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THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

28th February 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BUDGET MONITORING)

A meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Committee (Budget Monitoring) will be held as a Hybrid Meeting: via Microsoft Teams/Abraham Derby Meeting Room, General Offices, Ebbw Vale on Monday, 7th March, 2022 at 2.00 pm.

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

Yours faithfully

Michelle Morris
Managing Director

AGENDA

Pages

1. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION

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

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

will be provided if requested.

2. APOLOGIES

To receive.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND
DISPENSATIONS**

To receive.

**4. JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BUDGET
MONITORING)** 5 - 14

To receive the minutes of the Joint Scrutiny Committee (Budget Monitoring) held on 22nd November, 2021.

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

5. ACTION SHEET - 22ND NOVEMBER 2021 15 - 20

To receive the Action Sheet.

**6. JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BUDGET
MONITORING)** 21 - 24

To receive the minutes of the Special Joint Scrutiny Committee (Budget Monitoring) held on 8th February, 2022.

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

**7. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING -2021/2022,
FORECAST OUTTURN TO 31 MARCH 2022 (AS AT
31ST DECEMBER 2021)** 25 - 52

To consider the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

**8. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, FORECAST FOR
2021/2022 FINANCIAL YEAR (AS AT 31 DECEMBER
2021)** 53 - 74

To consider the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

9. **USE OF GENERAL AND EARMARKED RESERVES** 75 - 90
2021/2022
10. **BRIDGING THE GAP (BTG) PROGRAMME 2021/2022** 91 - 112
– PROGRESS UPDATE OCTOBER TO DECEMBER
2021

To consider the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

To consider the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

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

All other Members (for information)
Manager Director
Chief Officers

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

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

**SUBJECT: JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
(BUDGET MONITORING) – 22ND NOVEMBER, 2021**

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S. HEALY (CHAIR)

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

**WITH: Chief Officer Resources
Corporate Director Education
Corporate Director Social Services**

Head of Community Services
Chief Officer Commercial & Customer
Scrutiny & Democratic Officer/Advisor

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were reported for Councillors L. Parsons, L. Elias, T. Sharrem and Mr. T. Baxter.</p>	
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>The following declarations of interest were reported:-</p> <p>Councillors B. Summers & M. Cook declared an interest in any reference to Silent Valley Waste Services Limited.</p>	
No. 4.	<p><u>JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BUDGET MONITORING)</u></p> <p>The minutes of the Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 27th September, 2021 was 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 Joint Scrutiny (Budget Monitoring) Committee held on 27th September, 2021 was submitted.</p> <p><u>Capital Budget Monitoring Forecast (328340 Acquisition of Land Abertillery Spur)</u></p>	

A Member referred to discussions at the last meeting regarding the acquisition of land and asked the Corporate Director to confirm whether the decision was taken under delegated powers and if so, who approved this course of action.

The Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services said he believed that the decision was taken through delegated powers, but undertook to check and report back to Members.

Another Member also requested a breakdown of spend of the £70m loan, and the Corporate Director undertook to provide this information.

Capital Budget Monitoring (332368 Play Area schemes)

A Member referred to the £110k funding originally allocated for the Splashpad project, and expressed concern regarding the amount that had been allocated to Tredegar and Ebbw Vale. He also pointed out that the investment at Parc Bryn Bach was funded through the Valleys Regional Parks Discovery Gateway Project.

In response the Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services confirmed that all monies had been allocated in accordance with the priorities identified within the Council's Play Strategy approved by Members.

Capital Budget Monitoring (327104 Democratic Hub)

A Member expressed concern regarding the £93k spend on sound installation due to the ongoing issues being experienced.

The Chief Officer Commercial & Customer explained that the budget was for the installation of the hybrid system as a whole, including cameras etc. However, she understood that there were intermittent issues with the sound and assured Members that discussions were ongoing with the company regarding these issues.

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

<p>No. 6</p>	<p><u>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING -2021/2022, FORECAST OUTTURN TO 31 MARCH 2022 (AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Chief Officer Resources presented the report which provided the forecast financial outturn position across all portfolios for the financial year 2021/2022 (as forecast at 30th September 2021); budget virements actioned during the period July to September 2021; and the forecast outturn for fees and charges.</p> <p>Sections 5.1.14 to 5.1.37 of the report provided a narrative on the main variances across all portfolios, and the Officer pointed out that with the exception of the Environment Portfolio, all portfolios were reporting a positive outturn position. Environment was forecasting an adverse variance position, however, this had improved since Quarter 1.</p> <p>The overall forecast outturn as at September 2021 was a favourable variance of £2.814m, after the application of Welsh Government Hardship Funding. There had been an increase in the favourable variance of £0.319m since the June 2021 forecast position (£2.495m). The Officer reported that it had been confirmed that Welsh Government Hardship funding would continue to March 2022.</p> <p>Section 5.1.39 provided a summary position with fees and charges and Appendix 2 provided an analysis of income received against individual budgets for the financial year.</p> <p>A Member said the Welsh Government Hardship Funding had been extremely beneficial for the Council and he hoped it would continue.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and Members note the financial outcomes in the report and the virements detailed in paragraphs 5.1.4 to 5.1.6.</p>	
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No. 7

**CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, FORECAST FOR
2021/2022 FINANCIAL YEAR (AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER
2021)**

Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources.

The Chief Officer Resources presented the report which provided an overview of the forecast financial position to 31st March, 2021 across all portfolios; and details of any significant adverse/favourable variances. The overall financial position forecast at 30th September, 2021 indicated an adverse variance of £283,128 against a total in year capital budget of £17.12m.

The following significant overspends were highlighted at section 5.1.2 of the report, namely:

• **Household Waste recycling Centre - £42,752**

The overspend related to increased costs due to the Covid-19 pandemic and future proofing of the site.

• **Lime Avenue Business Park - £234,710**

The latest anticipated final account advises of a loss and expenses claim for items in relation to unforeseen issues caused by Covid-19 pandemic.

The Officer confirmed that discussions with funding bodies was ongoing to determine whether additional funding was available, and therefore at this stage it was not proposed that funding for these schemes be built in from the Capital contingency. It was anticipated that by Quarter 3 the Council would have an indication of whether additional funding was available. However, if additional funding was not forthcoming, the Council would have to consider how best to fund these overspends.

A Member asked whether the overspends were actual final claims or an estimate.

The Chief Officer Resources said she understood that final claims had been received for each scheme and discussions were ongoing with the Contractors to mitigate some of the costs.

In response to a question raised by a Member regarding the Abertillery Leisure Centre demolition, the Head of Community Services confirmed that the Council was in the final stages of submitting legal claims, and this matter would hopefully move to a conclusion in the next few months.

A Member acknowledged that the Covid pandemic had attributed to the overspending schemes but asked whether the Contractors had approached the Council during construction to negotiate terms in light of the escalating costs.

The Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services explained that under normal contract arrangements there was a system in place to deal with any changes etc. However, every contract included the 'force majeure' clause which covered Contractors in the event of unforeseen circumstances resulting in a change to the dynamics of a contract, and this was the case with the Covid pandemic. The Contractors had to implement social distancing measures to continue working which slowed down the contract and incurred additional costs.

The Head of Community Services agreed, and said the Council were fortunate that both these major contracts were able to continue throughout the pandemic and that the Contractors stood by their submitted tenders. He said Welsh Government had many funded contracts through LA's and discussions were ongoing with funding agencies regarding potential additional funding to mitigate these costs.

In response to a further question the Officer confirmed a report on Contracts over £500k would be submitted to the next meeting of the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee and would provide a narrative on major contracts.

A Member requested that a breakdown of the CAT's budget be actioned, and questioned the figure of £220k related to the LTF Metroplus budget.

The Chief Officer Resources undertook to report back on this matter.

	<p>Another Member requested details of the number of highways that had been resurfaced and the spend per ward.</p> <p>The Head of Community Services undertook to provide details over the last 3 years.</p> <p>The Member also referred to the withdrawal of the Henley's bus service from 31st December, 2021 and asked what action the Council intended taking.</p> <p>The Chair of the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee confirmed that this was being considered by the Transport Task & Finish Group.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and Members continue to support appropriate financial control procedures agreed by Council; and note the budgetary control and monitoring procedures in place within the Capital Team, to safeguard Authority funding.</p>	
No. 8	<p><u>USE OF GENERAL AND EARMARKED RESERVES 2021/2022</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Chief Officer Resources presented the report which provided the forecast reserves position for 2021/2022 as at Quarter 2 (30th September, 2021).</p> <p>The level of the Council's general reserve disclosed in the statutory accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2021 was £7.553m equating to 5.72% of net revenue expenditure (as reported in the 2020/2021 Revenue Outturn forms). The revenue budget forecast year-end position for 2021/2022 at end of Quarter 2 indicated a surplus of £2.814m.</p> <p>The level of earmarked reserves has been determined in accordance with the agreed reserves protocol. The level of earmarked reserves available to the Authority is forecast to increase by £0.132m in 2021/2022.</p>	

	<p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and Members note the forecast use of general and earmarked reserves for 2021/2022 and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the impact of the £2.814m favourable variance for 2021/2022 would have on the budgeted contribution to the General Reserve; • Note the forecast increase of the General Reserve in 2021/2022 to £10.567m, being 8.0% of net revenue expenditure, above the 4% target level; • Consider the need for ongoing prudent financial management given the potential for future public spending restrictions required to fund the impact of Covid-19; and • Continue to challenge budget overspends and implement appropriate service Action Plans, where required. <p>Maintenance of general reserves at an adequate level is crucial to the Council being able to meet future liabilities arising from risks for which specific provision has not been made.</p>	
<p>No. 9</p>	<p><u>BRIDGING THE GAP (BTG) PROGRAMME 2021/2022 – PROGRESS UPDATE JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2021</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Chief Officer Resources presented the report which provided an update on progress with the Strategic Business Reviews during the period July to September 2021, and the latest assessment of the financial achievement for the current financial year.</p> <p>The Officer confirmed that Members of the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee had received information on the MTFS, and it would be considered by Council later in the week. The report had been updated to reflect the current position of the MTFS. She was pleased to report that for 2021/2022 the estimated achievement of BTG proposals of £755k was exceeded. The forecast indicated</p>	

	<p>a positive outturn on in-year BTG proposals of £925k, a favourable variance of £197k.</p> <p>A Member referred to the use of third party suppliers in the commissioning and procurement of contracts and asked what was being done to protect local suppliers in drive to reduce expenditure.</p> <p>The Chief Officer Commercial & Customer explained that within the Council's procurement strategy there was emphasis on ensuring that where relevant possible, the Council look to support the foundational economy and community wealth locally.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted; and Members provided appropriate challenge to the Bridging the Gap programme.</p>	
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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Action Sheet - Joint Budget Scrutiny Committee – 22nd November 2021

Item	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
5	<p><u>Action Sheet – 27th September 2021</u></p> <p>Metro Plus Funding / Abertillery Spur – regarding the purchase of land required as a terminus point – Confirmation to be provided on whether an officer's delegated powers were used or approval by Executive.</p> <p>Breakdown of £70m spend to be provided</p>	<p>Richard Crook</p> <p>Richard Crook</p>	<p>An exempt report was taken to Executive Committee on 14th October 2020 to agree to take the land purchase forward for agreement.</p> <p>The Metro Plus monies are part CCR and part LTF</p> <p>For 20/21/22 the total spent was £1.15M</p> <p>£70M Forecast figures only available pre-tender, commercial sensitivity around further breakdown at this stage. Design £7.6M, Project Management £4.6M, and forecast construction £57.8M including VAT and inflation.</p>
7	<p><u>Capital Budget Monitoring 2021/2022 Financial Year (as at 30 September 2021)</u></p> <p>Appendix 1 - Code 327061 - CATs: Full breakdown of CATs spend to be provided</p> <p>Appendix 1 - Code 328340 – LTF Metro Plus: A Member queried the figures. Officer to review.</p> <p>A breakdown Ward by Ward to be provided in relation to how many streets, roads, highways that have been repaired, including the spend over the last 3 years.</p>	<p>Dave Watkins</p> <p>Rhian Hayden</p> <p>Clive Rogers</p>	<p>See attached.</p> <p>Within the Q2 report the funding / remaining budget identified was £220,000. This differed from the level of budget remaining reported in Q1 £406,209. Unfortunately, the budget in the Q1 report was overstated with the inclusion of a Sundry Creditor which related to 2020/21.</p> <p>See attached.</p>

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Action Note for Joint Budget Scrutiny Committee

Below is a full breakdown of costs associated with the Council's Community Asset Transfer (CAT) policy for outdoor sports pitches and associated facilities, such as sports pavilions and changing accommodation from across the County borough of Blaenau Gwent.

The costs include for both revenue and capital expenditure and are provided on a year by year basis commencing in the 2017/18 financial year to the present time, January 2022.

The table below provides information on current expenditure on an area by area basis for member's information;

Total Costs Associated with Community Asset Transfers (CAT's) Sports Grounds 2017- 2022							
Town/Area	Site	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	2019/20 £	2020/21 £	2021/22 £	Total Costs £
Abertillery	Abertillery Park Bowls & Rugby	0	8,290	5,062	1,029	6,822	21,204
	Cwmtillery Jim Owen Field & Woodland Field - Football	18,679	3,020	0	0	5,341	27,040
	Cwmnantygroes - Football	0	1,142	10,125	6,387	0	17,654
	Llanhilleth Park – Rugby/Bowls	0	3,470	2,050	4,175	0	9,695
	Rosehayworth – Football/Rugby	0	1,331	15,656	0	0	16,987
	Six bells Park – Bowls/Cafe	0	18,523	8,231	0	9,680	36,434
	Brynithel Recreation Ground – Football/Rugby	0	1,539	968	2,690	1,241	6,438
Total Costs Abertillery Area							135,452
Nantyglo & Blaina	Duffryn Park – football/Bowls	0	40,472	9,470	0	0	49,942
	Central Park – Rugby/Cricket	2,804	3,306	8,339	9,450	0	23,899
	Banna Park - Rugby		2,189	4,573	1,875	1,475	10,112
Total Costs Nantyglo & Blaina Area							83,953
Ebbw Vale	Beaufort Welfare Football/Rugby/Bowls	0	1,948	12,570	0	0	14,518
	Cwm Welfare Ground – Football/boxing	0	0	4,621	2,543	3,090	10,254
	Ebbw Vale Welfare Ground – Cricket/Bowls/Rugby	0	10,287	17,502	0	2,460	30,249
	Hilltop - football	0	817	7,979	0	0	8,796
Total Costs Ebbw Vale Area							55,021
Brynmawr	Brynmawr Recreation Ground - Rugby	0	0	41,531	0	0	41,531
	Brynmawr Welfare – Bowls/Football	0	660	38,029	0	0	38,689
Total Costs Brynmawr Area							80,221
Tredegar	Tredegar Recreation Ground – Football/Rugby	0	0	0	27,513	25,875	53,388
	Bedwellty Park - Bowls	2,701	0	3,950	0	0	6,651
Total Costs Tredegar Area							60,039
Total Costs for CAT's 2017 – 2022							£414,686

2019/20

- WG Funding 19/20 £409,776.00
- 6 Residential Highways
- Total resurfaced Highway Area: (12,918m² / 1.5 miles)

Gladstone Street, (Cwmtillery)	£24,421
Cwm Hir, (Badminton)	£25,226
Walter Conwy Av and Gainsborough Road,(Tred C&W)	£55,295
Oxford Place and Regent Street, (Llanhilleth)	£70,082

20/21

- WG Funding 20/21 £383,000.00
- 24 residential highways
- Total resurfaced Highway Area (40,937m² / 5.1 miles)

Augusta Street (Cwm):	£69,789
Big Lane (Beaufort):	£13,862
Bryn Glas & Pen Y Dre (Badminton):	£17,392
Brynhyfryd Terrace (Llanhilleth):	£25,398
Caddicks Row (Blaina)	£31,563
Clydach Avenue (Rassau)	£19,606
Clydach Street (Brynmawr)	£24,896
Earl and Union Street (Tredegar C&W)	£57,174
Glanhowy St & Meadow Crescent (Sirhowy)	£50,781
Greenlands & Penlas (EV North)	£34,317
Gwent Terrace (Nantyglo)	£12,194
High Street (EV South)	£19,229
Lancaster Street (Six Bells)	£18,468
Mafeking Terrace (Georgetown)	£14,819
Princess Street (Abertillery)	£24,540
Hillcrest and Valley View Road (Cwmtillery)	£52,315

21/22

- WG Funding 21/22 £612,000.00
- 30 residential highways
- Total resurfaced Highway Area (42,275m2 / 5.2 miles)

King Street (Cwm):	£44,343
South St & Hereford St (Beaufort):	£36,225
Maes-Y-Cynw Terrace (Llanhilleth):	£26,498
Glanystroth (Blaina)	£48,445
School Road (Rassau)	£48,341
Aneurin Crescent (Brynmawr)	£33,839
Parkville & Stable lane (Tredegar C&W)	£45,112
Railway Terrace (Sirhowy)	£36,393
Mount Pleasant Road (EV North)	£47,224
Waunheulog (Nantyglo)	£62,229
Institution Terrace (EV South)	£17,151
Jubilee Road and Graig Road (Six Bells)	£30,043
Walter St and Southend (Georgetown)	£64,983
Powell Street (Abertillery)	£18,805
Victoria Street (Cwmtilery)	£31,844
Greenwood Avenue (Tredegar C&W)	£12,977
Emlyn & Badminton Speed Humps (Bad)	£31,912

Total costs per Ward from 2019-2022

ABERTILLERY	£43,345
CWM	£114,132
CWMTILLERY	£108,580
BEAUFORT	£50,087
BADMINTON	£74,530
BLAINA	£80,008
BRYNMAWR	£58,735
GEORGETOWN	£79,802
LLANHILLETH	£121,978
RASSAU	£67,947
TRED C&W	£170,558
EV NORTH	£81,541
EV SOUTH	£36,380
NANTYGLO	£74,423
SIX BELLS	£48,511
SIRHOWY	£87,174

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

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

SUBJECT: **SPECIAL JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
(BUDGET MONITORING) – 8TH FEBRUARY, 2022**

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

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S. HEALY (CHAIR)

Councillors M. Cook
D. Bevan
M. Cross
G.A. Davies
G.L. Davies
W. Hodgins
P. Edwards
K. Hayden
J. Hill
W. Hodgins
J. Holt
C. Meredith
J. Millard
M. Moore
J.P. Morgan
J.C. Morgan
L. Parsons
K. Rowson
T. Smith
B. Summers
S. Thomas
H. Trollope
B. Willis
L. Winnett

Co-opted Member

T. Baxter

WITH: Managing Director
Chief Officer Resources
Corporate Director Education
Corporate Director Social Services

Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance
Head of Governance & Partnerships
Service Manager Neighbourhood Services
Corporate Procurement Manager Commercial Services
Scrutiny & Democratic Officer/Advisor

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>An apology for absence was reported for Councillor P. Baldwin.</p>	
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p>	
No. 4	<p><u>REVENUE BUDGET 2022/2023</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Chief Officer Resources presented the report which provided an update on the positive provisional local government settlement for 2022/23 and its impact upon the Council's budget; and sought agreement of the detailed revenue budget for 2022/23, and the level of Council Tax increase for the 2022/2023 financial year.</p> <p>The Officer spoke to the report and highlighted the main points contained therein. The headline increase for BGCBC after allowing for transfers was 8.4% (£10.4m), compared to the all Wales increase of 9.4%. This was a positive settlement and combined with the opportunities identified in the Bridging the Gap programme meant that subject to the recommendations in the report being</p>	

agreed, the Council was able to agree a budget for 2022/23.

A Member referred to the blended learning approach introduced in schools in response to the Covid pandemic, and asked whether the Council intended to continue self-supporting the licence and ICT equipment for those families in need of support.

In response the Corporate Director of Education confirmed that a budget pressure had been identified for the 2022/23 financial year related to ICT developments within schools, and this would be an element for consideration by Members at the full meeting of the Council on the 17th February, 2022.

A Member referred to Appendix 2, particularly the cost pressure within the Environment Portfolio and asked whether this would reduce if the passporting of waste gate fees was agreed.

The Chief Officer Resources explained that the cost pressure within the Environment Portfolio excluded any cost pressure in relation to the waste gate fees. If the transfer of the waste gate fees grant was not agreed the cost pressure within the Portfolio would increase.

A Member then proposed the following amendment to Option 1 as follows:

In light of the headline uplift of 8.4%, Members accept Sections 3.1.1 to 3.1.6 of Option 1; and that decision on Sections 3.1.7 and 3.1.8 (transfer of any surplus budget into the Financial Resilience Reserve, and recommendations around the Council Tax increase) be **DEFERRED** pending further consideration at the Special Meeting of the Council on 17th February, 2022.

The proposal was seconded, and following a brief discussion the amendment was carried.

The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, to recommend that the report be accepted and the amended Option 1 be supported as follows:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members recommend to Executive and Council the 2022/23 revenue budget as shown in table 2 in paragraph 5.1.13. • Members note the outcomes within the overall provisional RSG Settlement and note the potential for further change in the Final RSG Settlement (paragraphs 2.7 – 2.17). • Members note the outcomes within the BGCBC provisional RSG Settlement and its impact upon the Medium Term Financial Strategy (paragraphs 2.18 – 2.24). • Members recommend to Executive and Council the cost pressures and growth items (£4m in total) identified in Appendix 2 (paragraphs 5.1.9 – 5.1.12) for inclusion in the Council's budget. • Members recommend to Executive and Council passporting the grants transferring into the Settlement of £265,000 to the relevant services (paragraphs 5.1.14 – 5.1.18). • Members recommend to Executive and Council an uplift of £3.91m which equates to 8.4% increase to the ISB (paragraphs 5.1.19 to 5.1.22). • Decision relating to any surplus budget from the Bridging the Gap proposals be deferred for consideration at the Special Meeting of the Council on 17th February, 2022. • Decision relating to the Council Tax increase for 2022/23 be deferred for consideration at the Special Meeting of the Council on 17th February, 2022. 	
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Agenda Item 7

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Joint Budget Scrutiny Committee**
Date of meeting: **7th March 2022**
Report Subject: **Revenue Budget Monitoring -2021/2022, Forecast Outturn To 31 March 2022 (As at 31st December 2021)**
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Daniels, Leader / Executive Member Corporate Services**
Report Submitted by: **Rhian Hayden – Chief Officer Resources**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
	24/02/2022				07/03/22	16/03/22		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide members with the forecast financial outturn position across all portfolios for the financial year 2021/2022 (as forecast at 31st December 2022).

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 This report provides details on the following:
- Forecast financial position to the end of March 2022 across all portfolios
 - Forecast outturn for Fees & Charges
- 2.2 This report will inform the quarterly financial reporting framework to Members.

3. Options for Recommendation

3.1 Option 1 (Recommended Option)

Members to consider and provide appropriate challenge to the financial outcomes in the report.

3.2 Option 2

Members do not accept the report.

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

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

5. Implications Against Each Option

5.1 Impact on Budget

5.1.1 The overall forecast outturn as at December 2021, is a favourable variance of £4.65m, after the application of Welsh Government Hardship Funding. There has been an increase in the favourable variance of £1.835m since the September 2021 forecast position (£2.814m).

5.1.2 The forecast overall financial position across all portfolios at 31st December 2021 (and before the inclusion of Covid-19 related expenditure) is shown in the table below:

Table 1 – Portfolio Summary

Portfolio/ Committee	2021/2022 Revised Revenue Budget £m	2021/2022 Forecast Outturn @ 31 Dec 2021 £m	Favourable/ (Adverse) To 31 March 2022 £m	Append ref:
Underspending Portfolios				
Corporate Services & Financial Management & Strategy	18.425	17.111	1.314	1a
Education & Leisure	63.863	63.697	0.166	1c
Social Services	46.329	43.059	3.270	1b
Planning	1.274	1.241	0.033	1f
Licensing	0.106	0.090	0.016	1f
Sub Total (1)	129.997	125.198	4.799	
Overspending Portfolios				
Economy	1.551	1.568	(0.017)	1d
Environment	26.484	26.617	(0.133)	1e

Sub Total (2)	28.035	28.121	(0.150)	
Total	<u>158.032</u>	<u>153.319</u>	<u>4.649</u>	
Covid-19 Costs				
Social Services		2.610	(2.610)	
Education		0.418	(0.418)	
Environment		2.008	(2.008)	
Sub Total – Covid19 spend		<u>5.036</u>	<u>(5.036)</u>	
WG Hardship funding			<u>2.426</u>	
WG SS Hardship funding			<u>2.610</u>	
Revised Total			<u>4.649</u>	

5.1.3 The forecast includes actual and estimated funding from the Hardship fund for April to December 2021 of £5.036m. Claims have been submitted, in line with the set of principles issues by Welsh Government, for quarters 1 to 3 loss of income and £130,000 is included in the forecast for Social Services.

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

5.1.5 **PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS**

5.1.6 Within the total forecast favourable variance of £4.65m, the cross cutting budgets within Corporate Services account for 19% (£0.865m) of this forecast. The breakdown is as follows:-

- Commercial & Contract Management - £0.5m
- Pay award contingency - £0.12m
- Contingency – Community Care - £0.25m

5.1.7 Portfolio summary pages can be found in Appendix 1.

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

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

Table 3 – Significant Adverse Variances

Social Services	Legal Fees	£363,000
Education	Departmental Budget	£95,000
Environment	Waste Collection Services	£306,000
Total		£764,000

5.1.10 **Portfolio Analysis**

5.1.11 **Corporate Services – £1,313,874 favourable variance**

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

5.1.13 ***Cross Cutting Budgets - £865,247***

5.1.14 Commercial & Contract Management (Budget £496,410) – This budget was created to fund contract price increases during the year, that cannot be managed within portfolio budgets. However, no requests for funding have been received to date, therefore this budget is showing a favourable variance of £496,410.

5.1.15 Contingency – Pay Award / Community Care (Budget £1.2m) - This budget has been established to cover a potential pay award for 2021/2022 of up to 2.0% for Council staff and increased costs within Community Care. The forecast includes a commitment of a 1.75% pay award for staff (£831,863). Local authority employers are currently considering a way forward with trade unions. At present this budget is showing a £368,838 favourable position.

5.1.16 ***Departmental Budgets - £216,232***

5.1.17 The forecast favourable variance mainly relates to reduced employee related expenditure due to delays in filling vacant posts, maternity leave, staff on temporary reduced hours and the utilisation of one-off grant funding. In addition, there is an increased level of income provided by Welsh Government for an administration grant for providing COVID-19 related support.

5.1.18 ***Council Tax Reduction Scheme - £163,687***

The forecast favourable variances relate to a reduction in the number of claimants since the start of the financial year, with the number of claimants now at pre pandemic levels. This is probably as a consequence of claimants returning to work following the end of furlough and COVID Lockdowns.

5.1.19 **Social Services – £3,270,472 favourable variance**

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

5.1.21 ***Children's Services – Favourable Variance of £1.09m***

- 5.1.22 There is only one main adverse variance, Legal Fees of £363,000 which is mainly due to the continuing cost pressure as a result of using an external law firm resulting from court proceedings in relation to Children Looked After.
- 5.1.23 A cost pressure of £350,000 was awarded in 2021/2022 to partially address the cost pressure.
- 5.1.24 This adverse variance has been completely offset mainly by two underspending areas:
- Residential Placements showing a favourable variance of £852,000 mainly due to the application of Sustainability Grant Funding and
 - Social worker Teams of £586,000 mainly due to vacant posts resulting from the issues experienced with recruitment and retention.
- 5.1.25 ***Adult Services – Favourable Variance of £2m***
- 5.1.26 The overall favourable variance of £2m, is mainly due to the application of Sustainability Grant, ICF, Home First and Social Services Recovery Grant. This has enabled a number of established posts to be funded from grant. In addition, there are a number of vacant posts and a reduction in staffing cover costs within Provider Services (as Day Services provision is not fully operational as yet). There has been a reduction in the number of placements and packages of care since the pre-Covid-19 period. The service is experiencing an increase in demand and referrals, however, current staff capacity is having an impact on the placement process.
- 5.1.27 ***Support Service and Management Costs - £177,000 favourable variance***
- The overall favourable variance of £177,000 is mainly due to grant funding of established posts and a number of vacant posts.
- 5.1.28 **Education and Leisure – £165,956 favourable variance**
- 5.1.29 There favourable variance is due to:-
- Strategic Management - £190,000 favourable variance – relating to lower pension contributions to the local government pension scheme for school based staff (£111,000) and charging the costs of the Statutory Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Officer, to the ALN specific grant (£79,000).
 - LEA Budget Supporting SEN £62,000 favourable variance, relating to income arising from the secondment of the Principal School Psychologist.
- 5.1.30 There is one main adverse variance:-
- Departmental budget - £95,000 adverse variance – relating to staffing costs for specific areas of work until March 2022 and maternity cover arrangements.

5.1.31 **Environment Portfolio – £133,162 adverse variance**

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

5.1.33 **Recycling Collection - £305,740 adverse variance**

One primary driver for the adverse variance relates to the ongoing cost of receptacles and food waste bags. External funding for the purchase of food waste bags has ceased and therefore this now presents a cost pressure within this budget. The budget for receptacles is not sufficient to meet demand for replacement receptacles and food waste bags as requested by households and in addition new receptacles will need to be provided to the new development/builds that is ongoing within Blaenau Gwent. The second primary driver for the adverse variance relates to agency staff costs. This adverse variance is being reviewed as potentially some costs could be recovered from the Hardship Fund.

5.1.34 **Recycling Disposal - £123,430 favourable variance**

The cost per tonne has increased for paper, steel, plastics, cardboard and aluminium and therefore the income and forecast income has increased for these recyclates, mitigating the adverse variance.

5.1.35 **Fees & Charges**

5.1.36 The 2021/2022 portfolio estimates include income budgets in relation to fees & charges (excluding Council Tax) of £15m across all portfolios. Attached at Appendix 2 is an analysis of income received against budget for the financial year for individual portfolios, and current forecast indicates an adverse variance against this target of £1.1m, primarily relating to lost income: -

- charges for Community Care & CHC income - £1.3m (This shortfall is offset by the overall underspend within the Social Services Portfolio).

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

5.2 **Risk including Mitigating Actions**

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

5.2.2 A grants register has been developed and is being maintained and will be considered as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

- 5.2.3 There is a risk that Action Plans will not address the cost pressures identified.
- 5.2.4 Action Plans have been developed, identifying actions to mitigate the forecast cost pressures. The Action Plans will be monitored as part of the Budget Monitoring and Reporting Framework and the impact reported to the Joint Budget Scrutiny Committee, Executive Committee and the Cost Pressure Sub Group.
- 5.2.5 There is a risk that Covid-19 will continue into the medium/long term, impacting on Council services and budgets. This risk can be mitigated by the continuation of processes that the Council has introduced since March 2020 eg prioritising services, redeployment of staff, home working.
- 5.2.6 There is a risk that Welsh Government will not provide Hardship funding/loss of income funding for all cost pressures identified. This risk has been mitigated through a continuing dialogue and lobbying with Welsh Government, through the WLGA and the continuing development of action plans by budget holders. The Hardship Fund will not continue into 2022/2023 and this risk has been mitigated by additional resources provided by Welsh Government through the Revenue Support Grant.
- 5.2.7 There is a risk of increase costs for food, fuel and other essential goods and services as a result of the ongoing situation regarding the U.K. Exiting the E.U.
- 5.2.8 The UK Exiting the EU has been added as an organisational risk to the corporate risk register, whilst a separate, more detailed high level action plan has been developed and is being monitored by the Core Planning Group.
- 5.3 Legal
N/A
- 5.4 Human Resources
N/A
6. **Supporting Evidence**
- 6.1 **Performance Information and Data**
- 6.1.1 A summary page for each portfolio is contained in Appendices 1a to 1g.
- 6.2 **Expected outcome for the public**
- 6.2.1 The report details the financial implications for the Council in providing services to the communities of Blaenau Gwent.
- 6.3 **Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)**
- 6.3.1 CLT have considered the forecast financial position for 2021/2022 (as 31st December 2021).

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

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

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

6.5 **Preventative focus**

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

6.6 **Collaboration / partnership working**

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

6.7 *Integration(across service areas)*
N/A

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

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

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

6.9b **EqlA**

6.8.1 All Bridging the Gap Projects that were approved as part of the budget setting process have gone through the EqlA process.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

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

Background Documents /Electronic Links

Appendix 1 – Portfolio Summaries

Appendix 2 – Fees and Charges

Appendix 3 – Action Plan

CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2022	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at Sept 21
	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY				
<u>DEPARTMENTAL AND OTHER RECHARGEABLE SERVICES</u>				
Corporate Services Department	(184,150)	(294,498)	110,348	203,605
Resources Department	1,500	(104,384)	105,884	104,006
Sub Total	(182,650)	(398,882)	216,232	307,611
<u>COMMERCIAL SERVICES</u>				
Archives	151,640	142,789	8,851	8,851
Festival Park	94,680	99,631	(4,951)	(4,951)
Housing Benefit	(117,130)	(115,965)	(1,165)	(1,203)
ICT Service	0	0	0	0
Cross Cutting	(50,000)	(50,000)	0	0
Community Hubs	121,990	121,990	0	0
Sub Total	201,180	198,445	2,735	2,697
<u>LEGAL & CORPORATE COMPLIANCE SERVICES</u>				
Registration of Electors	17,170	20,469	(3,299)	(329)
Conducting Elections	0	(379)	379	0
Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths	51,370	57,792	(6,422)	(10)
Sub Total	68,540	77,882	(9,342)	(339)
<u>GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES</u>				
Corporate Management (inc Audit Fees)	107,370	106,428	942	942
Democratic Representation and Management	1,267,800	1,254,774	13,026	8,630
CCTV Cameras	79,000	79,000	0	11,752
Civil Contingencies	101,040	90,531	10,509	12,182
Sub Total	1,555,210	1,530,733	24,477	33,506
<u>RESOURCES SERVICES</u>				
Corporate Management	348,810	349,380	(570)	(648)
Non Distributed Costs	1,039,730	1,033,300	6,430	6,430
Apprenticeship Levy	351,400	344,435	6,965	(10,572)
Council Tax Collection	(1,315,620)	(1,348,899)	33,279	36,123
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	9,908,050	9,744,363	163,687	8,754
N.N.D.R. Collection	(107,040)	(111,778)	4,738	4,828
Grants and Subscriptions	57,270	57,270	0	0
Cross Cutting Budget	2,189,110	1,323,863	865,247	865,247
Sub Total	12,471,710	11,391,934	1,079,776	910,162
<u>CORPORATE CHARGES</u>				
Corporate Recharges	4,310,790	4,310,794	(4)	(4)
Sub Total	4,310,790	4,310,794	(4)	(4)
Covid-19 Related Expenditure	0	0	0	0
CORPORATE SERVICES TOTAL EXPENDITURE	18,424,780	17,110,906	1,313,874	1,253,633

SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2022	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at Sept 21
	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY				
<u>SOCIAL SERVICES</u>				
Children's Services - Commissioning and Social Work	3,727,710	3,386,643	341,067	180,972
Looked After Children	7,433,140	6,749,344	683,796	551,242
Family Support Services	188,600	188,563	37	(11,003)
Youth Justice	232,920	228,118	4,802	4,802
Other Children's and Family Services	2,335,130	2,272,762	62,368	42,902
Older People Aged 65 or Over	6,517,430	5,905,052	612,378	411,650
Adults Aged Under 65 with a Physical Disability or Sensory Impairment	41,800	31,809	9,991	18,223
Adults Aged Under 65 with Learning Disabilities	3,313,890	3,149,753	164,137	141,058
Adults Aged Under 65 with Mental Health Needs	531,730	538,528	(6,798)	9,416
Other Adult Services	398,250	379,854	18,396	1,095
Community Care	15,515,320	14,312,368	1,202,952	82,296
Support Service and Management Costs	881,130	706,163	174,967	68,998
Corporate Recharges	5,212,400	5,210,020	2,380	2,373
Overall Portfolio Total	46,329,450	43,058,978	3,270,472	1,504,024
Social Services COVID-19 Costs	0	2,609,571	(2,609,571)	(1,487,239)
Revised Overall Portfolio Total	46,329,450	45,668,549	660,901	16,785

EDUCATION PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2022	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at Sept 21
	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY				
SCHOOLS BUDGET				
Individual Schools Budget	46,522,380	46,522,380	0	0
Education Improvement Grant	257,360	259,978	(2,618)	(4,042)
Other Costs	722,410	712,107	10,303	(487)
Supporting Special Education Needs	1,679,830	1,733,286	(53,456)	(77,156)
Schools Budget Total Expenditure	49,181,980	49,227,751	(45,771)	(81,685)
LEA BUDGET				
Strategic Management	2,432,410	2,242,244	190,166	188,752
Assuring Access to Schools	2,317,310	2,324,163	(6,853)	854
Facilitating School Improvement	419,760	393,971	25,789	11,945
Supporting Special Education Needs	342,470	297,066	45,404	31,707
LEA Budget Total Expenditure	5,511,950	5,257,444	254,506	233,258
OTHER EDUCATION SERVICES				
Further Education and Training	133,290	121,816	11,474	11,474
Youth Service	311,437	297,578	13,859	13,340
Other Expenditure	141,030	102,603	38,427	16,282
Education Departmental Budget	64,323	159,387	(95,064)	(17,362)
Other Education Services Total Expenditure	650,080	681,384	(31,304)	23,734
CORPORATE CHARGES				
Corporate Support Recharges	4,360,220	4,360,220	0	0
Corporate Charges Total Expenditure	4,360,220	4,360,220	0	0
Total Expenditure	59,704,230	59,526,799	177,431	175,307
LEISURE TRUSTS				
LEISURE TRUSTS				
Aneurin Leisure Trust	2,789,760	2,798,092	(8,332)	(8,332)
Awen Leisure Trust	205,000	200,507	4,493	4,493
Sub Total	2,994,760	2,998,599	(3,839)	(3,839)
RETAINED SERVICES				
Corporate Recharges	1,164,340	1,171,976	(7,636)	(1,466)
General Reserve Funding Re: Staff Support	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	1,164,340	1,171,976	(7,636)	(1,466)
LEISURE TRUSTS TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,159,100	4,170,575	(11,475)	(5,305)
Overall Portfolio Total	63,863,330	63,697,374	165,956	170,002
Covid-19 Related Expenditure	0	418,474	(418,474)	(277,007)
Revised Overall Portfolio Total	63,863,330	64,115,848	(252,518)	(107,005)

ECONOMY PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2022	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at September 21
	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY				
DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES				
Economic Strategy and Development - Departmental Budget	1,504	2,045	(541)	(541)
Estates Management - Rechargeable	(1)	(1,045)	1,044	1,044
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>1,503</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>503</i>	<i>503</i>
ECONOMY SERVICES				
Affordable Housing	0	0	0	0
Aspire	0	0	0	0
Community Benefits Investment	0	0	0	0
CSCS	(10,200)	810	(11,010)	(11,010)
Destination Management	16,473	16,473	0	0
DRivE	0	0	0	0
Financial Support to Business	4,276	4,276	0	0
General Offices	(53,783)	(53,783)	0	0
Industrial Land	7,195	7,006	189	189
Inspire	0	0	0	0
Nursery Units/Misc. Industrial Premises	(694,037)	(694,037)	0	0
Pentagon	0	0	0	0
Regeneration Projects	4,998	4,998	0	0
Resilient Project	0	0	0	0
Estates Management Non Rechargeable	(94,780)	(87,707)	(7,073)	(7,071)
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>(819,858)</i>	<i>(801,964)</i>	<i>(17,894)</i>	<i>(17,892)</i>
Corporate Recharges	2,369,375	2,369,375	0	0
Funding from General Reserves	0		0	0
Total Expenditure	1,551,020	1,568,411	(17,391)	(17,389)

ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2022	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at September 2021
	£	£	£	£
SUMMARY				
<u>COMMUNITY SERVICES</u>				
<u>DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES</u>				
Environment Department - Corporate	0	(37,069)	37,069	37,983
Environmental Services Division	(629)	(31,198)	30,569	25,279
Technical Services - Engineering & Property Management	9,940	9,940	0	0
Sub Total	9,311	(58,327)	67,638	63,262
<u>WASTE SERVICES</u>				
Waste Services Team	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	0	0	0	0
<u>WASTE COLLECTION</u>				
Household and Trade Waste Collectio	616,930	616,418	512	(2,237)
Recycling Collection	2,088,970	2,394,710	(305,740)	(137,059)
Bulky Waste Collection	(2,440)	(9,058)	6,618	10,428
Sub Total	2,703,460	3,002,070	(298,610)	(128,868)
<u>WASTE TRANSFER</u>				
Civic Amenity Sites	252,950	327,353	(74,403)	(60,904)
HWRC Roseheyworth	302,750	246,165	56,585	55,069
Transfer Station	630,940	569,272	61,668	1,146
Sub Total	1,186,640	1,142,790	43,850	(4,689)
<u>WASTE DISPOSAL</u>				
Disposal Of Waste	1,028,490	1,043,423	(14,933)	(47,997)
Recycling Disposal	31,250	(92,180)	123,430	(23,635)
Trade Waste Collection, Transfer & Di	(24,930)	(35,669)	10,739	(9,043)
Sub Total	1,034,810	915,574	119,236	(80,675)
<u>PUBLIC SERVICES</u>				
County Borough Cleansing	1,094,140	1,094,161	(21)	338
Cemeteries / Crematorium	(279,475)	(272,922)	(6,553)	(7,474)
Grounds Maintenance	959,000	945,552	13,448	17
Countryside Recreation Sites	36,690	35,212	1,478	1,478
General Entertainment	2,440	2,430	10	10
Sub Total	1,812,795	1,804,433	8,362	(5,631)
<u>FACILITIES MANAGEMENT</u>				

ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2022	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at September 2021
	£	£	£	£
Corporate Landlord	1,586,172	1,588,969	(2,797)	35,637
Corporate Property	11,720	11,720	0	(2)
Building Cleaning	120,860	120,860	0	4
Catering Account	158,300	158,300	0	0
Appetite For Life	43,710	43,710	0	0
School Breakfast Club	394,180	394,180	0	0
Sub Total	2,314,942	2,317,739	(2,797)	35,639
HIGHWAYS & ROADS SERVICES				
Highways - Street Care Team	0	131	(131)	315
Non Operational Land	1,460	1,460	0	0
Licensing (Highway Permits)	(51,190)	(39,013)	(12,177)	0
Shopping Arcade, Abertillery	2,780	2,780	0	0
Road and Street Works Acts	(16,260)	(16,260)	0	0
Multi-Storey Car Parks	254,488	254,488	0	0
On Street Parking	1,100	1,100	0	0
Surface Car Parks	31,790	31,790	0	0
Public Transport Co-Ordination	910	910	0	0
Bridges	77,590	77,590	0	0
Structural Maintenance (Principal and Other Roads)	173,668	187,732	(14,064)	0
Environmental Maintenance (Principal and Other Roads)	19,440	19,440	0	0
Safety Maintenance (Principal and Other Roads)	40,668	40,668	0	12
Routine Repairs (Principal and Other Roads)	869,431	882,194	(12,763)	3,710
Street Lighting	1,191,780	1,191,780	0	0
Winter Maintenance	390,020	434,519	(44,499)	0
Sub Total	2,987,675	3,071,309	(83,634)	4,037

ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2022	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at September 2021
	£	£	£	£
<u>TRANSPORT SERVICES</u>				
Traffic Orders	(22,475)	(63,723)	41,248	0
Highways Adoptions	(9,750)	(9,750)	0	0
Traffic / Accident Research	15,690	15,690	0	0
Traffic Management	6,760	6,760	0	0
Civil Parking Enforcement	0	0	0	0
Road Safety Education	18,330	18,330	0	0
Crossing Patrols	151,540	150,708	832	1,536
Concessionary fares and Support to Operators	281,050	281,050	0	0
Local Transport Plans	2,620	2,620	0	0
Home to School Transport	0	0	0	0
Transport and Heavy Plant	79,780	79,780	0	0
Sub Total	523,545	481,465	42,080	1,536
<u>CULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</u>				
General Administration and Markets	(25,962)	(9,783)	(16,179)	0
Countryside Programme and Manage	1,710	1,710	0	0
Landscaping and Afforestation	20,290	20,290	0	0
Reservoirs, Tips, Quarries and Mines	10,130	10,130	0	0
Flood Defence And Land Drainage	55,380	55,380	0	0
ENRaW	0	0	0	0
City Deal	97,200	97,200	0	0
Sub Total	158,748	174,927	(16,179)	0
COMMUNITY SERVICES TOTAL EXPENDITURE	12,731,926	12,851,980	(120,054)	(115,389)
<u>PUBLIC PROTECTION</u>				
<u>DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES</u>				
Environmental Health	(2,728)	15,950	(18,678)	(11,912)
Sub Total	(2,728)	15,950	(18,678)	(11,912)
<u>CARAVAN SITES</u>				
Cwmcrachen Caravan Site	(42,710)	(23,112)	(19,598)	144
Sub Total	(42,710)	(23,112)	(19,598)	144
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</u>				
Food Safety	6,270	6,596	(326)	1,831
Control of Pollution	9,390	10,102	(712)	707
Dog Wardens	1,470	1,470	0	0
Animal Health and Welfare	23,360	20,378	2,982	3,333
Pest Control	62,000	60,003	1,997	1,997
Littering and Dog Control Orders	0	307	(307)	(1,305)

ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

Item	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2022	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at September 2021
	£	£	£	£
Health and Safety at Work (Commerci	1,510	(810)	2,320	1,753
Sub Total	104,000	98,046	5,954	8,316
HOUSING SERVICES				
Homelessness	244,680	244,680	0	0
20 Church Street	15,800	11,870	3,930	13,604
General Properties	(8,160)	(7,416)	(744)	(744)
Housing Access	50,960	46,178	4,782	968
Works in Default	(250)	(1,840)	1,590	1,590
Disabled Facilities Grants	1,040	1,040	0	0
Sub Total	304,070	294,512	9,558	15,418
TRADING STANDARDS				
Trading Standards	(1,643)	(7,397)	5,754	6,455
Inspection and Enforcement	4,350	448	3,902	(165)
Sub Total	2,707	(6,949)	9,656	6,290
PUBLIC PROTECTION TOTAL EXPENDITURE	365,339	378,447	(13,108)	18,256
CORPORATE CHARGES				
Fire Service	3,481,840	3,481,840	0	0
Coroner's Court	120,830	120,830	0	0
Corporate Recharges	9,783,955	9,783,955	0	0
CORPORATE CHARGES TOTAL EXPENDITURE	13,386,625	13,386,625	0	0
Overall Portfolio Total	26,483,890	26,617,052	(133,162)	(97,133)
Covid-19 Related Expenditure	0	2,007,833	(2,007,833)	(1,791,230)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	26,483,890	28,624,885	(2,140,995)	(1,888,363)

PLANNING COMMITTEE AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Item	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	Total Forecast Expenditure to March 2022	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)	Outturn Variance Favourable / (Adverse) as at Sept 21
	£	£	£	£
PLANNING COMMITTEE SUMMARY				
<u>BUILDING CONTROL</u>				
<u>DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES</u>				
Building Control	(1,000)	-999	(1)	0
<u>BUILDING CONTROL SERVICES</u>				
Building Regulations	10,840	10,840	0	0
Dangerous Structures	22,640	20,806	1,834	1,732
<i>Building Control Total Expenditure</i>	<i>32,480</i>	<i>30,647</i>	<i>1,833</i>	<i>1,732</i>
<u>DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT</u>				
<u>DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES</u>				
Development Management	(1,000)	(7,198)	6,198	(988)
<u>DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES</u>				
Dealing with Applications	(202,530)	(235,492)	32,962	0
Planning Appeals	3,250	10,754	(7,504)	(4)
Enforcement	(10)	224	(234)	(16)
<i>Development Management Total Expenditure</i>	<i>(200,290)</i>	<i>(231,712)</i>	<i>31,422</i>	<i>(1,008)</i>
<u>DEVELOPMENT PLANS</u>				
<u>DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES</u>				
Development Plans	132,000	131,998	2	2
<u>DEVELOPMENT PLANS SERVICES</u>				
Development Plans	34,760	34,762	(2)	(2)
<i>Development Plans Total Expenditure</i>	<i>166,760</i>	<i>166,760</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Corporate Recharges	1,275,250	1,275,250	0	0
Funding from General Reserves	0	0	0	0
Covid-19 Related Expenditure	0	0	0	0
Planning Committee Total Expenditure	1,274,200	1,240,945	33,255	724
LICENSING COMMITTEE SUMMARY				
Licensing	68,010	51,663	16,347	(22,463)
Internal Recharges	38,490	38,492	(2)	(0)
Funding from General Reserves	0	0	0	0
Covid-19 Related Expenditure	0	0	0	0
Licensing Committee Total Expenditure	106,500	90,154	16,346	(22,464)

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

Appendix 2

Portfolio	Service	Description of Income	Income Source	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	WG Hardship Grant	Forecast	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)
				£	£	£	£
Fees & Charges							
Corporate Services	Communications	Advertising	Fees & Charges	3,000		697	(2,303)
Corporate Services	Business Support	External Printing and photocopying charges.	Fees & Charges	8,000		90	(7,910)
Corporate Services	Legal Fees	Legal Charges	Fees & Charges	14,330		7,917	(6,413)
Corporate Services	Corporate Support	Land Charges	Fixed - Set Locally	32,150		38,631	6,481
Economy	General Offices	Rental Income	Fees & Charges	41,969		90,119	48,150
Economy	Departmental	Reimbursement of staff costs and receipts for external works	SLA	69,087		43,350	(25,737)
Environment	Household and Trade Waste Collection		Fees & Charges	0		0	0
Environment	Recycling Collection	Recycling Collection & Disposal Income - Commercial Customers	Fees & Charges	0		0	0
Environment	Trade Waste	Trade Waste Collection & Disposal Income - Commercial Customers	Fees & Charges	140,590		143,831	3,241
Environment	Bulky Waste Collection	Bulky Waste Collection	Fees & Charges	71,690		79,445	7,755
Environment	Recycling Disposal	Sale of Recyclate Materials	Fees & Charges	629,720		714,244	84,524
Environment	County Borough Cleansing	C&CR - External Cleansing Works	Fees & Charges	220		0	(220)
Environment	Cemeteries / Crematorium	Burial Fees	Fees & Charges	495,080		492,858	(2,222)
Environment	Cemeteries / Crematorium	General Properties	Fees & Charges	2,680		3,000	320
Social Services	Meals On Wheels	Sale of Meals	Fees & Charges	175,280	0	154,759	(20,521)
Environment	Grounds Maintenance	Income from Letting of Playing Fields, Ground Rent & Way Leaves	Fees & Charges	76,395		105,793	29,398
Environment	General Properties	Rental Income	Fees & Charges	8,164		7,416	(748)
Environment	Cwmcrachen Caravan Site	Rental	Fees & Charges	113,947		117,510	3,563
Environment	Dog Wardens	Byelaw Enforcement Fees	Fees & Charges	2,030		2,030	0
Environment	Corporate Landlord	Civic Centre - Rental of Land	Miscellaneous	828		367	(461)
Environment	School Catering Service	Sale of Meals		861,898		876,021	14,123
Financial Management and Strategy	Accountancy Division	Administration charges for administering Appointeeships	Fees & Charges	26,030		18,544	(7,486)
Infrastructure	Technical Services - Engineering & Property Management	Reimbursement of staff costs and receipts for external works	Fees & Charges	418,938		468,711	49,773
Infrastructure	FEP - Increase in Income	Fees	Fees & Charges	0		0	0
Infrastructure	Licensing (Highway Permits)	Skips & Scaffolding Permits	Fees & Charges	51,342		39,426	(11,916)
Infrastructure	General Administration and Markets	Rental income	Fees & Charges	30,351		11,693	(18,658)
Infrastructure	Traffic Orders	Income from contractors, Welsh Water etc. for road works	Fees & Charges	24,810		66,058	41,248
Infrastructure	Road and Street Works Acts	Inspection fees, section 74's, FPN, coring, Dropped kerbs etc.	Fees & Charges	51,814		33,730	(18,084)
Infrastructure	Highways Adoptions	Highway Searches	Fees & Charges	9,754		9,754	0
Infrastructure	Multi-storey Carparks	Charge to Coleg Gwent	Fees & Charges	30,000		30,000	0
Infrastructure	Civil Parking Enforcement	FPN's	Fees & Charges	105,000		105,000	0
Infrastructure	Public Transport Co-Ordination	Charge to bus companies for use of Brynmawr Bus Station	Fees & Charges	234		234	0
Licensing	Hackney Carriages	Licence Fees	Fees & Charges	46,030		44,574	(1,456)
Licensing	Private Hire Vehicles	Licence Fees	Fees & Charges	1,830		2,029	199
Licensing	Scrap Metal	Sale of Scrap Metal	Fees & Charges	600		0	(600)
Planning	Enforcement	Enforcement Fees	Fees & Charges	610		0	(610)
Planning	Development Plans	Heritage Officer Income	Fees & Charges	0		0	0
Social Services	Other Children's and Family Services	Training Fees (Early Years tied in with expenditure which is set	Fees & Charges	0	0	0	0
Social Services	Older People aged 65 or over	Fees & Charges in respect of Care (Cwrt Mytton, Home Care, Extra Care & Joint Day Care Unit)	Fees & Charges	594,380	23,880	400,974	(169,526)
Social Services	Adults aged under 65 with Learning Disabilities	Fees & Charges in respect of Care (Augusta, Supported Living Bungalows & Community Options)	Fees & Charges	340,460	102,720	69,498	(168,242)
Social Services	Adults aged under 65 with Mental Health Needs	Fees & Charges in respect of Care (Vision House & Ysbyty'r Tri Chwm)	Fees & Charges	25,420	4,135	900	(20,385)
Social Services	Support Service and Management Costs	Fees & Charges in respect of Piper Alarms (IAA)	Fees & Charges	0	0	0	0
		Sub - Total		4,504,661	130,735	4,179,202	(194,724)

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

Appendix 2

Portfolio	Service	Description of Income	Income Source	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	WG Hardship Grant	Forecast	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)
				£	£	£	£
Fees & Charges - Set Nationally							
Corporate Services	Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths	Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths	Fixed - Set Nationally	94,770		83,878	(10,892)
Environment	Food Safety	Hygiene ratings & Health Certificates	Fixed - Set Nationally	2,120		4,739	2,619
Environment	Control of Pollution	Environmental Permits	Fixed - Set Nationally	16,890		10,378	(6,512)
Environment	Health and Safety at Work (Commercial Prem.)	Petroleum + Tattoo Licences	Fixed - Set Nationally	0		1,200	1,200
Environment	Trading Standards	Explosives Licences	Fixed - Set Nationally	790		749	(41)
Licensing	Licence Fees	Various (Gambling, Premises/ Clubs & Street Trading)	Fixed - Set Nationally	56,900		60,934	4,034
Planning	Dealing with Applications	Planning Application Fees	Fees & Charges	213,360		253,318	39,958
Planning	Building Regulations	Building Regulation Fees	Fixed - Set Nationally	95,620		97,499	1,879
Social Services	Older People aged 65 or over	CHC Income (Home Care)	Fixed - Set Nationally	0		51,597	51,597
Social Services	Adults aged under 65 with Learning Disabilities	CHC Income (Augusta House; Supported Living Bungalows; Community Options)	Fixed - Set Nationally	50,000		38,201	(11,799)
Social Services	Community Care	Fees & Charges in respect of Care	Fixed - Set Nationally	3,493,660		2,972,762	(520,898)
Social Services	Older People aged 65 or over	Sale of Property (Cwrt Mytton)	Fixed - Set Nationally	0		16,180	16,180
Social Services	Community Care	Sale of Property	Fixed - Set Nationally	292,340		308,688	16,348
Social Services	Community Care	CHC Income	Fixed - Set Nationally	378,650		0	(378,650)
Social Services	Support Service and Management Costs	CHC Income (Adult Service Managers)	Fixed - Set Nationally	0		0	0
		Sub - Total		4,695,100	0	3,900,123	(794,977)
Fees & Charges - In Line with Local Agreements							
Economy	Industrial Land	Ground rent and commercial bookings	Fixed - Set Locally	2,750		2,770	20
Economy	Nursery Units/Misc. Industrial Premises	Rental income for industrial units	Fixed - Set Locally	708,195		816,213	108,018
Economy	Estates - Non Rechargeable	Ground Rent	Fixed - Set Locally	142,268		120,000	(22,268)
Economy	Financial Support to Business	Ground rent and commercial bookings	Fixed - Set Locally	2,650		2,650	0
Economy	CSCS	Charges for Construction Skills Certificates	Fixed - Set Locally	10,200		947	(9,253)
Environment	Corporate Landlord	Little Stars Nursery - Rent (Recovery of costs)	Miscellaneous	8,496		13,287	4,791
Education	Inter Authority Recoupment	Charges to other Local Authorities for SEN placements within Blaenau Gwent Schools	Fixed - Set Locally	729,110		768,617	39,507
		Sub - Total		1,603,669	0	1,724,484	120,815
		Total - Fees & Charges		10,803,430	130,735	9,803,809	(868,886)
SLA							
Aneurin Leisure Trust	SLA Income	Provision of Support Services	SLA	243,600		209,210	(34,390)
Environment	Grounds Maintenance	SLA	SLA	168,220		156,902	(11,318)
Financial Management and Strategy	Accountancy Division	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	181,840		181,840	0
Corporate Services	Organisational Development, Payroll & Health & Safety	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	313,350		313,350	0
Corporate Services	Legal Fees & GDPR	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	41,160		41,160	0
Corporate Services	Communications	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	3,190		3,190	0
Corporate Services	Performance (SIMS Support)	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	75,750		75,750	0
Corporate Services	Business Support (Courier)	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	5,660		5,660	0
Financial Management and Strategy	Creditors Division	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	6,350		6,350	0
Corporate Services	ICT	Support Services SLA with Schools	SLA	0		0	0
Environment	School Catering	SLA with Schools (excludes Corporate Landlord)	SLA	1,138,600		1,145,038	6,438
Environment	Cleaning Services	SLA with Schools	SLA	1,091,389		1,091,389	0
Infrastructure	CPM - Schools Biodiversity SLA	SLA with Schools	SLA	14,280		14,280	0
Infrastructure	Winter Maintenance	SLA with LA's for salt Storage	SLA	13,000		13,000	0
		Sub - Total		3,296,389	0	3,257,119	(39,270)

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

Appendix 2

Portfolio	Service	Description of Income	Income Source	Revised Estimate 2021/2022	WG Hardship Grant	Forecast	Variance Favourable / (Adverse)
				£	£	£	£
Court Fees/Fixed Penalty Notices/Fines							
Corporate Services	Corporate Services and Strategy	Legal income and land charges. Advertising.	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	10,000		3,148	(6,852)
Education	Welfare Service	Fixed Penalty Notices	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	2,150		2,150	0
Environment	Littering and Dog Control Orders	Income in relation to FPNs	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	50,000		23,008	(26,992)
Corporate Services	Payroll Division	Attachment Orders	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	1,020		272	(748)
Financial Management and Strategy	Council Tax Collection	Court Costs	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	162,680		75,643	(87,037)
Financial Management and Strategy	NNDR	Court Costs	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	1,800		979	(821)
Corporate Services	Housing Benefits Account	Admin Penalties	Court Fees/FPN/Fines/Legal	25,000		0	(25,000)
		Sub - Total		252,650	0	105,200	(147,450)
Consortium Arrangements							
Economy	General Offices	Annual Service & Rental Charge to Torfaen CBC in relation to Archives	Consortium Arrangements	77,967		64,910	(13,057)
Environment	Disposal Of Waste	Contribution from SVWS	Consortium Arrangements	110,000		110,000	0
Environment	Cemeteries / Crematorium	Crematorium Income - Reallocation of surplus at year end	Consortium Arrangements	131,925		137,537	5,612
Environment	20 Church Street	Housing Advice Centre Contribution	Consortium Arrangements	12,210		13,550	1,340
Environment	Housing Access	Income from Housing Associations in relation to Administration of the Common Housing Register	Consortium Arrangements	110,763		118,126	7,363
Environment	Environmental Health	Public Protection Collaboration with Torfaen CC	Consortium Arrangements	0		0	0
		Sub - Total		442,865	0	444,123	1,258
Miscellaneous							
Education	Supporting Special Educational Needs	Internal Income - Recovery of pupil lead funding from schools.	Internal Income	102,000		102,000	0
Corporate Services	Corporate Procurement Division	Rebates - Energy & Randstad	Miscellaneous	95,700		73,816	(21,884)
Corporate Services	Corporate Procurement Division	Purchase Card Income	Miscellaneous	5,140		0	(5,140)
Infrastructure	L&A - Invasive Weeds	Contribution from Caerphilly for Treatment of Knotweed	Miscellaneous	10,000		1,200	(8,800)
		Sub - Total		212,840	0	177,016	(35,824)
		TOTAL		15,008,174	130,735	13,787,267	(1,090,172)

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Action Plan

Social Services

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

Appendix 3a

Service Area	2021/2022 Variance at Dec 2021 Forecast £	2021/2022 Variance at Sept 2021 Forecast £	2021/2022 Variance at June 2021 Forecast £	2020/2021 Variance at Outturn £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact £	Responsible Officer
Looked After Children	(362,739)	(362,739)	(362,739)	(718,039)	<p>Legal Services</p> <p><u>Reason for Adverse variance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an ongoing pressure in this area due to the use of a private law firm for all our court proceedings, and our inability to recruit and retain legal staff specialising in children's law. This has resulted in our need to outsource to an external provider. It is anticipated that the Legal budget will be significantly overspent again this year. <p><u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A long term solution will need to be identified in conjunction with Legal Services to mitigate this cost pressure for future years and a collaborative arrangement for legal services is being considered with a neighbouring council. 		Tanya Evans/ Andrea Jones

Action Plan

Social Services

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

Appendix 3a

Service Area	2021/2022 Variance at Dec 2021 Forecast £	2021/2022 Variance at Sept 2021 Forecast £	2021/2022 Variance at June 2021 Forecast £	2020/2021 Variance at Outturn £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact £	Responsible Officer
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This cost pressure is currently being offset by favourable variances within other social services budgets. <p><u>Updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An agreement has been reached with Caerphilly County Borough Council to provide Children's Legal Services for Blaenau Gwent. This agreement will hopefully commence from the 1st April 2022 which will substantially reduce the current overspend for legal services within Children's Services. 		

Action Plan

Education

2021/22 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 31st December 2021)

Appendix 3b

Service Area	2021/2022 Variance at December 2021 Forecast £	2021/2022 Variance at September 2021 Forecast £	2020/2021 Variance at Outturn £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact £	Responsible Officer
Departmental Budget	(95,064)	(17,362)	91,990	<p>Departmental budget</p> <p><u>Reason for Adverse variance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional staff support for the Welfare Service and a seconded member of staff from the Resources Department, both to the end of this financial year only. • <p><u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This cost pressure is currently being offset by favourable variances within other Education Portfolio budgets. • The potential to offset costs against specific grants will be reviewed in the final quarter of the financial year. 		Lynn Phillips

Action Plan

Environment

2020/21 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 31st December 2021)

Appendix 3c

Service Area	2021/2022 Variance at Dec 2021 Forecast £	2021/2022 Variance at Sept 2021 Forecast £	2021/2022 Variance at June 2021 Forecast £	2020/2021 Variance at outturn £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact £	Responsible Officer
Waste Services	(305,740)	(137,059)	(138,485)	(86,180)	<p><u>Recycling Collection</u></p> <p><u>Reason for Adverse variance</u> This is mainly due to the cost of receptacles and food waste bags. External funding for the purchase of food waste bags has ceased and therefore this now presents a cost pressure within this budget. In addition, the forecast also includes the cost of receptacles and food waste bags for new developments/builds that will be required towards the end of the financial year. It is also due to agency staff costs, which are being investigated as some could potentially be funded through the hardship fund.</p> <p><u>Actions</u> The budget for receptacles is not sufficient to meet demand and consequently, a budget pressure has been awarded for 2022/2023 as part of the budget setting process, which should mitigate the cost pressure in future years.</p>		C Rogers / M Stent
	(14,933)	(47,995)	(60,449)	(2,643)	<p><u>Disposal of Waste</u></p> <p><u>Reason for Adverse variance</u> This is mainly due to an increase in residual waste tonnages.</p> <p><u>Actions</u> The adverse variance has reduced due to Welsh Government Hardship Funding. Also the disposal of leachate at Silent Valley forecast costs are over the budget. However, this is</p>		

Action Plan

Environment

2020/21 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 31st December 2021)

Appendix 3c

Service Area	2021/2022 Variance at Dec 2021 Forecast £	2021/2022 Variance at Sept 2021 Forecast £	2021/2022 Variance at June 2021 Forecast £	2020/2021 Variance at outturn £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact £	Responsible Officer
	123,430	(23,630)	(136,432)	(216,372)	<p>based on last year's outturn only, there is the possibility that the forecast could change in the last quarter.</p> <p>Recycling Disposal</p> <p><u>Reason for variance</u> The cost per tonne has increased for paper, steel, plastics, cardboard and aluminium and therefore the income and the forecast income has increased for these recyclates, reducing the adverse variance.</p> <p>A cost pressure has been awarded as for 2022/2023 as part of the budget setting process to mitigate this cost pressure in future years.</p>		

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Agenda Item 8

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: Joint Budget Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting: 7th March 2022
Report Subject: Capital Budget Monitoring, Forecast for 2021/2022
Financial Year (as at 31 December 2021)
Portfolio Holder: Cllr Daniels, Leader / Executive Member Corporate
Services
Report Submitted by: Rhian Hayden – Chief Officer Resources

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
	24/02/22	01.03.22			07/03/22	16/03/22		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide members with an overview of each Portfolio's actual and forecast capital expenditure against funding approvals for the 2021/2022 financial year, as at 31st December 2021

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 This report provides details on the following:

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

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

2.2

3. Options for Recommendation

3.1 Option 1 (Recommended Option)

Members of the Joint Budget Scrutiny Committee accept the report and

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

3.2 Option 2

Do not accept the report.

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

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

5. Implications Against Each Option

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

- 5.1.1 The overall financial position as forecast at 31st December 2021 indicates an adverse variance of £227,852 against a total in year capital budget of £20.1m.

The overall position across all Portfolios is shown below: -

Total Approvals Q3 (Dec 2021)	Future funding	In year funding	Actual Expenditure to 31/12/2021 (Month 9)	Forecast Expenditure 2021/2022	Forecast Variance underspent / (overspent)
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
65,670	45,551	20,119	7,177	20,347	(228)

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

- **Household Waste recycling Centre - £42,752**
The overspend relates to increased costs due to the Covid-19 pandemic & future proofing of the site. Discussions are ongoing with WRAP Cymru & Welsh Government regarding funding the additional expenditure.
- **Lime Avenue Business Park –£185,096**
The latest anticipated final account advises of a loss & expenses claim for items in relation to unforeseen issues caused by Covid-19 pandemic of £185,096, a reduction of £49,614 when compared to the Quarter 2 forecast of £234,710. Officers are in dialogue with Welsh Government & WEFO project officials to pursue additional funding to mitigate the overspend.

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

5.2 Risk including Mitigating Actions

- 5.2.1 Expenditure against external funding approvals needs to be maximised in order to avoid loss of funding. If significant delays in capital expenditure are anticipated or contract costs rise due to the impact of Covid-19 and inflation pressures, liaison with funding bodies will be required at the earliest opportunity in order to secure approval for funding re-profile.

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

5.3 **Legal**
N/A

5.4 **Human Resources**
N/A

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

- 6.1.2 The Capital Expenditure Report is attached at Appendix 1.
- 6.1.3 Appendix 2 provides information of funding changes since the second quarter report.

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

- 6.2.1 The report details the financial implications for the Council in providing capital investment for the communities of Blaenau Gwent.
- 6.2.2 All forecast overspends and underspends are managed in order that secured funding approvals are not lost and to mitigate any potential adverse impact upon future Capital investment in Blaenau Gwent.

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

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

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

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

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

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

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

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

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***
N/A

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

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

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

6.9b. ***Equality Impact Assessment***
N/A

Background Documents /Electronic Links

Appendix 1 – Capital Programme Expenditure – Quarter 3
Appendix 2 – Funding Changes – Quarter 3

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Capital Programme Funding Estimates Summary

<i>Portfolio</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>In Year Budget</i>	<i>Future Funding</i>	<i>Expenditure To: December 2021</i>	<i>Remaining in Year Budget</i>	<i>Forecast Expenditure</i>	<i>Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav</i>
Corporate Services Portfolio	2,478,798	841,687	1,637,111	216,655	625,032	841,687	0
Social Services Portfolio	5,936,837	1,925,744	4,011,093	678,379	1,247,365	1,925,744	0
Economy Portfolio	15,729,036	4,414,715	11,314,321	1,893,747	2,706,064	4,599,811	(185,096)
Education and Active Living	28,870,311	3,182,006	25,688,305	1,339,484	1,842,522	3,182,006	0
Environment Portfolio	5,863,489	3,954,574	1,908,915	1,042,398	2,954,932	3,997,330	(42,756)
Infrastructure Portfolio	4,838,879	4,044,634	794,245	1,740,544	2,304,090	4,044,634	0
All Portfolios	1,952,775	1,755,628	197,147	266,508	1,489,120	1,755,628	0
Total Capital Funding	65,670,125	20,118,988	45,551,137	7,177,715	13,169,125	20,346,840	(227,852)

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<i>Code</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>In Year Budget</i>	<i>Future Funding</i>	<i>Expenditure to: December 2021</i>	<i>Remaining in Year Budget</i>	<i>Forecast Expenditure</i>	<i>Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav</i>
Corporate Services Portfolio								
Corporate Services								
101385	Workplace Transformation	67,586	21,484	46,102	21,484	0	21,484	0
327102	Corporate Properties H&S and Capital Wo	264,131	11,772	252,359	4,508	7,264	11,772	0
327103	Civic Centre Decommissioning	650,000	70,350	579,650	56,768	13,582	70,350	0
327104	Democratic & Community Hubs	180,000	180,000	0	129,256	50,744	180,000	0
327106	ICT Roadmap	952,000	193,000	759,000	1,839	191,161	193,000	0
327107	Data Centre Move	362,000	362,000	0	0	362,000	362,000	0
328090	CCTV Upgrade	3,081	3,081	0	2,800	281	3,081	0
Corporate Services		2,478,798	841,687	1,637,111	216,655	625,032	841,687	0
Corporate Services Portfolio		2,478,798	841,687	1,637,111	216,655	625,032	841,687	0

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Code	Scheme	Total Funding	In Year Budget	Future Funding	Expenditure to: December 2021	Remaining in Year Budget	Forecast Expenditure	Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav
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Social Services Portfolio

Childrens Services

323152	Beaufort Road - Extension Training Flat	81,490	81,490	0	13,082	68,408	81,490	0
323153	Beaufort Road - Outdoor spaces and Exiti	560	560	0	560	0	560	0
324719	Flying Start - Cwm 2	30,000	30,000	0	0	30,000	30,000	0
324721	Flying Start - Ebbw Vale North	265,473	265,473	0	238,277	27,196	265,473	0
324724	Flying Start - Sirhowy Primary	18,500	18,500	0	0	18,500	18,500	0
324728	Flying Start - Blaina ICC	235,000	235,000	0	0	235,000	235,000	0
324733	Flying Start Abertillery	12,000	12,000	0	0	12,000	12,000	0
324734	Flying Start Garnlydan Hub	24,500	24,500	0	5,761	18,739	24,500	0
324735	Flying Start Brynithel FS Centre	20,000	20,000	0	10,734	9,266	20,000	0
324736	Flying Start Additional Works	73,700	73,700	0	27,602	46,098	73,700	0
324737	Flying Start Capital (Covid-funding)	36,000	36,000	0	0	36,000	36,000	0
324738	FS Covid Recovery - Cwm Dev. Garden S	115,000	115,000	0	0	115,000	115,000	0
324739	FS Covid Recovery - Scout Hall	50,000	50,000	0	0	50,000	50,000	0
324771	Childcare Offer - Badminton Scheme	1,500,000	50,000	1,450,000	0	50,000	50,000	0
324772	Childcare Offer - Blaina ICC Scheme	1,108,728	1,611	1,107,117	1,611	0	1,611	0
324773	Childcare Offer - Swfryd Scheme	734,965	3,849	731,116	3,849	0	3,849	0
324774	Childcare Offer - Small Grants Scheme	50,000	50,000	0	9,940	40,060	50,000	0
324775	Childcare Offer - Brynmawr	532,230	0	532,230	0	0	0	0
Childrens Services		4,888,146	1,067,683	3,820,463	311,415	756,268	1,067,683	0

Adult Services

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323003	Health & Safety	57,483	0	57,483	0	0	0	0
323005	Tackling Food Poverty - WLGA	41,158	1,560	39,598	1,560	0	1,560	0
323006	Cwrt Mytton Replacement Boilers	50,000	50,000	0	22,521	27,479	50,000	0
323120	Disabled equipment	279,750	279,750	0	279,750	0	279,750	0
323141	ICF - Further Enhanced Digital & Mobile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
323144	ICF Main Capital Programme	85,862	0	85,862	0	0	0	0
323147	Intermediate Care Fund	3,133	0	3,133	0	0	0	0
323148	ICF - Digital & Mobile Assistive Technol	39,614	39,614	0	39,614	0	39,614	0
323149	Better Care Capital Project	21,809	17,255	4,554	17,255	0	17,255	0
323151	Augusta House - Enablement Pods	469,882	469,882	0	6,265	463,617	469,882	0
	Adult Services	1,048,691	858,061	190,630	366,964	491,097	858,061	0
	Social Services Portfolio	5,936,837	1,925,744	4,011,093	678,379	1,247,365	1,925,744	0

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<i>Code</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>In Year Budget</i>	<i>Future Funding</i>	<i>Expenditure to: December 2021</i>	<i>Remaining in Year Budget</i>	<i>Forecast Expenditure</i>	<i>Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav</i>
Economy Portfolio								
Tredegar Regeneration								
326163	Tredegar HLF	674,415	674,415	0	150,291	524,124	674,415	0
	Tredegar Regeneration	674,415	674,415	0	150,291	524,124	674,415	0
Ebbw Vale Town Centre								
326191	TRI - Urban Centre Commercial Property I	265,315	265,315	0	197,117	68,198	265,315	0
326192	TRI- Urban Centre Residential Property E	123,024	123,024	0	0	123,024	123,024	0
	Ebbw Vale Town Centre	388,339	388,339	0	197,117	191,222	388,339	0
Valleys Regional Park								
326200	VRP Ebbw Fach Trail	899	0	899	0	0	0	0
326205	VRP - Discovery Gateway	30,180	30,180	0	8,606	21,574	30,180	0
326206	Local Places for Nature Capital Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
326207	Parc Bryn Bach - Co Working Space	116,661	116,661	0	56,486	60,175	116,661	0
	Valleys Regional Park	147,740	146,841	899	65,092	81,749	146,841	0
The Works Site								
325097	Big Arch	1,027,603	0	1,027,603	0	0	0	0
325103	Learning Works	37,985	0	37,985	0	0	0	0
325220	Site Investigation Works	19,001	0	19,001	0	0	0	0
325225	Ebbw Valley Railway - Northern Extension	2,441	2,136	305	2,136	0	2,136	0

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Code	Scheme	Total Funding	In Year Budget	Future Funding	Expenditure to: December 2021	Remaining in Year Budget	Forecast Expenditure	Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav
	The Works Site	1,087,030	2,136	1,084,894	2,136	0	2,136	0
	Other Regeneration							
326006	Tech Valley s Initiative	465,776	0	465,776	0	0	0	0
326180	Lime Avenue Business Park	530,810	530,810	0	598,725	117,181	715,906	(185,096)
326181	Lime Avenue Employment park	2,495,101	0	2,495,101	0	0	0	0
326183	Regain 2	5,555,153	366,629	5,188,524	355,370	11,259	366,629	0
326184	Brexit Schemes	419,465	0	419,465	0	0	0	0
326193	TRI - Town Centre COVID-19 recovery ad	529,818	37,530	492,288	37,300	230	37,530	0
326194	TT - Trinity Chapel & Abertillery Librar	1,002,388	0	1,002,388	0	0	0	0
326225	Heat Networks Project	17,385	0	17,385	0	0	0	0
326226	Electric Vehicle Chargepoints	20,085	763	19,322	763	0	763	0
326227	Innovation for Decarbonisation - WBRID	500,000	500,000	0	10,100	489,900	500,000	0
326252	Constrained Units - Roseheyworth	6,665	0	6,665	0	0	0	0
326265	Victoria Business Park - Development	39,251	0	39,251	0	0	0	0
326266	Brynmaur Retail Development	759,224	759,224	0	11,296	747,928	759,224	0
326267	Blaenau Gwent Digital	138,049	138,049	0	101,831	36,218	138,049	0
326268	Covid Recovery for Town Centres	367,464	285,101	82,363	285,101	0	285,101	0
326269	HiVE – Hi Value Engineering Centre - Mor	360,000	360,000	0	76,924	283,076	360,000	0
326271	Land Release Fund - Pithead Baths	224,878	224,878	0	1,700	223,178	224,878	0
	Other Regeneration	13,431,512	3,202,984	10,228,528	1,479,110	1,908,970	3,388,080	(185,096)
	Economy Portfolio	15,729,036	4,414,715	11,314,321	1,893,747	2,706,064	4,599,811	(185,096)

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Education and Active Living								
Education Services								
324125	Education Minor Works	48,497	748	47,749	688	60	748	0
324138	Education Capital Maintenance	73,003	42,217	30,786	42,217	0	42,217	0
324139	Education Capital Maintenance 20/21	103,743	0	103,743	0	0	0	0
324142	Georgetown Windows & Boiler Replaceme	6,206	0	6,206	0	0	0	0
324143	Rhos-y-fedwyn - Refurbishment	3,945	0	3,945	0	0	0	0
324144	St Marys - Refurbishment	200,000	24,473	175,527	24,473	0	24,473	0
324145	Tredegar Comp - Food & Technology	30,070	0	30,070	0	0	0	0
324146	Deighton - Kitchen	639	0	639	0	0	0	0
324147	Tredegar Comp Upgrade Services and Ac	3,450	0	3,450	0	0	0	0
324148	Coed y Garn Roof & Remedial Works	26,638	16,775	9,863	16,775	0	16,775	0
324149	Brynbach Primary Disabled Adaptations	70,000	9,939	60,061	9,939	0	9,939	0
324150	Ebbw Fawr - Developing 3/4 classrooms, t	100,000	0	100,000	0	0	0	0
324151	Tredegar Comp Upgrade Electrical Supply	17,842	17,842	0	17,482	360	17,842	0
324152	Brynmawr Canopy	100,000	100,000	0	24,720	75,280	100,000	0
324155	Brynmawr Comp Lift	110,000	0	110,000	0	0	0	0
324156	River Centre Boiler	70,000	0	70,000	0	0	0	0
324157	Tredegar Comprehensive Kitchen Electric	1,455	1,455	0	1,455	0	1,455	0
324158	Beaufort Hill Kitchen	93,771	93,771	0	93,771	1	93,771	0
324159	Glyncoed Highways Works	60,000	60,000	0	48,909	11,091	60,000	0
324161	Pen Y Cwm – Refurbishment Works	150,000	150,000	0	108,449	41,551	150,000	0
324162	St Mary s CIW Fire Alarm	30,000	30,000	0	20,709	9,291	30,000	0

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324164	Improving Ventilation in Education Setti	43,058	43,058	0	0	43,058	43,058	0
324165	Education Capital Maintenance 2021/22	954,248	954,248	0	0	954,248	954,248	0
324201	Class Size - Willowtown	69,557	0	69,557	0	0	0	0
324203	Period Poverty	5,028	0	5,028	0	0	0	0
324205	St. Marys CIW MUGA	11,450	11,450	0	0	11,450	11,450	0
324519	Digital 2030 Capital Grant - Post 16	4,621	0	4,621	0	0	0	0
324530	ALN	22,299	505	21,794	0	505	505	0
324532	Ebbw Fawr ASD	3,890	0	3,890	0	0	0	0
324560	Schools IT Infrastructure	49,929	49,929	0	44,577	5,352	49,929	0
324561	IT Upgrades - Schools	21,318	21,318	0	21,318	0	21,318	0
324580	Brynmawr 3G Pitch	962,480	962,480	0	573,177	389,303	962,480	0
324590	Tredegar Comp 3G Pitch	79,359	0	79,359	0	0	0	0
324743	21st Century Schools Six Bells Project	50,295	50,295	0	9,262	41,033	50,295	0
324750	Band B - Welsh Medium New Build	5,962,761	150,000	5,812,761	112,827	37,173	150,000	0
324751	Band B - New Primary Ebbw Fawr Valley	8,702,596	105,000	8,597,596	74,825	30,175	105,000	0
324752	Band B - Secondary Remodelling Brynmawr	3,190,237	20,000	3,170,237	4,273	15,727	20,000	0
324753	Band B - Secondary Remodelling Abertille	3,198,691	15,000	3,183,691	707	14,293	15,000	0
324754	Band B - Secondary Remodelling Tredegar	3,197,459	15,000	3,182,459	332	14,668	15,000	0
324755	Band B - Welsh Medium Remodelling Bro	901,556	130,455	771,101	87,550	42,905	130,455	0
Education Services		28,730,091	3,075,958	25,654,133	1,338,437	1,737,521	3,075,958	0
Active Living Services								
329089	Abertillery LC Demolition	1,048	1,048	0	1,048	1	1,048	0

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Code	Scheme	Total Funding	In Year Budget	Future Funding	Expenditure to: December 2021	Remaining in Year Budget	Forecast Expenditure	Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav
329092	ALC - Changing Room Refurbishment	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	0	0
329095	AWPOG - Play Equipment	106,733	105,000	1,733	0	105,000	105,000	0
332368	Play Area Schemes - Boroughwide	12,439	0	12,439	0	0	0	0
	Active Living Services	140,220	106,048	34,172	1,048	105,001	106,048	0
	Education and Active Living	28,870,311	3,182,006	25,688,305	1,339,484	1,842,522	3,182,006	0

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<i>Code</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>In Year Budget</i>	<i>Future Funding</i>	<i>Expenditure to: December 2021</i>	<i>Remaining in Year Budget</i>	<i>Forecast Expenditure</i>	<i>Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav</i>
Environment Portfolio								
Environmental Services								
327018	RCAF Long Term Organics Procurement	26,512	0	26,512	0	0	0	0
327039	Kerbside Collections	2,052	0	2,052	0	0	0	0
327042	Collaborative Change Programme 18-19	88,436	88,436	0	88,436	0	88,436	0
327043	Household Waste Recycling Centre	120,042	120,042	0	104,449	58,345	162,794	(42,752)
327044	AHP Waste Collections	52,380	52,380	0	0	52,380	52,380	0
327045	BRC Decommissioning Project	191,777	0	191,777	0	0	0	0
327046	Repair Cafe	1,066	0	1,066	0	0	0	0
327061	CATS	80,000	0	80,000	0	0	0	0
327065	Re:Fit	2,088,980	2,088,980	0	1,350	2,087,630	2,088,980	0
327067	Market Hall - Asbestos Removal	18,606	0	18,606	0	0	0	0
327068	Cemeteries Investment Programme	196,071	196,071	0	175,734	20,337	196,071	0
327069	Green Recovery	10,010	10,010	0	10,006	4	10,010	0
327070	WRAP Cymru Capital Funding	3,787	0	3,787	0	0	0	0
327071	Education Centre	200,000	200,000	0	920	199,080	200,000	0
327073	Kerbside Recycling Lorry	165,566	165,566	0	165,566	0	165,566	0
327074	New Vale HWRC Refurbishment Works	256,526	256,526	0	11,087	245,439	256,526	0
327076	Ultra Low Emission Vehicles	92,920	92,920	0	36,000	56,920	92,920	0
327080	Cemetery Capacity - Cefn Golau Tredegar	527,028	0	527,028	0	0	0	0
327081	Cemetery Capacity - Dukestown Tredegar	227,500	8,666	218,834	8,666	0	8,666	0
327082	Cemetery Capacity - Brynmawr	142,000	8,666	133,334	8,666	0	8,666	0
327083	Cemetery Capacity - Brynithel Abertiller	105,000	8,666	96,334	8,666	0	8,666	0

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

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2022/9

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

<i>Code</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>In Year Budget</i>	<i>Future Funding</i>	<i>Expenditure to: December 2021</i>	<i>Remaining in Year Budget</i>	<i>Forecast Expenditure</i>	<i>Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav</i>
327090	Fly Tipping CCTV	14,000	14,000	0	14,004	0	14,004	(4)
327110	Allotment Support Grant	25,599	25,599	0	4,504	21,095	25,599	0
	Environmental Services	4,635,858	3,336,528	1,299,330	638,052	2,741,232	3,379,284	(42,756)
	Housing Environmental Health							
328221	Remediation of Contaminated Land/Dereli	154,269	2,470	151,799	2,470	0	2,470	0
350510	Improvement grants - new scheme	747,755	469,000	278,755	315,398	153,602	469,000	0
350550	Support for Independent Living	151,154	131,053	20,101	70,954	60,099	131,053	0
350560	Empty Property Grants	174,453	15,523	158,930	15,523	0	15,523	0
	Housing Environmental Health	1,227,631	618,046	609,585	404,346	213,700	618,046	0
	Environment Portfolio	5,863,489	3,954,574	1,908,915	1,042,398	2,954,932	3,997,330	(42,756)

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

Management Reports

Reporting Year: and Period: 2022/9

Capital Programme Funding Estimates

<i>Code</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>	<i>In Year Budget</i>	<i>Future Funding</i>	<i>Expenditure to: December 2021</i>	<i>Remaining in Year Budget</i>	<i>Forecast Expenditure</i>	<i>Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav</i>
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Infrastructure Portfolio

Engineering Services

328040	Cwm By Pass	13,970	0	13,970	0	0	0	0
328149	SRIC - Tredegar Footway Improvements	25,000	25,000	0	0	25,000	25,000	0
328310	Local Transport Fund	9,625	9,625	0	9,625	0	9,625	0
328312	Local Transport Fund 2020/21	174,702	174,702	0	174,702	0	174,702	0
328314	Local Transport Network Fund	2,319	2,319	0	2,319	0	2,319	0
328315	Local Transport Fund - Project Retention	16,020	0	16,020	0	0	0	0
328318	Active Travel Fund	399,000	399,000	0	57,757	341,243	399,000	0
328323	Resilient Roads Fund	300,000	300,000	0	9,213	290,787	300,000	0
328340	LTF Metro Plus	222,734	222,734	0	222,734	0	222,734	0
328342	LTF Bedwellty Pits	990,000	990,000	0	36,721	953,279	990,000	0
328344	LTF Bus Stop Infrastructure	405,000	405,000	0	15,261	389,739	405,000	0
Engineering Services		2,558,370	2,528,380	29,990	528,332	2,000,048	2,528,380	0

Highways Network Management

328063	Bridge Strengthening Works	1,857	0	1,857	0	0	0	0
328095	Ebbw Vale Railway study Phase 3	2,668	2,668	0	2,668	0	2,668	0
328269	Highways PB Imp. Works.	20,946	0	20,946	0	0	0	0
328270	Highways Improvement Works	1,692,700	1,075,654	617,046	1,075,654	0	1,075,654	0
328334	LGBI - Trinant Hall	59,747	45,805	13,942	45,805	0	45,805	0
328404	Flood Damage - Emergency Repairs	12,593	12,593	0	6,653	5,940	12,593	0
328405	Aberbeeg Road Repairs	110,498	34	110,464	34	0	34	0

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

Management Reports		Capital Programme Funding Estimates						
Reporting Year: and Period: 2022/9								
Code	Scheme	Total Funding	In Year Budget	Future Funding	Expenditure to: December 2021	Remaining in Year Budget	Forecast Expenditure	Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav
328406	Small Scale Works Grant	229,500	229,500	0	77,541	151,959	229,500	0
328408	Cwmcelyn Pond Sediment Removal	150,000	150,000	0	3,856	146,144	150,000	0
	Highways Network Management	2,280,509	1,516,254	764,255	1,212,212	304,042	1,516,254	0
	Infrastructure Portfolio	4,838,879	4,044,634	794,245	1,740,544	2,304,090	4,044,634	0

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

Management Reports				Capital Programme Funding Estimates				
Reporting Year: and Period: 2022/9								

Code	Scheme	Total Funding	In Year Budget	Future Funding	Expenditure to: December 2021	Remaining in Year Budget	Forecast Expenditure	Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav
All Portfolios								
All Portfolios								
300300	City Deal	1,220,900	1,220,900	0	0	1,220,900	1,220,900	0
303990	OS Capital Admin/Design & Supervision	524,000	524,000	0	255,780	268,220	524,000	0
321112	Disabled Access - Special Programme	10,911	10,728	183	10,728	0	10,728	0
324672	The Company Shop - Tred	196,964	0	196,964	0	0	0	0
All Portfolios		1,952,775	1,755,628	197,147	266,508	1,489,120	1,755,628	0
All Portfolios		1,952,775	1,755,628	197,147	266,508	1,489,120	1,755,628	0

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

Management Reports					Capital Programme Funding Estimates			
Reporting Year: and Period: 2022/9								
Code	Scheme	Total Funding	In Year Budget	Future Funding	Expenditure to: December 2021	Remaining in Year Budget	Forecast Expenditure	Forecast Variance (Adv)/Fav
Total Capital Funding		65,670,125	20,118,988	45,551,137	7,177,715	13,169,125	20,346,840	(227,852)

End of Report

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Information on Capital Funding Changes 2021/22
New Approvals and/or material Funding Changes in Quarter Three

APPENDIX 2

Portfolio	Cost Centre	Scheme	Amount (£)	Funding Body	Type	Additional Information
Corporate Services						
	327102	Corporate Properties H&S and Capital Works	-50,000	Blaenau Gwent	Capital Programme	Transfer to projects as agreed by Budget Holder.
Social Services						
	324770	Childcare Offer - Sixbells Scheme	-1,482,230	Welsh Government	Childcare Offer	Virement of funding to other projects within the Childcare Offer programme as agreed with Welsh Government.
	324772	Childcare Offer - Blaina ICC Scheme	700,000	Welsh Government	Childcare Offer	
	324773	Childcare Offer - Swfryd Scheme	250,000	Welsh Government	Childcare Offer	
	324775	Childcare Offer - Brynmawr	532,230	Welsh Government	Childcare Offer	
	323151	Augusta House - Enablement Pods	104,521	ABHB	ICF	Additional Approval
	323152	Beaufort Road - Extension Training Flat	69,380	ABHB	ICF	Additional Approval
	323005	Tackling Food Poverty - WLGA	28,507	Welsh Local Government Association		New Approval for 2021/22
Economy						
	325097	Big Arch	8,452	Blaenau Gwent	RCCO	Contribution from Revenue Budget to fund project to completion.
	326184	Brexit Schemes	50,000	Blaenau Gwent	Capital Programme	Transfer to projects as agreed by Budget Holder.
	326269	HiVE – Hi Value Engineering Centre	162,000	Welsh Government	Economy, Skills and Natural Resources	New Approval for 2021/22
	326227	Innovation for Decarbonisation - WBRID	500,000	Welsh Government	Decarbonisation and Energy,	New Approval for 2021/22
	326271	Land Release Fund - Pithead Baths	224,878	Welsh Government	Land Building Development Fund	New Approval for 2021/22
	326194	TT - Trinity Chapel & Abertillery Library	1,002,388	Welsh Government	Transforming Towns	New Approval for 2021/22
Education, Active Living and Learning						
	324165	Education Capital Maintenance 2021/22	954,248	Welsh Government	21st Century Schools Programme	New Approval for 2021/22
Environment						
Infrastructure						
	328408	Cwmcelyn Pond Sediment Removal	150,000	Welsh Government	Natural Flood Management Programme	New Approval for 2021/22
All Portfolios						

It should noted that the funding changes detailed above will not balance to total funding changes between Q2 to Q3

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Agenda Item 9

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:
Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Joint Budget Scrutiny**
Date of meeting: **7 March 2022**
Report Subject: **Use of General and Earmarked Reserves 2021/2022**
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr N Daniels, Leader & Executive Member for Corporate Services**
Report Submitted by: **Rhian Hayden – Chief Officer Resources**

Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
	24/02/22	01.03.22			07/03/22	16/03/22		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To report to the members of the Joint Budget Scrutiny Committee the forecast reserves position for 2021/2022 as at Quarter 3 (31 December 2021).

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 There are a number of statutory requirements concerning Local Authority Reserves, including:

- The Local Government Act 1972;
- The Local Government Finance Act 1988;
- The Local Government Finance Act 1992;
- The Local Government Act 2003; and
- The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

- 2.2 The CIPFA Local Authority Accounting Panel (LAAP) issued Bulletin 99: Local Authority Reserves and Balances in July 2014. This provides non-statutory guidance on relevant issues including:

- Proper accounting treatment; and
- Principles to assess the adequacy of reserves.

- 2.3 To ensure compliance with CIPFA Local Authority Accounting Panel Bulletin 99 and identified best practice, the Council revised its protocol for managing reserves, with effect from April 2015.

- 2.4 One aspect of the revised protocol concerns the enhancement of Elected Member engagement and scrutiny. To this end quarterly reports are prepared and presented to Executive and Joint Budget Scrutiny Committee during the financial year. These detail actual and forecast use of general and earmarked reserves, changes to the requirement to hold specific reserves and the level of reserve balances.

- 2.5 In order to adopt a long-term approach to the need to provide services to the citizens of Blaenau Gwent, the protocol was amended and agreed by Council in March 2016 to include a target level for general reserves. This was set as 4% of the last reported actual net revenue expenditure (as included in the Revenue Outturn return).

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 That the Joint Budget Scrutiny Committee considers the forecast use of general and earmarked reserves for 2021/2022 and:

- consider the impact of the £4.649m favourable variance for 2021/2022 would have on the budgeted contribution to the General Reserve;
- note the forecast increase of the General Reserve in 2021/2022 to £12.402m, being 9.39% of net revenue expenditure, above the 4% target level;
- Consider the need for ongoing prudent financial management to support the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the financial resilience of the Council; and
- continue to challenge budget overspends and implement appropriate service Action Plans, where required.

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

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

4.1 **National Well-being Goals**

The management of earmarked and general reserves (in recognition of the need to plan for known or predicted future obligations, unexpected events or emergencies), allows the Authority to deliver services in pursuance of its obligations under the national well-being goals.

4.2 **Corporate Priorities**

This report supports the Council Corporate Plan 2020/22 proposed outcome statement “An ambitious and Innovative Council delivering the quality services we know matter to our communities”.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 **Financial Impact**

5.1.1 Section 6 provides an overall summary of the forecast financial position in relation to the balances in general and earmarked reserves at 31 March 2022.

5.1.2 The general reserve opening balance of £7.553m represents 5.72% of net revenue expenditure, which is above the 4% target level of £5.284m. Table 1 at 6.1.3 (below) shows the forecast position for the general reserve at year-end 2021/2022 to be an increase of £4.849m, to £12.402m. This balance would represent 9.39% of net revenue expenditure £7.118m above the 4% target level of £5.284m, indicating further progress towards strengthening the

financial resilience of the Council and providing a buffer to deal with unexpected future issues.

5.1.3 The forecast increase in general reserves is a result of:

- currently forecast net portfolio underspends of £4.649m and;
- an agreed budget contribution in 2021/22 of £0.200m to support medium term financial planning and strengthen the Council's financial resilience

5.1.4 Table 2 at 6.1.6 (below) shows the forecast level of specific/earmarked reserves at 31 March 2022 to be £21.065m, an in year increase of £0.284m.

5.1.5 Table 3 at 6.1.8 (below) shows the forecast level of specific/earmarked reserves per reserve category at 31 March 2022. Further details of earmarked reserve movements are included in Appendix 1.

5.1.6 Significant elements of these earmarked sums relate to grant funding held in respect of specific projects or services that will be utilised in delivering the relevant service outcomes. In future years, it is probable that there will be restrictions on public spending in order to mitigate the extraordinary levels of borrowing incurred by Central Government in dealing with Covid-19. It would therefore be prudent to retain appropriate levels of earmarked and general reserves to assist with a funding situation potentially similar to that experienced during the last decade.

5.2 Risk

5.2.1 The Council must ensure an appropriate level and use of reserves to support its financial sustainability and to meet future liabilities arising from risks for which a specific provision has not been made.

5.2.2 The 2021/2022 budget includes a planned increase in the general reserve of £0.2m and in earmarked reserves of £1.054m. Additional increases to the general reserve of £0.2m per annum are planned for the life of the current Medium Term Financial Strategy. However potential ongoing cost pressures and reductions in income associated with the response to Covid-19 may adversely impact on the Council's ability to maintain and increase the level of reserves.

5.2.3 Failure to comply with the requirements set out in CIPFA LAAP Bulletin 99: *Local Authority Reserves and Balances*, which include the implementation of a clear protocol for the establishment, use, control and review of reserves, could result in adverse comments by regulators.

5.2.4 A protocol for the management of reserves was adopted in April 2015 to mitigate the risk of non-compliance with CIPFA LAAP Bulletin 99 and identified best practice.

5.2.5

In the short-term, the level and adequacy of reserves are regularly reviewed and monitored through regular outturn/ forecast reporting. In the medium term, reserves are assessed as part of the budget-setting process and the Medium Term Financial Strategy, which includes provision for an increase in reserves of £0.2m per annum over the life of the Strategy.

5.2.6

There is a risk that failure to maintain reserves at an appropriate level will attract adverse criticism from regulators. This risk can be mitigated by application of the Council's Reserves Policy including increases to the General Reserve if required.

5.3 Legal

5.3.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires authorities in England and Wales to have regard to the level of reserves needed for meeting estimated future expenditure when calculating the budget requirement.

5.3.2 Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 places a duty on chief finance officers' to report on the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves when the authority is considering its budget requirement.

5.3.3 Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 requires the chief finance officer to report to all the authority's councillors if there is or is likely to be unlawful expenditure or an unbalanced budget. This would include situations where reserves have become seriously depleted and it is forecast that the authority will not have the resources to meet its expenditure in a particular financial year.

5.4 Personnel

There are no direct personnel/staffing implications arising out of this report.

6. Supporting Evidence

6.1 Performance Information and Data

6.1.1 The level of the Council's general reserve disclosed in the statutory accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2021 was £7.553m equating to 5.72% of net revenue expenditure (as reported in the 2020/2021 Revenue Outturn forms). The current 4% target level of general reserves is £5.284m.

6.1.2 The revenue budget forecast year-end position for 2021/2022 (as at end of Quarter 3) indicates a surplus of £4.649m.

6.1.3 Therefore, the potential impact on the forecast outturn position for the general reserve at 31 March 2022 would be as follows:

Table 1: General Reserve	£000
--------------------------	------

Balance at 31 March 2021	7,553
Budgeted Contribution to General Reserve	200
Contribution to the Reserve: Net Portfolio Underspends	4,649
Forecast Balance at 31 March 2022	12,402

- 6.1.4 Appendix 1 gives details of the total earmarked reserves held at the start of the 2021/2022 financial year (£20.781m) with actual reserve movements to the end of quarter 3 (31 December 2022) and forecast movements to 31 March 2022.
- 6.1.5 The level of earmarked reserves has been determined in accordance with the agreed reserves protocol. The level of earmarked reserves available to the Authority is forecast to increase by £0.284m in 2021/2022.
- 6.1.6 The current summary forecast outturn position for earmarked reserves at 31 March 2022 is as follows:

Table 2: Earmarked Reserves	£000
Balance at 31 March 2021	20,781
Budgeted Contribution to Earmarked Reserves	1,054
Reserve Adjustments	247
Actual Expenditure to Q3	(424)
Forecast Expenditure to Q4	(593)
Provisional Balance at 31 March 2022	21,065

- 6.1.7 For those reserves that have been utilised to fund actual expenditure to 31 December 2022 (£0.424m), details of the expenditure funded have been provided in Appendix 2. Details of increases in earmarked reserves (£0.247m) have been provided in Appendix 3.
- 6.1.8 The current summary forecast outturn position for the categories of specific/earmarked reserves at 31 March 2022 is as follows:

Table 3: Summary of Provisional Earmarked Reserve Balances at 31 March 2022	£000
Earmarked for Capital Purposes	745
Usable Earmarked Revenue Reserves	13,335
Unusable Earmarked Revenue Reserves	5,136
Revenue Grants and Contributions Unapplied	1,849
Provisional Balance at 31 March 2022	21,065

6.1.9 The reserve categories are summarised as follows:

- Earmarked for Capital Purposes are to meet expenditure or liabilities arising on Capital schemes;
- Usable Earmarked Revenue Reserves can be applied to fund revenue expenditure on specific schemes or services. These are retained at the discretion of the Council for known or potential liabilities and projects;
- Unusable Earmarked Revenue Reserves represent sums held by the Council but cannot be applied generally or specifically to fund services.
- Revenue Grants and Contributions Unapplied have yet to be applied to the specific scheme or service to which they relate, and cannot be applied to fund items other than those for which they were received.

Expected outcome for the public

6.2

6.2.1 The management of earmarked and general reserves (in recognition of the need to plan for known or predicted future obligations, unexpected events or emergencies), helps demonstrate stewardship of the Authority's resources and its ability to provide services to the local community.

6.3 **Involvement** (*consultation, engagement, participation*)
Not applicable.

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

6.4.1 Stewardship of the Authority's resources allows for the provision of services to the local community in the short and long term.

6.5 **Preventative focus**
Not applicable.

6.6 **Collaboration / partnership working**

Not applicable.

6.7 **Integration (across service areas)**

Not applicable.

6.8 **Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions**

Not applicable.

6.9a **Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment**

A Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment has not been completed for the Authority's forecast use of reserves, as it provides details of the Authority's transactions for the financial year and position at the year-end.

This information can be utilised in making decisions that might help to reduce the inequalities of outcome associated with socio-economic disadvantage.

6.9b **Equality Impact Assessment**

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as this report provides an estimated outturn position in relation to the Authority's reserve balances for the financial year, on an objective basis in accordance with relevant accounting standards, codes, concepts, principles, guidance and legislation.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 In the short-term, the level and adequacy of reserves are regularly reviewed and monitored through regular outturn/forecast reports.

7.2 There are legal requirements in respect of the reporting of reserves when setting the annual budget and the statutory outturn position is considered by the Authority's external auditors in their audit of the annual Statement of Accounts.

7.3 In the medium term, reserves are assessed as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

Appendix 1 – Earmarked Reserves Movements 2021-2022

Appendix 2 – Expenditure Funded by Earmarked Reserves 2021-2022

Appendix 3 – Increases to Earmarked Reserves 2021-2022

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Appendix 1: Earmarked Reserves Movements 2021-2022

Name of Reserve	Balance Brought Fwd 1 April 2021	Reserve Adjustments		Total Reserve Adjustments	Actual Expenditure	Forecast Expenditure	Balance Carried Fwd 31 March 2022
		Increases	Decreases				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Earmarked for Capital Purposes							
Deminimis Capital Works	86,098.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	86,098.46
Facilities	118,769.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	118,769.00
Energy Centre	107,217.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	107,217.22
Industrial Units	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(50,000.00)	0.00
IT Infrastructure	225,811.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	225,811.79
Road Maintenance	229,715.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(229,715.00)	0.00
WRAP Regional Vehicles	206,579.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	206,579.85
Total Earmarked for Capital Purposes:	1,024,191.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(279,715.00)	744,476.32
Usable Earmarked Revenue Reserves							
Budget Contingency Fund / Invest to Save	64,351.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	64,351.89
Business Support Hybrid Model	53,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	53,000.00
Corporate Landlord Building Rationalisation	73,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	73,000.00
COVID19 Response & Recovery	2,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(11,367.00)	0.00	1,988,633.00
Customer Services	95,892.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(4,601.00)	91,291.05
Discretionary Housing Payments	67,482.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	67,482.87
Displaced Expenditure - Social Services	87,230.00	87,656.00	0.00	87,656.00	(53,169.00)	(34,061.00)	87,656.00
Downsizing & Redundancy & Transitional Costs	183,038.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	183,038.71
Election Costs	36,228.83	140,000.00	0.00	140,000.00	0.00	0.00	176,228.83
Financial Planning / Resilience	2,500,000.00	1,054,000.00	0.00	1,054,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,554,000.00
Future Interest Rate	244,055.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	244,055.89
General/ Voluntary Sector Grants	27,680.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27,680.00
ICT	1,438,352.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	(91,564.00)	(99,561.00)	1,247,227.18
Individual Schools Budget (ISB)	168,491.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	168,491.81
Insurance Liabilities	2,851,230.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,851,230.80
Local / Strategic Development Plans	143,512.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	143,512.54
Match Funding Regeneration Projects	60,129.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60,129.22
Members Local Grants	54,192.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(31,634.00)	22,558.28
Payroll Project Management	23,529.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23,529.97
PRC Funding	293,219.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	293,219.00
Re-fit Loan Repayments	18,750.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(18,750.39)	0.00
Specialist Commercial Advice (Silent Valley)	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(15,000.00)	85,000.00
Social Services - Legal Costs	400,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400,000.00
Stock Conditions Survey	12,137.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,137.34
Strategic Business Reviews	193,061.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	193,061.27
Superannuation	600,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600,000.00

Appendix 1: Earmarked Reserves Movements 2021-2022

Name of Reserve	Balance Brought Fwd 1 April 2021	Reserve Adjustments		Total Reserve Adjustments	Actual Expenditure	Forecast Expenditure	Balance Carried Fwd 31 March 2022
		Increases	Decreases				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Taxation	133,913.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	(3,320.00)	0.00	130,593.08
Technology Park Feasability Study	26,017.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26,017.00
Test, Trace, Protect Service	77,944.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	(77,944.86)	0.00	0.00
Transport Oncost	147,470.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	147,470.00
Waste Services	120,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	120,000.00
Winter Maintenace	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
Total Usable Earmarked Revenue Reserves:	12,493,911.98	1,281,656.00	0.00	1,281,656.00	(237,364.86)	(203,607.39)	13,334,595.73
Unusable Earmarked Revenue Reserves							
Building Control Fees	75,868.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	(38,461.00)	(19,101.00)	18,306.68
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	136,361.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	136,361.00
Deposits and Bonds	3,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,200.00
Land & Property Charges (Social Services)	161,954.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	161,954.55
LMS Balances	3,681,671.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,681,671.49
Section 106 Agreements	191,988.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	191,988.51
W Adoption Collaboration	708,973.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	708,973.95
Social Services - Gwent Regional Development (SP)	43,330.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	(17,143.83)	0.00	26,186.77
Workforce Development Collaboration	207,516.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	207,516.16
Total Unusable Earmarked Revenue Reserves:	5,210,864.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	(55,604.83)	(19,101.00)	5,136,159.11
Revenue Grants and Contributions Unapplied							
All Age School Forum	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00
Aneurin Bevan Health Board - Education	18,225.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,225.89
Community Safety & CCTV	45,895.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	(11,663.00)	0.00	34,232.66
Contribution to Crematorium Infrastructure Works	63,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63,000.00
Early Action Together Programme	31,903.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	(19,378.74)	(12,524.55)	0.00
Early Years Grant	279,057.24	19,220.59	0.00	19,220.59	0.00	(73,324.00)	224,953.83
Education - Gypsy Travellers	21,028.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,028.42
Flood Risk Management	132,729.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	132,729.00
Homelessness Transitional Funding	55,463.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(4,467.85)	50,995.72
Individual Electoral Register	103,745.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	103,745.13
LEA / ALN Grant	168,729.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	168,729.16
Participatory Budget	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(100,000.00)	0.00	0.00
Period Poverty	12,796.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,796.05
Planning WAG Grant - Planning Committee	2,103.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,103.66
Regen General Contributions Unapplied (Town Centre Management)	65,621.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	65,621.25
Rights of Way Diversions	20,255.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,255.00
Scrutiny Development	7,867.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,867.15

Appendix 1: Earmarked Reserves Movements 2021-2022

<u>Name of Reserve</u>	<u>Balance Brought Fwd</u> <u>1 April 2021</u>	<u>Reserve Adjustments</u>		<u>Total Reserve</u> <u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Forecast</u> <u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Balance Carried Fwd</u> <u>31 March 2022</u>
		<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Small & Rural Schools Grant	35,904.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35,904.00
SMIFFs	166,685.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	166,685.84
Syrian Resettlement Programme	173,520.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	173,520.88
Tai Calon Highways Maintenance (Commuted Sums)	374,876.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	374,876.00
Youth Service	72,360.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	72,360.34
Total Revenue Grants and Contributions Unapplied:	2,051,767.53	19,220.59	0.00	19,220.59	(131,041.74)	(90,316.40)	1,849,629.98
Total:	20,780,735.77	1,300,876.59	0.00	1,300,876.59	(424,011.43)	(592,739.79)	21,064,861.14

Earmarked for Capital Purposes	Revenue reserves established to meet expenditure or liabilities arising on Capital schemes.
Usable Earmarked Revenue Reserves	Reserves that can be applied to fund revenue expenditure on specific schemes or services. These reserves are retained at the discretion of the Council for known or potential liabilities and projects.
Unusable Earmarked Revenue Reserves	Reserves which represent sums that are held by the Council but cannot be applied generally or specifically to fund services. These includes amounts restricted by statutory provision and balances relating to other individuals or entities, such as the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal or Schools.
Revenue Grants and Contributions Unapplied	Grants or contributions received by the Council that should not have to be repaid to the awarding body but have yet to be applied to the specific scheme or service to which they relate. These reserves cannot be applied to fund items other than those for which they were received.

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Appendix 2: Expenditure Funded by Earmarked Reserves, 2021-2022

<u>Name of Reserve</u>	<u>Actual Expenditure to Q3</u>	<u>Purpose of Expenditure</u>
	£	
COVID19 Response & Recovery	11,367.00	Payment to Recruitment agency.
Displaced Expenditure - Social Services	53,169.00	Lateral flow testing and mental health professional training.
ICT	91,564.00	Network equipment costs in relation to ICT Equipment Refresh Programme.
Taxation	3,320.00	Tax Consultancy.
Test, Trace, Protect Service	77,944.86	Underspend from 2020/2021 to fund additional EHO's required in 2021/2022.
Building Control Fees	38,461.00	Additional staffing costs to cover sickness.
Social Services - Gwent Regional Development (SP)	17,143.83	Regional costs incurred - Wider Gwent Development for SP (Supporting People).
Community Safety & CCTV	11,663.00	This reserve covers the shortfall in funding from the PCC grant which pays towards the salary of the Community Safety Officer.
Early Action Together Programme	19,378.74	Employee Costs.
Participatory Budget	100,000.00	Grants to local businesses that they had to bid for in relation to community well-being projects.
Total to Qtr 3:	424,011.43	

Appendix 3: Increases to Earmarked Reserves, 2021-2022

<u>Name of Reserve</u>	<u>Amount to Q3</u>	<u>Source of Increase</u>
	£	
Displaced Expenditure - Social Services	(87,656.00)	Underspends on various social services schemes/grants to fund expenditure in 2022/2023.
Election Costs	(140,000.00)	Funding for May 2022 elections from current years underspend as agreed by Council on 25 November 2021.
Early Years Grant	(19,220.59)	Grant underspend.
Total to Qtr 3:	(246,876.59)	

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Agenda Item 10

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

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

Date of meeting: **7 March 2022**

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

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr. Nigel Daniels, Leader / Executive Member Corporate Services**

Report Submitted by: **Rhian Hayden - Chief Officer Resources**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
	24/02/2022	02.03.22			07/03/2022	16/03/2022		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update on the progress made with the Strategic Business Reviews during the period October to December 2021, the latest assessment of the financial achievement for the current financial year and the latest estimated achievement between 2022/23 and 2026/27.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 In recognising the challenges that the Council faces in the short, medium and long term, a programme of Strategic Business Reviews have been developed to deal with the potential funding gaps identified in the MTFS (Table 1) and to improve the financial resilience of the Council.
- 2.2 In agreeing the budget for 2021/2022 the estimated achievement of BtG was £755,000 contributing to a surplus budget of £1.3m.
- 2.3 The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) currently identifies budget gaps for 2022/23 to 2026/27 as:-

Table 1: Budget Gaps (surplus) per MTFS (February 2022)

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Budget Gap / (Surplus) Prior to BtG Opportunities	148	1,224	3,071	6,683	10,297

- 2.4 The latest assessment of the potential achievement of the BtG programme (as per the MTFs) is estimated to be £6.7m between 2022/2023 and 2026/2027. Table 2 provides the annual assessment of achievement.

Table 2: Latest Estimated Achievement of BtG

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	Total £'000
Estimated Achievement:	2,588	1,180	1,262	846	846	6,722

- 2.5 For 2022/2023 onwards the forecast budget gaps / (Surplus) based upon the estimated achievement above are:-

Table 3: Budget Gaps / (Surplus) following application of BtG Opportunities

	2022/2023 £000s	2023/2024 £000s	2024/2025 £000s	2025/2026 £000s	2026/27 £000s
Remaining Budget Gap / (Surplus)	(2,440)	(2,544)	(1,959)	807	3,575

- 2.5 The Council's Corporate Leadership Team, supported by officers from all services are continuing to identify / develop additional BtG proposals to close the future years' budget gaps.
- 2.6 The budget gaps identified within the report are based upon the Medium Term Financial Strategy assumptions included within the 2022/2023 Budget Report. These assumptions include:
- An increase in funding from Welsh Government of 3% for 2022/2023, 2% for 2023/2024 and cash flat thereafter
 - Pay awards & price inflation of 2% per annum
 - Annual cost pressures £2m per annum (from 2023/24).
- 2.7 Variations to/from these assumptions will impact the budget gaps.

3. Options for Recommendation

3.1 Option 1 – (Recommended Option)

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

3.2 Option 2

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

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**
- 4.1 The Bridging the Gap programme supports the achievement of the Outcome Statement of an ambitious and innovative council delivering the quality services we know matter to our communities, supporting:
 - The financial resilience of the Council
 - Developing a more commercial organisation to generate income and deliver cost reductions to make local services sustainable and raise money to re-invest in our priorities

5. Implications Against Each Option

5.1 Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)

5.1.2 Financial Year 2021/2022 – Forecast Out-turn

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

Table 4: Strategic Business Reviews Forecast Out-turn 2021/2022

Strategic Business Review	Estimated Achievement 2021/2022 £'000	Forecast Achievement 2021/2022 £'000	(Adverse) / Favourable Variance £'000
Industrial Units	0	108	108
Commercial Waste	0	0	0
Income Recovery	0	0	0
Fees & Charges	0	0	0
Commercial Activity	0	0	0
Third Party Spend	490	490	0
Assets & Property	35	180	145
Review of MRP	0	0	0
Future Workplace & Service Delivery	0	0	0
Growth Strategy	230	230	0
Low Carbon	0	0	0
TOTAL	755	1,038	253

- 5.1.4 Overall, the forecast achievement is expected to exceed the estimated achievement of £0.75m by £0.25m for the current financial year. This is due to:
 - the successful outcome of the appeals on the rateable values of the Council's property and assets, with the Council receiving a rates rebate, relating to previous years' charges, totalling £160,000. Further appeals are anticipated during the current financial year.
 - Rental income on the Industrial Units portfolio exceeding the income budget by £108,000.

- 5.1.5 A number of Strategic Business Reviews have no financial achievement for 2021/2022, due to the impact the Covid-19 pandemic is having on the Council's ability to progress the Reviews including:
- Fees and Charges due the economic impact of the pandemic on the residents and local businesses
 - Commercial Waste, there was a delay in implementing the new service change due to closure of businesses within the borough as a result of the national lockdown in March 2020.
- 5.1.6 A progress update on the individual business reviews is attached at Appendix 1.
- 5.2 **Risk including Mitigating Actions**
- 5.2.1 Current assessment of achievement against the Strategic Business reviews do not identify sufficient financial benefits to Bridge the funding Gap identified in the Medium Term Financial Strategy in the medium to long term. Additional / alternative proposals will therefore be required to ensure that the Council can set a balanced budget.
- 5.3 **Legal**
- 5.3.1 The Council must set a balanced budget on an annual basis and the Bridging the Gap programme will support this requirement.
- 5.4 **Human Resources**
- 5.4.1 The Strategic Business Review, Future Place and Service Delivery, will have an impact on staff as it will result in a variation to Terms and Conditions.
6. **Supporting Evidence**
- 6.1 **Performance Information and Data**
- 6.1.1 The scope and outcome, including key activities for each of the Strategic Business Reviews is attached at Appendix 1.
- 6.2 **Expected outcome for the public**
- 6.2.1 The Bridging the Gap Programme supports the Council in the development of its annual budgets which in turn will allow the Council to deliver services to the public.
- 6.3 **Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)**
- 6.3.1 Officers & Members of the Council are involved in the development of the Bridging the Gap Strategic Business Reviews.
- 6.3.2 The proposals have/will be considered by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

6.4 Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)

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

6.5 Preventative focus

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

6.6 Collaboration / partnership working

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

6.7 Integration (across service areas)

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

6.8 *Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions*

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

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

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

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

7. Monitoring Arrangements

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

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- *Appendix 1*

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Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio Holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		
			Quarter 1 2021/2022		Quarter 2 2021/2022		Quarter 3 2021/2022		Quarter 4 2021/2022		
Industrial Portfolio	Ellie Fry	To review the Council’s Industrial Unit Portfolio to identify areas for improvement and opportunities to maximise income. Intended outcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">To develop a long term sustainable income source for the Council.Explore and develop new income streams.Reduce reactive maintenance liabilities.Improve quality of portfolio to further support economic development.Get greater visibility of income and expenditure to support invest/divest decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Appointed agents to undertake high value RR’s.Appointed agents to manage service charge (SC) programPlanned 1st phase of Capex/revenue investments		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Set up new accountancy structureImplement SC to pilot estateCompleted handover of Lime Avenue units to portfolioHandover of BoxHyb unitsCompletion of first lettings at Lime Av.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assessment of rent review programReview of 1st phase SC programBegin targeted investment program on portfolioRecruitment of key estates role		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Further role out of SC.Continued investment in portfolio.Completion of		
Financial Management:-			Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)								
Estimated Financial Achievement			<ul style="list-style-type: none">5 of the high value rent reviews are underway and initial valuations are showing a very positive reply due to positive market conditions.On target to roll out service charge program to pilot estate by end Q2.We have completed the letting of 5 of the 9 Lime Av hybrid units with a further 2 under offer and with solicitors. There has been strong interest in the remaining 2 which I would anticipate being let by the end of Q3.Awaiting rent review results to update figures.								
2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025							
£’000	£’000	£’000	£’000	£’000							
0	0	100	0	50							
Risk Management:-											
Risks / Issues						Mitigating Actions					
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Departure of Team Manager Estates & Asset ManagementLack of resource (legal, estates, tech services)Negative PR associated with actionsEnd of year accounts affect finance resources required to manage portfolio budgetsCovid-19 related rent arrears						<ul style="list-style-type: none">Members briefings to forewarn about PR issuesRecruitment underway for estates & legal roleCommunications Officer in post to support PR going forwardRegular credit reviews to keep onto of debt and appropriate action being taken.					

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		
			Quarter 1 2021/2022		Quarter 2 2021/2022		Quarter 3 2021/2022		Quarter 4 2021/2022		
Commercial Waste	Richard Crook	To roll out a new Commercial Waste service borough wide. A successful capital bid secured £250,000 for Blaenau Gwent’s Commercial Waste Service. During the financial year 2019/2020, the Trade Waste Service underwent a full revamp with a revised implementation date of 1 st April 2021. Intended outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Launch of Service [May 2021]Liaise with customers re. any teething issues		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Consolidation of the new serviceMonthly budget monitoring		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Begin proactive marketing of new service to attract more customers, annual review of pricing strategy		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Development of online contracts and Duty of CaresImplementation of revised pricing schedule		
Financial Management:-			Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)								
Estimated Financial Achievement			<ul style="list-style-type: none">New Service was launched on Tuesday 4th May following delay [this was to allow businesses to reopen after relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions around non-essential businesses].New Service continues to be consolidated, initial issues with vehicles, rounds and customer’s containment requirements have settled. Budget being monitored with Portfolio Accountant								
2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025							
£’000	£’000	£’000	£’000	£’000							
0	0	0	64	96							
Risk Management:-											
Risks / Issues						Mitigating Actions					
<ul style="list-style-type: none">A 3rd Covid-19 wave could see the reintroduction of restrictions meaning some customers would have to close and therefore suspend their service requirements.						<ul style="list-style-type: none">Some customers would continue to operate, therefore minimising losses.					

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome			Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables																														
					Quarter 1 2021/2022		Quarter 2 2021/2022		Quarter 3 2021/2022		Quarter 4 2021/2022																														
Income Recovery	Rhian Hayden	<p>To review current income recovery activities to ensure best / efficient practices in place.</p> <p>Intended outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Income recovery policies are appropriate and include early intervention actionsagreed Fees & charges are implementedpayment in advance of service delivery (where appropriate) thereby avoiding costs of issuing invoiceseasy access to various payment methodsuse of technology is maximised			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review current arrears levelsUpdate debt analysisImplement agreed fees & charges for 2021/22		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monitor debt levels & ongoing recovery ratesRevisit recommendations of CIPFA reviewIdentify services where payment in advance can be implemented		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monitor debt levels & ongoing recovery ratesConsult with service areas identified where payment in advance could be implementedRecommence pilot scheme – attending community organised sessions, providing advice as appropriate (subject to lifting of restrictions)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monitor debt levels & ongoing recovery ratesWork with services where payment in advance can be implementedReview outcomes from the pilot scheme and continue attending community organised sessions (providing advice as appropriate)																														
Financial Management:-					Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)																																				
Estimated Financial Achievement					<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Income Recovery review has been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic.2020/21Significant numbers of Blaenau Gwent residents have been affected by the economic impact of the pandemic and throughout 2020/21 the Council saw increasing daily contacts from residents indicating they were having difficulty paying their bills (including Council Tax, NNDR & other Council liabilities e.g. Industrial Unit rentals) – alternative payment arrangement have been agreed and are being monitored including payment holidays, smaller instalment payments over a longer period of time. Where appropriate individuals have been encouraged to apply for Council Tax Reduction Scheme (eligible applications have increased significantly compared to previous years) and signposted to other advice organisations.Limited formal recovery action has been undertaken (this is consistent with the agreed approach across all Welsh LA's)Unfortunately the planned attendance at community organised sessions to provide advice to the public was suspended in line with the government's coronavirus restrictions.Whilst many Direct Debits were cancelled there has been an increased take up overall from those who would previously have paid by cash or cheque (a consequence of the national lockdowns & restrictions) <p>The Council Tax portal is now online with approximately 950 registering to use the service – when registered Council Tax payers are able to receive / view their accounts on line, make payments, set up a direct debit. There is also the ability to report change of circumstances via the my Council Services app. The overall impact of the above is a £1.3m increase in the level of arrears as at 31 March 2021 when compared to 2020:-</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>Arrears as at 31 March 2020 £000's</td><td>Arrears as at 31 March 2021 £000's</td><td>Increase / (Decrease) £000's</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Council Tax</td><td>5,046</td><td>7,069</td><td>2,023</td><td>Reduced collection rates have been identified across Wales, WG have acknowledged this pressure on LA budgets and provided a grant at the end of 2020/21 to help mitigate some of this (for BG this was £587k).</td></tr><tr><td>Sundry Accounts</td><td>5,714</td><td>5,191</td><td>(523)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>HB Overpayments</td><td>1,561</td><td>1,372</td><td>(189)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>12,321</td><td>13,632</td><td>1,311</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>2021/22 – Quarter 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Current debt analysis continuesCT arrears reduced by £1.1m up to Quarter 3WG to provide £19.3m funding to LA's for loss of CT collection, distribution method still to be decidedRecommendations of CIPFA being reviewed.								Arrears as at 31 March 2020 £000's	Arrears as at 31 March 2021 £000's	Increase / (Decrease) £000's							Council Tax	5,046	7,069	2,023	Reduced collection rates have been identified across Wales, WG have acknowledged this pressure on LA budgets and provided a grant at the end of 2020/21 to help mitigate some of this (for BG this was £587k).	Sundry Accounts	5,714	5,191	(523)		HB Overpayments	1,561	1,372	(189)		Total	12,321	13,632	1,311	
	Arrears as at 31 March 2020 £000's	Arrears as at 31 March 2021 £000's	Increase / (Decrease) £000's																																						
Council Tax	5,046	7,069	2,023	Reduced collection rates have been identified across Wales, WG have acknowledged this pressure on LA budgets and provided a grant at the end of 2020/21 to help mitigate some of this (for BG this was £587k).																																					
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Total	12,321	13,632	1,311																																						
2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025																																					
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000																																					
54	0	0	0	0																																					
Risk Management:-																																									
Risks / Issues					Mitigating Actions																																				
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Economic impact of Covid 19 may have medium / long term implications					<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monitor arrears levels & compliance with agreed payment arrangements																																				

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

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables		
			Quarter 1 2021/2022	Quarter 2 2021/2022	Quarter 3 2021/2022	Quarter 4 2021/2022		
Commercial activity, investment and new income	Richard Crook	This strategic review will focus on identifying additional commercial opportunities to supplement the current activities of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fees and chargesDeveloping the Industrial PortfolioCurrent income from traded or shared servicesProperty Investment inside the Borough and out of the BoroughInvestment in energy and low carbon activitiesDisposals or development of assets and property <u>Intended outcome</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Briefing for Exec around Wind Turbine opportunityPlanning Feasibility work being undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Submission of planning application for TurbineReview Investment Framework inc advice around ROIIdentify Investment funds in MTFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Procurement exercise for TurbineMarket review of potential property investmentsFinalise funding arrangement for the TurbineReview Gov Tech OpportunityReview Industrial estate Energy ChallengeConsider LUF investmentComplete SV Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sign off Commercial arrangements with SV for the TurbineReport and agree on SV OptionsAgree Investment Fund in MTFS		
Financial Management:-			Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)					
<u>Estimated Financial Achievement</u>								
2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023					2023/2024	2024/2025
£'000	£'000	£'000					£'000	£'000
0	0	0					50	50
Risk Management:-								
Risks / Issues				Mitigating Actions				
				<ul style="list-style-type: none">				

		Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder		Quarter 1 2021/2022	Quarter 2 2021/2022	Quarter 3 2021/2022	Quarter 4 2021/2022		
Third party expenditure – commissioning, procurement and contract management	Bernadette Elias	<p>The Council commissions, procures and manages contracts with a wide range of third party suppliers across all its services spending circa. £80m +. This strategic business review seeks to identify for efficiencies and improved outcomes where possible.</p> <p><u>Intended outcome</u></p> <p>Through a combination of re-negotiated contract terms, consolidation of contracts competitive tendering and effective contract management, we are seeking to maximise cashable and non-cashable benefits comprising cost reductions, cost avoidance, efficiency savings (through alternative payment methodologies) and social and environmental benefits through the inclusion of community benefits and social value contract clauses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SCCB Check and Challenge process agreed for Contracts above £75,000;• Operational Board Terms of Reference (TOR) reviewed to provide Check & Challenge for Below £75,000 contracts;• 2021/22 procurement programme has identified circa 320 recurring and/or planned contracts;• Contracts prioritised by renewal date and value; Procurement officers assigned service areas / categories and commenced Quarter 1 activities;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report Quarter 1 Outcomes;• Contracts prioritised by renewal date and value; Procurement officers assigned service areas / categories and commenced Quarter 2 activities;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report Quarter 2 Outcomes;• Contracts prioritised by renewal date and value; Procurement officers assigned service areas / categories and commenced Quarter 3 activities;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report Quarter 3 Outcomes;• Contracts prioritised by renewal date and value; Procurement officers assigned service areas / categories and commenced Quarter 4 activities;• Collate and Report 2022/23 Forward Procurement Programme;		
Financial Management:-			Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)					
Estimated Financial Achievement			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Procurement officers are actively engaging with service areas to deliver the 2021/22 procurement programme;• BtG commercial opportunities considered as part of each sourcing exercise;• All sourcing exercises above the tendering threshold (£75k) are subject to competitive tendering in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPR);• Pre-procurement and contract award reports are submitted to commercial board to ensure effective check & challenge;• All above tender threshold procurements afford bidders the ability to either transact via purchase card and/or to offer early settlement discounts;• The Corporate Purchase Card programme continues to expand as an alternative payment methodology. The programme affords suppliers better cash flow and includes an annual 1% rebate which contributes to the BtG savings target. In summary we currently have 55 cards in the programme and a year to date spend of £1,993413.57 as compared with a spend of £1,446021.07 for the same period in 2020/21;• The Council either leads and/or participates in a number of collaborative procurement arrangements which includes management fees and/or spend rebates.					
2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023					2023/2024	2024/2025
£'000	£'000	£'000					£'000	£'000
550	490	250					250	250
Risk Management:-								
Risks / Issues				Mitigating Actions				
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contract are awarded at a local level without due consideration to the wider organisational objectives.• Commissioning and procurement activities fail to realise the intended outcomes.				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SCCB established to provide robust governance around the Council's 3rd Party spend and wider commercial activities.• Client and procurement officers will continue to challenge all existing contracts to determine commercial effectiveness.• Procurement officers will continuously monitor in-year spend to identify further commercial opportunities.				

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables		
			Quarter 1 2021/2022	Quarter 2 2021/2022	Quarter 3 2021/2022	Quarter 4 2021/2022		
Assets and Property	Richard Crook	The Council has a range of property assets. This review will ascertain their value to the Council and identify how best to maximise these assets to strengthen our balance sheet. This review would include buildings and green spaces and will align with the growth strategy. <u>Intended outcome</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Non-operational buildings identified and programme of disposals agreed.Rating Agents appointed to review rates liability and identify potential savings.Leased in properties identified and discussions with service users ongoing.Area review of land holdings discussed and criteria for review agreed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Target date to discuss rating appeals in respect of Abertillery properties set with VOAOngoing inspections and appeals by Rating AgentsArea Review Criteria and process agreed with MembersLease renewal terms agreed for 20 Church Street – Housing officeObtain external valuations of staff tenanted residential propertyOngoing discussions with Landlords agent in respect of re-gearing Anvil Court leaseBring Bridge Street Health Centre lease to an end pending Social Services vacating team to Anvil Court.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Disposal programme – Blaina toilets informal tender for saleDiscussions/negotiations with staff on residential tenanted properties for subsequent sale as per non-operational disposal listOngoing rating discussions and appeals between retained rating agents and VOARating review of Civic Centre once decommissioning is finalisedOngoing discussions with Landlords agent in respect of re-gearing Anvil Court leaseArea Review Criteria and process agreed with Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Disposal programme reviewedOngoing review of rating liabilitiesOngoing discussions with Landlords agent in respect of re-gearing Anvil Court lease		
Financial Management:-			Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)					
Estimated Financial Achievement			<ul style="list-style-type: none">In year savings achieved through back dated NNDR rebates against the 2021/22 target to date total £180,000.Application for 3 months' rates relief on the basement, ground, fourth and fifth floors of the Civic Centre has been submitted. Agreements and actual savings yet to be determined.Community Asset transfer agreed for Queen Street Primary. Legal completion pending (Budget savings applied to previous year).Abertillery Toilets sold, further sales being considered for 2021/22 from non-operational list.					
2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023					2023/2024	2024/2025
£'000	£'000	£'000					£'000	£'000
85	35	50					0	0
Risk Management:-								
Risks / Issues				Mitigating Actions				
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Complex legal issues delaying/preventing saleDepartmental or Ward member opposition to salesOperational issues with sale to retained landLevel of rates reduction/liability may be challenged.Reduction in rental levels on lease renewal may be unsatisfactoryProperty Solicitor is about to commence maternity leave, potential difficulty in backfilling the post which could mean a delay in undertaking property transactions.				<ul style="list-style-type: none">Need to ensure adequate legal support to review documents/legal title in advance of saleCommunication and consultation with stakeholders and area review criteria agreed in advanceProvide option appraisal for alternatives to saleSpecialist Rating Adviser appointedProperty Advisor appointed to renegotiate lease terms/rental in respect of Anvil Court				

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome					Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	
							Quarter 1 2021/2022	Quarter 2 2021/2022	Quarter 3 2021/2022	Quarter 4 2021/2022	
Review of the MRP Policy	Rhian Hayden	<p>To undertake a review of the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) to determine options available for consideration when determining the optimum MRP strategy</p> <p>Intended outcome Identification of optimum MRP Strategy for Blaenau Gwent CBC</p>					<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review of current MRP policyReview of current methodology applied for supported & unsupported borrowingIdentification of options to provide optimum MRP Strategy / comparison of MRP charges for options	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Report to Council recommending change to MRP (subject to outcome of findings during Quarter1)Review & update of current asset lives in readiness for policy change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review & update of current asset lives in readiness for policy change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review & update of current asset lives in readiness for policy change	
Financial Management:-							Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)				
Estimated Financial Achievement							<ul style="list-style-type: none">Current MRP policy has been reviewedAlternative options for making prudent MRP have been identified & assessment of each option has been undertakenProposals to amend MRP Policy considered & supported by Corporate Overview Scrutiny & Executive Committees during July 2021Report has been provided to Audit Wales for their viewsProposals to be considered by Council in September 2021 (rearranged due to number of agenda items on July Council agenda)MRP Policy agreed by Council on 25 November 2021.Initial discussions have taken place with Technical Services regarding the review of Asset Lives.				
2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025							
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000							
0	0	1,335 *	0	0							
*Subject to approval of a change in Policy by Council											
Risk Management:-											
Risks / Issues							Mitigating Actions				
MRP Policy not compliant with guidance							Proposals will be developed with due regard to WG guidance				

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables					
			Quarter 1 2021/2022		Quarter 2 2021/2022		Quarter 3 2021/2022		Quarter 4 2021/2022					
Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables					
			Quarter 1 2021/2022		Quarter 2 2021/2022		Quarter 3 2021/2022		Quarter 4 2021/2022					
Future work place and service delivery	Michelle Morris	<p>This is a new Strategic Business Review that merges the previous business review on customer experience and the business review on workplace transformation.</p> <p>The impact of the pandemic has force the organisation to think radically about how and where it will deliver services to the communities in Blaenau Gwent. This Programme includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">New Operating Model;Community Hubs to improve customer access to council services;Democratic Hub at the General Offices for formal Council business;Permanent vacation of Civic Centre and move to Agile Working Model based on remaining office accommodation;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Establish Programme GovernanceOpen new Democratic Hub and pilot agile meeting modelOpen new Community HubsCommence project to decommission Civic CentreAgree new Agile Working PolicyCommence leadership development to support new working arrangementsComplete consultation with all staff moving to home or agile working and agree variation to contractsComplete Communication Plan to support change programme		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Commence full Council Diary using new agile meeting arrangements (in line with relaxation of covid restrictions)Continue to develop the Community Hubs to broaden the services delivered - Phase 2 completedDesign and procurement of Anvil Court refurbishment – in progressCommenced return to the office (in line with WG Guidance)Revision to the application of the Mileage Allowance – CompletedContinued to progress decant of Civic CentreRecords Management progressing well with disposal and retention in line with policyLeadership Development - Commenced		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Complete establishment of new Democratic HubContinue to develop the Community Hubs – Phase 3Complete decant from Civic CentreProgress with the refurbishment of Anvil Court in line with agreed planMasterplan for the redevelopment of the site completed and agreedComplete Leadership Seminars to support move to new working arrangements.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Civic Centre decanted and decommissioned, tender returned and awaiting award of contractCommunity Hubs & Democratic operating BAU – within Covid restrictionsProgress with the refurbishment of Anvil Court in line with agreed planAchieve full financial savings to support 2022/23 Revenue Budget					
			Financial Management:-			Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)								
			Estimated Financial Achievement			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Programme on-target for Quarter 2 deliverables;Democratic Hub now operational;Community Hubs now in Phase 3 of delivery;Change in Out of Hours service delivery to a local provider – completed;Leadership support in progress to assist in moving to new agile working model;								
2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025										
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000										
50	0	400	0	0										
Risk Management:-														
Risks / Issues						Mitigating Actions								
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Delays to the final decommissioning of civic centre due to the need to relocate IT Servers to new host and the impact of global supplies shortageRisk of increased costs from procurement activity due to pressures within the economy and the increasing price of goods and servicesImpact on staff well-being from the return to the workplace						<ul style="list-style-type: none">Risk being managed and removal of servers prioritised for January 2022Tenders being developed for issuing early in 2022Continue to comply with Covid restrictions in the workplace, ensure risk assessments are in place, leadership development and support to ensure managers understand their role in supporting staff, provision of support via occupational health								

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables		Key Activities / Deliverables					
			Quarter 1 2021/2022		Quarter 2 2021/2022		Quarter 3 2021/2022		Quarter 4 2021/2022					
Growth Strategy	Richard Crook	<p>Our Growth Strategy involves a programme of housing development that will see an impact on our revenue streams through increase Council Tax. This will contribute to the MTFS and is a critical element of building strong communities.</p> <p>Intended outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">To bring back into use 5-10% of vacant properties per annum (circa 40)To support the delivery of circa 400 new houses by 2023To increase the economic competitiveness of Blaenau Gwent in the 2022 UKCITo secure £548,000 pa into the local economy with 100 households attracted/retained in BGTo implement water and wind turbines to generate 3.6 mW and £2.5m of investmentTo have commenced an investment portfolio for BG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Promote housing sites for private developmentContinue to administer loans and grants for vacant properties (post covid)Work through planning process on housing sitesSAB issues - address (Davies, Works)Delivery programme for EV School site, to inform build out rate		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Appoint new vacant property officerBegin ‘investment portfolio’ with Industrial Units reviewSilent Valley wind turbine scoping and planningLovell’s site 65% built 50% soldPersimmon site starts buildSUDs scheme approved for Davies siteStage 2 decision on AshvalePlanning/SABS NorthgateDelivery programme NorthgateDevelopment brief Civic Centre		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Informal launch Energy Prospectus linked to COP26CCR approval for Tredegar?Completion of Golwg Y BrynCompletion of Greenacres		<ul style="list-style-type: none">					
Financial Management:-			Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)											
Estimated Financial Achievement			21/22 Q1 and Q2 updates:											
2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025										
£’000	£’000	£’000	£’000	£’000										
184	230	300	100	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Golwg Y Bryn - £16.8 million Lovell development of 100 homes (70 open market, 30 affordable). During Q1 12 OM and 9 SR units completed, which brings the number of units to date to 77 completed, 68 of which are open market. The development will be completed during Q2. Max Council Tax return associated with the development £142k.Carn Y Cefn – £29million Persimmon development of 277 homes (222 private, 55 affordable). The development is onsite, show home will open Q3, first homes occupied Q2 22/23. Annual build target 30 units (up to 50 depending on sales demand). 5 phase development. Max Council Tax return associated with the development £316k.Northgate – 56 homes (51 open market, 5 affordable). Anticipated start on site Q3 21/22. The first homes will be completed Q1/Q2 2022/23. Annual build rate 25 – 30 per/annum, 2 year build programme. Max Council Tax return associated with the development £108k.Ashvale – Circa 70 homes (63 open market, 7 affordable). Dependent on CCR funding (determination Q3) and subject to contract Max Council Tax return associated with the development £120k.									
										*max CT return does not make consideration to any applied discounts, working assumption is 80% paying full CT tax and relates to open market homes (not social rent)				

					<ul style="list-style-type: none">Civic Centre framework being prepared by the Urbanists to inform the development brief to be developed in Q3Nantyglo School Site; members briefing to be scheduled for Q3 to outline a proposed development programme to bring forward the site.12 ‘Empty Property Grants’ received approval in Q1, which amount to the value of £287,963.44 and 1 property was completed and brought back into use.2 Houses to Homes applications were approved and amounted to a total of £50,000.		
Risk Management:-							
Risks / Issues				Mitigating Actions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">SABS decisions causing delays on developmentInternal staff resources e.g. planning to make determination on applicationsEscalating material costs associated with developmentIncreasing house prices/demand – potential stall to the upward trendSupply outstrips demand				<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ongoing discussions with the SAB approving body and developersContingency with funding applicationsPositive uplift in Social Housing Grant to assist development where appropriateMonitoring activity and close liaison with developersDevelopment programme considered alongside wider policy docs and strategies e.g. LDP/Empty Property			
Low Carbon	Michelle Morris	Develop a Low Carbon Plan which sets out an ambitious vision and targets for BG to become a Low Carbon Borough and supports the corporate objectives of being a more Efficient Council and Strong & Environmentally Smart Communities. <u>Intended outcome</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Readiness Assessment (RA) – Transport (Direct) completeResponse to BG Climate Assembly findings completeAgree high level timeline for RA for all Transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monitoring Report to Scrutiny CommitteeMonitor/Progress delivery of actions from RA – Transport (Direct)Complete 2nd RACouncil Report Template updated to ensure CC impact taken into account in all reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Complete 3rd RAAnnual Report to CouncilMonitor/Progress delivery of actions from completed RAFirst annual report to WG completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Complete 4th RAAll Transitions to be completed to inform high level action planMonitor/Progress delivery of actions from completed RAAnnual Progress Report to be reported to Council	
Financial Management:-			Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)				
Estimated Financial Achievement			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Quarter 3 actions on target				
2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023				2023/2024	2024/2025
£’000	£’000	£’000				£’000	£’000
138	0	200				200	200
Risk Management:-							
Risks / Issues				Mitigating Actions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">New investment may be required to ensure that actions can be progressed to support transition to carbon neutralNeed to ensure that policy development/service re-design is under-pinned by the principles of achieving carbon neutral councilCapital Programme needs to support delivery through investment in the right designs and technology e.g. carbon neutral buildings				<ul style="list-style-type: none">RA need to identify funding gaps/opportunities or where we need to change funding model to support this workAll Committee Reports to identify impact on carbon emissions to ensure that the organisation builds a more sustainable futureAll investment decisions need to include impact on carbon emissions and ensure the Council only invests in low carbon or carbon free solutions			

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables
			Quarter 1 2021/2022	Quarter 2 2021/2022	Quarter 3 2021/2022	Quarter 4 2021/2022
Use of external grants	Bernadette Elias	<u>Scope of the Review</u> This strategic business review is concerned with deployment of additional grant funding that is available to the council and its partners. It is estimated that the organisation receives approximately £22m additional funding to support our priorities. This review will explore how the grants are utilised across the council to deliver outcomes for our residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Start Review and update of the grants register with resource colleaguesInitial scoping for review of Regeneration grants with service and finance colleagues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Updated grants register on SCCB agenda and presented quarterly to keep organisational oversightFinalise and agree scope for Regen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Findings from review of Regen presented to SCCBQuarterly reporting of grants register	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Quarterly reporting of grants registerFocus of next phase of review agreed
		<p>This review will also consider the impact of the removal of these grants and the risk placed on core funding.</p> <p>Intended outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Better organisational oversight of how grants support our corporate priority areas.Clearer lines of accountability with identified leads to ensure delivery of intended outcomes and management of risk to core funding.				
Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes)						
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Updating of the Grants Register is still work in progress due to other priority work. anticipated this work will now progress during quarter 4An initial meeting has taken place with Regeneration Service area to scope out the work. Next phase is to finalise the scope and progress activity during quarter 4						
Risk Management:-						
Risks / Issues				Mitigating Actions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">						

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Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables
			Quarter 1 2021/2022	Quarter 2 2021/2022	Quarter 3 2021/2022	Quarter 4 2021/2022

Developing our customer experience and digital ambitions	Bernadette Elias	<p>This review supports the customer focus and use of technology themes in the Commercial strategy</p> <p>Intended outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved Customer Service experience for residents of the boroughCreation of Community Hub modelDelivery of 12-month Digital programme set out for CouncilCollaboration with NPT and Torfaen on Digital projects – best practice to be shared across CouncilDevelopment of Leadership & Development opportunitiesLinks into ICT investment roadmap			<p><u>Customer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Contact Centre review commenced focussing on Customer Service deliveryWorking with community services, mapping process and understanding customer experienceDevelopment and introduction of service level standards,Review of answerphone messageReview of out of hours' serviceCommunity Hubs model preparation and development <p><u>Digital / Technology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Digital programme to support the new operating modelProgression of externally supported digital projects, Adult Social Care, GovPay, Tech Valley and DemocracyPlanning for Leadership & Development opportunities to raise awareness and scope of digitalDigital apprentice role developed	<p><u>Customer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Further development of Contact Centre review – focus on training / skills gap to support improved service deliveryLocal out of hours' service delivery from July 2021Community hubs implementation <p><u>Digital / Technology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Digital programme to support the new operating model, hybrid democratic meeting arrangements, service move to digital offer where this focus is most neededLeadership and Development awareness sessions– in progressFindings of Digital projects delivered with other Local Authorities, sharing learningDigital apprentice role recruited	<p><u>Customer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Community hubs implementation and review to inform next phase of developmentScoping of Customer Service Standards development <p><u>Digital / Technology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">digital programme to support the new operating model, hybrid democratic meeting arrangements, service move to digital offer where this focus is most neededLeadership and Development awareness sessions– in progressDeveloping the organisational approach Service re- design linked to the commercial strategy ambitions, digital programme and customer experience	<p><u>Customer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Further development of Community Hubs modelScoping of Working towards excellence in Customer Service delivery – charter mark for Customer Services across the Council <p><u>Digital / Technology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">digital programme to support the new operating model, hybrid democratic meeting arrangements, service move to digital offer where this focus is most neededLeadership and Development awareness sessions– in progressDeveloping the organisational approach Service re- design linked to the commercial strategy ambitions, digital programme and customer experience
Financial Management:-					Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes and financial)			
Estimated Financial Achievement								
					<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community hubs delivery model continued in Q3 – next phase of delivery being developedCreation of Winter Support Scheme and delivery of the scheme, supporting residents to claim £200 payment towards fuel bills.Supporting residents affected by the £20 Universal Credit uplift and reduction in incomeContinuation and supporting residents to access the Self Isolation Payment SchemeTraining plan developed for Customer Service teams to access various course including Welsh language training and BSL training – especially needed to support residents within communities in the Community HubsParticipation in benchmarking exercise within Call Centre Management framework, findings to be available in Q4Monitoring of out of hours' service to enhance customer service experienceCommencement of Customer Service strategy – supporting the ambition of the Local Authority around customer service deliveryDevelopment of plan to support residents around Digital from a Customer Service delivery perspectiveSupporting the Maximum Digital Living Standards and National Indicator for Wales – Welsh Government tackling digital inequalities focussing on ICT divide, Digital divide, Digital poverty and skills, commenced late Q3 to continue in Q4 <p><u>Digital / Technology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Corporate Digital programme update provided to CLT in quarter 3			
					<ul style="list-style-type: none">Five key work streams continued in Q3: -			

					<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Transformation and digital projects: – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> supporting the new operating model supporting internal and external projects including planning and street cleansing colleagues, also participation in the closure of Tech Valley project, with presentation planned to Tech Valley Board in Q4 Corporate Digital project activity: – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> supporting the digital road map, supporting the New Operating Model, including maximisation of Office 365 across the local Authority Development of a strategic programme for service: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Maturity Assessment undertaken in conjunction with WLGA findings to be developed in Q4. Participation in Centre for Digital Public Services Landscape review working groups Leadership and skills development programme, linking to strategic approach. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of digital champions network across the Local Authority who will test and support the development of new solutions in addition to supporting their future development Further expansion of the Digital Apprentice role and supporting learning opportunities Governance: – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commencement of the development of a digital strategy to be finalised late Q4 which will set the ambition and future digital agenda for the Local Authority. Creation and development of a Transformation and Digital board, nominations from service areas received with initial kick off session planned for late Q4 – intention of which will be an internal officer network where service areas can highlight the need for transformation and digital improvements.
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Risk Management:-					
Risks / Issues					Mitigating Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 					

Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables
			Quarter 1 2021/2022	Quarter 2 2021/2022	Quarter 3 2021/2022	Quarter 4 2021/2022
Prevention and early intervention services	Damien McCann / Lynn Phillips	<p>This review will focus on an evaluation of the long term impact of prevention and early intervention on reducing the requirement for high cost services and better outcomes for our most vulnerable residents.</p> <p>Approach potentially involves children and young people transitioning to adulthood to maximise the preventative benefits. Links to NEETs, Recovery/Renewal and Adult Social Care.</p> <p>Intended outcome</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning meeting to take place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed at CLT meeting and agreed this was a corporate issue rather than for Social Services and Education only. Have discussed potential to hold a workshop on prevention and early intervention corporately to share examples and generate ideas across the Council Briefing Paper to SCCB Board for discussion regarding seeking external consultancy support. 		
Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes)						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLT have had initial update and requested further information on overall strategic approach etc CLT agreed the corporate nature of this strand of work Lead Officers met to discuss next steps Discussed a Children's Services Invest to Save Project being badged under the Bridging the gap proposals Brief to be determined in Spring term and commissioned work underway by Summer 2022. 						

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Risk Management:-						
Risks / Issues				Mitigating Actions		
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Review Title	Lead Officer/ Portfolio holder	Scope and Outcome	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables	Key Activities / Deliverables
			Quarter 1 2021/2022	Quarter 2 2021/2022	Quarter 3 2021/2022	Quarter 4 2021/2022
Using data and behaviour insight to help deliver better services	Bernadette Elias	<p>Becoming a 21st Century Council means using data and insight to drive decision making. This Strategic Business Review will identify opportunities for the sharing and use of data to design services around the customer.</p> <p>Intended outcome</p> <p>The insight from quantitative and qualitative data is recognised as a valuable asset across the organisation.</p> <p>Data is used insightfully and routinely in service re design, analytics and performance monitoring to support better outcomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to build the data work streams supporting recovery Audit Wales data review- initial findings and scoping for next phase workshop. Nesta data maturity assessment framework. Behavioural science- early scoping of potential leadership session on applying the MINDSET methodology to service delivery Programme of WLGA funded sessions on user experience, content design and service re design delivered Cardiff University data science academy- summer MSc placement. Expression of interest and proposal submitted Assessment of Well Being planning for next round of Well Being plans in progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit Wales data review, next phases and findings Revisit Data application to BTgap reviews eg work done previously on income and debt testing Nesta data maturity assessment against a recovery theme-economic recovery Show and tell from digital projects Developing the organisational approach Service re- design linked to the commercial strategy ambitions, digital programme and customer experience. applying service re design to a prioritised programme of service areas including supporting the New Operating Model (NOM). Consideration of applying MINDSET to a pilot programme of service areas, potentially including the NOM Cardiff university placement progression Assessment of Well Being development through the regional sub group of GSWAG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the organisational approach Service re- design linked to the commercial strategy ambitions, digital programme and customer experience Testing Nesta data maturity assessment against a recovery theme Cardiff university MSc final product delivery Assessment of Well Being development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cardiff university MSc --- exploring ways to use the product Assessment of Well Being mature product Development of a research and data programme for the organisational to include external opportunities, behavioural science potential and learning from Nesta assessment, intelligence hub and service re design work
Quarterly progress update against deliverables (Project outcomes)						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery themes developed and supported with performance and data insight, including development of a set of performance indicators. Report to be presented to Corporate Overview in February 2022. Audit Wales Review on Data – AW are content with outcomes from Part 1 and no risks or concerns were identified. For part 2 AW are happy to work with to provide support and challenge as we start to further develop our thinking in this area and how we develop a Data Strategy/Action Plan. Data insight including user research used to inform digital transformation projects with services supporting agile delivery. Cardiff University data science academy student placements progressing. Draft Assessment of Well being developed and will be used to inform the next Well Being Plan. The Performance Team and Social Services are using monies from WG to support the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being Act Performance Framework. The Council is looking at the IAA/IA service to undertake a review of the Directorates' current effectiveness in its use of performance data and to support any future re modelling of services with a view of service improvement. Documentation has been provided to the reviewers, Oxford Brookes University, and interviews are ongoing. Additional support is planned for mid-2022, once the directorate has submitted their annual data return to WG. 						

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data has been submitted on the Decarbonisation agenda and work is ongoing to incorporate this into the Council's performance framework. Data collection, reporting and analysis is being looked at for a seamless approach for future returns. 	
Risk Management:-	
Risks / Issues	Mitigating Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

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