



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
2 Llys Cadwyn
Taff Street
Pontypridd
CF37 4TH

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, 24TH APRIL, 2024** at **3.30 PM**.

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

AGENDA

**Page
No's**

TIME	ITEM	PAGE(S)
5 Minutes	ITEM 1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive disclosures of personal interests from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest; and2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of prejudicial interest they must notify the Chairman when they leave.	
	ITEM 2. CWM TAF MORGANNWG UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD To receive representatives from Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, providing Members with opportunity for discussion and updates in respect of strategic issues such as workforce planning and winter pressures.	
5 Minutes	ITEM 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS	

5 Minutes	ITEM 4. MINUTES To approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the hybrid Council Meeting held on 6 th March 2024.	5 - 20
OPEN GOVERNMENT:		
5 Minutes	ITEM 5. STATEMENTS In accordance with Open Government Council Meeting Procedure Rule 2, to receive any statements from the Leader of the Council and/or statements from Cabinet Portfolio Holders:	
20 Minutes	ITEM 6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS To receive Members questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.2. (N.B a maximum of 20 minutes shall be allowed for questions on notice.)	21 - 30
COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME - FOR MEMBERS INFORMATION Council Work Programme 2023/2024		
40 Minutes	ITEM 7. STATE OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH DEBATE In accordance with Rule 13 of the Council's Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Council's Constitution) to engage in the Leader's debate.	
OFFICERS' REPORTS		
10 Minutes	ITEM 8. THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2024-2030 To receive the report of the Chief Executive.	31 - 74
10 Minutes	ITEM 9. POLITICAL BALANCE To consider the joint report of the Director of Legal & Democratic Services and Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication.	75 - 82
10 Minutes	ITEM 10. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF To receive the report of the Director of Legal & Democratic Services.	83 - 140
10 Minutes	ITEM 11. RE-APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE To receive the report of the Director of Legal & Democratic Services.	141 - 144

30 Minutes	<p>ITEM 12. NOTICE OF MOTION</p> <p>To consider the Notices of Motion which have been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.1 of the Constitution.</p>	145 - 150
	<p>ITEM 13. URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>To consider any items which the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.</p>	

Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

To: All Members of the Council

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 6 March 2024 at 5.00 pm

This meeting was live streamed, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

County Borough Councillors – The following Councillors were present in the Council Chamber:-

Councillor G Hughes (Chair)

Councillor S Evans	Councillor B Stephens
Councillor L Addiscott	Councillor M Ashford
Councillor J Barton	Councillor S Bradwick
Councillor J Bonetto	Councillor G Caple
Councillor A Crimmings	Councillor J Cook
Councillor A Dennis	Councillor R Davis
Councillor E L Dunning	Councillor J Elliott
Councillor L Ellis	Councillor S Emanuel
Councillor D Evans	Councillor B Harris
Councillor A S Fox	Councillor G Holmes
Councillor S Hickman	Councillor W Hughes
Councillor K Johnson	Councillor G Jones
Councillor G O Jones	Councillor N H Morgan
Councillor W Jones	Councillor R Lewis
Councillor W Lewis	Councillor C Lises
Councillor C Leyshon	Councillor M Maohoub
Councillor S Morgans	Councillor A Morgan
Councillor M Norris	Councillor W Owen
Councillor D Owen-Jones	Councillor S Rees
Councillor C Preedy	Councillor G Stacey
Councillor J Smith	Councillor S Trask
Councillor L Tomkinson	Councillor G L Warren
Councillor W Treeby	Councillor R Williams
Councillor M Webber	Councillor D Wood
Councillor T Williams	Councillor R Yeo

The following Councillors were present online:-

Councillor R Bevan	Councillor V Dunn
Councillor S Evans	Councillor R Evans
Councillor D Grehan	Councillor P Evans
Councillor G Hopkins	Councillor H Gronow
Councillor D Parkin	Councillor C Middle
Councillor A O Rogers	Councillor A Roberts
Councillor J Turner	Councillor K Webb
Councillor D Williams	Councillor G Williams

Officers in attendance

Mr P Mee, Chief Executive
Mr B Davies, Deputy Chief Executive and Group Director of Finance, Digital and Frontline Services
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services and Democratic Services

Apologies for absence

Councillor P Binning	Councillor J Brencher
Councillor S J Davies	Councillor J Edwards
Councillor A J Ellis	Councillor K Morgan
Councillor S Powderhill	Councillor M Powell

99 Welcome

The Presiding Member welcomed Members to the first hybrid Council meeting to be held in Llys Cadwyn, Pontypridd.

100 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct the following declarations were made pertaining to the agenda:

Agenda Item 5 – Members' Questions

Councillor K Johnson – Personal – “I am an employee for Transport for Wales”

Agenda item 6 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2024/2025

Councillor Sera Evans – Personal- “My son's school is mentioned in the report”

(Declared later in the meeting Minute No.105 refers) Councillor R Lewis – Personal- “I am Vice Chair of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee”

Agenda item 7 – Council Tax Resolution 2024/2025

Councillor C Lises – Personal- “I am a Town Councillor for Pontypridd Town Council”

Councillor J Bonetto – Personal – “ I am a Community Councillor for Taffs Well & Nantgarw Community Council”

Councillor A Rogers – Personal- “I am a member of the Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council”

The Director of Legal & Democratic Services explained that a blanket personal declaration for those who are members of a Town or Community Council would be declared in respect of Agenda Item 7 which references the Community /

Town Council Precepts.

Councillor B Harris – Personal- “I am a member of the South Wales Police & Crime Panel”

Councillor L Addiscott – Personal-“I am a member of the South Wales Police & Crime Panel”

Agenda item 8 - Capital Programme 2024-2025-2026-27

Councillor W. Owen – Personal – “I sit on the Board of Governors for Ponty clun Primary School”

Councillor G Holmes – Personal- “I am a Governor for Penygawsi Primary School”

Councillor S Morgans – Personal- “I am a Governor for Llyn Y Forwyn School”

Councillor J Smith – Personal – “I am a Governor for Llyn Y Forwyn School”

Councillor M Webber – Personal- “I sit on the interim Governing Body for the new Ysgol Awel Taf”

Councillor L Tomkinson – Personal-“I am a interim Governor for Ysgol Afon Taf”

Councillor S Trask – Personal-“ My daughter attends Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School”

Councillor C Lises – Personal- “I am a Chair of Governors for Hawthorn Primary School”

Councillor C Lises – Personal- “I am a member of the Governing Body for Hawthorn High School which will form Ysgol Afon Wen”

Councillor C Preedy -Personal-“I have a family member who is a teacher at Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School”

Councillor A Roberts – Personal- “I am a Governor for Hawthorn High School”

Councillor J Bonetto – Personal- “I am a Governor at Hawthorn High School”

Councillor J Bonetto – Personal-“I sit on the interim Governing Body for the new Ysgol Afon Wen”

Agenda item 11 – The Council’s Pay Policy Statement 2024/2025

The Director of Legal & Democratic Services wished to make a declaration on behalf of all Council Officers present in relation to Agenda Item 11:

“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”.

101 Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the virtual Council meeting held on the 7th February 2024 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

102 Announcements

The following announcements were made:

- Councillor Sera Evans wished to extend her sympathy to the Plaid Cymru Group Leader, Councillor Karen Morgan and her family following the sad passing of her husband, Gareth, to severe and prolonged illness. Councillor Evans wished to extend her deepest condolences to Councillor Morgan, her family and children at this very sad and difficult time.
- Councillor Sheryl Evans paid tribute to the late and former Councillor Linda De Vet who sadly passed away on the 7th February 2024. Former Cllr De Vet represented the then ward of Aberaman North and was elected as Mayoress for the Municipal Year 2019-2020 . She stood down as Councillor in the 2022 Elections but Councillor Evans spoke fondly of her friendship with her friend Linda De Vet.
- Councillor A Morgan OBE also wished to pay tribute to former Councillor Simon Lloyd who had recently passed away. He was elected to represent the ward of Mountain Ash West in a bi election in 2005 and stood again in both the 2008 and 2012 Local Elections but stood down in 2017. He served as Mayor for RCTCBC in 2010/2011, a position he thoroughly enjoyed and he was also a former member of Mid Glamorgan County Council. The Leader extended his condolences to Simon’s family at this sad time.

The Presiding Member led the Council in a Minute’s silence in memory of the three aforementioned residents.

103 Members' Questions

1) Question from County Borough Councillor R. Evans to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

“Will the Cabinet Member provide an update on the scheme to upgrade the culvert on the industrial estate in Porth?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

The Leader advised that the works have now been completed to the culvert at Llwyncelyn Industrial Estate, Porth which was funded through the Welsh Government’s Resilient Roads Fund. He added that the work has involved a complete upgrade to the culvert inlet, with overflow devices built in and with 24/7 CCTV monitoring already in place at the site which is linked to the Council’s emergency control room. Any future storms of yellow or amber magnitude will

mean that the control room will be staffed and monitored.

The Leader commented on the investment which has totalled £150K and how the responses from local businesses to the investment and work have already been positive.

There was no supplementary question

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

“Can the Leader provide an update on the preparations underway in advance of RCT welcoming the Eisteddfod in the summer?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

The Leader commented that work on finalising the Spatial Plan has progressed at pace and proposed locations for park and ride facilities, a caravan park and other camping facilities is being considered by the Council's Eisteddfod Committee next week. The Leader added that an announcement would be made in the coming days with further positive news relating to the Eisteddfod.

The Leader advised that there had been a recent positive meeting with all local Members in the vicinity of Pontypridd which heralded the start of ongoing, proactive engagement and liaison with Members on the Eisteddfod infrastructure arrangements. He added that there is an expectation that in excess of 160,000 visitors will come to the town over the eight day period. The Leader commented that there will be no reason to drive through Pontypridd during the Eisteddfod as Officers continue to work closely with the Eisteddfod Committee and Transport for Wales to develop a Traffic Management plan with enhanced train provision and fleets of buses transporting people and residents as part of the park and ride arrangements.

The Leader explained that there has been significant fundraising so far with continued support for local appeal committees to raise money for the National Eisteddfod. The Leader was keen to stress that the Eisteddfod is open to all residents, and engagement with all young people across the county borough is crucial.

The Leader commented that the benefits of the Eisteddfod will be felt right across the county borough and not just in Pontypridd town and therefore the Town Centre team continue to work with, not only Pontypridd but also Aberdare and Treorchy BIDs to promote the Eisteddfod far and wide amongst visitors and residents.

There was no supplementary question

3) Question from County Borough Councillor R. Davis to the Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care, County Borough Councillor G. Caple:

“Can the Cabinet Member please outline the next steps for the Extra Care scheme in Porth following the news that a new contractor has been appointed?”

Response from County Borough Councillor G. Caple:

Councillor Caple took the opportunity to advise of the Council's £60M investment to modernise the Council's residential care homes to ensure dignity and respect in old age with state of the art extra care homes including provision for more complex needs including Dementia. These facilities will enhance the independence for older people and provide real choice for those most vulnerable in our society against a background of budget cuts and the financial cost of living crisis.

Councillor Caple advised that this specific development has taken longer than initially expected due to both the impact of the pandemic and the selected contractors entering into administration. Despite these difficult challenges Councillor Caple was pleased to say that with a contractor in place, work has recommenced on the site. He added that the Extra Care development will consist of 54x1 bed apartments & 6x2 bed apartments alongside a dining area, hair salon, activity room and day care centre.

Councillor Caple concluded that this investment will be central in supporting individuals with assessed day centre needs to ensure that isolation and loneliness are mitigated and promote people's independence and wellbeing with bariatric and hoist infrastructure across the scheme.

There was no supplementary question

Question 4 was not put to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Corporate Services and therefore fell.

5) Question from County Borough Councillor D. Owen-Jones to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

“What impact will the announcement from TATA Steel that it plans to progress with the proposals to cut 2,800 jobs have on our communities?”

Response of Councillor A Morgan OBE

Councillor Morgan explained that although the concern is of the 2,800 job losses, he reminded Members that there are also three supply chain jobs linked to every steelworker and therefore there could be significant more job losses and more than originally predicted.

The Leader confirmed he had attended a rally in Port Talbot a few weeks ago where it was clear to see the sense of anxiety, uncertainty and anger amongst the workers and their families. He advised that it was also an opportunity to speak with other Council Leaders, community representatives, Unions and Welsh Government.

The Leader explained that key is accessing funding referenced by the UK Government although the details as to how the £100M package is going to be

administered remains unclear at this stage. He added that he was keen to have discussions with Welsh Government following the significant engagement that took place between the DWP and the staff of UK Windows and Doors, when the company went into administration. He added that the Council will seek to provide similar support as it has previously, working with partners to ensure that support and advice is available for those impacted.

The Leader advised that the Trade Unions are very much at the forefront of the fight, supported by local Labour politicians, steelworkers, and the local communities. He added that Labour have committed to a £3bn clean steel fund, and he was hopeful that TATA delay implementing their plans long enough to await the outcome of the next General Election.

The Leader stressed the need to keep the conversations open and he explained that it is imperative that a new Labour Government will re-negotiate a better package of investment that protects jobs and ensures a just transition to greener methods of production. The Leader advised that the situation with TATA Steel is likely to be as impactful as the mine closures were in the 1980s.

There was no supplementary question

6) Question from County Borough Councillor L. Ellis to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

“Can the Leader provide an update on the programme of coal tip management across RCT?”

Response of Councillor A Morgan OBE

Councillor Morgan reassured Members that coal tip safety is the Council's priority since Storm Dennis and the landslip in Tylorstown. He added that the Council has a team of inspectors in place who carry out regular maintenance and tip inspections. He provided an update on progress relating to the tip in Tylorstown where the former coal tip has been moved and more drainage work has been undertaken with long term monitoring in place. The Leader commented that the work to the Tylorstown tip will be completed this summer, as intended, with further work to the value of £2M.

The Leader advised that there are other tips across the county borough that either require monitoring, maintenance or in some cases, intervention will be required. He explained that the defects are categorized using a BRAG system, Black means that emergency action is required with immediate notification, Red requires short term maintenance where remediation required and should be actioned as soon as reasonably practicable, Amber requires medium term maintenance or remediation is required but with risk mitigation such as site visits, monitoring etc and finally Green requires long term maintenance or remediation required and is currently low risk.

The Leader also explained the category definitions and inspection intervals which as follows: D1 is monthly inspection, D3 is a 3 monthly inspection, C is a 6 monthly inspection, B requires an annual inspection, A2 is a 2 yearly inspection and finally A4 is a 4 yearly inspection (the last two are tips that have been reclaimed or removed yet still require monitoring).

The Leader advised that Council Officers are carrying out work on emergency plans in conjunction with the Emergency Services in the event that any concerns

regarding the category C and D tips are raised. This together with regular planned inspections as well as ad-hoc severe weather inspections, the Council is well placed to keep its tips safe for its residents.

There was no supplementary question

7) Question from County Borough Councillor S. Trask to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

“Can the Leader make a statement on the public consultations that have taken place during the past three months?”

The Leader advised that the Council has undertaken six large public consultations over the last three months, and he set out the details of all six within the three month period:

Budget Consultation Phase 1, 6th November – 15th December 2023 with 653 responses, Breakfast Club, 27th November – 8th January with 1351 responses Home to School Transport, 27th November – 8th January (extended 18th January – 8th February), 2858 responses, Budget Consultation Phase 2, 4th January – 8th February 2024, 530 responses, the Strategic Equality Plan Engagement, 12th December 2023 – 9th February 2024, 96 responses and the Corporate Plan Engagement, 8th December 2023 – 29th January 2024 with 469 responses.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor S Trask:

“I am concerned with the weight attached to the public responses, for example for the consultation for the proposed closure of Rhigos Primary School where over 90% of respondents were against was passed and the upcoming RLDP consultation contains complicated forms to suggest new sites but my request to simplify these forms was turned down. How much weight is put on public responses?”

Response of Councillor A Morgan OBE

The Leader responded that public responses are important and play a key part in the consultations to ensure that where Members are making decisions; they have all the relevant information possible to hand. He added that the public responses also ensure that the Council takes on board any comments raised by them so where possible, any relevant adjustments can be made and where necessary, officers are asked to provide further information or there may be a need to go back out to consultation with other options. The Leader stressed that consultations are not public referendums.

There were no further questions due to the lapse of the allotted time.

104 Council Work Programme 2023/2024

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communication presented the

Council Work Programme for the 2023/24 Municipal Year and as previously advised, the Cwm Taf University Health Board will attend the next Council meeting and also the Leader's Annual Debate, which was originally scheduled for the Council meeting in February, would now also form part of April's Council meeting which will be the last regular meeting of this municipal year.

The Service Director also stated that in addition, at the next meeting, Members would receive the Council's Corporate Plan, the Review of the Community Boundaries and a report on the Political Balance of the Council. In conclusion, the Service Director added that, through the Group Leaders, an update would be provided regarding the demands of council business between now and the Annual General Meeting (AGM) before the updated work programme is published.

105 Revenue Budget Strategy 2024/25

The Group Director of Finance, Digital and Frontline Services presented the Cabinet's proposed Revenue Budget Strategy for the next financial year 2024/25 which is now being recommended to Full Council.

The Group Director explained that the initial draft strategy was agreed by Cabinet on the 24th January and has been subject to a second phase of consultation which was held between the 24th January and the 9th February. All feedback from the second phase of consultation has been considered by Cabinet and is attached to the report. The Group Director added that the feedback included the consultation report, the minutes of the meetings of the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee, the School Budget Forum and the Joint Consultative Committee. The Group Director advised that the strategy, which was subsequently agreed by Cabinet on the 21st February, is set out in the report.

The Group Director advised that the Council's initial budget gap, as set out in the last Medium Term Financial Plan, was forecast at £36M for next year. Against this position, a number of early budget reduction measures, which have previously been reported and determined have been offset, leaving a remaining gap of £25.9M and it is this position against which the budget strategy has been formulated. He added that the Council has now received the final local government settlement which is also reflected. He added that the final settlement confirmed an increase in funding at an all Wales level of 3.3% and 3% for this Council. The settlement levels across Wales range from 2.3% to 5% with a funding floor in place at the lower level of settlement. He added that there were three transfers into the revenue support grant at final settlement, however, these do not have a net impact on the budget position.

The Group Director advised of the key components of the budget strategy which are set out from section 7 of the report, which deal with the remaining £25.9M budget gap:

- The proposed council tax increase for next year is 4.99% which will provide an additional income of £1.122M over and above the 3.9% which was originally modelled. This equates to an increase of £1.03p per week for a Band A property or £1.55p for a Band D property. An element of the council tax increase has been set aside to support public transport provision across the county borough;

- The Council's schools have been protected for many years with their budgets increasing by 34% over the last ten years, during which other council services have seen increases of only half of that level. School reserves amounted to £15M at the end of the last financial year, which is at a historically high level, compared to the 31st March 2020 when school reserves amounted to £2.4M. It is proposed that the council fully funds schools for all pay pressures next year plus provide them with a further £1M of recurring funding plus a further £0.5M of one off funding. This will see the Schools budget increase by £12.4M or 6.6% for next year taking the overall school's budget to £198.5M. This level of increase is over twice the uplift as compared to the councils overall funding increase. The Council awaits confirmation from Central Government regarding funding for increased costs associated with teachers' pension costs from April next year which the Council has been advised is a timing issue.
- Additional efficiencies of £5.2M have been identified by the Senior Leadership Team as measures which can be delivered operationally and without a significant detrimental impact on the council's frontline services. This £5.2M is over and above the £8.2M of early budget reduction measures previously identified and reported in November 2023 and will bring the total of efficiencies measures, which are now built into next year's budget, to over £13M.
- There are also a series of measures, set out in section 10 of the report which are around energy efficiency and base budget adjustments, the impact of the decision to charge for the childcare element of breakfast clubs, the money from which has been recycled back into the Schools budgets, capitalisation and proposals regarding the level of fees and charges for next year.
- The final settlement also confirmed the early notification the council received from Welsh Government on the level of additional resources which the council will now receive as a consequence of the UK Government's announcement in January with an additional £600M of funding for local government in England. This resulted in an extra £25M for Wales and an extra £1.951M for Rhondda Cynon Taf. This additional funding is provided through a combination of additional revenue support grant and the reinstatement of the social care workforce grant to £45M at an all Wales level.
- The aggregate value of the strategy components amounts to £16.457M which with the extra resources at the final settlement leaves a remaining budget gap of £7.502M and this is set out at table 2 (paragraph 10.4). It is proposed that the remaining budget gap is balanced with an allocation from the transition funding reserve which have been set up for this purpose and replenished as the year has progressed.

The Group Director advised that the Council's transition funding and reserves are used sensibly as part of the Council's annual budget setting processes recognising that the use of reserves alone is not a sustainable strategy and he added that he is satisfied that the council has arrangements in place to continue to deliver savings early which serves to replenish this reserve and deliver the needed base budget recurring savings going forward.

The Group Director concluded that in overall terms, this will result in a council net budget for next year of £631.795M. He commented that this year has been a challenging year and financial environment within which the budget options and now Cabinet's recommended budget has been constructed. He stressed that there may be a need to be prepared for further and significant financial constraints but he assured Members that senior officers will continue to do all they can to maximise efficiency and protect the Council's frontline services.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Group Director for his report and acknowledged the diligence of senior officers in managing the budget despite the difficulties faced this year with the high rates of inflation, pay growth and the ever increasing demands on council services. With regards to the proposed level of council tax, the Leader commented on the council tax levels set by other Welsh local authorities, with RCT Council being the second lowest level.

The Leader reminded Members that the Council is doing its utmost to protect and fund schools with this council fully funding the schools teaching and non-teaching pay award with Cabinet recommending an additional one off payment of half a million pounds for schools (as set out in the report). He commented on the importance of producing a balanced budget that is credible and sustainable for the residents of RCT.

Other Group/Deputy Group Leaders took the opportunity to discuss the report in detail whereby the Group Director responded to a number of queries in relation to the Revenue Budget Strategy 2024/25.

In conclusion and following a vote, it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the letter from the Minister for Finance and Local Government (Rebecca Evans MS) and the table on the 2024/25 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 2024/25 of 4.99%;
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 10.2 to 10.4;
6. Agree the use of the 'Medium Term Financial Planning & Service Transformation Reserve' as transition funding, totalling £7.502M for 2024/25;
7. Approve Tables 4 and 5 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 2024/25 at £631.795M, in order to pass the necessary statutory resolutions to set the Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year by the statutory deadline of the 11th March 2024.

(**Note:** Councillor R Lewis declared a personal interest-“I am Vice Chair of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee”).

106 COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2024/25

The Group Director Finance, Digital and Frontline Services advised that in line with the agreed Budget Strategy, this report represents the formal and legal requirement for Council to agree the council tax resolution, including details of the council tax to be levied in respect of the Community Councils and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

He reported that the council tax levels for next year, in line with decision made in the Budget strategy, will be £1694.65. The Police & Crime Commissioner has notified the council of their precept rise for next year with a resultant increase in the level of their council tax of 8.69% taking the level of their council tax to £352.67 which will bring the combined effect of the council plus the Police increase to an aggregate increase of 5.61% for those Band D properties who do not also have to pay a community council charge. The Group Director added that the level of the Community & Town Council precept charges have been notified and they have also been set out at Appendix 1 of the report.

In conclusion, the Group Director advised that he has a duty to report to Council on the robustness of the estimates made and on the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves which are set out at section 9 of the report.

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

- i) Note the level of the precept from the Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales;
- ii) Note the level of the Community / Town Council Precepts, as detailed in Appendix 1;
- iii) Pass the formal Council Tax resolutions for the financial year ending 31st March 2025, as contained in Appendix 2; and
- iv) Note my comments upon robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves as detailed at paragraph 9.2.

107 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024-25 - 2026-27

The Group Director Finance, Digital & Frontline Services presented the report which set out the Council's proposed three-year Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2026/27 for Council's consideration which amounts to a total of £165.6M over the next three years.

The Group Director commented that this represents a core programme of £42.5M, specific grants of £42M borrowing to support the school investments programme of £13M, over £33M of additional resources already set aside to fund priority investment areas and an additional and further new investment

identified of over £19M (which is set out in section 6 of the report) which is proposed across the areas of highways maintenance, unadopted roads, highways structures, Rhigos Mountain Road rock netting, flood alleviation work, Streetcare bins, park structures, parks and green spaces, country parks investment, play areas, multi-use games areas, Coed Ely Solar Farm, Hawthorn hockey pitch and Leisure fitness equipment, a total of £19.292M of additional investment. The Group Director added that the new programme also includes allocations for next year of £15.9M for regeneration activities, £11.5M for private sector housing, £42M for frontline services, including highways, strategic projects, Storm Dennis recovery work, parks, waste and fleet, £39M of investment across Education & Inclusion Services and £13M in Community & Childrens Services.

The Group Director concluded by adding that notwithstanding the ongoing funding challenges which the Council continues to face with its revenue budget, the Council is able to propose a significant and ambitious capital investment programme which builds upon the current year's investment which is projected at £220M at quarter two.

Following a discussion whereby the Group Director responded to a number of queries, it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the detail of the final 2024/25 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 21st Century Schools);
 - Capital grants for specific schemes;
 - Third party contributions; and
 - The investment priorities detailed in paragraph 6.2.

108 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2024/2025

The Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services presented the annual report advising that the Treasury Management borrowing and investment activities are highly regulated and carried out in line with the relevant professional Codes of Practice. He added that agreeing a Treasury Management strategy before the beginning of the new financial year is a specific requirement as is a formal mid-year review and a year-end backward review.

The Group Director advised that, as set out in the report, the Council has

£287.2M of borrowing at an average interest rate of 3.15% with a borrowing requirement for next year of £19M to fund the now agreed capital programme and will supplement this by fixing in longer term debt if the economic environment and interest rate projections dictate. This being in line with the Council's under borrowed position, which the Council has continue to hold for a number of years and from which the council continues to be rewarded with lower net capital financing cost.

The Group Director advised that in terms of the Council's investment strategy, the Council continues to lend to public sector and Government backed organisations only recognising the priority of security and liquidity over yield.

The Group Director referred Members to paragraph 16 for the Council's Treasury Management indicators and limits and the MRP Policy set out at section 17 which continues to write off the Council's supported borrowing on a straight-line basis over 40 years. During the year, notification was received from Welsh Government that they wished to recall the interest free loan in respect of Transport Infrastructure.

Following discussion of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy, Treasury Indicators, and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy statement as set out in the report.

109 CAPITAL STRATEGY REPORT 2024/25

The Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director of Finance, Digital & Frontline Services presented the annual statutory Capital Strategy Report 2024/25 incorporating the Councils prudential indicators. Our agreed capital expenditure and how it is financed is set out at section 6 of the report which includes the Council's capital financing requirements (CFR) which is the underlying need to borrow to fund the Council's historic and current capital spending plans. As referenced previously, the Group Director advised that this shows a significantly under borrowed position, a strategy which the council has adopted over a number of years. This is shown clearly at indicator four.

The Group Director commented that the Council's limits to borrowing activities, including the Council's authorised limit of £588M are also set out along with the general approach to commercialisation and asset management and disposal.

The Group Director advised that both the Treasury Management Strategy and the Capital Strategy statement will be presented to the Governance & Audit Committee for specific review and scrutiny in line with the relevant codes of practice.

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

110 THE COUNCIL'S PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2024/25

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 2024/2025 Pay Policy Statement. The Director referred Members to paragraphs

3.1 to 3.2 which set out the legal context for the need for the pay policy and paragraphs 4.1-4.10 which references the background to the pay policy, the need for Full Council approval and refers to the Pay Policy Statement at Appendix A to the report.

Following consideration of the report the Director of Human Resources responded to a query regarding the Council's actions to address the gender pay gap. He advised that the Council has introduced a number of measures in recent years such as the introduction of the Real Living Wage and from April 2022 the Council increased the value of the lower grades (Grades 1-5) by introducing a minimum payment of £10 per hour in addition to the current Real Living Wage rate of pay. He added that the last two pay awards in particular have supported those employees on lower grades.

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

This meeting closed at 7.00 pm

**Councillor G Hughes
Chair.**

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

24 APRIL 2024

MEMBERS QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

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

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

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

4. MEMBERS QUESTION ON NOTICE

- 4.1 The closing date for receipt of Members Questions on Notice to the Council Business Unit for the Council meeting on the 24th April 2024 was 5pm on the 11th April 2024.
- 4.2 Forty three questions were received and put forward to the Council Ballot held on the 16th April 2024, to determine the running order of the questions at the Council Meeting.
- 4.3 The results of the ballot are outlined below:

Number	Corresponding Question
1	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Brencher to the Cabinet Member for Development and Prosperity, County Borough Councillor M. A. Norris:</p> <p>“Could the Cabinet Member give an update on regeneration projects in Pontypridd?”</p>
2	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor K. Johnson to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“How is the council improving accessibility throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf for those with reduced mobility and disabilities?”</p>
3	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Hickman to the Cabinet Member for Development and Prosperity, County Borough Councillor M. A. Norris:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on investment in Porth town centre?”</p>
4	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor Sera Evans to County Borough Councillor R. Lewis, Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language:</p> <p>“Please can the Cabinet Member outline the financial impact of the delay in the implementation of the breakfast club proposals or in other words, how much less money has the Council saved as a result of the delay in the implementation?”</p>
5	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor L. Addiscott to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on investment in our sports centres and outline how this has impacted their usage?”</p>
6	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor E. L. Dunning to the Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member please make a statement on outreach work and detached youth service provision in Rhondda Cynon Taf, particularly in the Ystrad area?”</p>

7	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor W. Hughes to the Deputy Leader of the Council and Armed Forces Champion, County Borough Councillor M. Webber:</p> <p>“What support does this Council provide to the local Armed Forces community?”</p>
8	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor A. S. Fox to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Leader provide an update to Members on the discussions taking place given the significant financial pressures facing the public sector next year?”</p>
9	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor C. Preedy to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member please give an update on the usage of the National Lido of Wales’ and any information on how long the summer season will be this year?”</p>
10	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor T. Williams to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Leader update on the flood bids that have been approved by the Welsh Government for this year?”</p>
11	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor C. Middle to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Will the Leader update the Council on the policy for upgrading/tarmacking unadopted roads/lanes and the rationale behind the prioritisation of such work?”</p>
12	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. J. Davies to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Leader make a statement on capital investment across Rhondda Cynon Taf?”</p>

13	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Turner to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the leader outline a timeline for the redesigned Llanharan Sustainable Transport Corridor?”</p>
14	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Edwards to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Would the Leader update on the progress of the Welsh Government funded walking and cycling route along the river through the Rhondda Fach?”</p>
15	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor A. J. Dennis to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Leader please provide an update on the usage and feedback received to date on the Winter Welcome Centres?”</p>
16	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor Sheryl Evans to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“With more and more cars on the road and limited parking spaces available, more cars are having to park on pavements etc., what can the Council do to help our constituents with more places to park. Is there an option to tarmac more lanes so that residents can use their gardens for off-road parking?”</p>
17	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Powderhill to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Council Leader provide an update on preparations for the 2024 Eisteddfod?”</p>
18	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the council leader give a further update on the plans to develop the Llanharan sustainable transport corridor?”</p>
19	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor M. Maohoub to the Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the implementation of the £1 charge for pre-breakfast club childcare?”</p>

20	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor R. Williams to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Council Leader update on drainage works commencing on Penrhiwceiber tip?”</p>
21	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Cook BEM to the Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member make a statement on school budget funding plans and proposals, particularly in relation to cash amounts and percentages?”</p>
22	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor G. O. Jones to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Council Leader set out what level of protection our school budgets have in the draft budget being worked on and what discussions have been had in the School Budget Forum?”</p>
23	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor R. Evans to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Council Leader tell this Council if the opposition group have put forward any budget suggestions in the face of what you have described – both in the Council Chamber and publicly in the media - as one of the most difficult budget rounds RCT has faced?”</p>
24	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Emanuel to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Will the Leader give an update on the proposed park and ride at Treorci?”</p>
25	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Smith to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“With the introduction of the Social Partnership and Procurement Bill in Wales, can the Leader please outline what action RCT are taking to ensure compliance with the legislation?”</p>
26	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor G. Holmes to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Will the Leader make a statement on road maintenance and outline how this Council is tackling the issue of potholes?”</p>

27	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Bradwick to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member please make a statement on the Council’s programme of tree cutting and maintenance?”</p>
28	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor D. Williams to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Leader outline what traffic management plans will be in place when the County Borough welcomes the National Eisteddfod for Wales?”</p>
29	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor N.H. Morgan to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the leader update on what flood resilience bids the Council is putting forward to the Welsh Government for the forthcoming year?”</p>
30	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor M. Powell to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>"Could the Cabinet portfolio holder for highways say what measures or proposals the RCT Highways department are considering to alleviate the dire traffic congestion problems that the Pontypridd Town centre has been enduring for many, many years please?"</p>
31	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor H. Gronow to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</p> <p>"Please will the Cabinet Member provide a statement on Playgrounds and Muga developments"</p>
32	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. A. Elliott to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Leader outline whether any discussions have been had with Transport for Wales over the re-opening of the Public Right of Way near the Meadowlands in Cwmbach?”</p>

33	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Rees to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Leader provide an update on the progress on the delivery of the Labour Group’s manifesto commitments?”</p>
34	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor D. Evans to County Borough Councillor R. Lewis, Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language:</p> <p>“Can the relevant Cabinet Member please provide an update on the implementation of the additional childcare element of the free breakfast club provision”</p>
35	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor R. Davis to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Council Leader give an update on Storm Dennis repairs across the County since 2020?”</p>
36	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor W. Treeby to the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities, County Borough Councillor B. Harris:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member make a statement on what support the Council is providing to Paddling Pool groups in Rhondda Cynon Taf?”</p>
37	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor W. Lewis to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member update on recycling rates in RCT and what progress is being made to improve these?”</p>
38	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor C. Lises to County Borough Councillor R. Lewis, Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member give an update on the introduction of the Additional Childcare element of the Free Breakfast Club provision.”</p>
39	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor L. A. Tomkinson to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member give an update on the planned investment in hockey facilities at Hawthorn?”</p>

40	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor A. Rogers to the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities, County Borough Councillor B. Harris:</p> <p>“Can the relevant Cabinet Member share what contact the Council has made with the Trivallis tenants and private homeowners/renters of the Gower estate, following the news of RAAC in 77 Hirwaun properties?”</p>
41	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor V. Dunn to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the progress of the scheme to create a Multi-Use Games Area at the Sobell Centre in Aberdare?”</p>
42	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor G. Stacey to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Leader of the Council update on what planning assumptions the Council will be working towards for the 2025/26 budget, and how can the Council work to set a balanced budget that avoids significant Council Tax rises like some other areas in Wales and across the U.K.?”</p>
43	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor B. Stephens to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Council Leader and Cabinet Member for highways set out what the Council is doing to tackle potholes and improve the condition of roads across RCT?”</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

24 APRIL 2024

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

Item: MEMBERS QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Background Papers

[Council AGM 2019.](#)

[Council AGM 2021](#)



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

24 APRIL 2024

'WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES' THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2024-2030

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN DISCUSSION WITH THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR ANDREW MORGAN OBE

AUTHOR: Paul Mee

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to set out a new draft Corporate Plan from 2024/25 – 2029/30. The draft Plan, which has been informed by wide ranging engagement, provides a Vision for the County Borough for 2030, sets out the Council's Well-being Objectives and the priorities it will focus upon over the following six years.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Approve the draft Corporate Plan 2024-30.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is a key element of effective strategic planning, financial and people management for the Council to put in place a Corporate Plan to ensure that it:

- Has a clear strategy and set of priorities for future years.
- Informs and directs all the Council's associated strategies and policies.
- Can use this Plan to allocate its resources and ensure action plans are in place to deliver the agreed Well-being Objectives and achieve the outcomes that will make a difference to the people that live, work and visit the County Borough.
- Is well placed to take advantage of future opportunities and meet risks and challenges, particularly in the context of reductions to local authority funding, changes in demography and in the demand for services and legislation.

4. THE CORPORATE PLAN

4.1 The draft Corporate Plan 2024-2030, attached at Appendix A, seeks to set the overall direction for the Council over the coming six years, describing its vision, purpose, and ambition as local authority for the County Borough.

4.2 The Council's proposed vision is for a Rhondda Cynon Taf where:

'All people, communities, and businesses can grow and live in a healthy, green, safe, vibrant, and inclusive County Borough where they can achieve their full potential in all aspects of their lives and work, both now and in the future'.

4.3 The Council's proposed purpose and the reason why it exists is:

'To provide community leadership and deliver high quality public services, working alongside residents, communities and our partners so that people, businesses and the environment can thrive and prosper'.

4.4 It is proposed that the Council is focused on the following four Well-being Objectives.

- i. **PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES** - Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.
- ii. **WORK AND BUSINESS** - Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's economy.
- iii. **NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT** - A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature.
- iv. **CULTURE, HERITAGE AND WELSH LANGUAGE** - Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future.

4.5 The new draft Corporate Plan will build on previous Corporate Plans and be a key part of the Council's budget and performance and delivery planning processes. As a result, the draft Corporate Plan must consider the fact that Rhondda Cynon Taf Council and the wider public sector, continues to face significant financial and other challenges. Budgets are under extreme pressure and demands on our services are increasing, particularly in the light of the impact of increasing cost of living and the legacies of the Covid pandemic.

4.6 RCT is also facing...

- A growing and aging population, many of whom may experience poor health with complex care and support needs.

- The need to attract investment, high quality jobs and support the green economy whilst also addressing the skills gap.
- The impact on lives and the risk to homes and businesses from extreme weather events.
- The need to tackle inequalities in health, education, and work and improve life chances.
- Energy costs, uncertain energy security and higher prices because of supply chain disruptions.

4.7 The Corporate Plan addresses these current and future challenges as well as meeting a legal duty to develop and agree a Well-being Plan. As a consequence of the changing environment in which we work, the new plan has a greater focus on creating and strengthening community capacity and resilience so people are better placed to take responsibility for their own well-being; is more closely aligned with the Sustainable Development principles; has embedded climate change into the business of the Council; is delivering additional social value through our contracts and focussing our attention on tackling health inequalities.

4.8 An early draft Plan was informed by feedback from a wide range of engagement activities from across the Council and its services over the previous eighteen months, a review of progress over the life of the current Corporate Plan which also features in the Council's [2022/23 Annual Self-Assessment](#) and consideration of the current and future challenges we are facing. This early work was the basis of initial engagement through the 'Let's Talk' platform ['Let's Talk about what Matters to You'](#), feedback from the Cabinet and Managers planning discussions in July 2023 and engagement with the staff on the 'Greenspace' Teams channel.

4.9 Subsequent to this, we put in place wider engagement to develop the Plan and in particular the Council's Vision, Purpose, four Well-being Objectives and associated high level priorities and Our commitments to deliver a well-run Council. This report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on [20 March](#) as part of its considerations of the draft Corporate Plan.

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS AND SOCIOECONOMIC DUTY

5.1 The Plan considers the socioeconomic issues within the County Borough and how these will be addressed. Work in this area will continue as part of the further development of the Plan. An [Equalities Impact Assessment](#) including a Socio economic Assessment, in respect of an early draft of the Corporate Plan was considered by the Review Panel on 7th March and the findings were considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 20 March 2024.

6 **WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Corporate Plan will be available in Welsh. [A Welsh Language Impact Assessment](#) in respect of an early draft of the Corporate Plan was considered by the Review Panel on 7th March and the findings, were considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 20 March 2024.

7 **CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT/INVOLVEMENT**

- 7.1 This draft Corporate Plan has been informed by listening to and hearing what our residents of all ages, communities, partners, and staff have been telling us across a wide range of engagement. This approach will continue during the development of the plan.
- 7.2 The draft Corporate Plan has been formally subject to two phases of engagement:
- Phase 1 – between 18th September and 4th December 2023
 - Phase 2 – between 8th December and 29th January 2024, which also included an invitation to all elected Members to engage more widely through an item in the Members' Newsletter 18th December edition and also consideration by the Council's Joint Consultative Committee at its meeting [on 20th December 2023](#).
- 7.3 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee pre-scrutinised an early draft of the new Corporate Plan at its [meeting on 29th January 2024](#). There was a constructive and productive debate, and the [feedback](#) has been considered as part of the development of the draft Corporate Plan.
- 7.4 The feedback from the engagement in respect of the high-level strategy was positive with a clear mandate that supports the Council's Vision and a move to four Well-being Objectives, which align with the four pillars of Sustainable Development.
- 7.5 It was also clear that residents value their public services and some expressed concern about the high level of ambition within the Plan given resources available. Some responses indicated that they would like to see more detail, which we will make available during the life of the Plan. Other key feedback themes emerging were the Environment, Infrastructure, Community and Education. Responses also contained suggestions that will inform our work as we continue to progress the detailed work to deliver our plan and we will continue to engage with people and communities of interest.
- 7.6 Feedback also included general comments about the Council, how it works and communicates and engages with residents and communities.

- 7.7 The feedback emerging from engagement has been considered in the continuing development of the Plan and because of this feedback, the content of the Corporate Plan has evolved to incorporate the salient points raised. As indicated above, a report of the detailed [engagement findings](#) were considered by Cabinet [at its meeting on 20 March](#). We are continuing to consider any feedback received following the end of the formal engagement to inform the developing action plans for each of the Well-being Objectives.

8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 The draft Corporate Plan 2024-2030 will be set within the context of the budget setting process for 2024/25. Any investments set out in the Plan will be considered as part of Medium-Term Financial Planning arrangements to ensure that spending priorities are aligned, where appropriate, with the Plan.

9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Cabinet has responsibility for the overall strategic direction of the Council and for formulating the Corporate Plan and the Plan meets duties under the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) and the [Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021](#).

10 LINKS TO THE CORPORATE PLAN AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

- 10.1 This report proposes a new set of corporate priorities, i.e. our Well-being Objectives, which will drive the work of the Council between 2024/25 and 2029/30.
- 10.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act focuses on improving the Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural Well-being of Wales. The Act makes public bodies, such as the Council, think more about the long-term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach. The proposed new Well-being Objectives and Priorities within the draft Corporate Plan strengthens the integration with Act. This will enable the Council to further embed the requirements of the Act into its arrangements, and to demonstrate how it is meeting its statutory duties. The way in which the Plan contributes to the seven national Well-being Goals can be seen in the WFG Appendix of the draft Corporate Plan.

11 CONCLUSION

- 11.1 Council is recommended to approve Council's draft Corporate Plan 2024-2030, following endorsement by Cabinet [on 20 March 2024](#).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

24 APRIL 2024

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN DISCUSSION WITH THE LEADER
OF THE COUNCIL (COUNCILLOR ANDREW MORGAN)**

Item:

THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2024-2030

Background Papers:

Report to Cabinet on [20 March 2024](#)

Comprising draft Corporate Plan 2024-2030

Draft Report of Engagement Findings

Feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committee [29 January 2024](#)

Officer to contact: Paul Mee



**Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's
Corporate Plan
2024-2030**

**Working with our
Communities**

Design in hand

The Council's Corporate Plan is the Well-being Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Leader's Statement

I am delighted to introduce the Council's third Corporate Plan. This plan builds on the strong foundations of our previous plans and at the same time recognises the changes we need to make to meet the unprecedented service and financial challenges ahead.

When we put in place our second Corporate Plan in 2020, [Making a Difference](#) we could not have foreseen the challenges that faced our residents, communities and businesses in the years that followed as a consequence of Storm Dennis and the Covid pandemic that closely followed. During this time, we have seen the strength and resilience of our communities and have worked alongside community and voluntary sector, business and public sector partners to keep our residents safe and supported.

Many different legacies of the 2020 floods and the Covid pandemic already affecting our residents and businesses will remain with us for years to come. Alongside the pandemic, the impact of global conflict and economic instability on our energy costs, the continuing cost of living crisis and an increased demand for our major services means we are moving into further extremely challenging times.

Despite these challenges, we have delivered most of what we set out to achieve in 2020 and at the same time invested over £450 million (2019/20 -2022/23). We have been able to

PEOPLE: open new Extra Care housing at 'Cwrt Yr Orsaf' Pontypridd, with Porth and Gelli Extra Care under way, complete the George V Athletics Track, continue with 3G pitches, play areas and parks and Community Hubs.

PLACES: continue our roads and bridges programme including the Mountain Ash Cross Valley link and A4119 dualling, repair and renew flood defences across the County Borough, improve Ynysangharad and Dare Valley Country Parks, develop the Porth Transport Hub and the Material Recycling Facility in Bryn Pica,

PROSPERITY: continue to improve school buildings and facilities through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, complete our award winning Llys Cadwyn development, including the new footbridge, in Pontypridd and new Industrial Units in Coed Ely and Robertstown.

More detail about our achievements since 2020 can be seen in [the Council's Annual Self-Assessment report 2022/23](#).

Rhondda Cynon Taf remains a great place to live, enjoy and do business. A County Borough of strong and vibrant communities, enthusiastic and talented people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds and rich and varied landscapes with huge potential to take advantage of growing green and sustainable economy.

The Council's Plan focuses on our four Well-being Objectives

1. PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES

2. **WORK AND BUSINESS**
3. **NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**
4. **CULTURE, HERITAGE and WELSH LANGUAGE**

We are building on the partnerships we have developed, strengthening relationships where we can support our people, communities and the many different community-based groups. Together we can create solutions that will help to deliver better outcomes and can share the responsibility for supporting people in our communities who need help. By doing so, we can focus our support on those in the greatest need of care and support to help build their resilience so that they are able to make better choices for themselves and help our young people to achieve their potential.

One of our biggest challenges is preparing for and tackling the impact of Climate Change. The steps to meet this challenge are complex and interconnected but we are committed to reducing carbon across the Council and County Borough, continuing to embed energy saving and carbon reduction into everything we do. Our contributions to tackling the Welsh Government declared climate and nature emergencies is becoming business as usual in all our services. This includes what we buy or commission on behalf of the Council and in our work with Welsh Government, regional and local partners.

Climate Change is only one of the key challenges we face as we tackle the priorities that emerged from our [Self-Assessment](#). These challenges include managing our way through the current and future financial difficulties whilst keeping experienced and skilled staff, particularly in our social care sector, as we face growing demands from a population with more complex and connected needs.

Whilst we will do everything we can to keep our own costs as low as we can, meet our statutory duties and regulatory expectations, there is no escaping the tough decisions that must be taken to ensure a sustainable future for the Council and Rhondda Cynon Taf.

It is clear that for the Council to continue to provide its essential services, valued by the communities of Rhondda Cynon Taf, we will need to change the way we engage and work with our residents, communities and businesses to understand what matters to them and change the way services are provided. At the same time, residents can help by playing their part at home and in their communities.

Introduction

Welcome to the Council's third Corporate Plan. The plan sets out where we will focus our work up until 2030, and the outcomes you can expect to see, because of our work as a Council and also in our work with other partners and stakeholders.

The Plan is structured around four Well-being objectives which will help us to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Rhondda Cynon Taf

1. **PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES** - Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives.
2. **WORK AND BUSINESS** - Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's Economy.
3. **NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT** - A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature.
4. **CULTURE, HERITAGE AND WELSH LANGUAGE** Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future.

No single plan can set out the vast range of services the Council delivers, procures, or commissions, either as a single organisation or in partnership with others. Our work is governed by many laws and regulations that, for example, check that we spend our money wisely and that we work with other public bodies to improve outcomes for residents. The work in this plan will be reflected in and aligned to other Council plans, strategies, and policies, those that are most relevant are included in Appendix *** for information.

In setting our Well-being Objectives, we have made sure that our plans to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Rhondda Cynon Taf today, take account of the impact they will have on people living their lives in the future. We have done this by applying 'five ways of working' in our planning, i.e.

- **Involving:** local people, a range of stakeholders and Councillors in shaping our plan. We have been listening to and hearing what our residents of all ages, communities, partners, and staff are telling us what-matters to them. This will continue as we develop future actions. We also looked at information and feedback from a range of surveys, engagement events and ongoing conversations held across our services over the eighteen months so that we made best use of the information you have already told us. Our Plan provides a snapshot of the information we have used.
- **Working with others:** where we can and seeking further opportunities as we implement the Plan over the coming years. Our Plan provides some examples of where we are already working with partners and more detail will be visible in our annual plans.
- **Looking ahead:** at our challenges and opportunities. We have used the best data and information we can find and sought advice about how we consider the challenges and opportunities ahead. There is uncertainty about the long term, but we have included some of the information we have used to inform our objectives and to safeguard the future.
- **Integration:** As we developed our Plan, we considered the work of other organisations so that we complement and do not contradict or duplicate. In particular, Welsh Government

laws and plans and those of our local and regional partners. We have included some of these 'national drivers' that we need to consider.

- **Preventing:** We looked at how we can prevent problems from occurring or getting worse across each of our Well-being Objectives as we prepare for the future. A good example of this is working with partners to help to keep people well and reduce inequalities in health so that they are at less risk of disease and ill health. Much of our detailed work will be contained in the annual plans.

These 'ways of working' help us to show that we are meeting the Sustainable Development principle required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. The Act also asks that we show how our work contributes to the seven national Well-being goals for Wales. You can see these national goals have shaped our work and how our Well-being Objectives will meet them in Appendix ??

We also

- **looked** for and examined the best information and data available about the County Borough, residents and communities in the context of the current significant and competing local, regional, national and global priorities.
- **researched** best practice to challenge what we do as we strive to deliver quality services with and for our residents and communities.
- **reviewed** our own achievements and progress over the life of our previous Corporate Plan 2020 -24 '[Making A Difference](#)', our strategic risks and our annual [Self-Assessment](#) and considered our quarterly reports of progress. The Self-Assessment also includes consideration of evaluations of all our services and an assessment of our corporate functions.
- **considered** those areas of work that we legally must deliver and those we have committed to through partnerships, including through the [Cwm Taf Morgannwg Well-being Plan 2023-28](#).

This plan provides the framework that will guide and shape what we do, direct how and where we spend our budgets, manage, and mitigate strategic risks and inform how we train and develop our staff and Councillors to meet-current and future challenges. Challenges like

- Growing vulnerability and complexity of need across our population, many of whom may experience poor health with complex care and support needs.
- The need to attract investment, high quality jobs and support the green economy whilst addressing the skills gap.
- Tackling inequalities in health, education, work and improving life chances of all our residents, no matter their background or circumstances.
- The impact on lives and the risk to homes and businesses from extreme weather events.
- Dealing with rising energy costs, uncertain energy security and higher prices because of supply chain disruptions.

Rhondda Cynon Taf is the third largest Council area in Wales made up of communities with different needs and aspirations. The area includes a relatively high proportion of our population living within the 10% most [deprived local areas in Wales](#). We also have more affluent areas across a diverse geographical and cultural landscape. We know from the many hundreds of conversations and survey responses we have from residents, community groups, businesses, visitors and partners, there are many hundreds of points of view, ideas, competing needs and expectations to manage. With budgets under pressure and demands on our services increasing, we recognise the need to develop and manage realistic expectations through a strengthened partnership approach.

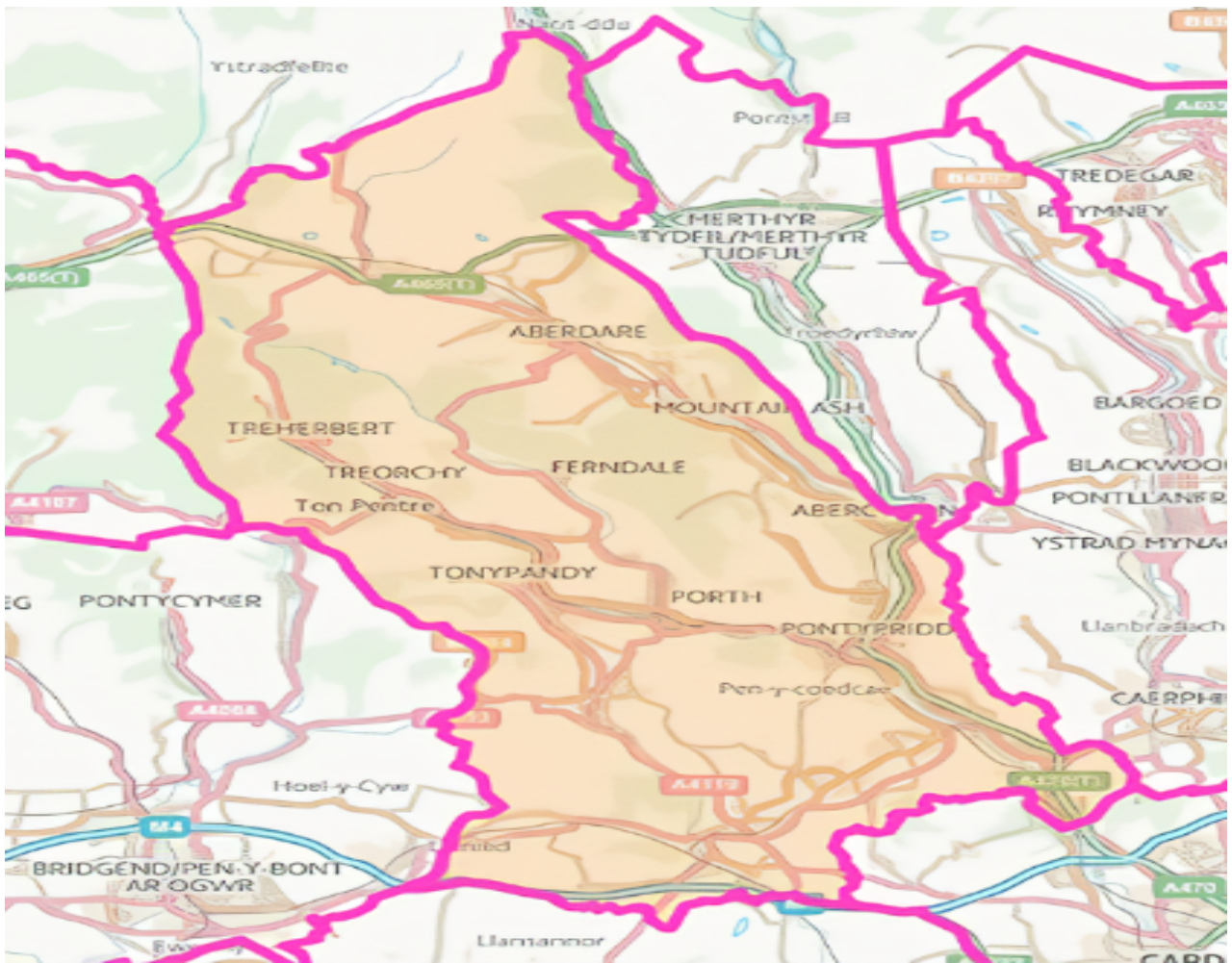
Our plans must also recognise the shorter term nature of our financial planning. We are currently as clear as we can be about the available budgets and resources we have available in setting our priorities, our detailed actions and targets will be reviewed and revised annually in line with our Medium Term Financial Plans. We will also continue to seek any opportunities for grant funding that can help us to do more.

However, we remain ambitious, and we know we can continue to improve by doing things differently and making better use of data and information available to focus more on outcomes for our residents and communities. Doing things differently means inviting everyone that visits, lives, and works in Rhondda Cynon Taf to play a part so that everyone can benefit.

By working more closely together, empowering, and enabling communities and working with our public sector partners, we can deliver more of what matters, support better outcomes for those in most need of our help and continue to support the economic, social, cultural, and environmental well-being of the County Borough. This approach builds on our work over the last few years that has already seen:

- parks and green spaces, leisure, and fitness facilities that people can use to keep active and healthy and well.
- creative and community spaces that support individual well-being and help to reduce health, social and economic inequalities.
- facilities where people can recycle more of their waste and send what they no longer need for other people to reuse.
- early years support that helps parents get children nursery and school ready so they can benefit from the opportunities to learn through play.
- Town Centre developments where people can live, work, visit and shop locally and support local businesses and the local economy.

About the County Borough RCT graphic map type to present RCT specific data



People & Communities – Potential information for inclusion

- Population: 237,497 (2021 Census), Male - 116,230 (49%)/Female - 121,267 (51%)
- Ageing Population: 46,787 (19.7%) aged 64+
- Schools: 38,497 pupils across 115 schools of which 17 are Welsh-medium
- Leisure: 12 leisure facilities including 8 swimming pools from which 335 fitness classes and activities are offered each week,
- Grounds: 25 artificial pitches, 3 synthetic running tracks, 97 grass pitches, 24 bowling greens, 3 indoor bowling halls, 11 cricket pitches and 216 playgrounds
- Community Centres: 27
- Community Recreational Centres: 3
- Extra Care Homes: 3 with 4 in development

Work & Business Potential information for inclusion

- Town Centres: 7 town centres all have free Wi-Fi
- 114 EV charging bays installed and ready to use, 10 awaiting connection and 10 connected and awaiting commissioning.
- Public Transport: awaiting info on routes and users TBC
- Reuse shops: 6

Nature & Environment Potential information for inclusion

- Biodiversity/nature: Around 33% of RCT is tree covered with 18.5% tree cover in our urban areas.
- 4556 MWh of renewable energy generated since 2019 equalling 1,025 tonnes of CO2 emissions saved.
- Community Recycling Centres: 6 CRCs, 2022/23 recycling rate 64.97%
- Green Flag Award for RCTCBC: 4
- Green Flag Award for RCT Community: 9
- Active Travel Routes (km): 109km of on and off road active travel routes.

Culture & Heritage Potential information for inclusion

- Welsh Language: 43,179 (18.2%) can speak, read, write or understand Welsh
- Community Hubs: 7
- Theatres: 3
- Museums: 3
- Libraries: 13
- Walking Trails: 10
- POI: 19 places of interest

DRAFT

The Council's Corporate Plan 2024-30

The Council's Vision is for a Rhondda Cynon Taf where:

All people, communities, and businesses can grow and live in a healthy, green, safe, vibrant, and inclusive County Borough where they can achieve their full potential in all aspects of their lives and work, both now and in the future.

The Council's purpose and the reason it exists is:

To provide community leadership and deliver high quality public services, working alongside residents, communities and our partners so that people, businesses, and the environment can thrive and prosper.

Our Approach

Our new Plan builds on the strong platform put in place by our previous two Plans. To deliver what our new Plan sets out, we need our staff, Councillors, residents, communities, and partners working in the same direction to deliver our shared vision. The future challenges faced across the Council's services mean that now more than ever, we need well trained, informed, and supported staff and councillors who can respond to the challenges ahead within an ambitious programme of work. As public sector budgets remain under pressure and the demands on our services increase, the need to work with communities and across organisational boundaries to deliver the best outcomes for our residents, both now and in the future, has never been greater.

Our Values

We take pride in our work and set ourselves high standards and ambitions to deliver and have a positive impact for all in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Our role in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board (CTMPSB)

As an active member of the CTMPSB, we work with our local public sector partners to deliver the two Well-being Objectives agreed by the Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB in the [Cwm Taf Morgannwg Well-being Plan - Cwm Taf Morgannwg \(ourcwmtaf.wales\)](https://ourcwmtaf.wales)

1. Healthy Local Neighbourhoods: - A Cwm Taf Morgannwg where our communities are inclusive and feel cohesive and people feel safe, supported, and valued.
2. Sustainable and Resilient Local Neighbourhoods – A Cwm Taf Morgannwg where we understand and respond to the risk of climate change to our communities. To do this we must value, manage and enjoy our green and blue spaces responsibly.

Other examples of where we work in partnership with others can be found in our '[Working With Others](#)' web page.

Listening to and hearing what you say

We regularly seek the views and opinions of our residents of all ages, community groups, businesses and staff as we conduct the business of the Council. This means we have information and feedback from the many conversations and surveys we have held over the last year or so that have helped to inform and shape this Plan. For example, feedback and views about the [Council's budget setting for 2023/24](#); the Council's [Local Development Plan 2022-37](#), [Flood Risk Strategy](#), the place based [Aberdare Town Centre Strategy](#), co production proposals for day service following 'My Day, My Way', 'Your Voice' survey of young people, our '[Climate Conversation](#)', the wide ranging engagement as part of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg [Well-being Assessment](#), as well as many [service specific](#) engagement events and surveys.

What we did

We used the information you had already given us as a starting point to start to shape our Plan. We put in place a new conversation '[Let's Talk about what matters to you](#)' to check out that we were on the right track and then we put in place wider ranging opportunities for everyone to consider the detail. Of the responses we received, the majority, over 87%, thought that our areas of focus were right/correct or almost right/correct but could be improved. What we learned from this conversation gave us some assurance that we had a made a solid start from that point in time.

Using this feedback and other information, we drafted the outline of a new Corporate Plan including a new Vision, Well-being Objectives and commitments to residents. Our outline Corporate Plan formed the basis of wide ranging engagement with our residents, representative groups, and stakeholders including staff, Councillors, Trade Unions and partners. The engagement comprised online surveys, face to face discussions in our Town Centres, focus groups and discussions as part of regular network meetings for which we provided standard, bilingual and easy read 'engagement packs' to assist. Our approach and detailed findings can be found in the accompanying report to Cabinet when final.

What you told us

Feedback from the conversations, meetings and surveys showed us how strongly you feel about public services generally and how much they are valued within communities.

The majority of responses supported our Vision and Well-being Objectives. However, we have also taken account of feedback that sought to include Welsh Language in our Well-being Objective for Culture and Heritage to further demonstrate our strong commitment to the Welsh language. This feedback has given us assurance about our draft Vision, the four Well-being Objectives and Priorities and the commitments to our residents, but we are not complacent. Responses also indicated some concern about whether the Plan was over ambitious given the financial challenges ahead and also the need to see more information as the detail of the plans emerges. A minority of responses indicated that of the four Well-being Objectives, People and Communities and Work and Business should be prioritised over Nature and Environment and Culture and Heritage. Despite our best efforts, some representative groups did not participate in the engagement, and we will continue to seek their involvement as we develop the detailed actions for the plan.

Summary feedback is considered alongside each of the Well-being Objectives. Detailed feedback and suggestions for more general improvements will be considered as we develop the detailed actions to deliver the plan over the next six years. We will also continue to engage with our residents and stakeholders as part of this work, and also seek their views on whether our work has made the difference and impact intended.

As a result of what we have learned, we have committed to focusing on the four Well-being objectives that you have told us matter most to you, and that will better prepare us all for the future:

Our Well-being Objectives:

1. **PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES** - Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.
2. **WORK AND BUSINESS** - Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's economy.
3. **NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT** - A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature.
4. **CULTURE, HERITAGE AND WELSH LANGUAGE** - Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future.

In guiding and shaping our work for the next six years the detailed action plans that will help us monitor our progress, will embed those big issues that affect every service. For example, tackling all forms of poverty, treating people fairly, mitigating and adapting to the impacts of the changing climate, and importantly, keeping our children, young people and adults at risk safe and protected from harm.

We know that many of these big issues will have the biggest impact on groups of people who are already at a disadvantage. For example, older and vulnerable people are more likely to be affected by the impacts of climate change, such as heat waves, air pollution and other extreme weather events, due to a combination of age, health issues and greater social isolation. Poverty has a significant impact on health and well-being, educational and other outcomes in the lives of children and families. People with disabilities are less likely to be in employment and those on low incomes experience more housing problems. When developing and delivering our detailed plans, we will be aware of these issues and will listen to and work with our residents and communities, particularly those who are seldom heard and/or in the greatest need.

The four Well-being Objectives deliberately cut across all services. Many of the supporting priorities they contain will benefit more than one Well-being objective as our services work together to deliver our Vision for Rhondda Cynon Taf.

We are also preparing our services to meet new laws that we are expecting to be implemented in the coming months, for example [Eliminating profit from care for children looked after](#), [Coal Tip Safety](#) and the [Environment \(Air Quality and Soundscapes\) Bill](#).

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

Now ¹	Looking Ahead
<p>People</p> <p>Total population: 237,497²</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged 0-15 43,680 (18.4%) • Aged 16-64 147,030 (61.8%) • Aged 64+ 46,787 (19.7%) <p>32,170 people live alone, including 14,049 over the age of 66.</p> <p>Health</p> <p>Life expectancy³</p> <p>Male 77.0 years Male healthy life expectancy 57.1 years Female 80.5 years Female healthy life expectancy 60.7 years</p> <p>12.0% of people in RCT said they had disabilities which limited them a lot in their daily lives.</p> <p>11.2% of people in RCT provide unpaid care for family members or friends.</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>68.5% of people in RCT own their own home (with or without a mortgage) 13.7% rent social housing. 17.7% rent private housing.</p> <p>8,461 pupils in RCT (22.0%) are eligible for free school meals (20.3% in Wales)</p> <p><i>*Data from January 2023 School Census Results, Welsh Government</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance rates 2022/3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Primary School learners - 91% ○ eFSM learners - 86.8% ○ Secondary School learners - 85.8% ○ eFSM learners - 77% 	<p>People</p> <p>4.1% increase in population to 2030 with RCT projected to remain 3rd largest LA by population in Wales.</p> <p>By 2030: <i>compared to MYE on left</i></p> <p>Aged 0-15 42,861 (1.9% decrease) Aged 16-64 151,377 (3% increase) Aged 65+ 52,884 (13.% increase) <i>of which Aged 85+ 6573 (25.4% increase)</i></p> <p>Health projections for Wales.⁴</p> <p>33% increase in the prevalence of stroke by 2035 22% increase in people living with diabetes by 2036 70% increase in people living with dementia by 2040 25% increase in people diagnosed with cancer per year by 2040</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>27% increase in single person households in 2043 25% increase of 1 adult households with children and a 16% reduction in 2 adult households with children</p>

¹ All data refers to RCT and is taken from the 2021 Census unless stated otherwise

² Mid year population estimates 2022 [Stats Wales](#)

³ Healthy life expectancy is the proportion of life in good health, data for RCT – [ONS](#)

⁴ [Wales Online](#) referencing report of the [chief scientific advisor](#) NHS in 10+ years: An examination of the projected impact of Long-Term Conditions and Risk Factors in Wales

Some of our National Drivers -*This information will be available through hyperlink in final version*

- [Children and young people's plan](#) What we will do to support children and young people who are growing up, living and working in Wales.
- [Child Poverty Strategy for Wales 2024](#) Welsh Government's updated Strategy
- [Age Friendly Wales](#) – Strategy for an Ageing Society
- [Decarbonising Social Care in Wales 2022-27](#)
- [Ending homelessness](#): A high level action plan – 2021-2026
- [Tackling Fuel Poverty](#) 2021 to 2035
- [Our National Mission: High Standards and Aspirations for All](#) 2022 – 2026 A plan to tackle the impact of poverty on educational attainment and supporting every learner.
- [Welsh in Education Strategic Plan](#) Guidance on Local Authority's developing their WESP.
- [Healthy Weight Wales Strategy](#) to prevent and reduce obesity in Wales
- A [Healthier Wales](#): Long Term Plan for Health & Social Care -2018
- [Public Health Wales' Strategic Plan](#) 2022-2025
- [Sport Wales Strategy: Enabling Sport in Wales to Thrive](#)

Our residents told us that 'What Matters to them is' the care and support of our young and older people, and that access to good quality education for all continues to be a priority. They also wanted to see community development with local accessible services and help to improve individual health and well-being. They wanted to see good quality homes, and improved affordability and energy efficiency in existing homes.

PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES

In People and Communities our priorities are:

1. **Children and young people have the best start in life and can learn and grow safely,**
 2. **Residents can take care of their health & well-being so they can live healthy, independent, and fulfilling lives,**
 3. **Safeguarding our most vulnerable residents of all ages, providing protection, care and support when they need it most so that they can maximise their potential, and**
 4. **Residents will have access to affordable, good quality and energy efficient homes.**
-
- 1 **Children and young people have the best start in life and can learn and grow safely.**
 - a) Supporting children and families in their early years to have the best opportunities to develop, be healthy, and enjoy a range of programmes and activities in our libraries and Community Hubs.
 - b) Helping children of all abilities and backgrounds to do the very best they can in school by ensuring that we have a relentless focus on securing continuous school improvement and high standards in our schools.
 - c) Ensuring access to timely intervention and advice so that the needs of learners and their families are identified swiftly and early intervention provided.

- d) Providing great learning environments through our new and improved early years settings and schools including a new Special school and making Welsh medium education accessible to all.
- e) Supporting children and young people of all abilities and backgrounds to overcome barriers to learning, including those experiencing poverty, so that they can achieve the best educational outcomes that they are capable of.
- f) Ensuring that children, young people and their families have a voice and help us to shape and further improve our services and educational experiences.

2. Residents can take care of their health & well-being so they can live healthy, independent, and fulfilling lives.

- a) Helping our residents to keep healthy, active and well; fulfilling their potential and strengthening local communities through opportunities to participate in learning, leisure, physical and creative activities that are accessible to all.
- b) Considering the implications of the [National Framework for Social Prescribing](#).
- c) Implementing the five year Health Determinate Research Collaboration in order to tackle health inequalities in RCT and address wider health determinants that directly affect the life chances of our residents.
- d) Enabling people to be engaged in resilient communities, strengthening connections between community groups, providing opportunities to lead and influence community developments and be involved in volunteering.
- e) Working with residents and partners to keep our communities safe and free from crime.
- f) Developing connections so that communities and the third and business sectors can work together to source sustainable and healthy food and develop horticulture and other technical skills that support the growth of sustainable food.
- g) Developing community focused schools, that provide a range of services and activities, often beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community.

3 Safeguarding our most vulnerable residents of all ages, providing protection, care and support when they need it most so that they can maximise their potential.

- a) Enabling people to live independently in their community and close to home by providing the right support and care at the right time.
- b) Providing modern accommodation that meets the needs of people who can no longer live at home.
- c) Protecting children, young people and adults at risk from harm, neglect and exploitation.
- d) Supporting people affected by/experiencing domestic violence and addiction.
- e) Giving vulnerable children and young people the best possible opportunities in life and ensuring access to safe and supportive environments suitable to their needs, to improve their well-being.

- 4 Residents will have access to affordable, good quality and energy efficient homes**
- a) Working with partners to enable the supply of affordable and sustainable homes across our communities, including supporting those people who are homeless and bringing empty properties back into use.
 - b) Enabling more people to live in warm and energy efficient homes to improve their health and wellbeing and enable them to live more sustainably.

Some of the outcomes we expect to see by 2030

- Attendance, exclusions and attainment in all our schools will continue to show strong progress, compare favourably with other parts of Wales, with improved educational outcomes, work and training opportunities for our school leavers.
- Families will have greater resilience: fewer children will be 'looked after' in our care and will have improved life chances.
- More of our residents will use the opportunities available across the County Borough to keep active, healthy and well and reduce their risk of disease and ill health.
- Children in our care will be looked after closer to their home and stay connected to families, friends and communities.
- Better joined up services across health and social care so that people get the right care in the right place at the right time.
- Fewer people affected by/experiencing domestic violence and addiction.
- More affordable homes and fewer empty homes.
- Fewer homes in RCT will have energy ratings below Energy Performance Certificate D.

Working in partnership

with [Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board](#) and other partners to improve the health and well-being of our residents, including joining up the health and social care they receive. By strengthening joint working we want to see fewer people going into hospital and those that do need care, receive it promptly within their communities and spend less time in hospital.

with [South Wales Police, Probation and other partners](#) to reduce crime and disorder in our area so that our communities are free from crime and free from the fear of crime.

WORK AND BUSINESS

Now	Looking Ahead
<p>People and Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 26.7% have a degree or equivalent Level 4 qualification.• 72.4% of Key Stage 4 learners achieved A*-C grades in their GCSE in 2023• 24.2% of people have no qualifications.• 25.8% of people in work are employed in the public sector.• 29.6% of RCT residents work in routine or semi-routine jobs.• 23.8% of people aged 16 to 64 in RCT are economically inactive (not in or looking for work)• 9% of adults are digitally excluded.• 23.8% of children are in relative low income families (22.1% in Wales) and• 15.3% in absolute low income families (14.8% in Wales) <p>Businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently 7,020 active businesses and 169 Social Enterprises operating in RCT⁵• In 2021, 1,280 businesses started up in RCT and 845 ceased to trade. <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 43,100 people travel outside RCT to work.• 21.8% of people work mainly from home, 66.7% commute by driving. <p>1.31 billion vehicle miles were travelled on roads in Rhondda, Cynon, Taf in 2022⁶</p> <p>Prioritisation of road and train travel over buses has widened inequalities in access to essential services, employment and social interactions.⁷</p> <p>22.2% of households do not have a car or van. This rises to over 30% in some areas of RCT (Treherbert, Ferndale and Maerdy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 19% of Welsh speakers always speak Welsh with colleagues.• 11% of Welsh speakers speak Welsh with colleagues usually, but not always.• 21% of Welsh speakers speak Welsh with colleagues sometimes.	<p>Looking Ahead</p> <p>After 2028, the number of economically active people is forecast to decrease, while the overall population will continue to increase in size.</p> <p>Increase in automation may make a growing share of low skilled workers unemployable, as whatever work they are (or could become) qualified to do could be done cheaper, faster or more reliably by robots or computers.</p> <p>Between 100 and 500 billion devices will be connected to the internet by 2030, between 12 and 60 times as many as the number of people in the world.</p> <p>Development of the service economy and moving away from personal ownership to accessing service e.g. car clubs and media streaming</p> <p>Increasing importance of biotechnology to tackle challenges including pollution, climate change and food security.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>Road traffic in England and Wales could grow by up to 54% between 2025 and 2060(+4%)⁸.</p>

⁵ Business births, deaths and active enterprises, [Stats Wales](#) and Social Enterprises in RCT, Cwmpas

⁶ Department of Transport - [Road Traffic Statistics for RCT](#)

⁷ The [Marmot Review – 10 Years on](#)

⁸ Department of Transport - [National Road Traffic Projections 2022](#)

Some of our National Drivers - *This information will be available through hyperlink in final version*

- [WG Employability Plan](#)
- [Stronger Fairer Greener Wales: a plan for Employability & Skills](#)
- [Future Wales: The National Plan 2040](#)
- [Llwybr Newydd: the Wales Transport Strategy 2021](#)
- [Wales Infrastructure Investment Strategy](#)
- [A shared strategic vision for the retail sector](#)
- [Wales Procurement Policy Statement 2022-2028](#)
- [Social Partnership and Public Procurement \(Wales\) Act 2023](#)
- [Digital Strategy for Wales – Delivery Plan 2021](#)

Our residents told us that ‘What Matters to them is’. accessible opportunities for secure work, training and support for people to be self-employed. They want to see joined up methods of public transport. They also wanted to see improvements across all our Town Centres so that they are more attractive and encourage more people to visit. Things like making use of empty properties and supporting small local businesses to thrive.

WORK and BUSINESS

In Work and Business our priorities are:

1. **Supporting people into rewarding career pathways, skilled and secure work.**
2. **Supporting businesses to prosper and be sustainable.**
3. **Thriving town centres, and**
4. **A well-connected County Borough.**

1 Supporting people into rewarding career pathways, skilled and secure work

- a) Supporting people of all ages to gain the skills they need for jobs in our local communities and working with local businesses and training providers to identify appropriate opportunities for them.
- b) Supporting people experiencing ‘in work’ poverty to find more rewarding and secure work.
- c) Providing individual support and solutions for people experiencing barriers to work to gain or make progress into jobs or volunteering.
- d) Leading by example by providing experience, work and training opportunities within the Council particularly for young people and those experiencing barriers to work.
- e) Working with our suppliers to increase the Social Value and Community benefits from all our contracts, for example through jobs, work experience and training.
- f) Working as part of Cardiff Capital Region to identify and support jobs and skills development in regionally defined priority areas e.g. new and emerging technologies.

2 Supporting businesses to prosper and be sustainable.

- a) Enabling businesses to find the right advice and support to help them modernise, be sustainable and take advantage of new opportunities and emerging markets.
- b) Increasing our local ‘spend’ and supporting social enterprises.

- c) Building on our natural landscape and heritage to promote new tourism opportunities in the County Borough and support sustainable growth in the sector.
- d) Supporting the development of the circular economy across the County Borough, so that residents are able to share, reuse, repair and recycle existing materials and products for as long as possible.
- e) Working with Higher and Further Education, business and the third sector to share knowledge and support business innovation and sustainability.

3 Thriving town centres

- a) Delivering regeneration projects to enable vibrant town centres and good quality public spaces where businesses thrive and people want to visit.
- b) Taking opportunities to develop high quality public spaces and enhance existing town centre areas as part of our town centre strategies, which includes tree planting and other sustainable green spaces that support improved health, well-being and increased biodiversity.
- c) Widening our Town Centre 'offer', including local events and celebrating culture and heritage.
- d) Putting in place amenities that our residents can use to enhance their visits to Town Centres.

4 A well-connected County Borough

- a) Supporting the development of low carbon travel and public transport, including publicly accessible infrastructure such as Electric Vehicle charging.
- b) Seeking and maximising available funding to support local/community transport routes where conditions allow.
- c) Encouraging and enabling active travel so more journeys are made by walking, cycling and public transport, supporting healthy lifestyles and improving air quality.
- d) Maintaining and improving our highways infrastructure so that it is fit for the future, keeping people and communities connected, able to socialise and learn and businesses moving.
- e) Improving digital connectivity across the County Borough, embracing changing work patterns and lifestyles.

Some of the outcomes we expect to see by 2030

- Town centres with thriving businesses that help support the economy.
- Public transport infrastructure and systems are more joined up and encourage people to walk, cycle and use public transport to get about.
- More accessible publicly available EV charging points at Council locations that support low carbon travel.
- More businesses supported to develop, modernise and grow.
- More people in RCT will have the skills they need to find and progress in work.
- More people will visit RCT from outside the County Borough and enjoy the cultural, nature, activity and adventure tourism RCT has to offer.

Working in partnership with the Councils in the [Cardiff Capital Region](#) City Deal and its Joint Committee and businesses to promote economic well-being across the Capital Region, and working more locally with businesses through the Business Improvement Districts to encourage Town Centre businesses to be more sustainable and promote the use of the circular economy.

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NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

<p>Now. 64.97% of waste recycled in 2022/23.</p> <p>16 Air Quality Monitoring Areas (AQMAs)</p> <p>Air pollutant concentrations are currently higher in areas of socioeconomic disadvantage⁸</p> <p>38.5% of people live in a flood risk areas.</p> <p>There are 131 allotments and community growing spaces in RCT.</p> <p>Carbon emissions 3.8 tCO₂e per resident,</p> <p>Sites of Special Scientific Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Sites • 2 Special Areas of Conservation • 8 Other Areas shared with other LAs. <p>During the five ‘heat-periods’ between June and August 2022, 3,535 deaths were registered in Wales. 258 excess deaths (7.3%) above the five-year average.</p> <p>Children and young people, older adults and those with respiratory conditions are more susceptible to poor air quality⁹</p>	<p>Looking Ahead Wales projections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • average summer temperatures increasing by 1.34°C by 2050 and 3.03°C by 2080. • precipitation levels projected to increase overall by 5% by 2050 and 9% 2080. • Rainfall will increase overall, but with less rainfall in the summer and more in the winter. Summer rainfall will decrease by 16% by 2050 and 23% by 2080. <p>The Rhondda Valleys have the highest level of social flood risk in Wales.</p> <p>Climate change may have a serious impact on our ability to grow enough food.</p>
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Some of our National Drivers - *This information will be available through hyperlink in final version*

- [Biodiversity Duty](#) obligations under s.6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016: waste](#)
- [The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales](#)
- [Beyond Recycling](#) A strategy to make the circular economy in Wales a reality.
- [The Clean Air Plan for Wales Healthy Air, Healthy Wales](#)
- [Prosperity For All: A Low Carbon Wales](#)
- [Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 \(2021-25\)](#)
- [The Environment \(Air Quality and Soundscapes\) \(Wales\) Act 2024](#) new, enacted 14 Feb 2024

⁹ PHW – [Climate Change in Wales: Health Impact Assessment](#)

⁹ ONS – [Excess mortality during heat-periods](#)

Our residents confirmed that ‘What Matters to them is’ improvements in the cleanliness of streets across the County Borough, including taking stronger steps to tackle environmental crimes like littering, irresponsible dog owners and fly tipping. They wanted to see public bins emptied more regularly to encourage good citizenship. Respondents also wanted to see improved green spaces, clean rivers, increased biodiversity, low carbon transport and fewer trees cut down

NATURE and the ENVIRONMENT

For Nature and the Environment our priorities are:

- 1. Protecting and enhancing the natural environment**
- 2. Clean, Safe and Sustainable RCT**
- 3. Using Natures Assets to benefit people and communities.**

1 Protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

- a) Protecting and enhancing biodiversity: working with nature to tackle both the Climate and Nature emergencies,
- b) Protecting existing trees, supporting woodland expansion through natural regeneration and urban tree planting
- c) Rewetting and restoring peat bogs: reducing carbon emissions and increasing biodiversity and carbon sequestration.
- d) Improving air quality including through implementing local and national Welsh Government traffic management requirements, encouraging shift to low carbon travel options and implementing the requirements of the [Environment \(Air Quality and Soundscapes\) \(Wales\) Act 2024](#).
- e) Managing public sector land to generate and support sustainable projects including green energy/carbon storage projects, managing flood risk and increasing food biodiversity and community growing.

2 Clean, Safe and Sustainable RCT

- a) Keeping the County Borough clean and healthy and our streets free from litter, dog fouling and continuing to strengthen our response to environmental crime.
- b) Working with partners to maximise opportunities to make repairs, recycle and reduce and reuse waste.
- c) Providing creative opportunities for people to contribute to clean and sustainable communities.
- d) Signposting to more and better information on how residents can use less and waste less.
- e) Making sure that the methods of disposal for materials recovered from our waste are environmentally and ethically sustainable.
- f) Continuing to work with Welsh Government and partners to manage coal tip safety.
- g) Managing the impact of severe weather on our local environments.

3 Using Natures Assets to benefit people and communities

- a) Maximising our use of sustainable solutions and green infrastructure to support flood mitigation, reduce pollution and manage surface water.
- b) Continuing to invest in solar energy across our schools and Council buildings and also developing energy generation through solar, wind, hydro-electric and geothermal/mine water, to heat and cool homes and businesses.
- c) Working with partners and the Cardiff Capital Region to create and deliver a Local Area Energy Plan to inform decision making on the supply and use of different energy sources.
- d) Providing opportunities for residents and communities to 'grow your own' through allotments and community gardens.
- e) Providing a range of quality green spaces for people and communities to enjoy.

Some of the outcomes we expect to see by 2030.

- Improved air quality across the County Borough.
- People and communities able to keep active and well in our green spaces.
- Wildlife will thrive on positively managed council land.
- Communities supported to do more to reduce, reuse and recycle and live sustainably.
- People enjoying clean streets, free from environmental crime.
- Increased green energy produced from 'renewables'.

Working as part of

[Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board](#) to put in place a Cwm Taf Morgannwg Climate Risk Assessment so that we can better assess local risks likely to arise as a result of a changing climate.

Rhondda Cynon Taf [Local Nature Partnership](#) to plan and deliver action for nature across the County Borough.

CULTURE, HERITAGE AND WELSH LANGUAGE

Now	Looking Ahead
<p>43,179 people can either speak, read, write or understand Welsh, while 187,137 have no Welsh language skills.</p> <p>The majority of people in RCT (133,483) did not identify as having any religion. 86,474 consider themselves Christian, with 2,866 belonging to other religions including Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh.</p> <p>58% of RCT residents attend or participate in arts, culture or heritage activities at least 3 times a year¹⁰</p> <p>81 Council funded memorial plaques: located across the County Borough (at Mar-24)</p> <p>Approximately 35,000 objects forming Rhondda Cynon Taf 'collections' i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12,500+ in the Rhondda Heritage Park Museum collection. - 21,500+ in the Cynon Valley Museum collection and - A small collection of fewer than 100 objects in the National Lido Wales/Lido Ponty. <p>3.9% of RCT Residents are Armed Forces Veterans¹¹ -7,506 people (2021 data) 1,595 Referrals were received by the Veterans Advice Service (to Sept-23)</p> <p>Community Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 284 Social Value outcomes from 46 active Council contracts (at Dec-23) <p>Library usage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 724,066 Physical and virtual visits to Council libraries during 2022/23 <p>Arts Events as at Dec 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 37,550 individuals attended Arts events (RCT Theatres and Garth Olwg Lifelong Learning Centre 	<p>The rate of Growth of Welsh speakers is highest in South and South East Wales local authorities</p> <p>Ageing population may result in new roles for heritage, particularly around healthcare, memory and inclusion, and more opportunities for volunteering.</p> <p>Globally, increasing loneliness and disconnection are reducing civic engagement, weakening social cohesion and making people more vulnerable to polarisation</p>

¹⁰ [National Survey for Wales](#) – Arts, Museums, Libraries and Historic Places (2022-23)

¹¹ [Nomis Data – TS071](#) – Previously served in UK and Armed Forces (2021)

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6,868 individuals participated in arts activities - 22 RCT based artists and artistic organisations were supported | |
|---|--|

Some of our National Drivers - *This information will be available through hyperlink in final version*

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 • Cymraeg 2050 – A Million Welsh Speakers • The Historic Environment Wales Act 2016 • Welsh Parliament LG and Housing Cttee Local Authority Leisure and Library Services Report 2023 • Connected and Ambitious Libraries 2017-2020 – update imminent. • Theatre Green Book -arrangements for theatres to work more sustainably. |
|--|

<p>Our residents confirmed that ‘What Matters to them is.....’ a recognition that culture and heritage cuts across everything we do, supports all aspects of well-being and brings people and communities together. It matters that we remember and protect the traditions of the past but also create exciting new opportunities for people to enjoy today and in the future. Feedback suggested that Welsh Language could be included to the original Well-being Objective of Culture and Heritage.</p>
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CULTURE, HERITAGE AND WELSH LANGUAGE

In Culture, Heritage and Welsh Language our priorities are:

- 1. An RCT where culture and heritage is vibrant and difference is celebrated in strong communities that enhance well-being.**
- 2. Celebrating and preserving the historical, cultural, industrial and sporting heritage of Rhondda Cynon Taf.**

We recognise and celebrate RCT’s past, enjoy the present and embrace a future where:

- 1. Culture and heritage is vibrant and difference is celebrated in strong communities that enhance well-being, by**
 - a) Building on the legacy of the Eisteddfod to benefit our communities and businesses.
 - b) Continuing to grow the use of the Welsh language so that it thrives in our homes, communities and work.
 - c) Recognising and improving our awareness of diversity in our communities so that we strengthen community cohesion and better meet needs of our residents of all backgrounds.
 - d) Engaging with communities to jointly develop activity within our theatres, museums and other creative spaces through an accessible and inclusive approach that embraces all cultures.

- e) Developing stronger cross sector partnerships that value the positive impacts of culture and heritage including on health and well-being, skills, work and community life.
- f) Developing Intergenerational Projects to promote learning and shared skills, encouraging intergenerational friendships and helping to reduce loneliness.
- g) Working with a range of public, private and third sector partners to consider the cultural offer across our Town Centres, developing and promoting a range of inclusive Arts and Cultural Events that will serve local and wider communities across South East Wales.
- h) Strengthening RCT's Community Armed Forces Covenant.

2 Celebrating and preserving the historical, cultural, industrial and sporting heritage of Rhondda Cynon Taf by

- a) Protecting and promote the history of RCT for future generations through education, conservation and commemoration by:
 - o Identifying, recording and sharing the history of RCT
 - o Recognising, preserving, protecting and embracing RCTs industrial heritage including through digitisation, management of artifacts and protecting monuments.
- b) Connecting communities through heritage and local history.
- c) Shining a light on past and present inspirational people from Rhondda Cynon Taf to encourage aspiration and ambition in our children and young people.

Some of the outcomes we expect to see by 2030

- More people are confident to use Welsh in their everyday lives and more learners access Welsh medium education.
- People feel that they 'belong' in their communities, get along well and treat each other with respect.
- More opportunities for residents of all ages and backgrounds to 'connect' through arts, libraries and community activities and events.
- Opportunities for residents to promote and express their culture, heritage and share commitment to sustainable lives through a thriving arts community.
- More people identify with the history that shaped the Rhondda Cynon Taf of today and have a connection with the past.
- An Armed Forces community is supported by the wider community.

Working in Partnership with

[Arts Council for Wales](#) to connect with communities, make arts available to people of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy and take part.

Cardiff Capital City Region, [Creative Cardiff](#) and [University of South Wales](#) to increase creative sector skills within RCT.

[Awen Cultural Trust](#) to deliver the redevelopment of 'Y Muni', Muni Arts Centre in Pontypridd and support local and national creative industries.

A well-run Council...

Our four Well-being objectives and our priorities can only be delivered by a well-run Council. By this we mean a Council that has a positive organisational culture, that values its staff, manages its resources sustainably and wisely and looks to continually improve what we do to have the biggest impact for residents.

Our commitments to you

- We will deliver our improvement priorities and strive to meet all our targets and you will be able to hold us to account through good governance and local democracy.
- We will lead by example, show strong community leadership and be open about the challenges we face and the tough decisions we have to make.
- We will put residents and customers at the centre of all that we do and the decisions we make through more meaningful involvement and engagement.
- We will work with partners in all sectors so that we join up our services, make life easier for our residents and communities and deliver better outcomes for them.
- We will work together with residents and communities on solutions that better meet their needs and share responsibility deliver better outcomes together.
- We will manage our workforce, budgets, land, buildings, fleet and information to maximise our efficiency and make the biggest difference to our communities, nature and the environment.
- We will reduce the Council's Carbon Footprint and be a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030.
- We will be honest with our residents and regulators about where we are doing well and where we need to do better.
- We will put in place plans to care and support communities in emergency situations when they happen.
- We will take action against those who do not act in ways that support our residents to enjoy a healthy, green, safe, vibrant, and inclusive County Borough.
- We will treat all people with respect regardless of their background.
- We will treat Welsh and English languages equally and deliver services to users in their language of choice.
- We will work with local communities and community groups to make our services as accessible as possible.

Our commitment to staff

We will provide equality of opportunity for all, so that staff feel valued and can reach their full potential. The Council's commitment to its staff and our communities is set out in full in our Strategic Equality Plan and Workforce Plan.

Our commitment to partners

We will be committed and active partners in our work with others, seeking and challenging where we can add more and better outcomes for our residents, communities and businesses by working together. You can see more about our [work with others](#).

How we will deliver and monitor progress of our Corporate Plan

The Corporate Plan gives life to our Vision and Purpose, by setting out our four Well-being Objectives with more detailed priorities about how will deliver them, setting a clear direction for the Council's work up to 2030. The plan sets a direction and focus on the high-level ambitions and priorities for the Council which all staff and managers can see, understand and work towards. Our progress in delivering our high-level Well-being Objectives will be set out in our Annual Plans. Our progress in delivering these annual plans will be through our actions and a range of different measures, depending on the complexity of the item. For example, through clear longer term numerical targets/outcomes to be achieved or through a 'direction of travel' for which progress can be monitored and evidenced by robust data items. All our measures will be subject annual 'in-year' review to establish relevant short-term targets subject to progress.

Delivery of the priorities will be led by a senior officer. However, they involve and depend on all our services working together and not in traditional 'silos' to deliver creative and sustainable solutions. Some of the work we do is grant funded and so is required to meet grant conditions outside our control or influence.

The detailed plans to deliver our Well-being Objectives will be monitored and scrutinised by Councillors [Cabinet](#), [Scrutiny](#) and [Governance and Audit Committees](#) as part of the [Performance and Resources Reports](#). Those aspects of our work which are dependent upon grant funding will also subject to rigorous monitoring by the funding body e.g. Welsh Government.

The Council's priorities are cascaded into services' Delivery plans; they shape and inform Council policy, strategy and spend, help manage risks as well as inform discussions about development opportunities for staff. These performance arrangements are set out in the Council's Performance Management Framework.

Our Performance Management Framework will not, in itself, manage or improve performance. However, the steps it sets out help to create, develop and maintain a strong performance culture and puts the residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf at the heart of our business. It also allows us to answer three simple questions:

- How are services performing?
- How do we know?
- What are we going to do to improve them?

This strong Performance culture is supported by:

1. Reinforcing accountability through Challenge and Support by Cabinet and the Senior Leadership Team.
2. Strong and effective Scrutiny.
3. Being honest and self-aware.
4. Focusing on delivery and improvement.
5. Managing, as well as measuring performance.
6. Setting aspirational targets.

7. Making best and sustainable use of resources.
8. Empowering and supporting staff to do the right thing.
9. Involving our residents in decision that affect them.

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Outcomes, Measures and Targets – awaiting confirmation of further targets

Information/data will inform the new Corporate Reporting Dashboard from 2024

People and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased % attendance in primary/secondary schools and PRU/EOTAS provision. • Reduced no. of fixed term and permanent exclusions in primary/secondary phase. • More school leavers are in Education, Training or Employment. • Improved Educational outcomes for Care experienced children and young people. • Increase in the number of affordable homes. • Decrease in the number of empty properties.
Work and Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More people helped into work • Fewer vacant premises in our town centres • More people visiting our town centres (increased footfall) • Increased kms of active travel routes within the County Borough • Increased availability of publicly accessible EV charging points
Nature and the Environment	<p>30% of RCT to be in positive management for wildlife (<i>this is UN 2022 Framework for Biodiversity 30 by 30 target that WG is promoting</i>) <i>Biodiversity deep dive: recommendations GOV. WALES</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the amount of waste recycled and decrease the amount sent to landfill • Increased local renewable energy generated from Council land or buildings
Culture, Heritage and Welsh Language	<p>Contributing to Welsh Government’s national target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050, as set out in Cymraeg 2050. Increasing the number of Welsh speakers in RCT from 12.4% (2021 census)</p>
Effective and Efficient Council	<p>By 2030 we will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be a Carbon Neutral Council • contribute to the Welsh Government’s ambition for a Net Zero Public Sector.

There will be a hyperlink to this section in final version of the Plan

Aligning Strategic Support and Regional Strategies In progress list of Corporate and Service specific policies/strategies assigned to four Well-being Objectives

Well-being Objective	Council strategies
<p>PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES- Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives,</p>	<p>Corporate Safeguarding Policy 2024 Digital Strategy for schools 2020-25 Education Strategic Plan 2022-25 RCT Children’s Services Workforce Strategy 2021-24 RCT Empty Homes Strategy 2022-25 RCT Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022-26 RCT Local Housing Market Assessment 2022 - 2037 RCT Looked After Children Prevention Strategy 2022-25 RCT Looked After Children: Residential Transformation Strategy 2022-27 RCT Private Rented Sector Strategy 2023 - 2026 RCT Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2022-27 Warmer Homes: A Fuel Poverty Strategy 2019 - 2023 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-32 Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2022-2027 RCT Housing Strategy 2024-29 – in progress Community Safety Strategy pending</p>
<p>WORK AND BUSINESS - Helping to strengthen and grow RCT’s Economy.</p>	<p>Active Travel Report 2021-22 Commissioning, Socially Responsible Procurement & Contract Management Strategy 2021-24 Local Development Plan 2006-2021 and the Revised Local Development Plan 2022-2037 Preferred Strategy Consultation webpage on RLDP 2022-2037 Preferred Strategy Regeneration Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdare Town Centre Strategy 2023-24 (Draft) • Porth Town Centre Strategy 2018-19 • Pontypridd Town Centre Placemaking Plan 2022 (Draft) • Town Centre Strategies 2023
<p>NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT - A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT’s environment and nature.</p>	<p>Air Quality Progress Report 2023 Biodiversity Duty Report 2019-22 Climate Change Engagement Plan 2023-25 Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy 2021-30 Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan 2024 (Draft) Tree & Woodland Strategy 2022-32 Waste Management Strategy 2023</p>
<p>CULTURE, HERITAGE and WELSH LANGUAGE Recognising and celebrating RCT’s past, present and future.</p>	<p>Library Service Strategy 2022-25 Tourism Strategy 2021 Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2022-27 and action plan Heritage Strategy in development</p>

Well-being Objective	Council strategies
Well run Council	<p>Annual Risk Based Internal Audit Plan 2023-24</p> <p>Climate Change Strategy 2022-25 – ‘Think Climate RCT’— will be subsumed by new Corporate Plan</p> <p>Council’s Decarbonisation Strategy 2023-25</p> <p>Commissioning, Socially Responsible Procurement & Contract Management Strategy 2021-24</p> <p>Corporate Asset Management Plan 2018-23</p> <p>Digital Strategy 2022-26</p> <p>Human Resources Strategy 2023-28</p> <p>Workforce Plan 2023-28</p> <p>Involvement and Engagement Framework 2020-24</p> <p>Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 – 2026/27</p> <p>Public Participation Strategy 2023</p> <p>Risk Management Strategy 2023</p> <p>Strategic Equality Plan 2019-2022 – MW</p> <p><i>Council’s Operating Model and Working Arrangements Policy Others?</i></p>
	<p>Regional Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cwm Taf Morgannwg Well-being Plan 2023-2028 • Cwm Taf Morgannwg Area Plan 2023-28 • Others
	<p>CCRCD</p> <p>Cardiff Capital Region – The City Deal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Wales Metro - Transport for Wales

There will be a hyperlink to this section in final version of the Plan Appendix ??

Examples of how the draft Corporate Plan priorities could contribute to the seven national Well-being Goals.

A PROSPEROUS WALES - An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives	WORK and BUSINESS Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's Economy	NATURE and the ENVIRONMENT A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature	CULTURE, HERITAGE and WELSH LANGUAGE Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing great learning environments through our new and improved early years settings and schools including a new Special school and making Welsh medium education accessible to all. • Working with partners to enable the supply of affordable and sustainable homes across our communities, including supporting those people who are homeless and bringing empty properties back into use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting people of all ages to gain the skills they need for jobs in our local communities and working with local businesses and training providers to identify appropriate opportunities for them. • Working as part of Cardiff Capital Region to identify and support jobs and skills development in regionally defined priority areas e.g. new and emerging technologies • Delivering regeneration projects to enable vibrant town centres and good quality public spaces where businesses thrive and people want to visit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with partners and the Cardiff Capital Region to create and deliver a Local Area Energy Plan to inform decision making on the supply and use of different energy sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on the legacy of the Eisteddfod to benefit our communities and businesses. • Shining a light on past and present inspirational people from Rhondda Cynon Taf to encourage aspiration and ambition in our children and young people.

A RESILIENT WALES - A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives	WORK and BUSINESS Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's Economy	NATURE and the ENVIRONMENT A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature	CULTURE, HERITAGE and WELSH LANGUAGE Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing connections so that communities and the third and business sectors can work together to source sustainable and healthy food and develop horticulture and other technical skills that support the growth of sustainable food. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Higher and Further Education, business and the third sector to share knowledge and support business innovation and sustainability. Supporting the development of low carbon travel and public transport, including publicly accessible infrastructure such as Electric Vehicle charging. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting existing trees, supporting woodland expansion through natural regeneration and urban tree planting Rewetting and restoring peat bogs: reducing carbon emissions and increasing biodiversity and carbon sequestration. Managing public sector land to generate and support sustainable projects including green energy/carbon storage projects, managing flood risk and increasing food biodiversity and community growing. Continuing to work with Welsh Government and partners to manage coal tip safety. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing Intergenerational Projects to promote learning and shared skills

A HEALTHIER WALES - A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood

PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives	WORK and BUSINESS Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's Economy	NATURE and the ENVIRONMENT A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature	CULTURE, HERITAGE and WELSH LANGUAGE Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping our residents to keep healthy, active and well; fulfilling their potential and strengthening local communities through opportunities to participate in learning, leisure, physical and creative activities that are accessible to all. • Enabling people to live independently in their community and close to home by providing the right support and care at the right time. Providing modern accommodation that meets the needs of people who can no longer live at home. • Protecting children, young people and adults at risk from harm, neglect and exploitation. • Supporting people affected by/experiencing domestic violence and addiction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking opportunities to develop high quality public spaces and enhance existing town centre areas as part of our town centre strategies, which includes tree planting and other sustainable green spaces that support improved health, well-being and increased biodiversity • Putting in place amenities that our residents can use to enhance their visits to Town Centres. • Encouraging and enabling active travel so more journeys are made by walking, cycling and public transport, supporting healthy lifestyles and improving air quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving air quality including through implementing local and national Welsh Government traffic management requirements, encouraging shift to low carbon travel options and implementing the requirements of the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024. • Providing a range of quality green spaces for people and communities to enjoy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing stronger cross sector partnerships that value the positive impacts of culture and heritage including on health and well-being, skills, work and community life.

A MORE EQUAL WALES - A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).

PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives	WORK and BUSINESS Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's Economy	NATURE and the ENVIRONMENT A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature	CULTURE, HERITAGE and WELSH LANGUAGE Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping children of all abilities and backgrounds to do the very best they can in school by ensuring that we have a relentless focus on securing continuous school improvement and high standards in our schools. • Supporting children and young people of all abilities and backgrounds to overcome barriers to learning, including those experiencing poverty, so that they can achieve the best educational outcomes that they are capable of. Implementing the five year Health Determinate Research Collaboration in order to tackle health inequalities in RCT and address wider health determinants that directly affect the life chances of our residents. • Giving vulnerable children and young people the best possible opportunities in life and ensuring access to safe and supportive environments suitable to their needs, to improve their well-being. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting people experiencing 'in work' poverty to find more rewarding and secure work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the impact of severe weather on our local environments. • Providing opportunities for residents and communities to 'grow your own' through allotments and community gardens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognising and improving our awareness of diversity in our communities so that we strengthen community cohesion and better meet needs of our residents of all backgrounds. • Strengthening RCT's Community Armed Forces Covenant.

A WALES OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES - Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities

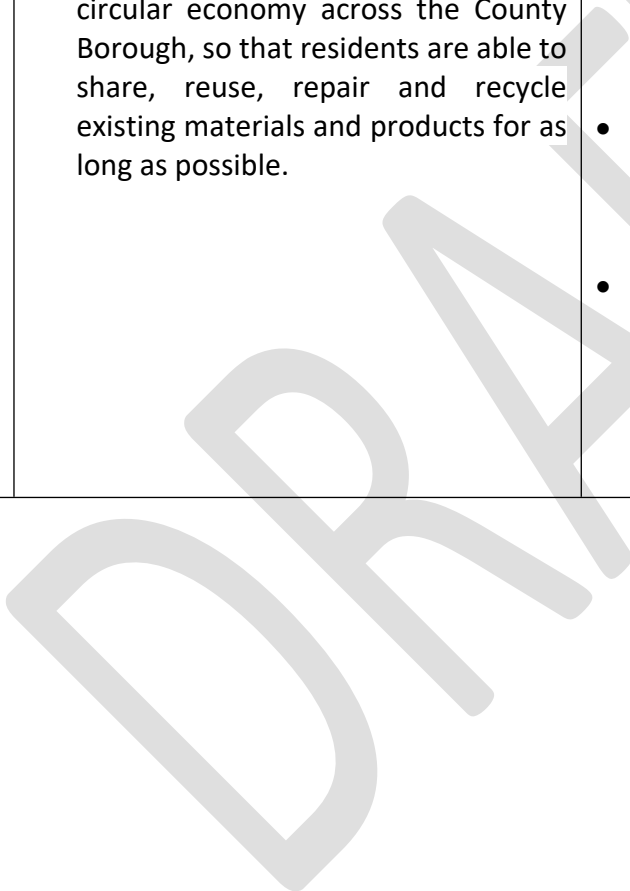
PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives	WORK and BUSINESS Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's Economy	NATURE and the ENVIRONMENT A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature	CULTURE, HERITAGE and WELSH LANGUAGE Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting children and families in their early years to have the best opportunities to develop, be healthy, and enjoy a range of programmes and activities in our libraries and Community Hubs. • Considering the implications of the National Framework for Social Prescribing. • Enabling people to be engaged in resilient communities, strengthening connections between community groups, providing opportunities to lead and influence community developments and be involved in volunteering. • Working with residents and partners to keep our communities safe and free from crime. • Developing community focused schools, that provide a range of services and activities, often beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with our suppliers to increase the Social Value and Community benefits from all our contracts, for example through jobs, work experience and training. • Seeking and maximising available funding to support local/community transport routes where conditions allow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping the County Borough clean and healthy and our streets free from litter, dog fouling and continuing to strengthen our response to environmental crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging with communities to jointly develop activity within our theatres, museums and other creative spaces through an accessible and inclusive approach that embraces all cultures. • Developing Intergenerational Projects, encouraging intergenerational friendships and helping to reduce loneliness. • Working with a range of public, private and third sector partners to consider the cultural offer across our Town Centres, developing and promoting a range of inclusive Arts and Cultural Events that will serve local and wider communities across South East Wales. • Connecting communities through heritage and local history.

A WALES OF VIBRANT CULTURE & WELSH LANGUAGE - A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives	WORK and BUSINESS Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's Economy	NATURE and the ENVIRONMENT A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature	CULTURE, HERITAGE and WELSH LANGUAGE Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing great learning environments through our new and improved early years settings and schools including a new Special school and making Welsh medium education accessible to all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widening our Town Centre 'offer', including local events and celebrating culture and heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing creative opportunities for people to contribute to clean and sustainable communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to grow the use of the Welsh language so that it thrives in our homes, communities and work. • Developing stronger cross sector partnerships that value the positive impacts of culture and heritage including on health and well-being, skills, work and community life.

A GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE WALES - A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being

PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives	WORK and BUSINESS Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's Economy	NATURE and the ENVIRONMENT A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature	CULTURE, HERITAGE and WELSH LANGUAGE Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling more people to live in warm and energy efficient homes to improve their health and wellbeing and enable them to live more sustainably. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the development of the circular economy across the County Borough, so that residents are able to share, reuse, repair and recycle existing materials and products for as long as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and enhancing biodiversity: working with nature to tackle both the Climate and Nature emergencies, • Working with partners to maximise opportunities to make repairs, recycle and reduce and reuse waste. • Making sure that the methods of disposal for materials recovered from our waste are environmentally and ethically sustainable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and promote the history of RCT for future generations through education, conservation and commemoration by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying, recording and sharing the history of RCT - Recognising, preserving, protecting and embracing RCTs industrial heritage including through digitisation, management of artifacts and protecting monuments.





RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023 - 2024

COUNCIL

24TH APRIL 2024

JOINT REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION AND DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL AND ALLOCATION OF NOTICES OF MOTION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the outcome of the review of the Political Balance of the Council following the reduction in membership of the 'RCT Independent Group' and the resulting increase in membership of the 'Independent Group'.
- 1.2 Following the consequential change to the Council's political balance, to review the allocation of Notices of Motion.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 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 the report, be adopted;
- 2.2 That the Service Director – Democratic Services & Communication be authorised to make appointments to politically balanced bodies upon receipt of notification of the wishes of the political groups subject to any subsequent requests for amendment of membership of Committees being referred to Council;
- 2.3 Note that further instruction in respect of any revisions to the allocation of Notices of Motion will be sought at the Council's Annual General Meeting on 8th May 2024.

3. POLITICAL BALANCE

- 3.1 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 makes provisions for securing the political balance on certain relevant authorities, committees and bodies.

- 3.2 I received notification of a change in the Council's political balance on the 26th February 2024. The RCT Independent Group, now comprises Cllr Mike Powell, Cllr Cathy Lises and Cllr David Evans. From above date forward the Independent Group comprises Cllr Will Jones, Cllr Wayne Owen and Cllr Paul Binning. This change in the political grouping arrangements of the Council necessitates a review of the political balance of the Council.
- 3.3 Following the review I would inform Members that the appointment of the available seats is as set out in Tables A, B and C of Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.4 Consequential changes to committee representation, as a result of the new political grouping arrangements are summarised below:
- A change in representation upon the Council's Planning & Development Committee, with a reduction in Labour Group representation to 8, to enable representation by the two independent Groups.
 - A change in representation upon the Council's Scrutiny Committees, with a reduction in Plaid Cymru representation to 1, as a consequence of the formation of a new Independent Group (specific detail of these changes are set out in point 4 of the report).
 - The RCT Independent Group will continue to be represented on the Licensing Committee, with the Independent Group now being represented on the Constitution Committee.
- 3.5 The establishment of two 'smaller' groups with equal membership sizes has presented a challenge in 'balancing' the representation across the committees set out in table A. It has only been possible to achieve 'balance' by reducing representation of the Labour Group from 9 to 8 upon the Planning & Development Control Committee. Consistency has been adopted across the remaining committees listed in this section, to achieve the necessary balance of representation.
- 3.6 Appointments to Committees will be made following notification given to me by each political group as to their nominations for appointments to the respective Committees. It has been previous practice for power to be delegated to the Proper Officer (the Head of Democratic Services) to accept and make the appointments notified to me by the political groups. However, in the case of subsequent requests for amendments to the membership of Committees they should be the subject of a report to full Council.

4. REPRESENTATION UPON THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

- 4.1 As previously referenced and in accordance with the revised political balance, Members will note that Labour Group representation upon the Planning & Development Committee, will be reduced to 8, to accommodate the RCT Independent and Independent Groups, who are both of equal size.

- 4.2 Consistency has been applied in respect of the committee listed in table A, limiting any further membership changes at this late stage in the 2023/24 Municipal year.
- 4.3 It is once again recommended by Head of Democratic Services, that the Conservative Group will continue to be represented on the RLDP Members Steering Group, recognising the importance of enabling all political groups to be represented in this forum.

SCRUTINY MEMBERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS & ASSOCIATED MATTERS

- 4.4 Members will also note the implications of the revised political balance on the Council's scrutiny committee membership (of Committees with a membership of 14 members as set out at table C at Appendix 1) whereby the Plaid Cymru Group lose one seat from each of the four scrutiny committees in favour of the Independent Group (aligning it with the allocation of the RCT Independent Group with the same number of members).
- 4.5 This revised arrangement will have no impact upon the allocation of Scrutiny chairs, with three roles allocated to the Labour Group and one to the Plaid Cymru (Education & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee). At the Annual General Meeting (AGM), Council will determine its chair and vice chair roles for the 2024/2025 municipal year.
- 4.6 Council is reminded that membership of the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee, should comprise representation from the Chairs and Vice-chairs of each scrutiny committee. The Chair of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board, Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) must also form part of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee membership. Members are advised to note these points, when determining any revisions to political group representation.
- 4.7 Full Council has the opportunity to review the total membership size of each committee, at the Council's Annual General Meeting (AGM). In line with the resolution of Council, back in [October 2023](#), total membership of the Democratic Services Committees, is maintained as 21, to enable representation by all political groups.

5. ALLOCATION OF NOTICES OF MOTION

- 5.1 At the Council meeting held on the 25th October 2023, and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.2(a), Council allocated the 20 Notices of Motion for Municipal Year 2023 - 2024 to reflect the creation of the new political group known as the 'Independent Group' as follows:

Labour - 12
Plaid Cymru -4
RCT Independent Group - 2
Conservatives – 1
Independent Group – 1

- 5.2 It is normally necessary when considering the political balance, for instruction to be sought from Members in respect of the allocation of motions for the remainder of a municipal year.
- 5.3 In light of the fact that there are no 'ordinary' meetings of Council remaining this municipal, it is recommended that the allocation is reviewed as part of the Council AGM, currently scheduled to take place on Wednesday 8th May 2024.

APPENDIX 1**POLITICAL BALANCE 2023/24****TABLE A**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labour</i>	<i>Plaid Cymru</i>	<i>RCT Ind</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Independent</i>
Members	75	59	8	3	2	3
Political Balance		78.67	10.67	4.00	2.67	4.00
Committee	<i>Available Seats</i>	<i>Labour</i>	<i>Plaid Cymru</i>	<i>RCT Ind</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Independent</i>
Planning & Development	11	8	1	1	0	1
Licensing	11	9	1	1	0	0
Constitution	8	6	1	0	0	1
Appointments	5	4	1	0	0	0
Pensions	5	4	0	0	1	0
Appeals	5	4	1	0	0	0
Total Seats	45	35	5	2	1	2

TABLE B**INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEES SUBJECT TO POLITICAL BALANCE**

Committee	Available Seats	Labour	Plaid Cymru	RCT Ind	Conservative	Independent
Overview & Scrutiny	14	11	1	1	0	1
Education & Inclusion	14	11	1	1	0	1
Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity	14	11	1	1	0	1
Community Services	14	11	1	1	0	1
Democratic Services	21	16	2	1	1	1
Governance & Audit Committee	6	5	1	0	0	0

TABLE C

TABLE TO CALCULATE POLITICAL BALANCE FOR INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEES

CALCULATION FOR OTHER COMMITTEES						
	TOTAL	LABOUR	PLAID	RCT INDEPENDENT	INDEPENDENT	CONSERVATIVE
	3	3	0	0	0	0
	4	3	1	0	0	0
	5	4	1	0	0	0
	6	5	1	0	0	0
	7	6	1	0	0	0
	8	6	1	*	*	0
	9	7	1	*	*	0
	10	8	1	*	*	0
	11	9	1	*	*	0
	12	9	1	1	1	0
	13	10	1	1	1	0
SCRUTINY COMMITTEES	14	11	1	1	1	0
	15	12	2	*	*	0
	16	12	2	*	*	0
	17	13	2	1	1	0
	18	14	2	1	1	0
	19	15	2	1	1	0
	20	16	2	1	1	0
	21	16	2	1	1	1
	22	17	2	1	1	1
	23	18	2	1	1	1
	24	19	2	1	1	1
	25	20	3	1	1	0

* 1 seat to be allocated between them

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

24th APRIL 2024

JOINT REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION AND DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

REPORT

The Political Balance of the Council, Appointment of Democratic Services Committee Chair and Allocation of Notices of Motion

Freestanding matter

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023 - 2024

COUNCIL

24 APRIL 2024

REVIEW OF COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the duty to conduct a Community Review, to present the Terms of Reference for this review and seek approval to commence the process, including the establishment of a cross-party working group.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Approves the commencement of a Community Review for Rhondda Cynon Taf;
- 2.2 Notes the Council Size Policy, as set out in Appendix 2, that would be applicable to the conduct of the proposed Community Review;
- 2.3 Approves the Terms of Reference for the Community Review as set out in Appendix 3 and notes the indicative timetable set out in the report for conducting the Community Review; and
- 2.4 Establishes a cross-party working group to oversee the review, which it is proposed consist of 10 Elected Members (6 Labour, 1 Plaid, 1 RCT Independent, 1 Independent and 1 Conservative) with nominations from Group Leaders to be submitted to the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council has a duty under section 22 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 ("the Act") to report every ten years on a community review having regard to the Local and Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales' (the 'LDBCW') timetable for conducting the reviews

of principal areas' electoral arrangements required by section 29 (1) of the Act.

- 3.2 The last electoral review for Rhondda Cynon Taf, carried out by the LDBCW, was conducted in 2021 with consequential changes being implemented for the Local Government Elections in May 2022. That review also led to some consequential changes being made to community wards, which were also implemented for the 2022 local elections.
- 3.3 Both the Commission and principal councils, when carrying out their duties, are required by the Act to seek to ensure effective and convenient local government.
- 3.4 A review of community arrangements is a legal process whereby the Council will consult with those living in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the review. This means making sure that those living in the area, and other interested groups, have a say in how their local communities are represented. A 'community' is the unit of local government that lies below the level of the principal council and, as Members are aware many, but not all, communities have an elected town or community Council. Some communities for electoral purposes are further divided into 'community wards'.
- 3.5 Any review of boundaries must reflect local identities and, as stated above, facilitate effective and convenient local government. A review offers an opportunity to put in place strong, clearly defined boundaries tied to ground features, and to remove any anomalous boundaries that exist as well as reflecting possible shifts in the population.
- 3.6 The Council completed its last full Community Review in 2014 and reviews follow a 10-year cycle. Hence a further review is now required.

4. 2024 COMMUNITY REVIEW

- 4.1 Attached at Appendix 1 to this report is the LDBCW Guidance for Principal Councils on the review of Communities, which was updated in 2022. The Commission has also prepared an Easy Read version of the Guidance which can be accessed [here](#) and a video to explain the background to Community Reviews which can be accessed [here](#).
- 4.2 Attached at Appendix 2 to this report is the Council Size Policy proposed for the conduct of the Community Review. The Council Size Policy creates a mechanism to determine, for the Community and Town Councils, the appropriate number of community councillors for a given town or community based on the electorate of the community and achieve electoral parity. Ideally it should ensure, as far as is practicable, that the number of electors per councillor is roughly the same across all community and town councils within the Council's area.

- 4.3 Attached at Appendix 3 to this report are the proposed Terms of Reference for conducting the Review. The Terms of Reference set out the proposed timetable and procedures for the review, provide guidance and set out the issues that would be considered during the review, including explanations of the Council Size Policy and grouping of communities.
- 4.4 It is proposed this review be carried out under section 25 of the Act, which covers the changes to boundaries and any consequential changes to electoral arrangements. A review of community boundaries under section 25 should ensure that communities continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. For example, over time communities may expand with new housing developments. This can lead to boundaries becoming anomalous, for example if new housing is built across boundaries resulting in confusion over which community a housing estate falls into. A community review offers an opportunity to the principal council to put in place strong, clearly defined boundaries tied to ground features, and to remove any anomalous boundaries that exist.
- 4.5 If the Council recommends boundary changes in the course of a section 25 review, it is also able to recommend changes to the community council and to electoral arrangements for the communities that are affected by the boundary changes. This can be done as part of the same section 25 review, enabling the Council to make recommendations for the electoral consequences of boundary changes.
- 4.6 Discussions with the LDBCW have taken place regarding the proposed timing of the Review to ensure they have sufficient time to make any Orders that are consequent following a community review and that it would not have an adverse impact on the work the Commission has already programmed.
- 4.7 As part of the review, the Council will have regard to the LDBCW Guidance and consider the following:
- the creation, alteration, abolition or merging of communities and community wards;
 - the name of the community and, where warded, the name of community wards;
 - Where changes have been made to the boundaries of communities or community wards the number of councillors representing the community and, where warded, the number of councillors per ward; and
 - The wards that are contested and uncontested in recent community and town council elections.
- 4.8 The first stage of the review is to ask all interested parties to consider the current community boundaries and submit their views on any changes required to create communities that provide for effective and convenient local government. All submissions will then be considered, and the Council will publish a Draft Proposals Report and will hold a consultation on those proposals. All submissions will then be considered, and Final proposals will be

submitted to the LDBCW. The LDBCW will then, if it thinks fit, give effect to these recommendations either as submitted, or with modifications via an order.

4.9 Any changes to electoral arrangements for communities will only be considered as a consequence of any changes to community boundaries.

4.10 When undertaking the review, the Council is required to undertake such steps as it thinks fit to ensure that persons who may be interested in the review are informed of the review and are informed of any draft proposals or recommendations. In addition to consulting with the wider public the Council undertakes to meet these duties by writing to:

- The LDBCW;
- The Town and Community Councils across the principal council area;
- The Senedd Members representing the area;
- The Regional Senedd Members for the area;
- The Members of UK Parliament representing the area;
- Elected Members;
- Police & Crime Commissioner;
- South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority;
- Welsh Language Commissioner;
- The Welsh Government;
- Trade Unions; and
- Ordnance Survey.

Timetable for the Review

4.11 The review is proposed to start in May 2024 with final recommendations being provisionally scheduled to be submitted in March 2025. Any changes that occur as a result of the review process would then come into effect for the next Local Government Elections in 2027:

Action	Period	Date
Start of Review – Initial Publicity		May 2024
Initial Investigations	6 Weeks	July 2024 to August 2024
Draft Proposal Publication/ Consultation	6 Weeks	November 2024 to December 2024
Final Recommendation Submission		March 2025

4.12 Whilst carrying out the review it is good practice to set up a cross-party working group to draft the Terms of Reference, consider the consultation responses and to agree any proposals. Setting up a cross-party group allows for cooperation between the political parties and can facilitate endorsement at Full Council. The Commission saw the benefits of cross-party working groups set up to work on boundary changes during its last round of electoral reviews where some principal councils had established such working groups.

- 4.13 It is therefore proposed that Council establish a cross-party working group to oversee the review, which it is proposed consist of 10 Elected Members (6 Labour, 1 Plaid, 1 RCT Independent, 1 Independent and 1 Conservative) with nominations from Group Leaders to be submitted to the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications. The working group would consider the responses to the initial consultation, agree the draft recommendations to be presented to Full Council, consider any responses to the consultation on the draft recommendations, and agree the final recommendations to be presented to Full Council.
- 4.14 If Council chooses to accept the final recommendations of the review, concluded after public consultation, it will be necessary to submit the recommendations to the LDBCW which, following a final 6 week period for representations, will prepare an Order to implement the changes. Any changes to the arrangement of communities will take effect at the next scheduled Town and Community elections in May 2027.

5. CONSULTATION/INVOLVEMENT

- 5.1 It is recognised that the development of strong, sustainable communities depends on residents' active participation in decision making in respect of the governance arrangements of community and town councils. The Council is therefore committed to engaging effectively with the diverse communities it serves and to enabling local people to participate meaningfully in the creation of effective community governance arrangements where all people feel able to take an active part in influencing service delivery.
- 5.2 The timetable in the Terms of Reference includes key consultation periods to allow time for responses to be received, including consultation with mandatory consultees at the various stages in the process.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The publishing and administrative costs of the review will be met from existing departmental budgets.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no specific equality and diversity implications aligned to this report or the wider review at this time.

8. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Welsh Language Commissioner would be consulted in relation to the Community Review and in respect of the creation of any new community names. The WLC is responsible for advising on the standard forms of Welsh place-names. The WLC has convened a Place-names Standardisation Panel to provide recommendations and expert advice in this field.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Principal Councils have a duty to monitor the communities in its area and, where appropriate, the electoral arrangements of such communities for the purpose of considering whether to make or recommend changes. These changes are brought about by means of community boundary reviews under section 25 and community electoral reviews under section 31 of the Act.
- 9.2 Section 22 of the Act 2013 provides that a principal council must have regard to the Commission's timetable for conducting the reviews of principal area's electoral arrangements when determining when to conduct a community review.
- 9.3 Section 34 of the Act stipulates the 'mandatory consultees' for a Community Review.

10. LINKS TO THE WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 10.1 The review of community arrangements safeguards the long-term needs of local residents to ensure an effective and convenient local government and electoral equality.
- 10.2 The Council will be submitting a proposal to the Commission in line with effective collaboration and involvement between various groups and bodies.

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 The Council is required to undertake a Community Review to consider what changes, if any, are needed to existing community arrangements across the whole of the County Borough. This report sets out how the proposed review would be undertaken and seeks Council's approval to commence the review process and agree the necessary documentation.

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

24 APRIL 2024

REVIEW OF COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Freestanding matter

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Comisiwn Ffiniau a
Democratiaeth Leol
Cymru

Local Democracy and
Boundary Commission
For Wales

Local Democracy and Boundary
Commission for Wales

Guidance For Principal Councils On The Review Of Communities



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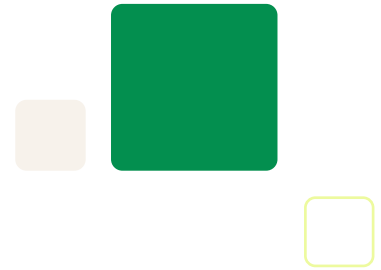
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Foreword



In this document the Commission has set out its guidance on how to conduct community reviews under sections 25 and 31 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013. Principal councils have a duty to report to the Commission on their community arrangements every ten years.

The legislation that covers community reviews is the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act). Under the Act the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (the Commission) has a general duty to monitor arrangements for local government across Wales. Each principal council however has a duty to monitor the communities in its area and, where appropriate, the electoral arrangements of such communities for the purposes of considering whether to make or recommend changes. These changes are brought about by means of community boundaries reviews and community electoral reviews. A community boundaries review conducted by the principal council under section 25 of the Act is brought into effect by an Order by the Commission. A community electoral review conducted by the principal council under section 31 of the Act is brought into effect by an Order by the principal council.

There are two audiences in mind in the drafting of this document. Primarily this is a guide for principal council officers in the conduct of a review of their communities. It has also been drafted to inform interested parties, in particular the town and community councils of Wales, as to how the process should operate. Community councils have the opportunity, through their engagement in community reviews, to ensure that the boundaries of their community reflect how their community operates on the ground and that the representation of their constituents is appropriate.

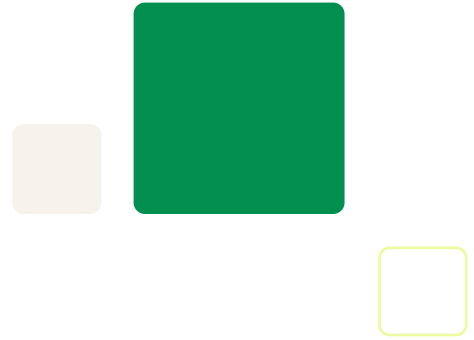
Beverley Smith

Chair

Contents

Chapter 1	Context	05
	Communities	05
	Community Reviews	06
	Principal Councils' duties to monitor, report and review	07
	Community reviews by the Commission	09
Chapter 2	Community Review – Legal Process and Considerations	11
	Situations in which a community review may be carried out	11
	Conducting a review – legal constraints	13
	Process	14
	Outcomes	21
	Implementing changes	27
Chapter 3	Community Reviews - Best Practice	33
	Terms of Reference	33
	Council Size Policy	35
	Amalgamation and Grouping of Communities	37
Chapter 4	Assistance from the Commission	39
Appendix 1	Glossary of Terms	40
Appendix 2	Example Timeline	41

Context



1.1 This Community Review Guidance has been produced to assist and help to ensure consistency in the conduct of community reviews by principal councils. It explains the statutory processes that should be followed, and the best practice developed by principal councils over time.

Communities

1.2 There can be some confusion over what is meant by the word community. It means different things to different people. Some may consider it to be the street in which they live, others a broader village area, others much larger areas. All of these are entirely accurate and reflect the lives of people and the differences and similarities of places where we live, work and interact. However, in Wales there is an additional and more technical meaning.

1.3 For the purposes of this guidance, a community is the unit of local government that lies below the level of the principal council (a county or county borough). Community areas cover the whole of Wales, so wherever you live you will be in a community. Many, but not all, of the community areas have an elected town or community council that provides services to their community area. Most councils of community areas are known as community councils, but some communities have the status of a town and are known as town councils. Communities may be divided for electoral purposes into community wards.

Community Reviews

1.4 From time to time, there may be a need to make changes to community areas due to shifts in the population. Such changes may involve changes to the boundary of the community and, where a community council exists, changes to the electoral arrangements for the community council. These changes are predominantly achieved by means of community reviews under the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act).

1.5 Under the Act, the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (the Commission) has a general duty to monitor arrangements for local government across Wales. Each principal council however has a duty to monitor the communities in its area and the electoral arrangements of those communities for the purposes of considering whether to make or recommend changes. These changes are brought about by means of a community boundaries review or a community electoral review. Both the Commission and the principal councils, when carrying out their duties, are required by the Act to seek to ensure effective and convenient local government.

1.6 The statutory process for conducting a community review is set out in Part 3 of the Act. This lays down basic criteria for conducting a review, the appropriate considerations and the procedure.

1.7 There are two different types of community review that may be carried out by principal councils, which are subject to different sections of the Act:

- Section 25 – a review of community boundaries (which is described in this guidance as a “section 25 boundaries review”); and

- Section 31– a review of the electoral arrangements of a community (a “section 31 electoral review”).

Principal Councils’ duties to monitor, report and review

1.8 Principal councils are required by the Act to monitor the communities in their areas and the electoral arrangements of those communities, and to carry out reviews where the Act requires them to do so or where they otherwise consider it appropriate.

1.9 Principal councils are also required to publish a report every 10 years on how they have complied with their duties to monitor and review. A report should describe any processes that the principal council has gone through and decisions it has made in this context.

1.10 In order to discharge its duties under the Act, the principal council should maintain a mechanism to identify potential changes to communities such as new housing developments or shifts in electorate. This may be achieved by a combination of periodic consultation with the community councils and ongoing consideration of community boundaries and electoral arrangements when considering issues such as planning (including the preparation of development plans) and electoral administration.

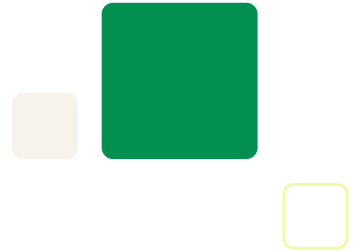
1.11 When a principal council identifies the need for a review of or changes to its communities (or their electoral arrangements), the Commission recommends that the council should consider first whether it is necessary to review the boundaries of its communities (and if so carry out a review

under section 25 of any relevant communities) and thereafter consider whether it is also necessary to carry out electoral reviews under section 31 in relation to any communities.

1.12 A review of community boundaries under section 25 should ensure that communities continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. For example, over time communities may expand with new housing developments. This can lead to boundaries becoming anomalous, for example if new housing is built across boundaries resulting in confusion over which community a housing estate falls into. A community review offers an opportunity to the principal council to put in place strong, clearly defined boundaries tied to ground features, and to remove any anomalous boundaries that exist.

1.13 If the principal council recommends boundary changes in the course of a section 25 review, it is also able to recommend changes to the community council and to electoral arrangements for the communities that are affected by the boundary changes. This can be done as part of the same section 25 review, enabling the principal council to make recommendations for the electoral consequences of boundary changes. This is described in more detail in section 2 of this guidance, under the heading “Outcomes”.

1.14 In contrast, if the principal council has not carried out a boundary review for particular communities or identifies issues within the electoral arrangements for one or more communities independent of any boundary issues, the principal council should then consider whether those communities should be the subject of community electoral reviews under section 31.



1.15 The Commission recommends that, when considering whether to carry out community electoral reviews for communities, principal councils consider in particular the degree to which “electoral parity” is achieved across the communities in their area, and (where an individual community is divided into community wards) across the wards in the community. For example, if a community has a higher number of electors per councillor than other communities in the principal council’s area, the principal council may wish to carry out a community electoral review with a view to considering whether to recommend an increase in the number of community councillors for that community. If the number of electors per councillor varies significantly between different wards within a community, the principal council may wish to carry out a community electoral review for the purposes of considering a different allocation of councillors to the individual community wards.

Community reviews by the Commission

1.16 In some circumstances the Commission is able to conduct community reviews in place of the principal council.

1.17 The Commission is able (but not obliged) to conduct a community boundaries review under section 26 of the Act in the following circumstances:

- where the principal council and the Commission have agreed that the Commission will carry out a community boundaries review in place of the principal council;
- if the principal council has not complied with a direction from the Welsh Ministers requiring that a section 25 review be carried out;
- where the principal council has carried out a section 25 boundaries review and recommended

that no boundary changes should be made; or

- where the Commission, in its capacity as implementing authority, disagrees with the recommendations made by a principal council following a section 25 review, or considers that the review process adopted by the principal council was defective.

1.18 The Commission has power to recover its costs of a section 26 review from the principal council if the Commission has carried out the review because the principal council failed to comply with a direction from the Welsh Ministers, or because the Commission considers that a review process carried out by the principal council was defective. The Commission may also require that the principal council meet its costs as a condition of the Commission's agreement to carry out a boundaries review in the place of the principal council.

1.19 The Commission is also able (but not obliged) to conduct community electoral arrangements review under section 32 of the Act in the following circumstances:

- where the principal council and the Commission have agreed that the Commission will carry out such a review in place of the principal council (in which context the Commission may require that the principal council meet the Commission's costs of the review as a condition of the Commission's agreement);
- where the principal council has not complied with a direction from the Welsh Ministers requiring that a section 31 electoral review be carried out (in which context the Commission has power to recover its costs of the review from the principal council); or
- where the community council, or a group of not less than 30 local government electors from the community, submit a request for a review to the Commission (rather than to the principal council).

Community Reviews – Legal Process and Considerations



2.1 In this guidance the Commission will address both statutory obligations and best practice recommendations for principal councils conducting community reviews in Wales.

2.2 This section describes the legal process and considerations for community reviews carried out by principal councils, as well as the constraints laid down by the Act on the outcome of reviews. However it is not a substitute for, and should not be relied on as, legal advice, and nor does it attempt to provide a complete account of the law relevant to a review. When conducting a community review a principal council must also consider its other statutory obligations related to the review – for example obligations under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015, Welsh Language Standards and the Equality Act 2010, which will all influence and inform the conduct and decisions made during the course of a community review.

2.3 Section 3 of this guidance then addresses best practice recommendations for the conduct of community reviews.

Situations in which a community review may be carried out

2.4 There are three key situations in which a community review may be carried out:

1. Where it is requested by a community or town council or by the residents of a community (in the form of a “community meeting” for the purposes of a section 25 boundaries review, or a request from 30 or more electors for the purposes of a section 31 electoral review);

2. At a principal council's own initiative (including where the principal council decides to carry out a community review in preparation for the Commission's programme of reviews of principal council electoral arrangements); and,
3. Following a direction from the Welsh Ministers.

2.5 Principal councils have a duty under the terms of the Act to publish a report and submit the report to the Commission on their community arrangements every ten years. The Commission is also required to conduct electoral reviews of principal councils every ten years. Ideally a community review should precede an electoral review by the Commission of the principal council, as the community and community wards within the principal council's area will be used as the primary building blocks for principal council electoral wards. However, a principal council may commence a review at their own initiative at any time, so long as the principal council complies with its duty to have regard to the Commission's timetable for its principal area electoral reviews (see section 22(2) (a) of the Act).

2.6 A principal council may also conduct a community review where it receives a request from a community in its area. In this context:

- A community council or a community meeting may request that the principal council carries out a section 25 boundaries review in relation to that community and/or other communities within the principal council's area. When it receives such a request the principal council may conduct a section 25 boundaries review of one or more communities in its area, but is not obliged to do so.
- When a principal council is considering whether to carry out a section 25 boundaries review

in response to a request from a community in its area, the Commission recommends that the principal council should consult with the Commission. This is principally to ensure that the Commission (as implementing authority) will have sufficient time to implement any resulting recommendations. The principal council should also consider whether (and if so how) the requested review may impact on the principal council's functions and/or on the Commission's timetable for its periodic reviews of the principal council's electoral arrangements.

- A community council or a group of not less than 30 local government electors registered in the community may request that the principal council carries out a section 31 electoral review in relation to that community. When it receives such a request the principal council may conduct the review, but is not obliged to do so. When it is considering whether to conduct a section 31 review in response to such a request, the principal council should again consider whether (and if so how) the requested review may impact on the principal council's functions and/or on the Commission's timetable for its periodic reviews of the principal council's electoral arrangements.

2.7 If a principal council is directed to conduct a review by Welsh Ministers it should do so in accordance with that direction, utilising this guidance where applicable.

Conducting a review – legal constraints

2.8 The Act regulates:

- the process for conducting community reviews;
- the outcome of community reviews; and

- the implementation of changes that are proposed at the conclusion of community reviews.

2.9 The statutory process that a principal council must follow when conducting a community review is, in large part, the same for both section 25 boundaries reviews and section 31 electoral reviews. The relevant legal rules for the two types of review differ only in relation to the outcome, and the implementation of the outcome, of the review.

Process

2.10 Sections 35 and 36 of the Act require that a principal council carrying out a community review must take four essential steps:

- Initial publicity;
- Initial investigation and consultation;
- Draft proposals (and consultation on those proposals); and
- Final recommendations

Initial publicity

2.2.11 Before the formal commencement of a community review, the principal council is required to:

- publicise the review (specifically to bring it to the attention of the “mandatory consultees” listed in section 34 of the Act, as well as of anyone else the council thinks is likely to be interested); and

- draw attention to any directions given by the Welsh Ministers which are relevant to the review.

2.12 Whilst carrying out the review it is good practice to set up a cross-party working group to draft the Terms of Reference, consider the consultation responses and to agree any proposals. Setting up a cross-party group allows for cooperation between the political parties and can facilitate endorsement at Full Council. The Commission saw the benefits of cross-party working groups set up to work on boundary changes during its last round of electoral reviews where some principal councils had established such working groups.

2.13 At this stage the principal council can (but is not obliged to) consult interested parties on its proposed methodology for the review – including matters such as the terms of reference and underlying policies. This is addressed in section 3 of this guidance, under the sub-heading “Terms of Reference”.

2.14 If a principal council is carrying out a “pre-review” consultation of this nature, the consultation period should be long enough to provide a reasonable opportunity for interested parties to respond. Where a principal council is not carrying out a pre-review consultation, the “initial publicity” stage can usually be short.

Initial investigation and consultation

2.15 A principal council formally commences a community review by:

- consulting the “mandatory consultees” listed in section 34 of the Act; and

- conducting its own “investigations”.

2.16 The purpose of this stage of the review is to enable the principal council to gather information it will need when considering and preparing any proposals for change (at the second stage). The Act does not dictate how long the initial investigation and consultation stage should last, but a principal council should allow long enough that interested parties have a reasonable period to respond (and the principal council can gather relevant information). A period of between 6 and 12 weeks is commonly considered to be best practice.

2.17 In order to enable interested parties to participate properly in the initial consultation, the principal council will need to provide information about the review. This is likely to include details of the existing arrangements (for example about existing community boundaries and councils for a section 25 boundaries review, and existing electoral arrangements for a section 31 electoral review) and an account of the reasons why the principal council has commenced the review. If the council has identified “issues” that the review will address, this information should be provided to consultees also.

2.18 During the initial stage the Act requires the principal council to carry out “such investigations as it considers appropriate”. In this context, a principal council should investigate and consider its number of local government electors via its electoral register, the population eligible to vote which can be sourced from the Office for National Statistics mid-year estimates which are published annually. The principal council should also consider the five year projected number of electors within its area, this can be derived by the principal council and is requested by the

Commission as part of any electoral arrangement review it undertakes.

Draft proposals

2.19 At the second stage of a community review, a principal council must:

- prepare a report that provides details of the review it has conducted, and sets out any proposals for change that the council considers appropriate (or a proposal that no changes are made) – which is commonly known as a “Draft Proposals Report”; and
- carry out a consultation on its proposals.

2.20 For this purpose, the principal council will need to consider the information it has gathered during the initial consultation stage (both as a result of representations from interested parties and by means of its own investigation) and take that information into account in deciding whether to make proposals for change (and if so what proposals to make). A proposal does not have to reflect or be precipitated by a representation from an interested party, but must be arrived at by taking into account the relevant information available to the council, and in a manner that complies with the Act and with any relevant policies and procedures of the principal council (such as the procedures set out in any Terms of Reference, as to which see section 3 below).

2.21 In the creation of any new names it is good practice for the principal council to consult the Welsh Language Commissioner (WLC). The WLC is responsible for advising on the standard forms of Welsh place-names. The WLC has convened a Place-names Standardisation Panel to provide recommendations and expert advice in this field. In forming its recommendations, the Panel follows

national standardisation guidelines and also gives consideration to the meaning, history and etymology of the place-names, as well as their usage.

2.22 It is normal practice for the council’s officers to produce an “internal” report for the approval of the principal council. Once that internal report is approved, the principal council should prepare and consult on its formal Draft Proposals Report.

2.23 Any proposals for change that are included in a Draft Proposals Report must be proposals that the principal council will have power to make or recommend at the outcome of its review. Proposals must therefore be made in the light of the legal constraints affecting the outcome of community reviews. This is addressed below, under the heading “Outcomes”.

2.24 In order to consult on the proposals in its Draft Proposals Report the principal council must publicise the report (in the specific ways set out in section 35(3) of the Act) and invite “representations” in relation to the report. The principal council must also decide on and publicise the consultation period (i.e. the period of time during which representations can be submitted). The Act requires that the consultation period is not less than 6 weeks, nor more than 12 weeks, beginning no earlier than one week after the council provides notice to interested parties of the relevant time period.

2.25 Notice of the consultation period can be given by means of letter and email, notices placed on principal council and community council noticeboards, principal council and community council websites, social media and by any other means that the principal council considers

appropriate. It is good practice for the notification to include details of the draft proposals and maps (or details of how and where to access maps) and to ask the community councils and all interested parties, including the general public, to make comments on the draft proposals.

2.26 The Draft Proposals Report must be published electronically and must be available for inspection (without charge) at the offices of the principal council for the duration of the period for representations. The report must also be sent to Welsh Ministers and mandatory consultees and all others who responded at the preliminary stage must be informed how to obtain a copy of the report.

2.27 In addition, some principal councils have undertaken road shows, meeting each community affected by the review in order to discuss the proposals and encourage representations which support or oppose proposals, or offer alternative suggestions.

Final proposals

2.28 At the final stage of a community review, the principal council is required to:

- consider its proposals for change in light of any representations it has received during the consultation on its Draft Proposals Report; and then
- publish its final report.

2.29 The principal council's final report must give details of the review and the consultation that the council has conducted and any changes to the council's proposals that the council has decided to make in the light of representations it received during consultation.

2.30 The final report must also express the principal council's conclusions. In a section 25 boundaries review, those conclusions will take the form of "recommendations for change" that the council considers appropriate (or a recommendation that no changes are made). In a section 31 electoral review, the conclusions will take the form of changes that the council "intends to make" (or a statement that the council does not intend to make changes). These differences reflect the different arrangements for implementing the outcomes of community reviews, which are described below under the heading "Implementing changes".

2.31 The possible outcomes of a community review are also constrained by provisions of the Act which determine the recommendations and changes that a principal council has power to make. This is described in the following section, under the heading "Outcomes".

2.32 Especially at final report stage, it may on occasion be necessary for difficult decisions to be confronted by officers and the principal council where the arrangements that appear most appropriate may not be popular with local residents. In these areas innovative solutions may need to be sought. Alternatively, it may be necessary to make a robust evidence-based case in favour of arrangements that face strong or considerable opposition. The Commission will endeavour to provide any informal advice it can in these instances or offer differing options for the principal council to consider. Decision-making in these areas needs to be clear and evidence based.

2.33 The principal council is required to publish its final report and make it available to various interested parties, as detailed in section 36(5) of the Act. In broad summary, the principal

council should publish its final report in the same manner as its Draft Proposals Report. A copy of the final report must be sent to the mandatory consultees, Ordnance Survey and the Welsh Ministers, and all others who responded at the earlier stages must be informed how to obtain a copy of the report.

Outcomes

2.34 As explained in section 1 of this guidance, section 25 boundaries reviews and section 31 electoral reviews have a different purpose and focus.

2.35 A section 25 boundaries review is a review of the boundaries of one or more communities within the principal council's area. This may be appropriate in particular if new housing developments have made significant differences to the map or to living arrangements within an area, if there are anomalies not identified in previous reviews (for example, golf courses split across two communities or areas where a small road or cul-de-sac is 'split off' from the rest of their community), or if there are changes to water courses or farms.

2.36 A section 31 electoral review does not address the boundaries of the community under review but looks instead at the arrangements for representation on the community council within a given community.

2.37 This difference is reflected in the different potential outcomes for a community review.

2.38 The principal council should consider how to give effect to the Order, they should also alert Welsh Government on the establishment of new community councils, the dissolution of existing community councils and the impact it has on setting precepts.

Community boundaries reviews under section 25

2.39 At the conclusion of a section 25 boundaries review, the principal council may recommend “community boundary changes”. These are defined in section 23(4) of the Act as including changes to the boundary of an existing community, but also the dissolution of an existing community and the creation of a new community.

2.40 Where a principal council recommends community boundary changes at the conclusion of a section 25 boundaries review, it also has power to recommend consequential “community council changes” and “associated changes to the electoral arrangements” of one or more of the communities under review or of the principal area. For this purpose, “community council changes” are defined in section 23(4) as meaning the dissolution of an existing community council, the establishment of a new community council, or the addition of communities to (or subtraction of communities from) a common community council. Recommendations submitted by the principal council should be explicit with regard to the town or community councils involved in such changes. According to section 31(7) of the Act, the “electoral arrangements of a community” refers to the number of members of the community council and any arrangements for the division of the community into wards for the purposes of elections to the community council (including the number, boundaries and names of wards and the number of members per ward). The “electoral

arrangements of a principal area” are given a corresponding meaning by section 29(9).

2.41 Community boundary changes will often result in changes to the populations of affected communities. For example, if an area is incorporated into a new community due to the position or road connections of a new housing development, that same area will necessarily be taken out of the community of which it previously formed part. As a consequence, both the enlarged community and the reduced community may benefit from consequential changes to their community council and/or electoral arrangements, particularly if there is a change in the number of local government electors in both communities that will be brought about by the boundary change.

2.42 A principal council that proposes to recommend changes to community boundaries should therefore also consider whether consequential changes to community councils and community electoral arrangements should be made. This could affect more than one community in the vicinity of a new housing development (for example). Accordingly, when commencing a section 25 boundaries review, a principal council should consider carefully which communities are included within the review, in the light of the issues or developments that have prompted the review, in order to ensure that relevant communities are “captured” by the review and the principal council therefore has powers to address any issues fully.

2.43 Sections 30 and 33 of the Act lay down specific matters that a principal council must take into account when considering changes to the electoral arrangements of a community or a principal area. This is described in the following section, in relation to section 31 electoral reviews.

Community electoral reviews under section 31

2.44 At the conclusion of a section 31 electoral review, a principal council is entitled to “propose and make” changes to the electoral arrangements for the community under review, as well as consequential changes to the electoral arrangements of the principal area.

2.45 As noted above, the “electoral arrangements of a community” refers to the number of members of the community council and any arrangements for the division of the community into wards for the purposes of elections to the community council (including the number, boundaries and names of wards and the number of members per ward).

2.46 When a principal council is considering changes to the electoral arrangements of a community, it will need to decide whether the community should be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the community council. Section 33 of the Act requires that, when a principal council considers whether a community should be divided into community wards, the council must consider whether the number or distribution of the local government electors for the community is such as to make a single election of community councillors impractical or inconvenient, and whether it is desirable that any area of the community should be separately represented on the community council.

2.47 If the principal council decides that the community council should not be divided into wards, it will need to determine the number of councillors for the community. When it makes that determination, section 33 of the Act requires that the principal council have regard to the “number and distribution” of local government electors in the community, and any change in that number or distribution that is likely to take place in the following five years.

2.48 If a principal council decides that a community should be divided into wards, it will need to fix boundaries for the wards and determine the number of community councillors for each ward. In resolving those matters, the principal council is required by section 33 of the Act to take into account the desirability of fixing boundaries that are easily identifiable, any local ties that might be broken by particular ward boundaries, and any change in the number of distribution of local government electors in the community that is likely in the next five years. It is the Commission's view that, whenever possible, new boundaries should follow features that can be identified both on detailed maps and "on the ground".

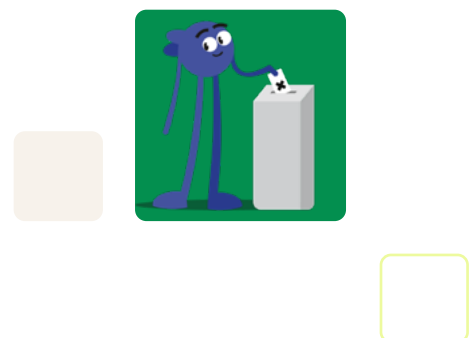
2.49 In addition, when considering these changes, principal councils must take into account any discrepancy between the number of registered electors and the population in the community that is eligible to vote. The Commission also recommends that (in the interests of effective and convenient local government) principal councils consider questions of electoral parity (i.e. the number of electors per elected councillor) both within the individual community and more broadly within all communities in the principal council's area.

2.50 A principal council also has powers to make changes to the electoral arrangements of the principal area at the outcome of a section 31 electoral arrangements review, where those changes are a "consequence of" any changes to the electoral arrangements of a community. According to section 29(9), the "electoral arrangements of a principal area" refers to the number of members of the principal council, as well as the arrangements for the division of the principal area

into wards for the purposes of elections to the principal council.

2.51 The primary duty to review the electoral arrangements of principal areas is imposed on the Commission by section 29 of the Act. In that context, the Commission usually regards communities and community wards within the principal area as the “building blocks” for principal council electoral wards.

2.52 For this reason, where a principal council proposes a change to a community or community ward boundary that mirrors a principal council electoral ward boundary, it is normal practice to also propose a consequential change to the arrangements for the principal council electoral ward. Ordinarily, if a minor change is proposed consideration can be limited to a simple shift of the boundary. However, if significant changes are made the principal council will need to consider the consequences for the principal area electoral arrangements, including the possible creation of new electoral wards and possible changes to the number of members representing any new or significantly changed wards. These should be proposed at the same time as any change to communities and their wards, if appropriate.



2.53 Where a principal council is considering whether to recommend or make changes to the electoral arrangements for a principal area, it is required to comply with section 30 of the Act (see sections 25(4) and 31(4)). It must therefore seek to ensure, as nearly as possible, that there is electoral parity (i.e. the same ratio of local government electors to council members to be elected) across every electoral ward in the principal area – taking into account both changes to the number and distribution of electors that are likely over the following five years, and any discrepancy between the number of registered electors and the eligible population in the principal area. The principal council must also have regard to the desirability of fixing electoral ward boundaries that are easily identifiable, and to the desirability of preserving local ties when fixing electoral ward boundaries.

Implementing changes

2.54 The Act lays down different mechanisms for implementing the outcomes of section 25 boundaries reviews and section 31 electoral reviews, as well as of community electoral arrangements reviews carried out by the Commission pursuant to section 32. Those arrangements are described in this section.

Community boundaries reviews under section 25

2.55 The Commission is the “implementing authority” for section 25 boundaries reviews. Accordingly, upon completion of a section 25 review, the principal council is required to submit its report to the Commission.

2.56 Upon receiving the principal council’s report, the Commission has a choice:

- it can implement the principal council’s recommendations without modifications;
- it can implement the recommendations with modifications that are agreed with the principal council;
- it can choose to conduct its own review; or
- it can take no action.

2.57 Section 38(1) of the Act specifically provides that the Commission may choose to conduct its own review if the Commission “does not consider it appropriate to implement any of the council’s recommendations”, or if the Commission is unable to reach agreement with the principal council on modifications to the recommendations that “the Commission considers necessary for it to implement them”. However the Commission has broader powers under section 26 of the Act to conduct its own community boundaries review, including where the principal council has recommended that no community boundary changes should be made, and where the Commission considers that the principal council’s review process has been defective.

2.58 Accordingly, when it receives a final report from a principal council following a section 25 boundaries review, the Commission will give its own consideration to both the process carried

out by the principal council and to the substance of the recommendations and whether it results in effective and convenient local government. For this purpose, the Commission asks principal councils to provide, alongside final reports, copies of any information pertinent to the review to satisfy the Commission that the principal council has conducted the review in accordance with the Act. This will include (among other things) any presentation materials, copies of publication materials, communications with stakeholders, representations received from third parties, reports to relevant scrutiny committees and full principal council and the minutes of those meetings.

2.59 In this context, the Commission will principally consider whether there are clear substantive or procedural flaws that have affected the principal council's review or its recommendations. Where there is reasonable scope for disagreement – for example as to precisely where a boundary is drawn – the Commission will not usually reject or seek to modify a council's recommendations simply because the Commission might have recommended a different outcome. However where a recommendation has clear disadvantages that could be avoided by a modification, the Commission may seek the principal council's agreement to that modification – such as where a recommended boundary change would leave a geographical anomaly.

2.60 As described in section 4 of this guidance, the Commission is generally willing to share its expertise where to do so may assist a principal council, and the Commission welcomes informal discussions for the purposes of assisting principal councils to plan and execute community reviews.

As part of its normal practice the Commission endeavours, by means of regular communication with principal councils, to avoid situations in which recommendations resulting from section 25 reviews are not implemented or must be substantially modified.

2.61 Section 38(2) of the Act requires that the Commission wait for a period of six weeks after receiving the principal council's report before making any implementing order. That period is not a formal consultation period, but it is often the case that interested parties wish to comment on the recommendations made in the principal council's report. Any such comments during that period should be sent to the Commission, which will acknowledge receipt. The Commission's normal practice is to take into account comments that it has received and acknowledged in deciding what action to take as implementing authority.

2.62 Section 38(3) of the Act provides that, if the Commission's implementing order will make changes to the electoral arrangements of a principal area, the Commission must first obtain the consent of the Welsh Ministers. If, having considered what action to take as implementing authority for a section 25 boundaries review, the Commission proposes to implement a change to the principal council's electoral arrangements which is consequential on community boundary changes, the Commission will therefore consult with the Welsh Ministers.

Community electoral reviews under section 31

2.63 The principal council is itself entitled to implement, by making an order, intended changes that are described in its final report in a section 31 electoral arrangements review. However section 39(2) of the Act requires that the principal council wait for a period of 6 weeks from

publication of its final report before making any order. If the principal council's proposed order would make consequential changes to the electoral arrangements of the principal area, the principal council must first obtain the consent of the Welsh Ministers.

2.64 Any Order made by the principal council should be sent to the Welsh Government, Ordnance Survey, the Commission and to any body affected by the changes such as town or community councils.

2.65 It is common practice that changes made in Orders by the Commission, principal councils and Welsh Government will come into force at the first ordinary council election following the date on which the Order is made.

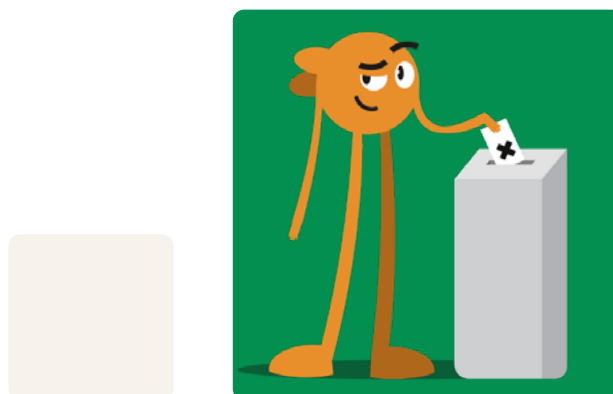
Community electoral reviews by the Commission under section 32

2.66 As noted in section 1 of this guidance, section 32 of the Act gives the Commission the power to carry out reviews of the electoral arrangements of communities in certain circumstances. When the Commission does so, the principal council for the relevant area will be the implementing authority for the purposes of the Act, and the Commission will submit its final report and recommendations to the principal council.

2.67 When it receives a final report of this nature from the Commission, a principal council can either implement the recommendations as made by the Commission, implement the recommendations with modifications that have been agreed between the principal council and the Commission, or decide to take no action: see section 39(3) of the Act.

2.68 If the principal council decides to make an implementing order it must first wait 6 weeks from the date on which it receives the Commission’s final report. While this is not a formal consultation period, experience suggests that interested parties may submit comments on the Commission’s recommendations to the principal council during this period. In similar situations, the Commission’s normal practice is to acknowledge comments received and take them into account in determining what (if any) implementing action to take. Principal councils may wish to consider proceeding similarly.

2.69 If the principal council decides to take no action, or 6 months have elapsed since the council received the Commission’s report and no implementing order has been made, the Commission will be entitled under section 39(7) of the Act to refer to the matter to the Welsh Ministers and request that they make an implementing order.





3.1 Best practice in the conduct of community reviews has evolved over time and has been the subject of handbooks published by the Association of Electoral Administrators. This is not to say that every principal council across Wales has followed these best practice recommendations, but many do.

3.2 The aspects of best practice described in this section are recommended to be carried out alongside, and incorporated into, the statutory process described in the preceding section. They are not a substitute for complying with the requirements of the Act.

3.3 This section addresses the following aspects of best practice:

- Terms of Reference for reviews;
- Council Size Policies; and
- The amalgamation and grouping of communities

Terms of Reference

3.4 Whilst not a requirement of the Act, it has become common practice for principal councils to develop and publicise Terms of Reference (“ToR”) for a community review.

3.5 The ToR will usually set out the proposed timetable and procedures for the review, provide guidance and set out the issues that will be considered during the course of the review. Provision of a ToR allows the principal council to ensure that it is seen to be following a set procedure and taking into account appropriate considerations for the review, and allows interested parties

to understand how to effectively engage in the review. It also provides the Commission (where the Commission is the implementing authority) with information as to whether the principal council has appropriately conducted the review under the terms of the Act.

3.6 Among other things, the ToR for a review might therefore contain: An indicative timetable for the review

- a description of the process the principal council will follow
- Information as to relevant considerations during the review – which might include explanations of:
 - the Council Size Policy (see 3.11 below)
 - Considerations as to the grouping and amalgamation of communities (addressed further below);
 - Matters which must be taken into account by the principal council pursuant to the terms of the Act, for example when considering changes to electoral arrangements (as referred to in section 2 of this guidance, above)
 - An outline of the permissible outcomes of the review and any limitations imposed by the Act on the principal council’s ability to recommend or make changes.

3.7 The principal council may wish to informally consult with the Commission or colleagues from other principal councils in the drafting of the ToR. The principal council may also wish to consult with the Welsh Language Commissioner when considering Welsh language community or community ward names as part of the community review process.

3.8 Once a draft ToR has been agreed by the relevant principal council authority, it may be

appropriate in some circumstances to consult interested parties on the contents of the ToR. As noted in section 2 of this guidance (under the heading “Initial publicity”), a consultation of this nature will occur prior to the commencement of the review, and the consultation period should be long enough to provide a reasonable opportunity for interested parties to respond. It is common practice in this context for a consultation period to be between 6 and 12 weeks long.

3.9 A “pre-review” consultation of this nature will introduce additional delay, so is more likely to be appropriate for large-scale community reviews (such as a section 25 review of the boundaries of all, or numerous, communities within the principal area) rather than for small-scale reviews (such as a section 31 review of the electoral arrangements of one community only). Any “pre-review” consultation will not replace or remove the need for the initial consultation that must be carried out upon formal commencement of a community review, nor the consultation in relation to the principal council’s Draft Proposals Report (both of which are described in section 2 of this guidance).

3.10 Once a “pre-review” consultation has ended, any representations received will need to be considered and a final ToR produced for approval by the principal council. Once the ToR is finalised, the principal council will be in a position to begin the review.

Council Size Policy

3.11 Whilst not a requirement of the Act, it has become common practice for principal councils to develop, consult on and then publish a Council Size Policy. This is ordinarily included within a ToR.

3.12 The Council Size Policy creates a mechanism to determine, for the principal area's community and town councils, the appropriate number of community councillors for a given town or community based on the electorate of the community. Ideally it should ensure that representation on a community or town council is, as far as is practicable, the same across all the community councils within the principal area.

3.13 Issues a principal council may wish to consider when developing a council size model are:

- An approximate councillor allocation per electorate
- Provision of an overall minimum and maximum number of community councillors for a community council. Historically the minimum number of councillors for a community council has been 7, but some councils have used 6. The largest community council in Wales at present is 24. The maximum size may be dependent on the following factors (below) in this list.
- The existing community council sizes
- The scale of the activity of the community councils in a principal council area.
- The geography of the principal council area
- The population density of the principal council area

3.14 Each principal council may wish to determine its own policy, based on its own

considerations. It may be that it wishes to discuss the modelling with the Commission or other principal councils. The Commission can provide examples of models utilised by other principal councils in previous reviews.

Amalgamation and Grouping of Communities

3.15 A principal council may receive a request from a group of communities wishing to conduct their business together, allowing for cost savings or increased capacity to expand on their services or functions.

3.16 Alternatively, a principal council may take the view that in certain areas, or more widely across their principal area, they wish to delegate functions to the communities or towns within their jurisdiction. In doing so they may require communities or towns to be of a certain specific size, whether geographically or in terms of electorate, in order that the communities have sufficient capacity to discharge these duties.

3.17 In such circumstances consideration may be given to either grouping or amalgamating the existing community or town councils to provide that capacity.

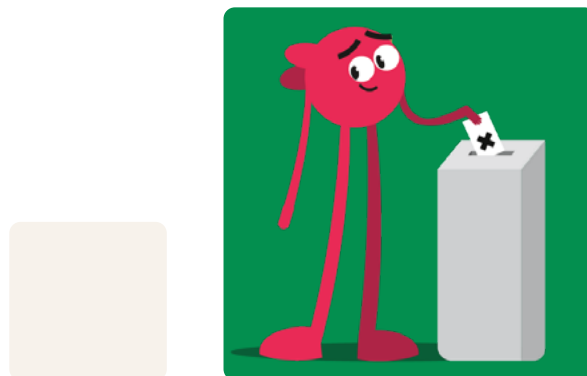
3.18 Where a principal council wishes to apply such a model across its principal area it should consider setting out a Community Amalgamation / Grouping Policy. This policy should set out maximum and minimum sizes of the groups and any factors it is taking into consideration when creating group communities.

Amalgamation

3.19 The amalgamation of communities involves the joining of two or more existing communities together to form one, new, larger community. The existing community councils are dissolved and a new separate community area and council are established. Consideration, as with all communities, should be given to the warding of that new community. Unless specific considerations would suggest a different approach, it may be most appropriate for the wards of the new community to reflect the boundaries of the former communities that have been amalgamated.

Grouping

3.20 A principal council may group two or more communities together under a common community council. However, unlike an amalgamation of communities, each community council (and community ward where appropriate) being grouped will continue to have separate representation on the common community council. For more information on common community councils please see the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, Part 7, Chapter 2.





4.1 Due to the Commission's role, it has expertise in the conduct of reviews under the Act. The Commission is willing to share its expertise with principal councils where to do so may assist in the conduct of community reviews under the Act and may improve the process and outcomes of community reviews.

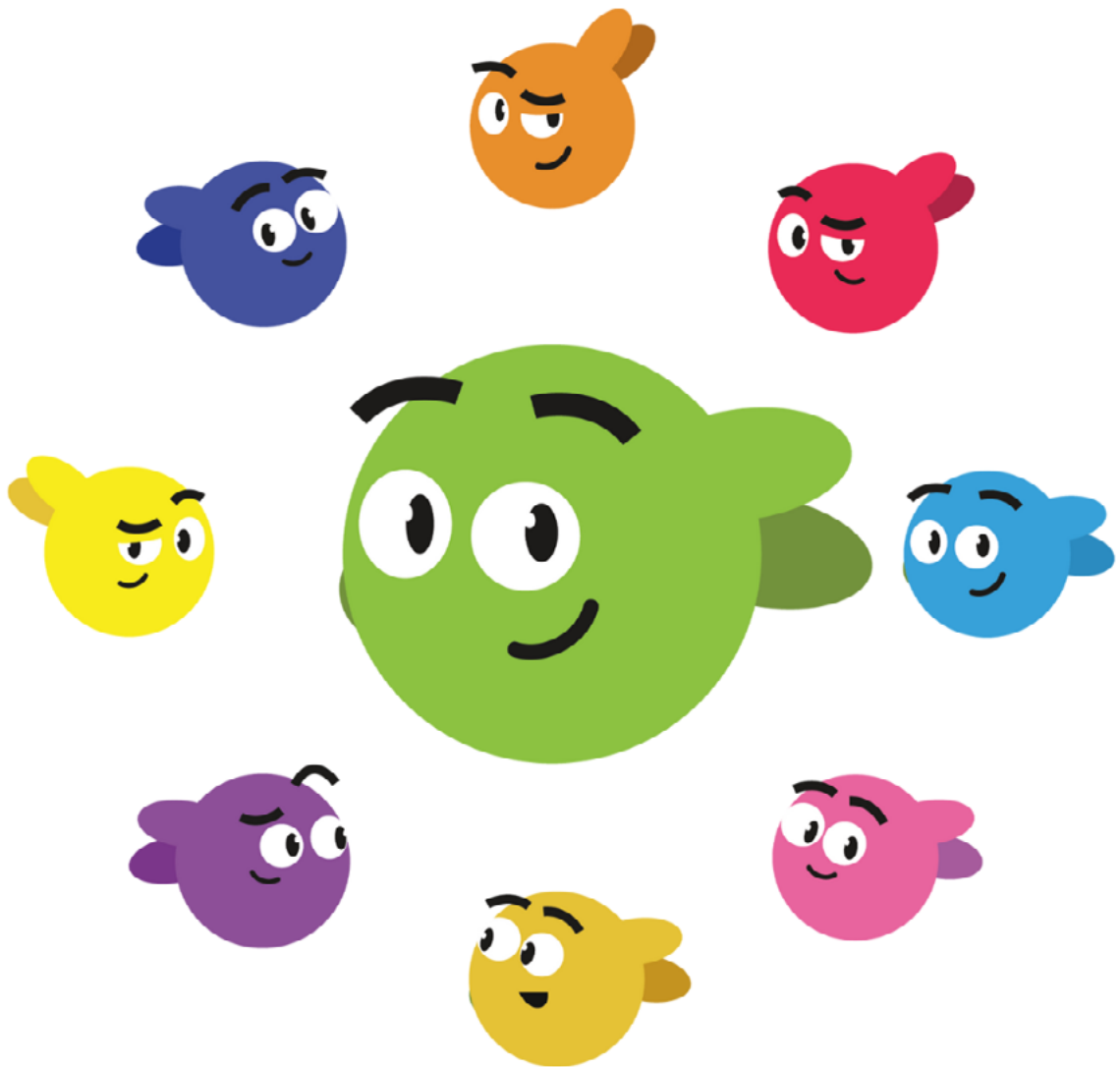
4.2 The Commission therefore welcomes informal discussions for the purposes of assisting principal councils to plan and execute community reviews. The Commission also recommends that it should be included in any consultation or information that is distributed by the principal council as part of a community review. Furthermore, principal councils may wish to share with the Commission drafts of materials to be used in a community review – such as descriptions of the process that are contained in Terms of Reference – for the Commission's comment. The Commission will endeavour to provide helpful responses, where it is able to do so within the constraints imposed by its functions and other work.

Appendix 1: Glossary Of Terms

Commission	The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales.
Community (area)	The unit of local government that lies below the level of the principal council
Community Council	An elected council that provides services to their particular community area. A community council may be divided for community electoral purposes into community wards.
Community / Town ward	An area within a community council created for community electoral purposes.
Directions	Directions issued by Welsh Ministers under Section 48 of the Act.
Electoral wards	The areas into which principal areas are divided for the purpose of electing county councillors, previously referred to as electoral divisions.
Electoral review	A review in which the Commission considers the electoral arrangements for a principal council.
Electorate	The number of persons registered to vote in a local government area.
Interested party	Person or body who has an interest in the outcome of a community review such as local electors, a community council, local MP or AM or political party.
Mandatory con-sultees	<p>The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013, in section 34 (as amended), stipulates the “mandatory consultees” for a community review as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Any local authority affected by the review, (b) the police and crime commissioner for any police area which may be affected by the review, (c) except where the review is (or is to be) conducted by it, the Commission, (d) any organisation representing the staff employed by local authorities which has asked to be consulted, (e) any fire and rescue authority for an area in Wales which may be affected by the review; and (f) such other persons as may be specified by order made by the Welsh Ministers.
Order	Order made by an implementing body, giving effect to proposals made by the principal council or the Commission.
Principal area	The area governed by a principal council: in Wales a county or county borough
Principal council	The single tier organ of local government, responsible for all or almost all local government functions within its area. A county or county borough council.
Projected electorate	The five-year forecast of the electorate
The Act	The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013
Town Council	Community councils for communities which have the status of a town are known as town councils. A town council may be divided for community electoral purposes into wards.
Order	Order made by an implementing body, giving effect to proposals made by the principal council or the Commission.
Principal area	The area governed by a principal council: in Wales a county or county borough

Appendix 2: Example Timeline

Timeline (assuming 12 weeks of consultation at each stage)	
Month 1	Identify if a Section 25 or Section 31 Review is being carried out. Set up cross party working group and agree on Terms of Reference
Month 2	Carry out initial publicity and publish Terms of Reference. Commence consultation on Terms of Reference (6-12 weeks)
Month 5	Initial investigation and consultation (6-12 weeks)
Month 9	Cross party working group and officials to consider results of the initial investigation and all representations received. Development of Draft Proposals.
Month 11	Publish Draft Proposals Report and consultation (6-12 weeks)
Month 15	Cross party working group and officials to consider all representations received. Development of Final Report.
Month 17	Endorsement at Full Council and Publish Final Report followed by submission to LDBCW if it is a Section 25 Review. If a Section 31 Review is undertaken, the Principal Council can make an Order 6 weeks after the Final Report is published.
Month 19	LDBCW to consider the Final Report and undertake its duty as the 'implementing authority'.





**Comisiwn Ffiniau a
Democratiaeth Leol
Cymru**

**Local Democracy and
Boundary Commission
For Wales**

The Commission welcomes correspondence, e-mails and telephone calls either in English or Welsh.
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Telephone: +44 (0)29 20464819
Telephone: +44 (0)29 21055521
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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Review of Communities and Electoral Arrangements

Council Size Policy

Ahead of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council its community boundaries, this document seeks to set out our Council Size Policy. It has been drafted having consideration to section 3.11 to 3.14 of the [Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales \(LDBCW\) guidance](#), published in 2022. Consideration has also been given to the experiences and lessons learnt from other Welsh Local Authorities.

The review will:

- Ensure that each town/community council area that is created is represented by a maximum of 23 councillors and a minimum of 7 councillors;
- Ensure that the ratio of councillors to electors are:
 - a minimum of 1 : 500 for urban areas, and
 - a minimum of 1 : 250 for rural/mixed areas;
- Ensure that a community council area has no fewer than a total of 700 electors (i.e. the total of the communities wards within that town/community council area);
- Consider strong, evidence-based arguments to create a community ward that has fewer than 250 electors;
- Where possible, community wards are removed and councillor representation is based on the whole community council area; and that the precept collected from smaller villages will be available to each community ward.

General

The Council accepts that it will not be able to apply a one size fits all approach to the setting of town/community council areas and community wards in Rhondda Cynon Taf. However, the Council also believes that a consistent approach needs to be applied to the levels of representation that communities and community wards will provide.

The Council Size Policy should ensure community ties and land mass (i.e. the geographical size of any proposed Community Council).

It should be noted that the ratios stated above are **not prescriptive** to the review and are subject to consultation. The ratios in this policy will be used as a point of reference.

Each area should be considered on its own merits having regard to population, geography, and the pattern of communities.

In determining whether additional representation is required for a community, the council will have consideration to the levels of uncontested seats at community level. It should also be noted that the community boundaries will guide the review, not the electoral arrangements.

Whilst the Council acknowledges that these ratios will still provide varying levels of representation throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf, it will ensure that the level of representations received in communities with similar characteristics is consistent. At the same time the Council will also ensure that smaller, rural communities receive adequate representation at local government level.



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

REVIEW OF COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction.....	2
Why are we undertaking this review.....	2
What is the aim of the review.....	2
What can be considered under this review.....	2
Who will undertake the review.....	2
Public Consultations and Submissions.....	3
Council Size Policy.....	3
Welsh Language Names Policy.....	4
Timetable for Review.....	4
Supporting Information.....	4

Introduction

The legislation that covers community reviews is the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act). Under the Act the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (the Commission) has a general duty to monitor arrangements for local government across Wales. Each principal council however has a duty to monitor the communities in its area and, where appropriate, the electoral arrangements of such communities for the purposes of considering whether to make or recommend changes. These changes are brought about by means of community boundaries reviews and community electoral reviews.

The Principal Council (the Council) is conducting a review of its community arrangements. This review is being carried out under section 25 of the Act, which covers the changes to boundaries and any consequential changes to electoral arrangements.

The first stage of the review is to ask all interested parties to consider the current community boundaries and submit their views on any changes required to create communities that provide for effective and convenient local government. All submissions will then be considered, and the Council will publish a Draft Proposals Report and will hold a consultation on those proposals. All submissions will then be considered, and Final Proposals will be submitted to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales. The Commission will then if it thinks fit, to give effect to these recommendations either as submitted, or with modifications.

The review will start in May 2024 with final recommendations being provisionally scheduled to be submitted for adoption in March 2025.

Why are we undertaking this review?

The Council has a duty to review the community arrangements across the principal council area and to report to the Commission on their community arrangements every ten years. This is with the aim of ensuring that communities continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government.

What is the aim of the review?

The Council aims to ensure that community boundaries reflect the identities and interests of the communities across the principal council area and that they are both effective and convenient.

As part of the review, the Council will have regard to:

- the creation, abolition or merging of communities and community wards
- the name of the community and, where warded, the name of community wards
- Where changes have been made to the boundaries of communities or community wards the number of councillors representing the community and, where warded, the number of councillors per ward.
- The wards that are contested and uncontested in recent community council elections

What can be considered under this review?

This review will look at the community boundaries across the principal council area. Any changes to electoral arrangements for communities will only be considered as a consequence of any changes to community boundaries.

Who will undertake this review?

The Council is responsible for undertaking the review under section 25 of the Act. On completion of the review, the Council will submit recommendations to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales. The Commission will then if it thinks fit, to give effect to these recommendations either as submitted, or with modifications.

Public Consultation and Submissions

When undertaking the review, the Council is required to undertake such steps as it thinks fit to ensure that persons who may be interested in the review are informed of the review and are informed of any draft proposals or recommendations. In addition to consulting with the wider public, the Council undertakes to meet these duties by writing to:

- The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales;
- The Town and Community Councils across the principal council area;
- The Senedd Members representing the area;
- The Regional Senedd Members for the area;
- The Members of UK Parliament representing the area;
- Elected Members;
- Police & Crime Commissioner;
- South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority;
- Welsh Language Commissioner;
- The Welsh Government;
- Trade Unions; and
- Ordnance Survey.

The Council will also give official notice at different stages of the review, deposit copies of reports and documents at the Council's Electoral Services Office and place appropriate documents on the Council's website.

Comments and submissions may be made at two stages of the review, the initial investigations and draft proposals consultation periods.

All comments and submissions will be given due consideration in the review if the following criteria are met: -

- Comments are received by 11.59pm of the timetabled deadline.
- All comments are received with a name and address identifying the sender. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted, though personal details of members of the public will not be made public. Submissions from representative bodies and persons such as Councillors and Members of the Senedd etc will be named within the report.
- Where an organisation or an individual is making submissions concerning the review, they shall show how either maintaining the status-quo or making changes are desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

Council Size Policy

The Councils' community review will be undertaken subject to section 25 of the Act and therefore will focus on making boundary changes to ensure that community boundaries reflect the identities and interests of the communities across the principal council area and that they are both effective and convenient. Any consequential changes to electoral arrangements will only be made when changes to community or community ward boundaries have been made.

The Council has stated that communities should be represented by no less than 7 councillors. Community Council areas should have no fewer than a total of 700 electors (i.e. the total of the communities wards within that town/community council area);

The principal council has also stated that community wards should consist of no less than 250 electors for, and ratios of councillors to electors are:

- a minimum of 1 : 500 for urban areas, and
- a minimum of 1 : 250 for rural/mixed areas;

Welsh Language Names Policy

In the creation of any new names the Council will consult the Welsh Language Commissioner (WLC). The WLC is responsible for advising on the standard forms of Welsh place-names. The WLC has convened a Place-names Standardisation Panel to provide recommendations and expert advice in this field. In forming its recommendations, the Panel follows national standardisation guidelines and also gives consideration to the meaning, history and etymology of the place-names, as well as their usage. The WLC will be included as a mandatory consultee in the review.

Timetable for the Review

The review will start in April 2024 with final recommendations being provisionally scheduled to be submitted in March 2025. Any changes that occur as a result of the review process would then come into effect for the next Local Government Elections in 2027.

Action	Period	Date
Start of Review and initial publicity		May 2024
Initial Investigations	6 Weeks	July 2024 to August 2024
Draft Proposal Publication/ Consultation	6 Weeks	November 2024 to December 2024
Final Recommendation Submission		March 2025

Supporting Information

Further information relating to the review, including electorate figures, a map of the existing community boundaries and guidance, are available on the Councils' website.



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-2024

COUNCIL

24th APRIL 2024

RE-APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To consider re-appointing one of the Independent Members of the Standards Committee for a further term.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Members are recommended to re-appoint Mr. David J Bowen as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee for a period of four years from 30th April 2024.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council resolved at its meeting on 14 November 2001, that the total number of Members on the Standards Committee would be six. Regulations prescribe that if the membership of a Standards Committee is even, then half of the Members must be Independent Members. One of the Independent Members must be Chair of the Standards Committee. The term of office of the Independent Members is six years with provision for re-appointment for one further term of four years.
- 3.2 The term of office of one of the Independent Members on the Standards Committee, namely, Mr. David J Bowen, expires on 29th April 2024. During his term in office, Mr. Bowen has built up considerable experience and is the current Chair of the Committee. In order to maintain continuity on the Standards Committee, Mr. Bowen has agreed, subject to Council approval, to his term of office being extended for a further period of four years.

4. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 4.1 There are no specific equality and diversity implications emanating from this report.

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 relevant Independent Member has been consulted and has agreed to continue for a further term.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Remuneration of Independent 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.

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 process set out in the report is in accordance with those regulations.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The term of office of one of the Independent Members on the Standards Committee, namely, Mr. David J. Bowen, is due to expire and Council is asked to consider extending his term of office for a further period of four years.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by the

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

COUNCIL

24th APRIL 2024

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

**RE-APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Freestanding Matter

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023 - 2024

COUNCIL

24 APRIL 2024

NOTICES OF MOTION

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Council is asked to consider the Notice of Motion (NOM) as set out below for which the necessary notice has been provided and make an appropriate recommendation in accordance with Rule 10.1 of the Constitution.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Consider the Notices of Motion as outlined in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 and make an appropriate recommendation; and
- 2.2 Request that the Service Director Democratic Services & Communication makes the necessary arrangements to record the NOMs and provide any updates through the publication of 'information reports' on the Council agenda, as formerly agreed.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution.

4. NOTICES OF MOTION

- 4.1 To consider the under-mentioned Notices of Motion which have been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.1 and received by the Proper Officer, standing in the names of County Borough Councillors:
- 4.2 A. Morgan, M. Webber, L. Addiscott, M. D. Ashford, J. Barton, D. R. Bevan, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, G. Caple, J. Cook, A. Crimmings, S. J. Davies, R. Davis, A. J. Dennis, V. Dunn, E. L. Dunning, J. Edwards, J. A. Elliott, L. Ellis, S. Emanuel, R. Evans, A. S. Fox, B. Harris, S. Hickman, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, W. Hughes, G. Jones, G. O. Jones, R. R. Lewis, W. Lewis, C.

Leyshon, M. Maohoub, C. Middle, N. H. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, D. Parkin, S. Powderhill, C. Preedy, S. Rees, A. Roberts, J. Smith, G. Stacey, L. A. Tomkinson, W. Treeby, J. Turner, G. L. Warren, K. Webb, D. Williams, G. E. Williams, R. Williams, T. Williams, R. Yeo.

In July 2022, this Council agreed a Notice of Motion that called for the Conservative Westminster Government to fully fund a proper pay rise for Local Government workers. Since then, funding from Westminster for our struggling public services has continued to follow an unsustainable path that has pushed many services towards the brink.

As part of this, our loyal and integral local government staff have had to increasingly go over and above in order to keep services running. The protection afforded to Welsh local authorities by the Welsh Government is diminishing as the impact of the massive and sustained funding cuts are now increasingly apparent and very real.

Despite leading the response against the pandemic and the Conservative Westminster Government's cost of living crisis, local government staff have not been given the recognition they deserve.

Instead, since 2010, local government workers have lost an average of 25% from the value of their pay, framed in the midst of the ongoing cost of living crisis.

Over the same period, the cost of living has risen by 60%, more and more local government workers have been pushed into debt, and their basic spending has overtaken their income, with 1 in 5 households having less than £100 to spare each month. This is a terrible situation for anyone to find themselves in.

At the same time, workers have experienced ever-increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, the local government workforce has fallen by 30% as a result of job cuts. This has had a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three-quarters of the local government workforce.

Local government continues to show how indispensable it is. But staff are increasingly leaving the sector for better paid jobs elsewhere, for example in retail, leaving local authorities with a massive skills gap, and vacancies in a range of key services, including in social care, education and youth services.

Local government finance is in an enormously difficult state, facing an estimated funding gap of more than £3.5 billion for 2024/25. Here in RCT we are also facing the most difficult period of budget setting since the Council was created, despite our careful and prudent financial management.

Recent research shows that if the Government were to fully fund the unions' 2024 pay claim, around half of the money would be recouped thanks to increased tax revenue, reduced expenditure on benefits and tax credits, and increased consumer spending in the local economy.

This council believes:

Our workers are public service super-heroes. They keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our, neighbourhoods, towns and cities running.

Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.

Local government workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase, which will only be affordable alongside UK Government funding. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone.

This council resolves to:

- Make representations to the Westminster government to ensure that our staff get the best possible pay deal, with recognition of the current financial situation facing local government.
- Call on the Local Government Association and Welsh Local Government Association to make urgent representations to the Westminster government to make 100% of the funding available to support the NJC pay claim, working with the unions to present a united front in defence of the local government workforce.
- Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be wholly funded with new money from central government.
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the Council can reasonably support the campaign.
- Encourage all local government workers to join a union.

4.3 W. Jones, W. Owen, P. Binning

This Council notes the important role notices of motion can play in providing the opportunity for Elected Members to present policies proposals or for Members collectively to take a view on important issues.

This Council notes the positive difference Notices of Motion have made; however, Council acknowledges they can sometimes inevitably create an

adversarial discussion in respect of a particular topic, due to the political environment in which we operate.

This Council notes that following the introduction of live broadcasting, the mechanisms to discuss motions may seem complex to residents and the public viewing our meetings.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Request that the Head of Democratic Services, in discussion with the Presiding Member, brings forward an officer report, through the most appropriate process, to enable Elected Members to consider potential revisions or other options, to enable Elected Members to discuss important matters, in a most relevant and co-operative way.
- Kindly request that this report presents best practice and the arrangements provided by other local authorities for Members to discuss and consider.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

6.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Constitution

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no Equality and Diversity implications arising from this report and no Equality Impact Assessment is deemed necessary for the purposes of this report as it relates to a procedural matter under the Councils Constitution.

7.2 The procedural rules regarding a Notice of Motion are contained within Council's Constitution which sets out the framework for the decision-making roles and responsibilities.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 This report presents for Members' consideration the Notices of Motion submitted to Council for the period April 2024 for which the necessary notice has been given.

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

24th APRIL 2024

NOTICE OF MOTION

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

