



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

**UNADOPTED ROADS**

**REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR PROSPERITY DEVELOPMENT AND FRONTLINE SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER CLLR MORGAN, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL.**

**Author: Roger Waters, Service Director Frontline Services.  
Tel 01443 494702**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report proposes a pilot programme of works to private streets which the Council considers are not, to the Council's satisfaction, sewered, levelled, paved, metalled, flagged, channelled, made good and lighted.
- 1.2 The report also seeks the Council's approval to progress private streetworks at Belle Vue, Trecynon utilising Welsh Government grant funding.
- 1.3 It is proposed that following the implementation of the works, the streets be adopted as highways maintainable at public expense.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note and approve the streets listed in Appendix A which are proposed to make up the pilot project.
- 2.2 Determine that the streets listed in Appendix A are not, to the authority's satisfaction, sewered, levelled, paved, metalled, flagged, channelled, made good and lighted.
- 2.3 Instruct the Service Director Frontline Services to prepare schemes, estimates and provisional apportionments and to present these for approval in a future report to the Group Director Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services for consideration and approval in liaison with the portfolio holder.

- 2.4 Note and approve the proposed works and estimate for Belle Vue, Trecynon as shown in appendix B.
- 2.5 Determine that no costs will be apportioned to the property frontagers

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Highways Act 1980 Sections 205 to 237 are known as the Private Streetworks Code (The Code). They give a streetworks authority powers in relation to making up to its satisfaction and adopting private streets as highways maintainable at public expense. The Code empowers the streetworks authority to apportion all or a proportion of the costs to the owners of properties fronting onto the street, or to determine to bear the costs of streetworks itself.
- 3.2 The Council is the streetworks authority for all streets in its area with the exception of the A470, A465 and M4 trunk roads for which Welsh Government are the streetworks authority.
- 3.3 There are approximately 190km of identified private streets across RCT along with an unknown quantity of unidentified private streets. It is estimated that more than 90% of the private streets have been identified.
- 3.4 Private streets range from footpaths and back lanes to roads serving as the primary access for substantial numbers of residential properties. They vary in condition from very poor to excellent.
- 3.5 Due to the unknown makeup of the existing road constructions, likely issues with shallow services and unknown condition of drainage systems a contingency allowance of £50k has been included.
- 3.6 Welsh Government have allocated funding to a pilot project to assist councils to carry out works to bring private streets up to a suitable standard and to adopt them as highways maintainable at public expense. The Council successfully bid for £157,000 of funding to carry out private streetworks at Belle Vue, Trecynon. A plan showing the proposed works can be found at Appendix B. Future phases of work at Belle Vue will be included in future grant applications should Welsh Government determine to continue their project.
- 3.7 In order to determine the types of issues which may arise a pilot project is proposed to be implemented during 2021/22 financial year.
- 3.8 A prioritisation process is under development for consideration when recommending future projects, however, in order to progress the pilot schemes this financial year, they have been chosen based on Engineer's knowledge and previous member requests.

### **4. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 An Equality and Diversity impact assessment has been carried out and there have been no adverse implications identified.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 There are no consultation requirements relating directly to the report but the proposed schemes will (or have) involve varying degrees of consultation, some of which will relate to statutory processes (such as Traffic Regulation Orders).
- 5.2 Consultation on individual schemes will be carried out with ward members and residents of the streets.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 £250,000 of funding can be allocated from existing resources.
- 6.2 Belle Vue, Trecynon is funded by a grant from Welsh Government.
- 6.3 Following the adoption of the streets as highways maintainable at public expense, the council will be responsible for the future maintenance of the streets. The costs of this maintenance will be met from existing highway maintenance budgets.

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

- 7.1 The works and subsequent adoption of the streets will be carried out utilising the council's powers under sections 205 – 237 of the Highways Act 1980.

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

- 8.1 This investment programme supports the Council's Corporate Plan Priority 'Places – Where people are proud to live, work and play'.
- 8.2 The programme supports enhanced connectivity to link homes with employment opportunities, education and health facilities, and to act as a catalyst for development and regeneration.
- 8.4 The programme supports the Well-Being goals fostering prosperity and resilience with inclusive and sustainable transport options supporting more cohesive and vibrant communities.

## **9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 The above recommendations continue the enhanced levels of investment under the RCTInvest initiative, delivering sustained improvements to the resilience and durability of our highways and transportation infrastructure, promoting sustainable transport opportunities and network efficiency.

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## **Appendix A**

### **Schemes for Inclusion in the Unadopted Roads Pilot Project**

| <b>Street Name</b> | <b>Town</b>  | <b>Budget</b>   |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Miner's Row        | Llwydcoed    | £60,000         |
| Brecon Place       | Aberaman     | £15,000         |
| Heol Penrhiw       | Mountain Ash | £45,000         |
| Hillside Terrace   | Llwynypia    | £10,000         |
| Trafalgar Terrace  | Ystrad       | £60,000         |
| Poet's Close       | Rhydyfelin   | £10,000         |
| Contingencies      |              | £50,000         |
| <b>Total</b>       |              | <b>£250,000</b> |