



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

A hybrid meeting of the CABINET will be held on
Monday, 7th November, 2022 at 2.00 pm

Contact: Hannah Williams - Council Business Unit (Tel No. 07385401954)

Councillors and members of the public wishing to request the facility to address the Cabinet on any of the business as listed below, must request to do so by 5pm on the Thursday, 3 November 2022 Councillors and Members of the public should stipulate if this address will be in the medium of English or Welsh.

It must be noted that the facility to address the Cabinet is at the discretion of the Chair and each request will be considered based on the agenda items being considered, the public interest/interest of the member in each matter and the demands of the business on that day. To make such a request please email:- ExecutiveandRegulatoryBusinessUnit@rctcbc.gov.uk

It is the intention to live stream this meeting, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

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 Cabinet meeting held on the 17th October 2022 as an accurate record.

**3. 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME: BASIC NEED
ACCOMMODATION ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS AT Y PANT
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL**

To receive the report of the Director of Education and Inclusion Services, which provides the Cabinet with an update on the provision of additional teaching accommodation at Y Pant, following the report presented to Cabinet on 13th December 2021 highlighting the increasing pressures on pupil numbers in the south of the County Borough.

(Pages 13 - 22)

4. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2023-2024

To receive the report of the Director of Finance and Digital Services, which formally sets the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2023/24.

(Pages 23 - 28)

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

5. LEADER'S SCHEME OF DELEGATION - 3A

To receive the updated [Leader's Scheme of Delegation](#).

6. URGENT ITEMS

To consider any urgent business as the Chairman feels appropriate.



Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

Circulation:-

Councillors: Councillor A Morgan (Chair)
Councillor M Webber (Deputy Chair)
Councillor G Caple
Councillor A Crimmings
Councillor R Lewis
Councillor C Leyshon
Councillor M Norris
Councillor B Harris

Officers: Chris Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Barrie Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services
Gaynor Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion Services
Louise Davies, Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services
Richard Evans, Director of Human Resources
Simon Gale, Director of Prosperity & Development
Paul Griffiths, Service Director – Finance & Improvement Services
Christian Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Derek James, Service Director – Prosperity & Development
Paul Mee, Group Director Community & Children's Services
David Powell, Director of Corporate Estates
Andy Wilkins, Director of Legal Services
Neil Elliott, Director of Adult Services

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CABINET

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, 17 October 2022 at 1.00 pm.

County Borough Councillors - Cabinet Members in attendance:-

Councillor A Morgan (Chair)

Councillor M Webber Councillor G Caple
Councillor A Crimmings Councillor R Lewis
Councillor C Leyshon Councillor B Harris

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services
Ms G Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion Services
Mr L Davies, Director, Public Health, Protection and Community 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 D James, Service Director – Prosperity & Development
Mr P Mee, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Mr D Powell, Director of Corporate Estates
Mr R Waters, Director – Frontline Services
Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services
Mr. M. Phillips, Revenues Services Manager

50 **Welcome and Apology**

The Leader welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting of the Cabinet and an apology for absence was received from the Cabinet Member for Development and Prosperity.

51 **Declaration of Interest**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, the following declarations were made pertaining to the agenda:

- The Leader declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 16, All Wales Interim Joint Mileage Protocol – “As Leader of the WLGA, I was involved in the development of the protocol, which was signed off by myself and the other Group Leaders within the WLGA. All Political Parties were happy to support and sign this”; and
- The Director of Frontline Services declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 14, Cynon Valley Waste Disposal Company Limited and Amgen Rhondda Limited Annual General Meeting - “I am a Director of Amgen Cymru and I will leave the meeting whilst the item is discussed and voted upon”

52 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 26th September 2022 as an accurate record.

53 Engagement on the Council's Budget

The Service Director of Democratic Services and Communication informed Cabinet of the proposed approach to resident engagement and consultation in respect of the 2023/24 budget setting process.

The Deputy Leader spoke positive of the content of the report and was pleased to note that Cabinet Members and Senior Officers could now have face to face conversations with residents in respect of the Council's budget, following the previous Covid-19 prevention measures.

The Deputy Leader added that this year's budget would be a concern to all Local Authorities because of the cost-of-living crisis and the increase in utility bills and as such, the outlook moving forward was dire with difficult decisions to be made.

The Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

1. To support the further development and continuation of the approach to the Council's budget consultation introduced in last years consultation for 2023/24, using the Councils Let's Talk Engagement website, as well as community face-to-face engagement. As part of the suggested approach, we will continue to provide alternative means of engagement for those having reduced or no access to the Internet and those who prefer to engage through traditional methods;
2. To support the Council's statutory requirements regarding consultation on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Council Tax levels and that these will be met via the proposed approach;
3. To support the phase 1 budget consultation process taking place during the autumn of 2022, with the dates to be confirmed following clarification of the Welsh Government budget settlement timescales; and
4. To authorise the Service Director – Democratic Services & Communications to plan the necessary timeline of engagement once the details of the Provisional Local Government Settlement are known, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member & Director of Finance & Digital Services.

54 Pre-Scrutiny: Community Infrastructure Levy Annual Monitoring Report

The Service Director of Democratic Services and Communication provided the Cabinet with the feedback and comments of the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee following its pre-scrutiny of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Annual Monitoring Report at its meeting on the 29th September 2022.

The Head of Planning went onto provide Members with the details of the report which included the of the CIL Annual Monitoring Report and the proposed changes to the Regulation 123 List.

The Deputy Leader took the opportunity to thank the Community Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee for its feedback of the report.

The Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the comments and observations of the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee, as detailed in paragraph 5 of the report; and
2. To endorse the recommendations outlined within the Community Infrastructure Levy Annual Monitoring Report as attached to this report at Appendix A.

55 Pre-Scrutiny: Draft - Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021-2022

The Service Director of Democratic Services and Communication provided the Cabinet with the feedback and comments of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee following its pre scrutiny of the Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021/22 at its meeting on the 5th October 2022.

The Group Director of Community and Children's Services went on to provide the Cabinet with the details of the report. The Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021/22 set out how the Council's Social Services performed last year and highlights the direction and priorities set for the current year.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care noted the comments of the Scrutiny Committee and commented that moves towards the integration of social care and health care must be accelerated; a matter which had been discussed at a recent meeting of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership Board.

The Cabinet Member noted the commitment and breadth of work undertaken by social services staff and whilst referring to case studies, spoke of how intervention had improved various aspects of the clients' lives such as confidence and independence.

The Deputy Leader took the opportunity to thank the Community Services Scrutiny Committee for its comments and observations in respect of the report.

The Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the comments and observations of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee; and
2. To endorse the recommendations outlined within the Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021/22 as attached to the report.

56 Representations, Complaints and Compliments Procedure Annual Report

The Group Director of Community and Children's Services provided the Cabinet with an overview of the operation and effectiveness of the Council's statutory Social Services complaints procedure between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022. The report contained information on the background of the Social Services statutory complaints procedure, information on lessons learnt from complaints and performance data for Adults & Children's Social Services, together with achievements for 2021/22 and future developments.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care thanked the Director for the comprehensive report, which emphasised the Council's positive attitude in dealing with complaints to maintain and improve its standards. The Cabinet Member spoke of the wide-ranging compliments detailed within the report, which emphasised the commitment of the staff, despite challenging times.

The Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

1. To agree the contents of the Social Services Annual Complaints report; and
2. To note the work undertaken by the Social Services Complaints Team.

57 The Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Rhondda Cynon Taf 2022-2027

The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services sought Cabinet approval of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Rhondda Cynon Taf 2022-2027 and inform Cabinet about the feedback from consultation in relation to the new Strategy.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure took the opportunity to thank the officers for both the report and the Strategy. The Cabinet Member spoke positive of the Strategy and its focus to provide a wide range of activities and ensure that the sporting facilities are maintained to a high standard, in line with the priorities of the Corporate Plan.

The Cabinet Member noted that the previous Strategy focussed on investment over five years and that as a result, over 10,000 Leisure for Life Members were achieved. It was, however, noted that the tough times ahead could create a barrier going forward.

Referring to the consultation, the Cabinet Member advised that, although the 'Let's Talk' website figures were disappointing, she was encouraged to note that 93.5% of residents thought that RCT has a vision of encouraging residents to lead an active lifestyle. The Cabinet Member also recognised the work and comments of the former Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

The Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

1. To approve the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Rhondda Cynon Taf 2022-27.

58 Local Housing Market Assessment 2022-2037

The Service Director of Prosperity and Development provided Cabinet with a summary of the Local Housing Market Assessment 2022 – 2037 and seek approval to utilise the Assessment as part of the evidence base for the Council's Corporate Plan, Local Development Plan and Housing Delivery Plan. This document updated the findings of the last Local Housing Market Assessment completed in 2017/18 and had been produced in accordance with Welsh Government Guidance.

The Cabinet Member for Public Health & Communities thanked the Director for the report and recognised the work to date. The Cabinet Member was pleased to note that the annual targets had already been met.

The Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

1. To approve the Local Housing Market Assessment 2022 – 2037 as a key source of evidence to support the delivery of housing policies in the Council's Corporate Plan, Local Development Plan and Housing Delivery Plan;
2. To approve the Local Housing Market Assessment 2022 – 2037 as a tool to negotiate affordable housing provision on planning applications and to identify how housing need translates to different sizes and types of

- affordable housing (e.g. social rent and low cost home ownership); and
3. To approve the Local Housing Market Assessment 2022 – 2037 for use to inform funding bids (including Social Housing Grant) and to influence residential development in the County Borough.

59 New Empty Homes Strategy for 2022-2025

The Service Director of Prosperity and Development provided Cabinet with an update on the progress made in bringing empty homes back into use in line with the current RCT Empty Homes Strategy (2018 – 2022), and sought approval from Members to agree the Council's new Empty Homes Strategy for the period 2022 -2025.

The Cabinet Member for Public Health & Communities spoke of the success of the scheme to date, which had brought 20% of properties back into use and had been commended by Welsh Government.

The Leader spoke of the work undertaken in respect of the Empty Property Grants and noted that Welsh Government had requested that RCT take the lead in the Valleys Task Force at the time, and now wished for RCT to lead in the further roll-out.

The Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

1. To consider the information contained within this report and the progress made in bringing empty homes back into use in line with the current RCT Empty Homes Strategy (2018 – 2022); and
2. To approve the new Empty Homes Strategy (2022-2025).

60 Council Tax Premiums - Long Term Empty Properties and Second Homes

The Director of Finance and Digital Services provided the Cabinet with information concerning discretionary powers that the Council must charge higher amounts of Council Tax (a premium) on certain properties provided for by the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The Director requested that Cabinet, having regard to these powers, consider a formal period of consultation on a proposal to introduce a premium.

The Director noted that there was a typographical error at paragraph 10 which references '5 years' and that recommendation 2.2 should include reference to 'second homes'; and with Cabinet's agreement the minor amendments would be made to the original report so that there is no confusion through the consultation process.

The Leader was happy to include the above-mentioned amendments and noted that the consultation would be targeted at those directly affected. The Leader added that the report forms part of the Council's drive to reduce the number of long-term empty properties within the County Borough. The Leader stated that a focus should be put on old properties being brought back into use, as well as creating new homes.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Corporate Services hoped that the four week consultation would be diverse and was pleased to note that each empty property owner would receive a written letter from the Local Authority to advise of the consultation.

The Cabinet Member for Public Health & Communities echoed previous comments about bringing the properties back into use and felt that the approach was important in helping the Council meet its wider Housing Strategy needs.

The Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the details of the discretionary powers relating to Council Tax Premiums as outlined in this report;
2. To initiate a consultation exercise on the proposed use of these powers in respect of empty properties and second homes as set out in Section 10; and
3. That a report, including the results of the consultation exercise, be presented to cabinet to consider and determine the proposed way forward which they would recommend to full Council.

61 Public Services Ombudsman for Wales - Annual Report and Letter 2021-2022

The Director of Legal Services advised the Cabinet of the publication of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales' ('PSOW') Annual Report and Annual Letter to this Council for 2021-2022.

The Deputy Leader thanked the Director for the report and commented that RCT was favourable and the third lowest out of the 22 Welsh Local Authorities. The Deputy Leader noted that the suppression of complaints was likely due to the pandemic and as such, there was now an increase.

The Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

1. To consider and note the 2021-2022 Public Services Ombudsman for Wales' Annual Report and Annual Letter to this Council.

62 Highways, Transportation and Strategic Projects Supplementary Capital Programme 2022-2023

The Director of Frontline Services set out the supplementary capital programme for Highways, Transportation and Strategic Projects, further to the approval of additional 2022/23 investment by Council on 28th September 2022.

The Leader noted the £100,000 allocated for drainage within the report and clarified that it was for small scale drainage works and in addition to the £1M for flood risk work identified in the latter part of the report. The Leader advised that this would help build the Local Authority's case for further Welsh Government funding next year.

The Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

1. To note and approve the Supplementary Capital Programme for Highways, Transportation and Strategic Projects as detailed within this report; and
2. To note that the current allocations are part of a 3-year capital programme and delegate authority to the Director of Frontline Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Director of Finance and Digital Services, to extend activity to deliver additional projects during the financial year, where capacity exists for accelerated delivery in accordance with the purpose of the wider programme, or to suspend programmes/projects and reallocate funding to optimise delivery.

63 Change to the order of the agenda

At the request of the Leader, the Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

1. To change the order of the agenda, to consider the 'late' item before the exclusion of press and public from the meeting.

64 All Wales Interim Joint Mileage Protocol

The Director of Human Resources provided the Cabinet with details of an all-Wales Interim Joint Mileage Protocol, recently approved by the WLGA Executive Board and NJC Trades Unions, that has been circulated to all twenty-two authorities in Wales for formal consideration.

The Deputy Leader spoke in support of the recommendations and commented that the approach was in recognition of the volatility of the current market.

The Leader paid tribute to the Trade Unions, which were involved with the WLGA Working Group in respect of the protocol. The Leader added that the UK Government were being lobbied to increase the HRMC mileage from 45p to 50p and explained that as present, the additional 5p is taxable.

The Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

1. To formally consider the adoption of the interim joint protocol, which will result in the Council's mileage rate temporarily increasing by 5p from the current 45p to 50p per mile, effective from 1st November 2022.

65 To consider Passing the Following Resolution:

It was **RESOLVED:** "That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act (as amended) for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of the exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of the Schedule 12A of the Act".

66 Cynon Valley Waste Disposal Company Limited and Amgen Rhondda Limited - Annual General Meeting

Following the consideration of the report of the Director of Legal Services containing exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information) it was **RESOLVED:**

1. That the current intention to continue the operation of Cynon Valley Waste Disposal Company Limited and Amgen Rhondda Limited (the 'Companies') as Local Authority controlled companies into the future is confirmed;
2. That, subject to the Director of Finance and Digital Services being satisfied that there are no irregularities in the accounts of the Companies that the accounts be received on behalf of the Council;
3. That Azets Audit Services are appointed as auditors to the Companies for the year-ending 31st March 2023;
4. That the Directorships of the Director of Frontline Services and Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services for both Companies continue;
5. To note the continuation of the non-executive director position on the

- Board of the Companies through to the 2023 Annual General Meetings;
6. That the Director of Legal Services and/or his nominee be authorised to exercise the Council's vote at the Annual General Meetings of the Companies in accordance with recommendations 2(ii) to 2(iv) above; and
 7. That the Council be represented at the Companies' Annual General Meetings by a Cabinet Member.

This meeting closed at 2pm

**Cllr A Morgan
Chairman.**



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

7TH NOVEMBER 2022

21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME – BASIC NEED ACCOMMODATION ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS AT Y PANT COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES IN
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH
PARTICIPATION AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE, COUNCILLOR RHYS LEWIS.**

**Author(s) Lisa Howell, School Organisation and Business Manager
Andrea Richards, Service Director, 21st Century School and
Transformation**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with an update on the provision of additional teaching accommodation at Y Pant, following the Report presented to Cabinet on 13 December 2021 highlighting the increasing pressures on pupil numbers in the south of the County Borough.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the changes that impact upon school places as detailed within this report.
- 2.2 Approve the changes to the scope of the project.
- 2.3 Approve the increase in the capital investment to build a new two-storey teaching block at Y Pant.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To continue to deliver on the Council's statutory duties and to provide the appropriate number of school places in the right locations. Delivering this statutory duty is becoming increasingly challenging given the rising requests for school admissions in the south of the County Borough.
- 3.2 Since the last report was presented to Cabinet in December 2021, the scope of the scheme has changed which has impacted on both project costs and the delivery programme.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As referenced in the Cabinet Report dated 13 December 2021, school places in the south of the County Borough are being carefully monitored due to the number of housing developments being constructed in the locality, increasing pressure on the capacity of our secondary schools in this area. For example, as at September 2022, 207 new dwellings have been built and are already occupied on the Llanilid housing development site. This site is within Y Pant's catchment area, with planning consent approved to deliver hundreds more over the next few years.
- 4.2 The Education Directorate continues to proactively manage these pressures and invest in our schools, and to seek Cabinet support to increase capacity in schools where an increase in demand is anticipated. In addition to this, the Directorate has a responsibility for implementing changes to catchment areas where necessary to help alleviate pressures on pupil places.
- 4.3 As alluded to in the previous Cabinet Report, capacity pressures are also affecting the Council areas of Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan resulting in changes to the catchment areas in their localities. Consequently, pupils who reside in RCT but attend out of county primary schools, have experienced difficulties in securing a place at their associated secondary school causing additional pressures for Y Pant in particular. The tangible impact of these changes, is that 20 pupils currently attending out of county primary schools, secured a place in Y Pant in September 2022, with RCT already receiving a further 32 applications for September 2023. To confirm, despite the primary school attended, these pupils live within RCT and within the catchment area of Y Pant.
- 4.4 Current data shows that of the 1420 pupils on roll at Y Pant, 92% reside within the catchment area, suggesting the pressure on the school is predominantly from in-catchment pupils. The Council has already received 268 applications for Year 7 pupils to access the school in September 2023 against a school admission number of 233. Table 1 outlines the impact of the housing developments in the South of the County Borough area on pupil numbers in Y Pant and neighbouring secondary schools in the area.

Table 1: Number of Pupils on Roll and School Capacity

SCHOOL	NOR	CAPACITY
Y Pant	1420	1402
Bryncelynnog	1362	1442
Tonyrefail (Secondary age pupils)	1330	1387

- 4.5 The risk of not having enough school places in Y Pant is that pupils will not be able to attend their in-catchment school which means that the Council will have to transport and fund children to attend their second choice, or nearest suitable school, which would be Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School. This clearly is a concern as Table 1 highlights the capacity pressures faced by the three neighbouring schools in this area. Furthermore, the costs of transporting children to their out of catchment school would be estimated to be circa 60k a year, which would add to our escalating costs for school transport and negatively impact upon our carbon emissions and our ambition to be a carbon neutral Council by 2030.
- 4.6 The Council's Admissions Team has been working proactively with the schools in the south of the County Borough to ensure that out-of-catchment pupils attend their home school. If an application for a school place is unsuccessful, parents/carers have the right to appeal that decision. Table 2 shows, despite the best efforts of the Admissions Team, the Independent Appeals Panel uphold a significant number of appeals. In these circumstances, learners may well have exceptional and compelling social, emotional, medical or family reasons why a placement at Y Pant is essential and should be agreed.

Table 2: Number of Admissions Appeals at Y Pant

Year	Appeals held	Successful	Unsuccessful	Withdrawn
21/22	3	2	1	0
20/21	16	5	10	1
19/20	27	10	17	0
18/19	0	0	0	0
17/18	29	5	21	3
16/17	14	5	9	0
15/16	19	15	2	2
Total	108	42	60	6

- 4.7 As Cabinet will be aware, at the meeting of 13 December 2021 the Council approved the increase in capacity of Y Pant by delivering a two-phase construction programme. It was agreed that initially 4 classrooms would be constructed, and a further 4 classrooms added at a later date, ensuring the school capacity is future proofed in the medium to long-term. At the time of the report, construction costs to construct a single storey building were estimated to be £900k with the additional costs for design/ build, prelims and project management fees to be met from within existing resources.
- 4.8 Following lengthy discussions with the Corporate Design Team, and in an attempt to secure best value for money to deliver both phases for the Council,

the recommended delivery approach has changed. The preferred option is to now construct a two-storey building at the outset, and fit-out four classrooms only at this stage. The ground floor will remain an open space where additional classrooms can be created at a later stage with relative ease and minimum disruption, the costs of which will be met from within the existing education capital programme.

4.9 The financial and logistical benefits of phasing the construction programme in this way is as follows:

- This phasing option would not incur abortive costs as no temporary works would be required. For example, a temporary roof would not be required as the fabric of the building in its entirety would be complete in phase 1;
- There would be no future warranty issues as there would be no requirement to use another contractor to construct a second floor on top of the existing structure. To note, additional work could also invalidate the warranties on the existing building;
- No temporary accommodation would be required to deliver the additional classrooms as providing accommodation on the first floor allows works to the ground floor to be undertaken whilst the school is operational. If we were to build the ground floor then add a second floor, the school would not be able to utilise this building for the duration of the build, leading to additional temporary accommodation costs and logistical issues estimated to be in region of circa £600k;
- This phasing option significantly reduces the timescales of delivering phase 2 as the works required to fit out the ground floor would be relatively simple and could be carried out over a summer holiday period. Building a second storey would take considerably longer, causing further disruption for the school at considerable cost.
- Our preferred option provides best value for money and is estimated to be significantly less expensive over both phases.

4.10 Unfortunately, given the volatility in the construction industry, costs for this project, along with many other construction projects across the Council, have escalated significantly. The cost of construction materials nationally continues to escalate, reaching a 40 year high based on the annual growth of the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS) Materials Cost Index. Increased global demand in the construction sector, combined with the multiple and complex impacts of the COVID pandemic and logistics issues have caused unprecedented shortages, delays and ultimately increased prices in materials and labour across the sector. Because of this, demand has outstripped supply, giving rise to longer lead times and inevitably price increases, as contractors are now more risk averse when pricing packages of work.

- 4.11 Nationally, complications resulting from Brexit have exacerbated this situation affecting all aspects of trade and labour availability, the repercussions of which are acutely impacting the construction sector. In addition, the recent invasion of Ukraine has placed further pressure on supply chains that were already under strain. Building material costs continue to rise, with +20% additional cost increases expected on materials that use more energy in their manufacturing processes such as steel, cement etc, as energy prices continue to rise across Europe. All in all, this perfect storm has created an increasingly volatile market within the construction industry.
- 4.12 As a result of the increase in costs being felt across the construction industry, as well as the major changes to the scope and delivery programme of the project which essentially now delivers a two-storey building rather than a single-storey, the total project costs to deliver this option is an estimated £3.466M (including professional and project management fees, and a risk allocation). This equates an increase from £900k to £1.9M for the construction element. An education budget of circa £1.7M has already been earmarked for delivery in the current capital programme, and the £1.7m shortfall can be met from Education Revenue Maintenance Grant.
- 4.13 To confirm alternative options to increase the accommodation at Y Pant have been explored, including building another storey on the existing school building as well as investigating the use of mobile classrooms. The challenging logistics of building on the existing school whilst the school is in session has ruled out this option, and the costs for the use of mobile classrooms do not provide the savings we had hoped. For context, high level costs for a number of mobile accommodation options have been sought:
- re-locating a used two-classroom mobile from a neighbouring RCT school would cost in the region of £1M;
 - the costs to purchase and site a four-classroom refurbished mobile unit have been estimated at £1.3M; and,
 - to purchase a brand new four-classroom mobile unit would cost in the region of circa £2.1M.
- 4.14 Whilst these solutions appear to be less expensive than the preferred option, none of these solutions provide the future proofing required for the delivery of the 8 classrooms we will require within the next 4-6 years due to the considerable housing developments in this area.
- 4.15 We have also considered utilising temporary accommodation in the interim and constructing the permanent solution in two years' time when budgets may be under less pressure. However, using the BCIS as an indication of where construction costs will be, it seems that we would be looking at an uplift of circa 13% on the current construction costs which would be required in addition to the costs estimated above for the use of temporary accommodation in the interim.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS/SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 5.1 The Council has to satisfy its public sector duties under the Equality Act (2010), including specific Welsh public sector duties. Pursuant to these legal duties Councils must in making decisions, have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics.
- 5.2 All works carried out will be fully compliant with the Equality Act (2010) which will ensure that the new facilities are fully accessible.

6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A Welsh Impact Assessment is not required at this juncture. However, if further works are required which triggers a statutory school consultation, then an assessment will be required in accordance with the School Organisation Code (2018) as stated in paragraph 7.1 below.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 There are no formal consultation requirements arising from these proposals as the increase in pupil numbers is below the threshold required to trigger a statutory school organisation consultation. However, if Cabinet decide to proceed with any future options brought before them to build new schools, or significantly increase the capacity of schools, the Council will have to meet the requirements of the School Organisation Code and undertake the necessary statutory consultations.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 As referenced in Section 4, the costs associated with this proposal are estimated at £3.466M including a risk allowance. Please see section 4:12 for further information.
- 8.2 The increase in costs can be funded from resources already set aside in the existing capital programme and the repairs and maintenance revenue grant funding for school modernisation, earmarked to support the ongoing Band B Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 Part 1 of the Education Act 1996 (“the 1996 Act”) imposes a number of general duties on all local authorities in Wales. The general duty in section 13 of the 1996 Act is to contribute (so far as the Council’s powers enable them to do so)

towards the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community by securing that efficient primary education and secondary education are available to meet the needs of the population of their area.

- 9.2 Section 13A(3) of the 1996 Act states that a local authority in Wales must ensure that their relevant education functions and their relevant training functions are exercised by the authority with a view to promoting high standards and promoting the fulfilment of learning potential by every person to whom the subsection applies, including those who are of compulsory school age or are below school age and are registered as pupils at schools maintained by the authority.
- 9.3 Section 14 of the 1996 Act then requires the Council to secure sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education in the Council's area. Schools available for an area shall not be regarded as sufficient unless they are sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity for appropriate education.
- 9.4 Appropriate education means education which offers such variety of instruction and training as may be desirable in view of (a) the pupils' different ages, abilities and aptitudes; and (b) the different periods for which they may be expected to remain at school, including practical instruction and training appropriate to their different needs.
- 9.5 Powers for Councils to develop school organisation proposals are governed by the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the Code. Local authorities must, when exercising functions under Part 3 of the 2013 Act, act in accordance with any relevant requirements contained in the Code and must have regard to any relevant guidelines contained in it. A copy of the Code is found here:
<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/schoolorganisation-code-second-edition.pdf>

10. LINKS OF THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN/OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND THE WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 10.1 The Council's Corporate Plan commits to "Continue to invest in improving school buildings, to ensure the County Borough's pupils have the learning environment fit for the 21st Century".
- 10.2 The proposals considered in the report contribute to all 7 wellbeing goals with the Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 and due regard has been made to the Five Ways of Working, as contained within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

11. STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS

11.1 This proposal is relevant and will benefit the wards within the Y Pant catchment area.

12. CONCLUSION

12.1 Cabinet will be aware that school places in the south of the County Borough are extremely constrained and that the additional teaching accommodation at Y Pant will alleviate the immediate pressures currently being faced at this time.

12.2 It is recommended therefore that consideration be given to agree to the construction of the two-storey teaching block at Y Pant with the phased programme to fit out the first floor initially and subsequently the ground floor when the capacity demands at the school dictate. This will allow the Council to continue to deliver on its statutory duty to provide the appropriate number of school places in the right locations.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
AS AMENDED BY
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

7th November 2022

**21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME – BASIC NEED ACCOMODATION
ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS AT
Y PANT COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES IN
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH
PARTICIPATION AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE, COUNCILLOR RHYS LEWIS**

Background Papers

Link to Cabinet Report of 13 December 2021:

[Planning of School Places South of the Borough.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Officer to contact: Andrea Richards, Service Director of 21st Century Schools and Transformation
Lisa Howell, School Organisation and Business Manager

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

7th NOVEMBER 2022

COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2023/24

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & DIGITAL SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH COUNCILLOR C LEYSHON

Author: Mr. Matthew Phillips (Head of Service – Revenues & Benefits)
Tel: 01443 680509

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report formally sets the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2023/24.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet agree:

- 2.1 That in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995 as amended, the amount calculated by the Council as its net tax base for the financial year 2023/24, shall be **£77,977.84**.
- 2.2 That for each defined community area of the County Borough, the 2023/24 tax base for Council Tax setting purposes, shall be as set out at Appendix 1.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is a statutory requirement to agree and set the Council Tax Base for the forthcoming financial year prior to 31st December each year.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Functions and Responsibilities) (Wales) Regulations 2007, as amended, the “calculation and determination of the council tax base” are specified as functions that may be the responsibility of the Executive. Council, on the 7th December 2005, determined that the responsibility for setting the tax base be discharged by the Cabinet.
- 4.2 Under the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995, as amended, the Council is required to determine its Council Tax Base for the following financial year, prior to 31st December each year.

- 4.3 The Council Tax Base is the measure of the relative taxable capacity of different areas within the County Borough and is calculated in accordance with prescribed rules. The Tax Base represents the number of chargeable dwellings in the area expressed as Band D equivalents, taking into account the total number of exemptions, disablement reductions and discounts, with the net Tax Base calculated by taking account of the Council's estimated collection rate.
- 4.4 The gross Council Tax Base calculated for 2023/24 is **£80,182.87**. It is proposed that the collection rate is estimated to be 97.25%. This produces a net Council Tax Base of **£77,977.84**. This means that for every £1 levied in Council Tax next year, a sum of £77,978 will be generated to meet the budget requirement of the Council.
- 4.5 The Council Tax Base is reported to Welsh Government and is used as part of the distribution of the Revenue Support Grant in the Local Government Revenue Settlement. It is also used by the Council when it sets its annual budget i.e. the net annual budget requirement to be funded by taxpayers is divided by the Council Tax Base to produce the amount of Council Tax due for a dwelling in Band D. A set formula is then used to determine the liability for the remaining eight Council Tax Bands (A to C and E to I).
- 4.6 The Council is required to calculate the Tax Base for the County Borough as a whole, in addition to making separate calculations for defined community areas that may have their own Community Council. The Council Tax Base for all parts of the County Borough is set out at Appendix 1.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 5.1 There are no equality and diversity or socio-economic duty implications to report.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 There are no consultation requirements emanating from the recommendations set out in the report. The Council's Revenue Budget (including Council Tax levels) is subject to a separate consultation process.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 The contents of this report are determined by a statutory and regulatory framework. The gross tax base is used as part of the distribution of the Revenue Support Grant within the Local Government Revenue Settlement and the net tax base determines the level and quantum of Council Tax levied and therefore the resources available to the Council. This will be dealt with as part of the Tax Setting and Budget Requirement reports that will be considered by Council in March 2023.
- 7.2 The tax base incorporates the Council's policy with regard to the level of discount for prescribed classes of dwellings, as reviewed and determined by Council on 19th October 2022.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 To fulfil the Council's statutory duty to set the revenue budget and Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year and in line with :-

- The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Functions and Responsibilities) (Wales) Regulations 2007, as amended;
- Local Government Finance Act 1992, Section 33;
- Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995, as amended; and
- Council Tax (Prescribed Class of Dwelling) (Wales) Regulations 1998, as amended.

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

9.1 The proposals link to the Council's Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 "Making a Difference" and the cross-cutting priority of 'Living Within Our Means'.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 The Council is required to set its Tax Base annually in accordance with regulations as set out in the report.

2023/24 Tax Base Analysis			
Area		Gross Band D Equivalents (£)	Adjusted Tax Base (assumed collection rate of 97.25%) (£)
Non Precepting Communities			
Rhondda Community Areas	Treherbert	1,669.14	1,623.24
	Treorchy	2,421.31	2,354.72
	Pentre	1,602.50	1,558.43
	Ystrad	1,713.97	1,666.84
	Llwynypia	637.97	620.43
	Cwm Clydach	813.97	791.59
	Tonypandy	1,144.30	1,112.83
	Trealaw	1,201.78	1,168.73
	Penygraig	1,674.17	1,628.13
	Cymmer	1,754.83	1,706.57
	Porth	1,842.08	1,791.43
	Ynyshir	970.61	943.92
	Tylorstown	1,343.78	1,306.82
	Ferndale	1,242.81	1,208.63
	Maerdy	880.22	856.02
	Cynon Valley Community Areas	Penywaun	794.61
Llwydcoed		688.80	669.85
Aberdare		5,122.53	4,981.66
Cwmbach		1,809.42	1,759.66
Aberaman		3,099.47	3,014.24
Abercynon		1,947.31	1,893.76
Mountain Ash		2,374.97	2,309.66
Penrhiwceiber		1,641.89	1,596.74
Precepting Communities			
Cynon Valley Community Areas	Ynysybwl & Coed y Cwm	1,455.86	1,415.82
	Rhigos	286.80	278.91
	Hirwaun	1,689.89	1,643.42
Taff Ely Community Areas	Pontypridd	10,743.03	10,447.59
	Llantwit Fardre	6,752.47	6,566.78
	Taffs Well	1,445.36	1,405.61
	Pontyclun	3,575.11	3,476.79
	Llantrisant	5,521.22	5,369.38
	Tonyrefail	4,218.64	4,102.63
	Gilfach Goch	1,046.61	1,017.83
	Llanharan	3,401.61	3,308.07
	Llanharry	1,653.83	1,608.35
Grand Total		80,182.87	77,977.84



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

7th NOVEMBER 2022

COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2023/24

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

Item:

Background Papers

Officer to contact: Matthew Phillips

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