report constitutes the requirement to provide Members with the opportunity to scrutinise the 2021/22 Capital Strategy Report and 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy Report both of which were approved by Council on 10th March 2021. The Council reports are attached as follows:

Appendix 1:

2021/22 Capital Strategy Report incorporating Prudential Indicators.

Appendix 2:

Treasury Management Strategy incorporating Investment Strategy, Treasury Management Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement for 2021/22.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Capital Strategy

- 2.1 The Capital Strategy provides contextual information on future Council plans that impact upon Treasury Management activity in line with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

Treasury Management Strategy

- 2.2 The Treasury Management Strategy Report details the expected activities of the Treasury Management function in the forthcoming financial year

(2021/22) in line with the Local Government Act 2003 and the CIPFA¹ Treasury Management Code of Practice and the CIPFA Prudential Code.

- 2.3 This includes the additional reporting requirements brought in by the revised Welsh Government Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments (November 2019).

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 3.1 Scrutinise and comment on the information provided within Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.
- 3.2 Consider whether any matters contained in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 require scrutiny in greater depth.

4.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The reports in Appendix 1 and 2 provide 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.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Following consideration by Council on 10th March 2021, these reports are now being 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.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The financial results / implications of the Council's Treasury Management arrangements will be incorporated into quarterly Performance Reports during the year.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 7.1 The reports 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.

¹ CIPFA – Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

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

8.1 The reports support 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.

8.2 The reports also support the Well-being of Future Generations Act in particular 'a globally responsible Wales' through responsible management and investment of the Council's resources.

9.0 CONCLUSION

9.1 This report, together with Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, provides Members with the opportunity to scrutinise the 2021/22 Capital Strategy Report and Treasury Management Strategy Report 2021/22.



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

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)

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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