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Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Gwasanaethau Democraidaidd



MAE HWN YN GYFARFOD Y MAE GAN Y CYHOEDD HAWL EI FYNYCHU

Dydd Mercher, 23 Chwefror 2022

Annwyl Syr/Madam

PWLLGOR CRAFFU GWASANAETHAU CYMUNEDOL

Cynhelir cyfarfod o'r Pwllgor Craffu Gwasanaethau Cymunedol yn Siambr y Cyngor, Canolfan Ddinesig on Dydd Llun, 28ain Chwefror, 2022 am 10.00 am.

Yn gywir

Michelle Morris
Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr

AGENDA

1. CYFIEITHU AR Y PRYD

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

2. YMDDIHEURIADAU

Derbyn ymddiheuriadau.

3. DATGANIADAU BUDDIANT A GODDEFEBAU

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

Derbyn datganiadau buddiant a goddefebau.

4. **PWYLLGOR CRAFFU GWASANAETHAU
CYMUNEDOL** 5 - 16

Derbyn cofnodion y cyfarfod o'r Pwyllgor Craffu Gwasanaethau Cymunedol a gynhaliwyd ar 15 Tachwedd 2021.

(Dylid nodi y cyflwynir y cofnodion er pwyntiau cywirdeb yn unig).

5. **DALEN WEITHREDU – 15 TACHWEDD 2021** 17 - 26

Derbyn y Ddalen Weithredu.

6. **PWYLLGOR CRAFFU GWASANAETHAU
CYMUNEDOL** 27 - 30

Derbyn cofnodion cyfarfod arbennig y Pwyllgor Craffu Gwasanaethau Cymunedol a gynhaliwyd ar 24 Ionawr 2022.

(Dylid nodi y cyflwynir y cofnodion er pwyntiau cywirdeb yn unig).

7. **GWEITHGAREDD GORFODAETH TIPIO
ANGHYFREITHLON 2021/22** 31 - 36

Ystyried adroddiad y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Adfywio a Gwasanaethau Cymunedol.

8. **ADDASIADAU I'R ANABL – CYNNIG DIWYGIO
POLISI I DDILEU PRAWF MODD** 37 - 50

Ystyried adroddiad y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Adfywio a Gwasanaethau Cymunedol.

9. **YMESTYN CONTRACT – GWASANAETH TRINIAETH
RHEOLI PLA HYD 31 RHAGFYR 2023** 51 - 72

Ystyried adroddiad y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Adfywio a Gwasanaethau Cymunedol.

At: Cynghorwyr M. Moore (Cadeirydd)
C. Meredith (Is-gadeirydd)
P. Baldwin
M. Cook

M. Cross
M. Day
P. Edwards
S. Healy
W. Hodgins
J. Holt
J. C. Morgan
L. Parsons
T. Sharrem
B. Summers
L. Winnett

Pob Aelod arall (er gwybodaeth)

Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr

Prif Swyddogion

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

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

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
15TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR M. MOORE (CHAIR)

Councillors C. Meredith
P. Baldwin
M. Cook
M. Day
P. Edwards
S. Healy
W. Hodgins
J. Holt
J.C. Morgan
L. Parsons
B. Summers
L. Winnett

WITH: Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services
Head of Community Services
Service Manager Neighbourhood Services
Service Manager Public Protection
Team Manager Street Scene
Team Manager Built Infrastructure
Team Leader Environmental Protection
Team Manager Trading Standards
Biodiversity Project Officer
Engineering Manager
Engineer
Estates Manager
Marketing & Communications
Scrutiny & Democratic Officer/Advisor

AND: Gavin Jones – Powys County Council

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
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 received for Councillor T. Sharrem.</p>	
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p>	
No. 4	<p><u>COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The minutes of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee held on 27th September, 2021 were submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
No. 5	<p><u>ACTION SHEET – 27th SEPTEMBER, 2021</u></p> <p>The action sheet arising from the Community Services Scrutiny Committee held on the 27th September, 2021 was submitted, whereupon:-</p> <p><i><u>Revenue Budget Monitoring</u></i></p> <p>A Member referred to the recent increase in recycling income and asked whether this would have a positive impact on the budget moving forward.</p> <p>The Service Manager Neighbourhood Services said the market was volatile, however, the increase in prices would have a positive impact in Quarter 2.</p>	

	<p>In response to a further question the Officer explained that Officers within the Department negotiated prices for materials with the support and co-operation of WRAP.</p> <p><u>Capital Budget Monitoring Forecast – Appendix 1</u> <u>327061 – CATs – breakdown of CATs</u></p> <p>A Member expressed concern regarding a potential CAT, and the Estates Manager confirmed that discussions were ongoing with an organisation regarding two potential opportunities.</p> <p>A discussion ensued when the Member said the matter should be referred to the Education & Learning Scrutiny Committee for consideration prior to going to the Executive Committee.</p> <p>The Estates Manager confirmed that no decision had been taken, and that the Education Department was aware of the issue. The Officer confirmed that it would be referred to Education & Learning Scrutiny.</p> <p>Another Member asked when the CAT for Trinity Chapel would be completed.</p> <p>The Officer explained that discussions were ongoing and hopefully the process would be completed by March 2022.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the action sheet be noted.</p>	
<p>No. 6</p>	<p><u>BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE FORWARD PLAN (2019-2022) 2020/21 ANNUAL REPORT</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Head of Community Services.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Project Officer presented the report which provided an update on how the Council was meeting its statutory duties under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and provided an overview of annual progress against the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Forward Plan (2019-2022) for 2020/21.</p>	

The Officer went through the report and highlighted points contained therein. Progress in 2020/21 by service area against the delivery mechanisms and Activity Plan for 2021/22 was shown at Appendix 2.

A Member referred to open green spaces not protected as recreation areas, and asked how they were considered during the planning application process.

The Officer confirmed that these type of areas were evaluated in terms of their ecological value and what level of protection they required. If it was felt that an area may have a good ecological value or management was needed to enhance the area, then work would be undertaken across various sectors/services to try and protect those areas.

A Member commended the report and stressed the importance of educating young people on the issues, and asked whether it was intended to involve all schools in the Urban Hedgehog Project.

The Officer said there was significant interest expressed by Blaenau Gwent schools, but only 8 were selected for the pilot project. However, work was ongoing to connect the remaining schools to local community groups that manage green spaces etc.

In response to a question raised by a Member regarding SINC's, the Officer said there several sites in Blaenau Gwent. A Greater Gwent project was currently looking at wildlife on those sites and wider management and feedback from survey work was awaited.

The Member requested a list of SINC's be circulated to all Members and the Officer undertook to provide this information.

The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and the annual report 2020/21 and activity plan recommended for 2021/22 to meet the Section 6 Duty, be approved. (Option 1)

No. 7

CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT – SERVICE UPDATE

Consideration was given to report of the Head of Community Services.

The Team Manager Built Infrastructure presented the report which provided an update on Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) for the period 1st November, 2020 to 31st September, 2021.

The Officer spoke to the report and highlighted points contained therein. He said notwithstanding the effects of the Covid pandemic, the CPE operation was performing in line with the agreed business case model.

A Member referred to the 95% collection rate of PCN's, and asked what action was being taken to recover the remaining 5%.

The Officer said there was a process in place to recover unpaid PCN's but this had been suspended during the Covid pandemic.

The Member also asked how the number of PCN's issued in Blaenau Gwent compared with other Local Authorities.

The Officer said he was unable to provide a comparison with other LA's, but stated that the service operated in line with the agreed business case model. There were no targets set for the Enforcement Officers as they could only issue PCN's when they witnessed illegal parking, where traffic regulation orders were in place.

In response to a further question the Officer explained that if a vehicle was parked on a pavement with 'yellow lines' in place then a PCN would be issued. However, if a vehicle was parked on a pavement and causing obstruction, but there were no 'yellow lines' then this would be referred to the Police.

A Member said would he have liked greater detail on the Council's communication with the Police in relation to pavement parking.

A Member asked what health and safety procedures were in place to protect Enforcement Officers operating alone.

The Officer explained that Caerphilly CBC had a lone working policy which required supervisors to check in with staff, and there were no lone working patrols undertaken in the evenings. He also confirmed that Enforcement Officers had radio connection to local staff whilst out on patrols.

Another Member said he would have liked a breakdown of PCN's issued within Nantyglo and Blaina. He then referred to Section 2.14 of the report which stated that the Council should identify areas where pavement parking should be tolerated, and asked whether this work was currently being undertaken and if funding was available from Welsh Government to undertake this work.

The Officer undertook to provide a more detailed breakdown of the figures. In relation to pavement parking, he pointed out that there was a significant amount of areas within the Borough where pavement parking could be tolerated. However, the guidance on how we set this legislation was still awaited from Welsh Government. He said there were concerns as to how it would be enforced and a consistent approach with other areas was preferred. In terms of funding he was not aware of any further funding being made available.

A discussion ensued regarding parking problems at a number of primary schools within the Borough.

The Officer confirmed that an application for funding had been submitted and a scheme at Georgetown Primary School was being considered.

A Member stressed the urgency of the TRO review for Tredegar Town Centre as traders were concerned that parking in the town centre was impacting on footfall and business.

In response the Officer explained that a scheme had been designed for Tredegar Town Centre to address the concerns of local businesses, however, colleagues within Regeneration were currently considering a longer term plan

for the Centre and the TRO review had been put on hold pending the outcome of this work. However, he undertook to liaise with Regeneration Officers regarding this matter.

A further discussion ensued regarding parking problems at schools and the Officer urged Members to report issues. He also confirmed that a meeting was scheduled at Bryn Bach School later in the week to discuss whether further measures could be introduced.

A Member referred to Table 3 within the report and asked whether this included the misuse of blue badges.

The Officer explained that this came under the remit of Social Services as Enforcement Officers did not have the information available to check eligibility of blue badge holders.

Another Member expressed concern regarding the impact of illegal parking on bus routes and timetables.

The Officer confirmed that a more proactive approach was now in place around bus routes and complaints were responded to in a more timely manner.

In response to a question raised by a Member regarding consultation with the public the Officer confirmed that consultation was undertaken when traffic orders were introduced, and consultation had also commenced on a number of new schemes. Feedback from consultation on individual traffic orders would not be reported to Scrutiny as there was a statutory process in place.

Another Member expressed concern with the level of Enforcement Officers within Blaenau Gwent and questioned whether the Council were getting 'value for money'.

The Officer assured that discussions were ongoing with Caerphilly CBC but recruitment in this area was difficult. Unfortunately, there were only two Officers in post so any sickness absence did impact on the service.

The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and the latest annual progress update relating to

	<p>Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) since its introduction in 2019 and the current business case model be accepted. (Option A)</p>	
No. 8	<p><u>UPDATE REPORT FLY GRAZING HORSES</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Service Manager Neighbourhood Services.</p> <p>The Service Manager Neighbourhood Services presented the report which provided an update on the issue of fly grazing horses within the County Borough. The report also outlined changes to the current Policy and set out the legislative and policy framework in place and operated by Officers to resolve incidents.</p> <p>The Officer spoke to the report and highlighted points contained therein.</p> <p>A Member said she welcomed the report and informed the Committee that she had had discussions with the British Horse Society Welfare Officer who had also recommended that the Council appoint an Animal Health Officer to oversee the various issues being experienced, as outlined in the Policy and modelled by Cardiff City Council.</p> <p>The Officer undertook to liaise with colleagues on this matter.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and Members support the Policy amendment and the existing process for the removal of horses set out in the report with the associated use of contractors and the costs associated with this. (Option 1).</p>	
No. 9	<p><u>ANIMAL HEALTH, WELFARE & LICENSING SERVICE COLLABORATION – POWYS CC PARTNERSHIP – ACTIVITIES & UPDATE REPORT – OCTOBER 2021</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Service Manager Public Protection.</p>	

The Service Manager Public Protection presented the report which provided an update on the Animal Health, Welfare & Licensing work undertaken between by Powys CC on behalf of Blaenau Gwent.

The Officer spoke to the report and highlighted points contained therein. Appendix 1 outlined the total number of premises in Blaenau Gwent covered by these arrangements, and Appendices 2 to 4 outlined the Service Plans and activities for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 (up to 19th October, 2021) respectively. Section 6 provided a summary of key operations completed and ongoing since the start of the partnership.

A Member asked how many days per week under the SLA were allocated to responding to issues within Blaenau Gwent.

The Powys CC Officer explained that Officers undertook routine planned inspections, and any other work was reactive in terms of responding to issues as and when required. A significant amount of time was also spent on intelligence gathering. He could not provide a definitive answer in terms of the number of days allocated to Blaenau Gwent, but felt that Blaenau Gwent were getting value for money under the SLA arrangement.

The Member said the service should be brought back under the remit of the Council, particularly in light of the new dog breeding legislation coming into force, and the increase in illegal dog breeding in the Borough. She also reported that she had been informed by a well-known animal rescue organisation that there seemed to be a lack of engagement with Blaenau Gwent compared to other LA's in relation to unlicensed breeders and animal welfare concerns.

In response the Service Manager Public Protection pointed out that the Council entered into the SLA with Powys as we did not have the expertise and resilience in house to provide the service, and that was still the case. To bring the service back in-house would mean a significant growth item for the Council, and leave us with challenges in terms of providing the service with the lack of expertise.

	<p>The Team Manager Trading Standards agreed, he said with the service coming under the Trading Standards section, he was grateful for the expertise of Powys CC and would be concerned if this ceased. He said this was a specialised area of work and recruitment was challenging, and he would have concerns to recruit to the level required. In terms of the workload he said this had increased particularly with the issues of illegal dog breeding, but he pointed out that this was an issue nationally, but the answer was not to lose the expertise available from Powys CC.</p> <p>A Member proposed that due to the significant animal welfare issues and straying animals within the Borough that the Council consider reinstating an animal welfare service.</p> <p>The proposal was seconded.</p> <p>A vote was thereupon taken.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and the content of the report be noted and Members support the work of the service going forward. (Option 1).</p>	
<p>No. 10</p>	<p><u>ACTIVE TRAVEL AND SAFE ROUTES IN COMMUNITIES 2021/22</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Head of Community Services.</p> <p>The Engineer presented the report which provided an update on Active Travel and Safe Routes in the Community (SRiC) works for the Financial Year 2021/22.</p> <p>The Officer spoke to the report and highlighted points contained therein.</p> <p>In response to concerns raised by a Member regarding the Mechanical Link in Ebbw Vale, the Officer confirmed that Link had been closed through the pandemic due to the social distancing requirements.</p> <p>A Member said she was disappointed that Cwmcelyn Bridge had not been included in the list for Active Travel Schemes.</p>	

	<p>She said the Bridge provided a link for the community to the local nature area, and was also a route to school.</p> <p>In response the Officer explained that Cwmcelyn Bridge was not part of the 2021/22 funding programme. She confirmed that other options were being considered, however, it was unlikely that the Bridge would be able to have shared use, i.e. cycle path and footway.</p> <p>The Officer also encouraged Members to use the commonplace consultation website, as this could be used as evidence gather for future financial years. She was also happy to consult with Members on a ward basis on funding applications for the next financial year.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and Officers consult with Members on the Active Travel Routes (Option B).</p>	
<p>No. 11</p>	<p><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME: 17TH JANUARY 2022</u></p> <p>The Forward Work Programme for the meeting scheduled to be held on 17th January, 2022 was submitted.</p> <p>A brief discussion ensued when the Chair undertook to liaise with the Scrutiny & Democratic Officer regarding potential future items.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the Forward Work Programme be accepted.</p>	

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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Action Sheet - Community Services Scrutiny Committee – 15th November 2021

Item	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken																						
5	<p><u>Action Sheet – 4th October 2021</u></p> <p>Members requested that any reports requiring decisions on Community Asset Transfers to be presented to scrutiny prior to Executive.</p> <p>Update on Catch 22 to be provided.</p>	<p>Louise Horner</p> <p>Louise Horner</p>	<p>Report to be scheduled into Forward Work Programme as necessary.</p> <p>Information attached.</p>																						
6	<p><u>Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Forward Plan (Annual Report)</u></p> <p>A list of Sites of Importance for Natural Conservation (SINCs) in Blaenau Gwent to be provided.</p>	<p>Nadine Morgan</p>	<p>See attached information</p>																						
7	<p><u>Civil Parking Enforcement – Service update</u></p> <p>A more detailed breakdown of PCNs to be provided, i.e. Blaina and Nantyglo and Ebbw Vale.</p>	<p>Mark Hopkins</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1312 871 1675 986">Period: 1st November – 30th September 2021</th> <th data-bbox="1682 871 1906 986">No. of PCNs issued</th> </tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="1312 991 1675 1027">Town</th> <th data-bbox="1682 991 1906 1027"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1312 1032 1675 1069">Abertillery</td> <td data-bbox="1682 1032 1906 1069">213</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1312 1074 1675 1110">Beaufort</td> <td data-bbox="1682 1074 1906 1110">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1312 1115 1675 1152">Blaina</td> <td data-bbox="1682 1115 1906 1152">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1312 1157 1675 1193">Brynmawr</td> <td data-bbox="1682 1157 1906 1193">235</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1312 1198 1675 1235">Ebbw Vale</td> <td data-bbox="1682 1198 1906 1235">194</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1312 1240 1675 1276">Nantyglo</td> <td data-bbox="1682 1240 1906 1276">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1312 1281 1675 1318">Six Bells</td> <td data-bbox="1682 1281 1906 1318">17</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1312 1323 1675 1359">The Work Ebbw Vale</td> <td data-bbox="1682 1323 1906 1359">212</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1312 1364 1675 1401">Tredegar</td> <td data-bbox="1682 1364 1906 1401">145</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Period: 1 st November – 30 th September 2021	No. of PCNs issued	Town		Abertillery	213	Beaufort	8	Blaina	5	Brynmawr	235	Ebbw Vale	194	Nantyglo	0	Six Bells	17	The Work Ebbw Vale	212	Tredegar	145
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Item	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
	In relation to pavement parking, a report to be provided to Members when the operational guidance has been released by Welsh Government	Mark Hopkins	Report be scheduled into Forward Work Programme when guidance becomes available.
10	<p><u>Active Travel and Safe Routes to Communities</u></p> <p>Reasons why the Cableway is not running to be provided.</p> <p>Consultation workshops with Members to be arranged when planning future Active Travel and Safe Routes to Communities.</p>	<p>Jessica Norris</p> <p>Jessica Norris</p>	<p>See attached information.</p> <p>Workshop arranged for 12th January 2022.</p>

Action Sheet - Community Services Scrutiny Committee – 15th November 2021

Information required on Catch 22

Catch-22 is a social business and not for profit organization with a social mission to design and deliver services that build resilience and aspiration in people of all ages and within communities across the UK. The organization is seeking accommodation within Blaenau Gwent for up to 18 pupils with the intention to provide an alternative setting for children who are not in mainstream or pupil referral unit schools

The organisation has consulted with colleagues in Education who have confirmed the following: -

The council are able to do shorter and longer term provision via the River Centre. However, whilst we have specialist provision of our own we do also have pupils in other specialist SEBD provisions. As are all our neighbouring Local Authorities (LA), that there is a scarcity of specialist SEBD provision. We are aware Catch 22 are currently making provision for a number of pupils from Newport and Torfaen in their setting in Newport. LAs like Newport/Torfaen will have pupil referral units (shorter term provision generally) and then look for out of county options when they need to. For the likes of Newport, Catch-22 is a huge benefit in terms of transport savings and keeping learners in the community.

Catch-22 would fit into our continuum of provision as it would provide a further option for us at the most complex end. We would only place SEBD learners in the Independent sector as a last resort and only when our current school provision is at capacity. The provision could be seen to complement the education we can offer for SEBD learners in BG and would also support the increase in numbers of out of county CLA pupils being placed within the LA. This type of provision would complement the education we can offer in BG and support the increase in number of OOC CLA pupils being placed within the LA.

Education have also confirmed that they would not be looking to financially support Catch 22 and would pay placement costs if the need to make a placement was required. They would also be reluctant to co-locate such a function within existing school sites.

In terms of location and accommodation, Catch 22 are seeking a classroom sized room with additional ancillary space. The council have been exploring opportunities with them including a potential opportunity with a building that we expected to be returned to the Council. In this respect we ran a selection process to identify new tenants. However legal issues with Trustees and transfer or part they own/ surrender of the lease means this hasn't as yet moved forward.

We have been speaking to the Head of the local Catch 22 to keep them updated and they have confirmed that they are exploring other opportunities within the area and if that is in a Council owned building subject to a lease to another 3rd sector organisation this will need to be reported back to the Council for consideration.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within Blaenau Gwent

1	Adjacent to Blaenycwm School
2	Adjacent to noble square
3	Arail Farm Slopes North
4	Arail Farm Slopes South
5	Arail Pond
6	Beaufort Hill
7	Bedwellty Pits Field
8	Blaenafon Road Pond (064)
9	Blaenafon Road Pond (063)
10	Blaentillery Farm North
11	Blaentillery Farm South
12	Bourneville Slip
13	Bryn Farm, Brynmawr
14	Bryn Serth
15	Bryn Bach School
16	Brynawelon Pond
17	Brynmawr Pond
18	Bwlch-y-Garn North
19	Bwlch-y-Garn South
20	Castell coryn grassland
21	Cefn bach Heath and acid grassland
22	Cefyn Bach
23	Cefyn Pyllau-duon pond
24	Chapel House Field
25	Clydach River
26	Coalbrookvale
27	Coaed Argoed
28	Coed Troestre
29	Coed y gilfach, Aberbeeg
30	Coedcae Coch, Aberbeeg
31	Coetgae Pond
32	Craig Swffryd
33	Craig y Deri Pond
34	Cwm Big North, Aberbeeg
35	Cwm Farm pond
36	Cwm Celyn east
37	Cwm Celyn West
39	Cwmtillery Reservoir
40	Darren Ddu
41	East of Gwastad Farm
42	East of Penrhiwgwngi
43	Eastville Road
44	Ebbw River mid section 1
45	Ebbw River mid section 2
46	Ebbw River south section
47	Ebbw River south tip section

48	Edge of Mulfran
49	Embankment grassland
50	Fairview field
51	Festival lake
52	Garden city
53	Garden City pond
54	Carn Cam Isaf
55	Garnddu meadow
56	Garnlydan
57	Golf Course pond
58	Gorse bank field
59	Greenmeadow farm
60	Hafod-y-dafal acid grassland
61	Higlands grassland
62	Hillside with acid flushes
63a	Hirgan Fields
63b	Land to the east of Dukestown cemetery
64	Industrial Estate grasslands
65	Land surrounding wetland centre
66	Llanerch Padern West, Cwmtillery
67	Llanerch Padern East, Cwmtillery
68	Llwydcoed Pond
69	Lower Farm field
70	Lower Troedrhigwair Grasslands
71	Meadowbank field
72	Milgatw Farm Grassland
73	Mulfran, Mynydd, Coity, Myndydd James and Gwastad
74	Mynydd Bedwellte
75	Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn-Y-Arail
76	Mynydd Manmoel
77	Nant Trefil Pond
78	Nine Arches Grasslands
78a	Extension to Nine Arches Grasslands
79	North of Hendre Gwyndwr, Cwmtillery
80	North Pen-Y-Lan Grassland
81	Old Allotments
82	Parc Bryn Bach
83	Parc Nant Y Waun
84	Pen Y Waun Pond
85	Pine Tree House Grassland
86	Pond Group 1
87	Bwlch y Garn Pond
88	Pond Group 1
89	Pond Group 2
90	Pond Group 3
91	Pond group 5
92	Pyllau-duon pond
93	Rassau pond
94	Rhyd y blew
95	River Ebbw Fach

96	River Sirhowy
97	River Tyleri
98	Roseheyworth Woodland
99	Scotch Peter's Pond
100	Semtex Pond
101	Sheepfold Grasslands
102	Shon Sheffrey's Reservoir
103	Sirhowy Hill Woodland and Cardiff Pond
104	Six Bells Colliery Site
105	Slopes of Mynydd carn-y-cefn (part 1)
106	Slopes West of Mynydd carn-y-cefn (part 2)
107	South of Troedrhigwair
108	South Pen-Y-Lan Grassland
109	St James' Reservoir
110	Swffryd Wood, Swffryd
111	Swffryd Fach
112	Swyffryd Fach
113	Tarren y Trwyn Pond
114	The Ducky, the small ducky
115	The Fountain Inn
116	Tirpentwys cut
117	Tredegar Leisure Centre
118	Tredegar Patch Grassland
119	Trefil Ddu Pond 1
120	Trefil Ddu Pond 2
121	Trefil Ddu Pond 3
122	Trefil Ddu Pond 4
123	Trefil Las Pond
124	Trefil Village Grassland
125	Troestre Pond
126	Ty Llwyn Pond
127	Upper Troedrhigwair Grasslands
129	Waun Y Pound
130	Waun Lwyd species-rich grassland
131	West of Blaentillery farm, Cwmtillery
132	Cwm slopes, Festival Park Ebbw Vale
133	Land at Park view, Beaufort (B23)
134	Land off Parkhill Crescent (B11)
135	Ebbw River north section
136	Nant y croft, Rassau (B35)
137	Land to the rear of Glandwr Road, Rassau (B41)
138	Land East of Pant View Houses, Coed Cae (C2)
139	Quarry at Gilfach Wen Farm, Six Bells (D9)
140	Adjacent to Drysiog Farm (B10)
141	Land to the east of Bourneville Road, Blaina (D29)
142	Rear of New Cwm Terrace, Cwm (B2)
143	Nantyglo Acid grassland (c4)
143	Nantyglo Meadow
145	cSINC form Cwmcelyn
146	cSINC form Trevor Rowson

147	Section 4 Bedwellty Pits Highway verge
148	Section 1 Bryn Serth Highway verge
149	Section 5 Pochin houses Highway verge
150	Llanhilleth highway verge
151	Section 11 Nantyglo highway verge
152	Bedwellty Pits east of river
153	Bedwellty pits west of river
154	Marine Colliery
155	The Glebe
156	Tredegar Business Park
157	Peacehaven West
158	South Griffin

Action – Community Services Scrutiny Committee – 15th November 2021

Statement re: Current Cableway Closure

December 2021

The decision to keep the cableway closed at this current time is due to the requirement to man the cabin to help prevent vandalism and ensure physical distancing and mask wearing is maintained as per statutory requirements. The opportunity for ventilating the cabin is limited, with only a small skylight window available in the cabin and doors opening to enclosed stations.

With the new Omicron variant likely to become more prevalent in the community, maintaining physical distancing to help stop the spread is essential. The cabin has a small area, therefore, if it were to be opened during current guidance and keep it manned, we could only allow a maximum of 2 passengers per trip. This is deemed uneconomical and not in line with the Council's sustainability objectives.

Once social distancing guidance is reviewed, we will undertake a risk assessment to see whether the number of passengers can be increased and the cableway reopened to the public.

Essential and planned maintenance works for the cableway are still ongoing.

BGCBC Property Services

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

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

SUBJECT: **SPECIAL COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – 24th JANUARY, 2022**

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

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR M. MOORE (CHAIR)

Councillors J.P. Morgan (*Substituting for C. Meredith*)

P. Baldwin

J. Hill (*Substituting for M. Cook*)

M. Day

P. Edwards

S. Healy

W. Hodgins

J. Holt

J.C. Morgan

L. Parsons

G.A. Davies (*Substituting for B. Summers*)

L. Winnett

WITH: Managing Director
 Chief Officer Resources
 Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services
 Head of Community Services
 Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance
 Service Manager Neighbourhood Services
 Team Leader Regeneration Opportunities
 Marketing & Communications
 Scrutiny & Democratic Officer/Advisor

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
No. 1	<u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.	

<p>No. 2</p>	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received for Councillors C. Meredith, M. Cook, B. Summers, M. Cross and T. Sharrem.</p>	
<p>No. 3</p>	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p>	
<p>No. 4</p>	<p><u>FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF THE WASTE TRANSFER STATION AND HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE</u></p> <p>Having regard to the views expressed by the Proper Officer regarding the public interest test, that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the public be excluded whilst this item of business is transacted as it is likely there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).</p> <p>Consideration was given to the joint report of the Managing Director, Chief Officer Resources and the Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance.</p> <p>The Team Leader Regeneration Opportunities presented the report which provided members with an update on the work completed since the last report considered in December 2019 and sought approval of a preferred way forward.</p> <p>The Officer spoke to the report and highlighted points contained therein.</p> <p>A discussion ensued when Members expressed concern regarding various elements contained within the report, particularly the lack of detail in respect of the Council's business plan, and felt that the report should be deferred pending a robust business plan.</p>	

The Officer explained that the details contained within the report related to the transitional planning arrangements moving forward. The concerns raised by Members would form part of any future work to develop future proposals.

A further discussion ensued when the Chief Officer Resources clarified points by Members regarding costs. The Officer pointed out that potential efficiencies of developing opportunities had not been included in the Council's business planning, however, it was anticipated that over time the cost pressures would reduce with potential income generation.

In response to the concerns raised the Managing Director said it was important to ensure that any business plan was robust, and identified where additional expertise was required in developing potential opportunities. She also highlighted the implications of deferring the report.

A further discussion ensued when Officers clarified points raised by Members.

Another Member said this was a comprehensive report which identified opportunities for the Council moving forward and supported Option 3.

A number of Members also supported Option 3.

Following further comments made by Members, the Chief Officer Resources pointed out that a business case for each future development opportunity would be reported to Committee for consideration

A Member proposed the following alternative Option:

'That the Council's fully costed Business Plan be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration, prior to being submitted to full Council for decision.'

The proposal was seconded.

A recorded vote was thereupon taken on the proposed alternative Option.

In Favour – Councillors P. Baldwin, P. Edwards, John C. Morgan, L. Winnett.

Against - Councillors M. Day, S. Healy, W. Hodgins, J. Hill, L. Parsons, J. Holt, G.A. Davies, John P. Morgan, M. Moore

The alternative proposal was therefore not carried.

The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report which contained information relating to the financial/business affairs of persons other than the Authority be accepted and that Option 3 be endorsed, i.e. to bring services back under the remit of the Council.

Agenda Item 7

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**
Date of meeting: **28th February 2022**
Report Subject: **Fly Tipping Enforcement Activity 2021/22**
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Joanne Wilkins [Executive Member, Environment]**
Report Submitted by: **Andrew Long Team Manager Frontline Enforcement Service**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
	10.02.22	15.02.22			28.02.22			

1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Authority's enforcement activities in relation to fly tipping and other waste regulation offences and the level of fly tipping activity within Blaenau Gwent for the year 2021/22.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The Authority has taken a robust and proactive approach to fly-tipping enforcement for over 15 years and the report will outline current issues and trends, local enforcement arrangements and outcomes, and how the Authority compares to other Welsh Authorities in these respects. The report also outlines the main offences relating to fly-tipping and the typical legal sanctions available.
- 2.2 Up until September 2021 Fly Tipping was regulated by Environmental Health in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Investigations into incidents of fly-tipping are conducted by two Enforcement Officers who also undertake other duties including stray dog collection and dealing with abandoned vehicles. These Enforcement Officers were appointed primarily on the basis of their practical enforcement experience, either being ex-Police Officers or having specialists' skills in surveillance and investigation techniques.
- 2.3 Since September 2021 a new Frontline Enforcement Team has been created embedded with the Community Services Section. This team has brought together the waste regulation work of the Enforcement Wardens (formerly Waste Wardens) who deal with domestic recycling compliance and the fly tipping work of the Enforcement Officers. Bringing these two areas of work together has enabled a more co-ordinated and integrated approach to dealing with illegal accumulations of waste, both in town centres and in more rural and semi-rural settings.

2.4 There are a number of legal sanctions available to the Authority to deal with waste offences and most of these are contained within the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The key powers and sanctions used by the Authority are set out below.

- Section 33. 1(a) Environmental Protection Act 1990 – This creates the offence of illegally depositing controlled waste - offenders can be prosecuted or receive a fixed penalty notice for £400
- Section 34. 2 (A) Environmental Protection Act 1990 – This creates the offence for householders of failing to carry out appropriate measures to ensure their waste is transferred to an authorised person- offenders can be prosecuted or issued with a fixed penalty notice for £300.
- Section 34. 1 Environmental Protection Act 1990 – This creates the offence for commercial operators of failing to transfer waste to an authorised person and failing to retain written records of that transfer- offenders can be prosecuted or issued with a fixed penalty notice for £300
- Section 46 Environmental Protection Act 1990 – This creates the offence for householders of failing to comply with the requirements imposed by the Local Authority in relation to the placement and storage of household waste, including recyclate material- offenders can be prosecuted or issued with a fixed penalty notice for £100.

2.5 For lower level, first time offences, a fixed penalty notice is normally the initial sanction that is imposed for the above offences and failure to pay this fixed penalty results in prosecution for the original offence.

2.6 Since September 2021 the Frontline Enforcement Team have expanded the use of Section 46 powers to deal with long term problems associated with householders disposing of their waste at unofficial waste collection points. These collection points often contain mixtures of residual and recyclate material meaning that home owners are often using them avoid the Authority's domestic waste collection rules. By utilising the powers in Section 46 to require householders to place their waste out for a collection at a specific location and time/date, there has been a significant reduction in these illegal accumulations of waste particularly in urban settings.

2.7 In November 2020 a closer working relationship was established between Environmental Health and Cleansing so that cleansing operatives were the first responders in relation to complaints about fly tipping. Training was given to specific operatives to enable them gather and retain evidence that might be present and a procedure put in place to enable this evidence to be presented to Enforcement Officers for further investigation where appropriate. This process has had a number of benefits. It has freed Enforcement Officer time to enable them to focus on criminal investigations, it has removed the need for multiple attendance by Local Authority officers

to fly tipping incidents and it has reduced the time needed to clear illegal waste deposits. This process is working well with multiple referrals coming through to the Frontline Enforcement Team on a monthly basis.

2.8 Tied in with this referral work and following discussion with the Authority's Legal Section, the Frontline Enforcement Team are now expanding the use of fly tipping fixed penalty notices to capture those offences where a lower level of evidence may be available. This expanded use of fly tipping fixed penalty notices will ensure greater numbers of notices are issued going into the future.

2.9 In June 2021 the Cleansing Section secured funding from Keep Wales Tidy for the procurement of CCTV surveillance equipment. The Frontline Team has now taken delivery of the majority of this equipment and is starting to deploy it to our frequent areas of fly tipping.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

Option 1 [Preferred] – Support the continuing waste regulation work and development of the Frontline Enforcement Service as outlined above.

Option 2 – Recommend changes to the waste regulation work carried out by the Frontline Enforcement Service.

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

4.1 This proposal supports the amendments made to the Outcome Statements within the Corporate Plan in its review in October 2019.
Corporate Plan 2020/22 Outcome Statements:

- Protect and enhance our environment and infrastructure to benefit our communities
- Support a fairer sustainable economy and community
- To enable people to maximise their independence, develop solutions and take an active role in their communities
- 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)***

Service can continue to be run within existing budget under option 1.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

Failure to enforce against waste regulation offences may give rise to an increasing in offending behaviour with a significant decline in environmental quality and reputational loss to the Authority.

5.3 ***Legal***

In terms of the preferred option the Council has the necessary powers to enforce the activity identified in the report and the services cover a range of statutory functions.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

The Frontline Enforcement Service is currently subject to a 6 month review following its establishment in September 2021.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

Since the 1st April 2021 to 14th February 2022, when this report was produced, the following waste regulation actions have been taken by the Authority.

- 65 files of recovered evidence received from Cleansing for further investigation by enforcement officers
- 11 fly tipping £400 fixed penalty notices issued. Further notices will be issued before the Scrutiny meeting on the 28th February 2022 and an updated figure will be provided then.
- 5 householder duty of care £300 fixed penalty notices issued
- 2 commercial duty of care £300 fixed penalty notices issued
- 10 warning letters issued to suspected fly tippers
- 2 prosecution files in preparation for 7 waste regulation offences
- 77 incidents of fly tipping on private land investigated
- 525 Enforcement Warden enquiries received
- 424 town centre fly tipping complaints investigated
- 79 1st stage warning letters issued for misplacing domestic waste at unofficial waste collection points
- 5 Section 46 notices issued for misplacing domestic waste at unofficial waste collection points
- 1 fixed penalty notices issued for misplacing domestic waste at unofficial waste collection points

6.2 Historically Blaenau Gwent has always been in the top half of the performance table for waste regulation enforcement outcomes for all Welsh Authorities. There was very little enforcement action taken during 2020/21 due to a diversion of staff resources to deal with Test Track and Protect and business regulation work associated with the Covid 19 pandemic. However, looking at the specific enforcement actions of prosecutions and fixed penalty notices for the last comparative year of 2019/20, Blaenau Gwent were eighth out of the 22 Local Authorities. The 18 fixed penalty notices issued for various waste regulation offences so far

this year would have resulted in prosecutions prior to 2017, when fixed penalty notices for fly tipping were introduced. On that basis 2021/22 has been the most successful year for Blaenau Gwent since this data has been collated.

- 6.3 It is intended that through the creation of the Frontline Enforcement Team, the expanded use of fly tipping fixed penalty notices and the other measures outlined in paragraphs 2.6 to 2.9, the figure for enforcement outcomes for 2022/23 will far exceed any historical annual activity.
- 6.4 Further comparative information on enforcement outcomes across Wales can be found on the following link [Number of fly-tipping enforcement actions by type \(gov.wales\)](#)
- 6.5 In relation to the number of fly tipping incidents recorded, Blaenau Gwent sits twelfth out of the 22 Local Authorities with 1661 incidents recorded in 2020/21. The highest number recorded was Cardiff with 6896 and the lowest Ceredigion with 134. In relation to neighbouring Authorities, Blaenau Gwent sits in the middle of the 5 within the Greater Gwent area, with Caerphilly and Newport both recording significantly higher numbers (2751 and 4060 respectively) and Torfaen and Monmouth significantly lower (857 and 749 respectively). Of course population rates vary across Authorities, but Merthyr Tydfil, an Authority with similar demographics and population to Blaenau Gwent recorded a higher number of incidents, 2096, across the same period. Table 1 below sets out the number of fly tipping incidents recorded across the County Borough in the last 5 years, with the 2021/22 full year figure extrapolated based on the first 3 quarters data. Further information on fly tipping incidents across Wales can be found on the following link [Recorded fly-tipping incidents by local authority \(gov.wales\)](#)

Table 1

Fly Tipping Incidents Recorded in Blaenau Gwent CBC

Year	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Number of Fly Tipping Incidents	995	1167	1327	1661	1298

- 6.6 ***Expected outcome for the public***
Improved cleanliness and speed of addressing issues for the public and greater use of criminal sanctions for individuals committing waste crime.
- 6.7 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***
The quality of the environment is a priority of the community which has been demonstrated in many surveys and aspects of community.

- 6.8 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***
The creation of the Single Enforcement team will allow a planned approach to enforcement work with cohesive approach to waste regulation work across the Authority.
- 6.9 ***Preventative focus***
The Frontline Enforcement service will be utilising CCTV, proactively carrying commercial waste disposal checks and proactively targeting known unofficial domestic waste collection locations to reduce and prevent negative behaviours in the Community.
- 6.10 ***Collaboration / partnership working***
The role out of the new services has, and will continue to require collaboration across Council Services and will involve working with partners such as Keep Wales Tidy, the Police and the Community.
- 6.11 ***Integration (across service areas)***
The new Service in itself has integrated the Enforcement Warden function and elements of Public Protection Enforcement Activity.
- 6.12 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***
The Council is committed to becoming a net zero Council by 2030 and the activity carried out within this service supports this aspiration.
- 6.13a ***Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment***
- 6.13b. ***Equality Impact***
7. **Monitoring Arrangements**
- 7.1 It is proposed that annual reporting of waste regulation performance will be presented to Scrutiny.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

Number of fly tipping enforcement outcomes

[Number of fly-tipping enforcement actions by type \(gov.wales\)](#)

Number of Fly Tipping Incidents

[Recorded fly-tipping incidents by local authority \(gov.wales\)](#)

Agenda Item 8

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**
Date of meeting: **28th February 2022**
Report Subject: **Disabled Adaptations – Policy Amendment Proposal to remove means-test**
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr. J. Wilkins, Executive Member for Environment**
Report Submitted by: **Mark Congreve & David Thompson – Public Protection**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
8/2/22	10/2/22	15.02.22			28/2/22			

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To seek members' views relating to a proposed policy amendment that will remove the current means test for grants for disabled adaptations in Blaenau Gwent.

2. Scope and Background

2.1 The Minister for Housing & Local Government has written to local government advising the removal of the means-test for small and medium disabled adaptations (see Appendix 1). This decision by Welsh Government was made following a report by the Wales Audit Office and research by the Wales Centre for Public Policy. To mitigate against the likely additional costs of this change, Welsh Government has provided some additional annual capital funding.

2.2 In general, Welsh Government classifies adaptations as follows:

- i. Small – e.g. Grab rails, hand rails, key safes etc
- ii. Medium – e.g. Stair-lifts, Bathroom adaptations.
- iii. Large – Through-floor lift, significant changes to internal arrangements, building an extension.

For full definitions, see Appendix 2.

2.3 **Current Position in Blaenau Gwent.** The Authority has an excellent delivery record in relation to adaptations for the disabled.

2.3.1 **Small Adaptations.** There is no policy change needed here as small works have never been subject to a means-test and are delivered in partnership with Care & Repair under long-standing arrangements utilising funding from Social Services, the Council's ENABLE fund and direct funding from Welsh Government. Current Volume – circa 700-1,000 cases per annum.

2.3.2 **Medium Adaptations.** These are delivered directly by way of mandatory means tested Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) (funded via Council Capital programme), and in partnership with Care & Repair (for Over 60s on qualifying

benefits – via the Council’s ENABLE fund. Current volumes – 54-60 cases per annum.

2.3.3 **Large Adaptations.** There are delivered directly by way of mandatory means tested DFGs (funded via Council Capital programme). Currently 1-2 cases per annum.

2.4 DFGs are mandatory in that they are delivered in accordance with the Housing Grants, Construction & Regeneration Act 1996 and, under this legislation, the means test is a legal requirement along with a statutory maximum DFG of £36,000. However, Welsh Government is now advising local government to utilise discretionally powers under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England & Wales) Order 2002 to remove the means-test element and additional capital funding has been provided to mitigate the likely pressures.

2.9 **Means-test for Large Adaptations.** Whilst the Ministers guidance is to discontinue the means test for small and medium adaptations, further analysis has shown that over the last 3 years, the number for large-scale adaptations has been low (2 cases), both of which have been subject to means-test with a nil contribution. A further look back – to (2017/18) also shows only 2 cases where there were means-tested contributions (total £3K) towards large-scale works. As such, for consistency, Officers are also suggesting the removal of the means-test for large scale adaptations in Blaenau Gwent. However, the statutory maximum DFG would still apply (£36k). The means-test for DFGs for children (which are mostly medium or large scale) was discontinued under Welsh legislation several years ago (circa 2007-8).

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 **Option 1** – That Members support proposed policy amendment that will remove the current means test for grants for disabled adaptations in Blaenau Gwent from April 1st 2022.

3.2 **Option 2** – Not to support the policy amendment and make any other recommendations for consideration by Executive Committee.

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

4.1 The report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective / objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

Helping people and communities to be healthier and resilient - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

- 4.2 Local Authorities have statutory duties under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 to deliver mandatory grants and can also offer discretionary assistance through the use of the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England & Wales) Order 2002.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

What are the likely additional costs? Officers have reviewed relevant service statistics and concluded as follows:

	Table 1 – Estimated average additional costs	Annual £ (est)	Annual £ (est)	Annual £ (est)
1	Additional annual capital costs required due to the removal of the means test (Loss of current contributions)	5,500	5,500	5,500
2	Annual reduction in grants being cancelled (those who apply for financial assistance but drop out once they find that they need to make a contribution).	42,000	42,000	42,000
3	Potential Annual increase in applications from people who would not necessarily have applied for financial assistance due to the means test process being in place. (estimates at 10%, 20%, & 30%)	(10%) 40,300	(20%) 80,600	(30%) 121,000
	Total	87,800	128,100	168,500

- 5.1.1 The table above shows that with a loss of income and new commitments due to grant applications continuing that would have otherwise been cancelled, the Council will need, on average, to fund an additional £47,500 worth of works. What is not clear is the level of unseen demand from those that would not have otherwise applied. Officers have inserted indicative figures for a demand increase of between 10 and 30% (an additional £40k-121k). This will need to be monitored.
- 5.1.2 **Capital Budget Availability.** Under the current approved capital programme up to end March 2024, the DFG allocation is set to reduce from £468k in 21/22 to £200k per annum for 2022/23 and 2025/26.
- 5.1.3 Officers have undertaken an analysis of the current and future budget as a result of the proposals in this report. (For full details, see Appendix 3). The analysis shows that a projected increase in demand of between 10% and 30% is manageable with current budget levels in 2022/23 – (at the end of which favourable variances could be carried forward). However, the budget may come under pressure in 2023/24 leading to a potential adverse variance of between £82k and £243k or higher if demand increases above 30%.
- 5.1.4 WG has provided additional funding (£46,387 per annum until end 2023/24) as part of the ENABLE scheme to help the Authority mitigate budgetary pressures resulting from the policy change.
- 5.1.5 To mitigate any ensuing budget pressures in the future, the Authority could consider increasing its capital allocations accordingly and/or make

representations to Welsh Government for additional funding (e.g. additional ENABLE funding).

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

5.2.1 The key risk is an increase in demand leading to delivery challenges and other potential budgetary pressures. This is covered elsewhere in the report.

5.3 ***Legal***

5.3.1 DFGs are mandatory in that they are delivered in accordance with the Housing Grants, Construction & Regeneration Act 1996 and, under this legislation, the means test is a legal requirement along with a statutory maximum DFG of £36,000. However, Welsh Government is now advising local government to utilise discretionally powers under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England & Wales) Order 2002 to remove the means-test element and additional capital funding has been provided to mitigate the likely pressures.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

5.4.1 Whilst the removal of the means test will reduce workload pressures in Resources especially, an increase in demand for service will impact Public Protection, Social Services & Business Support. This will need to be monitored with pressures reported accordingly. The majority of Public Protection costs relating to the delivery of this service are recharged to the relevant capital budget.

6. ***Supporting Evidence***

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

See Appendices

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

6.2.1 In 2019 in Wales 22% of the population were disabled (StatsWales, 2019), with the disabled population projected to increase significantly by 2035 (Equality and Human Rights Commission, 2018). This policy change will help to improve health outcomes and subsequently save money in health and social care by enabling more independent living for longer. Service delivery times could also increase given the reduction in administration processes. Conversely, there is also a risk that waiting lists could significantly increase as demand increases and staffing levels and/or budget availability restricts timely delivery.

6.2.2 Transitional Arrangements. Subject to approval, all on-going applications will be re-assessed accordingly against the new policy. A review of any recent applications aborted due to the means-test will also take place with a view to re-establishing need.

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

Relevant internal colleagues (Public Protection, Legal and Accountancy, Social Services, Revenues and Benefits) have been consulted on the content of this report. Care & Repair has also been consulted.

- 6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***
- 6.4.1 Removal of the means test is a necessary first step in responding to the request from the Minister to adapt policy to ensure that the needs of services users to live independently are met in the short, medium and long term.
- 6.5 ***Preventative focus***
- 6.5.1 Investment in aids and adaptations maximises the opportunity for people to remain safely in their home for longer and to prevent or minimise care costs, hospital admissions, and a deterioration in independence and quality of life.
- 6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***
- 6.6.1 There is currently a Service Level Agreement in place with Care and Repair to deliver grants for people 60+ by utilising the Enable funding to their core client group.
- 6.6.2 The DFG process involves close partnership working with Public Protection, Social Services, Revenues and Benefits and Business Support on a weekly basis. This will continue if the means test is removed.
- 6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***
- 6.7.1 The removal of the means test will have an impact on working practices within social services and revenues and benefits. It will also contribute to the well-being and regeneration agendas.
- 6.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***
- 6.8.1 All approved contractors will be encouraged to evaluate to utilise local suppliers, and therefore avoid lengthy distances to source materials which can decrease emissions by reducing fuel usage.
- 6.8.2 Contractors will also be requested to reuse materials in the first instance as this extends lifetime value of the product. However, when reusing or recycling is not an option, the negative impact on the environment can be lessened by responsible waste management, therefore this will be a requirement for all contractors when carrying out grant aided works.
- 6.9a ***Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment (complete an impact assessment to consider how the decision might help to reduce the inequalities of outcome associated with socio-economic disadvantage).***
- 6.9ai It could be argued that the DFG means test could be seen as the primary source of inequality in the system and the merits of universal provision as opposed to assessing ability to pay, therefore by removing the means test would make a significant contribution towards achieving equality of outcome.
- 6.9b. ***Equality Impact Assessment***
- 6.9bi An initial Equalities Impact Assessment Screening has been carried out and from this no negative impacts were identified. This is not surprising as the intention of the amended policy is to offer additional assistance and support to older and disabled people by removing the means test for all adaptations.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The impact of the removal of the means test will be monitored by the Managers and by way of relevant reports to the Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services, CLT and Scrutiny & Executive Committees, as necessary.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- Appendix 1 – Minister for Housing and Local Government Letter
- Appendix 2 – Housing Adaptations Service Standards – Definitions of different types of Housing Adaptations
- Appendix 3 – Capital Budget Forecast – 2022/23 & 2023/24

- Web link – Statement by the Minister for Housing and Local Government - <https://gov.wales/written-statement-removing-means-test-small-and-medium-disabled-facilities-grants>
- Web-link – [Regulatory Reform \(Housing Assistance\)\(England & Wales\) Order 2002](#)
- Web link - [Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)



Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives
cc.WLGA

10 March 2021

Dear Colleagues

Removing the means test on small and medium Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG)

We know that reducing barriers so disabled people can maintain their independence, safety and good health allows them to continue to live at home with dignity, and it also reduces pressures on our health and social care services. From April 2021 it will be simpler for disabled people to get help with small and medium sized adaptations to their homes as we take measures to remove the means test from small and medium Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG).

DFGs are the main source of help for disabled people in the great majority of households in Wales, those which are owner occupied or in the private rented sector. This is the main way in which those disabled people get help with the most common types of adaptations, such as stair lifts, ramps and downstairs toilet and washing facilities. We must do everything we can to remove barriers so disabled people can maintain their independence, safety and good health. This not only allows them to continue to live at home with dignity, it reduces pressures on our health and social care services.

Our most recent data shows us that small and medium sized adaptations made up the vast majority of DFGs – 1,507 small and 2,214 medium adaptations, compared with just 269 large adaptations. If the requirement to conduct a means test is removed, independent research calculates the cost to local government in Wales would be an additional £238,000, whilst each local authority would save £6,000-£10,000 in annual administration costs. This research by the Wales Centre for Public Policy has been published on their website today.

Local authorities are under statutory duties to provide DFGs to eligible disabled people and this will not change. However, they can use of powers under the Regulatory Reform Order 2002 to make grants without applying a means test. For this reason, I am increasing the Enable grant to local authorities from April 2021 by £400,000, to £4.4 million. This additional grant can be used to meet the capital pressures and address any potential bottlenecks as a result of increased demand. I feel confident that working together with local authorities we can continue to improve access to adaptations for those who need them, as well as reduce waiting times.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The adaptations themselves should continue to be funded from the capital the Welsh Government distributes to local government to meet the cost of DFGs.

We will monitor the impact of this policy over an initial three year period. We will need to collect information about the numbers of applications for DFGs, completion rates and waiting times. We will report on progress annually.

It will be a condition of the Enable grant that local authorities do not means test small and medium DFGs. I expect local authorities to comply for the benefit of disabled people who live in their areas. If, in due course, we find we need to, we do have the option of legislating in the next Senedd.

In relation to the small number of large adaptations carried out each year, I wish to highlight the amended the guidance for the Integrated Care Fund (ICF) capital programme for 2021/22 which I issued in January. Large adaptations are usually only required in complex cases, such as families with disabled children and adults with life-limiting diseases. Resolving the financial issues can be very time consuming, leading to significant and unnecessary continuing distress. Under the amended ICF guidance, Regional Partnership Boards are now able to use their discretion to meet the additional costs of adaptations which cost more than £36,000. I will be monitoring how much use is made of this flexibility over the coming year.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Housing Adaptations Steering Group, including local authority housing officials and the WLGA, for their work in bringing us to a point where we can take such an important step to improving the lives of disabled people in Wales.

Yours sincerely



Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government

Attached: revised Housing Adaptations Service Standards

Housing Adaptations Service Standards

Figure 2 - Definitions of different types of Housing Adaptations

Category	Nature of Work Required	Example of Work	Funding Source
<p>Small Adaptions adaptations are inexpensive items, which can be provided very quickly. It would generally fit into the description of 'immediate falls prevention' or 'urgent for hospital discharge' and can be assessed and installed within days or the same day if urgent. It can be identified by a number of health/ social services/ other appropriately trained staff e.g. RSL staff, Care and Repair Staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor home modification required • Not a specialised solution • No building/planning approval required • Adjustable / Flexible • Simple & Intuitive • Minimal maintenance and/or servicing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grab rails • Stair rails • Small ramps • Accessible taps • Key safes • Mop stick hand rails • Outdoor rails • External / staircase lights • Additional electrical sockets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENABLE • RRAP • RSL Funds • LA own funds • Self-funded
<p>Medium Adaptations anything which is not classed as small or large.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major home modification may be required, but building/planning approval not required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk in shower • Stair lifts • Large ramps • A combination of adaptations installed as one job 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENABLE • RSL Funds • LA own funds • Physical Adaptation Grants (PAG) • Disabled Facility Grant (DFG)s • Self-funded
<p>Large Adaptations these are works which will require specialist assessments, statutory approvals and major adaptations to a property such as extensions and through floor lifts. An Occupational Therapists assessment will be required and planning permission may be needed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major home modification / structural change required • Specialised / Innovative solutions required • Building / planning approval required • Fixed / permanent / long term • Complex / unfamiliar / requires training & supervision • Solution requires expertise for installation and maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building an extension to provide a downstairs bedroom and/or bathroom • Through floor lift • Significant internal structural modifications e.g. relocate bathroom or kitchen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled Facilities Grant • Physical Adaptations Grants • RSL Funds • LA own funds • Self-funded

Appendix 3 - Capital Budget Forecast 2022/23 & 2023/24

<u>10%</u>	<u>22/23</u>
Capital B/Fwd	190,162
Repayments Bfwd	191,428
Capital Programme	200,000
Repayments in year (est)	29,439
ENABLE (less Small adaps)	82,800
ENABLE (WG mitigation)	46,387
Total Funding	740,216
Forecast Salary Costs	133,798
Forecast DFGs (current policy)	282,195
ENABLE (current Policy)	82,800
Removal of Means test (existing demand)	47,500
Total Forecast Expenditure (existing demand)	546,293
Total Carried forward	193,923
Forecast Additonal demand (+10%)	40,300
Total Carried forward (10% Additonal demand)	153,623
<u>10%</u>	<u>23/24</u>
Capital B/Fwd	0
Repayments Bfwd	153,623
Capital Programme	200,000
Repayments in year (est)	27,378
ENABLE current (less Small adaps element)	82,800
ENABLE (WG mitigation)	46,387
Total Funding	510,188
Forecast Salary Costs	139,849
Forecast DFGs (current policy)	282,195
ENABLE (current Policy)	82,800
Removal of Means test (existing demand)	47,500
Forecast Additonal demand continuation (+10%)	40,300
Total Forecast Expenditure	592,644
Total Carried forward	-82,456

<u>20%</u>	<u>22/23</u>
Capital B/Fwd	190,162
Repayments Bfwd	191,428
Capital Programme	200,000
Repayments in year (est)	29,439
ENABLE (less Small adaps)	82,800
ENABLE (WG mitigation)	46,387
Total Funding	740,216
Forecast Salary & other Costs	133,798
Forecast DFGs (current policy)	282,195
ENABLE (current Policy)	82,800
Removal of Means test (existing demand)	47,500
Total Forecast Expenditure (existing demand)	546,293
	193,923
Forecast Additonal demand (+20%)	80,600
Total Carried forward (20% Additonal demand)	113,323
<u>20%</u>	<u>23/24</u>
Capital B/Fwd	0
Repayments Bfwd	113,323
Capital Programme	200,000
Repayments in year (est)	27,378
ENABLE current (less Small adaps element)	82,800
ENABLE (WG mitigation)	46,387
Total Funding	469,888
Forecast Salary Costs	139,849
Forecast DFGs (current policy)	282,195
ENABLE (current Policy)	82,800
Removal of Means test (existing demand)	47,500
Forecast Additonal demand continuation (+20%)	80,600
Total Forecast Expenditure	632,944
Total Carried forward	-163,056

<u>30%</u>	<u>22/23</u>
Capital B/Fwd	190,162
Repayments Bfwd	191,428
Capital Programme	200,000
Repayments in year (est)	29,439
ENABLE (less Small adapts)	82,800
ENABLE (WG mitigation)	46,387
Total Funding	740,216
Forecast Salary & other Costs	133,798
Forecast DFGs (current policy)	282,195
ENABLE (current Policy)	82,800
Removal of Means test (existing demand)	47,500
Total Forecast Expenditure (existing demand)	546,293
	193,923
Forecast Additonal demand (+30%)	121,000
Total Carried forward (30% Additonal demand)	72,923
<u>30%</u>	<u>23/24</u>
Capital B/Fwd	0
Repayments Bfwd	72,923
Capital Programme	200,000
Repayments in year (est)	27,378
ENABLE current (less Small adapts element)	82,800
ENABLE (WG mitigation)	46,387
Total Funding	429,488
Forecast Salary Costs	139,849
Forecast DFGs (current policy)	282,195
ENABLE (current Policy)	82,800
Removal of Means test (existing demand)	47,500
Forecast Additonal demand continuation (+30%)	121,000
Total Forecast Expenditure	673,344
Total Carried forward	-243,856

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Agenda Item 9

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**
Date of meeting: **28th February 2022**
Report Subject: **Contract Extension – Pest Control Treatment Service to 31 December 2023**
Portfolio Holder: **Councillor J Wilkins, Executive Member, Environment**
Report Submitted by: **David Thompson – Service Manager – Public Protection**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
25.1.22	27.1.22	15.02.22			28.2.22			

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update Members on the pest control treatment service currently provided by Rentokil.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 Local Authorities are not under a statutory duty to provide a Pest Control treatment service. However, historically, it was common place for local councils to provide treatment services as part of their wider public health role either directly or indirectly by way of arrangements with specialist service providers. The availability of timely treatment services enables earlier eradication and prevention of pest problems and reduces the need for enforcement action by Environmental Health, which in many cases is a statutory duty.
- 2.2 In 2016/17, following the discontinuation of the service a couple of years earlier, the decision was taken by the Authority to reintroduce a Pest Control Service, further to complaints about rats relating to refuse accumulations in local neighbourhoods resulting from problems associated with changes to household waste and recycling arrangements. After due consideration, agreement was received to tender for a private company to deliver the service on behalf of the Authority, to minimise set-up and delivery and administrative costs and to enable expedient implementation and service resilience.
- 2.3 For 2019/20, the service was re-tendered in accordance with procurement rules. The tender specification was unchanged from the initial tender in 2016 to include concessions for the chargeable services reflecting the high levels of deprivation in Blaenau Gwent. Mitie were again awarded the contract for 12 months with an option to extend for a further 12 months. During 2019, Mitie Pest Control were taken over by Rentokil. As such, since 1st October 2019, Rentokil has delivered the Blaenau Gwent contract.
- 2.4 Following the takeover of the contract by Rentokil in 2019, and given the low take up of concessions, Officers and Rentokil representatives agreed to

restructure the contract costs and paid for service costs to enable a revised contract price of £59,793 per annum (with concession costs being invoiced on a pay as you go basis). As part of this agreement, the contract was extended until March 2022, with an option to extend it again until March 2023. Based on demand for concessions and in year invoices received, the predicted annual costs are full year cost for 2021/22 is £61,000, which will be met within existing budgets.

- 2.5 Recent meetings with Rentokil have taken place to discuss the status of the service and volume data. In general, the service is operating generally satisfactorily in that our constituents are receiving timely visits for requests for treatment services, especially rats. However, discussion took place in relation to a number of queries relating to garden inspection chamber lifts, volume data queries and re-visits and other service standards. It was noted that the number of paid for services has reduced and this is being looked into. Contingencies are also being put in place to prevent and or deal with telephone line outages. Discussion also took place in relation to improving customer satisfaction survey methods. It was noted that, as an Authority, we had received very few complaints about the service. Monthly meetings will take place going forward to discuss queries and enable specific case conferences, as necessary.
- 2.6 In accordance with Procurement advice, and after discussion with the Executive Member - Environment, the Authority is extending the contract until 31st March 2023, when it will be reviewed and retendered, as necessary, in accordance with Corporate Procurement rules.
- 2.7 **Current Service** (see Appendix 1). The current contract is for free rat infestation treatments for all residential properties. Other treatments, including mice, bedbugs, cockroaches and fleas, are available at a charge (direct to Rentokil) of £58.70. However, residents who are on the following benefits (Universal credit, Income support, Council tax reduction, Working or child tax income credit, Job seekers allowance (income based)) currently receive a 50% concession for the treatment of mice, bedbugs, cockroaches and fleas.
- 2.8 Appendix 2 outlines the service demand data currently available for 2020/21 and 2021/22 up to 31st December 2020. Based on the current data, completed rat treatments are set to remain about the same in 21/22 (estimated 1,700) compared to the 1,729 completed in 20/21. Chargeable services have reduced significantly according to the numbers and discussions are taking place with Rentokil as to the reasons for this. As stated above, there are a number of queries with regard to the data and these are being investigated.
- 2.9 **Impact of Covid 19 on Service Delivery-** Rentokil have reported last year that the Covid 19 pandemic had no significant impact on their ability to deliver the service required by the current contract, with the company introducing appropriate risk mitigation measures to ensure that pest control visits could be conducted safely.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 Option 1 - That Members comment on the service performance and note the continuation of the contract with Rentokil until 31st March 2023 when it will be reviewed and retendered, as necessary, in accordance with Corporate Procurement rules.

3.2 Option 2 – That Members comment on the service performance and note the continuation of the contract with Rentokil until 31st March 2023 and make recommendations for consideration by Executive Committee.

3.3 Corporate Leadership Team and Regeneration & Community Services Leadership Team have considered this report.

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

4.1 Well-being Plan, Objective 2 – Blaenau Gwent wants safe and friendly communities. The use of a free pest control service to target rats helps to create clean and safe environments. By providing this service, the Authority is taking positive steps to try to create a clean and safe environment.

4.2 Corporate Plan – Strong and Environmentally Smart Communities Priority objective - To re-invest in environmental services to address the issues created by fly-tipping, dog fouling, littering, grass cutting, street cleansing and pest control. The provision of a free pest control service for rats will assist in achieving this goal.

4.3 While the Local Authority is not under a statutory duty to provide a pest control treatment service, by providing a free treatment for rat infestations the Authority can respond to service demands and concerns by the community about pest infestations that may present a risk to public health and take steps to achieving the goals set out in the Wellbeing and Corporate Plan.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

As outlined above, the current budget for this contract is £62,000. The cost of the current contract is currently £59,793 per annum with additional charges for concessionary treatments. The current estimates for full year costs for 2021/22 is £60,000, which will be met within existing budgets.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

With the ongoing service delivered by Rentokil, risks are low. Reputational risks have reduced with the Authority providing a free service for rat treatments.

5.3 ***Legal***

There is no legal duty to provide a pest control treatment service however the benefits that it provides have been highlighted.

5.4 **Human Resources**

There are no staffing/workforce implications in relation to this report. The free treatment of rats has prevented the increase and spread of rodent problems. Without this service there would be increased demand/pressure on Environmental Health to investigate complaints and take statutory enforcement action on property owners and occupiers due to rodent problems. This would require an increased staffing resource.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

See above and Appendix 2

Sewer Baiting. The Authority had in place arrangements with Caerphilly CBC to enable sewer baiting to reduce/control the general rodent population within the drainage network. This work is funded by Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water (approx. £5k per annum). Many of these treatments are undertaken at the request of Environmental Health at specific locations in Blaenau Gwent as a result of complaints about rodent activity in the general environment in areas where it is not possible to safely and legally bait above ground. Unfortunately, CCBC recently informed us that due to Covid and other internal problems, they have not been able to undertake this work so far in this financial year. As such, Officers have prioritised where the work that is needed most and are checking with CCBC as to whether they can carry it out (response awaited at the time of writing). Alternatively, Officers will put alternative arrangements in place up to the end of quarter 4.

6.2 **Expected outcome for the public**

Improved public health through the free treatment of rat infestations in domestic premises and the prevention of the spread of infestations to third party land.

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

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

The service outlined in this report is necessary to ensure long-term improvements in public health and to reduce the likelihood of the spread of disease.

6.5 **Preventative focus**

By proactively treating pest infestations in specific locations the Authority is preventing further spread and proliferation of infestations to other areas of the County Borough.

6.6 **Collaboration / partnership working**

The scheme is run in partnership with a private sector service provider and Dwr Cymru/CCBC for man-hole sewer baiting.

6.7 **Integration (across service areas)**

The scheme contributes to relevant well-being and environment agendas.

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

Not applicable. This is an activities report relating to an existing contract.

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

This is an activities report relating to an existing contract. There is no decision to be taken but the existing positive SED impacts relating to Living Standards and Health.

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

The service has no adverse effects against the protected characteristics.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The service will be monitored by Public Protection Managers and by way of relevant reports to the Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services, CLT and Scrutiny Committee, as necessary

Background Documents /Electronic Links

Appendix 1 – Pest Control - Current Service Offer

Appendix 2 – Pest Control Treatment Data 20/21 and Q1-3 21/22

Appendix 3 – SED & EIA Screening Assessment

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Pest Control

Blaenau Gwent CBC provides a domestic pest control service in partnership with Rentokil Pest Control.

The service offers free treatments for rat infestations at domestic properties within Blaenau Gwent.

Rentokil Pest Control also offer other pest control treatments at domestic properties for which there is a charge (payment is by credit or debit card over the phone directly to Rentokil Pest Control). These services are-

- Mice £57.60
- Bedbugs £57.60
- Cockroaches £57.60
- Fleas £57.60
- Black garden ants £57.60
- Cluster fly £57.60
- House crickets, firebrats & silverfish £57.60
- Textile moth £57.60
- Wasps nests £57.60

*All the above prices are inclusive of VAT

Residents of Blaenau Gwent who are on the following benefits will receive a 50% concession for the treatment of mice, bedbugs, cockroaches and fleas as long they reside at the domestic premise where the treatment takes place:

- Universal credit
- Income support
- Council tax reduction
- Working or child tax income credit
- Job seekers allowance (income based)

(You will be asked to provide proof of benefit receipt during the pest control operative's initial visit before treatment can begin. Please note that no services other than rat treatments will be undertaken without pre-payment.)

The pest control service operates from Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 5pm. (Please note the service does not operate on public holidays)

To arrange for a pest control visit from Rentokil please contact them directly on-

- Telephone- 01454 771515

Rentokil also offers pest control services to commercial and industrial premises. For prices on these treatments please contact Rentokil Pest Control directly.

For information about pests visit the [British Pest Control Association website](#).

END

Appendix 2 Pest Control 2021/2022

Pest Control	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual Total to date	
Total number of all pest control service requests received by Rentokil	419	391	484	TBA	1294	
Total Rat Treatments carried out	416	389	484	TBA	1289	
Total Number of visits Including revisits)	516	468	593	TBA	1577	
Chargeable Pest Control Service Requests Received By Type	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual Total to date	
Wasps/Bees	2	0	0	TBA	2	
Fleas	1	0	0	TBA	1	
Mice	0	0	0	TBA	0	
Cockroaches	0	0	0	TBA	0	
Ants	0	1	0	TBA	1	
Bedbugs	0	0	0	TBA	0	
Other	0	0	0	TBA	0	
Total	3	1	0	TBA	4	
No. of concessions granted per chargeable service	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual Total to date	
Wasps	1	0	0	TBA	1	
Fleas	1	0	0	TBA	1	
Mice	0	0	0	TBA	0	
Cockroaches	0	0	0	TBA	0	
Ants	0	0	0	TBA	0	
Bedbugs	0	0	0	TBA	0	
Other	0	0	0	TBA	0	

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Appendix 2 Pest Control 2020/21

Pest Control	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual	2019/20
Total number of all pest control service requests received by Rentokil	506	450	381	482	1819	1342
Total Rat Treatments carried out	479	398	372	480	1729	1185
Total Number of visits Including revisits)	537	529	501	551	2118	2319
Chargeable Pest Control Service Requests Received By Type	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual	2019/20
Wasps/Bees	21	31	1	0	53	78
Fleas	2	3	3	2	10	15
Mice	0	1	3	0	4	9
Cockroaches	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ants	2	7	0	0	9	4
Bedbugs	1	0	0	0	1	4
Other	1	0	2	0	3	9
Total	27	42	6	2	80	119
No. of concessions granted per chargeable service	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual	2019/20
Wasps	15	22	0	0	37	35
Fleas	2	3	3	0	8	1
Mice	0	1	2	0	3	0
Cockroaches	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ants	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bedbugs	1	0	0	0	1	1
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Appendix 3 - Integrated Impact Screening Template – January 2022.

The purpose of undertaking an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) is to consider the impact of proposed strategies, policies, or service reviews and developments against the full range of our statutory obligations:

- Equality Act (2010)
- Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015)
- Welsh Language Act

IAs are an important tool that can be used to improve equality and diversity; sustainable development and the use of the Welsh language by ensuring impacts are considered collectively and not in isolation.

IAs need to be completed as early as possible during any policy development or service review process. The IIA screening template has been designed to help you consider whether a policy, for example, has a positive or negative impact on specific groups of people. It also aims to help assess whether there are any negative impacts and whether their significance is low or high. If negative impacts with a high significance are identified, then a full Integrated Impact Assessment is required to identify how these impacts can be minimised by introducing any mitigating measures or options.

The IIA Screening Template consists of 2 parts:

- Part I: Screening exercise to identify positive or negative impacts
- Part II: Integrated Impact Assessment required – Guidance note

Finally, the outcome of your IIA Screening Exercise needs to be briefly noted in Section 6.9b of the Corporate Report template and attached as an appendix to your report. Similarly, if a full IIA is undertaken then the key findings need to be summarised in section 6.9b of the Corporate Report template, along with the outcome of the assessment, and the full IIA needs to be attached as an appendix to your report.

PART 1: SCREENING EXERCISE TO IDENTIFY POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE IMPACTS

Description of Assessment *(Briefly provide details of the policy development or service review being assessed and the option being presented)*

Activities Report – Pest Control Treatment Service to 31 December 2021 (Info Pack report) – No Options for consideration.

Responsible Directorate *(Please specify)* - **Regeneration & Community Services**

Responsible Officer *(Please specify)* – **David Thompson – Service Manager – Public Protection**

Assessment Date *(Please specify)* – **January 2022**

Staff Involved in Assessment *(Please specify)* - **David Thompson – Service Manager – Public Protection**

<p>Does this 'Option' have a <u>positive or a negative impact</u> on any of the following protected characteristics?</p> <p><i>Please complete as applicable</i></p>		<p>Please describe what the impact will be?</p>	<p>What is the significance of the impact?</p> <p><i>For example, a 'high' negative impact would have a significant disproportionate impact on a specific group</i></p>	<p>Negative impacts identified</p> <p><i>If 'low' please explain the reason for this significance rating.</i></p> <p><i>If 'high' please state 'Integrated Impact Assessment' required and refer to Part II</i></p>	
<p>Race <i>(people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds)</i></p>	<p>Positive <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Negative <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>→</p>	<p><u>Positive</u></p> <p><u>Negative</u></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/>High</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Low</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>High</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Low</p>	<p>No Changes/Options presented. The report is on activities relating to an existing Pest Control Treatment Service Contract.</p>
<p>Disability <i>(people with disabilities/ long term conditions)</i></p>	<p>Positive <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Negative <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>→</p>	<p><u>Positive</u></p> <p><u>Negative</u></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/>High</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Low</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>High</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Low</p>	<p>See above - No Change/Impact</p>
<p>Sex <i>(women and men, girls and boys and those who self-identify their gender)</i></p>	<p>Positive <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Negative <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>→</p>	<p><u>Positive</u></p> <p><u>Negative</u></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/>High</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Low</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>High</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Low</p>	<p>See above - No Change/Impact</p>

Does this 'Option' have a <u>positive or a negative impact</u> on any of the following protected characteristics? <i>Please complete as applicable</i>			Please describe what the impact will be?	What is the significance of the impact? <i>For example, a 'high' negative impact would have a significant disproportionate impact on a specific group</i>	Negative impacts identified <i>If 'low' please explain the reason for this significance rating. If 'high' please state 'Integrated Impact Assessment' required and refer to Part II</i>	
Age <i>(people of all ages)</i>	Positive <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative <input type="checkbox"/>	→	<u>Positive</u> <u>Negative</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low	See above - No Change/Impact
Sexual Orientation <i>(lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, other)</i>	Positive <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative <input type="checkbox"/>	→	<u>Positive</u> <u>Negative</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low	See above - No Change/Impact
Religion and Belief <i>(people with different religions and beliefs including people with no beliefs)</i>	Positive <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative <input type="checkbox"/>	→	<u>Positive</u> <u>Negative</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low	See above - No Change/Impact

Does this 'Option' have a <u>positive or a negative impact</u> on any of the following protected characteristics? <i>Please complete as applicable</i>			Please describe what the impact will be?	What is the significance of the impact? <i>For example, a 'high' negative impact would have a significant disproportionate impact on a specific group</i>	Negative impacts identified <i>If 'low' please explain the reason for this significance rating. If 'high' please state 'Integrated Impact Assessment' required and refer to Part II</i>
Gender <i>(anybody who's gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex they were assigned at birth)</i>	Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/>	→	<u>Positive</u> <u>Negative</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low	See above - No Change/Impact
Marriage and Civil Partnership <i>(people who are married or in a civil partnership)</i>	Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/>	→	<u>Positive</u> <u>Negative</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low	See above - No Change/Impact
Pregnancy and Maternity <i>(women who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave)</i>	Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/>	→	<u>Positive</u> <u>Negative</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low	See above - No Change/Impact

Welsh Language

The Welsh Language Act 1993 places a legal duty on public authorities to promote the use of the Welsh Language and to treat the Welsh and English languages equally. It offers the public the right to choose which language to use in their dealings with the Council. It recognises that Members of the public can express their views and needs better in their preferred language. It recognises that enabling the public to use their preferred language is a matter of good practice, not a concession. It sets out how the Council will implement that principle in the provision of bilingual services to the public in Wales, taking account of the developing linguistic nature of the County Borough.

<p>Does this 'Option' have a <u>positive or a negative impact</u> ?</p> <p><i>Please complete as applicable</i></p>		<p>Please describe what the impact will be?</p>	<p>What is the significance of the impact?</p> <p><i>For example, a 'high' negative impact would have a significant disproportionate impact on a specific group</i></p>	<p>Negative impacts identified</p> <p><i>If 'low' please explain the reason for this significance rating.</i></p> <p><i>If 'high' please state 'Integrated Impact Assessment' required and refer to Part II</i></p>
<p>Welsh Language <i>The Welsh Language Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards require the Council to have 'due regard' for any positive or negative impacts that proposal may have on opportunities to use the Welsh language.</i></p>	<p>Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>→</p> <p><u>Positive</u></p> <p><u>Negative</u></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low</p>	<p>No Change/Impact</p>

Socio-economic Duty (Strategic Decisions Only)

The [Socio-economic Duty](#) provides a framework in order to ensure tackling inequality is at the forefront of decision making. The duty requires the Council, when making strategic decisions, to consider how decisions can help reduce inequality of outcomes.

The duty defines **socio-economic disadvantage** as “living in less favourable social and economic circumstances than others living in the same society”.

The duty generally defines **strategic decisions** as “decisions which effect how the Council fulfils its intended statutory purpose over a significant period of time and not routine day-to-day decisions”. Examples of strategic decisions includes those which are statutory; happen over a significant time; not routine; have strategic intent; strategies or the setting of strategic objectives; service delivery and improvement plans; medium to long-term plans etc.

Does this ‘Option’ have a positive or a negative impact on any of the following themes? <i>Please complete as applicable</i>			Please describe what the impact will be?	What is the significance of the impact? <i>For example, a ‘high’ negative impact would have a significant disproportionate impact on a specific group</i>	Negative impacts identified <i>If ‘low’ please explain the reason for this significance rating. If ‘high’ please state ‘Integrated Impact Assessment’ required and refer to Part II</i>
SED-Education The capability to be knowledgeable	Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> 	➔	<u>Positive</u> <u>Negative</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low	No Changes/Options presented. The report is on activities relating to an existing Pest Control Treatment Service Contract.

<p>Does this 'Option' have a <u>positive or a negative impact</u> on any of the following themes?</p> <p><i>Please complete as applicable</i></p>			<p>Please describe what the impact will be?</p>	<p>What is the significance of the impact?</p> <p><i>For example, a 'high' negative impact would have a significant disproportionate impact on a specific group</i></p>	<p>Negative impacts identified</p> <p><i>If 'low' please explain the reason for this significance rating.</i></p> <p><i>If 'high' please state 'Integrated Impact Assessment' required and refer to Part II</i></p>
<p>SED-Work The capability to work in just and favourable conditions</p>	<p>Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/></p>	→	<p><u>Positive</u></p> <p><u>Negative</u></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/>High <input type="checkbox"/>Low</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>High <input type="checkbox"/>Low</p>	<p>See above - No Change/Impact</p>
<p>SED-Living Standards The capability to enjoy a comfortable standard of living</p>	<p>Positive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/></p>	→	<p><u>Positive</u> By removing public health pests from residential premises</p> <p><u>Negative</u></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/>High <input type="checkbox"/>Low</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>High <input type="checkbox"/>Low</p>	<p>See above - No negative Change/Impact</p>
<p>SED-Health The capability to be healthy, physically, and mentally</p>	<p>Positive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/></p>	→	<p><u>Positive</u> The service removes public health pests that spread disease and adversely affect mental health</p> <p><u>Negative</u></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/>High <input type="checkbox"/>Low</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>High <input type="checkbox"/>Low</p>	<p>See above - No negative Change/Impact</p>

<p>SED-Justice & Security The capability to avoid premature mortality</p>	<p>Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>→</p>	<p><u>Positive</u></p> <p><u>Negative</u></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/>High <input type="checkbox"/>Low</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>High <input type="checkbox"/>Low</p>	<p>See above - No Change/Impact</p>
<p>Does this 'Option' have a <u>positive or a negative impact</u> on any of the following themes?</p> <p><i>Please complete as applicable</i></p>			<p>Please describe what the impact will be?</p>	<p>What is the significance of the impact?</p> <p><i>For example, a 'high' negative impact would have a significant disproportionate impact on a specific group</i></p>	<p>Negative impacts identified</p> <p><i>If 'low' please explain the reason for this significance rating.</i></p> <p><i>If 'high' please state 'Integrated Impact Assessment' required and refer to Part II</i></p>
<p>SED-Participation The capability to participate in decision making and in communities, accessing services</p>	<p>Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>→</p>	<p><u>Positive</u></p> <p><u>Negative</u></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/>High <input type="checkbox"/>Low</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>High <input type="checkbox"/>Low</p>	<p>See above - No Change/Impact</p>

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