



**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, 6TH JULY, 2022** at **5.00 PM**.

**AGENDA**

**Page  
No's**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PAGE(S)</b>
5 Minutes	<b>ITEM 1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b>  To receive disclosures of personal interests from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest; and</li><li>2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of prejudicial interest they <b><u>must</u></b> notify the Chairman when they leave.</li></ol>	
5 Minutes	<b>ITEM 2. MINUTES</b>  To approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the Council Meetings held on:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022</li><li>• 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (Council AGM)</li><li>• 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (Extraordinary meeting)</li></ul>	5 - 40
5 Minutes	<b>ITEM 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	

<b>OPEN GOVERNMENT:</b>		
10 Minutes	<p><b>ITEM 4. STATEMENTS</b></p> <p>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:</p>	
20 Minutes	<p><b>ITEM 5. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS</b></p> <p>To receive Members questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.2.</p> <p>(<b>N.B</b> a maximum of 20 minutes shall be allowed for questions on notice.)</p>	41 - 48
<b>OFFICERS' REPORTS</b>		
10 Minutes	<p><b>ITEM 6. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2022/2023</b></p> <p>To consider the report of the Service Director Democratic Services &amp; Communication.</p>	49 - 66
10 Minutes	<p><b>ITEM 7. COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23</b></p> <p>To receive the report of the Service Director, Democratic Services &amp; Communication.</p>	67 - 80
10 Minutes	<p><b>ITEM 8. URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORT</b></p> <p>To receive the report form the Service Director Democratic Services and Communication</p>	81 - 86
10 Minutes	<p><b>ITEM 9. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S LOWER GRADES AND TERMS &amp; CONDITIONS MATTERS</b></p> <p>To receive the joint report of the Chief Executive, Director of Human Resources and Director of Finance &amp; Digital Services</p>	87 - 92
10 Minutes	<p><b>ITEM 10. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b></p> <p>To receive the report of the Director of Human Resources.</p>	93 - 96
10 Minutes	<p><b>ITEM 11. CWM TAF MORGANNWG MARKET STABILITY REPORT</b></p> <p>The consider the report Of Group Director for Community &amp; Children's Services.</p>	97 - 246
10 Minutes	<p><b>ITEM 12. SECTION 3A - LEADER'S SCHEME OF DELEGATION OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS</b></p> <p>To receive the joint report of the Service Director Democratic Services and Communication and Director of Legal Services on</p>	247 - 276

	the Leader's Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.	
10 Minutes	<b>ITEM 13. STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP</b>  To receive the joint report of the Director Legal Services & Service Director Democratic Services & Communication on the Standards Committee Membership.	277 - 282
15 Minutes	<b>ITEM 14. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2021/22</b>  To receive the report of the Director Finance and Digital Services on the Annual Treasury Management Review for the 2021/22 Municipal Year	283 - 294
	<b>ITEM 15. URGENT BUSINESS</b>  To consider any items which the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.	

**Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication**

**To: All Members of the Council**

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**RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL**

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 9 March 2022 at 4.00 pm.

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

Councillor S Powderhill (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 Chapman	Councillor A Cox
Councillor A Crimmings	Councillor J Cullwick
Councillor G Davies	Councillor J Davies
Councillor J Edwards	Councillor J Elliott
Councillor S Evans	Councillor S Evans
Councillor M Forey	Councillor A Fox
Councillor E George	Councillor E Griffiths
Councillor M Griffiths	Councillor J Harries
Councillor G Holmes	Councillor L Hooper
Councillor P Howe	Councillor P Jarman
Councillor G 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 S Pickering	Councillor M Powell
Councillor S Powell	Councillor S Rees
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 S Gale, Director of Prosperity & Development  
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

### **130 Welcome & Apologies**

The Chair welcomed attendees to the hybrid meeting of the Council and apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors A-Davies Jones, L De Vet, H Fychan , G Hughes, D Grehan, G Hopkins, J James, M Fidler Jones, K Jones and S Rees-Owen.

The following Councillors and officers were present in the Council Chamber: County Borough Councillors A Morgan, M Webber, R Bevan, A Crimmings, G Caple, W Lewis, C Leyshon, M Norris, S Bradwick, J Harries, G Thomas, G Jones, M Powell, L Walker, E Stephens.

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive, Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services, Mr A Wilkins, Director Legal Services Mr C Hanagan, Service Director Democratic Services & Communications, Mr R Evans, Director Human Resources and Mr S Gale Director of Prosperity & Development.

### **131 Declaration of Interest**

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations were made pertaining to the agenda and declarations in relation to agenda items 12 and 19 were declared later in the meeting (Minute 142 refers):

#### **Agenda items 11-15**

Cllr P Jarman

Personal - "Dispensation to speak and vote on all matters for the duration and adoption of the 2021-22 Budget process in my capacity as Leader of the Opposition"

Cllr M Powell

Personal – "I've been granted dispensation by the Standards Committee to speak and vote on all matters relating to the present and proposed budget for 2022-23, for all of those items that would reflect a budget adjustment and my wife is an employee of the Local Authority"

#### **Agenda item 17B-Notice of Motion**

Cllr A Fox

Personal –"A family member works for a housing association operational in RCT".

Cllr W Lewis

Personal – "I work for a Housing Association."

Agenda item 16- Sustainable Communities for Learning (Formerly 21st Century Schools) Capital Programme - New Welsh Medium Primary School in Rhydyfelin

Cllr A Forey

Personal – “My daughter is employed by the local authority in education.”

Cllr M Webber

Personal – “I am a Governor on the school mentioned in the report.”

Cllr M Powell

Personal – “I am a governor of Coedpenmaen Primary School, Trallwn Infants School and Hawthorn High School”.

### **Agenda Item 10 Revised Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2022-2037**

Cllr W Lewis

Personal – “The Housing Association I work for is mentioned in the report.”.

Cllr S Powell

**Agenda Item 7 - Members question 6** – “My wife is employed at Tonysguboriau Primary School, I am also a Governor there and it is in my ward”.

### **Agenda item 12 – Council Tax Resolution**

Head of Democratic Services – “We will record a blanket personal declaration for those Members who are Members of a Town or Community Council”

Cllr G Thomas – Personal – “I am a Member of the South Wales Police & Crime Panel.”

Cllr R Lewis – Personal – “I am a Member of the South Wales Police & Crime Panel.”

Cllr M Powell – Personal – “I am a Member of Pontypridd Town council.”

Cllr S Belzak – Personal – “I am a Member of Pontypridd Town council.”

### **Agenda Item 19 FUNDING ARRANGEMENT FOR TRANSPORT (RAIL) INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS**

Cllr J Brencher – Personal – “My son is a Director of Transport for Wales”.

Mr A Wilkins– Director, Legal Services on behalf of all Council Officers present in relation to Agenda Item 9 - **The Council's Pay Policy Statement 2022/23**

“The Pay Policy statement for the Council has no effect on existing terms and conditions applying to individual employees and simply sets out the Council’s approach to previously adopted policies, therefore Officers will remain in the meeting whilst the item is presented by the Director of Human Resources and during subsequent discussion.”

## 132 Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the hybrid meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

## 133 Announcements

The following announcements were made:

The Service Director of Democratic Services received the following petitions:

- Councillor J Williams – On behalf of residents regarding permit parking in Grawen Street, Porth
  - Councillor A Cox – Calling on the Council to use its powers and legislation to bring back empty properties into use such as the Porth Hotel (310 signatures)
  - Councillor E Webster -Parking & Traffic in Treorchy
  - Councillor J Davies -On behalf of residents of Tylacelyn Road, Penygraig regarding traffic calming measures.
  - Councillor M Powell –On behalf of the Pontypridd residents regarding a skatepark.
- 
- County Borough Councillor T Williams announced the sad passing of Mr Brian Fear and referenced his charity work and his selfless nature and passed her condolences to his family.
  - County Borough Councillor P Jarman also wished to pay her condolences to Mr Fear’s family and friends as she recounted his significant football achievements.

## 134 Invasion of Ukraine

In providing the opportunity for Members to consider practical support from the communities and businesses of Rhondda Cynon Taf to the citizens of Ukraine, the Leader provided an update on what Local Government in Wales would be doing to support the efforts. He advised that there had been little information to date coming directly from Central Government to Local Authorities.

The Leader commented that the community response had been huge, and many millions raised to date, with many collections organised locally but he advised that getting goods and supplies to the residents of the Ukraine was becoming increasingly difficult. He hoped that communities would be able to support in other ways once the repatriation of Ukraine residents had become clearer.

The Leader called on cross-party support for the following motion:



“This Council places on record its solidarity with the citizens of Ukraine.

This Council pledges to do all it can to support Ukrainian citizens who have been forced to flee their own country, as a result of the Russian invasion, by participating in all initiatives led by the Welsh and UK Government to provide refuge. This includes committing to participate in the UK Government’s ‘sponsorship programme’, which is seeking to enable public sector organisations to provide long-term practical support for Ukrainian refugees.

We are committed to welcoming Ukrainian families, both with and without UK family ties, and to enable them to access support from individuals, businesses, charities and community groups, on their arrival here in Wales and Rhondda Cynon Taf Council.

This Council commits to prioritising and targeting the support of all Council services toward any Ukrainians seeking to make Rhondda Cynon Taf their home.”

Council resolved to support the afore-mentioned motion. A query was raised regarding the potential for the Council to make a corporate donation to the cause for the citizens of Ukraine which would represent the will and generosity of the residents of RCT.

It was **RESOLVED** to delegate the matter of the donation to Officers, in discussion with Group Leaders, to agree and finalise the arrangement subject to the Council having the powers and vires to do so.

### **135 Acknowledgement & Thanks**

The Group Leaders paid their acknowledgements and thanks to those Members who are not standing for re-election in the Local Government Elections on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 as follows:

Labour Group: County Borough Councillors M Forey, J Rosser, G Thomas, R Turner, L M Adams, M Griffiths, L De Vet, M Tegg (already resigned), E George, J Harries, M Fidler Jones, S Powell, A Davies-Jones, A Calvert and S Pickering.

Plaid Cymru Group : County Borough Councillor G R Davies, E Griffiths, M Weaver, J Cullwick, H Fychan MS, E Stephens and A Chapman.

Conservative Group: County Borough Councillor J James MS

### **136 Statements**

The Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan made a statement in respect of the significant package of investment from Welsh Government in response to the cost-of-living crisis. He advised that the detail is currently being finalised and a report to Cabinet would be presented over the next few weeks. Members were informed that the package is being branded the ‘Council Tax rebate’ using Council Tax bands A-D as a way of qualifying means, with the overall package to RCT being in the region of £15/16 million which will

be paid to residents as soon as possible.

**137 Members' Questions**

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communication advised that question 5 will fall due to the absence of County Borough Councillor S Pickering

**Question from County Borough Councillor G. Holmes to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services, County Borough Councillor G. Caple:**

“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?”

**Response of County Borough Councillor Caple:**

Councillor Caple responded by advising that Adult Social Services continues to facilitate discharges from A&E through its Stay Well at Home Service, on average 10 per week, together with ward discharges it is the single point of access and the complex hospital discharge team, on average 23 patients per week. He added that regular meetings are held with the Health Board to explore more effective discharge processes and examine individual case reviews. In order to support business continuity Adult Social Services has mobilised its workforce in order to provide support critical support.

Councillor Caple advised that an in-reach system of community-based staff has been implemented to expediate the discharge of patients, those who are in a position to leave but are waiting further assessments or support that may be provided in the community ensuring people are safe and well cared for at home. Albeit a complex process, all the skills and disciplines such as therapists, hospital discharge co-ordinators, occupational therapists, mobile responders are being utilised to ensure this system is as swift and effective as possible.

**Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor G Holmes:**

“If it were not for the proactive, ‘can-do’ approach taken by this council and local government in general, the problem of delayed transfers would be significantly greater for our health colleagues and further exacerbate capacity challenges faced by our health services, including the ambulance services, if it were not for our support?”

**Response of County Borough Councillor Caple:**

Councillor Caple agreed with Councillor Holmes comments and sentiments and advised that the Council would continue to explore different models of service provision and continue to work with partners, particularly the NHS in leading the transformation of services by using prevention and intervention measures. This

may lead to some services being transferred to local government where they may best lie. In the meantime, the Council will continue to work to support an increasing number of people with more complex needs at home, in the community through the additional operating hours of the Stay Well at Home service and also to support the avoidable hospital conveyance and admissions cases.

Councillor Caple wished to recognise and express deep appreciation of the hard work and dedication of the teams within adult social services and other council services such as housing as well as the independent sector providers who have worked under extreme and sustained pressure for a considerable amount of time. Councillor Caple thanked them for going the extra mile to support the NHS.

In conclusion, Councillor Caple commented that across Wales, pressures on A&E departments and hospital services continues to increase with Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board implementing their business continuity process for 3 days in recent weeks due to the increased attendance at A&E leading to some ambulances being delayed at the acute sites. There is currently a 2-week reset period as directed by WG with daily ward rounds, daily meetings and discharge helps are being ably supported by Adult Social Services staff who will continue to work with the Health Board to ensure the safe and timely discharge of patients from hospital to the community.

**Question from County Borough Councillor R. Yeo to the Cabinet Member for Education & Inclusion Services, County Borough Councillor J. Bonetto:**

“How is the Council progressing investment into Bryn Celynnog Comprehensive, and a new sixth form centre of excellence?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor J Bonetto:**

Councillor Bonetto responded that work to redevelop the centre is progressing well and the £16.15M investment will see the creation of a new 6<sup>th</sup> Form, teaching block and gymnasium with modern and accessible facilities which will complement the recently completed works to the 3G sports area and athletics track. Learner capacity will increase to 1.600 including 400 6<sup>th</sup> Form learner places.

Councillor Bonetto added that the planning application will be reviewed by the Planning Committee at the end of the month which, if approved the works will commence July 2022 with completion of the building and sports facilities by July 2023 and completion of the external works completed by December 2023.

**Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor R Yeo:**

“How will opportunities for community use be maximised?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor J Bonetto:**

Councillor Bonetto advised that the additional new facilities will be available for community use. Officers of the Council are engaged with the contractor, school staff and school governors to progress the scheme and council staff are in consultation with the contractor to maximise the community benefits to provide opportunities for volunteering and work experience.

**Question from County Borough Councillor J. Barton to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:**

“What action can the Council take to improve road safety and reduce speeding traffic in local communities?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

The Leader advised that the local authority has the power to introduce speed control measures such as road humps and crossings but all speeding offences are a matter for the Police or that of the ‘Go Safe’ partnership who install temporary and/or permanent cameras and have responsibility for their enforcement. The local Authority can bid for funding to upgrade existing cameras, but the location of the cameras is determined by ‘Go Safe’.

**Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor J Barton:**

“With regards to the proposed 20mph default speed limit which Welsh Government is introducing in residential areas and around school locations, what is the cost and what are the timescales for it to be implemented?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

The Leader advised that the work is due to commence in the coming year and Welsh Government has allocated RCT over £1M to do the work. There is much work to determine what is and what isn't within the 20mph zones and there will be a significant amount of signage to be changed or introduced.

**Question from County Borough Councillor W. Lewis to the Cabinet Member for Corporate & Digital Services, County Borough Councillor M Norris:**

“Will the Cabinet provide an update on the roll-out of wi-fi across the key town centres of Rhondda Cynon Taf”

**Response of Councillor M Norris:**

Councillor Norris advised that providing free access for Wi-Fi in the town centres

has been a boost to them and should further encourage residents and businesses to shop locally. The initial pilot enabled the first roll out of free wi-fi in Aberdare followed by a further six town centres and followed by Pontypridd and Tonypany.

**Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor W Lewis:**

“Can you provide some feedback from the businesses and global traders on the success of the roll out?”

**Response of Councillor M Norris:**

Councillor Norris advised that it is one of the many positive investments within the town centres to encourage local spend and offering further information and services to the county borough with visitors able to see the wide variety of businesses available before they visit the town centres. Traders recognise the potential for this investment in technology and footfall has generally improved in the town centres because of the roll out. Councillor Norris added that traders and businesses were grateful for the council support and advised how important it is to help town centres to become more agile and be more digitally focused to support change and the investment demonstrates once again that the council is doing all it can to support its local high streets for the benefit for whole of the community.

**Question from County Borough Councillor S M Powell to the Cabinet Member for Education & Inclusion Services, County Borough Councillor J Bonetto:**

“How is this Council progressing plans for a new primary school for the pupils of Tonysguboriau?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor J Bonetto:**

Councillor Bonetto responded that the council has commenced the funding process for a new 300 place Primary School to replace the current school buildings with a brand-new state of the art, net zero carbon, 21<sup>st</sup> Century building on the existing school site. She advised that proposals are in the early stages with a business case to secure a mutual investment model, funding via Welsh Government’s Sustainable Communities for Learning (formerly 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme) having recently been submitted to Welsh Government. Subject to funding and planning approval it is helped to deliver the new school building by 2025.

**No Supplementary**

**Question from County Borough Councillor S. Bradwick to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:**

“Can the Leader of the Council provide an update on the progress of flood

alleviation scheme bids for the forthcoming year please?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

“Councillor Morgan spoke of the huge amount of work which has been carried out to date since Storm Dennis in terms of upgrading culverts. The Leader explained there are two different types of funding sources, through new bids for upgrading the existing infrastructure, through resilient roads of through the flood risk management team submitting bids with over £40M having been secured in the last two years with further bids submitted in the year ahead in the region of between £67M. The other funding is from WG for the recovery and damage from Storm Dennis, replacing river walls within the Council’s ownership, repairing damage to highways and bridges. He added that the outcome of the bids will be known shortly.

The Leader advised of the recent bids such as flood risk management (£7M), bids for resilient roads (£1-1.5M) and the flood recovery works (£16-18M) for larger works.

**Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor S Bradwick:**

“Please can you provide an update on the funding for the future for coal tips?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

The Leader confirmed that the council has spent in excess of £7M tackling coal tips, Tylorstown in particular with the fourth phase commencing shortly subject to planning permission. Stabilisation work has been carried out on Wattstown tip with funding from Welsh Government. There are a number of other sites where the council has installed monitoring equipment, tried and tested equipment and new technology, in other areas ground testing work is being carried out to test whether they need to be regraded. The Leader expected that there would be further work on how to tackle tips in the future with the need of millions of pounds of investment to support this work through Welsh Government as the UK Government is not prepared to support this work.

**138 The Council Work Programme 2021/22**

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications confirmed that subject to business needs, this would be the last scheduled Council meeting concluding on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022. He advised that the next Council meeting would be the Council’s Annual General Meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

**139 Appointment of additional Lay Members onto the Governance & Audit Committee**

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications presented his report to advise Council of the recent appointment of Lay Members to the Governance & Audit Committee, 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

The Service Director advised that the Council's Appointments Committee had been unanimous in its decision to appoint Mr Melvyn Jehu and Mr Julius Roszkowski. Through his report the Service Director sought Council's ratification of the Committee's decision and that the Lay Members be appointed for a term of office until the next ordinary Local Government Elections (currently scheduled for May 2027).

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

1. Note 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. Ratify 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.

#### **140 The Council's Pay Policy Statement 2022/23**

In accordance with Section 38(1) of the Localism Act, 2011, the Director, Human Resources provided Members with information in respect of the Council's 2022/23 Pay Policy Statement.

Following discussion, the Director of Human Resources responded to a query relating to the Council's regrading process for staff. He advised that appropriate discussions had taken place with the Trade Unions and they had been advised to utilise the agreed Regrading Policy and undertake a review of the job descriptions for those concerned

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Pay Policy Statement as attached at Appendix A of the report.

#### **141 Revised Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2022-2037**

The Director of Prosperity & Development presented his report with the purpose of updating Members on the progress of the Revised Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2020-2030. The Director advised that as the Council has been unable to meet the previously agreed formal Delivery Agreement, he sought 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.

The Director referred Members to table one in the report which summarised the new RLDP timetable and advised that details of the revisions had been reported to Cabinet and to the cross party RLDP Members Steering Group.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Approve the cessation of the preparation of the Revised Local Development

Plan (RLDP) 2020 – 2030.

2. Approve the proposal to begin a new RLDP with an amended and extended Plan period of 2022 – 2037.
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.
4. Approve that officers seek necessary Welsh Government agreement to formally start the preparation of the RLDP 2022 – 2037 in accordance with the Delivery Agreement.

## **142 Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/23**

The Director of Finance and Digital Services presented the report which provided information on the final local government settlement for 2022/23 and set out the recommendations of the Cabinet with regard to the Council's Revenue Budget and the level of Council Tax for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The Director of Finance and Digital Services advised that two phases of consultation had been undertaken with the second phase focussing on the proposed budget strategy itself. The consultation was held between the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022 until the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Feedback from the second phase consultation process, together with that from the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee, School Budget Forum and the Joint Consultative Committee is attached to the report.

The Director of Finance and Digital Services advised that the final local government settlement was received on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 which saw an increase in funding for the Council of 8.4%, the detail of which has been presented to Council on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022. He confirmed the remaining budget gap of £229,000, the detail is reported at section 7 within the report.

The Director of Finance and Digital Services outlined the budget strategy proposals and referred Members to table 1 at section 10 of the report which summarised the implications including the proposed reduction in the level of Council Tax increase and the delivery of efficiencies. The remaining budget gap of £963,000 can be offset by an allocation from the already replenished transition funding reserve of £4.6M, resulting in a balanced budget for next year of £566.792M.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to:

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. Note the implications for the Council and the remaining budget gap as set out at section 5;
3. Agree a Council Tax increase for 2022/23 of 1.00%;
4. Agree the uplift to the aggregate Schools Budget as detailed at section 8;



5. Agree the budget strategy proposals as set out at paragraphs 10.3(a) to 10.3(i);
6. Agree the use of the 'Medium Term Financial Planning & Service Transformation Reserve' as transition funding, totalling £0.963M for 2022/23;
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
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 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

### **143 Council Tax Resolution 2022/23**

The Director advised that following agreement of the County Borough Council's revenue budget for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, and the increase of Council Tax at 1.00% this report sets out the necessary formal resolution to set the level of next year's Council Tax, including the levels of precepts from the Community Councils and the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales.

He reported to full Council on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the reserves held, set out at paragraph 9 of the report. In doing so, he restated the non-continuation of the Welsh Government hardship fund and noted the Council already includes £0.5M contribution to general fund reserves in the base budget in order to replenish levels to the minimum level of £10M over the medium term.

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

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

**(Note:** During discussions, the following declarations of personal interests were made:

County Borough Councillor G Thomas – "I am a member of the South Wales Police & Crime Panel"

County Borough Councillor R Lewis - "I am a member of the South Wales Police & Crime Panel"

County Borough Councillor M Powell – "I am a member of Pontypridd Town Council"

County Borough Councillor S Belzak – "I am a member of Pontypridd Town Council"

(The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications advised of a blanket declaration of personal interest for all members of Town and Community Councils would be recorded).

**(Note:** County Borough Councillors L Hooper, S Trask and S Belzak wished to have it recorded as having voted against the recommendations)

#### **144 Capital Programme 2022/23 - 2024/25**

The Director of Finance & Digital Services set out the Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2024/25, following receipt of the final local government settlement for 2022/23.

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

1. Note the detail of the final 2022/23 local government settlement for capital expenditure, reproduced at Appendix 1;
2. Agree to the proposed reallocation of existing resources, and allocation of new resources as detailed in paragraph 5;
3. Agree to allocate the funding identified in the report to the investment priorities as detailed in paragraph 6.2;
4. Agree the proposed 'core' three-year programme detailed at Appendix 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**(Note:** The Members of the RCT Independent Group present wished to have their names recorded as having voted against the matter:

County Borough Councillors M Powell, L Walker, P Howe, W Jones and W Owen. County Borough Councillor S Belzak also wished to have his name recorded as having voted against the matter).

#### **145 Treasury Management Strategy**

The Director of Finance & Digital Services presented his report with the purpose of setting 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.

The Director of Finance & Digital Services responded to a query regarding the Council's Treasury Management and investment activities and links to Russia. He advised that its borrowing is from the PWLB (the UK Government) and its investments are with UK Government backed organisations and the debt management office. He further advised that a statement on the Pension Fund website sets out the pension fund position which mirrors the position of all Wales Pension funds (which was also reported to the Pension Fund Committee).

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Approve the Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy, Treasury Indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement as set out in the report; and
2. Approve the updated Treasury Management Clauses (Appendix 1).

#### **146 Capital Strategy Report 2022/23**

Members were presented with the report of the Director of Finance & Digital Services which set 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.

The Director advised that both this and the Council's Treasury Management report would be presented to the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Capital Strategy report incorporating the Prudential Indicators.

#### **147 Sustainable Communities for Learning (Formerly 21st Century Schools) Capital Programme - New Welsh Medium Primary School In Rhydyfelin**

In his report the Director of Finance & Digital Services set out his report which sought Council's 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Schools) Band B capital grant and to fund the Council's contribution from borrowing using its powers under the Prudential Code.

Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** to:

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. 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.

## **148 Notice 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.

At the meeting the Chair announced that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4.1 the following amendment to the Notice of Motion had been received from County Borough Councillors P. Jarman, A. Cox, J. Williams, H. Fychan, E. Griffiths, E. Webster, S. Evans, A. Chapman, M. Weaver, S. Rees-Owen, L. Jones, E. Stephens, J. Davies, J. Cullwick, G. Davies, K. Morgan, D. Grehan:

The amended motion read:

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:  
(1) That the disparity in funding under the Shared Prosperity Fund be addressed as a matter of urgency.  
(2) That the UK Government in any event, should repatriate the authority to invest such funds to the democratically elected Welsh Government.
- 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.

Following a discussion on this matter, the vote was taken in respect of the amendment to the Notice of Motion and it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the amendment, which then became the substantive motion, as set out above, to which Members **RESOLVED** to adopt.

**(Note:** The Conservative Group wished to have it recorded as voting against the amended and substantive notice of motion)

#### **149 Council Procedure Rule 8**

It was **RESOLVED** to continue the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8, to allow consideration of the remaining agenda items and continuation of Council business.

#### **150 Notice of Motion**

**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.

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.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- 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.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the notice of motion.

(**Note:** County Borough Councillor J Brencher declared a declaration of personal interest – “ My son is Director for Transport for Wales”)

**151 TO CONSIDER PASSING THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:**

It was **RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**152 Funding Arrangement for Transport (Rail) Infrastructure Works**

The Director of Finance & Digital Services provided Members with an overview of his report which contained exempt information.

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

1. Agree to the principles of the financing arrangement and the acceptance of the offer of funding as set out in the report (subject to conclusion of the issues as set out at para 4.10);
2. Authorise officers to progress, negotiate and conclude the necessary further legal agreements ensuring that the Council's position is fully safeguarded; and
3. Note and agree that the Council's Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators are updated to reflect the arrangement.

(**Note:** County Borough Councillors L Hooper and S Trask wished to have their names recorded as having voted against the above recommendations).

**This meeting closed at 8pm**

**Cllr S Powderhill  
Chairman.**







## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

### **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL**

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 25 May 2022 at 3.00 pm.

#### **County Borough Councillors - Council Members in attendance in the Council Chamber:-**

Councillor M Ashford	Councillor J Barton
Councillor J Bonetto	Councillor S Bradwick
Councillor J Brencher	Councillor T Burnell
Councillor G Caple	Councillor J Cook
Councillor A Crimmings	Councillor R Davis
Councillor V Dunn	Councillor E L Dunning
Councillor J Edwards	Councillor A J Ellis
Councillor L Ellis	Councillor S Emanuel
Councillor S Evans	Councillor A Fox
Councillor D Grehan	Councillor H Gronow
Councillor B Harris	Councillor S Hickman
Councillor G Holmes	Councillor G Hughes
Councillor W Hughes	Councillor K Johnson
Councillor G Jones	Councillor G O Jones
Councillor W Jones	Councillor R Lewis
Councillor W Lewis	Councillor C Leyshon
Councillor M Maohoub	Councillor C Middle
Councillor A Morgan	Councillor S Morgans
Councillor M Norris	Councillor W Owen
Councillor D Parkin	Councillor M Rees-Jones
Councillor S Rees	Councillor J Smith
Councillor A O Rogers	Councillor L A Tomkinson
Councillor B. Stephens	Councillor W Treeby
Councillor S Trask	Councillor K Webb
Councillor G L Warren	Councillor G E Williams
Councillor M Webber	Councillor D Wood
Councillor R Williams	

#### **County Borough Councillors - Council Members in attendance online:**

Councillor L Addiscott	Councillor D Williams
Councillor R Bevan	Councillor T Williams
Councillor S J Davies	Councillor R Yeo
Councillor J Elliott	Councillor Sera Evans
Councillor R Evans	Councillor K Morgan
Councillor N Morgan	Councillor M Powell
Councillor D Owen-Jones	Councillor C Lisle
Councillor S Powderhill	Councillor P Binning
Councillor C Preedy	Councillor D Evans
Councillor A Roberts	
Councillor J Turner	
Councillor G Stacey	

**Officers in attendance in the Council Chamber:**

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 A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services

**153 Apology**

An apology of absence was received from County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins.

**154 Declaration of Interest**

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

**155 Election of the Presiding Member**

**RESOLVED** – that County Borough Councillor G Hughes be elected as Presiding Member for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

County Borough Councillor G Hughes resumed the Chair following his appointment and addressed Council in his role as Presiding Member.

**156 Election of the Deputy Presiding Member**

The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication presented his report which proposed the appointment of two Deputy Presiding Members as part of the Council's democratic Council structure to undertake the functions of the Presiding Member in their absence as Chair of the Council.

The Service Director advised that the arrangement would ensure that, in most circumstances, one of three Members would be available to chair a hybrid meeting in person, which is vital to the smooth running of a live broadcasted meetings. Should Council agree to the proposal, it was recommended that the appointment of a Presiding Member and the two Deputy Presiding Members is undertaken on an annual basis at the Council's Annual General Meeting and that the Director of Legal Services (as Monitoring Officer) is given delegated authority to make any consequential changes to the Council's Constitution.

Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Appoint two Deputy Presiding Members into the Council structure, who would undertake the administrative functions of the Chair of the Council in the absence of the Presiding Member;
2. Appoint two Deputy Presiding Members for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year (at agenda item 4 'Elections & Appointments') and on an annual basis at the Annual General Meeting thereafter; and

3. That the Director of Legal Services (as Monitoring Officer) amends the Council's Constitution to reflect the required amendments detailed in the above recommendations and makes any consequential changes.

## 157 Elections & Appointments

### **To elect Two Deputy Presiding Members of the Council**

**RESOLVED** – that County Borough Councillor Sheryl Evans be elected as the first Deputy Presiding Member for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

**RESOLVED** – that County Borough Councillor Barry Stephens be elected as the second Deputy Presiding Member for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

### **To receive an address from the retiring Mayors of the Council 2021-2022.**

County Borough Councillor J Bonetto took the opportunity to reflect on her term of office as Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf for the first part of the 2021/22 Municipal Year before she joined the Council Cabinet as Member for Education and Inclusion Services. She thanked everyone who had helped her raise a significant amount, over £30,000 for her Charities, Help for Heroes, AP Cymru and 2 Wish who conduct excellent work within the community.

The retiring Mayor County Borough Councillor W Treeby thanked her predecessor, Councillor Jill Bonetto and congratulated her on raising money during a difficult period. Councillor Treeby commented that the last few months as Mayor had been a privilege for her. She thanked the residents, communities and officers who had supported her and her charities.

In response Members paid tribute to the retiring Mayors for their efforts and hard work during their respective terms of office.

### **To elect a Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2022-2023.**

**RESOLVED** – to elect County Borough Councillor W Treeby as Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2022-2023.

The Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2022-2023 commented on the huge honour to serve as Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf during an historic year as the County Borough celebrates the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and also welcomes the Queen's Baton Relay back to Rhondda Cynon Taf ahead of the Commonwealth Games. She referenced the Freedom of the County Borough which will be granted to Welsh rugby legend Neil Jenkins MBE and also to all key workers, to acknowledge their commitment throughout the global pandemic.

During her term of office as Mayor for RCT, Councillor Treeby announced her charities as the Wales Air Ambulance, Stroke Association and Green Meadow

Riding for the Disabled, as well as supporting the Armed Forces.

Members wished the incoming Mayor well for her forthcoming year.

**To appoint a Deputy Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2022 – 2023.**

**RESOLVED** – to elect County Borough Councillor W Lewis as Deputy Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2022-2023.

The Deputy Mayor congratulated the new incoming Madam Mayor and for affording her the honour of being re-elected as Deputy Mayor for 2022-23.

**To appoint a Leader of the Council**

**RESOLVED** – that County Borough Councillor A Morgan be appointed Leader of the Council for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

County Borough Councillor A Morgan extended his thanks to the Labour Group for their support during the last year which had been a difficult time through covid-19 and the impact of the flooding on the communities of RCT. He commented on the success of the Labour Group at the recent Elections achieving the second largest majority with 59 seats.

The Leader confirmed that the twenty core commitments had been honoured and fulfilled and he advised that he would be lobbying Welsh Government for further support throughout the coming winter months in response to the cost-of-living crisis.

**To confirm the appointment of the Leader of the largest opposition party, as the Leader of the Opposition.**

**RESOLVED** to confirm the appointment of County Borough Councillor K Morgan as Leader of the Opposition.

The Leader of the Opposition paid tribute to her predecessor, the former Councillor P Jarman for her 46 years of service to the Plaid Cymru Party and commented that she and her colleagues looked forward to working together with the Leader of the Council in a constructive way, for the residents of RCT.

The Group Leaders congratulated both the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition.

**158 Executive Functions**

**RESOLVED** to note the Cabinet and their individual designations, as follows:-

- County Borough Councillor A Morgan, Leader & Cabinet Member for Infrastructure & Investment
- County Borough Councillor M. Webber, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Council Business
- County Borough Councillor M. Norris, Cabinet Member for Development

& Prosperity

- County Borough Councillor R. Lewis, Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation & Welsh Language
- County Borough Councillor G. Caple, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care
- County Borough Councillor B. Harris, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Communities
- County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings, Cabinet Member for Environment, & Leisure
- County Borough Councillor C. Leyshon, Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Corporate Services

## 159 **Review- Overview & Scrutiny Arrangements 2022-2027**

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communication presented his report which provided Members with the recommended scrutiny arrangements for the next Council term (2022-2027) and subject to Members' agreement, sought approval to amend the Constitution to reflect the proposals contained within the report.

The Service Director referred Members to the proposed models of scrutiny as set out at section 6 of the report which would support and respond to the requirements and direction of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021. He advised that the reduction in the number of scrutiny committees would see an increase in the frequency of meetings from the current six-week cycle.

To assist Members, the Service Director reported on the proposed remit of each of the four thematic scrutiny committees and where necessary any changes to the current model.

In conclusion, the Service Director highlighted the reasons for the proposed changes to the scrutiny structure such as balancing the Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes and allowing for greater pre-scrutiny on key decisions of the Cabinet which will further support the Council's Corporate Plan.

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

1. Support the recommendations of the 'Head of Democratic Services' in respect of the Council's proposed future scrutiny arrangements as detailed in this report;
2. Agree that following prior consultation with the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs, the terms of reference of each of the Scrutiny Committees be reviewed, refined and agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its first meeting following the AGM; and
3. Agree that authority is provided to the Director of Legal Services (as

Monitoring Officer) to update the Council Constitution accordingly to reflect the changes to each Committee's terms of reference, once agreed upon.

## 160 The Political Balance of the Council

Through his joint report with the Director of Legal Services, the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication, advised Members of the outcome of the review of the Political Balance of the Authority following the local government elections held on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

The Service Director highlighted the outcomes of the review undertaken and the available seats which require appointment by the respective political groups as set out in tables A and B of the appendix to the report. He also referred to the allocation of scrutiny committee Chairs subject to agreeing the revised scrutiny arrangements proposed by the Head of Democratic Services.

He advised that Section 5 seeks Council's determination of the allocation of the notices of motion for the new municipal year and authority would also be sought for the appointments to the Committees once the nominations are received from the political groups.

It was **RESOLVED** –

1. That the scheme for the allocation of seats to the different political groups and bodies to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applies, as detailed in the Appendix to this report, be adopted;
2. That the Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication be authorised to make appointments to politically balanced bodies upon receipt by him of notification of the wishes of the political groups subject to any subsequent requests for amendment of membership of Committees, being referred to Council; and
3. That the allocation of Notices of Motion for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year is as follows: -

Labour - 12  
Plaid Cymru -5  
RCT Independent Group - 2  
Conservatives – 1

**(Note:** The lost motion to change the allocation of Notices of Motion from that as set out to *Labour 12, Plaid Cymru 4, RCT Independent Group 3 and Conservative Group 1* was proposed by Councillor M Powell and seconded by Councillor C Lises).

## 161 The Council's Constitution - Proposed Amendments

The Director, Legal Services set out the proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution as outlined in the joint report which sought Council's approval of the

proposed amendments to the Constitution as set out in Appendices A, B, C and D to the report. The Director advised that the proposals reflect legislative changes including consequential changes required as a result of relevant provisions in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 the majority of which came into force on 5th May 2022.

The Director referred to the summary of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 provisions set out at section 5.1 of the report which took effect from 5th May 2022.

Following discussions, it was **RESOLVED** to agree the proposed amendments relating to the Council's Constitution as set out in appendices A, B, C and D to the report as follows:

- Appendix A (Part 1 – Summary Guide & Explanation);
- Appendix B (Part 2 – Articles of the Constitution);
- Appendix C (Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions - extract); and
- Appendix D (Part 4 - Rules of Procedure- extract)

## **162 Appointment of Committees 2022-2023**

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communication presented his report which sought the appointment of the Council's Committees for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year.

**RESOLVED** to appoint the under-mentioned Committees for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year:

- a) Planning and Development Committee (x11 Members)
- b) Licensing Committee (x11 Members)
- c) Appointments Committee (x5 Members)
- d) Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals Committee (x5 Members)
- e) Overview and Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
- f) Education & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
- g) Community Services Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
- h) Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
- i) Governance & Audit Committee (x6 Members)
- j) Democratic Services Committee (x17 Members)
- k) Standards Committee (x2 Members)
- l) Constitution Committee (x8 Members)
- m) Pension Fund Committee (x5 Members)
- n) Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (x5 Members)

## **163 Appointment of Chairs & Vice Chairs 2022-2023**

In his report the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication sought consideration to the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the Council's Committees for the Municipal Year 2022-2023, and to confirm which Committee Chair Roles which will qualify for a senior salary in line with the determinations of

the IRP. It was **RESOLVED**:

1. To appoint the following Members to the posts of Chairs and Vice-Chairs:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Vice-Chair</b>
Planning & Development	S Rees	W Lewis
Licensing	A S Fox	D H Williams
Appointments	R Davis	M Webber
Appeals/Employee Appeals	Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals	R Williams G Holmes
Pension Fund Committee	M Norris	M Ashford

2. To appoint County Borough Councillor W Jones as Chair and County Borough Councillor M Webber as Vice Chair of the Democratic Services Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (the 'Measure');
3. To note that in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021, and At the Council meeting held on the [20<sup>th</sup> October 2021](#), it was agreed to extend the term of office of the current Lay Member appointed to the Governance & Audit Committee, Mr. Christopher Jones, until the ordinary Local Government Elections following May 2022 (currently scheduled for May 2027) Mr. Christopher Jones, until the ordinary Local Government Elections following May 2022 (currently scheduled for May 2027)
4. To agree that the responsibility for the appointment of the Vice-Chair of the Governance & Audit Committee be delegated to the Governance & Audit Committee;
5. That the appointment of Chair of the Education & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee be allocated to the Plaid Cymru Group;
6. In accordance with the nominations received from the appropriate Political Groups, that the following Members be appointed as Chairs to the under-mentioned Scrutiny Committees together with the appointment of Vice-Chairs: --

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Vice-Chair</b>
Overview & Scrutiny	J Edwards	M Rees-Jones
Education & Inclusion	Sera Evans	K Webb
Community Services	J Bonetto	G Williams
Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity	C Middle	G Warren

7. To note the appointment of the Presiding Member and Deputy Presiding Member, Councillors G Hughes and Sheryl Evans as the Chair and Vice-Chair respectively to the Constitution Committee;
8. To note that for Municipal Year 2022-2023 the Chair & Vice-Chair of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee



(‘JOSC’) will be appointed by the JOSC; and

9. That the following 19 posts, which meet the qualifying criteria and would attract Senior Salaries, are to be paid by this Council for the 2022/23 Municipal Year as follows:

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>AMOUNT (£)</b>
<b>Leader</b>	£63,000
<b>Deputy Leader</b>	£44,100
<b>Executive (Cabinet Member) (x6)</b>	£37,800
<b>Planning &amp; Development Committee Chair</b>	£25,593
<b>Licensing Committee Chair</b>	£25,593
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair</b>	£25,593
<b>Scrutiny Committee Chairs (x3)</b>	£25,593
<b>Appeals Committee Chair</b>	£25,593
<b>Democratic Services Committee Chair</b>	£25,593
<b>Pension Fund Committee Chair</b>	£25,593
<b>Presiding Member</b>	£25,593
<b>Leader of Opposition (largest group)*</b> *must be paid subject to relevant criteria being met	£25,593

#### **164 Quasi Judicial Bodies/Ad-Hoc Committees 2022-2023**

The Service Director Democratic Services presented his report in respect of appointing Members to the Quasi-Judicial Bodies/Ad Hoc Committees for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year subject to the political balance of the Council as set out below:

**RESOLVED** to appoint the following:

1. The Local Education Authority Governors (Appointments) Committee (5 Members). (4 Labour, 1 Plaid Cymru):  
County Borough Councillors R Lewis, G Stacey, J Brencher, S Hickman and Sera Evans

2. Voluntary Early Retirement/Redundancy Panel (5 Members) (4 Labour, 1 Plaid Cymru):  
County Borough Councillors M Webber, L Tomkinson, J Bonetto, G Jones and D Grehan.
3. Joint Consultative Committee (4 Members):  
County Borough Councillors A Crimmings, R Lewis, M Webber and A Morgan

## 165 Outside Bodies

Following consideration of the report of the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication it was **RESOLVED** – that the under-mentioned Members be appointed to the following non-executive Joint Committees and Outside bodies for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year:-

- Age Concern Cymru (1 representative) Councillor G Caple
- Consortium Local Authority Wales (C.L.A.W.) (1 representative)  
Councillor C Leyshon
- Cynon Valley Indoor Bowls Committee (1 representative)  
Councillor A Morgan
- Edward Thomas Charity (4 representatives) Councillors R Lewis, R Williams, A Fox, M Rees Jones
- Joint Council for Wales (2 representatives) Councillors M Webber and C Leyshon
- The Alliance (3 representatives) Councillors S Powderhill, G Jones, E Dunning
- Tower Site Liaison Committee (3 representatives) Councillors K Morgan, L Addiscott and Cllr Scott Emanuel
- Valuation Tribunal Wales – Appointments Panel (1 representative) Councillor C Leyshon
- Wales Co-op Centre Board (1 representative) Councillor M Norris
- Welsh Local Government Association (5 representatives)  
Councillors A Morgan, M Webber, M Norris, R Lewis & C Leyshon
- Welsh Local Government Association Executive Board (1 representative and 1 substitute) Councillor A Morgan and M Webber
- Board of Governors Coleg y Cymoedd (1 representative) Mrs G Davies
- Judges Hall Trust (1 representative) Councillor G Hughes
- RCT Community Chest (1 representative) Councillor A Crimmings
- Reserve Forces & Cadets Association (1 representative)  
Councillor C Preedy
- Trivallis (1 representative) Councillor B Stephens
- South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority(4 representatives)  
Councillors S Bradwick, A Roberts, G Holmes and D Parkin
- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (NPA)( 1 representative)  
Councillor S Emmanuel

**(Note:** The following Members wished to have their names recorded as having voted in favour of appointing Cllr Adam Owain Rogers as the Brecon Beacons representative:  
Councillors K Morgan, Sera Evans, D Evans, C Lises, A Ellis, D Grehan and M Powell)

- South Wales Police Crime Panel (2 representatives) Councillors B Harris and L Addiscott
- Cwm Taf Community Health Council (3 representatives)  
Councillors Martin Ashford, Emma Dunning and Amanda Ellis

## **166 Calendar of meetings 2022-2023**

Through his report, the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication sought the approval of the attached Calendar of Meetings for 2022 – 2023 Municipal Year.

The Service Director referred to the element of flexibility that would be required going forward and that a full calendar to include the earlier agreed Scrutiny proposals and revised model would be included for circulation.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the contents of the report
2. To agree that with the exception of the Planning and Development Committee, meetings will not be convened during School holidays, subject to urgent business needs;
3. To agree the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2022- 23, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report;
4. To note that this draft calendar is subject to change, based upon the demands of business over the coming municipal year. Any changes or additions will be undertaken in consultation with the appropriate committee chairs; and
5. To note that a survey of all Members' preferences regarding the future timing of meetings will be undertaken during the next three months in line with Section 6 of the Local Government Measure 2011 as amended within the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

**This meeting closed at 4.20 pm**

**Cllr G Hughes  
Chairman.**

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## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL**

Minutes of the hybrid extra ordinary meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 25 May 2022 at 5.00 pm.

### **County Borough Councillors - Council Members in attendance in the Council Chamber:-**

#### **Councillor G Hughes- Chair**

Councillor M Ashford	Councillor J Barton
Councillor S Bradwick	Councillor J Bonetto
Councillor T Burnell	Councillor J Brencher
Councillor J Cook	Councillor G Caple
Councillor R Davis	Councillor A Crimmings
Councillor E L Dunning	Councillor V Dunn
Councillor A J Ellis	Councillor J Edwards
Councillor S Emanuel	Councillor L Ellis
Councillor A Fox	Councillor Sheryl Evans
Councillor H Gronow	Councillor B Harris
Councillor S Hickman	Councillor G Holmes
Councillor K Johnson	Councillor W Hughes
Councillor G O Jones	Councillor G Jones
Councillor R Lewis	Councillor W Jones
Councillor C Leyshon	Councillor W Lewis
Councillor C Middle	Councillor M Maohoub
Councillor S Morgans	Councillor A Morgan
Councillor W Owen	Councillor M Norris
Councillor S Rees	Councillor D Parkin
Councillor A O Rogers	Councillor M Rees-Jones
Councillor L A Tomkinson	Councillor J Smith
Councillor W Treeby	Councillor B Stephens
Councillor K Webb	Councillor S Trask
Councillor G E Williams	Councillor G L Warren
Councillor R Williams	Councillor M Webber
Councillor D Wood	

### **County Borough Councillors - Council Members in attendance virtually:-**

Councillor L Addiscott	Councillor P Binning
Councillor R Bevan	Councillor D Evans
Councillor J Elliott	Councillor R Evans
Councillor Sera Evans	Councillor S J Davies
Councillor D Grehan	Councillor K Morgan
Councillor N Morgan	Councillor S Powderhill
Councillor C Preedy	Councillor M Powell
Councillor A Roberts	Councillor G Stacey
Councillor J Turner	Councillor D Williams
Councillor R Yeo	

### **Officers in attendance in the Council Chamber:**

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 A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services

#### **1 Apology**

An apology of absence was received from County Borough Councillors D Owen-Jones, C Lises, G Hopkins, and T Williams.

#### **2 Announcement**

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor K Morgan announced the tragic and untimely death of Paul Wigley, Branch Librarian for Hirwaun Library and paid tribute to him and his many years of service to his community. Councillor K Morgan read a tribute to Paul, written by his fellow colleagues with details of his passion for the library service and his sense of compassion and the huge loss felt by the residents of Hirwaun.

Following the tribute, Members marked Paul's death with a minute's silence.

#### **3 Declaration of Interest**

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

#### **4 Appointment of Chief Executive Post**

In the report, the Director, Human Resources requested that Council formally agree to advertise the post of permanent Chief Executive following formal notification from the current Chief Executive, Mr Chris Bradshaw of his pending retirement on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

The Director advised that should Council agree an appointment on a permanent basis, an advert for the post of Chief Executive would be placed as soon as practicable with the Appointments Committee undertaking the shortlisting and assessment process in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council wished to place on record their thanks to Mr Bradshaw for his leadership over the past seven years and wished him well for his retirement. The Leader of the Opposition Group also acknowledged Mr Bradshaw's leadership of RCT Council to date.

Following consideration of this matter, it was **RESOLVED –**

1. To instruct the Director of Human Resources to place an advert for the post of Chief Executive as soon as practicable; and
2. To note that the successful appointee would not take up the position until

1<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

**This meeting closed at 5.10 pm**

**Cllr G Hughes  
Chairman.**

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## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### COUNCIL

6<sup>th</sup> July 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 was 5pm on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022.
- 4.2 Twenty Two questions were received and put forward to the Council Ballot held on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 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><b>Question from County Borough Councillor R. Davis to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</b></p> <p>“With another round of investment in play areas across RCT announced recently, can the Cabinet Member please confirm whether this remains a priority for the new administration going forward?”</p>
2	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor D Grehan to the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities County Borough Councillor B. Harris:</b></p> <p>“Mae arfer bresennol o osod pobl ifanc i fyw yng nghanol ardaloedd preswyl a ddatblygwyd yn wreiddiol ar gyfer pobl hŷn i fyw yn creu problemau enfawr. Ydy'r Cyngor yn fodlon ystyried, unwaith eto, neilltuo rhai ardaloedd preswyl ar gyfer pobl hŷn yn unig?”</p> <p>“The current practice of placing young people in residential areas that were originally developed for older residents is creating significant problems. Once again, is the Council willing to consider allocating some residential areas for older residents only?”</p>
3	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor A. S. Fox to the Cabinet Member for Public Health &amp; Communities, County Borough Councillor B. Harris:</b></p> <p>“How is this Council taking action to improve public safety in communities?”</p>
4	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor M. Powell to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“Would the Leader 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>
5	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor M. Maohoub to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></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>
6	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor L. Addiscott to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Corporate Services, County Borough Councillor C. Leyshon:</b></p> <p>“How is this Council progressing plans for the introduction of Electric Charge Points throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf?”</p>

7	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Emanuel to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“How is the Council supporting low-income households to meet the pressures of increasing household fuel costs?”</p>
8	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor W. Hughes to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</b></p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the Council’s investment in outdoor leisure facilities?”</p>
9	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor K. Morgan to the Leader County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“ Will the Leader provide a progress report on plans to provide a passenger train service to Hirwaun and Rhigos, including timescales”</p>
10	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor R. Williams to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“How will this Council go about delivering on the manifesto commitments of the RCT Labour Group over the course of this Council term?”</p>
11	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor D. Williams to the Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:</b></p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member outline the next steps for the development of a new school to serve the Glyncoch community and its residents?”</p>
12	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“Will the Leader please give an update on the latest position with regards to the Llanharan Footbridge?”</p>
13	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor L. Ellis to the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Council Business, County Borough Councillor M. Webber:</b></p> <p>“Can the Deputy Leader and Armed Forces Champion outline what support is available from the Council to the local Armed Forces community?”</p>

14	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor L. A. Tomkinson to the Cabinet Member for Public Health &amp; Communities, County Borough Councillor B. Harris:</b></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>
15	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor G.E Williams to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“Can the Council Leader provide an update on what flood alleviation schemes are expected to be carried out this year?”</p>
16	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor C Lises to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change &amp; Corporate Services County Borough Councillor C. Leyshon</b></p> <p>“What plans does the council have for a Greener RCT?”</p>
17	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Bradwick to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“With the U.K. Government <i>finally</i> introducing the Shared Prosperity Fund, will the Leader outline whether this Council intends to submit any bids for projects under the scheme?”</p>
18	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor A Rogers to the Cabinet Member Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language County Borough Councillor R Lewis:</b></p> <p>“Unfortunately, the students at Rhigos Primary cannot make full use of the facilities they have. Inadequate drainage and tree roots have damaged the outside playground and accessibility within the school grounds need to be improved. Will the Cabinet Member meet with myself and the Headteacher at the school to see the issues and advise how they can be resolved?”</p>
19	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor D. Parkin to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:</b></p> <p>“Can the Council Leader provide an update on the implementation of the Real Living Wage to the social care sector in RCT?”</p>
20	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Bonetto to the Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:</b></p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member please outline the latest position on the Taff’s Well Thermal Spring project, in light of the good progress made to deliver the improvements to Ffynnon Taf Primary School?”</p>

21	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor E. L. Dunning to the Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:</b></p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member please make a statement on Youth Service provision in Rhondda Cynon Taf? And in particular if there has been any progress made on the pledge made during the election to double the number of detached youth vehicles?”</p>
22	<p><b>Question from County Borough Councillor N. H. Morgan to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Corporate Services, County Borough Councillor C. Leyshon:</b></p> <p>“Will the relevant Cabinet Member please make a statement on the Council’s biodiversity policy?”</p>

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

**5. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

- 5.1 The 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**

**6<sup>th</sup> July 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

6<sup>th</sup> July 2022

### CALENDAR OF MEETINGS - MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022 - 2023

#### REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION.

#### 1. **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise Council of the updated Calendar of Meetings for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year, as populated since the Council AGM on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022. In accordance with the Council's Constitution a calendar of meetings was proposed at the Annual General Meeting. In accordance with statutory requirements, additional information from the Elected Members survey in respect of the Timing of Meetings, has informed the final calendar.

#### 2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To note the contents of the report; and in doing so note the responses to the Elected Members' Survey in respect of the Timing of Meetings, as outlined in paragraph 4.
- 2.2 To note the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2022 - 2023, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report; and
- 2.3 To note that the draft calendar is subject to change, based upon the demands of business over the coming municipal year. Any changes or additions will be undertaken in consultation with the appropriate committee chairs.

#### 3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In accordance with Part 4 of the Constitution, Council Procedure Rule 1 (1.1 (xiv)), the Council must present a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the year at the Annual Council Meeting.
- 3.2 There is however a statutory requirement to survey members in respect of the timings of meetings. It would not be beneficial to canvass Members' views, until they have been appointed to committees, on or as a result of the determinations made at an Annual General Meeting.

- 3.3 The Calendar of meetings, following consideration of the findings arising from the Elected Members survey in respect of the Timing of Meetings is attached.
- 3.4 The findings of the survey will be considered in detail by the Democratic Services Committee at its first meeting.

#### **4. SURVEY OF TIMING OF MEETINGS**

- 4.1 In accordance with Section 6(2) of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, a survey was recently carried out to assess Members' preferences regarding the future timing of committee meetings.
- 4.2 Overall 43% of Members completed the questionnaire. As surveyed, Members were advised of the current start times of various committee meetings and asked to identify their preferred meeting start time if their preference differed to the current.
- 4.3 In total over 55% of the respondents cited 5.00pm as their preferred starting time for Council meetings. In respect of other key committees currently with a 5pm start time such as Licensing Committee, Scrutiny Committees and Democratic Services Committee, the majority of Members indicated the continuation of the 5pm Committee meeting start time.
- 4.4 With regards to the Planning & Development Committee, of those that responded and are members of the committee, 46% stated that they are happy with the current start time. It should be noted that the majority of the committee members survey supported the proposed time.
- 4.5 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 places a requirement on the Council that meetings take place on a multi-location basis. Members are therefore able to join virtually through the Council's Zoom platform or attend in person at the Council Chamber. An overwhelming 81% of Members stated that they would prefer to attend physically in the Council chamber with the remaining Members joining virtually.
- 4.6 As agreed at the Council AGM on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 (Minute No.15(3) Refers) Committee meetings were to be convened outside of the School holiday periods, save for exceptional circumstances (urgent business requirements). Again, this aspect was overwhelmingly supported. This scheduling has proved successful for Members, and it is proposed that this continues for the 2022-23 Municipal Year.
- 4.7 The Survey also sought Members' views on the support provided by the Council Business Unit, the support available in using the technology in the Council Chamber to participate in meetings such as Microphones and Headphones and their views were also sought on the recent Members Induction Programme. A report will be presented to a future meeting of the Democratic Services Committee to consider the outcome of the responses received, with 97% of respondents advising they are content with the level of support provided by the Council Business Unit.
- 4.8 Members are advised that while there is a statutory requirement for the Head of Democratic Services to survey all members in respect of the timing of meetings, the information providing is not binding and should

instead be used to guide the decisions made by committee chairs in respect of the timings of their respective meetings, and also needs to be balanced against the operational requirements of the service and the demands of committee business at a specific time.

## **5. PROPOSED CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

5.1 Attached is the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the 2022 - 2023 Municipal Year which includes, amongst others, the proposed dates for the Cabinet, Council, Licensing Committee, Governance & Audit Committee and the Planning & Development Committee. Following the Annual General Meeting, Scrutiny Committee dates have also been included for Members' information.

## **6. SPECIAL MEETINGS**

6.1 Special/Extraordinary meetings of Council or Committees may be called, should this be deemed necessary by the Head of Democratic Services or Presiding Officer or the relevant Chair.

## **7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

The production of a calendar of meetings is aimed at assisting and supporting the role of all Members, to provide them with sufficient notice of meeting dates and times. The aspect of hybrid and virtual meetings also promotes the democracy agenda, allowing the undertaking of Council business by Members to be more accessible and manageable.

## **8. CONSULTATION**

A Members annual survey was undertaken to establish the preferred commencement times for Committee meetings.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications aligned to this report,

## **10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- Council's Constitution
- The Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021

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

The Calendar of meetings provides the framework and timeline for decisions of the Council to be taken forward and therefore seeks to ensure all of the Council priorities are taken forward. It also embraces the Future Generations Acts as all future decisions taken by Council

seek to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the County Borough.

## **12 CONCLUSION**

12.1 The Calendar of meetings for the 2022 - 2023 Municipal Year is attached as Appendix 1 to the report. Members are asked to note the dates and times of the meeting to assist in their diary management.

12.2 Where possible, electronic / outlook diary markers will also be circulated to Members in advance of a meeting to assist with diary commitments.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**as amended by**

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

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**COUNCIL 6<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022**

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

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**CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**  
**2022 – 2023**

# July 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4 Overview and Scrutiny 5PM	5	6 Council 5pm	7 Planning & Development Committee 3pm	8	9	10
11 RCT Pension Board 10am	12 Pension Fund Committee 2pm Licensing Act 2003 4.30pm Licensing Committee 5pm	13	14 School Budget Forum 2.30pm	15	16	17
18 Cabinet 1pm  Governance & Audit Committee 5pm	19 PSB 10am Central South Consortium Joint Committee 10am  Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Committee 2pm	20 O&S Finance Sub- Committee 2pm	21 Planning & Development Committee 3pm	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



# August 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Planning & Development Committee 3pm(If business needs require)	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Summer Bank Holiday	30	31				

# September 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5 Governance & Audit Committee 5pm	6 Democratic Services Committee 5pm	7	8 Planning & Development Committee 3pm	9	10	11
12	13 Licensing Committee 5pm  Constitution Committee 2pm	14 Overview and Scrutiny 5PM	15 Education & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee 5pm	16	17	18
19 Community Services Scrutiny Committee 5pm	20 Central South Consortium Joint Committee 10am  Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Committee 2pm	21 Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee 5pm	22 Planning & Development Committee 3pm	23 Standards Committee 10am	24	25
26 Cabinet 1pm	27	28 Council 5pm	29	30		

# October 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Planning & Development Committee 3pm	7	8	9
10 Pension Fund Committee 2pm	11	12 Cabinet 10AM  Overview and Scrutiny 5pm	13 Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee 5pm	14	15	16
17. Governance & Audit Committee 5pm	18 PSB 10am	19 Council	20 Planning & Development Committee 3pm	21	22	23
24 Community Services Scrutiny Committee 5pm	25	26	27 Education & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee 5pm	28	29	30
31						

# November 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 Licensing Act 2003 4.30pm Licensing Committee 5pm	2	3 Planning & Development Committee 3pm	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Democratic Services Committee 5pm	15 Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee 5pm	16 Overview and Scrutiny 5pm	17 Planning & Development Committee 3pm	18 Standards Committee 10am	19	20
21 Cabinet 1pm	22	23 Council 5pm	24	25	26	27
28 Community Services Scrutiny Committee 5pm	29 Education & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee 5pm	30				

# December 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 Planning & Development Committee 3pm	2	3	4
5	6 Licensing Committee 5pm	7	8	9	10	11
12 Cabinet 1PM  Governance & Audit Committee 5pm	13 Central South Consortium Joint Committee 10.30am Pension Fund Committee 2pm Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Committee 2pm	14 Overview and Scrutiny 5pm	15 Planning & Development Committee 3pm	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day
26 <b>Boxing Day</b>	27 <b>Statutory holiday for Christmas Day</b>	28 Office Shut Down	29 Office Shut Down	30 Office Shut Down	31	

# January 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Planning & Development Committee 3pm	13	14	15
16 Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee 5pm	17	18 Council 5pm	19 Education & Inclusion Services Scrutiny Committee 5pm	20	21	22
23 Cabinet 1PM	24 Licensing Act 2003 4.30pm Licensing Committee 5pm	25 Overview and Scrutiny 5pm	26 Planning & Development Committee 3pm	27	28	29
30 Community Services Scrutiny Committee 5pm	31					

# February 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Governance & Audit Committee 5pm	7	8 <b>Council 5pm (Leader's Debate)</b>	9 Planning & Development Committee 3pm	10	11	12
13 Democratic Services Committee 5pm	14	15 Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee 5pm	16 Education & Inclusion Services Scrutiny Committee 5pm	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Planning & Development Committee 3pm	24	25	26
27 Cabinet 1pm	28 Licensing Committee 5pm					

# March 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 Overview and Scrutiny 5pm	2 Community Services Scrutiny Committee 5pm	3	4	5
6 Pension Fund Committee 2pm	7	8 <b>Council 5pm (Budget Strategy)</b>	9 Planning & Development Committee 3pm	10 Standards Committee 10am	11	12
13	14 Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Committee 2pm	15	16	17	18	19
20 Governance & Audit Committee 5pm	21 Constitution Committee 2pm	22 Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee 5pm	23 Planning & Development Committee 3pm	24	25	26
27 Cabinet 1pm	28 Central South Consortium Joint Committee 10am	29	30 Education & Inclusion Services Scrutiny Committee 5pm	31		



# April 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4 Licensing Act 2003 4.30pm Licensing Committee 5pm	5	6 Planning & Development Committee 3pm	7 <b>Good Friday</b>	8	9
10 <b>Easter Monday</b>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Planning & Development Committee 3pm	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

# May 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Early May Bank Holiday	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Cabinet 10am	19	20	21
22	23 Central South Consortium Joint Committee 10am	24 Council AGM 4pm	25	26	27	28
29 Spring Bank Holiday	30	31				

## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### COUNCIL

6<sup>th</sup> July 2022

#### COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME: 2022-2023 MUNICIPAL YEAR

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

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present, for Members' comment and approval, a draft Work Programme on the proposed list of matters requiring consideration by Council over the 2022-2023 Municipal Year.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note and comment on the draft Work Programme attached as Appendix 1 to the report; and
- 2.2 Subject to Members' comments, approve the Work Programme for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year (with appropriate amendments where necessary) and thereafter receive further updates from the Service Director Democratic Services & Communication as appropriate.

#### 3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 As agreed at the Council AGM on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2018, a Council Committee Work programme should be provided for Members to assist them in forward planning and to advise other business functions of the Council
- 3.2 The Work Programme will also be made available in a central location on the Council website to improve transparency and public engagement.

#### 4. COUNCIL REPORTS

- 4.1 The proposed Work Programme is a rolling work programme for the 2022-23 Municipal Year, which will be reported to Council at regular intervals to reflect additional updates and amendments.
- 4.2 In accordance with Rule 12.2 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Council's Constitution) the Work Programme will contain information in respect of the timetable for considering the budget

and any plans forming part of the policy framework and requiring Council approval.

- 4.3 During the period outlined, the Work Programme may be subject to further change to take into account any additional/deleted reports, including any new consultative documents or legislative initiatives from the Welsh Government, which require urgent attention. Such changes to business will be undertaken by the Head of Democratic Services in consultation with the Presiding Member. Where possible, Groups Leaders will be informed of changes and additions throughout the Municipal Year.
- 4.4 The Work Programme will also assist Members if any items have been referred to a committee or service area for consideration / action and relevant updates are required by Council (e.g. Action required in respect of a Notice of Motion considered by Council).
- 4.5 A draft Work Programme is attached as Appendix 1 to this report for Members' comment.
- 4.6 Subject to agreement, a link to the agreed Council work programme will be added to every Council meeting agenda for Members' information, to inform Members of any amendments to the programme going forward.

## **5. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

- 5.1 The Work Programme has been compiled by members of the Senior Leadership Team in discussion with the Presiding Officer.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with Rule 12.1 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (found in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution).

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

- 9.1 The Council Work Programme encompasses all of the Council priorities as it references reports coming forward across the Directorates which may impact upon the Council's corporate priorities. It also embraces the Future Generations Act as all future decisions taken by Council seek to improve

the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the County Borough.

**10. CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 The development of a Council Work Programme for the 2022-23 Municipal Year will assist 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**

**6<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022**

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

**Item: COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME: 2022- 2023 MUNICIPAL YEAR.**

**Background Papers**

- Rule 12.1 and 12.2 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Found in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.)
- [Council AGM – 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2018.](#)

## Council Work Programme.

Forward plan of proposed Council Business for the 2022/23 Municipal Year

Specific Period: -July 2022 – March 2023.

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

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

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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## JULY

06.07.22

Standards Committee – Appointment of an Independent and Community Council Member	To receive the joint report of the Director of Legal Services & Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Director of Legal Services & Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Council Work Programme	To receive the Draft Council Work Programme for the 2022-23 Municipal Year.	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Section 3a – Leader’s Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions	To receive the report of the Service Director Democratic Services & Communications	Service Director Democratic Services & Communications	Open	
Urgent Executive Decisions	To present, for Members’ information an overview of the Urgent Decisions taken forward by the Cabinet Committee and the Urgent Key Officer Delegated Decisions taken forward outside of the Cabinet Committee during the period January – May 2022.	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	Cabinet
Appointment of Chief Executive	To receive the report of the Director of HR	Director of HR	Open	
Cwm Taf Morgannwg Market Stability Report	To provide Council with a brief overview of the Market Stability report (MSR) as required under Section 144B of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014	Group Director for Community & Children’s Services	Open	



Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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Review of the Council's Lower Grades and Terms & Conditions Matters	To advise Council of proposals for change following a recent review of the lower grades of the Council's Grading Structure and associated terms and conditions.	Chief Executive, Director of Human Resources & Director of Finance & Digital Services	Open	
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Annual Treasury Management Review 2021/22	To provide Members with information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Council's Treasury Management activity during 2021/22; and</li> <li>the actual Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2021/22</li> </ul>	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	
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## AUGUST – RECESS

## SEPTEMBER

28.09.22

Medium Term Financial Plan – Update	To provide Members with an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2022/23 – 2025/2026	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	Cabinet
Council Investment Priorities	To consider any potential investment opportunities	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	Cabinet

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC 2021/22 Statement of Accounts and External Audit Report	To consider the Council's Annual Accounts and the report of Audit Wales	Director of Finance & Digital Services	Open	Governance and Audit Committee
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The Model Constitution		Director of Legal Services	Open	
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Public Participation Strategy	To consider the Council's Public Participation Strategy	Service Director Democratic Services & Communications	Open	Democratic Services Committee
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**OCTOBER**

**19.10.22**

Council Tax Discounts	To receive the report providing Members with proposals in respect of Council Tax discounts	Director of Finance & Digital Services.		
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Council's Draft Corporate Performance Report 2022/23	To provide Members with the Council's Corporate Performance Report.	Chief Executive	Open	Cabinet / Overview and Scrutiny Committee
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Urgent Executive Decisions	To present, for Members' information an overview of the Urgent Decisions taken forward by the Cabinet Committee and the Urgent Key Officer Delegated Decisions taken forward outside of the Cabinet Committee during the period July – September 2022.	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	Cabinet
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Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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## NOVEMBER

23.11.22

Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund 2021/22 Statement of Accounts and External Audit Report	To consider the RCT Pension Fund Annual Accounts and the report of Audit Wales	Director of Finance and Digital Services	Open	Governance and Audit Committee
2022-23 Mid-Year Treasury Management Stewardship Report	To provide Members with information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council's Treasury Management activity during the first 6 months of 2022-2023 and</li> <li>Prudential and Treasury Indicators for the same period.</li> </ul>	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	
Invitation to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	To receive representatives from the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB	Open	

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## JANUARY

18.01.23

Council Revenue Budget 2023/24 - Provisional Local Government Settlement	This report provides Members with information in respect of the 2023/2024 Provisional Local Government Settlement (Subject to timing of WG announcements on the Local Government Settlement)	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	The Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in line with its Terms of Reference, is a consultee as part of the Council's overall consultation arrangements.
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	The need to consider whether to revise or replace the Council existing Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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	and the requirement to adopt a scheme by 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2023.			
Welsh Church Act Annual Report and External Audit Report	To consider the statement of Accounts for the Welsh Church Act Fund for the financial year ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022 and the report of Audit Wales.	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	Governance and Audit Committee
Urgent Executive Decisions	To present, for Members' information an overview of the Urgent Decisions taken forward by the Cabinet Committee and the Urgent Key Officer Delegated Decisions taken forward outside of the Cabinet Committee during the period October - December 2022.	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	Cabinet
Audit Wales - Annual Audit Summary 2022 (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)	To receive the report from Audit Wales	Audit Wales		

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**FEBRUARY**

**08.02.23**

Leaders Annual Debate	To receive & participate in the Leaders Annual Debate	Leader of the Council	Open	
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Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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## MARCH

**08.03.23**

Revenue Budget Strategy	To provide information to Members in respect of the Council's Revenue Budget, together with the level of Council Tax, for the year ending 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024.	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	Overview & Scrutiny/ Cabinet
Council Tax Resolution	To provide Members with the details of the calculation of the Authority's Council Tax for the financial year ending 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024 prior to passing the necessary statutory resolutions	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	Cabinet
Capital Programme	To set out the Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2023-24 to 2025-26, following confirmation of the local government settlement for 2023-24.	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	Cabinet
Treasury Management Strategy	To provide Members with information in respect of treasury Management Strategy, Incorporating Investment Strategy, Treasury Management indicators and minimum revenue provision (&MRP Statement for 2023/24.)	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	Governance and Audit Committee
Capital Strategy Report 2023/24	To receive the Capital Strategy 2023/24 incorporating prudential indicators.	Director of Finance & Digital Services.	Open	
The Council's Pay Policy Statement	To provide Members with information in respect of the Council's 2023-2024 Pay Policy Statement	Director of Human Resources  Director of Legal Services	Open	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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## MISCELLANEOUS (the following items to be considered as and when appropriate / necessary during the Municipal Year)

Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act	To receive updates on the proposals contained within the 'Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act'	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication.	Open	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Changes to Committee Membership	To consider the changes to Committee Memberships as advised	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Freedom of the Borough	To award the Freedom of the Borough following endorsement of the FOB Working Group recommendations	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	Freedom of the Borough Working Group.
Welsh Government Consultations	To consider the Council's response to relevant Welsh Government Consultations	Director of Legal Services ; Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Public Questions & Presentations	To receive public questions & presentations	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Audit Wales Reports	To consider reports brought forward by Audit Wales	As applicable	Open	
Annual Reports 2021/22	To provide Council with the Annual Reports for the Municipal Year 2021/22	Service Director Democratic Services & Communications	Open	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
Notices of Motion	To consider Notices of Motions / Amendments to the Motion as received and in accordance with the Council Constitution.  To receive updates in respect of Notices of Motion as appropriate.	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Members Questions	To consider the Questions put to Members as received and in accordance with the Council Constitution	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	To provide Members with updates / information in respect of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.	Chief Executive		
Scrutiny Working Groups	To receive details of Scrutiny Working Group reviews undertaken.	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication		
Council Work Programme	To receive updates on the 2022-23 Council Work Programme	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022**

**URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN FORWARD**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND  
COMMUNICATION**

**Author:** Hannah Williams, Council Business Unit – 07385401954

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To present, for Members' information an overview of the Urgent Decisions taken forward by the Cabinet Committee and the Urgent Key Officer Delegated Decisions taken forward outside of the Cabinet Committee during the period January – June 2022.
- 1.2 This is excluding those reports which were presented to another Committee of the Council for final decision.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the information contained within the report.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 In accordance with the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules 17.2(a) Urgent Executive Decisions taken forward should be reported to Council for information purposes.
- 3.2 To assist in the openness and transparency of the Decision-making process within the Council.

#### 4. URGENT DECISIONS OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE

4.1 The following urgent Decision was taken forward by the Cabinet Committee during the period January – June 2022:

Date	Decision Taken	Reason for Exemption
27-01-22	<a href="#">The Council's 2022/2023 Revenue Budget</a>	To allow Phase 2 of the consultation to proceed with immediate effect; final budget strategy will be presented to Council on the 9th March 2022
28-02-22	<a href="#">Acquisition of 103-110 Taff Street, Pontypridd, CF37 4SL and 13-17 Sardis Road, Pontypridd, CF37 1DX</a>	For the completion of the legal process.
28-02-22	<a href="#">The Council's 2022/2023 Revenue Budget</a>	The acquisition will need to be completed by 30th April 2021.
28-02-22	<a href="#">Pontypridd Placemaking Plan</a>	In order for the consultation process to commence as reasonably as practicable and shorten the period the consultation runs into the Pre-Election Period.
28-02-22	<a href="#">Council Fees and Charges Policy 2022-23</a>	Fees and Charges form part of the Revenue Budget Strategy which will be considered by Council for formal approval.
28-02-22	<a href="#">The Council's Capital Programme 2022/23 – 2024/25</a>	The report will be considered by Council at its meeting on the 9th March, 2022 for formal approval.
28-02-22	<a href="#">Local Business Rate Reduction Scheme 2022-23</a>	The funding of the scheme is identified within a budget report requiring council determination on the 9th March 2022.

## **5. DELEGATIONS OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS**

- 5.1 As outlined in Section 3 of the Leader's Scheme of Delegation, Cabinet Members are permitted to make decisions falling under their portfolio if deemed urgent to protect the interest of the Council, subject to prior consultation with the relevant Senior Leadership Team Officer(s).
- 5.2 The Leader can take urgent decisions in the absence of the appropriate portfolio holder.
- 5.3 The confirmation and signature of the Presiding Officer or Deputy Presiding Officer to the proposed decision must be sought in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 17.2.
- 5.4 There was one Urgent Decision of the Leader taken forward during the period January – June 2022:

Date	Decision Taken	Reason for Exemption
24-03-22	<a href="#">Welsh Government Cost of Living Support Scheme</a>	To ensure that the Council is able to provide this much needed support to our residents, in a timely manner.

## **6. DELEGATION OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS TO OFFICERS.**

- 6.1 As outlined within section 6 of the Leaders Scheme of Delegation, and in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act 2000, executive functions can be delegated to Officers (as set out within the terms of Section 5 of Part 3 of this part of the Council Constitution)
- 6.2 Following the Council AGM in 2016 and to increase transparency and accountability, Key Officer Delegated Decisions taken forward would be subject to the Overview and Scrutiny Call in procedure Rules.
- 6.3 The following urgent Key officer Delegated Decisions were taken forward during the period January – June 2022:

Date	Decision Taken	Reason for Exemption
18-02-22	<a href="#">Rhondda Cynon Taf: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2022</a>	To meet Welsh Government's deadline for the submission of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2022.

01-04-22	<a href="#">Car Mileage Reimbursement Rate for Council Employees</a>	The Council relies upon a dedicated workforce who deliver valued services across its communities, many of whom do so using their own vehicles. It is important that such staff do not suffer unduly financially as a consequence of the significant increase in fuel prices and that service continuity is assured.
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**7. CONSULTATION**

7.1 None Applicable, this report is for information purposes only.

**8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

**9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

**10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED.**

10.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

**11. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.**

11.1 All of the decisions taken forward link to the Councils Corporate plan / priorities and Members should look to each of the decisions to see how they link accordingly.

11.2 All decisions taken by the Executive are taken through the lens of the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, ensuring that the decision takes account of the impact it could have on people living their lives in Wales now and in the future.

## **12. CONCLUSION**

- 12.1 Members are advised of the current position in respect of urgent decisions taken forward within Cabinet Committee and through Individual Cabinet Members and Officer Decisions.

### **Other Information:-**

**Relevant Scrutiny Committee** – Overview & Scrutiny 2022-2027  
Committee

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

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

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022**

**URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN FORWARD**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND  
COMMUNICATION**

**Item: URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN FORWARD**

**Background Papers**

- Annual General Meeting – May 2016



## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022-2023

COUNCIL

6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022

### REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S LOWER GRADES AND TERMS & CONDITIONS MATTERS

#### JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & DIGITAL SERVICES

**Authors:** Richard Evans, Director of Human Resources  
Barrie Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to advise Council of proposals for change following a recent review of the lower grades of the Council's Grading Structure and associated terms and conditions.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Council agree to the increase in salary values for Grades 1 to 5 as shown at para 4.3;
- 2.2 Council agree to reintroduce double time plus a day in lieu for any statutory holidays worked;
- 2.3 That both of these changes are introduced from the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

#### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council has for several years paid the Real Living Wage (previously referred to as the Foundation Living Wage) as a minimum payment for all Council positions. In addition to the current RLW rate of £9.90, from April 2022, the Council also introduced a minimum payment of £10 per hour. Whilst these payments have been clearly valued by both our staff and the recognised trade unions, the introduction of the RLW and the £10 per hour has had an impact on the lower grades of the Council's pay system as Grades 1 to 4 are now all paid at the same hourly rate.

- 3.2 Furthermore, the bottom loading of pay awards over a number of years has also further eroded the differential between Grade 4 and Grade 5. Considering the impact this has caused, the Council agreed to undertake a review of the lower grades.
- 3.3 The Council has also kept under review changes to terms and conditions of employment, that were introduced when a new pay and grading system was introduced in June 2010, following a comprehensive job evaluation process. Recently the local joint trades unions wrote to the Chief Executive asking for a formal review of these terms and conditions. The Chief Executive agreed that these could also be reviewed alongside the review of our lower grades.

#### **4. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S LOWER GRADE POINTS**

##### **GRADES GR1 – GR5**

- 4.1 Although we have implemented an 18 grade spot salary, all grades are aligned to the NJC salary scale, an extract of which is shown below (GR1 – GR6).

<b>NJC SCP</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>	<b>RCT Grade</b>
1	£18,333	£9.50	GR1 *
2	£18,516	£9.60	GR2 *
3	£18,887	£9.79	GR3 *
4	£19,264	£9.99	GR4 *
5	£19,650	£10.19	
6	£20,043	£10.39	GR5
7	£20,444	£10.60	
8	£20,852	£10.81	
9	£21,269	£11.02	
10	£21,695	£11.25	
11	£22,129	£11.47	GR6

*\* Currently staff in these grades are paid at a minimum of £10 per hour*

- 4.2 Details of the post type that sit in each grade above is shown at Appendix 1.
- 4.3 Following a review of the current grade position, to maintain the integrity of the Job Evaluation processes, the most equitable option would be to move grades 1 to 4 up one increment on the NJC spinal column points. In addition to re-establish the former differentials between Grade 4 and Grade 5, we are also proposing to move GR5 up 2 increments to SCP8. If Council were to agree to this proposal, then the revised lower grading structure would be as follows:



Grade	Employees	Current NJC SCP	Hourly Rate	Proposed NJC SCP	Hourly Rate
GR1	410	1	£9.50	2	£9.60 *
GR2	1382	2	£9.60	3	£9.79 *
GR3	724	3	£9.79	4	£9.99 *
GR4	1118	4	£9.99	5	£10.19
GR5	1233	6	£10.39	8	£10.81

\* Staff in these grades will continue to be paid at a minimum of £10 per hour

4.4 Finally in respect of the recommended increases above, these values will again increase following the agreement and of course implementation of any national pay award and uplifts to the Real Living Wage.

#### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- 4.5 As part of the review of terms and conditions of employment, the Council is now in a position to reinstate the payment of Double Time plus a Day in Lieu for any member of staff that is required to work a bank holiday.
- 4.6 In addition to this recommendation, Members will also be aware that recently, Cabinet agreed to increase the mileage rate for all staff to the current HMRC rate of 45p per mile (previously set at 35p per mile). The HMRC rate was backdated to the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
- 4.7 We have reviewed the range of other terms and conditions that the trade unions requested to be reviewed, however we are not in a position to make any wider changes at this stage. We are committed though to continue to keep these under review in light of operational and service need.

#### **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 5.1 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.

- 5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and concluded that the recommendations set out in the report are in line with the above legislation.

## **6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no Welsh Language implications as a consequence of the recommendations contained within this report.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Discussions have taken place with the recognised trade unions over these proposals.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 8.1 The financial implications of implementing the changes set out at section 4 amount to £1.6M (full year cost). The ongoing implications will be factored into the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan as part of the current update. The part year implication for this financial year (8 months, £1.1M) can be funded from resources already identified in the base budget and supplemented by available one off resources.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 In accordance with Section 54 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 the Chief Executive must keep under review (i) the number and grades of staff required by the Council for the exercise of its functions; (ii) the organisation of the Council's staff; (iii) the appointment of the Council's staff and (iv) the arrangements for the management of the Council's staff (including arrangements for training and development).
- 9.2 Where the Chief Executive considers it appropriate to do so, they must make a report to Council setting out the Chief Executive's proposals in respect of any of the matters set out in paragraph 9.1.
- 9.3 It is Full Council's responsibility to then consider such reports.

**Appendix 1**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Post Type</b>
GR1	Cleaner
	Casual Examination Invigilator
	Casual Cleaner
	Casual Special Events Assistant
	Domestic Assistant
	Dining Room Assistant
GR2	Supervisory Assistant
	Breakfast Club General Kitchen Assistant
	General Kitchen Assistant
	School Crossing Patrol
	General Kitchen Assistant - Secondary
	Casual Theatre Technician
GR3	Temporary Special Needs Support Assistant
	Teaching Assistant (Level 1)
	Caretaker
	Casual Front Of House Assistant
	Assistant Cook
	Driver
	Production Operative - Vision Products
GR4	Teaching Assistant (Level 2)
	Casual Recreation - Level 1
	Domestic Assistant
	Casual Care/Domestic Assistant
	Clerical Assistant
	Cook
	Recreation Attendant - Level 1
	Receptionist
	Library Assistant
	Fitness Suite Assistant
	Caretaker
	Childcare Worker
	Groundsperson
GR5	Home Care Worker
	Social Care Worker
	Collection Operative
	Care Workers
	Daytime Opportunities Support Worker
	Night Care Domestic
	Intermediate Care Worker
	Care Assistant

Streetcare Operative
Senior Gardener/Groundsperson
Contact Centre Advisor
Support at Home Worker
Day Service Assistant
Mobile Responder - Ext. Funded
Caretaker



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022 - 2023**

**COUNCIL - 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022**

### **APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

#### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

##### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To receive a verbal update from the Director of Human Resources on behalf of the Appointments Committee, following the interview process scheduled to take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022, in respect of the post of permanent Chief Executive.

##### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

To receive the verbal update from the Director of Human Resources, and ratify any recommendation made by the Appointments Committee, in respect of the appointment of a permanent Chief Executive.

##### **3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 Members will recall that in my report of the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022, Council agreed to advertise the role of the Chief Executive following the announcement that Mr. Christopher Bradshaw would be retiring from his role of Chief Executive on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

3.2 Following that agreement from Council, a national advert was placed, applications were received and following an Appointments Committee shortlisting meeting, interviews are scheduled to take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

##### **4. APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TO APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

4.1 The interviews on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 will follow the format of a two-day assessment centre process, with the Appointments Committee being involved on Day 2 of that process.

4.2 As Day 2 of the assessment process will take place the day before the full Council meeting, a verbal update on the outcome of that interview

process will be presented to Members by myself at the Council meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 together with confirmation of any recommendation that may be made by the Appointments Committee at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July in respect of the appointment of a Chief Executive.

## 5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 In accordance with Section 54 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 a principal council must appoint a Chief Executive.

5.2 The Chief Executive must:

- (a) keep each of the matters specified below under review, and
- (b) where the chief executive considers it appropriate to do so, make a report to Council setting out the Chief Executive's proposals in respect of any of those matters.

The matters are:

- (i) the manner in which the exercise by the council of its different functions is co-ordinated;
- (ii) the council's arrangements in relation to:
  - financial planning,
  - asset management, and
  - risk management;
- (iii) the number and grades of staff required by the council for the exercise of its functions;
- (iv) the organisation of the Council's staff;
- (v) the appointment of the Council's staff; and
- (vi) the arrangements for the management of the Council's staff (including arrangements for training and development).



**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: Marc Jones - Democratic Services Officer (07385 401845)

**YOU ARE SUMMONED** to a meeting of **APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE** to be held at **Committee Room 1, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypanyd, CF40 2XX** on **TUESDAY, 5TH JULY, 2022** at **9.00 AM**.

**AGENDA**

**Page  
No's**

**1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

Note:

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

**2. MINUTES**

To receive the minutes of the previous meeting of the Appointments Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022

**3 - 4**

**3. TO CONSIDER PASSING THE UNDER-MENTIONED RESOLUTION:-**

“That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section

100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended) for the next item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act.”

**4. TO INTERVIEW APPLICANTS FOR THE POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

To interview applicants short-listed by the Appointments Committee for the position of Chief Executive on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022.

**Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication**

**Circulation:-**

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Appointments Committee  
(County Borough Councillor R Davis and County Borough Councillor M Webber respectively)

County Borough Councillors:  
Councillor A Morgan, Councillor J Bonetto and Councillor S Evans

Chris Bradshaw, Chief Executive  
Christian Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication  
Richard Evans, Director of Human Resources



## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### COUNCIL

6<sup>th</sup> July 2022

### CWM TAF MORGANNWG MARKET STABILITY REPORT

#### REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Author(s): Sarah Mills, Head of the Regional Commissioning Unit

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Council with a brief overview of the Market Stability report (MSR) as required under Section 144B of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Council:

- **Note** the key messages and recommendations, and
- **Endorse** the Regional Market Stability report.
- **Endorse** the following short to medium term strategic priorities for Rhondda Cynon Taff arising from the MSR:
  - i. A strategic review of accommodation with care for vulnerable people to ensure future provision is meeting the needs of people with complex needs identified in the MSR and our facilities are fully utilised.
  - ii. Strengthen the Council's response to meeting its placement sufficiency duty for children looked after by increasing local not-for-profit provision (both residential and fostering) to meet the needs of children closer to home.
  - iii. Work with providers to develop sustainable integrated models of service for community-based services, including domiciliary care, to address workforce pressures.
  - iv. Increase the availability of respite services for both adults and children.

### **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 This Market Stability Report is a crucial part within the relationship between local Statutory Partners and the care and support sector. The aim of the report is to understand the current market for health and care services and to identify future demand in the context of changing expectations and different models of service delivery.
- 3.2 The Market stability report therefore provides a strong platform for regional market shaping to meet current and future needs and supports the development of regional plans and commissioning strategies and statements.
- 3.3 The findings of the MSR will need to be worked through by the Council in partnership with the UHB and neighbouring local authorities but for RCT, the key strategic priorities in the short to medium term are:
- A strategic review of accommodation with care for vulnerable people to ensure future provision is meeting the needs of people with complex needs identified in the MSR and our facilities are fully utilised.
  - Strengthen the Council's response to meeting its placement sufficiency duty for children looked after by increasing local not for profit provision (both residential and fostering) to meet the needs of children closer to home.
  - Work with providers to develop sustainable integrated models of service for community services, including domiciliary care, to address workforce pressures.
  - Increase the availability of respite services for both adults and children.
- 3.4 These areas will be the subject of further reports to Cabinet in the future as we develop our investment strategy for social services.

### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Section 144B of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires local authorities to prepare and publish market stability reports and makes provision for regulations setting out the form these must take, matters to be included, and the prescribed period for carrying out market stability assessments as set out in the Partnership Arrangements (Amendment) and Regulated Services (Market Stability Reports) (Wales) Regulations 2021.
- 4.2 The Regulations also amend the Partnership Arrangements (Wales) Regulations 2015 so that the preparation and publication of market stability reports must be carried out on a regional footprint, with local authorities and Local Health Boards working together through Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs).

- 4.3 The Regulations require local authorities to produce market stability reports every five years, with the first reports aimed to be published by 1 June 2022. The Local Government Elections on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 meant that it was not possible to gain approval of the MSR until new Councils were formed.
- 4.4 The report will help inform and shape the next five-year area plan, along with the 2022 Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) population needs assessment.

#### **4. KEY FINDINGS**

- 4.1 The information contained within this section summarises the key messages from the market stability report.
- 4.2 The recommendations will be further explored within the adult and children's boards within future work programmes.

#### **4.3 Care Homes (Adults and Older People)**

##### **Key Messages**

- All three local authorities are below the national average for care homes with nursing, which suggests a squeeze on supply and availability across the region.
- Difficulties highlighted in being able to find suitable placements in a timely manner and to match supply to changes in demand.
- At least half of all providers (49%) have occupancy of less than 85%, which is the level defined by Care Forum Wales as being "non-sustainable".
- Current provision unable to meet the increasing need for respite care, particularly dementia care.
- Respite care for individuals with learning disabilities with older parents has also been identified as a particular problem.
- Where regional provision is unable to meet the needs of an individual, specialist complex provision may be identified out of county.
- There is no longer the capacity to deal with all patients discharged from hospital who may benefit from community support due to extreme pressure on community care.
- Resulting in people staying in hospital longer than necessary or become permanent in residential care.

- Fall in demand for general residential care as people are entering residential care with more complex needs and at a more advanced stage in their mental and/or physical health condition.
- At the provider level, finance is critical to the viability of individual (independent) care homes, their ability to invest in maintaining and improving homes and reconfiguring to meet the changing demand.
- A significant area of concern is the availability of Adult with Nursing Placements for those individuals who require specialist EMI nursing.
- Staff recruitment and retention of nurses and care workers is a challenge for many homes, particularly local authority-owned homes, reducing the regions capacity.

### **Recommendations**

- Development of a consistent dataset covering the three local authorities.
- Develop and implement a consistent regional approach to measure the quality of the care homes.
- Enhance partnership working with providers.
- Action should be taken to remedy the under-utilisation of capacity in local-authority-owned homes.
- Increase the following types of provision:
  - Short-term/respite beds and/or respite unit(s).
  - Step-down care, facilitating recovery and assessment of needs outside the hospital environment.
  - Nursing and EMI nursing beds.

## **4.4 Adult Placements Shared Lives**

### **Key Messages**

- Each Council have separate arrangements in place for the management of long-term and short-term placements, with local authorities reporting that provision is not sufficient to meet current and projected demand.
- The matching process between families and individuals needing support is complex and often lengthy, resulting in delays.

- The services delivered are adequate though increasing demand and a lack of choice negatively impacts the overall quality.
- These services have delivered annual savings and demonstrated positive outcomes for service users.
- The pandemic has resulted in issues for developing the service further, impacting on service capacity, low interest in new families to the scheme and client group scope.
- There is a lack of capacity for family placements, issues with matching individuals to families and long processing and waiting times.

### **Recommendations**

- Local Shared Lives Schemes have provided excellent outcomes previously and provide a worthwhile service for young people across Cwm Taf Morgannwg.
- Additional investment should be considered, if necessary, to overcome any delays caused by the pandemic.
- Transition to adulthood.

## **4.5 Advocacy services (children)**

### **Key messages**

- Concerns about the availability and consistency of advocacy for children led to the introduction of a national approach to statutory advocacy services in 2017.
- Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP), providing service across the three local authority areas.
- The quality of advocacy services provided to children and young people is of sufficient quality.
- The move to online and digital communications was embraced by both provider and many clients in receipt of service.
- Issue-Based Advocacy continues to be provided and has a high level of demand.
- Reported increases in demand for Advocacy for parent carers involved in child protection cases, and advocacy work undertaken within Parc

Prison secure estate.

## **Recommendations**

- Increase the capacity of advocacy across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region with a greater emphasis on co-producing and improving the opportunities for the voices of users to be heard.

### **4.6 Advocacy services (adults)**

#### **Key messages**

- There is a growing demand for advocacy support services for adults and older people.
- Statutory (Regulated) Advocacy sits alongside, and is complementary to, non-statutory advocacy services. All commissioned providers deliver both statutory and non-statutory advocacy.
- There is suitable support available for eligible clients, the quality varies across the region from good to adequate, with the quality of the service adversely impacted by delays in response time.
- The restrictions introduced nationally due to the Coronavirus has had an impact in the number of people accessing the service.
- Organisations providing advocacy rely on a small group of trained advocates making the services fragile. Without increased capacity and client group scope this will remain an area of concern.

#### **Recommendations**

- There is room for further development on the Active Offer – work is underway in this area on a regional and local level to increase the number of active offers.
- A gap has been identified for advocacy for parents, which is non-statutory.

### **4.7 Care homes (children and young people)**

#### **Key messages**

- All local authorities across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region have seen an increase over the past 4 years in residential care, but over the past 2 years RCT has started to see a decline.
- There has been a slight increase in vacancies across the sector,

though vacancies remain very limited and lower within Cwm Taf Morgannwg than other regions across Wales.

- Consensus that the placements market is not providing sufficient appropriate places to fully meet children's needs at the point of need.
- To identify appropriate accommodation children and young people are often placed out of county or even country.
- Growing pressure on residential spend with increase in external providers and out of county placements.
- Gaps in provision identified include insufficient therapy services, inability to support sibling groups etc.. that could have a detrimental impact on the well-being of the child.
- Placement decision making appears to be heavily impacted by available supply as opposed to needs driven.
- The Welsh Government have published 'Removing Profit from the care of looked after children' Programme Board policy statement and affirmed commitment adding that plans to be in place to transition to not-for-profit foster and residential care in Wales'.
- Removing profit from children's residential sector may disincentivise providers to enter this market place and further exacerbate the lack of sufficient capacity within the current market.
- Require greater scope to develop more regional provision, including a focus on higher need groups, Family group, long terms, short break and emergency bed and family safeguarding, specialist fostering.
- Recruitment and retention are a challenge shared across social care and applies to both in-house and independent provision.
- A number of challenges identified in the PNA include increase support for mental health and domestic abuse impacting on support services.
- Capacity issues in fostering are placing a strain on residential services, resulting in a shortage of beds.

### **Recommendations**

- Increase the supply of registered Children's Homes for children, especially services with the ability to meet the needs of children with complex needs.
- Actions required to address the lack of integrated approach to residential care.

- Reduce the delays for safe accommodation.
- Workforce development need for skilled staff available to support young people in crisis.
- Action required to increase the supply of local authority foster carers.
- Address the insufficient supply of not for profit.
- IFA placements particularly for children whose earlier experiences mean they need more skilful care (particularly 8+ yrs).

#### **4.8 Secure accommodation services**

##### **Key messages**

- Hillside Secure Children's Home in Neath is the only facility currently in Wales. The unit has capacity of 22 places shared between the Youth Justice Board (linked to offending), and Welsh local authorities for welfare purposes.
- Due to the few secure units (also few in England), they are used nationally, resulting in difficulties in securing a place.
- There is a national shortage (England and Wales) of secure placement, often leading to Local Authorities having to care for young people in settings that are not secure placements, despite them being assessed as meeting the threshold for secure provision.
- Secure accommodation is costly, difficult to provide and recruiting and retaining skilled staff willing to work in a challenging environment is difficult.
- Placements are often out of area and can be prohibitive to be able to support a rehab back to family/residential/foster placement.

##### **Recommendations**

- Secure accommodation needs to be developed on a national level however new regional accommodation developments will help to meet lower-level needs.

#### **4.9 Adoption services**

##### **Key messages**

- CTM spans the footprint of 2 regional adoption collaborations.



- In general, children who are adopted achieve positive outcomes but the adoption process, from assessment, through matching and then placing children is often lengthy.
- There has been a slow decrease in the number of children being made subject of a placement order with an agreed plan of adoption.
- Children coming through with an agreed plan of adoption have increasingly complex needs, the main issues include exposure to significant drug and alcohol use during pregnancy, genetic conditions and disability issues as a result of non-accidental injury.
- There is insufficient adoption support for adopters who have more complex needs, exacerbated by up to 3 year waiting lists for ND assessment.
- There is a continuing need to identify and support suitable adoptive families for small children for whom it is not safe for them to grow up with a foster carer or relative.
- Demand for adoption has now stabilised following a decrease in children requiring adoptive placements and emphasis placed upon preventative measures to enable children to remain at home.
- The primary concern continues to be the recruiting of adoptive families and establishing a sufficient selection ensuring choice when matching.

### **Recommendations**

- Increase the availability of psychology
- Action required to reduce the waiting list for neuro developmental services.
- Introduction of an integrated therapeutic adoption support services (MAPPS is LA only).
- Consider the development of a specialist support provision to provide bespoke support to learners in schools.
- Increase the use of TESSA for adoptive families with greater needs.
- Development of sensory OT interventions as identified as a service gap by TESSA.

## **4.10 Residential family centres**

### **Key messages**

- There are only two registered residential family centres in the whole of

Wales, one of which recently reopened after a closure. One of those centres is at Crossroads (Ty Seren) in Bridgend.

- Placements in residential family centres are less preferred, with parent and child foster placements seen as a better option as they can provide an assessment in a more 'natural setting'.
- This shift in preference is evident through the relatively low numbers placed from each of the local authorities in the region.
- Although numbers are low, placements are often out of area, making it difficult to step down back into the community, and impacting contact with family, siblings etc.
- Spot purchasing occasional places avoids committing resources to provision that may not be needed. However, it does mean that costs are likely to be high and placements likely to be distant.

### **Recommendations**

- Insufficient need for residential family placements makes it difficult to justify commissioning a dedicated local centre.
- Increasing regional parent and child fostering capacity, either in house or commissioned from an IFA, would provide local capacity where commissioners have more influence in cost and quality.

## **4.11 Fostering services**

### **Key messages**

- There is increased difficulty in recruiting enough foster carers and the issue of authorities outside of the region purchasing placements has resulted in a shortage.
- There is also growing demand for more specialist foster placements, including:
  - Transitional foster carers
  - Children with autism
  - Children with learning disabilities
  - Young people who exhibit multiple risk-taking behaviours including substance misuse, risk of CSE and absconding
  - Parent and child placements; and
  - Welsh language foster placements.

- The increase in the number of children becoming looked after has subsequently made placing children in a local provision harder.
- These increased levels of demand for foster carers, both within the region and nationally, has resulted in further difficulties when securing appropriate placements for children.
- There is considerable uncertainty in the market with the commitment to eliminate 'for profit' provision and the impact of the pandemic impacting the ability to identify foster carers across the region.
- A growing area of concern for the region are foster carers who do not have the correct skills to support children, often resulting in them being placed in emergency/ bridging placements.

### **Recommendations**

- Increasing in-house capacity to respond to the demand for foster carers will help address many of the issues identified above.
- In addition to a new recruitment campaign, review and enhance the offer to foster carers to increase the likelihood of encouraging new foster carers.
- Introduce different commissioning models to encourage/ensure IFAs have tailor their offer to local requirements.
- Investment in preventative, respite and edge of care services can help reduce the need for children to be looked after away from their families.
- Engagement with IFA providers will be vital before and during the transition to a not-for-profit model to ensure that capacity isn't lost.

## **4.12 Domiciliary support services**

### **Key messages**

- The increase in the over 65 population and in particular the 85+ population presents an expected and unprecedented increase in demand on services.
- Demand for domiciliary care is likely to grow in the long term due to the aging population and the increasing numbers of people with dementia and other complex needs.
- Recruitment and retention have become increasingly challenging due to competition from other sectors and the pandemic and associated risks.
- This underlines the need to develop support and services that promote and maximise independence, ensuring the provision of acute and longer-term support is targeted to those in most need, including specialist support for children with disabilities and their families.
- The number of double handed calls has increased, reducing capacity and the requirement to upskill staff and provide more complex equipment.
- The number of urgent orders for complex equipment has increased significantly and continues to rise.
- The overall stability of the domiciliary care market in the region appears fragile and risks sufficiency in meeting demand and expectations based on current projections.
- There are opportunities to build on Community resilience models developed to support COVID response to create resourceful communities under a place-based approach.

### **Recommendations**

- Commissioners and providers need to work together across the region to develop innovative sustainable services to meet needs.
- Investigate alternative, new models for recruiting and retaining a skilled workforce.
- In line with The Healthier Wales Action Plan (2019), continue to prioritise 'the shift from hospitals to communities and communities to homes', and emphasise the important role played by right-sizing community services to facilitate timely discharge.
- Processes and procedures for setting fee across the region should be reviewed to consider greater consistency and address issues relating

to costs (e.g. national commitment to the Real Living Wage).

## **5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 5.1 In order to comply with the statutory duties contained within the Equality Act 2010 and meet our Socio-economic duty in providing services which can improve inequality of outcome for people who face socio-economic disadvantage. A full Equality Impact Assessment will be required to fully assess the impact of taking forward any recommendations within the MSR.

## **6 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 MSRs must assess the sufficiency care and support provided through the medium of Welsh and the market for regulated services provided in Welsh. It is hoped that this will stimulate the growth of new provision to meet identified need and demand. (This will contribute to the national well-being goals of a Wales of a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language and a more equal Wales).

## **7 CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

- 7.1 The MSR was developed using the following information:
- Desktop review of key policies, strategies and plans from partner organisations.
  - Meetings and discussions with various stakeholders.
  - Analysis of data from the three local authorities, local health board and nationally available information.
  - Information collected as part of the PNA, including robust citizen engagement.
  - Additional, relevant information using standardised collection forms and templates.
- 7.2 In addition to the above, information from the recently complete Market Stability: Residential and Nursing for Older People report by Practice Solutions was also used to inform the MSR.
- 7.3 Draft MSR shared with members of the Children and Adult Strategic Boards for comment and input.
- 7.4 Draft MSR presented and discussed at on June 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Partnership Board and endorsed via Chairs action once final amendments completed.

## **8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 8.1 Demand from both an increasing ageing population and individuals with complex needs places significant challenges on the Council to meet this demand from within existing resources.
- 8.2 The report recognises that the way social care services are provided has changed over recent decades and is provided by a complex mix of independent, public, and voluntary sector provision. Whilst these are typically commissioned by statutory bodies elements can be purchased by people themselves, either using Direct Payments or their own funds if they do not qualify for state funded care.
- 8.3 The Market stability report therefore provides a strong platform for regional market shaping to meet current and future needs.
- 8.4 This Market Stability Report is a crucial part within the relationship between local Statutory Partners and the care and support sector. The aim of the report is to understand the current market for health and care services and to identify future demand in the context of changing expectations and different models of service delivery.

## **9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 Section 144B of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires local authorities to prepare and publish market stability reports
- 9.2 The Partnership Arrangements (Amendment) and Regulated Services (Market Stability Reports) (Wales) Regulations 2021 requiring publication of market stability reports to be carried out on a regional footprint, with local authorities and Local Health Boards working together through Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) to produce reports.

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

- 10.1 The MSR will inform the Council's strategy and approach to the provision and commissioning of care and support to meet current needs and future demand. As such it contributes towards the priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan, in particular:
  - Ensuring **People** are independent, health and successful.

10.2 The MSR support sustainable service provision that meets the needs of service users for the future and is consistent with the five ways of working:

- Live within our means – the MSR provides an evidence base to inform our future service provision to meet need,
- Be an efficient and effective Council – the MSR supports the efficient management of our contracts with the independent sector,
- Maximise opportunities – the MSR identifies gaps in provision requiring investment for the future,
- Share responsibility – the MSR is a strategic regional report that will inform the approach taken to provision of services across the public, third and independent sectors.

10.3 The MSR will maximise the Council's contribution to the Wellbeing goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, in particular by ensuring our services support the goals of a healthier Wales by helping people to stay as well as they can be for as long as they can and the goal of a Wales of cohesive communities by helping people to stay in their homes for longer and meeting their needs when they need additional support.

## **11 STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS**

11.1 The MSR is a strategic report to inform service development, provision and commissioning across the public, third and independent sectors across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region.

## **12 CONCLUSION**

12.1 This Market Stability Report is the first report to be produced on behalf of the Cwm Taff Regional Partnership Board. It provides a platform from which to develop regional strategies and inform the Area Plan as required by April 2023.

### ***Contact Officer ;***

Paul Mee, Group Director for Community & Children's Services

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

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

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**6<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**Item:**

**Background Papers**

Officer to contact: Paul Mee, Group Director for Community & Children's Services





**Cwm Taf Morgannwg**

**Bwrdd Partneriaeth Rhanbarthol** | **Regional Partnership Board**

# **MARKET STABILITY REPORT (2022)**

## **Executive Summary**

**version 1.0**

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## 1.0 Introduction

Section 144B of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires local authorities to prepare and publish market stability reports and makes provision for regulations setting out the form these must take, matters to be included, and the prescribed period for carrying out market stability assessments as set out in the Partnership Arrangements (Amendment) and Regulated Services (Market Stability Reports) (Wales) Regulations 2021.

The Regulations also amend the Partnership Arrangements (Wales) Regulations 2015 so that the preparation and publication of market stability reports must be carried out on a regional footprint, with local authorities and Local Health Boards working together through Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs).

The Regulations require local authorities to produce market stability reports every five years, with the first reports published by **1 June 2022**. The reports will help inform and shape the next five-year area plan, along with the 2022 Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) population needs assessment.

In preparation for undertaking this report, local authorities carried out, in partnership with the Local Health Board and other RPB partners, an assessment of both:

- Sufficiency - an assessment of the sufficiency of care and support in meeting the needs and demand for social care as set out in the population needs assessment. and
- Stability - an assessment of the stability of the market for regulated services providing care and support.

## 2.0 Sufficiency assessment: Part A

Part A of this report provides a summary of the gaps and issues that have been identified when assessing the sufficiency of care and support services across Cwm Taf Morgannwg. The information is informed by the Population Needs Assessment and is presented across the prescribed priority groups for adults and older people and children and young people.

The summary highlights some of the key messages from the sufficiency assessment for each of the priority groups: -

### Adults and older people

- The expected increase in older people is going to have a considerable effect on individuals, their communities and the services that provide care and support for them.
- Increased focus on delivering care and support within our communities could provide much needed capacity and reduce current national pressures on statutory services.
- With the data suggesting there are going to be more people living with dementia, chronic conditions and co-morbidities, the services that support them will have to adapt to the changes in demand.
- The national shortage of staff to deliver key social care and health services is having a significant impact on the capacity to meet growing domiciliary and residential care, which has seen an increase in demand during the pandemic.

## Children and young people

- The pandemic has had a significant negative impact the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, this is evident through the increased demand for specialist services across the region.
- The need for more social opportunities for children with additional needs was raised as a gap during the engagement activities, with parents stating there was limited places to take their children where they would be safe.
- Between 2016-2019 the number of young people presenting as homeless and needing to access the local authority's final duty to secure accommodation increased sharply.
- The number of children looked after across CTM increased by 8.23% between March 2018 and March 2020, compared to a 12% increase across Wales.

## Health and physical disabilities

- The reduction in services during the pandemic has seen a disproportionate negative impact for people with health and physical disabilities.
- All local authorities across the region recorded a significant increase in the number of falls requiring an ambulance, between 2018/19 and 2020/21 this increased by over 80%, with over 50% aged 80+.
- A lack of early intervention and preventative services (adults and children), based within communities, was highlighted as a gap that could prevent the escalation of need and the requirement of higher end/specialist services.

## Learning disabilities and autism

- The lack of opportunities to engage in services within their communities was raised as a major gap in provision for people with a learning disability.
- The number of adults (18+) with autism is expected to increase slightly over the next 20 years (6%)
- An increase in mental health concerns for people with a learning disability and autism was highlighted during engagement with families and services.
- A lack of specialist mental health support for people with a learning disability or autism has resulted in many not receiving the support they require.
- Waiting times to access services, specifically in relation to a diagnosis of autism was one of the main concerns identified by the PNA.

## Sensory loss

- With the ageing population we are likely to see an increase in the number of people with sensory loss over future years, increasing the demand for specialist support services as well as sensory friendly local provision.
- There has been a long-term lack of opportunities for people with sensory loss to engage with local community, reducing opportunities to make friends.
- A major service gap highlighted during the engagement activities was the lack of information available in appropriate formats, especially receiving information using British Sign Language

## Mental health

- Children and young people, especially those with previous mental health issues, has further deteriorated during the pandemic.
- People are reporting gaps in services to support mental health across the spectrum.
- Research suggests that more people are now using substances and alcohol as a coping mechanism.
- The pandemic has had a significant impact on the ability to provide mental health support, which has subsequently increased the waiting times for children's and adult's services.
- A survey undertaken by Mind Cymru about the consequences the pandemic has had on mental health found that young people were most likely to be using negative coping mechanisms to deal with mental health issues.

## Unpaid carers

- The predicated number of people providing unpaid care across Wales over the next 10 years is expected to increase by almost 5%.
- During the pandemic, young carers and young adult carers mental health has worsened, they are more worried about the future, more stressed, less connected, and their caring hours have increased.
- Services supporting carers are reporting a significant increase in the numbers accessing their services that are close to crisis point
- A consistent message highlighted by carers has been the difficulty in accessing the relevant information when they need it with many reporting that they are not aware of the services or support available to them.

## Violence against women, domestic abuse & sexual violence

- Reports to children's services due to domestic violence increased during the pandemic, which is reflected across the region as the highest child protection re-registration rate.
- Nationally there was an increase in demand for victim support services, including a 65% increase in calls and contacts logged by the National Domestic Abuse Helpline between April and June 2020, compared with the first three months of the year.
- A lack of access to alternative, early intervention or preventative services was reported by both victims of domestic abuse and those provide the specialist support.
- A lack of support for marginalised communities was raised by a number of people during the engagement activities.

## Secure estate

- Under 4% of people with no identified ACEs had been incarcerated, yet this rose to 38.5% of those with four or more ACEs.
- A review looking at the impact of covid on prisoners concluded that the cumulative effect of the pandemic on prisoners' well-being and rehabilitation was likely to be significant and far-reaching.



## Dementia

- The number of people living with dementia across Cwm Taf Morgannwg is expected to increase by 62% by 2040.
- The increase in the number of people with dementia is going to increase the complexity of the populations needs and have a significant impact on the services required to support them.
- Research indicates that people with dementia have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, with the Office for National Statistics (2020) stating 49% of COVID-19 deaths in care homes and 25.6% of all COVID-19 deaths were people with dementia.

### 3.0 Stability assessment: Part B

Part B of this report provides an assessment of the stability of the market for regulated services providing care and support and the sufficiency to meet existing and projected demand.

The information contained within this section summarises the key messages from the market stability report for each of the regulated services as detailed in the Schedule to the 2016 Act.

#### Care homes (Adults and older people)

##### Key messages

- All three local authorities are below the national average for care homes with nursing, which suggests a squeeze on supply and availability across the region.
- Difficulties highlighted in being able to find suitable placements in a timely manner and to match supply to changes in demand.

- At least half of all providers (49%) have occupancy of less than 85%, which is the level defined by Care Forum Wales as being “non-sustainable”.
- Current provision unable to meet the increasing need for respite care, particularly dementia care.
- Respite care for individuals with learning disabilities with older parents has also been identified as a particular problem.
- Where regional provision is unable to meet the needs of an individual, specialist complex provision may be identified out of county.
- There is no longer the capacity to deal with all patients discharged from hospital who may benefit from community support due to extreme pressure on community care.
- Resulting in people staying in hospital longer than necessary or become permanent in residential care.
- Fall in demand for general residential care as people are entering residential care with more complex needs and at a more advanced stage in their mental and/or physical health condition.
- At the provider level, finance is critical to the viability of individual (independent) care homes, their ability to invest in maintaining and improving homes and reconfiguring to meet the changing demand.
- A significant area of concern is the availability of Adult with Nursing Placements for those individuals who require specialist EMI nursing.
- Staff recruitment and retention of nurses and care workers is a challenge for many homes, particularly local authority-owned homes, reducing the regions capacity.

### Recommendations

1. Development of a consistent dataset covering the three local authorities.
2. Develop and implement a consistent regional approach to measure the quality of the care homes.

3. Enhance partnership working with providers.
4. Action should be taken to remedy the under-utilisation of capacity in local-authority-owned homes.
5. Increase the following types of provision:
  - (i) Short-term/respice beds and/or respice unit(s).
  - (ii) Step-down care, facilitating recovery and assessment of needs outside the hospital environment.
  - (iii) Nursing and EMI nursing beds.

## Adults placement ('Shared lives') scheme

### Key messages

- Each council have separate arrangements in place for the management of long-term and short-term placements, with local authorities reporting that provision is not sufficient to meet current and projected demand.
- The matching process between families and individuals needing support is complex and often lengthy, resulting in lengthy delays.
- The services delivered are adequate though increasing demand and a lack of choice negatively impacts the overall quality.
- These services have delivered annual savings and demonstrated positive outcomes for service users.
- The pandemic has resulted in issues for developing the service further, impacting on service capacity, low interest in new families to the scheme and client group scope.
- There is a lack of capacity for family placements, issues with matching individuals to families and long processing and waiting times.

### Recommendations

1. Local Shared Lives Schemes have provided excellent outcomes previously and provide a worthwhile service for young people across Cwm Taf Morgannwg.
2. Additional investment should be considered, if necessary, to overcome any delays caused by the pandemic.
3. Transition to adulthood.

## Advocacy services (children)

### Key messages

- Concerns about the availability and consistency of advocacy for children led to the introduction of a national approach to statutory advocacy services in 2017.
- Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP), providing service across the three local authority areas.
- The quality of advocacy services provided to children and young people is of sufficient quality.
- The move to online and digital communications was embraced by both provider and many clients in receipt of service.
- Issue-Based Advocacy continues to be provided and has a high level of demand.
- Reported increases in demand for Advocacy for parent carers involved in child protection cases, and advocacy work undertaken within Parc Prison secure estate.

### Recommendations

1. Increase the capacity of advocacy across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region with a greater emphasis on co-producing and improving the opportunities for the voices of users to be heard.

## Advocacy services (adults)

### Key messages

- There is a growing demand for advocacy support services for adults and older people.
- Statutory (Regulated) Advocacy sits alongside, and is complementary to, non-statutory advocacy services. All commissioned providers deliver both statutory and non-statutory advocacy.
- There is suitable support available for eligible clients, the quality varies across the region from good to adequate, with the quality of the service adversely impacted by delays in response time.
- The restrictions introduced nationally due to the Coronavirus has had an impact in the number of people accessing the service.
- Organisations providing advocacy rely on a small group of trained advocates making the services fragile. Without increased capacity and client group scope this will remain an area of concern.

### Recommendations

1. There is room for further development on the Active Offer – work is underway in this area on a regional and local level to increase the number of active offers.
2. A gap has been identified for advocacy for parents, which is non-statutory.

## Care homes (children and young people)

### Key messages

- All local authorities across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region have seen an increase over the past 4 years in residential care, but over the past 2 years RCT has started to see a decline.
- There has been a slight increase in vacancies across the sector, though vacancies remain very limited and lower within Cwm Taf Morgannwg than other regions across Wales.
- Consensus that the placements market is not providing sufficient appropriate places to fully meet children's needs at the point of need.
- To identify appropriate accommodation children and young people are often placed out of county or even country.
- Growing pressure on residential spend with increase in external providers and out of county placements.
- Gaps in provision identified include insufficient therapy services, inability to support sibling groups etc.. that could have a detrimental impact on the well-being of the child.
- Placement decision making appears to be heavily impacted by available supply as opposed to needs driven.
- The Welsh Government have published 'Removing Profit from the care of looked after children' Programme Board policy statement and affirmed commitment adding that plans to be in place to transition to not-for-profit foster and residential care in Wales'.
- Removing profit from children's residential sector may disincentivise providers to enter this market place and further exacerbate the lack of sufficient capacity within the current market.
- Require greater scope to develop more regional provision, including a focus on higher need groups, Family group, long terms, short break and emergency bed and family safeguarding, specialist fostering.
- Recruitment and retention are a challenge shared across social care and applies to both in-house and independent provision.

- A number of challenges identified in the PNA include increase support for mental health and domestic abuse impacting on support services.
- Capacity issues in fostering are placing a strain on residential services, resulting in a shortage of beds.

### Recommendations

1. Increase the supply of registered Children's Homes for children, especially services with the ability to meet the needs of children with complex needs.
2. Actions required to address the lack of integrated approach to residential care.
3. Reduce the delays for safe accommodation.
4. Workforce development need for skilled staff available to support young people in crisis.
5. Action required to increase the supply of local authority foster carers.
6. Address the insufficient supply of not for profit.
7. IFA placements particularly for children whose earlier experiences mean they need more skilful care (particularly 8+ yrs).

## Secure accommodation services

### Key messages

- Hillside Secure Children's Home in Neath is the only facility currently in Wales. The unit has capacity of 22 places shared between the Youth Justice Board (linked to offending), and Welsh local authorities for welfare purposes.
- Due to the few secure units (also few in England), they are used nationally, resulting in difficulties in securing a place.

- There is a national shortage (England and Wales) of secure placement, often leading to Local Authorities having to care for young people in settings that are not secure placements, despite them being assessed as meeting the threshold for secure provision.
- Secure accommodation is costly ,difficult to provide and recruiting and retaining skilled staff willing to work in a challenging environment is difficult.
- Placements are often out of area and can be prohibitive to be able to support a rehab back to family/residential/foster placement.

#### Recommendations

1. Secure accommodation needs to be developed on a national level however new regional accommodation developments will help to meet lower-level needs.

## Adoption services

#### Key messages

- CTM spans the footprint of 2 regional adoption collaborations.
- In general, children who are adopted achieve positive outcomes but the adoption process, from assessment, through matching and then placing children is often lengthy.
- There has been a slow decrease in the number of children being made subject of a placement order with an agreed plan of adoption.
- Children coming through with an agreed plan of adoption have increasingly complex needs, the main issues include exposure to significant drug and alcohol use during pregnancy, genetic conditions and disability issues as a result of non-accidental injury.



- There is insufficient adoption support for adopters who have more complex needs, exacerbated by up to 3 year waiting lists for ND assessment.
- There is a continuing need to identify and support suitable adoptive families for small children for whom it is not safe for them to grow up with a foster carer or relative
- Demand for adoption has now stabilised following a decrease in children requiring adoptive placements and emphasis placed upon preventative measures to enable children to remain at home.
- The primary concern continues to be the recruiting of adoptive families and establishing a sufficient selection ensuring choice when matching.

#### Recommendations

1. Increase the availability of psychology
2. Action required to reduce the waiting list for neuro developmental services.
3. Introduction of an integrated therapeutic adoption support services ( MAPPS is LA only).
4. Consider the development of a specialist support provision to provide bespoke support to learners in schools.
5. Increase the use of TESSA for adoptive families with greater needs.
6. Development of sensory OT interventions as identified as a service gap by TESSA.

## Residential family centres

#### Key messages

- There are only two registered residential family centres in the whole of Wales, one of which recently reopened after a closure. One of those centres is at Crossroads (Ty Seren) in Bridgend.

- Placements in residential family centres are less preferred, with parent and child foster placements seen as a better option as they can provide an assessment in a more 'natural setting'.
- This shift in preference is evident through the relatively low numbers placed from each of the local authorities in the region.
- Although numbers are low, placements are often out of area, making it difficult to step down back into the community, and impacting contact with family, siblings etc.
- Spot purchasing occasional places avoids committing resources to provision that may not be needed. However, it does mean that costs are likely to be high and placements likely to be distant.

#### Recommendations

1. Insufficient need for residential family placements makes it difficult to justify commissioning a dedicated local centre.
2. Increasing regional parent and child fostering capacity, either in house or commissioned from an IFA, would provide local capacity where commissioners have more influence in cost and quality.

### Fostering services

#### Key messages

- There is increased difficulty in recruiting enough foster carers and the issue of authorities outside of the region purchasing placements has resulted in a shortage.
- There is also growing demand for more specialist foster placements, including:
  - Transitional foster carers
  - Children with autism

- Children with learning disabilities
  - Young people who exhibit multiple risk-taking behaviours including substance misuse, risk of CSE and absconding
  - Parent and child placements; and
  - Welsh language foster placements.
- The increase in the number of children becoming looked after has subsequently made placing children in a local provision harder.
  - These increased levels of demand for foster carers, both within the region and nationally, has resulted in further difficulties when securing appropriate placements for children.
  - There is considerable uncertainty in the market with the commitment to eliminate 'for profit' provision and the impact of the pandemic impacting the ability to identify foster carers across the region.
  - A growing area of concern for the region are foster carers who do not have the correct skills to support children, often resulting in them being placed in emergency/ bridging placements.

### Recommendations

1. Increasing in-house capacity to respond to the demand for foster carers will help address many of the issues identified above.
2. In addition to a new recruitment campaign, review and enhance the offer to foster carers to increase the likelihood of encouraging new foster carers.
3. Introduce different commissioning models to encourage/ensure IFAs have tailored their offer to local requirements.
4. Investment in preventative, respite and edge of care services can help reduce the need for children to be looked after away from their families.
5. Engagement with IFA providers will be vital before and during the transition to a not-for-profit model to ensure that capacity isn't lost.

## Domiciliary support services

### Key messages

- The increase in the over 65 population and in particular the 85+ population presents an expected and unprecedented increase in demand on services.
- Demand for domiciliary care is likely to grow in the long term due to the aging population and the increasing numbers of people with dementia and other complex needs.
- Recruitment and retention have become increasingly challenging due to competition from other sectors and the pandemic and associated risks.
- This underlines the need to develop support and services that promote and maximise independence, ensuring the provision of acute and longer-term support is targeted to those in most need, including specialist support for children with disabilities and their families.
- The number of double handed calls has increased, reducing capacity and the requirement to upskill staff and provide more complex equipment.
- The number of urgent orders for complex equipment has increased significantly and continues to rise.
- The overall stability of the domiciliary care market in the region appears fragile and risks sufficiency in meeting demand and expectations based on current projections.
- There are opportunities to build on Community resilience models developed to support COVID response to create resourceful communities under a place-based approach.

## Recommendations

1. Commissioners and providers need to work together across the region to develop innovative sustainable services to meet needs.
2. Investigate alternative, new models for recruiting and retaining a skilled workforce.
3. In line with The Healthier Wales Action Plan (2019), continue to prioritise 'the shift from hospitals to communities and communities to homes', and emphasise the important role played by right-sizing community services to facilitate timely discharge.
4. Processes and procedures for setting fee across the region should be reviewed to consider greater consistency and address issues relating to costs (e.g. national commitment to the Real Living Wage).

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**Cwm Taf Morgannwg**

**Bwrdd | Regional**  
**Partneriaeth | Partnership**  
**Rhanbarthol | Board**

## **MARKET STABILITY REPORT (2022)**

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## 1. Introduction

Section 144B of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires local authorities to prepare and publish market stability reports and makes provision for regulations setting out the form these must take, matters to be included, and the prescribed period for carrying out market stability assessments as set out in the Partnership Arrangements (Amendment) and Regulated Services (Market Stability Reports) (Wales) Regulations 2021.

The Regulations also amend the Partnership Arrangements (Wales) Regulations 2015 so that the preparation and publication of market stability reports must be carried out on a regional footprint, with local authorities and Local Health Boards working together through Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs).

Market stability reports: code of practice Code of Practice and guidance on the exercise of social services functions and partnership arrangements in relation to market stability reports was first published on 29 March 2021.

The Regulations require local authorities to produce market stability reports every five years, with the first reports published by **1 June 2022**. The reports will help inform and shape the next five-year area plan, along with the 2022 Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) population needs assessment.

The report recognises that the way social care services are provided has changed over recent decades and is provided by a complex mix of independent, public, and voluntary sector provision. Whilst these are typically commissioned by statutory bodies elements can be purchased by people themselves, either using Direct Payments or their own funds if they do not qualify for state funded care.

Whilst potential benefits regarding choice of provision, economies of scale and competition are recognised there are also inherent risks such as

potential market failure or exits of individual providers, gaps in provision and market imbalances, which, if not addressed might mean that sufficient care of the right quality and cost will not be available.

The Market stability report therefore provides a strong platform for regional market shaping to meet current and future needs.

This Market Stability Report is a crucial part within the relationship between local Statutory Partners and the care and support sector. The aim of the report is to understand the current market for health and care services and to identify future demand in the context of changing expectations and different models of service delivery.

To achieve this better understanding of the market the report will assess the current levels of sufficiency of care and support provided to meet the need and demand established through the population needs assessment.

In preparation for undertaking this report, local authorities carried out, in partnership with the Local Health Board and other RPB partners, an assessment of both:

- Sufficiency - an assessment of the sufficiency of care and support in meeting the needs and demand for social care as set out in the population needs assessment. and
- Stability - an assessment of the stability of the market for regulated services providing care and support.

The COVID19 pandemic has been an unprecedented challenge and has changed the type of demand and the way in which we deliver health and care. The impact on people who need care, and their carers is recognised as is the ongoing workforce pressures and market uncertainty.

It does, however, present us with the opportunity to reflect on what is done, why and how. The position we find ourselves in affords us a chance to co-

produce options based on new ideas of what can work, learning from the pandemic. Any changes need to address equality and access issues particularly where there has been under-representation of some groups.

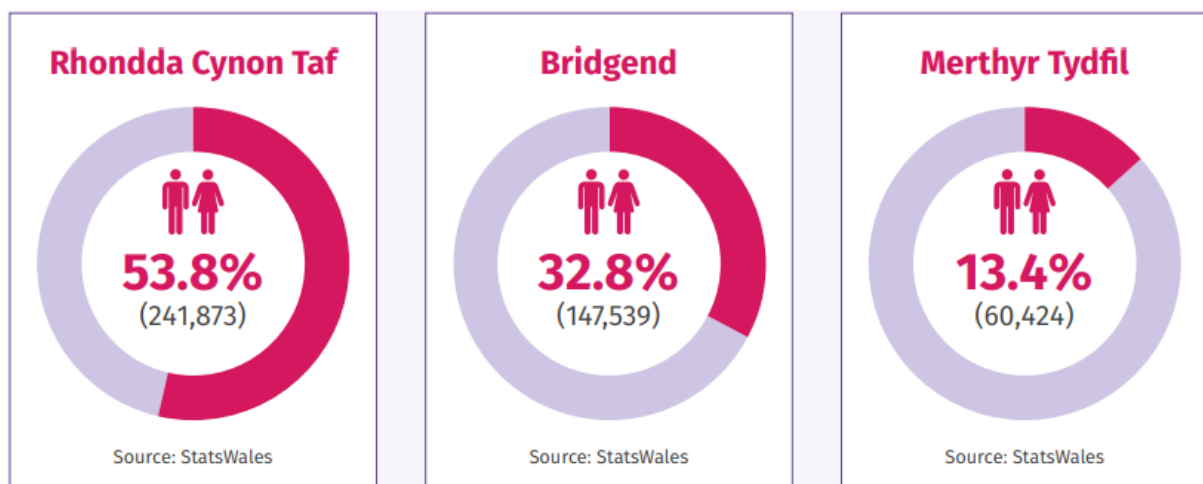
Providers may have opportunities to develop proposals for innovative approaches, which may also result in broader strategic opportunities to roll out and embed effective approaches.

The structure of the report aims to address each element of the guidance, presented in the different sections below, with tabs for each local authority. For quick and easy use, the information has been split into sections that contain a combination of text, charts and interactive data tools, providing key insight of the data.

## 2. Scope

The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership Board reflect the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board footprint covered by three local authority areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil.

The image below provides the number and percentage split of the population for each of the 3 local authority areas.



Over the next 10 years our population is predicted to rise to 436,809 people (3% increase) and to 475,229 over the next 20 years (5%). Notably, we are expecting an increase in the number of people aged 65 years and over, with the most significant rise in those aged 85 years and over. This is going to have a considerable effect on individuals, their communities and the services that support them.

As prescribed by the national Code of Practice this MSR comprises of two interlinked assessments:

- The sufficiency of care and support services; and
- The stability of the market for regulated services

Both are underpinned by the 2022 Cwm Taf Morgannwg Population Assessment (PNA). The Sufficiency Assessment addresses the priority

groups as detailed within the PNA, split into the two main population groups of children and young people and adults and older people.

The priority groups are:

- Health and physical disabilities
- Learning disabilities and autism
- Mental health
- Sensory loss
- Unpaid carers
- Violence against women, domestic abuse & sexual violence
- + secure estate

The stability assessment element of the MSR will focus on regulated services as listed in the Schedule to the 2016 Act. Currently defined as;

- A care home service (adult and children's)
- A secure accommodation service (for children)
- A residential family centre service
- An adoption service
- A fostering service
- An adult placement (shared lives) service
- An advocacy service
- A domiciliary support service

### 3. Context

The unprecedented scale and impact on population and services brought by the pandemic was felt throughout our communities and none more so than in Health and Social Care.

Reducing Local Authority budgets over the last decade on the backdrop of increased demand have shaped the rates of remuneration for care providers with focus on economies of scale.

With competing demands sustainable investment in preventative services, reducing the need for high-cost interventions is challenging.

In January 2021 the Welsh Government published a White Paper setting out their ambition to rebalance care and support providing a mixed economy ensuring there was not an over or under reliance on the private sector. The ambition sought to simplify current commissioning arrangements, strengthen quality and social value and actively manage the market through effective Partnership arrangements.

Further note that the Programme for Government outlines the Welsh Governments commitment to 'eliminate private profit from care of looked after children' (Next Senedd term 2026-2031).

## 4. Methodology

The MSR was developed using the following information:

- Desktop review of key policies, strategies and plans from partner organisations.
- Meetings and discussions with various stakeholders.
- Analysis of data from the three local authorities, local health board and nationally available information.
- Information collected as part of the PNA, including robust citizen engagement.
- Additional, relevant information using standardised collection forms and templates.

In addition to the above, information from the recently complete Market Stability: Residential and Nursing for Older People report by Practice Solutions was also used to inform the MSR.

The diagram below illustrates the relationships between each of the different elements of the MSR how they will contribute towards the ongoing development of regional plans and commissioning strategies and statements.





## 5. Market overview

Local authorities have a duty under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 (2014 Act) to monitor and manage their local markets. Historically, this has always been achieved through contract management and engagement with providers, clients, families and external agencies. Whilst this continues, the growth in data analytical capabilities make it easier than ever to review utilisation (activity), quality, capacity and the location of services.

This section provides more detail on each of these measures. There are a range of filters to allow users to fully explore what is known about the local area.

## 6. Sufficiency Assessment: Part A

Part A of this report provides a summary of the gaps and issues that have been identified when assessing the sufficiency of care and support services across Cwm Taf Morgannwg. The information is informed by the Population Needs Assessment and is presented across the prescribed priority groups for adults and older people and children and young people.

### 6.1 Adults and older people

- Over the next 10 years our CTM population is predicted to rise to 463,809 (3%) and to 475,229 over the next 20 years (5%).
- It is predicted that the population aged 64 years and under will decrease, while at the same time the number of people aged 65 years is likely to increase, with the most significant increase in those aged 85 years and over.
- This increase in older people is going to have a considerable effect on individuals, their communities and the services that provide care and support for them.

- Engagement with older people during the development of the PNA identified that there was a significant shortage in community level support especially providing care and support services.
- Increased focus on delivering care and support within our communities could provide much needed capacity and reduce current national pressures on statutory services.
- With the data suggesting there are going to be more people living with dementia, chronic conditions and co-morbidities, the services that support them will have to adapt to the changes in demand.
- The national shortage of staff to deliver key social care and health services is having a significant impact on the capacity to meet growing domiciliary and residential care, which has seen an increase in demand during the pandemic.

## 6.2 Children and young people

- Over the next 10 years the children and young people population is predicted to rise by only 846 (0.6%), significantly lower than the older population.
- The pandemic has had a significant negative impact on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, this is evident through the increased demand for specialist services across the region.
- Though the long-term impact of covid is unknown, recent trends suggest demand for specialist support services is likely to increase.
- During the engagement activity young people reported that the pandemic has been hard for them, but feel their concerns are not listened to when they are raised.
- The need for more social opportunities for children with additional needs was raised as a gap during the engagement activities, with parents stating there was limited places to take their children where they would be safe.

- Poor communication between services was raised as a concern and frustration by young people and adults attending the engagement events, especially between different support services and during transition to adult services.
- Between 2016-2019 the number of young people presenting as homeless and needing to access the local authority's final duty to secure accommodation increased sharply.

The most common reason stated were:

- Parents no longer being willing to accommodate (33.8%)
  - Other relatives or friends no longer willing to accommodate (23.9%)
  - Personal conflicts (22.5%)
- The number of children looked after across CTM increased by 8.23% between March 2018 and March 2020, compared to a 12% increase across Wales.
  - The number of children looked after across CTM RPB region remains the highest per 10k population across Wales.
  - Children aged 10 to 15 make up the largest proportion of children looked after across the region (37%).
  - Across the region the number of children receiving care and support remained relatively consistent between 2018 and 2020, though there has been some slight fluctuating within individual local authorities.
  - In a report from National Youth Advocacy Service (2020) they reported fewer child protection interventions due to children interacting with fewer agencies, which they believe can make children more vulnerable to violence.

## **Transition**

Taking account of 'Don't hold back report' principles adopted regarding transition include:

- Planning and decision making should be carried out in a person-centred way
- Support should be co-ordinated across all services
- Planning should start early and continue up to age 25
- All young people should get the support they need
- Young people, parents and carers must have access to the information they need
- Families and carers need support
- A continued focus on transitions

When considering planning for the needs of children with complex needs coming through transition, in RCT alone there are currently 56 young people 16+ who have a significant disability and care and support needs and almost a quarter of this total are already being supported in specialist care placements indicating a need for ongoing accommodation and care and support in adulthood. The CTM complex needs eligibility and pathway that is in development will also focus on young people outside of disability services and currently within the wider 16+ cohort, considering the need for a coordinated response across agencies to support mental health and a proportion of children looked after needing additional support. This will widen the criteria of children with complex needs in transition going forward but will aim to improve outcomes earlier in the pathway to adulthood.

### 6.3 Health and physical disabilities

- The reduction in services during the pandemic has seen a disproportionate negative impact for people with health and physical disabilities.
- All local authorities across the region recorded a significant increase in the number of falls requiring an ambulance, between 2018/19 and 2020/21 this increased by over 80%, with over 50% aged 80+.
- Where appointments or services were not available locally, people highlighted the lack of appropriate public transport for those who don't have access to a car, was a barrier for accessing support.
- A common issue identified during the PNA engagement activities was the struggle people faced finding and accessing the right information at the right time.
- A lack of early intervention and preventative services (adults and children), based within communities, was highlighted as a gap that could prevent the escalation of need and the requirement of higher end/specialist services.

### 6.4 Learning disabilities and autism

- The numbers of people with learning disabilities likely to present themselves to health and care services is predicted to remain relative consistent over the next 10 years – although the number of older people with learning disabilities is expected to increase significantly reflecting an improvement in life expectancy.
- Accessing information in appropriate formats was a major concern for people with a learning disability and autism, with many reporting they couldn't access key health information during the pandemic.
- The lack of opportunities to engage in services within their communities was raised as a major gap in provision for people with a learning disability.

- The number of adults (18+) with autism is expected to increase slightly over the next 20 years (6%)
- Engagement with families and services supporting someone with autism identified that many feel unsupported, especially while they are awaiting diagnoses and felt that more support was required during this time.
- An increase in mental health concerns for people with a learning disability and autism was highlighted during engagement with families and services. The vulnerability of this group has seen them disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, with many reporting feeling lonely and isolated.
- A lack of specialist mental health support for people with a learning disability or autism has resulted in many not receiving the support they require.
- Awareness of and access to services needs to improve across the region, with many families saying they do not know where to access services, with particular demand in mental health, employment and transitional support.
- Waiting times to access services, specifically in relation to a diagnosis of autism was one of the main concerns identified by the PNA, with many parents quoting waiting over 2 years with limited support during this time.
- There is a considerable demand across the region for specialist housing for people with a learning disability and/or autism.

## 6.5 Mental health

- Research and early service reporting suggests that the pandemic has had a severe impact on the mental health and wellbeing of the population.
- Children and young people, especially those with previous mental health issues, has further deteriorated during the pandemic with services

seeing higher referral rates for anxiety, suicidal, low mood, anger, stress and family issues.

- People are reporting gaps in services to support mental health across the spectrum, from preventative measures linked to wider community wellbeing, holistic support service, transitional support through to specialist and follow up support.
- Research suggests that more people are now using substances and alcohol as a coping mechanism with 40% saying they drink to deal with stress or anxiety.
- The pandemic has had a significant impact on the ability to provide mental health support, which has subsequently increased the waiting times for children's and adults services.
- A survey undertaken by Mind Cymru about the consequences the pandemic has had on mental health found that young people were most likely to be using negative coping mechanisms to deal with mental health issues. 45% of young people have self-harmed to cope, making them more than three times as likely to have coped by self-harming than adults (12%)

## 6.6 Sensory loss

- With the ageing population we are likely to see an increase in the number of people with sensory loss over future years, increasing the demand for specialist support services as well as sensory friendly local provision.
- The pandemic has seen an increase in people with sensory loss feeling lonely, with one national survey suggesting that just over 50% were likely to leave their home on a weekly basis during this period.
- There has been a long-term lack of opportunities for people with sensory loss to engage with local community, reducing opportunities to make friends.

- Covid restrictions, especially mask wearing and distancing, had a significant negative impact for people with sensory loss, leaving many unable to communicate with professionals to receive important health information.
- The need for improved awareness of sensory loss across all services has been highlighted to reduce the barriers to engagement and increase opportunities.
- A major service gap highlighted during the engagement activities was the lack of information available in appropriate formats, especially receiving information using British Sign Language.

## 6.7 Unpaid carers

- The predicated number of people providing unpaid care across Wales over the next 10 years is expected to increase by almost 5% to 410,702.
- Females account for 57% of unpaid carers with the majority aged between over 55 years of age.
- During the pandemic, young carers and young adult carers mental health has worsened, they are more worried about the future, more stressed, less connected, and their caring hours have increased.
- The majority of carers in Wales feel concerned they will burnout, anxious services won't be restored and worried what will happen if they become ill.
- A consistent message highlighted by carers has been the difficulty in accessing the relevant information when they need it with many reporting that they are not aware of the services or support available to them.
- Many carers are reporting that the lack of support, especially during the pandemic, has left them close to crisis with many saying that is contributing towards the deterioration of their own health.



- Services supporting carers are reporting a significant increase in the numbers accessing their services that are close to crisis point, with many suffering from mental health issues, physical health issues and being close to burn out.

## 6.8 Violence against women, domestic abuse & sexual violence

- Across CTM the number of incidents of domestic violence (with and without injury) reduced between 2019/20 and 2020/21. This is likely to have been impacted by the availability and accessibility of services during lockdown.
- Reports to children's services due to domestic violence increased during the pandemic, which is reflected across the region as the highest child protection re-registration rate.
- Services are now reporting an increase in referrals for support following the reduction of restrictions.
- Nationally there was an increase in demand for victim support services, including a 65% increase in calls and contacts logged by the National Domestic Abuse Helpline between April and June 2020, compared with the first three months of the year.
- A lack of access to alternative, early intervention or preventative services was reported by both victims of domestic abuse and those provide the specialist support.
- It has been highlighted that there is a lack of understanding of the needs of people experiencing domestic violence, with services not aware of what to look out for or where to access support.
- A lack of support for marginalised communities was raised by a number of people during the engagement activities.

## 6.9 Secure estate

- Under 4% of people with no identified ACEs had been incarcerated, yet this rose to 38.5% of those with four or more ACEs.
- A review looking at the impact of covid on prisoners concluded that the cumulative effect of the pandemic on prisoners' well-being and rehabilitation was likely to be significant and far-reaching.

## 6.10 Dementia

- Research indicates that people with dementia have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, with the Office for National Statistics (2020) stating 49% of COVID-19 deaths in care homes and 25.6% of all COVID-19 deaths were people with dementia.
- The number of people living with dementia across Cwm Taf Morgannwg is expected to increase by 62% by 2040.
- The increase in the number of people with dementia is going to increase the complexity of the populations needs and have a significant impact on the services required to support them.
- Estimating the population prevalence of younger people living with dementia is difficult with a best estimate of between 42-68 per 100,000 population, giving an estimate of between 190 and 306 younger people living with dementia in CTMUHB.
- People with learning disability who are at higher risk of developing dementia, people with some neurological disorders such as Huntingdon's disease and those with dementia associated with alcohol misuse are often excluded from studies.
- The needs of younger people who develop dementia are demonstrably different from those developing dementia when older both in terms of diagnosis and post diagnostic support.

## 7. Stability assessment: Part B

Part B of this report provides an assessment of the stability of the market for regulated services providing care and support and the sufficiency to meet existing and projected demand.

### 7.1 Care homes (Adults and older people)

#### Capacity

Two fundamental elements of the region's market are the capacity i.e. the volume and type of care it can offer, and how it is utilised. Relative to the population, Merthyr Tydfil is above the Wales average for care homes without nursing, probably due to the location of one of Wales' largest care homes.

All three local authorities are below the national average care homes with nursing, which suggests a squeeze on supply and availability across the region. However, more than half (56%) of beds are in homes with an "adults with nursing" registration. Notwithstanding recruitment difficulties for nurses, this suggests the ability, at least on a registration basis, for the existing infrastructure to be able to flex and adapt to meet more acute needs.

Current occupancy levels indicate to some oversupply; however, the views of commissioners, operational staff and providers highlight difficulties in being able to find suitable placements in a timely manner and to match supply to changes in demand.

Part of this seems to be the result of the lingering effects of the pandemic, with relatively low numbers of referrals, delays in the placement process, and cycles of restrictions on admissions due to Covid status. However, part is due to mismatch between the demand and supply, with nursing beds and dementia care in more demand than general residential.

At the time of writing, all **14** local authority-owned homes are below **85%** occupancy. While not subject to the viability issue faced by independent providers, and the reasons for under-occupancy vary, it shows under-utilisation of some of the existing capacity, the use of which needs to be considered alongside changes in demand for care.

At least half of all providers (49%) have occupancy of less than 85%, which is the level defined by Care Forum Wales as being “non-sustainable”. The pattern of occupancy in homes designated “adults with nursing” and “adults without nursing” is similar although a higher proportion of nursing homes (26%) are above the 95% level compared to homes without nursing (16%).

#### ***Capacity – Learning Disability/Mental Health/Physical Disability Care Home Provision***

Current provision seems unable to meet the increasing need for respite care, particularly dementia care. Social services are experiencing difficulties in securing suitable short term respite care due to the demand for permanent placements. Respite care for individuals with learning disabilities with older parents is a particular problem. The provision of respite care by homes is hampered by the administrative burden of such placements and the financial implications for independent providers who cannot afford to have beds set aside but not used.

Where provision within the region is unable to meet the assessed needs of an individual, then specialist complex provision may be identified and commissioned out of county.

## Quality

Overall, the quality-of-care homes is good and, at this time, it is sufficient and appropriate to support the majority of residential/nursing placement needs. All care homes ensure that risks/concerns are logged onto a risk database.

All Care Home providers are proactive in engaging with Local Authorities in responding to individual needs and emerging demands.

Ongoing contract monitoring processes, including routine assessment, provide a good indication as to how well the care provided by the providers meets the needs of individuals. Where quality concerns have arisen, the common themes include:

- Leadership
- Staffing capacity – recruitment/retention
- Staff skills/training
- Professional relationships

An important element of the strategic and operational management of the care market, the lack of an independent quality measure means there is a gap in the information commissioners need to strategically manage the market. There is an inconsistent approach to monitoring quality across the region.

In the absence of a measure of quality by Care Inspectorate Wales, a consistent regional approach should be developed and implemented, which will enhance the assessment of market viability and sufficiency.

## Demand

The extreme pressure on community care is continuing and there is no longer the capacity to deal with all patients being discharged from hospital

who may benefit from community support. This means some people stay in hospital longer than necessary or become permanent in residential care simply because there is no package of support to facilitate their transition home.

People are entering residential care with more complex needs and at a more advanced stage in their mental and/or physical health condition. This reflects the falling demand for general residential care and reinforces the importance of reviewing and, where necessary, reshaping the region's current provision. A detailed cost of care exercise would help ensure resources reflect need e.g. staffing ratios commensurate with presenting needs.

Research highlights the difficulties in predicting demand for residential care. The ageing population is not necessarily a good indicator of demand. Of more significance is the increasing prevalence of conditions such as dementia. The incidence of dementia in Wales is forecast to increase by a third between 2020 and 2030. There is consensus among commissioners and providers the need for dementia care - permanent and short-term/respite - is increasing and provision needs to be reconfigured to meet these needs.

### **Areas of concern**

Finance is the most significant issue. The broad issue, which is seen as the continuing shortfall in state funding of social care. At the provider level, finance is critical to the viability of individual (independent) care homes and to the ability to invest in maintaining and improving homes, and in reconfiguration or expansion to meet the changing demand for residential care.

A significant area of concern across the region is the availability of Adult with Nursing Placements for those individuals who require specialist EMI

nursing. Due to limited numbers of placements of this type across the region there are high numbers being placed out of County.

Staff recruitment and retention of nurses and care workers is a challenge for many homes, particularly local authority-owned homes. Care homes are not well positioned to compete with better paying jobs in the other sectors including the NHS, which is a drain on the staffing of social care. Pay rates for care workers are poor and not commensurate with their responsibilities and regulatory and professional development requirements, some of which do not apply to better-paid jobs in the NHS and other sectors.

Staffing problems are reducing the region's capacity, causing delays e.g. slowing the rate of admissions, and impacting on the wellbeing of existing staff. Commissioners acknowledge the greater use of agency staff, which is an additional cost burden on independent care homes, and the difficulties in obtaining agency workers and recruiting permanent staff.

The support homes received from the NHS, including GPs and district nurses during the pandemic was mixed, ranging from "excellent" to "some problems". The picture remains mixed. There are calls for 'in-reach" and pooled resource models to increase specialist capacity and regular support to residents with higher-level needs.

### **Commissioning**

There is much common ground between commissioners and providers on the gaps in the market and changing demands for care.

The list below highlights the common ground between commissioners and providers on gaps in the market and changing demand:

- Falling overall demand for general residential care

- Need for more dedicated respite unit(s) or beds, possibly with block purchase, to meet increasing need for respite care (dementia; frail elderly; people with learning disabilities with elderly parents)
- Need for provision of for step-down care, facilitating recovery and assessment of needs outside the hospital environment.
- Increasing need for dementia care and early onset dementia care where a general residential placement might not be appropriate and is not desirable
- Increasing need for general nursing care and EMI nursing
- Need for separately staffed accommodation for older people with learning disabilities.
- More dedicated palliative care units to reflect increasing need for palliative care and to ease bed blocking in hospitals.
- Specialist care: lack of capacity to cover acquired brain injury and other long-term conditions.

## Recommendations

1. Variation in the availability and quality of data on the residential care market across the region should be addressed. A comprehensive and consistent dataset covering the three local authorities should be developed and used i.e. interrogated regularly to provide the market intelligence needed for effective strategic management of the region's care provision. The market viability tool developed for this study can be used for this purpose.
2. In the absence of an independent measure of quality by Care Inspectorate Wales, a consistent regional approach should be developed and implemented to enhance the assessment of market viability and sufficiency.
3. Build on current arrangements to enhance partnership working with providers in ways which result in a more open and transparent, two-way, relationship. It should embody mutual support, continuous



4. Action should be taken to remedy the under-utilisation of capacity in local-authority-owned homes. In the short to medium-term, the scope for refocusing the mix of provision in local authority-owned homes to plug identified gaps such as respite care should be explored.
5. Action should be taken to increase the following types of provision as priorities:
  - (i) Short-term/respite beds and/or respite unit(s), exploring ways of supporting ongoing provision and streamlining the administration associated with it.
  - (ii) Step-down care, facilitating recovery and assessment of needs outside the hospital environment.
  - (iii) Nursing and EMI nursing beds; as part of this action, the definition of nursing care and the distinction between EMI and nursing should be revisited.

## 7.2 Adult placement ('Shared Lives') service

Adult Placement services, more commonly known as Shared Lives schemes, provide support for adults in the carers home on a daily, respite or long-term basis. Adults supported by the scheme will have learning disabilities, mental health problems or other needs that make it harder for them to live on their own. The schemes match someone who needs care with an approved carer.

The scheme matches the person who needs care with an approved carer, providing opportunities for people to be as independent as possible while maintaining their links to family, community and friends.

## Capacity

Each council across the region have separate arrangements in place for the management of long-term and short-term placements, with local authorities reporting that provision is not sufficient to meet current and projected demand.

The matching process between families and individuals needing support is complex and often lengthy, resulting in delays of up to 1 year depending on circumstances.

The scheme has proven to be successful including examples where young people have transitioned to adulthood via the foster system and the foster carers have become a Shared Lives family, providing continuity for the person.

## Quality

The information collected when completing this report found that the services delivered across the region are adequate though increasing demand and a lack of choice negatively impacts the overall quality.

These services have delivered annual savings and demonstrated positive outcomes for service users but with additional capacity and improved matching of individuals it has the potential to support more people live within their communities.

## Demand

The demand for shared lives placements varies across the region with each local authority requiring, on average, 2-4 new placements per year with the majority being identified through the transition planning process.

The total number of people in long-term adult placements has remained steady over the past 2 years though the number of new starters increased between 2019/20 compared to 2020/21.

The total number of people accessing short term placements has reduced by over 50% over the past 18 months, with a similar reduction for new people accessing the provision.

This seems to be a result of the ongoing effects of the pandemic, with reduced referrals, delayed placement and a series of restrictions impacting the admissions process.

*Table 1: Number of People in Long Term Adult Placements at a Date:*

<b>Number of People in Long Term Adult Placement Scheme</b>	<b>Bridgend</b>	<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf</b>	<b>Merthyr Tydfil</b>
As at 31/03/2020	22		14
As at 31/03/2021	26		17
As at 31/09/2021	22		18

*Table 2: Number of New Starters to Long Term Adult Placement Scheme by Year:*

<b>Adult Placement Scheme Starters</b>	<b>Bridgend</b>	<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf</b>	<b>Merthyr Tydfil</b>
2019/20	2		3
2020/21	5		3
2021/22 - Up to 30/09/2021	0		1

*Table 3: Number of People (Unique By Year) accessing Short Term Adult Placements (Respite), including Number of Nights Provided by Year:*

Year	Bridgend	
	Nights Provided	Unique People
2019/20	676	27
2020/21	315	15
2021/22 - Up to 30/09/2021	313	15

The placements have remained steady for long term placements, with current provision of 22 placements of which 21 are for people with a learning disability and 1 person with mental health needs (Bridgend).

### Areas of concern

The pandemic has been wide reaching and brought about significant issues for developing the service further, impacting on service capacity, low interest in new families providing a shared lives placement and client group scope, all of which remain regional priorities for further development.

Although the Adult Placements (shared lives) schemes across the region provide an important service and a valuable element of the wider community housing provision, there are several areas of concern preventing it from realising its potential. These issues include a lack of capacity for family placements, issues with matching individuals to families and long processing and waiting times.

Other developments taking place nationally could be used to supplement existing services and ease demand pressures by increasing community level housing capacity. An example of this is the Homeshare scheme which is being piloted and funded by the Welsh Government. This scheme operating alongside the Adult Placement (shared lives) Service, has the potential to significantly increase social care options within our communities.

## Commissioning

Across the region commissioners have had discussions to consider the Shared Lives schemes, possible future extension of the scheme and the role it plays in supporting young people to transition from foster placements.

## Recommendations

1. Local Shared Lives Schemes have provided excellent outcomes previously and provide a worthwhile service for young people across Cwm Taf Morgannwg.
2. Additional investment should be considered, if necessary, to overcome any delays caused by the pandemic.
3. Transition to adulthood

## 7.3 Advocacy service – Adults and older people

Advocacy means giving a person support to have their voice heard. An advocacy service promotes the views, wishes and feelings of an individual and make sure they are acted upon during decision making processes.

There is a wide spectrum of formal and informal advocacy covering a wide range of needs and age groups, however only advocacy for children who need care and support or are looked after are regulated.

### *Capacity*

#### ***Statutory Independent Professional Advocacy (IPA) Services:***

There are a number of providers commissioned across Cwm Taf Morgannwg to deliver advocacy support to adults and older people, they are:

Bridgend:

MHM Wales - 2 contracts for targeted IPA services covering defined client cohorts.

People First Bridgend – 1 contract for specialist IPA support for LD and ASD.

Rhondda Cynon Taf:

Dewis – support for younger adults with a Learning Disability / Mental Health.

Age Concerns – support for older people.

Merthyr Tydfil:

Merthyr Valleys Mind

Alzheimer's society

Merthyr Tydfil CBC currently spot purchase advocacy services on an individual basis via Dewis based on identified need.

The models across the region are designed to be as accessible as possible with direct referrals received from social work practitioners, other agencies as well as accepting cross-referrals between agencies to offer the most relevant or specialist advocacy service required on a case-by-case basis.

In addition to the services described above, local authorities across the region also commission other services to deliver IPA, as follows:

- Advocacy hub - to signpost to the most appropriate provision;
- A statutory independent professional advocacy service for specialist support including learning disabilities and autistic spectrum conditions;

- A statutory independent professional advocacy service for specialist support including communication and specialist independent professional advocacy;
- A statutory independent professional advocacy service – access all independent professional advocacy.

Statutory (Regulated) Advocacy sits alongside, and is complementary to, non-statutory advocacy services. All commissioned providers deliver both statutory and non-statutory advocacy.

### Quality

Information gathered from commissioners indicated that the provision of advocacy support for adults has evolved over recent years. They commented that although there is suitable support available for eligible clients, the quality varies across the region from good to adequate, with the quality of the service adversely impacted by delays in response time.

### Demand

The restrictions introduced nationally due to the Coronavirus has had an impact in the number of people accessing the service.

In the 12-month period to March 2021, the number of statutory IPA referrals accepted for each local authority in the region was:

*Table 4: Number of statutory IPA referrals accepted (Bridgend)*

Bridgend	2020/21		
	Support provided		
Provider	Unique individuals (new)	Total individuals	Advocacy cases issues
MHM Wales	36	164	225
Peoples First Bridgend	16	75	125
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>350</b>

## Areas of concern

Although the range of advocacy services has expanded over recent years, providing greater access to a wider range of client groups, the organisations operating across the region are reliant on a small group of trained advocates making the services fragile. Therefore, without further development to increase service capacity and client group scope this will remain an area of concern.

Generally, the need for advocacy is co-current with the need to respond to the person and so the capacity needs to be reliable, there is currently no indication, locally or nationally, that the workforce is being supported to expand to meet this growing demand.

## Commissioning

There is a growing demand for advocacy support services for adults and older people with some of the local authorities looking to tender for new provision later this year to meet this growing demand

## Recommendations

- Increase the capacity of advocacy across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region with a greater emphasis on co-producing and improving the opportunities for the voices of users to be heard.

## 7.4 Advocacy service – Children and young people

Advocacy means giving a person support to have their voice heard. An advocacy service promotes the views, wishes and feelings of an individual and make sure they are acted upon during decision making processes.

There is a wide spectrum of formal and informal advocacy covering a wide range of needs and age groups, however only advocacy for children who need care and support or are looked after are regulated.



## Capacity

Concerns about the availability and consistency of advocacy for children led to the introduction of a national approach to statutory advocacy services in 2017.

A regional contract is in place for Advocacy for Children and Young People, with the provider, Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP), providing service across the three local authority areas in for several years.

## Quality

Information gathered from Commissioners suggest that the quality of advocacy services provided to children and young people is of sufficient quality.

Although the covid pandemic has had some impact on accessibility of the service, the move to online and digital communications was embraced by both provider and many clients in receipt of service.

The ongoing Issue-Based Advocacy continues to be provided and has a high level of demand.

There are only two registered providers delivering advocacy services to children and young people across Wales, therefore the choice of providers is restricted.

A service user survey conducted by TGP during the pandemic which presented positive feedback from children and young people accessing their service. Nationally 99% said that they found working with TGP Cymru helpful all or most of the time.

## Demand

Local commissioners have highlighted a number of areas where they are seeing increasing demand, including:

- Advocacy for parent carers involved in child protection cases, and

### Areas of concern

The regional strategic advocacy group have worked together to improve the take up of active offer and understand why children decline it. This work will continue.

Parent-carer advocacy, particularly in relation to child protection cases, is an area for further development in response to increasing demand.

### Commissioning

The national approach for the delivery of statutory advocacy services across Wales has improved the consistency of support available for children and young people across Wales.

Although this is a positive outcome of the national approach, only have two registered providers across the whole country limits the choices available to commissioners and presents potential sufficiently and stability risks.

### Recommendations

1. There is room for further development on the Active Offer – work is underway in this area on a regional and local level to increase the number of active offers.
2. A gap has been identified for advocacy for parents, which is non-statutory.

## 7.5 Care homes (Children and young people)

The data collected during the development of the Population Needs Assessment suggests that across the region the total number of children received care and support has remained relatively consistent, though there has been some slight fluctuating within individual local authorities.

*Table 5: Total number of children received care and support*

<b>Local authorities</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Bridgend	690	735	745
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1420	1330	1375
Merthyr Tydfil	455	485	430
<b>CTM</b>	<b>2,565</b>	<b>2,550</b>	<b>2,550</b>

Table 6 indicates that over the same period the number of children looked after (per 10,000 population) has increased across all local authorities within the region.

*Table 6: Rate per 10,000 population*

<b>Local authorities</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Bridgend	131.4	129.7	134.2
Rhondda Cynon Taf	135.4	134.8	143.1
Merthyr Tydfil	122.5	154.5	160.2
<b>Wales</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>114</b>

## CLA Prevention

Each local authority has developed strategies and services focused upon continually and safely reducing the need for looked after children's services. Notwithstanding the important role of early help services in building family resilience in the context of increasing demand, (RCT's resilient Families Service encountered a 100% increase in demand during 2021-2022); much work remains, and local authorities cannot do that alone.

During the past years, each of our Corporate Parenting Boards have signed up to the charter for parents who are in care or leaving cares, emphasising the importance an urgency of developing services at the edge of care:

<https://cascadewales.org/research/supporting-parents-in-and-leaving-care-messagestocorporateparents/>

### **CLA Prevention**

Demand for statutory services is increasing, however, the CLA prevention strategy is showing some early signs of progress in RCT where CLA numbers have reduced from 707 on 31.3.20 to 655 on 31.3.22. However, this remains the fourth highest per 10,000 capita in Wales and we are committed to improving family support for families where children have care and support needs, and the evidence-based services that are necessary.

Local Authorities are required to meet their sufficiency duty and ensure there is sufficient accommodation for all types of children who are looked after, in line with Section 79 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (the Act). With the duty extending to ensure that placements are made within the local authority's own area as far as possible, or there are overriding reasons for placing a child out of authority, with the primary overriding reason being safeguarding concerns.

In discharging their duties, local authorities provide some care and accommodation themselves, and they purchase the remainder from independent providers. Rhondda Cynon Taff, Merthyr Tydfil, Bridgend County Borough Councils, Placement Commissioning Strategies are in place and Market Position Statements (MPS) which shape and inform service developments and commissioning arrangements for children looked after (CLA), which identify current demand, project future need for foster, residential and supported living for children who are looked after. These pieces of work have been developed and underpinned by the support of the 4 x C's Consortium across Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

Across the region of Cwm Taf Morgannwg there are a range of private framework and non-framework fostering and residential providers offering placements to children and young people.

### Capacity

It has been identified within the 4C's Regional Vacancy Snapshot Report from 13 July 2020, that whilst there has been a slight increase in vacancies across the sector, vacancies remain very limited and lower within Cwm Taf Morgannwg than other regions across Wales.

There is consensus that the placements market overall is not providing sufficient appropriate places to ensure that children consistently receive placements that fully meet their needs at the point of need. To identify appropriate accommodation children and young people are often placed out of county or even country and even then may not be exact match e.g not sufficient therapy services, inability to support sibling groups etc.. that could have a detrimental impact on the well-being of the child.

There has been a growing pressure on residential spend with increase in external providers and out of county placements. In addition to the increased volume of placements price inflation has also increased overall spending but also complexity of young people requiring placements.

As a region we have developed a MAPSS Therapy service for children looked after, testing out this model to support care experienced children and those with plans for adoption who have the most complex emotional, behavioural and mental health needs, by delivering holistic therapeutic interventions. Working in a Trauma informed approach, the service aims is to reduce placement breakdown for those care experienced children with repeat placement breakdowns and those with complex emotional wellbeing needs, who have foster care experience, those with plans for adoption, with the aim to improve stability, resilience, behaviour and emotional health and wellbeing. By providing therapeutic input and a range of therapy interventions, it is hoped that longer term better outcomes for care

experienced children, can be seen, providing more stability with their foster carers/families, enhance relationships, manage behaviour and their mental health needs, supporting and aiding foster carers, also in their role as parent/carers.

The Welsh Government have published 'Removing Profit from the care of looked after children' Programme Board policy statement and in a letter dated 21st April 2022 the Chief Social Care Officer for Wales affirmed commitment adding that plans to be in place to transition to not-for-profit foster and residential care in Wales'. Noting funding to be available to encourage innovation and creative solutions to assist local authorities and existing not for profit providers develop placement capacity, protect against market instability and provide support for private businesses to move to not for profit.

Currently most investment in capital is from private sector, removing profit from children's residential sector may disincentivise providers to enter this market place and further exacerbate the lack of sufficient capacity within the current market.

Within the RPB significant amounts of funding from former ICF capital has been invested in children's accommodation and Housing with Care Funding (HCF) (capital), will allow for new models of residential care to be piloted and tested, determining their effectiveness, consider learning through the process, building on best practice, in order to achieve the best and most positive and stable outcomes for care experienced children and young people.

Commissioning data has shown;

- Providers in Wales preferring referrals from England.
- Decreasing levels of placement offers made via CCSR referrals especially for complex needs.

- Increase in local Authority to seek placements.

As at 30th Sept 2021 within Rhondda Cynon Taff (RCT) the largest geographic locality within the region, there were 14 Residential Care providers with 50 beds (which would be sufficient for RCT children), but with only 7 of the 50 places taken up by RCT children.

In 2019/20, Merthyr Tydfil CBC had 20 children in residential care at cost of £3,270,440. Of these, 19 were placed out of county at a cost of £3,162,680. (Similar situations will be seen across Bridgend).

All local authorities across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region have seen an increase over the past 4 years in residential care, but over the past 2 years RCT has started to see a decline.

Placement decision making appears to be heavily impacted by available supply as opposed to needs driven. The current market appears to see under supply of appropriate placements at a time of increasing spend. In this scenario it would be expected that providers would increase supply to meet needs and costs of placements would potentially reduce over time, but this does not appear to be happening. Local Authorities continue to pay higher prices for placements that are not aligning with need further note there are no same day placement provision available when crisis intervention is required.

Identifying need, and then applying knowledge as to what profile of need is met by which type of provider service is critical to identifying gaps and what needs to be developed. However, predicting need and volume is difficult, compounded by limited capital investment local authorities looked to spot purchase highly specialist placements in the independent sector rather than develop in-house. For local authorities considering block contracts or other means of providing certainty of take-up to potential

providers, there is a trade-off between their potential to create new places and the risk of paying for provision that is not needed by local children. Working on a regional footprint provides greater scope to develop more regional provision, including a focus on;

- Higher need groups (integrated with health and education)
- Family group, long terms, short break and emergency bed.
- Family safeguarding, specialist fostering etc..

## Quality

High quality placements have the ability to achieve good outcomes for some of our most vulnerable young people but similarly poor-quality placements can have the opposite effect and can have far reaching consequences on their futures.

The quality and appropriateness of the placements therefore is extremely important to young people's experience of care and future outcomes and regulations and regular assessments support improving quality within the market and where providers cannot improve pressure to exit the market.

As noted above increasingly commissioners are needing to go further afield to identify placements. The more distant a placement the harder it is to monitor quality and provide oversight of each child's care even if the overall quality of the provision is good not withstanding the impact on maintaining relationships and education and community links.

## Demand

4Cs provides national analysis of trends in data and assists with forecasting future demand based on historic data from Wales, comparable nations and regions, cross referencing multiple sources that project future demographics, current data on emerging trends and where possible factor in anticipated future variables such as policy on refugees.



The 4Cs have recently launched the Placement Commissioning Strategy (PCS) template which helps local authorities to better understand the needs of the children in their care, desired outcomes, drivers for change in order for the local authority to be able to shape internal services, work in collaboration with providers and increase placement choice.

### Areas of concern

Recruitment and retention are a challenge shared across social care and applies to both in-house and independent provision.

The pandemic has exacerbated labour shortages across the wider economy and social care is competing with other sectors which can offer similar or better wages for less challenging work.

Within the population assessment there are a number of challenges identified including young people's mental health, domestic abuse that have increased and has impacted on support services. Whilst there are a range of early intervention and prevention services within the region the impact on statutory services has been significant and sustained.

There is a shortage of residential beds – capacity issues in fostering are placing a strain on residential services. 4C's have recently completed a residential review which highlights the increased use of residential care at increasingly significant rate than foster placements. The growth in the residential sector has not been able to meet demand despite the new number of providers and increased beds.

As noted below the Region has been successful in securing a range of capital and some revenue to develop new schemes however registering a new children's home can take up to a year as delays to the process are common and a registered manager must be in place prior to starting the registration process.

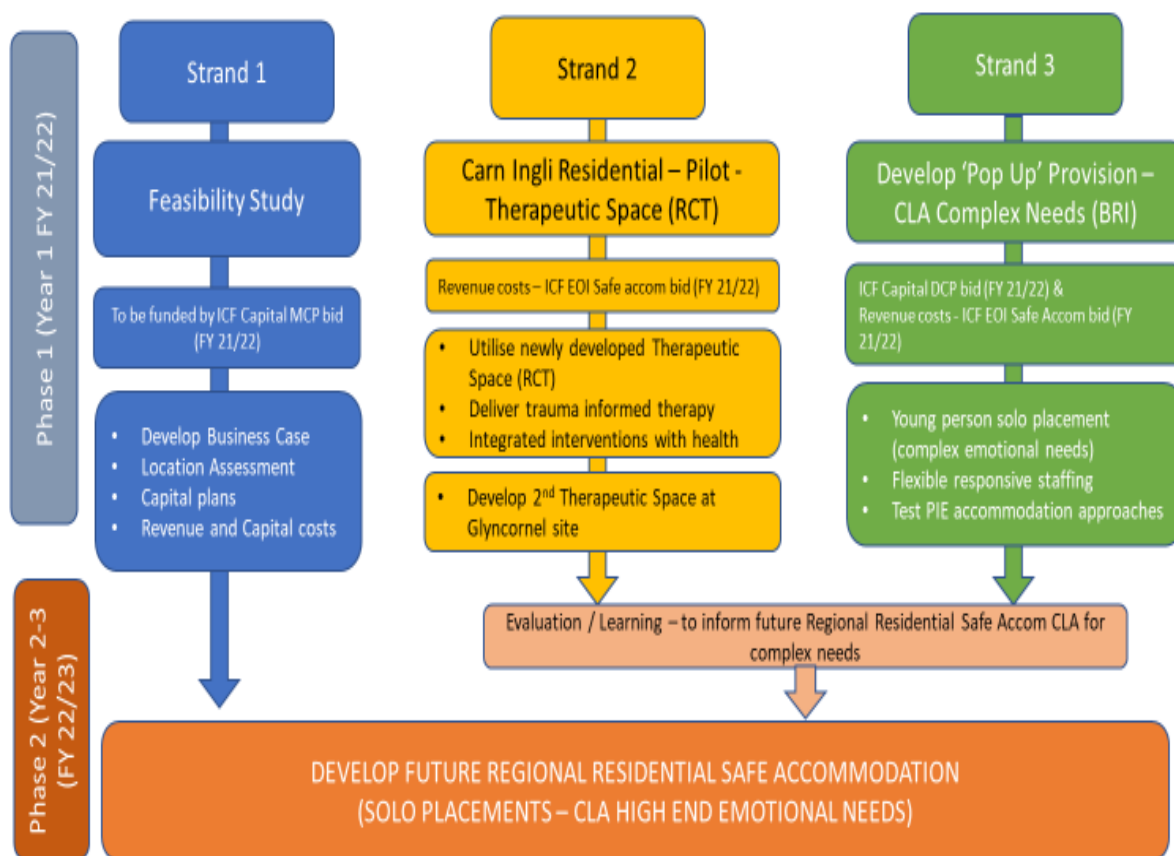
Regionally we do not presently have the infrastructure resources to design, develop and staff integrated residential care driven by good outcomes for children and this represents a risk to the region.

### **Commissioning**

Significant development has been made on a number of residential accommodation facilities across Cwm Taf Morgannwg, to address the need for safe and suitable accommodation for children looked after with complex needs and to ensure they can remain within county boundaries or have the opportunity to return from out of county/country.

There is recognition that in order to address this within a wider strategic direction of travel across the region, that a pragmatic and holistic approach is needed. Therefore, a revenue bid for Safe Accommodation for children with complex emotional and wellbeing needs, was submitted to Welsh Government with a 1-3 Year plan (revenue funding of £589,140 in 2021/22) in order to develop the model below:

**CWMTAF MORGANNWG REGIONAL RESIDENTIAL CARE – PROPOSED 3 YEAR PLAN - PHASE 1 MODEL**



**BRIDGEND - Children’s Residential Placement Hub (Bridgend)**

Within Bridgend, a new development to refurbish a former primary school at Brynmenyn as a Children’s Residential Placement Hub, as an integrated residential service model is significantly progressed. The Placement Hub is currently located at Maple Tree house with the intention of re-locating this residential service to the new Brynmenyn Hub, seeing it move from an urban and not ideally located setting to a more rural beneficial environment with plenty of green spaces, extensive outdoor garden areas, holistically designed with wellbeing in mind.

The service model will offer an integrated service for young people with complex needs, aged 8 to 18, who are either in care, on the edge of care, or have recently moved to supported or independent accommodation. Attached to the service are a combination of therapeutic, residential and

outreach staff providing integrated, wrap-around support that can meet all the needs and ambitions of each young person. This model allows for the right support at the right time, which will prevent escalation of needs further down the line and that they are not passed from service to service but instead are supported by one dedicated team.

The old Brynmenyn school building will be converted into 11 bedroom/units and designed as a Psychologically Informed Environment (PIE), with the service model consisting of 3 emergency crisis intervention beds (accessed for a maximum of 72 hours). 4 will be short term/assessment beds and medium-term residential beds, with a view to moving on to other placement options and all furnished and with private bathrooms. 4 will be staff bedrooms, located on the premises 24/7 to provide advice and support, aiming to minimise the chance of placement breakdowns.

There will also be therapeutic staff based at the Hub, in dedicated office space, consisting of a behaviour analyst. There is future potential for the team to expand to include Placement Support Workers and Therapist Workers with a play therapy background.

This scheme is well progressed with timelines predicting completion by October 2022. With an overall cost of £2.2M, the scheme is being funded jointly by Bridgend County Borough Council (£1.9M) with match funding contribution from ICF Capital funding of £736,000 in FY 21/22. However, cost increases have been seen across the construction sector, so a shortfall in funding is now identified but which will still allow the scheme to progress whilst additional funds are sought. This will be a flagship residential setting for Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

As part of the remodelling of Children's Residential Homes in Bridgend CBC significant engagement with current and former residents of the residential homes was undertaken to inform the development of the proposed new

model. A summary of the feedback received from these young people is detailed below:

<b>Aspects of the respondents experience in the home they found positive</b>	<b>Aspects of the respondents experience in the home they would change if they could</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The staff members</li> <li>• The support/advice/guidance they received</li> <li>• The independence they had</li> <li>• The facilities</li> <li>• The free time/activities available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased access to WIFI</li> <li>• Better computers</li> <li>• Would like more independent flats/step-down options</li> <li>• Would like more move-on support/support post 18</li> <li>• Access to individual bathroom facilities en suite, as opposed to shared</li> <li>• More free time and freedom.</li> <li>• Baths, games room</li> </ul>

As part of the feedback received was the need to strengthen independent and semi-independent accommodation options for children leaving care.

### **BRIDGEND - Pop-up Provision in Hillsboro (Bridgend)**

Working alongside Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), Valleys 2 Coast (registered landlord) are developing a registered residential 'pop up' service which can be utilised across both Children's and Adults services to support transition into adulthood (where required), it will allow BCBC to deliver a personalised service to their most vulnerable children in care and will mitigate the risk of children being placed out of county.

The support provided by BCBC can be tailored to each child placed offering a bespoke and solo residential service which is mobilised (popped up) when the needs arises, supported with a flexible staffing model, allowing Children's Social care team to provide the right service at the right time to support and achieve meaningful outcomes for children and young people and remain in-county.

The 'pop up' service can deliver a bespoke package of care and support dependant on the child's needs, this could include specialist support and/or input from health where necessary. A statement of purpose will be submitted to CIW when children enter the service to reflect each child's needs, as we recognise that one model may not fit all. This provision forms Strand 3 of the 3 year Safe Accommodation Plan (see above).

### **MERTYR TYDFIL - Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC) Supported Accommodation for 16+ years (Merthyr Tydfil)**

In order to meet the accommodation needs of 16-24 year olds, who are known to social services and/or have been in the care system/Children looked after, Merthyr Tydfil CBC are refurbishing a council owned building to provide 4-6 units of one and two bed self-contained accommodation.

This accommodation will be for the periods on leaving foster care or corporate parenting residential care accommodation.

Located in the Gurnos estate in Merthyr Tydfil, the building currently acts and is known as a Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC) and plays a key role in supporting unemployed youths and adults access training with the aim of increasing their access to employment opportunities. The site currently comprises 4 buildings, which offer a range of vocational training, where experiential learning can take place. There are carpentry workshops, plumbing/metal and other construction style workshop areas; a hair dressing unit with professional hair salon equipment, a potters kiln and ceramic workshop to name a few, along with staff office accommodation and currently empty unused existing flats.

The capital refurbishment will look to refurbish one building (Block 2) into 4-6 self-contained flats and to re-locate existing workshops into the remaining buildings, resulting in minor adaptation, allowing part of the

learning centre to remain open to the young people. The intention is to create a unique accommodation centre where young people have direct access to suitable modern, safe accommodation, whilst also providing them with access to onsite training, that could lead to higher education by attending their local college and/or future employment. There are clear benefits of this approach in enhancing their social integration in a manner that supports them to reduce the likelihood of becoming isolated or engage in anti-social behaviours. This accommodation model will allow a young person to feel supported to live independently, have housing related support in the management of a household, managing their own finances, food/nutrition/cooking, selfcare and household hygiene, whilst being supported with staff on site. This will be seen as a step-down approach to more independent living in their own accommodation, limiting the need for further support and preventing any escalation of needs.

### **RHONDDA CYNON TAFF - Care Leavers Accommodation (Passivhaus Unit) (16+)**

Within Rhondda Cynon Taff, a new accommodation unit is being developed as safe temporary accommodation/moving on accommodation for care leavers with complex emotional and behavioural needs. This project will create a home that allows a positive, proactive approach to increasing young people's confidence and resilience, building skills to live independently and to reduce the risk of homelessness for young people with the most complex needs. It is an integral element of the continuum of accommodation and support for care leavers supporting them to achieve the ultimate objective of successfully moving into independent accommodation and sustaining their own tenancy. This project is still at the early development stage with £260,530 of ICF capital funding being awarded in the summer 2021, to develop a 2 bedroom passivhaus standard new build (modern methods of construction (MMC)).

## **RHONDDA CYNON TAFF - Ty Brynna Residential Accommodation**

Solo residential provision for young people with complex needs who required intensive intervention, supporting his needs towards supported independent living as progressed at pace. This property has been developed as a safe base with access as a trauma informed environment, supported with tenancy options and services that will help a young person towards transition and the best form of supported independence that suits them. There is a strong relationship between this, the Care2Work bid, and the RPB's complex residential care initiative and in fullness of time might serve as step down from that provision. Compatible multi-agency trauma informed approaches will be central to this success within this home.

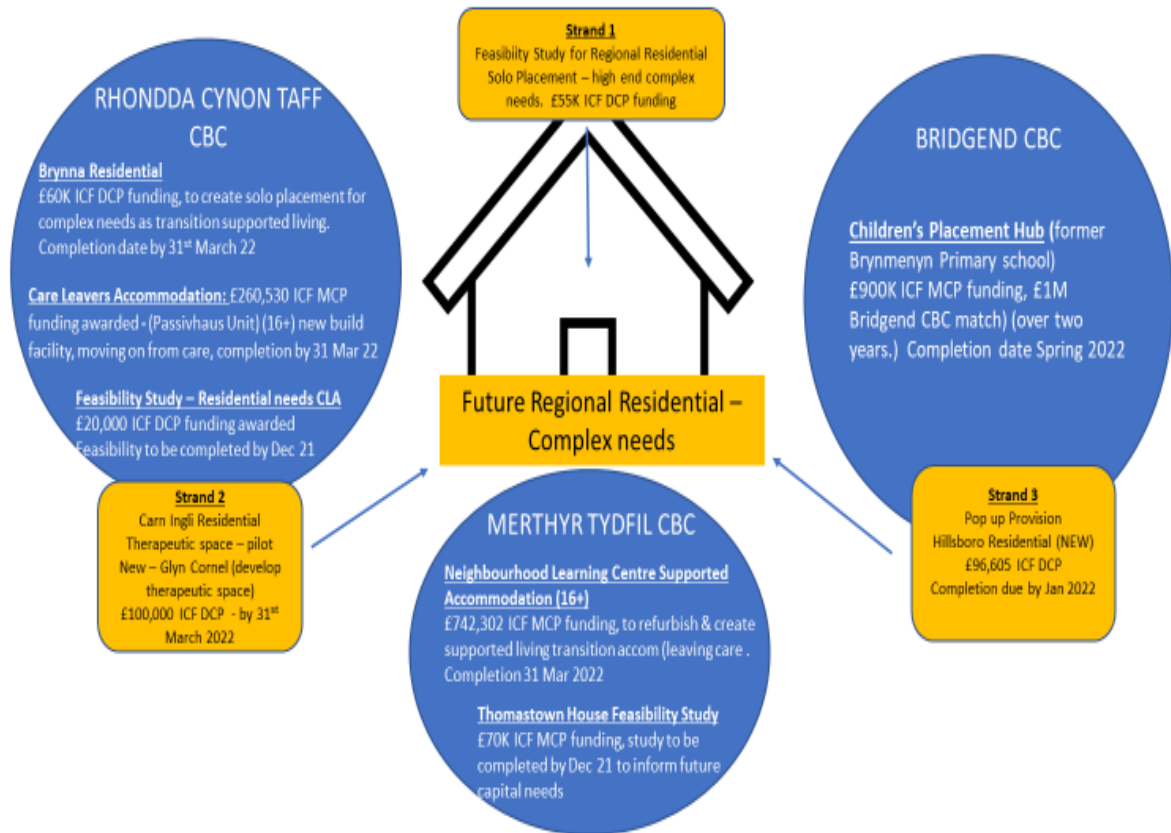
Other longer term objectives of developing this residential model and expected outcomes for future young people are to:

- Provide, safe, stable and suitable living accommodation
- Improve well-being and stability and support in a trauma informed environment
- To live close to home, also to prevent out of county placements, unregulated provision and escalation of need and risk.
- Reduce need to access to statutory health, housing and social services as adult
- Innovation in trialling new options for improving access to job market

The Model below shows a summary overview of the combined current ongoing capital projects developed as Safe Accommodation projects for children looked after and how they fit within the Safe Accommodation (revenue) funding bid and the regions' plans to strategically develop a regional residential accommodation and therapeutic facility for children looked after with complex emotional and behavioural needs within the next 3 years, whose needs cannot be met at other residences:



## CWM TAF MORGANNWG - NEW CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION - CAPITAL DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS THE REGION



Cwm Taf Morgannwg are seeking to build on this model, to continue to address challenges with out of county placements by creating residential care settings in localities that meet the complex and emotional needs of children looked after, to achieve better long-term outcomes. The regional ambition is to develop services close to home that can meet need over the next 3-5 years.

It is expected that Housing with Care Funding (HCF) (capital) will play a key role in the provision of local accommodation for children with high end emotional and behavioural needs and that regions will be able to demonstrate how this has reduced the number and cost of out of county/out of country placements.

### Recommendations

New developments noted above will take time to commence and make impact on supply and demand deficit.

There is insufficient supply of:

- Registered Children's Homes for children to meet children's needs, especially for those with the services and skills to meet the needs of children with complex needs
- There is no integrated approach to residential care
- Safe accommodation is delayed
- skilled staff available to support young people in crisis
- There is insufficient supply of local authority foster carers
- There is insufficient supply of not for profit
- IFA placements particularly for children whose earlier experiences mean they need more skilful care. This is particularly evident for those aged 8+ yrs.

## 7.6 Secure accommodation services

Families with children with a complex range of needs should experience holistic, seamless care and support that helps them achieve what is important to them including emotional and mental wellbeing. This is in line with the *No Wrong Door*<sup>1</sup> recommendations of the Children's Commissioner for Wales and from her annual reports.

Along this continuum of support, secure accommodation is a highly specialised provision appropriate for a small cohort of young people. Locked facilities accessed through a court order can only be used to ensure the safety of the child and others around them and typically for short periods.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/publications/no-wrong-door-bringing-services-together-to-meet-childrens-needs/>

## Capacity

Hillside Secure Children's Home in Neath is the only facility currently in Wales. The unit has capacity of 22 places shared between the Youth Justice Board (linked to offending), and Welsh local authorities for welfare purposes.

Because there are so few secure units (there are also few in England), they tend to be used nationally and it can be difficult to find a place when they are required.

The Secure Welfare Coordination Unit (SWCU) sits within Hampshire County Council; Grant funded by DfE. It is not a legal entity and therefore does not have a Director, there is a Board consisting of several partnerships.

The unit was set up to:

- provide one clear point of contact;
- coordinate and streamline welfare referrals to SCHs and;
- provide a mechanism for collecting more systematic data on national demand for places.

The SWCU does not have a direct role in the commissioning of secure places for individual young people on welfare grounds. The unit is unable to direct a SCH to accept a young person, the responsibility remains with the Registered Manager (Responsible Individual in Wales) of the home.

## Quality

There is a national shortage across England and Wales of secure placement, this often leads to Local Authorities having to care for young people in

settings that are not secure placements, despite them being assessed as meeting the threshold for secure provision.

The Hillside Secure Children's home is inspected by Care Inspectorate Wales and Estyn for the on-site education provision. Given that there is only one provision of this type there is clearly a lack of choice of provision and if there were any quality concerns the only alternatives are in England.

This obviously presents a risk at the national level should any issues arise at Hillside or places become unavailable for any reason.

CTM provide the psychiatry / psychology service to CAMHS and Hillside staff cite difficulties in accessing the support they need.

### **Demand**

The number of children requiring secure accommodation is low and that can be expected to continue. Figures provided for Bridgend show between 1 – 3 placements required per annum.

### **Areas of concern**

It is very difficult to ensure that there is just sufficient of this type of provision as needed at any one time, given that the number of children requiring it is so low. Secure accommodation is costly, difficult to provide and recruiting and retaining skilled staff willing to work in a challenging environment is difficult.

There is only one SCH in Wales, with there being 13 in England and 5 Scotland but, they will only consider a referral if there are no Scottish referrals.

Wales having only one unit presents significant risks and means that places will usually be far from home and sometimes not available in Wales when children need them. It is extremely difficult to source and commission a

welfare bed due to the number of live referrals the SWCU are dealing with. Justice placements take priority over the Welfare placements.

Placements are often out of area and can be prohibitive to be able to support a rehab back to family/residential/foster placement. Also impacts on any family contact.

### **Commissioning**

The commissioning of secure accommodation needs to be considered within regional plans.

### **Recommendations**

Within Cwm Taf Morgannwg, we have however developed a range of more specialist residential accommodation facilities to address the need for safe and suitable accommodation for children looked after with complex needs and to ensure they can remain within county boundaries or have the opportunity to return from out of county/country (see residential care home section for more detail).

Secure accommodation needs to be developed on a national level however regional accommodation developments will help to meet lower-level needs.

## **7.7 Adoption service**

Since 2014 adoption services in Wales have been provided on a regional basis however note this change was prior to the Health Board boundary change and therefore Bridgend was aligned with Western Bay.

### **Capacity**

CTM spans the footprint of 2 regional adoption collaborations, and there is a continuing need to identify and support suitable adoptive families for small children for whom it is not safe for them to grow up with a foster carer or relative

Adoption services in Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf are managed by the Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Adoption Collaborative and supported by the National Adoption Service. This regional arrangement delivers all functions related to placements for permanence through the use of Adoption endorsed by the Courts.

Adoption services in Bridgend are managed by the Western Bay Adoption Service - which is made up of three collaborating local authority adoption agencies, Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea.

There is insufficient adoption support for adopters who have more complex needs. This is exacerbated by up to 3 year waiting lists for neurodevelopmental assessments.

## Quality

In general, children who are adopted achieve positive outcomes but the adoption process, from assessment, through matching and then placing children is often lengthy, with the process taking around 800 days on average over recent years increasing to 854 during 2021.

There has been a national emphasis on reducing the time this process can take, though this continues to be a priority.

Across the region there has been a slow decrease in the number of children being made subject of a placement order with an agreed plan of adoption over the last three years. This decrease is the position generally across the UK however this year has seen a significantly greater reduction. It is not clear, at this early stage, whether this is as a result of a response to COVID or whether it is a new trend for this service.

The children that do come through with an agreed plan of adoption have increasingly complex needs.

The main issues for these children include:

- Exposure to significant drug and alcohol use during pregnancy,
- Genetic conditions and
- Disability issues as a result of non-accidental injury.

These children are likely to have ongoing adoption support needs which when identified early in placement are likely to reduce the need for long term crisis type support services and long-term therapy.

Narrowing the gap between the children coming through and the matches with adopters will ensure that the service can place more of these complex children and continue to offer regional adoption support to them until they reach adulthood.

Supporting adopters to access the support at key points of need in their child's life rather than creating long term dependency is crucial to a functioning adoption support team.

Positively despite these challenges we have been able to reduce the number of children waiting for placements and we have been successful at placing older children and children with complex needs.

The region have also been successful in recruiting a consistent number of adopters across the region.

## **Demand**

The long-term trend has been a reduction in the average age of children adopted in Wales, from 61 months in 2003, to 37 months in 2021. This probably reflects more timely decision making and increased use of concurrent planning in care proceedings. Most children adopted in Wales were aged between 1 and 4 years (84%).

The pandemic has had a significant impact on adoption services. Nationally, there was an increase of 23% in the number of initial enquiries, and 20% in adopter assessments starting, possibly reflecting the upsurge in altruism and volunteering seen during the pandemic, and the opportunity for people to reassess their priorities and lifestyles. However, the practicalities of completing assessments amidst Covid restrictions meant that fewer adopters were approved, with a decrease of 8% nationally. Whether the increased interest in adoption will be sustained is very uncertain.

In VVC demand for adoption has now stabilised following a decrease in children requiring adoptive placements and emphasis placed upon preventative measures to enable children to remain at home. In WBAS demand for children requiring adoptive placements has reduced significantly in the last 12 months, which is a similar pattern to that across the UK.

Progress has been made in terms of the recruitment of adopters for those children where adoption is the only permanency option, and this will continue to be a significant activity for the region. Performance in respect of recruitment and other adoption services is closely monitored by NAS as part of their Performance Management Framework NAS have also developed a number of practice initiatives which are embedded in the National Adoptions Service's Good Practice Guides: <https://www.adoptcymru.com/>

### **Areas of concern**

The primary concern across the region continues to be the recruiting of adoptive families and establishing a sufficient selection to ensure there is choice when matching children to families.

a sufficient pool of adoptive families to ensure that children can be well matched, and that their individual needs, including for many the opportunity to grow up in a Welsh speaking family can be met.



In this context the pandemic presents both opportunities and challenges. More people may be attracted to adopt in a world of increasingly flexible work styles, however so long as the pandemic continues there may be challenges and delays to assessment processes.

In line with the good practise guides for adoption launched by NAS earlier this year work has begun to embed an early intervention offer in relation to adoption support. This new offer delivers support early in the placement with life-journey work, letterbox contact and therapeutic parenting, it is envisaged that this will reduce the need for crisis arising later in placement.

The local authorities continue to see increases in demand for adoption support for the historic cases. We are seeing a greater demand for adult adoptees to access information from their file, in the last 10 years adopters have been provided with significant information on their adopted child so in theory this need should reduce in the longer term.

## Commissioning

One area of development since the inception of NAS and regional working has been the increased demand for adoption support services to support adoptive families. This has impacted upon the services which are available and has identified the gaps which exist and the areas for improvement. In January 2022, the RPB ICF funded Multi-agency Permanence Support Service went live, and this extends the therapeutic consultation and support that is available to adoptive families.

## Recommendations

Despite the new multi-agency support service being available there are requirements for services to meet the following needs and gaps in provision:

- Availability of psychology
- 3 year waiting list for neuro developmental services, which is a particular challenge for these families given the growing understanding about the likely needs of these children
- Integrated therapeutic adoption support services (MAPPS is LA only)
- Specialist support to learners in schools
- TESSA is a highly valued psychological resource that is available to adoptive families with greater needs, but the resource is insufficient
- Sensory OT interventions has been identified by TESSA as needed in a number of cases, yet is not available in CTM

## 7.8 Residential Family Centres

Residential family centres are a specialist service which is rarely required by the local authorities in Cwm Taf Morgannwg. They provide assessments and therapeutic interventions for families, usually in the context of care proceedings where it is thought there are significant risks to the child or children, requiring very close monitoring.

### Capacity

There are only two registered residential family centres in the whole of Wales, one of which recently reopened after a closure. One of those centres is at Crossroads (Ty Seren) in Bridgend.

Placements to residential family centres are rarely required but there are occasional placements by Cwm Taf Morgannwg local authorities. Placements in residential family centres are less preferred, with parent and child foster placements seen as a better option as they can provide an assessment in a more 'natural setting'.

## Quality

As there is only two centres covering the whole of Wales there is little choice as to where families are placed.

## Demand

There has been a national shift away from the residential assessment models and the preference for local authorities is with parent and child fostering.

Although the number are low, when this type of placement is required, local authorities often have had to look outside Wales due to a scarcity of options. In most cases it would be preferential for a local provider to be available so that the parent(s) can be closer to home.

## Areas of concern

Placements are often out of area which can make support or step down back into the community very difficult, being placed out of county also impacts on any contact with family, siblings etc.

Due to the lack of use of this type of service it is often a challenge when commissioning residential family centres.

## Commissioning

Spot purchasing occasional places when they are needed avoids committing resources to provision that may not be needed. However, it does mean that costs are likely to be high when they are required, and placements will be distant and possibly outside Wales.

## Recommendations

- Insufficient need for residential family placements makes it difficult to justify commissioning a dedicated local centre.
- Increasing regional parent and child fostering capacity, either in house or commissioned from an IFA, would provide local capacity where commissioners have more influence in cost and quality.

## 7.9 Fostering service

The majority of children who are looked after live with foster cares, including connected or kinship carers. Most foster carers are recruited and supported by local authorities but there are also Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs) which recruit and approve carers and offer placements to local authorities. Most IFAs are in the independent sector but a few are operated on a not-for-profit basis by charities and social enterprises.

### Capacity

Fostering services across Cwm Taf Morgannwg are generally split into two separate categories:

- General Fostering and Placements
- Kinship Care and Permanence

General Fostering and Placements are responsible for the recruitment, assessment and support of all general foster carers in Bridgend, including the specialist Transitional Foster Carer Scheme, as well as identification of Placements for children who need to become looked after by the Local Authority.

The Kinship Care and Permanence Team are responsible for the assessment and support of Connected Persons Carers and Special Guardians. This team also holds responsibility for the Assessment and support of Supported Lodgings providers and When I am Ready arrangements.

All local authorities in the Cwm Taf region operate a regional front door for the recruitment of Foster Carers. This approach ensures there is one point of contact for all individuals across the region and they receive a consistent response.

This regional front door for Fostering Services responds to all fostering recruitment enquiries, process applications, co-ordinate the marketing function and support potential foster carers through the process of becoming a foster carer.

This approach is also offering opportunities to work collaborative on the development of foster carer recruitment campaigns.

IFA placements offer choice, and sometimes meet specialist needs, such as parent and child placements but, in the absence of block contracts, they will often be purchased by authorities outside the region.

In addition to the overall shortage of foster carers across the region there is also growing demand for more specialist foster placements, including:

- Transitional foster carers
- Children with autism
- Children with learning disabilities
- Young people who exhibit multiple risk-taking behaviours including substance misuse, risk of CSE and absconding
- Parent and child placements; and
- Welsh language foster placements.

## Quality

The Fostering Service is required to undertake a Quality-of-Care Review on a 6 monthly basis. Where any need for an improvement is identified an action plan is developed setting out the Outcome that is sought and step to achieve this outcome. The Fostering Service is also required to provide a

quarterly report on the adequacy of resources (QCRR), which will consider staffing levels, complaints, safeguarding matters etc.

All Foster Carers have an Annual Review which reviews the placements they have offered, attendance at training etc throughout the year.

There is clear evidence above that BCBC are supporting more children to continue to live within their family by means of a Connected Person Foster Care arrangement.

Bridgend Fostering has recently reviewed and established a framework to support greater placement stability for Care Experienced Children.

The Framework Providers have won their place on the framework through rigorous service quality and business scrutiny. Annual quality checks are completed, and all providers are committed to developing their service provision in Wales in response to clear needs analysis presented by local authorities.

Placement moves is a key indicator to the quality of foster care provision with frequent moves associated with poorer long-term outcomes.

## **Demand**

Increasing numbers of children looked after has been a long-term trend across Wales for many years with a 73% increase recorded between 2003 to 2021 (7,265). An increase of this size would have placed additional strains on local care services but the increase across the region has been higher (+78%).

The increase in the number of children becoming looked after has subsequently made placing children in a local provision harder. This coupled with the increased difficulty in recruiting enough foster carers and the issue of authorities outside of the region purchasing placements has resulted in a shortage.

## Approved Fostering Households/Placements

	Mainstream Foster Care		Connected Persons Foster Care	
	Households	Placements	Households	Placements
Number of fostering approvals as at 31st March 2020	92	192	54	83
Number of fostering approvals as at 31st March 2021	99	198	57	98
Number of fostering approvals as at 30th Sep 2021	91	189	61	94

**Table 6 \*Bridgend Only figures**

A lack of Local Authority foster carers can lead to an increase in the number of children who are placed in expensive Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements, sometimes in out of county placements which causes additional complexity and costs in relation to staff time and expenses.

### Areas of concern

These increased levels of demand for foster carers, both within the region and nationally, has resulted in further difficulties when securing appropriate placements for children.

All three Local Authorities Across Cwm Taf Morgannwg have experienced difficulties in the recruitment of foster carers, with many being lost each year due to retirement, sickness, change of career, change to Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) and other life events.

There is also considerable uncertainty in the market with the commitment to eliminate 'for profit' provision and the impact of the pandemic proving to be further issues impacting the ability to identify foster carers across the region.

It is not only necessary to ensure that these numbers are replaced in order to meet the demand we have currently, but we also need more in order to meet the future demands of children who are Looked After in the region.

Another area of concern is insufficiency/capacity issues with being able to source suitable and appropriate placements for children looked after within the local area, with a significant number of children and young people being placed out of area. These out of county placements are having a major impact on the education, health and contact for children and young people.

A growing area of concern for the region are foster carers who do not have the correct skills to support children, often resulting in them being placed in emergency/ bridging placements. A subsequent result of this need is children being placed within children's homes, often out of area.

Foster carers preference wanting to provide placements for babies or younger children and young sibling groups. If there are vacancies matching considerations when needing to place alongside other children/young people.

### **Commissioning**

In order to continually increase the number of Local Authority foster carers and to compete with the IFAs, a marketing strategy is needed that is developed and delivered with a focus on marketing and advertising. This strategy must link to the national marketing strategy and raise the profile of Local Authority foster care, in order to compete with the IFAs in monetary terms.



However, raising the profile of becoming a foster carer for the Local Authority can be underpinned by the unique selling points, including:

- caring for our children locally,
- availability of placements,
- links between the Fostering team and
- children's social workers and as a public sector agency,
- children's wellbeing as our first priority.

As a result of the challenges listed above a Collaborative agreement has been put in place, as a regional contract, held by Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC but also on behalf of Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil CBC with pooled fund with costs split between the 3 Local Authorities.

National and regional schemes to support effective commissioning of children's placements have been introduced, including:

- the National Fostering Framework<sup>14</sup> and
- Children's Commissioning Consortium Cymru's (4Cs),
- placement finding tool:
- the Children's Commissioning Support Resource (CCSR).

## Recommendations

- Increasing in-house capacity to respond to the demand for foster carers will help address many of the issues identified above.
- To increase capacity a new recruitment campaign focusing on marketing and advertising may be required
- In addition to a new recruitment campaign, reviewing and enhancing the offer to foster carers will increase the likelihood of encouraging new foster carers.
- The recruitment campaign as well as the improved offer needs to focus on non-financial incentives as listed above.

- Engagement with IFA providers offering placements across Cwm Taf Morgannwg will be vital before and during the transition to a not-for-profit model to ensure that capacity isn't lost.
- Different commissioning models may be required to encourage/ensure IFAs have tailor their offer to local requirements.
- Investment in preventative, respite and edge of care services can help reduce the need for children to be looked after away from their families.

**Note:** IFSS has its origins in the Welsh Governments' Vulnerable Children Strategy. The legislative framework is the Children and Families (Wales) Measure, which was introduced in the Welsh Assembly on 2 March 2009. It was underpinned by regulations, which came into effect in early 2010 on the basis of new powers devolved to WAG.

The Measure requires all local authorities to establish Integrated Family Support Teams (IFST) to provide services to families whose children are at particular risk as a result of adult focused concerns such as substance misuse, domestic violence, adult mental health. It also provides duties on the Local Health Board jointly with the local authority to establish and resource an IFST. Provisions include functions, staff (core member of team, professional and occupational standards and registration requirements) and arrangements for establishing and resourcing IFST including strategic direction by an IFSS Board who has specific statutory duties in relation to the IFSS. The IFST will be multi-agency teams whose function will be to deliver evidence-based interventions direct to families where children are at serious risk of being the subject of care proceedings. Crucially this is not seen just as the creation of a specialist team but a mechanism to being about the greater integration of service response across health and social care for adults and children. The IFST will have a service development role with the wider provision in ensuring both response and skills are in a form that will have maximum impact on the families of concern.

## Areas of concern

The RPB has a duty in the Part 9 Code of Practice to 'Ensure the IFSTs have sufficient resources to carry out their functions (this will include the specific resources available to the IFSTs, as well as commissioning cross-sector services where appropriate'. There is currently insufficient service supply in this regard.

Progress has been made in supporting the MT Supporting Change proposal with RIF funding, but a regional and integrated gap continues.

Going forward, the RPB will need to take steps to measure and address the gaps where they exist, and this will need to be done with some pace given our duties to children and families as underlined in statute and code of practice.

### **Domestic abuse (IFST CLA)**

Children and young people are most likely to experience harm in households where domestic abuse is a feature of life. High rates of domestic abuse in CTM are well documented and have increased during the pandemic.

Quality assurance work linked to the very high rate of children's names being added to a child protection register more than once in RCT, has highlighted the need for services in this area, and in particular for evidence-based interventions that can support families either recovering from the trauma of domestic abuse or seeking to remain safely together.

Practitioners have cited the lack of available resources in this area as a significant barrier and a repeat occurring factor in case where we are unable to support children to remain at home safely leading to an entry to care.

## 7.10 Domiciliary support service

### Capacity

The increase in the over 65 population and in particular the 85+ population presents an expected and unprecedented increase in demand on services. This underlines the need to develop support and services that promote and maximise independence in order that the provision of acute and longer-term support is targeted to those in most need, including specialist support for children with disabilities and their families.

Within Cwm Taf Morgannwg we are committed to supporting people to live as independently as possible in their own homes and regulated domiciliary care sector are a key part of the health and social care response.

In addition to maintaining independence, domiciliary care services can provide an alternative to residential care but also reablement support in response to change in circumstances but also facilitate timely hospital discharge and reduce admission and readmission. Supported by allied health care professionals including Occupational therapists and physiotherapists there are a range of short-term interventions (typically 6 weeks) within the current domiciliary care offering.

Domiciliary care is provided via direct care in a person's own home, this can be owner occupied or tenanted such as Extra Care and Supported Living accommodation. Across the region there is a mixed economy of externally contracted, Independent Providers and internal Council provision for both tenanted and owner-occupied domiciliary care provision.

Within the hospital avoidance and support discharge planning domiciliary care agencies within the community, as experienced across Wales, has

supported increased complexities. The number of double handed calls has increased which reduces the daily capacity and there has been a requirement to upskill staff and provide more complex equipment. The number of urgent orders for complex equipment has increased significantly and continues to rise.

Within CTM this has led to exploring alternative models to historic domiciliary care. Within RCTCBC, the Local Authority in partnership with Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB have piloted a “Hybrid” role which is looking to use blurred boundary work for health and social care tasks to enable one workforce focussed on the persons outcomes.

In May 2020 Welsh Government produced a policy document ‘Rehabilitation: a framework for continuity and recovery 2020 to 2021’. The framework supports services to plan for the anticipated increased demand for rehabilitation of population groups, including both adults and children, affected both directly and indirectly by Covid-19. Associated rehabilitation guidance provided a resource to support practitioners and service providers to deliver appropriate and timely rehabilitation through a stepped care rehabilitation model to enable people affected by the impact of Covid-19 in Wales to return to their optimal level of independence and well-being.

Modelling suggested that even if a prompt and robust supported recovery model is implemented for individuals, we can still expect to see a Covid-related additional increase in demand for longer-term packages of care and care home placement, well into 2022. The evidence suggests that demand will be even higher if D2RA is not fully implemented.

For domiciliary staff there are national and local challenges of recruitment and retention, professional development for registered workers, the pay and recognition of the role and its changing/increasing skill set required to

successfully maintain people at home. A number of staff have also chosen to leave due to the demand and costs associated with the Social Care Workforce Registration and also other affordability issues associated with the job, such as car insurance costs, the cost of petrol and wear and tear on vehicles, which again is leading to staff leaving the sector.

As people choose to live at home longer, with more complex needs, demand is out stripping supply.

There is also an opportunity for people to have a Direct Payment, where they have responsibility and control to employ a Personal Assistant (PA) to meet their assessed care and support needs, but difficulties in recruiting PA's continues to be a barrier for people to take up this choice.

The majority of long-term domiciliary care packages are focussed on the older population. For other defined cohorts alternative community-based options such as supported living and respite are often favoured or even expected.

The overall stability of the domiciliary care market in the region appears fragile and risks sufficiency in meeting demand and expectations based on current projections.

## **Quality**

Care Inspectorate Wales does not publish ratings for domiciliary care services and whilst under the terms of the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 there was the intention to have a ratings system from 2021 this has been delayed due to the pandemic.

Quality is variable and can be reliant on the workforce availability noting high turnover for some providers in respect of registered staff.

There is a joint Framework contract in place for RCT and Merthyr Tydfil but this arrangement does not currently include the Bridgend area.

Monitoring arrangements are in place but not back to pre-pandemic levels.

The independent sector is subject to a competitive tender process, but there is a fair quality / cost ratio.

The pandemic has impacted an ability to truly assess individual's needs as we are not assessing on a like by like basis, this may change as we come out of the pandemic to a more stable environment.

## Demand

In Bridgend a framework agreement is in place for the provision of independent domiciliary care with 12 providers, who supply an average of 363,000 hours per annum (based on the last 4 years). Snapshot data at the beginning of 2021 financial year, at April 2021 and October 2021 show that the Independent domiciliary care hours spot contract (Excluding IDC Better at Home & Short Term Services, Extra Care & Short Breaks) fluctuated from a low of **7430** hours to a high of **8255**. The average number of care packages were between **733** and **646**. The average package of care hours has increased significantly between April 2020 and April 2021 (**10.47** to **11.95**), potentially indicating increased complexity of individuals. The number of hours drops slightly by October 2021 to 11.50 but remain significantly higher than the 2020 baseline.

Over the same period the Local Authority Homecare delivered less hours (between April 2020 and April 2021 (**1497** to **1173**) showing a reduction in the number of packages from 106 to 81 but the average package hours increased by **0.36** hours.

Short breaks provides a vital element of home care. For Bridgend over the last three years between **101** and **111** clients have been supported.

For RCTCBC, per month there were **875** new packages of care between April 2021 and January 2022. Monthly this saw between a high of **102** seen in September 2021 to a low of **66** (December 2021). The average waiting time ranged between **14.91** days to a high of **46.47** days with the longest waits recorded between August and October 2021.

In Merthyr Tydfil there are currently 2 framework providers operating, one is part of a joint contract with RCT CBC. These framework providers provide circa **2,550** hours of support per week.

In addition to the framework providers MTCBC spot purchase circa **1,000** hours a week from a further 6 providers. There are approximately 10 referrals per week for domiciliary care from community and hospitals.

In the past year there have been waiting lists and the period of time that someone wait is dependent on the area in which they live.

### Areas of concern

- Demand for domiciliary care is likely to grow in the long term due to the aging population and the increasing numbers of people with dementia and other complex needs.
- The pandemic may amplify this as people are postponing moving into residential care. This will reinforce the existing trend towards greater complexity in needs of people supported in the community.
- Recruitment and retention have become increasingly challenging due to competition from other sectors and the pandemic and associated risks.



- The challenges within the sector opportunities have provided opportunities to consider alternative service models.
- Within the Regional Integration fund there is scope to enhance partnership and innovation with commissioners and providers working together to develop more effective models of reablement and make better use of technology.
- There are opportunities to build on Community resilience models developed to support COVID response to create resourceful communities under a place-based approach.

## **Commissioning**

The domiciliary care market is challenging, should a provider fail there are other providers who would be able to step in to TUPE the staff and care packages across, as well as internal services such as Support@Home Team (RCTCBC).

Providers and commissioners need to work together to develop new innovative models of care to create sustainable quality capacity to meet growing capacity and complex need requirements.

## **Recommendations**

As noted above there are a number of significant challenges facing the domiciliary care sector both nationally and locally.

As outlined within the White paper (Rebalancing Care and Support) the aim is to strengthen the arrangements of the social care sector. The White Paper proposals seeks to reduce complexity, increase sustainability, and strengthen integration. The changes proposed can rebalance the provision of care and support profoundly. The focus is on the way the system is arranged, but the clear purpose is achieving our vision for social care through improving outcomes for people who need care and support and

carers who need support. Whilst the vision is clear this ambition is on backdrop of decades of austerity within the sector.

The delivery of social care is rightly labour-intensive and the availability of a skilled workforce plays a key role in delivering high quality of care<sup>2</sup>. The challenges of recruitment and retention are multifaceted and are a challenge across Wales. Commissioners are looking at new models and working closer together (note hybrid model above) however domiciliary care remains under enormous pressure regarding sufficiency of supply and changing complexity of demand.

Across the UK, more than 15 million people at any one time receive or need support and care in their own homes, either from unpaid informal carers (Carers UK, 2021) or paid-for homecare workers (Laing, 2020). Over 3.4 million hours of state-funded homecare are purchased each week in the United Kingdom. Together with private pay funded homecare, this enables over 850,000 people per year to be supported at home and to live independently within their local community. In contrast, only 0.5 million people are in care homes (0.4 million) or hospital (0.1 million) at any one time furthermore 70% of homecare is funded by the State, so central government funding of councils has a direct impact on the fee rates they are able to pay for homecare. In turn, these fee rates and the way homecare is commissioned and purchased, has a direct impact on pay, terms and conditions of employment of the care workforce<sup>3</sup>.

The Healthier Wales Action Plan (2019) described ...'a shift from hospitals to communities and communities to homes', and in May 2020 the NHS Wales Delivery Unit review of discharge practices identified the important role played by right-sizing community services to facilitate timely discharge. They estimated that about a third of people leaving hospital should need some care and support, and most of those (around 85%) can

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/2427400/social\\_care\\_final2\\_aug20.pdf](https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/2427400/social_care_final2_aug20.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> The Homecare Deficit 2021 A report on the funding of older people's homecare across the United Kingdom Fourth edition | Version 1 | October 2021 Adrian Houghton and Terry Donohoe, Policy

be helped at home. Data submitted indicated significant opportunity to utilise this option more effectively, and to potentially avoid over-referral to intermediate care 'to be on the safe side'. Those who received support in the community were more likely to experience a positive recovery.

Domiciliary care supports individuals to remain at home and helps to enhance well-being, increase healthy life expectancy, reduce pressure on the NHS. Commissioners and providers need to work together across the region to develop innovative sustainable services to meet needs.

The weighted average price paid by councils in Wales for an hour of homecare for people aged 65 years or above in a sample week during April 2021 was £19.33. (£19.06 Health boards). Only 15% of public organisations in Wales were paying an average price at, or above, the Homecare Association's Minimum Price for Homecare of £21.43 per hour.<sup>4</sup>

The additional money needed overall per year to ensure that homecare workers in Wales can be paid the same as NHS healthcare assistants at Band 3 with 2+ years' experience (NHS, 2021), and that homecare services are financially sustainable is £75.3m across Wales. Rhondda Cynon Taff, has imposed a contractual requirement that any homecare provider pay their workers an hourly rate above the prevailing rate of the statutory National Minimum Wage (including the statutory National Living Wage).

If there are not sufficient levels of domiciliary care then the default position can be residential care for those waiting hospital discharge.

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<sup>4</sup> The Homecare Deficit 2021 A report on the funding of older people's homecare across the United Kingdom Fourth edition | Version 1 | October 2021 Adrian Houghton and Terry Donohoe, Policy

## 7.11 Other services which meet an individual's need for care and / or support

### 7.11.1 Supported living schemes

Supported living services assist individuals with a wide range of support needs within their own homes with the primary aim of retaining their independence and are regarded as very good overall.

The Council provides internal supported living services to individuals with learning disabilities and commissions supported living services from independent providers for individuals with learning disability and mental health needs.

#### Capacity

**Bridgend** C2H (specialist Supported Living) – The Health Board commission individual schemes for people with more complex needs which inherently involves more challenging delivery. However, generally the quality of care remains high with the environment of each scheme an equal factor as the quality of care. Ongoing learning continues under an Operational Group where regular updates are provided. No major concerns.

There are 4 properties offering up to 11 Supported accommodation beds for children leaving care aged between 16-21 years:

- 2 properties (7 beds) – 24 hour supported accommodation
- 4 Properties (4 beds) – step down supported accommodation

**RCT** has 96 Supported Living Schemes provided by 4 Care Providers supporting people with a learning disability to live as independently as possible, supported by care providers. Each person holds their own tenancy and is supported by the care provider to access services in their community. As this service evolves through the learning disability transformation

Programme, these supported living providers will be required to develop alternative models to the traditional day services offer, setting up activities such as yoga, coffee morning and other offers co-produced by individuals through the 'my day, my way' work.

In **Merthyr Tydfil** there are currently 4 providers of supported living services that provide the following number of placements:

- CastleCare – Old Bank House – max. 8 places
- Drive – Abernant y Gethin (3), Court Terrace (5), Glyn Jones Court (3), Barrack Row (3), Park View (4), Glendere (3)
- Elan Assisted Living Services – 3 individual services in own tenancies
- Shaw Healthcare – Butterfly Lodge (2) and Ty Bryngoleu (20)

Not all placements are commissioned by MTCBC and these placements are also utilised by other Local Authorities. However, all placements provided by Drive are commissioned by MTCBC.

## **Demand**

The demand for supported living placements is variable dependent on individual need, but across the region there is not enough provision for children leaving care.

Most of the people supported in these placements are there for a significant number of years and voids within the houses with shared tenancies can often be empty for considerable periods as the matching of needs of cohort is not always possible.

In recent years MTCBC has seen a reduction of people moving into some of the supported living schemes as people have been placed in shared lives schemes as an alternative service provision.

## Areas of concern

- Schemes for more complex needs require further capacity.
- The physical environment of some earlier schemes has informed the benefit of a new build scheme rather than retrofitting older properties.
- Increase accommodation options and beds available for care leavers to ensure there is capacity to meet increasing demand.
- Work is being undertaken with the Housing Department in respect of the commissioning of additional services.
- Shared accommodation in a household often result in long term voids due to the compatibility of people living in these placements and the needs of the people seeking placement do not always match.

### 711.2 Extra Care

Extra care combines accommodation with care and support services and is considered to be of a good quality overall, in both the residential and 'domiciliary' settings.

### Capacity

In **Bridgend** the provision has established good partnership working arrangement with RSL (Linc Cymru) in the delivery of tenancy and residential accommodation in our 2 schemes.

BCBC internal Extra care service commenced in 2019 and provides a service across 2 settings. The settings offer a total capacity for 70 individuals, this is consists of:

- 45 flats/tenancies and
- 25 care home beds.

In addition to the internal provision, BCBC also commission additional Extra care capacity from an independent provider with the setting within Bridgend. This service consists of 39 self-contained flats, 8 single and 31 two-bedroom properties and the service has been in situ since 2012.

**RCT** currently have three extra care facilities enabling the council to offer older people greater choice in accessing suitable housing and support, to assist them to remain in their own homes as a viable alternative to institutional care.

The service offer has enabled staff to work on an individual basis with individuals, taking the emphasis away from the limitations of a building, enabling services users to utilise community assets and strengths which better respond to their wants and needs.

In **Merthyr Tydfil** there is one extra care facility that has 60 units that can support people over the age of 55.

The tenancies within extra care have been fully utilised and the level of support has remained relatively consistent since it was opened. MTCBC are currently undertaking work to develop a second 60 unit extra care.

## **Demand**

There is an increased demand for specialist daytime services for complex need there are a range of specialist placements required for people with Autism and those who require a sensory focused placement. The learning disability transformation programme currently focusing upon daytime opportunities has identified a range of differing offers with a focus on providing specialist provision for those with complex needs and development of further Autism provision

## **Areas of concern**

This service offer is limited due to staff reluctance to provide outreach support (as this isn't stipulated in their contract), in future the authority will need to focus on the development of an outreach type service which can better respond to unforeseen pressures such as pandemics and the elevation of a direct payments offer.

## **Commissioning**

The current model is traditional and reliant on building-based routines which requires individual service users to fit in with the current model. This model has been undoubtedly impacted by the ongoing pressures of the Coronavirus pandemic which has limited the services capacity to take on individuals mainly due to social distancing and other limitations which has restricted our service offer. An undoubted success over the last years has been the introduction of an outreach offer.

There needs to be a better understanding of what extra care housing can offer and there needs to be a consistent and ongoing approach to being able to demonstrate this which link to health and social care outcomes.

### **711.3 Family support**

#### **Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young People - CTM**

Launch of the national transfer scheme has increased the need to services for UASC in CTM. Funding has been released for the development of accommodation and support services alongside a regional development officer.



## **Behaviour analysis - BCBC**

A contract is in place to support our behaviour analysts within our children's residential and young adults supported accommodation scheme. Providing:

- Clinical supervision
- Reflective supervision to key staff members
- Professional development to the behaviour analysts and wider staff teams, through formal and informal training
- Support to embed the service model across each provision
- Data collection and reports to evidence funding and service progress
- Assessments
- Direct work with children/ or young adults

## **Positive behaviour support to children with disabilities and families/carers - BCBC**

The service undertakes an assessment of the child's behaviours and deliver evidence based tailored behavioural support to children/young people, their families/carers, and professionals working with the family.

The service will focus on:

- Helping families and professionals working with the child, to understand and make sense of their behaviour.
- Providing families with tailored evidence-based interventions to de-escalate behaviours and minimise the frequency and intensity.
- Review and 'check in' with families who require further ongoing support.

## **Children and family support services for families who have been affected or witnessed by domestic abuse - BCBC**

A suite of services available to children/ young people, affected or witness domestic abuse in the home:

- Evidence based programmes to children/young people and parents and bringing support together as a family.
- Bespoke 1-1 support to individual (children) who would struggle to attend a group setting offering:
  - Play Therapy
  - Child and parent relationship therapy groups
  - Parent and child attachment group

### **Better futures - BCBC**

Is a service in partnership with several local authorities, providing specialist assessments and longer-term therapeutic intervention services for children and young people with sexualised histories, including young people who have been the victims of sexual abuse; young people who display problematic or Harmful Sexual Behaviour; and young people who are at risk of or are abused through Child Sexual Exploitation. Bridgend has an annual allocation of 20 units of support available, and the option to spot Purchase. 15 children and families referred (20/21).

## **8.0 Stakeholder Voices**

There is commitment to commissioning services that meet the needs of the regional and local population. In order to ensure that we understand their needs, we work closely with all of our stakeholders, including:

- Social care workers who ensure that the views of people who use services inform how needs are met. This information is shared to ensure that the right services are commissioned.
- Childrens / Adults services

- Speaking to people who use services to ensure that services meet their needs.
- We work collaboratively with our partners to co-develop services to meet these needs, as well as explore innovative solutions, address gaps in provision, that encourage people to direct their own care and support.

Work closely with:

- Local care providers, including regular Care Home Manager forums.
- Charities and the voluntary sector.
- Local Health Board,
- CSSIW.

Collate and analyse:

- Complaints and compliments are collated, including an annual report that looks at themes, lesson learned and gaps in service provision.
- Regular surveys are undertaken involving people who use services and carer, that indicate very good and consistent performance.
- 'Working together for change' brings together providers, professionals, service users, voluntary and community sector, family carers to look at specific areas and what works, what doesn't work and helps inform service design and future commissioning.
- We run a series of family leaderships courses (Bridgend) which brings people together across specific areas, such as dementia, to empower them to have a voice in service design and delivery, some of whom have gone on to sit on commissioning panels.

Other groups such as the Learning Disability Partnership Board, Mental Health Forum, Voice for You, are all consulted about service delivery and proposed changes.

<b>Service</b>	<b>Co-production approaches</b>
Care homes	There is reasonable choice available for individuals and families in care home availability – in both residential and nursing settings. The issue of Third Party Top-Ups can restrict choices for many.
Adult placement services (Shared lives)	There is an intention to further increase capacity within this service which would create greater choice.
Advocacy services	The range of advocacy services has expanded over recent years, with greater access being offered to a wider range of client groups.
Domiciliary support services	Mostly. Not all individuals are able to choose their provider. Through 2021/22 the increase in demand for home care is outstripping capacity to support, so choice is not always an option.  Service capacity can also affect an individual's ability to have calls at chosen times.
Other services – Extra care	
Other services – supported living services	Through 2021 a comprehensive engagement process was undertaken to ensure the voice of each individual was included within the contract specification for Supported Living services.
Care homes	As part of our residential remodelling programme Bridgend Council are relocating one of our residential homes to a new purpose-built building. As part of the initial design stage a small group of children living in Maple Tree were consulted on the plans to understand what is important to them, feedback received asked for a bath as well

	<p>as en-suite facilities, a games room, and a punch bag to help vent frustration, all of which were included in the final design.</p> <p>We are committed to continue to engage looked after children throughout the construction stage to ensure their views are heard throughout and their wishes and feelings are central in trying to create a homely and psychologically informed environment.</p> <p>As part of the tender process a quality question was included which asked contractors how they would seek the views of children and young people to ensure their voice is heard throughout the building and decoration stage and what steps would be taken to try and create a psychologically informed environment.</p> <p>A CYP workstream has been established to oversee and facilitate between the contractors, looked after children and staff.</p> <p>Young People are also being consulted regarding the development of the new pop-up service and some of the initial ideas out forward include to have a space in the back garden with artificial grass to ensure the outside space is available for use throughout the year and to ensure that the Wi-Fi is sufficient allow streaming for gaming.</p>
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Secure accommodation services	There is an intention to further increase capacity within this service which would create greater choice.
Advocacy services	There are a small number of providers of NASA – as mandated by Welsh Government. The delivery of the NASA service is very flexible and responsive to individual needs for engagement.
Residential family centre service	<p>Mostly. Not all individuals are able to choose their provider. Through 2021/22 the increase in demand for home care is outstripping capacity to support, so choice is not always an option.</p> <p>Service capacity can also affect an individual's ability to have calls at chosen times.</p>
Adoption service	Adopters feedback into the service is key in relation to the development of support. Experienced adopters support the training programme for new adopters and have supported the development of resource videos covering elements of the adoption journey. Approved Adopters sit on adoption panel and feed into the quality assurance process within the service
Fostering service	<p>The Service is currently developing Foster Carer Profiles in order support placement matching with children and young people. This will also provide children/young people with information about carers before they are placed with them.</p> <p>Children/young people are consulted as part of the Foster Carer annual review process.</p>

	<p>The Service plans to develop our engagement and consultation with carers and young people during 2022/23.</p> <p>The Kinship Care and Permanence Team have developed a brochure for all prospective Special Guardians that sets out what they are entitled to i.e. support plan and financial support.</p>
Domiciliary support service	
Other services – supported accommodation	<p>As part of the commissioning of supported accommodation service, a scoping exercise was carried out with young people to help shape and inform the service. Young People were part of the procurement process to ensure their voice was heard during the process and they were panel members during part of the evaluation. Young people interviewed the providers shortlisted, creating their own questions and scored accordingly.</p>

## 9.0 Welsh Language

In line with the requirements presented in the code of practice, when local authorities are considering the information above, they must also consider the state of the market for regulated services provided through the medium of Welsh.

This should link back to the population needs assessment, which provides information that will support the identification for the demand for Welsh language services. The market stability assessment must consider the

sufficiency of regulated services in Welsh and highlight any gaps in provision and any current or future trends in the provision of regulated services for the Welsh-speaking community.

Table 8 below provides a snapshot from the 2011 Census of the number and Welsh speakers (aged 3 and over) across the region, compared to the Wales. Each local authority in the region has a significantly lower percentage of Welsh speakers when compared to the Welsh average.

**Table 8: Welsh speakers by local authority, gender and detailed age groups, 2011 census**

	<b>Able to speak Welsh</b>	<b>Not able to speak Welsh</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% able to speak Welsh</b>
Rhondda Cynon Taff	27,779	197,776	225,555	12.3%
Bridgend	13,103	121,442	134,545	9.7%
Merthyr Tydfil	5,028	51,595	56,623	8.9%
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	45,910	370,813	416,723	12.4%
<b>Wales</b>	<b>562,016</b>	<b>2,393,825</b>	<b>2,955,841</b>	<b>19.0%</b>

Table 9 provides updated figures taking from the most recent annual population survey which indicates an increase in the percentage of Welsh speakers across each local authority within the region, indicating a potential increase in demand for Welsh medium health and care services.

**Table 9: Annual Population Survey - Ability to speak Welsh 2021**

	<b>Able to speak Welsh</b>	<b>Not able to speak Welsh</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% able to speak Welsh</b>
Rhondda Cynon Taff	48,300	182,300	230,600	20.90%
Bridgend	23,700	113,300	137,000	17.30%
Merthyr Tydfil	11,200	46,400	57,600	19.50%
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	83,200	342,000	425,200	19.57%
<b>Wales</b>	<b>892,200</b>	<b>2,128,700</b>	<b>3,020,900</b>	<b>29.50%</b>

To improve our local knowledge of the demand for Welsh language services, commissioned providers are now required to capture and report the number of people who request and receive services in Welsh.



## 10.0 Commissioning intentions

Our commissioning intentions have been focused on changing behaviours to promote independence, developing evidence-based early interventions to prevent peoples' care needs increasing, and devising new delivery models through joint work with our partners.

We gather data and feedback from a wide range of sources and analyse this in conjunction with predicted demand models to determine the requirements for future service provision.

The current Coronavirus pandemic continues to have an effect upon both the provider market and the demand for support. As such we are continuing to monitor the situation closely to understand what this means for our current commissioning plans and to engage with our providers and stakeholders to ensure that we maintain a stable market in these unprecedented times.

Previously agreed intentions may now be subject to review as we cannot accurately predict the future market based on the significant effect on services, directly related to the Corona virus.

These changes will no doubt re model the way future services are aligned, and consultations will be required to ensure the Council develop the right services to meet the needs and demands within the region.

## 11.0 Social Value

'Social Value' is "a broad term used to describe the social, environmental and economic impacts of actions taken by communities, organisations, governments and individuals"

*(as defined in Social Value for Commercial Success eLearning, Government Commercial College, 2020).*

When introducing social value into commissioning it is important to make the distinction between the primary outcomes of a provider, these would evidence the core delivery as stated within a contract, and the added value or secondary outcomes that may also be delivered but not commonly recognised.

Acknowledging added value or secondary outcomes offers opportunities, at different points within the commissioning process, to record/report social value activities and recognise the wider social, environmental and economic impact of a provider.

Welsh Government guidance on Social Value defines primary and secondary as:

- Primary outcomes – the anticipated benefits; the reason for spending public money; to secure the goods, works and services that organisations and people of Wales need,
- Secondary outcomes – only 'secondary' in the sense that they cannot be achieved without the primary purpose, they are added value levered from the primary funding to deliver social value 'community benefits'.

By extending the use of social value within the commissioning process we have the potential to influence market development in the medium to long



A sustainable pattern of services and support that enables people to achieve great well-being outcomes by using the principles that underpin Welsh well-being laws and policies, principles like co-production, collaboration, prevention and added value. Not only will the principles achieve great outcomes, they will make the best use of all available resources. This means shaping the market and working beyond the market so that more provision is adding social value. It also means empowering citizens and communities within social care provision so that services deliver what matters to them, and empowering people outside care provision, so there's increased potential they will never need a statutory service.

*(Supporting Care Commissioners and Procurers to Promote 'Social Value' Models of Delivery', Dec 2020)*

## 12.0 Finance

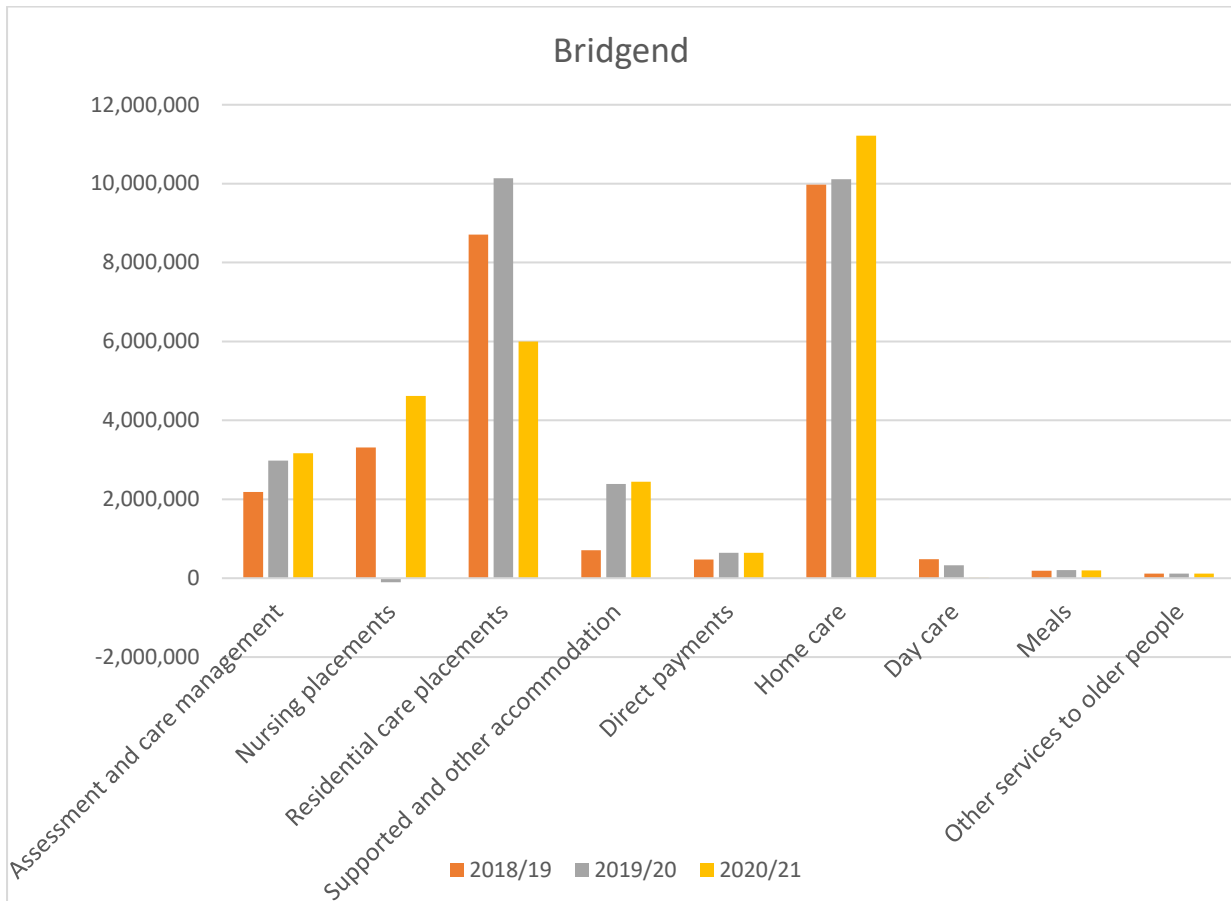
Social Care is funded from taxpayers, via allocations from Central Government and also from contributions to services from some individuals. As such local authorities have a responsibility to ensure that all income is utilised to deliver services which are both cost effective and efficient. \*\*\* CBC does this by ensuring that services are regularly monitored and reviewed and are able to clearly demonstrate Value for Money (VFM).

Demand from both an increasing ageing population and individuals with complex needs places significant challenges on the Council to meet this demand from within existing resources.

This section provides further detail on how \*\* CBC has spent its adult social care budget over recent years. The expenditure data can be broken down using filters by Age Groups, Service types and Primary Support Reasons.

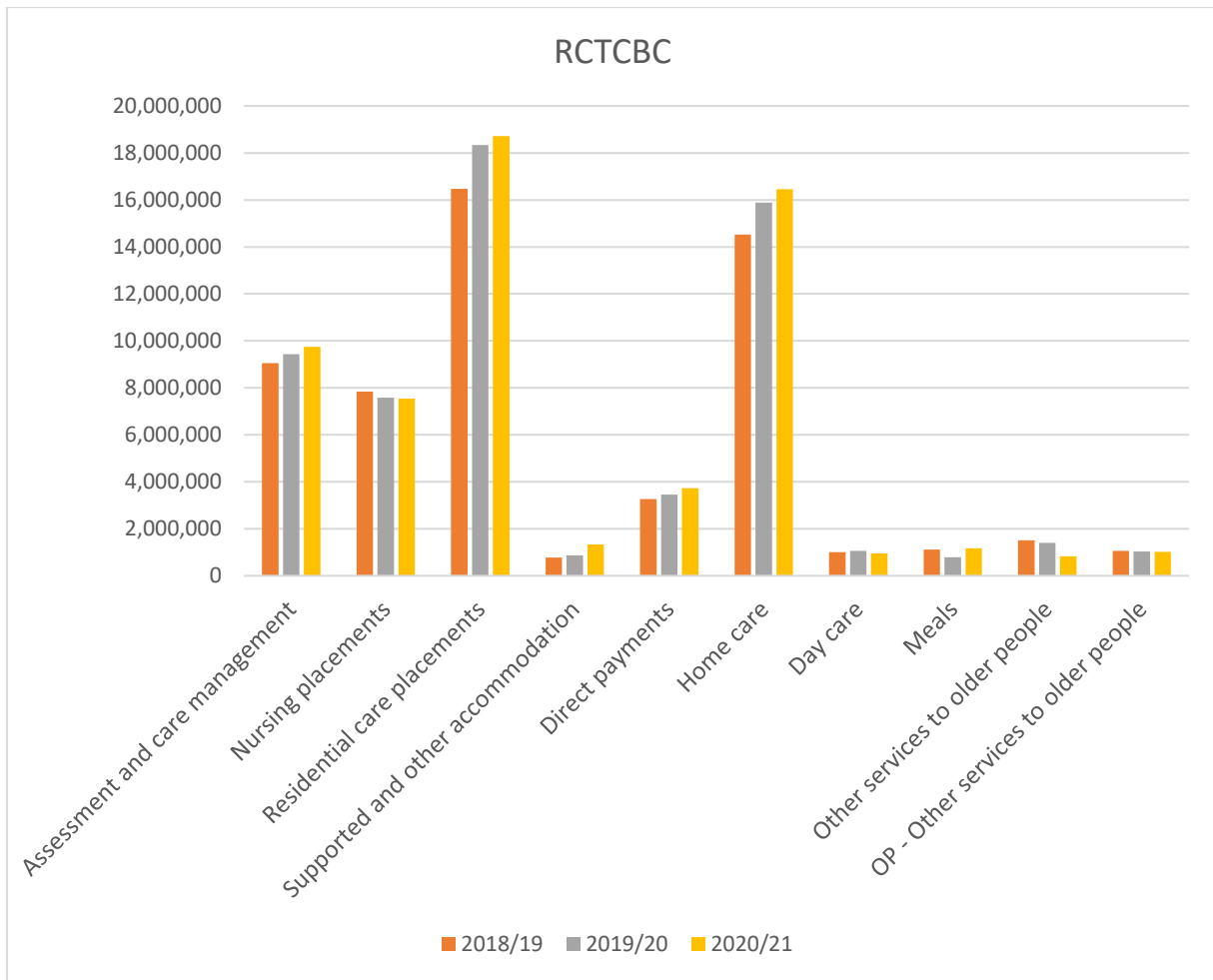
## 13.0 Adult social care finance

### Older People 65 and Over



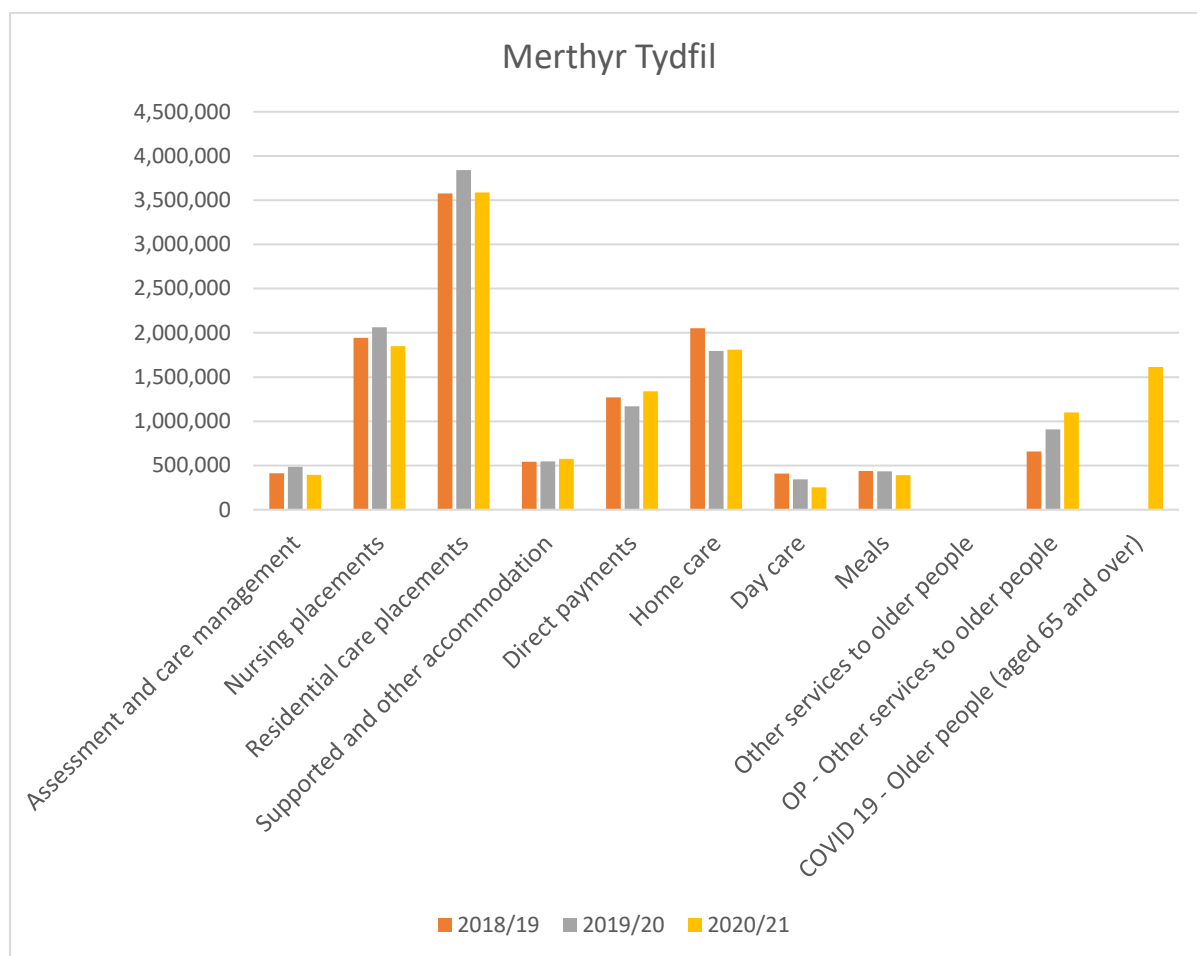
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Assessment and Care Management	2,182,000	2,980,000	3,166,000
Nursing Placements	3,311,000	-100,000	4,622,000
Residential Care Placements	8,711,000	10,139,000	5,996,000
Supported and Other Accommodation	708,000	2,385,000	2,448,000
Direct Payments	470,000	640,000	640,000
Home Care	9,978,000	10,114,000	11,220,000
Day Care	484,000	324,000	10,000
Meals	193,000	204,000	194,000
Other Services to Older people	117,000	112,000	120,000

## RCTCBC



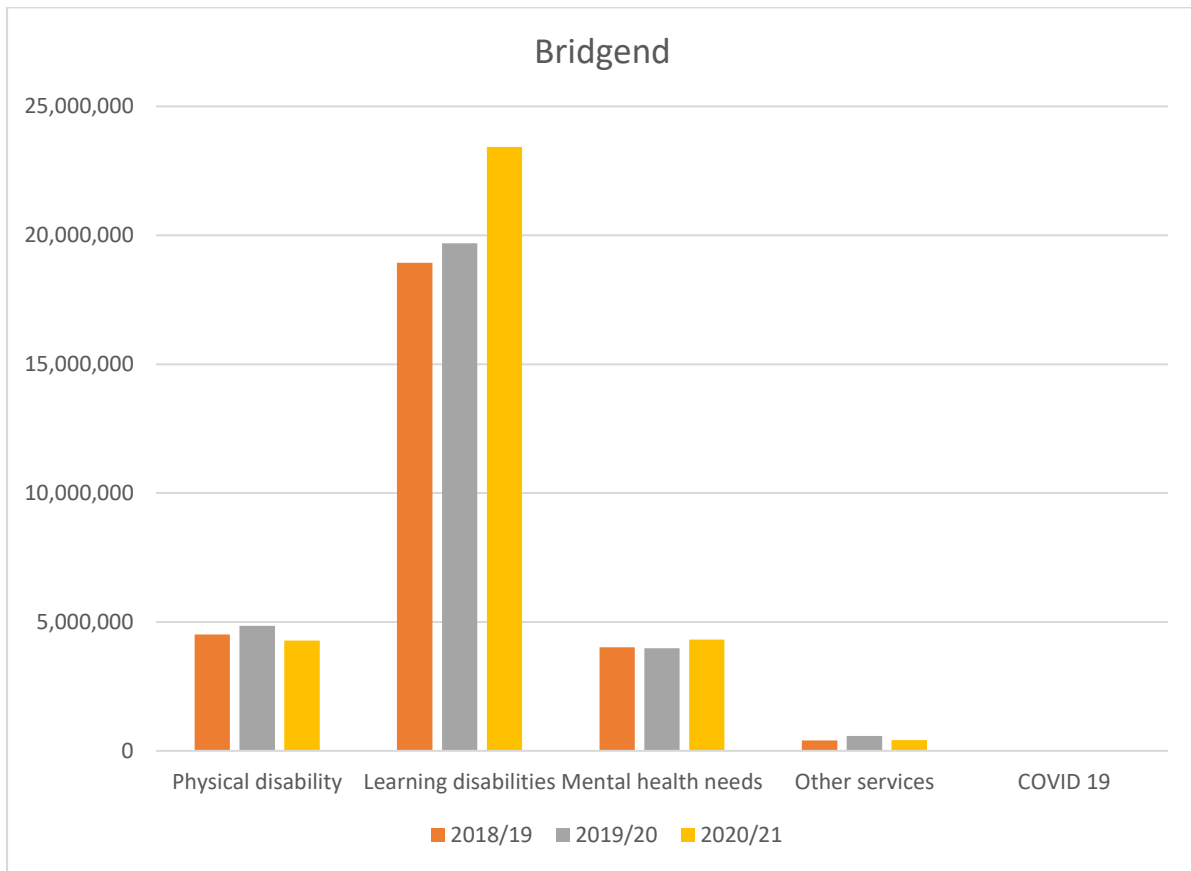
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Assessment and Care Management	9,055,000	9,433,000	9,741,000
Nursing Placements	7,846,000	7,585,000	7,536,000
Residential Care Placements	16,477,000	18,337,000	18,716,000
Supported and Other Accommodation	768,000	873,000	1,331,000
Direct Payments	3,267,000	3,450,000	3,723,000
Home Care	14,521,000	15,890,000	16,461,000
Day Care	1,006,000	1,065,000	953,000
Meals	1,118,000	782,000	1,168,000
Other Services to Older people	1,505,000	1,400,000	835,000

## Merthyr Tydfil



	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Assessment and Care Management	411,000	483,000	394,000
Nursing Placements	1,944,000	2,063,000	1,848,000
Residential Care Placements	3,575,000	3,842,000	3,588,000
Supported and Other Accommodation	541,000	547,000	574,000
Direct Payments	1,271,000	1,168,000	1,340,000
Home Care	2,051,000	1,795,000	1,811,000
Day Care	408,000	344,000	253,000
Meals	439,000	435,000	391,000
Other Services to Older people	0	0	0
Covid -19	0	0	1,614,000

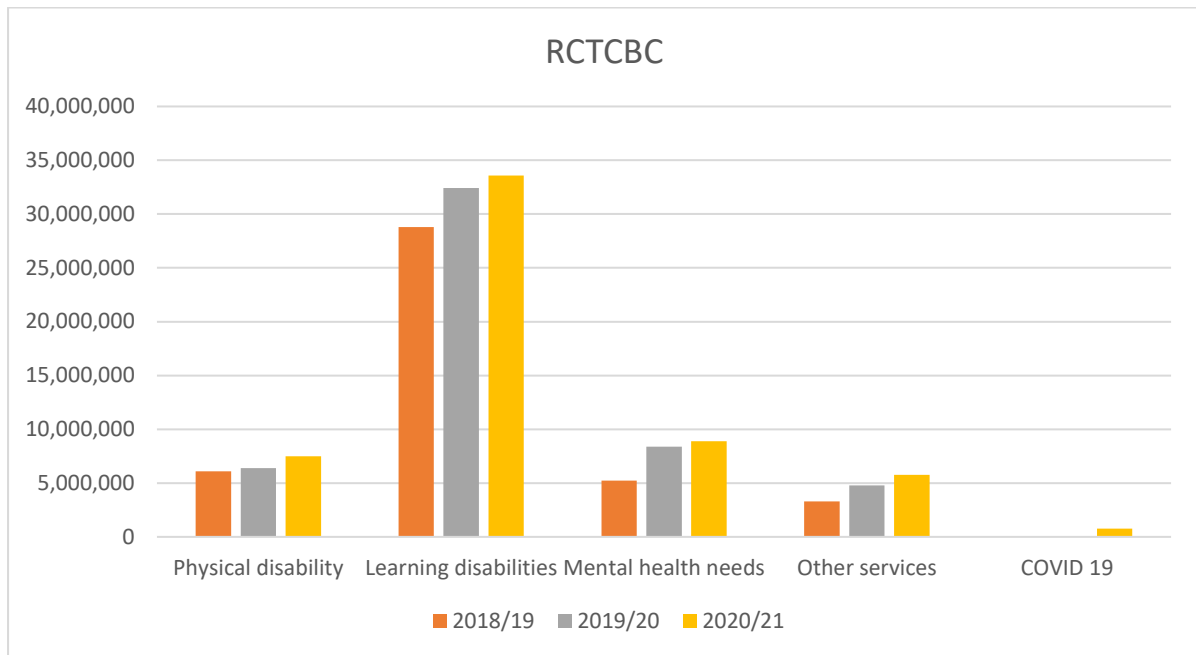
## Adults Under 65



	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Physical disability	4,509,000	4,844,000	4,272,000
Learning Disability	18,936,000	19,689,000	23,423,000
Mental health needs	4,023,000	3,983,000	4,310,000
Other Services	404,000	572,000	411,000
COVID -19	0	0	9,000

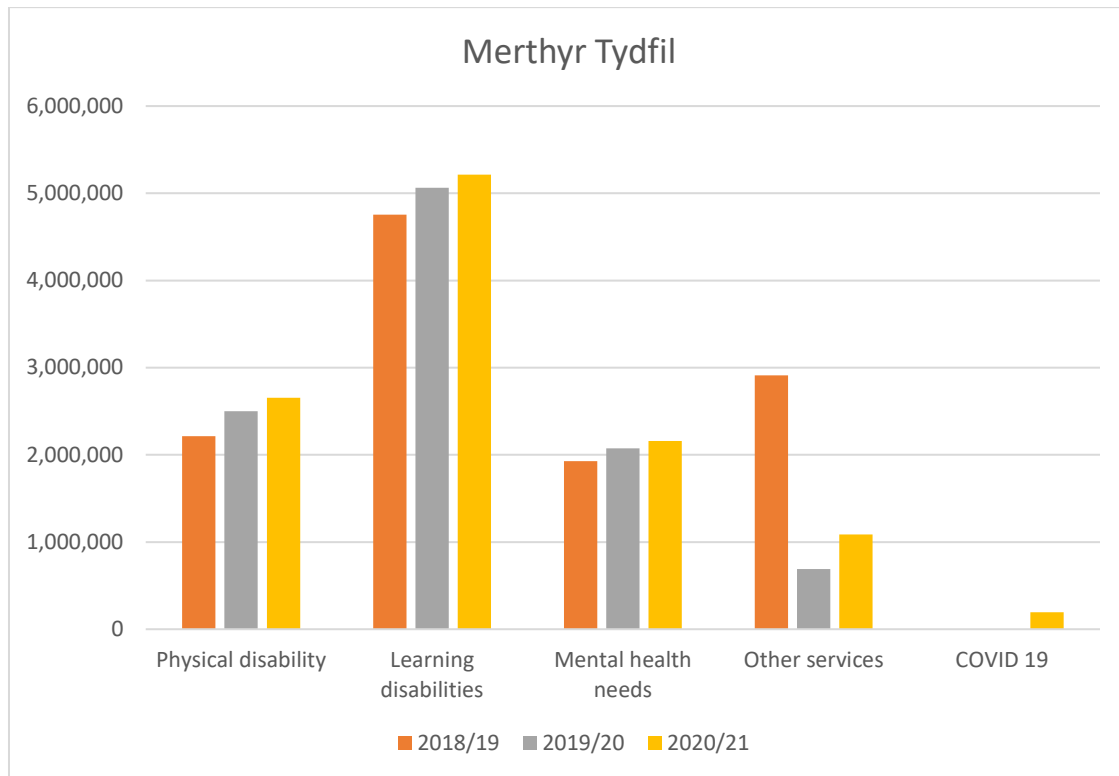


## RCTCBC



	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
Physical disability	6,106,000	6,399,000	7,499,000
Learning Disability	28,800,000	32,419,000	33,567,000
Mental health needs	5,234,000	8,395,000	8,898,000
Other Services	3,289,000	4,774,000	5,768,000
COVID -19	0	0	753,000

## Merthyr Tydfil



	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
Physical disability	2,214,000	2,502,000	2,655,000
Learning Disability	4,755,000	5,062,000	5,212,000
Mental health needs	1,928,000	2,073,000	2,160,000
Other Services	2,913,000	690,000	1,086,000
COVID -19	0	0	196,000

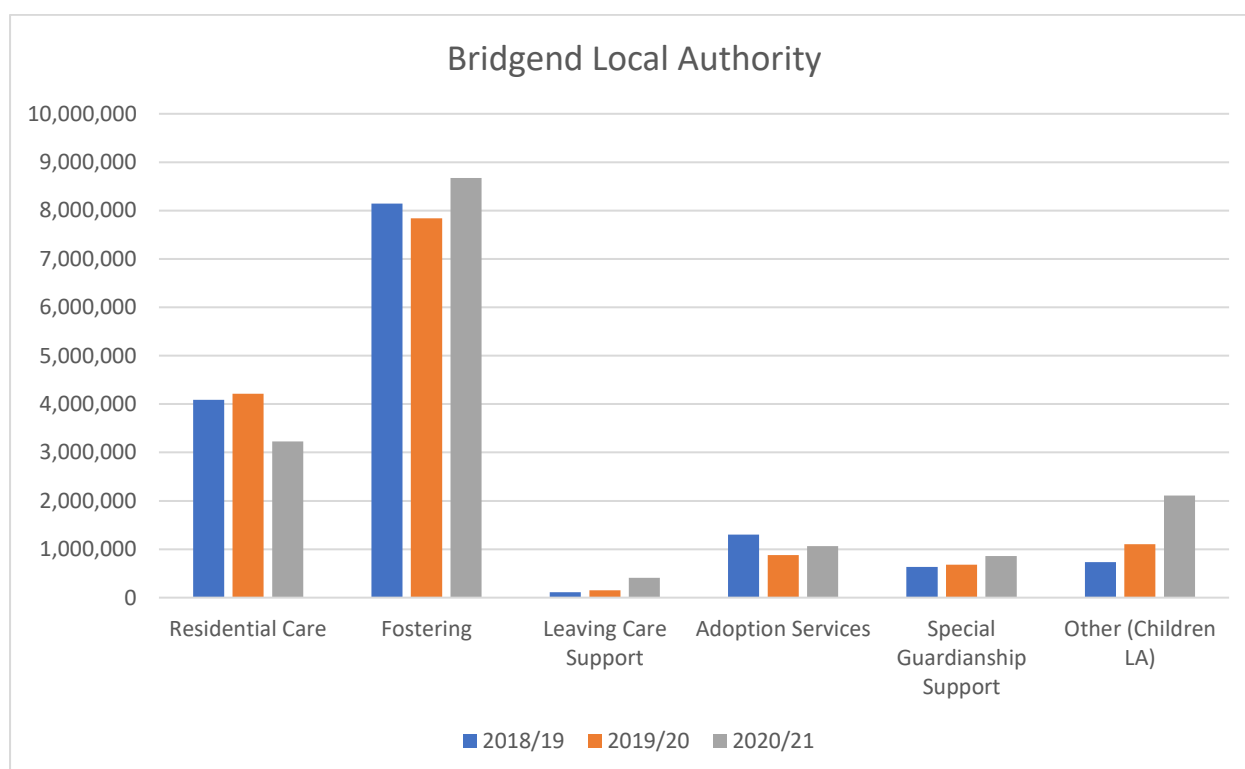
## 14.0 Children's Social Care finance

Social services revenue outturn expenditure

Children and Young People

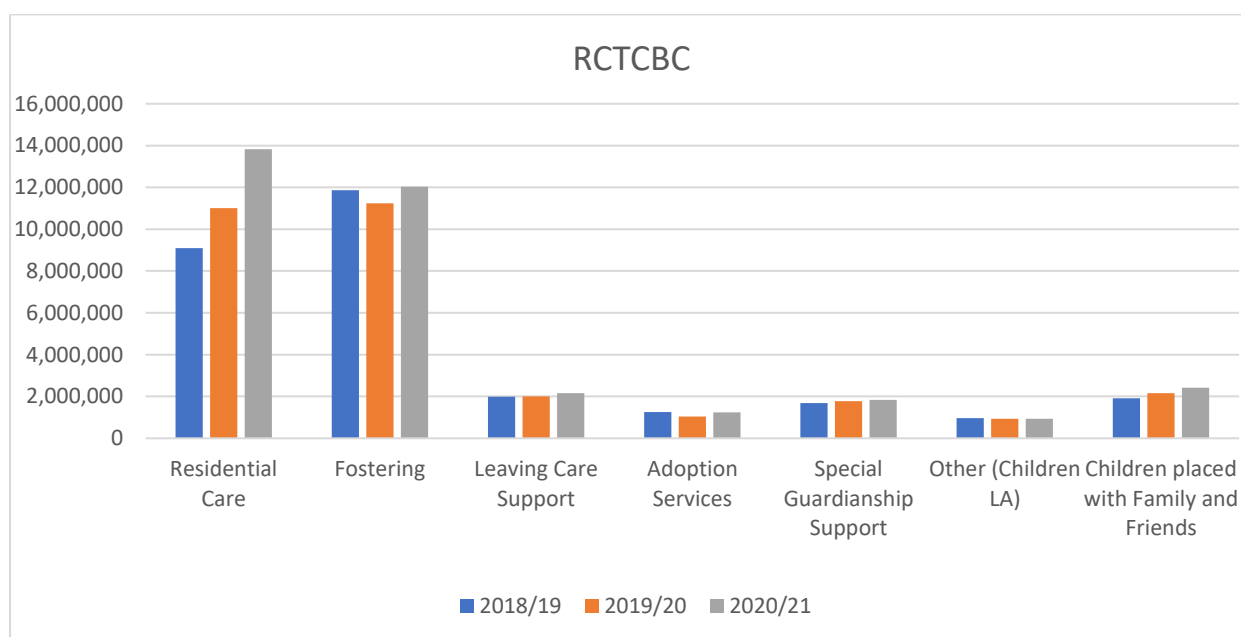
Children and Young People Looked After

### Bridgend



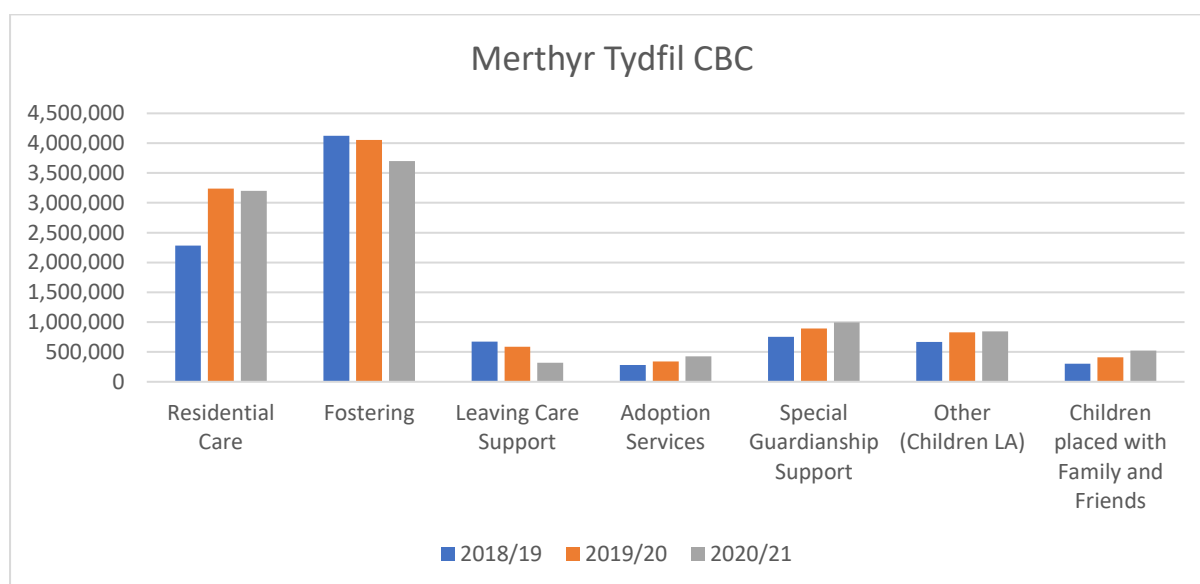
	2018/19 £	2019/20 £	2020/21 £
Residential Care	4,089,000	4,214,000	3,231,000
Fostering	8,144,000	7,842,000	8,671,000
Leaving Care Support	113,000	152,000	407,000
Adoption Services	1,305,000	876,000	1,066,000
Special Guardianship Orders	632,000	678,000	860,000
Other (Children LA)	732,000	1,104,000	2,107,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£15,015,000</b>	<b>£14,866,000</b>	<b>£16,342,000</b>

## Rhondda Cynon Taff



	<b>2018/19 £</b>	<b>2019/20 £</b>	<b>2020/21 £</b>
Residential Care	9,088,000	11,006,000	13,824,000
Fostering	11,865,000	11,231,000	12,031,000
Leaving Care Support	1,984,000	2,012,000	2,156,000
Adoption Services	1,254,000	1,043,000	1,242,000
Special Guardianship Orders	1,684,000	1,784,000	1,840,000
Other (Children LA)	958,000	930,000	931,000
Children placed with Family and Friends	1,919,000	2,153,000	2,418,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,752,000</b>	<b>30,159,000</b>	<b>34,442,000</b>

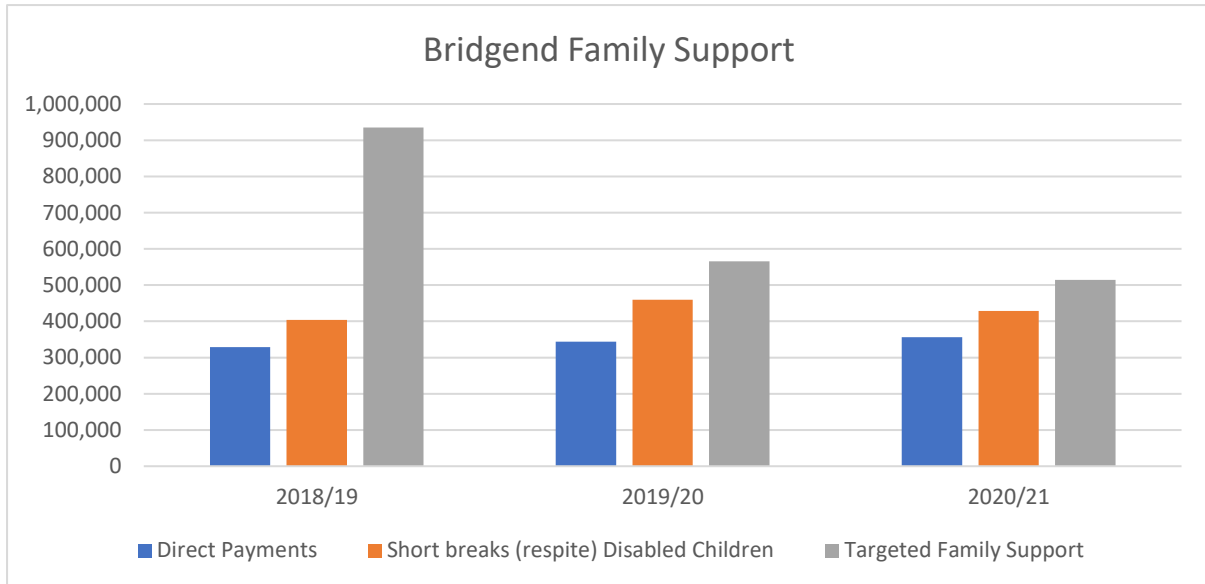
## Merthyr Tydfil



	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
Residential Care	2,281,000	3,236,000	3,199,000
Fostering	4,126,000	4,052,000	3,702,000
Leaving Care Support	671,000	589,000	318,000
Adoption Services	282,000	341,000	425,000
Special Guardianship Support	755,000	894,000	998,000
Other (Children LA)	667,000	827,000	844,000
Children placed with Family and Friends	303,000	410,000	525,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,085,000</b>	<b>10,349,000</b>	<b>10,011,000</b>

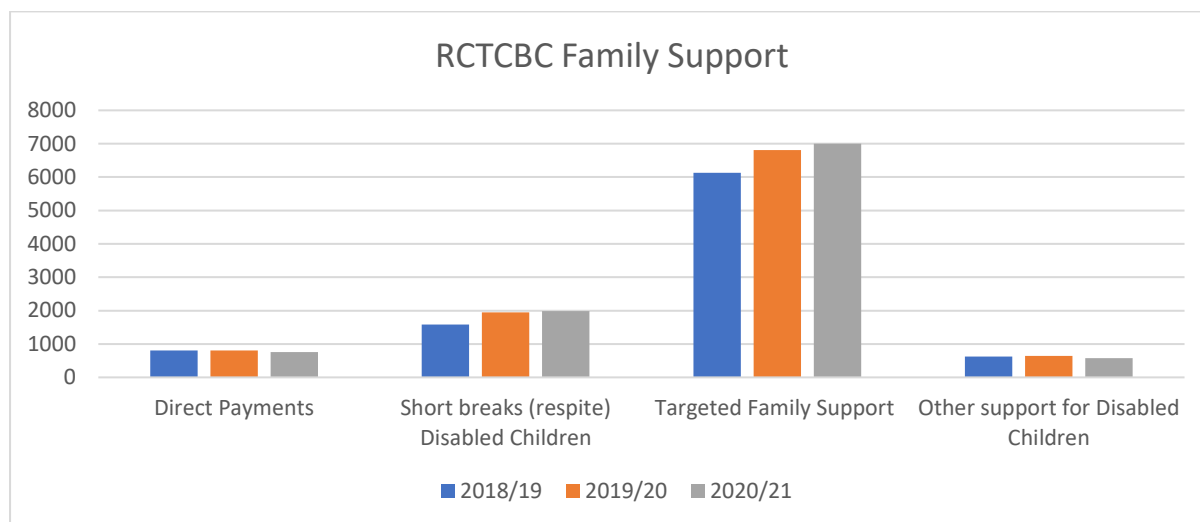
## Family Support

### Bridgend



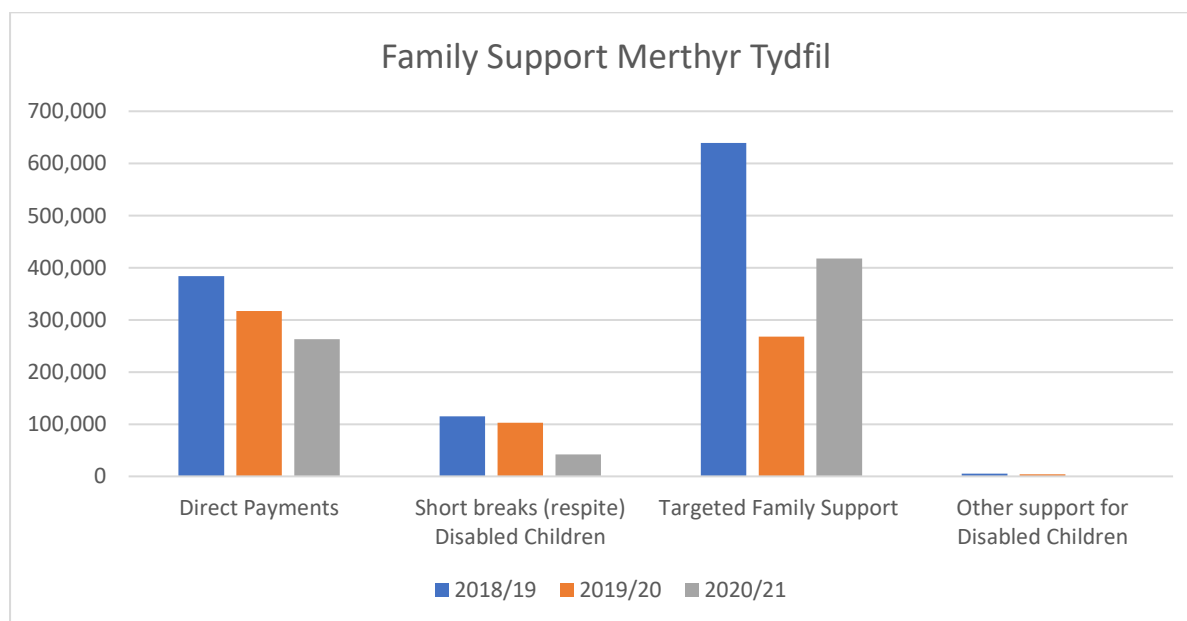
	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
Direct Payments	329,000	344,000	356,000
Short breaks (respite) Disabled Children	404,000	460,000	429,000
Targeted Family Support	935,000	566,000	514,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,668,000</b>	<b>1,370,000</b>	<b>1,299,000</b>

## RCTCBC



	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
Direct Payments	810	804	755
Short breaks (respite) Disabled Children	1,582	1,948	1,987
Targeted Family Support	6,125	6,811	7,004
Other support for Disabled Children	628	644	577
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,145</b>	<b>10,207</b>	<b>10,323</b>

## Merthyr Tydfil



	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
Direct Payments	384,000	317,000	263,000
Short breaks (respite) Disabled Children	115,000	103,000	42,000
Targeted Family Support	639,000	268,000	418,000

Other support for Disabled Children	5,000	4,000	0
Total	1143000	692,000	723,000

## 15.0 Forward Look

The Welsh Government’s “A Healthier Wales” (AHW) (2019) sets out the ambition for seamless health and social care services, designed and delivered around the needs and preferences of individuals, with a much greater emphasis on keeping people healthy and well.

As noted within the population assessment, health and social care are faced with increasing demands and new challenges such as an ageing population, lifestyle changes, public expectations and new and emerging medical technologies.

There has been an increase in funding for health and social care to respond to the pressures of COVID-19 pandemic the Welsh Government remains clear that, over the medium and long term, investment will need to shift towards supporting preventative and self-help interventions and a focus on value-based healthcare, with an increased emphasis on local and regional planning within the context of A Healthier Wales.<sup>5</sup> Local authority and Health Board partners will need to continue to work together to drive this long-term agenda further and faster than ever before.

The role of partnerships and strengthening the role of RPB was subject of a 2021 White Paper<sup>6</sup>. To meet new challenges broader and deeper partnerships, new skills and ways of working are needed but there also

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<sup>5</sup> Welsh Government (March 2021) *Health and Social Care in Wales – COVID-19: Looking forward*

<sup>6</sup> Welsh Government, (January 2021), *White Paper – Rebalancing Care and support*



needs to be a clear focus on population health and communities and individuals taking more responsibility for their own health and wellbeing.

Health and Social Care in Wales – Covid-19: Looking Forward (2021) emphasises the need to have sustainable services that can respond to increases in demand for care and referrals into the health and care system in a way that supports people to access the right level of services, which may be different from those that have been offered traditionally in the past.

The Review of Together for Mental Health 2019-2022 in response to COVID-19 outlines a range of commitments to address the wider socio-economic impacts of the pandemic and their effects on mental health and emotional wellbeing that featured significantly within the population assessment.

In autumn 2018, the NHS Wales Delivery Unit (DU) published the report of its national review of complex discharge practice in Wales. It identified significant opportunities to improve the experience of the people we serve by reducing harm and improving patient flow.

Modelling data completed by Welsh Government Delivery Unit suggests that that reflects the data that e model suggests that about 50% of people leaving hospital need some form of support. This support should be proportionate to their needs and focused on recovery and rehabilitation. The data suggests that of this 50% only 5% would need a bed based discharge option, with the number close to 0% of people who are placed in a permanent residential bed on discharge without being given the opportunity for recovery.

The purpose of this project was to support Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) to assess:

- How the patient numbers in their region compare against the model;
- The potential variance between current commissioning arrangements and current/future demand if the principles of the model are

implemented via the Welsh Discharge to Recover then Assess Pathways 2, 3 & 4.

- Whether the services they currently have in place support these patients/customers and deliver good outcomes.

In the original model of bed based intermediate care was called 'Short term reablement... bed'. This refers to recovery and assess in a bedded facility (D2RA Pathway 3). This can either be commissioned from the independent/third sector or, as is commonly the case in much of the region provided in a Community Hospital.

The paper described that within the model circa 65% of older people receiving intermediate care in their own home should be expected to require no further ongoing care and Over 70% of older people receiving intermediate care in a bedded facility should expect to return to their own home.

The challenge for the region will be to map D2RA pathways with appropriate levels of community support. Whilst we know the number of beds available in pathway 3 the question will be, are our volumes right and how do we quantify the volume and level of service provision needed to support the other pathways. All of this whilst taking into consideration population growth and increased complexity resulting from the COVID pandemic.

Community Hospitals are frequently used as 'step-down' facilities and can be the default pathway for complex discharge. However, the environment and variation in therapy input means that the outcomes for individuals are also variable.

The proportion of patients who return home after a short-term period (no more than six weeks) in a residential care bed. *This figure should be close to 75%.*

The proportion of people who receive long-term care after a period of short-term/re-ablement based care (this could be either a therapy led programme or domiciliary care based re-ablement). *This figure should preferably be close to 25%*

The proportion of older people who are discharged from hospital with no formal care services after two weeks/six weeks. *These figures should be close to 40%/66%.*

A clear focus for the new Regional Integration fund and 6 Goals for emergency and urgent care is further development of the D2RA pathways ensuring that existing capacity is aligned with right sizing model.

Within the region differences in pathways and experience of care can vary that can have negative consequences for efficiency and effectiveness resulting in:

- Diverse uncoordinated services difficult to access together
- Too much reliance on bed-based services, be it hospital or care homes
- Professionals who have little contact with each other and do not share their knowledge, information or records
- Complicated referral arrangements o Inconsistent mixed economy with no prioritised contribution of voluntary sector
- Crisis driven provision that omits population health and anticipatory care

Under the direction of the Integrated Board there is a clear vision and drive to further develop the integration agenda to better respond to existing and emerging need ensuring investment is aligned with best practice models and strengthen consistent pathways for support across the region. This will include some realignment of existing spend to achieve an optimum community model.

In December 2019 the Health Board operating Model saw the disaggregation of service delivery to three Integrated Locality Groups: Rhondda Taf-Ely, Merthyr Cynon and Bridgend. The model is now looking to be refined to enable a one-CTM approach in a number of areas for acute hospital services (Planned Care (including diagnostics and cancer services), Unscheduled Care and Women's and Children's Service).

However, the health board will continue to operate three localities for primary care, community services and mental health services which will support the health and social care integration strategy across the region that require shifting the focus away from simple organisational and structural reform towards the culture, behaviours, incentives, skills and resources needed to integrate services at the front line as well as delivering an integrated performance framework to evaluate impact.

The Accelerated Cluster Development work (as part of the Strategic Programme for Primary Care) sets out the planning and delivery framework at a pan cluster level that will support the required collaboration across public, independent and third sector partners. For April 2022, early adopter Pan Cluster Planning Groups will be in place with 2022/23 regarded as a transition year in preparation for full implementation in April 2023/2024.

In a Written Statement on the 18<sup>th</sup> May, Eluned Morgan MS, Minister for Health and Social Services set out plans to establish a hybrid NHS Executive comprise a small, strengthened senior team within Welsh Government, bolstered and complemented by the bringing together of existing expertise and capacity from national bodies in the NHS. The decision to set up a national executive function was outlined in *A Healthier Wales* in 2018, and reconfirmed in the Programme for Government, and is based on the findings and recommendations of the OECD's Quality Review and the Parliamentary Review of the Long-term Future of Health and Social Care. Both of these reviews called for a stronger centre, additional transformational capacity and streamlining of current structures.

Its central purpose will be to support the NHS to deliver improved quality of care to people throughout Wales, resulting in better and more equitable outcomes, access and patient experience, reduced variation and improvements in population health.

Within individual sections there are clear recommendations for each regulated service. The relevant policy directions are noted above as helping to steer future work programmes.

With a clear focus on co-production and engagement we will ensure current resources are maximised and seek new and innovative ways to integrate to improve outcomes for our population and improve efficiencies.

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## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### COUNCIL

6<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022

### SECTION 3A – LEADER’S SCHEME OF DELEGATION OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

#### JOINT REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS AND DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES.

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Leader’s Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year and to advise Council, for information purposes, of the revised terms of reference for the Welsh Language and Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committees.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council notes the Section 3A- Leader’s Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions, which is attached at Appendix 1.

#### 3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 At the Council AGM on the 25<sup>h</sup> May 2022, the Leader announced his new Scheme of Executive Delegation, including the appointment of Deputy Leader and the wider Cabinet. Details of the Cabinet Members Appointed by the Leader and their respective Portfolio titles and Responsibilities are set out at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 To inform Members of the terms of reference for the former Climate Change Steering Group and Welsh Language Steering Group which have been changed to reflect their Cabinet Sub-Committee status.
- 3.3 For ease of reference the attached Scheme of Delegation will also be available on the main Cabinet [webpage](#) for Members and members of the public information.

#### 4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 4.1 The terms of reference are written guidelines that clarify the role, purpose, responsibilities and voting rights assigned to each Cabinet

Sub-Committee, both the revised terms of reference for the Climate Change and Welsh Language Cabinet Sub-Committees are reflected in the attached Leader's Scheme of Delegation.

- 4.2 Members will note that membership of the Welsh Language Cabinet Sub-Committee includes Cabinet Member representation (as shown in the attached) These Members will have sole voting rights to determine a matter. Engagement with external representatives from Menter Iaith will strengthen the focus on the relevant issues associated with delivery of the Welsh Medium services.
- 4.3 Similarly, the terms of reference for the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee sets out its purpose, membership and details of its external representation from local groups who will be invited as and when to better inform the Cabinet Members' decisions but not vote at any meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee.
- 4.4 County Borough Councillor Julie Barton has been appointed as Climate Change Champion and will be invited to attend on matters relating to Climate Change.
- 4.5 As a non-voting member, the **Climate Change Champion** will play a vital role in the Council's delivery of Climate Change and Sustainability engagement across the County Borough and will serve to promote any key policies and legislation.
- 4.6 These revised decision-making arrangements, do not prevent any circumstances where the sub committees, may determine to refer a matter, which of strategic significance, for determination by full Cabinet Committee.

## **5. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

- 5.1 The Leader under his Scheme of Delegation, appoints the Executive Members to serve in the Cabinet. The details for each Executive Member's portfolio are contained within the attached Leaders Scheme of Delegation.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

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

## **7. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**



- 7.1 Any implications to the welsh language will be presented within each of the reports outlined within the work programme relating to the Welsh Language Cabinet Sub Committee.

**8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

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

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

- 9.1 The work programmes to arise from the afore-mentioned Cabinet Sub-Committees will encompass the Council priorities as it indicates in reports coming forward. These matters will consider the Future Generations Acts as well as improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the County Borough.

**10. CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 An updated Leader's Scheme of Delegation for the 2022 - 23 Municipal Year is attached.
- 10.2 This report provides the opportunity to advise Council of changes to the arrangements contained within section 4 of the Leader's Scheme of Delegation, as required as part of the Council's constitution.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

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

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**6<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022**

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

**Item: LEADER'S SCHEME OF DELEGATION: 2022-23 MUNICIPAL YEAR.**

**Background Papers**

## SECTION 3A – LEADER’S SCHEME OF DELEGATION OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

### 1. Cabinet Terms of Reference

- 1.1 To act as the main focus of day-to-day political leadership and decision making, as well as democratic accountability, at a corporate level.
- 1.2 To carry out all the Local Authority’s functions which are not the responsibility of any other part of the Local Authority, whether by law or under the Constitution.
- 1.3 To propose to the Council:
- 1.3.1 the key policies, and associated resource strategies, which comprise the Council’s policy framework, as well as changes to that framework, including:
- The Cwm Taf Well-being Plan and the Corporate Plan;
  - The Council’s Annual Revenue and Capital Budgets, and levels of Council Tax; and
- (Taking advice from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, interested agencies or groups, the local community, and others through the Council’s Consultation process, as appropriate).
- 1.3.2 any matter relating to any of the Council’s powers and functions.
- 1.4 To guide Executive Councillors and Chief Officers on:
- 1.4.1 policy development, co-ordination and implementation;
- 1.4.2 determination of relative priorities for action; and
- 1.4.3 the effective and efficient operation of the Council, and of its various services.
- 1.5 To ensure effective implementation of the Council’s strategies and plans, including monitoring and reviewing performance, and considering the need for major changes in delivery or new developments to improve service standards and quality.
- 1.6 To receive reports from appropriate Officers of the Council, and/or Executive Councillors, on significant matters requiring consideration/ decision, and on proposals for new or amended policies and their implementation.
- 1.7 To receive on a quarterly basis information in respect of the Council’s Performance and Resources, including details as outlined below (This

Information will also be provided to the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee for further scrutiny and monitoring): -

- To receive regular performance monitoring information in respect of each of the capital schemes/projects in the Authority's three year rolling capital programme.
  - To monitor overall progress being made with the delivery of the three-year rolling capital programme and to report to the Council on any remedial action required, where necessary.
  - To agree any re-phasing of the agreed three year rolling capital programme as a result of scheme slippage and / or any other urgent matter.
  - To monitor overall progress being made with the delivery of the annual revenue budget strategy and to report to the Council on any remedial action required, where necessary.
  - To receive information in respect of any virements enacted in accordance with the Council's "Financial Procedure Rules".
  - To monitor progress being made to deliver Corporate Plan priorities, including updates on performance indicators and targets, actions, and strategic risks.
- 1.8 To advise the Council on the level of capital resources likely to be available to fund the Authority's three year rolling capital programme and to advise the Council on capital spending priorities and on individual projects or developments requiring funding.
- 1.9 To advise the Council on the level of revenue resources likely to be available to support its revenue budget in the current and forthcoming financial years, and to advise the Council on revenue spending priorities and on the allocation of resources to each Service Group.
- 1.10 To have discretion to seek the advice or comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the local community through consultation and other relevant bodies, in relation to significant matters before making a decision.
- 1.11 To determine the response to reports from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and other Scrutiny Committees, following any recommendations received in respect of service delivery, service improvement or policy changes.
- 1.12 To establish Standing Cabinet Committees, where appropriate, as a means of transacting more efficiently discrete aspects of the work of the Cabinet.
- 1.13 To appoint (on a working group basis) ad hoc working groups to assist in key aspects of policy development (working with the relevant Executive Councillors and Senior Officers from the Senior Leadership Team).
- 1.14 To establish topic forums to promote dialogue with, and partnership working on, matters of significance to the Council, the community, and other key local organisations which work closely with the Council.

- 1.15 To fully engage with the Wales Programme for Improvement initiative by receiving and validating reports.
- 1.16 To work together with partner organisations and communities to improve the economic, social, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of people in Rhondda Cynon Taf. This includes considering the long-term impact of decisions, involving a diversity of people in decisions that affect them, taking an integrated approach with our partners to service planning and provision, working collaboratively and seeking to intervene early and prevent problems from occurring in the first instance.
- 1.17 Any meeting of the Cabinet conducted will be convened in accordance with the Council's Constitution "Access to Information Procedure Rules".
- 1.18 The Cabinet shall produce a Work Programme at the start of each Municipal Year, which will be made publicly available through the Council's website.
- 1.19 The quorum for a meeting of the Cabinet shall be 4 and the quorum for a Committee of the Cabinet or Cabinet Steering Group shall be 3, unless otherwise stated within the Groups Terms of Reference.

## **2. The Cabinet 2022-23**

The names of the eight Cabinet Members Appointed by the Leader and their respective Portfolio Titles and Responsibilities are outlined below: -

- 2.1 The Cabinet will take decisions collectively as a group, (although individual Cabinet Members may take decisions individually in an emergency, as set out in paragraph 3 below), and may express dissent from Cabinet decisions which expressions may be formally recorded, if the Cabinet Members so indicates.
- 2.2 The individual Cabinet Members listed below are allocated personal portfolios of responsibility, to act as corporate "champions" in pursuing major cross-cutting development themes across all Council services and areas of activity. (These individual portfolios may be changed by the Leader at any time). The individual Cabinet Members will each work closely with, and take professional advice from the responsible Senior Leadership Team Officers (as indicated below) and other appropriate Senior Officers within the Authority, as appropriate to their particular responsibilities as a Corporate/Community Champion, with the ability to convene meetings of such staff as needed. Each portfolio holder also will liaise with, consult, and inform other Cabinet Members on individual matters likely to affect their portfolios.
- 2.3 Arrangements will be made to provide dedicated administrative support to Cabinet Members in the execution of their responsibilities.
- 2.4 Lead Cabinet Members will also act as the known point of reference and response for issues or complaints (relevant to their responsibilities) received from Elected Members, local Senedd Members, local Members of Parliament, and other political bodies or representatives at regional and

national levels. (When dealing with formal complaints involving the delivery of Council Services, the Lead Cabinet Member will first ensure that the benefit of the Council's Complaints Policy has been fully utilised. In their role as "ombudsman" or arbitrator, the Lead Cabinet Member may choose to intervene in complaints against local service providers external to the Council).

**County Borough Councillor Andrew Morgan**

Portfolio: **Leader of the Council, Chair of the Cabinet**

**Cabinet Member for Infrastructure & Investment**

**Responsible SLT Officer** – Chris Bradshaw, Barrie Davies, Roger Waters and Christian Hanagan

Responsibility areas of policy:

- Strategy Policy
- Finance and Budget Setting
- Manifesto delivery
- Key infrastructure and Capital Programme
- Partnership and Joint Working
- Government Relations
- Council wide Safeguarding
- Emergency Planning & Civil Contingency
- Highways Maintenance & Traffic Management

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**County Borough Councillor Maureen Webber**

Portfolio: **Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Council Business**

**Responsible SLT Officer** – Andy Wilkins, Christian Hanagan, Richard Evans and Simon Gale

**Responsible Directorates** – Legal Services / Democratic Services and Human Resources.

Responsible areas of policy:

- Council Business
- Employee & Trade Union Relations
- Communications and Engagement (including digital communications)
- Legal Services
- Democratic Services
- Strategic Events
- Armed Forces Covenant
- Human Resources

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**County Borough Councillor Gareth Caple**  
Portfolio: **Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

**Responsible SLT Officer** – Paul Mee

**Responsible Directorates** – Community and Children’s Services

Responsible areas of policy:

- Adult Social Care (including Residential, in-house & external)
- Care management Mental Health
- Care management Learning Disabilities
- Day Care Services
- Adult & Children’s Safeguarding
- Children’s Services
- Foster Care & Adoption
- Family Support services
- Corporate Parenting Lead
- Resilient Families

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**County Borough Councillor Rhys Lewis**  
Portfolio: **Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language**

**Responsible SLT Officer** – Gaynor Davies and Louise Davies

**Responsible Directorates** – Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language

Responsible areas of policy:

- Secondary, Primary, Nursery, Welsh Medium, dual language and Special Needs Education
- Liaison with further and higher education
- Schools and Community
- Learning Access, Engagement, and Inclusion
- Governor Support
- Education other than at school
- Childcare
- Welsh Language
- Early Years Education including Flying Start
- Youth Engagement and Participation Service

**County Borough Councillor Robert Harris**  
Portfolio: **Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities**

**Responsible SLT Officer** – Paul Mee and Louise Davies

**Responsible Directorates** – Public Health and Protection

- Public Health & Protection
- Licensing & Registrars
- Cemeteries & Crematoria
- Community support and RCT Together
- Libraries & Adult Education
- RCT Together & support for the voluntary sector
- Affordable & Supported Housing
- Asylum response
- Community Safety & Youth Offending
- Domestic Abuse & Victim Support'
- Domestic Abuse Champion
- Cultural Services

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**County Borough Councillor Mark Norris**  
Portfolio: **Cabinet Member for Prosperity and Development**

**Responsible SLT Officer** – Simon Gale

**Responsible Directorates** – Prosperity and Development.

Responsible areas of policy:

- Inward Investment
- Enterprise & Economic Regeneration Funding
- Town Centres
- Business Support
- Planning and Development
- Planning Strategy
- Building Control
- Housing Strategy & Policy
- Tourism

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**County Borough Councillor Ann Crimmings**  
Portfolio: **Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure**

**Responsible SLT Officer** – Roger Waters and Louise Davies



**Responsible Directorates** – Frontline Services, Transportation and Heritage Services.

Responsible areas of policy:

- Leisure
- Sport RCT
- Environment, Street Cleansing, Waste & Recycling
- Transportation, Parking & Fleet
- Public rights of Way
- Parks & Countryside
- Home to School Transport
- Heritage Service & Visitor Attractions
- Leisure Services

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**County Borough Councillor Christina Leyshon**

Portfolio: **Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Corporate Services**

**Responsible SLT Officer** – Barrie Davies, Richard Evans and Dave Powell

**Responsible Directorates** – Corporate Services

- Accountancy Services
- Operational Finance
- Performance & Resources
- ICT Operational Services
- Customer Care (One4all & Contact Centres)
- Corporate Estates
- Carbon Reduction Commitment
- Internal Audit
- Digitalisation Strategy
- Procurement & Transitional Services

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**County Borough Councillor Julie Barton**

Role: **Climate Change Champion** (Vice Chair of Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee & invited to attend Cabinet on matters relating to Climate Change)

**Responsible SLT Officer** – Chris Bradshaw and Dave Powell

Responsible areas of policy:

- Cross cutting responsibility for challenging and championing Climate Change

## **Chief Officer Membership**

Mr Chris Bradshaw, Chief Executive

Mr Barrie Davies, Director of Finance and Digital Services (Section 151)

Mr Paul Mee, Deputy Chief Executive and Group Director, Community and Children's Services

Mr Andy Wilkins, Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)

Mr Richard Evans, Director of Human Resources

Mr Christian Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services and Communication. (Head of Democratic Services)

Ms Louise Davies, Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services

Mr Roger Waters, Director, Frontline Services

Mrs Gaynor Davies – Director, Education and Inclusion Services

Mr Dave Powell, Director of Corporate Estates

Mr Simon Gale, Director of Prosperity and Development

### **3. Delegations of Executive Functions to Cabinet Members**

Normally, decisions will be taken collectively by the Cabinet, but individual Cabinet Members can take decisions within their portfolios which they consider to be urgent to protect the interest of the Council, subject to prior consultation with the appropriate Senior Leadership Team Officer(s) and, where necessary, other Cabinet Members. If there is uncertainty as to whether a matter falls within a particular portfolio, the Leader will make a determination as to which is the relevant Cabinet Member. The Leader can take urgent decisions in the absence of the appropriate portfolio holder.

### **4. Cabinet Committees Appointed by the Leader, their Membership and Terms of Reference**

The four under-mentioned Cabinet Sub-Committees will be constituted at the present time. Council will be informed promptly of any additional Cabinet Committees that may be appointed by the Cabinet in the future.

#### 4.1 **Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Cabinet Sub-Committee**

**Membership:** (4 representatives)

**Names of Members:** Cabinet Members: M Webber (Chair), A Crimmings (Vice Chair and Portfolio Holder)

Other County Borough Councillors: S Powderhill and C Leyshon

**Terms of Reference:** (a) To act on behalf of the Executive as a Corporate Trustee of the Ynysangharad War Memorial Park and, in that capacity, to consider all matters in connection with the future use and development of the Park and the preservation of the objectives of the Trust so instituted.

(b) To consider all proposals and representations from and on behalf of the Council or any third party, in connection with the use and ownership of the facility.

(c) To secure all necessary advice and assistance, including, where necessary, external advice and assistance, to ensure that the Trustees' interests are preserved.

(No Member of this Committee may take part in any other Cabinet or Council or Committee discussion or decision on any policy or development or any issue which may affect the park and must declare an interest and leave when any such matter is raised).

The Quorum for this Committee will be 3 Members.

#### 4.2 **Rhondda Cynon Taf Charity for the Visually Impaired Cabinet Sub-Committee**

**Membership:** (4 representatives)

**Names of Members:** County Borough Councillors: G Caple (Chair), M Norris (Vice Chair), R Lewis and M Webber

**Terms of Reference:** To oversee the administration of the charity

#### 4.3 **Welsh Language Cabinet Sub-Committee**

**Membership:** (5 representatives)

**Names of Members:** County Borough Councillors: R Lewis (Chair), C Leyshon (Vice Chair), M Webber, M Norris

and G Caple.

**Terms of Reference:**

In accordance with the Welsh Language (Wales) 2011 Measure, two principles underpin the terms of reference of the Welsh Language Working Group:

- in Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, the Welsh language should be treated no less favourably than the English language
- persons in Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council should be able to live their lives through the medium of Welsh if they choose to do so.
- To enable the Council to deliver upon the policy objectives set by Welsh Government Ministers.

**Purpose of the Sub-Committee:**

The Sub Committee has been established to ensure an Authority-wide approach in the delivery of services through the medium of Welsh in accordance with the Welsh Language (Wales) 2011 Measure, specifically the Statutory Standards relating to the Welsh Language / Statutory Welsh Language Scheme. Its membership will provide strategic direction in the implementation of the aforementioned legislation / policies and any local policies regarding the Welsh language and support the Welsh Language Services Unit in carrying out its duties. Its membership will consider how it can support access to services in the medium of Welsh

**Membership:**

The Welsh Language Sub Committee membership includes Cabinet Member representation (as shown above- These Members will have voting rights to determine a matter), Director Representation (currently Director, Education & Inclusion Services, Director Public Health & Protection & Service Director Democratic Services & Communications), officer representation and external Welsh medium representation. The Cabinet Member will Chair the Sub committee and will also be the Welsh

Language Member Champion.

The Sub Committee will also include Head of Welsh Language Services Unit, Welsh Language Officer and Head of Service (currently Head of Community Learning)

**External Representation:**

Menter Iaith is also invited to attend the Sub Committee. This enables both Menter Iaith and the Welsh Language Services Unit to discuss issues that affect Welsh medium service delivery in the community on a strategic level and to work in partnership to provide improved and better outcomes for clients.

**Non-Cabinet Member Representation:**

Representatives from political groups which do not form part of a political group forming part of the executive, will be invited to attend meetings, but will not be able to vote upon matters of business.

**Frequency:**

Meetings will be every six months unless otherwise agreed by the Sub-Committee. Urgent meetings can be convened if felt appropriate by the Chair.

**4.4 Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee**

**Membership:** (5 representatives)

**Voting Members:** County Borough Councillors: C Leyshon (Chair), A Crimmings (Vice Chair), M Norris, and R Lewis

**Non-Voting Members:** Cllr J Barton

**Terms of Reference:** To support the implementation and delivery of the priorities identified within the Council's Corporate Plan, this Cabinet Sub Committee will:

- Development of specific actions and policies which support the reduction of the Council's Carbon Footprint and respond to 'Net Zero' – The report of the Committee on Climate Change and the Welsh Government's report Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales;
- Deliver upon the Council's commitment to

match the ambitions of the UK 100 Agreement by becoming a Clean Energy organisation.

- To develop these commitments and in doing so, become more ambitious through resetting targets and challenging how the Council operates and approaches challenges in the future to become a 'Net Zero' Council by 2050.
- Provide the opportunity for persons, interested parties, and groups who live in Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council the ability to engage in the wider response of the community to climate change.
- Consider the long term trends that will affect Rhondda Cynon Taf and what steps can be taken locally to contribute to their mitigation.
- Consider how the Council can work with others both locally and nationally to consider joint solutions.

**Purpose of the Sub Committee:**

The Cabinet Sub Committee has been established to ensure an Authority-wide approach to issues of climate change and the Council becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030. Its membership will provide strategic direction and will consider and agree any local policies regarding climate change and associated matters. Where appropriate, or where determined, matters may be referred to Cabinet for further consideration. Its membership will consider how the Council can support changes in residents' behaviour, to deliver the necessary actions to respond proactively to climate change and in doing so, support business, communities and residents to reduce their own environmental impact.

This Cabinet Sub Committee will provide the opportunity to proactively discuss progress and delivery of actions, which emanate from the Corporate Plan, which aims to meet climate change challenges and reduce the Council's carbon footprint.

**Membership:** The Cabinet Sub Committee membership includes Cabinet Member representation (as shown above – These members have voting rights to determine a matter).

Senior Leadership Team Representation (Chief Executive, Director of Frontline Services, Director of Prosperity & Development; Director of Corporate Estates; Director Public Health, Protection & Community Services; and the Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication), service officer representation – Council’s Performance Manager where appropriate and external representation when required.

Officers and External representatives will provide strategic direction and will consider any local policies regarding climate change and associated matters and any other business as appropriate, however voting rights are conveyed to the cabinet Members and County Borough Councillors determined by the Leader only.

The Climate Change Champion role will raise the profile of any relevant legislation and policies at Cabinet and Senior Leadership Team level as well as supporting and developing the response of the Council. The roles are integral to the future development of policies in this area and each champion will be tasked with championing these matters at all levels of decision making within the Council.

**External Representation:** Local interest groups will be invited to attend the Cabinet Sub Committee in order to ensure that residents and communities are fully and directly involved in shaping its work.

This will enable both groups and individuals to contribute and influence to the development of policies for consideration by the Council, although no voting rights will be attributed to such external positions.

The Cabinet Sub Committee will also provide

the opportunity for its members to hear from services and discuss issues that affect service delivery relating to climate change, both at a community and strategic level. The Cabinet Sub Committee will have the ability to work in partnership with communities to provide improved outcomes for.

***A process will be undertaken to select appropriate external representation to inform members decisions***

**Non-Cabinet Member  
Representation:**

Representatives from political groups which do not form part of a political group forming part of the executive, will be invited to attend meetings, **but will not be able to vote upon matters of business.**

**Frequency:**

Meetings will be held when necessary. Urgent meetings of the group can be convened if felt appropriate by the Chair.

## **5. Joint Arrangements**

5.1 In respect of the nine under-mentioned joint arrangements, I propose:

- The Council enters into each joint arrangement on the terms currently in place, and pursuant to Section 20 of the Local Government Act 2000 and all other enabling powers, and delegates to the Joint Committee those functions of the Executive as are set out in those agreements.
- That the joint agreements be reconstituted to provide that each constituent Council may be represented by an Executive or Non-Executive Member(s). Where one Member only is nominated to represent a Council that Member can exercise the Council's vote which shall be the same number as that previously exercised by the Council.
- It is noted that Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council has established an Executive Board and that their representatives on the Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Committee may or may not be Board Members.
- That every Joint Committee be authorised to establish, if it deems it appropriate, an advisory panel, which may comprise both Executive and Non Executive Members of the constituent Authorities who have sat on the Joint Committees, so that their expertise and commitment is not lost to the work of the Joint Committee. (This will be a matter for each Joint Committee to determine).



<b>Joint Committee</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Name of Cabinet or Non Executive Member(s) Allocated</b>
Capita	Provision of Engineering Services with Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils.	M Ashford A Crimmings M Norris S Bradwick J Brencher G Holmes
Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee	Provision of Archive Services with five other Authorities.	W Lewis B Harris G Jones B Stephens
Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Committee	Provision of Crematorium Services with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.	J Elliot A Crimmings A Fox G Jones K Morgan
Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee	Provision of Crematorium Service with Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan County Councils.	G Hopkins B Stephens
Central South Consortium Joint Education Committee	Provision of Curriculum Advice, Inspection and Support to Schools and LEAs jointly with Bridgend, Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils	R Lewis
The Regional Adoption Joint Committee (The Vale, Valleys & Cardiff Adoption Collaborative Joint Committee)	Provision of Adoption Services in collaboration with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Cardiff Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.	G Cagle

ArtsConnect	Provision of high quality and cost effective arts and creative industry experiences in collaboration with Bridgend County Borough Council, Caerphilly County Borough council, Merthyr Leisure Trust, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council	B Harris
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## 6. Delegation of Executive Functions to Officers

6.1 These are delegated to Chief Officers, under Section 15 of the Local Government Act 2000, functions within their responsibility, in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of this part of the Constitution.

- Recording of Officer Decisions

In line with the amendments agreed by the Council at its AGM on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016, 'Key Decisions' taken by Officers of the Senior Leadership Team under delegated authority will be open to scrutiny. This process will improve transparency and accountability and will ensure a consistent and robust approach in respect of implementing decisions.

Key Decisions taken by Delegated Decisions will need to be published with immediate effect and no later than 2 clear working days following the decision being taken. (Prior to publication the Decision Notice will be checked for accuracy by a Chief Officer, and will be published accordingly. This will be the same process in respect of Cabinet decision notices). Once published, the Decision(s) will be subject to the same process in respect of 'Call In' as any Cabinet Committee Decision i.e., the decision will come into force and may be implemented on the expiry of three clear working days after the publication of the decision, unless the decision is called for review by scrutiny.

**(N.B** as agreed by the Council at its AGM on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 the Scrutiny Call In procedure timeframe has been reduced to three working days from the previous five).

In respect of operational or day to day management decisions taken forward through Officer delegated decisions, these will be recorded by the Service and a record of the decisions maintained.

## **7. Appointments to Bodies undertaking or advising upon Executive Functions.**

The following bodies or steering groups are constituted to consider and advise the executive. Such committees do not make decisions, and can only comment or make recommendations relating to their respective remits.

Members will be appointed to the following bodies: -

### **7.1 School Budget Forum Steering Group**

**Membership:** (6 representatives)

**Name of Members:** County Borough Councillors: R Lewis (Chair), C Leyshon (Vice Chair), A Morgan, M Webber, G Caple, and M Norris.

**Terms of reference:**

The Membership of the Forum will include Elected Members, School Head Teachers (from primary, secondary, and special needs schools) as well as appropriate union representation, totalling a membership of at least 15.

Section 47A of the School Standards and Framework Act 1999, as inserted by the Education Act 2002, requires every local authority in Wales to establish, in accordance with regulations, a body to be known as schools forum. The school's forum must represent governing bodies and Headteachers of schools maintained by the authority. If the authority so determines the school's forum can also include non-school members.

Schools Budget Forums are the key to developing informed and confident dialogue between local authorities and their schools and budgetary issues including schools' funding levels for the coming year, pressures on future years' budgets, changes to local funding formula and reviewing contracts/service level agreements for services to schools.

The terms of reference have been compiled in accordance with the Schools Forums (Wales) Regulations 2003 which came into force on 13th November 2003.

### **7.2 Pupil Referral Unit – Management Committee**

**Membership:** (2 representatives)

**Name of Members:** County Borough Councillors: R Lewis and G Caple

**7.3 Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)**

**Membership:** (5 representatives)

**Name of Members:** County Borough Councillors: J Elliott, A Crimmings, S Rees, TBC IND GROUP and G Hopkins

**7.4 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) Steering Group**

**Membership:** (2 representatives)

**Name of Member:** County Borough Councillors: R Lewis and C Leyshon

**7.5 Pontypridd BID Board**

**Membership:** (1 representative)

**Name of Member:** County Borough Councillor M Norris

**Terms of Reference:**

The Board will provide the strategic oversight and direction of the 'Your Pontypridd BID Company'- the legal entity that manages the BID - and is responsible for ensuring that the BID levy funds are properly invested in accordance with the agreed BID business plan as voted for by Pontypridd businesses. The Boards purpose is to oversee the delivery of the business plan, projects, and the efficient running of the company as well as the general promotion of the Pontypridd BID Company and Pontypridd to support the Company's principal activity.

**7.6 Armed Forces Steering Group**

**Membership:** (5 representatives)

**Name of Members:** County Borough Councillors: M Webber (Chair), C Middle (Vice Chair), S Bradwick, D Parkin and C Preedy.

**Terms of Reference:**

To provide strategic guidance to ensure the needs of Armed Forces personal living in Rhondda Cynon Taff are delivered by the Council and its partners in the public and third sector.

## 7.7 Rhondda Cynon Taf Twinning Association Steering Group

### **Membership:**

The Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Council Business (Chair), alongside appropriate elected members.

The Steering Group shall appoint a Twinning Convenor to assist in the work taken forward. To enhance the work of the steering Group representatives from Town & Community Councils of Rhondda Cynon Taf are also part of the Group's membership.

The Steering Group shall have power to co-opt non-voting members to represent schools, local organisations, and individuals and to delegate any of its functions to Cabinet Members and officers.

**Name of Members:** County Borough Councillors: M Webber (Chair), T Leyshon, R Lewis and G Jones.  
Community Councillor: S Presse  
Other Independent Members: Mr A Davies; Ms R Bosanko, Mr J Fish, and Mr C Roberts (**THE CONVENOR**)

### **Terms of Reference:**

To promote and maintain international and town twinning links.

To broaden the mutual understanding of the cultural, recreational, educational, and commercial activities of the linked towns

To promote opportunities for personal development through cultural exchange.

To assist financially or otherwise for schools, local organisations, and individuals in forming new links with the schools, organisations and individuals in towns which have twinned with this authority to maintain existing links and to establish new links.

To monitor the activities of new and established twinning links.

## 7.8 Major Incident Recovery Board

**Membership:** (4 representatives)

**Names of Members:** Cabinet Members: A Morgan (Chair), M Webber (Vice Chair) A Crimmings, M Norris and the relevant Cabinet Member related to the 'incident' to be considered, if not already part of the Membership.

The Quorum for this Committee will be 3 Members.

The Steering Group will also comprise representation as advised by the Leader of the Council to engage the appropriate Council and external expertise as appropriate. This may also include representatives from local and town centre businesses impacted by any incident.

**Purpose of the Steering Group:**

The Steering Group has been established to ensure an Authority-wide approach in the delivery of services and the prioritisation of resources in relation to any major incident, causing detrimental effect to the communities of the County Borough. The Board will lead business continuity planning in the immediate period following such an event and will continue to monitor the progress of associated action(s) agreed as part of the recovery plan determined by the Board.

**Terms of Reference:**

- (a) To consider the Council's response and recovery plans following any severe incident which may occur and impact the County Borough.
- (b) To consider all proposals and response plans, including recommendations from officers in relation to the allocation of resources and the prioritisation of services, assets and infrastructure.
- (c) To secure all necessary advice and assistance, including, where necessary, external advice and to support the Council community leadership and civil contingency role in responding to the impact of this major incident.
- (d) To agree the Council's immediate recovery plan and associated actions moving forward.
- (e) Act as an advisory board to the Leader of the Council, should urgent executive decisions (as outlined in the Leader's scheme of delegation) be required to be taken in relation to matters connected with the Council's response to an incident.
- (f) Where appropriate, report or make recommendations to Council on these matters.

7.9 **Corporate Parenting Board**

**Membership:** (8 representatives)

**Names of Members:** County Borough Councillors: G Caple (Chair), R Lewis (Vice Chair), C Leyshon, J Bonetto, T Burnell, S Evans, S Rees, and S Trask.

**Terms of Reference:**

To take the lead in ensuring that the Council fulfils its responsibilities as corporate parent to children who are looked after and formulate Council policy in respect of children who are looked after and children in need.

To ensure that all Groups and divisions within the Council work together in order to promote best outcomes for children who are looked after and children in need.

To promote effective relationships with key partner agencies in the best interests of children who are looked after and children in need.

To monitor the implementation of the Action Plan arising from the Best Value Review of Services to children looked after, in addition to monitoring outcomes for children looked after and children in need.

To consider the outcomes and promote positive learning practices following consideration of Child Practice Reviews

In accordance with HMIP to routinely review the offending rates of LAC by gender to ensure that the Corporate Parenting Board understand patterns of offending by girls and are able to take actions to address where necessary.

To consider the impact of relevant other systems/agencies (e.g. health, courts, schools) and see how these could be improved.

To seek the views of children looked after - the advocacy service will be asked to facilitate.

To invite representatives from other agencies to attend as appropriate.

To report directly to Cabinet through an Annual report of the Board.

Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP) Cymru is also invited to attend the meetings. This enables both TGP Cymru and Children Services to discuss issues that affect service delivery in the community on a strategic level and to work in partnership to provide improved and better outcomes.

**7.10 Central Adoption Panel**

**Membership:** (1 representative)

**Name of Member:** County Borough Councillor: S Rees

**Terms of Reference:**

To make recommendations in respect of the following:

- a) Whether (in cases of relinquished children) the child should be placed for adoption;
- b) Whether prospective adopters are suitable to adopt a child; and
- c) Whether the child should be placed with a particular prospective adopter.

**7.11 Foster Care Panel**

**Membership:** (1 representative)

**Name of Member:** County Borough Councillor S Rees

**Terms of Reference:**

To make recommendations in respect of the following to the Group Director for Community and Children's Services: -

- (1) to consider each application for approval and to recommend whether or not a person is suitable to act as a foster parent;
- (2) where it recommends approval of an application to recommend the terms on which the approval is given, for example, as to the numbers and ages of children, or whether the approval relates to any particular named child, or to any particular type of placement;
- (3) to recommend whether or not a person remains suitable to act as a foster parent, and whether or not the terms of his approval remains appropriate;
  - (i) on the first review
  - (ii) on the occasion of any other review when requested to do so by the fostering service provider

**7.12 Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group**

**Membership:** (5 Representatives)

**Name of Members:** County Borough Councillors: B. Harris (Chair), A. Crimmings (Vice-Chair), J. Brencher and A. MEMBER OF THE PLAID GROUP R. Lewis

The membership will also include: -

- Arts Council Wales (ACW) representative – M Dunning.



- An independent representative – C Coppock.

The Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group consists of a cross-party Membership with representation from Cabinet Members, Elected Members, Director and officers, the Arts Council Wales and an Independent Member. The roles are integral in terms of the breadth of artistic knowledge, which will allow the Steering Group to discuss issues that affect the community on a strategic level and to work in partnership to provide improved and better outcomes.

**Terms of Reference:**

The aim of the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group is to provide guidance and advice on matters relating to the strategic context in which the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Arts Service operates. In particular, to advise on items affecting the resilience of RCT Theatres and the long term sustainability of the Arts Service in general. The Steering Group will focus on matters such as audience development, income generation, and engagement and participation in the region. The topics of each meeting will be considered on a thematic basis.

The Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group will support the Council's delivery of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 through supporting the development of:

- A skilled population;
- A resilient economy;
- Healthier residents
- Equality of opportunity;
- Cohesive Communities;
- Opportunities for its residents to be creatively active through English and Welsh and;
- A positive contribution to global well-being.

**Frequency of Meetings:**

The Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group will meet on a quarterly basis. Further meetings can be convened at the request of the Chair.

**Meeting Locations:**

To allow the Steering Group to fully appreciate the work undertaken within the strategic Arts and Culture services within RCT, it is suggested that meetings are held (when possible) in appropriate venues suitable to the service area.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD**

### 7.13 **Cwm Taf Public Services Board**

**Membership:** (1 representative)

**Name of Members:** The Leader, County Borough Councillor A  
Morgan (Nominate Deputy M Webber)

#### **Background:**

In line with the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, statutory bodies called Public Services Boards (PSBs) came into effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016 (taking over from Authorities previous non statutory Boards - Local Service Boards (LSB) PSBs will be established for each local authority area in Wales and the public bodies that make up the Boards will need to demonstrate their collective contribution to the wellbeing of the area and their contribution towards the national wellbeing goals.

#### **Terms of Reference:**

The Cwm Taf Public Services Board (PSB) is a merged Public Services Board, covering the areas of Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) and was formed on the 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.

The PSB aims to act as the principal strategic leadership forum for the planning, commissioning and delivery of public services across organisational boundaries to achieve better outcomes for the people of Cwm Taf. It will seek to understand the major issues faced by each partner organisation, to become a more transparent Board through publishing data and performance; and will assist in transforming public services move from a reactive to a preventative agenda.

#### **Membership:**

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act outlines requirements for membership of each PSB setting out a clear structure. Cwm Taf PSB must have statutory partners consisting:

- (a) The Councillors elected as Executive Leaders of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and RCT County Borough Council (the local authority) or the elected Mayors;
- (b) The Head of the Authorities' paid service designated under Section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;
- (c) Either the Chair, Chief Executive or both for Cwm Taf University Health Board (the Local Health Board for the area which falls within the local authority areas)
- (d) Either the Chief Officer, Chairman or both for South Wales Fire & Rescue Service; and
- (e) The Chief Executive for the Natural Resources Body for Wales.

The individuals referred to above may designate another individual to represent the organisation on their behalf. All members (formally designated or otherwise) must be present for a meeting of the PSB to be quorate.

A PSB for a local authority area must invite the following persons to participate in the activity of the board. These invited members must include:

- (a) the Welsh Ministers;
- (b) the Chief Constable of the police force for a police area any part of which falls within the local authority area;
- (c) the Police and Crime Commissioner for a police area any part of which falls within the local authority area;
- (d) a person required by arrangements under section 3(2) of the Offender Management Act 2007 (c.21) to provide probation services in relation to the local authority area; and
- (e) at least one body representing relevant voluntary organisations (whether or not the body is known as a County Voluntary Council).

Each Board may issue additional invitations to other partners to participate in the activity of the PSB.

**Scrutiny:**

In order to ensure democratic accountability with the Public Services Board, there is a requirement for a designated local government Scrutiny Committee of the relevant local authority to scrutinise the work of the PSB.

The Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee was formed in 2017 and further details can be found on the Council website.

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## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022 / 2023**

**COUNCIL**

**6<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

### **APPOINTMENT OF NEW INDEPENDENT MEMBER AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

#### **JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES & SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION**

**Author: Andy Wilkins (Director of Legal Services)**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

This Report sets out the process to be undertaken to fill vacancies that have arisen on the Council's Standards Committee, specifically an Independent (lay) Member and Community Council representative member (plus reserve).

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Agrees to advertise the role of Independent (lay) Member on the Council's Standards Committee, based on the established criteria set out in the report;
- 2.2 Agrees to consult with Community Councils in respect of inviting applications from Community Councillors for the vacancy of Community Council Member (plus a reserve) on the Council's Standards Committee;
- 2.3 Subject to 2.1 and 2.2 above, establishes an Appointments Panel to consider applications for the appointment of an Independent Member of the Standards Committee for a term of six years and a Community Council Member (plus reserve) for a term until the next ordinary elections (in 2027);
- 2.4 Nominates three County Borough Councillors (2 from the ruling group and 1 from the largest opposition group) and the incumbent Chair of the Standards Committee to be members of the Appointments Panel;

- 2.5 Delegates authority to the Director of Legal Services to appoint a Community Councillor to the Appointments Panel; and
- 2.6 Subject to the above, agrees to receive a further report and consider any recommendations emanating from the Appointments Panel convened to interview any applicants who apply for the vacant roles.

### **3. STANDARDS COMMITTEE VACANCIES**

- 3.1 The Standards Committee comprises five members. There are three Independent Members, two County Borough Councillors (one from the ruling group and one from the largest opposition group) and one Community Councillor.
- 3.2 The term of office of one of the Independent members, Mr. Mel Jehu, will come to an end on 18 October 2022. Mr. Jehu cannot be reappointed having already served two terms in office. It is therefore necessary to consider the appointment of a new Independent Member to the Committee from 19 October 2022.
- 3.3 Similarly, the term of office of the Community Council Member, Councillor Ray Butler (Llantwit Fardre Community Council), came to an end following the Local Elections in May. Again, Councillor Butler cannot be reappointed having served two terms in office. It is therefore necessary to consider the appointment of a new Community Council member to the Committee whose term of office would commence immediately following their appointment.
- 3.4 The Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 prescribe the procedure for the appointment of Independent Members. The vacancies must be published in not less than two newspapers circulating in the area, the advertisement must set out the criteria established for the appointment of Independent Members and a panel of not more than five members including an Independent (lay) Member must consider applications. The Panel must apply established criteria and make recommendations in respect of appointments to the Council, who shall have regard to the recommendations.
- 3.5 The Panels set up on previous occasions to appoint Independent Members to the Standards Committee have comprised three County Borough Members (i.e. two from the ruling Group and one from the largest opposition Group), one Community Councillor and an Independent (lay) Member (from the Standards Committee). The criteria established in respect of the appointment of Independent members is:
  - Members must be 'independent' as defined by the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 and not disqualified by those regulations nor by Section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972.
  - They must be entitled to be included in the electoral register for the County Borough Council.
  - They must be a respected member of the community within the County Borough area and have experience relevant to the Standards Committee's work.

- Applicants must be totally independent of politics.
- 3.6 Independent Members of the Standards Committee have previously been appointed for a period of six years.
- 3.7 Before appointing a Community Council Member the Council must consult—
- (a) community councils which are situated within its area; and
  - (b) community council associations established for and operating within that area (if any).
- 3.8 To satisfy this stipulation it is proposed, as has been the case with previous appointments, that the Director of Legal Services write to all Community Council Clerks inviting applications from Community Councillors for the position of Community Council Member on the Standards Committee. The Appointments Panel would then consider any applications made before making a recommendation to Council as to an appointment.

#### **4. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 4.1 There are no specific equality and diversity implications emanating from this report. With respect to the appointment of an Independent Member the application process is available to all persons (subject to meeting the agreed criteria).

#### **5. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no Welsh language implications arising as a result of the recommendations in this report.

#### **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The appointment of a Community Council member requires consultation with the Community Councils as detailed in the report.

#### **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Remuneration of Independent Members and the Community Council Member (as co-opted members) is determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in their annual reports. Costs attributable to the Member Remuneration and Allowances Scheme are considered as part of the annual budget setting process. There is a cost attributable to the required advertisements in respect of the recruitment of an Independent Member and these will be met from the relevant departments existing budget.

#### **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 The Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2001 set out the provisions as to the appointment of Independent Members and Community Council

Members to the Standards Committee. The proposed recruitment process and criteria set out in the report are in accordance with the requirements set out in the regulations.

**9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 The restrictions on the length of terms of office for Standards Committees Members has meant two vacancies have now arisen on the Committee, specifically for an Independent Member and Community Council Member.
- 9.2 The report sets out the recommended way forward as to the process to be followed to fill those vacancies which must be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Standards Committee (Regulations) 2001 and as set out in the report.



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972  
as amended by  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**COUNCIL  
6 JULY 2022**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES**

**APPOINTMENT OF NEW INDEPENDENT MEMBER AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MEMBER TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**REPORT OFFICER TO CONTACT**

Mr Andy Wilkins, Director of Legal Services

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Freestanding matter





## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022 / 2023

COUNCIL

6<sup>th</sup> July 2022

### 2021/22 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW

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

AUTHOR: Barrie Davies (01443) 424026

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report constitutes the statutory requirement to provide Members with information on :-

- the Council's Treasury Management activity during 2021/22; and
- the actual Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2021/22.

#### 2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Members:

- a) note the content of the report; and
- b) agree the funding proposals for the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme as set out at section 13.

#### 3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 To report to Council the Annual Treasury Management Review in line with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

## **4.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 4.1 Treasury Management is defined as:  
*“The management of a local authority’s cash flows, its borrowings and its investments, the management of the associated risks, and the pursuit of the optimum performance or return consistent with those risks”.*
- 4.2 This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The Council is required to comply with both Codes through Regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003.
- 4.3 The primary requirements of the Codes are as follows:
- Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy.
  - Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices, which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve stated policies and objectives.
  - Approval by Council (by 31<sup>st</sup> March) of:
    - A Treasury Management Strategy Report including Treasury Indicators and an Investment Strategy for the year ahead; and
    - A Capital Strategy Report (including Prudential Indicators) to support the Council’s strategic and financial planning arrangements.
  - Council approval of a Mid-Year Treasury Management Stewardship Report and an Annual Treasury Management Review Report for the previous year.
  - Effective scrutiny of the Treasury Management function.
- 4.4 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council complies with these requirements and supplements this by including information on treasury activities and prudential indicators in the quarterly Council performance reports to Members.
- 4.5 During 2021/22, the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee undertook scrutiny of the Treasury Management function including the Treasury Management activity reported within the quarterly performance reports.
- 4.6 This annual report will cover the following areas of treasury activity during 2021/22:
- Treasury Management advisors;
  - Revised CIPFA codes and updated PWLB lending guidance;
  - Economic background;
  - Borrowing strategy;
  - Borrowing activity and results;
  - Estimated and actual treasury position and prudential and treasury indicators;
  - Investment strategy; and
  - Investment activity and results.

- 4.7 It should be noted that the accounting practice to be followed by the Council requires financial instruments in the statutory accounts (debt, investments, etc.) to be measured in a method compliant with International Financial Reporting Standards. The figures in this report are based on the principal amounts borrowed and invested and so may differ from those in the Council's Statement of Accounts.

## **5.0 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ADVISORS**

- 5.1 The Council appointed Arlingclose as its Treasury Management Advisors from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 for the 3 year period up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, with the option to extend for up to 2 years. Following a review of the service provision, the option to extend for a further two years has been agreed.
- 5.2 During the last two years the service provided has adapted effectively to take into account the pandemic with strategy meetings taking place virtually and technical updates being carried out via webinars. The Council will continue to monitor the advisor's performance. If any adverse performance or contractual issues arise, Members will be advised accordingly.
- 5.3 The Council recognises that although information and advice is provided via the contract, responsibility for Treasury Management decisions remains with the Council.

## **6.0 REVISED CIPFA CODES & UPDATED PWLB LENDING GUIDANCE**

- 6.1 In August 2021 HM Treasury revised guidance for the PWLB lending facility providing details of permitted and prohibited use of PWLB loans. Authorities that are purchasing or intending to purchase investment assets primarily for yield will not be able to access the PWLB except to refinance existing loans or externalise internal borrowing. Acceptable use of PWLB borrowing includes service delivery, housing, regeneration, preventative action, refinancing and treasury management.
- 6.2 CIPFA published its revised Prudential Code for Capital Finance and Treasury Management Code on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The key changes in the two codes relate to permitted reasons to borrow, knowledge and skills, and the management of non-treasury investments.

## **7.0 ECONOMIC BACKGROUND**

- 7.1 General Economic Background

- 7.1.1 The continuing economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, together with the war in Ukraine, higher inflation and higher interest rates were significant issues during 2021/22.
- 7.1.2 In the UK CPI was 0.7% in March 2021 but thereafter began to steadily increase. Initially driven by energy prices and sectors such as retail and hospitality which were re-opening after the pandemic lockdowns, inflation then was expected to be temporary. However, price rises slowly became more widespread, as a combination of rising global costs and strong demand was exacerbated by supply shortages and transport issues. The surge in wholesale gas and electricity prices led to elevated inflation expectations. CPI for March 2022 was 7.0% year on year, up from 6.2% and 5.5% in the previous months.
- 7.1.3 Having increased the Bank Rate from 0.10% to 0.25% in December 2021, the Bank of England continued with stepped increases to its current rate of 1.25% (June 2022).
- 7.1.4 In its March meeting, the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee noted that the invasion of Ukraine had caused further large increases in energy and other commodity prices, with the expectation that the conflict will worsen supply chain disruptions around the world and push CPI inflation to higher levels than their previous month's forecast. The Committee also noted that although GDP in January was stronger than expected with business confidence holding up and the labour market remaining robust, consumer confidence had fallen due to the squeeze in real household incomes.
- 7.1.5 The conflict in Ukraine served to add further volatility to the already uncertain inflation and interest rate outlook over the period. The Dow Jones started to decline in January but remained above its pre-pandemic level by the end of the period while the FTSE 250 and FTSE 100 also fell and ended the quarter below their pre-March 2020 levels.
- 7.1.6 Bond yields were similarly volatile as the tension between higher inflation and flight to quality impacted, with a general upward trend from higher interest rates dominating as yields generally climbed.
- 7.1.7 The 5-year UK benchmark gilt yield began the quarter at 0.82% before rising to 1.41%. Over the same period the 10-year gilt yield rose from 0.97% to 1.61% and the 20-year yield from 1.20% to 1.82%.
- 7.1.8 The Council continued to maintain a low risk strategy throughout the year to ensure exposure to risk of any capital loss was minimised.
- 7.2 Short term investment rates

7.2.1 The Council's investment income is subject to changes in short term interest rates. The level of the Bank Rate is one of the main determinants of the rate of interest the Council receives on its short term investments. The latest (June 2022) forward looking estimate of the Bank Rate, provided by our Treasury Management advisors, is for the rate to rise to 2.25% by December 2022.

### 7.3 Longer term interest rates

7.3.1 The majority of the Council's borrowing is from the PWLB (Public Works Loan Board). Long-term borrowing rates are influenced by gilt yields which are driven by inflation and demand/supply considerations.

7.3.2 During August 2012, HM Treasury introduced "the certainty rate", whereby local authorities are able to access borrowing at 0.2% cheaper than published PWLB rates. In order to access the discounted rate, authorities were required to provide Welsh Government (and onward, the Debt Management Office) with an indication of their potential borrowing requirements for the next 3 years.

7.3.3 PWLB loans are no longer available to Councils planning to acquire investment assets primarily for yield or solely for exploiting commercial opportunities.

7.3.4 PWLB maturity loan rates during 2021/22 were as follows (these are the "certainty rates"):

	<b>5 years</b>	<b>10 years</b>	<b>20 years</b>	<b>50 years</b>
Average	1.49%	1.81%	2.09%	1.85%
Highest	2.38%	2.55%	2.76%	2.49%
Lowest	1.08%	1.42%	1.69%	1.25%

## 8.0 BORROWING STRATEGY

8.1 The borrowing strategy for 2021/22, as included in the 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy and approved by Council on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021, stated that the borrowing requirement to fund the 2021/22 Capital Programme was £19.3m. In line with the capital programme, the borrowing requirement decreased to £12.4m during the year largely due to the re-profiling of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme (formerly 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools schemes). It was also reported that the Council's policy will continue to maximise "internal borrowing", run down cash balances and forego interest earned at historically low rates. This also minimises counterparty risk (risk that an investment may become irrecoverable).

- 8.2 The Strategy also reported that the Section 151 Officer, under delegated powers, would take the most appropriate form of borrowing depending upon the prevailing interest rates at the time, taking into account advice provided by our advisors and an assessment of risk.
- 8.3 Affordability and the cost of carry remain important influences on the Council's borrowing strategy. Short term borrowing was taken during the year to manage cashflow volatility and no long term borrowing was taken other than £82.4M repayable funding from Welsh Government to support investment in rail infrastructure.
- 8.4 The 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy also reported that the Council has previously taken advantage of debt rescheduling opportunities, for example, to generate savings at minimum risk, and that the Section 151 Officer would monitor prevailing rates for any opportunities during the year based upon information provided by the Council's Treasury advisors. PWLB loan redemption rates have reduced the attractiveness of early repayments associated with rescheduling and as a result no debt rescheduling took place during 2021/22.

## 9.0 **BORROWING ACTIVITY AND RESULTS**

- 9.1 A summary of the Council's borrowing activity (excluding Finance Leases) is set out in the table below:

	Opening Balance 01/04/21	Movement	Closing Balance 31/03/2022	Average Debt	Total Interest	Weighted Average Interest
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	%
PWLB*	229.726	(10.419)	219.307	224.839	6.962	3.10
Banks LOBO**	31.000		31.000	31.000	1.396	4.50
Banks Fixed Term	54.500		54.500	54.500	2.749	5.00
Local Auths	18.000	(13.000)	5.000	3.485	0.008	0.22
Other***	0	82.400	82.400	0.452	0.00	0.00
Total	333.226	58.981	392.207	314.276	11.115	3.54

\* The movements in PWLB debt include the repayment of instalments of existing Equal Instalment of Principal (EIP) loans.

\*\* A "LOBO" loan is one where the lender has options to vary the interest rate. If the lender chooses to exercise that option, the borrower has an option to repay.

\*\*\* "Other" relates to Welsh Government repayable funding for investment in transport (rail) infrastructure works.

- 9.2 The average interest rate of debt as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 was 2.81%



- 9.3 Short term borrowing of £5M at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 was in place to meet day-to-day cash-flow requirements at a rate of 0.15%.
- 9.4 At the end of the year there was no variance reported in the Council's Net Capital Financing Budget of £19.950M.
- 9.5 There were no opportunities to further reduce the cost of our borrowing via rescheduling during the year.

## **10.0 ESTIMATED AND ACTUAL TREASURY POSITION AND PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY INDICATORS**

- 10.1 During the financial year 2021/22, the Council operated within its limits set out in the 'Capital Strategy Report Incorporating Prudential Indicators' and 'Treasury Management Strategy', both of which were approved by Council on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Details of limits and actual performance are as follows:

	£	2021/22 Actual £
Capital Expenditure 2021/22		105.946M
Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022		502.763M

Limit / Indicator	2021/22 Limit / Indicator	2021/22 Actual
Authorised Limit (£) (Limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited)	614.400M	392.660M (at highest point in year)
Operational Boundary (£) (Indicator to ensure Authorised Limit not breached)	563.400M	392.660M (at year end)
External Debt (£)	560.207M	392.207M
Other Long Term Liabilities	<u>0.383M</u>	<u>0.071M</u>
Sub total	560.590M	392.278M
Other: Finance Lease	<u>0.200M</u>	<u>0.382M</u>
Borrowing + Other Long Term Liabilities	560.790M	392.660M
Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream	5.10%	4.88%

Funds invested for greater than 1 year (£)	25M	2.2M
LOBO Limit	£50M / 20% of debt portfolio	£31M / 8% of debt portfolio
Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Debt	Under 12 mths 0-70% 12 mths – 2 yrs 0-70% 2-5 years 0-60% 5-10 years 0-70% 10-20 years 0-90% 20-30 years 0-90% 30-40 years 0-90% 40-50 years 0-90%	Under 12 mths 11% 12 mths – 2 yrs 24% 2-5 years 8% 5-10 years 12% 10-20 years 4% 20-30 years 0% 30-40 years 41% 40-50 years 0%

10.2 The indicators and limits have been updated in line with Council approval of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 detailing the funding arrangements for Transport (Rail) Infrastructure works.

## 11.0 INVESTMENT STRATEGY

11.1 The Council manages its investments in-house, investing during 2021/22 in line with the lender criteria as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy approved by Council on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Investment policy is governed by Welsh Government guidance.

11.2 The Council's temporary cash flows are currently being invested in the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility and other Government backed public sector bodies. The Council supplements this strategy with lending to organisations subject to Section 151 officer determination, following appropriate due diligence and subject to appropriate and acceptable security arrangements being put in place. This low risk strategy was determined balancing risk and return. It is acknowledged that low risk investment strategies result in lower investment returns.

11.3 During the year, the Council has complied with the approved 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy and there have been no liquidity difficulties.

## 12.0 INVESTMENT ACTIVITY AND RESULTS

12.1 The following table shows the overall result of the investment activities undertaken by the Council:

	Interest Received	Average Cash Balance	Return on Investments	Benchmark Return*
	£M	£M	%	%
Cash Balances	0.040	45.181	0.09	0.146

*\* The benchmark return for Local Authority internally managed funds is the average 7-day Sterling Overnight rate (SONIA).*

- 12.2 The Economic Background section of this report set out the continuing challenging economic conditions during this period. As a result of these conditions and our low risk strategy, interest rates on investments remain low.
- 12.3 The average return on investments has slightly under-performed the benchmark return over the year.
- 12.4 The £2.20m for “funds invested for greater than 1 year” represents a loan to Cynon Taf Community Housing Group (£2.3m outstanding, £0.1m of which to be repaid within 12 months).
- 12.5 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:

<b>Interest Rate Risk</b>	<b>Impact £M</b>
One year revenue impact of a 1% rise/fall in interest rates	0.508

- 12.6 The Council also holds non-specified investments in Cynon Valley Waste Disposal Company Ltd, trading as Amgen Cymru Ltd and Amgen Rhondda Ltd. These are shown in the Council’s draft balance sheet as £3.032m, under “Investments in Subsidiaries”.
- 12.7 The Council also holds non-financial investments.
- Non-financial commercial investment in Ty Dysgu, Cefn Coed Business Park, Nantgarw. The building and site has a fair value of £2.980m, with an annual rental of £322k. This asset was reclassified as an investment property on the balance sheet following a change in use of the building.
  - The Council has investments it categorises as non-financial and other investments relevant to Council functions. These buildings have a fair value of £17.5m, 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;
    - Llys Cadwyn, Pontypridd, and;
    - 96-102 Taff Street, Pontypridd.

### **13.0 FUNDING OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING PROGRAMME (FORMERLY, 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES PROGRAMME)**

- 13.1 This Council continues to successfully deliver new, improved and modern schools to make a significant improvement to the learning environment for our young people.
- 13.2 On the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021, Cabinet considered a report which detailed a significant increase in the approved Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for Band B of the programme from £167M to £252M. The individual school projects were reported as part of that update, which are being funded by a combination of WG Grant Funding (at 65%) and the WG Mutual Investment Model (MIM) Funding (at 81%, subsequently updated to 82.3%). The Council is also responsible for funding fit out costs at 35% for the MIM projects. The Council's contributions are funded using prudential borrowing and revenue funding respectively.
- 13.3 The individual schemes continue to evolve through the Welsh Government's five case business model and approval process, with procurement processes running alongside to enable the delivery of timetabled on-site development.
- 13.4 Whilst absolute costs are not known until the completion of procurement processes and WG approvals, the overall envelope has previously been agreed by WG and accordingly the Council's contributions in line with the agreed envelope likewise need to be secured to avoid unnecessary delays to the programme.
- 13.5 The Council's contributions to the respective funding packages are and will continue to be built into the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme accordingly, and it is proposed that Council agrees the Council's overall level of contribution to funding the full programme in line with the detail set out above and up to and within the overall envelope. The detail will be subsequently reported through our existing Treasury Management reporting processes.
- 13.6 The latest modelled Council contribution level would be £43.2M in respect of the 35% grant funding contribution and £2.2M in respect of our revenue costs for the MIM projects. Council has previously agreed to £13.9M of borrowing in respect of the Band B envelope.

### **14.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 14.1 The report provides an overview of the Council's Treasury Management activities during 2021/22 in line with the Strategy reports approved by Council in March 2021. As a result, no Equality Impact Assessment is required for the purposes of this report.

### **15.0 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 There are no Welsh language implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.

## **16.0 CONSULTATION**

16.1 Following consideration by Council, this report will be subject to review by the Council's Governance and Audit Committee.

## **17.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

17.1 The financial results / implications of the Council's Treasury Management arrangements in 2021/22 have been incorporated into quarterly Performance Reports during the year and also reported to Council on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021 as part of the 2021/22 Mid-Year Treasury Management Stewardship Report.

## **18.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

18.1 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.

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

19.1 This report evidences the progress made in delivering the Council's Corporate Plan – 'Making a Difference' in particular through supporting the 'Living Within Our Means' theme by pursuing optimum treasury management performance or return at the same time as managing associated risk.

19.2 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.

## **20.0 CONCLUSION**

20.1 The 2021/22 financial year has continued to be challenging in relation to Treasury Management and this report highlights for Members that all related activities have operated effectively and within budgetary and prudential limits.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

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

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL 6<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022**

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

**Item: 2021/22 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW**

**Background Papers**

- 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Council meeting – Report: Treasury Management Strategy Incorporating Investment Strategy, Treasury Management Indicators and MRP Statement for 2021/22.  
<https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s25360/Report.pdf?LLL=0>
- 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Council meeting – Report: 2021/22 Capital Strategy Report Incorporating Prudential Indicators.  
[Report.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s25360/Report.pdf?LLL=0)
- 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021 Council meeting – Report: 2021/22 Mid-Year Treasury Management Stewardship Report.  
<https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s32184/Report.pdf?LLL=0>

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