



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021 – 2022

COUNCIL

29TH SEPTEMBER 2021

COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN – INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

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1. **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report sets out the position regarding the opportunity for the Council to further invest in its priority areas, aligned to the Corporate Plan, “Making a Difference” 2020 – 2024.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council:

2.1.1 Review and if acceptable agree the additional investment and funding arrangements as set out in paragraph 4 which, if agreed, will be incorporated into the Council’s Capital Programme.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The importance of investment in areas supporting key Corporate Plan priorities has already been recognised by the Council with £123M of additional resources, over and above normal Capital Programme allocations, invested since October 2015.

- 3.2 A further opportunity for investment is now available for consideration.

4. **ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT**

- 4.1 In line with the Council’s Corporate Plan priorities, additional investment is now proposed across the following areas.

Investment Priority	£M
Highways & Roads	1.500
Highways Structures	0.500
Parks Structures	0.500
A4119 Dualling	2.000
Llanharan Bypass	2.000
Total Investment	6.500

4.2 The Council's Audited Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021 (presented elsewhere on this agenda) show the Council has revenue stream earmarked reserves at the 31st March 2021 of £73.791M which are set aside for a variety of purposes. In addition, there are specific reserves relating to Capital Funding, Insurance and Treasury Management.

4.3 The Investment/Infrastructure reserve is a specific reserve to fund the cost of maintaining and enhancing infrastructure across the County Borough. The balance of this reserve at 31st March 2021 was £9.497M, therefore the proposed investment priorities shown at paragraph 4.1 can be fully funded from this reserve.

4.4 Further detail on the proposed additional investment is shown below.

a) Highways & Roads (£1.500M)

Funding will continue to support the enhanced investment in the Council's largest asset, building on sustained increases in annual funding for highways capital maintenance over recent years.

b) Highways Structures (£0.500M)

Funding will allow the continuation of the enhanced programme of capital repairs and maintenance of over 1,500 structures including, bridges, culverts, retaining walls, reinforced earth embankments and rock anchors. These structures are often critical to the continued safe operation of the highway network.

c) Parks Structures (£0.500M)

Funding will allow the continuation of the enhanced programme of capital repairs and maintenance of footbridges, retaining walls and other structures within our parks and countryside.

d) A4119 Dualling Coedely to Ynysmaerdy (£2.000M)

Additional funding will allow the continuation of the scheme through to the next stages. Detailed design is ongoing, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water sewer diversion works are progressing well and due for completion in September 2021, tender documents are at final review stage and due for issue in September 2021 and a public inquiry is scheduled for November 2021.

e) Llanharan Bypass (£2.000M)

Additional funding will allow the continuation of the scheme through to the next stages. Ecology surveys, ground investigations and preliminary designs are complete. Pre-planning application consultation is due to be launched late September 2021 with full planning application anticipated for early 2022.

The above investments support the Corporate Plan priority of **Places**: where people are proud to live, work and play.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no welsh language implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 There are no consultation requirements as a result of the recommendations set out in the report. Subject to the decision of Council, consultation will be undertaken on specific areas, as appropriate, as part of developing/implementing projects.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. The proposed investment priorities are fully funded from Council resources already set aside for this purpose.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

9.1 The recommendations have been compiled ensuring continued compliance with the Council's legal requirement to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs as set out in Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. In addition, the proposed investment areas support the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan priorities, in line with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

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

10.1 The proposed investment areas are in line with the priorities included within the Council's Corporate Plan and support the sustainable development principle of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, in particular, planning for the 'long term', helping to 'prevent' problems occurring or getting worse in the future and delivering services in 'collaboration' with others.

11. CONCLUSION

11.1 This report has identified the opportunity to invest a further £6.500M of additional resources in our local area including our own assets in order to improve our infrastructure and the services which are available to our residents.
