



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: Julia Nicholls - Democratic Services (01443 424098)

YOU ARE SUMMONED to a hybrid meeting of **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL** to be held on **WEDNESDAY, 9TH MARCH, 2022** at **4.00 PM.**

AGENDA

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No's**

TIME	ITEM	PAGE(S)
5 Minutes	ITEM 1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive disclosures of personal interests from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest; and2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of prejudicial interest they <u>must</u> notify the Chairman when they leave.	
5 Minutes	ITEM 2. MINUTES To approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 9 th February 2022.	7 - 22
5 Minutes	ITEM 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS	
15 Minutes	ITEM 4. INVASION OF UKRAINE To provide the opportunity for members to consider practical support from the communities and businesses of Rhondda Cynon	

	Taf to the citizens of Ukraine.	
15 Minutes	ITEM 5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & THANKS To receive acknowledgements and thanks to those Members who are not standing for re-election in the Local Government Elections on the 5 th May 2022.	
OPEN GOVERNMENT:		
10 Minutes	ITEM 6. STATEMENTS In accordance with Open Government Council Meeting Procedure Rule 2, to receive any statements from the Leader of the Council and/or statements from Cabinet Portfolio Holders:	
20 Minutes	ITEM 7. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS To receive Members questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.2. (N.B a maximum of 20 minutes shall be allowed for questions on notice.)	23 - 30
COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME - FOR MEMBERS INFORMATION Council Work Programme 2021/2022		
OFFICERS' REPORTS		
10 Minutes	ITEM 8. APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL LAY MEMBERS ONTO THE GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE To receive the report of the Service Director Democratic Services & Communications	31 - 34
10 Minutes	ITEM 9. THE COUNCIL'S PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022/23 To receive the Joint Report of the Director of Human Resources and Director of Legal Services.	35 - 46
10 Minutes	ITEM 10. REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (RLDP) 2022-2037 To receive the report of the Director of Prosperity & Development	47 - 140
BREAK		
20 Minutes	ITEM 11. REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2022/23 To receive the report of the Director of Finance & Digital Services	141 - 202
10 Minutes	ITEM 12. COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2022/23 To receive the report of the Director of Finance & Digital Services	203 - 214

10 Minutes	ITEM 13. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 - 2024/25 To receive the report of the Director of Finance & Digital Services	215 - 234
10 Minutes	ITEM 14. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY To receive the report of the Director of Finance & Digital Services	235 - 256
10 Minutes	ITEM 15. CAPITAL STRATEGY REPORT 2022/23 To receive the report of the Director of Finance & Digital Services	257 - 276
10 Minutes	ITEM 16. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING (FORMERLY 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS) CAPITAL PROGRAMME - NEW WELSH MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOL IN RHYDYFELIN To consider the report from the Director of Finance & Digital Services.	277 - 280
45 Minutes	ITEM 17. NOTICES OF MOTION 17A To consider the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors: W. Lewis, S. Evans, L. M. Adams, J. Barton, D. R. Bevan, H. Boggis, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, A. Calvert, G. Caple, A. Crimmings, L. De- Vet, J. Edwards, J. Elliott, A. Fox, M Griffiths, G. Jones, M. Fidler Jones, M. Forey, E. George, J. Harries, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, W. Lewis, R. Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, S. Pickering, S. Powell, S. Rees, A Roberts, J. Rosser, G. Stacey, G. Thomas, W. Treeby, R. K. Turner, M. Webber, D. Williams, R. Williams, T. Williams R. Yeo: This Council notes that when the UK Government negotiated its exit from the European Union, a commitment was given to matching the level of funding provided to local areas from the European Union and accepted the assurances by UK Ministers, that Wales would not lose “a single penny” of EU funding as a result of this process. A recent cross-party Commons’ Treasury Committee found in a report on October’s Autumn Budget and Spending Review, that the Shared Prosperity Fund will be worth 40% less a year than the EU funding schemes it will replace. The report also expressed its surprise that the “size of the Fund is being reduced to such an extent”. In context, the EU Structural Fund programme was worth £2.5bn a year and Wales received a disproportionate share of this funding at around £400m a year, or four times the UK average on a per-person basis. In November, the Welsh Government highlighted that the £46m Wales would receive through the Community Renewal Fund – the ‘precursor’ to the Shared Prosperity Fund - fell short of that promised amount of funding and that anything less than £375m in new funding per year from the UK Government would be a failure to honour that	

commitment.

Furthermore, the inordinate delay in getting the UKSPF programme up and running has left vulnerable individuals at risk of long-term unemployment at risk because of the cuts and delays.

This Council therefore:

- Recognises the vital contributions that EU Structural Funding delivered to the West Wales and the Valleys region in particular.
- Calls on the U.K. Government to make good on its promise to replace European Union funding in full.

And resolves to:

- Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Prime Minister to convey this Council's view and request that the disparity in funding under the Shared Prosperity Fund be addressed as a matter of urgency.
- Request our local Members of the Senedd & Members of Parliament to support this Council's calls to address this disparity in funding.
- Request that the Council communicates the response of the Prime Minister to this Council representations.

17B To consider the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors: R. Williams, A. Fox, L. M. Adams, J. Barton, D. R. Bevan, H. Boggis, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, A. Calvert, G. Caple, A. Crimmings, A. Davies-Jones, L. De- Vet, J. Edwards, J. Elliott, S. Evans, M. Griffiths, G. Jones, M. Fidler Jones, M. Forey, E. George, J. Harries, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, W. Lewis, R. Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, S. Pickering, S. Powell, S. Rees, A Roberts, J. Rosser, G. Stacey, G. Thomas, W. Treeby, R. K. Turner, M. Webber, D. Williams, T. Williams, R. Yeo:

Losing a loved one can be one of the most traumatic and emotionally stressful experiences for an individual, in addition to the potential added burden of having to deal with their affairs.

The last two years in particular have brought unprecedented further challenges to families and friends who have lost loved ones, with public health restrictions being placed on funerals and family gatherings at various times as the country tackled the coronavirus pandemic.

For families and friends of those who have passed away whilst living in rented accommodation, the challenges can, sadly, be even greater, with some housing associations only allowing one week for the deceased's possessions to be cleared from the property.

	<p>It is, however, within the discretionary powers of housing associations to extend this timeframe, and this would undoubtedly reduce the stress and upset for the family or friends of the deceased tenant.</p> <p>This Council therefore resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request that the Leader of the Council writes to local Housing Associations in Rhondda Cynon Taf to ask them to consider using their discretionary powers to give families additional time of, at least 2 weeks following the funeral of their relatives, to clear belongings from a premises where an occupant has recently passed away. 	
	<p>ITEM 18. TO CONSIDER PASSING THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:</p> <p>“That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 for the next item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 Schedule 12(A) of the Act.”</p>	
10 Minutes	<p>ITEM 19. FUNDING ARRANGEMENT FOR TRANSPORT (RAIL) INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS</p> <p>To receive the report of the Director of Finance & Digital Services which sets out proposed funding to be provided by Welsh Government to the Council for transport infrastructure works.</p>	281 - 284
	<p>ITEM 20. URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>To consider any items which the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.</p>	

Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

To: All Members of the Council

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 9 February 2022 at 5.00 pm.

County Borough Councillors - Council Members in attendance:-

Councillor G Hughes –(Chair)

	Councillor M Adams
Councillor J Barton	Councillor S Belzak
Councillor R Bevan	Councillor H Boggis
Councillor J Bonetto	Councillor S Bradwick
Councillor J Brencher	Councillor A Calvert
Councillor G Caple	Councillor A Cox
Councillor A Crimmings	Councillor J Cullwick
Councillor G Davies	Councillor L De Vet
Councillor S Evans	Councillor M Forey
Councillor A Fox	Councillor H Fychan
Councillor E George	Councillor D Grehan
Councillor E Griffiths	Councillor J Harries
Councillor L Hooper	Councillor P Howe
Councillor J James	Councillor P Jarman
Councillor G Jones	Councillor K Jones
Councillor L Jones	Councillor W Jones
Councillor R Lewis	Councillor W Lewis
Councillor C Leyshon	Councillor A Morgan
Councillor K Morgan	Councillor S Morgans
Councillor M Norris	Councillor W Owen
Councillor D Owen-Jones	Councillor M Powell
Councillor S Powell	Councillor S Rees
Councillor S. Rees-Owen	Councillor A Roberts
Councillor J Rosser	Councillor G Stacey
Councillor E Stephens	Councillor G Thomas
Councillor S Trask	Councillor W Treeby
Councillor R Turner	Councillor L Walker
Councillor M Weaver	Councillor M Webber
Councillor E Webster	Councillor D Williams
Councillor J Williams	Councillor R Williams
Councillor T Williams	Councillor R Yeo

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr P Mee, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services

121 Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees to the hybrid meeting of the Council and apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors A Chapman, J Davies, A-Davies Jones, J Edwards, J Elliott, S Evans, M Fidler Jones, M Griffiths, G Holmes, G Hopkins, S Pickering, S Powderhill.

The following Councillors and officers were present in the Council Chamber: County Borough Councillors A Morgan, R Bevan, A Crimmings, G Caple, W Lewis, C Leyshon, M Norris, S Rees, R Williams, M Powell, L Walker, E Stephens, S Trask and L Hooper.

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive, Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services, Mr A Wilkins, Director Legal Services and Mr C Hanagan, Service Director Democratic Services & Communications.

122 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations made pertaining to the agenda were declared later in the meeting (Minutes 128 and 129 refer):

AGENDA ITEM 6 -STATE OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH DEBATE

County Borough Councillor S Trask - Personal – “My wife is employed by the NHS in Wales”.

County Borough Councillor J Barton - Personal – “I am a Chair of Governor of two schools in the County Borough”.

AGENDA ITEM 7 -MEMBER'S MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

County Borough Councillor A Morgan – Personal – “I have been leading some of the discussions as WLGA Leader”.

123 Announcements

Minute's Silence

The Deputy Presiding Officer led the Minute's silence in memory of former County Borough Councillor John Watts and the former Deputy Chief Executive Mr Steve Merritt, both of whom had recently passed away.

In memory of Mr Steve Merritt:

- The Leader paid tribute to Mr Steve Merritt through his role as former Chief Executive helping to shape and steer the Council through a difficult period and in his role as Finance Officer. The Leader described Steve as a true gentleman who had maintained his friendships following his retirement from the Council. On behalf of the Labour Group, he extended his condolences to Steve's family and colleagues on their

loss.

- County Borough Councillor P Jarman recounted her memories of working with Steve Merritt who had worked his way up the ranks to senior management as Corporate Services Director until 2014 and Chief Executive until 2015. On behalf of the Plaid Cymru Group, Councillor Jarman wished to send her sincere condolences to Steve's family and friends.
- County Borough Councillor M Powell paid tribute to Steve Merritt and wished to pass on his condolences to Steve's family and friends.

In memory of former County Borough Councillor John Watts:

- The Leader of the Council remembered John Watt's passion for the Rhondda and his local community and mourned his loss to as a former County Borough Councillor who worked hard for the local residents. The Leader also paid tribute to a good friend and colleague, and he passed his condolences to John's family and friends.
- County Borough Councillor P Jarman remembered John's time as Mayor for the Council, chairing council meetings. On behalf of the Plaid Cymru Group, Councillor Jarman wished to pass on her condolences to John's family and friends.
- County Borough Councillor M Powell acknowledged John's professionalism as councillor and on behalf of the RCT Independent Group extended his condolences to John's family at this sad time.

Resignation of County Borough Councillor M Tegg:

- The Deputy Presiding Officer announced the resignation of County Borough Councillor Margaret Tegg due to ill health. He led the tributes to her followed by all the Group Leaders who paid tribute to Councillor Tegg individually. Councillor Tegg had served as a member of the authority from 2008 representing the Cymmer ward and was Mayor, representing the County Borough for the 2017 – 2018 Municipal Year. On behalf of all the political groups, the Group Leaders sent their best wishes to Councillor Margaret Tegg for her retirement.

Councillor W Treeby, Mayor for Rhondda Cynon Taf also paid tribute to Councillor Tegg, particularly in her role as former Mayor. Councillor Treeby wished Councillor Tegg a very happy retirement.

- County Borough Councillor L Walker announced that Ysgol Ty Coch, Tonteg had become overall winners for Secondary Schools, Safer Internet Day Film Competition 2022, run by Welsh Government. Whilst making their choice, the judges commented that "The film was full of fun, very engaging with a strong message" Councillor Walker requested a letter of congratulations is sent to the school from the Mayor.
- County Borough Councillor H Fychan wished to submit two petitions for the Pontypridd ward. The first, signed by 150 residents relating to a number of issues within Graigwen, Pontypridd, the second, signed by 109 residents calling on the Council to urgently address several issues

affecting Berw Road, both historically and since the 2020 floods. Councillor Fychan hoped the Council would work with residents to address these issues raised.

- County Borough Councillor J Harries, in his role as Reserve Forces and Cadets Representative for the Local Authority, announced that the combined cadet forces of Treorchy Comprehensive School, named Team Treorchy have set themselves the challenge to fundraise £16,000 for Wellchild by running the London Marathon in October 2022. The team consists of 11 members of the Treorchy Comprehensive School staff and others from the local community. The team will be led by Second Lieutenant Woodhouse and Second Lieutenant Wild and Lieutenant Morgan. Councillor Harries wished to send all Members the link to the fundraising page.

124 Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 19th of January 2022 as an accurate reflection of the virtual meeting.

125 Statements

The Deputy Leader, County Borough Councillor M Webber announced that the Council has secured a post for a Heritage and Memorials Officer with interviews taking place next week. Councillor Webber referenced a book that was written by the children of Hawthorn School following the discovery of a plaque in St Mary's Church containing the names of those who had lost their lives in the First World War, 1914-18. It demonstrated the importance of recording the information that may otherwise have been lost.

Councillor Webber advised that the Council is supporting the installation of a new information lectern in the Cynon War Memorial Gardens, new flagpoles in Ynysyngharad War Memorial Park with the intention to do further work there with Heritage Lottery Funding. There are plans to do further cleaning work at Abercynon War Memorial and the Deputy Leader announced that in the Penrhiwceiber War Memorial, a specialist company from Derby reinstated the memorial clock.

Councillor Webber commented on the importance of the new appointment which will help to ensure the heritage sites, memorials and plaques are valued for the communities across RCT.

126 Members' Questions

Members were advised that due to the absence of County Borough Councillor S Rees-Owen, Chair of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee, question 4 would not be asked by County Borough Councillor G P Thomas.

Question from County Borough Councillor L. Walker to the Cabinet Member for Education & Inclusion Services County Borough Councillor J. Bonetto:

"In view of the fact that Welsh Secondary schools are 25% under capacity,

would the education department consider using this spare space for children with special education needs in order to alleviate the overcrowding in special schools, as other local authorities in Wales run satellite classes in mainstream schools”.

Response from Councillor J Bonetto:

The Cabinet Member for Education and Inclusion Services, Councillor Bonetto responded that in accordance with the outgoing SEN system and the new ALN legislation, the local authority continuously reviews the sufficiency of its SEN / ALN provision so that learners can access specialist placements appropriate to their needs without delay. She added that there are currently 44 Learning Support Classes across the County Borough, from Foundation Phase up to end of Key Stage 4, 4 special schools and 2 pupil referral units. All provisions are subject to regular review based on the analysis of current and projected needs of learners.

Councillor Bonetto advised that the Council responds proactively to any changing demand for learning support class placements by reconfiguring its Learning Support Class provision on a regular basis and, when necessary, seeks Cabinet approval to enhance the offer. Within the last few months, Cabinet has approved a proposal to consult on opening an additional LSC for Welsh medium learners with a significant ALN at Ysgol Garth Olwg in September 2022.

Councillor Bonetto commented that robust data analysis relating to trends in demand for placements in its special schools is also undertaken to ensure there is sufficient supply. Recent developments to enhance the capacity and improve the learning environments within our special schools include:

- Ty Coch has benefitted from **over £350k** to remodel and extend areas of the school to provide 2 additional classrooms, in addition, there was an investment of £550k for another large classroom. Planning permission has recently been approved to create two additional modular teaching spaces at Ysgol Ty Coch’s satellite base in Buarth Y Capel site and work on the site is due to commence shortly.
- Maesgwyn has recently received an investment of £600k to deliver internal and external improvements.
- Park Lane has received over £500k for refurbishment and maintenance works, as well as the creation of a larger teaching space which was completed last summer.
- Hen Felin has also benefitted from £200k for a classroom extension – which was completed last month – while internal works continue to deliver additional learning areas. New additional external storage room that has since been remodelled to a wellbeing hub at the school.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor L Walker:

“An 18-year-old wheelchair bound student in Ysgol Ty Coch, cannot access classes where he is being taught and is in classes with 4- and 5-year-olds. Does the Cabinet Member for Education find this acceptable in 2022 and what is she

going to do about it?"

Response from County Borough Councillor J Bonetto:

The Cabinet Member for Education & Inclusion Services advised that a written response would be provided following the meeting.

Question from County Borough Councillor M. Forey to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

"Can the Leader please provide an update on how the Council is supporting colleagues in Health in the fight against the Omicron variant?"

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

The Leader responded by placing on record his thanks to Council staff in a number of departments who have been providing support to the NHS. Some working in the call centre dealing with a high call volume, taking bookings and reorganising appointments. Council staff have been working at the vaccination sites to meet and greet residents and signpost and to reassure people. Corporate Estates teams have been working across the three vaccination sites in RCT to adapt buildings internally and more recently assisting with outdoor marquees to protect residents queuing outside.

The Leader advised that staff from Leisure have gone over and above to support the pandemic, originally supporting the delivery of food parcels, helping with the community testing sites and training to become vaccinators to support the roll out of the booster programme. Across the board, many Council staff have supported the NHS to provide additional security for the vaccination sites and deal with anti-vaxxers.

The Leader confirmed that discussions will be held with the Leaders of Bridgend and Merthyr Councils together with their respective Chief Executives regarding the longer-term plans around whether further boosters will be required and whether the current vaccination sites can return to their former use. The Leader provided assurance that the support will continue to be provided to the Health Board where necessary although he hoped that the steady improvement would continue with far fewer positive cases and deaths being recorded and returning to common sense approach rather than restrictions.

No Supplementary Question

Question from County Borough Councillor M. Powell to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Heritage Services, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:

"Whilst Aberdare has been fortunate to get funding from RCT for a BMX track and Gravity Family Bike Park would the Cabinet Member say what RCTCBC has done to date to provide similar facilities in Pontypridd please?"

Response from County Borough Councillor A Crimmings:

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Heritage Services, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings acknowledged that Councillor Powell had previously raised and confirmed that the Ynysangharad War Memorial Cabinet Committee have considered this previously. Councillor Crimmings advised that the area proposed by Councillor Powell, namely the site of the former day centre, was considered unsuitable for the type of activity and there were further safety concerns regarding its close proximity to the riverbank and she understood that Officers are awaiting detailed proposals from Councillor Powell, having supplied him with the necessary considerations in taking this forward.

Councillor Crimmings commented that the Council is not aware of any local demand for such a facility, as there was in Tonyrefail and Aberdare, however confirmed that Pontypridd has benefitted from a brand new, Council-owned leisure facility at Llys Cadwyn and has invested significantly to improve Ynysangharad War Memorial Park – firstly through the Valleys Regional Park programme funding, which saw footpaths and lighting upgrades which has been welcomed by local residents. Recently, work has started on the £1.9m Heritage Lottery Fund project, which will see improvements such as the Bandstand and Sunken Gardens. In addition to this, the Council has recently invested in outdoor fitness equipment and some of this is sited at YWMP.

With regard to the National Lido of Wales, which has seen a tremendous amount of work and investment, Councillor Crimmings advised that it has just enjoyed its most successful season since re-opening, despite the difficulties of the last two years.

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor M Powell:

“Why is Pontypridd being treated differently to other areas in the County Borough?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Crimmings:

Councillor Crimmings advised that Ynysangharad Park and Pontypridd in general has received significant investment, in the region of £10 million within Ynysangharad Park. She suggested that the Councillor meet with the groups he referred to earlier, to bring forward their ideas and suggestions as many other councillors have done, to discuss the proposals with the Council Officers.

Question from County Borough Councillor D. Williams to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“How is the Council supporting low-income households to meet the pressures of increasing household fuel costs during the winter?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

The Leader commented that this is a timely question. The suggested impact on families as the Energy crisis continues means the average energy bill will rise by £693 annually after a 54% increase to the price cap. The changes will take effect in April and impact around 22 million households across the UK. He advised that

these price rises come hand-in-hand with other rises in the cost of living, through higher taxation and rising costs of food and other essential items with a further potential increase expected in utility bills in October this year.

The Leader advised that the Council has promoted social media campaigns to encourage residents to sign up to the Welsh Government's Winter Fuel Payment Scheme originally launched as a payment of £100 and Welsh Government announced that the one-off payments were doubling to £200. It is estimated that £3million has been paid out to date, helping the local economy. There are more families to reach who qualify for the payment and the Leader urged residents to apply.

The Leader referred to the recent announcement by UK Government regarding the £175m, which had been followed by a statement from UK Government Treasury. He explained that the amount is offset by cuts to Welsh Government budget at end of year spending which means that there is no additional funding available to Wales.

No Supplementary Question

Question from County Borough Councillor H. Boggis to the Chair of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee, County Borough Councillor M. Powell:

“Can the Chair of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee please make a statement on the priorities of the Committee?”

Response from County Borough Councillor M. Powell:

Councillor Powell commented that, as Chair, the key priority is to provide members of the committee with the opportunity to drill down on various aspects of the financial performance of the authority. He added that the committee has the advantage of having the Chairs of all the Scrutiny Committees as members of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee which does bring with it some crossover into the remit of other scrutiny committees. Councillor Powell concluded that the priorities are a matter of public record for the portfolio of the Scrutiny Committee.

No Supplementary Question

127 The Council Work Programme 2021/22

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications advised that the subsequent meeting of the Council would be the last scheduled meeting in advance of the Local Government Elections 2022. The business will include the Budget Strategy and setting of Council Tax, the Revised LDP the Council's Pay Policy and there will be opportunity for Members to place on record their thanks to those Members not seeking re-election in May 2022.

128 STATE OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH DEBATE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.2 the Deputy Presiding Officer

stated that he had allocated 45 minutes for the item and would invite the Leader to address Council following which the Leader would respond to Members' comments on his Annual Report.

The Leader advised that each year his annual summary is delivered to full Council outlining what the Council has achieved over the last year and sets out what it wants to achieve moving forward.

The Leader advised that once again, this year's update is shaped by the effects and restraints of the COVID-19 pandemic, as previously mentioned in the meeting and services that have had to adapt and have gone above and beyond their roles such as Leisure Services and Finance staff who have paid out tens of millions in business support grants and supporting families. He added that as Members will be aware, that the vast majority of council services have continued to operate, albeit in a different guise and the Capital Investment has continued where investment is evident across the county borough.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

The Leader advised that this is the one area where there is growing and increased demand and the service which requires significant sums of investment by the local authority, in-year and in the forthcoming budget but has also been well supported by Welsh Government. The Leader referred to the Welsh Government £50m in-year funding to support the pressures in Social Care. The Leader stated the number of new cases opened over the last 12 months amounts to almost 7,000, from residents asking for support. The Leader expressed his thanks to all staff within this and the independent sector and he acknowledged the real team effort within this sector to ensure that the appropriate care has been on hand at all times, at times from across all sectors supporting colleagues isolating with covid-19. He added that at times it has been difficult for staff to always manage the pressures within the social care sector and some need has been unmet, as with all local authorities, but he assured all Members that the teams have and are working exceptionally hard for long hours and are doing their very best to meet the needs of residents.

The Leader referred to the support available to enable residents to remain in their own homes through services such as Care and Repair and Disabled Facilities Grants which have continued to be delivered through working with private sector business and builders to ensure that access to homes has continued safely.

With regards to Extra Care/Supported Accommodation, the Leader advised that the Council is continuing to make good progress in modernising the care system provided for older residents in the County; Cwrt yr Orsaf Extra Care Housing scheme in Pontypridd has been completed and the new Extra Care Housing scheme in Porth has now commenced.

Overall, the investment to develop further Extra Care will be a priority for the Council moving forward as the local authority looks to provide a model of care which can respond to the needs and aspirations of future older generations. The Leader referred to the Stay Well @ Home service which continues to help people remain in their own homes and leave hospital as soon as possible, with the biggest efforts preventing people entering hospital in the first place with the

right support in place.

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

The Leader advised that Children's Services is a service area under significant pressure which has, and continues to be a priority and has received additional funding from Welsh Government across Wales of £21M. Staff have continued to work exceptionally hard, maintaining their face-to-face work with the most vulnerable families throughout the pandemic. This support often goes unnoticed, but this area of service delivery is one of the most important we provide, an area which will always be prioritised and supported. The Leader referred to the Resilient Families service which continues to provide support for families.

Likewise, the Leader referred to the YEPS Service which have been delivering street-based youth work across RCT to ensure young people have access to information advice and support. In the last 12 months they have undertaken 570 evening sessions resulting in 15,577 contacts. Two youth service vehicles have been introduced this year, supporting the delivery of mobile youth provision and youth work activities and interventions in community settings. A third vehicle is due to be on the road by the end of the financial year which has been well received by young people as a place to access Wi-Fi and speak to staff in confidence.

Work continues to embed new roles and responsibilities and the YOS has recruited 4 new youth justice workers to enhance service provision. Current priorities include responding to increased levels of complexity regarding children's needs, including those affected by early years trauma and to create stronger links with other services such as YEPS and Youth Services. A restorative justice session is carried out with 131 referrals between April and December 2021.

COMMUNITY HUBS

The Leader acknowledged the earlier success of the Community Resilience Hubs which continue to provide a focal point for resident support. This continues to be supported by the Community Support Steering Group established during the Lockdown with the delivery of prescriptions, food, dog walking services and supporting those residents isolating. Significant levels of support have been provided to the four main Trussell Trust Foodbanks in RCT including £22,000 in cash funding, £6,000 in bulk buying stock via RCTCBC procurement, volunteer recruitment, help with local deliveries & 2 venues provided including support to FastTrack relocation of Pontypridd Foodbank into a surplus Council establishment.

LEISURE

The Leader advised of the transfer of Hawthorn School Swimming Pool back to Leisure Operations and discussions are taking place regarding the Maerdy/Ferndale Community School in re-opening its swimming pool. The investment in outdoor fitness equipment currently sited at Ynysangharad War Memorial Park and Dare Country Park. The Leader also announced plans for a 14th 3G pitch to be constructed on the Baglan Field in Treherbert – completion of

this scheme will mean residents have access to a 3G facility within a 3-mile radius of wherever they live.

PARKS & PLAY AREAS

The Council has continued to improve children's play areas right across the county borough and by the end of this financial year, 164 projects will have been upgraded or renewed, with 20 projects in the current year. At Ynysyngharad Park in Pontypridd, Valleys Regional Park investment of £1.2 M has successfully been delivered to upgrade paths and lighting and install a changing places facility at the Lido Visitor Centre. This is being closely followed with a further £2M investment supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund which will deliver a new community training hub and upgrade key features such as the Bandstand area and Sunken Garden

RECYCLING/WASTE SERVICES

The Leader announced that the Council recorded its best ever recycling figures for the Festive period, with over 2,500 tonnes collected – including over 600 tonnes of food waste and nearly 5,000 Christmas trees were collected.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Leader advised that 105 Solar Panel arrays have been installed across Schools and Corporate Buildings, as the council continues to address its carbon footprint. The Council has 21 Hydrogen Fuel Cells throughout RCT installed in a leisure centre, schools and offices. He added that reducing the Council's energy consumption and looking at green energy options will be a priority in this year's budget with a further £500K revenue allocation in addition to the £1.5M capital allocation.

STORM DENNIS UPDATE

The Leader advised that significant progress has been made and by the end of this financial year over 100 schemes will have been delivered across the county borough, many are first phase schemes, to be followed by second and third phases. Completion of Flood Resilience works to the A4059, completion of culvert upgrade to Bronallt Terrace. Abercwmboi, completion of Highway Drainage upgrade to Pentre Road, Pentre, completion of Flood Alleviation works to Canal Road, Cwmbach and in Rhigos Road.

In terms of storm damage to bridges, the Leader provided an update on the design of major repairs such as the replacement to Castle Inn complete with scheme and currently out to tender with works due to commence late Spring 2022. The Feeder Pipe Bridge, Abercynon completed with replacement scheduled for Summer 2023.

With regards to Coal Tip safety, the Leader advised that Tylorstown Tip Phase 4 application planning consultation commenced and is due to be completed later in February with studies ongoing to assist in the longer-term consideration of Standard Colliery and National Tips, using new equipment provided by Welsh Government. The Leader referred to the approved establishment of a dedicated

Coal Tip Safety team consisting of 6 new posts; together with £200k revenue budget for maintenance which means an overall investment of almost £0.5m per year. The Leader commented on the major capital investment work which has been carried out will give residents more confidence with more work needed to ensure the ordinary water courses will reduce the amount of flooding.

With regards to river flooding, the Leader advised that NRW continues to work closely with the local authority, to discuss progress following Storm Dennis with remodelling work being carried out on the River Cynon, Taff and Rhondda to assess what interventions can be made.

TOWN CENTRES/ENTERPRISE

The Leader paid tribute to the RCT officers who have made payments of over £80M in Emergency Business Support Grants provided by WG and Business Wales during periods of Covid lockdown and restrictions to business trading, often working extended hours to ensure that the payments reach businesses as quickly as possible. This includes a further £7m under the current round of funding which is underway.

EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES

The Leader extended his thanks to the teaching staff and school-based staff for their support and commitment during this time in continuing to provide safe and continued learning environments for RCT children. Schools have continued to drive strategic improvements despite the obvious challenges of the pandemic. Positive feedback was provided by Estyn in a recent meeting with the Leader and Chief Executive.

The Group Leaders each responded to the Leaders debate, all paying tribute to the NHS, Council staff, School and Childcare staff, retail and voluntary sectors and many more for their hard work and dedication throughout the pandemic.

Councillor Jarman referred to the last 12 months which has been difficult time for many families with the increase in the cost of living, families who are already living in food, fuel and water poverty. With the rising cost of domestic fuel, the lower take-home pay caused by the increase in National Insurance in April and the present rising cost of inflation and staple food, Councillor Jarman feared that the situation would be catastrophic for many families but she considered that the Free School Meals for all Primary children which was part of the budget agreement made by Plaid Cymru in agreement with WG, as part of the co-operation agreement, would help the fight against child poverty to some extent.

Each of the Group Leaders proposed questions to the Leader on the following to which the Leader responded.

Tip Categories list released by WG– The Leader responded that WG is hoping to publish the list by the summer but emphasised the importance of fully evaluating the risks from the tips important to understand whether there are properties, highways and is there any risk to life, based on the modelling and assessments. WG want to make sure the information is worthwhile for residents.

Emergency Cost of Living Action Plan – The Leader gave an absolute assurance that, while he remains Leader of the Council, that there should be a cross party agreement to support this going forward.

Pontypridd is to lose its Sixth Form provision when other areas are to retain theirs and there seems to be a lack of direction from council officers in this area, despite Pontypridd providing the largest contribution to the Council Tax – The Leader spoke of five Sports Centres in the former Taff Ely area compared with only two in the Cynon Valley and three in the Rhondda and added that Council Tax is a collective contribution. He advised that investment is fair across the whole of the county borough and is allocated on the basis of need. The town centre investment in Pontypridd is significant, the feedback from traders is positive, the indoor market is thriving, and discussions are ongoing regarding further investment and development. The Leader referred to Ynysangharad Park as the jewel in the town's crown.

Updated timescales regarding the Metro project–The Leader provided an update on the Metro, with completion 9-12 months later than planned due to Covid-19. He advised that work is currently ongoing in the Mountain Ash area and will be starting on the stations this year in the Rhondda and work to the stations is also ongoing with all the contracts let. He advised that the trains are being manufactured with no delays to this part of the work. He advised that an announcement is due within the next 4-6 weeks on some significant acceleration to the work.

A4119 Dualling – The Leader confirmed that funding has been made available to accelerate the work in this area. With the private sector and potential funding from City Deal there will be expansions to the Coed Ely Industrial Estate where one modern Business Unit is already occupying the premises and will employ more than 30 people at the site.

Junction 34 roundabout is a barrier to investment in that part of the Rhondda and Pontypridd – The Leader advised that this comes under the jurisdiction of the Trunk Roads Agency but there is a study underway to consider the M4 to reduce some of the pressures along that route.

The Presiding Officer opened up questions to all Members and advised that he would take three questions at a time.

What will be the biggest challenge for the local authority after May and for whoever is the Leader of this authority – The Leader advised that the priority for the Council would be to address the potential for increases in child poverty through the community for work teams who support residents looking for employment which is key to helping people out of poverty. Paying staff well is also crucial hence all of the Council's contracted adult independent social care workers, as well as all direct payment recipients, have been paid at least the Real Living Wage by December 2021. More recently, the Council agreed to pay a minimum rate of pay above the Real Living Wage – increasing this level to £10 per hour from April 1, 2022. Tackling Climate Change is also key as the Council is mindful how it can reduce its carbon footprint. The Leader commented that RCT is a great area for starter businesses but there is a need to encourage them to grow and create jobs.

Dropped kerbs for disabled residents and those who use scooters across the county borough– The Leader confirmed that the budget is approximately £40k but he asked all Members with these queries to provide information for the specific situation in their respective wards.

How can this local authority, working with WG and UK Government support the poorest communities who are being affected by the cost-of-living crisis? – The Leader explained that the Council has now exceeded this administration's ambition to create 150 apprenticeship and graduate programme positions. We currently stand at 187 and we are currently recruiting 21 Graduates – taking the total to over 200 by the end of this term. Continuing work through job clubs and communities for work to support residents. The Leader referred to the numerous community groups such as the Paddling Pool Group in Pennrhiwceiber, who can help the communities around them.

Scheme in Penrhys – The Leader advised that it is for Trivallis, as the Estate owner, to confirm their position but the Council has given a capital commitment to build a new school on the estate. The estate is not sustainable long term.

The Council's engagement – Recently the Council carried out online consultation on the pre planning application for stage 4 Tylorstown Tip, on the national cycling networks and on the parking and traffic orders in place of face-to-face consultations. The Leader urged all Members to engage with the Budget consultation process as the online process provides the opportunity to provide their views.

Cycling route in the Rhondda Fawr - The Leader advised that there is no safe way to provide an off-highway route through the Rhondda Fawr but there are potential bids to WG for this financial year, in the Treorchy area, Ystrad Park and bidding for additional funding for Brook St. Bridge. He encouraged the local member to engage with Council Officers.

UK/Wales specific Covid Inquiry –The Leader advised that he would be unsure as to how a UK covid enquiry would appear from a Welsh perspective but added that as WLGA Leader he would be expected to give evidence on behalf of Wales. He added that much information has already been shared and regular updates were provided by the Health Board regarding hospital infections. He stressed the importance that the terms of reference for any inquiry needs to answer the points raised by the public.

Footpaths – The Leader agreed that improving the access is crucial and looking at the periphery links. He asked the local Member to send in the specific of the query.

Credit to the Leader/Cabinet and Council Officers – The Leader confirmed the high level of capital investment in schools, improving highways, Extra Care facilities also benefits the local economy. The spend in RCT was praised by the Bevan Foundation as it's spend benefits not only the local residents but also the region and the county.

Longer term funding for Schools- The Leader confirmed the Freedom of the County Borough free events in Rhondda, Cynon and Taff to celebrate the efforts of key workers and to reflect on the effects the pandemic has had on the county borough.

Activities for Young people in Pontypridd – The Leader confirmed that the Youth Service has been using Ynysangharad Park and Pontypridd Rugby Club and the YEPS hub vehicle attends regularly in Pontypridd to engage with young people.

Section 19 Reports – The Leader explained that the Section 19 reports set out

the statutory roles, in terms of the river flooding this comes back to the modelling. He advised the need to await all three models, (approximately another 18 months) which need to be considered together. He explained that this is being done far quicker than ever before and the modelling is addressed is far improved.

What areas have been deprioritised in the last year? –The Leader explained that no area has been deprioritised, but the Council has maintained the core capital budget. He added that it is a balance and investments are prioritised according to competing demands and needs.

Investment in Children’s Play areas – The Leader explained that every play area has a play value according to a rag rating with a red, amber and green status. The service is trying to eliminate as many red and amber play areas as possible.

A465 Dualling – The Leader requested that the local Member contact him following the meeting so that it can be pursued with WG officials.

In conclusion, the Leader wished to acknowledge all council staff for their efforts over the last 12 months and their continued efforts to maintain the social care provision, in ensuring that care homes are staffed, that children’s homes are staffed and that the efforts of all our staff continue to be recognised.

The Presiding Officer thanked the Leader for his debate and responses to Members.

129 Member's Memorandum of Understanding

The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications presented his report which sought to provide Council with a draft Member’s Memorandum of Understanding, developed by the Democratic Services Committee, for endorsement and adoption. The Memorandum seeks to support the ambitions of the Council to promote diversity in democracy, promote high standards of behaviour and mutual respect between Members.

The Council’s Standards Committee considered and supported the draft MOU at its November meeting and were supportive of the principles included and its intended benefits. It’s considered its adoption would strengthen standards and ethical arrangements within the Council and would support and sit alongside the Council’s Code of Conduct for Members, the Standards of Conduct Expected by Members Local Resolution Policy and Member-Officer Protocol.

The Service Director advised that the MOU would, subject to Council’s agreement, form the basis of the ‘Become a Councillor’ activities and events to be held on the 2nd and 3rd March 2022.

With regards to the Fair & Respectful Election Campaign Pledge, the Service Director advised that all Members are asked to support a statement of principle with the content of the RCT specific pledge to be agreed by the Democratic Services Committee at its subsequent meeting (with invitation to be extended to Groups Leaders or their nominated representatives). It is proposed that the pledge would then form part of material provided to successfully nominated candidates by the Council’s Electoral Services department and also promoted by the Council.

During the discussion the Director of Legal Services confirmed that subject to Council agreeing the recommendations, the RCT specific fair and respectful election campaign pledge would be provided to all Councillors in conjunction with their Code of Conduct upon signing their declaration of acceptance of Office.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED:**

(i) To adopt the draft 'Memorandum of Understanding' ('MOU'), developed by the Democratic Services Committee and attached at Appendix A, following commendation by the Council's Standards Committee in order to encourage further mutual respect and a show of working together by Members for the benefit of their communities; and

(ii) That as part of adopting this MOU, Council commits to supporting a Fair & Respectful Election Campaign Pledge, and delegates responsibility to the Democratic Services Committee to agree its content.

This meeting closed at 7.28 pm

**Cllr G Hughes
Chairman.**

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

9 MARCH 2022

MEMBERS QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

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

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 As agreed at the Council AGM on the 15th May, 2019, Members agreed to amend Council Procedure Rule 9.2 in respect of Members Questions on Notice. A further amendment was made to Council Procedure Rule 9.2 at the Council AGM on the 26th May 2021 in respect of supplementary questions following expiry of the 20 minute time duration. [Council AGM 2021](#)

4. MEMBERS QUESTION ON NOTICE

- 4.1 The closing date for receipt of Members Questions on Notice to the Council Business Unit for the Council meeting on the 9th March 2022 was 5pm on the 24th February 2022.
- 4.2 Twenty-three questions were received and put forward to the Council Ballot held on the 1st March 2022, to determine the running order of the questions at the Council Meeting.
- 4.3 The results of the ballot are outlined below:-

Number	Corresponding Question
1	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor G. Holmes to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services, County Borough Councillor G. Caple:</p> <p>“Could the Cabinet Member please make a statement on delayed discharges from hospital and outline what work the Council is undertaking to assist with this?”</p>
2	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor R. Yeo to the Cabinet Member for Education & Inclusion Services, County Borough Councillor J. Bonetto:</p> <p>“How is the Council progressing investment into Bryn Celynnog Comprehensive, and a new sixth form centre of excellence?”</p>
3	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Barton to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“What action can the Council take to improve road safety and reduce speeding traffic in local communities?”</p>
4	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor W. Lewis to the Cabinet Member for Corporate & Digital Services, County Borough Councillor M Norris:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet provide an update on the roll-out of wi-fi across the key town centres of Rhondda Cynon Taf”</p>
5	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Pickering to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Heritage Services, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Heritage Services please provide an update on the further works due to start in Ynysangharad Park?”</p>
6	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. M. Powell to the Cabinet Member for Education & Inclusion Services, County Borough Councillor J Bonetto:</p>

	<p>“How is this Council progressing plans for a new primary school for the pupils of Tonysguboriau?”</p>
7	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Bradwick to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Can the Leader of the Council provide an update on the progress of flood alleviation scheme bids for the forthcoming year please?”</p>
8	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor M Powell to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Would Cllr. Morgan consider upwards of 5 years a long enough time for RCTCBC to devise and implement, with a policy that includes business permits, an extension to the existing residential parking permit area in the Trallwn Ward?”</p>
9	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor L. M. Adams to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Will the Leader provide an update on additional funding promised to Wales by the UK Government to support families to afford the rising cost of energy?”</p>
10	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor D. Owen-Jones to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“What implications does the recent Welsh Government announcement to pause major roadbuilding schemes in Wales have for Rhondda Cynon Taf?”</p>
11	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Elliott to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Can the Council Leader please provide an update on the various flood schemes planned and ongoing across RCT, including for the Cwmbach ward?”</p>

12	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Rees to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Will the Leader please make a statement on the Council’s budget planning ahead of the next financial year?”</p>
13	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor M. Forey to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“How is the Council supporting the enforcement of Alert Level Zero public health measures?”</p>
14	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Brencher to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Will the Leader make a statement on how the Council proposes to build upon the regeneration of Pontypridd already taking place?”</p>
15	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor A. Roberts to the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Wellbeing and Cultural Services, County Borough Councillor R. R. Lewis:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member please make a statement on the Council’s work with Voluntary and Third Sector organisations in Rhondda Cynon Taf?”</p>
16	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor G. P. Thomas to the Cabinet Member for Enterprise & Development & Housing, County Borough Councillor D. R. Bevan:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet member outline how the Council is seeking to capitalise on the Zip World attraction, to ensure the north of our county borough grows as a tourism destination?”</p>
17	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Morgans to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Heritage Services, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</p>

	<p>“Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the Council’s investment in outdoor leisure facilities”</p>
18	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor R. Williams to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“How is the Council working to support recruitment and retention to important social care roles?”</p>
19	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor A. S. Fox to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</p> <p>“Can the Council Leader provide an update on investment to future-proof bridges and other critical infrastructure in our County Borough?”</p>
20	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Evans to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services Councillor A Crimmings:</p> <p>“Please could the Council outline what it is doing in tackling the amount of dog mess being left on our pavements despite there being more bins than ever for the public to use”</p>
21	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor D. Williams to the Cabinet Member for Education & Inclusion Services, County Borough Councillor J. Bonetto:</p> <p>“How has the Council supported and protected School’s budgets over the last five-years?”</p>
22	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor G. Stacey to the Cabinet Member for Education & Inclusion Services, County Borough Councillor J Bonetto:</p> <p>“How is the Council progress plans for a new primary school in Llantwit Fardre?”</p>

23

Question from County Borough Councillor M. Griffiths to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“Can the leader update Council in respect of his discussions with UK Government Minister’s upon their ‘Levelling Up’ agenda?”

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

5. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 5.1 The amendments to the Council Procedure Rule in respect of Members Questions was considered and agreed at the Council’s AGM 2019 and AGM 2021, following consultation with the Constitution Committee.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

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

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

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

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

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

10. CONCLUSION

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

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee – Overview & Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

9 MARCH 2022

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

Item: MEMBERS QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Background Papers

[Council AGM 2019.](#)

[Council AGM 2021](#)

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL

9th MARCH 2022

GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF LAY MEMBERS

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Council's ratification of the appointment of Lay Members to the Governance & Audit Committee by the Council's Appointments Committee, at its meeting held on the 28th February 2022.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Notes the arrangements as set out in the report, relating to the appointment of new Lay Members to the Governance & Audit Committee for a term of office commencing from the beginning of the 2022-2023 Municipal Year until the next ordinary Local Government Elections; and
- 2.2 Ratifies the decision of the Appointments Committee in respect of the appointment of Lay Members to the Governance & Audit Committee as Mr Melvyn Jehu and Mr Julius Roszkowski.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure compliance with the legislative requirement set out in the Local Government & Elections Wales Act 2021 that at least one third of the Governance & Audit Committee consist of Lay Members.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act (the Act) was passed by the Senedd on 18th November 2020, precisely a year after it was introduced in 2019 and received Royal Assent on 20th January 2021.

- 4.2 The link to the Act can be found here:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2021/1/contents/enacted>

- 4.3 Sections 116,117 & 118 refers to membership and meeting proceedings of Governance and Audit Committee. Section 116 requires that one third of the Committees membership must be made up from lay persons appointed by the Council. In addition, there is a requirement for the member appointed as the Chair to be a Lay Member.
- 4.4 At the Council meeting held on [20th October 2021](#) (Minute No.74 refers), it was agreed that membership of the Governance and Audit Committee be comprised of 6 Elected Members and 3 Lay Members to take effect from the Annual Meeting May 2022. The Committee cannot lawfully meet post May 2022 unless one third of its membership are Lay Members.
- 4.5 In view of the agreed proposal, it was necessary to appoint 2 additional lay persons to the Committee (following the agreed extension of the term of office of the existing Lay Member (and Chair) to the Governance & Audit Committee, Mr. Christopher Jones). The appointment of the Committee and allocation of seats to the Committee will be determined at the Annual General Meeting on the 25th May 2022, in accordance with the political composition of the Council at that time.

5. APPOINTMENT PROCESS

- 5.1 All Councils in Wales are subject to the same duty and so there has been national recruitment exercise with the assistance of the WLGA to advertise the positions. In addition, to promote greater awareness and encourage wider applications, details of the position were sent to as many stakeholder organisations and networks as possible.
- 5.2 Following receipt of the applications the Appointments Committee was scheduled for the [28th February 2022](#) in order for the interview and selection process to be undertaken.
- 5.3 Ratification is now sought by Council in respect of the recommended candidates by the Council's Appointments Committee. It is proposed the Lay Members be appointed for a term of office until the next ordinary Local Government Elections (currently scheduled for May 2027).
- 5.4 Three applicants were invited for interview demonstrating that they had met the criteria for the roles based on their application forms. The Appointments Committee, which consists of a cross-party membership of five County Borough Councillors, conducted the interview process in line with the Council's recruitment processes.
- 5.5 Following the interview and selection process, the Appointments Committee is now making its recommendations to Council in respect of the recommended candidates for ratification, namely:
- Mr Melvyn Jehu
 - Mr Julius Roszkowski

6. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 6.1 This report is for information purposes and therefore, no consultation is required.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SOCIO ECONOMIC DUTY

- 7.1 There are no equality and diversity implications aligned to this report. The recruitment process advised upon provides an equitable chance of recruitment to all.

8. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS.

- 8.1 The Council positively supports the promotion and utilisation of the Welsh language within the Democratic process and welcomes applications from bilingual candidates. Translation provision is available at Committee meetings and Committee papers are provided bilingually in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Appointment to the above post will be on terms and conditions as outlined by legislation. Lay Members being entitled to claim expenses for their time for attending and preparing for Committee meetings and for attending any relevant training events. Lay Members may also claim subsistence expenses.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 10.1 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 in relation to the membership of the Governance & Audit Committee (and associated Statutory Guidance), as amended by the Local Government & Election (Wales) Act 2021

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

- 11.1 The work of the Governance & Audit Committee supports the delivery of the priorities contained within the Council's Corporate Plan – *The Way Ahead*, in particular 'Living Within Our Means' through ensuring that appropriate internal controls are in place to effectively manage resources.

12. CONCLUSION

- 12.1 Following the requirements of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 the appointment of additional Lay Members to the Governance & Audit Committee has been undertaken by the Appointments Committee which is seeking ratification of its recommendations to Council.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

9 MARCH 2022

GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF LAY MEMBERS

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Freestanding Report



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22

COUNCIL

9th MARCH 2022

THE COUNCIL'S 2022/23 PAY POLICY STATEMENT

Author (s): Richard Evans, Director of Human Resources & Andrew Wilkins,
Director of Legal Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information in respect of the Council's 2022/23 Pay Policy Statement.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council approves, the Pay Policy Statement at Appendix A of this report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Under Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011 (the 'Act'), the Council is required to produce a pay policy statement, which must be prepared each financial year. The provisions of the Act do not apply to local authority schools and therefore teaching staff need not be brought within the scope of the Council's pay policy statement.
- 3.2. Each local authority is an individual employer in its own right and has the autonomy to make decisions on pay that are appropriate to local circumstances and which deliver value for money for local taxpayers. The provisions in the Act do not seek to change this or to determine what decisions on pay should be taken or what policies individual employing authorities should have in place. Rather, they only require that authorities are open about their own local policies and how local decisions are made.
- 3.3 The Act requires that the Council include in its pay policy statement, its approach to the publication and access to information relating to the remuneration of chief officers. Remuneration includes salary or payment for a contract for services, expenses, bonuses, and performance related pay as

well as severance payments. The definition of chief officers includes the head of paid service, statutory chief officers and non-statutory chief officers and those who report to them.

- 3.4 Section 38(2) of the Act also requires the Council to set out its policy on remuneration for its highest paid staff alongside its policies towards its lowest paid employees.
- 3.5 The Council must, in setting pay policy statements have regard to any guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers. The Welsh Government's published guidance under Section 40 of the Act is entitled 'Pay Accountability in Local Government in Wales'. Due regard has been given to this guidance in the preparation of the proposed Pay Policy Statement. The Pay Policy Statement also has due regard to the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.
- 3.6 The Pay Policy Statement must be approved by a resolution of full Council before it comes into force. Once in force it must be complied with, although full Council may amend it during the relevant financial year. It must be published on the Council's website as soon as reasonably practicable after approval or amendment.
- 3.7 A Pay Policy Statement meeting the legal requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and having regard to the Welsh Government guidance is attached at Appendix A and is recommended for approval by Council.
- 3.8 This report has been prepared and written by the Director of Human Resources and Director of Legal Services and the Pay Policy reflects the current grading of those officers. Given previous cases where concerns have been expressed about Officers being involved in the preparation of reports that affect their own pay, this point is explicitly drawn to the attention of Members of the Council.
- 3.9 It should be noted however that any officer of the Council writing this report would be in the same position. It is also important to note that this Pay Policy statement provides an accurate summary of the Council's current policy for the purposes of publication under the Localism Act. What is also important to note is that this policy is not specifically about the authors in an individual capacity otherwise than as part of the Council's group of Chief Officers.

APPENDIX A

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

PAY POLICY STATEMENT

2022/2023

Contents

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1. Introduction & Purpose

Leader's Introduction

- 1.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf Council recognises the importance of administering pay fairly, objectively and consistently in a way that encourages employees to make a positive contribution to the Council's business. The decisions that are taken regarding pay and grading are crucial to maintaining equality across the Council.
- 1.2 In setting its pay structure, the Council reflects on its corporate priorities, the important role that senior leadership plays in achieving those aims and also seeks to continually demonstrate value for money to the residents of the County Borough.

Purpose

- 1.3 Under Section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the "power to appoint officers on such reasonable terms and conditions as the authority thinks fit". This Pay Policy Statement (the 'statement') sets out the Council's approach to pay policy in accordance with the requirements of Section 38 and Section 40(2) of the Localism Act 2011 (the Act).

2. Legislative Framework

- 2.1 In determining the pay and remuneration of all of its employees, the Council will comply with all relevant employment legislation.

3. Pay Structure

- 3.1 The Council has adopted and implemented an objective, analytical job evaluation system based on job demands and developed a pay and grading structure based on spot salaries.
- 3.2 This determines the salaries of the majority of the Council workforce. The features of the pay & grading structure are as follows:
 - Eighteen spot salaries;
 - There are no bonus payments;
 - There are no overtime or weekend enhancement payments.
- 3.3 The pay and grading structure applies to all employees covered by the NJC for Local Government Services.

- 3.4 The Council has been and is committed to the payment of the Real Living Wage (RLW) rate that has previously applied to Grades 1 to 3 of the eighteen spot salary scale detailed above. The latest hourly rate announced by the Living Wage Foundation in November 2021 increased to £9.90 per hour. The Council normally implements the new rate from 1st April but a decision was made by the Council's Cabinet in January 2022 to implement the RLW hourly rate of £9.90 from 1st February 2022. The increase to £9.90 per hour from February will affect all staff on grades 1 – 3 of the Council's grading system. A new rate of £10.00 per hour will be implemented from 1st April 2022. The introduction of £10.00 per hour from April will affect all staff on grades 1 – 4 of the Council's grading system. ¹

The Council has now received confirmation of the NJC for Local Government Services pay award uplift that is effective from the 1st April 2021. In terms of that pay award implementation, when actioned, it will not alter the impact on grades 1 – 4 of our grading system in respect of the introduction of a minimum of £10 per hour ¹. Furthermore, any pay award for 2022/2023 will also retrospectively impact on the RLW calculations.

- 3.5 Employees covered by Soulbury terms and conditions have their pay determined by the Soulbury Committee. There are no overtime, weekend enhancement or bonus payments for this group of employees.
- 3.6 The Council makes payments in respect of a 'holiday pay' supplement which was implemented to ensure all holiday payments to staff are made in accordance with the European Working Time Directive.
- 3.7 The determination of salary scales for employees covered by JNC for Local Authority Chief Executives and Chief Officers are dealt with under paragraph 4 below.
- 3.8 In addition to basic salary, the Council will reimburse all reasonable business travel and subsistence expenses on production of receipts and in accordance with the Council's scheme for payment of travelling expenses, subsistence allowances and redeployment expenses. The Council operates a single scheme that applies to all employees.
- 3.9 All other pay related allowances are the subject of either nationally or locally negotiated rates, having been determined from time to time in accordance with collective bargaining arrangements and/or as determined by the Council's Constitution and the Scheme of Delegation contained therein. In determining its grading structure and setting remuneration levels for all posts, the Council takes account of the need to ensure value for money in respect of the use of public funds, balanced against the need to recruit and retain

¹ Subject to agreement by Full Council at its meeting of 9th March 2022

employees who are able to meet the requirements of providing high quality services to the community, delivered effectively and efficiently and at times at which those services are required.

- 3.10 The process for paying any temporary additional payments for undertaking additional responsibilities are in accordance with the Council's Honoraria and Secondment Policies that apply to all Council employees (including Chief Officers).
- 3.11 The Council does not operate a performance related pay system for any of its employees (including Chief Officers).
- 3.12 There are occasions where it is necessary to take account of the external pay market through the payment of a 'market supplement', in order to attract and retain employees with particular experience, skills and capacity. Where necessary, the Council has ensured that such requirements are objectively justified by reference to evidence of relevant market comparators, using appropriate data sources available from within and outside the local government sector.

4. Senior Pay Remuneration

Definition of Chief Officer Remuneration

- 4.1 For the purposes of this statement, 'chief officers' are as defined within Section 43 of the Act. The posts falling within the statutory definition are set out below:
- Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
 - Group Director
 - Directors
 - Service Directors
 - Heads of Service

Role of the Chief Executive

- 4.2 The role of the Chief Executive, as the senior officer, is to advise and support the Council's Cabinet to:
- Provide leadership, vision and strategic direction;
 - Develop strategic policies to fulfil the Authority's objectives;
 - Define the corporate culture and promote core values;
 - Ensure the Authority meets its statutory obligations and exercises sound corporate governance and effective resource management;
 - Ensure the performance of the Authority is managed effectively.

- 4.3 Rhondda Cynon Taf had a Net Revenue Budget of £527.903M for the 2021/22 financial year and a 3-year capital programme (2021/22 to 2023/24) of £215.333M (Quarter 2 Performance Report). The Net Revenue Budget for 2022/23 is £566.792M and the updated 3-year capital programme for the period 2022/23 to 2024/25 amounts to £148.770M. The Council delivers a wide range of services employing approximately 10,750 staff.
- 4.4 In Rhondda Cynon Taf the Chief Executive salary is determined by the criteria set out in the JNC for Local Authority Chief Executives National Agreement for Pay and Conditions of Service. The Chief Officer salary structure is based on a percentage of the Chief Executives salary and within the Education & Inclusion Services directorate, there are some Heads of Service positions which are remunerated at the senior Soulbury pay scale level. For details of the Chief Officer salary structure, please refer to Section 6 below.
- 4.5 Any change to the existing Chief Executive and Chief Officer pay structure for Rhondda Cynon Taf can only be determined by the Council's Cabinet and full Council as necessary. Should any changes to the existing value of the pay structure be considered, then due regard will be given to the Independent Remuneration Panel which is covered in Section 11 below.

5. Recruitment of Chief Officers

- 5.1 The Council's policy and procedures with regard to recruitment are set out within the Officer Employment Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Council Constitution.
- 5.2 When recruiting to all posts the Council will take full and proper account of its own Equalities, Recruitment and Management of Change Policies.
- 5.3 The determination of the remuneration to be offered to any newly appointed chief officer will be in accordance with the pay structure and relevant policies in place at the time of recruitment. Welsh Government recommends that full Council should be offered the opportunity to vote on salary packages of £100,000 and above in respect of new appointments.
- 5.4 Where the Council is unable to recruit to a post at the designated grade, it will consider the use of market forces supplements in accordance with its relevant policies.
- 5.5 Where the Council remains unable to recruit chief officers under a contract of employment, or there is a need for interim support to provide cover for a vacant substantive chief officer post, the Council will, where necessary, consider engaging individuals under 'contracts for service'. These will be sourced through a relevant procurement process ensuring that the Council not

only meets its statutory obligations but can also demonstrate the maximum value for money benefits in securing the relevant service.

- 5.6 The Council does not currently have any chief officers engaged under such arrangements.

6. Additions to Salary of Chief Officers

- 6.1 The Council does not apply any bonuses, performance related pay, or any other benefits to its chief officers.

Chief Officer Remuneration Details

- 6.2 The Council publishes in the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts details of remuneration in respect of chief officer posts where the annual sum paid is at least £60,000. It is important to note that whilst Teaching posts are outside the scope of this Pay Policy, any Teacher whose earnings are over the £60,000 threshold will still be recorded within the Council's Statement of Accounts. The Council's Annual Statement of Accounts can be accessed via the following link:-

<http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/PerformanceBudgetsandSpending/StatementofAccounts.aspx>

- 6.3 The Council must appoint a returning officer (currently the Director of Legal Services). All fees paid in relation to the performance of the returning officer duties are determined by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and published in the Fees Order for the relevant election/referenda or in the case of County Borough elections by the Council itself. The details of any such fees paid are published in the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts. The Council has determined that no fees shall be payable to the returning officer for duties associated with undertaking the County Borough elections.

7. Payments on Termination

- 7.1 The Council's approach to statutory and discretionary payments on termination of employment, prior to reaching normal retirement age, apply to all staff including chief officers and is set out within its policy statement in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations 2006 and Regulations 30(6), 30(7) and 30(8) of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.
- 7.2 Applications under these schemes are made in accordance with the Council Constitution and Scheme of Delegation and are agreed by the Council's Voluntary Early Retirement Committee (and full Council as necessary). All applications for early retirement will be considered objectively. The schemes will apply to the following groups of staff:

- JNC for Chief Executives
- JNC for Chief Officers
- NJC for Local Government Services
- Staff employed under Soulbury terms and conditions

7.3 Redundancy Payments are made in accordance with the Redundancy Payments (Continuity of Employment in Local Government) (Modification) Order 1999, for the purposes of continuous service, as is any such declared re-employment by a body covered by the Modification Order.

7.4 Welsh Government recommends that full Council should be offered the opportunity to vote before severance packages for chief officers of £100,000 and above are approved for staff leaving the organisation. Within Rhondda Cynon Taf, any such severance package will firstly be considered by the Voluntary Early Retirement Committee. This Committee will make a recommendation to full Council as to whether or not the Council should agree a particular severance package. Following consideration by full Council a vote will be taken on whether to agree the severance package.

7.5 However Members must be made aware of the statutory or contractual entitlements due to an employee and the consequences of non approval by Council which may allow an employee to claim damages for breach of contract.

The Welsh Government considers the following components of a severance package for chief officers should be included when determining whether the package exceeds £100k:

- (i) salary paid in lieu;
- (ii) lump sum redundancy / severance payment; and
- (iii) cost to the authority of the strain on the pension fund.

7.6 Any other payments falling outside the provisions or the relevant periods of contractual notice shall be subject to a formal decision made in accordance with the Council Constitution and Scheme of Delegation.

8. Re-employment

8.1 The Council will not re-employ or re-engage either as an employee, agency worker or consultant, any officer in receipt of an enhanced severance or redundancy payment which formed part of their early retirement. Those officers not of retirement age who accepted an enhanced severance payment as part of their voluntary redundancy will be precluded from being an

employee, agency worker or consultant for a two year period following their termination.

9. Publication

- 9.1 Upon approval by the full Council, this statement will be published on the Council's website.

10. Pay Relativities

- 10.1 The lowest paid employee of the Council is paid at Grade 1 of the Council's pay and grading structure.
- 10.2 The relationship between the rate of pay for the lowest paid and chief officers is determined by the processes used for determining pay and grading structures as set out earlier in this statement.
- 10.3 In accordance with the requirements of Section 38(2) of the Act this statement must state the relationship between the remuneration of chief officers and the remuneration of its employees who are not chief officers.
- 10.4 The statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers under Section 40(2) of the Act recommends the use of pay multiples as a means of measuring the relationship between pay rates across the workforce and that of senior managers, as included within the Hutton 'Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector' (2010).
- 10.5 Hutton recommended the publication of an organisation's pay multiple -the ratio between the highest paid employee and the median average earnings across an organisation, as a means of illustrating that relationship and concluded that the most relevant measure for the median earnings figure should be the full time equivalent earnings of all staff employed.
- 10.6 In accordance with the recommendation of the Hutton report the ratio between the Chief Executive's pay and the median earnings of the workforce calculated using current pay levels within the Council is 1:7.
- 10.7 Whilst there is no legal requirement within Wales to publish separately, in the interests of transparency and equity, it is considered good practice to report on the Gender Pay Gap. Utilising the recommended calculation method, the combined pay gap within Rhondda Cynon Taf currently stands at 10.01% ².

² Subject to the hourly rate of £10.00 per hour from April 2022 being agreed at the Full Council meeting on 9th March. If not agreed the gap would be 10.13%.

11. Independent Remuneration Panel

- 11.1 In accordance with Section 143A of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (“the IRP”) has powers to make recommendations in relation to any policy in an authority’s pay policy statement which relates to the salary of the Chief Executive.
- 11.2 If the Council proposes to change the salary value of the Chief Executive (except one which is commensurate to a change affecting the authority’s other staff more generally) then the Council is obliged to consult the IRP about the proposed change. The Council is then required to have regard to the IRP’s recommendations on the proposal.

12. Accountability and Decision Making

- 12.1 The Council Constitution and Scheme of Delegation sets out the procedure for decision making in relation to the recruitment, pay, terms and conditions and severance arrangements in relation to all employees of the Council.

13. Reviewing the Policy

- 13.1 This Pay Policy Statement will be kept under review and developments considered in the light of external best practice and legislation. The Council will ensure the Pay Policy Statement is updated on an annual basis in line with the requirement of the Localism Act 2011. The annual Pay Policy Statement will be submitted to full Council each year for approval.



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022

COUNCIL

9TH MARCH 2022

PROPOSED CESSATION OF THE CURRENT REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND BEGIN THE PREPARATION OF A NEW REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN WITH EXTENDED PLAN PERIOD.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Report Author: Owen Jones, Planning Services Manager

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report firstly provides an update to Members on the progress of the Revised Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2020-2030. This indicates that although considerable work has been undertaken, we have been unable to meet the previously agreed formal Delivery Agreement.
- 1.2 The report then sets out the most appropriate way to comply with our statutory duty to prepare a Development Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 1.3 The primary purpose of the report is then to seek the necessary statutory Council approval to cease the preparation of the current Revised Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2020 – 2030, and begin the preparation of a new RLDP for the plan period 2022 - 2037.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Approve the cessation of the preparation of the Revised Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2020 – 2030.
- 2.2 Approve the proposal to begin a new RLDP with an amended and extended Plan period of 2022 – 2037.

- 2.3 Approve the Delivery Agreement (DA), that sets out the Community Involvement Scheme and Timetable for the preparation of the proposed new RLDP 2022 – 2037. This is attached as Appendix 1 of this report.
- 2.4 Subject to the above approvals, approve that officers seek necessary Welsh Government agreement to formally start the preparation of the RLDP 2022 – 2037 in accordance with the Delivery Agreement.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Considerable work has been undertaken on the preparation of the Revised LDP throughout the Covid pandemic. However, due to the restrictions this placed on the ability to fully engage with the public and commission the necessary consultancy advice, along with other external issues that have arisen; key elements of the RLDP preparation have not been completed within the formally agreed timescales.
- 3.2 Following consideration of all options, and in discussion with Welsh Government, it is proposed that we cease work on the current RLDP 2020 – 2030. In its place, we will begin a new RLDP, and this for the longer plan period of 2022 – 2037. This would allow for a Development Plan to be prepared for Rhondda Cynon Taf that fully responds to the key issues we now face, with Climate Change and carbon reduction at its core and a full and strategic approach to a post pandemic and post Brexit County Borough.
- 3.3 This is also with the understanding that the majority of evidence base collected to date and preparation processes undertaken, can be carried forward, updated or revisited as necessary.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Current RLDP Progress to Date

- 4.2 Other Local Authorities in South East Wales who are working on their LDP, have experienced considerable slippage and postponements during this period. Despite the limitations the pandemic placed on the ability to commission consultants early in the preparation of the plan, on-boarding new staff and fully engaging with the public, considerable progress has been made on the Revised LDP and Preferred Strategy preparation to date. This includes:

4.3 Major evidence base collation;

- 19 Background Topic Papers, including analysis of the topic, up to date policy requirements for plan preparation and the identification of what further evidence is required on; housing, employment, retail, town centres, renewable energy, minerals, waste, climate change and carbon, natural environment, green wedges, well-being, transport and highways, tourism, gypsies and travellers, green infrastructure, culture heritage and Welsh language, leisure, land reclamation and special landscape areas.

- Preparation of a Settlement Assessment/Hierarchy Paper building a picture of evidence of all our towns and villages, what is in each one in relation to all LDP topics and also scope for development growth.
- Preparation of a draft Urban Capacity Study analysis for RCT, proactively looking at opportunities for development.
- Alongside professional consultants, preparation of the statutory Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Impact Assessment scoping process (including Sustainability Appraisals, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Equalities Impact Assessment, Welsh Language Impact Assessment and consideration of the WBFG Act and Environment Wales Act).
- A South East Wales Regional Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment has been commissioned and is underway, which will be followed by an RCT site specific assessment.
- Further evidence gathering and professional analysis is being commissioned on a number of Housing needs areas.
- A regional approach to identify suitable criteria for the assessment and identification of Green Wedges is ongoing.
- Working with two other Authorities to undertake bespoke evidence gathering to inform appropriate policy on Houses in Multiple Occupation.
- Discussion is in place with experts to undertake broad level development viability analysis across the County Borough.

Candidate sites

- Formulation of a comprehensive Candidate Site Assessment Methodology, and the subsequent Call for Candidate sites.
- An assessment of over 400 Corporate Estate sites to determine with their team which sites were to be submitted (being 34 eventually).
- These were part of the overall 220 sites submitted into the process by private landowners and developers for many uses and from 0.1 up to 100 hectares.
- Further undeveloped allocations from the current LDP will be added to this list, along with the most appropriate sites from the Urban Capacity Study
- The team is well underway on the comprehensive, detailed assessment of the sites.

Strategy preparation

- A number of 'Visioning' events have been prepared for, organised and undertaken. These were to determine the key Issues, Aims and Objectives to inform the Revised LDP. These were to determine more professional/personal/qualitative issues and objectives (beyond those in the ISA).
- There have been two engagement events with Officers from all sections of the Council, another two events with the specifically created Members Steering Group, another with the LDP Forum (set up for external key stakeholders and organisations), and a presentation to and discussion with, the RCT Climate Change Working Group.
- There has also been a 7 week RCT engagement for the Visioning process in July into August, consulting our identified organisations, all RCT staff, Members and general public alike, with online surveys and 'Lets Talk' RCT webpage platform utilised. There were over 60 full surveys completed and over 100 other individual comments received.
- The preparation of a Visioning Report is underway to gather, to summarise and focus the significant information gathered above to appropriately evidence the next stages of the Revision process
- LDP Database. We have worked alongside colleagues in three other Local Authorities across the region to procure a bespoke LDP Database to record all representations to the RLDP; and for use by the Inspector.
- High level analysis of population projections that relate to actual housing number requirements and options.
- Evidence gathering from the two LDP Annual Monitoring Reports submitted in October for 2020 and 2021 brings forward further analysis of all LDP topic areas for RLDP preparation.
- Continued work with other departments to seek to incorporate all ongoing strategies and priorities into LDP Strategy preparation. Working alongside them to bring things forward that can help both parties and the Council collectively.

4.4 Remaining Preferred Strategy Stage Tasks

- Further evidence needs to be finalised in some key areas of housing need and market analysis, along with employment analysis and need. Including what we can undertake ourselves, with colleagues and also the need to procure externally.
- Candidate site assessment and analysis –more work is needed before we have a comprehensive picture of truly suitable sites that are also in the right locations; and to then meet our identified needs. This informs Strategy options.

- Finalisation of the Vision, Issues, Aims and Objectives Reports to also inform the Strategy options appropriately.
- Further consideration of the most appropriate Strategy and growth options to inform a final Preferred Strategy.
- Engagement with our forums such as the Member Steering Group and LDP Forum.
- Once prepared, there is then further formal Integrated Sustainability Assessment required on these Strategy options and Preferred Strategy. Translation of the multiple documents referenced through this section would also need to take place.

5 REASONS TO CEASE THE PREPARATION OF THE CURRENT RLDP 2020-2030 AND THE PROPOSAL TO PREPARE A NEW RLDP FOR 2022 – 2037.

- 5.1 As described above, we have not been able to accord with the Delivery Agreement (timetable agreed with WG) of the current RLDP as a number of tasks remain outstanding.
- 5.2 Discussions have taken place with the relevant officials at WG about the appropriateness of continuing with the current revision of the RCT LDP. The key issue is that the plan period agreed is up to 2030, with the adoption date being identified as early 2024. Any necessary extension of time now needed to prepare the agreed Revised LDP, would extend the adoption date into 2025. This would mean there is too short a time between adoption and the 2030 end of the Plan to deliver the land use allocations in it.
- 5.3 In technical planning terms, there is a clear concern in relation to one of the three 'Tests of Soundness' that the Planning Inspector will determine the RLDP upon. This considers whether they are confident that the RLDP can be implemented and delivered in this short time i.e. all its aims, objectives, strategy, and development of all site allocations.
- 5.4 It is therefore considered that the most appropriate option would be to cease preparation of the RLDP 2020 – 2030 and begin a new RLDP for 2022 -2037. Such a 15 year LDP plan period is standard.
- 5.5 Traditionally, much of an LDP evidence base has been trend-based analysis. However, many of the relevant circumstances relating to the LDP, and society in general, are continually changing throughout the ongoing covid pandemic. This has seen the need to consider a more evolving and uncertain evidence base. Many sectors and economic markets associated with the LDP are affected e.g. housing and commercial industries. As such, there is a need to stop and reset our understanding of things like the RCT housing market and more generally how people live their lives, how the retail world will operate, etc. This proposed new start date of the revision and the plan period will allow for a more up to date and appropriate collation and consideration of evidence.

- 5.6 Matters such as the Welsh Government planning Technical Advice Note 15 for flood risk also raises significant issues to consider and overcome in terms of allocation of sites and opportunities for development in our town centres.
- 5.7 Another issue that is relatively recent is how we address our responsibilities in relation to the regional supply of mineral aggregates for development (i.e. quarried stone).
- 5.8 Site delivery is another concern with regards to larger sites. It is likely that only the more small to medium sized sites could come forward in a shorter plan period. The 2037 end date could see more major strategic sites come forward to meet our needs, if necessary.
- 5.9 It is generally the case that the costs for preparing a RLDP would be very similar regardless of the length of the plan period. The 2037 end date would therefore allow more long-term benefits for the money spent, whilst taking away the uncertainty on spending on a shorter plan.
- 5.10 Furthermore, as set out above, giving due consideration to the evidence gathered to date, and the stages of engagement, consultation and call for candidate sites; it has been determined that the majority of this can be carried forward to the new RLDP. Some may need appropriate updating, whilst other procedural matters may need formal re-running; albeit the processes already put in place would make things more straightforward.
- 5.11 Proposed Delivery Agreement; Community Involvement Scheme and Timetable for the RLDP 2022 - 2037**
- 5.12 As outlined above in section 2, Council is requested to approve that we cease preparation of the RLDP 2020 – 2030 and begin a new RLDP for 2022 -2037. This is in line with the formal Delivery Agreement and its proposed Timetable and Community Involvement Scheme (included as Appendix 1 of this report).
- 5.13 Cabinet approved these proposals on the 27th January. Cabinet also approved the placing of the Draft Delivery Agreement out to targeted and public consultation. A comprehensive consultation took place between the 2nd and 23rd of February. This had substantial feedback and responses, although few specific amendments were proposed to the Draft Delivery Agreement (DA).
- 5.14 Many responses were queries that have been addressed, or others acknowledging that they wished to play a part in the preparation of the RLDP. These were welcomed and noted. There was some disappointment raised that there would be a delay in final decision making (from 2024 now onto 2025), particularly in relation to site assessment. Others advised on suitable matters that should be considered in the RLDP. Amendments proposed to the actual DA were generally small administrative and consultation ones; although a key addition was the need to prepare Easy Read versions of the main RLDP documents throughout its preparation.

- 5.15 Further detail of the consultation is set out in section 8 below. Further detail of the responses to the consultation and our replies/proposed actions, are shown in Appendix 2 of this report - Responses to the Delivery Agreement Consultation February 2022.
- 5.16 Accordingly, the Delivery Agreement in Appendix 1 is proposed as the final one for agreement with Welsh Government. It has two key elements: being the Community Involvement Scheme and Timetable. The Community Involvement Scheme identifies appropriate ways to engage and consult effectively with all stakeholders in the preparation of the RLDP process, including through online methods and this during the covid pandemic.
- 5.17 The Timetable proposes to formally begin the 3.5 year RLDP preparation process in April 2022, following Full Council and Welsh Government agreement. Table 1 below indicates the key dates and timelines from April through to its earliest adoption in October 2025:

Table 1; New RLDP Summary of Timetable.

Key Stage	Date
Preparation of the Pre-Deposit Stage of the Revised LDP including the Preferred Strategy	From April 2022
Consultation on the Preferred Strategy	June/July 2023
Preparation of the Deposit Revised LDP	From August 2023
Consultation on the Deposit Revised LDP	July/August 2024
Submit Revised LDP to Welsh Government	November 2024
Independent Examination	April/May 2025
Adoption	October 2025

6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 6.1 One of the main purposes of this Council Report is to seek permission to prepare a new statutory Revised Local Development Plan in a new timeframe. As set out in section 4 above, the RLDP is subject to a bespoke and overarching Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA). This ISA will assess each and every stage of the preparation of the LDP. There are multiple legislative facets to this, including an Equalities Impact Assessment.

7. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 As above, the Council Report is seeking permission to prepare a new RLDP, and it is subject to the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA). Another key element of the ISA is to undertake a Welsh Language Impact Assessment and at each stage of the LDP.

8. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

8.1 As discussed in section 5 above, following Cabinet approval on January 27th the Draft Delivery Agreement for the proposed RLDP 2022 - 2037 was put out to targeted and public consultation. This took place between the 2nd and 23rd of February.

8.2 The consultation was placed on the Revised Local Development Plan consultation page and the Councils corporate 'Get Involved' consultation page. A total of 740 emails were sent to a variety of statutory consultees, general consultation bodies, other consultees, candidate site promoters and their agents and those individuals who have expressed an interest in the RLDP process.

8.3 A meeting was held of the specific RLDP Members Steering Group to outline the proposals and an email was also sent for information to all Council Members notifying them of the consultation.

8.4 A total of 29 written responses were received during the consultation. Many phone calls were also received. These ranged from statutory organisations to individual members of the public. As touched upon in section 5, many of the responses were offering their support in the preparation of the RLDP, others requesting administrative changes or querying the overall process (particularly the Candidate Sites). A small number of minor changes were proposed to the Delivery Agreement to improve it. Further detail of the responses to the consultation and our replies/proposed actions, are shown in Appendix 2 of this report - Responses to the Draft Delivery Agreement Consultation February 2022.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

9.1 The financial implication associated with this report and its proposals remain in line with those agreed at the outset of RLDP preparation in September 2020. The overall cost of the preparation of the LDP (non staffing resources) is estimated to be £667,000. Considering banked reserves and continuing budgets, there is sufficient budget to cover these costs. Further details of the costs are set out in the Delivery Agreement as Appendix 1 to this report.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

10.1 The new LDP will be prepared in accordance with The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended 2015), Planning Policy Wales 2021, the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) regulations.

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

How the subject of the report will contribute to the delivery of the Council's Corporate Priorities?

- 11.1 The production of a Local Development Plan will help to deliver the Council's three main corporate priorities of building a strong economy, promoting independence and positive lives for everyone and creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work. The production of this land-use plan will help to stimulate the local economy through market and social house building, as well as providing for employment and retail development across the County Borough. Working together to shape our communities will instil a sense of pride and allow people to live and work independently, wherever they so choose. The LDP will also help to deliver the transport infrastructure that keeps Rhondda Cynon Taf working and moving, in a sustainable way that benefits current and future generations.

How the Sustainable Development principle, i.e. the five ways of working has been considered?

- 11.2 The Local Development Plan will be a key project demonstrating the 5 ways of working in action:
- Integration - the preparation of the LDP will be bring together all land use planning issues across the County Borough, involving our partners, residents, visitors, employers and service providers in the formulation of the Plan.
 - Collaboration - the LDP will be a key collaboration project for the region enabling stakeholders including residents to work together to form a Plan for the County Borough.
 - Involvement - preparation of the LDP will provide numerous opportunities to engage with our residents and customers, including the business community and ensuring that we are listening to a wide range of views to inform the plan and decision making process.
 - Prevention - the LDP provides an opportunity to understand the root causes of issues and preventing them by being proactive in our thinking and understanding the need to tackle problems at source for example by undertaking needs assessments to inform our priorities.
 - Long-term - the LDP will be all about planning for the future and taking a strategic approach to ensure the County Borough is sustainable and that we understand the future need and demand for sustainable development in the region and how that is best met.

How the subject of the report seeks to maximise the Council's contribution to seven national well-being goals?

11.3 The LDP will contribute to the seven well-being goals by working together with other public services and third sector organisations to improve the well-being of everybody in Wales. This new approach seeks to improve public services in a sustainable way, for the benefit of all. The LDP will help to ensure:

- A Prosperous Wales - the LDP will promote a productive, creative and low-carbon society that recognises the limits of our resources and global environment, by ensuring that our finite resources are used efficiently and proportionately. It will also help to develop a skilled, well-educated population to work within an economy that generates wealth and provides employment opportunities for all.
- A Resilient Wales - the LDP will help to ensure that the region maintains and enhances a bio-diverse natural environment with healthy, functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience with the ability to adapt to change.
- A Healthier Wales - the LDP aims to help build a society in which people's mental and physical well-being is maximised through access to green space, and helps to foster an understanding of choices and behaviours that benefit future health.
- A More Equal Wales - the LDP will seek to enable people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances. It also aims to help communities effectively tackle the loneliness and isolation that can often exist within many of them.
- A Wales of Cohesive Communities - the LDP, via the place-making principle, will help to foster attractive, safe, viable and well-connected communities that improve the well-being of all residents and visitors.
- A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language - the LDP will support a society that promotes and protects our culture, heritage and Welsh language, whilst encouraging people to participate in the arts, sport and recreation.
- A Globally Responsible Wales - the LDP will contribute towards Wales being a nation which, when doing anything to improve our economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being; will take account of whether doing such a thing makes a positive contribution to our global well-being.

Any other national strategies the subject of the report is seeking to address.

11.4 The Local Development Plan will need to be in general conformity with the aims and objectives of the National Development Framework, which sits above the LDP in the development plan hierarchy within Wales.

12. CONCLUSION

- 12.1 To conclude, it is recommended that approval is given to cease work on the preparation of the Revised Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2020 – 2030.
- 12.2 It is then recommended that approval is given to begin work on a new RLDP with an amended and extended Plan period of 2022 – 2037. This is with the understanding that the majority of evidence base collected to date and preparation process undertaken, can be carried forward, updated or re-visited as necessary.
- 12.3 Further approve the Delivery Agreement (DA), that sets out the Community Involvement Scheme and Timetable for the preparation of the proposed new RLDP 2022 – 2037. This is attached as Appendix 1 of this report.
- 12.4 Subject to the above approvals, approve that officers seek necessary Welsh Government agreement to formally start the preparation of the RLDP 2022 – 2037 in accordance with the Delivery Agreement.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

9TH March 2022

PROPOSED CESSATION OF THE CURRENT REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (RLDP) AND PREPARATION OF A NEW RLDP WITH EXTENDED PLAN PERIOD.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Report Author: Owen Jones, Planning Services Manager.

Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Delivery Agreement for the Rhondda Cynon Taf Revised Local Development Plan 2022 – 2037.

Appendix 2 - Responses to the Draft Delivery Agreement Consultation February 2022.

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Rhondda Cynon Taf

Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Diwygiedig 2020-2030

Revised Local Development Plan 2020-2030

Delivery Agreement

March 2022



Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Revised Local Development Plan 2022 – 2037

Delivery Agreement

March 2022

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Local Development Plan

- 1.1.1. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that Local Authorities prepare a Local Development Plan (LDP) for the Local Authority area. The document provides the development strategy and policy framework for the specified plan period. It is an important land use planning document, which will guide and control development, providing the basis of how planning applications are determined. Once adopted, the LDP provides certainty to the communities of the County Borough regarding where development will be located over the plan period. The LDP will also ensure that the principles of place making and sustainability are at the heart of the plan-making process, reflecting the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 1.1.2. The Council has prepared a Review Report in which the progress of the existing LDP has been considered. The Review Report concluded that a revised LDP was required. This was approved by Council in July 2020. The Council is now preparing a Revised LDP which will cover the plan period 2022-2037. The first stage of this is to prepare a Delivery Agreement in line with Regulation 9 of the LDP (Wales) Regulations 2005. The existing LDP 2006-2021 will continue to be the mechanism for determining planning applications.
- 1.1.3. This Delivery Agreement has been prepared during the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. The Council will adhere to the Government Regulations regarding COVID-19; this includes social distancing and seeking innovative methods to consult during this time. Should additional opportunities arise during the plan preparation process especially where restrictions continue to be lifted, the Council will endeavour to respond to these.

1.2. What is a Delivery Agreement?

- 1.2.1. A Delivery Agreement (DA) is a project management tool that must consist of two parts, the Timetable and the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS). The purpose of the DA is to establish the Local Planning Authorities (LPA) early and full engagement and involvement in the preparation of the LDP. The Delivery Agreement must be produced prior to the formal preparation of the LDP, and forms an important and legal part of the process for the preparation of the Plan. Once approved the Delivery Agreement commits the LPA to produce or revise its plan in line with the timescale and community engagement processes.
- 1.2.2. The DA is comprised of the following sections:

Section A – The Project Management Timetable for the Revised LDP: The timetable details the stages in the preparation of the LDP and how the plan-making process will be project managed. It sets out in a realistic manner what the Authority

can do in the timescale and with the budgetary and staffing resources available, as well as the corporate framework in which the plan will be prepared. The timetable provides a clear indication of when each stage of the plan preparation process will take place.

Section B – The Community Involvement Scheme: The Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) sets out the LPAs principles, strategy and mechanisms for early and continuous community stakeholder involvement in the preparation of the LDP. The purpose of the CIS is to show how, who, and when the LPA will seek the views of its stakeholders including its communities, as the LDP progresses. The CIS is written to maximise collaboration between the Council and its stakeholders, in doing so it will discharge its duty under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

1.2.3. A glossary of terms can be found at Appendix 6.

1.3. Stages in the Preparation of the Delivery Agreement

1.3.1. The preparation of the Delivery Agreement requires a number of steps that are set out below, along with their timescales:

- Preparation of the Delivery Agreement (DA) document including the timetable and the Community Involvement Scheme. (December 2021)
- Political reporting to Cabinet to seek approval of and to consult on the DA (January 2022)
- Consultation of the DA (February 2022).
- Amendments to the DA post consultation and preparation of the initial final document. (February 2022).
- Political reporting of the DA and approval by resolution of the Council (March 2022).
- Submission of the DA to the Welsh Government for approval (March 2022)
- Publication of the approved DA and making the document available for public inspection and official start of the LDP process (April 2022)
- Review the DA on a regular basis.

1.4. Preparation of a Revised LDP

1.4.1. In preparation of the Revised LDP, the Council will aim to achieve the following key outcomes;

- Support sustainable development and quality places based around the National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes, aligned with national policy (set out in

PPW) integrated with an SA/SEA/HRA, including Welsh language and the requirements of the WBFGA 2015.

- Be based on and underpinned by early, effective and meaningful community involvement in order to understand and consider a wide range of views, with the aim of building a broad consensus on the spatial strategy, policies and proposals.
- Be based on a robust understanding of the role and function of an area(s) including the functional linkages to areas beyond administrative boundaries.
- Be distinctive by having plans setting out clearly how their area will develop and change, giving certainty for communities, developers and business.
- Be resilient to climate change (using the latest UK Climate Projections, flood risk and vulnerability assessment data) and support the transition to a low carbon society in line with the latest carbon reduction targets and budgets as set out in the Environment (Wales) Act (Part 2). The principles of Placemaking, the Sustainable Transport Hierarchy and the Energy Hierarchy as set out in PPW must be adhered to.
- Ensure the sustainable management of natural resources in accordance with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and other relevant legislation.
- Deliver what is intended through deliverable and viable plans, taking into account necessary infrastructure requirements, financial viability and other market factors
- Be proactive and responsive with plans, kept up-to-date and flexible to accommodate change.

(Welsh Government, Development Plans Manual, Edition 3, March 2020)

1.4.2. Preparation of the Revised LDP will include consideration of a host of guidance, policy and legislation emanating from the European, national, regional and local level. The Revised LDP will also be guided by the aims and objectives set forth in the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan 2018-2023 entitled *Our Cwm Taf*. These are centred around having *thriving communities, healthy people* and a *strong economy*, with the cross cutting objective of *tackling loneliness and isolation*. The revised plan will also be influenced by the cultural, economic, environmental and social well-being goals and objectives within *Our Cwm Taf*, where they relate to land-use planning.

1.5. **Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA)**

- 1.5.1. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (s.62) requires the LPA to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of its Revised LDP and report the findings as an integral part of the plan-making process. Policies in the plan are required to address those aspects of sustainable development that can be addressed through the land-use planning system. Consideration of social, economic and cultural implications should be fully considered.
- 1.5.2. In addition to this, Local Authorities are required to comply with European Union Directive 2001/42/EC and the Environmental Assessments of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulation, which require the formal Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the LDP. The scope of the SEA is limited to environmental effects.
- 1.5.3. Both first generation and Revised LDPs have to be subject to an SEA. It is considered by the Welsh Government that an appropriate way of undertaking the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is to incorporate it into the SA. The SA incorporating SEA is a statutory requirement in the preparation of a Revised LDP, to fully assess the social, environmental and economic implications of the Plan's strategy and associated policies. The process ensures that LDP policies reflect the principles of sustainable development, whilst taking full account of any significant effects of the Plan on the environment.
- 1.5.4. The SA process should be fully integrated into the LDP process and reflected in the timetable alongside each stage of the plan preparation process. There are elements of the SA/SEA process, which requires that specific work is undertaken and this needs to be clearly identifiable within the process. These will be reflected in the timetable and engagement plan.
- 1.5.5. There are 5 main stages in the SA/SEA process. These are set out below:
- Stage A – Scoping. This establishes the baseline evidence and sets the context and objectives.
 - Stage B – Appraisal of Alternatives. Developing and refining options and assessing effects.
 - Stage C – Assessment of the Deposit Plan and preparation of SA Report
 - Stage D – Examination and Adoption
 - Stage E – Monitoring. Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the development plan.

(Welsh Government, Development Plans Manual, Edition 3, March 2020)

1.6. **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)**

- 1.6.1. A Habitats Regulation Assessment is a legal requirement under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the 'Habitats Regulations'). The Local Authority must undertake a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) in order to

assess if the policies and proposals in the LDP will have any significant effect on the integrity of European designated sites.

- 1.6.2. The HRA will not be integrated with the SA due to different legislative requirements. Engagement and consultation with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) will be undertaken throughout the HRA process.

1.7. Evidence Base

- 1.7.1. With the production of a Revised LDP, there will be a corresponding need to update or renew a number of studies/documents contained within the current LDP evidence base, which underpins the plan. In line with previous AMRs, all contextual, policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the adoption of the LDP will also need to be given due consideration, as part of the evidence base updates. The list below illustrates those areas of evidence base documents that are likely to be required, as part of the LDP full revisions process:

- Population Data and Housing Forecasts
- Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA)
- Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment
- Urban Capacity Study
- Settlement Boundary Review
- Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy
- Employment Land Review
- Retail Study Update
- Green Infrastructure Assessment
- Assessment of Environmental Constraints
- Public Open Space Assessment
- Renewable Energy Assessment
- Transport Assessment
- Landscape

- 1.7.2. The list is not definitive nor exhaustive, as the need for additional evidence may present itself throughout the plan-making process.

- 1.7.3. Given that a number of local authorities within South East Wales are currently progressing revised plans, the Council will endeavour to explore possibilities for the joint commissioning of evidence base documents.

1.8. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act

- 1.8.1. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act received Royal Assent in April 2015. The Act requires public bodies to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work more effectively with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate

change. The Act sets seven well-being goals, which it requires public bodies to achieve. These are:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant and thriving Welsh Language
- A globally responsible Wales

1.8.2. It must be demonstrated that the LDP contributes to all of these goals, with the production of the SA alongside the plan providing an understanding of how this contribution can be maximised.

1.8.3. The Act also identifies 5 ways of working, which the LPA is required to demonstrate, these are 'long-term', 'involvement', 'integration', 'prevention' and 'collaboration'.

1.8.4. As a requirement of the Act, a Local Well-being Plan must also be produced; Rhondda Cynon Taf has the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan, 2018-2023, which has been summarised above.

1.8.5. Both the WBFGA and the Local Well-being Plan will be given full consideration through the plan preparation process, including when undertaking engagement.

1.8.6. **Future Wales: The National Plan 2040**

1.8.7. Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 is the National development plan for Wales. It is the highest level development plan in Wales and the LDP will need to accord with the plan and reflect its aims and objectives.

1.9. **Tests of Soundness**

1.9.1. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that a LDP is subject to an independent examination, to ensure that the Plan is 'sound'. The Revised LDP will be submitted to the Welsh Government, who will appoint an independent Inspector to examine the Plan. The Inspector will determine whether the Plan has been produced in accordance with the legal and regulatory requirements and whether it conforms to the Community Involvement Scheme.

1.9.2. The Inspector will further assess whether the Plan meets the preparation requirements and the three soundness tests, which are:

- Does the plan fit? – Is it consistent with all other plans?
- Is the plan appropriate? – Does the plan address the issues of the area?

- Will the plan deliver? – Will the plan be effective?

1.9.3. There is a fundamental need for a strong evidence base and consultation process. It is also essential to demonstrate the rationale behind the Plan's policies and to assess the outcomes. The conclusions drawn by the Inspector in the final report will be binding on the LPA. Unless the Welsh Government intervene, the LPA must accept the changes and accordingly seek to adopt the Revised Plan at full Council.

2. THE TIMETABLE

2.1. Introduction

- 2.1.1. The Timetable is a crucial element of plan preparation. It ensures that the plan is produced efficiently and in a structured way. Timeliness is even more crucial during a full revision of the LDP, as the Local Development Plan Manual now sets out that the Welsh Government expect the delivery of a Revised LDP to take no longer than 3.5 years (3.75 incorporating slippage) from commencement to adoption.
- 2.1.2. There are two stages to the timetable, those that are definitive and those that are indicative. Definitive stages are those up to and including the statutory deposit period. These stages of the process are under the direct control of the Council and therefore the timetable is as realistic as possible. This part of the timetable is firmer as the project management of the process can be monitored and controlled more carefully. Every effort will be made to avoid deviations from the approved timetable during these stages. Where deviations are necessary, often due to factors outside of the control of the LPA, a period of slippage is built into the process and the LPA needs to seek permission from Welsh Government to invoke this period.
- 2.1.3. Indicative stages are the stages beyond the statutory deposit period. The Council has less control over the later stages of the process, as they are dependent on many factors such as the number of representations that need to be handled and the availability of the Planning Inspectorate. The indicative stages of the timetable will be subject to review as the LDP progresses, and the Council will endeavour to liaise with the Planning Inspectorate, informing them about the progress of the plan as it moves forward.

Table 1 – Key Stages in the preparation of a Revised LDP

Key Stage	Date
Preparation of the Pre-Deposit Stage of the Revised LDP including the Preferred Strategy	From April 2022
Consultation on the Preferred Strategy	June/July 2023
Preparation of the Deposit Revised LDP	From August 2023
Consultation on the Deposit Revised LDP	July/August 2024
Submit Revised LDP to Welsh Government	November 2024
Independent Examination	April/May 2025
Adoption	October 2025

Further details on the projected timescales for plan preparation are set out in **Table 2**.

2.2. Management of the LDP Process

- 2.2.1. The Director of Prosperity and Development will hold overall responsibility for the delivery of the LDP. On a day-to-day basis, the Development Services Manager (Planning Policy) will be responsible for the management of the process. Under the Development Services Manager, the Planning Policy Team will be responsible for the preparation and production of the Revised LDP, with Member engagement and reporting at the relevant stages.

Resources

- 2.2.2. The Council recognises the importance of ensuring sufficient resources are available in order to efficiently and expediently deliver the LDP. The Planning Policy Team, which is responsible for the production and delivery of the LDP, consists of:

Current LDP Team

- Development Services Manager (Planning Policy) (Grade 15) x1
 - Planning Policy Team Leader (Grade 13) x1
 - Senior Planning Policy Officer (Grade 11) x 2
 - Planning Policy Officer (Grade 10) x1
 - Planning Assistant and Technical Officer (Grade 8) x 1
 - Planning Assistant (Grade 9) x 1- Vacant
- 2.2.3. As well as the LDP team, officers and expertise will be drawn from various departments within the Council, throughout the LDP process. This is likely to include support from Development Management, Countryside, Highways, Housing, Regeneration, Education, Public Health, Legal and Democratic Services, ICT and Welsh Translation.
- 2.2.4. The LPA will also enlist professional expertise for specialist services required in the production of a robust evidence base, to support plan preparation. Whilst Council officers will endeavour to produce as much evidence as possible in-house, it will nonetheless be necessary to engage external consultants to compile those highly specialist and technical studies, required in the plan-making process. Where possible opportunities for joint commissioning of evidence base work will be explored.
- 2.2.5. The Delivery Agreement has been compiled on the premise of solely preparing a Revised LDP for Rhondda Cynon Taf. The Council are however also committed to regional working, through the preparation of the Strategic Development Plan.

2.3. LDP Budget

- 2.3.1. An estimated budget of £600,000 will be required for the production and implementation of the plan. It is considered that a sufficient budget is achievable to enable the production of the plan, in line with the Delivery Agreement timetable.

Stage	Estimated Cost
Delivery Agreement	Existing staffing and resources
Pre-deposit	£250,000
Deposit	£167,000
Submission and Examination	£200,000
Adoption and Annual Monitoring	£50,000
Total	£667,000

Revised LDP Budget Requirements (Non Staffing)	
Evidence Base Requirements	
Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environment Assessment Habitats Regulations Assessments	£70,000 plus Internal Staff Resources (Internal)
Housing Needs Assessment/ Local Housing Market Assessment	Internal + Consultants/Software £20,000
Population and Dwelling Projection Report and Economic Led Scenarios	Internal + Consultants/Software £20,000
Urban Capacity Study	Internal
Candidate Sites Assessment	Internal
Employment Land Review	Internal + £25,000 Consultants
Retail Assessment	Internal + £25,000 Consultants
Infrastructure/Transport Needs Study	Internal + £25,000 Consultants
Leisure Study	Internal
Renewable Energy Study	Internal + £25,000 Consultants
Ecological Sites Identification	Internal
Greenspace Assessment and Open Space Assessment	Internal + £15,000
Green Belt/Wedge Assessment	Internal + £10,000
Minerals Assessment	Internal + £10,000
Waste Assessment	Internal + £10,000
Open Space Assessment	Internal

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment	Internal
Flooding – Strategic	Internal + £30,000
Landscape	Dependent on need
Viability Assessments	Internal + £70,000 Consultants/Software
Total Evidence Base	£355,000
Other Costs	
LDP Database	£42,000 Purchase of software
Formal Mapping	Internal + £10,000 Consultants (ongoing)
Consultation material and events	Internal + £10,000 costs
Examination (Planning Inspectorate & Programme Officer)	£200,000
Adoption, publication and ongoing Annual Monitoring	£50,000
Total Other	£312,000
Overall Total, (Non Staffing) Budget Requirement:	£667,000

2.3.2. The accrued, unspent LDP budget over recent years gives us a total pot of £502,000. The continuation of the annual budget of £68,000 per annum throughout the plan preparation period would then meet this need. It also allows scope for small shortfalls in estimated costs, unseen costs that may arise during the long production period of the Plan, and to meet a few ongoing commitments.

2.4. Risk Assessment and Management

2.4.1. The Council considers that its timetable is realistic and deliverable however the timescales involved, set by Welsh Government, are challenging, this is along with the further challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. There is inevitably some element of risk that cannot be foreseen, which could witness the plan deviate from the timetable, as proposed. More detail relating to risk and potential mitigation is outlined at Appendix 3.

3. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEME (CIS)

3.1. Introduction

- 3.1.1. The Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) specifies how the LPA intends to proactively engage with and involve local communities/stakeholders in plan preparation, as part of the Revised LDP. The CIS provides information to interested parties on how the Council intends to consult with interested parties and provides information and certainty on when and how people can have their say throughout the LDP process.
- 3.1.2. Rhondda Cynon Taf firmly believes that community and stakeholder engagement in the plan-making process is fundamental to the success of the Revised LDP. Community involvement will be the cornerstone in addressing any contentious issues that arise as part of the process, in addition to assisting with mediation. Such engagement will also serve to highlight the shared goals and aspirations for the County Borough and expose those areas of common ground upon which consensus can be built.
- 3.1.3. The Development Plans Manual, Edition 3, states that when preparing the CIS LPAs should:
- Create the conditions for early involvement and feedback at a stage when people can shape and influence the plan, based on the 5 ways of working, as set out in the WBFGA 2015
 - Encourage the commitment from all participants to an open and honest debate on realistic development alternatives in search of broad consensus
 - Recognise the need to adopt approaches/techniques for involving all elements of the community (age groups, local community action groups, hard to reach groups and protected characteristic groups) including business, which seeks to involve those not normally involved
 - A one size fits all approach will not be appropriate
- 3.1.4 The LPA has prepared the Community Involvement Scheme during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Council will adhere to the latest Government guidelines and Regulations in terms of its consultation methods such as social distancing rules. The LPA will endeavour to engage the community in innovative ways and will keep the methods under review as the plan preparation is undertaken.
- The CIS has been written with regard to achieving these principles.

3.2. Lessons Learnt from the Previous Plan

- 3.2.1. During the preparation of the current LDP, various methods were employed to engage all interested parties. Such methods included the provision of clearly written information, as well as the opportunity to discuss issues, in person, with Council officers. It is considered that the previous methods of consultation were successful and did engage a wide range of individuals and organisations. This is evidenced by the amount of correspondence that the Council received during the process.
- 3.2.2. Since the original CIS however there have been numerous changes, which may make the consultation and engagement process even more effective.
- 3.2.3. The biggest change since the consultations on the previous plan, is the introduction of the Well Being of Future Generation (Wales) Act and the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan. Therefore the consultation approaches and methods used in the production of the new plan will be in conformity with these documents.
- 3.2.4. Social media has grown exponentially since the previous plan along with the Council's online presence generally, and the Council will investigate all opportunities for the use of this platform during the LDP process.
- 3.2.5. The Council further recognises the importance of obtaining the views of the younger generation, as such the Council would like to ensure greater engagement in this regard. This has been made easier since the previous plan with the formation of the RCT Youth Forum.
- 3.2.6. Due to the current situation with COVID-19 some methods of involvement and consultation such as meetings in person and workshops may need greater consideration of how they will be organised, to ensure that Government COVID-19 regulations are met. The Council will explore ways of doing this, and these methods will be reviewed as Government guidance changes. Along with this the use of online methods will be used where appropriate.
- 3.2.7. During engagement events undertaken during 2021 the Council has successfully utilised video conferencing software such as Team and Zoom to undertake meetings, forums and other events. These methods have proven very successful and an efficient way of engaging a large number of people. The Council will continue to use these methods where appropriate.
- 3.2.8. Along with providing information on the LDP website the Council will also utilise online methods of consultation such as the Let's Talk page to engage as widely as possible.

3.3. Principles of Engagement

- 3.3.1. The Council is committed to ensuring meaningful community involvement, therefore the Council will ensure that the principles of engagement will conform to the following standards.
- 3.3.2. Along with the principles of the Well-being Act, the principles of the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan will also be reflected. This document states:
- 3.3.3. Rhondda Cynon Taf Council has endorsed the National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales. The principles and standards have been developed and endorsed by the Welsh Government to make sure that participation happens in consistent and effective ways.

1. **Engagement is effectively designed to make a difference** - Engagement gives a real chance to influence policy, service design and delivery from an early stage.
2. **Encourage and enable everyone affected to be involved, if they so choose** - The people affected by an issue or change are included in opportunities to engage, as an individual or as part of a group or community, with their views both respected and valued.
3. **Engagement is planned and delivered in a timely and appropriate way** - The engagement process is clear, communicated to everyone in a way that is easy to understand within a reasonable timescale, and the most suitable method(s) for those involved is are used.
4. **Work with relevant partner organisations** - Organisations should communicate with each other and work together wherever possible to ensure that people's time is used effectively and efficiently.
5. **The information provided will be jargon free, appropriate and understandable** - People are well placed to take part in the engagement process, as they have easy access to relevant information that is tailored to meet their needs
6. **Make it easier for people to take part** - People can engage easily as any barriers for different groups of people are identified and addressed.
7. **Enable people to take part effectively** - Engagement processes should try to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence of all participants.
8. **Engagement is given the right resources and support to be effective** - Appropriate training, guidance and support are provided to enable all participants to effectively engage, including both community participants and staff.

9. People are told of the impact of their contribution - Timely feedback is given to all participants about the views they express and the decisions or actions taken as a result; methods and forms of feedback should take account of participants' preferences.

10. Learn and share lessons to improve the process of engagement - People's experience of the process should be monitored and evaluated, to measure its success in engaging people and the effectiveness of that participation. Lessons should be shared and applied in future engagements.

3.3.4. The Council is also developing Corporate Consultation Standards, which it will publish later in the year. Consultation during the LDP will be consistent with said standards.

3.4. **Who should be Involved?**

3.4.1. The LPA is committed to engaging with any person or organisation who has an interest in shaping the future of Rhondda Cynon Taf. The LDP, once adopted, will be used to guide development in the County Borough and will be a key decision making tool for the consideration of planning applications. The Council therefore encourages anyone who wishes to express their views, to do so as part of the preparation of the LDP. The Council will endeavour to ensure that the process is transparent, engaging and accessible to all.

3.4.2. The legal requirements for community involvement and public participation for the LDP are set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended 2015). The Council intends to meet and where possible, exceed these requirements. A list of Specific and General Consultation bodies is set out at Appendix 2.

3.5. **Equality**

3.5.1. We aim to treat everyone with dignity and respect, and to operate in an equitable manner. The Council will make every effort to ensure that the plan preparation process is accessible to all. The Council will engage as widely as possible with all sectors of the community to reflect people from a range of backgrounds and identities. Where due to current COVID-19 pandemic restrictions it is not possible to undertake all consultations in person the Council will seek other appropriate methods of engagement to ensure that all members of the community are fully engaged in the process.

3.6. **Hard to Reach Groups**

3.6.1. There are particular sections of the community that the Council wishes to ensure are involved in the LDP process, due to their specific needs and/or the fact that they have traditionally been under represented in the planning process.

- 3.6.2. The Council will make every effort to ensure that hard to reach groups are included in the process. Hard to reach groups include:
- Young people;
 - People with disabilities;
 - The elderly;
 - Ethnic minorities;
 - Gypsies and Travellers;
 - People with learning difficulties;
 - Homeless people; and
 - Ex-offenders.
- 3.6.3. Clearly, hard to reach groups are by definition hard to reach and it is not always possible to predict which groups will, in fact, prove difficult to consult with. In order to ensure that the community involvement process is as all-inclusive as possible, the Council will monitor and review the statutory consultation periods throughout the process. Where it is clear that groups have not been represented, the Council will seek to invite such groups into the process.
- 3.6.4. The Council intends to work with its existing partners in the community and develop new partnerships where possible. The preparation of the plan will be closely linked with the work undertaken on the Council's Corporate Plan and Well-being Plan, and where possible, utilise the partnerships that have arisen as a direct result of these plans.

3.7. Welsh Language

- 3.7.1. The Welsh Language Standards were published by the Welsh Language Commissioner as a set of legally binding requirements that have applied from the 30th March 2016. The principal aim of the Welsh Language Standards is to ensure that Welsh is not treated less favourably than English, thus ensuring greater consistency in Welsh Language services. The Standards therefore allow individuals to access services via the medium of Welsh, English or bilingually. The Council published *Strategaeth Hybu's Gymraeg/Welsh Language Promotion Strategy* in September 2016, which alongside the Standards, will be adhered to at each stage of the plan-making process.

3.8. SA/SEA

- 3.8.1. Although the SA/SEA approach should be integrated into the LDP preparation process, there are certain areas of work that need to be specifically prepared. Likewise, consultation on the SA/SEA process can be integrated with other LDP consultation periods however there are specific requirements for the involvement of certain consultation bodies.
- 3.8.2. The SEA Regulations identifies the following bodies that require consultation:
- Authorities with 'environmental responsibility', known as the Consultation Bodies. In Wales these are Natural Resources Wales and CADW (SEA Regulation 14);

- The Public (SEA Regulation 13 (2(b))); and
- Other EU Member States where the plan is likely to have significant effects on the Country.

4. CONSULTATION METHODOLOGY AND TECHNIQUES

4.1. Introduction

- 4.1.1. The LPA will employ a number of consultation methods and techniques in order to facilitate community involvement throughout the plan-making process. All methods utilised have been devised in order to ensure effectual, efficient and wide reaching participation.
- 4.1.2. Whilst a number of different techniques will be used to involve the community as a whole, the Council will ensure the provision of clearly written information in accessible locations and ensure that there is the opportunity to discuss issues with members of staff. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Council will, where possible be available in person, subject to regulations set out by the Government such as social distancing. Where this is not possible the Council will seek alternative appropriate methods of engagement such as being available on the telephone and online, to ensure that the community can effectively engage with us in the process.
- 4.1.3. During engagement events undertaken during 2021 the Council has successfully utilised video conferencing software such as Team and Zoom to undertake meetings, forums and other events. These methods have proven very successful and an efficient way of engaging a large number of people. The Council will continue to use these methods where appropriate.
- 4.1.4. Along with providing information on the LDP website the Council will also utilise online methods of consultation such as the Let's Talk page to engage as widely as possible.
- 4.1.5. Listed below are some of the techniques that will be used to consult on the stages of the plan.

4.2. STEERING GROUPS

- 4.2.1. The LPA will host a number of discussion groups, focus groups and workshop sessions in a bid to maximise engagement and ensure a community-led approach, as far as possible. The input of other groups and organisations will also be key to the success of the Revised LDP and the same techniques will be employed to secure their input.

4.3. LDP Member Steering Group

- 4.3.1. The Council will establish a Member Steering Group, in order to guide the formulation of the Revised LDP. This will be made up of a number of appropriate members.

4.4. LDP Officer Steering Group

- 4.4.1 In order to ensure that the Revised LDP is sustainable and deliverable, the Council will establish a LDP Officer Steering Group. The Group will consist of Council Officers with responsibility for areas including Planning, Highways, Engineering, Drainage and Flood Management, Biodiversity, Economic Development, Housing, Education and Public Health, although this list is not exhaustive. It is anticipated that a series of sub-groups will be created beneath the umbrella of the Steering Group, to assist in key areas of policy development.

4.5. Developer Forum

- 4.5.1. The LPA will also draw on the knowledge and expertise of those organisations involved in its unique Developer Forum. The Developer Forum was established in 2012, post adoption of the current LDP, to provide innovative solutions to overcoming barriers to housing delivery. Membership of the Forum comprises representatives of volume and local house builders (operating within RCT); the Home Builders Federations; Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) (operating within RCT); National Financial Institutions; the Federation of Master Builders; and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. The LPA will work with the Forum to establish any obstacles to development that have previously been encountered and analyse any issues that emerge, to assist in the plan-making process, in relation to the Revised LDP.

4.6. LDP Forum

- 4.6.1. The Council is committed to working in partnership with the community as a whole throughout the plan making process. For this reason, it is proposed to establish an LDP Forum to assist in and inform the development plan process. The Forum will play an important role in ensuring that the LDP reflects the development needs and aspirations of Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 4.6.2. It is anticipated that the role of the Forum will be two-fold. Firstly, it will serve as a mechanism for discussion, which will allow open dialogue to take place between stakeholders on key issues of policy. Secondly, it will act as a control group for the various stakeholders in the development plan process. This Forum will be identified on a focus basis, incorporating further Council Members, Council groups, Specific and General Consultation bodies.

4.7. SA/SEA Working Group

- 4.7.1. The Council will set up a SA/SEA working group to help guide and inform the SA/SEA process.

4.8. Social Media and online presence

4.8.1. Social Media presents an opportunity to reach a large number of people in an efficient manner. The Council will use its existing social media platform and other online platforms where appropriate to advertise news and stages of the plan. The use of social media will be in line with the Council's social media policy. The Council however will not accept formal consultation representations made through certain social media platforms which will be made clear on that particular social media platform when this restriction applies.

4.9. Website

4.9.1. The Council's website will be one of the main sources of information and utilised for consultation throughout the plan process. It will be updated with information about each stage of the plan-making process, as well as hosting all the documents prepared and contain contact information for the Planning Policy Team. The website will also host consultation stages of the plan and include information such as how to make a representation and provide the relevant forms needed to do so. The website will be kept up to date throughout the plan process.

4.9.2. During engagement events undertaken during 2021 the Council has successfully utilised video conferencing software such as Team and Zoom to undertake meetings, forums and other events. These methods have proven very successful and an efficient way of engaging a large number of people. The Council will continue to use these methods where appropriate.

4.9.3. Along with providing information on the LDP website the Council will also utilise online methods of consultation such as the Let's Talk page to engage as widely as possible.

4.10. Drop-in sessions during consultation periods

4.10.1. The LDP team will endeavour to be as accessible as possible during the LDP process. In order to assist in this, various drop-in sessions will be held during consultation periods of the LDP where they can accord with up to date Government guidance on COVID-19. It will be ensured that these will be in accessible locations and at convenient times.

4.11. Written Information

4.11.1. The Council will produce clearly written information throughout the process. The Council will also translate these documents in line with the Welsh Language Standards. Requests for these documents in different formats should be made to

the Council in writing. The Council will endeavour to make the written information as accessible as possible.

The Council will prepare Easy Read versions of the main RLDP stage consultation documents.

4.12. Document Availability (Deposit Locations)

4.12.1. During the various stages of plan preparation, electronic documents associated with the LDP full revision process will be available on the Council's website. Electronic representations forms will also be available on the website, at the relevant stages of consultation. Additionally, copies of these documents will be available at main Council offices and libraries; at the time of writing these are:

- Sardis House, Sardis Road, Pontypridd, CF37 1DU.
- Pontypridd One 4 All Centre and Library 1 Llys Cadwyn, Taff St, Pontypridd CF37 4TH
- Aberdare One4All Centre and Library, Green Street, Aberdare, CF44 7AG.
- Porth One4All Centre, and Library Porth Plaza, Pontypridd Road, Porth, CF39 9PG.
- Mountain Ash One4All Centre and Library Oxford Street, Mountain Ash, CF45 3HD
- Treorchy One4All Centre and Library Station Road, Treorchy, CF62 6NN
- Abercynon Library, Ynysmeurig Road, Abercynon, CF45 4SU.
- Church Village Library, Garth Olwg Community Campus, off St Illtyd's Road, Church Village, Pontypridd, CF38 1RQ.
- Ferndale Library, The Hwb, North Road, Ferndale, CF43 4PS.
- Hirwaun Library, High Street, Hirwaun, CF44 9SW.
- Llantrisant Community Library, Llantrisant Leisure Centre, Southgate Park, Llantrisant, CF72 8DJ.
- Pontyclun Library, Heol-y-Felin, Pontyclun, CF72 9BE.
- Rhydyfelin Library, Library Court, Poplar Road, Rhydyfelin, CF37 5LR.
- Tonypandy Library. De Winton Street, Tonypandy, CF40 2QZ.
- Mobile Library

4.12.2 The Council will keep these locations up to date on its website. Please note appointments might be needed to view documents due to Covid restrictions.

4.12.3 Principal Office

4.12.4 The Teams Principal office is located in Sardis House Pontypridd. At the start of the pandemic the LDP team began working from home. Homeworking is likely to continue and therefore appointments will need to be made to view documents or to meet with the LDP team in person. To make an appointment please call or email the team.

4.13. Direct Correspondence

4.13.1. Anybody who has an interest in Rhondda Cynon Taf and the LDP can and should be involved in the LDP process. The Council will host a consultation database, which will hold the contact details of any individual or organisation who wishes to be kept informed of the plan process. During the various stages of the process, the Council will make direct contact with individuals and organisations via email or letter. The Council will endeavour to reduce the amount of paper used during the LDP process and therefore will, where possible, require an email address from participants. It is however understood that not everyone has an email address and therefore these individuals will be written to via post.

4.14. Availability of the LDP Team

4.14.1. The LDP team will endeavour to be as accessible as possible throughout the LDP process. The team has a direct email address and telephone number. The team can be contacted during office hours, which are between 9.00am-5.00pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

4.14.2. The Council will also endeavour to meet with community groups and/or residents as appropriate and where possible.

4.14.3. Contact details for the team are included at Appendix 1.

4.14.4. Set out above are the main consultation and engagement techniques that will be employed by the Council during the plan-making process. There will however inevitably be opportunities that arise during the LDP process to engage further with the public, especially as COVID-19 restrictions are gradually lifted. The Council will explore any opportunity to do so.

4.15. Interacting with the Council/Expectations of Consultees

4.15.1. For comments and/or representations to be made on the Revised LDP, it is essential that they are submitted during the specified timescales, to allow the LPA to give them due consideration. The timetable of relevant stages is set out earlier in the Delivery Agreement, which provides a guideline with regard to when involvement is sought. This will allow all views expressed to be considered and ultimately inform the plan-making process, where appropriate.

4.16. Representation forms

- 4.16.1. A standard representation form will be made available by the Council during consultation periods. The completion of key sections of this will be required to make a valid representation.
- 4.16.2. Should any personal details change from the point of initial contact, it is advisable to inform the LPA to ensure that you continue to remain informed of the Plan's progress. Additionally, the Council acknowledges that a change in land ownership details of Candidate Sites could occur during the process. Consequently, it is imperative that any such changes are communicated to the LPA, as a matter of urgency.

4.17. Consensus Building

- 4.17.1. The LPA will ensure that consensus is built via the engagement and consultation techniques referenced in the Community Involvement Scheme. In order to build a consensus, it is essential that stakeholders and all other interested parties are kept fully informed and engaged throughout the full revision procedure. This will be of particular importance at the outset of the process. It is however acknowledged that on occasion, consensus will not be achievable and a difference of opinion between various parties will prevail. As such, a clearly defined audit trail of decisions will be maintained, thus ensuring transparency in the decision making process.

4.18. Handling of Representations and Other Data

- 4.18.1. Representations which are received in the prescribed timescales will be handled in the following manner:
- Representation logged and given a representation number;
 - Confirmation sent to representor in receipt of the representation;
 - Representation and details of representor logged;
 - All valid representations considered and responses formulated; and
 - Local Authority's responses to representations recorded and published in accordance with the Regulations.

4.19. Data Protection

- 4.19.1. All personal information and data will be handled in line with the agreed Prosperity and Development Departments data protection and privacy policies.

To learn more about how your personal information will be used, please visit the Council's data protection pages at www.rctcbc.gov.uk/dataprotection.

4.20. Late Representations

- 4.20.1. For representations to be considered, the consultation responses for the specific stage will be required within a precise period. Late comments/representations will not be logged as valid if they fail to comply with the published timescales.
- 4.20.2. There may be extenuating circumstances in which a representation is submitted late, it will however be at the discretion of the LPA with regard to whether such comments/representations are accepted. The LPA faces a challenging timetable in the production of a revised plan; therefore, late representations have the potential to cause further and unnecessary delays, which would not be acceptable.

4.21. Monitoring and Review of the Delivery Agreement

- 4.21.1. It is proposed to monitor and review the effectiveness of the Delivery Agreement at each stage of the Local Development Plan preparation process. This will establish whether the LPA is meeting its objectives in terms of public engagement in the process, and whether or not the timescales, as indicated, are being met. This will be of particular importance during this time due to COVID-19 restrictions and the evolving nature of the situation. Where there is opportunity to improve the methods of engagement we will seek to do so. However any significant amendments to the community involvement scheme and any changes to the timetable will require formal Council and Welsh Government approval.
- 4.21.2. An updated timetable will be submitted to the Welsh Government, following the Deposit stage. This will provide the opportunity to specify a refined timescale for the 'indicative' stages of the timetable, once further details are known.

4.22. Monitoring and Review of the LDP

- 4.22.1. The Council will produce an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) each year following the date of adoption, which will assess how effectively the policies and proposals of the plan are performing and highlight any need for modifications. The monitoring report will also include references to new or updated National Planning Guidance and any other relevant information. Once produced, the monitoring report will be made available to the public to view on the Council's website.
- 4.22.2. Following the adoption of the LDP, it is intended that the plan will be reviewed on a four-yearly cycle. A review of the SA/SEA baseline information and trends will also take place and feed into the revision.

4.23. Supplementary Planning Guidance

- 4.23.1. The Revised LDP will contain sufficient policies and proposals to provide the basis for determining planning applications. The selective use of SPG will be utilised as a means of setting out more detailed thematic policies or site-specific guidance on the way in which the LDP policies will be applied. SPG does not form part of the

development plan but will be derived from policies contained within the plan, thus ensuring consistency in the policies/proposals that it supplements.

4.23.2. Following the adoption of RCTs current LDP, a number of SPG were produced to provide support to existing LDP policy. These were:

- Design and Place-making (March 2011)
- Design and Place-making: Access, Circulation and Parking (March 2011)
- The Historic Environment (March 2011)
- Design in Town Centres (March 2011)
- A Design Guide for Householder Development (March 2011)
- Affordable Housing (March 2011)
- Nature Conservation (March 2011)
- Planning Obligations (March 2011)
- Planning Obligations (Revised) (December 2014)
- Shopfront Design (October 2014)
- Development of Flats (June 2015)
- Employment Skills (June 2015)
- Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) (May 2018)

4.23.3. A review of all the existing SPG documents, including ones prepared more recently, will form part of the LDP full revision procedure, with amendment or revised likely in most instances.

4.23.4. The Council will use SPG to cover detailed and numerical guidelines where it is considered that they may change during the lifetime of the plan. This will ensure that the LDP does not become outdated in the short term and will assist with the flexibility of the plan. Where SPG will aid the understanding of the LDP, it will be prepared and consulted on in parallel. It will not however be possible to prepare all SPG in parallel and in these circumstances, SPG will be subject to a separate formal process of consultation and adoption. A report of public consultation will be prepared in respect of each SPG document.

4.23.5. SPG cannot be formally adopted until after the Inspector's binding report has been received and it is clear that there will be no change in the policy approach.

5. TIMETABLE AND PROPOSED METHODS OF ENGAGEMENT

The information below provides a detailed breakdown of the plan making process, up to and including the submission of the LDP to the Planning Inspectorate for examination. It seeks to explain the purpose of the stage, who will be engaged and the Council's expectations of consultees. The subsequent stages in the process are not directly in the control of the Council and therefore may be subject to change.

Table 2

Stage in the LDP Preparation Process: Pre-Deposit Participation (Regulation 14) including preparation of the Preferred Strategy	Timescale	Who will be Involved	Methods of Engagement	Likely Outcomes & Reporting Mechanism	Resources
<p>Preparation of detailed background papers of LDP topics</p> <p>Review evidence base</p> <p>Preparation of an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) Scoping Report – this report will encompass: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as well as the Wellbeing of future Generations Act, a Welsh language impact assessment, an Equalities Impact Assessment, a health impact assessment and the Environment Act.</p> <p>Preparation of Issues, Objectives, Vision and Aims</p>	<p>April 2022- May 2023</p>	<p>RCT Steering Groups</p> <p>Specific Consultation Bodies</p> <p>General Consultation Bodies</p> <p>General Public</p>	<p>Workshops</p> <p>Direct Correspondence via email/letter</p> <p>Online presence such as through the internet, social media platforms and video conferencing.</p>	<p>Preparation of formal evidence base documents and reports on engagement.</p> <p>Pre-deposit proposals and papers approved by Council and approval for public consultation</p>	<p>LDP Planning Policy Team</p> <p>Officer Steering Group</p> <p>Member Steering Group</p> <p>Consultants</p> <p>ICT</p> <p>Translation</p>

<p>Preparation of strategy options and assessment of alternatives (Incorporating ISA requirements)</p> <p>Preparation of Spatial Strategy and Preferred Options document</p> <p>Preparation of the initial ISA Report</p> <p>Habitats Regulation Assessment preparation.</p>					
<p>Call for Candidate Sites</p>	<p>June 2022-September 2022</p>	<p>RCT Steering Groups</p> <p>Specific Consultation Bodies</p> <p>General Consultation Bodies</p> <p>Other consultees</p> <p>Public Landowners</p>	<p>Information made available on the Council's Website with Press Release</p> <p>Corporate Facebook and Twitter Accounts and other appropriate social media platforms.</p> <p>Direct correspondence via email and letter</p>	<p>Preparation of a Candidate Sites Register</p>	<p>LDP Planning Policy Team</p> <p>ICT</p> <p>Marketing and press</p> <p>Translation</p>

		Any other interested party wishing to submit land to the process.			
Integrated SA/SEA					
5 week Statutory consultation on ISA Scoping report	July/ August 2022	Statutory Consultation Bodies ISA working group	Direct correspondence via email/ letter Workshop/meeting	Consideration of representations on Draft ISA Scoping Report. Preparation of formal evidence base documents.	LDP Planning Policy Team Consultation Bodies (ISA Working Group) SA/SEA consultants.

Stage in the LDP Preparation Process: Pre-Deposit (Preferred Strategy) Public Consultation (Regulation 15 & 16)	Timescale	Who will be Involved	Methods of Engagement	Likely Outcomes & Reporting Mechanism	Resources
Consultation on Pre-deposit Proposals and supporting documents including Preferred Strategy and the Candidate Sites Register	June/July 2023 (for 6 weeks)	RCT LDP Steering Groups Specific consultation bodies, General consultation bodies, Other consultation bodies ISA Consultation bodies Any other interested party/general public.	Direct Correspondence via email and letter Documents placed on the Councils website Online presence such as through the internet, social media platforms, video conferencing and video sharing. Copies of all relevant documents placed in deposit locations Drop in sessions/ exhibitions/meeting where appropriate Documents sent to Specific and General consultation bodies	Preparation of formal evidence base documents Analyse and record representations received Details of responses received to be incorporated into a report of consultation (initial consultation report) Confirm/Amend Preferred Strategy. Approval of Pre-deposit proposals	LDP Planning Policy Team Elected Members ICT Translation team Events team Printing costs Marketing costs

Stage in the LDP Preparation Process: Pre-Deposit (Preferred Strategy) Public Consultation (Regulation 15 & 16)	Timescale	Who will be Involved	Methods of Engagement	Likely Outcomes & Reporting Mechanism	Resources
			Hard copies of the main documents placed in main Council offices and libraries (deposit locations) Social media posts	for Deposit consultation.	
6 week consultation on the initial ISA Report	June/July 2023	As above	As above	Analyse and record representations received Details of responses received to be incorporated into a report of consultation Amend/update ISA as necessary	ISA working group Consultants And as above

Stage in the LDP Preparation Process: Preparation of Deposit Revised LDP (Regulation 16, 17, 18 and 19)	Timescale	Who will be Involved	Methods of Engagement	Likely Outcomes & Reporting Mechanism	Likely Resources
Preparation of Deposit Revised LDP	August 2023- June 2024	LDP Planning Policy Team Officer Steering Group LDP Members Steering Group Developer Forum LDP Forum	Meetings Workshop Video Conferencing Digital correspondence	Appropriate contributions to the Deposit Revised LDP.	LDP Planning Policy Team Officer Steering Group LDP Members Steering Group Developer Forum LDP Forum
Preparation of the ISA report and the HRA for the Deposit Revised LDP.	August 2023- June 2024	LDP Planning Policy Team/ ISA Consultants Officer Steering Group LDP Members Steering Group LDP Forum ISA Working Group	As above	Appropriate contributions to the Deposit Revised LDP.	LDP Planning Policy Team/ ISA Consultants Officer Steering Group LDP Members Steering Group LDP Forum ISA Working Group

Stage in the LDP Preparation Process: Statutory Deposit of Proposals (Regulation 17, 18 and 19)	Timescale	Who will be Involved	Methods of Engagement	Likely Outcomes & Reporting Mechanism	Likely Resources
Statutory consultation of the Deposit Draft LDP and supporting documents.	July/August 2024 (for 6 weeks)	RCT Steering Groups Specific consultation bodies, General consultation bodies, Other consultation bodies ISA Consultation bodies Any other interested party including general public.	Direct correspondence via email and letter Documents made available at deposit locations All relevant documents published on the Councils Website with press release. Online presence such as through the internet, social media platforms, video conferencing and video sharing. Documents sent to Specific and	Details of responses incorporated into a Report of Consultation. Copies of representations placed in deposit locations and on website	LDP Planning Policy team Internal consultees ICT Marketing and events Printing costs

			<p>General consultation bodies</p> <p>Corporate Facebook and twitter</p> <p>Drop in sessions/ exhibitions/ meetings as appropriate</p> <p>Site notices for site specific allocations</p>		
Statutory Consultation on the Deposit stage ISA report and the HRA.	July/August 2024	As above	As above	As above	As above

Stage in the LDP Preparation Process: Submission of LDP for Examination (Regulation 18,19,22)	Timescale	Who will be Involved	Methods of Engagement	Likely Outcomes & Reporting Mechanism	Resources
<p>Consider representations received and update consultation report</p> <p>Update the ISA if necessary</p> <p>Notify all relevant parties of submission</p> <p>Submit the Deposit Draft LDP, ISA and HRA and other relevant documents to Welsh Government</p>	<p>Indicative date: November 2024</p> <p>(Actual dates to be agreed with PEDW)</p>	<p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Planning and Environment Decisions Wales</p> <p>RCT Steering Groups</p> <p>Specific consultation bodies</p> <p>General consultation bodies</p> <p>Other consultation bodies</p> <p>SA Consultation Bodies</p> <p>Those persons who have requested notification when the LDP is submitted</p> <p>Any other interested party.</p>	<p>Direct correspondence via email and letter</p> <p>Information/ statement provided on the Council's website of submission along with relevant documents</p> <p>Hard copies of main relevant documents available at deposit locations</p>	<p>Updated Consultation report</p> <p>Updated ISA if necessary</p> <p>Report of Consultation reported to Council on Deposit plan and any focussed changes sought</p> <p>Submission of Deposit LDP and supporting documents to Welsh Government</p>	<p>LDP Planning Policy Team</p> <p>Printing costs</p>

Stage in the LDP Preparation Process: Independent Examination (Regulation 23)	Timescale	Who will be Involved	Methods of Engagement	Likely Outcomes & Reporting Mechanism	Resources
Notification of independent examination in line with regulation 23	Indicative date: February 2025 (at least 6 weeks prior to the start of the Examination) (Actual to be agreed with PEDW)	RCT Steering Groups Specific consultation bodies General consultation bodies Other consultation bodies Those persons who have made valid representations Planning and Environment Decisions Wales Programme Officer Any other interested parties	Formal notification given by direct correspondence and information provided on the Council's website Notification of those who have made a valid representation	N/A	LDP Planning Policy Team Consultants

Stage in the LDP Preparation Process: Independent Examination (Regulation 23)	Timescale	Who will be Involved	Methods of Engagement	Likely Outcomes & Reporting Mechanism	Resources
Independent Examination	Indicative date: April/May 2025 (Actual to be agreed by PEDW)	All those interested individuals and organisations that have made representations at the Deposit Stage of the Plan Planning and Environment Decisions Wales	Round Table discussions Formal written and oral submission	Inspectors report	Programme officer Cost of examination Administrative costs

Stage in the LDP Preparation Process: Receipt of the Inspectors Report (Regulation 24)	Timescale	Who will be Involved	Methods of Engagement	Likely Outcomes & Reporting Mechanism	Resources
Receipt of Inspectors report	Indicative date: September/October 2025 (Actual to be agreed with PEDW)	Any persons who has asked to be notified. RCT Steering Groups	Inspectors report made available on the Councils website Copies of the report made available in deposit locations Press release Corporate Facebook and twitter	Advise Council of receipt of Inspectors report	Cost of printing

Stage in the LDP Preparation Process: Adoption (Regulation 25)	Timescale	Who will be Involved	Methods of Engagement	Likely Outcomes & Reporting Mechanism	Resources
Formally adopt the LDP as the Development Plan for the County Borough within 8 weeks of receipt of Inspectors Report	October 2025	Those who have asked to be notified Cabinet Council	LDP, adoption statement and the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal report to be published on the Council's website Documents available in deposit locations Adoption statement sent to those who have asked to be notified Press release	Full Council prior to final adoption	Costs of printing Marketing

Stage in the LDP Preparation Process: Adoption (Regulation 25)	Timescale	Who will be Involved	Methods of Engagement	Likely Outcomes & Reporting Mechanism	Resources
			Corporate Facebook and Twitter		
Formal publication of the ISA Report	October 2025		As above	As above	Cost of printing
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)					
Production of the Annual Monitoring Report	31 st October 2027 and annually thereafter	Any interested party	Published on the Council's Website Send to Welsh Government	Cabinet/Delegated Cabinet Member	Staff Translation ICT

Appendix 1

CONTACT DETAILS

The Planning Policy Team can be contacted using any of the following methods:

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Appendix 2 – List of Consultation Bodies

The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 defines General Consultation Bodies and Specific Consultation Bodies as follows:-

General Consultation Bodies are:	Specific Consultation Bodies are:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - voluntary bodies, some or all of whose activities benefit any part of the LPA's area; - bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the LPA's area; - bodies which represent the interests of different religious groups in the LPA's area; - bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons in the LPA's area; - bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying out business in the LPA's area; and - bodies which represent the interests of Welsh culture in the LPA's area; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural Resources Wales - Network Rail Infrastructure Limited - insofar as the Secretary of State exercises functions previously exercisable by the Strategic Rail Authority, the Secretary of State, - the National Assembly, - a relevant authority any part of whose area is in or adjoins the area of the LPA, - any person <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to whom the electronic communications code applies by virtue of a direction given under section 106(3)(a) of the Communications Act 2003, and (ii) who owns or controls electronic communications apparatus situated in any part of the area of the LPA (where known), - if it exercises functions in any part of the LPA's area— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a Local Health Board, (ii) a person to whom a licence has been granted under section 6(1)(b) or (c) of the Electricity Act 1989, (iii) a person to whom a licence has been granted under section 7(2) of the Gas Act 1986, (iv) a sewerage undertaker, (v) a water undertaker;

The tables that follow comprise the Specific Consultation Bodies, UK Government, General Consultation Bodies and Other Consultees as required by LDP Wales. The tables also include parties who have either requested inclusion directly or been suggested as useful additions by third parties.

The Council undertook targeted consultation on the Delivery Agreement with stakeholders. Suggestions made for additional consultees have been added to this list following the consultation.

These groups will play an important role in the development of the LDP and the Council will ensure that they are kept involved throughout the process.

It must be stressed that this list is not exhaustive or exclusive. The Council welcomes all suggestions, either directly from organisations themselves or individuals, on any interest group, organisation or body who may wish to be included on the database. It is anticipated that the list will grow continuously throughout the development of the LDP.

The Council maintains an LDP Consultation Database, which includes interested parties. The Council is happy to include any individual who wishes to be kept abreast of the LDP process.

Should any party/individual wish to be removed from the LDP databases, they should contact the Development Planning Team directly.

At stages of plan preparation, the Council will consult with those consultation bodies listed below:

Specific Consultation Bodies:

Specific Consultation Bodies (including UK Government Departments)
British Telecom
CADW
Cwm Taf University Health Board
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Department for Transport
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust
Home Office
Ministry of Defence
National Grid Company plc
National Grid Wireless
Natural Resources Wales
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales
Telecommunications Operators (inclusive of EE, Vodafone, O2, Three, Tesco Mobile, NTL, Open reach and Virgin Media)
Transco
Wales and West Utilities
Welsh Government (inclusive of the Planning Division)
Welsh Water
Western Power Distribution

South East Wales and Other Local Authorities and Bodies
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Bridgend County Borough Council

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cardiff Capital Region
Cardiff Capital Region Strategic Planning Panel (when established)
City of Cardiff Council
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Monmouthshire County Borough Council
Neath Port Talbot
Newport City Council
Powys County Council
Torfaen County Borough Council
Vale of Glamorgan

Town and Community Councils in Rhondda Cynon Taf

Gilfach Goch Community Council
Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council
Llanharan Community Council
Llanharry Community Council
Llantrisant Community Council
Llantwit Fardre Community Council
Pontyclun Community Council
Pontypridd Town Council
Rhigos Community Council
Taffs Well and Nantgarw Community Council
Tonyrefail Community Council
Ynysybwl and Coed y Cwm Community Council

Community Councils in Adjoining Authorities

Aber Valley Community Council
Blaengwrach Community Council
Coychurch Higher Community Council
Glyn Neath Town Council
Llanfrynach Community Council
Llangan Community Council
Nelson Community Council
Ogmore Valley Community Council
Pencoed Town Council
Pendoylan Community Council
Penllyn Community Council
Pentyrch Community Council
Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn Community Council
Peterston-Super-Ely Community Council
Tongwynlais Community Council
Welsh St Donats Community Council
Ystradfellte and Pontneddfechan Community Council

General Consultation Bodies:

General Consultees – Voluntary Organisations in RCT
Age Connects Morgannwg
Canolfan Maerdy
Citizen's Advice Rhondda Cynon Taff
Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services – Fernhill Youth Project
Groundwork Trust
Home Start Rhondda Cynon Taff
Interlink RCT
Penywaun Building Communities Trust
TraVol Community Transport
Valleys Kids/Plant y Cymoedd
Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)
Wales Federation of YFC
Women's Aid RCT

General Consultees – Ethnic Minority Groups
Friends, Families and Travellers
Gypsies and Travellers Wales
Showmen's Guild of Great Britain (Wales and Northern Ireland)
The Equality and Human Rights Commission
The Gypsy Council
The National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups (Wales)
Traveller Law Reform Project
Travelling Ahead
VALREC (Valleys Race Equality Council)

General Consultees – Religious Organisations
Cardiff Buddhist Centre
Catholic Church in England and Wales
Evangelical Movement of Wales
Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Miskin, Pontyclun
Mountain Ash Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses
Muslim Council for Wales
Pontypridd Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses
Presbyterian Church of Wales
Representative Body of the Church in Wales
Rhondda Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses
South Wales Baptist Association
St Elvan's Church Aberdare
St Fagan's Church
The Apostolic Church, UK
The Islamic Centre, Aberdare
The Salvation Army
Trealaw Quakers

UK Islamic Mission
United Reform Church
Wales Synod – The Methodist Church in Wales

General Consultees – Disability Groups
Accessible Wales
British Deaf Association (Wales)
Disability Arts Cymru
Disability Law Service
Disability Resource Centre
Disability Rights Commission Wales
Disability Sport Wales
Disability Wales
Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee
Guide Dogs for the Blind (including Guide Dogs Cymru)
Learning Disability Wales
Mencap Cymru
MS Society Cymru
National Federation of the Blind
Partially Sighted Society
Rhondda Cynon Taff Access Group
Rhondda Cynon Taf People First
Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB Cymru)
Sense Cymru
Wales Council for Deaf People
Wales Council of the Blind
Whizz-Kidz

General Consultees – Arts and Culture
Arts Connect
Arts Factory
Colliseum Theatre
Colstars Theatre Company
Cymdeithas yr Iaith
LMT Academy of Performing Arts
Menter Iaith
Model House, Llantrisant
Muni Arts Centre
National Centre for Learning Welsh
Rhondda Cynon Taff Community Arts
Rhondda Theatre Group
Showcase Sioegerdd
Spectacle Theatre Ltd
Stagecoach Performing Arts, Pontypridd
Stardreams Musical Theatre Company

Theatres Trust
Urdd Gobaith Cymru

Other Consultation Bodies:

Other Consultees as Stated in the LDP Manual	
Airport Operators- Cardiff Airport	Freight Transport Association
British Aggregates Association	Gypsy and Travellers Law Reform Coalition
British Geological Survey	Gypsy Council
Canal and River Trust	Health and Safety Executive
CBI	Home Builders Federation
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	Institution of Civil Engineers
Chambers of commerce	Local community, conservation and amenity groups and Civic Societies- see separate list below.
Chartered Institute of Housing	Local Transport operators – See separate list below
Chartered Institute of Waste Management	Mineral Products Association Wales
Civil Aviation Authority	National Farmers Union of Wales
Coal Authority	National Grid
Commission for Racial Equality	One Voice Wales
Country Land and Business Association	Planning Aid Wales
Crown Estate Office	Police
Design Commission for Wales	Post Office Property Holdings
Disability Rights Commission	Public Health Wales
Disability Wales	Rail Freight Group
Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee	Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
Electricity, Gas and Telecommunications Companies – see separate list below	RTPI Cymru
Environmental groups at a national and regional level –See separate list below	Sports Council for Wales
Environmental Services Agency (Waste)	Train Operating Companies- See separate list below
Equality and Human Rights Commission	Wales Council for Voluntary Action
Farmers Union of Wales	Wales Environmental Link
Federation of Small Businesses	Welsh Environmental Services Association
Fields in Trust	Welsh Language Commissioner
Fire and Rescue Services	Welsh Water DWR Cymru

Welsh Ambulance Service South Wales Fire and Rescue Service	
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Commercial	
Aberdare BID	Institute of Directors, Wales
Aberdare Chamber of Trade	
Business in Focus	Pontypridd BID
Business Wales (South Wales Regional Centre)	Retail consortium
Campaign for Real Ale (Camra)	South Wales Chamber of Commerce
Chamber of Commerce	Town Centre Forums
Federation of Small Businesses, Wales	Treforest Growth

Environmental Groups – Local, National and Regional	
Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW)	The National Allotment Society
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Natural Environment Research Council	The National Trust
Coed Cymru, Welsh Woodlands and Timber	The Open Spaces Society
Friends of the Earth (Cymru)	The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales (Glamorgan)
Glamorgan Bird Club	Wales Environment Link
Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust	Welsh Environmental Services Association
Just Mammals Consultancy	Welsh Historic Gardens Trust
RSPB Cymru	Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

Local Transport Providers including Rail	
Bus Users UK	Network Rail
Cardiff Bus Company	New Adventure Travel
Edwards Coaches	Stagecoach South Wales
First Call Travel	Thomas of Rhondda
First Cymru Buses	Transport for Wales
Globe Coaches	Traveline Cymru
Great Western Railway	TraVol Community Transport
Harris Coaches	Veolia Transport (including Bebb Travel & Pullman Coaches)
Keolis Amey	Village & Valleys Community Transport
N.A.T Group (South Wales)	

Local Community, Conservation Groups and Civic Societies	
Action for Hirwaun	Pontypridd Historical Society
Cynon Valley History Society	Pontypridd YMCA
Cynon Valley Ramblers	Rhondda Civic Society
Glamorgan Family History Society	Taff Ely Ramblers
Glamorgan Fungus Group	Valleys Steps
Hirwaun Historical Society	

Hirwaun YMCA	
Llantrisant and District Local History Society	
Mountain Ash YMCA	
Pontypridd and District Art Society	

Electricity, Gas and Telecommunications	
Arbed Am Byth	Ofgem
British Gas (Transco) (Wales)	SSE (Scottish and Southern Energy)
Celtic Energy	Western Power Distribution
Mobile UK	

Education	
Cardiff University	University of Glamorgan
Coleg Morgannwg	University of South Wales
Coleg Y Cymoedd	WEA Cymru (Adult Learning Wales)

Housing Associations	
Cynon Taf Housing Association	Rhondda Housing Association
Hafod Housing Association	Trivallis Housing Association
Linc Cymru	Wales & West Housing Association
Newydd Housing Association	Welsh Federation of Housing Associations
Pobl Group/ Seren Housing	

Elderly Persons Organisations	
Age Alliance Wales	Care & Repair Cymru
Age Connects Wales	Older People's Commissioner for Wales
Age Cymru	

Ex-Offender Groups	
Apex charitable trust	Trailblazers
Nacro	Unlock
Probation service	Women in Prison
Rhondda Cynon Taf Youth Offending team	Working Chance
SOVA	Working Links
St Giles Trust	YMCA
Step Together	

Gypsy and Traveller Groups	
Cardiff Gypsy sites group	The Gypsy and Traveller Law Reform Group
Friends Families and Travellers	Travelling Ahead

Gypsies and Travellers Wales	Welsh Government Gypsy and Traveller Policy Officer
Gypsy Council	

Homelessness Organisations	
Crisis	Salvation Army
Cymorth Cymru	Shelter
Emmaus South Wales	Solar Cymru
Huggard	The Wallich
Llamau	YMCA

House Builders	
ASD Build	Jehu
Atlantic Dwellings	Kier Living
Barratt Homes	Leaders Romans Group
Bellway Homes (Wales) Ltd	Lewis Homes
Bovis Homes	Llanmoor Homes
Charles Church (Wales)	Lovells
Davies Brothers (Wales) Limited	Morganstone
Davies Homes	Persimmon Homes
Delta Property	Redrow Homes
Edenstone Homes	
Enzo's Homes	Taylor Wimpey
Federation of Master Builders	Tirion Homes
Harris Land and Development	WDL Homes
Home Builders Federation	

Planning Consultants and Land Agents	
Alan Stuckey Architects	Lichfields
Alder King	LRM Planning Ltd
Amity Planning	Mango Planning
Asbri Planning	Prospero Planning
Barton Wilmore	RPS
Boyer Planning	Savills
Boyer Planning	Stephen George architects
Capita	Stephen Waldron Architect's
DPP Planning	The Urbanists
G Powys Jones	Turley
Geraint John Planning Ltd	WPM Planning and Development
Jenkins Best	WYG
Knight Frank	

Political	
Assembly Member for Cynon	Member of Parliament for Pontypridd

Assembly Member for Ogmore	Member of Parliament for Rhondda
Assembly Member for Pontypridd	Members of the European Parliament
Assembly Member for Rhondda	Plaid Cymru
Assembly Member for South Wales Central	The Welsh Conservatives
Assembly Member for South West Wales	The Welsh Liberal Democrats
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales	UKIP Wales
Member of Parliament for Cynon	Wales Green Party
Member of Parliament for Ogmore	Welsh Labour Party

Other Bodies	
Action on Hearing Loss	New Horizons Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Resource Centre
Active Travel Cymru	NFU Cymru
Active Wales	NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership
Addoldai Cymru (Welsh Religious Buildings Trust)	Planning Aid Wales
Arts Council for Wales	Planning Inspectorate, Wales
British Aggregates Association	Public Health Network Cymru
British Astronomical Association (Campaign for Dark Skies)	Ramblers Cymru
British Red Cross	Renewable Energy Association
British Trust for Ornithology	Road Haulage Association
British Waterways	Road Safety Wales
Chartered Institute of Housing (Cymru)	Royal Mail Property Holding
Citizens Advice Bureau	Royal Society of Architects in Wales
Community Land Advisory Service Cymru (CLAS)	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
Confederation of Passenger Transport	South East Wales Energy Agency
Confederation of UK Coal Producers	Sports Council for Wales
Consumer Council for Wales	Sustrans Cymru
	Tarian Group
Crown Estates Commissioners	TARMAC Ltd
Cwm Taf Public Services Board	The Civic Trust for Wales
DB Cargo UK (formerly EWS)	The Royal Mint
Energy Savings Trust Wales	Welsh Association of Motor Clubs
Football Association of Wales	Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)
Hanson Aggregates	Welsh Rugby Union
Living Streets (UK)	Young Builders Trust, Building Futures (UK) Ltd
National Federation for the Blind	

Children and Young People	
Action for Children	Save the Children Wales
Barnardos Cymru	Scouts Cymru
Children in Wales	The Arc Youth and Community Project
Girl Guiding Cymru	The National Library of Wales
Ethnic Youth Support Team	The Prince's Trust in Wales
Llwynypia Boys and Girls Club	Ty Hafan
National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) Cymru	UpRising
Noah's Ark Charity Wales	Voices for Care Cymru
NSPCC Wales	Young Wales
Penygraig Boys and Girls Club	Youth Cymru
Play Wales	Youth Hostel Association England and Wales
Prince's Trust	

Leisure and Tourism	
Ibis	Travel Lodge
	Valleys Regional Park
Premier Inn	Visit Wales
Sport Wales Chwaraeon Cymru	Wales Activity Tourism Organisation
Tourism Wales	Wales Tourism Alliance

Appendix 3 – Risk Management

There are a few main likely outcomes of failing to proceed with LDP preparation as indicated:

The Assembly Government has reserve powers in relation to plan preparation and adoption, which it can use when local planning authorities are clearly failing to progress plan preparation.

Promoters of major development proposals may seek to pursue planning permission for their sites, in advance of consideration through the LDP and to the detriment of the proper long term planning of the Borough.

Some of the main risks to the LDP not proceeding in accordance with the proposed timetable are included in the table below

Risk	Potential Risk	Mitigation
The publication of revised planning guidance by the Assembly Government	Changes needed to the content of the LDP	<p>Ensure that the WG legislative programme is followed through the plan preparation and that the LDP is in general conformity with WG policy.</p> <p>Liaise with WG colleagues throughout the LDP preparation process.</p>
A reduction in the resources and budget available for the project	Timetable slippage	<p>Ensure there is corporate support for the delivery of the LDP.</p> <p>Consider additional resources available from the wider division</p>
Any inability of Service Areas to provide necessary input as required;	Timetable slippage	Liaise with colleagues throughout the plan process to keep them informed of when their input will be required to allow them to forward plan
Unavailability of meetings and/or agenda time of Cabinet, Development Control Committees and Council, at the necessary times, to consider reports and approve necessary documents, or inability to agree plan proposals;	Timetable slippage	<p>Liaise with Cabinet/Council office to consider timescales and take account of this is the timetable.</p> <p>Ensure that the LDP is a Corporate priority.</p>

Risk	Potential Risk	Mitigation
Inability of translators or printers to deliver documents, plans and publicity material in accordance with the approved programme;	Timetable slippage	Liaise with colleagues in translation early to ensure they can take account of the translation needs of the LDP in there forward planning. Consider additional resources and buy in where necessary
The volume or significance of responses to consultations being so great as to require a longer period than projected to respond to their implications	Extra time needed to process and respond to representations. Timetable slippage	Early engagement and consultation with consultees to endeavour to build consensus. Consider bringing additional resources
Political Change/ elections	Time table slippage or abortive work	Ensure that the Revised LDP is a Corporate priority
The ability of statutory consultees to respond within a set timeframe given their resource constraints.	Timetable slippage	Early engagement with the consultees to allow them to forward plan the periods when their input is required.
Legal challenge	Adopted LDP may be subject to challenge in the courts and quashed	Ensure that all the Regulations and legislation are adhered to.
Further lockdown due to COVID-19	Unable to progress with LDP preparation	Limited mitigation. Staff are able to work from home in a reduced capacity, and online consultation would still be possible. This is still a considerable risk to fully accord with the timetable.
Unable to fulfil the CIS due to COVID-19 restrictions	Non- compliance with the CIS	Keep the DA under regular review and endeavour to adapt as necessary to ensure effective consultation

Appendix 4 – Profile and Characteristics of the Local Population

Population

Population	
Total	234,410
Females	119,775
Males	114,635

Age Structure	%
Aged 0-4	6.16
Aged 5-7	3.47
Aged 8-9	2.13
Aged 10-14	5.92
Aged 15	1.20
Aged 16-17	2.49
Aged 18-19	2.65
Aged 20-24	6.90
Aged 25-29	6.32
Aged 30-44	19.46
Aged 45-59	19.57
Aged 60-64	6.59
Aged 65-74	9.38
Aged 75-84	5.55
Aged 85-89	1.44
Aged 90+	0.72

Cultural

Ethnicity	%
White (British)	96.29
White (Irish)	0.248
White Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.022
Other White	0.806
Mixed (White and Black Caribbean)	0.234
Mixed (White and Black African)	0.081
Mixed (White and Asian)	0.179
Other Mixed	0.146
Asian/British Asian (Indian)	0.279
Asian/British Asian (Pakistani)	0.113
Asian/British Asian (Bangladeshi)	0.045
Asian/British Asian (Chinese)	0.454
Asian/British Asian (Other Asian)	0.399
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British (African)	0.486
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British (Caribbean)	0.042
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British (Other Black)	0.029
Other Ethnic Group (Arab)	0.068
Any Other Ethnic Group	0.070

Religion	%
Christian	50.50
Muslim	0.45
Buddhist	0.22
Hindu	0.17
Pagan	0.09
Sikh	0.078
Jewish	0.037
Other Religion	0.27
No Religion	40.76
No Religion Stated	7.40

Welsh Language Knowledge of Welsh (Aged 3+)	%
No skills in Welsh	80.4
Can speak Welsh	12.3
Can understand spoken Welsh only	4.2
Other combinations of Welsh skills	3.3
Can Speak Welsh (of the 12.3% who can speak Welsh)	%
Can speak Welsh but cannot read or write	1.64
Can speak and read but cannot write Welsh	0.90
Can speak, read and write Welsh	9.71

Health

Health Classification	%
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	14.46
Day-to-day activities limited a little	11.38
Day-to-day activities not limited	74.15
Day-to-day activities limited a lot (Age 16-64)	6.86
Day-to-day activities limited a little (Age 16-64)	6.21
Day-to-day activities not limited (Age 16-64)	50.93

General Health	%
Very good health	44.85
Good health	29.66
Fair Health	15.87
Bad Health	7.42
Very bad health	2.17

Provision of Unpaid Care	%
Provides no unpaid care	87.35
Provides 1 to 19 hours unpaid care a week	6.68
Provides 20 to 49 hours unpaid care a week	1.95
Provides 50 or more hours unpaid care a week	4.00

Employment and the Economy

Economic Activity (All Persons)	%
Economically active: Employee – Part-time	13.40
Economically active: Employee – Full-time	35.58
Economically active: Self-employed	6.41
Economically active: Unemployed	4.71
Economically active: Full-time student	3.08
Economically inactive: Retired	16.03
Economically inactive: Student (including full-time students)	5.76
Economically inactive: Looking after home or family	4.07
Economically inactive: Long-term sick or disabled	8.63
Economically inactive: Other	2.29
Unemployed: Age 16-24	1.64
Unemployed: Age 50-74	0.68
Unemployed: Never worked	0.85
Long-term Unemployment	1.93

Economic Activity (Females)	%
Economically active: Employee – Part-time	21.26
Economically active: Employee – Full-time	27.78
Economically active: Self-employed	2.95
Economically active: Unemployed	3.36
Economically active: Full-time student	3.34
Economically inactive: Retired	17.78
Economically inactive: Student (including full-time students)	5.45
Economically inactive: Looking after home or family	6.98
Economically inactive: Long-term sick or disabled	8.34
Economically inactive: Other	2.71
Unemployed: Age 16-24	1.11
Unemployed: Age 50-74	0.38
Unemployed: Never worked	0.66
Long-term Unemployment	1.51

Economic Activity (Males)	%
Economically active: Employee – Part-time	5.36
Economically active: Employee – Full-time	43.56
Economically active: Self-employed	9.95
Economically active: Unemployed	6.08
Economically active: Full-time student	2.81
Economically inactive: Retired	14.24
Economically inactive: Student (including full-time students)	6.07
Economically inactive: Looking after home or family	1.08
Economically inactive: Long-term sick or disabled	8.93
Economically inactive: Other	1.86
Unemployed: Age 16-24	2.17

Unemployed: Age 50-74	0.99
Unemployed: Never worked	1.03
Long-term Unemployment	2.37

Economic Activity – Hours Worked	%
Part-time: 15 hours or less worked	8.25
Part-time: 16-30 hours worked	20.87
Full-time: 31-48 hours worked	61.46
Full-time: 49 or more hours worked	9.41
Males: Total	52.11
Males: Part-time: 15 hours or less worked	2.53
Males: Part-time: 16-30 hours worked	4.76
Males: Full-time: 31-48 hours worked	37.20
Males: Full-time: 49 or more hours worked	7.60
Females: Total	47.89
Females: Part-time: 15 hours or less worked	5.71
Females: Part-time: 16-30 hours worked	16.11
Females: Full-time: 31-48 hours worked	24.25
Females: Full-time: 49 or more hours worked	1.81

Economic Activity – Year Last Worked	%
In employment	57.73
Not in employment: Total	42.27
Last worked in 2011	1.05
Last worked in 2010	4.20
Last worked in 2009	2.78
Last worked in 2008	2.14
Last worked in 2007	1.61
Last worked in 2006	1.49
Last worked in 2001-2005	5.88
Last worked before 2011	14.15
Never worked	8.96

Employment by Industry	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	0.22
Mining and Quarrying	0.33
Manufacturing	12.56
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.86
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1.10
Construction	10.38
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	15.01
Transport and storage	3.90

Accommodation and food service activities	5.00
Information and communication	1.76
Financial and insurance activities	2.97
Real estate activities	1.12
Professional, scientific and technical activities	3.33
Administrative and support service activities	4.08
Public administration and defence, compulsory social security	7.66
Education	10.10
Human health and social work activities	15.36
Other	4.19

Occupational Groups	%
Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	10.4
Professional Occupations	16.2
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	11.3
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	9.0
Skilled Trades Occupations	13.1
Personal Service Occupations	10.7
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	8.0
Process Plant and Machine Operatives	9.2
Elementary Occupations	11.4

Education

Education – Qualifications Highest Qualification Attained	%
No qualifications	31.77
Level 1 qualifications (1-4 GCSEs or equivalent)	14.05
Level 2 qualifications (5+ GCSEs or equivalent)	15.65
Apprenticeship	3.53
Level 3 qualifications (2+A-levels or equivalent)	11.42
Level 4 qualifications and above (Degree level or above)	19.55
Other qualifications (Vocational/work-related/foreign)	4.02

Householder

Household Space and Accommodation Type	%
Unshared dwelling	99.981
Shared dwelling: Two household spaces	0.0085
Shared dwelling: Three or more household spaces	0.0104
Household spaces with at least one usual residents	94.637
Household spaces with no usual residents	5.3623
Whole house or bungalow: Detached	14.501
Whole house or bungalow: Semi-detached	26.546
Whole house or bungalow: Terraced (including end-terrace)	50.398

Flat, maisonette or apartment: Purpose-built block of flats	6.625
Flat, maisonette or apartment: Part of converted/shared home	0.985
Flat, maisonette or apartment: In commercial building	0.805
Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	0.137

Tenure	%
Owned: Owned outright	36.46
Owned: Owned with a mortgage or loan	34.54
Shared ownership (part owned and part rented)	0.15
Social rented: Rented from Council (Local Authority)	6.86
Social rented: Other	6.86
Private rented: Private landlord or letting agency	12.38
Private rented: Other	1.27
Living rent free	1.48

Household Composition	%
One person household: Aged 65 and over	13.22
One person household: Other	16.76
One family only: All aged 65 and over	7.92
One family only: Married or same-sex civil partnership couple: No children	12.35
One family only: Married or same-sex civil partnership couple: Dependent children	13.77
One family only: Married or same-sex civil partnership couple: All children non-dependent	7.27
One family only: Cohabiting couple: No children	4.10
One family only: Cohabiting couple: Dependent children	5.19
One family only: Cohabiting couple: All children non-dependent	0.62
One family only: Lone parent: Dependent children	8.97
One family only: Lone parent: All children non-dependent	4.12
Other household types: With dependent children	2.12
Other household types: All full-time students	0.74
Other household types: All aged 65 and over	0.32
Other household types: Other	2.53

Household Size	%
1 person in household	29.98
2 people in household	33.78
3 people in household	17.26
4 people in household	13.41
5 people in household	4.12
6 people in household	1.16
7 people in household	0.19
8 or more people in household	0.09

Number of Bedrooms	%
No bedrooms	0.18
1 bedroom	5.25
2 bedrooms	22.57
3 bedrooms	56.38
4 bedrooms	13.23
5 or more bedrooms	2.39

Household by Deprivation Dimensions	%
Household is not deprived in any dimension	37.71
Household is deprived in 1 dimension	30.00
Household is deprived in 2 dimensions	25.84
Household is deprived in 3 dimensions	8.91
Household is deprived in 4 dimensions	0.54

*Note – A household is deprived in a dimension if they meet one or more of the following conditions:

- Employment: where any member of a household, who is not a full-time student, is either unemployed or long-term sick.
- Education: no person in the household has at least level 2 education and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student.
- Health and Disability: any person in the household has general health that is 'bad' or 'very bad' or has a long-term health problem.
- Housing: the household's accommodation is either overcrowded, with an occupancy rating 1 or less, or is in a shared dwelling or has no central heating.

Household Language	%
All people aged 16 and over in household have English or Welsh as a main language	98.36
At least one but not all people aged 16 and over in household have English or Welsh as a main language	0.78
No people aged 16 and over in the household but at least one person aged 3 to 15 has English or Welsh as a main language	0.10
No people in household have English or Welsh as a main language	0.76

Central Heating	%
No central heating	1.27
Gas central heating	90.66
Electric (including storage heaters) central heating	1.78
Oil central heating	0.64
Solid fuel (for example wood, coal) central heating	1.97
Other central heating	0.66
Two or more types of central heating	3.02

Transport

Car or Van Availability	%
No cars or vans in household	27.07
1 car or van in household	42.60
2 cars or vans in household	23.40
3 cars or vans in household	5.33
4 or more cars or vans in household	1.60

Travel to Work	%
Work mainly at or from home	1.61
Train	2.43
Bus, minibus or coach	2.32
Taxi	0.17
Motorcycle, scooter or moped	0.26
Driving a car or van	40.70
Passenger in a car or van	4.74
Bicycle	0.26
On foot	4.93
Other method of travel to work	0.27
Not in employment	42.27

Appendix 5 - WELSH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION

WIMD Rank	Electoral Division	SOA Lower Layer Name
444	Aberaman North	Aberaman North 1
243		Aberaman North 2
841		Aberaman North 3
413	Aberaman South	Aberaman South 1
288		Aberaman South 2
245		Aberaman South 3
992	Abercynon	Abercynon 1
33		Abercynon 2
506		Abercynon 3
1069		Abercynon 4
923	Aberdare East	Aberdare East 1
586		Aberdare East 2
736		Aberdare East 3
273		Aberdare East 4
1366	Aberdare West/Llwydcoed	Aberdare West/Llwydcoed 1
1166		Aberdare West/Llwydcoed 2
432		Aberdare West/Llwydcoed 3
451		Aberdare West/Llwydcoed 4
576		Aberdare West/Llwydcoed 5
1886		Aberdare West/Llwydcoed 6
1460	Beddau	Beddau 1
658		Beddau 2
1753		Beddau 3
1602	Brynna	Brynna 1
1371		Brynna 2
501	Church Village	Church Village 1
1872		Church Village 2

WIMD Rank	Electoral Division	SOA Lower Layer Name
1907	Church Village	Church Village 3
813	Cilfynydd	Cilfynydd 1
737		Cilfynydd 2
191	Cwm Clydach	Cwm Clydach 1
551		Cwm Clydach 2
695	Cwmbach	Cwmbach 1
220		Cwmbach 2
1537		Cwmbach 3
742	Cymmer	Cymmer 1
853		Cymmer 2
96		Cymmer 3
83		Cymmer 4
680	Ferndale	Ferndale 1
652		Ferndale 2
471		Ferndale 3
823	Gilfach Goch	Gilfach Goch 1
175		Gilfach Goch 2
51	Glyncoch	Glyncoch 1
463		Glyncoch 2
642	Graig	Graig 1
268		Graig 2
1130	Hawthorn	Hawthorn 1
390		Hawthorn 2
996	Hirwaun	Hirwaun 1
691		Hirwaun 2
176		Hirwaun 3
657	Llanharan	Llanharan 1
1609		Llanharan 2
1649	Llanharry	Llanharry 1
257		Llanharry 2

WIMD Rank		Electoral Division	SOA Lower Layer Name
1744		Llantrisant Town	Llantrisant Town 1
1812			Llantrisant Town 2
1139			Llantrisant Town 3
1736		Llantwit Fardre	Llantwit Fardre 1
1879			Llantwit Fardre 2
1712			Llantwit Fardre 3
1670			Llantwit Fardre 4
534		Llwn-y-pia	Llwyn-y-pia 1
159			Llwyn-y-pia 2
120		Maerdy	Maerdy 1
52			Maerdy 2
1015		Mountain Ash East	Mountain Ash East 1
468			Mountain Ash East 2
474		Mountain Ash West	Mountain Ash West 1
136			Mountain Ash West 2
359			Mountain Ash West 3
6		Penrhiwceiber	Penrhiwceiber 1
275			Penrhiwceiber 2
429			Penrhiwceiber 3
356			Penrhiwceiber 4
579		Pentre	Pentre 1
1451			Pentre 2
141			Pentre 3
493			Pentre 4
262		Pen-y-graig	Pen-y-graig 1
698			Pen-y-graig 2
110			Pen-y-graig 3
730			Pen-y-graig 4

WIMD Rank		Electoral Division	SOA Lower Layer Name
101		Pen-y-waun	Pen-y-waun 1
15			Pen-y-waun 2
1755		Pont-y-clun	Pont-y-clun 1
1904			Pont-y-clun 2
1884			Pont-y-clun 3
1171			Pont-y-clun 4
1485		Pontypridd Town	Pontypridd Town 1
994			Pontypridd Town 2
752		Porth	Porth 1
1280			Porth 2
415			Porth 3
539			Porth 4
707		Rhigos	Rhigos
709		Rhondda	Rhondda 1
480			Rhondda 2
1297			Rhondda 3
209		Rhydfelen Central/Ilan	Rhydfelen Central/Ilan 1
26			Rhydfelen Central/Ilan 2
145			Rhydfelen Central/Ilan 3
1308		Taffs Well	Taffs Well 1
1129			Taffs Well 2
1497		Talbot Green	Talbot Green 1
438			Talbot Green 2
1518		Ton-teg	Ton-teg 1
1651			Ton-teg 2
1193			Ton-teg 3
481		Tonypandy	Tonypandy 1
611			Tonypandy 2

WIMD Rank		Electoral Division	SOA Lower Layer Name
637		Tonyrefail East	Tonyrefail East 1
805			Tonyrefail East 2
87			Tonyrefail East 3
1641			Tonyrefail East 4
577		Tonyrefail West	Tonyrefail West 1
1723			Tonyrefail West 2
185			Tonyrefail West 3
920			Tonyrefail West 4
682		Trallwng	Trallwng 1
1423			Trallwng 2
541			Trallwng 3
554		Trealaw	Trealaw 1
100			Trealaw 2
306			Trealaw 3
604		Treforest	Treforest 1
839			Treforest 2
937			Treforest 3
487		Treherbert	Treherbert 1
114			Treherbert 2
248			Treherbert 3
286			Treherbert 4
869		Treorchy	Treorchy 1
745			Treorchy 2
410			Treorchy 3
560			Treorchy 4
860			Treorchy 5
4		Tylorstown	Tylorstown 1
198			Tylorstown 2
107			Tylorstown 3

WIMD Rank		Electoral Division	SOA Lower Layer Name
1625		Tyn-y-nant	Tyn-y-nant 1
668			Tyn-y-nant 2
149			Tyn-y-nant 3
121		Ynyshir	Ynyshir 1
791			Ynyshir 2
344		Ynysybwl	Ynysybwl 1
705			Ynysybwl 2
1620			Ynysybwl 3
639		Ystrad	Ystrad 1
598			Ystrad 2
403			Ystrad 3
131			Ystrad 4

Appendix 6 - Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Adopted Plan	The final version of the Local Development Plan (LDP).
Adoption	The final stage of LDP plan-preparation, where the LDP becomes the statutory development plan for the area it covers.
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)	The AMR is a yearly report that monitors and assesses the extent to which the strategy and associated policies within the LDP are being implemented. The document is used to determine whether any revisions to the LDP are necessary.
Baseline	A description of the present state of an area that can be compared with future data.
Candidate Site	A site put forward for consideration within the LDP. All candidate sites will be assessed against specific criteria to determine their suitability for inclusion within the Plan, as a potential allocation.
Community	People living in a defined geographical area, or who share other interests and therefore form communities of interest.
Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)	Sets out the project plan and policies of the LPA for involving local communities, including businesses, in the preparation of the LDPs. The CIS is submitted to the Welsh Government for approval, as part of the Delivery Agreement.
Consensus Building	A process of dialogue with communities and other interested parties to understand relevant viewpoints and to seek agreement, where possible.
Consultation	A formal process in which comments are invited on a particular topic or draft document, usually within a specific period.
Council	The 'Council' in this instance is taken to mean Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.
Delivery Agreement (DA)	A document comprising the Local Planning Authority's (LPA) timetable for the preparation of the LDP, together with its Community Involvement Scheme (CIS), submitted to the Welsh Government for agreement.
Deposit	A formal six week stage in the plan making process, whereby individuals/organisations can make representations on the LDP. Representations pertaining to the 'soundness' of the plan can be examined by the independent Inspector.
Deposit Plan	This is a full draft of the LDP that undergoes a formal consultation period prior to it being submitted to the Welsh Government for public examination.
Development Control Policies	A suite of criteria-based policies, which will ensure that all development within the area meets the aims and objectives set out in the strategy.

Term	Definition
Duly Made	Representations to the LDP, which are made in the correct manner and within the specified consultation period, will be considered 'duly made'.
Engagement	A proactive process, that seeks to encourage the involvement and participation of the community and other interested parties in the decision making process.
Evidence Base	Reports, data and other information that provides the basis for plan preparation and the LDPs vision, objectives, policies and proposals, justifying the soundness of the policy approach of the LDP.
Examination	The examination in public of the Deposit LDP, Deposit representations, the report of consultation, the SA/SEA and the evidence base documents by the independent Inspector, appointed by the Welsh Government.
Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA)	Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) relates to the assessment of the impacts of a plan (or project) against the nature conservation objectives of European designated sites for any likely significant effects. HRA also ascertains whether the proposed plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site.
Indicator	A measure of variables over time, often used to measure progress in the achievement of objectives, targets and policies.
Inspector's Report	The Report compiled by the Inspector at the conclusion of the LDP examination. The Inspector's Report, which is binding on the Council, contains recommendations on the content of the final LDP. The Council must adopt the LDP in the manner directed by the Inspector.
Involvement	A generic term that relates to community involvement, which includes both participation and consultation techniques.
Local Development Plan (LDP)	The LDP is a land-use planning document that includes the vision, objectives, strategy, proposals, policies and allocations for key areas of change/protection. Allocations, along with a number of other proposals are represented geographically on the LDP proposals map. The LDP is a statutory development plan that all LPAs in Wales are required to produce.
Local Planning Authority (LPA)	The LPA is the planning authority responsible for the preparation of the LDP, i.e. County or County Borough Council or National Park Authority. In this case, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.
Local Strategic Partnership	A partnership of stakeholders that comprises service providers, private, community and voluntary sector companies/organisations, that work in partnership to identify and meet local needs in a holistic way, typically through producing and employing community strategies.
Objective	A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends.

Term	Definition
Participation	A process whereby stakeholders and the community can engage directly with the plan-making process, to guide decision-making.
Planning Inspectorate (PINS) (Wales)	The Wales branch of the Planning Inspectorate is the independent body that will be responsible for the formal examination of the LDP.
Planning Policy Wales (PPW)	The document sets out the national planning policies for Wales, as produced by the Welsh Government.
Pre-Deposit	Stages of the preparation and consultation of the LDP before the Deposit Plan is finalised and approved by the Council.
Preferred Strategy	The preferred strategy sets out the broad, strategic direction for the LDP, inclusive of the preferred level of growth and the distribution for said growth, via the spatial strategy. It also includes the vision and objectives of the LDP.
Press Release	Sent to the Welsh media, including newspapers, radio and television news stations, as appropriate. Note: Media may choose not to print or broadcast an item.
Regulation	The regulations that provide the framework for LDP plan preparation are set out in Welsh Statutory Instruments.
Report of Consultation	A consultation report is one of the documents that are required as part of the independent examination. An 'initial consultation report' is also required at pre-deposit stage.
Representations	Comments received in relation to the LDP, either in support of, or in opposition to elements of its content.
Review Report	A document that provides an overview of those issues that have been considered as part of the full review process. It identifies changes that are likely to be required to the LDP, based on evidence. It further expresses the type of revision procedure to be followed in revising the LDP.
Scoping	A process of deciding the scope and level of detail of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), including the sustainability effects and options that need to be considered, the assessment methods to be used and the structure and contents of the SA report.
Soundness Tests	For an LDP to be adopted, it must be determined to be 'sound' by the independent Inspector. The tests of soundness are set forth in PPW. The three tests are consistency, coherence and effectiveness.
Stakeholders	Individuals whose interests are directly affected by the LDP (and/or SA/SEA) and whose involvement is generally through representative bodies.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Generic term used internationally to describe environmental assessment, as applied to policies, plans and programmes. The SEA Regulations require a formal <i>environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use.</i>

Term	Definition
Strategic Development Plan (SDP)	A Strategic Development Plan is a new plan in the development plan hierarchy in Wales, as introduced by the Planning (Wales) Act, 2015. It is a tool for regional planning, covering cross-boundary issues, such as housing and transport.
Submission	When the LDP, Sustainability Appraisal Report and the Habitats Regulations Assessment are formally submitted to the Welsh Government for examination by the independent Inspector, appointed by the Welsh Government.
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)	Provides more detailed and/or site specific guidance on the application of LDP policies by supplementing certain policies. SPG does not form part of the development plan and is not subject to independent examination.
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	Tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives (i.e. economic, environmental and social factors). Each LPA is required by S62 (6) of the 2004 Act to undertake sustainability appraisal of its LDP. This form of sustainability appraisal fully incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive and Regulations.
Sustainability Appraisal Report	A document required to be produced as part of the sustainability appraisal process to describe and appraise the likely significant effects on sustainability of implementing the LDP, which also meets the requirement for the Environmental Report under the SEA Regulations. S62 (6) of the 2004 Act requires each local planning authority to prepare a report of the findings of the sustainability appraisal of the LDP.
Sustainable Development	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015).
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is legislation that requires public bodies, such as local authorities to put long-term sustainability at the forefront of their thinking to make a difference to lives of people in Wales. Local authorities must work towards the seven well-being goals and enact the five ways of working set out in the Act.
Workshop	Where members of the public have the opportunity to engage in group debates and practical exercises with a written or drawn 'output'.

Appendix 2: Responses to the Draft Delivery Agreement Consultation February 2022

Respondents	Response/Representation	Council Response/ Changes required to the Delivery Agreement
<p>10 responses from landowners, developers, agents and interested parties.</p>	<p>Various queries on how existing Candidate Sites will be included.</p> <p>Will Candidate Sites submitted during the previous call for sites be carried forward into the new plan process?</p> <p>Can new Candidate sites be submitted?</p> <p>Disappointment raised that decisions on Candidate Sites will not be made until a later time.</p>	<p>The Council are considering how to formally progress with Candidate Sites submitted through the previous call for sites and will contact promoters and/or their agents directly to provide further advise in due course. It has been indicated through the consultation that any factual supporting evidence submitted alongside Candidate Sites will remain relevant, subject to any time associated information.</p> <p>There will be a need for a new Call for Sites, which is scheduled for June-September 2022. This will allow for new sites to be considered in the RLDP as well.</p> <p>Any final decisions on sites will not be made until the RLDP is adopted. This is timetabled in 2025 with the proposed RLDP 2022 – 2037. It would no longer be possible to reach Adoption in 2024 on the 2020 – 2030 RLDP due to slippage to date.</p>

		No changes required to the Delivery Agreement.
3 responses from individuals.	Requests for administrative, factual correctness changes and typographical changes to their details.	Acknowledged and agreed. Changes made to the Delivery Agreement.
3 responses from individuals.	Requests for removal from the consultation list and additions to the consultation list.	Noted. The Council will remove consultees no longer wishing to be consulted and add those who have requested to be on the consultation list. No changes required to the Delivery Agreement
1 response from an individual	Support for the Delivery agreement	Noted. Support for the Delivery Agreement is welcomed.
1 response from an individual	<p>Green Infrastructure should be integrated into the RLDP process including in SPG and its importance recognised.</p> <p>RCT LNP and their partners should be included in the consultation.</p>	<p>The Council will prepare a green infrastructure assessment as part of the evidence base for the RLDP. If required, SPG will be prepared to support RLDP policies.</p> <p>The Council welcomes any suggestions to its consultation lists and will also continue to work with its internal colleagues such as the Council's Nature assets and Climate change group and its external colleagues on the preparation of the plan.</p>
GGAT	The Draft Delivery Agreement is helpful and the charts for key stages allow us to be aware of upcoming consultations, and we note that Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust are on the list of consultees.	Noted. The Council will continue to work alongside GGAT through the preparation of the RLDP.

	<p>There have been Legislative changes since the previous plan which need to be considered.</p> <p>There are numerous statutorily designated and non-designated assets in RCT. These should not be seen as any constraint to development but viewed with the aims of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, contribute substantially to the well-being goals relating to culture and community, and by understanding and enhancement to the remaining goals.</p> <p>We note that the SPGs from 2011 are listed and that they will be reviewed as part of the LDP revision, including The Historic Environment SPG. We have compiled SPGs for Archaeology and the Historic Environment for some of the UAs in our area, and these can if required include Archaeologically Sensitive Areas, defined for concentrations of evidence of archaeological and historic environment activity.</p> <p>GGAT should be consulted in relation to any planned development around historic assets.</p>	
The Coal Authority	<p>Our records indicate that within the Rhondda County Borough Council area there are recorded coal mining features present at surface and shallow depth including mine entries, shallow workings, surface mining and reported surface hazards. These features pose a potential risk to surface stability and public safety.</p> <p>It is noted however that this current consultation relates to a revised LDP Delivery Agreement, and I can confirm that the Planning team at the Coal Authority have no specific comments to make on this document</p>	Noted the Council will continue to consult with the Coal Authority throughout the plan process.

People First RCT	Easy read version of documents should be available	<p>Agree. Change to the Delivery Agreement.</p> <p>Addition to the DA under 4.11.1. 'The Council will prepare Easy Read versions of the main RLDP stage consultation documents'.</p>
Compliance Officer RCT	<p>Include reference to the Council's general data protection pages as well as the Planning and Regeneration pages under the GDPR section of the DA. This will help with compliance (transparency) of processing people's data who chose to take part in consultation.</p>	<p>Change to Delivery Agreement. Agreed this reference will be added to the delivery agreement.</p>
NRW	<p>We acknowledge the amended timetable for the preparation of a new Revised LDP within the new proposed Delivery Agreement.</p> <p>We note your Authority will have regard to the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 in the context of the review. We advise your Authority that the Area Profiles and Area Statements our colleagues are developing are also used in the LDP Review. Each Area Statement outlines the key challenges facing that particular locality, what we can all do to meet those challenges, and how we can better manage our natural resources for the benefit of future generations. The Wales Environmental Information Map (WEI) contains the spatial evidence held by us and is an output of the Area Statements. WEI provides open data regarding access, flood, habitats, hydrology, landscapes, marine, designated land, water quality, and woodlands and we advise you use the open data provided in WEI, in the LDP Review.</p>	<p>Noted. The Council will continue to consult and work alongside NRW throughout the RLDP process and welcomes the support and guidance.</p>

	We would like to take the opportunity to offer our support, including informal engagement, throughout the LP review and plan preparation process. Acknowledgement of the DA and continued support offered through the plan preparation process.	
South Wales Fire Service	<p>On behalf of the Service I would like to confirm our continued desire to be involved with future consultations.</p> <p>The document clearly set out the plan with a clearly defined timetable.</p> <p>It was of particular interest to see the many and varied groups that had been identified on the consultation and hard to reach groups and how carefully the consultation had been considered.</p> <p>It would be of interest to provide more specific plans on how the engagement of the plan would be achieved using more non digital mechanisms and there would be merit in more clarification on future plans via social media</p> <p>As a large employer in the area we would be happy to share engagement events/links via our internal communication channels should that be of benefit.</p>	<p>Noted and support welcomed. The Council will continue to consult and work alongside SWFR throughout the RLDP process.</p> <p>The Council will endeavour to consult as widely as possible on proposals via both digital and non- digital methods. Closer to the individual consultation we will release further details of how people can engage with us including those non-digital methods such as any events we are holding.</p>
Planning Consultancy	Support for the extended plan period although even recommend a longer plan period of 20 years.	Noted. The Council welcomes the support for our longer plan period. However, it is considered that a 15 year plan period is appropriate.
Theatres Trust	Theatres Trust should be added to the list of consultees contained in the Delivery Agreement.	Noted. The Theatres Trust will be added to the consultee list contained in the Delivery Agreement.
Aberdare BID	Our Aberdare BID needs to be added to this list as generators of wealth.	The Council welcomes Aberdare Bid's engagement with the RLDP preparation

	<p>We would like to input into the LDP and information that comes from Aberdare Bids engagements with other organisations should also be used to inform the LDP.</p> <p>Proposals for several other Cynon Valley based groups and bodies are proposed to be added to the consultation list;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Evan's church, in addition to the overall organisation they are governed by. • Aberdare based Arts & Culture organisations; Showcase Sioegerdd, a charity who work with children to provide entertainment at Aberdare Community School, St Fagans Church, the Coliseum in Aberdare, and Colstars • Valleys Regional Parks • GroundWork Wales • Tarian Group who manage St John's Medical Practice and Park Surgery in Trecynon. <p>How will the retail study be undertaken and by whom. Who will be consulted on it?</p>	<p>process and looks forward to working with them. Any information to inform the plan is welcomed to be submitted during engagement and consultation periods.</p> <p>Aberdare Bid and other proposed groups will be added to our DA consultation lists.</p> <p>The Council will undertake a retail study as part of the RLDP evidence base. This is a very detailed qualitative and quantitative evidence base study, based on standard national retail planning policy and guidance, alongside bespoke RCT analysis. The details of this will be determined during the preparation of the RLDP.</p>
South Wales Police	<p>I would like to thank you for sending us the information regarding the Draft Delivery Agreement for the revised LDP 2022 – 2037.</p> <p>At this stage we have no comment to make however we welcome the opportunity to continue with our involvement and look forward to discussing the issues of Community Safety and Crime Prevention in the near future.</p>	<p>Noted and support welcomed. The Council will continue to consult and work alongside SWP throughout the RLDP process.</p>



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021-2022

COUNCIL

9TH MARCH 2022

THE COUNCIL'S 2022/23 REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & DIGITAL SERVICES

AUTHOR: Barrie Davies, Tel. No. 01443 424026

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides information on the final local government settlement for 2022/23 and sets out the recommendations of the Cabinet with regard to the Council's Revenue Budget and the level of Council Tax for the year ending 31st March 2023.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the written statement from the Minister for Finance and Local Government (Rebecca Evans MS) and the table on the 2022/23 Final local government settlement, reproduced at Appendix 1;
- 2.2 Note the implications for the Council and the remaining budget gap as set out at section 5;
- 2.3 Agree a Council Tax increase for 2022/23 of 1.00%;
- 2.4 Agree the uplift to the aggregate Schools Budget as detailed at section 8;
- 2.5 Agree the budget strategy proposals as set out at paragraphs 10.3(a) to 10.3(i);
- 2.6 Agree the use of the 'Medium Term Financial Planning & Service Transformation Reserve' as transition funding, totalling £0.963M for 2022/23;

- 2.7 Approve Tables 3 and 4 in Section 13 of the report as the basis of allocating resources to the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), to other Council Services, and to meet its corporate financing requirements; and
- 2.8 Agree the Council's overall budget for 2022/23 at £566.792M, in order to pass the necessary statutory resolutions to set the Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year by the statutory deadline of the 11th March 2022.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the Council meeting on the 29th September 2021, the Council's audited accounts were presented which reported General Fund Balances amounting to £8.505M.
- 3.2 Given the continuing financial pressures the Council is working under, it remains the view of the Director of Finance and Digital Services (Section 151 Officer) that the Council should hold a minimum of £10M as General Fund Balances, (i.e. its working balance). This level is set given the context of the need for continued strong financial management that is felt to be essential to ensure that the Council maintains financial flexibility and stability going forward.
- 3.3 During the financial year 2019/20 our reserves were used to support our residents and businesses in the immediate aftermath of Storm Dennis. Whilst reducing our reserves below what is considered to be the minimum level, it was wholly appropriate that they were used in this way and for this purpose. The Director of Finance and Digital Services is satisfied that plans are in place to replenish General Fund Reserves to the minimum level over the period of our Medium Term Financial Plan, with £0.5M built into our base budget from 2021/22.
- 3.4 Members will be aware that in addition to General Fund Reserves, the Council also holds a number of earmarked reserves that are kept under continuous review and are assessed each year by Audit Wales. Included in these reserves is a Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation Reserve that has successfully supported transitional funding as part of the Council's Medium Term Service Planning arrangements. It has achieved this through helping to smooth the delivery of budget savings over a number of years, whilst still allowing an annual balanced budget to be delivered. The starting point for the Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation Reserve as at the 31st March 2021 was £3.619M. As part of our ongoing strategy, we have continued to identify and deliver savings in-year which means we have been able to increase the level of transitional funding available and the latest position is that this reserve has now increased to £4.607M (additional in year savings to date of £0.988M).

- 3.5 Audit Wales continue to emphasise that we must remain disciplined, if we are to maintain our long-term goal of driving forward continuous improvement of key services, though this becomes increasingly harder to achieve following a period of such severe financial pressures.
- 3.6 The Audit Wales assessment is an accurate one and it is clear that Members continue to take their fiduciary duty extremely seriously as evidenced by the positive reports received from the regulators and the track record of budgetary control across services. The challenge, therefore, is to construct a prudent, equitable and fair revenue budget for the financial year ending the 31st March 2023. This must involve an approach which publicly demonstrates sound financial stewardship; which does not take unnecessary risks; which maximises income generation; continues to deliver (as far as possible, and where available) year on year efficiency savings and which delivers the services that are needed and we can afford, as well as protecting as many jobs as possible.
- 3.7 In the context of this overall financial position, the Cabinet, assisted by the Senior Leadership Team was able to commence initial work on its budget strategy for 2022/23. The broad objectives of next year's proposed strategy are to:
- (i) Support the delivery of our key strategic priorities -
 - People – Are independent, healthy and successful
 - Places – Where people are proud to live, work and play
 - Prosperity – Creating the opportunity for people and businesses to: be innovative; be entrepreneurial; and fulfil their potential and prosper
 - (ii) Retain the support of Audit Wales for the approach the Council has adopted to securing strong financial management;
 - (iii) Continue with the delivery of our key services and protect as many local jobs as possible; and
 - (iv) Take a responsible approach to the level of Council Tax.

4.0 THE 2022/23 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT

- 4.1 On the 1st March 2022, the Minister for Finance and Local Government (Rebecca Evans MS) announced the Final 2022/23 Local Government Settlement. The Minister's statement and key data table is attached at Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The "headlines" of the 2022/23 Final Settlement are as follows:-
- a. The overall increase in Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) funding for 2022/23 (of unhypothecated funding) at an all Wales level, after adjusting for transfers is 9.4% (+£437M).

- b. The settlement for Rhondda Cynon Taf, amounts to an increase of 8.4% which is below the average all Wales increase. Settlement figures across Wales range from 8.4% to 11.2%.
- c. The Final Settlement included additional resources as a result of a technical adjustment, resulting in additional funding of £0.008M for Rhondda Cynon Taf as compared to the provisional settlement.
- d. No 'floor' protection has been included for 2022/23.
- e. The Settlement figures for 2022/23 include transfers into the settlement in respect of Food and Residual Waste Management Gate Fee Support (£13.3M), Social Care Workforce Grant (£5.0M) and the Coastal Risk Management Programme (not applicable to this Council). The values for this Council are £2.430M and £0.408M respectively.
- f. The Settlement also provides indicative all Wales settlement levels for the next 2 financial years, at 3.5% for 2023/24 and 2.4% for 2024/25. The figures are indicative and dependent on NDR income over the period and on the funding provided to WG by UK Government.
- g. Provisional figures and indicative estimates for a 3 year period are also included for specific grants, at an all Wales level. The Social Care Workforce Grant has been partially transferred into RSG as detailed above. This continues to fund our core base budget.
- h. The Council's General Capital Funding allocation has reduced by £2.165M to £11.599M.

5.0 COUNCIL BASE BUDGET REQUIREMENT 2022/23

- 5.1 In anticipation of the 2022/23 local government settlement, the Council's service managers have constructed the base budget requirements for next financial year. Those initial calculations provided for:-
 - Estimated national wage awards, pension costs and National Insurance Contribution levels;
 - Non-pay (i.e. goods and services) inflation, including energy and fuel;
 - Corporate financing requirements and levies; and
 - Full year effects of any additional burdens imposed on the Council and the implications of demand led pressures.
- 5.2 The Council's updated budget requirement was reported to Council on the 19th January 2022 alongside the implications of the Provisional Local Government Settlement which was announced on the 21st December 2021.

- 5.3 After taking into account the updated budget requirement and the provisional settlement increase of 8.4%, in addition to the Council's updated Tax Base, the Council was faced with a **remaining budget gap of £0.229M**.
- 5.4 It was against this position which the Cabinet have considered their further budget strategy options for 2022/23.

6.0 DEVELOPING AN EQUITABLE, DELIVERABLE AND BALANCED BUDGET FOR 2022/23

- 6.1 Notwithstanding the positive settlement from WG for 2022/23, it does follow a sustained period of real term reductions to our funding levels and more recently significant storm damage and the pandemic, and it is against this context that we need to develop a balanced budget for next year. There remain significant pressures upon many of our services together with a limited ability to increase Council Tax income, and a low tax base. Within these parameters, we will therefore need to take appropriate decisions to ensure that next year's budget is equitable for all, does not compromise our financial stability and protects and develops our key services.
- 6.2 The Council's overall financial position was set out at Section 3 of the report. It is vital that we continue with the strategy we have adopted to date that takes account of the importance of sound financial management, including the level of General Fund balances and appropriate use of the "Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation Reserve" as transitional funding, whilst targeting any available resources toward our high priority, customer-focused public services.
- 6.3 Every year, there are certain corporate financial provisions that must be "top sliced" locally, before service budgets can be allocated. Next year will be no different. There will be a requirement for:
- a) A provision to meet levies from External Bodies;
 - b) A provision for Capital Charges;
 - c) A provision for all other "Miscellaneous Finance" items (Audit Fees, Insurance Costs, Bank Charges, etc.) which are non-specific to any particular Service; and
 - d) Resources to fund the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- 6.4 As part of our updated budget requirement, appropriate sums have been set aside for these corporate financial requirements.
- 6.5 Welsh Government support to fund costs arising as a direct consequence of the pandemic has continued through the 2021/22 financial year via the Hardship Fund. WG have stated that they do not intend to continue to provide such additional support going forward and that councils will have to manage these implications through the additional resources provided in the

settlement. The Council will need to monitor the financial implications closely moving forward, using any flexibility afforded within its available reserves to transition any permanent additional costs into the base budget over the medium term.

7.0 COUNCIL TAX LEVELS

- 7.1 This Council has always acted reasonably when setting its Council Tax, balancing the impact upon services and the ability of the public to pay, recognising that those eligible will receive support through the Welsh Government's Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS). The proposal is to increase Council Tax in 2022/23 by 1.00%, that is, less than the 2.65% originally modelled. This proposed increase equates to 20p per week for a person living in a Band A property and 30p per week for a person living in a Band D property (42% of properties in Rhondda Cynon Taf are Band A). Increasing Council Tax by 1.00% will increase the remaining budget gap by £1.554M.
- 7.2 Members will be aware that the cost of the CTRS is impacted by changes in caseload and by changes to the level of Council Tax. This impacts on the net income generated through any increase in Council Tax. A 1% increase in Council Tax will generate an additional income for the Council of £1.195M (at the 2022/23 tax base level) but will also cost £0.253M in additional CTRS requirements. It therefore follows that a 1% increase generates a net additional income of £0.942M, or stated another way, 21% of any Council Tax increase is lost to support the increased costs associated with Welsh Government's CTRS.

8.0 SCHOOLS BUDGET (ISB)

- 8.1 Members have always viewed our schools as being a key priority and have ensured that they have been treated favourably in comparison with other council services.
- 8.2 The Schools Budget (ISB) is proposed to be increased to cover, in full, all pay and non pay inflationary costs, including increased NI costs associated with the Health and Social Care Levy. Pupil number pressures, NDR increased costs, energy increases and Additional Learning Need delegated funding increases are also included. Unlike other Council services there is no efficiency target or expectation albeit schools may need to take local action to absorb the financial implications of decisions taken locally.
- 8.3 In overall terms, the proposal sees the Schools Budget (ISB) increase from £163.8M to £175.0M, an increase of £11.2M (6.8%). Schools are therefore fully funded for 2022/23.

9.0 EFFICIENCY

- 9.1 Council services have for many years now delivered against ambitious efficiency targets, making considerable budget reductions without adversely impacting on front line service provision.
- 9.2 As part of the current year's budget strategy, efficiencies of £4.6M were identified and delivered albeit it was noted that the ongoing sustainability of delivering efficiencies at this level would need to be considered.
- 9.3 The pandemic has clearly impacted on our normal practises of considering our budget setting on a continuous basis, working across services in identifying efficiencies and budget reduction options and delivering on them early. The focus of our service managers has clearly and appropriately continued to be prioritised on supporting and protecting our residents, businesses and communities.
- 9.4 Notwithstanding this however, our senior finance officers have continued to work alongside service managers and have again identified budget reduction measures which can be delivered without adversely impacting on our front-line services. Indeed, at as the quarter 2 performance report presented to Cabinet on the 15th November 2021, we were able to release £988k of in year base budget reductions.
- 9.5 Whilst identification and delivery of efficiencies continues to be more difficult year on year without impacting on front line services and delivery, we have identified £4.9M which can be removed from our base budget requirement for next year.

10.0 BUDGET STRATEGY PROPOSALS

- 10.1 This Council has taken a proactive approach to dealing with the budget pressures it continues to face including delivery of saving proposals early with a clear focus maintained across the medium term planning horizon. The Council has continued to deliver robust, balanced budgets and taken the opportunity to use our Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation Reserve, as transition funding, to sensibly support the overall budget strategy. It is recommended that this approach is continued.
- 10.2 As a Cabinet we have always been focussed on protecting our front line services and have taken any opportunities to prioritise or reallocate resources to areas of priority.
- 10.3 For 2022/23, the following proposals are recommended to Council.
- a. **NDR Local Relief Scheme**

Cabinet have previously determined (13th February 2020) to implement a local Business Rate Reduction Scheme for 2020/21 providing relief of £300 per qualifying business, which would supplement the Welsh Government High Street and Retail Rate Relief Scheme. This local relief was increased to £350 per qualifying business for the 2021/22 financial year.

Welsh Government subsequently provided an enhanced and extended level of support to the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality sectors (linked to the impact of the pandemic), with that support continuing into 2022/23 with a 50% reduction in NDR liability.

It is now proposed that an additional £100k is added to the budget bringing the level of support available to businesses to £300k. Cabinet agreed on the 28th February 2022 that this local discretionary relief be provided in **addition** to the WG Retail, Leisure and Hospitality scheme of up to a maximum of £300 per qualifying business. It is estimated that 1,200 businesses in Rhondda Cynon Taf would benefit from this further support.

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

b. Climate Change and Carbon Reduction

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

The latest meeting of the steering group considered an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy and Implementation Plan, an updated Carbon Footprint report, Key Energy Generation Projects, progress with the Cardiff Capital Region Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEV) Strategy, the Biodiversity and Local Nature Partnership in Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Active Travel Strategy, Measures and Issues in the County Borough.

This demonstrates the range and scale of work which the Council is already delivering. Examples of current investment includes a Carbon (energy) Reduction Programme (£1.6M), Taffs Well Spring (£0.5M), Biodiversity Projects linked to our living landscapes (£0.154M), an ongoing Tree Planting Programme (current year funding £0.050M) in addition to our Active Travel Investments (£4.5M), EV Infrastructure (£0.300M) and our 21st Century Schools Programme which is committed to achieving net zero carbon buildings and to BREEAM excellent standard.

In order to ensure that this delivery is maintained and enhanced wherever possible it is proposed that further base budget resources are set aside, alongside existing resources, for our work in this regard.

The cost of this proposal is **£500k**.

c. Public Health and Protection Services – Additional Resources

The Public Health and Protection service has continued to play a key role in ensuring the public health and wellbeing of our residents, communities and businesses, providing advice and guidance and delivering initiatives such as the Test Trace Protect programme.

The additional investment proposed for the service (further to the additional £200k invested in 2021/22) will enable further consolidation, strengthening the team and providing future resilience for the service.

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

d. Sustainable Social Services

Our Social Services provision has been under extreme pressure throughout the pandemic coupled with resourcing issues across the sector generally. It is acknowledged that we need to be developing different models of service provision, aimed at earlier intervention and prevention with a clear focus on impact and on positive outcomes for our most vulnerable residents. Increasing demand and complexity of need requires additional investment to ensure services are sustainable for the future.

The additional investment will support the development of our workforce, including initiatives to build capacity, strengthen career pathways and develop our existing staff in critical service areas. It will support the remodelling and integration of community services with partners to help address ongoing and growing pressures in the health and social care system, ensuring people are safe and well cared for at home. Preventing children becoming looked after and reunification of families is a priority. Additional investment will be made in our preventative services to respond to complex needs and mental health needs as well as increasing capacity for placements to deliver the best possible outcomes for children and young people as close to home as possible.

The cost of the proposal is **£1,500k**.

e. Minimum Rate of Pay - £10 Per Hour

The Council has been a Real Living Wage employer for many years, paying our own staff in line with the appropriate rate, and has extended that commitment to paying a real living wage for all independent sector

social care staff employed by our commissioned service providers (effective from the 1st December 2021). The Real Living Wage was announced as increasing to £9.90 in November 2021 and this Council has determined to bring forward the implementation of this rate to 1st February 2022 (ordinarily the Council implements increases from 1st April following the announced increase).

It is proposed that we locally determine to further increase this level of minimum remuneration to £10 per hour and that this be effective from the 1st April 2022. This would apply to our own staff plus commissioned social care staff.

The cost of this proposal is **£550k**.

f. Funding for Investment

The Council has already invested over £129M (over and above the normal Capital Programme) in areas supporting key Corporate Plan priorities since October 2015, the latest investment (£6.500M) being agreed by Council in September 2021.

This has delivered a vast range of new infrastructure developments and significant improvements to our existing assets across all areas of the Council and across all our communities.

In order to ensure that we maintain the pace of this ambition going forward it is proposed that revenue base budget (recurring) funding is identified to be used alongside resources which are secured from the ongoing early delivery of our medium term saving and efficiency plans.

The cost of the proposal is **£1,000k**.

g. Detached Youth

The impact of the pandemic on young people across the County Borough continues to be seen and it is essential that we maximise the opportunity to ensure that we continue to engage as much as we can, providing much valued services and activities through a range of service provision models.

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

h. Car Mileage Rate

Since 2015 (effective from 1st May 2015) the Council has applied a Car Mileage reimbursement rate, payable to staff who utilise their vehicles for work related purposes, of 35p per mile. It is proposed that this rate now be increased to 40p per mile.

The cost of this proposal is **£118k**.

i. Fees and Charges

A final report on the proposed level of Fees & Charges for 2022/23 was considered by Cabinet on the 28th February 2022.

The Council reviews the level of fees and charges on an annual basis in the context of the rate of inflation. The current level of inflation (CPI to December 2021) is 5.4%.

It is proposed that for the year ahead, the general rate of increase across our fees and charges is set at a lower level of 2.5%, with the Council absorbing the implications of not applying an uplift in line with inflation.

There are a number of proposed exceptions as shown in the table below.

Area of Charge	Proposed Exception
Leisure for Life – Membership	Freeze (in line with prior decision)
Meals on Wheels / Day Centre Meals	Freeze (in line with prior decision)
School Meals	Freeze (in line with prior decision)
Car Park Charges	Freeze
Summer and Winter Playing Fees (sports clubs)	Freeze
3G Pitch Hire	Freeze
Licenses (Hackney Carriage / Private Hire)	Freeze
Lido / Rhondda Heritage Park	Freeze
Pest Control Service Charges (Domestic / Public Health)	Freeze

The cost of this proposal (net of that assumed at latest MTFP) is **£45k**.

10.4 The implications of the above strategy proposals, including the proposed reduction in the level of Council Tax increase and the delivery of efficiencies, on the remaining budget gap position is shown in table 1 (this includes the impact of the additional resources provided at the Final Settlement as referenced at para 4.2(c))

Table 1 : Budget Strategy Proposals 2022/23

	£'000	£'000
Remaining Budget Gap		229
Additional Resources at Final Settlement	- 8	
Efficiencies	- 4,900	
NDR Local Relief Scheme	100	
Climate Change and Carbon Reduction	500	
Public Health and Protection Services	200	
Sustainable Social Services	1,500	
Minimum Rate of Pay - £10 Per Hour	550	
Funding for Investment	1,000	
Detached Youth	75	
Mileage Rate	118	
Fees and Charges	45	
Council Tax at 1.0%	1,554	
		734
Remaining Budget Gap		963

10.5 *Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation Reserve (Transitional Funding)* – We have for many years used our transition funding reserve sensibly as part of our balanced budget strategy, at a level which does not compromise the robustness of our budget and which can be replenished with some certainty, given our ongoing strategy of delivering savings early.

10.6 As previously referenced the reserve currently stands at £4.607M, having been replenished during this year (2021/22) by £0.988M to quarter 2. Accordingly, to address the remaining budget gap, it is proposed that an allocation of £0.963M is made from this reserve for 2022/23. This would facilitate a balanced budget for 2022/23 and would leave £3.644M in the reserve (subject to the year-end assessment of reserves). Processes are now sufficiently well embedded to ensure that savings are achieved in-year and that this reserve can continue to be replenished.

Table 2 : Budget Strategy Proposals 2022/23 – Balancing the Budget

	£'000
Remaining Budget Gap	963
Use of Transition Funding	- 963
Remaining Budget Gap	-

10.7 The above provides a robust and balanced budget strategy for financial year 2022/23 which is now recommended to Council.

11.0 **SERVICE PRIORITIES**

- 11.1 Even after a period of significantly reducing resources and hence financial pressure on all services, this Council remains committed as far as it possibly can to continue to deliver its key services, stronger communities and social justice.
- 11.2 The Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2024 sets out that our key purpose is to provide strong community leadership and create the environment for people and businesses to be independent, healthy and prosperous.
- 11.3 In addition to our revenue base budget requirements, opportunities also continue to be taken to deliver investment in key strategic areas through one off funding made available via a risk based review of earmarked reserves and through the early identification of opportunities to deliver in-year savings. The Council has already invested over £129M (over and above the normal Capital Programme) in areas supporting key Corporate Plan priorities since October 2015, the latest investment (£6.500M) being agreed by Council in September 2021.
- 11.4 A report setting out the updated capital programme for 2022/23 to 2024/25 will be reported for Members consideration alongside this revenue budget strategy.

12.0 THE 2022/23 BUDGET STRATEGY CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 12.1 As in previous years, the Council has been keen to consult with the public and other interested stakeholders on its general budget strategy and how services are delivered.
- 12.2 The approach to budget consultation for 2022/23 was set out in the Cabinet report dated 18th October 2021. It comprises 2 phases as follows:
 - Phase 1** - provided residents and stakeholders with the opportunity to feedback their views on some of the key strategic building blocks used to construct the Council's budget.
 - Phase 2** - once Cabinet agreed a draft budget strategy, and in light of the provisional local government settlement, then this draft strategy was consulted upon as part of Phase 2.
- 12.3 The Phase 1 Consultation report was considered by Cabinet on the 27th January 2022 alongside the initial budget proposals which were then consulted upon as part of Phase 2.
- 12.4 The Phase 2 Consultation report is now attached at Appendix 2. The phase 2 consultation process ran from the 28th January 2022 to the 13th February 2022 and included:

- On-line questionnaire via the Let's Talk website;
- Young persons engagement, through face-to-face and on-line zoom meetings, with a Comprehensive School, the Environmental Youth Forum, Young Editors and Members of the Youth Parliament;
- Promotion through social media and through the Disability Forum, Community Hubs and Veterans Groups;
- A telephone consultation option through the Council's Contact Centre and a freepost address for postal responses;
- On-line Zoom meetings with:
 - Older Persons Advisory Group (31st January 2022);
 - School Budget Forum (1st February 2022);
 - The Council's Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee (2nd February 2022); and
 - Joint Consultative Committee (10th February 2022).

12.5 With regard to the consultation activity undertaken with the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee, School Budget Forum and Joint Consultative Committee, the extracts of the minutes from these meetings are attached at Appendices 3, 4 and 5 respectively.

13.0 THE 2022/23 MACRO REVENUE BUDGET

13.1 In arriving at a strategy for 2022/23, the Cabinet has taken into consideration its key commitments, its views on service delivery and relevant charges for services and the need to minimise the tax burden on local residents. Consequently, and after careful deliberation, the Cabinet has concluded that it can now propose a balanced revenue budget which will meet all of the fundamental requirements of its preferred strategy **and** minimise the Council Tax increase for next year.

13.2 Table 3 below illustrates how the revenue resources available to the Council could be utilised, with a Council Tax increase of 1.00%:

Table 3: Proposed Resources in 2022/23

	£'000
2022/23 Net Revenue Spending	566,792
LESS: Revenue Support Grant & NDR Contribution	441,441
LESS: Social Care Workforce Grant	3,668
Sub total	121,683
LESS: Release of Earmarked Reserves	963
To be met from Council Taxpayers	120,720

- 13.3 Table 4 below, shows the overall effect on services of applying the principles of the Cabinet's recommended outline 2022/23 budget strategy.

Table 4: Application of the 2022/23 Outline Budget Strategy

BUDGET REQUIREMENTS	2021/22	2022/23	Increase/ (Decrease)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Corporate Requirements</u>			
Capital Financing	19,950	21,308	1,358
Levies	12,874	13,174	300
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	25,334	25,587	253
Miscellaneous	14,205	15,647	1,442
	72,363	75,716	3,353
<u>Individual School Budgets (ISB)</u>			
Individual School Budgets	163,784	174,966	11,182
<u>Other Council Services</u>			
Community & Children's Services	168,586	183,619	15,033
Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services	60,372	65,993	5,621
Chief Executive's	30,857	32,673	1,816
Education & Inclusion Services	31,941	33,825	1,884
Net Revenue Spending	527,903	566,792	38,889

14.0 SPECIFIC GRANTS

- 14.1 For next year, the Welsh Government is to provide over £1.1Bn in Specific Revenue Grants to Welsh Local Authorities.
- 14.2 Whilst specific grants dilute local accountability, such funding does enable us to undertake projects and deliver services that otherwise may not have been possible. Whilst we will continue to make representation for such funding to be transferred into the Revenue Support Grant, until they do so then specific grants will continue to supplement our base revenue budget.
- 14.3 By their nature, specific grants are often directed toward specific spend areas or policy objectives and are not certain in terms of their ongoing continuation nor value, presenting uncertainty in terms of forward planning.
- 14.4 The allocation of specific grants, however, remains a key feature of the annual local government settlement, albeit there is a commitment to reduce such hypothecation. There are also a number of specific grants which have been introduced to deal with recurring cost pressures (eg Social Care Workforce Grant) and it is important that we seek to ensure their continuation beyond 2022/23.

15.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO ECONOMIC DUTY

- 15.1 Due regard has been given to the Council's public sector equality duties under the Equality Act 2010, namely the Public Sector Equality Duty and Socio-Economic Duty.
- 15.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and concluded that the recommendations set out in the report are in line with the above legislation.

16. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 16.1 The allocation of resources, as set out in the proposed 2022/23 Budget Strategy, is based on supporting the Council's service delivery requirements and associated statutory responsibilities for the forthcoming year. In doing so, the proposed strategy is in line with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

17.0 CONSULTATION

- 17.1 Consultation and engagement has been undertaken as part of formulating the recommended 2022/23 Revenue Budget Strategy, the detail of which is set out in Section 12 of the report.

18.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

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

19.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 19.1 The Council has a legal duty under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to set a balanced budget and also a legal duty under the Local Government Act 2000 for it to be reported to and approved by Full Council. The recommended 2022/23 Revenue Budget Strategy and its reporting to full Council ensures compliance with these legal duties.

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

- 20.1 The recommended 2022/23 Revenue Budget Strategy has been formulated to support the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities, as set out within the

Corporate Plan “Making a Difference” 2020 – 2024. The plan is aligned to the goals and principles included within the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

21.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 21.1 The Council’s overall financial position remains sound, with a clear plan in place to replenish the level of General Reserves to the recommended minimum level of £10M.
- 21.2 On the 1st March 2022, the Minister for Finance and Local Government (Rebecca Evans MS) announced the Final 2022/23 Local Government Settlement which showed this Council’s increase in resources was set at 8.4%.
- 21.3 The Cabinet’s proposals properly address the corporate financial requirements of the Council and allocate an adequate financial uplift to the Individual Schools Budget. The remaining resources available are allocated to fund all other services and to support our key priorities in 2022/23.
- 21.4 The Cabinet has recommended setting the 2022/23 revenue spending and budget at £566.792M which will require a Council Tax increase of 1.00% for the financial year ending the 31st March 2023.
- 21.5 The Council continues to deliver year on year balanced budgets alongside an investment programme supporting key priorities. The challenge does remain for positive and proactive management from the Senior Leadership Team and clear direction from Members to produce a robust and financially sustainable budget into the medium term in what continues to be a challenging financial climate.

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WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE Final Local Government Settlement 2022-23
DATE 1 March 2022
BY Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government

Following today's announcement of the Welsh Government's Final Budget, I am publishing details of the core funding allocations for local authorities for the forthcoming financial year through the Final Local Government Revenue and Capital Settlements for 2022-23 (the Settlement). I am also publishing Wales-level indicative core funding allocations for 2023-24 and 2024-25.

In preparing the final Settlement, I have given careful consideration to the responses I received to the consultation on the provisional settlement, which closed on 8 February. The responses did not identify any matters which required a change of approach for the final Settlement.

Adjusting for transfers, the core revenue funding for local government in 2022-23 will increase by 9.4% on a like-for-like basis compared to the current year. No authority will receive less than an 8.4% increase. In 2022-23, local authorities will receive £5.1bn from the Welsh Government in Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and non-domestic rates (NDR) to spend on delivering key services.

In addition to this, I am publishing information on revenue and capital grants planned for the following three years. For 2022-23, these amount to more than £1.1bn for revenue and over £700m for capital. We are providing these indicative grant values now so local authorities are able to plan their budgets efficiently.

The indicative Wales-level core revenue funding allocations for 2023-24 and 2024-25 are £5.3bn and £5.4bn respectively – equating to an uplift in the first year of £177m (3.5%) and, in the second year, of £128m (2.4%). These figures are indicative and dependent on both our current estimates of NDR income over the multi-year settlement period, and the funding provided to us by the UK Government through the 2021 Comprehensive Spending Review.

Indications are that specific revenue grant funding will continue to be above £1.1bn annually for the duration of this multi-year settlement, and capital grants will be in excess of £700m each year.

Other than a small increase of £96 thousand to the distributable RSG as a result of a technical adjustment, I allocated all available funding into the provisional settlement to give

as much early certainty as I could to authorities. I have no further funding currently available.

As in recent years, our priorities continue to be health and local government services. This significantly increased Settlement will enable local authorities to continue to deliver the services their communities want and need as well as supporting national and local ambitions for the future, including our real living wage for social care commitment and responding to the climate and nature emergency contributing to our Net Zero Wales plan.

This is a good Settlement for local government, including Wales-level core funding allocations for 2023-24 and 2024-25. It provides local authorities with a stable platform on which to plan their budgets for the coming financial year and beyond. We have worked closely with local government and we appreciate the pressures local government is facing. We will continue to protect local government, particularly at this difficult and challenging time.

I am maintaining the approach taken in 2021-22 and am continuing to freeze the non-domestic rates multiplier for 2022-23. I have provided an additional £35m in RSG in 2022-23 to offset the reduced income and a further £1m for the following two years.

Attached to this statement is a summary table setting out the Settlement allocations (Aggregate External Finance (AEF)) by authority. The allocations are derived using the formula agreed with local government. As a result of the formula and related data, the table shows the range of the funding allocations, from an 8.4% increase over the 2021-22 settlement to an 11.2% increase. Given the significant increases, I am not proposing to include a floor this year and have allocated all the available funding in this Settlement.

Further details will be sent to all local authorities and published on the Welsh Government's website: <https://gov.wales/local-government-revenue-and-capital-settlement-2022-2023>

General capital funding for local government for 2022-23 will be set at £150m. This will increase to £200m for the following two years, including £20m in each year to enable authorities to respond to our joint priority of decarbonisation.

The setting of budgets, and in turn council tax, is the responsibility of each local authority. They will need to take account of the full range of funding sources available to them, as well as the pressures they face, in setting their budgets for the coming year.

The motion for the Senedd to approve the Local Government Finance Report (No.1) for 2022-23 is scheduled for debate on 8 March 2022.

Summary Table

2022-23 final Settlement – comparison of 2021-22 AEF (adjusted for transfers) and 2022-23 final AEF, and distribution of the 2022-23 Council Tax Reduction Schemes funding (distributed within AEF) (£000s)

Authority	2021-22 adjusted AEF ¹	2022-23 final AEF	% change on adjusted 2021-22 AEF	Rank	Council Tax Reduction Schemes (within AEF)
Isle of Anglesey	104,872	114,551	9.2%	12	5,240
Gwynedd	195,905	213,214	8.8%	17	8,263
Conwy	167,356	183,311	9.5%	5	9,189
Denbighshire	159,060	173,640	9.2%	15	8,536
Flintshire	212,608	232,179	9.2%	14	9,680
Wrexham	189,233	207,064	9.4%	7	9,275
Powys	192,088	210,261	9.5%	6	8,978
Ceredigion	110,006	119,421	8.6%	19	5,126
Pembrokeshire	179,422	196,257	9.4%	8	8,180
Carmarthenshire	285,262	311,603	9.2%	11	14,006
Swansea	353,571	386,592	9.3%	9	19,339
Neath Port Talbot	237,289	258,073	8.8%	18	15,955
Bridgend	212,755	232,368	9.2%	13	12,866
The Vale Of Glamorgan	168,128	186,015	10.6%	3	9,088
Rhondda Cynon Taf	407,050	441,441	8.4%	21	21,005
Merthyr Tydfil	101,493	110,617	9.0%	16	5,627
Caerphilly	292,712	317,459	8.5%	20	12,651
Blaenau Gwent	120,657	130,797	8.4%	22	8,166
Torfaen	146,560	160,120	9.3%	10	8,500
Monmouthshire	101,003	112,278	11.2%	1	5,918
Newport	240,957	265,617	10.2%	4	10,337
Cardiff	492,095	544,726	10.7%	2	28,076
All Unitary Authorities	4,670,080	5,107,603	9.4%		244,000

Note: Total may not sum correctly due to rounding

1. 2021-22 AEF adjusted transfers of £18.585m (at 2021-22 prices) into and out of the Settlement and for the latest, 2022-23 tax base.

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APPENDIX 2

**Dewch i
siarad RhCT
Let's talk
RCT**



BUDGETCONSULTATION**2022/23** (P H A S E 2)

RHONDDA CYNON TAF CBC
FEBRUARY 2022



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This section provides a summary of the main findings from the Phase 2 Budget Consultation 2022/23.
- The consultation was conducted in-house. The consultation period ran from the 28th January and ended on the 13th February 2022.
- A digital approach that included the following methods to consult with a range of stakeholders:
 - Publication of key information on the Rhondda Cynon Taf “Let’s Talk” website, which included;
 - A survey
 - Two “Quick Polls”
 - The option to leave longer responses as “Ideas”
 - A simplified “Easy Read” survey that could be downloaded and printed for use by any audiences that felt unable to engage with the full survey format
 - Promotion through social media
 - An online Older Persons Advisory Group Meeting (OPAG)
 - A meeting with the Pontyclun 50+ Forum
 - Correspondence with the Disability Forum
 - Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee virtual meeting
 - School Budget Forum virtual meeting
 - Joint Consultative Committee virtual meeting
 - Face-to-face and on-line sessions with young people in schools and youth groups
 - An email sent to key stakeholders and the Citizens’ Panel
- The Council provided a number of alternatives to online engagement, as it is important to continue to consider hard to reach groups, those having reduced or no access to the Internet and those who prefer to engage through traditional methods.
- The majority of survey respondents felt that the proposed 1% increase in Council Tax was reasonable (80.2%).
- 91.2% of respondents agreed with the ongoing prioritisation of Schools and Social Services.
- 78.2% of respondents agreed with the approach for the delivery of efficiency savings for next year.
- 79.8% of respondents agreed with the proposals for fees and charges.
- 78.4% of respondents agreed with the proposed additional investment of £100K in the Local Business Rate Reduction Scheme.

- 81.1% of respondents agreed with the proposed £500K investment to support the Council' ongoing work on climate change and carbon reduction.
- 88.2% of respondents agreed with the proposed £550K investment to increase the minimum rate of pay for Council staff and contracted staff.
- 78.8% of respondents agreed with the proposed £200K investment to provide additional resources to Public Health and Protection Services.
- 87.4% of respondents agreed with the proposed £1.5M investment in Sustainable Social Services.
- 82.9% of respondents agreed with the additional £1M Funding for Investment proposal.
- 79.4% of respondents agreed with the additional £75k investment within the Detached Youth Service.
- 81.8% of respondents agreed with the use of £970K in transitional funding to address the remaining budget gap.
- Over 700 people were engaged in the phase 2 budget consultation.
- Overall (including Phase 1) over 1,700 people were engaged in the Council's budget setting process.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of the Phase 2 Budget Consultation 2022/23.
- 1.2 Section 2 outlines some brief background to the consultation process.
- 1.3 Section 3 details the methodology.
- 1.4 Section 4 provides the results of the Let's Talk engagement tools and the feedback received from the Older Persons Advisory Group.
- 1.5 Section 5 provides feedback on the young persons' engagement.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council undertakes a comprehensive approach to its annual budget consultation, involving a large number of residents and key stakeholders.
- 2.2 The widespread approach we use and the range of views we capture provides senior managers and Cabinet Members with the necessary information they need to set the budget for the year ahead.
- 2.3 Rhondda Cynon Taf's 2022/23 Budget Consultation is a phased approach, so that we can ensure residents and stakeholders have as much opportunity as possible to provide views on the budget and to make sure that views are informed by the most up to date and relevant information.
- 2.4 Phase 1 provided residents and stakeholders with the opportunity to feedback their views on some of the key strategic building blocks used to construct the Council's budget.
- 2.5 The Phase 1 consultation report was available to support the preparation of the budget strategy proposals and was presented to Cabinet on the 27th January 2022, where a draft budget strategy was agreed.
- 2.6 This report presents the findings of **phase 2** of the budget consultation, which asked for views on the draft budget strategy for 2022/23.
- 2.7 Phase 2 of the consultation started on the 28th January and ended on the 13th February 2022.

3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 This section provides a summary of the methodology used for the Phase 2 Budget Consultation 2022/23. The consultation was conducted in-house.
- 3.2 The consultation period ran from the 28th January and ended on the 13th February 2021.
- 3.3 The 'digital by default' approach included the following methods to consult with a range of stakeholders:
- Publication of information on the Rhondda Cynon Taf "Let's Talk" website, which included
 - A survey
 - Two "Quick Polls"
 - The option to leave longer responses as "Ideas"
 - A simplified "Easy Read" survey that could be downloaded and printed for use by any audiences that felt unable to engage with the full survey format
 - Promotion through social media
 - An online Older Persons Advisory Group Meeting (OPAG)
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 - Correspondence with the Disability Forum
 - Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee virtual meeting
 - School Budget Forum virtual meeting
 - Joint Consultative Committee virtual meeting
 - Face-to-face and on-line sessions with young people in schools and youth groups
 - An email sent to key stakeholders and the Citizens' Panel

The Council provided a number of alternatives to online engagement, as it is important to continue to consider hard to reach groups, those having reduced or no access to the Internet and those who prefer to engage through traditional methods. This included:

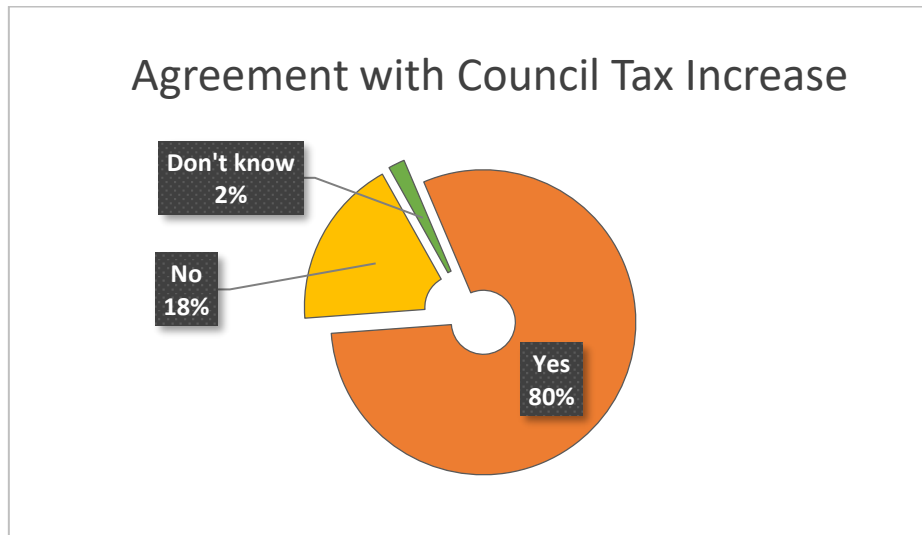
- Paper surveys and information available on request.
 - Consultation freepost address for postal responses.
- 3.4 The Team designed an Easy Read/Plan English Document in paper format and online, to simplify some of the consultation materials.
- 3.5 Over 700 people were engaged in the phase 2 budget consultation. Overall (including Phase 1) over 1,700 people were engaged in the Council's budget setting process.

4. Consultation Findings

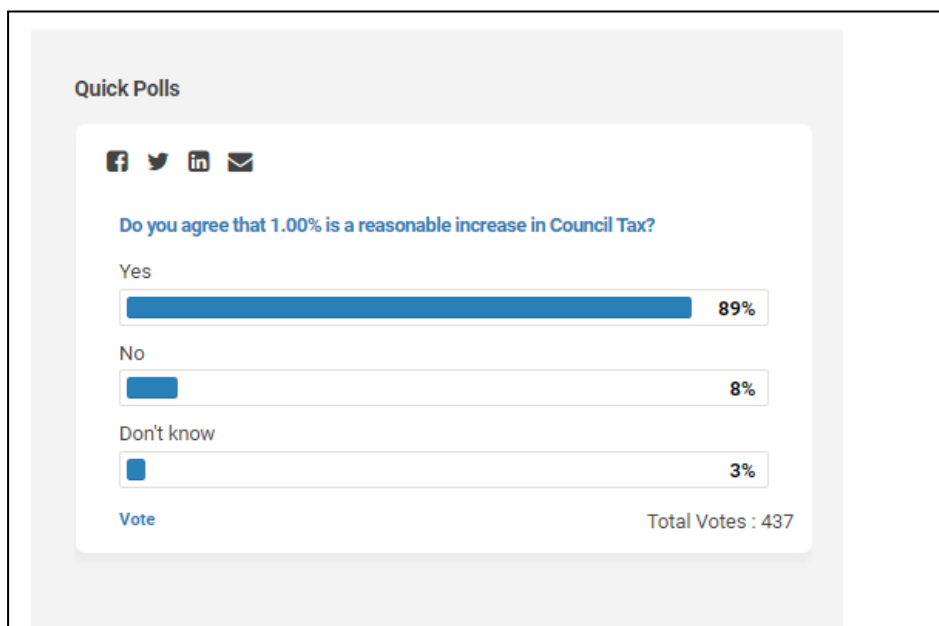
- 4.1 The following section outlines the results from the phase 2 budget consultation questionnaire, which received 172 responses, and also includes the feedback received from the Older Persons Advisory Group. A selection of comments are provided, and the full list of comments will be provided to Cabinet and senior officers to assist with decision making.

Council Tax

- 4.2 The Council is proposing that Council Tax be increased by 1% for next year. **The majority of respondents to the questionnaire felt that the increase was reasonable (80.2%).**



The Poll question on the Let's Talk Budget Engagement site was completed by 437 people, with 89% in agreement.



- 4.3 Many comments were in favour of the proposed increase being lower than that previously consulted upon.

“I would have been content with 2.65% but understand the need to reduce the cost on residents at this time”

“1% is very reasonable”

“Thought (the increase) would have been higher so really pleased”

“That’s very reasonable”

- 4.4 A number of comments noted that any additional increase to the cost of living would be unwelcome.

“With all the increases in other things energy Nat ins etc it is not the time for increase at all”

- 4.5 Some comments raised concern with property bandings (noting that this is outside of the Council’s control) and relative Council Tax rates compared to other Local Authority areas.

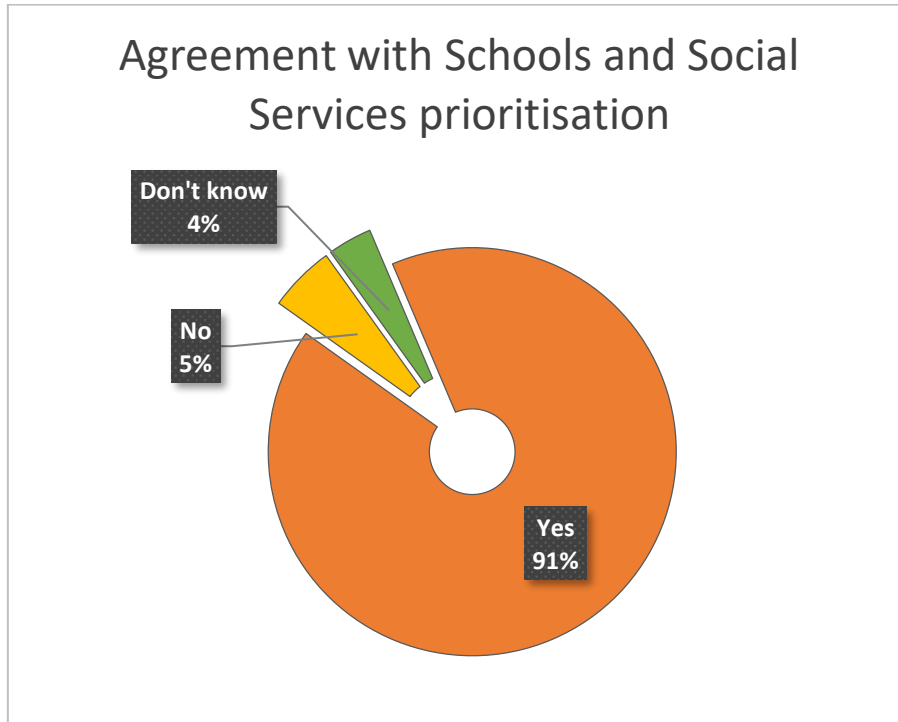
“Increases in Council Tax should be kept at a minimum & there should be a fairer system for calculating council tax”

- 4.6 OPAG members overall agreed with the proposed Council Tax level of 1%.

“Obviously we’d prefer no increase at all, but in the real world this is better than the 2.65% mentioned before”

Schools and Social Services Funding

- 4.7 The Council is proposing to increase the Schools Budget by £11.2M (6.8%) to fully fund increased costs, and to increase the Social Services (Community and Children’s Services) Budget by over £15M (8.91%). **91.2% of respondents agreed with the prioritisation of these services.**



- 4.8 The majority of comments welcomed this proposal.

“Schools need it for the future of the area”

“These services are vital”

- 4.9 Some comments noted in respect of efficiency within these service areas:

“Whilst priority should be given to funding in these areas, cost cutting and economic exercises should also be carried out to minimise wasteful expenditure”

“Schools and social services are important services within RCT, but efficiencies can still be made within these services”

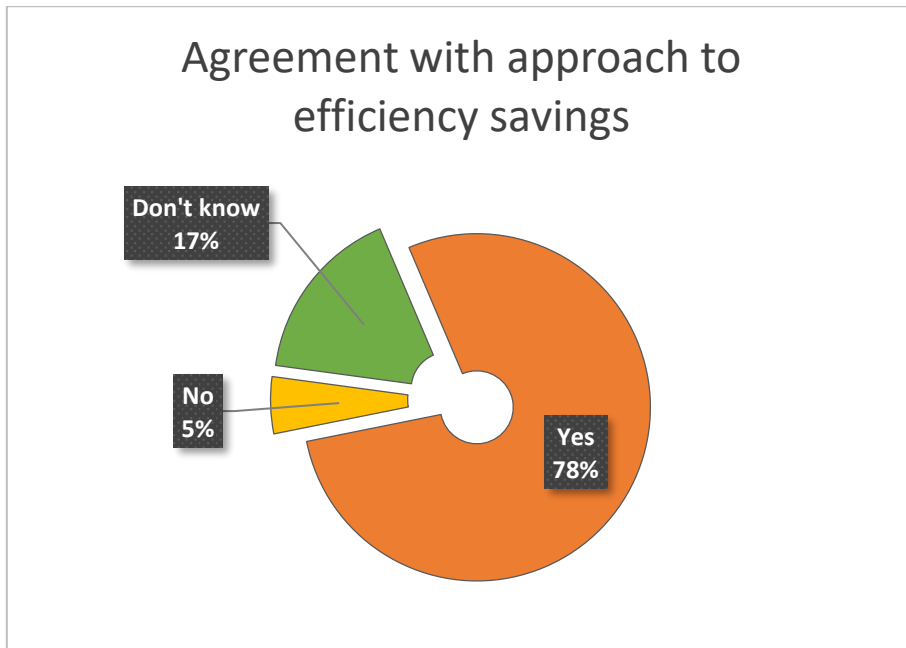
- 4.10 Further comments asked what other service areas would be deprioritised as a result of this proposal.

“As opposed to prioritising what other areas?”

“Agree they are important, but other areas should not suffer”

Efficiencies

- 4.11 The Council’s budget strategy has identified efficiency savings of £4.9M for 2022/23 that will not impact on frontline services. **78.2% of respondents agreed with the proposal for the delivery of efficiency savings for next year.**



- 4.12 Most of the comments on this proposal noted the importance that efficiencies should not be found at the expense of staffing levels or support.

“Any efficiency savings which do not impact services and jobs should always be at the forefront of savings strategy”

“Increasing efficiency is good as long as it doesn’t strain the system and the people who run it”

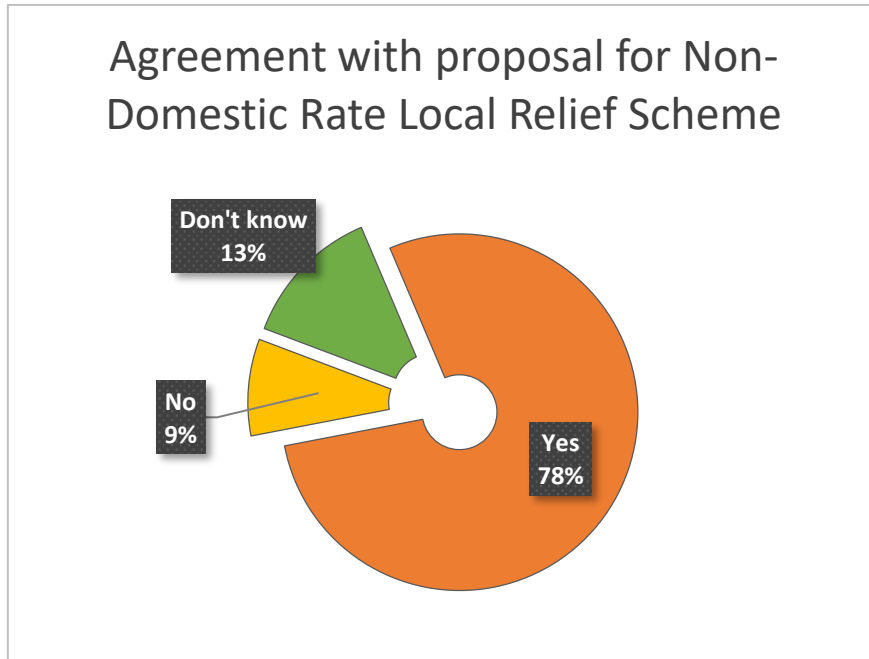
- 4.13 Some comments asked whether further savings are possible due to increased flexible working across the Council.

“I think you are saving quite a bit of cash with employees WFH”

“Working from home should continue, it frees up council buildings”

Non-Domestic Rate Local Relief Scheme

- 4.14 The Council is proposing an additional £100K be added to the existing Non-Domestic Rate Local Relief Scheme implemented in 2021/22. **78.4% of respondents agree with this proposal.**



- 4.15 The majority of comments are supportive of this proposal, welcoming support for small businesses that have been hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Businesses have struggled greatly in the pandemic, its lovely to see further support offered to them”

“People need to work and we need to support this as best we can”

“We need to help & encourage small businesses in our towns”

“This is an excellent initiative”

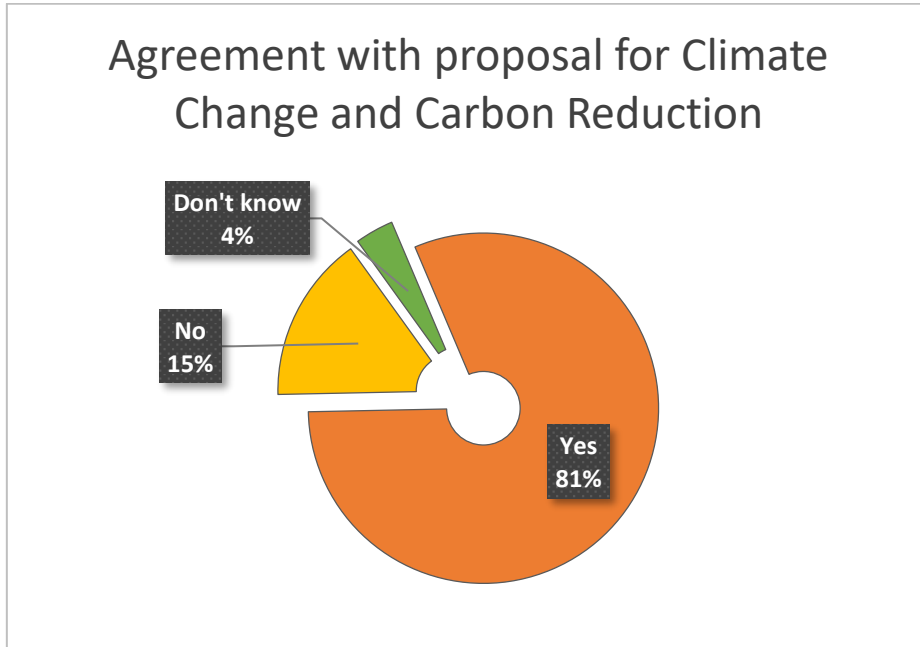
- 4.16 A number of comments provided examples over how funds should be allocated.

“The relief scheme should be allocated depending on the profit the business is making”

“Would like assurances that any financial support is given only to employers who agree to an ethical charter”

Climate Change and Carbon Reduction

- 4.17 The Council is proposing £500K be put in place alongside existing resources to maintain and enhance delivery of work responding to climate change and carbon reduction. **81.1% of respondents agree with this proposal.**



- 4.18 There was a wide range of comments on this area, with some welcoming the investment and also calling for higher funding rates and more focus on this area.

“This additional investment is a welcome one but will need to be increased in years to come”

“It’s important we support reducing the carbon footprint”

“Despite difficult times I agree Climate Change and care for the environment must be a priority”

“More needed to safeguard our future!”

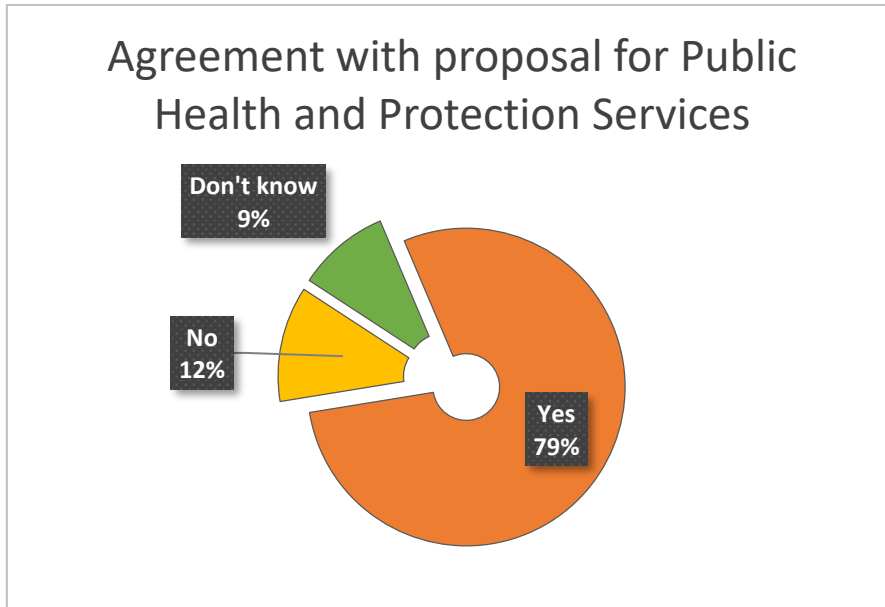
- 4.19 A number of comments noted that the level of investment detracted from other service areas.

“Investment in viable schemes is justified but not to the amount of £500k when there are so many other services that would benefit from additional funding”

“This figure is far too high, when you have residents who have to choose to heat or eat”

Public Health and Protection Services

- 4.20 Additional investment of £200K is being proposed, further to the £200K invested in 2021/22, to support the Public Health and Protection Service. **78.8% of respondents agree with this proposal.**



- 4.21 There was praise for the Council's role during the pandemic and some comments that the funding may not be needed for this purpose in the future.

"PH&P have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic and it is great to see further investment in the department."

"My experience of Rhondda Leisure Centre for vaccines and tests has been excellent. I commend the council and the staff & volunteers there for their efficiency and cheerfulness."

"sounds like money well spent"

"If this 200k investment is targeted towards Covid etc, then I feel going forward this money should be used elsewhere"

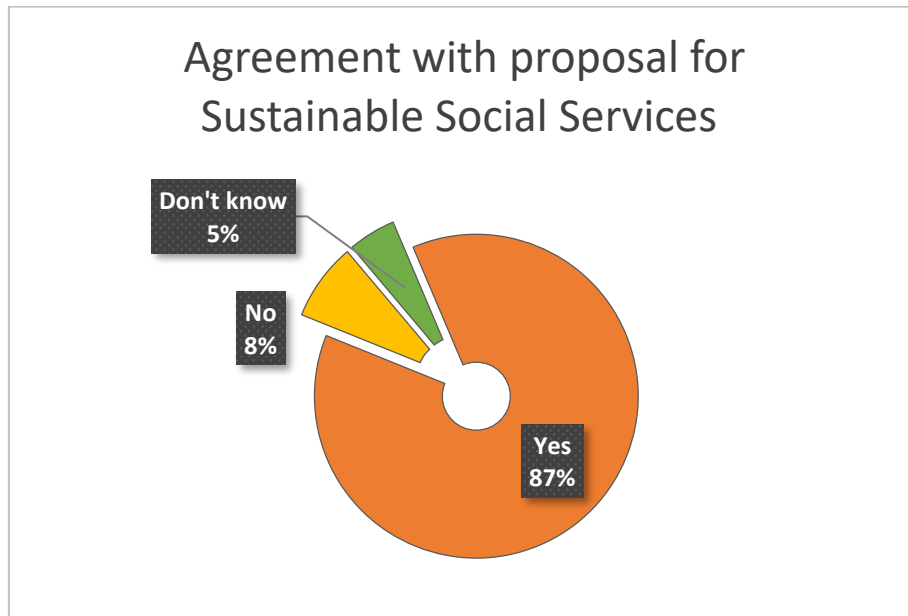
- 4.22 Some comments noted that other service areas should receive attention.

"More needs to be done on dog fouling. Dog Patrols should not just finish at 3pm."

"Please concentrate on street cleaning"

Sustainable Social Services

- 4.23 The Council has proposed that additional investment of £1.5M is made to support our Social Services provision, developing different models of service provision and the remodelling and integration of community services with partners. **87.4% of respondents agree with this proposed investment.**



- 4.24 A number of comments raised the issue of partnership working and restructuring Social Service provision to increase effectiveness and efficiency.

“(I) wonder if the monies would be better spent engaging with local communities and the voluntary sector”

“Third sector and community organisations play an important part in sustainability”

- 4.25 Other comments expressed a desire to see social services and related work brought more fully into the Council’s remit.

“Would support this proposal as long as services are brought back into council control”

“Bring social care back under the council. No outsourcing.”

- 4.26 Multiple comments related to staffing levels and support for front line staff and services.

“More front-line workers that are appreciated and valued are needed”

“Services have been overstretched and unable to meet the needs of individuals due to the number of people referred and the stagnant level of staff”

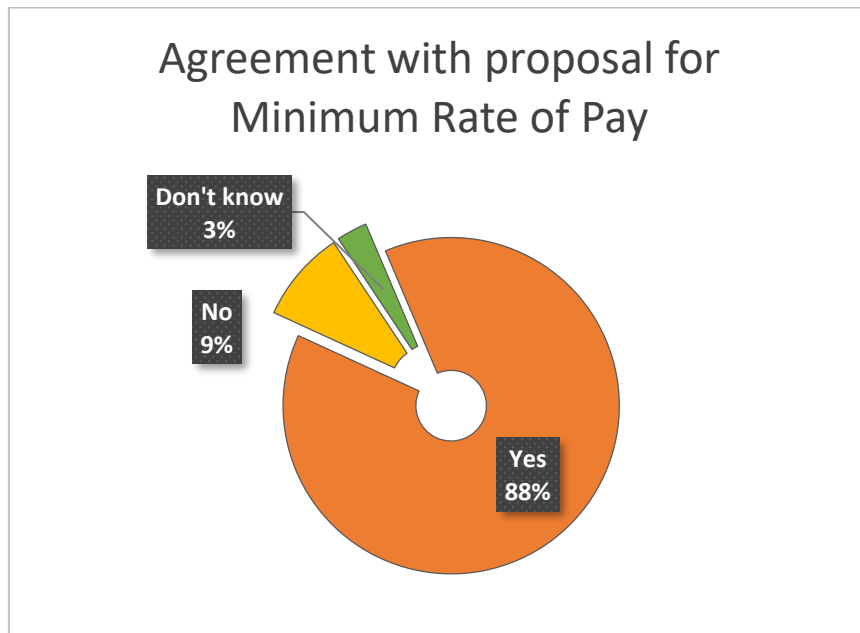
- 4.27 A number of comments praised existing staff and services and reflected the importance of Social Services across RCT.

“This service is vital to the community”

“Social services are relied heavily upon through all aspects of life”

Minimum Rate of Pay

- 4.28 The Council has been a Real Living Wage employer for many years and has proposed to increase the minimum pay for all Council staff and commissioned social care staff to £10 per hour from 1st April 2022. **88.2% of respondents agree with this proposal.**



- 4.29 In general comments were in agreement with the proposal, with a number of comments stating that the rate of pay is still too low.

“This is an excellent move by RCT”

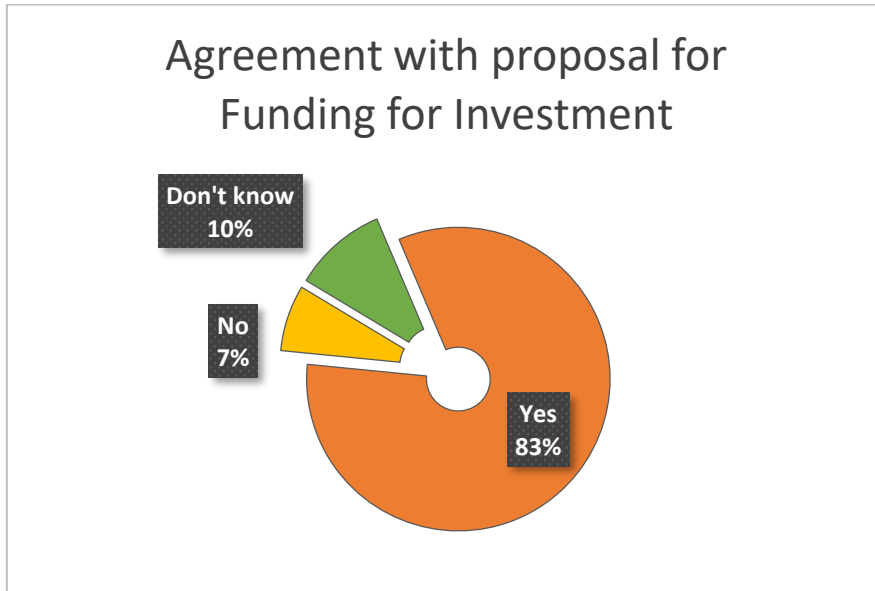
“This is a good way to retain staff”

“Probably needs to be more but a (good) start”

“The lowest paid jobs have been critical throughout the pandemic and should be paid accordingly”

Funding for Investment

4.30 The Council has already invested over £129M since October 2015 in key corporate plan priorities and infrastructure developments. The proposal is for an additional £1M investment to further support ongoing and key projects. **82.9% of respondents agree with this proposal.**



4.31 Many comments offered suggestions on specific areas that respondents felt needed further investment and/or development.

“Invest in the infrastructure of Tonypanyd which was once a vibrant town, now a ghost town”

“Llanharan bypass is much needed”

“A good investment (...) would be to provide lighting on the A4059 between Abercynon and Cwmbach”

“We definitely need more money invested in supported living accommodation”

4.32 Some comments noted that new developments are diverting funds that could support key services.

“We need to recover from the effects of Covid-19 before investing in further schemes”

“Coming out of the pandemic we need to divert funds to Social Services and schools”

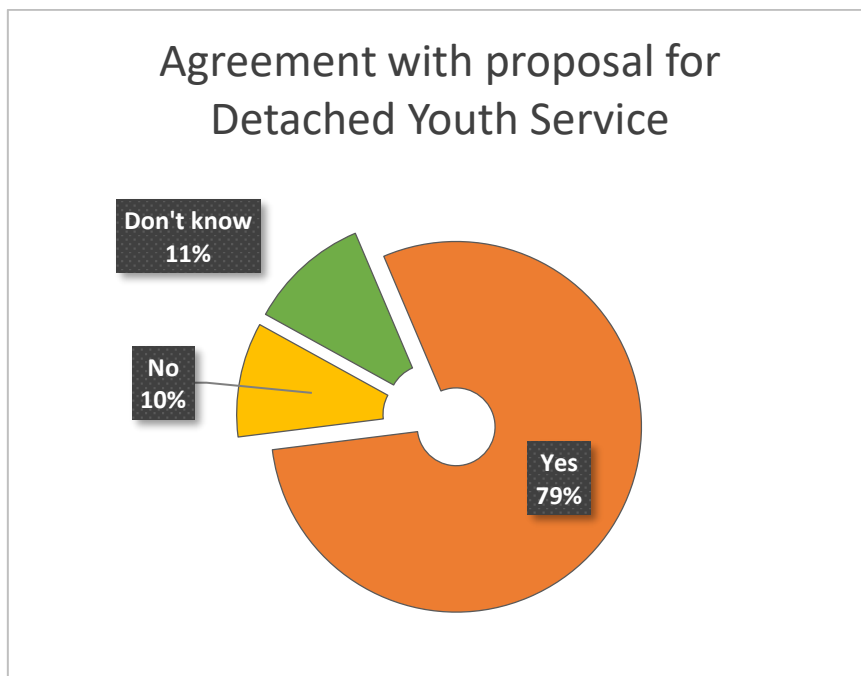
4.33 OPAG members were generally supportive of the proposal but raised some points.

“Please consider extra funding to tackle dog fouling problems that are always brought up in community forums and groups as major problems”

“It is so difficult to find large venues to use for community events and groups – could the Council invest, for example, in a large marquee and hire this out/ put it up for community groups to use for events. Example: the Platinum Jubilee – no venues available for community groups to organise any celebrations”

Detached Youth Service

- 4.34 The Council has proposed an additional £75K investment to support the on-going work to support young people across RCT. **79.4% of respondents agreed with this proposal.**



- 4.35 A number of comments mentioned perceived increases in antisocial behaviour and many welcomed any investment to continue to address this issue.

“The investment needs to deliver results. The amount of anti-social behaviour taking place at the moment is out of control”

“We should invest much more in keeping our youth out of drugs and antisocial behaviour”

“We need more youth club type activities to get the young people off the streets and away from anti-social behaviours”

- 4.36 A large number of comments called for a greater level of investment in youth services and facilities.

“Needs to be much more investment than 75k”

“This should be increased further. Children and young people need more support and services”

“Not enough money. More needs to be invested in youth facilities.”

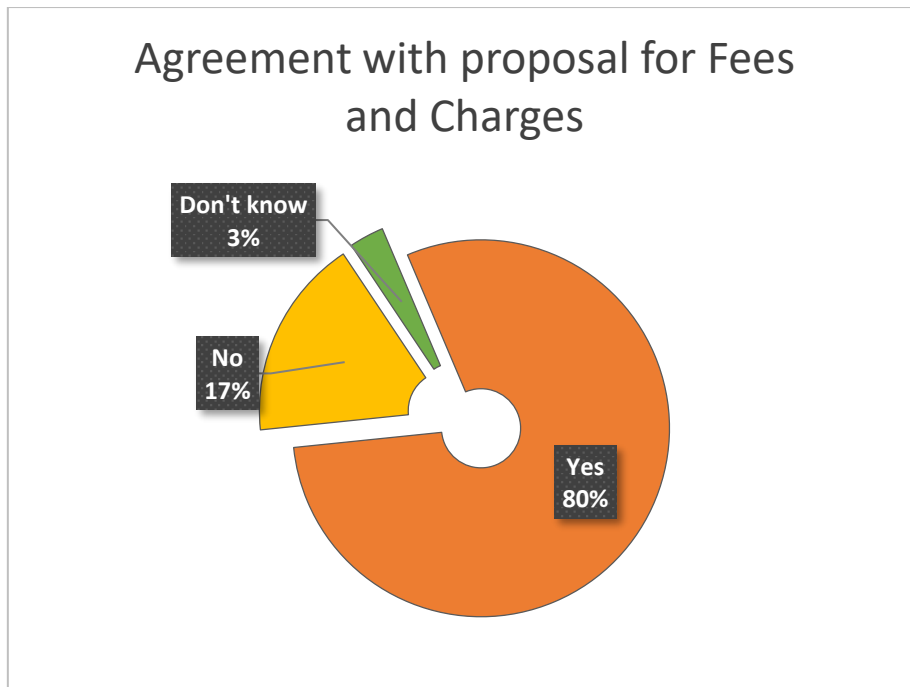
Fees and Charges

- 4.37 A standard increase of 2.5% is proposed on all fees and charges with a number of specific exceptions.

Area of Charge	Proposed Exception
Leisure for Life – Membership	Freeze (in line with prior decision)
Meals on Wheels / Day Centre Meals	Freeze (in line with prior decision)
School Meals	Freeze (in line with prior decision)
Car Park Charges	Freeze
Summer and Winter Playing Fees (sports clubs)	Freeze
3G Pitch Hire	Freeze
Licenses (Hackney Carriage / Private Hire)	Freeze
Lido / Rhondda Heritage Park	Freeze

This proposal would lead to a reduction in income of £44K.

79.8% of respondents agreed with the proposals for fees and charges.



4.38 Comments on this point varied - some questioned the charges that are proposed to be frozen.

“You could put some of these up, even slightly”

“Make sure charges keep pace with increased costs”

“I don’t see why a small increase cannot be considered as long as users of the facilities are warned in advance”

4.39 Other comments welcomed the freezes or called for further areas to be frozen.

“I think this will encourage people to access these facilities and in turn the town centres injecting life back into them”

“Pest Control fees and Bulk Collection charges should be frozen or reduced”

“Welcome lots of these fees being frozen due to the cost of living crisis everyone says is coming”

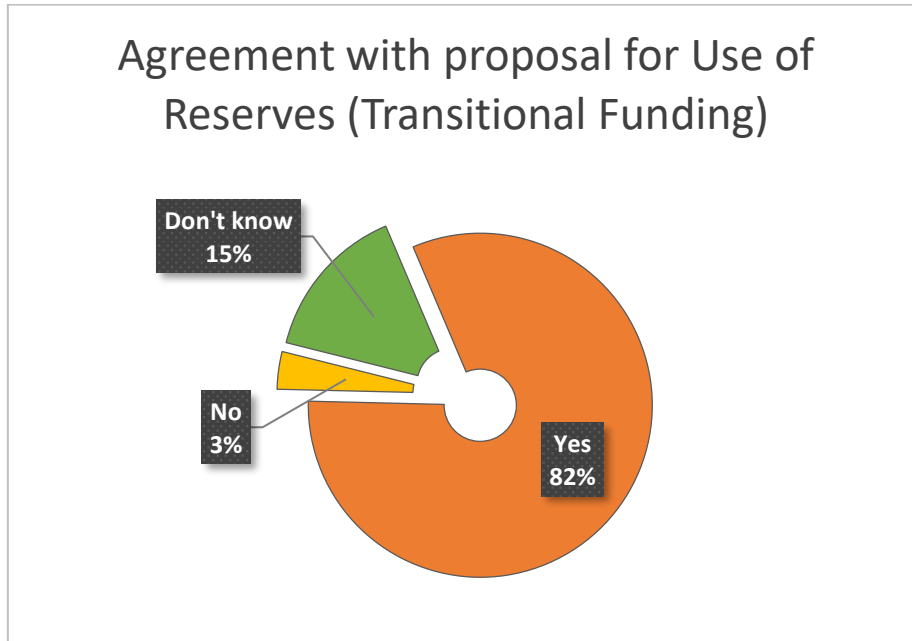
4.40 OPAG members agreed with the proposals, with the following comments.

“Increases will still be out of reach for some, but realistically it is needed”

“We need to keep people active, so it is particularly important to freeze sports and leisure fees”

Use of Reserves (Transitional Funding)

4.41 After taking account of the above proposals, proposed level of Council Tax, the delivery of efficiencies and other budget requirements the remaining budget gap is £970k, which the Council proposes to be funded through Transitional Funding Reserves. **81.8% of respondents agreed with this proposal.**



4.42 A lower number of comments were received on this area, with some expressing confusion over how reserve funding is secured and maintained.

“You shouldn’t keep spending more than the budget, eventually savings run out.”

“Eventually the reserves will runout... what then?”

Other Comments

- 4.43 A wide range of general comments were received regarding the budget. A number of them praised the proposals and the consultation exercise.

“I have looked at what other councils do and Rct has one of the most inclusive and engaging processes for residents to make their views known”

“Setting a budget during the most scary time in our history and RCT has succeeded more than other councils but there will always be areas that require more attention than others”

“It appears to me that priorities are correct in the main”

“Seems the council is very socially minded which is how it should be”

“On the whole I am pleased with the value for money that the council provide”

- 4.44 Some respondents commented that they felt specific areas were not directly addressed in the proposals.

“Not sure if the higher allocation in 21/22 will be drastically reduced next year”

“I(n)vest in safety, research the structural integrity of the underground tunnels and the tips. Remove the tips”

“(I) would like the authority to have a strategy for taking over vacant properties which are empty and in disrepair as a way of supporting the homeless in the short term”

“The proposed budget strategy is on the whole very good but it could be improved by being more radical by bringing services back in house”

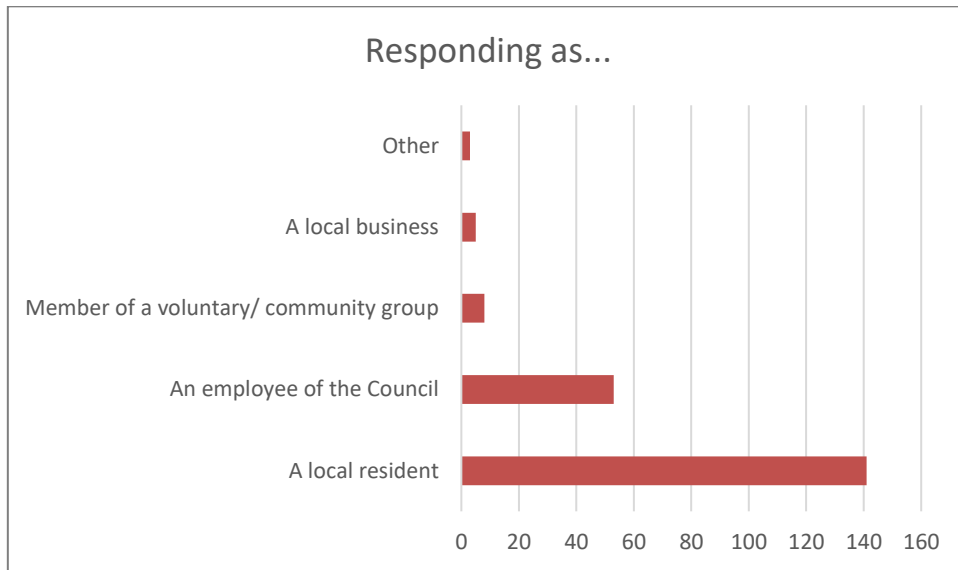
- 4.45 OPAG members raised the following comments outside specific focus sections.

“The schools funding is vital – as a Chair of Governors, I understand the extreme budget pressures in some schools.”

“Congratulations to the Council on committing to the Real Living Wage – this is very important particularly in recruitment of staff in social care, which is in crisis”

About You

4.46 The majority of respondents to the survey were residents (67.1%).



A local resident	67.1%
An employee of the Council	25.2%
Member of a voluntary/ community group	3.8%
A local business	2.4%
Other	1.4%

Note: This was a multiple response question.

4.47 A number of points were raised in the comments regarding impacts due to protected characteristics.

“I’m disabled and the lack of investment in (my area) leaves people like myself isolated.”

“The budget could offer more support in regards to working class people and childcare... there should be much more support for working families”

“I am a pensioner and homeowner so increases in council tax really do affect me”

“As I’m getting older my reliance on public services increases so budget proposals are beneficial”

4.48 There were also a number of comments regarding impacts on the use of the Welsh Language.

“I think there should be provision for Welsh learners to be able to meet up with Welsh speakers to help them increase their confidence and hear the language being spoken in a natural setting”

“English is now treated as second class in wales, welsh speakers seem to get priority for good jobs”

“In my opinion too much money wasted on bilingual bills, signs etc”

“We should be doing more to encourage local cultural events which reflect the priorities of local communities”

“Positive effects could be increased with continued free Welsh courses”

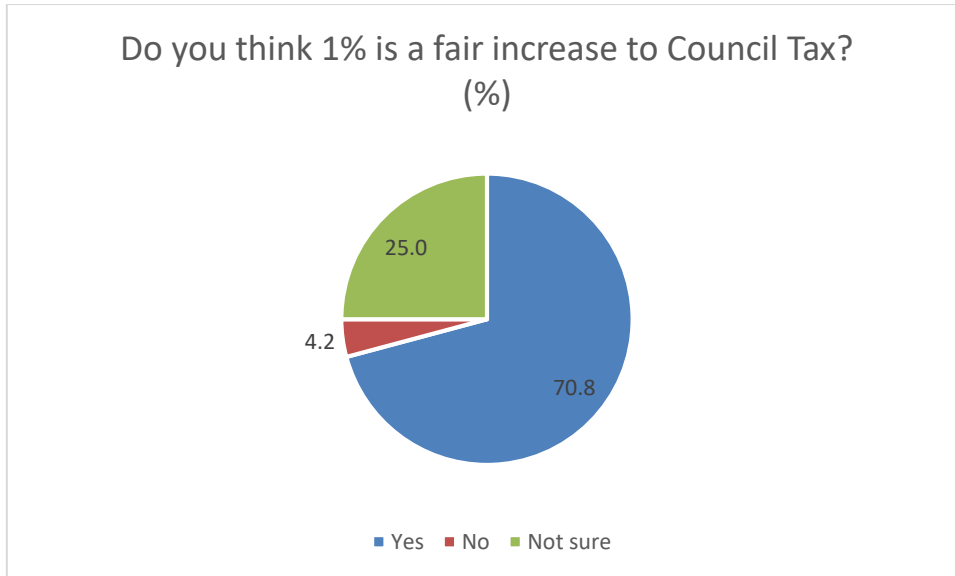
“Supporting schools with additional funding will only strengthen the promotion of the Welsh language”

5. YOUNG PERSONS ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1 In previous years the Consultation Team have held face to face sessions with secondary schools and young people across the Borough. Due to the restrictions because of the pandemic, we were unable to consult face to face in Phase 1 of the consultation. Phase 2 was slightly different, and we managed to arrange to meet with 4 groups of young people.
- 5.2 The Youth Engagement Participation Service (YEPS) arranged 2 school groups at Pontypridd High School (year 9 and sixth form) and 2 virtual sessions via Zoom, with the Environmental Youth Group and the Young Editors and Members of Youth Parliament. They also posted details of the phase 2 consultation on Instagram and other social media sites.
- 5.3 The sessions at Pontypridd High School were attended by a member of the Consultation Team along with the YEPS Communication and Rights Officer. During the sessions, the young people were shown the Easy Read consultation document which explained the Council's plans and proposals. The groups were asked questions which helped aid discussions.
- 5.4 The questions were centred around Council Tax levels, Efficiencies, Fees and Charges, Schools and Social Services budget, helping local businesses, Climate Change, Public Health & Protection, the Detached Youth Service and investments.
- 5.5 In total we engaged with 25 young people and a summary of their responses will follow in this section. The sessions were well supported, and all young people engaged well with the format.

Council Tax

- 5.6 We asked the groups ***“Do you think 1% is a fair increase to Council Tax to keep services at current levels?”***



5.7 Of the 25 young people we spoke to, there was general agreement with increasing Council Tax by 1%, although they were only in favour of this after seeking confirmation that core services would not be affected. Some young people fed back that a 1% Council Tax increase was affordable and a reasonable increase. One person commented that the increase will hit less well-off families more and could cause them to struggle.

Efficiencies

5.8 We discussed the requirement for the Council to aim to be as efficient as possible and asked for the groups’ views on this approach and if they had any ideas of ways in which the Council could become more efficient. The groups all felt that looking for ways to become more efficient was a useful task and lots of ideas and comments were generated.

5.9 **Feedback included:**

" Better quality items should be bought so they last longer."

"Investing in better quality equipment/resources that lasts longer, rather than getting cheaper things than need constant replacing."

"Savings should be used on community improvements such as bins or recycling points."

"The money that is saved should be used for other services like youth services etc."

Fees and Charges

- 5.10 We asked the young people **“Do you think it is a good idea to spend £44,000 to keep some fees the same?”**. 80% of young people responding agreed that £44,000 should be used to keep some fees the same. 20% were unsure.

Comments included:

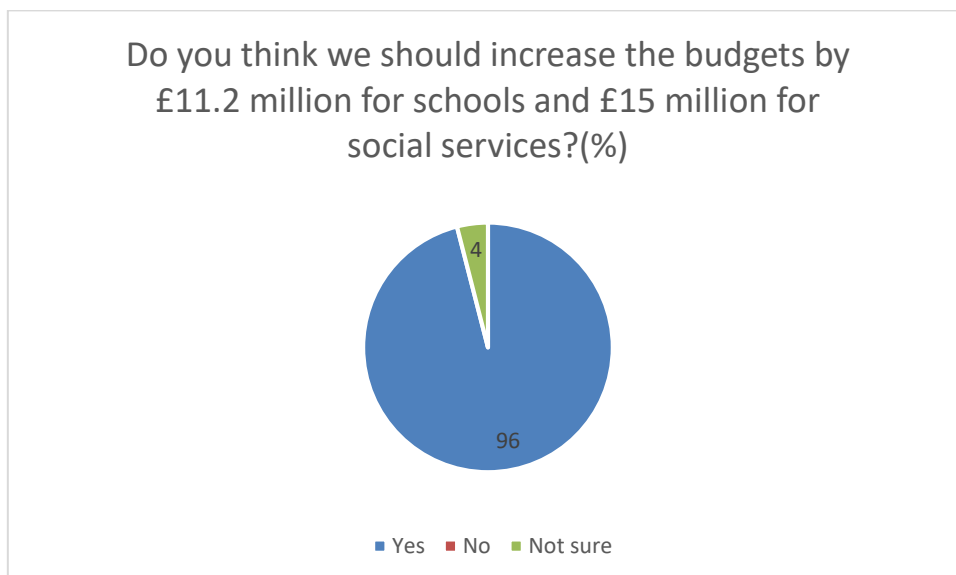
“Keeping prices, the same will help those on low incomes to afford things like school dinners or leisure activities.”

“Some services should stay the same such as meals on wheels and day centre meals.”

“However, things like Rhondda Heritage Museum and Lido entry could be charged more for.”

Schools and Social Services Budget

- 5.11 When asked whether the groups agreed with the Council’s approach to protect and prioritise the Schools and Social Services budget, **“Do you think we should increase the budgets by £11.2 million for schools and £15 million for social services?”**, 96% of young people agreed with this. There was agreement that education is an important service area for young people and is something that should continue to receive adequate funding. The groups acknowledged that the increased budget could be used to provide better buildings and school equipment, specifically better IT, to give learners the best experience possible.



5.12 **Feedback included:**

“Schools should have more spent on them.”

“We need more laptops to get on with work. There aren’t enough laptops for us.”

“Toilet facilities in this school need to be maintained better.”

“More equipment such as pens etc are needed.”

“We feel teachers should be paid more because without them we don’t get a good quality education.”

“We feel that funding for schools should be increased by more than £11.2 million.”

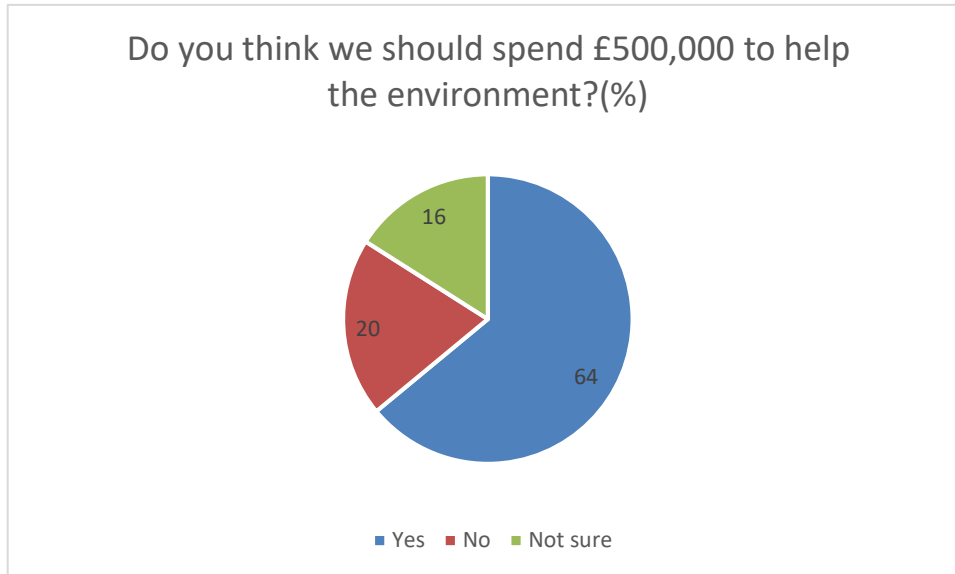
Helping Local Businesses

5.13 The conversation moved on to helping local businesses. We explained to the young people that the Council started a local Business Rate Reduction Scheme two years ago which helps local businesses with some of the costs they have to pay. We asked, **“Do you think we should spend £100,000 more on helping businesses?”**

5.14 96% of young people agreed that the Council should help local businesses, however comments received suggested that £100,000 doesn’t seem so much to help all businesses in RCT and whether more money could be spent - a young person asked *“How is the money spent to support local businesses?”*

Helping the environment / Climate Change

5.15 We asked the groups **“Do you think we should spend £500,000 to help the environment?”**



5.16 64% of young people agreed with the £500,000 investment to help the environment, however 20% disagreed and 16% said they were unsure.

5.17 **Feedback included:**

“Use money to help businesses reduce their CO2 footprint. Individuals can make changes themselves to help. More effective recycling for people, fines for those who don’t comply, like people who leave dog mess.”

“More money should be spent on helping tackle climate change now to help with the future.”

“We think that more than £500,000 should be spent to help save the environment and reduce everyone’s’ carbon footprint.”

Public Health & Protection Services

5.18 The Public Health and Protection service has played an important role this year in making sure the public health and wellbeing of our communities is protected. They have provided advice and help and are leading on things such as the Test Trace Protect programme. We explained to the group that more money will help us employ more people, making sure we are able to help as many people as possible and making sure we are ready for any challenges this year.

We asked the groups ***“Do you think we should spend £200,000 on this service?”***

5.19 The majority of young people agreed with the Council’s approach to spend £200,000 on Public Health and protection; however they felt that more money could be spent on these services.

Detached Youth Services

- 5.20 The Council wants to make sure young people across RCT have services and activities to support them and would like to spend £75,000 to let the Detached Youth Service organise this.

We asked the groups ***“Do you think we should spend £75,000 to help the Detached Youth Service?”***

- 5.21 96% of young people agreed that £75,000 should be spent to help the Detached Youth Service but they agreed that more should be spent.

Investments

- 5.22 We explained that the Council has invested in buildings, projects, and schemes for a long time. This has let us create new buildings and improve others, to help people and businesses across Rhondda Cynon Taf.

We asked, ***“Do you think we should spend £1 million to invest across RCT?”***

- 5.23 Again, most young people agreed that money should be spent to invest across RCT, but they agreed it should be more than £1 Million.

- 5.24 **Feedback included:**

“Potholes and pavements to be fixed.”

“More than 1 million pounds should be spent to regenerate older buildings so they can be enjoyed by people again.”

Instagram and Facebook

- 5.25 Budget content was created and shared on the YEPS' Instagram account. 2 posts went out on February 7 advertising the Budget Consultation and detailing how young people could take part. There was a link to the Consultation's Let's Talk website which had a dedicated Budget project page consisting of web polls, an 'Idea' tool and the Council's main survey.

- 5.26 The Council's Budget Content was also shared by YEPS' Facebook account.



APPENDIX 3

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee held on
Wednesday, 2 February 2022 at 5.00 pm.

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

Councillor M Powell (Chair)

Councillor G Thomas	Councillor S Bradwick
Councillor S Evans	Councillor A Fox
Councillor E George	Councillor J Williams
Councillor T Williams	Councillor R Yeo

Officers in attendance:-

Mr P Griffiths, Service Director – Finance & Improvement Services
Ms W Edwards, Service Director – Community Services
Ms S Davies - Head of Education & Financial Reporting
Ms N Lewis - Programmes Co-ordinator
Mr A Wilkins – Director of Legal Services
Mrs T Watson – Senior Democratic & Scrutiny Officer
Mrs S Handy – Members’ Researcher & Scrutiny Officer

County Borough Councillors in attendance:-

Co-Opted Members in attendance:

Mr J Fish – Parent/Governor Representative

44 Scrutiny Research Function

The Members’ Researcher and Scrutiny Officer referenced the research facilities that were available to Members within the Council Business Unit. Members were advised that if they have any specific queries to email them to Scrutiny@rctcbc.gov.uk.

45 Declaration of Interest

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

Extract from the minutes

Budget Consultation 2022/23 (Phase 2)

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, the Service Director – Finance & Improvement Services provided Members with an overview of the Budget Consultation 2022/23 (Phase 2) and updated the Committee on the following 6 areas:

- Introduction – 2022/23 Draft Revenue Budget Strategy
- Council's Current Financial Position (2021/22)
- Phase 1 Budget Consultation – Headlines
- Provisional Local Government Settlement 2022/23 – Headlines/Implications for Rhondda Cynon Taf
- Cabinet Proposed Budget Strategy 2022/23
- Next steps and key dates

Further to the Service Director's overview of the Cabinet's proposed Budget Strategy, Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions and feedback their views on each of the following six areas:

- Council Tax
- Schools Budget
- Social Services Funding
- Efficiencies
- Fees and Charges
- Targeted Investment
- Use of Reserves

The Chair asked if it was acceptable for written feedback to also be submitted following the meeting. The Service Director confirmed that the phase 2 consultation runs until 11th February and all points of clarity and feedback would be welcomed within this timeframe.

Councillor Fox referred to the additional investment and commented that the areas highlighted for additional funding were completely justified and was in full support of them. Councillor Fox also fed back that it was particularly pleasing to see the proposal for the minimum rate of pay increase to £10 for the Council's own staff and commissioned social care staff, above the Real Living Wage rate of £9.90, and emphasised this was the real living wage level calculated on the true cost of living, as opposed to the national living wage. Councillor Fox added that Rhondda Cynon Taf needed to lead by example and this proposal would improve the lives of some of the lowest paid in employment.

Councillor Evans referred to the Council Tax slide and stated that it was good to see such consistent year-on-year low council tax rises and highlighted that the proposal for 2022/23 would equate to an increase of 20p per week for a Band A property and an increase of 30p a week for a Band D property. Councillor Evans fed back that the 1% proposed increase was the right decision for people at this time and struck the right balance between affordability of Rhondda Cynon Taf residents to pay and the range of services provided, and also considering the other budget strategy proposals that will see additional investment in schools, social care and a number of frontline services.

Councillor Bradwick referred to car parking charges and supported the freeze in prices and also supported the approach to the delivery of efficiency savings that do not impact on frontline services, noting the positive position where £16.5M of efficiencies had been delivered in the past 3 financial years. Members of the

Committee were also in agreement with the position in respect of efficiencies. Councillor Bradwick also requested clarification on whether pest control fees would be frozen and the Service Director fed back that the proposal is for pest control fees to be increased by 2.5%. Councillor Bradwick and Councillor T Williams fed back a preference for pest control fees to be frozen and Councillors Yeo and Fox noted that although they would prefer the prices to be frozen, they recognised the high standard of service delivered by the Council's Pest Control Service and this being competitively priced. Councillor Bradwick went on to thank Council Officers for their work in supporting the budget setting process and was pleased that the proposed budget will see schools fully funded for the forthcoming year.

Councillor Yeo referred to page 18 of the presentation that set out the proposal for Community and Children's Services funding to be increased by over £15M next year and noted that this was extremely welcomed and asked what this increase would equate to in percentage terms. Councillor Yeo also supported the increases to the other budget areas and the proposed fees and charges areas to be frozen, noting the significant squeeze on the cost of living for households that included the National Insurance rise, increases in fuel and a freeze in Universal Credit. Councillor Yeo went on to say that against this difficult backdrop for households, the 1% increase in Council Tax was also welcomed alongside the proposed areas for additional investment and increase to the minimum rate of pay for Council staff and commissioned social care staff. Councillor Yeo added that the proposed budget strategy will do the right thing for residents across the County Borough and thanked officers for their work in supporting the budget setting process.

The Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services provided feedback on the question raised by Councillor Yeo in respect of what the proposed increase in the Community and Children's Services budget would equate to in percentage terms, this being an 8.9% increase.

Councillor T Williams was supportive of the proposed freezes to specific fees and charges, noting that these areas demonstrate that the Cabinet is looking to prioritise the right things. Councillor T Williams added that the proposals will prioritise the needs of the people of Rhondda Cynon Taf and was supportive of the 2022/23 budget strategy.

Mr Fish, the Parent/Governor Representative commended the schools' budget and fed back it was pleasing to see this area once again being protected, along with other Council services, and the positive position of school pay and non-pay inflationary pressures proposed to be fully funded. Mr Fish referred to the likelihood of volatile inflationary pressures during 2022/23 and requested clarity around what further support the Council could provide and also requested the period over which school meal prices will be frozen. The Service Director fed back that the proposed budget strategy has allocated all available funding to school and non-school service areas, and the Council will continue to work closely with schools to ensure the continuation of robust financial management arrangements; opportunities to deliver cost savings through areas such as the on-going effective deployment of procurement processes and energy efficiency measures; and ensuring school reserve levels are optimised to provide some flexibility to meet in-year cost pressures during the next financial year. The Service Director went on to confirm that school meal prices will be frozen for the 2022/23 financial year. Mr Fish added that he also had questions in relation to the medium-term outlook and the impact on education provision; however, as

these did not directly impact on the proposed 2022/23 budget strategy, Mr Fish indicated that he would email these to Council officers separately.

Councillor Bradwick requested an update on electric charging points, particularly in Aberdare and Pontypridd car parks and also the position with regard to trialling electric taxis. The Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services fed back that resources have been allocated to support the electric charging vehicle infrastructure within the County Borough and work is on-going to apply for external funding to also support this work. The Service Director indicated that he would obtain an update on the current position with regard to works at Aberdare and Pontypridd car parks and trialling electric taxis.

The Chair continued the discussion and noted the proposal to increase the mileage rate from 35p to 40p per mile for staff who use their vehicles for Council business at a cost of £0.118M. The Chair indicated that this equates to 2,316,000 miles being travelled per year and requested clarity on how this aligns with the Council's carbon zero ambitions by 2030 and the impact of more staff working from home as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services fed back that the 2021/22 budget strategy included a significant reduction in the budget for car mileage expenses, this reduction being achievable due to staff working from home / remotely, on-going digitisation of processes that did not require attendance at office locations and undertaking specific functions and meetings virtually via Teams / Zoom. The Service Director added that the 2022/23 proposed budget strategy includes a further, albeit lower, reduction in the car mileage budget, and reflected an overall reducing trend around the level of business mileage being required. The Service Director went on to indicate that many Council Services, due to their nature, require Council officers to incur business mileage, for example, to have face to face contact with clients from an Adult Services and Children's Services perspective, and also Public Health and Protection Services in working directly / inspecting businesses across the County Borough. The Chair wished to clarify his point that was focussed on the need for the Council to give on-going consideration to actions that would help reduce the Council's carbon footprint rather than the proposed increased to the mileage rate.

The Service Director asked if Members had any other comments in respect of budget strategy proposals and Committee Members fed back they had no further questions.

The Service Director – Finance & Improvement Services concluded the presentation by informing Members of the range of stakeholders being engaged as part of phase 2 of the consultation process and also set out the 2022/23 budget setting timetable. There were no further questions from Members and the Chair thanked the Service Director for the presentation.

SCHOOL BUDGET FORUM MEETING – 1ST FEBRUARY 2022

THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT 2022/23 REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY – PHASE 2 CONSULTATION

Extract from the minutes

With the aid of a PowerPoint Presentation, the Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services provided Members with an update in respect of the Council's Budget Consultation 2022/23 and covered the following areas: Introduction – 2022/23 Draft Revenue Budget Strategy; Council's Current Financial Position (2021/22); Phase 1 Budget Consultation – Headlines; Provisional Local Government Settlement 2022/23 – Headlines/Implications for Rhondda Cynon Taf; Cabinet Proposed Budget Strategy 2022/23; and Next steps and key dates.

Following the overview by the Service Director, Forum Members were informed that their feedback would be considered by Cabinet, alongside feedback received from all other stakeholders, as part of Cabinet meeting later in February 2022 to finalise its recommended Budget Strategy.

Forum Members were requested to provide feedback on the following questions.

Council Tax

Forum Members fed back that they agreed with the proposed 1% Council Tax increase in order to help maintain as many services as possible at the current level.

Schools Budget

Forum Members agreed that the Council should fully fund schools for next year and requested that further information be provided on the estimated pay award for next year to aid budget planning. The Service Director indicated that further information would be provided to schools as part of budget setting preparations for the forthcoming year.

Efficiencies

Forum Members agreed with the approach to efficiency savings for next year and that the Council should continue to become more efficient going forward in future years.

Fees and Charges

Forum Members agreed with the standard increase of 2.5%, in the context of the current rate of inflation being 5.4%, and agreed with the proposals for a number of specific fees and charges areas to be frozen for next year.

Use of Reserves

Forum Members noted the use of reserves and agreed with the approach taken by the Council.

Proposed Targeted Additional Investments

Forum Members agreed with the proposed targeted additional investments and the approach being taken by the Council.

Following discussion, Forum Members **RESOLVED** to note the 2022/23 Budget Consultation and for their comments to be incorporated into the Phase 2 Consultation Report to be presented to Cabinet later in February 2022.

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on Thursday, 10 February 2022 at 12.00 pm

Joint Consultative Committee Members in attendance:-

Councillor A Crimmings – Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage
Councillor R Lewis - Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Communities
Councillor R Bevan - Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Housing
Mr C Jones, Representing GMB
Mr P Crews, Representing Unison
Ms L Davies, Representing Unite Teaching Unions:
Mr M Cleverly - The Teacher's Union (NASUWT)
Ms Mererid Lewis Davies - Undeb Cenedlaethol Athrawon Cymru (UCAC)

Officers in attendance

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Mr P Griffiths, Service Director – Finance & Improvement Services

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

Extract from the minutes

2. BUDGET CONSULTATION 2022/23 (PHASE 2)

The Service Director - Finance and Improvement Services provided Members with a Powerpoint presentation on the Council's Phase 2 Budget Consultation for 2022/23 and covered the following areas:

- Introduction – 2022/23 Draft Revenue Budget Strategy
- Council's Current Financial Position (2021/22)
- Phase 1 Budget Consultation – Headlines
- Provisional Local Government Settlement 2022/23 – Headlines/Implications for Rhondda Cynon Taf
- Cabinet Proposed Budget Strategy 2022/23
- Next steps and key dates

The Service Director concluded his presentation by informing the Committee that the feedback provided by consultees as part of the Phase 2 process will be reported to Cabinet on the 28th February 2022 as part of the Cabinet finalising its recommended budget strategy for the forthcoming year.

Members of the Committee thanked the Service Director for the overview and provided the following comments for consideration by the Council's Cabinet.

Council Tax increase

Members fed back their support for the proposed 1% increase in Council Tax if this would ensure that services and jobs would be protected, and noted that an increase was part of the proposed strategy to enable a balanced budget to be set. Members also noted the rising cost of living for households across the County Borough many of which were Trade Union members.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Communities commented that the budget setting process is a balancing act, recognising the need to continue to deliver good quality services alongside residents' ability to pay. The Cabinet Member went on to indicate that the settlement from Welsh Government is more favorable than the Council had modelled, noting that this does follow 10 years of austerity, and emphasized that the indicative funding levels for years 2 and 3 included in the Settlement represent a challenge for the Council as services continue their recovery out of the pandemic and rising cost pressures for both residents and the local authority. The Cabinet Member added that in order to protect vital frontline services, a proposed 1% increase in Council Tax is the right approach to adopt.

Schools Budget

Members agreed that the Council should fully fund schools in Rhondda Cynon Taf and recognized the financial pressure they are facing, for example, the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal (Wales) Act. Members also fed back that the proposed position is positive and noted that some schools may still be faced with financial pressures to manage.

Members expressed concern that the Welsh Government Hardship Fund will cease at the end of the current financial year, even though it is likely that schools will face additional on-going costs as recovery from the pandemic continues, for example, staff absences that need to be covered with supply staff. Members asked for clarity how the hardship fund is awarded to schools and what further support could be provided to schools.

The Service Director fed back that the full year forecasted additional costs and income losses that will be incurred by the Council (including schools) as a direct result of the pandemic for 2021/22 is £30M and is reimbursed to the local authority by Welsh Government on a claims basis, noting that the claims submitted are based on actual expenditure and income losses incurred. The Service Director added that the proposed 2022/23 budget strategy has allocated all available funding to school and non-school service areas, and the Council will continue to work closely with schools to identify cost saving opportunities; ensuring school reserve levels are optimised to provide some flexibility to meet in-year cost pressures during the next financial year; and continue its dialogue with Welsh Government to explore all potential additional funding opportunities.

Social Services Funding

Members were supportive of the £15M allocation of additional funding for Community and Children's Services and the proposal for the minimum rate of pay to increase to £10

per hour, above the Real Living Wage rate of £9.90 per hour. Members went on to indicate that the pressures across social care are unprecedented and requested clarity on where the funding is proposed to be allocated, linked to its adequacy to meet all requirements, and noted that the challenges being faced are the same across Wales. One Member added that they would like consideration to be given to bring services fully in-house, for example, domiciliary care, and assurance was requested around commissioned social care providers passing on the £10 per hour minimum rate of pay to its employees.

The Service Director fed back that the proposed allocation of the £15M additional funding relates to £10M to Adult Social Care, nearly £4M to Children's Services and over £1M for Community Services that includes services such as Public Health and Protection, Libraries and Leisure Services, and added that subject to approval of the budget, Services will be allocating the funding to the required areas. With regard to commissioned service providers paying their staff the £10 minimum rate of pay, the Service Director fed back that the Council will be continuing to work closely with providers, as part of their funding arrangements, to ensure that the payment at the increased rate is in place.

Efficiency savings

A Member requested assurance that there will be no compulsory redundancies as a result of the proposed efficiency savings and another Member requested that where efficiency savings are planned, that this information is provided to Trade Union representatives to enable potential impacts to be understood and discussed.

The Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services fed back that the £4.9M efficiency savings proposed to be incorporated into the 2022/23 budget strategy have been reviewed and challenged internally and assurance is in place that they are deliverable and do not impact on frontline services. The Service Director went on to indicate that the proposed efficiency savings for 2022/23 include approved staffing restructures, ensuring full cost recovery of services, on-going effective deployment of the Council's procurement strategy, additional rental income and reductions in consumable budgets.

The Director of Human Resources also provided specific feedback in respect of no compulsory redundancies, indicating that this is the commitment rather than a guarantee, and the Council and Trade Unions have a good track record of working together to achieve this. The Director added that the Council is fully committed to continuing this approach into the future.

Members asked if buildings that are surplus to requirements have been considered for efficiencies due to the number of staff now working from home.

The Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services fed back that the 2021/22 budget strategy included building operating cost savings as a result of services revising their operating arrangements due to the pandemic. The Service Director added that a Built Asset Review is currently underway taking into account current and future service needs and on-going revisions to working arrangements, and indicated that the outcome of this work will help inform the Council's medium to long term asset / building requirements in line with service need and ensure continued efficient use of resources.

Fees and Charges

Members were generally supportive of the standard increase to fees and charges and specific charges being frozen on the basis of the proposals protecting jobs, for example, in Leisure Services, and that pricings remain competitive.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Communities fed back that the strategy in respect of Leisure Services is to keep pricing competitive alongside a high quality offer, and although there had been a drop in Leisure membership during the pandemic as a result of facilities being closed / restricted use of facilities, he reassured Members that the Service is working hard to attract back previous members and also new members.

Targeted Investment

Members were supportive of the targeted investment proposals and fed back they are critical areas and help the Council to secure jobs. Members noted that the £25 charge for pest control services and suggested that this could be a means tested charge to support families on low incomes, with reference made to challenges a specific community were facing, but still recognising there needs to be a charge for the service.

The Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Housing stated that work is on-going to ensure people are encouraged to take litter home and are made aware of the impact of fly tipping, and also the continuation of close working with public sector partners to help combat this issue. The Cabinet Member indicated that the approach to charging could be considered and noted that the principle of continuing to apply a competitive charge for the service is a responsible way forward.

A Member also requested clarity around whether the additional funding to increase the minimum rate of pay to £10 per hour also included any implications of maintaining pay differentials. The Service Director fed back that the £550k proposed additional investment related specifically to the £10 per hour minimum rate of pay and any pay differential implications would be considered with the relevant service areas, as required.

Use of Reserves

Members were supportive of the proposal to use £970k from transitional funding to bridge the funding gap in the proposed budget strategy and requested feed back on the impact on the level of Council Tax if transition funding was not used. Another Member requested clarity on if the provisional Local Government Settlement was likely to change as part of the final settlement announcement.

The Service Director fed back that Council Tax would need to increase by approximately an additional 1% based on the option of not using transition funding and funding the gap from Council Tax. With regard to the provisional settlement, the Service Director indicated that whilst there is the possibility of the settlement changing at the final settlement stage, the indications from Welsh Government are that this is unlikely to be the case.



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

9th MARCH 2022

COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & DIGITAL SERVICES

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

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The report provides Members with details of the calculation of the Authority's Council Tax for the financial year ending 31st March 2023 prior to passing the necessary statutory resolutions.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Members:

- i) Note the level of the precept from the Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales;
- ii) Note the level of the Community Council Precepts, as detailed in Appendix 1;
- iii) Pass the formal Council Tax resolutions for the financial year ending 31st March 2023, as contained in Appendix 2; and
- iv) Note my comments upon robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves as detailed at paragraph 9.2.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 At the Cabinet meeting held on 15th November 2021, Members confirmed the Council Tax Base for 2022/23 as £77,707.00. This means that each £1 of Council

Tax levied on dwellings within the County Borough in 2022/23 would yield an estimated Council Tax income to the Authority of £77,707.

- 3.2 Earlier in today's meeting Council was asked to agree the total budget for the financial year ending 31st March 2023, at £566.792M (net), the result of that earlier decision will be reported by the Council's Section 151 Officer.

4.0 NON-DOMESTIC RATES

- 4.1 On 16th February 2022, Welsh Government provided notification of the Non-Domestic Rate multiplier (rate in the pound) for 2022/23 at 53.5p (no change from the current year). The multiplier rate is normally updated based on the annual percentage change in the CPI (Consumer Price Index) but for the forthcoming financial year Welsh Government have determined to "freeze" the multiplier.

5.0 GOVERNMENT GRANTS

- 5.1 The Council will receive the following grants from the Welsh Government in 2022/23:

Table 1

Type of Grant	£M
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	355.822
Redistributed Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)	85.619
Total	441.441

6.0 POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR SOUTH WALES - PRECEPT

- 6.1 The Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales notified the Council on 8th February 2022 that the precept for the financial year ending 31st March 2023 will rise by **5.69%** to £23,476,062 which equates to a Council Tax on a Band D property of £302.11, an increase of **5.0%**.

7.0 COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRECEPTS

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

8.0 COUNCIL TAX LEVELS FOR 2022/23

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

Table 2

2022/23 Net Budget Requirement

	Budget	Band D Equivalent
	£M	£. p
2022/23 Net Revenue Spending	566.792	
Less: Revenue Support Grant	355.822	
Less: Non Domestic Rate Grant	85.619	
Less: Social Care Workforce Grant	3.668	
Sub-Total	121.683	
Less: Release of Earmarked Reserves	0.963	
Council's Requirement from Taxpayers	120.720	1,553.53
Add: Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales Precept	23.476	302.11
2022/23 Council Tax	144.196	1,855.64

- 8.2 If agreed at the Council meeting earlier today, the County Borough Council's revenue budget for the financial year ending 31st March 2023 will result in a Council Tax increase of 1.00% (excluding Community Council precepts).
- 8.3 However, the 5.0% Band D increase agreed by the Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales will have the effect of raising the composite Band D Council Tax by **1.63%** (excluding Community Council precepts).
- 8.4 The figures in Table 2 above exclude Community Council Precepts. Those taxpayers living in areas where a Community Council Precept is payable will, therefore, have to pay an additional amount. The Band D figures for Community Councils are shown in Appendix 1.

9.0 ROBUSTNESS OF ESTIMATES AND ADEQUACY OF RESERVES HELD

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

(a) Robustness of Estimates

I am satisfied that the detailed calculations which underpin the agreed budget have been undertaken in a consistent and robust manner and reflect actual budgetary requirements across the Council at this point in time. As part of the budget process, efficiency savings have been identified which, along with other components of the budget strategy have allowed us to match service requirements against available resources.

Welsh Government support to fund costs arising as a direct consequence of the pandemic has continued through the 2021/22 financial year via the Hardship Fund. WG have stated that they do not intend to continue to provide such additional support going forward and that councils will have to manage these implications through the additional resources provided in the settlement. The Council will need to monitor the financial implications closely moving forward, using any flexibility afforded within its available reserves to transition any permanent additional costs into the base budget over the medium term.

Our budget requirements are also modelled on a best estimate of demand across our services; we will continue to closely monitor spend against our budget in the knowledge that there may be volatility in demand and spend (for example in social care) as we recover from the pandemic.

(b) Adequacy of Financial Reserves

It remains my view that the Council should maintain a minimum level of General Fund Balances of £10M. I consider this necessary given the continuing financial pressures the Council is working under and the overall quantum of our budget (for 2022/23 set at £566.792M net). Whilst this reflects the view we have held for some years, this minimum level is set in the context of the need for continued strong financial management that is felt to be essential to ensure that the Council maintains financial flexibility and stability going forward.

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

At the 31st March 2021, the level of General Fund Balances stood at £8.505M and I am satisfied that plans are in place to replenish General Fund Balances to the minimum level over the period of the Council's current Medium Term Financial Plan with £0.5M built into our base budget from 2021/22.

10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Due regard has been given to the Council's public sector equality duties under the Equality Act 2010, namely the Public Sector Equality Duty and Socio-Economic Duty.

10.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and concluded that the recommendations set out in the report are in line with the above legislation.

11.0 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The allocation of resources, as set out in the 2022/23 Revenue Budget Strategy, is based on supporting the Council's service delivery requirements and associated statutory responsibilities for the forthcoming year. In doing so, the Strategy (that includes the required funding to be raised from local Council Tax payers) is in line with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

12.0 CONSULTATION

12.1 Consultation on the level of Council Tax for the forthcoming year has been undertaken as part of the Council's 2022/23 Budget Strategy Consultation process.

13.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

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

14.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

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

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

15.1 The recommended budget and council tax level for 2022/23 have been formulated to support the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities, as set out within the Corporate Plan "Making a Difference" 2020-2024. The Council's Corporate Plan is aligned to the goals and principles included within the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

16.0 CONCLUSION

16.1 Should the Council agree the net revenue budget at £566.792M for 2022/23, it is now in a position to pass the formal resolution required by statute to set the respective levels of its Council Tax for the financial year ending 31st March 2023.

Community Council Precepts - 2022/23

Community Area	2022/23 Precept	Band D	Precept Variance to Previous Year
Gilfach Goch	£107,430.00	£106.40	411.6%
Hirwaun	£79,030.09	£48.00	22.8%
Llanharan	£243,094.00	£75.40	22.3%
Llanharry	£111,737.00	£70.00	0.1%
Llantrisant	£278,278.00	£52.00	20.5%
Llantwit Fardre	£304,795.00	£46.27	19.9%
Pontyclun	£132,584.00	£38.10	3.5%
Pontypridd	£763,171.99	£73.19	2.3%
Rhigos	£16,500.00	£58.88	3.1%
Taffs Well	£37,259.00	£26.29	3.9%
Tonyrefail	£244,562.80	£60.54	1.4%
Ynysybwl & Coed-y-Cwm	£57,000.00	£40.05	0.0%
Total	£2,375,441.88		

Appendix 2

It is recommended that Members:

1. Confirm, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995 (as amended) made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), the following amounts for the year 2022/23:

(a) £77,707.00 being the amount calculated by the Council as the Council Tax Base for the year;

(b) Parts of the Council's area

Community Area	2022/23 Tax Base
Gilfach Goch	£1,009.67
Hirwaun	£1,646.55
Llanharan	£3,224.19
Llanharry	£1,596.25
Llantrisant	£5,351.50
Llantwit Fardre	£6,587.36
Pontyclun	£3,479.44
Pontypridd	£10,426.58
Rhigos	£280.22
Taffs Well	£1,417.26
Tonyrefail	£4,039.69
Ynysybwl & Coed-y-Cwm	£1,423.28

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

Appendix 2

2. Agree that the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Section 32 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act, 1992:
- (a) **£782,554,555.14** ~ being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (d) of the Act;
 - (b) **£218,443,257.27** ~ being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act;
 - (c) **£564,111,297.88** ~ being the amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year;
 - (d) **£441,015,703.00** ~ being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of Revenue Support Grant and redistributed Non-Domestic Rates (less discretionary Non-Domestic Rate relief);
 - (e) **£1,584.10**~ being the amount at 2(c) above less the amount at 2(d) above, all divided by amount at 1(a) above calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;
 - (f) **£2,375,441.88** ~ being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act;
 - (g) **£1,553.53** ~ being the amount at 2(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2(f) above by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates;

Appendix 2

(h) Parts of the Council's Area:

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

Community Area	Band D
Gilfach Goch	£106.40
Hirwaun	£48.00
Llanharan	£75.40
Llanharry	£70.00
Llantrisant	£52.00
Llantwit Fardre	£46.27
Pontyclun	£38.10
Pontypridd	£73.19
Rhigos	£58.88
Taffs Well	£26.29
Tonyrefail	£60.54
Ynysybwl & Coed-y-Cwm	£40.05

Appendix 2

(i) Parts of the Council's Area

Local Precepting Authority	Band A (£.p)	Band B (£.p)	Band C (£.p)	Band D (£.p)	Band E (£.p)	Band F (£.p)	Band G (£.p)	Band H (£.p)	Band I (£.p)
Gilfach Goch	1,106.62	1,291.06	1,475.50	1,659.93	2,028.80	2,397.68	2,766.55	3,319.86	3,873.17
Hirwaun	1,067.69	1,245.63	1,423.59	1,601.53	1,957.43	2,313.32	2,669.22	3,203.06	3,736.90
Llanharan	1,085.96	1,266.94	1,447.94	1,628.93	1,990.92	2,352.90	2,714.89	3,257.86	3,800.83
Llanharry	1,082.36	1,262.74	1,443.14	1,623.53	1,984.32	2,345.10	2,705.89	3,247.06	3,788.23
Llantrisant	1,070.36	1,248.74	1,427.14	1,605.53	1,962.32	2,319.10	2,675.89	3,211.06	3,746.23
Llantwit Fardre	1,066.54	1,244.29	1,422.05	1,599.80	1,955.31	2,310.82	2,666.34	3,199.60	3,732.86
Pontyclun	1,061.09	1,237.93	1,414.79	1,591.63	1,945.33	2,299.02	2,652.72	3,183.26	3,713.80
Pontypridd	1,084.48	1,265.23	1,445.98	1,626.72	1,988.21	2,349.71	2,711.20	3,253.44	3,795.68
Rhigos	1,074.94	1,254.10	1,433.26	1,612.41	1,970.72	2,329.04	2,687.35	3,224.82	3,762.29
Taffs Well	1,053.22	1,228.75	1,404.29	1,579.82	1,930.89	2,281.96	2,633.04	3,159.64	3,686.24
Tonyrefail	1,076.05	1,255.39	1,434.73	1,614.07	1,972.75	2,331.44	2,690.12	3,228.14	3,766.16
Ynysybwl & Coed-y-Cwm	1,062.39	1,239.45	1,416.52	1,593.58	1,947.71	2,301.84	2,655.97	3,187.16	3,718.35
All Other Parts of Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,035.69	1,208.30	1,380.92	1,553.53	1,898.76	2,243.99	2,589.22	3,107.06	3,624.90

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

Appendix 2

3. Note that for the year 2022/23, the Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Major Precepting Authority	Band A (£.p)	Band B (£.p)	Band C (£.p)	Band D (£.p)	Band E (£.p)	Band F (£.p)	Band G (£.p)	Band H (£.p)	Band I (£.p)
Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales	201.41	234.97	268.54	302.11	369.25	436.38	503.52	604.22	704.92

4. Agree that having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(i) and 3 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2022/23 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Total Council Tax Demand	Band A (£.p)	Band B (£.p)	Band C (£.p)	Band D (£.p)	Band E (£.p)	Band F (£.p)	Band G (£.p)	Band H (£.p)	Band I (£.p)
Gilfach Goch	1,308.03	1,526.03	1,744.04	1,962.04	2,398.05	2,834.06	3,270.07	3,924.08	4,578.09
Hirwaun	1,269.10	1,480.60	1,692.13	1,903.64	2,326.68	2,749.70	3,172.74	3,807.28	4,441.82
Llanharan	1,287.37	1,501.91	1,716.48	1,931.04	2,360.17	2,789.28	3,218.41	3,862.08	4,505.75
Llanharry	1,283.77	1,497.71	1,711.68	1,925.64	2,353.57	2,781.48	3,209.41	3,851.28	4,493.15
Llantrisant	1,271.77	1,483.71	1,695.68	1,907.64	2,331.57	2,755.48	3,179.41	3,815.28	4,451.15
Llantwit Fardre	1,267.95	1,479.26	1,690.59	1,901.91	2,324.56	2,747.20	3,169.86	3,803.82	4,437.78
Pontyclun	1,262.50	1,472.90	1,683.33	1,893.74	2,314.58	2,735.40	3,156.24	3,787.48	4,418.72
Pontypridd	1,285.89	1,500.20	1,714.52	1,928.83	2,357.46	2,786.09	3,214.72	3,857.66	4,500.60
Rhigos	1,276.35	1,489.07	1,701.80	1,914.52	2,339.97	2,765.42	3,190.87	3,829.04	4,467.21
Taffs Well	1,254.63	1,463.72	1,672.83	1,881.93	2,300.14	2,718.34	3,136.56	3,763.86	4,391.16
Tonyrefail	1,277.46	1,490.36	1,703.27	1,916.18	2,342.00	2,767.82	3,193.64	3,832.36	4,471.08
Ynysybwl & Coed-y-Cwm	1,263.80	1,474.42	1,685.06	1,895.69	2,316.96	2,738.22	3,159.49	3,791.38	4,423.27
All Other Parts of Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,237.10	1,443.27	1,649.46	1,855.64	2,268.01	2,680.37	3,092.74	3,711.28	4,329.82



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021-2022

COUNCIL

9th MARCH 2022

THE COUNCIL'S THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 – 2024/25

REPORT OF THE CABINET

**AUTHOR: BARRIE DAVIES, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES
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1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report sets out the Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2024/25, following receipt of the final local government settlement for 2022/23.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

2.1 Note the detail of the final 2022/23 local government settlement for capital expenditure, reproduced at Appendix 1;

2.2 Agree to the proposed reallocation of existing resources, and allocation of new resources as detailed in paragraph 5;

2.3 Agree to allocate the funding identified in the report to the investment priorities as detailed in paragraph 6.2;

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

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

- Prudential borrowing to support Sustainable Communities for Learning Schemes (formerly 21st Century Schools) and Highways Improvements schemes;
- Capital grants for specific schemes;
- Third party contributions;
- Additional Council resources previously allocated to support existing schemes and Corporate Plan investment priorities; and

- The investment priorities detailed in paragraph 6.2.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will be aware that each year the Council is allocated a sum of unhyphothocated “Supported” borrowing and General Capital Grant from the Welsh Government (WG). Details of the final allocation for 2022/23 are shown at Appendix 1. The funding for 2022/23 totals £11.599M.
- 3.2 Members will recall that last year’s Capital Settlement included the continuation of an additional £35M at an all Wales level, which was not included as funding for our core programme due to a lack of clarity over its continuation. Our Core Programme was therefore retained at a level which did not rely on this additional funding.
- 3.3 It is now proposed that we maintain our core programme at its existing level (£14.100M).
- 3.4 In so doing and in light of latest capital receipt forecasts and use of capital reserves, we would require to use £10.985M of the WG General Capital Funding, with a remaining balance of £0.614M which can be used to fund Investment Priorities over and above the core programme as set out at paragraph 6.2.
- 3.5 WG’s final budget includes indicative General Capital Funding of £200M (all Wales) for 2023/24 and 2024/25 which includes £20M each year in respect of decarbonisation. It is proposed that any additional resources are considered as part of future Investment Priority reviews outside of our Core Programme.
- 3.6 The wider overall capital programme however includes approved prudential borrowing, specific grants and agreed additional investment in our key priorities.

4.0 THE NEW THREE YEAR PROGRAMME (2022/23 TO 2024/25)

- 4.1 The proposed new 3 year capital programme for 2022/23 to 2024/25 represents a total investment of **£148.770M**. This comprises:
- A Core programme of £42.300M over the next 3 years;
 - Prudential borrowing of £12.791M to support the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme and Highways Improvements schemes;
 - Specific grants of £24.314M;
 - Third party contributions of £0.272M;
 - Earmarked reserves and revenue contributions previously allocated to schemes and investment priorities of £39.645M;
 - Capital resources, in addition to the 3 year core allocation, of £15.227M; and
 - Allocated earmarked reserves of £0.214M, reallocated existing funding of £3.155M, flexibility provided by additional external funding of £9.852M and £1.000M proposed in the 2022/23 Revenue Budget Strategy to fund the proposed investment priorities detailed in paragraph 6.2.
- 4.2 Having due regard to the level of available capital resources, both from WG and

from our own capital receipts, the new core programme for 2022/23 to 2024/25 is set at £14.1M per year. This represents a fully funded £42.3M core programme across the 3 years.

- 4.3 There remains a risk that the projected capital receipts are less than anticipated and projections will continue to be closely monitored.
- 4.4 Whilst allocating core resources for three years, there remains the requirement for us to continue to review and challenge any commitments made into years two and three, to robustly monitor capital receipt projections and to position ourselves to respond as appropriate and necessary as we move forward.
- 4.5 Given the timing of external funding approval processes, it will be necessary to maintain flexibility of funding across individual schemes in order to ensure the most efficient delivery of the overall programme.
- 4.6 Details of the overall capital programme for the 3 year period are set out in Section 7 of this report.

5.0 FURTHER AVAILABLE FUNDING

- 5.1 The Council has maintained an Investment/Infrastructure reserve for a number of years to fund the cost of maintaining and enhancing infrastructure across the County Borough. The balance of this reserve at 31st March 2021 was £9.497M, and following release of £6.500M agreed by Council on 29th September 2021, £2.997M is available to fund further investment priorities.
- 5.2 Our capital expenditure and commitments are closely monitored across the 3 year period of the programme and it is not unusual for spend to slip into future years and present opportunities for the reallocation of resources. In this regard an amount of £2.158M has been identified which can be reprioritised without adversely impacting on wider programme delivery and whilst maintaining the new core programme.
- 5.3 The Council's Revenue Budget Strategy for 2022/23 proposes an amount of £1.000M as a base budget for funding investment to support Corporate Plan priorities. Subject to Council agreeing the Revenue Budget Strategy, this £1.000M budget is proposed to be included in the resources available for investment priorities in the capital programme.
- 5.4 The Council has also received and been successful in securing additional external funding in the form of specific grants during 2021/22. Additional grants have related to WG Capital and Revenue Maintenance for schools, WG Regeneration grants and UK Government's Levelling Up Funding. This additional funding provides flexibility to reallocate our own existing resources within the capital programme which amount to £5.084M.
- 5.5 Finally, WG have recently announced additional General Capital Grant for 2021/22 which, in line with accounting rules and the conditions of funding, can be used to support spend during 2022/23. At an all Wales level the additional funding amounts to £70M which provides this Council with additional resource of £5.418M.

5.6 A summary of this additional available funding is provided in the table below:

Additional Funding	£M
Infrastructure Reserve	2.997
Reprioritised Existing Funding	2.158
Revenue Budget 2022/23	1.000
Additional External Funding	5.084
General Capital Grant 2022/23	0.614
Additional General Capital Grant 2021/22 – 2022/23	5.418
Total Additional Funding	17.271

6.0 INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

6.1 The Cabinet believe that the most appropriate use of these one off resources is to continue to invest in our infrastructure and to support the aspirations and priorities of the Corporate Plan.

6.2 In being able to support the above objectives, Cabinet have identified the following specific areas which it is proposed that Council agree to be invested in:

Investment Priority	£M
Highways Maintenance	3.000
Unadopted Roads	0.500
Highways Structures	1.500
Llanharan Link Road	2.000
Making Better Use/Traffic Developments	0.150
Parks Structures	0.500
Parks & Green Spaces	2.400
Play Areas	0.250
Schools	2.571
Empty Properties Grants	1.000
Electric Vehicles Charging	0.350
Investment Programme – Pipeline Development/Capacity (revenue allocation)	0.250
Total Council Investment	14.471

6.3 The above investment priorities can be funded from the resources identified at paragraph 5.6, with the remaining resource amounting to £2.800M being retained in our Investment / Infrastructure reserve to fund future priorities.

6.4 Further details on these investments are included in section 7.

7.0 THE THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 – 2024/25

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

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S GROUP

- 7.2 The latest projections show expected full year capital spend of £4.419M for the Chief Executive's Group in 2021/22.
- 7.3 The total resources for 2022/23, as outlined in the proposed three-year Capital Programme is £2.909M.
- 7.4 As identified in 6.2 additional investment has been provided in Chief Executives Services in the following areas:
- Electric Vehicle Charging - £0.350M.

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

- 7.5 As part of the Council's on-going programme to ensure high standards of health and safety and operational efficiency within its premises, appropriate resources continue to be allocated to our operational accommodation, the management and remediation of Asbestos and Legionella and resources for energy efficiency/carbon reduction measures across our property estate. The additional investment of £0.350M will support the delivery of the Council's Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy & Implementation Plan.

PROSPERITY, DEVELOPMENT AND FRONTLINE SERVICES

- 7.6 The latest projections show expected full year capital spend of £83.109M for Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services in 2021/22.
- 7.7 The total resources for 2022/23, as outlined in the proposed three-year Capital Programme is £52.567M.
- 7.8 As identified in 6.2 additional investment has been provided in Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services in the following areas:
- Highways Maintenance - £3.500M
 - Highways Structures - £1.500M
 - Parks Structures Improvements - £0.500M
 - Transport Infrastructure - £2.150M (Llanharan Link Road, Making Better Use/Traffic Developments)
 - Empty Properties Grants - £1.000M

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

PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT

- 7.9 The Council's Capital Programme continues to provide a long-term funding commitment to the economic regeneration of the County Borough and in doing so supports one of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities: 'Prosperity – Creating the opportunity for people and businesses to: be innovative; be entrepreneurial; and

fulfil their potential and prosper’.

- 7.10 In addition to the above, sustained investment has been maintained across a range of funding streams, supported by external funding and the Corporate Plan Investment Priorities. This has enabled a wide range of regeneration activity to be delivered to benefit the local economy.
- 7.11 The Council will continue to work with partners to develop and progress exciting and innovative schemes such as:
- Development of modern business accommodation with new units at Robertstown, Aberdare;
 - Townscape Enhancements across our key town centres – a targeted approach to acquiring, redeveloping and 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. This will be supported by the development and delivery of strategies and placemaking plans for our key town centres;
 - Development of a new integrated Transport Hub at Porth as part of the Porth Town Centre Regeneration Strategy;
 - New sources of funding are being accessed to bring forward investment such as the UK Government Levelling Up Fund where successful bids have been made for the Muni Arts Centre Redevelopment, Porth Transport Hub and A4119 Dualling projects;
 - Strategic Opportunity Areas – a number of Strategic Opportunity Areas have been developed to deliver economic growth and job creation in Rhondda Cynon Taf. These areas are:
 - Cynon Gateway – Energising the Region;
 - The Wider Pontypridd, Treforest – Edge of the City, heart of the Region;
 - Pontypridd Town – Pivotal in the Region;
 - A4119 Corridor – Regional Rhondda Gateway; and
 - Llanilid on the M4 – Driving the Regional Economy.
- 7.12 The programme of regeneration projects will add value to the significant regeneration investment that has already taken place and will act as a catalyst for further regeneration activity.

PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING

- 7.13 A budget for 2022/23 of £8.990M has been allocated and the programme comprises the following schemes to contribute to one of the Council’s Corporate Plan Priorities: ‘People – Are independent, healthy and successful’:
- Disabled Facilities Grants
 - Maintenance Repair Assistance Grants
 - Renovation Grants in Exceptional Circumstances
 - Empty Properties Grants scheme;
 - Community Regeneration budget which provides grants to support a number of initiatives underpinning the affordable warmth and energy efficiency agenda;
 - Affordable Housing;
 - Tackling Poverty Fund.

FRONTLINE SERVICES

Highways Technical Services

- 7.14 A budget for 2022/23 of £11.203M has been allocated to the next phase of the Council's Highways Improvement programme and in doing so supports one of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities: 'Places – Where people are proud to live, work and play'. Schemes comprise:
- Road surface treatments and resurfacing – £4.600M;
 - Car park improvements – £0.045M;
 - Major repairs to structures such as bridges and walls – £5.650M;
 - Parks Structures Improvements - £0.548M;
 - Street lighting replacement and upgrades – £0.200M; and
 - Traffic Management - £0.160M.

Strategic Projects

- 7.15 A budget for 2022/23 of £15.162M has been allocated to Strategic Projects for major transportation infrastructure schemes and to extend and enhance the programme of pinch-point and highways network improvement projects as well as road safety, traffic management and drainage improvements. Schemes comprise:
- Transportation Infrastructure which includes Park & Ride schemes, Llanharan Link Road, A4119 Coed Ely Dualling, Cynon Gateway North, Gelli – Treorchy Link Road, and the Making Better Use programme – £15.007M; and
 - Drainage Improvements – £0.155M.
- 7.16 The Welsh Government grant position is evolving as a result of the 3-year funding settlement. It is anticipated that overall grant funding will reduce for 2022/23 before recovering in subsequent years. Consequently the general advice is that most funding streams will be restricted to bids that are a continuation of work undertaken in previous years. In addition, the Roads Review will have a bearing on funding, with some road schemes potentially being included in the Review and consequently excluded from funding. Clarity on this aspect is anticipated ahead of the final deadline for bid submission. A number of individual grants, such as Resilient Roads fund, have now been incorporated into the Local Transport Fund grant. Bids for various funds returned during January and February are expected to be confirmed during March. Bids have also been submitted for "Small Scale" flood alleviation schemes with the upper limit of funding for individual schemes seeing an uplift from £150k to £200k.
- 7.17 A supplementary report on the detail of proposed schemes for Highways, Transportation & Strategic Projects will be presented to Cabinet shortly.

Storm Dennis Flood Recovery

- 7.18 Following the unprecedented weather events of Storm Dennis in February 2020, the Council will have already spent £19M on the immediate response and subsequent recovery works (this also includes some costs relating to Storm Christoph in January 2021) by the end of March 2022.
- 7.19 Funding of £6.441M has already been secured in respect of further works during

2022/23 with remaining works estimated to be in excess of £27M. There are a significant number of schemes ongoing to repair and replace bridges, river walls and retaining walls, as well as a work programme to deal with coal spoil tip safety, including the remediation process following Tylorstown landslip. Funding for the recovery work is provided by WG on an annual basis and the Council continues to work closely with WG to ensure funding is increased and secured during the financial year to maintain the momentum of the recovery programme.

WASTE STRATEGY

7.20 The budget for 2022/23 is £1.000M. This relates to the Eco Park at Bryn Pica.

FLEET

7.21 The 3 year rolling programme for replacement vehicles continues. The 3 year allocation is £7.719M. This service area is subject to ongoing assessment and continuous review of requirements.

EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES

7.22 The latest projections show expected full year capital spend of £31.806M for Education & Inclusion in 2021/22.

7.23 The total resources available to Education & Inclusion for 2022/23, as outlined in the proposed three-year Capital Programme is £26.128M and will support one of the Council's Corporate Plan priorities: 'Prosperity – Creating the opportunity for people and businesses to: be innovative; be entrepreneurial; and fulfil their potential and prosper'.

7.24 As identified in 6.2 additional investment has been provided in Education & Inclusion Services, in the following areas:

- Schools - £2.571M

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

SCHOOLS

7.25 The Council will continue to deliver and support its long-term strategic investment programme of modernisation to create school environments that meet the needs of our communities and provide the best learning provision and outcomes for young people and the wider community. The programme of capital investment is supported with Council funding, WG Sustainable Communities for Learning (previously the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme) and Community Infrastructure Levy funding.

7.26 In this regard, investment totalling £212M has already been made in our schools with this anticipated to increase to £445M by 2025/26.

7.27 The following key school projects are either in progress or planned, and are included in the overall strategic programme and include a combination of

refurbishments, remodelling, demolitions and new buildings:

- Ffynnon Taf Primary – to create a community room/childcare facility and construct a four-classroom extension and hall to increase capacity at the school;
- Cwmlai Primary – to deliver dedicated childcare facilities on the school site, to expand identified need in the community and refurbish areas of the existing school. School capacity to be increased;
- YGG Llyn Y Forwyn – to create a brand new school on a new site in the Rhondda Fach, increasing Welsh medium capacity and providing community facilities;
- Y Pant Extension – phase 1 will deliver a four-classroom extension to increase the capacity at the school to accommodate growth as a result of housing developments in the area;
- YG Rhydywaun – to construct a new teaching block to increase the capacity at the school and provide brand new learning environments including sports facilities that will be available for the wider community;
- YGG Aberdar – to construct a four-classroom extension to increase capacity; car parking provision; and to create a dedicated meithrin, to expand identified need in the community delivering additional fee-paying child-care services for the area.

PLANNED MINOR CAPITAL WORKS

- 7.28 The planned minor capital works programme allocation for 2022/23 is £8.230M. The allocation includes an on-going rolling programme for kitchen refurbishments/remodelling, window & door replacements, essential works, electrical rewiring, fire alarm upgrades, toilet refurbishments, Equalities Act/compliance works, access condition surveys, boiler replacements, roof renewals, asbestos remediation works, 21st Century classroom upgrades, external improvements, capitalisation of IT hardware/software & licences and improvements to schools.
- 7.29 A supplementary report detailing proposals of works for consideration within the above-mentioned programme will be presented to Cabinet shortly.

COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- 7.30 The latest projections show expected full year capital spend of £8.326M for Community and Children's Services in 2021/22.
- 7.31 The total resources available to Community and Children's Services for 2022/23, as outlined in the proposed three year Capital Programme, is £12.396M.
- 7.32 As identified in 6.2 additional investment has been provided in Community and Children's Services in the following areas:
- Parks & Green Spaces - £2.400M
 - Play Areas - £0.250M

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

ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- 7.33 The programme for Adult and Children's Services includes a budget of £4.931M in 2022/23. This will continue to fund the essential refurbishment and improvement works to the Council's Adult & Children's Services establishments, including the extra-care programme, in line with care standards and health & safety legislation. Also included are additional costs associated with Telecare Services.
- 7.34 These investments will support one of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities: 'People – Are independent, healthy and successful'.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND PROTECTION

- 7.35 The Public Health and Protection programme has a budget of £7.465M in 2022/23. This budget is allocated across the ongoing rolling programmes for Parks Improvements, Cemeteries and Community Safety measures. Also included in this budget are allocations for investment and improvement works at Leisure Centres and Play Areas. The redevelopment of the Muni Arts Centre is also included in this programme. These areas of investment support one of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities: 'Places – Where people are proud to live, work and play'.

8.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 8.1 Due regard has been given to the Council's public sector equality duties under the Equality Act 2010, namely the Public Sector Equality Duty and Socio-Economic Duty.
- 8.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and concluded that the recommendations set out in the report are in line with the above legislation.

9.0 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no Welsh language implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.

10.0 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 Consultation and engagement has been undertaken as part of formulating the revised programme and this was also built into the wider consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the recommended 2022/23 Revenue Budget Strategy, particularly in respect of investment priorities and community benefits.

11.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

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

12.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

12.1 The Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2024/25 complies fully with all legal requirements.

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

13.1 The Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2024/25 has been formulated to support the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities, as set out within the Corporate Plan "Making a Difference" 2020 – 2024, with these documents being aligned to the goals and principles included within the Well-Being of Future Generations Act.

14.0 CONCLUSIONS

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

14.2 This report sets out the capital investment priorities for the Council through to March 2025. It represents an ambitious and significant level of investment (£148.770M) over the next 3 years.

14.3 The programme includes some element of slippage identified throughout 2021/22, which is subject to change when final spend for the capital programme is known and the 2021/22 accounts are finalised. Any changes to slippage will be reported to Members in the quarterly performance reports.

14.4 This report has also identified the opportunity to invest £14.471M of additional resources in our local area including our own assets in order to improve the services which are available to our residents.

14.5 As the year progresses, changes will be made to the programme, for example where new schemes can be supported by specific grants. Approval from Members will be sought as these opportunities arise throughout 2022/23.

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Table 2a: Breakdown of General Capital Funding (GCF), by Unitary Authority, 2022-23 (£'000s)

Final Settlement

Unitary Authority	General Capital Funding 2022-23	of which: General Capital Grant	of which: Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing
Isle of Anglesey	3,643	1,486	2,157
Gwynedd	6,880	2,807	4,073
Conwy	5,786	2,361	3,425
Denbighshire	5,103	2,082	3,021
Flintshire	6,794	2,772	4,022
Wrexham	5,880	2,399	3,481
Powys	7,762	3,167	4,595
Ceredigion	4,891	1,995	2,896
Pembrokeshire	6,342	2,587	3,755
Carmarthenshire	10,037	4,095	5,942
Swansea	10,722	4,375	6,347
Neath Port Talbot	7,488	3,055	4,433
Bridgend	6,678	2,725	3,953
The Vale of Glamorgan	5,829	2,378	3,451
Rhondda Cynon Taf	11,599	4,732	6,867
Merthyr Tydfil	2,632	1,074	1,558
Caerphilly	8,157	3,328	4,829
Blaenau Gwent	3,207	1,308	1,899
Torfaen	4,499	1,836	2,663
Monmouthshire	4,107	1,676	2,431
Newport	6,928	2,827	4,101
Cardiff	15,036	6,135	8,901
Total unitary authorities	150,000	61,200	88,800

PROPOSED "CORE" THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME

2022 / 2025

SERVICE GROUPS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	£M	£M	£M
Chief Executive's Group	1.325	1.325	1.325
Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services	7.870	7.870	7.870
Education & Inclusion Services	3.915	3.915	3.915
Community & Children's Services	0.990	0.990	0.990
Total Capital Expenditure	14.100	14.100	14.100

Estimated Resources Required to Fund Capital Programme

Welsh Government General Capital Funding

Supported borrowing	6.867	6.867	6.867
General Capital Grant	4.732	4.732	4.732
Total WG Funding	11.599	11.599	11.599

Additional one off WG capital funding reallocated to fund Investment Priorities

- 0.614 - 0.614 - 0.614

Total Available to fund the Core Programme

10.985 10.985 10.985

Council Resources

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

14.100 14.100 14.100

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2022 - 2025			
	2022/2023 Budget	2023/2024 Budget	2024/2025 Budget	Total 3 Year Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Finance & Digital Services

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

Corporate Estates

Major repair/refurbishment and/or rationalisation of Service Group Accommodation	150	150	150	450
Strategic Maintenance	50	50	50	150
Asset Management Planning	50	50	50	150
Asbestos Management	175	175	175	525
Asbestos Remediation Works	50	50	50	150
Legionella Remediation Works	275	275	275	825
Legionella Management	175	175	175	525
Carbon Reduction Programme	934	350	350	1,634
Electric Vehicles Charging	350	0	0	350
Total Corporate Estates	2,209	1,275	1,275	4,759

Group Total	2,909	1,975	1,975	6,859
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**Chief Executive
Service Director - Finance Services**

**Chris Bradshaw
Martyn Hughes**

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2022 - 2025			
	2022/2023 Budget	2023/2024 Budget	2024/2025 Budget	Total 3 Year Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Prosperity & Development				
Planning & Regeneration				
Enterprise Investment Fund	200	200	200	600
Regeneration Investment	1,185	835	400	2,420
Robertstown Development	163	0	0	163
Porth Interchange Metro+ LTF	5,435	504	0	5,939
Total Planning & Regeneration	6,983	1,539	600	9,122
Private Sector Housing				
Disabled Facilities Grants/Adaptations (DFG)	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000
Maintenance Repair Assistance (MRA)	450	450	450	1,350
Renovation Grants Exceptional Circumstances & Home Improvement Zones	530	450	450	1,430
Empty Properties Grants Investment	2,500	0	0	2,500
Affordable Housing	800	1,536	0	2,336
Tackling Poverty Fund	200	0	0	200
Community Regeneration	510	250	250	1,010
Total Private Sector Housing	8,990	6,686	5,150	20,826
Total Prosperity & Development	15,973	8,225	5,750	29,948
Frontline Services				
Highways Technical Services				
Highways Improvements	4,600	1,100	1,100	6,800
Car Parks	45	45	45	135
Structures	5,650	300	300	6,250
Parks Structures	548	0	0	548
Street Lighting	200	200	200	600
Traffic Management	160	160	160	480
Total Highways Technical Services	11,203	1,805	1,805	14,813
Strategic Projects				
Transportation and Travel Schemes	18	0	0	18
Transportation Infrastructure	14,989	7,032	5,744	27,765
Drainage Improvements	155	140	140	435
Total Strategic Projects	15,162	7,172	5,884	28,218
Storm Dennis Flood Recovery				
Storm Dennis Flood Recovery	6,441	0	0	6,441
Total Storm Dennis Flood Recovery	6,441	0	0	6,441
Waste Strategy				
Waste Strategy	1,000	0	0	1,000
Total Waste Strategy	1,000	0	0	1,000
Fleet				
Vehicles	2,573	2,573	2,573	7,719
Total Fleet	2,573	2,573	2,573	7,719

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2022 - 2025			
	2022/2023 Budget	2023/2024 Budget	2024/2025 Budget	Total 3 Year Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Buildings				
Buildings	215	100	100	415
Total Buildings	215	100	100	415
Total Frontline Services	36,594	11,650	10,362	58,606
Group Total	52,567	19,875	16,112	88,554

Director of Prosperity & Development
 Director of Frontline Services
 Service Director - Finance Services

Simon Gale
 Roger Waters
 Martyn Hughes

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2022 - 2025			
	2022/2023 Budget	2023/2024 Budget	2024/2025 Budget	Total 3 Year Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Schools				
School Modernisation Rhondda and Tonyrefail	2,531	0	0	2,531
School Modernisation	7,297	140	140	7,577
Ffynnon Taf Primary Refurbishment and Extension	885	0	0	885
Y Pant Extension	856	0	0	856
SRIC - School Modernisation Programme	140	0	0	140
WG Childcare Grant	244	13	0	257
Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B				
YG Rhydywaun School Modernisation	4,972	263	0	5,235
YGG Aberdar School Modernisation	723	26	0	749
Mutual Investment Model Projects	250	250	250	750
Total	17,898	692	390	18,980
Supplementary Capital Programme				
Planned Kitchen Refurbishments	250	200	200	650
Window & Door Replacements	163	150	150	463
Essential Works	496	400	400	1,296
Capitalisation of Computer HW / SW & Licences	296	250	250	796
Roof Renewal	2,555	700	700	3,955
Boiler Replacement	950	250	250	1,450
Equalities Act/Compliance Works	225	225	225	675
Education & Inclusion Services Condition Surveys	97	50	50	197
Electrical Rewiring	312	200	200	712
Asbestos Remediation Work	900	900	900	2,700
Fire Alarm Upgrades	150	100	100	350
Toilet Refurbishments	1,170	350	350	1,870
21st Century Classroom Upgrade	566	0	0	566
Improvements to Schools	100	100	100	300
Total	8,230	3,875	3,875	15,980
Group Total	26,128	4,567	4,265	34,960

**Director of Education and Inclusion Services
Service Director - Finance Services**

**Gaynor Davies
Stephanie Davies**

Scheme	3 Year Capital Programme 2022 - 2025			
	2022/2023 Budget	2023/2024 Budget	2024/2025 Budget	Total 3 Year Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Adult & Children's Services

Modernisation Programme (Adults)	4,364	1,700	200	6,264
Modernisation Programme (Childrens)	129	50	50	229
Asbestos Remediation	90	45	45	180
Telecare Equipment (Inc of Carelink Equipment)	348	200	200	748
Total Adult & Children's Services	4,931	1,995	495	7,421

Public Health, Protection & Community Services

Leisure Centre Refurbishment Programme	155	90	90	335
Parks & Countryside	3,805	100	100	4,005
Play Areas	359	50	50	459
Cemeteries Planned Programme	135	135	135	405
Community Safety Initiatives	89	99	50	238
Culture	20	20	20	60
Muni Arts Centre Redevelopment	2,852	2,472	0	5,324
Buildings	50	50	50	150
Total Public Health, Protection & Community Services	7,465	3,016	495	10,976

Group Total	12,396	5,011	990	18,397
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Group Director
Service Director - Finance Services

Paul Mee
Neil Griffiths

Capital Programme from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2025

Group	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
	£M	£M	£M	£M
Chief Executive	2.909	1.975	1.975	6.859
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	52.567	19.875	16.112	88.554
Education and Inclusion Services	26.128	4.567	4.265	34.960
Community and Children's Services	12.396	5.011	0.990	18.397
Total	94.000	31.428	23.342	148.770

Estimated Resources Required to Fund Capital Programme

Supported Borrowing	6.867	6.867	6.867	20.601
Unsupported Borrowing	11.502	0.289	1.000	12.791
Total	18.369	7.156	7.867	33.392

Capital Grants

General Capital Grant annual base allocation	4.732	4.732	4.732	14.196
General Capital Grant additional allocation 2021/22	5.418			5.418
WEFO ERDF Modern Industrial Units Developments	0.082			0.082
WG Sustainable Communities for Learning	2.202			2.202
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	2.543			2.543
UK Government Levelling Up Fund	11.085	7.341		18.426
Heritage Lottery Grant	1.000			1.000
WG PRS Lease Scheme	0.012	0.049		0.061
Total	27.074	12.122	4.732	43.928

Third Party Contributions	0.259	0.013	0.000	0.272
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Council Resources

Revenue Contributions	27.588	7.850	7.992	43.430
General Fund Capital Resources	20.710	4.287	2.751	27.748
Total	48.298	12.137	10.743	71.178

Total Resources Required to Fund Capital Programme	94.000	31.428	23.342	148.770
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Difference Total Spend to Total Resources	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021 / 2022

COUNCIL

9th March 2022

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY INCORPORATING INVESTMENT STRATEGY, TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP) STATEMENT FOR 2022/23

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 2022/23;
 - Investment Strategy for 2022/23;
 - Treasury Indicators for 2021/22 (actuals to date) and 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25; and
 - Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement.
- 1.2 To set out the updated Treasury Management Clauses (Appendix 1).

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.
- 2.2 Approve the updated Treasury Management Clauses (Appendix 1).

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 organisation’s borrowing, investments and cash flows, including 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 (2022/23).
- 4.4 The Prudential Code is produced by the CIPFA and is underpinned by the Local Government Act 2003. The Code sets out a framework which supports local strategy planning, local asset management planning and proper option appraisal. The objectives of the Prudential Code are to ensure capital expenditure and investment plans are affordable and proportionate, all external borrowing and other long term liabilities are prudent and sustainable, the risks associated with investments for commercial purposes are proportionate to the financial capacity, and any treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice.
- 4.5 CIPFA has issued a revised Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and cross-sectoral guidance notes and Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The 2021 editions replace the 2017 editions and includes the requirement that local authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return. The Treasury Management Code 2021 has also amended the Treasury Management Clauses for Investment Management Practices (IMP’s). These are set out in Appendix 1.
- 4.6 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.

4.7 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 2022/23

5.1 The proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23 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; 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 2021 comprised:

		£M	Av. Rate
<u>Debt</u>			
Fixed Rate	PWLB	223.142	2.31%
	Market	54.500	5.00%
	Market(LOBO)	31.000	4.50%
Variable Rate	Market	5.000	0.18%
		313.642	2.96% *
<u>Investments</u>			

Variable Rate	Public Bodies	19.700**	0.005%
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* Estimated weighted average rate of borrowing for 2021/22 is 3.53%

** 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 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 (MPC) sets the rate and has recently determined two increases. Firstly on 15th December 2021 an increase from 0.1% to 0.25% and then on 2nd February 2022 a further increase to 0.5%.

7.2 The remit of the MPC is to set monetary policy to meet the 2% inflation target, and in a way that helps to sustain growth and employment. In its February 2022 meeting the MPC stated that continuation of rising prices and higher demand for workers in the labour market were sufficient to warrant an increase in the Bank Rate. Inflation is forecast to continue upwards over the remainder of the year with the high price of oil and gas continuing to put upward pressure on CPI.

7.3 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 (certainty rate) is as follows:

	5 yr	10 yr	20 yr	50 yr
2022/23	2.00%	2.15%	2.35%	2.00%
2023/24	1.95%	2.15%	2.35%	2.00%
2024/25	1.95%	2.15%	2.35%	2.00%

8.0 Borrowing Strategy

8.1 The Council's borrowing requirement for 2022/23 is currently £18.4M based on the updated Capital Programme 2022/23 – 2024/25 (being considered elsewhere on this agenda (Council, 9th March 2022)). The

opportunities afforded by the Prudential Code provide for further borrowing in line with decisions taken during the year and 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 have risen since mid December 2021, with expectations that they will remain flat from current levels.
- 8.6 The PWLB updated its guidance in August 2021 whereby loans are no longer available to Councils planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield or solely for exploiting commercialisation opportunities in any of the following three years.
- 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 interest 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.

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 2022/23 are relatively low given the approach to maximise "internal borrowing", 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.
- 10.4 The current contract is for a three year period ending 31st March 2022 with options to extend for a further two years. The option to extend is currently being considered.

11.0 Member and Officer Training

- 11.1 During 2021/22, 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. The contractual arrangements with Arlingclose include an annual training session for elected Members.
- 11.4 The Council's Principal 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 as detailed in its Terms of Reference. This is in line with the relevant Codes of Practice, including CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice 2021, 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 Statutory 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 Treasury Management Code categorises investments into three categories, those for:

- Treasury management purposes – investments that arise from the Council's cash flows or treasury risk management activity and represent balances that need to be invested until the cash is required for use in the course of business;
- Commercial purposes – investments taken or held primarily for financial return and are not linked to Treasury management activity or directly part of delivering services; and
- Service purposes – investments taken or held primarily for the provision of delivering of public services (including housing, regeneration and local infrastructure), or in support of joint working with others to deliver such services.

13.3 The Welsh Government 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 Treasury Management Code and the Welsh Government statutory investment guidance are to set an investment strategy, as part of its annual treasury strategy for the following year. The guidance includes 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 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.
- **Other Non-specified investments.** These are investments not meeting the definition of a specified investment or loan.

- 13.6 The priority intention of the strategy is to provide security of investment and minimisation of risk. In order to comply with the Code, the Council must not borrow to invest for the primary purpose of financial return.

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
 - c. a town or community council.
- 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 2022/23, 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 as there are minimum amounts in place for these transfers. For example, 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 the next working day.

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 under the Welsh statutory guidance. They are classed as investments for service purposes under the Code.
- 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 currently has two commercially agreed loans. Notice has been received that one is to be fully repaid on 31st March 2022. Such loans 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 balance outstanding at 1st April 2022 is expected to be £2.3M.

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 2020/21 balance sheet as £3.035M, 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. Under the Treasury Management in the public services Code of Practice, these investments are deemed investments for service purposes.

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 originally approved as an acquisition to support service provision. However, as a result of a change of use for the building consequent to a review of service delivery requirements, the asset was reclassified as an investment property within the balance sheet. The building and site has a fair value of £3.6m, with an annual rental of £322k.

13.23 The Council has investments it categorises as non-financial and other investments relevant to Council functions (investment for Service purposes). These buildings have a fair value of £17.9m, with an annual rental of £1.3m. They relate to 50-53 Taff St, Pontypridd; Unit 1 Cambrian Industrial estate, Clydach Vale; Rhos Surgery, Mountain Ash; Coed Ely

Business Units; 96-102 Taff Street, Pontypridd 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 at £3.0m.

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 2022/23

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
 - Ratio of Net Income from Commercial and Service Investment to Net Revenue Stream
- 16.5 The following indicators are required (by the Treasury Management Code) to be approved:
- Maturity Structure of Borrowing
 - Long Term Treasury Management Investments
 - Interest Rate Exposure (optional)

16.6 Indicator : Maturity Structure of Borrowing

16.7 The Maturity Structure of Borrowing indicator sets gross limits to reduce the Council’s exposure to large sums falling due for refinancing annually. From 2022/23, this indicator includes variable rate debt. Where the maturity date of borrowing is uncertain, the maturity will be determined by reference to the earliest date at which the lender can require repayment. This applies to the Council’s LOBO loans which will be deemed to have a maturity date of the next call date for risk management purposes. However, LOBO funding is a relatively small proportion of overall debt and based on current market conditions and the outlook for interest rates, refinancing is unlikely to be required over the next three years.

	2021/22 Projected Outturn as at 31/12/21	Upper Limit	Lower Limit
Under 12 months	14%	70%	0%
12 months to 2 years	3%	70%	0%
2 years to 5 years	10%	60%	0%
5 years to 10 years	15%	70%	0%
10 years to 20 years	5%	90%	0%
20 years to 30 years	0%	90%	0%
30 years to 40 years	53%	90%	0%
40 years to 50 years	0%	90%	0%

16.8 Indicator : Long Term Treasury Management investments

16.9 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.

16.10 The following indicator is new in the Treasury Management Code for 2021. Where a Council invests for treasury management purposes in fixed interest instruments for periods longer than a year, the Council will set an upper limit for each forward financial year for the maturing of such investments. The Council does not currently have any such investments.

	Upper Limit £'M	Actual £'M
2023/24	25	0
2024/25	25	0
2025/26	25	0

16.11 Indicator : Interest Rate Exposure

16.12 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 2021):

Interest Rate Risk	Impact £M
One year revenue impact of a 1% rise/fall in interest rates	0.197

16.13 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 9.9% 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 being:
- 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 AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

18.1 Due regard has been given to the Council's public sector equality duties under the Equality Act 2010, namely the Public Sector Equality Duty and Socio-Economic Duty, as part of compiling the recommended 2022/23 Revenue Budget Strategy and recommended new three-year Capital Programme (2022/23 to 2024/25), which are also being considered alongside this report on the same agenda.

18.2 Equality Impact Assessments have been completed in respect of the 2022/23 Revenue Budget Strategy and new three-year Capital Programme (2022/23 to 2024/25), that inform the Treasury Management Strategy, and conclude that the recommendations set out in the report are in line with the above legislation.

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 2022/23.
- 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.

ADOPTION OF TREASURY MANAGEMENT CLAUSES

- Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC will create and maintain, as the cornerstones for effective treasury and investment management:
 - a Treasury Management Policy Statement, stating the policies, objectives and approach to risk management of its treasury management activities
 - suitable treasury management practices (TMPs), setting out the manner in which it will seek to achieve those policies and objectives, and prescribing how it will manage and control those activities
 - investment management practices (IMPs) for investments that are not for treasury management purposes.
- The content of the policy statement, TMPs and IMPs will follow the recommendations contained in Sections 6, 7 and 8 of the Treasury Management Code, subject only to amendment where necessary to reflect the particular circumstances of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC. Such amendments will not result in the organisation materially deviating from the Treasury Management Code's key principles.
- Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC will receive reports on its treasury and investment management policies, practices and activities, including, as a minimum, an annual strategy and plan in advance of the year, a mid-year review and an annual report after its close, in the form prescribed in its TMPs and IMPs.
- Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to full Council, and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Director of Finance and Digital Services, who will act in accordance with the organisation's policy statement and TMPs and, if he/she is a CIPFA member, CIPFA's Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management.
- Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC nominates the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies.

**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 9TH MARCH 2022

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES

**Item: 2022/23 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY INCORPORATING
INVESTMENT STRATEGY, TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS AND
MRP STATEMENT**

Background Papers

- 9th March 2022 Council meeting – Report: 2022/23 Capital Strategy report
- 9th March 2022 Council meeting – Report: The Council's Capital Programme 2022/23 – 2024/25.
- 9th March 2022 Council meeting – Report: The Council's 2022/23 Revenue Budget

Officer to contact: Barrie Davies (Director of Finance and Digital Services)

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021 / 2022

COUNCIL

9th March 2022

2022/23 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 2021 edition of the Prudential Code requiring local authorities to produce a Capital Strategy Report.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The framework established by the Prudential Code¹ supports local strategic planning, local asset management planning and option appraisal. The objectives of the Prudential code are to ensure:

- Capital and investment plans are affordable and proportionate;
- External borrowing and other long-term liabilities are within prudent and sustainable levels;
- The risks associated with investments for commercial purposes are proportionate to their financial capacity; and
- Treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice.

4.2 The requirement for local authorities to produce a Capital Strategy was introduced by the 2017 edition of the Prudential Code. The Code has been updated in 2021 primarily to ensure that local authorities do not borrow for the primary purpose of commercial return. In accordance with this change, the Code introduces a new Prudential Indicator “Net Income from Commercial and Service Investments to Net Revenue Stream”.

4.3 In support of the above, HM Treasury amended the PWLB guidance for borrowing in August 2021, whereby if a local authority is planning to acquire investment assets bought primarily for yield in any of the following three years, the authority will be unable to borrow from the PWLB to finance any expenditure in its capital programme.

4.4 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.

4.5 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

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

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 of the Capital Programme. The recommended Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/23 is to be reported to full Council on 9th March 2022.
- Three Year Capital Programme – setting out capital expenditure plans and funding. The recommended Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2024/25 is to be reported to full Council on 9th March 2022.
- Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) – setting out a forecast of revenue spending and funding for the period 2021/22 to 2024/25 (and includes a Capital Financing budget projection over this period). The latest MTFP can be viewed by clicking [here](#) and references, amongst other things, that 85% of the Council's 2021/22 revenue budget and 98% of the three-year Capital Programme (2021/22 to 2023/24) are allocated to Corporate Plan priority areas.
- Treasury Management Strategy.
- Corporate Asset Management Plan, Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Plans, Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme (formerly 21st Century Schools), Regeneration Plans and Highways Improvement Programme.
- Service Delivery Plans – a plan for each service area setting out key priorities, measures and risks.

² A brief summary of the strategy or plan is provided, where appropriate / not covered elsewhere within the Capital Strategy

- 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 The importance of on-going investment has been recognised by the Council with over £129M already invested (over and above the normal Capital Programme) in areas supporting key Corporate Plan priorities since October 2015, the latest investment of £6.5M being agreed by Council in September 2021. Further investment of £14.471 is proposed as part of the updated Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2024/25.

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 2022/23 to 2024/25

6.2 The Council is to consider its capital programme on 9th March 2022 totalling a proposed £148.770M investment 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 2022/23 to 2024/25 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:

- Development of modern business accommodation with new units at Robertstown, Aberdare;
- Townscape Enhancements across our key town centres – a targeted

approach to acquiring, redeveloping and 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. This will be supported by the development and delivery of strategies and placemaking plans for our key town centres;

- Development of a new integrated Transport Hub at Porth as part of the Porth Town Centre Regeneration Strategy;
- New sources of funding are being accessed to bring forward investment such as the UK Government Levelling Up Fund where successful bids have been made for the Muni Arts Centre Redevelopment, Porth Transport Hub and A4119 Dualling projects;
- 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.
- A long term strategic investment programme of modernisation to create school environments that meet the needs of our communities and provide the best learning provision and outcomes for young people and the wider community.
- An on-going programme of investment to support residents' health and well-being, including:
 - ExtraCare – supporting people's independence through a more modern form of housing which can better meet the support needs of residents as they get older; and
 - Leisure Centres, parks and green spaces and play areas – an on-going programme of investment to provide upgraded, modern and safe facilities for residents to use, enjoy and support their health and well-being.

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, proportionate, sustainable and prudent.

6.8 To comply with both the Prudential Code and Treasury Management Code, the Council must determine and set Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators in relation to capital expenditure, external debt, investments 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’s budget requirement (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
 - Ratio of Net Income from Commercial and Service Investments to Net Revenue Stream (new indicator for 2022/23)

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

	2021/22 Projected Outturn	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate

	£M	£M	£M	£M
Supported spend	113.577	82.498	31.139	22.342
Unsupported spend	6.951	11.502	0.289	1.000
Total spend	120.528	94.000	31.428	23.342
Financed by:-				
Borrowing	13.824	18.369	7.156	7.867
Other Capital Resources (e.g. Grants, Capital Receipts)	106.704	75.631	24.272	15.475

- 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 and enables Councils, subject to agreed reporting and approval arrangements, 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 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)

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25

	31/03/22 Projected Outturn £M	31/03/23 Estimate £M	31/03/24 Estimate £M	31/03/25 Estimate £M
CFR	504.162	509.293*	500.645	492.319
Net movement in CFR		5.131	(8.648)	(8.326)

* CFR estimate adjusted for the impact of IFRS 16, please refer to paragraph 6.21 for further details.

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

	2021/22 31/03/22 Projected Outturn £M	2022/23 31/03/23 Estimate £M	2023/24 31/03/24 Estimate £M	2024/25 31/03/25 Estimate £M
Borrowing	324.807	357.842	351.423	349.004
Other long term liabilities	0.582	2.458	2.135	1.829
Total External Debt 31 st March	325.389	360.300	353.558	350.833
Net movement in External Debt		34.911	(6.742)	(2.725)

6.21 Other Long Term Liabilities includes an estimate of the Council's future lease liabilities. The accounting change for leases had been delayed until the financial year 2022/23. However, on 3rd February 2022, CIPFA issued an exceptional consultation on proposals for an update of the Code of Practice to delay the implementation of IFRS 16 (International Financial Reporting Standard for leases) for a further year to 1st April 2023. Given the outcome of the consultation will not be known until after the Capital Strategy is reported to Council on 9th March 2022, lease liabilities are included within the indicators in this report.

Limits to Borrowing Activity

6.22 The first key control over the Council's borrowing 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

	2021/22 31/03/22 Projected Outturn £M	2022/23 31/03/23 Estimate £M	2023/24 31/03/24 Estimate £M	2024/25 31/03/25 Estimate £M
Gross Borrowing	325.389	360.300	353.558	350.833
Capital Financing Requirement	504.162	509.293	500.645	492.319

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 reported to Council during the three-year period, including the incorporation of revisions if deemed necessary.

6.24 The Authorised Limit represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited, and needs to be set, monitored and revised by Council. 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

	2021/22 31/03/22	2022/23 31/03/23	2023/24 31/03/24	2024/25 31/03/25
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	Projected Outturn £M	Estimate £M	Estimate £M	Estimate £M
Gross Borrowing Limit	324.807	525.000	525.000	525.000
Other long term liabilities	0.582	5.000	5.000	5.000
Authorised Limit	325.389	530.000	530.000	530.000

- 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

	2020/22 31/03/22 Projected Outturn £M	2022/23 31/03/23 Estimate £M	2023/24 31/03/24 Estimate £M	2024/25 31/03/25 Estimate £M
Gross Borrowing Limit	324.807	370.000	370.000	370.000
Other long term liabilities	0.582	3.000	3.000	3.000
Operational Boundary	325.389	373.000	373.000	373.000

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", with lease liabilities for IFRS 16 now included in this ratio from 2022/23 onwards. 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

	2021/22 Comparator	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate
General Fund	4.94%	4.76%	4.65%	4.61%

- 6.29 The Ratio of Net Income from Commercial and Service Investments to Net Revenue Stream is a new indicator introduced in the 2021 Prudential Code update. It identifies the net income from financial and commercial investments (other than treasury management investments) and is intended to show the financial exposure of the Council to the loss of income. Direct costs of the investment may be netted off.

Indicator 8 : Ratio of Net Income from Commercial and Service Investments to Net Revenue Stream

	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate
General Fund	0.28%	0.27%	0.27%

Governance

- 6.30 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.
- 6.31 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; 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 2022/23 to 2024/25 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.

	2022/23 Estimate £M	2023/24 Estimate £M	2024/25 Estimate £M
General Fund Capital Resources	20.710	4.287	2.751

9.0 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT**

- 9.1 CIPFA defines Treasury Management as “The management of the Local Authority’s borrowing, investments and cash flows, including 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 2022/23 (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 Council complies with paragraphs 51-53 of the Prudential Code, in respect of prudence in borrowing and investment, in that the Council will:
- Not borrow to invest primarily for financial return.
 - Not make any investment or spending decision that will increase the CFR unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the Council and where any financial returns are either consequential to supporting the viability of the project in question or otherwise incidental to the primary purpose.
 - Comply with PWLB rules for lending.
 - Review options for exiting financial investments for commercial purposes in the annual treasury management or investment strategies (noting that Rhondda Cynon Taf Council originally acquired one asset for service delivery purposes (i.e. Ty Dysgu at Cefn Coed Business Park, Nantgarw); this has subsequently been re-classified as a commercial investment, following a change of use and will be kept under on-going review in line with the requirements of the Prudential Code).
- 9.8 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. The updated Prudential and Treasury Management Codes categorise investments as Commercial Investments, Service Investments or Treasury Management Investments. Details of the Council's Investment Strategy is set out within its Treasury Management Strategy.
- 9.9 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 are 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

- 9.10 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 and the South East Wales Corporate 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.

9.11 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 and that we are socially responsible and contribute to reduce our carbon footprint;
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, affordable and proportionate; we will lend commercially where there are clear service and/or regeneration benefits which align with the Council's priorities;
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- 9.12 Decision making on commercial activities will be in line with the 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

- 9.13 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.
- 9.14 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 2021" and also the Terms of Reference for the 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 £709M within the Council's balance sheet, under unusable reserves.
- 10.2 The Council has short term and long term provisions set aside amounting to £5.2M, the majority of which (£4.4M) is to cover Insurance claims.
- 10.3 The Council's latest audited Statement of Accounts for the 2020/21 financial year can be viewed by clicking [here](#).
- 10.4 The 2022 CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting introduced a change in the accounting rules for leases. The lessee will account for a lease by including in its balance sheet a right-of-use asset representing the economic benefits and service potential over which it has obtained control for the term of the lease, together with a liability for the payments it will make for the acquisition of those rights. This means that included within Other Long Term Liabilities will

be estimated figures for lease liabilities, with the right of use value for the underlying asset of the lease being included within the CFR. Previously only finance leases were accounted for on the balance sheet of lessees. However CIPFA are consulting on the timing of the introduction of these changes as detailed in paragraph 6.21.

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 training for elected Members and officers, interest rate analysis, investment advice and technical support.

13.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 13.1 Due regard has been given to the Council's public sector equality duties under the Equality Act 2010, namely the Public Sector Equality Duty and Socio-Economic Duty, as part of compiling the recommended new three-year Capital Programme (2022/23 to 2024/25), which is also being considered alongside this report on the same agenda.
- 13.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed in respect of the new three-year Capital Programme (2022/23 to 2024/25), that informs the Capital Strategy, and concluded that the recommendations set out in the report are in line with the above legislation.

14.0 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 There are no Welsh language implications as a result of the recommendations

in this report.

15.0 CONSULTATION

- 15.1 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.

16.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

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

17.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 17.1 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.

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

- 18.1 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.
- 18.2 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.

19.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 19.1 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.
- 19.2 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 9th MARCH 2022

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES

Item: 2022/23 CAPITAL STRATEGY REPORT INCORPORATING PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

Background Papers

- 9th March 2022 Council meeting – Report: The Council’s Capital Programme 2022/23 – 2024/25.
- 9th March 2022 Council meeting – Report: The Council’s 2022/23 Revenue Budget.

Officer to contact: Barrie Davies (Director of Finance and Digital Services)

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021 – 2022

COUNCIL

9th MARCH 2022

FINANCING OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING (FORMERLY 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS) CAPITAL PROGRAMME USING PRUDENTIAL BORROWING

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & DIGITAL SERVICES

Author: Barrie Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services, (01443) 424026

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval:

- For a capital investment of £14.183M for a new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin;
- To finance the project through the Welsh Government's (WG) Sustainable Communities for learning (formerly 21st Century Schools) Band B capital grant and to fund the Council's contribution from borrowing using its powers under the Prudential Code.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Agree to the inclusion in the capital programme of a new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin at a total cost of £14.183M; and
- 2.2 Agree that the net capital cost to the Council of £4.964M is funded through borrowing, using the Council's powers under the Prudential Code, with the annual revenue cost of £0.195M being included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 An update on proposals to reorganise schools in the greater Pontypridd area was considered by Cabinet on 17th June 2021, which included a new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin.

- 3.2 As reported to Cabinet on 28th February 2022, the proposal is now at the Full Business Case (FBC) stage with Welsh Government (WG), which has been recommended for Ministerial approval by the WG review panel, and a formal grant award is expected during March 2022.
- 3.3 Cabinet reviewed the updated costs and funding package and agreed that this report is presented to Council to approve the borrowing for the Council's contribution.
- 3.4 Whilst the formal award of funding in respect of this proposal is awaited following submission of the FBC, the proposal and updated costs have been approved by WG as part of an updated Strategic Outline Programme.
- 3.5 Contractual commitments and formal appointments of contractors will only be progressed once the formal WG grant award is received and accepted. However, in order to progress the scheme and complete the funding package it is necessary to seek Council approval for the Prudential Borrowing.

4.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 4.1 The equality and diversity implications have been considered and reported as part of the decision making process for a new Welsh medium school and there are no further implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.

5.0 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Welsh language implications have been considered and reported as part of the decision making process for a new Welsh medium primary school and there are no further implications as a result of the recommendation in this report.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The necessary consultation process has been undertaken and reported as part of the decision making process for a new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin and there are no further consultation requirements as a result of the recommendations in this report.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The proposal to build a new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin will cost an estimated £14.183M in capital investment.
- 7.2 The funding arrangements for Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B capital schemes are 65% WG grant and 35% from the Council's own resources. Based on estimated costs of £14.183M, the WG grant award will be £9.219M and the Council's contribution is £4.964M funded through borrowing, using the Council's powers under the Prudential Code.

7.3 The annual revenue cost to repay this borrowing is £0.195M per year for 40 years. It is anticipated that the revenue repayments will commence in financial year 2024/25, therefore the costs will be included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no specific legal implications arising as a result of the recommendations in the report.

8.2 The Council has the necessary powers to borrow money to fund expenditure under the Prudential Code.

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

9.1 The Council's Corporate Plan commits to "Investing in new and replacement 21st Century Schools, whilst also meeting the demand for Welsh language provision throughout the County Borough."

9.2 The financing of this commitment will enable the delivery of proposals that will contribute to all 7 well-being goals within the Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 and due regard has been made to the Five Ways of Working, as contained within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This is well documented in the Business Case submitted to the Welsh Government

10.0 CONCLUSIONS

10.1 The investment in a new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin can be financed by Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B capital grant and by borrowing for the Council's contribution by the use of powers available under the Prudential Code.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL 9th MARCH 2022

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & DIGITAL SERVICES

Item: FINANCING OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING (FORMERLY 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS) CAPITAL PROGRAMME USING PRUDENTIAL BORROWING

Background Papers

Cabinet 3rd October 2018

[21st Century Schools Programme - Proposals to Improve Education Provision in the Greater Pontypridd Area](#)

Cabinet 18th July 2019

[21st Century Schools Programme - Proposals to Reorganise Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and Sixth Form Provision in the Greater Pontypridd Area](#)

Special Overview & Scrutiny Committee 31st July 2019

[21st Century Schools Programme - Proposals to Reorganise Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and Sixth Form Provision in the Greater Pontypridd Area](#)

Cabinet 17th June 2021

[21st Century Schools Programme - Proposals to Reorganise Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and Sixth Form Provision in the Greater Pontypridd Area](#)

Cabinet 4th October 2021

[21st Century Schools Programme - Band B Update](#)

Cabinet 28th February 2022

[Sustainable Communities for Learning \(Formerly 21st Century Schools\) Capital Programme – New Welsh Medium Primary School in Rhydyfelin](#)

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

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