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Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Democratic Services



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

2nd June 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

**COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee will be held in Virtually via Microsoft Teams - if you would like to attend this meeting live via Microsoft Teams please contact committee.services@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk on Monday, 7th June, 2021 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

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

should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

2. **APOLOGIES**

To receive.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

To receive.

4. **TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

To consider.

5. **COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES** 5 - 14

To receive the minutes of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

(Please note the minutes are submitted for accuracy points only).

6. **ACTION SHEET**

There were no actions arising from the meeting of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

7. **PROPOSED SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021-22** 15 - 22

To agree the report of the Chair of Community Services Scrutiny Committee.

8. **HIGHWAY CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2021 – 2022** 23 - 36

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 M. Cross  
Councillor M. Day  
Councillor P. Edwards  
Councillor S. Healy  
Councillor W. Hodgins  
Councillor J. Holt  
Councillor J. C. Morgan  
Councillor L. Parsons  
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 SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –  
12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2021**

**REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR C. MEREDITH (VICE-CHAIR IN THE  
CHAIR)**

Councillors M. Cook  
 P. Baldwin  
 M. Day  
 P. Edwards  
 S. Healy  
 J. Hill (substituting for M. Moore)  
 W. Hodgins  
 J. Holt  
 J.C. Morgan  
 K. Rowson (substituting for G. Paulsen)  
 B. Summers  
 L. Winnett

**WITH: Head of Community Services  
 Team Leader Neighbourhood Services  
 Team Manager Street Scene  
 Team Manager Environmental Protection  
 Scrutiny & Democratic Officer/Advisor**

**AND: Mr. Neil Greenhalgh – Red & White Resource**

<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>SUBJECT</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
-----	<b><u>CONDOLENCES – HRH PRINCE PHILLIP, THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH</u></b>  The Chair reported the sad news of the death of HRH Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Committee observed	

	a minutes' silence as a mark of respect.	
<b>No. 1</b>	<p><b><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
<b>No. 2</b>	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>No apologies for absence were reported.</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 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2021 were submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
<b>No. 5</b>	<p><b><u>ACTION SHEET</u></b></p> <p>The Action Sheet arising from the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2021 was submitted, whereupon:-</p> <p>A Member referred to discussions at the pre-meeting and asked that his disagreement be noted in relation to the Chair's ruling regarding the number of questions allowed by Members at any one time.</p> <p><i><u>Progress Update on Silent Valley</u></i></p> <p>A brief discussion ensued when the Scrutiny &amp; Democratic Officer reported that the FWP was currently being developed, and it was intended to schedule the Silent Valley Progress Report to the first meeting of the new cycle in June.</p> <p><i><u>Review of Arrangements with Powys County Council</u></i></p> <p>Following a question raised by a Member the Team Leader Environmental Protection confirmed that a Member had</p>	

	<p>requested a review of the Council's arrangements with Powys County Council in relation to animal welfare.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the Action Sheet be noted.</p>	
<p><b>No. 6</b></p>	<p><b><u>ADOPTION OF LITTER AND FLY-TIPPING STRATEGY</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Team Manager Street Scene.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Neil Greenhalgh of Red &amp; White Resource to the meeting.</p> <p>The Team Manager Street Scene presented the report which sought support for the adoption of a new Litter and Fly-Tipping Strategy for 2021-2026. He pointed out that Blaenau Gwent was only the second Authority in Wales to devise such a Strategy.</p> <p>He confirmed that a successful application was made to Caru Cymru for £30,000 pa over a three-year period commencing 2019/20. The Caru Cymru scheme supported projects for environmental improvements within residential areas by developing benefits for people, businesses and their communities. The aim of the project was to improve the quality of the environment with the emphasis on long term behavioural change rather than continuing to rely on just cleaning up. The funding application included the appointment of a Local Environmental Quality (LEQ) Officer who would work with existing Litter Champions and groups, and also engage with schools and community groups to raise awareness, educate and promote local environmental quality issues within the borough. Unfortunately, this work had been delayed due to the Covid pandemic.</p> <p>The Officer said it had been identified that in order for the Council to have a more effective and positive impact on the scheme, a relevant strategy and supporting policies would be required to support management of the project. As a result, the funding application included a specialist LEQ consultant to be appointed to undertake a review of the Street Cleansing Service and draft a Blaenau Gwent Litter and Fly-Tipping Strategy. A tender process was</p>	

commenced in November 2019 and the contract was awarded to Red & White Resource Ltd.

The Officer confirmed that a thorough review and analysis of the cleansing service was undertaken, and the feedback from stakeholder meetings and interviews allowed the Consultant to draft an independent and objective Litter and Fly-Tipping Strategy for Council. However, due to the Covid pandemic, additional site visits and follow-up stakeholder workshops were unable to go ahead, but it was felt that the information and data obtained up to 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 was sufficient to complete a draft Strategy for adoption by the Council.

In terms of the Strategy, attached at Appendix 1, a number of key objectives have been established that would deliver the recognised environmental improvements, and these were highlighted at section 2.3.3 of the report. Also included within the Strategy was an Action Plan (Appendix 2) with key actions to be undertaken during the 5 year lifespan of the Strategy and associated timelines.

A Member referred to the excellent work undertaken by Litter Champions, but expressed concern that the process currently in place to register as a litter champion should be made easier.

In response the Team Manager Streetscene said there were well over 200 registered Litter Champions in the Borough working closely with the Council. When registered they are able to report their litter picks for collection through the system and they also have direct access to Officers. However, he agreed that the process could be streamlined and better coordinated, and this would form part of the work of the LEQ Officer when appointed.

Another Member referred to the key objectives detailed at section 2.3.3 of the report and asked how the Strategy would be communicated across all age groups.

The Officer said one of the essential areas of work for the LEQ Officer would be engagement with schools. Work had commenced prior to the Covid pandemic, but this would be



further developed as part of the Strategy to ensure robust engagement with schools on a coordinated basis.

A Member referred to the £30k funding obtained over 3 years and asked whether part of this would be used to fund the LEQ Officer.

The Officer explained that this was revenue funding identified to support an LEQ Officer and other work associated with Keep Wales Tidy. The appointment would be on a fixed term basis, however, indications was that further funding would be available in future years.

Another Member referred to an initiative adopted by Monmouthshire County Council where a sign was erected following a litter pick by volunteers, recognising their excellent contribution. He suggested that this approach be considered in Blaenau Gwent, and the Team Manager Street Scene undertook to look into this matter.

A Member who was a registered Litter Champion said in his experience the system was working well. He said his only complaint was with those people who were littering and that a zero tolerance approach should be adopted. He looked forward to the appointment of an LEQ Officer and engagement with schools in order to educate young people and hopefully improve the environment for the future.

In response to a further question raised by a Member regarding the funding, the Team Manager explained that the actions included within the Strategy would be delivered within the existing revenue budget for cleansing. However, additional funding would be explored for anything falling outside of the Strategy.

Mr. Neil Greenhalgh of Red & White Resources then went through the Strategy document and highlighted points contained therein.

A Member said in his opinion not enough fines were being issued in relation to fly tipping. He also expressed concern that some people were using communal collection points to dispose of their rubbish, and asked when it was intended to cease communal collections.

In response the Team Manager Public Protection pointed out that Blaenau Gwent was consistently one of the top performing LA's in Wales for enforcement activity and issuing fixed penalty notices for litter.

In relation to communal collection points the Team Manager Streetscene explained that the Council had two strategies in place, one to deal with litter and the other to deal with waste. However, the issue of side waste enforcement/fly tipping was recognised, particularly in Town Centres but a review was needed to determine whether it should be come under the remit of litter or side waste enforcement.

A brief discussion ensued when the Team Manager Neighbourhood Services confirmed that a number of communal collection points had been removed, and work was ongoing to reduce them further.

A Member asked whether as part of the Strategy it was intended to work with fast food companies in the Borough to try and stop the litter being generated from these outlets.

The Team Manager Streetscene confirmed the Council would be engaging with local businesses to work together to reduce that type of litter.

Another Member asked whether the cost of litter and fly tipping to the Council had increased in recent years.

The Officer explained that the revenue account associated with cleansing was £1.1m for cleaning operations and operations associated with litter and fly tipping. However, the work of the Litter Champions in terms of man hours and collections etc, is not measured and said this could be considered as an indicator moving forward.

A further discussion ensued when the Team Manager Environmental Protection said the majority of fly tipping in remote locations was done for commercial gain by small operators advertising services, rather than individual householders.

Mr. Greenhalgh agreed and said this was a problem throughout the UK.

The Team Manager Streetscene said the online booking system for HWRC sites needed to be more streamlined, and the Council also needed to consider whether it intended to retain the booking system which was put in place as a result of the Covid pandemic. However, he pointed out that the new HWRC would be open shortly and hopefully this would have a positive impact.

A Member said a 'pay and go' facility at the Council's HWRC sites may encourage those small operators to utilise the sites rather than fly tip. He also reported that some businesses were putting their trade waste out alongside communal collection points, and asked whether the Council was engaging with those businesses to inform them of the correct procedures, and that they should not employ unscrupulous trade waste operators.

In response the Team Manager Environmental Protection explained that commercial businesses have a duty to ensure they have arrangements in place with a legitimate waste disposal contractor. He urged Members to report any issues to Environmental Health if they were aware of commercial operators depositing waste at communal collection points designed for domestic waste.

The Team Manager Neighbourhood Services confirmed that the Council's new trade waste service would be launched in due course for our customers. However, he said some work could be done with those businesses who do not employ the Council's services, but he pointed out that they had a duty of care to dispose of their waste appropriately.

A discussion ensued regarding the booking system currently in place at the HWRC site, when the Team Manager Neighbourhood Services said the system would remain in place until such time as the Covid regulations changed. He said there had been some benefits to the booking system in terms of providing data on usage and the type of materials taken to the site. Also running costs in terms of manpower had reduced and the queues once seen at the site had also

stopped. However, whether we continue this approach would be subject to further consideration.

A Member expressed concern that people were leaving their recycling/refuse bins on the footpath causing obstruction. In response the Officer said waste receptacles should only be put out early on collection day, or late the night before. He confirmed that letters had been sent out in certain streets requesting that they be removed, and wider scope for enforcement was being developed moving forward.

A further brief discussion ensued when the Team Manager Environmental Protection explained that the process for reporting fly tipping had recently changed. The first point of contact for fly tipping on public land was now the Cleaning Team, and an operative would respond to the incident and undertake an investigation prior to clearing. Any evidence would then be forwarded to Environmental Health. He said the arrangement was working very well and prevented duplication of effort, with greater focus on investigation and enforcement.

A Member said education was a key element for the success of the Strategy, and said there may be scope for this to be built into the new curriculum for Key Stage 2. In terms of enforcement, he asked whether Waste Wardens could issue fixed penalty notices.

Mr. Greenhalgh said in terms of education and engagement with schools, Keep Wales Tidy already engaged with Key Stage 2 through the Eco Schools initiative. However, more work was needed with Secondary Schools, as from experience, engagement with older children was more challenging. The LEQ Officer would provide the resource for the Council to engage with Secondary Schools to try and influence youngsters' behaviour through interactive sessions highlighting the negative impact of litter on the community.

In relation to fly tipping, a Member said there were 'hotspots' in all areas of the Borough, and asked whether there was opportunity to utilise CCTV to catch offenders.

In response the Team Manager Public Protection said there were a number of locations identified as prolific 'hotspots' throughout the Borough, and CCTV was being considered, but there were technical issues in some areas. Funding had also been secured from Welsh Government to look at utilising the new 5G network and discussions were ongoing regarding the development of a permanent provision in rural areas. However, this was in the very early stages but he assured that work was ongoing to secure a solution to the problem in the longer term.

In response to a question raised, the Team Manager Streetscene confirmed that a litter and dog bin policy would be included in the FWP for consideration by Members.

The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and adoption of the draft Blaenau Gwent Litter and Fly-tipping Strategy 2021-2026 be supported (Option 1).

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# 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: **7<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

Report Subject: **Proposed Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2021-22**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor Joanna Wilkins, Executive Member Environment**

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)
May 2021	27.5.21	26.05.21			07.06.21	Executive FWP – 16.06.21	Council FWP – 29.7.21	

1. **Purpose of the Report**
  - 1.1 To present the Community Services Scrutiny Work Programme for 2021-22 (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 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 Governance and 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 The Work Programmes have been discussed with Chairs and Vice-Chairs of individual committees, prior to presentation to the respective scrutiny committees for consideration and approval.
3. **Options for Recommendation**
  - 3.1 The work programmes have been endorsed by the relevant departments of the Council.

3.2 **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 Forward Work Programme

Dates	Scrutiny Topic	Purpose	Lead Officer	Executive / Council
<b>Monday</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> June 2021</b>  <b>Deadline: 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021</b>	Highways Capital Works Programme	<b>Pre Decision</b> To undertake a review of the activity undertaken in the previous year 2020/21 and to consider the options for work for 2021/22.	Carl Powell	Executive – 21.07.21
<b>INFORMATION ITEMS</b>				
	Annual Air Quality 2019/20	<b>Information</b> To receive the annual report for Members' information.	Dave Thompson	Executive Information

Dates	Scrutiny Topic	Purpose	Lead Officer	Executive / Council
<b>Monday</b> <b>19<sup>th</sup> July 2021</b>	Update on Flood Risk Management Plan	<b>Performance Monitoring</b> To report progress on the Flood Management Plan.	Carl Powell Wayne Jervis	Executive 21.07.21

Dates	Scrutiny Topic	Purpose	Lead Officer	Executive / Council
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b>	Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Forward Plan (2019-2022) 2020/21 annual report	<b>Performance Monitoring</b> Annual report of the implementation of the Environment Act and the Council's Biodiversity duties throughout 2020/21 and consideration of the proposed actions for 2021/22.	Chris Engel	Executive 10.11.21
	Community Services Directorate Performance report	<b>Performance Monitoring</b> Members to monitor the performance of the Directorate.	Richard Crook Clive Rogers	Executive 10.11.21
	Waste and Recycling Performance 2020/21	<b>Performance Monitoring</b> Members to monitor the performance.	Matthew Stent	Executive 10.11.21

Dates	Scrutiny Topic	Purpose	Lead Officer	Executive / Council
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b>	Civil Parking Enforcement – Annual Review	<b>Performance Monitoring</b> Members to receive the annual review.	Clive Rogers	Executive 15.12.21
	Overview of arrangements with Powys County Council	<b>Performance Monitoring</b> To receive a report on the current collaboration with Powys County Council.	Dave Thompson	Executive 15.12.21

TBC Dates	Scrutiny Topic	Purpose	Lead Officer	Executive / Council
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	NO ITEMS IDENTIFIED			
<b>INFORMATION ITEMS</b>				
	Pest Control – Annual Performance Report	<b>Information</b> To receive the annual report for Members' information.	Andrew Long	Executive Information

TBC Dates	Scrutiny Topic	Purpose	Lead Officer	Executive / Council
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	NO ITEMS IDENTIFIED			

<b>TBC Dates</b>	<b>Scrutiny Topic</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Executive / Council</b>
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022</b>	Community Services Directorate Performance report	<b>Performance Monitoring</b> Members to monitor the performance of the Directorate.	Richard Crook Clive Rogers	Executive 27.04.22
	Fly Tipping Fines 2021/22	<b>Performance Monitoring</b> Members to receive an end of year report on fly tipping fines for 2021/22.	Andrew Long	Executive 27.04.22
<b>INFORMATION ITEMS</b>				
	Annual Air Quality 2020/21	<b>Information</b> To receive the annual report for Members' information.	Dave Thompson	Executive Information

**Dates for Items to be confirmed**

TBC Dates	Scrutiny Topic	Purpose	Lead Officer	Executive / Council
	Progress Update on Silent Valley <i>Requested by Scrutiny at its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021</i>	Members to receive a progress update.	Richard Crook	
	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 / Council Approval
	Litter and Dog Bin Strategy	<b>Pre Decision</b> Members to consider the strategy prior to approval.	Dave Watkins	Executive / Council

Member Briefing Sessions – Community Services Scrutiny Committee			
Date	Topic	Purpose	Lead Officer
Quarterly	Directorate Briefings	<p>A closely focused directorate update session to provide information and detail on service areas in order to raise the interest and enthusiasm of members. This also provides a legitimate avenue to raise local issues outside of the scrutiny process.</p> <p>Topics to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disused Spoil Tips Register</li> <li>• Double Yellow Lines</li> </ul>	All
	Cemetery capacity – impact of COVID	Requested by Chairs and Vice-Chairs	
	Homelessness	Requested by Chairs and Vice-Chairs Numbers and what does the council do to support homelessness	
	Private Landlords	Requested by Chairs and Vice-Chairs How the council works with private landlords	

# Agenda Item 8

*Executive Committee and Council only*

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**  
Date of meeting: **7th June 2021**  
Report Subject: **Highway Capital Works Programme 2021 – 2022**  
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)
13.05.21	20.05.21	26.05.21			07.06.21	16.06.21		

## 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 2021 – 22 works programme.

## 2. Scope and Background

### Highways Capital Works Programme 2017 – 2022

- 2.1 Building on the success of a previous Highways Capital Works Programme, which improved the nature and condition of the classified network, a programme targeting unclassified/ residential roads was approved by the Authority in 2017.
- 2.2 A capital sum of £2.115million was generated from a 20 year prudential borrow based on revenue contributions of £130k per year.
- 2.3 This Capital Sum has been augmented by Welsh Government Highways Refurbishment grant funding over the period 2017 to 2021 as detailed below:

Funding	Amount
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>WG Refurbishment Grant 21/22 &amp; carry over 20/21 WG Revenue Grant</b>	<b>£602,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,442,841</b>

### Network

- 2.4 The current gross replacement value of the Highway Network is estimated at £1.093 billion and is the Authority's most valuable material asset.

- 2.5 Un-classified roads make up 74% of the total Highway network [198 miles] and forms the majority of the local road network – residential roads & rear lanes. The majority of reactive maintenance and insurance claims relate to the unclassified network.
- 2.6 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.

- 2.7 The overall % of poor conditioned Un-classified roads pre-commencement of works was 17%. As a result of the previous three years this figure has been maintained at 11.4%.
- 2.8 To date **82** Residential highways have been resurfaced along with priority works to the A & B Classified Network.

A schedule of Works completed to date can be found in **Appendix A:**

2018/19 Phase 1 Programme of Works

2019/20 Phase 2 Programme of Works

2020/21 Phase 3 Programme of Works

### **Highway Capital Works Programme 2021-22 – Priorities & Options**

- 2.9 Welsh Government Refurbishment Grant is awarded to Authorities on the basis that it will be expended in line with Authority's Highways Asset Management Plan [HAMP].
- 2.10 In accordance with the HAMP, with its identified priorities & risks to the Blaenau Gwent Highways Network, it is proposed that the 2021/22 programme will continue to pay due attention to high priority works to the Network whilst retaining a focus around improving the residential/ unclassified network.
- 2.11 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 B:** Highway Assessment Matrix – Residential Roads

See **Appendix C:** Highway Assessment Matrix – Residential Roads: Worked Example

### **2.12 Additional Programme of Welsh Government Highway Related Funded Works 21/22**

Listed below are other Highway related schemes receiving WG funding for 21/22

#### **Local Transport and Resilient Road Fund – £1,695,000**

##### Local Transport Fund

- Bedwellty Pits, Tredegar – improve a sub-standard junction, provide a suitable footway and bus stop infrastructure - £990,000



(the Authority is not allowed to utilise the grant for possible compensation claims by the resident as part of the scheme so there is a risk that any successful claims may fall to the Authority)

- Bus Stop Infrastructure through-out the Borough - £405,000

Resilient Road Fund - £300,000

- Aberbeeg Road A4046 – A feasibility study to assess the road condition and to support future scheme development between Cwm and Aberbeeg - £300,000

### **Road Safety Revenue and Safe Routes in Communities - £64,971**

Road Safety Revenue Grant

- Road Safety (staff costs) to deliver Kerb Craft and National Standard Cycle Training (NSCT) - £39,971

Safe Routes in Communities

- Safe routes in communities – a feasibility study to assess footway links to Georgetown Primary School via Mafeking Terrace or an alternative route - £25,000

### **Active Travel Fund - £399,000**

Core Allocation - £364,000

- The Works Site to Ebbw Vale Town Centre sustainable link – feasibility study.
- Minor Works
- Heathfield, Tredegar.
- The Dingle, Brynmawr.

Glyncoed, Ebbw Vale.

- Upgrade existing footpath - £35,000 (feasibility/minor works)

## **3. Options for recommendation**

### **3.1 Option 1: Highest Priority Residential Road in each Ward [16 total] & Blaenant Industrial Estate Road – Estimated Total Cost £602,000**

Residential Roads: 16 schemes – 1 per Ward

- Southend and Walter Street, Georgetown
- Mount Pleasant Road, Ebbw Vale North
- Institution Terrace, Ebbw Vale South
- Maes-y-Cynw Terrace, Llanhilleth
- Jubilee Road and Graig Road, Six Bells
- Powell Street and High Street (section), Abertillery
- Coronation Street, Blaina
- South and Hereford Street, Beaufort
- Aneurin Crescent, Brynmawr

- King Street, Cwm
- Railway Terrace, Sirhowy
- Stable Lane & Parkville, Tredegar C&W
- School Road, Rassau
- Waunheulog, Nantyglo
- Victoria Street, Cwmtillery
- Rhyd Y Blew Roundabout, Badminton
- Blaenant Ind Est Resurfacing

**Option 2 (Preferred Option): As Option 1 plus A & B Priority Roads & Highway Safety Works – Estimated Total Cost £912,000**

A & B Priority Roads:

- A4048 Heathfield Full Reconstruction Works
- A4046 Cwm Bypass Resurfacing

Highway Safety Traffic Management Works: -

- Crash Barrier Replacement at A4281 Garnlydan
- Crash Barrier Replacement at A467 Abertillery

**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 2017/22 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)**

**Option 1** can be fully funded from the WG 21/22 funding allocation of £602,000

**Option 2** (preferred option)- the estimated costs of £912,000 will require additional funding of £310,000 when compared to Option 1. The current level of the Council’s Capital Programme Contingency funding is £1.26 million, agreeing the additional funding will reduce this contingency to £0.95 million.

Appendix D provides the updated capital programme for each of the above options.

The investment proposed in the report is in addition to the routine highways maintenance works funded by the Council’s revenue budget.

**5.2 Risk including Mitigating Actions**

There are risks associated with not maintaining the highway infrastructure in terms of highway safety and increased insurance claims, increased reactive maintenance and public perception.

### **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 the previous years investment this figure has been maintained at 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.

## **Background Documents / Electronic Link**

**Appendix A:** 2018 – 2021 Phases 1 - 3 Completed Programmes of Works

**Appendix B:** Highway Assessment Matrix – Residential Roads

**Appendix C:** Highway Assessment Matrix – Residential Roads: Worked Example

**Appendix D:** Capital Programme – impact of proposals

## **Appendix A**

### **2018/19 Phase 1 Programme of Works**

Total Cost: £1,861,800

#### **Summary:**

##### Work Package 1:

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

##### Work Package 2:

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

##### Work Package 3:

- 28 Residential Highways:
- Total Resurfaced Highway Area/length: 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

## **2019/ 20 Phase 2 Programme of Works**

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 Related Works:**

- Tredegar By-Pass surface dressing
- Six Bells Highway Improvement Traffic Signal Scheme
- Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)
- Industrial Estates Street Lighting Upgrade
- Development of HAMP, Highway Maintenance Plan & Winter Maintenance Plans [ WG/WLGA/CSS[W] collaboration]

## **2020/21 Phase 3 Programme of Works**

Total Cost: £725,000

### **Summary:**

#### Work Package 5

- 24 residential highways (40,937m<sup>2</sup> / 5.1 miles)
- Tafarnaubach Ind Est (7000m<sup>2</sup> / 0.6 miles)
- Llangynidr Road (3650m<sup>2</sup> / 0.3 miles)
- Total resurfaced highway area: 51,587 / 6.0 miles)

#### **Other Related Works:**

- Crash Barriers
- Illuminated Traffic Signs
- Traffic Management Features
- Variable Speed Safety Signage

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## Appendix B: 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 C: 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%)															
	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%

**CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 to 2025/26 (if Option 2 agreed)**

**Appendix D**

	2019/20 £	2020/21 £	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £
<b><u>Social Services</u></b>							
Community Equipment & Adaptations	279,000	279,000	279,000	285,000	285,000	285,000	285,000
Minor Works/Health & Safety	60,000						
	<b>339,000</b>	<b>279,000</b>	<b>279,000</b>	<b>285,000</b>	<b>285,000</b>	<b>285,000</b>	<b>285,000</b>
<b><u>Environment</u></b>							
Disabled Facilities Grants & Living Independently HRG	475,000	420,000	469,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Corporate Landlord/ Minor Works /DDA		320,000	320,000	280,000	280,000	300,000	300,000
Tredegar Townscape Heritage Initiative	125,000						
European Structural Fund Capital Match Fund	520,200						
Tredegar Company Shop	200,000						
Tech Valley Initiative	500,000	0					
Data Centre Move	240,000	152,000					
Constrained Units/ Industrial Units Improvement Programme	0	0	0			300,000	300,000
Big Arch	241,800	640,000					
Cemeteries	210,000	250,000	250,000	300,000	0		
	<b>2,512,000</b>	<b>1,782,000</b>	<b>1,039,000</b>	<b>780,000</b>	<b>480,000</b>	<b>800,000</b>	<b>800,000</b>
<b><u>Education</u></b>							
Band B Welsh Medium Remodelling	280,000						
Band B Secondary School Remodelling			70,000	280,000	1,510,000	750,000	750,000
New 420 place primary in Ebbw Fawr valley		2,100,000	945,000	105,000	0		
Band B Welsh Medium Seedling Provision		350,000	0	0	0		
Minor Works	<b>150,000</b>						
Total 21st Century Schools	430,000	2,450,000	1,015,000	385,000	1,510,000	750,000	750,000
<b><u>Other</u></b>							
Equipment Replacement	0		0	61,000	61,000	61,000	61,000
Civic Centre Demolition	0	650,000				0	0
General Offices and Community Hubs		180,000					

ICT Investment			161,000	161,000	161,000	161,000	161,000
Highways Investment	45,000		912,000	0	0		
City Deal Commitments	0	194,000	1,220,900	2,441,800	0	0	0
Staff Support Recharges	524,000	524,000	524,000	524,000	474,000	400,000	400,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,850,000</b>	<b>6,059,000</b>	<b>5,150,900</b>	<b>4,637,800</b>	<b>2,971,000</b>	<b>2,457,000</b>	<b>2,457,000</b>
<b>FUNDING</b>							
<b>Capital Programme Funding</b>							
USB	-1,973,000	-1,932,000	-1,905,000	-1,905,000	-1,905,000	-1,905,000	-1,905,000
General Capital Grant	-1,868,000	-1,938,000	-1,911,000	-1,201,000	-1,201,000	-1,200,000	-1,200,000
Digital Transformation Funding			-161,000	-161,000	-161,000	-84,452	0
Highways Capital & Revenue Maintenance Funding			-603,000				
<b>Useable Capital Receipts Capital Programme</b>	<b>-400,000</b>	<b>-650,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-327,000</b>	<b>-327,000</b>
<b>Useable Capital Receipts - Separate Projects</b>	<b>-260,000</b>						
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>-4,501,000</b>	<b>-4,520,000</b>	<b>-4,580,000</b>	<b>-3,267,000</b>	<b>-3,267,000</b>	<b>-3,516,452</b>	<b>-3,432,000</b>
Original funding for future allocation							
Excess expenditure / (Surplus funding) in year	-651,000	1,539,000	570,900	1,370,800	-296,000	-1,059,452	-975,000
Excess expenditure / (Surplus funding) including brought fwd	-2,096,767	-557,767	13,133	1,383,933	1,087,933	28,481	-946,519

Capital Contingency Remaining

-946,519