



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022 – 2023

COUNCIL

28TH SEPTEMBER 2022

COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN – INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

REPORT OF THE CABINET

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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 £144M 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	1.000
Unadopted Roads	0.100
Flood Alleviation Works	1.000
Environmental Improvements (bins and benches)	0.050
Parks	0.200
Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)	0.200
Darran Park Sports Pitch	0.175
Total Investment	2.725

4.2 The Council's unaudited draft Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022 show the Council has revenue stream earmarked reserves at the 31st March 2022 of £112.422M 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 2022 was £19.800M, 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 (£1.000M)

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) Unadopted Roads (£0.100M)

Building on the funding previously allocated, a further £0.100M is allocated to unadopted roads to enable more streets to be made up to adoptable standards and formally adopted as a Council maintained asset.

c) Flood Alleviation Works (£1.000M)

Funding will continue to support works on land drainage and flood alleviation schemes and will enable the Council to progress with project business cases targeted at attracting external Welsh Government funding with this additional £1.000M being available for match funding.

d) Environmental Improvements (£0.050M)

Funding will support improvements to include new bins and benches within parks and other open spaces.

e) Parks (£0.200M)

This additional funding will allow the ongoing investment programme into the refurbishment of sports pavilions, upgrading of sports pitches and the repairs

to parks infrastructure to be enhanced even further.

f) Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) (£0.200M)

Funding will support the development of new Multi Use Games Areas to include provision for football and basketball and general community use.

g) Darran Park Sports Pitch (£0.175M)

Additional Council resources will be made available alongside a funding application to upgrade the pitch at Darran Park (total cost £0.375M), which is nearing the end of its useful life, from a sand-filled astroturf pitch to 3G.

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 £2.725M 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.
