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Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Democratic Services



**THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND**

27th August 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

**COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee will be held in remotely via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, 1st September, 2020 at 10.00 am.

***Please note that a pre and post meeting will be held 30 minutes prior to the start and following the conclusion of the meeting for members of the committee.***

Yours faithfully

Michelle Morris  
Managing Director

**AGENDA**

**Pages**

**1. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION**

You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

We welcome correspondence in the medium of Welsh or English. / Croesawn ohebiaith trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.

2. **APOLOGIES**
- To receive.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**
- To receive.
4. **FUTURE TIME OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
- To consider.
5. **COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES** 5 - 14
- To receive the minutes of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.
- (Please note the minutes are submitted for accuracy points only).
6. **ACTION SHEET - 27TH FEBRUARY 2020** 15 - 16
- To receive the Action Sheet.
7. **PROPOSED SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2020-21** 17 - 24
- To consider the report of the Chair of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee.
8. **HIGHWAY CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2019-2021** 25 - 42
- To consider the report of the Head of Community Services.

To: Councillor M. Moore (Chair)  
Councillor C. Meredith (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor P. Baldwin  
Councillor M. Cook  
Councillor G. L. Davies  
Councillor S. Healy  
Councillor W. Hodgins  
Councillor J. Holt  
Councillor H. McCarthy

Councillor J. Millard  
Councillor G. Paulsen  
Councillor K. Pritchard  
Councillor T. Sharrem  
Councillor B. Summers  
Councillor L. Winnett

All other Members (for information)  
Manager Director  
Chief Officers

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**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT**

**REPORT TO:** **THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT:** **COMMUNITY SERVICE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020**

**REPORT OF:** **DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT OFFICER**

**PRESENT:** COUNCILLOR J. WILKINS (CHAIR)

Councillors C. Meredith  
M. Cook  
G.L. Davies  
L. Elias  
S. Healy  
W. Hodgins  
J. Holt  
J.P. Morgan  
B. Summers  
L. Winnett

**WITH:** Head of Community Services  
Service Manager Community Services  
Service Manager Public Protection  
Team Manager Natural Environment  
Team Manager Leisure & Streetscene  
Specialist Environmental Health Officer – Commercial Team  
Marketing Projects Officer  
Scrutiny & Democratic Officer/Advisor

**AND:** **Wales Audit Office**  
Alison Rees  
Charlotte Owen

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<b><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></b>	

	It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.	
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<b>No. 2</b>	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received for Councillors G. Paulsen, H. McCarthy and T. Sharrem.</p>	
<b>No. 3</b>	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></b></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p>	
<b>No. 4</b>	<p><b><u>COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 were submitted, whereupon:-</p> <p>A Member referred to the second paragraph on page 8 of the minutes and pointed out that only parts of Parc Bryn Bach was dedicated a SINC area and not the whole park.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
<b>No. 5</b>	<p><b><u>ACTION SHEET – 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2020</u></b></p> <p>The action sheet arising from the meeting of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 was submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the action sheet be noted.</p>	
<b>No. 6</b>	<p><b><u>EXECUTIVE DECISION SHEET</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Executive Decision Sheet.</p>	

	The Committee AGREED that the Executive Decision Sheet be noted.	
No. 7	<p><b><u>WALES AUDIT OFFICE: WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS – IMPROVING ACCESS TO, AND THE QUALITY OF OPEN SPACES FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR COMMUNITIES, BUSINESSES AND VISITORS</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Team Manager Natural Environment.</p> <p>The Team Manager presented the report WAO report which covered the 2019-2020 audit year. The report considered how the Council has acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle public bodies must take account of.</p> <p>He reported that WAO found that ‘The Council is acting in accordance with the sustainable development principle; it collaborates well with others, but lacks a clear long-term, joined-up plan’. WAO identified areas for improvement, and the management response made by the Council in response to these proposals for improvement was attached at Appendix 2.</p> <p>The WAO Officer said the purpose of the audit was to ensure that the Council was applying the Five Ways of Working as defined in the Welsh Government’s Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in terms of the sustainable development principle in improving access to, and the quality of open spaces for the benefit of the community, businesses and visitors. The Officer reported that workshops had been held with various Members of the Council and partners to explore how they are starting to embed the five ways of working.</p> <p>The Team Leader Natural Environment said the Management Response recognised that this was a Council objective and all Departments had a role to play.</p> <p>A Member asked whether there was money set aside within the budget to undertake future maintenance of the Borough’s opens spaces as many were overgrown and there was no money available within the budget to undertake any works.</p>	

<p>The Officer confirmed that two funding bids had been submitted under the Welsh Government Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing scheme, designed to tackle specific issues of biodiversity and development of a Gwent Green Grid Partnership. Part of the funding had been successful, and a decision on the larger project was awaited. The funding available was significant and the objectives were specific to cover a much wider area and collaboration with other LA's was key. There were also other funding elements being explored around flood risk management and active travel.</p> <p>He agreed that for many years the Authority had spent capital monies on reclaiming land etc., but this was very much about managing our existing assets. In terms of collaboration, he confirmed that there were many community groups coming on board who were very interested in protecting the open spaces within their areas, and work was also being undertaken with other Departments to tap into other funding elements.</p> <p>The Member then referred to page 28 of the WAO report and expressed concern that the Council had yet to assess the impact of the toolkit in preventing anti-social behaviour in the Borough's upland area, and asked when</p> <p>The Member then referred to page 28 of the WAO report and asked when Members could expect reports on the Council's assessment of the impact of the South East Wales Uplands Landscape Crime Toolkit.</p> <p>In response the Officer said the Toolkit was developed to address problems of fly tipping and illegal off-road driving. Off-road driving was a problem throughout the Borough, it was a criminal offence and should be managed by the Police. In terms of the Council's efforts to prevent off-road driving, repairs to fencing was being undertaken and improvements where necessary, however, within weeks of repairs being undertaken the fences were being cut again and there was only a limited amount of resources available.</p> <p>The Chair requested an update on the South East Wales Uplands Landscape Crime toolkit, and the Team Manager</p>	<p><b>Team Manager Leisure &amp;</b></p>
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	<p>Leisure &amp; Streetscene undertook to provide a report to a future meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>In response to a question raised regarding the timelines detailed in the Management Response the Officer said these had been included in order to monitor a number of funding opportunities but would become more realistic when funding was in place.</p> <p>A Member referred to the Local Air Quality Report in the Information Pack, in particular monitoring of air quality at a number of Primary Schools within the Borough, and the Chair confirmed that this would be brought back to Committee in due course.</p> <p>The Committee therefore AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and the WAO review be accepted and actions to implement the proposals for improvement (Option 1).</p>	<p><b>Streetscene</b></p> <p><b>Team Manager Public Protection</b></p>
<b>No. 8</b>	<p><b><u>WALES AUDIT OFFICE: DELIVERING WITH LESS – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FOLLOW-UP REVIEW – NOVEMBER 2019</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Service Manager Public Protection.</p> <p>The Team Manager Public Protection presented the report which informed Members of the Wales Audit Office – Delivering with Less – Environmental Health follow-up review. The WAO report was attached at Appendix 1 and included the Authority’s Management Response to the proposals for further improvement.</p> <p>The WAO Officer confirmed that a National follow-up review was undertaken last year, and visits were made to the majority of Councils to assess what had changed since the initial study, in terms of changes to budgets and staffing within the Council’s environmental health services, and how it had addressed the recommendations for improvement included in the 2014 national report.</p> <p>In conclusion WAO found that ‘The Council has made progress in addressing the recommendations raised in 2014.</p>	

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Collaborative working with Torfaen CBC to date has contributed to the Council's ability to deliver with less. Following the withdrawal from the arrangement in November 2019 the Council will face additional financial and operational pressures that may affect its ability to continue providing environmental health services to the same standard.'

The Team Manager Public Protection then went through the Management Response attached to the report, and highlighted points contained therein.

A Member referred to page 57 of the report, and asked the reasons why the Council were making limited use of technology and ICT in service delivery.

In response the Team Manager explained that this was an area for improvement within the action plan. The Council was looking at using digital intelligence to predict future patterns of service delivery, and inform decision making around service provision. This would take time and investment to achieve but significant improvement had been made but more was needed.

The Member asked whether there were any capacity issues within the service, and the Officer explained that there had been some growth in demand on the service area, and service cuts had resulted in a reduction in management which had impacted on the coordination and planning of future service improvements.

Another Member asked whether the work being undertaken to bring empty properties back into use would be better placed within the Regeneration Section.

In response the Officer said they worked very closely with the Regeneration Department, but the drive came from Public Protection in terms of enforcement issues and housing related work. There were two Officers within the Section whose main area of work was providing property owners with advice on a range of options, and also processing the empty property loan scheme, and the Officer confirmed that the Authority has an excellent record of bringing homes back into use.

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	<p>In response to a further question regarding the previous collaboration arrangements with Torfaen, the Officer confirmed that the request with withdraw from the arrangement came from Torfaen CBC.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and the Scrutiny Committee support the Officer's response to the WAOs recommended proposals.</p>	
<b>No. 9</b>	<p><b><u>FOOD HYGIENE RATING SCHEME FOCUSSED AUDIT</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Service Manager Public Protection.</p> <p>The Specialist Environmental Health Officer presented the report which provided an update of the findings of the focussed audit of the implementation and operation of the statutory Food Hygiene Rating Scheme within Blaenau Gwent, carried out by the Food Standards Agency.</p> <p>In response to a question raised by a Member regarding the timescales detailed in Appendix 2 the Officer said the majority of the actions were significantly progressed but not fully completed. The Officer said they were in the process of being finalised and assured that they would be completed in the coming weeks.</p> <p>A Member asked that confirmation of completion of the actions be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and the contents of the report and Appendices be recommended for approval to the Executive Committee (Option 1).</p>	<b>Service Manager Public Protectio n</b>
<b>No. 10</b>	<p><b><u>ACTIVITIES REPORT – PEST CONTROL TREATMENT SERVICE UP TO DECEMBER 2019</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Service Manager Public Protection.</p> <p>The Service Manager Public Protection presented the report which provided an update on the pest control treatment service currently operated by Rentokil. Appendix 2 of the</p>	

	<p>report outlined the service demand data currently available for 2018/19 and 2019/20 up to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019.</p> <p>A Member referred to Appendix 2 and suggested that the figures for the previous year be included in order to identify trends etc. The Officer confirmed that this would be considered moving forward.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted (Option 2).</p>	
<b>No. 11</b>	<p><b><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2020</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Forward Work Programme for the meeting scheduled for the 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Officer clarified points raised by a Member in relation to the Highways Capital Works Programme 2019/20 Update report.</p> <p>In response to a question raised by a Member regarding the Bridging the Gap – Trade Waste Services the Service Manager Community Services confirmed that consultation had been undertaken with schools and businesses, and a report would be submitted in due course.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted.</p> <p>Councillor G. Davies left the meeting at this juncture.</p>	
<b>No. 12</b>	<p><b><u>CEMETERY BURIAL CAPACITY</u></b></p> <p>Having regard to the views expressed by the Proper Officer regarding the public interest test, that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the public be excluded whilst this item of business is transacted as it is likely there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).</p>	

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Consideration was given to report of the Team Manager Leisure & Street Scene.

At the invitation of the Chair the Officer presented the report which informed Members of the burial capacity remaining within Council run cemeteries across the Borough, and options to establish a medium to long term approach to cemetery provision in Blaenau Gwent.

The Officer went through the report in detail and highlighted points contained therein.

A lengthy discussion ensued when Members expressed concern regarding the delay in submission of the report. Also discussed at length was funding and options to extend cemeteries, including possible land acquisitions.

In terms of the land needed to extend cemeteries, the Officer explained that any land removed from Common would have to be replaced for inclusion in Common, and this may or may not be in Council ownership. He confirmed that the Estates Section were considering land options.

A Member referred to the very detailed work undertaken by the Task and Finish Group and suggested that this be reconvened to look at capacity within the cemeteries and options moving forward.

In response the Officer said the Task and Finish Group considered issues around infrastructure etc., following which capital monies was made available over the next 3 years to undertake works. The Officer said reprioritising this funding could be an option.

A Member asked regarding the possibility of Welsh Government funding or whether Prudential Borrowing would be an option.

In response the Head of Community Services said a review of reallocation of surplus capital funding had been undertaken, and it was agreed that any potential schemes would be considered against a priority matrix. However, capital monies had already been allocated and it may be necessary to shift the focus of this money and revisit the capital budget

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	<p>for other works in the future. In relation to Prudential Borrowing, this was applied on a 'spend to save' basis, so it was unlikely to be applied in this instance.</p> <p>The Officer said Option 2 would enable a more detailed feasibility appraisal to be undertaken, including costs and land options, and report the outcomes back to Committee.</p> <p>A further discussion ensued regarding consultation with Tredegar Members, when the Team Manager Leisure &amp; Street Scene said it was intended to brief Tredegar Members prior to this meeting, but this had been impeded by the recent events in the Borough. He confirmed that this would be undertaken as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report which contained information relating to the financial/business affairs of persons other than the Authority be accepted and Option 2 be supported, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. That a more detailed feasibility appraisal, including costs and land options at cemeteries with limited burial capacity be undertaken. This relates to cemeteries with identified capacity of less than 20 years; and</li> <li>ii. Consideration be given to investigate the feasibility of amalgamating the two cemeteries identified as priority 1 and 2 areas and under the greatest pressure for burial capacity.</li> </ul>	
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**Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council**

**Action Sheet**

**Community Services Scrutiny Committee – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Item	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
	<p>Chair expressed her thanks to officers of the Department in dealing with the flood crises and requested that a letter of thanks be sent to officers of the Department on behalf of the Committee.</p> <p>A letter also to be sent to Tai Calon.</p>	Democratic Services Team	Letters sent on 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2020.
7	<p><b><u>WAO: Well-being of Future Generations – Improving Access to, and the quality if open spaces for the benefit of our communities, businesses and visitors</u></b></p> <p>Members referred to page 28 of the report and the South East Wales Uplands Landscape Crime Toolkit and enquired when the toolkit would be presented to Members and is the Council assessing the impact of the toolkit.</p>	Chris Engel, Team Manager, Natural Environment / Dave Watkins, Team Manager, Leisure and Street Scene	A report on the Uplands Project is included in the 2020/21 Forward Work Programme.
9	<p><b><u>Food Hygiene Rating Scheme Focussed Audit</u></b></p> <p>A Member referred to Appendix 2 and requested that an update on actions be provided to Committee.</p>	Dave Thompson, Service Manager, Public Protection	Of the sixteen actions, all have been completed bar one (no. <b>4.6.4</b> (Enforcement): ‘The authorities did not make specific reference to dealing with non-compliance in such establishments within documented enforcement procedures.’) This

Item	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
			action has been delayed due to the reprioritisation of work due to the coronavirus pandemic and will be completed as soon as practicable
10	<p><b><u>Activities Report – Pest Control Treatment Service</u></b></p> <p>A Member referred to Appendix 2 and requested for future reporting could data from the previous year be included and that it is produced in graph format.</p>	Dave Thompson, Service Manager Public Protection	A report will be presented to Committee on 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2021, which will include the requested information.



# Agenda Item 7

*Executive Committee and Council only*

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **1<sup>st</sup> September 2020**

Report Subject: **Proposed Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2020-21**

Portfolio Holder: **Leader / Executive Member Corporate Services**

Report Submitted by: **Councillor Mandy Moore, Chair of Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
July 2020	July 2020	19.08.20			01.09.20	Executive FWP – 02.09.20	Council FWP – 24.9.20	

1. **Purpose of the Report**
  - 1.1 To present the Community Services Scrutiny Work Programme for 2020-21 (Appendix 1) and to seek approval from Committee.
2. **Scope and Background**
  - 2.1 The Scrutiny Work Programmes are key aspects of the Council's planning and governance arrangements and support the requirements of the Constitution.
  - 2.2 The topics set out in the Forward Work Programme link to the strategic work of the Council as identified by the Council's recently revised Corporate Plan, agreed by the Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020, corporate documents and supporting business plans.
  - 2.3 The Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programmes are also aligned to the Audit Committee, Executive Committee and Council Forward Work Programmes.
  - 2.4 The Work Programme is a fluid document and there is flexibility to allow for regular review between the Chair and the Committee.
  - 2.5 Informal Scrutiny Briefing Sessions were held in July 2020, in order for all Scrutiny Members to contribute to the Forward Work Programmes, prior to formal approval of the Forward Work Programmes at the first Scrutiny Committees in September 2020.
3. **Options for Recommendation**
  - 3.1 The work programmes have been endorsed by the relevant departments of the Council.
  - 3.2 The work programmes have been considered and endorsed by the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny.

3.3 **Option 1**

To agree the Forward Work Programme for the Community Services Scrutiny Committee.

**Option 2**

To suggest any amendments prior to agreeing the Forward Work Programme.

## Draft Community Services Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

Dates / Deadlines	Scrutiny Topic	Purpose	Lead Officer	Executive / Council
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020</b>	1. Highways Capital Works Programme	<b>Pre Decision</b> To undertake a review of the activity undertaken in the previous year 2019/20 and to consider the options for work for 2020/21.	Carl Powell	Special Executive
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020</b>  Deadline: 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	1. Outline Business Case for the Development of a Regional Wood Facility at Silent Valley	<b>Pre Decision</b> To provide the business case for consideration around the potential for the development of a regional wood facility at Silent Valley.	Lisa Jones	Executive
	2. Investment in Play Provision	<b>Pre Decision <u>Information</u> – Dave to check</b> To consider the options for the allocation of monies to implement the Play Strategy borough wide.	Michelle Morris Dave Watkins Natalie Taylor	Executive
	3. Waste and Recycling Performance 2019/20	<b>Performance Monitoring</b> To be provided with the 2019/20 waste and recycling performance.	Lisa Jones	Executive

## Draft Community Services Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

Dates / Deadlines	Scrutiny Topic	Purpose	Lead Officer	Executive / Council
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b>  Deadline: 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2020	1. Cemetery Capacity Update	<b>Performance Monitoring</b> To be updated on the cemetery capacity following the review undertaken in 2019/20.	Dave Watkins	Executive
	2. Central Depot new Build / Relocation / Business Plan	<b>Pre Decision</b> To consider the options for the preferred site before development of a business case.	Dave Watkins	Executive Approval
	3. Update on Flood Risk Management Plan	<b>Performance Monitoring</b> To report progress on the Flood Management Plan. Note, this is the annual monitoring report and is not to consider the flooding that took place earlier in 2020.	Carl Powell Wayne Jervis	Executive
	4. Environment Act Section 6 Duty	<b>Performance Monitoring</b> Annual report of the implementation of the Environment Act and the Council's Biodiversity duties throughout 2019/20 and consideration of the proposed actions for 2020/21.	Chris Engel	Executive

## Draft Community Services Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

Dates / Deadlines	Scrutiny Topic	Purpose	Lead Officer	Executive / Council
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020</b>  Deadline: 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	1. Environmental / Public Protection Services	<b>Pre Decision</b> Members to consider amendments to the Authority's Front Line Service Delivery arrangements.	Dave Thompson / Matthew Perry	Executive December 2020 / January 2021
	2. Uplands Project	<b>To be completed</b>	Chris Engel	Executive Approval
	3. Litter & Dog Control Order Enforcement – Performance report	<b>Performance Monitoring</b> To receive the annual report on 2019/20 activity.	Dave Thompson	Executive

Dates / Deadlines	Scrutiny Topic	Purpose	Lead Officer	Executive / Council
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## Draft Community Services Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

<b>Monday</b> <b>18<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>  Deadline: 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Pest Control – Annual Performance Report	<b><u>Information Only</u></b>  To receive the annual report for Members' information.	Dave Thompson	Executive Information
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## Draft Community Services Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

Dates / Deadlines	Scrutiny Topic	Purpose	Lead Officer	Executive / Council
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021</b>  Deadline: 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	1. Central Depot new Build / Relocation / Business Plan	<b>Pre Decision</b> To consider the business plan and options for the relocation of the Central Depot.	Dave Watkins	Executive or Council Approval
	Annual Air Quality 2019/20	<u><b>Information Only</b></u> To receive the annual report for Members' information.	Dave Thompson	Executive Information

## Draft Community Services Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

Dates / Deadlines	Scrutiny Topic	Purpose	Lead Officer	Executive / Council
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021</b>  Deadline: 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	<b>No Items scheduled</b>			

Dates / Deadlines	Scrutiny Topic	Purpose	Lead Officer	Executive / Council
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Fly Grazing</b>	To outline policy and current response arrangements.	Dave Thompson	Executive Information



# Agenda Item 8

*Executive Committee and Council only*

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **1<sup>st</sup> September 2020**

Report Subject: **Highway Capital Works Programme 2017 – 2021**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr. Joanna Wilkins, Executive Member Environment**

Report Submitted by: **Head of Community Services, Clive Rogers**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
28.01.20	04.02.20	19.08.20			01.09.20	02.09.20		

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide scrutiny members with an update on progress of the current Highway Capital Works programme 2017 – 2021 and present options around a future 2020 – 21 works programme.

## 2. Scope and Background

### Highways Capital Works Programme 2012 – 2016

- 2.1 A Wales Audit Office [WAO] Review of Blaenau Gwent's Highways Maintenance Service' was published in 2008. The outcome of this review was that whilst the Authority was managing the Highway Infrastructure effectively the current level of funding available meant that this could not be sustained. The maintenance back log at this time was some £25 million.
- 2.2 Annual Revenue contributions of £200k were identified from the Maintenance Revenue budget and were matched with a contribution from the Insurance Reserve of £200k in order to fund a Prudential Borrowing approval [25 Years] of £5.8 million for Highways Improvement Capital Works.
- 2.3 This was further augmented with an additional £1 million Welsh Government funding under its Local Government Borrowing Initiative [LGBI].
- 2.4 Works commenced in 2012 with the Programme finally completed in 2016, with the majority of works targeted at improving the quality of the classified network.
- 2.5 This report was due to be submitted to Scrutiny and Executive in February, however it was held back in order to see if additional capital was to be made available by the end of financial year. Other events have since come into play – COVID resulting in the delay in presenting this report into Scrutiny and Executive.

## Highways Capital Works Programme 2017 – 2021

- 2.6 As a result of the previous programme of works, and the improved nature and condition of the classified network, a programme targeting unclassified/ residential roads was approved by members in 2017.
- 2.7 Following on from the previous prudential borrowing scheme 2012 – 2016, a capital sum of £2.115million was generated from a 20 year prudential borrow based on revenue contributions of £130k per year.
- 2.8 This Capital Sum has been augmented by Welsh Government Highways Refurbishment grant funding as shown below in Table 1.
- 2.9 Table 1.

<b>Funding</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Prudential Borrowing	£2,115,000
WG Grant 2017-2018	£553,000
WG Grant 2018-2019	£380,065
WG Grant 2019-2020	£409,776
WG Grant 2020-2021	£383,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,840,949</b>

### Network

- 2.10 The current gross replacement value of the Highway Network is estimated at £1.093 billion and is the Authority's most valuable physical asset.
- 2.11 Un-classified roads make up 74% of the total Highway network [198 miles] and form the majority of the local road network – residential roads & rear lanes.
- 2.12 Public perception of highways normally relates to the condition of local residential roads [un-classified roads]. Reactive repairs to pot holes and rutted surfacing are costly and the less effective way of maintaining the highway.

Planned maintenance works as against reactive maintenance are the more cost effective way of maintaining the highway network.

- 2.13 The overall % of poor conditioned Un-classified roads pre-commencement of works was 17%. As a result of the previous two years this figure has been reduced to 11.4%.
- 2.14 Works completed to date can be found in the following appendices:

See Appendix A: 2018 – 19 Phase 1 Programme of Works (Completed)

See Appendix B: 2019 – 20 Phase 2 Programme of Works (Completed)

See Appendix C: 2018 – 20 Detailed Schedule of Roads / Works Phase 1 & 2

### Highway Capital Works Programme 2020-21 – Priorities

- 2.15 The proposed 2020 – 21 programme will continue to focus around improving the residential/ unclassified network. The majority of reactive maintenance and insurance claims relate to the unclassified network that makes up 74% of the entire network. In addition to the

resurfacing of highest priority ranked roads it is proposed that other works will be undertaken relating to features essential to the highway network such as safety barriers, illuminated traffic signs and speed reduction measures.

2.16 Listed below are the proposed key priorities identified for 2020 – 21 Capital Works Programme:

- Residential Roads (proposed value of works £445k)

Following on from the previous works programme it is proposed that a priority ranking of residential streets is determined, utilising the assessment matrix criteria that was developed in line with the specific features associated with residential highways as follows:

See Appendix D: Highway Assessment Matrix – Residential Roads

See Appendix E: Highway Assessment Matrix – Residential Roads: Worked Example

- Priority A Roads / Industrial Estates (proposed value of works £150k)
- Crash Barriers (proposed value of works £50k)
- Illuminated Traffic Signs (proposed value of works £30k)
- Traffic Management Features and Variable Speed Safety Signage (proposed value of works £50k)

See Appendix F: 2020 – 21 Phase 3 Programme of Works (Proposed)

2.17 It is also proposed that should further WG Capital Funding for Highways be made available over the next few months, then these funds will be allocated in line with 2.16 above, namely residential areas and the matrix assessment criteria.

### **3. Options for recommendation**

#### **3.1 Option A (preferred option)**

Members accept update on progress of the current Highway Capital Works programme 2017 - 2021 and support the Highway Capital Works Programme 2020 – 21 – Priorities.

#### **3.2 Option B**

Members do not accept the update on progress of the current Highway Capital Works programme 2017 – 2021 and do not support the Highway Capital Works Programme 2020 – 21, but present alternative priorities.

#### **4. Evidence of how does this topic support the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

- 4.1 The report has been developed to provide an update on progress of the current Highway Capital Works programme 2017 – 2021 and supports the key priorities identified in the Corporate Plan namely – “reinvestment in highways and improvements to the residential network”.

#### **5. Implications Against Each Option**

##### **5.1 Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)**

###### **Funding**

Total funding £3,840,841 (prudential borrowing plus WG refurbishment Grants)

Cost of works to date:

2018 – 19	£1,861,800
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2019 – 20	£1,254,041
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Available Funding 2020 - 21	£ 725,000
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##### **5.2 Risk including Mitigating Actions**

Option A: Failure of available funding to meet Proposed Works Programme 2020 – 21.

Option B: Alternative proposed priorities by members exceed available funding.

##### **5.3 Legal**

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

##### **5.4 Human Resources**

There are no staffing implications associated with this report.

#### **6. Supporting Evidence**

##### **6.1 Performance Information and Data:**

The overall % of poor conditioned Un-classified roads pre-commencement of works was 17%. As a result of Phase 1 and 2 Works there has been a 5.6% reduction of poor conditioned unclassified roads to 11.4%.

##### **6.2 Expected Outcome for the Public**

Improved quality of residential highways. Improved safety to highway network.

##### **6.3 Involvement (Consultation, Engagement, Participation)**

Where relevant, consultation, engagement and involvement with the public, members and interested parties have been carried out as part of the delivery requirements of the programme.

#### **6.4 Thinking for the long term (forward planning)**

Investment in the residential highway network in Blaenau Gwent is identified to ensure sustainability for the future, bringing our roads up to a good standard and improving our highway infrastructure to meet the service requirements of the future.

#### **6.5 Preventative Focus**

By investing now will prevent problems getting worse with our infrastructure, thus making prudent decisions to invest now rather than later when the costs are likely to be higher through further deterioration and inflation.

#### **6.6 Collaboration / partnership working**

N/A.

#### **6.7 Integration (across service areas)**

N/A.

#### **6.8 EQIA (screening and indemnifying if full impact assessment is needed)**

An EQIA is not relevant to the content of this report.

### **7. Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 These works are bi-annually reported to Corporate Overview Scrutiny (Contracts over £500k) and Annual Progress report to The Chair and Members of Community Services Scrutiny Committee.

### **8. Background Documents / Electronic Link**

- 8.1 Appendix A: 2018 – 19 Phase 1 Programme of Works (Completed)
- 8.2 Appendix B: 2019 – 20 Phase 2 Programme of Works (Completed)
- 8.3 Appendix C: 2018 – 20 Detailed Schedule of Roads / Works Phase 1 & 2
- 8.4 Appendix D: Highway Assessment Matrix – Residential Roads
- 8.5 Appendix E: Highway Assessment Matrix – Residential Roads: Worked Example
- 8.6 Appendix F: 2020 – 21 Phase 3 Programme of Works (Proposed)

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# Appendix A: 2018 – 19 Phase 1 Programme of Works (Completed)

Total Cost: £1,861,800

## Summary:

### Work Package 1:

- 4 Residential Highways,
- 2 Class A roundabouts
- Total Resurfaced Highway Area: 24,125m<sup>2</sup> / 2.5 miles

### Work Package 2:

- 20 Residential Highways:
- Total Resurfaced Highway Area: 49,830m<sup>2</sup> / 5.2 miles

### Work Package 3:

- 28 Residential Highways:
- Total Resurfaced Highway Area: 33,196m<sup>2</sup> / 3.5 miles

### Other Highway related Works:

- Replaced 7 no. Vehicle containment systems (crash barriers).
- 4no. new bus shelters.
- Civil Parking Enforcement Traffic Order Survey Works

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# Appendix B: 2019 – 20 Phase 2 Programme of Works (Completed)

Total Cost: £1,254,041

## Summary

### Work Package 4:

- 6 Residential Highways
- Total resurfaced Highway Area: 12,918m<sup>2</sup> / 1.5 miles

### Other Works:

- Tredegar By-Pass surface dressing (completed July 2020)
- Six Bells Highway Improvement Traffic Signal Scheme
- Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)
- Industrial Estates Street Lighting Upgrade
- Highway Maintenance Plan / Winter Maintenance Plan Documents

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Appendix C: 2018 – 20 Detailed Schedule of Roads / Works Phase 1 & 2		
RESIDENTIAL ROADS		
Ward	Street	Work Package
Abertillery	Duffryn Road	2
	Roch St, Clarence St, Newall St, Adam St, Gelli Crug Road	3
Badminton	Glanffrwydd Tce	2
	Fitzroy Avenue	3
	Cwm Hir	4
Beaufort	Frost Road	2
	Parkhill Crescent	3
Blaina	Southlands	2
	East Pentwyn Rd, Church St, Hope St, Cross St	2
Brynmawr	Worcester Street	2
	Bailey Street	3
Cwm	Brynhyfryd Terrace	2
	Curre Street	3
Cwmtillery	Ty Dan Y Wal	1
	Cefn Crescent	3
	Gladstone Street	4
EV North	Tothill Street	2
	Council Street & Hughes Avenue	2
EV South	Pentwyn and Bron-Y-De (Hilltop)	2
	Tyllwyn: Hill St, Greenfield Tce, Oakfield Tce, Ash Grove	3
Georgetown	Glyn Terrace	1
Llanhilleth	Lewis Street (Swffrydd)	2
	Chruch Road	3
	Oxford Place and Regent Street	4
Nantyglo	Roundhouse Close	2
	Vincent Avenue & Milfraen Avenue	3
	Brynhyfryd Av, Brynhyfryd Tce and Beacon View	3
Rassau	Stonebridge Road	1
	Honeyfield Road	1
Sirhowy	Waundeg	2
	Rhoslan, Bryn Pica and Ysgurborwen	3
Six Bells	Cwm-Nant-Y-Groes	2
	Bryngwyn Road	3
Tred C&W	Oliver Jones Crescent	2
	Ashvale: Brynbach St, Pembroke St, Woodlands & The Crescent	3
	Walter Conway Avenue & Gainsborough Road	4
CLASS A ROADS		
Beaufort Tredegar Abertillery	Morrison Roundabout and section of A4046 to College Road	1
	Tredegar By-Pass	
	Aberbeeg Roundabout	1
OTHER HIGHWAY RELATED WORKS		
	4no Bus Shelters	
	Road Safety Barriers (234m)	
	Traffic Signal Junction at Six Bells	
	Industrial Estate Lighting Upgrade	
	Highway Maintenance Plan and Winter Maintenance Plan Docs	
	Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)	

#### Summary of Resurfaced Highways:

- 58 residential highways
- 2 Class A roundabouts
- Total of 12.7 miles of highways resurfaced

APPENDIX C - HIGHWAYS CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2018/19 PHASE 2		
RESIDENTIAL ROADS		
Ward	Street	Work Package
Abertillery		
Badminton	Cwm Hir	4
Beaufort		
Blaina		
Brynmawr		
Cwm		
Cwmtillery	Gladstone Street	4
EV North		
EV South		
Georgetown		
Llanhilleth	Regent Street	4
	Oxford Place	4
Nantyglo		
Rassau		
Sirhowy		
Six Bells		
Tred C&W	Walter Conwy Avenue	4
	Gainsborough Road	4
CLASS A ROADS		
	A4048 Tredegar By Pass	4
OTHER HIGHWAY RELATED WORKS		
	Signalised Junction Works Six Bells	
	Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)	

#### Summary of Resurfaced Highways:

- 6 residential highways
- Total of 1.3 miles of highways resurfaced

Appendix C: 2020 – 21 Detailed Schedule of Roads / Works Phase 3		
RESIDENTIAL ROADS		
Ward	Street	Work Package
Abertillery	Princess Street (inc. speed humps)	5
		5
Badminton	Pen Y Dre Bryn Glas	5
		5
		5
Beaufort	Big Lane	5
		5
Blaina	Caddicks Row (inc. speed humps)	5
		5
Brynmawr	Clydach Street	5
		5
Cwm	Garden Festival / August Street	5
		5
Cwmtillery	Hillcrest View Valley View Road	5
		5
		5
EV North	Greenways Penlas & Bryn-y-Gwynt	5
		5
EV South	High Street	5
		5
Georgetown	Mafeking Terrace	5
Llanhilleth	Brynhyfryd Terrace	5
		5
		5
Nantyglo	Gwent Terrace	5
		5
		5
Rassau	Clydach Avenue	5
		5
Sirhowy	Glanhowy Street / Meadow Crescent Glanrhyd Close	5
		5
Six Bells	Lancaster Street	5
		5
Tred C&W	Union Street / Earl Street	5
		5
		5
HIGH PRIORITY CLASSIFIED ROADS		
	Langynidr Road College Road Tafarnaubach Ind Est	
OTHER HIGHWAY RELATED WORKS		
	Crash Barriers A467 Blaina / Abertillery	
	Crash Barriers A4048 Tredegar By Pass	
	Crash Barriers Rassau Road	
	Speed Humps at Stockton Way Tredegar	
	Speed Humps at Roseheyworth Road, Abertillery	

#### Summary of Resurfaced Highways:

- 58 residential highways
- 2 Class A roundabouts
- Total of 12.7 miles of highways resurfaced

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# Appendix D: Highway Assessment Matrix – Residential Roads

1A Highway Condition (50%) - FRONT / MAIN LANES		
Category / Score	Square Area / Score	Total Score / %
4 (5)	Plus 2000 (5)	10 (50%)
4 (5)	1000 - 2000 (4)	9 (45%)
4 (5)	1000 - 500 (3)	8 (40%)
4 (5)	less than 500 (2)	7 (35%)
3 (4)	Plus 2000 (5)	9 (45%)
3 (4)	1000 - 2000 (4)	8 (40%)
3 (4)	1000 - 500 (3)	7 (35%)
3 (4)	less than 500 (2)	6 (30%)

1B Highway Condition (50%) - REAR LANES x 0.5 = (25%)		
4 (5)	Plus 2000 (5)	10 (25%)
4 (5)	1000 - 2000 (4)	9 (22.5%)
4 (5)	1000 - 500 (3)	8 (20%)
4 (5)	less than 500 (2)	7 (17.5%)
3 (4)	Plus 2000 (5)	9 (22.5%)
3 (4)	1000 - 2000 (4)	8 (20%)
3 (4)	1000 - 500 (3)	7 (17.5%)
3 (4)	less than 500 (2)	6 (15%)

Example: Location A Street	
1A - very poor condition	45%
2 - High Maintenance cost	24%
3 - 3 insurance claims in last 10 years	3%
4 - serves 50 - 99 properties	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82%</b>

2 Maintenance Costs (30%)	
Costs over 5 years	Score / %
Plus £10,000	10 (30%)
£9,999 - £5,000	8 (24%)
£4,999 - £3,000	5 (15%)
£2,999 - £1,000	3 (9%)
Less than £1,000	1 (3%)
£0.00	0 (0%)

3 Insurance Claims (10%)	
No. in last 10 years	Score / %
plus 5	10 (10%)
4	8 (8%)
3	5 (5%)
2	3 (3%)
1	1 (1%)
0	0 (0%)

4 Property Location (10%)	
No. of Houses	Score / %
*150 +	10 (10%)
* 100 - 150	8 (8%)
50 TO 99	5 (5%)
20 TO 49	3 (3%)
1 TO 19	1 (1%)
0 / rear access	0 (0%)

\* Also linked with other highways and can be combined in to one scheme

Appendix E: Highway Assessment Matrix – Residential Roads: Worked Example

	PRUDENTIAL BORROWING SCHEME																													
	(1A) HIGHWAY CONDITION FRONT LANE (50%)					(1B) HIGHWAY CONDITION REAR LANE (25%)					(2) MAINTENANCE COSTS (30%)						(3) No. INSURANCE CLAIMS (10%)						(4) PROPERTY LOCATION (10%)							
	10	9	8	7	6	9	8	7	6	5	10	8	5	3	1	0	10	8	5	3	1	0	10	8	5	3	1	0		
SCORES	10	9	8	7	6	9	8	7	6	5	10	8	5	3	1	0	10	8	5	3	1	0	10	8	5	3	1	0	TOTAL	F %
PERCENTAGE %	50%	45%	40%	35%	30%	25%	23%	20%	18%	15%	30%	24%	15%	9%	3%	0%	10%	8%	5%	3%	1%	0%	10%	8%	5%	3%	1%	0%		
STREET / ROUTE																														
EXAMPLE STREET		X										X								X			X						30	82%



# Appendix F: 2020 – 21 Phase 3 Programme of Works (Proposed)

Est Cost: £725,000

## **Summary:**

- Residential Roads: 16 schemes (One per Ward)
- Priority A Roads / Industrial Estates
- Crash Barriers
- Illuminated Traffic Signs
- Traffic Management Features
- Variable Speed Safety Signage

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