

# DRAFT AGENDA

ID	2316
Committee	Pwyllgor Craffu Trosolwg Corfforaethol
Date	10/12/2021
Attendees	<p>Cynghorwyr Stewart Healy (Cadeirydd)</p> <p>Cynghorwyr Martin Cook (Is-gadeirydd)</p> <p>Cynghorwyr Peter Baldwin (Aelod Pwyllgor)</p> <p>Cynghorwyr Garth Collier (Aelod Pwyllgor)</p> <p>Cynghorwyr Malcolm Cross (Aelod Pwyllgor)</p> <p>Cynghorwyr Gareth A. Davies (Aelod Pwyllgor)</p> <p>Cynghorwyr D. Lyn Elias (Aelod Pwyllgor)</p> <p>Cynghorwyr John Hill (Aelod Pwyllgor)</p> <p>Cynghorwyr Julie Holt (Aelod Pwyllgor)</p> <p>Cynghorwyr Hedley McCarthy (Aelod Pwyllgor)</p> <p>Cynghorwyr Clive Meredith (Aelod Pwyllgor)</p> <p>Cynghorydd John P. Morgan (Aelod Pwyllgor)</p> <p>Cynghorwyr Greg Paulsen (Aelod Pwyllgor)</p> <p>Cynghorwyr Tommy Smith (Aelod Pwyllgor)</p> <p>Cynghorwyr Stephen Thomas (Aelod Pwyllgor)</p> <p>Michelle Morris (Swyddog)</p> <p>Damien McCann (Swyddog)</p> <p>Richard Crook (Swyddog)</p> <p>Rhian Hayden (Swyddog)</p> <p>Lynn Phillips (Swyddog)</p> <p>Clive Rogers (Swyddog)</p> <p>Bernadette Elias (Swyddog)</p> <p>Andrew Parker (Swyddog)</p> <p>Gemma Wasley (Swyddog)</p> <p>Liz Thomas (Swyddog)</p> <p>Gwasanaethau Democraidd (Monitor)</p> <p>Leeann Turner (Secretary)</p> <p>Pob Cynghorydd (Monitor)</p> <p>Louise Bishop (Notify)</p> <p>Sean Scannell (Notify)</p> <p>Steve Berry (Swyddog)</p> <p>Andrea Jones (Swyddog)</p>

Item ID	5601
Item Title	Cyfieithu ar y Pryd
Summary	Mae croeso i chi ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg yn y cyfarfod, ond mae angen o leiaf 3 diwrnod gwaith o hysbysiad ymlaen llaw os dymunwch wneud hynny. Darperir gwasanaeth cyfieithu ar y pryd os gwneir cais.

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Item ID	5602
Item Title	Ymddiheuriadau
Summary	Derbyn ymddiheuriadau.

Item ID	5603
Item Title	Datganiadau Buddiant a Goddefebau
Summary	Ystyried unrhyw ddatganiadau buddiant a goddefebau a wnaed.

Item ID	5604
Item Title	Pwyllgor Craffu Trosolwg Corfforaethol
Summary	Derbyn cofnodion y cyfarfod o'r Pwyllgor Craffu Trosolwg Corfforaethol a gynhaliwyd ar 22 Hydref 2021.  (Dylid nodi y cyflwynir y Cofnodion er pwyntiau cywirdeb yn unig).

Item ID	5677
Item Title	Pwyllgor Craffu Trosolwg Corfforaethol
Summary	Derbyn cofnodion y cyfarfod o'r Pwyllgor Craffu Trosolwg Corfforaethol a gynhaliwyd ar 19 Tachwedd 2021.  (Dylid nodi y cyflwynir y Cofnodion er pwyntiau cywirdeb yn unig).

Item ID	5708
Item Title	Monitro Perfformiad Chwarterol Strategaeth Cyfathrebu (Gorffennaf – Medi 2021)
Summary	Ystyried adroddiad y Prif Swyddog Masnachol a Chwsmeriaid.

Item ID	5709
Item Title	Monitro Perfformiad Chwarterol Strategaeth Fasnachol (Gorffennaf – Medi 2021)
Summary	Ystyried adroddiad y Prif Swyddog Masnachol a Chwsmeriaid.

Item ID	5710
Item Title	Adroddiad Adolygu Canol-blwyddyn Rheoli Trysorlys - 1 Ebrill 2021 i 30 Medi 2021
Summary	Ystyried adroddiad y Prif Swyddog Adnoddau.

Item ID	5711
Item Title	Adroddiad Cynnydd Contractau dros £500k
Summary	Ystyried adroddiad y Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cymunedol.

Item ID	5712
Item Title	Blaenraglen Gwaith: 4 Chwefror 2022
Summary	Derbyn yr adroddiad.

Item ID	5605
Item Title	
Comment	Derbyn ac ystyried yr adroddiad dilynol sydd ym marn y swyddog priodol yn eitem eithriedig gan roi ystyriaeth i'r prawf budd cyhoeddus ac y dylai'r wasg a'r cyhoedd gael eu heithrio o'r gyfarfod (mae'r rheswm am yr eithriad ar gael ar restr a gedwir gan y swyddog priodol).

Item ID	5715
Item Title	CCTV delivery model proposals
Summary	To consider the report of the Chief Officer Commercial and Customer.

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**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT**

**REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT: CORPORATE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER, 2021**

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

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**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S. HEALY (CHAIR)**

Councillors: M. Cook  
P. Baldwin  
G.A. Davies  
L. Elias  
J. Hill  
J. Holt  
H. McCarthy  
C. Meredith  
G. Paulsen  
T. Smith  
B. Summers (substitute for Cllr J.P. Morgan)  
S. Thomas

**AND:** Corporate Director of Social Services  
Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services  
Corporate Director of Education  
Head of Organisational Development  
Service Manager Policy & Partnerships  
Service Manager Accountancy  
Professional Lead for Engagement, Equality & Welsh Language  
Community Cohesion Coordinator (West Gwent)  
Health & Safety Officer  
Press & Publicity Officer  
Scrutiny & Democratic Officer / Advisor

**ALSO:** Charlotte Owen, Wales Audit Office

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<p><b><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
No. 2	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. Collier, J.P. Morgan.</p> <p>Chief Officer Resources Chief Officer Commercial &amp; Customer</p>	
No. 3	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.</p>	
No. 4	<p><b><u>CORPORATE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></b></p> <p>The Minutes of the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 were submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
No. 5	<p><b><u>SPECIAL CORPORATE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></b></p> <p>The Minutes of the Special Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2021 were submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
No. 6	<p><b><u>ACTION SHEET</u></b></p> <p>The action sheet referred from the Joint Budget Scrutiny Committee on 27th September, 2021 was submitted.</p>	

	<p>A Member commented on the poor sound quality in the Abraham Derby Room at the General Offices. The Chair advised that he would bring this to the attention of senior officers.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the action sheet be noted.</p>	
<p><b>No. 7</b></p>	<p><b><u>AUDIT WALES - FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT - BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources which presented the outcome of the assessment undertaken by Audit Wales relating to the Financial Sustainability of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.</p> <p>The Audit Wales Officer spoke to the report and highlighted the main points contained therein. She informed Members that the report sets out the findings of their financial sustainability review at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. It was a piece of work undertaken with all Councils across Wales to look at financial sustainability and local government, particularly in the context of the COVID pandemic.</p> <p>A Member commented that these had been good financial years for the Authority due to good settlements from the Welsh Government, hardship funding had helped put the Council in a good position, but felt this could be a false position as the Bridging the Gap Programme was untested as Members had not seen a full year results due to the pandemic. He felt that the liquidity issue needed to be borne in mind and the Authority needed to be careful in relation to too much borrowing. He said it was a good report but had been heavily impacted by Welsh Government funding and commended the good work of the financial team.</p> <p>Another Member agreed that it was a good report but had concerns regarding the use of the hardship funding and felt that some of this funding should have been used to help communities with CCTV and public safety issues. He felt that less money should have been put into reserves and more put into CCTV services to keep communities safe throughout the winter months.</p>	

The Chair informed the Committee that a report on CCTV would be presented to a future meeting of the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

The Service Manager Accountancy said that the hardship fund was a grant with terms and conditions, CCTV and Community Safety was not part of those terms and conditions. All the money spent from the hardship fund complied with those terms and conditions and was all about responding to the pandemic. She advised that there was some funding from the hardship fund that went to the community via statutory sick pay enhancements and social care payments.

A Member thanked the Audit Office for the positive report even though the impacts of COVID highlighted in the report were not fully known. He felt that at this point in time the proactive actions of the Council had put it in a very strong position to meet future financial challenges and saw this as a very positive endorsement from the Audit Office.

In response to a Member's question regarding the working capital ratio, the Audit Wales Officer said there wasn't an ideal number that the Authority should be aiming to achieve, it depended on the specific circumstances at each Council and the approach that they may want to take. She felt it was about Members gaining assurance that although this figure was low, was the Council in a position where it could meet its liabilities as and when they needed to be dealt with. It was mentioned in the report that the Council were prompt in paying its debts to ensure that it was supporting the local economy, in that way, that did impact on the liquidity figures. As such some local policies like that would impact and bring the Authority's score down.

A Member referred to page 30 paragraph 9 of the report - *In total, the Council anticipates it will receive approximately £12.2 million of additional funding from the Welsh Government in 2020-21. This is set out in Exhibit 2 below. The total excludes funding where the Council acts as an agent, distributing funds from the Welsh Government to third parties.* He enquired regarding clarification on third parties. The Audit Wales Officer clarified that this related to money from the Welsh Government given to the Authority

	<p>to distribute to third parties such as local businesses, this money was not included in the figure as the Council was unable to keep it and had to distribute it on behalf of the Welsh Government.</p> <p>The Chair endorsed the Members comments and said it was a good report and clearly demonstrated the Authority's long term financial commitment and showed that the Authority was moving in the right direction. He thanked the Audit Wales Officer for presenting the report and the financial team.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and endorse Option 1; namely that the findings of the Audit Wales report, as detailed in the report and appendix be accepted.</p>	
<p><b>No. 8</b></p>	<p><b><u>WELSH LANGUAGE PROMOTION STRATEGY 2022-27</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Professional Lead for Engagement, Equality &amp; Welsh Language which was presented to set out the intentions for developing the Council's second Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2022-27, in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards (2015) (Standard 145).</p> <p>The Professional Lead for Engagement, Equality &amp; Welsh Language spoke to the report and highlighted the main points contained therein.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and endorse Option 2; namely that the proposed approach for developing the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2022-27 be accepted.</p>	
<p><b>No. 9</b></p>	<p><b><u>HEALTH &amp; SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT 1ST APRIL 2020 TO 31ST MARCH 2021</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Organisational Development which was presented to give Members of the Corporate Overview Scrutiny opportunity to scrutinise and challenge the Authority's Health and Safety and Fire Safety at work performance for 2020/21.</p>	

The Head of Organisational Development spoke to the report and highlighted the main points contained therein. She informed Members that the report also included a section in relation to the Council's response to the pandemic.

A Member referred to the report summary and enquired regarding non-employee accidents and the decrease in staff absence. The Health & Safety Officer explained that non-employee accidents included school pupil accidents, members of the public in Council premises and service users in Social Services premises. The Head of Organisational Development referred to staff sickness absence and explained that it had reduced but was not below target, they were in the process of verifying quarter two sickness statistics and those figures would be reported through the Finance and Performance report and would be presented to a future meeting of this Committee.

With regard to the Service Level Agreement with Aneurin Leisure Trust a Member enquired why the data for the work by the Health and Safety Advisors for the Trust was not included in this report. The Health & Safety Officer explained that this was the annual report for the Council as an employer, the Leisure Trust was a separate employer and as such their data was not included in this report.

In response to a Member's question regarding Figure 1 on page 131 - the 3 year trend for employee accidents in the Authority by department, the Health & Safety Officer said the significant drop in the number of accidents in the Education Department for 2020/21 was due to school closures over a significant time during that financial year.

A Member noted that the numbers of accidents that occurred in the Environment Department fell despite the fact the Department continuing to work as normal throughout the pandemic. The Health & Safety Officer said there was no apparent trend regarding the decrease, however, it was a positive outcome.

The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and endorse Option 1; namely that the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee support the annual review of

	<p>the performance of Health and Safety and Fire Safety performance and the recommendations made.</p>	
<p><b>No. 10</b></p>	<p><b><u>UPDATE ON UK RESETTLEMENT AND ASYLUM SEEKER DISPERSAL SCHEMES</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Commercial and Customer which was presented to provide an update on participation supporting the UK Resettlement scheme (which recently has included supporting the resettlement of Afghan nationals), and seek support for the participation in the Home Office Widening Asylum Seeker Dispersal Scheme prior to being presented to Executive.</p> <p>The Community Cohesion Coordinator spoke to the report and highlighted the main points contained therein. The report outlined the ongoing pressure on the asylum system had been increasing steadily for years. With the increase in the number of asylum seekers needing to be accommodated nationally, there had been an added pressure on existing dispersal areas and in response the Home Office had prioritised widening dispersal areas and were keen to work in partnership with local authorities.</p> <p>A Member said he supported this report and commented that the Syrian families who had resettled in his ward were a fantastic addition to the community.</p> <p>Another Member said he had been involved in the resettlement programme for the Syrian refugees and felt that had been a success, he congratulated the officers on the work that had been undertaken and supported the report.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and endorse Option 1; namely that the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Notes the progress made in participation with the UK resettlement, including most recently the Afghan resettlement programme; and</li> <li>ii. Supports the proposal to participate in the Widening Asylum Seeker Dispersal Scheme as a pilot, prior to being presented to Executive.</li> </ol>	

No. 11	<b><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER, 2021</u></b>
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Consideration was given to the report of the Chair of the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and endorse Option 2; namely that the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2021 be approved.



**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT**

**REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT: SPECIAL CORPORATE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2021**

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

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S. HEALY (CHAIR)**

Councillors: M. Cook  
 P. Baldwin  
 M. Cross  
 G.A. Davies  
 K. Rowson (sub: J. Hill)  
 J. Holt  
 C. Meredith  
 G. Paulsen  
 T. Smith  
 J.P. Morgan  
 S. Thomas

**AND:** Corporate Director Education  
 Corporate Director Social Services  
 Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services  
 Chief Officer Resources  
 Scrutiny & Democratic Officer/Advisor

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<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>Apologies for absence were received from:-</p> <p>Managing Director                      Head of Community Services</p>	

	Councillor L. Elias Councillor G. Collier	
<b>No. 3</b>	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.</p>	
<b>No. 4</b>	<p><b><u>MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY</u></b> <b><u>2022/2023 TO 2026/2027</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Chief Officer Resources advised that the purpose of this report was to provide Members with an update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and the latest assessment of the Council’s financial position over the next 5 years.</p> <p>The Chief Officer Resources spoke to the report and provided examples of assumptions used within the MTFS and highlighted the currently assessed Budget Gaps along with the estimated financial achievement of the strategic business reviews which resulted in the assessed residual budget gaps throughout the period of the MTFS (until 2026/2027).</p> <p>The Chief Officer Resources further referred to the sensitivity analysis and advised that the Council’s current MTFS contained a number of assumptions which impacted on the level of income and expenditure. It was stated that changes in these assumptions could have a fundamental effect on the budget gap over the next 5 years. The Chief Officer reported the impact a 1% change could have on the Council’s main assumptions.</p> <p>The Chief Officer Resources concluded her presentation and invited questions from Members.</p> <p>A Member thanked the Chief Officer for the report and the subsequent briefing and proposed option 1. This proposal was seconded.</p>	

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It was AGREED that the report be accepted (Option 1) and Members of Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee:-

- considered the MTFS
  - noted the forecast funding gap for the period of the MTFS;
  - noted the cost pressures identified at Appendix 1 of the MTFS; and
  - noted the forecast financial achievement for the Strategic Business Reviews attached at Appendix 2 of the MTFS.
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# Agenda Item 6

*Executive Committee and Council only*

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee**  
Date of meeting: **10<sup>th</sup> December 2021**  
Report Subject: **Communications Strategy Quarterly Performance Monitoring (July - September 2021)**  
Portfolio Holder: **Councillor Nigel Daniels, Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Services**  
Report Submitted by: **Bernadette Elias, Chief Officer, Commercial and Customer**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
Nov 2021	Nov 2021	29.11.21			10.12.21	12.12.21		

## 1. Purpose of the Report

To present the quarter 2 update (July to September 2021) against the Corporate Communications Strategy.

## 2. Scope and Background

2.1 The Corporate Communications Strategy was approved by Council in 2020.

2.2 There are 6 themes which drive the communications delivery:

- Build and maintain a strong reputation;
- Residents know how we are delivering council priorities;
- Informed and engaged staff;
- Ensure marketing campaigns are well planned, targeted and provide value for money;
- Promote the use of digital communications channels and encourage self-service where appropriate;
- Make sure residents are informed in advance of and at times of emergency.

2.3 The communications response to the Covid-19 pandemic continued during the second quarter (July to September 21). Communication activity focused on the easing of restrictions, testing, return to school arrangements and the mass vaccination programme.

2.4 The Corporate Communications Team remains a key member of the Gwent Local Resilience Forum Warning and Informing Group. This group is responsible for aligning communications and communicating key information to the residents of Gwent during the phases of the Covid-19 pandemic, ensuring a consistent approach between local partners, PHW and Welsh Government. The content has been a mixture of partner material

(Welsh Government, Public Health Wales, Health Board) and content created by the team maximising their creative skills.

- 2.5 The move into the recovery phase of the pandemic meant that the Communications team continued to pick up other priorities within the strategy including building the Council's reputation, making sure that residents are aware of Council priorities.
- 2.6 Appendix 1 details the media coverage for the period covering a wide range of topics which ensured that more of the Corporate Communications Strategy priorities were planned and delivered. Coverage increased significantly in Q2 compared to the first quarter reflecting the focus priorities. 89 press articles appeared in Q2 compared to 54 in Q1 (an increase of 40%).
- 2.7 A Communications Strategy is in place to support the new operating model with staff communications including Wellbeing Wednesday being issued every week and a revised format to the staff newsletter.

### 3. **Options for Recommendation**

#### 3.1 That Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee

**Option 1:** Considers and provides comment on the quarter 2 progress update against the Communications Strategy, prior to the report being presented to Executive Committee.

**Option 2:** Considers the quarter 2 progress update against the Communications Strategy and provides recommendation, prior to the report being presented to Executive Committee.

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

- 4.1 The Communication Strategy supports the Corporate Plan and the Well Being plan as part of the governance framework.

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

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

The communication activity is delivered within the existing budget whilst maximising material created by partners including Welsh Government and Public Health Wales and Individual marketing campaigns supported by external funded via partners (eg WRAP Cymru).

#### 5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

The Corporate Communications Team will work with colleagues and partners to ensure communications plans are delivered in a timely manner

### 5.3 **Legal**

All internal and external communications activities will take account of any legal issues that may arise from publications and potential challenge.

Communication activities reflect the decision making of the Council and any exempt items will be treated in confidence. Communications relating to individuals will also protect their privacy rights.

### 5.4 **Human Resources**

A new Officer started in the team in September meaning the team is back to full strength. The new post holder will focus on internal communications and delivery of the communications plan for new ways of working. This is a key priority within the Corporate Communications strategy and a dedicated resource is a key enabler to delivery.

## 6. **Supporting Evidence**

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

Key activity for the quarter is outlined in Appendix 2. This includes:

- 100,000 visitors to the Council website. This figure is up on the previous quarter reflecting the increased focus on promoting Council strategies.
- 2,130 social media posts – an average of 177 per week; this is down on the previous reporting period. The number of social media followers remains steady with Facebook followed by 15,000 residents and our Twitter account by just over 11,500.

Digital communication has a number of benefits for the Council as we can send out information regularly and reach key audiences in large numbers very quickly.

- Proactive media activity stepped up and we sent out 48 press releases compared to 31 in the previous quarter.
- Media coverage increased with 89 articles published covering a range of positive topics including reflecting Council priorities:
  - Housing developments including the £16m Golwg y Bryn and the £29 Carn Y Cefn schemes in Ebbw Vale
  - Extended opening hours and range of services for the community hubs
  - Food and Fun summer campaign in schools
  - A Level and GCSE success
  - Refurbishment work at South Roseheyworth Business allowing companies like Insurgo Media Services to develop their business
  - Rhos-y-Fedwen Primary school's new outdoor learning area constructed by Alun Griffiths Ltd
  - Positive end of year 2020-21 revenue budget
  - Our award winning apprentices- Aspire Apprentices of the Year

- Council wins Armed Forces Gold Award  
In recognition for its work the Council was awarded the highest badge of honour, Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award in the summer. This is awarded to those organisations that employ and support those who serve, veterans and their families
- Decarbonisation progress.  
We reported that good progress is being made against the Council's 9 key target areas for focus a year after Council agreed its formal decarbonisation plan. The first area of focus is on Transport Direct which makes up 8% of the Council's gross carbon emissions. The Council now has a clear action plan in place for this area and communications plan for this area is being development to keep internal and external audiences up to date with progress.
- Ciner Glass visit.  
Mrs Didem Ciner met Welsh political and council leaders including the First Minister, Mark Drakeford MS, to discuss plans for glass container production in Blaenau Gwent in late September.
- Internal communication remains very important and regular messaging using the following channels continued - the MD message, briefings for Elected Members and regular staff information. An internal communication plan supporting the move to the new operating model was introduced and 2 staff newsletters were sent out in July and August to update staff on key developments and changes to policy.

## 6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

The focus until early 2021 has been on managing crisis communications and the response to Covid-19. The main objective has been regular and timely information for the public to keep them informed as the Covid pandemic shifted through a number of phases during the quarter.

During this quarter, there was more emphasis on delivering wider communications on council strategies and priorities, as the Covid situation eased.

## 6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

Internal communication will be measured for impact through staff feedback and engagement activities.

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

The Communication Strategy supports the corporate plan objectives and strategies which look to the longer term.

## 6.5 ***Preventative focus***

It is anticipated that effective and proactive communications will contribute to education and information campaigns designed to influence behaviour. Campaigns relating to littering, recycling and fly tipping and fostering are examples that have been supported by the communications activity.



6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

The Council works with other local authorities, partners and Welsh Government on a regular basis to deliver local, regional and national campaigns

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

Opportunities for promoting cross cutting service impact will be identified as part of the communication campaigns including in relation to integrated marketing.

6.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***

The Communications team supported the promotion of the climate assembly report and recommendations as an important element of the council's decarbonisation plan.

Promotion of the littering strategy was also undertaken in this quarter as part of the launch activity.

6.9a ***Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment***

Not applicable.

6.9b. ***Equality Impact Assessment***

A screening exercise on the communications strategy was undertaken. Material is produced in different formats and content accessibility is reviewed. Requirements in relation to the Welsh Language are considered as part of the wider communications activity planning.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 Quarterly progress reporting against the Communications Strategy is part of the forward work programme of Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Committee

**Background Documents /Electronic Links**

- *Appendix 1 Media coverage*
- *Appendix 2 Communications Summary*

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## Appendix 1 – Media Coverage

Date	Publication	Headline	Theme
1 July 21	Glass International	Ciner Planning application	Regeneration and Economic Development
2 July 21	Wales Online	Pupils self isolating	Covid response
2 July 21	Wales Online	Festival Park plans	Regeneration and Economic Development
12 July 21	South Wales Argus	Fly tipping Fire	Public Protection
14 July 21	South Wales Argus	Fun and Food Scheme	Education
14 July 21	South Wales Argus	Safeguarding in Education	Education
17 July 21	South Wales Argus	Use of agency staff	Covid response
19 July 21	South Wales Argus	Armed Forces Award	Corporate
19 July 21	South Wales Argus	Pothole repair investment	Community Services
20 July 21	South Wales Argus	Flood management plan	Community Services
21 July 21	South Wales Argus	Workforce strategy	Corporate
21 July 21	Glass International	Ciner plans	Regeneration and Economic Development
21 July 21	South Wales Argus	Numbers at funerals	Covid response
21 July 21	South Wales Argus	Bryn Serth housing development	Regeneration and Economic Development
21 July 21	Wales 247	Roseheyworth Business Park improvements	Regeneration and Economic Development
21 July 21	South Wales Argus	Stray animals plan	Community Services
21 July 21	South Wales Argus	Community hubs open longer	Customer services
21 July 21	South Wales Argus	Sickness levels down	Corporate
21 July 21	South Wales Argus	Schools improving performance	Education
22 July 21	South Wales Argus	Blaina homes potential demolition	Planning
22 July 21	South Wales Argus	Pothole repair investment	Community Services
22 July 21	Wales Online	City of culture bid	Corporate
26 July 21	South Wales Argus	Council revenue budget 2020-21	Finance
26 July 21	South Wales Argus	Council reserves	Finance
26 July 21	Wales Online	Council reserves	Finance
27 July 21	South Wales Argus	Municipal bond launch	Regeneration

28 July 21	Wales Online	Blackwood Engineering noise complaint	Public Protection
29 July 21	South Wales Argus	Blackwood Engineering noise complaint	Public Protection
29 July 21	South Wales Argus	Freedom of the Borough	Corporate
29 July 21	South Wales Argus	Councillor salaries	Democratic Services
27 July 21	Business Wales	Armed Forces Award	Corporate
2 Aug 21	South Wales Argus	Alcohol sales restricted in Tredegar	Public Protection
2 Aug 21	South Wales Argus	New housing development in EV	Regeneration
2 Aug 21	Wales Online	Aberbeeg park condition	Community Services
2 Aug 21	Wales Online	Sales of alcohol restricted in Tredegar	Public Protection
3 Aug 21	Business Wales	Roseheyworth Business Park development	Regeneration/Tech Valleys
4 Aug 21	Wales Online	New housing in EV	Regeneration
5 Aug 21	South Wales Argus	Level of parking fines	Public Protection
5 Aug 21	South Wales Argus	Road improvement investment	Community Services
6 Aug 21	South Wales Argus	Summer of Fun	Covid recovery
6 Aug 21	South Wales Argus	Regional PSB established	Corporate
9 Aug 21	South Wales Argus	Free nature walk in Bryn Bach	Community Services
10 Aug 21	Wales 247	Business support grant for a fitness business	Regeneration and Economic Development
13 Aug 21	Wales Online	GO car parking issues	Corporate
14 Aug 21	South Wales Argus	New Depot plans	Community Services
16 Aug 21	South Wales Argus	Brynawr town centre plans	Regeneration and Economic Development
17 Aug 21	South Wales Argus	28 new homes in Cwmtillery	Regeneration and Economic Development
12 Aug 21	South Wales Argus	Housebuilder social clauses	Regeneration and Economic Development
18 Aug 21	BBC	Afghan Resettlement scheme	Corporate
19 Aug 21	South Wales Argus	Afghan Resettlement scheme	Corporate
19 Aug 21	South Wales Argus	GO car parking issues	Corporate

19 Aug 21	UK News Today	Simba Chain relocation	Regeneration and Economic Development
20 Aug 21	Wales Online	GO parking decision revoked	Corporate
19 Aug 21	South Wales Argus	GO parking decision revoked	Corporate
23 Aug 21	South Wales Argus	GO parking decision revoked	Corporate
23 Aug 21	What Mortgage	Council Tax rate in BG	Corporate
25 Aug 21	Wales Online	Festival Park sale	Regeneration and Economic Development
26 Aug 21	South Wales Argus	Festival Park sale	Regeneration and Economic Development
28 Aug 21	South Wales Argus	Most pet friendly area	Corporate
31 Aug 21	Punchline	Festival Park sale	Regeneration and Economic Development
3 Sep 21	South Wales Argus	Staff get New Year's Eve off	Corporate
5 Sep 21	South Wales Argus	Sycamore tree to be felled	Community Services
5 Sep 21	South Wales Argus	B&B plans for Tredegar on hold	Planning
6 Sep 21	Nation Cymru	B&B plans for Tredegar on hold	Planning
9 Sep 21	South Wales Argus	Community hubs	Customer services
9 Sep 21	South Wales Argus	Organic September	Corporate
9 Sep 21	Public Sector Executive	Store Terra funding (decarbonisation)	Regeneration
11 Sep 21	Penarth Times	Afghan Resettlement scheme	Corporate
11 Sep 21	Caerphilly Observer	Parliamentary Constituency changes	Democratic Services
12 Sep 21	South Wales Argus	Community hubs	Customer services
14 Sep 21	South Wales Argus	Childrens play activity	Social Services
15 Sep 21	South Wales Argus	Staff sickness levels	Corporate
15 Sep 21	South Wales Argus	Covid levels in schools	Covid response
15 Sep 21	Business News Wales	New food allergen laws	Public Protection
19 Sep 21	Herald	New food allergen laws	Public Protection
21 Sep 21	South Wales Argus	Covid cases in schools	Covid response
22 Sep 21	South Wales Argus	Ciner development	Regeneration and Economic Development
25 Sep 21	South Wales Argus	Reduction in children looked after	Social Services

26 Sep 21	South Wales Argus	Number of BG Councillors reduced to 33	Democratic Services
27 Sep 21	South Wales Argus	Budget and Environment overspend	Finance
27 Sep 21	South Wales Argus	Trolley Boxes set on fire	Community Safety
29 Sep 21	South Wales Argus	Festival Park plans	Regeneration and Economic Development
29 Sep 21	Wales Online	Trolley Boxes set on fire	Community Safety
30 Sep 21	Wales Online	Festival Park plans	Regeneration and Economic Development
30 Sep 21	South Wales Argus	Concerns over BG pupils being educated outside BG	Education
30 Sep 21	Wales Online	Cross Keys to Newport rail link	Regeneration and Economic Development

### Facebook

**15,000**

**FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS**

**1,550**

**INTERACTIONS**

**2,130**

**POSTS**

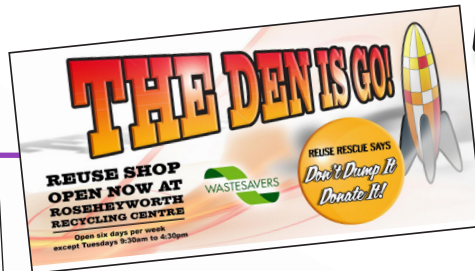


**1.73**

**MILLION REACH ON FACEBOOK**

ALERT LEVEL 0 EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW	
FREEDOMS	SAFEGUARDS
Face coverings will no longer be a legal requirement in education and hospitality settings such as restaurants, bars and pubs.	Still carry a mask! You need it on public transport and health and in social care settings, pharmacies, and shops.
There will be no legal limits on the number of people who can meet in homes, private establishments or public places.	Risk assessments and reasonable safety measures will continue as a legal requirement for all businesses, employers and event organisers.
If you are double vaccinated and become a close contact of someone who has tested positive who will no longer have to isolate.	If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or if you test positive, you will need to self-isolate whether you have been fully vaccinated or not.
Indoor nightclubs reopen.	Please continue to work from home wherever possible.

GIG NHS  
Gwent Test, Trace, Protect Service  
South Wales  
Blaenau Gwent, Cwmbran, Gwent, Monmouth, Newport, Usk, and Tredegar



### Twitter

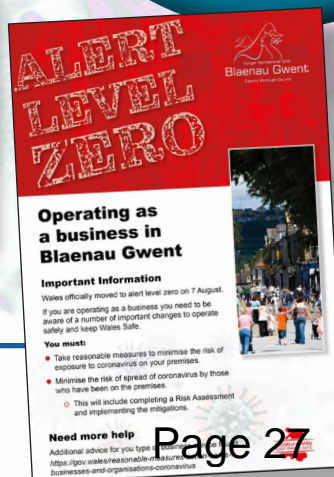
**12,132**

**TWITTER FOLLOWERS**



gwent Temporary COVID-19 Test Facilities

14 July	15 - 16 July	17 - 18 July	19 - 20 July
Tredegar Gwent Shopping Centre Car Park, NP22 3EJ	Blaina Car Park, Rear of High Street, NP13 3AF	Abertillery Sports Centre, Alma Street, NP13 1QD	Tredegar Gwent Shopping Centre Car Park, Gwent Way, NP22 3EJ



**11.31**

**MILLION REACH ON TWITTER**





### Website

**100,000**  
**VISITORS**

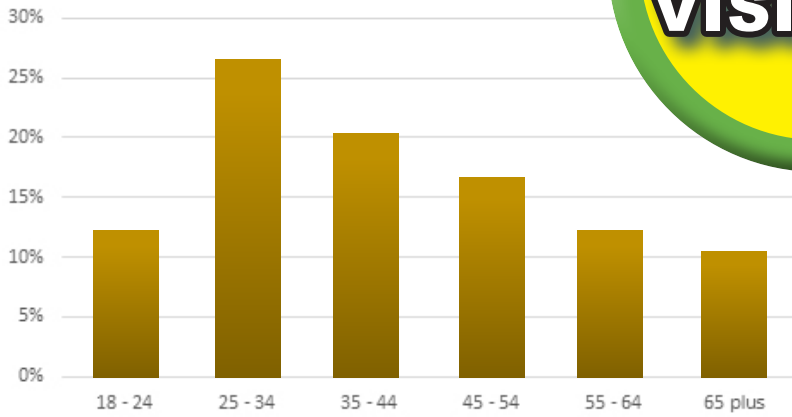
**0.88M**  
**PAGE VIEWS**

**VIEWING**

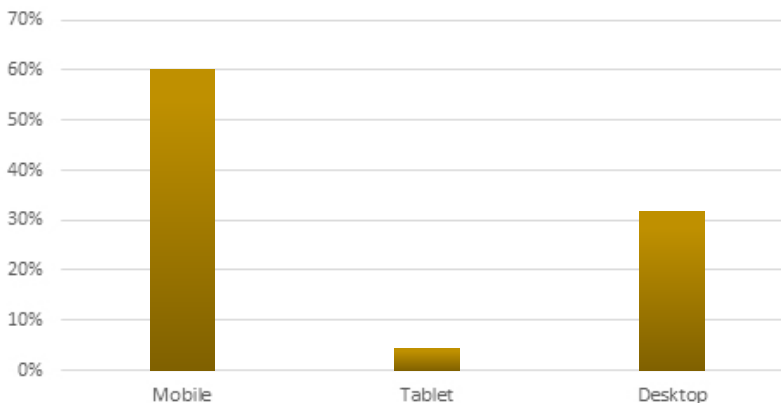
**2.25** **PAGES**  
**PER**  
**VISIT**

**70%**  
**RETURNING**  
**VISITORS**

Age



Access Site



### Top 7 most popular pages

- 1** HOME PAGE
- 2** WASTE & RECYCLING
- 3** MY SERVICES
- 4** COVID-19 INFO FOR BUSINESSES
- 5** SEARCH RESULTS
- 6** JOBS
- 7** PLANNING

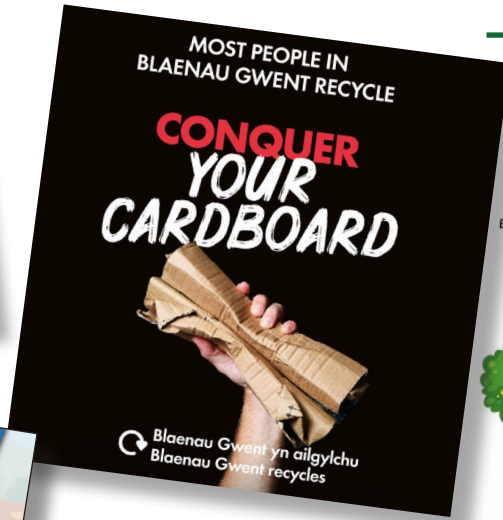






# Appendix 2

## Campaigns



We will be offering a range of FREE activities to include leisure, play, recreational, sporting and cultural across the Summer.



**Sweetie Pies EV Ltd**

Sweetie Pies is another new business that has benefited from BG Effect funding to open up a retail premises in Ebbw Vale town centre. The comforting smell of fresh wels cakes greets you upon arrival and the business sells a delicious range of traditional homemade cakes, sandwiches and baguettes which are made and prepared on the premises. The coffee crèmes, cheesecakes and wels cakes are popular treats and the business is planning to operate a wider delivery food service in the near future.

The business which has been trading since April 2021, is located in the Bethcar St area of Ebbw Vale town centre and is run by Linda Lewis who operates the business. Linda confirmed that lunchtime business is increasing with the ease of lockdown restrictions and trading hours are currently Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9am - 4pm.

The business applied for BG Effect funding to assist in the purchase of essential kitchen equipment and has supported a new business that is benefitting from increased footfall from local residents and those working in the town centre.

**Contact**  
Telephone: 01495 350472  
@sweetiepiesev

To discuss your business start-up idea, please contact  
The Business Innovation Team Tel: 01495 355700 Email: business@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

# 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: **Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **10<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

Report Subject: **Commercial Strategy Quarterly Performance Monitoring (July – September 2021)**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor Nigel Daniels, Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Services**

Report Submitted by: **Bernadette Elias, Chief Officer Commercial & Customer**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
w/c 15/11/21	18/11/21	29.11.21			10/12/21	15/12/21		

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide the quarter 2 (July- September 2021) progress update against the Commercial Strategy.

## 2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The Commercial Strategy approved by Council in 2020, sets out key themes which support a commercially minded organisation:

- A focus on the residents' experience of existing and new services;
- An understanding of our investments including return on investment (benefits), profits and losses;
- Developing our brand, trusted to deliver quality services;
- Spend control;
- Using data, technology and insights wisely;
- Having an agile workforce aligned to opportunities

- 2.2 Our commercial approach is driven by the ambitions within the strategy:

- Excellence in Commissioning and Procurement;
- Creation of an investment Portfolio;
- Managing commercial activities through profit and loss accounting;
- Creation of a Commercial and Entrepreneurial Culture;
- Excellence in Contract and Supplier Management.

- 2.3 The strategy delivery involves all Directorates of the Council. Although the impact of the pandemic continues to affect some elements, considerable progress continues to be made in quarter 2 (July- September). The key activity is summarised in Section 6.

3. **Options for Recommendation**  
That the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee
- 3.1 **Option 1:** Considers and provides comment on the quarter 2 progress update against the Commercial Strategy, prior to the report being presented to Executive Committee.
- 3.2 **Option 2:** Considers the quarter 2 progress update against the Commercial Strategy and provides recommendation, prior to the report being presented to Executive Committee.
4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**
- 4.1 The Commercial Strategy supports the future sustainability of the organisation, the Corporate Plan and the priority to be '*An ambitious and innovative council delivering the quality services we know matter to our communities*'.
- 4.2 It is aligned to the Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Bridging the Gap programme and supports the Well Being Plan and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
5. **Implications Against Each Option**
- 5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***  
A number of the digital projects have attracted Welsh Government funding and this is being used to support our digital ambitions aligned to the Commercial Strategy.
- 5.1.1 It is intended that this strategy complements and supports the Medium Term Financial Strategy and key aspects of its delivery are included in the Bridging the Gap Programme (BtG).
- 5.1.2 In support of Bridging the Gap 3<sup>rd</sup> party spend review, cashable savings of £50,000 have been realised within Quarter 2 as a result of contract management fees and/or spend rebates, and is reported through the normal budget monitoring arrangements.
- 5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***  
The risks associated with underperformance against the strategy will be mitigated through a whole Council adoption of the ways of working.
- 5.3 ***Legal***  
The Head of Legal and Compliance is a member of the Strategic Commercial and Commissioning Board. Where alternative delivery models are explored due diligence will be undertaken before any decisions are made.

#### 5.4 **Human Resources**

Where changes in service delivery or role are identified normal human resources processes and policies will be applied including consultation with the Trade Unions.

### 6. **Supporting Evidence**

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

Key activity undertaken in quarter 2 (July to September 2021) is set out under the relevant themes in the Commercial strategy.

##### 6.1.1 **Excellence in Commissioning and Procurement**

Procurement officers continue to engage with service areas to deliver the 2021/22 procurement programme:

- To support the Bridging the Gap (BtG) third party spend review, commercial opportunities are considered as part of each sourcing exercise. This includes financial, social and environmental considerations ensuring our sourcing activities;
- Pre-procurement and contract award reports are submitted to the Strategic Commercial Commissioning Board (SCCB), to ensure effective check & challenge;
- The Corporate Purchase Card programme continues to expand as an alternative payment methodology. The programme affords suppliers better cash flow and includes an annual 1% rebate which contributes to the BtG savings target. In summary, we currently have 55 cards in the programme and a year to date spend of £1,236,931 as compared with a spend of £965,117 for the same period in 2020/21;
- The Council either leads and/or participates in a number of collaborative procurement arrangements which includes management fees and/or spend rebates.

#### **Procurement Plans and Contract Management**

- The 2021/22 corporate procurement forward work programme has been approved by SCCB and is subject to the agreed check and challenge process;
- Proactive pre-procurement dialogue with client officers is taking place, to ensure that new sourcing requirements are aligned to Council priorities and that procurement documentation and contract terms are commercially favourable;
- Supplier/client contract management meetings are continuing to ensure contracts and performance remain fit for purpose and realise the intended social, environmental and economical outcomes;



- Quarter 2 progress against 3<sup>rd</sup> party spend BTG strategic business review will be reported through the normal BTG reporting process.

### **Procurement Strategy and Policy**

- Work is progressing to review the current Procurement Strategy to ensure it considers all relevant key policy drivers within our and sourcing and commissioning strategies including, the Well-being of Future Generations, Social Value, Foundation/Circular Economy and Decarbonisation (Carbon Neutral by 2030). A revised procurement strategy will be presented in 2022 to the new Council.

#### **6.1.2 Customer Experience**

##### **Delivery of the Community Hubs Approach**

- The community hubs delivery model commenced at the end of quarter 1 on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 with the full schedule of delivery commencing on 26th July 2021, in line with revised national restrictions.
- Revisions to the schedule to increase presence in some venues have been undertaken as the approach has embedded.
- The majority of residents using the hubs have been unable to self-serve with 50 residents being able to self-serve and 924 residents unable to self-serve during the quarter. Work has progressed on how the Community Hubs staff are able to support residents to self-serve where able to, further update to be provided in q3.
- Following Member and officer feedback on channels to promote the hubs, a proactive leaflet drop exercise in venues across the borough to promote the service has been undertaken.
- This has supported an increase in residents using the hubs, with 974 being supported through the Community Hubs model in q2. A break down is summarised below in 4 of the venues:

Venue	Footfall July	Footfall August	Footfall Sept
Abertillery library	20	89	87
Brynmawr library	17	54	55
Ebbw Vale library	39	133	110
Tredegarr library	39	110	112

Cwm, Blaina and Llanhilleth venues have also seen an increase in visits linked to the revised schedule.

- The main requests for support to date continue to relate to Blue Badge Applications, Bus Pass applications (which has seen an increase in requests), Benefit applications and Council Tax enquiries
- Proactive work has commenced at end of q2 with further update to be submitted in q3 around the number of residents affected by the £20 loss in Universal Credit payments
- A further sample of case studies from the Community Hubs service delivery are included in appendix 1.

### Locality Response Team

The Locality Response Service has clear links into the Community hubs model. Early planning on how the two areas align and complement each other moving forward has begun and will be reported in future quarter updates.

- 69 residents have been supported throughout the quarter with a wide range of assistance given from food shopping to supporting residents to apply for grants
- 39 residents contacted and supported to isolate due to shielding
- 35 referrals made to food bank for food parcels
- 29 referrals for fuel bill support
- 3 referrals to Citizens Advice for support with debt and budgeting

### Customer Services

Key activity for the quarter includes:

- Following feedback, a review of the out of hours' service was undertaken which resulted in a local provider delivering the "out of hours" service from July 2021. This is offering an improved position and performance of the service.
- A training plan has been developed for Customer Services staff linking into Call Centre Management framework
- Review and development of key Performance Indicators to monitor the service delivery within the Contact Centre is progressing;

Total calls taken by Contact Centre in quarter 2	16,897
Average queue time for calls per in quarter 2	2 minutes 17 seconds

## **Benefit Service delivery**

876 applications were received in respect of the Self Isolation Payment Scheme in the quarter, of which 534 were eligible and 226 were not eligible, 116 in process of being assessed for eligibility and will be included in q3 update

1739 applications were received in respect of the Clothing grant scheme which opened on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021, of which 1317 were eligible and 422 were not eligible

### **6.1.3 *Using data insights and technology wisely***

#### **Digital – external projects**

- Working with the Centre for Digital Public Services (CDPS) to deliver better public services for Wales, funding has been secured to explore more user focussed and efficient ways of service delivery.
- Participation in a collaborative Adult Social Care project with Neath Port Talbot and Torfaen local authorities, looking at unavoidable contact at the front door. In Q2 testing and user research continues to progress.
- Continued participation in the Tech Valleys funded project, digital apprentice appointed and supported Digital projects. New content developed for front facing website and online tool developed for data interrogation. Final presentation to Tech Valleys Board in Q3 when project draws to a close
- The Digital Democracy Project discovery work involving user research with 16-25 year olds has been completed. Findings from the research have been included within the Diverse Council Action Plan which was agreed by Council. The action plan will also be included on the work programme of the Democratic Services Committee.

#### **Digital - Organisational programme**

- A planned 12-month digital programme has been set scoped. This includes (in addition to the externally supported digital projects)
- Corporate Digital Projects – linked into the Civic Centre closure and the vantage move
- Internal projects – supporting planning, street scene, Starters, leavers and movers process and Insurance claims
- Corporate activity aligned to the ICT investment roadmap and maximisation of Office 365



- Development of a Strategic Programme for Service Transformation and Digital and the creation of an internal network to develop a programme of work – updates to be provided in Q3 and Q4
- Development of a leadership and training programme for officers and Members raising awareness and understanding of the scope and opportunities of our digital ambitions and activity and creation of Digital champions to support the new agile operating model, build corporate resources for our Digital Programme and support the bridging the gap themes.

The Council's new hybrid system has been installed at the General Offices and from September the full schedule of formal committee meetings (excluding full council due to continued national restrictions aligned to the pandemic) is operational using a hybrid model whereby attendees can either be present physically or remotely. Meetings are currently recorded and then uploaded onto the website. Work is being undertaken to operate live meetings and this is planned for early 2022.

#### 6.1.4 **Data and intelligence hub**

- The establishment of an internal hub of officers from all Directorates has progressed, led by the corporate policy and performance teams. This work supports the enabling Bridging the Gap review of using data and behavioural insight. The use of data in a more insightful way was one of the key learning points from the organisational reflection on the response to the Pandemic. The intelligence hub looks to build on this ambition, gaining a better understanding of what our data tells us and how that impacts on services for our communities.
- User research, which forms a key part of our digital and customer approach will also be supported by the hub, with training opportunities via the WLGA taken to build our internal capacity on undertaking user research.
- The Council has also been successful in working with Data Science Academy Students from Cardiff University. The placements are currently looking at data to support the Community Hubs model and also Contact Centre.

#### 6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

Through the delivery of the strategy the Council will become more effective in the deployment of its resources to ensure value for money is achieved and investments are made in activities that deliver the best outcomes for the public. This strategy will also contribute to the financial resilience and sustainability of the organisation, therefore protecting front line services.

#### 6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

As a key part of the commissioning cycle to ensure service specifications take account of the needs of service users. Any changes to service delivery models will be consulted on in the usual way.

6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

This strategy is at the heart of the medium and long term planning for Blaenau Gwent and recognises not only where the Council needs to seek new income streams but also where it needs to review how it deploys its current expenditure.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The Commercial Strategy is designed to support the needs of the Council now and in the future, including supporting financial resilience.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

There are opportunities through this strategy to consider commercially advantageous ways of working across local authorities and the Public Service Board. This strategy seeks to identify commercial opportunities to work with suppliers across public sector organisations and to spend the Blaenau Gwent pound wisely.

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

The strategy takes a whole council approach. It promotes transparency across the organisation, building best practice outside of directorate silos and promotes the maximising and sharing of skills and learning.

6.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***

The planned review of the corporate procurement strategy will include consideration of how it can better support the decarbonisation ambitions set out in the Council's plan.

The work with CLES outlined in the report also involves this key policy driver.

The community hub model brings access to services closer to the community residents live in. The democratic hub hybrid meetings enable remote access to committee meetings.

6.9a ***Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment***

The CLES project outcome is to maximise procurement spend in Wales to support local wealth building and to creating a more resilient Welsh economy.

The community hub model includes support, advice and guidance for residents to access financial support they may be entitled to.

6.9b ***EqIA***

Screening for impact on protected characteristics will be undertaken as per usual procedures. In addition, individual procurements consider the ability to realise social, environmental and economic benefits through the inclusion of Community Benefits and Social Value contractual clauses.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 Quarterly progress is reported through the democratic process.  
The strategic commercial and commissioning board monitors activity set out within its terms of reference.

Grant funded projects specify monitoring arrangements which will be complied with.

**Background Documents /Electronic Links**

Appendix 1 - Community Hub case studies

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Support Needed	Support provided/ Outcome
<p>A customer came into the library to ask for food recycling bags as she had just moved to the area and wasn't aware of the collection days for her recycling or general waste. She also wanted to set up a Council Tax account but didn't know how to do it.</p>	<p>I found out the collection days of her recycling and general waste collection using the Blaenau Gwent App. I suggested to her that she downloads the app to her mobile phone as this is where she would be able to find this and other information about the Local Authority</p> <p>I sent an email to Council Tax with all details to set her account up and informed her that as soon as she has been provided with a reference number she could call back in for me to provide her with a Pay Point card.</p> <p>I also gave her three hessian sacks for her recycling and advised that if she required any further information she could call back in and see me.</p>
<p>A customer came in with a friend who was very distressed at not being unable to get an appointment with her GP because they were struggling with some mental health issues. She was required to provide a sick note to staff at the Job Centre. She also explained that she has an issue with her property, specifically that there is no running water and the ceiling has fallen through in her bathroom.</p>	<p>I called her GP surgery, explained who I was and described the details of the customer to the receptionist. The receptionist advised she would ask a doctor to call her within the next few hours.</p> <p>I also sent a referral to Supporting People for help with both her mental health issues and the situation with the house.</p> <p>The customer came back into the hub a few days later and explained that the GP had rung her which made her feel loads better because she was able to talk in person to someone. They provided her with a sick note which she could give to staff at the Job Centre so that her benefit would continue.</p> <p>She also told me that Platform has been in touch with her and they are in the process of helping her with the issues she has with her house.</p>
<p>A customer came into the hub and explained they were struggling to manage his electricity bill payments. After an in depth conversation it became clear the customer has issues budgeting his money mainly caused by an addiction to online games and gambling. Customer advised he struggles to trust people and finds it difficult to accept help but feels safe when he is supported in the libraries with both Aneurin Leisure Trust and Blaenau Gwent staff.</p>	<p>I made a referral made to National Energy Action (NEA) for fuel / energy support because of his inability to manage his electricity bill and a referral to Citizens Advice for specialist debt advice.</p>

<p>A customer came in to the hub to enquire about a bus pass as he was new to the area and didn't know how to obtain one. After discussion with him, and taking into account he was new to the area, it became apparent he also knew nothing about the recycling process or the day it was collected, his general waste collection day or how he could set up Council Tax liability. The customer explained he had already sorted his Universal Credit with DWP for his housing costs. For his bus pass he only had one form of identification that showed his address but I was aware Transport For Wales would require two. He needed bus pass urgently because he had hospital appointments to attend and couldn't drive due to a medical condition with his legs. The customer also mentioned that he had personal belongings held in storage in Cardiff and didn't know how he was going to get them transported to his new Blaenau Gwent address as he was unable to drive. This was further complicated because the storage company were charging him in excess of £250 per week to store it.</p>	<p>Firstly, I gave the customer a map of Blaenau Gwent and highlighted some of the amenities for him to familiarise himself with, such as supermarkets, Doctor surgeries and post offices. I also gave him the leaflet on the recycling and explained the process. I rang Council Tax to set up his account having in mind that this would provide him with a bill to use as the other form of identification with his address shown so that he could apply for his pass with the confidence. Council Tax explained to me that to save time they would email the bill to him (he had an email address) to allow him to apply more quickly rather than waiting for the hard copy to arrive by post. I also helped him complete an application for Council Tax Reduction but during conversation it was evident he required further support. I sent a referral to NEA to help the customer set up his gas and electricity accounts because he wanted to see if he could move to prepayments as this would be more manageable for him. With regards to his belongings stored in Cardiff, I rang a removal service company to enquire about support and gave them the scenario of the customer. The customer was happy for me to give him his mobile number so they could contact him to make arrangements to pick up his belongings. The customer called me back on my mobile at the library to thank me for all my help and support as that my support had made a massive difference to him.</p>
<p>A customer and his wife came into Hub and explained they moved into Blaenau Gwent in June 2021. They had moved to the UK in early 2021. Whilst they could speak good English there were one or two language barrier issues. The customer was a newly enrolled student at University and his wife stays home to look after their young child. They were unfamiliar with the UK benefit system so I advised them of Universal Credit/Child Benefit and guidance around "Right to Reside".</p>	<p>I referred them to Citizens Advice for a full benefit entitlement check. I also referred them to National Energy Action for advice on minimising gas and electric costs. The customer wanted to call Child Benefit independently so to encourage self-serve I provided the helpline number for them to use. I assisted the customers in applying for Council Tax Reduction through BG Website with customer. We had a long, friendly conversation about the local area and how much they were enjoying Blaenau Gwent and looking</p>

	forward to seeing snow for the first time. It was very rewarding to help these new residents to the area.
A customer visited the Hub to apply for hers and her husband's Blue Badges. It was the first time she'd left the house in 18 months due to the pandemic and she was very nervous. I explained that the interview area had been sanitised since the last customer had left, the screen was in place, hand sanitiser was available and masks were there for protection too. The customer explained that both she and her husband have many health conditions, with her husband living with dementia and unable to leave the home.	I applied for the Blue Badges. We had a conversation about care provisions and support with her husband but they were already expecting a visit from social services to assess his condition. The customer was very grateful for the help and the conversation we had. The customer was frail and unsteady on her feet so hub staff carried all bags and shopping to car to support and felt relieved and happy that she knows where to come for any more support
A customer presented herself to the hub as homeless. She had just left a relationship and had absolutely nothing on her, including mobile phone, to contact Housing Options.	I rang the Housing Options Team and explained the situation and handed the phone to the lady who spoke directly to the Housing advisor. She was directed to go to a local Bed and Breakfast facility. I arranged a food parcel to be delivered to her and made a referral to Social Services for a support worker to help her. Approximately 3 weeks later the lady came back and said she had been given a flat in a sheltered accommodation but had no money to move and no furniture. I applied for a Discretionary Housing Payment to help with moving costs and applied for a Discretionary Assistance Fund grant for furniture and items at the new flat. Later the customer came in to the hub and explained she had been awarded a fridge, a freezer, an armchair and sofa, cutlery, crockery, pots and pans, a bed, mattress, pillows, pillow cases, duvet, duvet cover and sheets. She said she was absolutely delighted and so grateful for the support provided by staff in the hubs.
A young customer came in with his father as he had received a Notice seeking possession from his landlord and a court summons for over £2,000 for rent arrears. Both were very distraught and did not know what to do and had come to the hubs to see if staff there could provide any help, advice and support.	I spoke to one of the Housing options team who asked me to send him copies of all the paperwork the customer had brought in. It was decided that a small payment could be awarded to the landlord from the Tenancy hardship grant fund which would be enough to stop the eviction. It was then advised that he speaks to his landlord to set up a repayment plan to suspend the court summons.

	<p>The customers also made an appointment to complete a Housing application form in order to acquire more affordable accommodation. I spoke to the Council Tax section as there was a large amount of arrears on the account and they agreed to hold any further action and set up a repayment plan which the customer said he could afford. I have also arranged for the customer to come back to the hub with some more information and we will apply for a Discretionary Housing Payment to help with the shortfall on his rent. I also completed a Council Tax Reduction application for him to get some help with his current council tax liability.</p> <p>When they left they both said how they felt a weight had been lifted off their shoulders as they did not know where to go for help.</p>
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# Agenda Item 8

*Executive Committee and Council only*

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee**  
Date of meeting: **10<sup>th</sup> December 2021**  
Report Subject: **Treasury Management Mid-Year Review Report - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021**  
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr N Daniels, Leader / Executive Member Corporate Services**  
Report Submitted by: **Rhian Hayden, Chief Officer Resources**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
	11.11.21	01.12.21			10.12.21		27.01.22	

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to give Members the opportunity to scrutinise the Treasury Management activities carried out by the Authority during the first half of the 2021/22 financial year.

## 2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The report provides a summary of the Treasury Management activities carried out under delegated powers by the Chief Officer Resources in the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice.

- 2.2 Treasury Management can be defined as:

“The management of the local authority’s cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”

- 2.3 The primary requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice are currently as follows:

- a. Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council’s treasury management activities.
- b. Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives.
- c. Receipt by the Council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy report (including the annual investment strategy report) for the year ahead, a mid-year review and an annual review report of the previous year.

- d. Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring Treasury Management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions, which in this Council is now the Chief Officer Resources.
- e. Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of Treasury Management strategy and policies to a specific named body which in this Council is the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee.

2.4 This report is therefore presented to Corporate Overview Scrutiny to provide a mid-year review report (attached as Appendix 1) of the Treasury Management activities for the 2021/2022 financial year, in accordance with (c) above.

### 3. **Options for Recommendation**

#### 3.1 Option 1

Members scrutinise the treasury management activity undertaken during the 2021/22 financial year and provide comment prior to its submission to full Council.

#### 3.2 Option 2 (preferred option)

Members scrutinise the treasury management activity undertaken during the 2021/2022 financial year and do not provide comment prior to its submission to full Council.

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

4.1 The report is written under legislation (the Local Government Act 2003), Welsh Government guidance and CIPFA codes of practice.

4.2 This topic also supports the Corporate Plan Priority of being an ambitious and innovative council delivering the quality services we know matter to our communities

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

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

5.1.1 The Authority has complied with the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2017 and in doing so has strived for effective risk management and control, whilst at the same time pursuing best value as far as possible.

5.1.2 The Authority has effectively managed credit risk throughout the period, so ensuring that it has not been subjected to any financial loss as a result of the pandemic.

- 5.1.3 The Authority has maximised investment returns as far as is possible whilst managing the associated risk and minimised borrowing costs throughout the period.
- 5.1.4 Investment returns of £13,000 have been achieved with an average interest rate of 0.02%. This is above the benchmark rate of -0.07% which is reflective of the impact the pandemic has had on the bank base rate and in turn the market interest rates offered for investments. The annual budgeted investment interest for the full year is £6,000. This surplus has been achieved this year in part due to the extraordinary receipt of the £70 million Rail Infrastructure Loan from the Welsh Government in March 2021, which has been invested in line with the Authority's Investment Strategy. However, there is a condition of the funding approval that states any interest earned from holding the loan must be added to the works programme. Therefore, this income will be placed in a reserve until such time it is used to fund works or can be transferred to the Authority.
- 5.1.5 An average interest rate of 0.31% has been paid on temporary borrowings against a benchmark of 1.70%, amounting to £49,000 for the six-month period. The budget for interest paid on short term borrowing is £425,000 for a full year - the full year interest payable is likely to be well within this budget.
- 5.1.6 A summary of the Treasury Management activities for the period are shown in the table below:

	Value	Interest	Average Interest Rate
	£m	£	%
Short Term Loans raised	109	49,000	0.31%
Short Term Investments made	692	13,000	0.02%
Long Term debt outstanding 30/9/21	164.6		3.70%
Short Term debt outstanding 30/9/21	48.4		0.08%

## 5.2 *Risk including Mitigating Actions*

- 5.2.1 The main risk in relation to Treasury Management is that of credit risk and protecting the Authority's cash. This is effectively managed through the Authority's risk averse Treasury Management policy that seeks to protect the capital sum rather than maximise investment returns.
- 5.2.2 The £70 million received from the Welsh Government in relation to the Rail Infrastructure scheme has posed new challenges for the Treasury Management function in terms of exploring new investment opportunities, such as Notice Accounts and banks, whilst adhering to the Authority's Investment Strategy and approved counterparty limits. In order to mitigate the risk of breaching these limits, the Authority has utilised the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility in the first instance (unlimited deposits) as well as its Money Market

Fund and other Investments with Local Authorities (£6 million limit). Furthermore, the Authority will continue to monitor other investment opportunities in the second part of the year.

5.2.3 Following the recent and unexpected increase in inflation experienced in the UK Economy, the market now expects that the Bank of England base rate will increase to 0.25% by the second quarter of next year. Although this is much sooner than originally anticipated following the downturn caused by the pandemic, the rate is not expected to increase rapidly after this and is still 0.50% lower than the rate in effect in March 2020. The Authority will continue to monitor market rates and will endeavour to achieve the lowest rates for its borrowing.

### 5.3 *Legal*

5.3.1 The report is written under legislation (the Local Government Act 2003), Welsh Government guidance and CIPFA codes of practice.

### 5.4 *Human Resources*

5.4.1 There are no direct staffing implications to report. Staff directly involved with Treasury Management activities will continue to monitor the credit situation on a daily basis, and will notify the Chief Officer Resources accordingly. Any consequential changes required to be made to the borrowings or investment strategy as a result will be reported to the Council.

## 6. **Supporting Evidence**

### 6.1 *Performance Information and Data*

6.1.1 Despite the financial climate in relation to the pandemic, the Authority has performed well in terms of its Treasury Management activities during the first half of the year, as detailed in the report and summarised below:

- a. Investment returns of £13,000 have been achieved in the period with an average interest rate of 0.02%. This is above the benchmark rate of -0.07% but reflects the impact the pandemic has had on the bank base rate and in turn the market interest rates offered on investments. The annual budgeted investment interest is £6,000, which has been exceeded in part due to the investments in relation to the £70m Rail Infrastructure money.
- b. An average interest rate of 0.31% has been paid on temporary borrowings against a benchmark of 1.50%, amounting to £49,000 for the six-month period. The budget for interest paid on short term borrowing is £425,000 for a full year - the full year interest payable is likely to be well within this budget. The interest payable by the Authority has therefore been minimised as far as possible and is evidence of good performance.
- c. All of the Treasury limits and Treasury Management prudential indicators set for the financial year have been complied with during the year.
- d. No institutions in which investments were made during the period had any difficulty in repaying investments and interest in full, so the

Authority has not been exposed to any financial loss as a result of the difficult economic climate. The Authority will continue to monitor other investment opportunities throughout the rest of the financial year.

6.2 *Expected outcome for the public*

6.2.1 The Council's Treasury Management activities support delivery of services to the public.

6.3 *Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)*

6.3.1 Members of the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee and full Council are involved in developing and monitoring compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

6.4 *Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)*

n/a

6.5 *Preventative focus*

6.5.1 The Authority's Treasury Management policy prioritises protecting the capital sum rather than achieving higher interest returns

6.6 *Collaboration / partnership working*

n/a

6.7 *Integration(across service areas)*

n/a

6.8 *Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions*

n/a

6.9a *Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment*

n/a

6.9b *Equality Impact Assessment*

n/a

**7. Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 As the nominated Committee, Corporate Overview & Council will receive three reports in every annual cycle:-

- A Treasury Management Policy report prior to the start of every financial year
- A mid-year progress report on Treasury Management activity
- An end of year out turn report on Treasury Management activity.

**Background Documents /Electronic Links**

- *Appendix 1*
- *Appendix A*
- *Appendix B*



## APPENDIX 1

### TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2021/22

#### 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2009 was adopted by this Council in February 2010 and this Council fully complies with its requirements. The Code was revised in 2011 and further revised in 2017.

The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:

1. Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's treasury management activities.
2. Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives.
3. Receipt by the Council of an annual treasury management strategy report (including the annual investment strategy report) for the year ahead, a mid year review and an annual review report of the previous year.
4. Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions, which in this Council is the Chief Officer Resources.
5. Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of treasury management strategy and policies to a specified named body which in this Council is the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee.

Treasury management in this context is defined as:

*"The management of the local authority's cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."*

The purpose of this report is to meet one of the above requirements of the CIPFA Code, namely the mid-year review report of treasury management activities, for the financial year 2021/22.

#### 2. THIS TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW REPORT COVERS

- ❖ Economic Background during the period
- ❖ Interest Rate Forecast
- ❖ Treasury Advisors
- ❖ The Council's treasury position as at 30 September 2021;
- ❖ Borrowing and investment rates for the first half of 2021/22;
- ❖ Mid-year review of the borrowing strategy 2021/22;
- ❖ Borrowing outturn for the first half of 2021/22;
- ❖ Debt rescheduling for the first half of 2021/22;

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### TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2021/22

- ❖ Compliance with treasury limits and Prudential Indicators for the first half of 2021/22;
- ❖ Mid-year review of the investment strategy for 2021/22;
- ❖ Investment outturn for the first half of 2021/22;
- ❖ Other treasury management issues.

### 3. ECONOMIC BACKGROUND DURING PERIOD

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously to leave Bank Rate unchanged at 0.10% and made no changes to its programme of quantitative easing purchases due to finish by the end of this year at a total of £895bn; two MPC members voted to stop the last £35bn of purchases as they were concerned that this would add to inflationary pressures.

There was a major shift in the tone of the MPC's minutes at this meeting from the previous meeting in August which had majored on indicating that some tightening in monetary policy was now on the horizon, but also not wanting to stifle economic recovery by too early an increase in Bank Rate. In his press conference after the August MPC meeting, Governor Andrew Bailey said, "the challenge of avoiding a steep rise in unemployment has been replaced by that of ensuring a flow of labour into jobs" and that "the Committee will be monitoring closely the incoming evidence regarding developments in the labour market, and particularly unemployment, wider measures of slack, and underlying wage pressures." In other words, it was flagging up a potential danger that labour shortages could push up wage growth by more than it expects and that, as a result, CPI inflation would stay above the 2% target for longer. It also discounted sharp increases in monthly inflation figures in the pipeline in late 2021 which were largely propelled by events a year ago e.g., the cut in VAT in August 2020 for the hospitality industry, and by temporary shortages which would eventually work their way out of the system: in other words, the MPC had been prepared to look through a temporary spike in inflation.

So, in August the country was just put on alert. However, this time the MPC's words indicated there had been a marked increase in concern that more recent increases in prices, particularly the increases in gas and electricity prices in October and due again next April, are, indeed, likely to lead to faster and higher inflation expectations and underlying wage growth, which would in turn increase the risk that price pressures would prove more persistent next year than previously expected. Indeed, to emphasise its concern about inflationary pressures, the MPC pointedly chose to reaffirm its commitment to the 2% inflation target in its statement; this suggested that it was now willing to look through the flagging economic recovery during the summer to prioritise bringing inflation down next year.

Financial markets are now pricing in a first increase in Bank Rate from 0.10% to 0.25% in February 2022, but this looks ambitious as the MPC has stated that it wants to see what happens to the economy, and particularly to employment once furlough ends at the end of September.

### 4. INTEREST RATE FORECASTS



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### TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2021/22

The Council's treasury advisor, Link Asset Services, has provided the following forecast:

Link Group Interest Rate View		29.9.21								
	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24
BANK RATE	0.10	0.10	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75
3 month ave eamings	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.20	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.50	0.60	0.70
6 month ave eamings	0.20	0.20	0.30	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.60	0.60	0.70	0.80
12 month ave eamings	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.60	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00
5 yr PWLB	1.40	1.40	1.50	1.50	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.70	1.70	1.70
10 yr PWLB	1.80	1.80	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.10	2.10
25 yr PWLB	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.30	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.50	2.50	2.60
50 yr PWLB	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.30	2.40

The coronavirus outbreak has done huge economic damage to the UK and to economies around the world. After the Bank of England took emergency action in March 2020 to cut Bank Rate to 0.10%, it left Bank Rate unchanged at its subsequent meetings.

As shown in the forecast table above, one increase in Bank Rate from 0.10% to 0.25% has now been included in quarter 2 of 2022/23, a second increase to 0.50% in quarter 2 of 23/24 and a third one to 0.75% in quarter 4 of 23/24.

#### The balance of risks to the UK

- The overall balance of risks to economic growth in the UK is now to the downside, including residual risks from Covid and its variants - both domestically and their potential effects worldwide.
- Bank Rate is not expected to go up fast after the initial rate rise as the supply potential of the economy has not generally taken a major hit during the pandemic, so should be able to cope well with meeting demand without causing inflation to remain elevated in the medium-term, or to inhibit inflation from falling back towards the MPC's 2% target after the surge to around 4% towards the end of 2021. Three increases in Bank rate are forecast in the period to March 2024, ending at 0.75%.

#### Forecasts for PWLB rates and gilt and treasury yields

As the interest forecast table for PWLB certainty rates above shows, there is likely to be a steady rise over the forecast period, with some degree of uplift due to rising treasury yields in the US.

There is likely to be exceptional volatility and unpredictability in respect of gilt yields and PWLB rates due to the following factors: -

- How strongly will changes in gilt yields be correlated to changes in US treasury yields?
- Will the Fed take action to counter increasing treasury yields if they rise beyond a yet unspecified level?
- Would the MPC act to counter increasing gilt yields if they rise beyond a yet unspecified level?
- How strong will inflationary pressures turn out to be in both the US and the UK and so impact treasury and gilt yields?

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### TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2021/22

- How will central banks implement their new average or sustainable level inflation monetary policies?
- How well will central banks manage the withdrawal of QE purchases of their national bonds i.e., without causing a panic reaction in financial markets as happened in the “taper tantrums” in the US in 2013?
- Will exceptional volatility be focused on the short or long-end of the yield curve, or both?

The forecasts are also predicated on an assumption that there is no break-up of the Eurozone or EU within our forecasting period, despite the major challenges that are looming up, and that there are no major ructions in international relations, especially between the US and China / North Korea and Iran, which have a major impact on international trade and world GDP growth.

#### **Gilt and treasury yields**

Since the start of 2021, there has been a lot of volatility in gilt yields, and hence PWLB rates. During the first part of the year, US President Biden’s, and the Democratic party’s determination to push through a \$1.9trn (equivalent to 8.8% of GDP) fiscal boost for the US economy as a recovery package from the Covid pandemic was what unsettled financial markets. However, this was in addition to the \$900bn support package already passed in December 2020 under President Trump. This was then followed by additional Democratic ambition to spend further huge sums on infrastructure and an American families plan over the next decade which are caught up in Democrat / Republican haggling. Financial markets were alarmed that all this stimulus, which is much bigger than in other western economies, was happening at a time in the US when: -

1. A fast vaccination programme has enabled a rapid opening up of the economy.
2. The economy had already been growing strongly during 2021.
3. It started from a position of little spare capacity due to less severe lockdown measures than in many other countries. A combination of shortage of labour and supply bottle necks is likely to stoke inflationary pressures more in the US than in other countries.
4. And the Fed was still providing monetary stimulus through monthly QE purchases.

These factors could cause an excess of demand in the economy which could then unleash stronger and more sustained inflationary pressures in the US than in other western countries. This could then force the Fed to take much earlier action to start tapering monthly QE purchases and/or increasing the Fed rate from near zero, despite their stated policy being to target average inflation.

## 5. TREASURY ADVISORS

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### TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2021/22

The Council uses external treasury management advisors. The Council recognises that responsibility for Treasury Management decisions remains with the Authority at all times and will ensure that undue reliance is not placed upon our external service providers.

It also recognises that there is value in employing external providers of treasury management services in order to acquire access to specialist skills and resources. The Council will ensure that the terms of their appointment and the methods by which their value will be assessed are properly agreed and documented, and subjected to regular review.

The Council retendered for the provision of Treasury Management advisory services as a result of the existing contract expiring on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017. This resulted in the appointment of Link Asset Services for a period of two years until 20<sup>th</sup> April 2019, with an option to extend for a further two years, this option has been exercised by the Chief Officer Resources and Link have been appointed to the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

### 6. TREASURY POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

The Council's debt and investment position at the beginning of the year and the end of the half year was as follows:

This illustrates that the total debt outstanding as at 30 September 2020 was £144.2 million, comprising of long term debt of £97.9 million and short term debt of £46.2 million.

	31March 2021 Principal	Average Rate/ Return	30Sept 2021 Principal	Average Rate/ Return	Increase/ (Decrease) in Borrowing
	<u>£000</u>		<u>£000</u>		<u>£000</u>
Fixed Rate Funding:					
- PWLB	76,764	4.05%	74,077	3.70%	(2,687)
- Market Loans	17,000	1.38%	14,000	1.40%	(3,000)
Variable Rate Funding:					
- Market (LOBO *)	4,000	4.5%	4,000	4.50%	0
Interest Free Loans:					
Welsh Government	72,570	0.00%	72,570	0.00%	0
<b>Total Long Term Debt</b>	<b>170,334</b>	<b>3.63%</b>	<b>164,647</b>	<b>3.70%</b>	<b>(5,687)</b>
Short Term Loans(<365 days)	65,315	0.52%	48,365	0.08%	(16,950)
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>235,649</b>	<b>2.56%</b>	<b>213,012</b>	<b>2.42%</b>	<b>(22,637)</b>
Investments:					

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### TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2021/22

- Short Term	84,870		67,000		(17,870)
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>84,870</b>		<b>67,000</b>		<b>(17,870)</b>

\* LOBO – Lenders Option Borrowers Option. This loan has a fixed rate for the first two years of 3.85%. The remaining period of the loan (which we are now in) has a rate of 4.5%, but the lender can increase this rate at six month intervals.

### 7. BORROWING AND INVESTMENT RATES IN 2021/22

The following table displays a selection of interest rates prevailing as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

	01/04/2021	30/09/2021
Bank Base Rate	0.10%	0.10%
7 day LIBID	-0.08%	-0.08%
PWLB 10 year Maturity	1.90%	2.01%
PWLB 15 year maturity	2.20%	2.26%
PWLB 25 year maturity	2.39%	2.39%

### 8. MID YEAR REVIEW OF THE BORROWING STRATEGY FOR 2021/22

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2021/22 was approved by Council in March 2021. The Borrowing Strategy adopted as part of this was as follows:

*To utilise the Authority's overdraft facility:*

To fund unexpected daily cash deficits;  
To fund temporary cash shortfalls where there are no other sources of funding available within the marketplace.

*To borrow over the short term:*

To fund temporary cash shortfalls;  
To maintain a suitably balanced maturity profile; to make short term savings required in order to meet budgetary constraints;  
In anticipation of securing longer term loans at more attractive rates.

*To borrow over the long term:*

To reduce the Authority's average cost of borrowing;  
To maintain a stable, longer term portfolio;  
To maximise the potential for future debt rescheduling.

*If appropriate to avoid all new external borrowing:*

To maximise savings in the short term;  
To run down temporary investment levels;  
To minimise exposure to interest rate and credit risk.

Borrowings undertaken during the period (see section 7 below) have been done so in accordance with this strategy and has focused on short term borrowings in order to minimise borrowing costs. Current short-term borrowing rates continue to be very low,

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### TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2021/22

however are likely to increase following the expected rise of the Bank of England Base Rate in the first half of next year. The Authority is therefore taking advantage of such rates and is predominantly borrowing short term where necessary to fund the remainder of its capital expenditure and maturing debt until such time the market indicates that long term rates are more advantageous. In March 2020 The Welsh Government awarded the Authority a specific loan in relation to the Rail Track project. This resulted in longer term borrowing increasing by £70million, which in turn has reduced the need to borrow in the first half of the 2021/22 financial year.

In the current economic climate, it is considered that the approved strategy is still fit for purpose and therefore no revisions are proposed.

### 9. BORROWING OUTTURN FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2021/22

#### Long Term Borrowing

##### *Definition*

Long term borrowing relates to debt taken out for a period of greater than one year. It is taken out for periods of 1 year up to 50 years. This borrowing is required to finance capital expenditure undertaken in the year that is funded through:

- Borrowing approvals from Welsh Government, known as un-hypothecated supported borrowing (USB), for which revenue support for the borrowing costs is provided through the revenue support grant;
- Prudential borrowing, for which borrowing costs are funded through revenue savings.

##### *Total outstanding as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021*

The total long term debt outstanding as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 was £164.6 million. This is made up of debt taken from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), from other local authorities (through the market place), Specific Welsh Government Loans and from the market (LOBO). This debt is due to be repaid within the following years:

Maturing Within	£000s
1YR	10
1-2YRS	10,920
2-3YRS	8,764
3-4YRS	15,451
4-5YRS	3,277
5-6YRS	12,609
6-10YRS	23,792
10-15YRS	9,570
15+ YRS	80,254
<b>Total</b>	<b>164,647</b>

##### *New borrowings for the First Half of 2021/22*

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### TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2021/22

Long-Term borrowings of £5.6m (PWLB £2.7m and Market Loans £3m) have been repaid during the financial year. No new Long Term borrowing has been undertaken to 30 September 2021.

#### Short Term Borrowing

##### **Definition**

Short term borrowing relates to debt taken out for a period of less than one year i.e. it will all be fully repaid within a year. These short term loans are taken out to manage the Authority's short term cash flow i.e. to fund deficits in cash flow on a daily basis pending receipt of income from grants or other sources, or pending the taking out of longer term debt to fund capital expenditure whilst we wait for advantageous longer term borrowing opportunities. Current short term borrowing rates are very low and are forecast to stay at these levels for the short term. The Authority is therefore taking advantage of such rates and is borrowing short term to fund its capital expenditure and maturing debt until such time the market indicates that long term rates are more advantageous.

##### **Total outstanding as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

The total short term debt outstanding as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 was £48.4 million. This is made up of debt taken from other local authorities through the market place.

##### **New borrowings for the First Half Year of 2021/22**

Appendix A lists the short term loan activity during for the first half year and shows that over the period a total of £65.3 million loans were brought forward from the previous year and £44.0 million of new short term loans were raised. A total of £61 million of these loans were repaid during the first half year, leaving a balance outstanding as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 of £48.4 million.

The following table gives a summary which shows that the average rate of interest paid was in line with the benchmark.

	Total Value of Loans during the period	Average Loan	Interest paid during the period	Average Interest Rate	Benchmark Interest Rate *
<b>Short Term borrowing</b>	£109M	£3.3M	£49K	0.31%	1.00%

\* Benchmark = 1.0% Budgeted interest rate for short term borrowings

## 7. DEBT RESCHEDULING

No debt rescheduling was undertaken during the period.

## 8. COMPLIANCE WITH TREASURY LIMITS

## APPENDIX 1

### TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2021/22

During the financial year the Council operates within the treasury limits and Prudential Indicators set out in the Treasury Strategy Statement 2021/22, approved by Council in March 2021.

#### Operational Boundary for external debt

The Council resolved that this limit be set at £237.7 million for 2021/22. The average level of borrowings to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 was £214.7 million, this is well below the limit.

The operational boundary can be exceeded on an occasional basis, and this is to be expected due to cash flow fluctuations. Sustained breaches however, would indicate that either the limit has been set too low, or that the Authority is breaching its prudential boundaries and that corrective action needs to be taken.

Monitoring of the operational boundary is undertaken on a daily basis and any such continual breaches would be investigated and a recommended course of action reported to Council.

#### Authorised Limit for external Debt

The Council resolved that this limit be set at £261.5 million for 2021/22. The Authorised Limit is set having regard to the operational boundary above.

The average level of borrowings for the first half year to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 was £214.7 million, so well within the limit set.

The Authorised Limit must not be breached.

#### Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing

The Council resolved the following limits for the maturity structure of fixed rate borrowings for 2021/22;

	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Actual as at 30/09/2021
under 12 months	20%	0%	0.01%
12 months and within 24 months	20%	0%	6.63%
24 months and within 5 years	50%	0%	16.70%
5 years and within 10 years	75%	0%	22.11%
10 years and above	95%	5%	54.56%

The actual debt maturity profile at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 is well within the limits set.

#### Upper Limit on Variable Interest Exposure

Council resolved the upper limit on variable rate exposures for 2021/22 should be set at 30% of outstanding long term debt. This strategy limits the proportion of interest which is subject to variable rate terms and hence protects the Council against increased costs in times of rising interest rates.



## APPENDIX 1

### TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2021/22

The actual level of variable borrowings is £4 million (LOBO) which equates to 2.4% of the outstanding long term debt as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021, so is well within the limit set.

#### 9. MID YEAR REVIEW OF INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR 2021/22

The Annual Investment Strategy for 2021/22 adopted by Council in March 2021 was to maintain only temporary, short term investments and to make those investments in accordance with anticipated cash flow requirements (including the investing of sums borrowed at prevailing low interest rates in anticipation of capital spending). The Council's investment priorities are:

- a. the security of capital;
- b. The liquidity of its investments.

The Council also aims to achieve the optimum return on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity. The risk appetite of this Council is low in order to give priority to the security of its investments.

In order to ensure that the Authority's investments are secure and that risk is minimised an investment matrix is used to determine investment counterparties, which factors in Fitch and Moody's credit ratings, credit default swap (CDS) spread data, and credit rating agency comments.

Currently, the approved investment counterparties available to the Authority are Barclays, the Authority's bank, Lloyds Bank, the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF) other Local Authorities and the Public Sector Deposit Fund. In order to diversify its investment portfolio, the Authority has undertaken fixed term deposits with other banks in line with the counterparty list. Whilst interest rates receivable on these counterparties is low the security of the capital sum is high and there is no cost associated with placing cash there.

This strategy has been adhered to in determining the investments for the first half of 2021/22 outlined in section 11 below.

#### 10. INVESTMENT OUTTURN FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2021/22

Appendix B gives details of the investments made during the first half of the year, and the following table gives a summary, which shows the Authority's average rate of return was below the benchmark.

	Total Value of Investments during period	Average Investment	Investment Returns	Average Rate of Return	Benchmark Return *



## APPENDIX 1

### TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2021/22

<b>Internally Managed</b>	£692M	£7M	£13k	0.02%	-0.08%
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\* Benchmark = 7 day LIBID

- 0.07%

No institutions in which investments were made had any difficulty in repaying investments and interest in full during the year.

### 11. OTHER TREASURY MANAGEMENT ISSUES

None to report

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List of Temporary Lenders 2021/2022

APPENDIX A

DATE	LENDER	NEW LOAN VALUE	RATE	REPAY DATE	DURATION OF LOAN	INTEREST DUE TO 30/09/22	PRINCIPAL REPAID 2021/22	PRINCIPAL OUTSTANDING AS AT 30/09/2021
			%		DAYS IN 2021/22			
<b>B/F</b>	<b>01/04/2021</b>							
01/06/2012	BG & CAERPHILLYCARE AND REPAIR	315,000	0.10	CALL	365	315.00		315,000
21/05/2020	LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	5,000,000	0.95	20/05/21	49	6,376.71	5,000,000	
17/06/2020	BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL	2,000,000	0.90	16/06/21	76	3,747.95	2,000,000	
29/05/2020	RYEDAILE DISTRICT COUNCIL	1,000,000	0.87	28/05/21	57	1,358.63	1,000,000	
21/07/2020	HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL	5,000,000	0.55	20/07/21	110	8,287.67	5,000,000	
31/07/2020	HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH DIST.COUNCIL	3,000,000	0.50	30/07/21	120	4,931.51	3,000,000	
03/12/2020	NEXUS - NORTH EAST COMBINED AUTHORITY	3,000,000	0.20	03/06/21	63	1,035.62	3,000,000	
27/11/2020	SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL	3,000,000	0.15	17/05/21	46	567.12	3,000,000	
30/11/2020	TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL	2,000,000	0.15	28/05/21	57	468.49	2,000,000	
30/11/2020	EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DC	3,000,000	0.15	14/06/21	74	912.33	3,000,000	
27/11/2020	CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY	2,000,000	0.15	28/06/21	88	723.29	2,000,000	
28/10/2020	SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT COUNCIL	3,000,000	0.10	06/04/21	5	41.10	3,000,000	
21/12/2020	WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY	5,000,000	0.23	21/09/21	173	5,450.68	5,000,000	
15/01/2021	WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL	3,000,000	0.10	15/07/21	105	863.01	3,000,000	
25/01/2021	BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL	5,000,000	0.10	26/07/21	116	1,589.04	5,000,000	
28/01/2021	CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	3,000,000	0.02	28/04/21	27	44.38	3,000,000	
15/02/2021	HYNDBURN BOROUGH COUNCIL	2,000,000	0.14	14/02/22	319	1,403.84		2,000,000
22/02/2021	OLDHAM MBC	5,000,000	0.08	23/08/21	144	1,578.08	5,000,000	
12/02/2021	SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL	5,000,000	0.04	19/08/21	140	767.12	5,000,000	
22/03/2021	SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL	3,000,000	0.10	21/03/22	354	1,504.11		3,000,000
26/03/2021	SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL	2,000,000	0.20	25/03/22	358	2,005.48		2,000,000
	<b>B/F Raised in previous years still outstanding</b>	<b>65,315,000</b>				<b>43,971.16</b>	<b>58,000,000</b>	<b>7,315,000</b>
	<b>NEW LOANS 2021/22</b>							
20/05/2021	WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY	5,000,000	0.07	20/01/2022	245	1,284.93		5,000,000
28/05/2021	WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY	5,000,000	0.04	30/11/2021	186	690.41		5,000,000
06/04/2021	SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT COUNCIL	3,000,000	0.10	07/04/2021	1	8.22	3,000,000	
27/08/2021	CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	5,000,000	0.06	26/08/2022	217	287.67		5,000,000
27/08/2021	FYLDE BOROUGH COUNCIL	2,000,000	0.06	26/08/2022	217	115.07		2,000,000
28/06/2021	TAMESIDE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL	3,000,000	0.08	27/06/2022	277	624.66		3,000,000
28/06/2021	WEST YORKSHIRE COMB. AUTH.-WEST YORKSHIRE	3,000,000	0.07	27/06/2022	277	546.58		3,000,000
30/07/2021	TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL	3,000,000	0.03	31/01/2022	185	155.34		3,000,000
20/07/2021	LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM	5,000,000	0.07	19/07/2022	255	700.00		5,000,000
26/07/2021	WEST YORKSHIRE COMB. AUTH.-WEST YORKSHIRE	5,000,000	0.06	26/04/2022	249	550.68		5,000,000
02/09/2021	BG & CAERPHILLYCARE AND REPAIR	50,000	0.01	CALL	211	28.90		50,000
21/09/2021	WEALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL	5,000,000	0.04	08/04/2022	192	54.79		5,000,000
	<b>Total Raised During the Period</b>	<b>44,050,000</b>				<b>5,047.25</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>	<b>41,050,000</b>
	<b>Total Value of Loans</b>	<b>109,365,000</b>				<b>49,018.41</b>	<b>61,000,000</b>	<b>48,365,000</b>
	<b>Average Loan</b>	<b>3,314,091</b>						
	<b>Interest Paid</b>	<b>49,018</b>						
	<b>Average Interest Rate</b>	<b>0.31%</b>						

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**INVESTMENTS 2021/2022**

**APPENDIX B**

DATE	BORROWER	VALUE	RATE	REPAYMENT DATE	DURATION OF INVESTMENT	INTEREST DUE TO 30/09/2022	INVESTMENTS REPAID	PRINCIPAL O/S AS AT 30/09/2021
			%		DAYS IN 2021/22			
	<b>Brought Forward</b>							
26/03/21	PCC FOR DEVON & CORNWALL	4,000,000	0.07	07/04/2021	6	46.03	4,000,000	0
26/03/21	SOUTH SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL	5,000,000	0.08	28/04/2021	27	295.89	5,000,000	0
29/03/21	WOKINGHAM BC	2,000,000	0.04	30/06/2021	90	197.26	2,000,000	0
30/03/21	THURROCK COUNCIL - ESSEX	6,000,000	0.09	30/06/2021	90	1,331.51	6,000,000	0
30/03/21	PCC SUSSEX	2,000,000	0.04	28/05/2021	57	124.93	2,000,000	0
31/03/21	WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL	6,000,000	0.03	30/06/2021	90	443.84	6,000,000	0
30/03/21	PCC DEVEON & CORNWALL - EXETER	2,000,000	0.05	09/04/2021	2	21.92	2,000,000	0
30/03/21	PCC DORSET	5,000,000	0.05	09/04/2021	8	54.79	5,000,000	0
30/03/21	WOKINGHAM BC	4,000,000	0.04	30/06/2021	90	394.52	4,000,000	0
30/03/21	LLOYDS 32 DAY NOTICE	6,000,000	0.03	NOTICE	183	907.34	0	6,000,000
30/03/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	20,000,000	0.00	20/04/2021	19	0.00	20,000,000	0
30/03/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	8,000,000	0.00	20/04/2021	19	0.00	8,000,000	0
30/03/21	PCC SUSSEX	4,000,000	0.06	28/05/2021	57	374.79	4,000,000	0
31/03/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	3,000,000	0.00	21/04/2021	20	0.00	3,000,000	0
	PUBLIC SECTOR DEPOSIT FUND	6,000,000	VAR.	CALL	183	717.94	0	6,000,000
	<b>Investments Raised in Previous Year</b>	<b>83,000,000</b>				<b>4,910.76</b>	<b>71,000,000</b>	<b>12,000,000</b>
	<b>Current Year</b>							
07/04/21	PCC DEVEON & CORNWALL - EXETER	4,000,000	0.07	09/04/2021	2	15.34	4,000,000	0
07/04/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	3,000,000	0.01	12/04/2021	5	4.11	3,000,000	0
12/04/21	PCC DORSET	1,500,000	0.05	20/04/2021	8	16.44	1,500,000	0
12/04/21	PCC DEVON AND CORNWALL	2,000,000	0.03	19/04/2021	7	11.51	2,000,000	0
14/04/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	12,000,000	0.01	19/04/2021	5	16.44	12,000,000	0
15/04/21	CALDERDALE	1,700,000	0.02	28/04/2021	13	12.11	1,700,000	0
19/04/21	PCC DORSET	3,000,000	0.05	20/04/2021	1	4.11	3,000,000	0
19/04/21	CALDERDALE	2,000,000	0.02	29/04/2021	10	10.96	2,000,000	0
20/04/21	CORNWALL COUNCIL	6,000,000	0.03	20/07/2021	91	448.77	6,000,000	0
23/04/21	STOKE ON TRENT CITY COUNCIL	6,000,000	0.04	23/07/2021	91	598.36	6,000,000	0
23/04/21	THAMES VALLEY POLICE AND CRIME COM	2,000,000	0.04	10/05/2021	17	37.26	2,000,000	0
22/04/21	PCC DEVON AND CORNWALL	4,100,000	0.02	23/04/2021	1	2.25	4,100,000	0
28/04/21	SOUTH SOMERSET DC	5,000,000	0.05	30/07/2021	93	636.99	5,000,000	0
05/05/21	NORTHAMPTON PCC	2,000,000	0.02	07/07/2021	63	69.04	2,000,000	0
04/05/21	DORSET PCC	3,500,000	0.02	10/05/2021	6	11.51	3,500,000	0
29/04/21	CALDERDALE COUNCIL	900,000	0.02	10/05/2021	11	5.42	900,000	0
14/05/21	LEEDS CITY COUNCIL	6,000,000	0.02	15/06/2021	32	105.21	6,000,000	0
28/05/21	POLICE AND CRIME COMM.FOR SUSSEX	2,000,000	0.02	28/07/2021	61	66.85	2,000,000	0
26/05/21	SOUTH SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL	1,000,000	0.02	03/06/2021	8	4.38	1,000,000	0
02/07/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	10,000,000	0.01	05/07/2021	3	8.22	10,000,000	0
20/07/21	CORNWALL COUNCIL	6,000,000	0.03	22/11/2021	125	360.00	0	6,000,000
06/08/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	5,000,000	0.01	20/08/2021	14	19.18	5,000,000	0
12/08/21	NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT	4,000,000	0.10	12/11/2021	92	547.95	0	4,000,000
24/09/21	LANDESBANK HESSEN THURINGEN GIROZEN	4,000,000	0.09	23/12/2021	90	69.04	0	4,000,000
01/04/21	STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN B.C.	6,000,000	0.03	30/06/2021	90	443.84	6,000,000	0
01/04/21	PCC WEST YORKSHIRE	6,000,000	0.04	07/04/2021	6	39.45	6,000,000	0
07/04/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	6,000,000	0.01	12/04/2021	5	8.22	6,000,000	0
09/04/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	7,000,000	0.01	28/04/2021	19	36.44	7,000,000	0
20/04/21	CALDERDALE COUNCIL	1,300,000	0.02	28/04/2021	8	5.70	1,300,000	0
20/04/21	DMO	2,700,000	0.01	04/05/2021	14	10.36	2,700,000	0
20/04/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	30,000,000	0.01	04/05/2021	14	115.07	30,000,000	0
04/05/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	25,000,000	0.01	14/05/2021	10	68.49	25,000,000	0
06/05/21	CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL	6,000,000	0.02	06/08/2021	92	302.47	6,000,000	0
06/05/21	PCC DORSET	1,000,000	0.02	17/05/2021	11	6.03	1,000,000	0
07/05/21	PCC WEST YORKSHIRE	1,000,000	0.02	10/05/2021	3	1.64	1,000,000	0
10/05/21	ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENH	5,000,000	0.03	10/08/2021	92	378.08	5,000,000	0
14/05/21	PCC DEVON & CORNWALL	4,500,000	0.02	20/05/2021	6	14.79	4,500,000	0
14/05/21	CALDERDALE COUNCIL	1,500,000	0.02	26/05/2021	12	9.86	1,500,000	0
14/05/21	CALDERDALE COUNCIL	1,500,000	0.02	27/05/2021	13	10.68	1,500,000	0
14/05/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	14,000,000	0.01	24/05/2021	10	38.36	14,000,000	0
14/05/21	SOUTH SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL	1,000,000	0.03	14/06/2021	31	25.48	1,000,000	0
21/05/21	PCC LINCOLNSHIRE	1,500,000	0.02	28/05/2021	7	5.75	1,500,000	0
24/05/21	DMO	9,000,000	0.01	28/05/2021	4	9.86	9,000,000	0
28/05/21	PCC SUSSEX - ROLLOVER OF RI0011	4,000,000	0.02	28/07/2021	61	133.70	4,000,000	0
28/05/21	PCC HUMBERSIDE	5,000,000	0.01	25/06/2021	28	38.36	5,000,000	0
28/05/21	DMO	5,000,000	0.01	01/06/2021	4	5.48	5,000,000	0
01/06/21	PCC DEVON & CORNWALL	5,000,000	0.02	07/06/2021	6	16.44	5,000,000	0
03/06/21	DMO	6,000,000	0.02	07/06/2021	4	13.15	6,000,000	0
07/06/21	PCC DORSET (ROLLED 02/07/2021)	4,000,000	0.02	15/06/2021	8	17.53	4,000,000	0
07/06/21	DMO	6,000,000	0.02	14/06/2021	7	23.01	6,000,000	0
15/06/21	PCC DORSET	5,000,000	0.02	02/07/2021	17	46.58	5,000,000	0
15/06/21	DMO	6,500,000	0.02	18/06/2021	3	10.68	6,500,000	0
21/06/21	DMO	3,000,000	0.02	28/06/2021	7	11.51	3,000,000	0
25/06/21	PCC HUMBERSIDE	5,000,000	0.02	05/07/2021	10	27.40	5,000,000	0
30/06/21	DMO	15,000,000	0.01	05/07/2021	5	20.55	15,000,000	0
30/06/21	THURROCK COUNCIL	6,000,000	0.10	30/11/2021	153	1,528.77	0	6,000,000
05/07/21	DMO	23,500,000	0.01	12/07/2021	7	45.07	23,500,000	0
05/07/21	WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL	6,000,000	0.04	05/01/2022	184	578.63	0	6,000,000
05/07/21	PCC HUMBERSIDE	5,000,000	0.10	06/07/2021	1	13.70	5,000,000	0
12/07/21	DMO	22,000,000	0.01	19/07/2021	7	42.19	22,000,000	0
19/07/21	DMO	22,000,000	0.01	26/07/2021	7	42.19	22,000,000	0
23/07/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	2,000,000	0.01	30/07/2021	7	3.84	2,000,000	0
26/07/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	22,000,000	0.01	02/08/2021	7	42.19	22,000,000	0
29/07/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	6,000,000	0.01	13/08/2021	15	24.66	6,000,000	0
02/08/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	22,000,000	0.01	09/08/2021	7	42.19	22,000,000	0
04/08/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	11,000,000	0.01	23/08/2021	19	57.26	11,000,000	0
09/08/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	20,000,000	0.01	16/08/2021	7	38.36	20,000,000	0
10/08/21	ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENH	5,000,000	0.03	10/11/2021	92	213.70	0	5,000,000
16/08/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	21,000,000	0.01	23/08/2021	7	40.27	21,000,000	0
23/08/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	24,000,000	0.01	31/08/2021	8	52.60	24,000,000	0
26/08/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	6,000,000	0.01	06/09/2021	11	18.08	6,000,000	0
27/08/21	LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL	5,000,000	0.01	28/09/2021	32	43.84	5,000,000	0
31/08/21	OADBY AND WIGSTON COUNCIL	5,000,000	0.03	28/02/2022	181	127.40	0	5,000,000
31/08/21	SOUTH SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL	1,500,000	0.02	30/09/2021	30	24.66	1,500,000	0
31/08/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	10,000,000	0.01	07/09/2021	7	19.18	10,000,000	0
03/09/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	10,000,000	0.01	10/09/2021	7	19.18	10,000,000	0
07/09/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	12,000,000	0.01	13/09/2021	6	19.73	12,000,000	0
06/09/21	CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL	3,000,000	0.02	08/11/2021	63	41.10	0	3,000,000
08/09/21	CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL	5,000,000	0.01	08/10/2021	30	31.51	0	5,000,000
13/09/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	14,000,000	0.01	20/09/2021	7	26.85	14,000,000	0
20/09/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	13,000,000	0.01	27/09/2021	7	24.93	13,000,000	0

27/09/21	DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE	8,000,000	0.01		04/10/2021	7	8.77	0	8,000,000
27/09/21	CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL	3,000,000	0.01		27/10/2021	30	3.29		3,000,000
	<b>Investments Raised in Current Year</b>	<b>609,200,000</b>					<b>8,150.53</b>	<b>554,200,000</b>	<b>55,000,000</b>
		<b>692,200,000</b>					<b>13,061.29</b>	<b>625,200,000</b>	<b>67,000,000</b>
	<b>Average Investments</b>	<b>6,991,919</b>							
	Interest Received	<b>13,061</b>							
	Average Interest Rate %	<b>0.02%</b>							

# Agenda Item 9

*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: **Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee**  
Date of meeting: **10th December 2021**  
Report Subject: **Progress Report Contracts over £500k**  
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr N Daniels, Leader / Executive Member Corporate Services**  
Report Submitted by: **Clive Rogers, Head of Community Services**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
16/11/21	18/11/21	29.11.21			10/12/21	15.12.21		

## 1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Members with updated information on the progress of capital projects over £500,000 in cost, undertaken within the Authority and, where appropriate, seek the necessary approval required under the Contract Procedural Rules to additional expenditure incurred on a particular project.

## 2. Scope and Background

1.2 The report is required to inform Members of the progress with these capital works projects, and also to satisfy the reporting requirements of Contract Procedural Rules. Appendix 1 includes each major contract with financial details and commentary update. The report is presented to Members on a six monthly basis, informing them of progress on delivering key projects.

1.3 Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the last report was submitted in February 2020, as the pandemic has impacted significantly on the delivery programme of construction projects.

1.4 Members of the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee have requested that they be kept informed of the progress of projects being undertaken within the Authority, particularly where contracts have been affected by additional costs or time overruns.

1.5 Contract Procedural Rules also require reports to be presented to Executive Committee seeking approval for additional expenditure if the funding budget is not available and/or excessive time period over-runs have been experienced.

## 3. Options for Recommendation

3.1 The report has been presented to RCSLT and CLT.

### Option 1

Members to accept the information included within the report as presented.

### Option 2

Members to consider the information included within the report and make

specific comments for improvement prior to accepting the report.

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

The report has been developed to satisfy the requirements of the Contract Procedural Rules, and supports the key priorities identified in the Corporate Plan.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

The financial positions of individual contracts are shown in the attached schedule Appendix 1.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

The risks associated with not completing a contract within budget or time scale could have a financial and negative reputational impact on the Council.

Where the financial risks associated with these projects have impacted on the capital programme allocations they would have previously been subject to review and approval by CLT and Council.

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***

There are seven current contracts valued over £500,000 and of these the risk assessed performance highlights the following:-

- Green – four contracts
- Amber – three contracts

In respect of the four contracts risk assessed as green, the Highways Refurbishment Capital Programme is progressing to plan, with all projects anticipated completion by February 2022. Two projects have been deferred until after Christmas, as they may involve road closure and/or traffic management to be in place. The National Digital Exploitation Centre (NDEC) project has recently commenced works on site on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021, Both contracts are within their funding budget allocations. The Network Rail Implementation Agreement (Ebbw Vale Phase 1), and the Transport for Wales Professional Services Contract (Ebbw Vale Phase are progressing as planned.



Regarding the three projects risk assessed as amber, the new pitch at Brynmawr Foundation school is progressing albeit the project has been affected by unforeseen drainage issues uncovered on the site during the excavation process. The two other contracts, Roseheyworth HWRC and The Works Hybrid and Box Units, had to be constructed throughout the Covid-19 pandemic which has resulted in both cost increases and programme delays encountered for the projects. In the case of the latter two projects, the increase in costs are being reviewed both through existing budget allocations, and a further grant claim for additional funding to WG.

**6.2 *Expected outcome for the public***

The Contracts Over £500k support the development and/or re development of buildings and infrastructure across the Blaenau Gwent authority, thus providing better facilities and highways for use by the community and members of the public.

**6.3 *Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

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

**6.4 *Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

The investment in property and infrastructure across Blaenau Gwent is identified to ensure sustainability for the future, removing redundant and substandard facilities, improving highway infrastructure, and providing new modern facilities to meet the service requirements and wellbeing of future generations.

**6.5 *Preventative focus***

Investing in capital projects will prevent problems exacerbating with our property and infrastructure, by making prudent decisions to invest now rather than in the future when the costs are likely to be higher through further deterioration and inflation.

**6.6 *Collaboration / partnership working***

The works undertaken are in collaboration with a number of partner funding agencies, e.g. WG 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Regeneration funding, and WG Waste Grant funding.

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

The works undertaken impact on a number of service areas across the Council such as education, infrastructure, corporate landlord and regeneration.

**6.8 *EqIA(screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)***

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

## 7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 The Contracts Over £500k are routinely monitored within the service areas and six monthly reports on progress with contracts will be provided to Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Committee.

### **Background Documents /Electronic Links**

- *Appendix 1 – Contracts Over £500k*

**PROGRESS REPORT TO COMMITTEE – CONTRACTS OVER £500,000**

Red (R)	There are significant issues with the project in respect of cost time or scope risks and the matter has to be reported to Corporate Management Team and/or Executive Committee for consideration and approval.	R
Amber (A)	There are issues with the project, in respect of cost, time or scope risks, and the matter can be resolved at project officer team level.	A
Green (G)	The project is progressing as planned, to original/revised budget allocation, scope and programme.	G
Blue (B)	The project is complete within approved original/revised budget allocation, scope and contractually agreed timescales.	B

**DEFINITIONS**

- A** - Name of Project.
- B** - The amount of funding allocated to the project.
- C** - Amount of the contract approved in accordance with the Authority’s Contract Procedure Rules.
- D** - The estimated final cost of the project.
- E** - Estimated underspend/overspend of contract comparing the Funding Budget (B) and Anticipated Final Cost.(D)
- F** - The date at which the contractor takes possession of the site.
- G** - The date included within the contract for completion of the project.
- H** - The date at which the project is actually completed for use by the Authority.
- I** - The number of weeks the project has been delayed comparing the Contract Completion Date (G) and Anticipated Completion Date (H)

## PROGRESS REPORT TO COMMITTEE – CONTRACTS OVER £500,000

Project Title A	Funding Budget B	Contract Cost C	Anticipated Final Cost D	Underspend/ (Overspend) E	Contract Start Date F	Contract Complete Date G	Anticipated Complete Date H	Contract Delay I	Comments	RAGB Rating
Highways Capital Works Programme 2021 – 2022  Including A4048 Heathfield Works  Cwm Bypass Resurfacing  Blaenant Ind Est resurfacing	£912,000.00	£894,398.22  £636,019.15  £146,999.94  £46,387.97  £64,991.06	£894,398.22  £636,019.15  £146,999.94  £46,387.97  £64,991.06	£17,601.78.	01/09/2021.	18/02/2022	18/02/2022	-	Works progressing as planned. Completion end of November 2021. Two schemes left to complete under road closures completion.  Works anticipated to start in January 2022 under two traffic lights.  Works due to start in January 2022 under 3 way traffic lights.  Works complete to tender value	G
Construction of New 3G Pitch at Brynmawr Foundation School	£963,960.00	£871,494.78	£920,000.00	£43,960.00	24/05/2021	10/10/2021	11/01/2022	13 weeks	The project has been delayed and an extension to the contract period required of 13 weeks, extending the contract completion date to 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2022. The delay has resulted from the discovery of the existing defective surface water system serving the school, running and discharging under the proposed 3G pitch footprint. The repair, diversion and delay costs associated with these works is approximately £55k. Further variations include the	A

**PROGRESS REPORT TO COMMITTEE – CONTRACTS OVER £500,000**

									redesign of the existing/new drainage system to meet sustainable drainage requirements £23K and ground stabilisation works £33k. The cost associated with these variations will be met from funding for this project included within the Capital programme 2021/22.	
Network Rail Implementation Agreement (Ebbw Vale Phase 1 2tph)	£68,845,000.00	£68,845,000.00	£68,845,000.00	N / A	17/09/2021	16/10/2025	16/10/2025	N / A	The project is progressing as planned.	G
Transport for Wales Professional Services Contract (Ebbw Vale Phase 1 2tph)	1,155,000.00	1,155,000.00	1,155,000.00	N / A	20/09/2021	16/10/205	16/10/2025	N / A	The project is progressing as planned.	G

## PROGRESS REPORT TO COMMITTEE – CONTRACTS OVER £500,000

Project Title	Funding Budget	Contract Cost (Tender)	Anticipated Final Cost	Underspend/ (Overspend)	Contract Start Date	Contract Complete Date	Anticipated Complete Date	Contract Delay	Comments	RAGB Rating
National Digital Exploitation Centre (NDEC), The Works, Ebbw Vale	£4,751,201.00	£4,751,201.00	£4,751,201.00	-	08/11/2021	20/09/2022	20/09/2022	-	Commencement on site date 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2021. The first construction works to take place on site will be demolition of the basement structure, shoring, and drilling and grouting to stabilise the existing ground.to support the new building structure.	G
HWRC Roseheyworth, Abertillery	£1,867,907.37	£1,404,247.90	1,910,662.37	(£42,755.00)	20/01/2020	27/11/2020	15/04/2021 (Actual)	20 weeks	Additional works and costs were incurred in meeting Waste Permitting requirements and Delays/Extension of time due to Covid-19 respectively This project was procured prior to and constructed through the Covid-19 pandemic. The impact of Covid-19 restrictions, social distancing, workers isolating, has resulted in significant management and construction issues on site to be overcome. Also the availability of materials and supply chain issues has impacted on the programme and costs of the project. The budgets are currently being reviewed to cover the reported overspend of £43k. Formal receipt of the required Waste Permit from WRAP and WG delayed the opening date of the facility to 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2021.	A

**PROGRESS REPORT TO COMMITTEE – CONTRACTS OVER £500,000**

Project Title	Funding Budget	Contract Cost (Tender)	Anticipated Final Cost	Underspend/ (Overspend)	Contract Start Date	Contract Complete Date	Anticipated Complete Date	Contract Delay	Comments	RAGB Rating
Lime Avenue – Hybrid Business units & Box units	£7,271,000.00	£6,508,033.00	£7,450,000.00	(£179,000.00)	09/03/2020	16/11/2020	16/07/2021	34 weeks	The project is now substantially complete and part occupied by Thales. Partial Completion of the Units was achieved on 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2021. We await resolution to a building services matter and then full Practical Completion will be certified. Completion has been delayed and an extension to the contract period required of 34 weeks, extending the completion date to 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2021. This contract was let pre-Covid-19 pandemic, but was constructed on site right through the Covid-19 pandemic. The effects of the supply chain and Covid-19 site restrictions impacted directly upon the contractor's ability to deliver the Hybrid Business and Box Units project within the original contract timescales. The delay has primarily been caused by the effects of Covid-19 pandemic to the various trades workers and management (i.e. availability of people to manage & build the project), construction materials delayed due to slowdown in manufacturing,	A

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**PROGRESS REPORT TO COMMITTEE – CONTRACTS OVER £500,000**

										and also working methods changed due to social distancing restricting close proximity of labour. The combined effect of these causes resulted in the overall delay to the contract completion .Discussions are ongoing with WG regarding additional funding required to meet the £179k reported overspend on the project.	
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# Agenda Item 10

*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: **Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee**  
Date of meeting: **10<sup>th</sup> December 2021**  
Report Subject: **Forward Work Programme: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022**  
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Nigel Daniels, Leader / Executive Member  
Corporate Services**  
Report Submitted by: **Cllr Stewart Healy, Chair of the Corporate  
Overview 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)
x	x	29.11.21			10.12.21			

1. **Purpose of the Report**
  - 1.1 To present to Members the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for the Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022 for discussion and agreement.
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 revised Corporate Plan, corporate documents and supporting business plans.
  - 2.3 Effective work programmes are essential to ensure that the work of scrutiny makes a positive impact upon the Council's delivery of services.
  - 2.4 The Committee's Forward Work Programme was agreed in June 2021, recognising the fluidity of the document to enable the Committee to respond to urgent and emerging issues, and included timescales when reports will be considered by the Committee. The work programme is managed and implemented by the Scrutiny and Democratic Officer under the direction of the Chair and Committee.
  - 2.5 The forward work programme for the forthcoming meeting will be presented to Committee on a 6 weekly cycle in order that Members can consider the programme of work; request information is included within the reports, as appropriate and / or make amendments to the work programme.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 **Option 1:** The Scrutiny Committee consider the Forward Work Programme for the meeting 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022, and

- Make any amendments to the topics scheduled for the meetings;
- Suggest any additional invitees that the committee requires to fully consider the reports; and
- Request any additional information to be included with regards to the topics to be discussed.

3.2 **Option 2:** The Scrutiny Committee agree the Forward Programme for the meeting 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022, as presented.

**Background Documents /Electronic Links**

- Appendix 1 – Forward Work Programme – Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme

Dates	Topic	Purpose	Lead	Executive / Council
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022</b>  <b>Deadline:</b> Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2022	Counter Terrorism – Chanel Duties and Contest	<b>Pre Decision</b> Review of Local Authority Plan to implement responsibilities.	Bernadette Elias Andrew Parker	Executive
	Welsh Language Promotion Strategy	<b>Pre Decision</b> Adoption of the Strategy.	Andrew Parker	Executive 02.03.22
	Joint Finance and Performance report	<b>Performance Monitoring</b> Members to receive quarters 1 and 2 for consideration.	Gemma Wasley	Executive 02.03.22
	Welsh Audit of Commemoration	For members consideration.	Richard Crook	
<b>INFORMATION ITEMS</b>				
	Information Management Monitoring Report	<b>Information</b> To provide information of progress against identified action on a half yearly cycle.	Rhian Hayden	Executive Information

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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