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THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

20th September 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BUDGET MONITORING)

A meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Committee (Budget Monitoring) will be held as a Hybrid Meeting: Via MS Teams/Abraham Derby Room at the General Offices, Ebbw Vale - if you would like to attend please contact committee.services@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk on Monday, 27th September, 2021 at 10.00 am.

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

Yours faithfully

Michelle Morris
Managing Director

AGENDA

Pages

1. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION

You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a

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

minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

2. **APOLOGIES**

To receive.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

To receive.

4. **JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BUDGET MONITORING)** 5 - 16

To receive the minutes of the Joint Scrutiny Committee (Budget Monitoring) held on 26th July, 2021.

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

5. **ACTION SHEET - 26TH JULY 2021** 17 - 18

To receive the Action Sheet.

6. **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING - 2021/2022, FORECAST OUTTURN TO 31 MARCH 2022 (AS AT 30TH JUNE 2021)** 19 - 46

To consider the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

7. **BRIDGING THE GAP (BTG) PROGRAMME 2021/2022 – PROGRESS UPDATE APRIL TO JUNE 2021** 47 - 66

To consider the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

8. **CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, FORECAST FOR 2021/2022 FINANCIAL YEAR (AS AT 30 JUNE 2021)** 67 - 84

To consider the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

To: Councillor S. Healy (Chair)
Councillor M. Cook (Vice-Chair)
Councillor P. Baldwin

Councillor D. Bevan
Councillor G. Collier
Councillor M. Cross
Councillor G. A. Davies
Councillor G. L. Davies
Councillor M. Day
Councillor P. Edwards
Councillor L. Elias
Councillor K. Hayden
Councillor J. Hill
Councillor W. Hodgins
Councillor J. Holt
Councillor H. McCarthy
Councillor C. Meredith
Councillor J. Millard
Councillor M. Moore
Councillor J. C. Morgan
Councillor J. P. Morgan
Councillor L. Parsons
Councillor G. Paulsen
Councillor K. Rowson
Councillor T. Sharrem
Councillor T. Smith
Councillor B. Summers
Councillor S. Thomas
Councillor H. Trollope
Councillor D. Wilkshire
Councillor B. Willis
Councillor L. Winnett
T. Baxter

All other Members (for information)
Manager Director
Chief Officers

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

**REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE JOINT
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BUDGET MONITORING)**

**SUBJECT: JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
(BUDGET MONITORING) – 26TH JULY, 2021**

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR M. COOK (VICE-CHAIR IN THE CHAIR)

Councillors D. Bevan
P. Baldwin
M. Cross
G.A. Davies
G.L. Davies
M. Day
L. Elias
P. Edwards
K. Hayden
J. Hill
L. Parsons
G. Paulsen
C. Meredith
J. Millard
M. Moore
H. McCarthy
K. Rowson
T. Smith
B. Summers
S. Thomas
H. Trollope
B. Willis
L. Winnett

WITH: Managing Director
Chief Officer Resources
Corporate Director Education
Corporate Director Social Services
Head of Community Services
Chief Officer Commercial & Customer
Service Manager Neighbourhood Services
Service Manager Accountancy

Scrutiny & Democratic Officer/Advisor

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were reported for Councillors S. Healy, J.C. Morgan, D. Wilkshire and T. Sharrem.</p>	
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>The following declarations of interest were reported:-</p> <p>Councillor B. Summers – Item No. 7 - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020/2021 Provisional Outturn (Silent Valley)</p> <p>Councillor M. Cook - Item No. 7 - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020/2021 Provisional Outturn (Silent Valley)</p> <p>Councillor P. Edwards - Item No. 7 - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020/2021 Provisional Outturn (Markets)</p>	
No. 4	<p><u>TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u></p> <p>The Committee AGREED that future meetings of the Scrutiny Committee continue to be held at 10.00 a.m.</p>	
No. 5.	<p><u>JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BUDGET MONITORING)</u></p> <p>The minutes of the Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 15th March, 2021 was submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
No. 6	<p><u>ACTION SHEET – 15TH MARCH, 2021</u></p>	

The action sheet arising from the Joint Scrutiny (Budget Monitoring) Committee held on 15th March, 2021.

Festival Park

A Member referred to page 12 of the minutes of the previous meeting where the Corporate Director 'advised that the monies paid were part of a reverse lease arrangement'. The Member asked whether this arrangement was still ongoing.

The Head of Community Services undertook to investigate and report back to the next meeting.

Civil Parking Enforcement

A Member expressed concern regarding the level of income being generated from fixed penalty notices.

In response the Head of Community Services confirmed that the outcomes for the service in the first year followed the business case put forward in 2019 and the model adopted by the Council. However, a review of the past 12 months would be undertaken and reported to the relevant Scrutiny Committee towards the end of the year.

The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, the Action Sheet be noted.

No. 7

**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2020/2021
PROVISIONAL OUTTURN**

Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources.

The Chief Officer Resources presented the report which provided details on the:

- Provisional outturn position at the end of 2020/2021
- Details of significant adverse variances
- Provisional outturn for Fees & Charges
- Progress on the achievement of the Bridging the Gap Projects for 2020/2021

The report formed part of the financial reporting framework to Members.

The Officer went through the report in detail and highlighted the key points contained therein. The overall financial position across all portfolios at 31st March 2021 was a favourable variance of £2.639m (1.7%), against a total revenue budget of £152m. However, the figures were provisional and subject to external audit. The outturn was a significant improvement on the forecast financial position at the end of December 2020, at which time the forecast was a favourable variance of £0.6m.

The Table 1 at section 5.1.3 of the report highlighted the provisional outturn across all Portfolios.

The Chief Officer reported that following a review of the year end position, and in support of the Council's financial resilience, a further transfer to earmarked reserves of £1.2m had been made with the balance of £1.4m transferring to General reserves.

A Member said this was the most favourable financial position he had seen since becoming an elected Member, and thanked his colleagues at Welsh Government for their support during the Covid pandemic. He said every facet of the budget had been put in place with the support of WG Hardship Funding. However, he pointed out the support received had highlighted the volatility of the Council, and without that financial support, he said the Council would be in a serious position.

He also questioned the political decisions taken within the Environment Portfolio which showed a significant adverse variance in light of the positive financial position of the Council.

The Member also questioned the need for a second HWRC, particularly in light of the shortfall in income expected in relation to the sale of recyclate materials. He said in his opinion, the concerns and pressures within the service should have formed the basis of the decision to open a second HWRC facility.

Another Member referred to the one-off financial support provided by Welsh Government highlighted at section 5.1.8 of the report, and asked whether any unspent monies in relation to social distancing signage would have to be returned to WG.

The Chief Officer Resources said she was unaware of the terms and conditions of the funding relating to social distancing signage. However, she explained that if the funding was hypothecated, any unspent monies would have to be returned, but if the funding was un-hypothecated it could be retained by the Council and spent elsewhere.

In response to a question raised by a Member regarding the £500 payment to care workers, the Chief Officer Resources said this payment would also be made to care workers within the private sector operating within Blaenau Gwent.

The Member then referred to section 5.1.30 and questioned the adverse variance within the winter maintenance budget.

The Service Manager Neighbourhood Services explained that part of adverse variance related to additional equipment that was required. He also pointed out that whilst snowfall during the winter was minimal, it was a cold winter, with the gritting team out sometimes twice a day, which increased standby payments and out of hours.

A Member referred to previous comments in relation to the need for a second HWRC facility, and pointed out that recycling was driven by targets set by WRAP and Welsh Government. The Council had responded, and to date had not incurred any financial penalties as a result of not achieving these targets. He said residents wanted an additional facility because the site at New Vale lacked capacity to cope with demand at the site, and when fully operational, the second HWRC would have a positive impact on the fly tipping currently being experienced within the Borough. He said the Council needed to ensure that residents had every opportunity to recycle in order to achieve its targets and prevent any potential fines being imposed.

In response a Member said the Council had to measure what was needed as a resource against what we could afford. He recalled that when a second HWRC was initially proposed during the previous administration a number of senior Officers were adamant there was no need for a second facility. He concluded that on the basis of the figures, in his opinion, one HWRC facility was sufficient.

A Member requested that additional information be provided in future reports on the level of WG Hardship Funding that had been received against each budget.

The Chief Officer Resources confirmed that this would be provided in future reports.

In response to a further question, the Chief Officer said 2020 was an unexpected year for everyone, and a pressured year for the Council in terms of delivering services. She had significant concerns at the beginning of the year around the financial impact of the pandemic, but due to the one-off financial support received from Welsh Government the Council were able to weather the storm, and along with other LA's, were able to set aside money to hopefully support our financial resilience moving forward, and enable us to deal with any unexpected pressures in short to medium term. However, the Chief Officer said she had longer term concerns as the UK Government had borrowed significant amounts of money to support its response to the pandemic, and that borrowing would have to be paid back at some point. As a result, potentially our future settlements from UK Government to Welsh Government may be impacted in the medium to longer term and may not be as positive as predicted, and therefore it was important to have sufficient reserves.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the cost of recycle materials when the Service Manager Neighbourhood Services explained that costs were driven by market forces and there had been a significant decrease in the value of all materials. There were still disposal costs associated with the materials which did not reduce in line with sales.

	<p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted provided the appropriate challenge to the financial outcomes in the report.</p>	
<p>No. 8</p>	<p><u>CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING PROVISIONAL OUTTURN FOR 2020/2021 FINANCIAL YEAR (AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2021)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Chief Officer Resources presented the report which provided details on the provisional outturn financial position to 31st March 2021 across all portfolios, and details of any significant adverse and/or favourable variances. The report formed part of the quarterly financial reporting framework to Members.</p> <p>The Officer went through the report and highlighted points contained therein. The overall provisional financial position as at 31st March 2021 indicated a £161k underspend against a total in year capital budget of £17.78m. The overall position across all Portfolios was shown in the table at section 5.1.1 of the report.</p> <p>A Member asked whether any capital schemes had been significantly delayed due to the Covid pandemic.</p> <p>The Chief Officer Resources said she was not aware of any capital schemes that had been significantly delayed. The pandemic had impacted on costs, but not on implementation of projects.</p> <p>The Head of Community Services said the fact we were able to continue major contracts during the pandemic was credit to the Contractors and staff. He reported that moving forward into quarter 1 some of the overspends were less than envisaged and he anticipated a more favourable report during quarters 1 and 2.</p> <p>Members thanked staff within the Community Services section for their hard work throughout the pandemic.</p> <p>A Member requested an update on the final account for the Roseheyworth HWRC construction, and the Chief Officer</p>	

	<p>Resources confirmed that this would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Provided appropriate challenge to the financial outcomes in the report; ii. Continue to support appropriate financial control procedures as agreed by Council; and iii. Noted the budgetary control and monitoring procedures in place within the Capital Team, to safeguard Authority funding be noted. 	
<p>No. 9</p>	<p><u>USE OF GENERAL AND EARMARKED RESERVES 2020/2021</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Chief Officer Resources presented the report which outlined the draft outturn reserves position for 2020/2021 as at 31st March, 2021, subject to audit.</p> <p>The Officer went through the report and highlighted points contained therein. The level of the Council's general reserve disclosed in the statutory accounts for the financial year ended 31st March, 2020 was £6.399m which equated to 4.73% of net revenue expenditure (as reported in the 2019/2020 Revenue Outturn forms). The current 4% target level of general reserves was £5.414m.</p> <p>Appendix 1 provided details of the total earmarked reserves held at the start of the 2020/2021 financial year (£8.272m) with actual reserve movements to the end of quarter 4 (31st March 2021). The level of earmarked reserves was determined in accordance with the agreed reserves protocol. The level of earmarked reserves available to the Authority increased by £12.509m in 2020/2021.</p> <p>The Officer confirmed that for those reserves utilised to fund actual expenditure to 31st March, 2021 (£1.022m), details of the expenditure funded was provided in</p>	

Appendix 2, and details of additional amounts transferred to earmarked reserves (£13.687m) are provided at Appendix 3.

A Member asked whether the Council would be audited in the future on how we spent the Welsh Government Hardship Funding, and potentially criticised for putting money into reserves.

In response the Chief Officer said Audit Wales would look at our level of reserves as part of their review of the end of year accounts. She was confident that the funding received from Welsh Government was spent appropriately, and that the Council continued to respond and incur expenditure in relation to the Covid pandemic. However, she pointed out that was not the reason for determining the level of reserves.

A brief discussion ensued when a Member referred to Appendix 2 and asked why the Sports Council of Wales expenditure of £29,700k for refurbishment of the changing rooms at Abertillery Sports Centre had come out of reserves.

In response the Corporate Director for Education explained that this was a bid submitted by Aneurin Leisure Trust, and under the terms of the commissioning arrangement the funding came to the Council and was held by us. However, he confirmed that the project had been taken forward and the works were completed.

In response to a further question in relation to the expenditure for specialist commercial advice on Silent Valley, the Chief Officer Resources said it was felt prudent to establish a reserve whilst undertaking a review of Silent Valley and set aside some money for external independent advice whilst undertaking due diligence.

A Member referred Appendix 2, page 82 and questioned the definition around Section 106 Agreements.

The Head of Community Services explained Section 106 Agreements could be used to support any additional or upgrading of the existing highway infrastructure required as part of a new school development.

The Corporate Director of Education also pointed out that Section 106 Agreements could also be used to support the existing school estate, i.e. if there was a new housing development in a school catchment area, an element of Section 106 funding could be used to secure additional school infrastructure, buildings and capacity to accommodate extra pupils expected as a result of the new development. He confirmed that as part of the Education & Learning Scrutiny Committee FWP a report would be submitted outlining how education had benefitted from Section 106 Agreements.

In response to a further question regarding the £21k outlined in Appendix 2 for Section 106 Agreements, the Head of Community Services said this funding would have been awarded on the basis of specific works as laid out in the planning permission.

The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and considered the use of general and earmarked reserves during 2020/2021 and:

- i. Noted the significant increase in general and earmarked reserves as a result of the exceptional circumstances in the 2020/2021 financial year;
- ii. noted that the draft outturn position of the General Reserve at £7.820m represented 5.78% of net revenue expenditure, above the 4% target level;
- iii. Considered the need for ongoing prudent financial management given the potential for future public spending restrictions required to fund the impact of Covid-19; and
- iv. Continue to challenge budget overspends and implement appropriate service Action Plans, where required.

Maintenance of usable reserves at an adequate level was crucial to the Council being able to meet future liabilities arising from risks for which specific provision has not been made.

No. 10

BRIDGING THE GAP (BTG) PROGRAMME 2021/2022

Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources.

The Chief Officer Resources presented the report which provided an update on the Strategic Business Reviews, including the provisional out-turn for 2020/2021 and latest assessment of the financial achievement for 2021/22 onwards.

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

A Member referred to the railway improvement loan and asked whether the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) would apply.

In response the Chief Officer said if the railway investment and loan was agreed, it would impact on the MRP going forward. However, the income we expect to receive from Transport for Wales to fund the loan would mitigate the MRP increase going forward.

A Member expressed concern regarding the financial implications should the expected level of income not be generated.

The Chief Officer said she understood that in the event of insufficient fare income, part of Welsh Government responsibilities was to provide sufficient funding via TFW to enable them to fund the asset development fee to the full amount.

The Member asked whether this would include MRP, and the Officer confirmed that the impact on MRP would be same.

In response to a further question the Chief Officer confirmed all Bridging the Gap proposals would be subject to an impact assessment.

The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and provided appropriate challenge to the Bridging the Gap programme.

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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Action Sheet

Joint Budget Scrutiny Committee – 26th July 2021

Item	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
	Festival Park: A Member requested an update on the current financial responsibilities between Festival Park and the Council.	Ellie Fry / Louise Horner	The Festival Park Mall is in private ownership but the Council are still the Landlord of the Parklands. The Council has received a request from the current Leaseholder to assign the remaining term of their lease to the company that has acquired the Mall. External solicitors are acting on the Council's behalf and are discussing on what terms the council is prepared to agree to and give landlords consent to the assignment. As the company is fairly new we want to ensure that the council's position is protected around the reverse premium we give the leaseholder each year to maintain the parklands. Terms should be agreed shortly and will need to be agreed by Council and / or Executive. Once the assignment takes place we will then be passing payment to the new company to undertake the works.
7	<u>Revenue Budget Monitoring – 2020/21</u> A Member requested, for future reporting, that an additional column is included in the appendix detailing any funding received from Welsh Government against each item.	Rhian Hayden	As requested a column has been included in Appendix 2 – Welsh Government (WG) Hardship Grant.

Item	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
	A Member requested an update on the Truck Shop.	Steve Smith	Officer to contact Member directly.

Agenda Item 6

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Joint Budget Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **27th September 2021**

Report Subject: **Revenue Budget Monitoring - 2021/2022, Forecast
Outturn to 31 March 2022 (As at 30th June 2021)**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr 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)
	09/09/2021	14.09.21			27/9/2021	10.11.21		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide members with the forecast financial outturn position across all portfolios for the financial year 2021/2022 (as forecast at 30th June 2021).

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 This report provides details on the following:

- Forecast financial position to the end of March 2022 across all portfolios
- Budget Virements actioned during the period April to June 2021
- Forecast outturn for Fees & Charges

- 2.2 This report will inform the quarterly financial reporting framework to Members.

3. Options for Recommendation

3.1 Option 1 (Recommended Option)

Members to consider and provide appropriate challenge to the financial outcomes in the report and to note the virements detailed in paragraphs 5.1.4 to and 5.1.7.

3.2 Option 2

Members do not accept the report.

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

- 4.1 This report supports the Council Corporate Plan proposed outcome statement 2020/2022 “An ambitious and innovative council delivering the quality services we know matter to our communities”.

5. Implications Against Each Option

5.1 Impact on Budget

5.1.1 The overall forecast outturn as at June 2021, is a favourable variance of £2.494m, after the application of Welsh Government Hardship Funding.

5.1.2 The forecast overall financial position across all portfolios at 30th June 2021 (and before the inclusion of Covid-19 related expenditure) is shown in the table below:

Table 1 – Portfolio Summary

Portfolio/ Committee	2021/2022 Revised Revenue Budget £m	2021/2022 Forecast Outturn @ 30 June 2021 £m	Favourable/ (Adverse) To 31 March 2022 £m	Append ref:
Underspending Portfolios				
Corporate Services & Financial Management & Strategy	18.386	16.952	1.434	1a
Education & Leisure	63.868	63.646	0.222	1c
Social Services	46.366	45.194	1.172	1b
Planning	1.277	1.276	0.001	1f
Licensing	0.106	0.106	0.000	1f
Sub Total (1)	130.003	127.174	2.829	
Overspending Portfolios				
Economy	1.550	1.551	(0.001)	1d
Environment	26.479	26.802	(0.323)	1e
Sub Total (2)	28.029	28.353	(0.324)	

Total	<u>158.032</u>	<u>155.527</u>	<u>2.505</u>	
Covid-19 Costs				
Social Services		0.626	(0.626)	
Education		0.142	(0.142)	
Environment		0.597	(0.597)	
Sub Total – Covid19 spend		<u>1.365</u>	<u>(1.365)</u>	
WG Hardship funding			<u>0.728</u>	
WG SS Hardship funding			<u>0.626</u>	
Revised Total			<u>2.494</u>	

5.1.3 The forecast includes actual and estimated funding from the Hardship fund for April to June 2021 of £1.354m. A Claim has been submitted, in line with the set of principles issues by Welsh Government, for quarter 1 loss of income and £47,000 is included in the forecast for Social Services.

It has been confirmed that Welsh Government Hardship Funding will continue to March 2022.

5.1.4 **Budget Virements**

5.1.5 There have been a number of budget virements between and within Portfolios to realign budgets with forecast spend.

5.1.6 Social Services Portfolio: -

- £116,000 from Corporate Services to Children's Services for Legal Fees
- £379,000 from Adults Services (Learning Disabilities under 65) to Adult Services (Older People) (£172,000) and Children's Services for the Learning Disabilities Team restructure (£207,000). The Team has been disbanded and staff have transferred to other Teams within Adults and Children's.
- £143,000 from Business Management to Older People Adults for the newly created Safeguarding Team.

5.1.7 Education Portfolio: -

A virement between Active Living and the Environment Portfolio for £237,000 relating to the transfer of maintenance responsibilities from Aneurin Leisure Trust to the Corporate Landlord budget.

5.1.8 **PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS**

5.1.9 Within the total forecast favourable variance of £2.494m, the cross cutting budgets within Corporate Services account for 44% (£1.15m) of this forecast. The breakdown is as follows:-

- Transformation Fund - £0.16m
- Commercial & Contract Management - £0.5m
- Pay award contingency - £0.24m
- Contingency – Community Care - £0.25m

5.1.10 Portfolio summary pages can be found in Appendix 1.

5.1.11 Details of the variances greater than £50,000 within the Portfolios are included in the Portfolio Analysis section below.

5.1.12 Action plans to address cost pressures are attached at Appendix 3. A breakdown of the adverse variances contained within the action plans is summarised below:-

Table 2 – Significant Adverse Variances

Corporate Services	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	£82,000
Social Services	Legal Fees	£363,000
Environment	Waste Services	£334,000
Total		£779,000

5.1.13 **Portfolio Analysis**

5.1.14 **Corporate Services – £1,434,525 favourable variance**

5.1.15 There is one main adverse variance within the Portfolio:-

5.1.16 ***Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) - £82,041***

5.1.17 As previously reported, this is likely to be due to an increase in the number of claimants resulting from the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. As the information below illustrates the number of claims has now decreased when compared to the same period in 2020, however it is still higher than the same period in 2019:

Quarter 1 2019 - 8,683
Quarter 1 2020 - 9,341
Quarter 1 2021 - 9,023

5.1.18 The full year effect remains uncertain as the Autumn / Winter period will see an end to the UK furlough scheme with the potential for further increases in claimant numbers.

- 5.1.19 This adverse variance has been offset by two main favourable variances:-
- 5.1.20 ***Cross Cutting Budgets - £1,149,085***
- 5.1.21 Commercial & Contract Management (£496,410) – This budget was created to fund contract price increases during the year, that cannot be managed within portfolio budgets. However, no requests for funding have been received to date.
- 5.1.22 Transformation Fund (£165,000) - committed spend of £327,000 has been included in relation to the proposed Revenue Contribution to the Agile Working Operating Model.
- 5.1.23 Contingency – Pay Award / Community Care (£487,675) - This budget (£1.2m) has been established to cover a potential pay award for 2021/2022 of up to 2.0% for Council staff and increased costs within Community Care. The forecast includes a commitment of a 1.5% pay award for staff. Local authority employers have subsequently offered a higher pay award of 1.75%, which is currently being considered by trade unions. If agreed this will increase costs and reduce the predicted favourable variance by £118,383 to £368,837
- 5.1.24 ***Departmental Budgets - £265,761***
- 5.1.25 The forecast favourable variance mainly relates to reduced employee related expenditure due to delays in filling vacant posts, maternity leave, staff on temporary reduced hours and the utilisation of one-off grant funding. In addition, there is an increased level of income provided by Welsh Government for an admin grant for providing COVID-19 related support.
- 5.1.26 **Social Services – £1,172,404 favourable variance**
- 5.1.27 The forecast is made up of the following main variances: -
- 5.1.28 ***Children's Services – Favourable Variance of £541,000***
- 5.1.29 There is only one main adverse variance, Legal Fees of £363,000 which is mainly due to the continuing cost pressure in legal fees resulting from court proceedings in relation to Children Looked After.
- 5.1.30 This adverse variance has been completely offset mainly by two underspending areas:
- Residential Placements showing a favourable variance of £537,000 mainly due to the Sustainability Grant Funding and
 - Independent Fostering Agency Placements of £180,000 due to reducing placement numbers, with a number of placements being brought back in house.
- 5.1.31 ***Adult Services – Favourable Variance of £631,000***
- 5.1.32 The overall favourable variance of £631,000 is mainly due to the application of Sustainability Grant, ICF and Home First Grant funding for a number of

established posts, a reduction in staffing cover costs within Provider Services and a reduction in the number of placements and packages of care.

5.1.33 **Education and Leisure – £222,738 favourable variance**

5.1.34 There are two main areas of favourable variances:-

- Strategic Management - £150,000 favourable variance – relating to lower pension contributions to the local government pension scheme for school based staff, and the delay in the appointment of the new Statutory ALN Officer.
- LEA Budget Supporting SEN £62,000 favourable variance, relating to income arising from the secondment of the Principal School Psychologist.

5.1.35 **Environment Portfolio – £322,931 adverse variance**

5.1.36 The forecast is made up of the following main adverse variances:-

5.1.37 **Recycling Collection - £138,485 adverse variance**

This is mainly due to the ongoing cost of receptacles and food waste bags. External funding for the purchase of food waste bags has ceased and therefore this now presents a cost pressure within this budget. The budget for receptacles is not sufficient to meet demand particularly with the increase in house building throughout the borough, for example the forecast includes the cost for receptacles and food waste bags for a further 387 properties for the new development/builds that will be required towards the end of the financial year.

5.1.38 **Disposal of Waste - £60,449 adverse variance**

This is mainly due to an increase in residual waste tonnages. This could potentially be partly offset by Welsh Government Hardship Funding for Quarter 1 dependent upon the current eligibility criteria. Also the forecast cost of leachate disposal at the Silent Valley site exceed the budget. However, this is based on last year's outturn. The weather has an impact on costs, so there is the potential for the forecast to change later in the year.

5.1.39 **Recycling Disposal - £136,432 adverse variance**

This is mainly due to an increase in the volume of food waste recycling and increased cost of aerosols recycling. However, there is currently a high demand for steel, plastics and aluminium and therefore it is likely that income will increase for these recyclates throughout the remainder of the year, which could improve the financial position. The forecast will be reviewed and updated during quarter 2 when data is known with more certainty.

5.1.40 **Fees & Charges**

5.1.41 The 2021/2022 portfolio estimates include income budgets in relation to fees & charges (excluding Council Tax) of £15m across all portfolios. Attached at Appendix 2 is an analysis of income received against budget for the financial year for individual portfolios, and current forecast indicates an adverse variance against this target of £1.7m, primarily relating to lost income: -

- from the sale of recyclate - £0.2m
- charges for Community Care & CHC income - £1.5m

5.1.42 Whilst the analysis of fees and charges is useful, it should not be considered in isolation, as elements of any shortfall within Portfolios can be inextricably linked to underspends in expenditure within the same budget heading. Where this is the case, budget holders should action budget virements to ensure that the income targets reflect more accurately expected income. Likewise, any over achievement in income which offset overspends in expenditure within the same budget, should be treated in the same way.

5.1.43 **Reserves**

5.1.44 The 2020/21 draft outturn position, reported to the Joint Budget Scrutiny Committee in July 2021, was a balance of £7.820m for the Council's General Reserve and should the forecast underspend continue to the end of the financial year, the General reserve will increase to:

<u>Table 3 - General Reserve</u>	£m
Balance at 1 April 2021 (Provisional as subject to External Audit)	7.820
Funding for Highways Improvements	(0.3)
Forecast Underspend @ 31 March 2022	2.494
Planned increase as per agreed 2021/22 budget	0.200
Forecast General Reserve @ 31 March 2022	10.214

5.1.45 The 2020/21 draft outturn position, reported to the Joint Budget Scrutiny Committee in July 2021 for earmarked reserves was £20.781m (including School Balances). Significant elements of these earmarked sums relate to grant funding held in respect of specific projects or services that will be utilised in delivering the relevant service outcomes during the current and next financial year

5.1.46 At the quarter 1 position, there had been no use of the specific reserves.

5.2 **Risk including Mitigating Actions**

5.2.1 Grants form a significant element of the Council's income and support the delivery of priority services to the people of Blaenau Gwent. There is a risk that a reduction or cessation of grant funding will result in service levels reducing or services no longer being delivered.

- 5.2.2 A grants register has been developed and is being maintained and will be considered as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 5.2.3 There is a risk that Action Plans will not address the cost pressures identified.
- 5.2.4 Action Plans have been developed, identifying actions to mitigate the forecast cost pressures. The Action Plans will be monitored as part of the Budget Monitoring and Reporting Framework and the impact reported to the Joint Budget Scrutiny Committee, Executive Committee and the Cost Pressure Sub Group.
- 5.2.5 There is a risk that Covid-19 will continue into the medium/long term, impacting on Council services and budgets. This risk can be mitigated by the continuation of processes that the Council has introduced since March 2020 eg prioritising services, redeployment of staff, home working.
- 5.2.6 There is a risk that Welsh Government will not provide Hardship funding/loss of income funding for all cost pressures identified. This risk can be mitigated by a continuing dialogue and lobbying with Welsh Government, through the WLGA and the continuing development of action plans by budget holders.
- 5.2.7 There is a risk of increase costs for food, fuel and other essential goods and services as a result of the ongoing situation regarding the U.K. Exiting the E.U.
- 5.2.8 The UK Exiting the EU has been added as an organisational risk to the corporate risk register, whilst a separate, more detailed high level action plan has been developed and is being monitored by the Core Planning Group.
- 5.3 Legal
N/A
- 5.4 Human Resources
N/A
6. **Supporting Evidence**
- 6.1 **Performance Information and Data**
- 6.1.1 A summary page for each portfolio is contained in Appendices 1a to 1g.
- 6.2 **Expected outcome for the public**
- 6.2.1 The report details the financial implications for the Council in providing services to the communities of Blaenau Gwent.
- 6.3 **Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)**
- 6.3.1 CLT have considered the forecast financial position for 2021/2022 (as 30th June 2021).

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

6.4.1 For new and emerging cost pressures identified during the financial year, budget holders have produced Action Plans which should address the cost pressure during the year. These Action Plans will form part of the quarterly budget reports and will be submitted to the Cost Pressure Sub Group for scrutiny, challenge and monitoring.

6.4.2 Cost Pressures are also considered as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

6.5 **Preventative focus**

6.5.1 Budget holders will continue to develop and monitor Action Plans for those services reporting forecast adverse variances which should address the cost pressure during the year

6.6 **Collaboration / partnership working**

6.6.1 Accountancy works closely with budget holders during the financial year in producing the financial forecast, identifying cost pressures and in developing Action Plans.

6.7 *Integration*
N/A

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

6.8.1 The Council is committed to the Decarbonisation Plan to achieve a carbon neutral public sector by 2030 and the Bridging the Gap programme includes a Strategic Business Review, Low Carbon.

6.9a ***Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment***
N/A

6.9b **EqIA**
All Bridging the Gap Projects that were approved as part of the budget setting process had gone through the EqIA process.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 Financial reporting to Joint Scrutiny and Executive Committees is carried out on a quarterly basis. Where services are reporting significant cost pressures, there will be a requirement for Budget Holders to develop and implement Action Plans these will be reported to the Cost Pressure Sub Group, on a quarterly basis.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

Appendix 1 – Portfolio Summary

Appendix 2 – Fees and Charges 2021/22

Appendix 3 – Action Plans

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CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2022	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)
	£	£	£
SUMMARY			
<u>DEPARTMENTAL AND OTHER RECHARGEABLE SERVICES</u>			
Corporate Services Department	(192,038)	(352,637)	160,599
Resources Department	0	(105,162)	105,162
Sub Total	(192,038)	(457,799)	265,761
<u>COMMERCIAL SERVICES</u>			
Archives	151,640	142,789	8,851
Festival Park	94,680	98,188	(3,508)
Housing Benefit	(117,130)	(115,893)	(1,237)
ICT Service	0	0	0
Cross Cutting	(50,000)	(50,000)	0
Community Hubs	104,940	104,940	0
Sub Total	184,130	180,024	4,106
<u>LEGAL & CORPORATE COMPLIANCE SERVICES</u>			
Registration of Electors	17,170	17,499	(329)
Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths	41,370	43,951	(2,581)
Sub Total	58,540	61,450	(2,910)
<u>GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES</u>			
Corporate Management (inc Audit Fees)	107,370	106,428	942
Democratic Representation and Management	1,265,740	1,245,214	20,526
CCTV Cameras	79,000	77,643	1,357
Civil Contingencies	101,040	98,403	2,637
Sub Total	1,553,150	1,527,688	25,462
<u>RESOURCES SERVICES</u>			
Corporate Management	348,810	328,210	20,600
Non Distributed Costs	1,039,730	1,033,300	6,430
Apprenticeship Levy	351,400	349,819	1,581
Council Tax Collection	(1,315,620)	(1,356,025)	40,405
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	9,908,050	9,990,091	(82,041)
N.N.D.R. Collection	(107,040)	(113,086)	6,046
Grants and Subscriptions	57,270	57,270	0
Cross Cutting Budget	2,189,110	1,040,025	1,149,085
Sub Total	12,471,710	11,329,604	1,142,106
<u>CORPORATE CHARGES</u>			
Corporate Recharges	4,310,790	4,310,790	0
Sub Total	4,310,790	4,310,790	0
Covid-19 Related Expenditure	0	0	0
CORPORATE SERVICES TOTAL EXPENDITURE	18,386,282	16,951,757	1,434,525

SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2022	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)
	£	£	£
SUMMARY			
<u>SOCIAL SERVICES</u>			
Children's Services - Commissioning and Social Work	3,736,210	3,659,412	76,798
Looked After Children	7,462,360	7,094,707	367,653
Family Support Services	188,600	188,600	0
Youth Justice	232,920	228,118	4,802
Other Children's and Family Services	2,315,910	2,224,106	91,804
Older People Aged 65 or Over	6,490,930	6,143,443	347,487
Adults Aged Under 65 with a Physical Disability or Sensory Impairment	41,800	41,177	623
Adults Aged Under 65 with Learning Disabilities	3,306,890	3,234,881	72,009
Adults Aged Under 65 with Mental Health Needs	531,730	553,865	(22,135)
Other Adult Services	371,250	354,670	16,580
Community Care	15,594,320	15,423,187	171,133
Support Service and Management Costs	881,130	835,481	45,649
Corporate Recharges	5,212,400	5,212,400	0
Sub Total	46,366,450	45,194,047	1,172,403
Social Services COVID-19 Costs	0	625,733	(625,733)
Total Expenditure	46,366,450	45,819,780	546,670

EDUCATION PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2022	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)
	£	£	£
SUMMARY			
SCHOOLS BUDGET			
Individual Schools Budget	46,522,380	46,522,380	0
Education Improvement Grant	257,360	261,434	(4,074)
Other Costs	722,410	722,977	(567)
Supporting Special Education Needs	1,679,830	1,709,612	(29,782)
<i>Schools Budget Total Expenditure</i>	<u>49,181,980</u>	<u>49,216,403</u>	<u>(34,423)</u>
LEA BUDGET			
Strategic Management	2,432,410	2,281,940	150,470
Assuring Access to Schools	2,317,810	2,316,424	1,386
Facilitating School Improvement	419,760	418,480	1,280
Supporting Special Education Needs	342,970	280,793	62,177
<i>LEA Budget Total Expenditure</i>	<u>5,512,950</u>	<u>5,297,637</u>	<u>215,313</u>
OTHER EDUCATION SERVICES			
Further Education and Training	133,290	121,816	11,474
Youth Service	379,760	375,007	4,753
Other Expenditure	141,030	141,030	0
Education Departmental Budget	0	707	(707)
<i>Other Education Services Total Expenditure</i>	<u>654,080</u>	<u>638,560</u>	<u>15,520</u>
CORPORATE CHARGES			
Corporate Support Recharges	4,360,220	4,360,220	0
<i>Corporate Charges Total Expenditure</i>	<u>4,360,220</u>	<u>4,360,220</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expenditure	<u><u>59,709,230</u></u>	<u><u>59,512,820</u></u>	<u><u>196,410</u></u>
LEISURE TRUSTS			
LEISURE TRUSTS			
Aneurin Leisure Trust	2,789,760	2,798,092	(8,332)
Awen Leisure Trust	205,000	200,507	4,493
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>2,994,760</u>	<u>2,998,599</u>	<u>(3,839)</u>
RETAINED SERVICES			
Corporate Recharges	1,164,340	1,134,173	30,167
General Reserve Funding Re: Staff Support	0	0	0
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>1,164,340</u>	<u>1,134,173</u>	<u>30,167</u>
LEISURE TRUSTS TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u><u>4,159,100</u></u>	<u><u>4,132,772</u></u>	<u><u>26,328</u></u>
Overall Portfolio Total	<u><u>63,868,330</u></u>	<u><u>63,645,592</u></u>	<u><u>222,738</u></u>
Covid-19 Related Expenditure	0	141,720	(141,720)
Revised Overall Portfolio Total	<u><u>63,868,330</u></u>	<u><u>63,787,312</u></u>	<u><u>81,018</u></u>

ECONOMY PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2022	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)
	£	£	£
SUMMARY			
<u>DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES</u>			
Economic Strategy and Development - Departmental Budget	4	5,628	(5,624)
Estates Management - Rechargeable	(1)	23,303	(23,304)
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>3</u>	<u>28,931</u>	<u>(28,928)</u>
<u>ECONOMY SERVICES</u>			
Affordable Housing	0	0	0
Aspire	0	0	0
Community Benefits Investment	0	0	0
CSCS	(10,200)	(581)	(9,619)
Destination Management	16,473	16,473	0
DRivE	0	0	0
Financial Support to Business	4,276	4,140	136
General Offices	(53,783)	(53,783)	0
Industrial Land	7,195	7,006	189
Inspire	0	0	0
Nursery Units/Misc. Industrial Premises	(694,037)	(739,037)	45,000
Pentagon	0	0	0
Regeneration Projects	4,998	6,179	(1,181)
Resilient Project	0	0	0
Estates Management Non Rechargeable	(94,781)	(87,625)	(7,156)
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>(819,859)</u>	<u>(847,228)</u>	<u>27,369</u>
Corporate Recharges	2,369,375	2,369,375	0
Total Expenditure	<u><u>1,549,519</u></u>	<u><u>1,551,078</u></u>	<u><u>(1,559)</u></u>

ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2022	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)
	£	£	£
SUMMARY			
<u>COMMUNITY SERVICES</u>			
<u>DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES</u>			
Environment Department - Corporate Division	0	(37,983)	37,983
Environmental Services Division	0	15	(15)
Technical Services - Engineering & Property Management	0	0	0
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>0</u>	<u>(37,968)</u>	<u>37,968</u>
<u>WASTE SERVICES</u>			
Waste Services Team	0	0	0
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>WASTE COLLECTION</u>			
Household and Trade Waste Collection	616,930	616,665	265
Recycling Collection	2,088,970	2,227,455	(138,485)
Bulky Waste Collection	(2,440)	(4,560)	2,120
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>2,703,460</u>	<u>2,839,560</u>	<u>(136,100)</u>
<u>WASTE TRANSFER</u>			
Civic Amenity Sites	252,950	320,805	(67,855)
HWRC Roseheyworth	302,750	271,732	31,018
Transfer Station	630,940	631,022	(82)
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>1,186,640</u>	<u>1,223,559</u>	<u>(36,919)</u>
<u>WASTE DISPOSAL</u>			
Disposal Of Waste	1,028,490	1,088,939	(60,449)
Recycling Disposal	31,250	167,682	(136,432)
Trade Waste Collection, Transfer & Disposal	(24,930)	(24,929)	(1)
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>1,034,810</u>	<u>1,231,692</u>	<u>(196,882)</u>
<u>PUBLIC SERVICES</u>			
County Borough Cleansing	1,094,140	1,093,819	321
Cemeteries / Crematorium	(279,475)	(281,071)	1,596
Grounds Maintenance	959,000	958,983	17
Countryside Recreation Sites	36,690	35,205	1,485
General Entertainment	2,440	2,430	10
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>1,812,795</u>	<u>1,809,366</u>	<u>3,429</u>

ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2022	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)
	£	£	£
<u>FACILITIES MANAGEMENT</u>			
Corporate Landlord	1,571,200	1,571,200	0
Corporate Property	11,720	11,720	0
Building Cleaning	120,860	120,860	0
Catering Account	158,300	158,300	0
Appetite For Life	43,710	43,710	0
School Breakfast Club	394,180	394,180	0
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>2,299,970</u>	<u>2,299,970</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>HIGHWAYS & ROADS SERVICES</u>			
Highways - Street Care Team	0	(315)	315
Non Operational Land	1,460	1,460	0
Licensing (Highway Permits)	(51,190)	(51,190)	0
Shopping Arcade, Abertillery	2,780	2,780	0
Road and Street Works Acts	(16,260)	(16,260)	0
Multi-Storey Car Parks	269,460	269,460	0
On Street Parking	1,100	1,100	0
Surface Car Parks	31,790	31,790	0
Public Transport Co-Ordination	910	910	0
Bridges	77,590	77,590	0
Structural Maintenance (Principal and Other Roads)	167,700	167,700	0
Environmental Maintenance (Principal and Other Roads)	19,440	19,440	0
Safety Maintenance (Principal and Other Roads)	71,590	71,578	12
Routine Repairs (Principal and Other Roads)	838,500	834,790	3,710
Street Lighting	1,191,780	1,191,780	0
Winter Maintenance	390,020	390,020	0
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>2,996,670</u>	<u>2,992,633</u>	<u>4,037</u>

ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2022	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)
	£	£	£
<u>TRANSPORT SERVICES</u>			
Traffic Orders	(16,510)	(16,510)	0
Highways Adoptions	(9,750)	(9,750)	0
Traffic / Accident Research	15,690	15,690	0
Traffic Management	6,760	6,760	0
Civil Parking Enforcement	0	0	0
Road Safety Education	18,330	18,330	0
Crossing Patrols	151,540	150,004	1,536
Concessionary fares and Support to Operators	281,050	281,050	0
Local Transport Plans	2,620	2,620	0
Home to School Transport	0	0	0
Transport and Heavy Plant	79,780	79,780	0
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>529,510</u>	<u>527,974</u>	<u>1,536</u>
<u>CULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</u>			
General Administration and Markets	(25,950)	(25,950)	0
Countryside Programme and Management	1,710	1,710	0
Landscaping and Afforestation	20,290	20,290	0
Reservoirs, Tips, Quarries and Mines	10,130	10,130	0
Flood Defence And Land Drainage	55,380	55,380	0
ENRaW	0	0	0
City Deal	97,200	97,200	0
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>158,760</u>	<u>158,760</u>	<u>0</u>
COMMUNITY SERVICES TOTAL	<u><u>12,722,615</u></u>	<u><u>13,045,546</u></u>	<u><u>(322,931)</u></u>
<u>PUBLIC PROTECTION</u>			
<u>DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES</u>			
Environmental Health	0	0	0
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>CARAVAN SITES</u>			
Cwmcrachen Caravan Site	(42,710)	(42,710)	0
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>(42,710)</u>	<u>(42,710)</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</u>			
Food Safety	6,270	6,270	0
Control of Pollution	9,390	9,390	0
Dog Wardens	1,470	1,470	0
Animal Health and Welfare	23,360	23,360	0

ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2022	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)
	£	£	£
Pest Control	62,000	62,000	0
Littering and Dog Control Orders	0	0	0
Health and Safety at Work (Commercial Prem	1,510	1,510	0
Sub Total	104,000	104,000	0
<u>HOUSING SERVICES</u>			
Homelessness	244,680	244,680	0
20 Church Street	15,800	15,800	0
General Properties	(8,160)	(8,160)	0
Housing Access	50,960	50,960	0
Works in Default	(250)	(250)	0
Disabled Facilities Grants	1,040	1,040	0
Sub Total	304,070	304,070	0
<u>TRADING STANDARDS</u>			
Trading Standards	0	0	0
Inspection and Enforcement	4,350	4,350	0
Sub Total	4,350	4,350	0
PUBLIC PROTECTION TOTAL EXPENDITURE	369,710	369,710	0
<u>CORPORATE CHARGES</u>			
Fire Service	3,481,840	3,481,840	0
Coroner's Court	120,830	120,830	0
Corporate Recharges	9,783,955	9,783,955	0
CORPORATE CHARGES TOTAL EXPENDITURE	13,386,625	13,386,625	0
Sub Total	26,478,950	26,801,881	(322,931)
Covid-19 Related Expenditure	0	597,467	(597,467)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	26,478,950	27,399,348	(920,398)

PLANNING COMMITTEE AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Item	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2022	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)
	£	£	£
PLANNING COMMITTEE SUMMARY			
<u>BUILDING CONTROL</u>			
<u>DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES</u>			
Building Control	0	0	0
<u>BUILDING CONTROL SERVICES</u>			
Building Regulations	10,840	10,840	0
Dangerous Structures	22,640	20,908	1,732
<i>Building Control Total Expenditure</i>	<u>33,480</u>	<u>31,748</u>	<u>1,732</u>
<u>DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT</u>			
<u>DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES</u>			
Development Management	0	988	(988)
<u>DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES</u>			
Dealing with Applications	(202,530)	(202,530)	0
Planning Appeals	3,250	3,254	(4)
Enforcement	(10)	6	(16)
<i>Development Management Total Expenditure</i>	<u>(199,290)</u>	<u>(198,282)</u>	<u>(1,008)</u>
<u>DEVELOPMENT PLANS</u>			
<u>DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES</u>			
Development Plans	133,000	132,998	2
<u>DEVELOPMENT PLANS SERVICES</u>			
Development Plans	34,760	34,762	(2)
<i>Development Plans Total Expenditure</i>	<u>167,760</u>	<u>167,760</u>	<u>0</u>
Corporate Recharges	1,275,250	1,275,250	0
Funding from General Reserves	0	0	0
Covid-19 Related Expenditure	0	0	0
Planning Committee Total Expenditure	<u><u>1,277,200</u></u>	<u><u>1,276,476</u></u>	<u><u>724</u></u>
LICENSING COMMITTEE SUMMARY			
Licensing	68,010	68,010	0
Internal Recharges	38,490	38,490	0
Funding from General Reserves	0	0	0
Covid-19 Related Expenditure	0	0	0
Licensing Committee Total Expenditure	<u><u>106,500</u></u>	<u><u>106,500</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>

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Fees and Charges Forecast 2021/2022 (As at June 2021)

Appendix 2

Portfolio	Service	Description of Income	Income Source	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	WG Hardship Grant	Forecast	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)
				£	£	£	£
Fees & Charges							
Corporate Services	Communications	Advertising	Fees & Charges	3,000		992	(2,008)
Corporate Services	Business Support	External Printing and photocopying charges.	Fees & Charges	8,000		2,036	(5,964)
Corporate Services	Legal Fees	Legal Charges	Fees & Charges	14,330		4,123	(10,207)
Corporate Services	Corporate Support	Land Charges	Fixed - Set Locally	32,150		34,614	2,464
Economy	General Offices	Rental Income	Fees & Charges	41,969		64,067	22,098
Economy	Departmental	Reimbursement of staff costs and receipts for external works	SLA	69,087		35,538	(33,549)
Environment	Household and Trade Waste Collection		Fees & Charges	0		0	0
Environment	Recycling Collection	Recycling Collection & Disposal Income - Commercial Customers	Fees & Charges	0		0	0
Environment	Trade Waste	Trade Waste Collection & Disposal Income - Commercial Customers	Fees & Charges	140,590		140,590	0
Environment	Bulky Waste Collection	Bulky Waste Collection	Fees & Charges	71,690		73,072	1,382
Environment	Recycling Disposal	Sale of Recyclate Materials	Fees & Charges	629,720		399,257	(230,463)
Environment	County Borough Cleansing	C&CR - External Cleansing Works	Fees & Charges	220		12,615	12,395
Environment	Cemeteries / Crematorium	Burial Fees	Fees & Charges	495,080		499,668	4,588
Environment	Cemeteries / Crematorium	General Properties	Fees & Charges	2,680		3,000	320
Social Services	Meals On Wheels	Sale of Meals	Fees & Charges	175,280		147,512	(27,768)
Environment	Grounds Maintenance	Income from Letting of Playing Fields, Ground Rent & Way Leaves	Fees & Charges	76,395		76,395	0
Environment	General Properties	Rental Income	Fees & Charges	8,164		8,164	0
Environment	Cwmcrachen Caravan Site	Rental	Fees & Charges	123,620		127,182	3,562
Environment	Dog Wardens	Byelaw Enforcement Fees	Fees & Charges	2,030		2,030	0
Environment	Corporate Landlord	Civic Centre - Rental of Land	Miscellaneous	797		693	(104)
Environment	School Catering Service	Sale of Meals		861,898		876,021	14,123
Financial Management and Strategy	Accountancy Division	Administration charges for administering Appointeeships	Fees & Charges	26,030		18,772	(7,258)
Infrastructure	Technical Services - Engineering & Property Management	Reimbursement of staff costs and receipts for external works	Fees & Charges	418,938		430,119	11,181
Infrastructure	FEP - Increase in Income	Fees	Fees & Charges	0		0	0
Infrastructure	Licensing (Highway Permits)	Skips & Scaffolding Permits	Fees & Charges	51,342		51,342	0
Infrastructure	General Administration and Markets	Rental income	Fees & Charges	30,351		27,855	(2,496)
Infrastructure	Traffic Orders	Income from contractors, Welsh Water etc. for road works	Fees & Charges	24,810		24,810	0
Infrastructure	Road and Street Works Acts	Inspection fees, section 74's, FPN, coring, Dropped kerbs etc.	Fees & Charges	51,814		70,541	18,727
Infrastructure	Highways Adoptions	Highway Searches	Fees & Charges	9,754		186,600	176,846
Infrastructure	Multi-storey Carparks	Charge to Coleg Gwent	Fees & Charges	30,000		30,000	0
Infrastructure	Civil Parking Enforcement	FPN's	Fees & Charges	105,000		105,000	0
Infrastructure	Public Transport Co-Ordination	Charge to bus companies for use of Brynmawr Bus Station	Fees & Charges	234		234	0
Licensing	Hackney Carriages	Licence Fees	Fees & Charges	78,030		48,995	(29,035)
Licensing	Private Hire Vehicles	Licence Fees	Fees & Charges	1,830		183	(1,647)
Licensing	Scrap Metal	Sale of Scrap Metal	Fees & Charges	600		424	(176)
Planning	Enforcement	Enforcement Fees	Fees & Charges	610		0	(610)
Planning	Development Plans	Heritage Officer Income	Fees & Charges	0		0	0
Social Services	Other Children's and Family Services	Training Fees (Early Years tied in with expenditure which is set	Fees & Charges	0		0	0
Social Services	Older People aged 65 or over	Fees & Charges in respect of Care (Cwrt Mytton, Home Care, Extra Care & Joint Day Care Unit)	Fees & Charges	594,380	7,550	397,479	(189,351)
Social Services	Adults aged under 65 with Learning Disabilities	Fees & Charges in respect of Care (Augusta, Supported Living Bungalows & Community Options)	Fees & Charges	340,460	36,400	29,203	(274,857)
Social Services	Adults aged under 65 with Mental Health Needs	Fees & Charges in respect of Care (Vision House & Ysbyty'r Tri Chwm)	Fees & Charges	25,420	2,700	900	(21,820)
Social Services	Support Service and Management Costs	Fees & Charges in respect of Piper Alarms (IAA)	Fees & Charges	0		0	0
		Sub - Total		4,546,303	46,650	3,930,026	(569,627)

Fees and Charges Forecast 2021/2022 (As at June 2021)

Appendix 2

Portfolio	Service	Description of Income	Income Source	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	WG Hardship Grant	Forecast	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)
				£	£	£	£
Fees & Charges - Set Nationally							
Corporate Services	Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths	Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths	Fixed - Set Nationally	94,770		83,878	(10,892)
Environment	Food Safety	Hygiene ratings & Health Certificates	Fixed - Set Nationally	2,120		4,739	2,619
Environment	Control of Pollution	Environmental Permits	Fixed - Set Nationally	16,890		9,663	(7,227)
Environment	Health and Safety at Work (Commercial Prem.)	Petroleum + Tattoo Licences	Fixed - Set Nationally	0		150	150
Environment	Trading Standards	Explosives Licences	Fixed - Set Nationally	790		185	(605)
Licensing	Licence Fees	Various (Gambling, Premises/ Clubs & Street Trading)	Fixed - Set Nationally	57,900		56,837	(1,063)
Planning	Dealing with Applications	Planning Application Fees	Fees & Charges	213,360		213,360	0
Planning	Building Regulations	Building Regulation Fees	Fixed - Set Nationally	95,620		(35,371)	(130,991)
Social Services	Older People aged 65 or over	CHC Income (Home Care)	Fixed - Set Nationally	0		61,597	61,597
Social Services	Adults aged under 65 with Learning Disabilities	CHC Income (Augusta House; Supported Living Bungalows; Community Options)	Fixed - Set Nationally	50,000		60,864	10,864
Social Services	Community Care	Fees & Charges in respect of Care	Fixed - Set Nationally	3,493,660		2,870,087	(623,573)
Social Services	Older People aged 65 or over	Sale of Property (Cwrt Mytton)	Fixed - Set Nationally	0		45,703	45,703
Social Services	Community Care	Sale of Property	Fixed - Set Nationally	292,340		70,008	(222,332)
Social Services	Community Care	CHC Income	Fixed - Set Nationally	378,650		0	(378,650)
Social Services	Support Service and Management Costs	CHC Income (Adult Service Managers)	Fixed - Set Nationally	0		0	0
		Sub - Total		4,696,100	0	3,441,700	(1,254,400)
Fees & Charges - In Line with Local Agreements							
Economy	Industrial Land	Ground rent and commercial bookings	Fixed - Set Locally	2,750		2,770	20
Economy	Nursery Units/Misc. Industrial Premises	Rental income for industrial units	Fixed - Set Locally	708,195		798,048	89,853
Economy	Estates - Non Rechargeable	Ground Rent	Fixed - Set Locally	143,358		117,734	(25,624)
Economy	Financial Support to Business	Ground rent and commercial bookings	Fixed - Set Locally	2,650		2,650	0
Economy	CSCS	Charges for Construction Skills Certificates	Fixed - Set Locally	10,200		1,666	(8,534)
Environment	Corporate Landlord	Little Stars Nursery - Rent (Recovery of costs)	Miscellaneous	8,496		12,464	3,968
Education	Inter Authority Recoupment	Charges to other Local Authorities for SEN placements within Blaenau Gwent Schools	Fixed - Set Locally	659,110		738,833	79,723
		Sub - Total		1,534,759	0	1,674,165	139,406
		Total - Fees & Charges		10,777,162	46,650	9,045,891	(1,684,621)
SLA							
Aneurin Leisure Trust	SLA Income	Provision of Support Services	SLA	243,600		243,600	0
Environment	Grounds Maintenance	SLA	SLA	168,220		168,220	0
Financial Management and Strategy	Accountancy Division	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	181,840		181,840	0
Corporate Services	Organisational Development, Payroll & Health & Safety	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	313,350		313,350	0
Corporate Services	Legal Fees & GDPR	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	41,160		41,160	0
Corporate Services	Communications	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	3,190		3,190	0
Corporate Services	Performance (SIMS Support)	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	75,750		75,750	0
Corporate Services	Business Support (Courier)	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	5,660		5,660	0
Financial Management and Strategy	Creditors Division	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	6,350		6,350	0
Corporate Services	ICT	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	0		0	0
Environment	School Catering	SLA with Schools (excludes Corporate Landlord)	SLA	1,138,600		1,138,600	0
Environment	Cleaning Services	SLA with Schools	SLA	1,091,389		1,091,389	0
Infrastructure	CPM - Schools Biodiversity SLA	SLA with Schools	SLA	14,280		14,280	0
Infrastructure	Winter Maintenance	SLA with LA's for salt Storage	SLA	13,000		13,000	0
		Sub - Total		3,296,389	0	3,296,389	0

Fees and Charges Forecast 2021/2022 (As at June 2021)

Appendix 2

Portfolio	Service	Description of Income	Income Source	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	WG Hardship Grant	Forecast	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)
				£	£	£	£
Court Fees/Fixed Penalty Notices/Fines							
Corporate Services	Corporate Services and Strategy	Legal income and land charges. Advertising.	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	10,000		12,873	2,873
Education	Welfare Service	Fixed Penalty Notices	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	2,150		2,150	0
Environment	Littering and Dog Control Orders	Income in relation to FPNs	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	50,000		52,255	2,255
Corporate Services	Payroll Division	Attachment Orders	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	1,020		0	(1,020)
Financial Management and Strategy	Council Tax Collection	Court Costs	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	162,680		75,643	(87,037)
Financial Management and Strategy	NNDR	Court Costs	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	1,800		979	(821)
Corporate Services	Housing Benefits Account	Admin Penalties	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	25,000		12,500	(12,500)
		Sub - Total		252,650	0	156,400	(96,250)
Consortium Arrangements							
Economy	General Offices	Annual Service & Rental Charge to Torfaen CBC in relation to Archives	Consortium Arrangements	77,967		85,021	7,054
Environment	Disposal Of Waste	Contribution from SVWS	Consortium Arrangements	110,000		110,000	0
Environment	Cemeteries / Crematorium	Crematorium Income - Reallocation of surplus at year end	Consortium Arrangements	131,925		137,537	5,612
Environment	20 Church Street	Housing Advice Centre Contribution	Consortium Arrangements	12,210		12,215	5
Environment	Housing Access	Income from Housing Associations in relation to Administration of the Common Housing Register	Consortium Arrangements	110,763		112,991	2,228
Environment	Environmental Health	Public Protection Collaboration with Torfaen CC	Consortium Arrangements	0		0	0
		Sub - Total		442,865	0	457,764	14,899
Miscellaneous							
Education	Supporting Special Educational Needs	Internal Income - Recovery of pupil lead funding from schools.	Internal Income	102,000		102,000	0
Corporate Services	Corporate Procurement Division	Rebates - Energy & Randstad	Miscellaneous	95,700		93,000	(2,700)
Corporate Services	Corporate Procurement Division	Purchase Card Income	Miscellaneous	5,140		0	(5,140)
Infrastructure	L&A - Invasive Weeds	Contribution from Caerphilly for Treatment of Knotweed	Miscellaneous	10,000		10,000	0
		Sub - Total		212,840	0	205,000	(7,840)
		TOTAL		14,981,906	46,650	13,161,444	(1,773,812)

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Action Plan

Corporate Services

2021/22 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 30 June 2021)

Appendix 3a

Service Area	2021/2022 Variance at June 2021 Forecast £	2020/2021 Variance at Outturn £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact £	Responsible Officer
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	(£82,041)	(£244,515)	<p><u>Reason for Adverse variance</u></p> <p>This is due to the continuation of an increased number of claimants when compared to previous years:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Quarter 1 2019 - 8,683</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Quarter 1 2020 - 9,341</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Quarter 1 2021 - 9,023</p> <p>It has been assumed that this level of claimants will continue for the remainder of the financial year. The level of new claims has decreased by 318 (3.4%) from those processed in Quarter 1 of 2020, however it is still 340 claims higher (3.92%) than the same period in 2019.</p> <p>This cost pressure will be funded from underspends in other areas of the portfolio – a formal virement will be considered during Q3 & Q4 when the impact of the end of Furlough should become clearer.</p>	Unknown	Rhian Hayden

Action Plan

Social Services

2021/22 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 30 June 2021)

Appendix 3b

Service Area	2021/2022 Variance at June 2021 Forecast £	2020/2021 Variance at Outturn £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact £	Responsible Officer
Looked After Children	(362,739)	(718,039)	<p>Legal Services</p> <p><u>Reason for Adverse variance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an ongoing pressure in this area due to the number of looked after children, and the problems with retention and recruitment of staff has resulted in more services being outsourced to an external provider. It is anticipated that the Legal budget will be significantly overspent again this year. <p><u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A long term solution will need to be identified in conjunction with Legal Services to mitigate this cost pressure for future years and a collaborative arrangement for legal services is being considered with a neighbouring council. This cost pressure is currently being offset by favourable variances within other social services budgets. 		Tanya Evans/ Andrea Jones

Action Plan

Environment

2020/21 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 30th June 2021)

Appendix 3C

Service Area	2021/2022 Variance at June 2021 Forecast £	2020/2021 Variance at outturn £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact £	Responsible Officer
Waste Services	(138,485)	(86,180)	<p><u>Recycling Collection</u></p> <p><u>Reason for Adverse variance</u> This is mainly due to the cost of receptacles and food waste bags. External funding for the purchase of food waste bags has ceased and therefore this now presents a cost pressure within this budget. In addition, the forecast also includes the cost for receptacles and food waste bags for 387 properties of new developments/builds that will be required towards the end of the financial year.</p> <p><u>Actions</u> The budget for receptacles is not sufficient to meet demand. A detailed review of the budget and expenditure for Waste Services is currently underway and outcome will be reported during quarter 2.</p> <p><u>Disposal of Waste</u></p> <p><u>Reason for Adverse variance</u> This is mainly due to an increase in residual waste tonnages.</p>		C Rogers / M Stent

Action Plan

Environment

2020/21 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 30th June 2021)

Appendix 3C

			<p><u>Actions</u> This could potentially be partly offset by Welsh Government Hardship Funding for Quarter 1 dependent upon the current eligibility criteria, a claim will be submitted for quarter 1. Also the disposal of leachate forecast costs exceed the budget. However, costs are dependent on the weather so the forecast could change later in the year.</p> <p>A detailed review of the budget and expenditure for Waste Services is currently underway and outcome will be reported during quarter 2.</p>		
	(136,432)	(216,372)	<p>Recycling Disposal</p> <p><u>Reason for Adverse variance</u> This is mainly due to an increase in the volume of food waste recycling and also the increased cost of aerosols recycling.</p> <p><u>Actions</u> There is currently a high demand for steel, plastics and aluminium and therefore it is likely that income will increase for these recycles throughout the remainder of the year, which could reduce the adverse variance. The forecast will be reviewed and updated during quarter 2 when data is known with more certainty.</p>		

Agenda Item 7

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Joint Budget Scrutiny Committee (Budget Monitoring)**

Date of meeting: **27th September 2021**

Report Subject: **Bridging The Gap (BTG) Programme 2021/2022 – Progress Update April to June 2021**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr. Nigel 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)
	9/9/2021	14.09.21			27/9/2021	10.11.21		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report is to provide Members with an update on the progress made with the Strategic Business Reviews during the period April to June 2021, and the latest assessment of the financial achievement for the current financial year.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) currently identifies budget gaps for 2022/23 to 2025/26 as:-

Table 1: Budget Gaps (surplus) per MTFS (March 2021)

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Prior to BtG Opportunities	(548)	4,241	7,048	9,854	12,658

- 2.2 In recognising the challenges that the Council faces in the short, medium and long term, a programme of Strategic Business Reviews have been developed to deal with the potential funding gaps identified in the MTFS (Table 1) and to improve the financial resilience of the Council.
- 2.4 The March 2021 assessment of the potential achievement of the BtG programme was estimated to be between £4m and £7.3m between 2021/2022 and 2025/2026. Table 2 provides the annual assessment of achievement at that time.

Table 2: Latest Estimated Achievement of BtG

Estimated Achievement:	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Low	755	1,473	764	846	846	4,029

- 2.5 In agreeing the budget for 2021/2022 the estimated achievement of BtG is £755,000 resulting in a surplus budget of £1.3m. For 2022/2023 onwards the forecast budget gaps based upon the estimated achievement above are:-

Table 3: Remaining Budget Gaps following application of BtG Opportunities

	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Remaining Budget Gap	(1,303)	2,013	4,056	6,016	7,974

- 2.6 The Council's Corporate Leadership Team, supported by officers from all services are continuing to identify / develop additional BtG proposals to close the future years' budget gaps.
- 2.7 The budget gaps identified within the report are based upon the Medium Term Financial Strategy assumptions agreed earlier in the year. These assumptions include a cash flat settlement from Welsh Government, pay awards & price inflation of 2% per annum and annual cost pressures of £1m.
- 2.8 Variations to/from these assumptions will impact the budget gaps.

3. Options for Recommendation

- 3.1 *To include Recommendation(s) / Endorsement by other groups, e.g. CMT/Committees/Other groups)*

3.2 Option 1 – (Recommended Option)

Members of Joint Budget Scrutiny (Budget Monitoring) Committee consider the report and provide appropriate challenge to the Bridging the Gap programme.

3.3 Option 2

Members of Joint Budget Scrutiny (Budget Monitoring) Committee Scrutiny Committee do not accept the report.

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

- 4.1 The Bridging the Gap programme supports the achievement of the Outcome Statement of an ambitious and innovative council delivering the quality services we know matter to our communities, supporting:

- The financial resilience of the Council
- Developing a more commercial organisation to generate income and deliver cost reductions to make local services sustainable and raise money to re-invest in our priorities

5. Implications Against Each Option

5.1 Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)

5.2 Financial Year 2021/2022 – Forecast Out-turn

5.3 Table 4 identifies the Strategic Business Reviews, the estimated achievement and the forecast actual achievement to be delivered in 2021/2022.

Table 4: Strategic Business Reviews Provisional Out-turn 2020/2021

Strategic Business Review	Estimated Achievement 2021/2022 £'000	Estimated Achievement 2021/2022 £'000	(Adverse) / Favourable Variance £'000
Industrial Units	0	0	0
Commercial Waste	0	0	0
Income Recovery	0	0	0
Fees & Charges	0	0	0
Commercial Activity	0	0	0
Third Party Spend	490	490	0
Assets & Property	35	127	92
Review of MRP	0	0	0
Future Workplace & Service Delivery	0	0	0
Growth Strategy	230	230	0
Low Carbon	0	0	0
TOTAL	755	847	92

5.4 Overall, the forecast achievement is expected to exceed the estimated achievement of £0.75m by £0.1m for the current financial year. This is due to the successful outcome of the appeals on the rateable values of the Council's property and assets, with the Council receiving a rates rebate, relating to previous years' charges, totalling £109,000. Further appeals are anticipated during the current financial year.

5.5 A number of Strategic Business Reviews have no financial achievement for 2021/2022, due to the impact the Covid-19 pandemic is having on the Council's ability to progress the Reviews including:

- Industrial Units service review was delayed due the impact of Covid-19 on the economy.
- Fees and Charges due the economic impact of the pandemic on the residents and local businesses

- Commercial Waste, there was a delay in implementing the new service change due to closure of businesses within the borough as a result of the national lockdown in March 2020.

5.6 In setting the budget for 2021/2022, cost pressure funding was built into the budget for Industrial Units (£133,000) and Commercial Waste (£23,000) to recognise the medium / long term impact of the pandemic and mitigate the resulting cost pressure for 2021/2022.

5.7 A progress update on the individual business reviews is attached at Appendix 1.

5.2 Risk including Mitigating Actions

5.2.1 Current assessment of achievement against the Strategic Business reviews do not identify sufficient financial benefits to Bridge the funding Gap identified in the Medium Term Financial Strategy in the medium to long term. Additional / alternative proposals will therefore be required to ensure that the Council can set a balanced budget.

5.3 Legal

5.3.1 The Council must set a balanced budget on an annual basis and the Bridging the Gap programme will support this requirement.

5.4 Human Resources

5.4.1 The Strategic Business Review, Future Place and Service Delivery, will have an impact on staff as it will result in a variation to Terms and Conditions.

6. Supporting Evidence

6.1 Performance Information and Data

6.1.1 The scope and outcome, including key activities for each of the Strategic Business Reviews is attached at Appendix 1.

6.2 Expected outcome for the public

6.2.1 The Bridging the Gap Programme support the Council in the development of its annual budgets which in turn will allow the Council to deliver services to the public.

6.3 Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)

6.3.1 Officers & Members of the Council are involved in the development of the Bridging the Gap Strategic Business Reviews.

6.3.2 The proposals have/will be considered by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

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

6.4.1 The Bridging the Gap programme supports the Council's medium term financial planning in line with the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

6.5 **Preventative focus**

6.5.1 Included within the Bridging the Gap programme is a proposal focussing on an evaluation of the long term impact of prevention and early intervention on reducing the requirement for high cost services and better outcomes for our most vulnerable residents.

6.6 **Collaboration / partnership working**

6.6.1 Achievement of the Bridging the Gap proposals will require cross Council working and collaboration / partnerships with other stakeholders.

6.7 **Integration (across service areas)**

6.7.1 Bridging the Gap proposals have been developed across the Council and are crosscutting in nature.

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

6.8.1 The Council is committed to the Decarbonisation Plan to achieve a carbon neutral public sector by 2030 and the Bridging the Gap programme includes the strategic business review, Low Carbon.

6.9a ***Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment*** N/A

6.9b ***EqlA (screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)***

6.8.1 Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken on the opportunities taken forward as part of the Bridging the Gap proposals.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1

7.1.2 Progress against predicted delivery of Bridging the Gap proposals form part of the budget monitoring arrangements and is monitored and reviewed by the Strategic Commercial and Commissioning Board, Scrutiny Committee & Executive.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- *Appendix 1*

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Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio Holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables			
			Quarter 1 2021/2022		Quarter 2 2021/2022		Quarter 3 2021/2022		Quarter 4 2021/2022			
Industrial Portfolio	Ellie Fry	<p>To review the Council's Industrial Unit Portfolio to identify areas for improvement and opportunities to maximise income.</p> <p>Intended outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a long term sustainable income source for the Council. Explore and develop new income streams. Reduce reactive maintenance liabilities. Improve quality of portfolio to further support economic development. Get greater visibility of income and expenditure to support invest/divest decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed agents to undertake high value RR's. Appointed agents to manage service charge (SC) program Planned 1st phase of Capex/revenue investments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up new accountancy structure Implement SC to pilot estate Completed handover of Lime Avenue units to portfolio Handover of BoxHyb units Completion of first lettings at Lime Av. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of rent review program Review of 1st phase SC program Begin targeted investment program on portfolio Recruitment of key estates role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further role out of SC. Continued investment in portfolio. Completion of 						
			Financial Management:-		Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)							
			Estimated Financial Achievement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 of the high value rent reviews are underway and initial valuations are showing a very positive reply due to positive market conditions. On target to roll out service charge program to pilot estate by end Q2. We have completed the letting of 5 of the 9 Lime Av hybrid units with a further 2 under offer and with solicitors. There has been strong interest in the remaining 2 which I would anticipate being let by the end of Q3. Awaiting rent review results to update figures. 							
			2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025					
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000								
0	0	0	0	50								
Risk Management:-												
Risks / Issues					Mitigating Actions							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Departure of Team Manager Estates & Asset Management Lack of resource (legal, estates, tech services) Negative PR associated with actions End of year accounts affect finance resources required to manage portfolio budgets Covid-19 related rent arrears 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members briefings to forewarn about PR issues Recruitment underway for estates & legal role Communications Officer in post to support PR going forward Regular credit reviews to keep onto of debt and appropriate action being taken. 							
Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables			
			Quarter 1 2021/2022		Quarter 2 2021/2022		Quarter 3 2021/2022		Quarter 4 2021/2022			
Commercial Waste	Richard Crook	<p>To roll out a new Commercial Waste service borough wide. A successful capital bid secured £250,000 for Blaenau Gwent's Commercial Waste Service.</p> <p>During the financial year 2019/2020, the Trade Waste Service underwent a full revamp with a revised implementation date of 1st April 2021.</p> <p>Intended outcome</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch of Service [May 2021] Liaise with customers re. any teething issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidation of the new service Monthly budget monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin proactive marketing of new service to attract more customers, annual review of pricing strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of online contracts and Duty of Cares Implementation of revised pricing schedule 						
			Financial Management:-		Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)							
			Estimated Financial Achievement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Service was launched on Tuesday 4th May following delay [this was to allow businesses to reopen after relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions around non-essential businesses]. New Service continues to be consolidated, initial issues with vehicles, rounds and customer's containment requirements have settled. Budget being monitored with Portfolio Accountant 							
			2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025					
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000								
0	0	23	64	96								
Risk Management:-												
Risks / Issues					Mitigating Actions							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 3rd Covid-19 wave could see the reintroduction of restrictions meaning some customers would have to close and therefore suspend their service requirements. 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some customers would continue to operate, therefore minimising losses. 							

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables																																								
			Quarter 1 2021/2022		Quarter 2 2021/2022		Quarter 3 2021/2022		Quarter 4 2021/2022																																								
Income Recovery	Rhian Hayden	To review current income recovery activities to ensure best / efficient practices in place. Intended outcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income recovery policies are appropriate and include early intervention actions agreed Fees & charges are implemented payment in advance of service delivery (where appropriate) thereby avoiding costs of issuing invoices easy access to various payment methods use of technology is maximised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review current arrears levels Update debt analysis Implement agreed fees & charges for 2021/22 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor debt levels & ongoing recovery rates Revisit recommendations of CIPFA review Identify services where payment in advance can be implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor debt levels & ongoing recovery rates Consult with service areas identified where payment in advance could be implemented Recommend pilot scheme – attending community organised sessions, providing advice as appropriate (subject to lifting of restrictions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor debt levels & ongoing recovery rates Work with services where payment in advance can be implemented Review outcomes from the pilot scheme and continue attending community organised sessions (providing advice as appropriate) 																																											
			Financial Management:- Estimated Financial Achievement <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>2020/2021</th> <th>2021/2022</th> <th>2022/2023</th> <th>2023/2024</th> <th>2024/2025</th> </tr> <tr> <th>£'000</th> <th>£'000</th> <th>£'000</th> <th>£'000</th> <th>£'000</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>54</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	54	0	0	0	0	Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Income Recovery review has been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic. 2020/21 Significant numbers of Blaenau Gwent residents have been affected by the economic impact of the pandemic and throughout 2020/21 the Council saw increasing daily contacts from residents indicating they were having difficulty paying their bills (including Council Tax, NNDR & other Council liabilities e.g. Industrial Unit rentals) – alternative payment arrangement have been agreed and are being monitored including payment holidays, smaller instalment payments over a longer period of time. Where appropriate individuals have been encouraged to apply for Council Tax Reduction Scheme (eligible applications have increased significantly compared to previous years) and signposted to other advice organisations. Limited formal recovery action has been undertaken (this is consistent with the agreed approach across all Welsh LA's) Unfortunately the planned attendance at community organised sessions to provide advice to the public was suspended in line with the government's coronavirus restrictions. Whilst many Direct Debits were cancelled there has been an increased take up overall from those who would previously have paid by cash or cheque (a consequence of the national lockdowns & restrictions) <p>The Council Tax portal is now online with approximately 950 registering to use the service – when registered Council Tax payers are able to receive / view their accounts on line, make payments, set up a direct debit. There is also the ability to report change of circumstances via the my Council Services app. The overall impact of the above is a £1.3m increase in the level of arrears as at 31 March 2021 when compared to 2020:-</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Arrears as at 31 March 2020 £000's</th> <th>Arrears as at 31 March 2021 £000's</th> <th>Increase / (Decrease) £000's</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Council Tax</td> <td>5,046</td> <td>7,069</td> <td>2,023</td> <td>Reduced collection rates have been identified across Wales, WG have acknowledged this pressure on LA budgets and provided a grant at the end of 2020/21 to help mitigate some of this (for BG this was £587k).</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sundry Accounts</td> <td>5,714</td> <td>5,191</td> <td>(523)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>HB Overpayments</td> <td>1,561</td> <td>1,372</td> <td>(189)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>12,321</td> <td>13,632</td> <td>1,311</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021/22 – Quarter 1 Current debt analysis has commenced 2021/22 Fees & charges have been implemented (as relevant) Court dates for formal recovery action have been arranged for September 2021 (lack of Court availability within Gwent for earlier); Bailiff visits to recommence in quarter 2/3 (subject to covid guidance and relevant risk assessments being undertaken). 						Arrears as at 31 March 2020 £000's	Arrears as at 31 March 2021 £000's	Increase / (Decrease) £000's		Council Tax	5,046	7,069	2,023	Reduced collection rates have been identified across Wales, WG have acknowledged this pressure on LA budgets and provided a grant at the end of 2020/21 to help mitigate some of this (for BG this was £587k).	Sundry Accounts	5,714	5,191	(523)		HB Overpayments	1,561	1,372	(189)		Total	12,321
2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025																																													
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000																																													
54	0	0	0	0																																													
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Risk Management:-																																																	
Risks / Issues			Mitigating Actions																																														
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic impact of Covid 19 may have medium / long term implications 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor arrears levels & compliance with agreed payment arrangements 																																														

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables		
			Quarter 1 2021/2022	Quarter 2 2021/2022	Quarter 3 2021/2022	Quarter 4 2021/2022		
Fees and Charges	Rhian Hayden	<p>To review and develop an approach to the setting of fees and charges that reflects full cost recovery, and identifies further opportunities for raising income from discretionary services. Options to stretch targets on those budget lines that over achieving will be explored in future years.</p> <p>Intended outcome</p> <p>Fees and Charges are set at an appropriate level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review baseline income for 2020/21 - to assess underlying issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor Q1 forecast position Develop a priority matrix to determine which areas have potential to develop into full cost recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options appraisals for individual areas in line with agreed priority list Re-establish the Officer Working Group and commence review of Fees & Charges Register for 2022/2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options appraisals for individual areas in line with agreed priority list Complete Review of Fees & Charges Register for 2022/23 and report to Council 		
			Financial Management:-				Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)	
			Estimated Financial Achievement			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees & charges for 2021/22 considered & agreed by Council in March 2021. Limited changes agreed as a consequence of impact of pandemic. Quarter 1 forecast Fees & Charges being analysed to identify cost pressure areas. 		
2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025				
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000				
121	0	100	100	100				
Risk Management:-								
Risks / Issues			Mitigating Actions					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political agreement to move to full cost recovery Reduced demand for Service as a consequence of Loss of custom with increased charges 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued monitoring of income collected through fees & charges Fees & Charges are set in consultation with relevant stakeholders 					

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables			
			Quarter 1 2021/2022	Quarter 2 2021/2022	Quarter 3 2021/2022	Quarter 4 2021/2022			
Commercial activity, investment and new income	Richard Crook	<p>This strategic review will focus on identifying additional commercial opportunities to supplement the current activities of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees and charges Developing the Industrial Portfolio Current income from traded or shared services Property Investment inside the Borough and out of the Borough Investment in energy and low carbon activities Disposals or development of assets and property <p>Intended outcome</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing for Exec around Wind Turbine opportunity Planning Feasibility work being undertaken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of planning application for Turbine Review Investment Framework inc advice around ROI Identify Investment funds in MTFs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement exercise for Turbine Market review of potential property investments Finalise funding arrangement for the Turbine Review Gov Tech Opportunity Review Industrial estate Energy Challenge Consider LUF investment Complete SV Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign off Commercial arrangements with SV for the Turbine Report and agree on SV Options Agree Investment Fund in MTFs 			
			Financial Management:-			Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)			
			Estimated Financial Achievement						
2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025					
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000					
0	0	0	50	50					
Risk Management:-									
Risks / Issues			Mitigating Actions						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 						

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables	
			Quarter 1 2021/2022	Quarter 2 2021/2022	Quarter 3 2021/2022	Quarter 4 2021/2022		
Third party expenditure – commissioning, procurement and contract management	Bernadette Elias	<p>The Council commissions, procures and manages contracts with a wide range of third party suppliers across all its services spending circa. £80m +. This strategic business review seeks to identify for efficiencies and improved outcomes where possible.</p> <p>Intended outcome</p> <p>Through a combination of re-negotiated contract terms, consolidation of contracts competitive tendering and effective contract management, we are seeking to maximise cashable and non-cashable benefits comprising cost reductions, cost avoidance, efficiency savings (through alternative payment methodologies) and social and environmental benefits through the inclusion of community benefits and social value contract clauses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCCB Check and Challenge process agreed for Contracts above £75,000; Operational Board Terms of Reference (TOR) reviewed to provide Check & Challenge for Below £75,000 contracts; 2021/22 procurement programme has identified circa 320 recurring and/or planned contracts; Contracts prioritised by renewal date and value; Procurement officers assigned service areas / categories and commenced Quarter 1 activities; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report Quarter 1 Outcomes; Contracts prioritised by renewal date and value; Procurement officers assigned service areas / categories and commenced Quarter 2 activities; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report Quarter 2 Outcomes; Contracts prioritised by renewal date and value; Procurement officers assigned service areas / categories and commenced Quarter 3 activities; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report Quarter 3 Outcomes; Contracts prioritised by renewal date and value; Procurement officers assigned service areas / categories and commenced Quarter 4 activities; Collate and Report 2022/23 Forward Procurement Programme; 		
			Financial Management:-		Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)			
		Estimated Financial Achievement						
2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025				
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000				
550	490	250	250	250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement officers are actively engaging with service areas to deliver the 2021/22 procurement programme; Active engagement from across the organisation has resulted in 188 recurring contracts and 129 planned procurements being identified which require progression during 2021/22; Operational Board Terms of Reference agreed; Cashable savings towards the 2021/22 target identified in quarter 1: £30,000.00 cashable savings have been identified as a result of proactive contract management; £24,398.00 cashable savings have been realised via the Corporate Purchase Card Programme (based on 20/21 spend); £58,815.00 cashable savings have been realised via negotiated contract rebates (based on 20/21 spend); 			
Risk Management:-								
Risks / Issues				Mitigating Actions				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract are awarded at a local level without due consideration to the wider organisational objectives. Commissioning and procurement activities fail to realise the intended outcomes. 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCCB established to provide robust governance around the Council's 3rd Party spend and wider commercial activities. Client and procurement officers will continue to challenge all existing contracts to determine commercial effectiveness. Procurement officers will continuously monitor in-year spend to identify further commercial opportunities. 				

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables			
			Quarter 1 2021/2022	Quarter 2 2021/2022	Quarter 3 2021/2022	Quarter 4 2021/2022				
Assets and Property	Richard Crook	<p>The Council has a range of property assets. This review will ascertain their value to the Council and identify how best to maximise these assets to strengthen our balance sheet. This review would include buildings and green spaces and will align with the growth strategy.</p> <p><u>Intended outcome</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-operational buildings identified and programme of disposals agreed. Rating Agents appointed to review rates liability and identify potential savings. Leased in properties identified and discussions with service users ongoing. Area review of land holdings discussed and criteria for review agreed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target date to discuss rating appeals in respect of Abertillery properties set with VOA Ongoing inspections and appeals by Rating Agents Area Review Criteria and process agreed with Members Lease renewal terms agreed for 20 Church Street – Housing office Obtain external valuations of staff tenanted residential property Ongoing discussions with Landlords agent in respect of re-gearing Anvil Court lease Bring Bridge Street Health Centre lease to an end pending Social Services vacating team to Anvil Court. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disposal programme – Blaina toilets informal tender for sale Discussions/negotiations with staff on residential tenanted properties for subsequent sale as per non-operational disposal list Ongoing rating discussions and appeals between retained rating agents and VOA Rating review of Civic Centre once decommissioning is finalised Ongoing discussions with Landlords agent in respect of re-gearing Anvil Court lease Area Review Criteria and process agreed with Members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disposal programme reviewed Ongoing review of rating liabilities Ongoing discussions with Landlords agent in respect of re-gearing Anvil Court lease 				
			Financial Management:-			Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)				
<u>Estimated Financial Achievement</u>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In year savings achieved through back dated NNDR rebates against the 2021/22 target to date total £127,000. Rating Review – 4 appeals awarded to date for Milfraen View, which has generated a refund of NNDR of £17,000 (less fees) for the current year, and cost avoidance in future years of £9,095 per annum, Church St, which generated £5,790 rebate and the Rivercentre School (awaiting value) and the Mechanical Link which generated a rates rebate of £84,000 (before fees). Results of further appeals anticipated during the next two years. Application for 3 months' rates relief on the basement, ground, fourth and fifth floors of the Civic Centre has been submitted. Agreements and actual savings yet to be determined. Community Asset transfer agreed for Queen Street Primary. Legal completion pending (Budget savings applied to previous year). Abertillery Toilets sold, further sales being considered for 2021/22 from non-operational list. 							
2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023							2023/2024	2024/2025
£'000	£'000	£'000							£'000	£'000
85	35	150	0	0						
Risk Management:-										
Risks / Issues			Mitigating Actions							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complex legal issues delaying/preventing sale Departmental or Ward member opposition to sales Operational issues with sale to retained land Level of rates reduction/liability may be challenged. Reduction in rental levels on lease renewal may be unsatisfactory Property Solicitor is about to commence maternity leave, potential difficulty in backfilling the post which could mean a delay in undertaking property transactions. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to ensure adequate legal support to review documents/legal title in advance of sale Communication and consultation with stakeholders and area review criteria agreed in advance Provide option appraisal for alternatives to sale Specialist Rating Adviser appointed Property Advisor appointed to renegotiate lease terms/rental in respect of Anvil Court 							

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables		
			Quarter 1 2021/2022	Quarter 2 2021/2022	Quarter 3 2021/2022	Quarter 4 2021/2022		
Review of the MRP Policy	Rhian Hayden	<p>To undertake a review of the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) to determine options available for consideration when determining the optimum MRP strategy</p> <p>Intended outcome Identification of optimum MRP Strategy for Blaenau Gwent CBC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of current MRP policy Review of current methodology applied for supported & unsupported borrowing Identification of options to provide optimum MRP Strategy / comparison of MRP charges for options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report to Council recommending change to MRP (subject to outcome of findings during Quarter1) Review & update of current asset lives in readiness for policy change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review & update of current asset lives in readiness for policy change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review & update of current asset lives in readiness for policy change cr 		
Financial Management:-			Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)					
Estimated Financial Achievement			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current MRP policy has been reviewed Alternative options for making prudent MRP have been identified & assessment of each option has been undertaken Proposals to amend MRP Policy considered & supported by Corporate Overview Scrutiny & Executive Committees during July 2021 Report has been provided to Audit Wales for their views Proposals to be considered by Council in September 2021 (rearranged due to number of agenda items on July Council agenda) 					
2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023					2023/2024	2024/2025
£'000	£'000	£'000					£'000	£'000
0	0	755					0	0
Risk Management:-								
Risks / Issues			Mitigating Actions					
MRP Policy not compliant with guidance			Proposals will be developed with due regard to WG guidance					

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		
			Quarter 1 2021/2022		Quarter 2 2021/2022		Quarter 3 2021/2022		Quarter 4 2021/2022		
Future work place and service delivery	Michelle Morris	<p>This is a new Strategic Business Review that merges the previous business review on customer experience and the business review on workplace transformation.</p> <p>The impact of the pandemic has force the organisation to think radically about how and where it will deliver services to the communities in Blaenau Gwent. This Programme includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Operating Model; • Community Hubs to improve customer access to council services; • Democratic Hub at the General Offices for formal Council business; • Permanent vacation of Civic Centre and move to Agile Working Model based on remaining office accommodation; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Programme Governance • Open new Democratic Hub and pilot agile meeting model • Open new Community Hubs • Commence project to decommission Civic Centre • Agree new Agile Working Policy • Commence leadership development to support new working arrangements • Complete consultation with all staff moving to home or agile working and agree variation to contracts • Complete Communication Plan to support change programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commence full Council Diary using new agile meeting arrangements (in line with relaxation of covid restrictions) • Continue to develop the Community Hubs to broaden the services delivered • Complete design and procurement of Anvil Court refurbishment • Commence return to the office (in line with relaxation of covid restrictions) • Review and approve HR Policies as required e.g. Mileage Allowances • Continue to progress decant of Civic Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete establishment of new Democratic Hub • Continue to develop the Community Hubs, expanding the services available and the hours of opening, as covid restrictions allow • Complete staff decant from Civic Centre • Progress with the refurbishment of Anvil Court in line with agreed plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic Centre decanted and decommissioned, tender returned and awaiting award of contract • Masterplan for the redevelopment of the site completed and agreed • Community Hubs & Democratic operating BAU – within Covid restrictions • Progress with the refurbishment of Anvil Court in line with agreed plan • Achieve full financial savings to support 2022/23 Revenue Budget 					
			Financial Management:-		Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)						
		Estimated Financial Achievement									
2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025							
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000							
50	0	400	0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme on-target for Quarter 1 deliverables; Exception is the Democratic Hub which it has been agreed will open in Quarter 2. • Development of Community Hubs as the LA face to face contact provision, with soft launch of phase 1 delivery on 21 June 2021 • Change in Out of Hours service delivery to a local provider from 1 July 2021 • Continuation of Contact Centre Review, focussing on staffing and training • Commencement of the review of the Localities provision linking into the Community Hub Model • Creation and appointment of a digital apprentice, working with colleagues in Aspire programme to secure appointment • Presentation to Tech Valley Board on Waste project progress to date • Submission of bid to Welsh Government to continue with Gov.pay project which is a collaborative approach with Neath Port Talbot and Torfaen Local Authorities. 						
Risk Management:-											
Risks / Issues						Mitigating Actions					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays to the decant of civic centre due to the need to relocate IT Servers to new host • Impact on staff well-being from the return to the workplace 						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with SRS to ensure delivery times are aligned to prevent achieve planned decant • Continue to comply with Covid restrictions in the workplace, ensure risk assessments are in place, leadership development and support to ensure managers understand their role in supporting staff, provision of support via occupational health 					

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables					
			Quarter 1 2021/2022		Quarter 2 2021/2022		Quarter 3 2021/2022		Quarter 4 2021/2022					
Growth Strategy	Richard Crook	<p>Our Growth Strategy involves a programme of housing development that will see an impact on our revenue streams through increase Council Tax. This will contribute to the MTFS and is a critical element of building strong communities.</p> <p>Intended outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To bring back into use 5-10% of vacant properties per annum (circa 40) To support the delivery of circa 400 new houses by 2023 To increase the economic competitiveness of Blaenau Gwent in the 2022 UKCI To secure £548,000 pa into the local economy with 100 households attracted/retained in BG To implement water and wind turbines to generate 3.6 mW and £2.5m of investment To have commenced an investment portfolio for BG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote housing sites for private development Continue to administer loans and grants for vacant properties (post covid) Work through planning process on housing sites SAB issues - address (Davies, Works) Delivery programme for EV School site, to inform build out rate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appoint new vacant property officer Begin 'investment portfolio' with Industrial Units review Silent Valley wind turbine scoping and planning Lovell's site 65% built 50% sold Persimmon site starts build SUDs scheme approved for Davies site Stage 2 decision on Ashvale Planning/SABS Northgate Delivery programme Northgate Development brief Civic Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal launch Energy Prospectus linked to COP26 CCR approval for Tredegar? Completion of Golwg Y Bryn Completion of Greenacres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 								
							Financial Management:-		Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)					
		Estimated Financial Achievement					21/22 Q1 and Q2 updates:							
2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025										
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000										
184	230	300	100	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golwg Y Bryn - £16.8 million Lovell development of 100 homes (70 open market, 30 affordable). During Q1 12 OM and 9 SR units completed, which brings the number of units to date to 77 completed, 68 of which are open market. The development will be completed during Q2. Max Council Tax return associated with the development £142k. Carn Y Cefn – £29million Persimmon development of 277 homes (222 private, 55 affordable). The development is onsite, show home will open Q3, first homes occupied Q2 22/23. Annual build target 30 units (up to 50 depending on sales demand). 5 phase development. Max Council Tax return associated with the development £316k. Northgate – 56 homes (51 open market, 5 affordable). Anticipated start on site Q3 21/22. The first homes will be completed Q1/Q2 2022/23. Annual build rate 25 – 30 per/annum, 2 year build programme. Max Council Tax return associated with the development £108k. Ashvale – Circa 70 homes (63 open market, 7 affordable). Dependent on CCR funding (determination Q3) and subject to contract Max Council Tax return associated with the development £120k. <p>*max CT return does not make consideration to any applied discounts, working assumption is 80% paying full CT tax and relates to open market homes (not social rent)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civic Centre framework being prepared by the Urbanists to inform the development brief to be developed in Q3 Nantyglo School Site; members briefing to be scheduled for Q3 to outline a proposed development programme to bring forward the site. 12 'Empty Property Grants' received approval in Q1, which amount to the value of £287,963.44 and 1 property was completed and brought back into use. 2 Houses to Homes applications were approved and amounted to a total of £50,000. 									
Risk Management:-														
Risks / Issues						Mitigating Actions								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SABS decisions causing delays on development Internal staff resources e.g. planning to make determination on applications Escalating material costs associated with development Increasing house prices/demand – potential stall to the upward trend Supply outstrips demand 						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing discussions with the SAB approving body and developers Contingency with funding applications Positive uplift in Social Housing Grant to assist development where appropriate Monitoring activity and close liaison with developers Development programme considered alongside wider policy docs and strategies e.g. LDP/Empty Property 								

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables
			Quarter 1 2021/2022	Quarter 2 2021/2022	Quarter 3 2021/2022	Quarter 4 2021/2022
Low Carbon	Michelle Morris	Develop a Low Carbon Plan which sets out an ambitious vision and targets for BG to become a Low Carbon Borough and supports the corporate objectives of being a more Efficient Council and Strong & Environmentally Smart Communities. <u>Intended outcome</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readiness Assessment (RA) – Transport (Direct) complete Response to BG Climate Assembly findings complete Agree high level timeline for RA for all Transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring Report to Scrutiny Committee Monitor/Progress delivery of actions from RA – Transport (Direct) Complete 2nd RA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete 3rd RA Annual Report to Council Monitor/Progress delivery of actions from completed RA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete 4th RA Monitor/Progress delivery of actions from completed RA
Financial Management:-			Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)			
Estimated Financial Achievement			Quarter 1 –			
2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RA Transport Direct (complete) Response to CA – in progress Timeline – in progress 	
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		
138	0	200	200	200		
Risk Management:-						
Risks / Issues				Mitigating Actions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New investment may be required to ensure that actions can be progressed to support transition to carbon neutral Need to ensure that policy development/service re-design is under-pinned by the principles of achieving carbon neutral council Capital Programme needs to support delivery through investment in the right designs and technology e.g. carbon neutral buildings 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RA need to identify funding gaps/opportunities or where we need to change funding model to support this work All Committee Reports to identify impact on carbon emissions to ensure that the organisation builds a more sustainable future All investment decisions need to include impact on carbon emissions and ensure the Council only invests in low carbon or carbon free solutions 		

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables
			Quarter 1 2021/2022	Quarter 2 2021/2022	Quarter 3 2021/2022	Quarter 4 2021/2022
Use of external grants	Bernadette Elias	<p>Scope of the Review This strategic business review is concerned with deployment of additional grant funding that is available to the council and its partners. It is estimated that the organisation receives approximately £22m additional funding to support our priorities. This review will explore how the grants are utilised across the council to deliver outcomes for our residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start Review and update of the grants register with resource colleagues Initial scoping for review of Regeneration grants with service and finance colleagues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated grants register on SCCB agenda and presented quarterly to keep organisational oversight Finalise and agree scope for Regen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Findings from review of Regen presented to SCCB Quarterly reporting of grants register ICF reporting through democratic process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly reporting of grants register Focus of next phase of review agreed
		<p>This review will also consider the impact of the removal of these grants and the risk placed on core funding.</p> <p>Intended outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better organisational oversight of how grants support our corporate priority areas. Clearer lines of accountability with identified leads to ensure delivery of intended outcomes and management of risk to core funding. 				
Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes)						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial work planning for updating the Grants Register to be progressed in Quarter 2 Initial work on scoping of Regeneration and Economy phase undertaken, with scoping meeting with the Service area is planned for September 2021. 						
Risk Management:-						
Risks / Issues			Mitigating Actions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 						

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables				
			Quarter 1 2021/2022	Quarter 2 2021/2022	Quarter 3 2021/2022	Quarter 4 2021/2022					
Developing our customer experience and digital ambitions	Bernadette Elias	<p>This review supports the customer focus and use of technology themes in the Commercial strategy</p> <p>Intended outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved Customer Service experience for residents of the borough Creation of Community Hub model Delivery of 12-month Digital programme set out for Council Collaboration with NPT and Torfaen on Digital projects – best practice to be shared across Council Development of Leadership & Development opportunities Links into ICT investment roadmap 	<p>Customer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact Centre review commenced focussing on Customer Service delivery Working with community services, mapping process and understanding customer experience Development and introduction of service level standards, Review of answerphone message Review of out of hours' service Community Hubs model preparation and development <p>Digital / Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital programme to support the new operating model Progression of externally supported digital projects, Adult Social Care, GovPay, Tech Valley and Democracy Planning for Leadership & Development opportunities to raise awareness and scope of digital Digital apprentice role developed 	<p>Customer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further development of Contact Centre review – focus on training / skills gap to support improved service delivery Local out of hours' service delivery from July 2021 Community hubs implementation <p>Digital / Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital programme to support the new operating model, hybrid democratic meeting arrangements, service move to digital offer where this focus is most needed Leadership and Development awareness sessions– in progress Findings of Digital projects delivered with other Local Authorities, sharing learning Digital apprentice role recruited 	<p>Customer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community hubs implementation and review to inform next phase of development Scoping of Customer Service Standards development <p>Digital / Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> digital programme to support the new operating model, hybrid democratic meeting arrangements, service move to digital offer where this focus is most needed Leadership and Development awareness sessions– in progress Developing the organisational approach Service re- design linked to the commercial strategy ambitions, digital programme and customer experience 	<p>Customer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further development of Community Hubs model Scoping of Working towards excellence in Customer Service delivery – charter mark for Customer Services across the Council <p>Digital / Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> digital programme to support the new operating model, hybrid democratic meeting arrangements, service move to digital offer where this focus is most needed Leadership and Development awareness sessions– in progress Developing the organisational approach Service re- design linked to the commercial strategy ambitions, digital programme and customer experience 					
			Financial Management:-			Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)					
			Estimated Financial Achievement			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community services, mapping sessions held focusing on full end to end process Development of service level standards – setting residents expectations on delivery of services Review of answerphone message, findings were that it was very long and protracted. Queuing system introduced Review of out of hours' service, identified that the existing provider was not delivering great service from Customer perspective – resulting in change of providers from July 2021 (Q2) Community Hubs model preparation and development, phase 1 delivery commenced 21st June 2021 <p>Digital / Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital programme to support the new operating model developed – attendance at DMT meetings to understand needs of services as we move into next phases of delivery Corporate road map developed – now, next, later setting out technical objectives Progression of externally supported digital projects, Adult Social Care, GovPay, Tech Valley and Democracy 					

- Planning for Leadership & Development opportunities to raise awareness and scope of digital – linking into offers from Centre for Digital Public Services and increasing knowledge of staff and members
- Digital apprentice role developed, appointed and inducted as part of Tech Valleys project focussing on waste and recycling services

£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
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Risk Management:-

Risks / Issues	Mitigating Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 	

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables
			Quarter 1 2021/2022	Quarter 2 2021/2022	Quarter 3 2021/2022	Quarter 4 2021/2022
Prevention and early intervention services	Damien McCann / Lynn Phillips	<p>This review will focus on an evaluation of the long term impact of prevention and early intervention on reducing the requirement for high cost services and better outcomes for our most vulnerable residents.</p> <p>Approach potentially involves children and young people transitioning to adulthood to maximise the preventative benefits. Links to NEETs, Recovery/Renewal and Adult Social Care.</p> <p>Intended outcome</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning meeting to take place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing Paper to SCCB Board for discussion regarding seeking external consultancy support. 		

Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes)

- CLT have had initial update and requested further information on overall strategic approach etc
- CLT agreed the corporate nature of this strand of work

Risk Management:-

Risks / Issues	Mitigating Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • •

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables	
			Quarter 1 2021/2022	Quarter 2 2021/2022	Quarter 3 2021/2022	Quarter 4 2021/2022
Using data and behaviour insight to help deliver better services	Bernadette Elias	<p>Becoming a 21st Century Council means using data and insight to drive decision making. This Strategic Business Review will identify opportunities for the sharing and use of data to design services around the customer.</p> <p>Intended outcome</p> <p>The insight from quantitative and qualitative data is recognised as a valuable asset across the organisation.</p> <p>Data is used insightfully and routinely in service re design, analytics and performance monitoring to support better outcomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to build the data work streams supporting recovery Audit Wales data review- initial findings and scoping for next phase workshop. Nesta data maturity assessment framework. Behavioural science- early scoping of potential leadership session on applying the MINDSET methodology to service delivery Programme of WLGA funded sessions on user experience, content design and service re design delivered Cardiff University data science academy- summer MSc placement. Expression of interest and proposal submitted Assessment of Well Being planning for next round of Well Being plans in progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit Wales data review, next phases and findings Revisit Data application to BTgap reviews eg work done previously on income and debt testing Nesta data maturity assessment against a recovery theme-economic recovery Show and tell from digital projects Developing the organisational approach Service re- design linked to the commercial strategy ambitions, digital programme and customer experience. applying service re design to a prioritised programme of service areas including supporting the New Operating Model (NOM). Consideration of applying MINDSET to a pilot programme of service areas, potentially including the NOM Cardiff university placement progression Assessment of Well Being development through the regional sub group of GSWAG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the organisational approach Service re- design linked to the commercial strategy ambitions, digital programme and customer experience Testing Nesta data maturity assessment against a recovery theme Cardiff university MSc final product delivery Assessment of Well Being development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cardiff university MSc --- exploring ways to use the product Assessment of Well Being mature product Development of a research and data programme for the organisational to include external opportunities, behavioural science potential and learning from Nesta assessment, intelligence hub and service re design work
			<p>Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery meetings have been taking place and there has been a performance and data presence at each one. Draft recovery indicators are being developed for discussion at the August meeting. These are at a population and performance level. Discussions have also taken place on the regional recovery PIs and how we can locally align to these. Council Tax data profiling has been re-established to support the bridging the gap project to provide the most up to date information. Audit Wales Review on Data agreed as part of their work programme which will support this Bridging the Gap project. Regional PSB is moving forward, the draft is progressing via a GSWAG sub group, the chapters are being split across Gwent. We are overseeing economic and consulting with NRW on environment. Initial draft due Autumn in readiness for professional consultation before sign off in May 2022. Cardiff University provided a student for a project on data and intelligence for community hubs, due to unforeseen circumstances the placement this year was not feasible, agreed to reconsider this next year. 			
Risk Management:-						
Risks / Issues			Mitigating Actions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 			

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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: **Joint (Budget) Scrutiny Committee**
Date of meeting: **27th September 2021**
Report Subject: **Capital Budget Monitoring, Forecast for 2021/2022
Financial Year (As at 30 June 2021)**
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr 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)
	09/09/2021	14.09.21			15/09/2021	10.11.21		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide members with an overview of each Portfolio's actual and forecast capital expenditure against funding approvals for the 2021/2022 financial year, as at 30th June 2021.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 This report provides details on the following:

- Forecast financial position to 31st March 2021 across all portfolios
- Details of any significant adverse and/or favourable variances

- 2.2 This report forms part of the quarterly financial reporting framework to Members.

3. Options for Recommendation

3.1 Option 1 (Recommended Option)

Members of the Joint Budget Scrutiny Committee accept the report and

- Provide appropriate challenge to the financial outcomes in the report.
- Continue to support appropriate financial control procedures agreed by Council.
- To note the budgetary control and monitoring procedures in place within the Capital Team, to safeguard Authority funding.

3.2 Option 2

Do not accept the report.

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

4.1 This report supports the Forward Looking Corporate Plan 2020/22 as it ensures effective forward financial planning arrangements are in place to support the Council’s financial resilience. This is a key element to achieving “An ambitious and innovative council delivering the quality services we know matter to our communities”

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

5.1.1 The overall financial position as forecast at 30th June 2021 indicates an adverse variance of £287,017 against a total in year capital budget of £15.3m.

The overall position across all Portfolios is shown below: -

Total Approvals Q1 (Jun 2021)	Future funding	In year funding	Actual Expenditure to 30/06/2021 (Month 9)	Forecast Expenditure 2021/2022	Forecast Variance underspent / (overspent)
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
62,014	46,715	15,299	1,482	15,586	(287)

5.1.2 This report has identified significant overspends on the following projects:

- **Household Waste recycling Centre - £42,752**
The overspend relates to increased costs due to the Covid-19 pandemic & future proofing of the site. Discussions are ongoing with WRAP Cymru & Welsh Government regarding funding the additional expenditure.
- **Lime Avenue Business Park - £234,710**
The latest anticipated final account advises of a loss & expenses claim for items in relation to unforeseen issues caused by Covid-19 pandemic. Officers are in dialogue with Welsh Government & WEFO project officials to pursue additional funding to mitigate the overspend.

Discussions with funding bodies are currently positive, therefore, it is not proposed that funding for these schemes be built in from the Capital contingency at this stage.

5.2 Risk including Mitigating Actions

- 5.2.1 Expenditure against external funding approvals needs to be maximised in order to avoid loss of funding. If significant delays in capital expenditure are anticipated or contract costs rise due to the impact of Covid-19, liaison with funding bodies will be required at the earliest opportunity in order to secure approval for funding re-profile.
- 5.2.2 If funding re-profile cannot be agreed and capital schemes are not kept within budget, then capital reserves may be committed beyond affordable levels, with the consequence that projects that have not yet commenced may be deferred or not undertaken, so impacting upon future Capital Programmes.
- 5.2.3 If capital schemes do not achieve the required level of expenditure within the correct financial year and further peaks of the Covid-19 pandemic results in projects facing significant delay, funding may be lost to the Authority and be detrimental to the Authority's chances of securing future funding.
- 5.2.4 The aforementioned risks are mitigated as far as possible through close working relationship with Budget Holders, Technical Services and external funding bodies such as Welsh Government. This ensures that where possible, funding is maximised or funding amendments are secured should the need arise
- 5.2.5 Where overall funding approvals are likely to be exceeded and additional compensatory funding sources cannot be identified, budget holders will initially report the consequences to the Corporate Leadership Team, including proposals to defer/delete other approved schemes.
- 5.2.6 There is a potential risk of increase in Constructions costs & services following the ongoing situation regarding the UK's Exit from the European Union.
- 5.2.7 The UK's Exit from the EU has been added as an organisational risk to the corporate risk register, whilst a separate, more detailed high level action plan has been developed and is being monitored by the Core Planning Group.

5.3 Legal N/A

5.4 Human Resources N/A

6. Supporting Evidence

6.1 *Performance Information and Data*

- 6.1.2 The Capital Expenditure Report is attached at Appendix 1.

6.2 *Expected outcome for the public*

The report details the financial implications for the Council in providing capital investment for the communities of Blaenau Gwent.

All forecast overspends and underspends are managed in order that secured funding approvals are not lost and to mitigate any potential adverse impact upon future Capital investment in Blaenau Gwent.

6.3 *Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)*

The Capital Programme is developed to support the Council's strategic priorities and is considered and agreed by full Council. Joint Budget Scrutiny and Executive Committees consider the budget monitoring reports on a quarterly basis and provide challenge as appropriate.

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

It is essential that all forecast overspends and underspends are managed in order that secured funding approvals are not lost and to mitigate any potential adverse impact upon the future capital programme.

6.5 *Preventative focus*

The Capital Services Team will continue their close working relationship with budget holders and external funding bodies to ensure that funding is maximised or funding amendments are secured in future financial years.

6.6 *Collaboration / partnership working*

The Capital Services Team works closely with budget holders in producing the financial forecast and with external funding bodies to ensure that where possible funding is maximised or funding amendments are secured should the need arise.

6.7 *Integration (across service areas)*

N/A

6.8 *Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions*

The Council is committed to the Decarbonisation Plan to achieve a carbon neutral public sector by 2030. The Capital Programme currently contains schemes which promote the reduction of carbon emissions such as ReFIT, Electric Vehicle Charge Points and the purchase of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles. New Council buildings should be designed to the latest energy efficiency standards.

6.9a *Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment*

N/A

6.9b. *Equality Impact Assessment*

N/A

Background Documents /Electronic Links

Appendix 1 – 2021/22 Funding Estimates Summary

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2022/3

Capital Programme Funding Estimates Summary

<i>Portfolio</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>In Year Budget</i>	<i>Future Funding</i>	<i>Expenditure To: June 2021</i>	<i>Remaining in Year Budget</i>	<i>Forecast Expenditure</i>	<i>Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav</i>
Corporate Services Portfolio	2,472,896	717,736	1,755,160	11,886	705,850	717,736	0
Social Services Portfolio	5,137,332	862,154	4,275,178	53,096	810,819	863,915	(1,761)
Economy Portfolio	12,069,969	2,864,200	9,205,769	941,287	2,165,413	3,106,700	(242,500)
Education and Active Living	26,770,198	1,699,849	25,070,349	126,868	1,572,981	1,699,849	0
Environment Portfolio	8,802,860	4,114,203	4,688,657	333,017	3,823,942	4,156,959	(42,756)
Infrastructure Portfolio	4,813,728	3,295,495	1,518,233	16,068	3,279,427	3,295,495	0
All Portfolios	1,946,815	1,744,900	201,915	0	1,744,900	1,744,900	0
Total Capital Funding	62,013,798	15,298,537	46,715,261	1,482,222	14,103,332	15,585,554	(287,017)

End of Report

Capital Programme - 2021/22 Funding Estimates
Capital Report 2021/22

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2022/3

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

Code	Scheme	Total Funding	In Year Budget	Future Funding	Expenditure to: June 2021	Remaining in Year Budget	Forecast Expenditure	Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav
Corporate Services Portfolio								
Corporate Services								
101385	Workplace Transformation	67,587	587	67,000	587	0	587	0
327102	Corporate Properties H&S and Capital Wo	400,091	3,632	396,459	3,632	0	3,632	0
327103	Civic Centre Decommissioning	655,137	7,436	647,701	4,867	2,569	7,436	0
327104	Democratic Hub (GO)	180,000	180,000	0	0	180,000	180,000	0
327106	ICT Roadmap	805,000	161,000	644,000	0	161,000	161,000	0
327107	Data Centre Move	362,000	362,000	0	0	362,000	362,000	0
328090	CCTV Upgrade	3,081	3,081	0	2,800	281	3,081	0
Corporate Services		2,472,896	717,736	1,755,160	11,886	705,850	717,736	0
Corporate Services Portfolio		2,472,896	717,736	1,755,160	11,886	705,850	717,736	0

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Capital Programme - 2021/22 Funding Estimates
Capital Report 2021/22

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2022/3

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

Code	Scheme	Total Funding	In Year Budget	Future Funding	Expenditure to: June 2021	Remaining in Year Budget	Forecast Expenditure	Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav
Social Services Portfolio								
Childrens Services								
323152	Beaufort Road - Extension Training Flat	12,110	12,110	0	0	13,082	13,082	(972)
323153	Beaufort Road - Outdoor spaces and Exiti	560	560	0	560	0	560	0
324719	Flying Start - Cwm 2	30,000	30,000	0	0	30,000	30,000	0
324721	Flying Start - Ebbw Vale North	265,473	265,473	0	0	265,473	265,473	0
324724	Flying Start - Sirhowy Primary	12,000	12,000	0	0	12,000	12,000	0
324735	Flying Start Brynithel FS Centre	2,600	2,600	0	2,600	0	2,600	0
324736	Flying Start Additional Works	73,700	73,700	0	454	73,246	73,700	0
324770	Childcare Offer - Sixbells Scheme	1,482,230	0	1,482,230	0	0	0	0
324771	Childcare Offer - Badminton Scheme	1,500,000	50,000	1,450,000	0	50,000	50,000	0
324772	Childcare Offer - Blaina ICC Scheme	408,782	0	408,782	0	0	0	0
324773	Childcare Offer - Swfryd Scheme	484,965	420	484,545	420	0	420	0
Childrens Services		4,272,420	446,863	3,825,557	4,034	443,801	447,835	(972)
Adult Services								
323003	Health & Safety	336,483	0	336,483	0	0	0	0
323005	Tackling Food Poverty - WLGA	12,651	1,560	11,091	1,560	0	1,560	0
323141	ICF - Further Enhanced Digital & Mobile	0	0	0	(1,105)	1,105	0	0
323144	ICF Main Capital Programme	86,651	0	86,651	0	0	0	0
323147	Intermediate Care Fund	3,133	0	3,133	0	0	0	0
323148	ICF - Digital & Mobile Assistive Technol	38,825	38,825	0	39,614	0	39,614	(789)
323149	Better Care Capital Project	21,809	9,546	12,263	6,994	2,553	9,546	0

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Capital Programme - 2021/22 Funding Estimates
Capital Report 2021/22

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2022/3

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

<i>Code</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>In Year Budget</i>	<i>Future Funding</i>	<i>Expenditure to: June 2021</i>	<i>Remaining in Year Budget</i>	<i>Forecast Expenditure</i>	<i>Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav</i>
323151	Augusta House - Enablement Pods	365,360	365,360	0	2,000	363,360	365,360	0
	Adult Services	864,912	415,291	449,621	49,062	367,018	416,080	(789)
	Social Services Portfolio	5,137,332	862,154	4,275,178	53,096	810,819	863,915	(1,761)

Capital Programme - 2021/22 Funding Estimates
Capital Report 2021/22

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2022/3

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

Code	Scheme	Total Funding	In Year Budget	Future Funding	Expenditure to: June 2021	Remaining in Year Budget	Forecast Expenditure	Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav
Economy Portfolio								
Tredegar Regeneration								
326163	Tredegar HLF	674,415	674,415	0	80,760	593,655	674,415	0
	Tredegar Regeneration	674,415	674,415	0	80,760	593,655	674,415	0
Ebbw Vale Town Centre								
326191	TRI - Urban Centre Commercial Property I	265,315	265,315	0	166,200	99,115	265,315	0
326192	TRI- Urban Centre Residential Property E	123,024	123,024	0	0	123,024	123,024	0
	Ebbw Vale Town Centre	388,339	388,339	0	166,200	222,139	388,339	0
Valleys Regional Park								
326200	VRP Ebbw Fach Trail	899	0	899	0	0	0	0
326205	VRP - Discovery Gateway	30,180	30,180	0	0	30,180	30,180	0
326206	Local Places for Nature Capital Funding	0	0	0	(3,941)	3,941	0	0
326207	Parc Bryn Bach - Co Working Space	91,661	91,661	0	52,388	39,273	91,661	0
	Valleys Regional Park	122,740	121,841	899	48,447	73,394	121,841	0
The Works Site								
325097	Big Arch	1,008,986	0	1,008,986	0	0	0	0
325103	Learning Works	37,985	0	37,985	0	0	0	0
325220	Site Investigation Works	19,001	0	19,001	0	0	0	0
325225	Ebbw Valley Railway - Northern Extension	2,441	0	2,441	0	0	0	0

Capital Programme - 2021/22 Funding Estimates
Capital Report 2021/22

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2022/3

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

Code	Scheme	Total Funding	In Year Budget	Future Funding	Expenditure to: June 2021	Remaining in Year Budget	Forecast Expenditure	Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav
	The Works Site	1,068,413	0	1,068,413	0	0	0	0
	Other Regeneration							
326006	Tech Valley s Initiative	475,000	0	475,000	0	0	0	0
326180	Lime Avenue Business Park	287,883	287,883	0	279,488	243,105	522,593	(234,710)
326181	Lime Avenue Employment park	2,495,101	0	2,495,101	0	0	0	0
326182	Box Works	0	0	0	115	7,675	7,790	(7,790)
326183	Regain 2	4,005,153	0	4,005,153	(49,204)	49,204	0	0
326184	Brexit Schemes	369,465	0	369,465	0	0	0	0
326193	TRI - Town Centre COVID-19 recovery ad:	529,818	36,240	493,578	36,240	0	36,240	0
326225	Heat Networks Project	17,385	0	17,385	0	0	0	0
326226	Electric Vehicle Chargepoints	20,085	0	20,085	0	0	0	0
326252	Constrained Units - Roseheyworth	6,665	0	6,665	0	0	0	0
326265	Victoria Business Park - Development	39,251	0	39,251	0	0	0	0
326266	Brynmawr Retail Development	750,000	750,000	0	5,749	744,251	750,000	0
326267	Blaenau Gwent Digital	138,049	138,049	0	91,164	46,885	138,049	0
326268	Covid Recovery for Town Centres	392,464	267,433	125,031	267,433	0	267,433	0
326269	Future Skills Academy - Monwel	200,000	200,000	0	14,895	185,106	200,000	0
332332	Regeneration of Former Tinplate Ph 1	89,743	0	89,743	0	0	0	0
	Other Regeneration	9,816,062	1,679,605	8,136,457	645,879	1,276,226	1,922,105	(242,500)
	Economy Portfolio	12,069,969	2,864,200	9,205,769	941,287	2,165,413	3,106,700	(242,500)

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Education and Active Living								
Education Services								
324125	Education Minor Works	48,497	7,594	40,903	(7,506)	15,100	7,594	0
324138	Education Capital Maintenance	120,802	0	120,802	0	0	0	0
324139	Education Capital Maintenance 20/21	297,848	0	297,848	0	0	0	0
324142	Georgetown Windows & Boiler Replaceme	6,206	0	6,206	0	0	0	0
324143	Rhos-y-fedwyn - Refurbishment	3,945	0	3,945	0	0	0	0
324144	St Marys - Refurbishment	200,000	2,412	197,588	2,412	0	2,412	0
324145	Tredegar Comp - Food & Technology	30,070	0	30,070	0	0	0	0
324146	Deighton - Kitchen	639	0	639	0	0	0	0
324147	Tredegar Comp Upgrade Services and Ac	3,450	0	3,450	0	0	0	0
324148	Coed y Garn Roof & Remedial Works	26,638	10,890	15,748	10,890	0	10,890	0
324149	Brynbach Primary Disabled Adaptations	70,000	0	70,000	0	0	0	0
324150	Ebbw Fawr - Developing 3/4 classrooms, t	100,000	0	100,000	0	0	0	0
324152	Brynmawr Canopy	50,000	0	50,000	0	0	0	0
324155	Brynmawr Comp Lift	110,000	0	110,000	0	0	0	0
324156	River Centre Boiler	70,000	0	70,000	0	0	0	0
324157	Tredegar Comprehensive Kitchen Electric	1,455	1,455	0	1,455	0	1,455	0
324201	Class Size - Willowtown	69,557	0	69,557	0	0	0	0
324203	Period Poverty	5,028	0	5,028	0	0	0	0
324519	Digital 2030 Capital Grant - Post 16	4,621	0	4,621	0	0	0	0
324530	ALN	22,299	0	22,299	0	0	0	0
324532	Ebbw Fawr ASD	3,890	0	3,890	0	0	0	0

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324560	Schools IT Infrastructure	24,837	24,837	0	24,837	0	24,837	0
324561	IT Upgrades - Schools	21,318	21,318	0	21,318	0	21,318	0
324580	Brynmawr 3G Pitch	862,480	0	862,480	0	0	0	0
324590	Tredegar Comp 3G Pitch	79,359	0	79,359	0	0	0	0
324743	21st Century Schools Six Bells Project	50,295	50,295	0	7,371	42,924	50,295	0
324750	Band B - Welsh Medium New Build	5,962,761	100,000	5,862,761	43,292	56,708	100,000	0
324751	Band B - New Primary Ebbw Fawr Valley	8,002,596	580,000	7,422,596	21,750	558,250	580,000	0
324752	Band B - Secondary Remodelling Brynma	3,190,237	0	3,190,237	0	0	0	0
324753	Band B - Secondary Remodelling Abertille	3,198,691	0	3,198,691	0	0	0	0
324754	Band B - Secondary Remodelling Tredega	3,197,459	0	3,197,459	0	0	0	0
324755	Band B - Welsh Medium Remodelling Bro	900,000	900,000	0	0	900,000	900,000	0
Education Services		26,734,978	1,698,801	25,036,177	125,820	1,572,981	1,698,801	0
Active Living Services								
329089	Abertillery LC Demolition	1,048	1,048	0	1,048	1	1,048	0
329092	ALC - Changing Room Refurbishment	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	0	0
329095	AWPOG - Play Equipment 20-21	1,733	0	1,733	0	0	0	0
332368	Play Area Schemes - Boroughwide	12,439	0	12,439	0	0	0	0
Active Living Services		35,220	1,048	34,172	1,048	1	1,048	0
Education and Active Living		26,770,198	1,699,849	25,070,349	126,868	1,572,981	1,699,849	0

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Environment Portfolio								
Environmental Services								
327018	RCAF Long Term Organics Procurement	53,024	0	53,024	0	0	0	0
327039	Kerbside Collections	2,052	0	2,052	0	0	0	0
327042	Collaborative Change Programme 18-19	88,436	88,436	0	88,436	0	88,436	0
327043	Household Waste Recycling Centre	120,042	120,042	0	104,378	58,416	162,794	(42,752)
327044	AHP Waste Collections	52,380	52,380	0	0	52,380	52,380	0
327045	BRC Decommissioning Project	383,554	191,777	191,777	0	191,777	191,777	0
327046	Repair Cafe	1,066	0	1,066	0	0	0	0
327061	CATS	80,000	0	80,000	0	0	0	0
327065	Re:Fit	4,177,960	2,088,980	2,088,980	540	2,088,440	2,088,980	0
327067	Market Hall - Asbestos Removal	18,606	0	18,606	0	0	0	0
327068	Cemeteries Investment Programme	196,071	196,071	0	11,750	184,321	196,071	0
327069	Green Recovery	20,020	10,010	10,010	10,006	4	10,010	0
327070	WRAP Cymru Capital Funding	3,787	0	3,787	0	0	0	0
327071	Education Centre	400,000	200,000	200,000	920	199,080	200,000	0
327073	Kerbside Recycling Lorry	331,132	165,566	165,566	2,110	163,456	165,566	0
327074	New Vale HWRC Refurbishment Works	513,052	256,526	256,526	4,826	251,700	256,526	0
327076	Ultra Low Emission Vehicles	92,920	92,920	0	0	92,920	92,920	0
327080	Cemetery Capacity - Cefn Golau Tredegar	527,028	0	527,028	0	0	0	0
327081	Cemetery Capacity - Dukestown Tredegar	227,500	0	227,500	0	0	0	0
327082	Cemetery Capacity - Brynmawr	142,000	0	142,000	0	0	0	0
327083	Cemetery Capacity - Brynmawr	105,000	0	105,000	0	0	0	0

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327090	Fly Tipping CCTV	14,000	14,000	0	0	14,004	14,004	(4)
327110	Allotment Support Grant	25,599	25,599	0	0	25,599	25,599	0
Environmental Services		7,575,229	3,502,307	4,072,922	222,966	3,322,097	3,545,063	(42,756)
Housing Environmental Health								
328221	Remediation of Contaminated Land/Dereli	154,269	2,470	151,799	2,470	0	2,470	0
350510	Improvement grants - new scheme	753,905	469,000	284,905	60,047	408,953	469,000	0
350550	Support for Independent Living	151,154	131,053	20,101	32,011	99,042	131,053	0
350560	Empty Property Grants	168,303	9,373	158,930	15,523	(6,150)	9,373	0
Housing Environmental Health		1,227,631	611,896	615,735	110,052	501,844	611,896	0
Environment Portfolio		8,802,860	4,114,203	4,688,657	333,017	3,823,942	4,156,959	(42,756)

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Infrastructure Portfolio								
Engineering Services								
328040	Cwm By Pass	13,970	0	13,970	0	0	0	0
328149	SRIC - Tredgar Footway Improvements	25,000	25,000	0	0	25,000	25,000	0
328310	Local Transport Fund	0	0	0	3,900	(3,900)	0	0
328312	Local Transport Fund 2020/21	191,487	174,702	16,785	88,242	86,460	174,702	0
328314	Local Transport Network Fund	2,319	2,319	0	0	2,319	2,319	0
328315	Local Transport Fund - Project Retention	16,020	0	16,020	0	0	0	0
328318	Active Travel Fund	399,000	399,000	0	8,621	390,379	399,000	0
328323	Resilient Roads Fund	300,000	300,000	0	0	300,000	300,000	0
328340	LTF Metro Plus	220,000	220,000	0	(186,209)	406,209	220,000	0
328342	LTF Bedwellty Pits	990,000	990,000	0	0	990,000	990,000	0
328344	LTF Bus Stop Infrastructure	405,000	405,000	0	0	405,000	405,000	0
Engineering Services		2,562,796	2,516,021	46,775	(85,447)	2,601,468	2,516,021	0
Highways Network Management								
328063	Bridge Strengthening Works	1,857	0	1,857	0	0	0	0
328269	Highways PB Imp. Works.	20,946	0	20,946	0	0	0	0
328270	Highways Improvement Works	1,692,700	381,078	1,311,622	96,551	284,527	381,078	0
328334	LGBI - Trinant Hall	59,747	45,805	13,942	45,805	0	45,805	0
328404	Flood Damage - Emergency Repairs	25,186	12,593	12,593	(32,775)	45,368	12,593	0
328405	Aberbeeg Road Repairs	220,996	110,498	110,498	(8,067)	118,565	110,498	0
328406	Small Scale Works Grant	229,500	229,500	0	0	229,500	229,500	0

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<i>Code</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>In Year Budget</i>	<i>Future Funding</i>	<i>Expenditure to: June 2021</i>	<i>Remaining in Year Budget</i>	<i>Forecast Expenditure</i>	<i>Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav</i>
	Highways Network Management	2,250,932	779,474	1,471,458	101,514	677,960	779,474	0
	Infrastructure Portfolio	4,813,728	3,295,495	1,518,233	16,068	3,279,427	3,295,495	0

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All Portfolios								
All Portfolios								
300300	City Deal	1,220,900	1,220,900	0	0	1,220,900	1,220,900	0
303990	OS Capital Admin/Design & Supervision	524,000	524,000	0	0	524,000	524,000	0
321112	Disabled Access - Special Programme	4,951	0	4,951	0	0	0	0
324672	The Company Shop - Tred	196,964	0	196,964	0	0	0	0
All Portfolios		1,946,815	1,744,900	201,915	0	1,744,900	1,744,900	0
All Portfolios		1,946,815	1,744,900	201,915	0	1,744,900	1,744,900	0

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<i>Code</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>In Year Budget</i>	<i>Future Funding</i>	<i>Expenditure to: June 2021</i>	<i>Remaining in Year Budget</i>	<i>Forecast Expenditure</i>	<i>Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav</i>
	Total Capital Funding	62,013,798	15,298,537	46,715,261	1,482,222	14,103,332	15,585,554	(287,017)

End of Report