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Our Ref./Ein Cyf. Your Ref./Eich Cyf. Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Gwasanaethau Democrataidd

THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

Dydd Gwener, 17 Chwefror 2023 Dydd Gwener, 17 Chwefror 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

CYFARFOD ARBENNIG O'R CYNGOR

A meeting of the Cyfarfod Arbennig o'r Cyngor will be held in Remotely Via Microsoft Teams - if you would like to attend this meeting live please contact committee.services@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk on Dydd Iau, 23ain Chwefror, 2023 at 10.00 am.

Yours faithfully

annén MC Can.

Damien McCann Interim Chief Executive

AGENDA

Pages

1. <u>CYFIEITHU AR Y PRYD</u>

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

2. <u>YMDDIHEURIADAU</u>

Derbyn ymddiheuriadau.

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn cyfathrebu gyda chi yn eich dewis iaith, dim ond i chi rhoi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi. The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

Page

General Offices Steelworks Road Tyllwyn, Ebbw Vale NP23 6DN Swyddfeydd Cyffredinol Heol Gwaith Dur Tŷ Llwyn, Glyn Ebwy NP23 6DN

Ystyried unrhyw ddatganiadau a buddiant a wnaed. CYLLIDEB REFENIW 2023/2024 5 - 196 4. Ystyried adroddiad y Prif Swyddog Adnoddau. 5. ADRODDIAD AELODAETH 197 - 198 Ystyried yr adroddiad a atodir. Councillor C. Smith (Aelod Llywyddol) To: Councillor C. Bainton P. Baldwin Councillor S. Behr D. Bevan Councillor K. Chaplin M. Cross Councillor H. Cunningham D. Davies G. A. Davies M. Day Councillor S. Edmunds Councillor J. Gardner J. Hill W. Hodgins L. Winnett J. Holt Councillor G. Humphreys Councillor R. Leadbeater Councillor E. Jones Councillor J. Morgan, J.P. J. C. Morgan J. P. Morgan L. Parsons Councillor D. Rowberry T. Smith G. Thomas Councillor J. Thomas S. Thomas H. Trollope J. Wilkins Councillor D. Woods

DATGANIADAU BUDDIANT A GODDEFEBAU

All other Members (for information)

3.

Interim Chief Executive Chief Officers This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 4

Cabinet and Council only Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 14.02.2023 Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 14.02.2023

Committee:	Special Council
Date of Meeting:	23rd February, 2023
Report Subject:	Revenue Budget 2023/2024
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor S. Thomas – Leader of the Council/Cabinet Member Corporate Overview & Performance
Report Submitted by:	R Hayden – Chief Officer Resources
Report Written by:	Gina Taylor – Service Manager Accountancy

Reporting F	Pathway							
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance & Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
					21.02.2023	22.02.2023	23.02.2023	

1. **Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 This report is presented to Members to:
 - i) provide an update on the provisional local government settlement for 2023/24 and its impact upon the Council's budget
 - ii) consider and agree the detailed revenue budget for 2023/24 including cost and service pressures, proposed efficiencies and the use of reserves
 - iii) agree the level of Council Tax increase for the 2023/2024 financial year.

2. Scope and Background

2.1 A summary of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy was agreed by Council in December 2022, this report updates Members with the latest financial position regarding the budget for 2023/24. The report covers the following:

Section	Contents
2.6 – 2.17	National Aggregate External Finance (AEF) Position
2.18 – 2.26	Blaenau Gwent AEF position
5.1.1 - 5.1.9	Aggregated External Finance (AEF) funding and the MTFS
5.1.10 - 5.1.16	Cost Pressures and Growth
5.1.17 - 5.1.24	Individual Schools Budget
5.1.25 -5.1.32	Bridging The Gap Programme
5.1.33 - 5.1.35	Proposed use of Reserves

2.2 The Provisional Settlement contains details of the revenue funding that Welsh Authorities can expect to receive in 2023/24 in order to allow them to set their budgets and determine levels of Council Tax for that year. It also provides details of the Capital funding that Authorities can expect to receive to fund their Capital Programmes. Indicative figures per Local Authority for the 2024/25 financial year and beyond have not been provided at this stage, however indicative all Wales core revenue funding have been provided and this indicates an uplift of 3.1%. The written statement from the Minister for Housing and Local Government is attached as Appendix 1.

- 2.3 Revenue funding from Welsh Government (WG) is provided in the form of Aggregate External Finance (AEF) which is made up of the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR). This AEF funding is unhypothecated i.e. it is not earmarked for specific services and it is up to individual Councils to decide how to allocate to services in order to fit with their priorities (while taking into account statutory responsibilities).
- 2.4 Revenue funding also comes in the form of specific grants, in which case the funding is earmarked for a particular purpose. It is the long term intention of the WG that the number of specific grants is reduced, with funding being transferred into the AEF, giving Local Authorities more flexibility on distributing funding to services. Hence, this form of funding should diminish over time.
- 2.5 Capital funding is provided in the form of General Capital funding, made up of an Un-hypothecated Supported Borrowing (USB) approval and General Capital Grant approval. The USB approval is a borrowing approval for which revenue support is provided within the AEF to cover debt financing costs i.e. principal and interest. It is un-hypothecated, meaning that borrowing can be carried out for any capital purpose. The General Capital Grant is, as its name suggests, a grant that can be used for any capital purpose.

2.6 National Position (All Wales)

- 2.7 On the 14 December 2022, the Minister for Housing and Local Government published the provisional local government settlement. The overall headline increase in AEF quoted by WG is 7.9% (£403m), after taking into account transfers into the settlement. Compared to the Welsh average, the 6.5% increase for Blaenau Gwent places us at the bottom of the all-Wales table.
- 2.8 One grant has transferred into the settlement:-
 - £3m for the Coastal Risk Management Programme which has no impact for this Council.
- 2.9 An additional grant relating the Fire Service is expected to be transferred at final settlement. It is proposed that this grant be passported directly to the Fire Service.
- 2.10 Certain Specific Revenue Grants data has only been published on an all-Wales basis, totalling £1.37b for 2023/2024, along with projections for the following 2 financial years. Funding for some grants has increased e.g. Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief (£132m), Universal Free School meals (£30m), a number

of grants have decreased e.g. Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (£2.6m). It is difficult to assess the financial impact for the Council at this stage.

- 2.11 In terms of capital grants, the non-hypothecated general capital funding for 2023-24 is increasing to £180m from £150m, and it is expected to remain at this level for 2024/2025. Capital grants also include £20m for 2023/24 and 2024/25 to allow local authorities to respond to the decarbonisation agenda, it is understood that decarbonisation grant will be allocated via an application process.
- 2.12 Further details of the specific grants for local government will be published alongside the final RSG settlement in March 2023.
- 2.13 The funding provided through this settlement recognises the impact of:
 - Teachers pay award for 2023/24, with no further funding being made available in year
 - Additional costs of introducing the real Living Wage for care workers
 - NDR Support
- 2.14 The current policy and funding arrangements for Council Tax Reduction Schemes (CTRS) continues into 2023/24. Consequently, £244 million continues to be included in the Settlement for funding the Council Tax Support Scheme. This reflects the costs of the Scheme when it was first established in 2013/14, but again means that any additional costs resulting from increases in council tax levels or caseload for 2023/24 will fall to Local Authorities (of the £244m, the Council receives £8.17m towards costs of £9.5m).
- 2.15 The provisional settlement announcement marked the start of a seven week consultation period which ended on 2 February 2023. The Minister will consider whether further amendments are to be made, before the final settlement is announced on 2 March 2022.
- 2.16 The Minister states that while this is a relatively good settlement, the continuing significant levels of inflation means that local government will need to make difficult decisions in setting their budgets.
- 2.17 The provisional settlement included indicative revenue funding on an all Wales basis for 2024/25 and this indicates an uplift of 3.1%. These figures are dependent on the funding provided by UK Government and NDR income, but are useful in supporting financial planning.

2.18 Blaenau Gwent Position

2.19 The headline increase for BGCBC after allowing for transfers is 6.5% (£8.5m), compared to the all Wales increase of 7.9%. Whilst this increase is welcomed, given the current economic climate and cost of living crisis, the Council is faced with significant financial challenges. The details included within this report identifies budget cuts of £3.2m (as a minimum) for 2023/2024 and a further

£1.8m over the next five years. These cuts do not address the identified shortfall and some use of reserves will be required to set a balanced budget.

- 2.20 The Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) increase, quoted as 5.5%, is the joint lowest in Wales (compared to an all Wales increase of 6.2%).
- 2.21 The SSA is the detailed funding formula that is intended to reflect variations in the need to spend which might be expected if all Welsh Authorities responded in a similar way to the demand for services in their area. Indicators of need include population, pupil numbers, deprivation factors, population dispersion etc. The SSA is the mechanism for distributing RSG which enables Authorities to *theoretically* charge the same council tax for the provision of a similar standard of service. However, if Authorities don't spend at SSA level, then council tax levels will not be the same, which in practice, is what happens.
- 2.22 The Council's settlement reflects a range of less favourable re-distributional movements in population indicators and free school meal numbers, with favourable movements in pupil numbers and benefits:

Population – Blaenau Gwent's population has decreased by 1.9% compared to the all Wales decrease of 0.9%.

Population indicators make up a large proportion of the cost driver indicators within the SSA formula.

Education Demographics -

- Nursery & Primary pupil numbers have reduced by 1.8% compared to the all Wales decrease of 1.2%
- Secondary school pupil numbers have increased by 3.5%, compared to the all Wales increase of 1.2%.
- Free School meals pupils have increased by 4.5% in the Primary Sector and 5.4% in the Secondary Sector, compared to the all Wales increase of 5.9% and 8.8% respectively.

For information, BGCBC has consistently spent above the Education SSA on the Education services it provides.

Deprivation Indicators - IS (Income Support)/ JSA (Job seekers Allowance) /PC (Pension Credit)/ UC (Universal Credit)/ not in employment claimants have increased by 25% comparable to the all Wales increase of 25%.

- 2.23 The net impact of these movements is a decrease in the Council's proportion of the all Wales funding.
- 2.24 The Authority remains the highest receiver of Aggregate External Finance (RSG plus NNDR) on a per capita basis at £2,047.

- 2.25 General Capital Funding has increased by £0.65m from 2022/23 to £3.86m, of which General Capital Grant is £1.96m and Supported Borrowing is £1.9m.
- 2.26 The capital grant assumed within the Council's capital programme for 2023/24 is £1.2m. There is therefore an additional £760,000 for use in the capital programme.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 Option 1 (preferred option)

- 3.1.1 Subject to the decisions on the following recommendations, Members agree the 2023/24 revenue budget as shown in table in paragraph 5.1.15.
- 3.1.2 Members to provide comment on the outcomes within the overall provisional RSG Settlement and note the potential for further change in the Final RSG Settlement (paragraphs 2.6 2.17).
- 3.1.3 Members to provide comment on the outcomes within the BGCBC provisional RSG Settlement and its impact upon the Medium Term Financial Strategy (paragraphs 2.18 2.26).
- 3.1.4 Members to consider and agree the updated cost pressures and growth items (£3.22m in total) identified in Appendix 2 (paragraphs 5.1.10 5.1.16) for inclusion in the Council's budget.
- 3.1.5 Members consider and agree an uplift of £1.5m which equates to 3% increase to the ISB (paragraphs 5.1.17 to 5.1.24).
- 3.1.6 Members consider and approve the Bridging the Gap proposals delivering £4.18m of financial efficiencies and budget cuts to towards the budget gap (paragraphs 5.1.25 to 5.1.32)
- 3.1.7 Members approve the use of reserves of £2.5m to balance the budget for 2023/2024 (paragraphs 5.1.33 to 5.1.35).
- 3.1.8 Members agree a Council tax increase of 4% for 2023/24 (paragraph 5.1.7) as per the MTFS assumptions.

3.2 **Option 2**

3.2.1 Members consider and do not agree the recommendations in 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 budget setting process and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) supports the Corporate Plan outcome "an ambitious and innovative Council delivering the quality services at the right time and in the right place" and ensures

effective forward planning arrangements are in place to support the Council/'s financial resilience.

- 4.2 The revenue & capital budgets support the delivery of all the Council priorities.
- 4.3 To comply with statutory responsibilities, the Council must set a balanced budget and set its Council Tax for the forthcoming year by 10 March 2023.

5. Implications Against Each Option

5.1 Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)

5.1.1 The most recent iteration of the MTFS (agreed by Council on 21 December 2022) indicates (prior to the identification of budget reductions or increased income) budget gaps of:-

5.1.2 Table 1 – MTFS Budget Gap (as at December 2022)

2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
£6.7m	£2.5m	£2.8m	£3.3m	£2.4m	£17.7m

5.1.3 The MTFS has been reviewed and updated. A number of assumptions have been made in compiling the Draft Estimates and funding projections.

5.1.4 **Funding**

- 5.1.5 The AEF funding for 2023/2024 is based on the provisional settlement of £139.6m, an increase of £8.5m (6.5%) when compared to 2022/2023.
- 5.1.6 Based on the indicative increase in Welsh Government funding of 3.1% for 2024/2025, the MTFS assumptions remain at 2% for 2024/2025 and cash flat thereafter, this is based on the Council's increase in AEF in recent years being on or below the Welsh average.
- 5.1.7 The MTFS assumes an annual increase of 4% for Council Tax.

5.1.8 <u>Costs</u>

5.1.9 The main assumptions applied in calculating the Draft Estimates include:

Table 2 – Main Assumptions applied to Costs

	2023/2024	2024/2025 Onwards
Pay Award	5%	2%
Employers Contribution to Local Government Pension Scheme	1%	1%
Price Inflation	8%	2%
Individual Schools Budget	3%	2% (cash flat thereafter)
Fees & Charges	Cash Flat	Cash Flat

5.1.10 Service Cost Pressures and Growth

- 5.1.11 Existing, new service cost pressures and growth items totalling £3.22m for 2023/24 have been identified and are included at Appendix 2. For 2024/2025 onwards, £2.25m per annum have been included in the MTFS.
- 5.1.12 Where costs are expected to increase by more than 8%, the additional cost have been included within the cost pressures including:
 - utilities expected increase of 230% for gas and 116% for electricity (corporate buildings)
 - Social Care impact of the increase in the National Living Wage
- 5.1.13 It is proposed that the cost pressures totalling £3.22m are agreed and built into the Council's budget from 2023/24.
- 5.1.14 Table 3 below details the impact the Provisional Settlement and the cost pressures have on the budget gap.

	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Funding					
AEF	(139,597)	(142,389)	(142,389)	(142,389)	(142,389)
Council Tax @ 4%	(38,394)	(39,930)	(41,527)	(43,188)	(44,918)
Total Funding	(177,991)	(182,319)	(183,916)	(185,577)	(187,307)
Draft Estimates - Prior to savings	181,232	188,661	194,957	201,816	208,005
Budget Gap /(surplus)	3,241	6,342	11,041	16,239	20,698
Cost Pressures/growth	3,220	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250
Contribution to Reserves	200	200	200	200	200
Budget Gap /(surplus) (1)	6,661	8,792	13,491	18,689	23,148

5.1.15 Table 3 - Budget Gap based on 2023/24 Provisional RSG*

5.1.16 There is a funding gap of £23m over the next five financial years, with a budget reduction / cut of £6.7m required for 2023/2024 in order to set a balanced budget.

5.1.17 Individual Schools Budget (ISB)

- 5.1.18 The funding gap of £6.7m assumes an increase of 3% (£1.5m) for the ISB. Over the last few years, the ISB have increased in line with the increase in AEF:
 - 2022/2023 8.4% (£3.91m)
 - 2021/2022 3.3% (£1.472m)
- 5.1.19 Schools are facing significant cost pressures as a result of pay awards, increasing utility costs and high inflation and these are currently estimated at:

5.1.20 Table 4 – School Cost Pressures

	Assumption	£'000
Pay	5% - Non-Teaching Staff	1,955*
	3.5% - Teaching Staff	
	(September 23)	
Utilities	Electricity	754
	Gas	1,583
Inflation (non-pay)	8%	811
Total Cost		5,103
Pressures		

*This figure also includes the September 2022 pay award for April 23 to August 23.

- 5.1.21 Overall school balances as of 31 March 2023 were £6.23m, an increase of £2.55m on the previous financial year and no school had a deficit balance. However, it is estimated that school balances will decrease to £3.43m by March 2023.
- 5.1.22 Members can consider an alternative award to the ISB. Any increase above 3% would increase the Council's funding gap.
- 5.1.23 Schools will therefore be asked to manage £3.6m of cost pressures through energy reductions initiatives and wider cost efficiencies. It is anticipated that energy prices will reduce during 2023-2024.
- 5.1.24 Any additional funding provided by WG following pay award negotiations will be passported directly to schools.

5.1.25 BRIDGING THE GAP

- 5.1.26 The Bridging the Gap programme remains the Councils strategy for delivering financial efficiencies to ensure that the Council continues the journey of improving its financial stability and setting a balanced budget year on year.
- 5.1.27 Given the financial challenge facing the Council and the requirement to identify budget cuts of £23m over the next 5 years, the current programme of strategic business reviews have been updated and a number of new proposals have been identified.
- 5.1.28 The table below provides a summary of the estimated achievement of the Strategic Business Reviews (at the lower range), details of the individual strategic reviews are attached at Appendix 3.

5.1.29 <u>Table 5 – Estimated Achievement of Bridging the Gap Strategic</u> <u>Business Reviews</u>

Estimated Achievement:	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Total Estimated Financial Achievement	4,185	1,336	710	0	0

5.1.30 Factoring in these amounts the impact for 2023/24 and future years on the budget gap/(surplus) is as follows: -

5.1.31 <u>Table 6 – Budget Gap / (Surplus) After Applying the Bridging The Gap</u> <u>Estimated Achievement</u>

	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Revised Funding Gap (2)	6,661	8,792	13,491	18,689	23,148
BTG Estimated Achievement BTG prev. year	(4,185)	(1,336) (4,185)	(710) (5,521)	0 (6,231)	0 (6,231)
Final Budget Gap/(surplus) (3)	2,476	3,271	7,260	12,458	16,917

5.1.32 The current level of budget cuts / financial efficiencies is not sufficient to allow the Council to set a balanced budget for 2023/2024, as when factoring in the forecast achievement of Bridging the Gap, a budget gap of £2.5m remains.

5.1.33 Proposed Use of Reserves

5.1.34 To achieve a balanced budget for 2023/2024, it will be necessary to utilise reserves as a one-off measure. This will result in higher budget gaps in future years, but it will provide time to develop and implement sustainable strategic business reviews to address the funding gap from 2024/2025 onwards. It is proposed to utilise the following usable reserves:

5.1.35 Table 7 – Proposed Use of Reserves

Reserve	£'000	
Financial Sustainability	2,033	
Future Interest Rates	443	
Total	2,476	

5.1.36 General Revenue Reserves – Current Position

- 5.1.37 The provisional reserves (subject to external Audit) of the Council as at 31 March 2022 were:
 - General Fund Reserve £13m
 - Usable Revenue Earmarked reserves £28.9m
- 5.1.38 Over the last 5 years the level of the general reserve has steadily increased and between 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 increased by £5.5m, addressing the improvement needed in reserves which was highlighted by Audit Wales in 2018 and supports the strengthening of the Council's financial resilience.
- 5.1.39 Reserves and balances are monitored and reviewed during the financial year and it is currently estimated that based on the December 2022 Revenue Budget forecast, usable revenue earmarked reserves will reduce by in excess of £4m (including £2.8m for Schools) to fund planned expenditure and unplanned cost pressures which have emerged during the financial year.
- 5.1.40 The impact on utilising usable revenue reserves to balance the budget and based on quarter 3 forecast is shown in the table below:

Reserve	Provisional Balance 31/3/2022 £'000	Estimated Balance 31/3/2023 £'000	Estimated Balance 31/3/2024 £'000
General Reserve	13,000	13,371	13,571
Financial Sustainability Reserve	3,554	3,554	1,521
Future Interest Rate	644	644	201
School Balances	6,214	3,430	3,430
Other Revenue reserves	18,488	16,788	16,973
Total	41,900	37,787	35,696

5.1.41 Table 8 – Impact on Usable Revenue Reserves

5.1.42 The estimated balance as at March 2024 takes into account the use of reserves to balance the budget 2023/2024. If the budget gap increases as a result of Council not agreeing all the Bridging the Gap proposals, this additional budget pressure will need to be funded from the General Reserve in the short term.

5.2 **Risk including Mitigating Actions**

- 5.2.1 MTFS Outcomes are not delivered as expected. High inflation, increasing interest rates, increasing utility costs and pay awards are having a major impact on Council costs and whilst it is expected that these will reduce over the short to medium term, there is increased uncertainty when budget planning.
- 5.2.2 This risk will be mitigated by regular monitoring of proposals, which will also be reported through the quarterly budget monitoring reports to the Joint Budget Scrutiny Committee and Executive.
- 5.2.3 The Council is faced with significant financial challenges in meeting the funding gap of £23m over the next 5 years and will need to develop proposals to deliver budget cuts to address this funding gap. Whilst this report proposes utilising £2.5m reserves in 2023/2024 to balance the budget, this is a temporary solution only and there is a risk that savings proposals in future years will not address the funding gap. Further reliance on reserves to balance the budget in future years will impact on the financial sustainability of the Council.
- 5.2.4 Bridging the Gap proposals of £3.3m (over and above £1.3m already proposed) will need to be developed, approved and implemented by 31 March 2024 if the Council is to set a balanced budget for 2024/2025.
- 5.2.5 Council may fail to set a balanced budget within the legal timeframe. This will be mitigated by ensuring that Members consider the final budget report (including statutory resolutions) on 6 March 2023.
- 5.2.6 If grant funding does not continue at the current level, there is a risk that cost pressures will emerge particularly where grants are used to support core services, e.g. sustainable social services grant. This can be mitigated by close monitoring of the budget and consultation with Welsh Government/WLGA on service pressures.
- 5.2.7 If Welsh Government does not provide indicative figures for Revenue Support Grant into the medium / longer term, there is a risk that budget planning will be adversely affected. This risk can be mitigated somewhat by robust medium term financial planning.

5.3 Legal

5.3.1 The Council has a legal duty to set a balanced budget.

5.4 Human Resources

5.4.1 There will be service change /service reduction arising from the Strategic Business Reviews included within the Bridging the Gap programme which may impact upon staff.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 Performance Information and Data

N/A

6.2 **Expected outcome for the public**

6.2.1 The proposed budget will enable the Council to protect front line services in delivering its priority areas and to continue its work to become a more commercial and resilient organisation.

6.3 Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)

- 6.3.1 To support the Council to set a budget for 2023/24, there has been an engagement process carried out to inform people of the situation and get them involved. The information presented aimed to raise awareness of what may have to be done to set a balanced budget from April 2023, and to provide the opportunity for people to feedback on key issues to help decision-making, e.g. prioritising services, setting council tax, and potential saving proposals for now and the future.
- 6.3.2 A series of engagement events were held around borough for people to attend in person, and an online session via Microsoft Teams was conducted. People were able to discuss the situation with elected members and senior managers from the Council. All those attending were encouraged to participate in a survey (available until Wednesday 15th February 2023), which was also shared on social media, with the intention being to get as many people as possible participating and sharing their views.
- 6.3.3 As of Monday 13th February 2023, over 3,500 responses had been received which equates to over 5% of the area's population. This is by far the highest level of response witnessed for a budget engagement survey carried out by the Council and has been stimulated by local people actively encouraging participation through social media platforms. Over 95% of responses are coming from people living in the area, with the remaining coming from people who work in, study in, or visit Blaenau Gwent. Responses have been received from across all age groups and from all across the areas within the borough.
- 6.3.2 The final results from the public engagement will be available following survey close and will be shared with Members by Friday 17th February 2023. They will be included at Appendix 4 to this report.

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

- 6.4.1 The Council continues its move to medium to long term financial planning. This is evidenced by:-
 - Budget proposals being considered on a five year rolling programme basis.

- The MTFS as agreed by Council in December 2022 covers the period 2023/2024 to 2026/2027 and will roll forward one year, every year. The MTFS will be reviewed and updated during 2023/2024.
- Proposals within the Bridging the Gap programme are taking a long term view of opportunities for development.
- The current approved capital programme covers the period 2019/2020 to 2025/2026 in line with the 21st Century schools programme and it is reviewed and updated periodically.

6.5 **Preventative focus**

6.5.1 Early intervention and prevention strategies are acknowledged to deliver outcomes for individuals whilst minimising / preventing escalation into the more complex, high cost services. Consequently, the Council is increasing its investment in preventative services e.g. the introduction of the Myst Team is expected to reduce costs in the medium to long term.

6.6 **Collaboration / partnership working**

- 6.6.1 The report and accompanying information has been developed in partnership with budget holders across all service areas.
- 6.7 Integration(across service areas) N/A

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

6.8.1 Screening will be undertaken on the Bridging the Gap proposals as the business cases are developed and progressed.

7. Monitoring Arrangements

- 7.1 State how the work will be monitored e.g. through scrutiny or directorate performance management arrangements
- 7.1.1 Wider Corporate Leadership Team, political groups, Corporate Overview & Performance Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

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Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLEProvisional Local Government Settlement 2023-24DATE14 December 2022BYRebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government

Today, I am publishing details of the core funding allocations for local authorities for the forthcoming financial year through the Provisional Local Government Revenue and Capital Settlements for 2023-24 (the Settlement), along with the Wales-level indicative core funding allocation for 2024-25.

Adjusting for transfers, the core revenue funding for local government in 2023-24 will increase by 7.9% on a like-for-like basis compared to the current year. No authority will receive less than a 6.5% increase. In 2023-24, local authorities will receive £5.5bn from the Welsh Government in Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and non-domestic rates (NDR) to spend on delivering key services.

In addition to this, I am publishing information on revenue and capital grants planned for the following two years. For 2023-24, these amount to over £1.3bn for revenue and over £925m for capital. We are providing these indicative grant values now so local authorities are able to plan their budgets efficiently. This information will be further updated in the final settlement.

The indicative Wales-level core revenue funding allocation for 2024-25 is £5.69bn – equating to an uplift of £169m (3.1%). This figure is indicative and dependent on both our current estimates of NDR income and any 2024-25 UK budgets.

As in recent years, this Government's priorities continue to be health and local government services. In making decisions about the level of funding for local government I have responded to the need to support key front-line services. In particular I have included funding to enable authorities to continue to meet the additional costs of introducing the Real Living Wage for care workers and to support pressures in education. I have again taken the decision to provide all the available funding up front and not hold back funding for in-year recognition of the 2023/24 teachers' pay deal. Authorities' budget planning must therefore accommodate these costs.

I know local government has been facing significant pressures and has sought to recognise the impact of inflation on the living standards of those who work in local government as well as the broader community. I hope that this increased Settlement enables local authorities to continue to deliver the services communities need as well as supporting national and local ambitions for the future.

This Settlement provides local authorities with a stable platform on which to plan their budgets for the coming financial year and beyond. We have worked closely with local government, and we appreciate the pressures local government is facing. I will continue to engage closely with local government through the WLGA.

Alongside the Settlement, we are continuing to provide funding to support local government to waive fees for child burials. This shared commitment ensures a fair and consistent approach across Wales.

In line with our focus on countering the effects of poverty, we remain committed to protecting vulnerable and low-income households from any reduction in support under the Council Tax Reduction Schemes, despite the shortfall in the funding transferred by the UK Government following its abolition of council tax benefit. We will continue to maintain full entitlements under our Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) for 2023-24 and are again providing £244m for CTRS in the Settlement in recognition of this.

As announced on 12 December, I am providing a package of non-domestic rates support worth more than £460m over the next two financial years. I am maintaining the approach taken in previous years and freezing the non-domestic rates multiplier for 2023-24. This ensures there will again be no inflationary increase in the amount of rates businesses and other ratepayers are paying.

I am also introducing a £113m, fully funded, transitional relief for all ratepayers whose bills increase by more than £300 following the UK-wide revaluation exercise, which takes effect on 1 April 2023.

Finally, the NDR support package also provides over £140m of non-domestic rates relief for retail, leisure, and hospitality businesses in Wales. Eligible ratepayers will receive 75% non-domestic rates relief for the duration of 2023-24, capped at £110,000 per business across Wales. Our approach means that businesses in Wales will receive comparable support to that provided in other parts of the UK.

I set out the position on capital funding for the Welsh Government as part of my budget statement on Tuesday. The settlement we received from the UK Government was disappointing and is not sufficient to meet our ambitions to invest in Wales' future, with our overall capital budget 8.1% lower in real terms than the current year.

Following a review of our capital budgets, general capital funding for local government for 2023-24 has been confirmed at £180m and will remain at £180m for 2024-25. Even as we meet the challenges posed by inflation, we must not lose sight of the need to maintain our focus on responding to the climate and nature emergency and contributing to the Net Zero Wales plan we have developed together. Separately I am providing £20 million capital in each year to enable authorities to respond to our joint priority of decarbonisation.

Attached to this statement is a summary table setting out the Settlement allocations (Aggregate External Finance (AEF)) by authority. The allocations are derived using the formula agreed with local government. As a result of the formula and related data, the table shows the range of the funding allocations, from a 6.5% increase over the 2022-23 settlement to a 9.3% increase. Given the significant increases, I am not proposing to include a floor this year and have allocated all the available funding in this Settlement.

Further details will be sent to all local authorities and published on the Welsh Government's website: <u>https://gov.wales/local-government-revenue-and-capital-settlement-2023-2024</u>

While this is a relatively good Settlement, building on improved allocations in recent years, I recognise that the rates of inflation we have experienced over the last few months and the forecasts from the OBR of continuing significant levels of inflation means that local government will still need to make difficult decisions in setting their budgets. It is important they engage meaningfully with their local communities as they consider priorities for the forthcoming year.

The setting of budgets, and in turn council tax, is the responsibility of each local authority. Authorities will need to take account of the full range of funding sources available to them, as well as the pressures they face, in setting their budgets for the coming year.

This announcement commences the formal seven-week consultation on the Settlement. This will end on 2 February 2023.

Summary Table

2023-24 provisional Settlement – comparison of 2022-23 AEF (adjusted for transfers) and 2023-24 provisional AEF, and distribution of the 2022-23 Council Tax Reduction Schemes funding (distributed within AEF) (£000s)

£000s

					£000s
	Adjusted 2022-23	2023-24 provisional			
Unitary authority	final AEF*	AEF	Change (£000)	Change (%)	Rank
Isle of Anglesey	114,490	123,555	9,064	7.9%	12
Gwynedd	213.017	227,843	14,826	7.0%	19
Conwy	184,915	198,413	13,498	7.3%	16
Denbighshire	173,596	187,871	14,275	8.2%	10
Flintshire	232,336	251,747	19,410	8.4%	8
Wrexham	207,279	224,621	17,342	8.4%	7
Powys	210,090	228,388	18,298	8.7%	5
Ceredigion	119,238	129,050	9,812	8.2%	9
Pembrokeshire	196,776	212,415	15,639	7.9%	11
Carmarthenshire	311,585	338,017	26,432	8.5%	6
Swansea	388,409	417,775	29,366	7.6%	14
Neath Port Talbot	258,174	276,397	18,223	7.1%	17
Bridgend	232,109	249,895	17,786	7.7%	13
The Vale Of Glamorgan	185,931	202,535	16,604	8.9%	3
Rhondda Cynon Taf	441,596	470,847	29,251	6.6%	21
Merthyr Tydfil	110,704	118,497	7,793	7.0%	18
Caerphilly	317,789	339,610	21,821	6.9%	20
Blaenau Gwent	131,057	139,597	8,540	6.5%	22
Torfaen	160,218	172,223	12,005	7.5%	15
Monmouthshire	112,020	122,490	10,470	9.3%	1
Newport	265,502	289,211	23,709	8.9%	4
Cardiff	543,810	592,891	49,081	9.0%	2
Total Unitary Authorities	5,110,643	5,513,888	403,245	7.9%	_

Note: Total may not sum correctly due to rounding

1. 2023-24 AEF adjusted transfers of £3.040m (at 2022-23 prices) into and out of the Settlement and for the latest 2023-24 tax base.

Cost Pressures 2023-2	024		Appendix 2
Portfolio	Budget Area		£
Council Related:			
Social Services	Community Care	To fund the increase in the Minimum Living Wage and inflationary pressures	881,026
Leisure	Management Fees	To fund the inflationary uplift required in line with the Funding and Management Agreements	64,800
Education	Home to School Transport	Increase in ALN Provison and increased contract costs	682,000
	Independent School Fees	Recent ALN Reform has resulted in identifying more demand for places - National issue following reform. There is insufficient capacity within BG settings to place these children therefore additional cost on Out of County Placements	232,000
	School Funding	Category Funding for additional ALN Learners within Penyswm School	161,000
	School Funding	Reduction in the ISB due to falling Pupil Numbers from September 2022	(151,554)
	New Welsh Medium School	Increase in the ISB to fund additional premises costs	105,500
Environment	Disposal of Waste	To fund increased contract costs	100,000
	Waste Services Waste Services	Additional costs associated with the transfer of Silent Valley into the Council Staffing Cost Pressure - awaiting information	280,000
	Catering	Increase in food costs as a result of high inflation	160,000
Corporate Services	Engagement & Participation, Equalities & Welsh Language Insurance Renewal	Additional Staffing Requirement Estimated increase in Insurance Premiums	81,110 76,000
Cross Cutting	Cross Cutting	Increase in Utility costs for Coumcil buildings, Car Parks & Street Lighting due to increases in utility prices (excluding Schools)	548,061
		Council Related Cost Pressures	3,219,943

Schools Cost Pressures

Education	Schools	Utility costs	2,337,000
		Pay Award - Assumed 5% for Non Teaching staff; 3.5%	
	Schools	for Teaching staff	1,955,000
	Schools	Non pay inflation assumed at 8%	811,000

School Related Cost Pressures

5,103,000

Bridging the Gap Proposals 2023/24 - 2027/28 - SUMMARY

Project	Business	Proposals	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Ref:	Case		£	£	£	£	£	£
			Lowest	Highest				
		Previously Agreed Proposals:						
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RE01	Y	Growth Strategy - Housing	100,000	150,000	160,000	120,000	0	0
ENV25	Y	Industrial Units	100,000	100,000	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd
ENV22	Y	Trade Waste	64,000	64,000	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd
	N	Commercial Activity & Investment - Projects include:	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	0	0
ENV16	Y	Wind Turbine at Silent Valley Site			77,200	tbd	tbd	tbd
	N	Parc Brynbach Solar farm						
	N	Rassau lorry park						
	N	Nantyglo School Site Development						
	N	Tredegar Industrial Estate Expansion						
	N	Ebbw Vale police Station						
	N	Tafarnaubach Wind Turbine						
	N	Civic Centre Site Development						
	N	Ebbw Vale MSCP						
	Scrutiny /							
	Executive	Prevention & Early Intervention - Establishment of						
	Report	MYST Team - Invest to Save Scheme	416,000	416,000	416,000	0	0	0
		Review of Fees & Charges for income generating						
RES02	Y	servies across the Council	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	0
		Third Party Spend (Establish a Professional Buying						
CS01	Y	Team)	396,550	396,550	100,000	100,000	0	0
		Sub Total	1,226,550	1,276,550	903,200	370,000	0	0
		Income Generation:						
SS04	Y	Income Generation - Cwrt Mytton	0	0	0	100,000	0	0
CS10	Ý	General Offices Income Generation	60,000	60,000	0	0	0	0
		Sub Total	60,000	60,000	0	100,000	Ő	0
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Project	Business	Proposals	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Ref:	Case		3	3	£	£	£	£
			Lowest	Highest				
		Budget Management:						
		Reduction in Legal Fees Budget (Childrens Social						
SS01	Y	Services)	175,000	175,000	0	0	0	0
SS02	Y	Utilisation of the Children & Communities Grant	21,025	21,025	0	0	0	0
		Review of Provider Manager Capacity (Supported						
SS06	Y	Living and Augusta / Community Options)	61,960	61,960	0	0	0	0
CS04	Y	Review of Telephony	48,000	48,000	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
		Review of Electronic Document Management &						
CS05	Y	Retention System (EDRM)	0	0	103,630			
CS07	Y	Review of digital infrastructure / systems	0	0	30,000	0	0	0
CS09		Members Remmuneration	50,000	50,000	0	0	0	0
CS11		Members Grants (Special Levy)	8,910	58,410				
RES03	Y	Reduction in the Transforrmation Fund	270,995	541,990				
		Removal of Commercial and Contract management						
RES04	Y	budget	276,850	276,850	0	0	0	0
ENV18	Y	Regeneration Income	30,000	30,000	0	0	0	0
ED02	Y	Review of Costs between Schools and LA	120,000	482,000	0	0	0	0
ED06	Y	Review of SLA Contracts	60,000	160,000	0	0	0	0
		Removal of Additional Pension Costs Budget - Aneurin						
RES05	Y	Leisure Trust	152,000					
		Sub Total	1,274,740	1,905,235	133,630	0	0	0
		Business Change:						
		Service Change / Reductions						
SS05	Y	Maximisation of Assisted Technology	0	0	0	240,000	0	0
		Review of in house dom care service and potential						
SS14	Y	externalising of extra care	0	0	TBD	0	0	0
CS06	Y	Transactional Cost Shift (Targeted Programme)	0	0	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
SS07a	Y	Reduction in Community Options (day services bases)	143,170	143,170	143,170	0	0	0

Project	Business	Proposals	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Ref:	Case		£	£	£	£	£	£
			Lowest	Highest				
SS07b	Y	Reduction in Transport at Community Options	58,200	58,200	58,200	0	0	0
SS09	Y	Capping of Community domiciliary care high-cost packages	0	0	TBD	0	0	0
SS10	Y	Closure of supported living bungalow – reducing from 4 to 3	0	0	40,000	0	0	0
SS11	Y	Income Generation - Hydrotherapy Pool (Bert Denning	0	0	0	0	0	0
SS13	Y	Outsource / Closure of Cwrt Mytton	0	0	TBD	0	0	0
		Frontline Staff Reduction within Neighbourhood						
ENV01	Y	Services	30,000	30,000	0	0	0	0
ENV02	Y	Closure of all Play Areas	50,000	50,000	0	0	0	0
ENV03 ENV04	Y Y	Reduction in Street Cleansing Provision Reduction in Street Lighting Provision	120,000 TBD	120,000 TBD	0 TBD	0 TBD	0 TBD	0 TBD
ENV04 ENV05	Y Y	Public Toilet Provision - Withdraw Funding	17,000	17,000			<u>иал</u> 0	
ENV05 ENV06	Y	Waste - Closure / Part Closure of HWRC's	70,000	100,000	0	0	0	0
ENV00 ENV07	Y	Waste - Reduction in Recycling Rounds	100,000	100,000	0	0	0	0
ENV07 ENV08	Y	Removal of School Crossing Patrollers	177,840	177,840	0	0	0	0
ENV09	Y	Removal of Match Funding re: Subsidised Bus Service	107,680	107,680	0	0	0	0
ENV11	Y	Discontinuation of Pest Control Treatment Service	35,000	35,000	0	0	0	0
ENV12	Y	Closure of Mechanical Link	41,000	41,000	0	0	0	0
ENV14	Y	Cease Support for Armistice Parades	2,400	2,400	0	0	0	0
	N	Move to 4 Weekly Refuse Collection	0	0	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
ENV23	Y	Removal of Dog Waste Bag provision	14,596	14,596	0	0	0	0
ENV24	Y	Move to Fortnightly Collection for Green Waste	63,000	63,000	0	0	0	0
ED01	Y	Reduction in ISB Schools Funding	252,000	1,500,000	0	0	0	0

Project	Business	Proposals	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Ref:	Case		£	£	£	£	£	£
			Lowest	Highest				
ED07a &								
ENV	Y	Home to School Transport Service Review	0	0	58,000	TBD	TBD	TBD
ED08	Y	Aneurin Leisure Trust Management Fee - review of ser	92,000	246,000	tbd	tbd	0	0
		Sub Total	1,373,886	2,805,886	299,370	240,000	0	0
		Business Opportunities:						
ENV19	Y	Establishment of Regional Staffing Agency	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
		Establishment of Regional Design / Maintenance						
ENV20	Y	Team	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
ENV21	Y	Regional Approach - Sale of Recyclate	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
	N	Introduction of Parking Charges	0	0	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
ED05	Y	ALN Reform - Placement Review	0	0	0	TBD	TBD	TBD
		Sub Total	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Cross Cutting:						
CC02	N	Review of Operational Buildings	250,000	250,000	0	0	0	0
0002	IN	Review of Operational Buildings	250,000	250,000	0	0	0	0
	N	Collaborative Service Delivery	0	0	0	TBD	TBD	TBD
		Review of Procurement & Commissioning						
CS08	Y	arrangements	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
		Sub Total	250,000	250,000	0	0	0	0
		Overall Total	4,185,176	6,297,671	1,336,200	710,000	0	0
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#### Bridging The Gap – Proposal

Proposal Title:	Growth Strategy – Housing	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Rhian Hayden
Ref No:	RE01	Directorate:	Resources
Date:	03/01/2022 (Updated)	Section:	Council Tax

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

# Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Our Growth Strategy describes our ambition for developing our Borough and creating new communities. This will involve a programme of housing development that will see an impact on our revenue streams through increased Council Tax. This will contribute to the MTFS and is a critical element of building strong communities.

House building within the borough is continuing with a number of new dwellings now occupied including the larger sites of:

- Golwg Y Bryn £16.8 million Lovell development of 100 homes (70 open market, 30 affordable).
- Carn Y Cefn £29million Persimmon development of 277 homes (222 private, 55 affordable). Annual build target 30 units (up to 50 depending on sales demand). 5 phase development.
- Northgate 56 homes (51 open market, 5 affordable. Annual build rate 25 30 per/annum, 2 year build programme.
- Ashvale Circa 70 homes (63 open market, 7 affordable).

The Housing Trajectory indicates the following projections (for sites with planning permission and an allowance for small sites):-

2022-23: 188 2023 -24: 209 2024-25: 157

A prudent estimate based on council tax at Band B (£1,600) and assuming increased costs reduce income to net 50% the increased council tax yield would be approximately:-

2023-24£150,0002024-25£160,0002025-26£120,000

Supporting Data: Please answer the following questions, with information available at this stage. Further information may need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:         Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent         Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities         An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place         x       Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient         Additional Comments::
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?		There will be an increase on demand for other public services such as refuse collection, education etc. which will increase costs to the Council. Wider services provided for the community (e.g. leisure, retail etc) should be impacted positively ie wider economic benefit of the £ spent in Blaenau Gwent.
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?		$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$

	Additional Comments:
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Investment Required         2023/24         2024/25         2025/26         2026/27         2027/28         £
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?	Ref       Benefit         1       Better & Increased number of housing for residents         2       Enhanced reputation for BG as a place to live         3

#### Bridging The Gap – Proposal

Proposal Title:	Further savings from Industrial Portfolio income	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Steve Smith
Ref No:	ENV25	Directorate:	R&CS
Date:	13/02/2023	Section:	Development and Estates

Version	Date	Changes Made
1	13.02.23	
2		

# Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

As part of the original Bridging the Gap proposals the management arrangements for the Council's Industrial Units are being changed and improved to enable us to gain more funding from the portfolio.

Work has continued despite the recruitment issues to the industrial units' surveyor to manage the portfolio. However, leases are being renewed for greater charges per square foot, in line with commercial rents; enforcement is being carried out to ensure we receive rents for the units; and some new units are being brought back onto the market through improvement works. This has enabled the Council to offer up more income towards the BTG proposals.

The industrial units will still need to be maintained and managed properly with a sufficient maintenance budget provision, but the income has risen over the past three years.

All units will have to pass the new regulations in terms of energy efficiency and EPCs, this many mean some have to be improved so that they pass, with effect from 1st April 2023 this requirement will be extended to both new and existing leases. This means that landlords cannot continue to let or sub-let a commercial property with an EPC rating of less than E.

In terms of future income, we have to be mindful that although we are in a better position in terms of income generation overall, that the current economic circumstances are risky as we will see more SMEs going into administration due to high inflation and the pressure of very high utility bills. This could see income fall over the next few years but we do not know how much or to what extent at this point.

Supporting Data: Please	se answe	r the follow	wing que	estions,	, with information available at this
stage. Further information	tion may	need to be	e added	prior to	o finalisation of proposal.
		-			

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	es this proposal							
	gn with the							
	prporate Plan?							
Pie	ck One:							
•	Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent	Y						
•	Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities	N						
•	An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place	Y						
•	Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient	Y						
W	hat is the impact		There should be r	o impact o	on the p	ublic an	d other s	services
				io impact.			u ouror .	501 110000.
the	this proposal on e public & other rvices?							
the se	e public & other rvices?							
the se Wi	e public & other rvices? Il this proposal	Y	Description	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
the se Wi ha	e public & other rvices?	Y		£	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
the se Wi ha	e public & other rvices? Il this proposal ve any financial	Y	Description Increased income					
the se Wi ha	e public & other rvices? Il this proposal ve any financial	Y	Increased	£				
the se Wi ha	e public & other rvices? Il this proposal ve any financial	Y	Increased	£				
the se Wi ha	e public & other rvices? Il this proposal ve any financial	Y	Increased	£				
the se Wi ha	e public & other rvices? Il this proposal ve any financial	Y	Increased income	£ £100,000				
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the se Wi ha be	e public & other rvices? Il this proposal ve any financial nefit?		Increased income	£ £100,000				
the se Wi ha be	e public & other rvices? Il this proposal ve any financial nefit? Il this proposal	Y	Increased income Additional Comme	£ £100,000	£	£	£	£
the se Wi ha be	e public & other rvices? Il this proposal ve any financial nefit? Il this proposal quire investment		Increased income	£ £100,000				
the se Wi ha be	e public & other rvices? Il this proposal ve any financial nefit? Il this proposal		Increased income Additional Comme	£ £100,000	£	£	£	£
the se Wi ha be	e public & other rvices? Il this proposal ve any financial nefit? Il this proposal quire investment		Increased income Additional Comme	£ £100,000	£	£	£	£
the se Wi ha be	e public & other rvices? Il this proposal ve any financial nefit? Il this proposal quire investment		Increased income Additional Comme	£ £100,000	£	£	£	£

		Additional Comments:         To increase the energy efficiency of those industrial units that are not at rating E. Without this we cannot rent out the buildings.
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?	Y	Ref       Benefit         1       Retains and grows SMEs in BG         2       Provides supply chain space for larger companies in BG         3

#### Bridging The Gap – Proposal

Proposal Title:	Trade Waste Service – Increase fees	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Matt Stent
Ref No: Date:	ENV22 07/02/23	Directorate: Section:	Community Services Neighbourhood Services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1	07/02/23	1 st Draft
2		

# Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Increase fees to current customer base [including local businesses and internal depts.] for Commercial premises waste collections. This is an Environmental Act compliant service and as such does work out slightly more expensive than other commercial waste collections. This may have a detrimental effect on 'selling' the service to businesses over the next 12 months given the down-turn in the economy.

To achieve the value stated below, a 20% uplift in fees to customers will be required, or an increase in the number of customers. This proposal may require more time to reach its potential growth.

Total saving / additional income - £64,000

Supporting Data: Please answer the following questions, with information available at this stage. Further information may need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
<ul> <li>Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan?</li> <li>Pick One:</li> <li>Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent</li> <li>Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable</li> </ul>	N	Our service actively encourages businesses to recycling more effectively.

<ul> <li>connected communities</li> <li>An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place</li> <li>Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient</li> </ul>	Y	Delivering a weekly kerbside, Environment Act compliant, collection service					
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?		Price increase for in school canteens ar of current custome	nd Corpoi	ate Lar	idlord pi	remises	[27.5%
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Y	Description         Additional         income         Additional         Additional         Comment	2023/24 £ £64,000 ts:	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	N	Investment Required         Additional Comment         Could work with partment         help advertise the environment         wish to use the service         term proposal.)	ers like Bu /ironmenta	l complia	nce to the	ose busine	esses who

Will this proposal	Y	
have any non-		Ref Benefit
financial impacts?		1
		2
		3
		4
		5
		Ref Disadvantage
		1 Reputational damage
		2 Reduction in customer base as increasing costs will
		likely lead to customers going elsewhere for the
		service
		3 No scope for re-investment in the service
		4 Does not allow for any future pay increase
		5 Does not allow for any future increase in gate fees & services
		Additional Comments:
		Expected loss of customers and therefore income, strong risk of not achieving the £64,000 in the short term.

Proposal	Wind Turbine at Silent	Lead / Responsible	Amy Taylor/ Ellie Fry
Title:	Valley Site	Officer:	
Ref No:	ENV16	Directorate:	R&CS
Date:	11/11/2022	Section:	

Version	Date	Changes Made
1	12/12/23	Format and clarification
2		

### Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Proposal:

- To install a wind turbine at the former Silent Valley Landfill Site for the generation of renewable energy
- To utilise the renewable energy to power the operations at Silent Valley
- To export and sell any underutilised electricity to the grid
- Various options modelled 80% export and 20% used on site, 50% export and 50% used on site, 20% export and 80% used on site
- Estimates indicate a net financial benefit of £77,000 per annum as a minimum

This proposal is at planning application stage and is also going through the procurement process alongside planning. Build could happen later in 2023 if capital funding is agreed with income generation from the end of the year.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan ?	Y	Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:         Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent         ✓       Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable
		connected communities
		An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place
		Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient

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	Additional Comments:: This project will help the Council with its target to become net zero by 2030.
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services ?	The proposal will require investment in the early years of operation
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Description       2023/24       2024/25       2025/26       2026/27       2027/28         Financial benefit       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £<
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Investment Required       2023/24       2024/25       2025/26       2026/27       2027/28         Capital Expenditure       £1.97m

Will this proposal		
have any non-	Ref	Benefit
financial impacts?	1	Assist the Council to become carbon neutral
initialitical impacto :	2	Assist with increasing locally owned renewable generation
	3	
	4	
	5	
	Ref	Disadvantage
	1	Public perception of wind turbines
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
		·
	Add	itional Comments:

Proposal	Income Generation – Fees	Lead / Responsible	Rhian Hayden
Title:	& Charges	Officer:	
Ref No:	RE02	Directorate:	Resources
Date:	13/01/2022	Section:	Cross Cutting

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

### Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

One of the strategic business reviews is Fees & Charges with a target to deliver an additional £100,000 income towards the funding gap identified in the MTFS.

The Council has SLAs in place with Aneurin Leisure Trust and Schools to provide direct services (catering and cleaning) and support services (OD, Finance, Legal etc). The SLAs generate income (based on 22/23) of £3.18m from Schools and £158,000 from the Leisure Trust.

The annual uplift applied to the SLA charges is included within the SLA agreements between the Council and the relevant organisation, and this states that for:

- support services, charges are uplifted by CPI at the December prior to the start of the financial year and
- direct services will be reviewed on an annual basis in line with service requirements.

CPI at December 2022 was 10.5% (10.7% for November),

The 2023/2024 MTFS assumptions include no uplift to the Fess & Charges budgets.

Increasing SLA's by CPI will have the following impact on Customers:

Aneurin Leisure Trust: £16,560

Schools:

Increase %	Overall financial impact £	Largest school Increase £	Average Increase £	Impact on Income for Council £
10.5%	334,775	55,235	13,390	334,775

Given that the SLA's were developed when the expectations of CPI levels were significantly lower consideration can be given to diverting from current arrangements (with customer agreement) and increasing SLA's at lower rates that CPI.

Given that most of the costs relate to staffing, there is merit in considering a 5% increase to SLA – this is based upon the current assumption of pay increases for 2023/24 and would be in line with full cost recovery.

#### Aneurin Leisure Trust

Increasing support services SLAs in line with the SLA agreement and CPI of 10.5% will generate income of £11,500, and increasing cleaning by 10.5% will generate £5,060 towards this target and the budget funding gap.

As the increase to the management fee is also based on CPI, (as of September prior to the start of the financial year,) which is 10.1%, it is proposed to apply the original uplift in line with the SLA agreement.

(NB:There is a business case proposing a reduction to the management fee).

### <u>Schools</u>

Should the Council increase the SLAs with schools by 10.5%, this result in additional costs for schools of £334,775 for 2023/2024, with the average increase per school of £13,390 (the largest increase £55,235). This level of increase exceeds the proposed uplift in funding within the MTFS of 3%, thus adding to the current cost pressures facing schools with the pay award and energy increases.

An increase of 10.5% on all SLA's would generate additional income for the Council of £334,775 to contribute towards the funding gap, whilst creating a cost pressure for schools.

This Business case proposes deviating from the SLA agreement with schools. The table below shows the financial impact of a range of options:

Increase %	Impact on Costs for Schools £	Largest school Increase £	Average Increase £	Impact on Income for Council £
2% (BoE target inflation rate)	63,770	10,520	2,550	63,770
3% (MTFS assumption for funding uplift	95,650	15,780	3,826	95,650
5% (MTFS assumption for pay award)	159,417	26,302	6,377	159,420
10.5%	334,775	55,235	13,391	334,775

As the costs to the Council in delivering the SLAs are mainly staffing costs, it is proposed to increase the SLAs by 5% in line with the pay award assumption to maintain the principle of full cost recovery which will minimise the cost pressure to schools, ensure that full cost recovery is

maintained (depending on the 23/24 pay award) and deliver  $\pounds$ 159,000 towards the BtG target of  $\pounds$ 100,000.

In previous years schools would have benefited from increases in funding exceeding increases in SLA costs, e.g. for 2022/2023 the ISB increase was 8.4%, whilst CPI was 5.4%.

The overall financial impact for the Council if the preferred options are agreed is an achievement of £175,560 against the target efficiency of £100,000.

Proposing increasing the charges for Catering and cleaning charges may result in schools renegotiating service levels in order to reduce costs, therefore, it is proposed to leave the efficiency target at £100,000 to mitigate against cost pressure materialising in 2023/2024. This will be reviewed when charges finalised.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Question Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan ?	Y/N	Comments / impact         Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:         Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent         Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities         An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place         Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient

	Additional Comments::
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services ?	Service continues to be provided at the current level whilst minimising cost pressures for schools. Any increase below 5% will result in less than cost recovery.
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Description $2023/24$ $\pounds$ $2024/25$ $\pounds$ $2025/26$ $\pounds$ $2026/27$ $\pounds$ $2027/28$ $\pounds$ Increase in Income – Leisure16,560IncomeIncomeTrustIncomeIncomeIncomeSchools – 2%63,770IncomeIncomeSchools – 3%95,650IncomeIncomeSchools – 5%159,417IncomeIncomeSchools – 10.5%334,775IncomeIncomeAdditional Comments:IncomeTrust and 5% for Schools would generate additional income of £175,560
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Investment Required         2023/24         2024/25         2025/26         2026/27         2027/28         £           N/A
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?	Ref         Benefit           1

I

Ref	Disadvantage
1	Customers may opt to change service levels to
	reduce costs
2	
3	
4	
5	
Add	itional Comments:

Proposal Title:	Establishing a Professional Buying Team	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Bernadette Elias / Lee Williams
Ref No:	CS01	Directorate:	Commercial Services
Date:	31.10.22	Section:	Procurement

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Establish a virtual team of professional buyers to oversee the organisations 3rd party ordering requirements. Given the impending budget pressures, it is imperative that all 3rd party expenditure for goods, services and works is undertaken in a compliant manner i.e.

- i) orders raised in advance of committing expenditure and not retrospectively (this will enable the authority to implement it's no PO no payment policy);
- ii) increased spend with contracted suppliers and reduction of off-contract spend (an area where we aren't able to apply the council's terms and conditions as protection);

Question	Y/N	Com	ments / ir	npact					
Does this proposal align with the	Y	Pleas	e indicate	which priorit	v the propos	al links to:			
Corporate Plan?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to: Maximise learning and skills for all to create a							
Pick One:				ous, thrivir					
				,	0,				
			Respor	nd to the na	ature and o	climate cris	sis and e	enable	
			connec	ted commu	unities				
					·				
		X		oitious and					
			place	services at	the light t	ime and in	i the rigi	11	
			place						
			Empow	ering and	supporting	communi	ties to b	e safe.	
				ndent and r				,	
		Addi	tional Cor	nments:					
				L L C Ord					
What is the impact of this proposal on				trol of 3 rd p		naiture thre	ougn		
the public & other		appropriate check & challenge.							
services?		Will r	eauire sc	ome realigr	ment of so	ome iob ro	les curr	entlv	
			•	ss the orga		-			
		team	of profes	sional buy	ers.				
Will this proposal		Descri	ntion	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	
have any financial benefit?			·	£	£	£	£	£	
benefit		Savir	igs as a						
			ssional						
		buyin							
				396,550	100,000	100,000			
		Addi	tional Cor	nments:				]	
For the period 01.04.22 – 05.09.22, 7,312 orders raised totalling			ng						
		£51,3	847,886.54						
		Ests	avings of a	approx. 0.5%					
				1 1					

Will this proposal	
Will this proposal	Investment Required 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 2026/27 2027/28
require investment to implement?	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
	Additional Comments:
	The proposal would require that a number of existing staff with
	responsibility for placing orders / processing invoice payments etc.be
	redeployed to support procurement officers.
Will this proposal	
have any non-	Ref Benefit
financial impacts?	1 Maximising internal skills and capacity
	2 Greater compliance with Financial Regulations and
	Contract Procedure Rules
	3
	4
	5
	Ref Disadvantage
	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
	Additional Comments:

Proposal	Income Generation - Cwrt	Lead / Responsible	Alyson Hoskins
Title:	Mytton	Officer:	-
Ref No:	SS04	Directorate:	Social Services
Date:	08/11/22	Section:	Adult services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

### Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Cwrt Mytton is a 36 beds home for people with dementia.

The home currently accommodates 24 residents. Each resident is assessed as to the contributions they can make to the care they receive. There are currently 4 residents who pay a full charge for their care, the remaining residents pay varying rates according to their financial assessment.

The current net budget for 2022/23 is  $\pounds$ 1.2M, which at Quarter 2 is projecting an overspend of  $\pounds$ 0.154M. This cost pressure is mainly due to the staffing budget projecting an overspend of  $\pounds$ 0.270M as a result of recruitment & retention issues and therefore agency staff being used at a higher cost.

The Customer & Client Receipts budget of  $\pounds$ 323,000 is currently forecast to achieve  $\pounds$ 443.000 and is partially offsetting this staffing overspend by  $\pounds$ 0.120M, due to the income received from client contributions.

This proposal requires work to be done over the next 2 yrs to address the recruitment issues in Cwrt Myton, set a clear vision and plan to increase the numbers of residents accommodated in Cwrt Myton which could result in income generation from the contributions made by residents

The achievement of this proposal is subject to the outcome of SS13 – the closure/outsourcing of Cwrt Mytton.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Does this proposal		
align with the		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:
Corporate Plan ?		Maximise learning and skills for all to create a
		prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent
		Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable
		connected communities
		An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality
		services at the right time and in the right place
		Services at the right time and in the right place
		Empowering and supporting communities to be safe,
		independent and resilient
		Additional Comments:
What is the impact		If a clear vision and plan can be realised this will have a
of this proposal on		positive impact for the people of Blaenau Gwent as it will
the public & other		enable greater provision of dementia services closer to home.
services ?		It could also attract people from outside Blaenau Gwent to use
		this provision resulting in income generation
Will this proposal		
have any financial		Description 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 2026/27 2027/28
benefit?		£ £ £ £
		£100,00
		·
		Additional Comments:

Will this proposal require investment	Investment Required 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 2026/27 2027/28 £ £ £ £ £						
to implement?							
	Additional Comments: Yes, we are in the process of having discussions about making a capital bid to the Regional Integration Fund to improve the facilities at Cwrt Myton						
Will this proposal							
have any non-	Ref Benefit						
financial impacts?	1 If the staffing pressure is resolved and staffing numbers increased over the next 18 months we can then offer more places to meet the need of local people with dementia						
	2 Increased numbers of residents will generate more income						
	3						
	4						
	5						
	Ref Disadvantage						
	1						
	2						
	3						
	5						
	Additional Comments:						

Proposal Title:	Income Generation – General Offices	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Sarah King/Ellie Fry
Ref No:	CS10	Directorate:	Corporate Services/Regeneration & Community Services
Date:		Section:	

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

A number of rooms in the General Offices were provided as part of a Democratic Hub for Members, following the election in 2022 (in line with the legislative requirement for Members to have access to offices/rooms). Following a review of the usage of the rooms, it has been agreed that some of those rooms can be re-designated and be offered for internal/external room hire/booking. A group of officers has discussed the re-designation and is agreeing the future management/booking of the rooms, and movement of the hybrid system from the main Chamber into some of the smaller rooms.

Whilst the Democratic Services team will maintain some responsibility for those rooms allocated primarily to Members, the Business Support team in the GO will oversee and manage any external room hire/bookings and subsequent income generation.

		swer the following questions, with information available at this nay need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.		
Question	Y/N	Comments / impact		
Does this proposal				
align with the		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:		
Corporate Plan?		X Maximise learning and skills for all to create a		
		prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent		
		X Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities		
		X An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place		
		X Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient		

		L							
		Additional Comments::							
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?		We are providing an opportunity for local and regional businesses and entrepreneurs to utilise a modern and innovative meeting space(s) with the use of a hybrid system.							
Will this proposal have any financial		Descri	iption	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	
benefit?		Inco	-	£ 60,000	£	£	£	£	
		Additional Comments: This is an estimate based on the figures provided by the Business Support team at the GO for a previous years income generation receipts.							
Will this proposal require investment		Invest	ment Required	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £	
to implement?									
		Additional Comments:							
		There may be some costs to move the hybrid system into the smaller rooms and re-configure the rooms – this will be confirmed in January following meetings with contractors.							

Will this proposal		
have any non-	Ref	Benefit
financial impacts?	1	Modern and innovative office space available in the locality for businesses and entrepreneurs to hire out
	Ref	Disadvantage
	1 2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	Addi	itional Comments:

Proposal Title:	Reduction in the Children's Services Legal Budget	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Alison Ramshaw
Ref No:	SS01	Directorate:	Social Services
Date:	08/11/22	Section:	Childrens services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

The proposal is to cut the legal budget by £175,000.

In the past legal services were delivered by the local authority. However due to staff leaving and the inability to recruit new solicitors at the time, following a tendering exercise children's legal services were then delivered by a private law firm. This resulted in excessive costs for this service leading to this budget line consistently overspending.

To mitigate against this a collaborative arrangement was entered into with Caerphilly CBC who now deliver Childrens services legal

The total legal budget is  $\pounds$ 756,700 (this includes  $\pounds$ 123,340 which is pass ported to children's services from the legal department which previously covered the costs of LA solicitors)

The cost of the SLA with Caerphilly is £306,739

This leaves £449,961

£275,000 will need to be retained in the budget to pay for court applications, independent assessments and barrister fees

Leaving £175,000 which can be put forward as savings

Question	Y/N	Comn	nents / impac	t				
Does this proposal								
align with the		Pleas	e indicate which	priority the pr	oposal lir	nks to:		
Corporate Plan ?		no	no Maximise learning and skills for all to create a					
			prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent					
			• •	0				
		no	Respond to	the nature a	and clim	nate cris	is and e	nable
			connected c					
		yes	An ambitiou	s and innov	ative co	ouncil de	liverina	quality
			services at t					
						g.		
		Yes	Empowering	and suppo	ortina co	mmunit	ies to be	safe
			independen					cure,
			maoponaon					
		L	<u> </u>					
		Addit	ional Commen	fo.:				
		Audit		15				
What is the impact		Thoro	io minimol in	poot if this	nropoor	al in taka	n forwa	rd
What is the impact			is minimal in					
of this proposal on			ng into a colla		•		•	illy has
the public & other services ?		reduc	ed the financi	ai burden o	n uns b	udget in	le	
services ?								
Will this proposal		Descrip	ation	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
have any financial		Descrip		2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/20 £
benefit?		Redu	uction of	£175,000				
		legal	budget					
				1				
		Addit	ional Commen	ts:				

Will this proposal	
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Investment Required         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Investment Required         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1         1
	Additional Comments:
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?	Ref         Benefit           1
	RefDisadvantage1
	Additional Comments: no

Proposal Title:	Maximisation of the Children & Communities Grant (CCG)	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Alison Ramshaw
Ref No:	SS02	Directorate:	Social Services
Date:	08/11/22	Section:	Childrens Services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

There are certain officer posts funded via the RSG within Children's Services that line manage officers that deliver preventative services within Families First which sits under the children and communities grant. At this time no costs are recovered from this grant to fund the line management support

The officer post in question is Service Manager post BG03509.

The cost of the post at the top of the scale is £84,100

This post currently has 4 direct reports so her time would be divided equally between these.

Her salary divided by 4 would result in £21,025 being funded from the Children and Communities Grant.

Supporting Data: Please answer the following questions, with information available at this stage. Further information may need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.					
Question	Y/N	Comments / impact			
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan ?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:         y       Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent         Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable			
		y An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place			

	y       Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient         Additional Comments::						
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other	line p	will have an osts, which ing needs fr	will in turn	reduce p			
services ?							
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	supp	agement oort for CCG tional Comme		£	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
Will this proposal require investment to implement?		ment Required	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 2 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £

Will this proposal		
have any non-	Ref	Benefit
financial impacts?	1	Bonon
intaricial impacts?	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	Ref	Disadvantage
	1	There will be a reduction in front line support posts
		to cover this management charge. This will reduce
		services to prevent needs from escalating
	2	
	3	
	4	
	_	
	5	
	Add	itional Comments:
	L	

#### Bridging The Gap -

Proposal Title:	Review of Provider manager capacity across Supported Living and Augusta / Community Options	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Alyson Hoskins / Alison Minett/ Mary Welch
Ref No:	SS06	Directorate:	Social Services
Date:	27/11/22	Section:	Provider Services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1	19/01/23	Revised CO costings added MW – report embedded
2	29/1/23	Confirmed SL/ Augusta report embedded

Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Report submitted to SLT to change the management structure across:

**Option proposal 1** – Supported Living and Augusta – phase 1 saving  $\pounds$ 45,000 – (further savings possible following phase 2 should an additional bungalow be closed (4 to 3) - report submitted to SLT/ CLT w/c 29th Jan 23

**Option proposal 2** – Community Options management review - £16,960 - approved by SLT / CLT 24/11/22 – implemented from 01.12.23

Both proposals involve deleting vacant posts and restructuring management arrangements by:

#### Option 1.

Reducing from 4 registered managers to 3 by, deleting the Registered managers post at Augusta (scale 8) and reconfiguring the funds from this post to enable;

- one manager scale 10 over both SL and Augusta.
- bolstering Deputy manager roles across SL and Augusta
- reviewing scale 6 team leader posts

#### Option 2.

Restructure the Community Options Management team by deleting the scale 7 post (37hrs) and utilise the funds to increase the hours on the vacant scale 8 post (15hrs). **This option has been achieved as of 1/1/23** and the grade 7 post will be removed from the structure 23/24, resulting in a saving of £4,000 for the remaining 3 months of 22/23 and a full 12 months saving of £16,960

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact			
Does this proposal	.,				
align with the		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:			
Corporate Plan ?		Maximise learning and skills for all to create a			
		prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent			
		Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities			
		An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place			
		Yes Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient			
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services ?		Additional Comments::         Options 1 a and 2 are currently being finalised and savings are already being made due to temporary staffing arrangements in place pending final agreement by SLT / CLT.			
Will this proposal		Description 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 2026/27 2027/28			
have any financial benefit?		£ £ £ £			
bonont:		Option 1a –45,000staffing (Supported Living & Augusta House)45,000			
		Option 2 - 16,960 Community Options			
		Total 61,960			

	Additional Comments: Report submitted to SLT for options 1a and 2 – staff and trade union discussions have commenced – OD are aware and supporting – posts are currently vacant .						
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	No	nent Required	2023/24 £ 	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?	Ref         1         2         3         4         5         Ref         1         2         3         4         5	Benefit Streamlines no impact fo Consolidates from 2023 Disadvantage None	r service s and up	recipie	nts	_	

Proposal Title:	Review of telephony (to include customer access and mobile phones)	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Bernadette Elias / Leanne Roberts
Ref No:	CS04	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Date:	10/11/22	Section:	Commercial &
			Customer

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

# Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

2 phase approach to undertaking this review

#### Phase 1

Review of telephony (this has recently commenced) to establish telephony needs of services across the LA to include;

- Mobile phones (currently 957 devices, circa £120k per annum);
- Desk phones;
- Soft phones.

#### <u>Phase 2</u>

Building on the recent external organisation review of Customer access & offer (due to be presented to CLT 9th February 2023) a proposed review of the various teams and functions that offer a telephony service to residents to consider opportunities for consolidation and or streamlining an enhanced service.

Baseline data of the main telephone lines into the Local Authority, including demand on those telephone lines, to focus on cost of telephony service as a whole. The review would give a clearer oversight of the number of FTEs involved in dealing with customer contact via the telephone.

The review would aim to identify financial efficiencies which would need to be identified as part of a scoping exercise which would include staffing and systems, initial thoughts would include;

- IAA (including Out of Hours service)
- Contact Centre (including Out of Hours service)
- Revenues and Bens telephony services;
- Business Support, where telephony functions are offered to residents on behalf of a specific service;

- Children and young people information service; Any other telephony services to be identified. •
- •

		ower the following questions, with information available at this ay need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.		
Question	Y/N	Comments / impact		
Does this proposal	.,			
align with the		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:		
Corporate Plan?		Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent		
		X Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities		
		X An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place		
		Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient		
What is the impact		Additional Comments::		
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?		Aiming for a single platform for LA telephony service which would not have a negative impact on the public. Potentially an element of service redesign for some services with increased resilience in some areas. Any consolidation and efficiencies would need to ensure an acceptable level of service delivery.		

Will this proposal						
have any financial	Description 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 2026/27 2027/28					
benefit?	£££££Potential reduction in number of staffTBDTBD					
	Reduction of     TBD     TBD       systems /     integration of     systems					
	Reduce third     48,000     TBD       party spend     Image: spend     Image: spend					
	Additional Comments: Findings from the external review should provide some opportunities around this					
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Investment Required         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Image: Second secon					
	Additional Comments:					
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?	Ref       Benefit         1       Resilience of telephony services across the Local Authority         2       Consistent approach / standards to telephony across the Local Authority         3					
	RefDisadvantage1Level of service would need to be maintained2Some service redesign activity would need to take place3					

4 5	
Additional Comments: Recognition that in future years, some region / sub regional working arrangements could be explored with regards to delivering telephone services	

Proposal Title:	Review of current Electronic document management and retention system (EDRM)	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Bernadette Elias / Leanne Roberts
Ref No:	CS05	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Date:	10/11/22	Section:	Commercial & Customer

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

### Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Undertake a review of our current electronic document management (EDM) solution

The current contract for EDM is with Civica.

This project supports the Bridging the Gap Third Party Spend Project and the Council's objective of maximising the use of key corporate digital solutions such as Microsoft.

Sharepoint is a cloud-based platform that integrates with Microsoft and is used as a document management and storage system and is included with our current Microsoft licencing.

More in depth learning from other Las who have under taken this approach has been undertaken which evidences that savings being realised in 2023/24 is extremely unlikely.

Both Monmouthshire and Torfaen have completed an EDM review and are moving to Sharepoint for their document management solution. The review has taken approximately 18 months to complete and they have awarded a contract to a third party that will migrate their documents to Sharepoint over the next 2 years.

Feedback from the two LA's outlines their timescales of approximately 3 years to complete. Once implemented the benefits to the Council and its new operating model are significant in relation to efficiency, collaboration and cost savings.

We are collating information on the storage size and number of files currently being held across network drives and our current Civica EDM system. This is totalling approximately 18 terabytes/ approximately 27 million files. This does not include personal network drives or other digital systems. This is similar to the figures quoted by partner authorities.

The current EDM contract costs approximately £80k per year which, following implementation to Sharepoint, will create a saving. The cloud-based solution for Civica EDM costs significantly more. This contract is due for renewal on 1st April 2023.

Learning from the experience of T & M, there will be a need for investment into data cleansing, retention tags, file indexing, migration of documents and training for staff by a third party.

Supporting Data: Please answer the following questions, with information available at this stage. Further information may need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal. Y/N Question Comments / impact Does this proposal Please indicate which priority the proposal links to: align with the Maximise learning and skills for all to create a Corporate Plan? prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities Х An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient Additional Comments: What is the impact Aiming for a streamlined process, maximisation of current of this proposal on contracts which would not have a negative impact on the public the public & other services?

Description         2023/24         2024/25         2025/26         2026/27         2027/28
£££££Termination of the contract if identified as achievable103,630
If contract remains, potential reduction / integration of systems       TBD       Image: Contract of the system         Additional Comments:       If decision is made to move organisation to SharePoint as part of sweating the 365 contract then termination of current Civica Contract would need to be negotiated.
Investment Required       2023/24       2024/25       2025/26       2026/27       2027/28         tbd
Ref       Benefit         1       Maximisation of other systems (O365) and associated functionalities         2       Streamline of services and continuity of document management across the LA         3       Ownership of document management across the LA         4       Enhanced retention process

		Supporting new operating model (where some
		services still using paper)
F	Ref	Disadvantage
	1	Staff resource will be required throughout the review
		to support
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	0	
	<b>A</b> al al in	tional Comments:
	Addi	tional Comments:

Proposal Title:	Review of digital infrastructure/systems	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Bernadette Elias / Leanne Roberts
Ref No:	CS07	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Date:	30/11/22	Section:	Commercial & Customer

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

This proposal will ensure that licences and contracts are maximised and managed in the most cost effective way.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact	
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:         Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent         Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities	
		X An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place	
		Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient	

	Additional Comments::
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?	Aiming for a more streamlined cost effective way of managing these 3 key areas No impact on Public
Will this proposal have any financial	Description         2023/24         2024/25         2025/26         2026/27         2027/28
benefit?	Description $Local + Local + $
	Moving of type of licences for staffTBD5,000
	Recontracting of Data lines     TBD     5,000
	Cancelation of TBD 5,000 PSNA lines
	Additional Comments: Review of work has commenced to identify opportunities
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Investment Required         2023/24         2024/25         2025/26         2026/27         2027/28           £         £         £         £         £         £         £
	Additional Comments:

Will this proposal	
have any non-	Ref Benefit
financial impacts?	1 Potential maximisation of (O365) and associated
	Licences
	2 Streamline of lines across the LA
	3
	4
	5
	Ref Disadvantage
	1 Staff resource will be required throughout the review
	to support
	2
	3
	4
	5
	Additional Comments:

Proposal Title:	Members Remuneration – reduction to budget	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Sarah King / Gemma Wasley
Ref No:	CS09	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Date:	04/01/2023 (Updated)	Section:	

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

The local government elections in May 2022 reduced the number of elected members for Blaenau Gwent from 42 to 33.

The outcome of the elections saw a high number of new Councillors most of whom to date have not opted to join the Local Government Pension Scheme. As a consequence of this the budget for Members Remuneration (which includes an assumed level of pension contributions) is currently forecasting a favourable variance.

It is proposed that for 2023/24 onwards the budget is reduced by £50,000 (should members decide to join the LGPS subsequently this may result in a cost pressure and alternative funding will need to be identified).

As at Q2: 2022/23 budget £925,040 Forecast £877,440

Favourable Variance £47,600

Supporting Data: Please answer the following questions, with information available at this stage. Further information may need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.			
Question	Y/N	Comments / impact	
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan ?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:         Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent	
		Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities	

	x       An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place         Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient         Additional Comments::
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services ?	Not Applicable
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Description         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Budget Reduction         50,000         Image: Comparison of the second
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Investment Required         2023/24         2024/25         2025/26         2026/27         2027/28         £           Not applicable

e
st pressure should Members opt to join the
nments:

Proposal	Members Grants –	Lead / Responsible	Chief Officer
Title:	Budget reduction	Officer:	Resources
Ref No:	CS11	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Date:	09/01/2023	Section:	

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

# Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

The 2022/23 budget for Members Grants is  $\pounds$ 58,410. Each elected Member has an allocation of  $\pounds$ 1,770 that can be allocated to local organisations / groups to support their activities.

These grants are discretionary and can be discontinued / reduced.

Option 1 – Discontinue grants – Financial impact £58,410 Option 2a – reduce level of grant to £1,500 per Member – financial impact £8,910 Option 2b – reduce level of grant to £1,300 per Member – financial impact £15,510

Supporting Data: Please answer the following questions, with information available at this stage. Further information may need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.			
Question	Y/N	Comments / impact	
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan ?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:         Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent         Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities	

	Additional Comments:
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Investment Required         2023/24         2024/25         2025/26         2026/27         2027/28           £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £
	Additional Comments:
	level of grant to       £1,300 per member
	Option 2a - reduce level of grant to £1,500 per member8,910Option 2b - reduce15,510
benefit?	Option 1 – 58,410 Discontinue Grants
Will this proposal have any financial	Description         2023/24         2024/25         2025/26         2026/27         2027/28           £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £
of this proposal on the public & other services ?	organisations / groups
What is the impact	Reduction to the level of financial support provided to local
	Additional Comments::
	X Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient
	An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place

Will this proposal		
hava any nan	Ref Benefit	
have any non- financial impacts?		
·····	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	Ref Disadvantage	
	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	Additional Comments:	

Proposal Title:	Transformation Budget – reduction to budget	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Rhian Hayden
Ref No:	RES03	Directorate:	Resources
Date:	06/02/2023	Section:	

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

# Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

There is currently a budget of £541,980 to support the Council's transformation agenda and provide funding where investment has been identified to progress business cases and to allow the Council to fund investment opportunities.

It is proposed to reduce this budget by 50% to £270,995. This will provide a reduced budget for investment opportunities whilst contributing to the identified funding gap.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact	
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan ?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:         Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent         Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities	
		x An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place	
		Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient	

	Additional Comments::	
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services ?	Funding my not be available to progress opportuce could generate both financial and non financial b	
Will this proposal have any financial		026/27 2027/28
benefit?	££Budget270,995Reduction	££
	Additional Comments:         Reducing this budget will mean there is less money source external expertise to support the developme business cases of and / or provide investment for pestrategic business reviews / opportunities.         Each request for funding will need to be considered individual basis &- prioritised taking into account ret investment, timescales etc.         This may delay business case development / invest subsequently implementation of agreed proposals a achievement of return on investment.	ent of full otential I on an turn on tment and
Will this proposal require investment	Investment Required 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 2026/	
to implement?	£     £     £     £       Not applicable	£
	Additional Comments:	

Will this proposal		
have any non-	Ref	Benefit
financial impacts?	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	Ref	Disadvantage
	1	Reduced ability to source external expertise to support the development of full business cases of and / or provide investment for potential strategic business reviews / opportunities.
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	Add	itional Comments:

Proposal Title:	Commercial & Contract Management – reduction to budget	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Rhian Hayden
Ref No:	RES04	Directorate:	Resources
Date:	06/02/2023	Section:	

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

# Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

There is currently a budget of £270,995 for Commercial and Contract Management. It is proposed to remove this budget on the basis that the establishment of a Professional Buying Team (proposal CS01) will improve contract management, generate efficiencies through improved purchasing and improved accountability for spend across all Services.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact	
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan ?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:         Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent         Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities	
		xAn ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place	
		Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient	

	Additional Comments::
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services ?	In year contingency funding will not be available to fund additional costs arising from increased in year contract price increases. This should be minimised by reinforcing the requirement for robust contract management arrangements to be implemented by all budget holders.
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Description         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Budget Reduction         276,850         Image: Constraint of the second
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Investment Required         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Not applicable
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?	Ref     Benefit       1

5	
Ref	Disadvantage
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
Add	itional Comments:

Proposal	Regeneration Income –	Lead / Responsible	Owen Ashton
Title:	Fee Earning Charges	Officer:	
Ref No:	ENV18	Directorate:	Regeneration
Date:	10.11.22	Section:	

Version	Date	Changes Made
1	10.11.22	
2		

# Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

The proposal outlines the potential of additional income generation through fee earning within the Regeneration Department.

#### **Business & Innovation Team**

The Business & Innovation Team jointly manages the Industrial Portfolio and deals with all aspects of inward investment, business retention, business growth and the visitor economy within Blaenau Gwent. The team is currently being restructured to enable it to deal with an ever expanding remit of work, including delivery of WG business and enterprise programmes, Tech Valleys rolling out the Shared Prosperity Fund to support businesses during an unprecedented economic climate. The annual budget for the team is £366K. To illustrate how this cost compares to the income and investment generated by the team, **over the next 3 years the team will be responsible for the delivery of over £6.6m of investment through the Shared Prosperity Fund**, and continuing its work in securing inward investments and supporting the growth and retention of businesses within Blaenau Gwent. In managing these schemes there is scope to cover a proportion of the Team's time through charging a fee on a time-charged basis.

#### **Regeneration Opportunities Team**

The Business & Innovation Team is responsible for the delivery of Town Centre Regeneration, project management of industrial/commercial property implementation via strategic funding sources. Development and implementation of innovation projects funded through UK Gov and EU funds such as Horizon. Responsible for development and implementation of energy projects including roll-out of EV charging across BG, advising CCR on wider roll-out across the region. Responsible for development and implementation of digital projects such as 5G Immersive Classroom. The annual budget for the team is £317K. To illustrate how this cost compares to the income and investment generated by the team, **over the next 3 years the team will be responsible for the delivery of over £7.8m of investment** through the Shared Prosperity Fund, the delivery of strategic town centre investment projects funded through the Welsh Government's flagship Transforming Towns programme as well as a range of other funding sources from UK Government and other funders. In managing these schemes there is scope to cover a proportion of the Team's time through charging a fee on a time-charged basis.

#### Connected Communities Team

The Connected Communities Team is responsible for supporting and delivering the award winning Aspire apprenticeship programme, delivery of the Inspire programme across the region alongside supporting the delivery of Housing development across the county borough. The team is also responsible for the delivery of the UK Gov Community Renewal Fund and has let on the development of the Levelling Up Fund application into UK Gov as a collaborative project with Coleg Gwent. The annual budget for the team is £297K. To illustrate how this cost compares to the income and investment generated by the team, **over the next 3 years the team will be responsible for the delivery of over £20.9m of investment through the Shared Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up Fund as well as playing a key role in leveraging in investment through Housing development alongside the Welsh Government's Social Housing Grant programme working with Registered Social Landlords to deliver over £5m investment annually. In managing these schemes there is scope to cover a proportion of the Team's time through charging a fee on a time-charged basis.** 

stage. Further information may need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.		
Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
<ul> <li>Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan?</li> <li>Pick One:</li> <li>Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent</li> <li>Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities</li> <li>An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place</li> <li>Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient</li> </ul>	Y	The proposal would directly align and complement each of the Corporate Plan Priorities
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?		It is not anticipated that the proposal would have a significant impact on the public other than reducing the grant funding available for some costs.

	Regeneration has traditionally absorbed the cost of development work in securing funding and the project management on the client side on projects. There is a need to more accurately reflect the work of regeneration in implementing projects and adopt a more commercial approach to our work where we are able to do so.
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Description         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Business & Regeneration         £30,000         Image: Comparison of the second
Will this proposal	Additional Comments:
require investment to implement?	Investment Required2023/24 £2024/25 £2025/26 £2026/27 £2027/28 £Business & InnovationInnovationInnovationInnovationRegeneration OpportunitiesInnovationInnovationConnected CommunitiesInnovationInnovationAdditional Comments:InnovationInnovation
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?	RefBenefit1Support commercialisation aims2Support entrepreneurial culture3455

Ref	Disadvantage
1	A proportionate reduction in grant funding available
2	
3	
4	
5	
Add	itional Comments:

Proposal Title:	Review of Costs between Schools and LA	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Lynn Phillips
Ref No:	ED02	Directorate:	Education
Date:	11/11/22	Section:	Schools/Corporate

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

# Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

There are currently two costs that are incurred by the LA, however, there is the potential to transfer part or all these costs to schools, they relate to:

- 1. Premature Retirement / Redundancy Costs
- 2. Match funding element of the Education Improvement Grant (EIG)

Potential transfers would result in the following:

25% transfer to Schools =  $\pounds120,000$  saving 50% transfer to Schools =  $\pounds241,000$  saving 75% transfer to Schools =  $\pounds362,000$  saving 100% transfer to Schools =  $\pounds482,000$  saving

However, it is important to take the following into account:

- Schools currently contribute £200,000 to the Premature Retirement/Redundancy budget
- There is a significant risk in that a reduction in the PRC contribution might hinder the LA's ability to make decisions with regards school improvement and settlement arrangements around school-based staffing.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:         Y       Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent
		Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities

	r r	
		An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place       Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient         Additional Comments::       Image: Comment in the right place
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services ?		This will impact on the schools budgets and could possibly affect service delivery
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?		Description $2023/24$ £ $2024/25$ £ $2025/26$ £ $2026/27$ £ $2027/28$ £LLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLAdditional Comments:LLLLTransfer of these costs to schools would result in the following savings for 2023/24:EL25% transfer to Schools = £120,000 saving 50% transfer to Schools = £241,000 saving 75% transfer to Schools = £362,000 saving 100% transfer to Schools = £482,000 saving
Will this proposal require investment to implement?		Investment Required         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Image: Second secon

	Additional Comments: NA
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?	Ref       Benefit         1       Revenue savings         2
	3       4         4       5         Additional Comments:       6

Proposal Title:	Review of SLA Contracts	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Lynn Phillips
Ref No:	ED06	Directorate:	Education
Date:	11/11/22	Section:	Schools

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

# Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Blaenau Gwent's Education Directorate has SLAs with the following:

EAS SENCOM ALN SLA with Pen y Cwm SLA with River Centre

Currently the budget estimates for 2023/24 are based on an 8% inflation increase, potential reduction of this uplift could result in the following:

0.0% uplift for SLA's =  $\pounds$ 160,000 saving 2.0% uplift for SLA's =  $\pounds$ 120,000 saving 4.0% uplift for SLA's =  $\pounds$ 80,000 saving 5.0% uplift for SLA's =  $\pounds$ 60,000 saving

However, it is important to take the following into account:

- For regional provision e.g., EAS, we would need to secure agreement across the region to achieve the saving.
- May have a detrimental impact on the ability to meet demand and impact upon learner outcomes.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact	
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan ?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:YMaximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent	
		Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities	

	An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place         Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient				
	Additional Comments::				
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?	May have a detrimental impact on the ability to meet demand for these SLA services and impact upon learner outcomes				
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Description         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Image: Line structure         Line s				
	Additional Comments:         Currently, the budget estimates for 2023/24 are based on an 8% inflation increase, potential reduction of this uplift could result in the following:         0.0% uplift for SLA's = £160,000 saving 2.0% uplift for SLA's = £120,000 saving 4.0% uplift for SLA's = £80,000 saving 5.0% uplift for SLA's = £60,000 saving				
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Investment Required         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Image: Strategy of the s				

	Additional Comments:		
	NA		
Will this proposal			
have any non-	Ref	Benefit	
financial impacts?	1	Revenue savings.	
	2		
	3		
	4		
	5		
	Def	Disadvantaria	
	Ref 1	Disadvantage BG would need to secure agreement across the	
	1	region to achieve the savings. SEWC Directors have	
		agreed to work towards consistency in approaches.	
		agreed to work towards consistency in approaches.	
	2	May have a detrimental impact on the ability to meet	
		demand for these SLA services.	
	3		
	4		
	5		
	Add	itional Comments:	

Proposal Title:	Additional Pension Costs Aneurin Leisure Trust – removal of budget	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Rhian Hayden
Ref No:	RES05	Directorate:	Resources
Date:	10/02/2023	Section:	

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

# Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

The Funding & Management agreement with Aneurin Leisure Trust established the basis of the Management Fee to be provided which included an agreed employer contribution rate to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

In recent years the Trust's contribution rate has been above the agreed rate and as a result the Council has had to establish an additional budget to reimburse the Trust for these additional costs.

The latest triennial valuation of the LGPS has indicated a revised employer contribution rate for the next three years which will be lower than both the current and the originally agreed rate, as a result the additional funding will no longer be required.

It is therefore proposed that this budget be removed.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact	
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan ?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:         Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent	
		Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities	
		x An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place	

	Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient
	Additional Comments::
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services ?	Not applicable
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Description         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Budget Removal         151,940
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Investment Required         2023/24         2024/25         2025/26         2026/27         2027/28         £           Not applicable
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?	Ref     Benefit       1

4           5
Ref     Disadvantage       1
4 5 Additional Comments:

Proposal Title:	Maximisation of Assisted Technology	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Alyson Hoskins
Ref No:	SS05	Directorate:	Social Services
Date:	08/11/22	Section:	Adult Services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

# Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Adult services have recently set up a smart flat which showcases how technology can assist people to maintain their independence in their own homes and reduce dependence on care packages which require domiciliary care staff to undertake home visits.

The aim of the smart flat is to force a culture shift to use technology but this will take time to realise and generate public confidence.

The current external domiciliary care budget is £4.8M. Through the maximisation of assisted technology, we are looking to make 5% saving to this budget from 25/26 on wards

5% of the current budget equates to £0.240M

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact		
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan ?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:yMaximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent		
		Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities		
		y An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place	/	
		y Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient		

	Additional Comments::	
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services ?	The impact of this proposal will be positive for the people Blaenau Gwent in relation to maintaining their independent plus it will reduce pressure on the domiciliary care workfor and reduce the cost of packages of care	nce,
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Description         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         20           Image: Second stress         Image: Second stress <td>£</td>	£
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Investment Required       2023/24       2024/25       2025/26       2026/27       2027/2         £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £	l to n

Will this proposal		
have any non-	Ref	Benefit
financial impacts?	1	Assisted technology will enable people to maintain
		their independence for longer
	2	Assisted technology will result in reduced number of
		home visits being required resulting in saving being made
	3	
	4	
	5	
		·
	Ref	Disadvantage
	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	Add	litional Comments:

### Bridging The Gap -

Proposal Title:	Review of inhouse dom care service and potential externalising of extra care	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Alyson Hoskins / Michelle Church
Ref No:	SS14	Directorate:	Social Services
Date:		Section:	
	27/11/22		

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

# Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Review of home care service (saving cost to be identified by finance on the 5 options) including:

Option 1 – outsource extra care service provision Llys Nant y Mynydd and review management structure

Option 2 – outsource extra provision Llys Glyncoed and review management structure

Option 3 – both 1 and 2 above

Option 4 – option 3 plus outsource DASH emergency care team

Option 5 – potential partnership approach with neighbouring LA or ABUHB as part of an integrated reablement model – review currently underway and there is potential to streamline management structure and increase funding opportunities / RIF funding etc.

Option 6 – reduce management / planning capacity via enhancing opportunities to use technology for pay etc

There is currently an estimated £61k underspend for home care

Info required – unit costs of home care and comparison to external dom care providers. Total number of care hours provided in each extra care service

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact

Does this proposal								
align with the	Please indicate which priority the proposal lin							
Corporate Plan ?		Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau GwentRespond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communitiesAn ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place						
	Yes	inities to	be safe,					
	Addit	ional Comment	s::					
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services ?	<ul> <li>BG home care is the only provider of emergency care domiciliary care services and is required to support the bridging of domicillary care and hospital discharges.</li> <li>Inability to respond and provide crisis support to avoid hospital admissions and carers breakdown</li> <li>Current concerns in relation to external sustainability of dom care market including lack of staff availability / quality and financial pressures</li> </ul>							
	1 Oten	tial staff redur		01 00 0	lan			
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Descrip tbc		2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £	
	Additi	ional Comment	s:					

Will this proposal	
require investment	Investment Required         2023/24         2024/25         2025/26         2026/27         2027/28           £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £ <td< td=""></td<>
to implement?	Financial capacity to cost savings proposals during 22/23
	Additional Comments: N/a
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?	Ref       Benefit         1       Opportunities to streamline working with ABUHB and / or neighbouring LA – already being scoped         2       Opportunities to review use if technology to support service         3       4         5       5         Ref       Disadvantage         1       Concerns regarding sustainability of external dom care market         2       Against WG policy         3       Potential to increase costs as service currently underspending due to grant income         4       5

Proposal Title:	Targeted programme of transactional cost shift	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Bernadette Elias / Leanne Roberts
Ref No:	CS06	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Date:	31/10/22	Section:	Commercial &
			Customer

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

# Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Building on the recent external organisation review of Customer access & offer (due to presented to CLT 9th February 2023) the proposal is to develop a programme of targeted work to achieve transactional cost shift as part of our commercially minded approach as an organisation.

Areas would be need to be identified taking an evidence based approach including which functions could yield most return, current business and services processed and demographic of users.

The approach can be piloted then scaled up to other areas. Other LA's are exploring this space and potential for shared learning and business collaboration will be a feature.

Early findings from the review have indicated a need to invest in the digital experience by prioritising and redesigning key journeys, focussing on our website and supporting customers to shift to digital self-serve

Baseline data would be obtained around levels of demand and costs of delivering services via different channels to support the business case for channel shift

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:         Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent

	Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities         X       An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place         Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient								
	Additional Comments::								
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?	<ul> <li>Aiming for streamlined services which would not have a negative impact on the public</li> <li>Behavioural change for residents with likely channel shift will need to be managed carefully. User research and mapping of the customer journeys will be key</li> <li>Potentially an element of service redesign for some services with increased resilience in some areas.</li> </ul>								
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Description       2023/24       2024/25       2025/26       2026/27       2027/28         Reduced cost of transactions       TBD       TBD       Image: constraint of transactions       Image: constraint of transactions         Additional Comments:       Image: constraint of transactions       Image: constraint of transactions       Image: constraint of transactions         Additional Comments:       Image: constraint of transactions       Image: constraint of transactions       Image: constraint of transactions         Findings from the external review should provide some opportunities around this       If a targeted, pilot approach is taken saving in 23/24 could be realised potentially. This would then be scaled up for future years								

Mill this pressed										
Will this proposal		line on a first	nent Desviced	0000/04	0004/05	0005/00	0000/07	0007/00		
require investment		Investr	nent Required	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £		
to implement?				~	~	~	~	~		
		Addit	tional Comment	s:						
		<b>_</b>								
			itially, but maxim			ology and	syst4em	stne		
		cound	cil has invested ir		e priority.					
Will this proposal				_	_	_	_			
have any non-		Ref	Benefit	- + - 66				h <b>f</b> it		
financial impacts?		1	Upskilling of							
			them in other		of life thi	rough be	eing mor	re		
			digitally inclu	ded.	Jed.					
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		4								
		5								
		Ref	Disadvantage							
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		2								
		3								
		4								
		5								
								1		
		Add	itional Comm	ents:						
		L								

Proposal Title:	Streamline Community Options (day services bases)	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Alyson Hoskins / Mary Welch
Ref No:	SS07a	Directorate:	Social Services
Date:	27/11/22	Section:	Provider Services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1	19/1/23	Update to include proposal to delete vacant managers post scale 6 from the Ash Parc structure
2	29/01/23	Remove other options to close CO Lake View building and reduce opening of Bert Denning whilst wider review of CO estates is scoped.

### Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

To reduce the current costs associated with the delivery of Community Options (Day Centre type support).

**Proposal 1** – complete the closure of Vision House and Ash Parc and remove budget from CO budget including the vacant staff posts.

Both services have been closed since April 2020 and the department are already in negotiation to close permanently from January 23. The buildings are no longer required as service is provided at Lake View and Bert Denning Centre along with support provided in Community / person's own homes as part of outreach care and support services.

Saving:

- 1. Vision House and Ash Parc £41,000 annual rental charges / maintenance costs / building costs etc
- 2. Green Shoots project £ 7,290 building and maintenance costs
- 3. Delete current vacant hours in CO structure:
  - 12 hrs scale 5 (£12,700)
  - 36 hrs scale 5 flexible retirement request (£36,530)
  - 37hrs scale 6 vacant post (£45,650)

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact					
Does this proposal							
align with the		Please indicate whi					
Corporate Plan ?		Maximise learning and skills for all to create a					
		prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent					
			-				
		Respond	to the natu	re and cl	imate cris	sis and er	nable
		connected	l communit	ties			
		Yes An ambition	ous and inr	novative	council d	elivering	quality
			t the right			-	
			U				
		Yes Empoweri	ng and sup	oporting	communi	ties to be	safe,
			ent and res				
		Additional Comments::					
		Needs to be considered alongside statutory duty to provide					
		care and suppor		-	•	• •	
What is the impact		Proposal 1- no ir	npact as s	ervices a	re alread	ly reduce	d and
of this proposal on		not re-opened sir	•			•	
the public & other		of new model of o				•	•
services ?		22/23. This will h					
		vacant or the cap	•		•		
		demand	5				
Will this proposal							
have any financial		Description	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
benefit?		Ontion 1	£ 48,290	£	£	£	£
		Option 1 -	40,290				
		buildings	04.000				
		Option 1 staff	94,880				
		Total	143,170				
		Additional Comr	nents:				
			mliactic			o	<b>**</b>
		No redundancy im	iplications a	is all post	s are curr	entiy vaca	n <b>t</b>
		L					

Will this proposal							
require investment	Investr	nent Required	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
to implement?			£	£	£	£	£
	None	9					
Will this proposal							
have any non-	Ref	Benefit					
financial impacts?	1	No impact or					
		services have					
		reduction in r					
		services do r					
		replaced Visi					
		at the venue		he deve	lopmen	t of com	munity
		based outrea	ich.				
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	5						
	Ref	Disadvantage					
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	4.						
	5						
	6						
	Add	itional Comm	ents:				

Proposal Title:	Reduction in transport costs at Community Options	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Alyson Hoskins/ Mary Welch
Ref No:	SS07b	Directorate:	Social Services
Date:	27/11/22	Section:	Provider Services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1	19/01/23	Additional info including details of savings already achieved by January 2023
2		

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Reduce the transport costs within Community Options by:

- 1. Reducing transport fleet to 2 vehicles
- 2. Deleting 1 FTE post grade 4
- 3. Not replacing vacant driver hours (grade 3)

1: - Community Option transport budget currently supports a fleet of 4 x14 seater minibuses of which, 2 of the vehicles are more than 10 years old and have not been utilised since March 2020.

Due to the reduction in demand for Assisted Transport we are in a position to relinquish these 2 vehicle enabling a saving of  $\pounds 10,000$ . This savings has been achieved in full

2: - The reduction in Assisted Transport demand, and the subsequent reduction in vehicles staff responsibilities has required a review of the current staffing arrangements. This review has identified a significant change to role & reduced responsibility for 1 position, resulting in this proposal that the post be deleted

3: - The vacant Driver post scale 3 (17hrs) is vacant, we have no requirement for this post due to the reduced need for Assisted Transport and in a position to delete from the structure enabling a saving of  $\pounds$ 14,000 - **Achieved in full** 

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan ?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:         Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent

	yes	yes Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities					
		An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place					
		Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient				be safe,	
	Add	itional Comment	s::				
What is the impact							
What is the impact of this proposal on	Limit	ed impact as th	ne LA ha	s introd	uced a t	ransport	policy in
the public & other		and this along					•
services ?		lopment of an o r attendees bei					
Will this proposal	Desci	intion	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
have any financial benefit?		et reduction	£	£	£	£	£
		lundancy lead	10,000 34,200				
	driv	er					
	Vac pos	ant driver t	14,000				
	Red	Additional Comments: Redundancy costs need to be included in any saving for lead driver post					
Will this proposal require investment	Inves	tment Required	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
to implement?		known	£	£	£	£	£

	Additional Comments:			
		otential lease costs if / should one of the 2 vehicles require pair etc		
Will this proposal				
have any non-	R	ef Benefit		
financial impacts?	1			
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	R	of Disadvantage		
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	3			
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	A	dditional Comments:		

Proposal Title:	Capping of community domiciliary care high-cost packages	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Alyson Hoskins/ Andrew Day
Ref No:	SS14	Directorate:	Social Services
Date:	27/11/22	Section:	Care Management

Version	Date	Changes Made
1	27/01/23	Additional information added around current volume and estimated savings based on current supply.
		Additional information added around risk and impact on partners
2		

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Implement a cap on high cost care packages at a rate equivalent to residential EMI care - currently  $\pounds$ 825 per week, and only offer care home placement to a citizen as an alternative to care at home and / only provide no more than 4 x calls per day

Need to scope current costs of high costs domiciliary care placements and availability of quality / staffed care home placements.

Analysis of existing domiciliary care packages as at January 2023, costing between £720.00 - £824.99 per week indicates that if provision was sourced through Residential care, there would be approx £17,129 cost savings per year

Comparing domiciliary care packages costing higher than £825.00 per week against the EMI Residential rate, there would be approx £61,597 cost savings per year if provision was sourced via EMI provision.

#### Total cost savings per year would be approx £78,726

Analysis of existing domiciliary care packages *including respite at home services* as at January 2023, costing between £720.00 - £824.99 per week indicates that if provision was sourced through Residential care, there would be approx £15,130 cost savings per year

Comparing domiciliary care packages including respite at home services as at January 2023, costing £825.00 and higher per week indicates that if provision was sourced through EMI Residential care, there would be approx £61,597 cost savings per year if provision was sourced via EMI provision.

#### Total cost savings per year would be approx £101,366

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Does this proposal		
align with the		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:
Corporate Plan ?		Maximise learning and skills for all to create a
		prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent
		Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable
		connected communities
		An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality
		services at the right time and in the right place
		Empowering and supporting communities to be safe,
		independent and resilient
		Additional Comments::
What is the impact		Restricted choice and control for vulnerable adults and their
of this proposal on		carers / families as we would no longer be supporting a person
the public & other		requiring high cost domiciliary care packages to remain at home
services ?		and would direct them to a care home placement as an
		alternative and suitable arrangement for the Local Authority to
		meet assessed care and support needs.
		······
		Potential increase required of commissioning team to monitor
		increased care home placements as more placements are made
		into a care home
		Increased numbers of people requiring care home beds –
		although several of our care homes have availably there are
		nationwide concerns regarding the sustainability of external care
		home market – including potential care home closures due to
		cost of living increases, lack of care home staff to meet the
		demands should all beds at a home be filled etc.

	<ul> <li>Will need discussion with CIW, WG and Health and require a cultural change across our assessment teams and social work staff as this will be a change in practice away from assessing for independent living / keeping people at home to defaulting to a care home placement when needs reach a financial level.</li> <li>Risk of legal challenge should our assessment practice be viewed as operating outside of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014.</li> </ul>
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Description       2023/24       2024/25       2025/26       2026/27       2027/28         Ranging between       £       £       £       £       £       £       £         Ranging between       assessed care       asses       assessed care       assessed
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Investment Required       2023/24       2024/25       2025/26       2026/27       2027/28
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?	Ref       Benefit         1       May support the care home sector as we have some homes with high levels of vacancies:

	Nursing 7	<b>Residential</b> 19	Dementia Nursing 11	Dementia Residential	
2	less com discharge system to	plex package es thus creati	s and suppo ng capacity ple with les	else where in s complex ne	n the
3					
4					
5					
Ref 1	Disadvanta				
-	outlined a		s regarding	care homes	as
2	increase	oility issues o financial pres e double hand	sures and p	potential for t	nem
3	Potential	for legal chal scrutiny fror	lenge and c	hallenge/	
4		,	0		
5					
Add	itional Co	mments:			

Proposal Title:	Closure of supported living (SL) bungalow – reducing from 4 to 3	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Alyson Hoskins / Alison Minett
Ref No:	SS10	Directorate:	Social Services
Date:	27/11/22	Section:	

Version	Date	Changes Made
1	08/02/23	Updated text
2		

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

This proposal is to reduce the Local Authority Supported Living Service by one establishment – reducing the numbers of properties that are provided by the local authority from 4 properties to 3 properties. This will be achieved by the ongoing reviewing of the current care and support needs of those tenants that are living at the schemes and the freezing of any current and future vacancies as they arise as and when the current tenants leave the service over the next 6-to-12-month period.

This proposal will result in savings being made on reduced staffing across the wider Supported Living service. The buildings are not owned by the Local Authority as the tenants have a rental agreement with a registered social landlord. There are management charges that are funded by the tenants via a service charge which covers building and maintenance costs.

However any savings achieved will need to be offset by the cost of any alternative external or inhouse placements that may be required to meet the care and support needs of any tenants and in year 1 anticipated redundancy costs although some redeployment opportunities may be identified from across the wider Provider teams in particular Augusta and Community Options.

Question Y/N	Comments / impact
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Does this proposal	
align with the	Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:
Corporate Plan ?	Maximise learning and skills for all to create a
	prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent
	Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable
	connected communities
	An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality
	services at the right time and in the right place
	Yes Empowering and supporting communities to be safe,
	independent and resilient
	Additional Comments:
What is the immed	
What is the impact	The proposal may result in a requirement to support some of
of this proposal on	The proposal may result in a requirement to support some of
the public & other services ?	the existing tenants to move to alternative care settings.
services ?	However the service is currently supporting a few tenants who
	have deteriorating health conditions and increasingly require
	external nursing support and who may require moves to
	nursing facilities as opposed to supporting living provision in
	the next few months. The proposal is therefore to freeze any
	vacancies as they arise to minimise the need to move existing
	tenants who needs can be met in the existing supported living
	service.
	Any savings achieved will need to be include the potential
	costs of external placements being greater than internal
	provision – this needs further costing.
	( )uteourcing may impact on the capacity of internal Social Caro
	Outsourcing may impact on the capacity of internal Social Care
	commissioning team - depending on level of outsourcing that

	The department will need to negotiate an exit strategy with the current registered social landlord regarding the lease arrangements for the property. Increased dependency on the availability of external private / RSL and third sector providers to meet future demand for supported living service for adults with a learning disability.
Will this proposal have any financial	Description 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 2026/27 2027/28
benefit?	£         £         £         £         £           tbc         40,000
	Additional Comments:
	Savings above are based on an estimated cost savings achieved when a similar exercise was completed in 2017/18 and our 5 properties were reduced to 4. The saving potential will be dependent on the: Future care costs of the tenants who may move to alternative care facilities due to their increased care and support needs. Redundancy costs of staff in year 1
Will this proposal	
require investment to implement?	Investment Required         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £
	Additional Comments:
Will this proposal	
have any non-	RefBenefit1Staffing of Supported Living bungalows has been a
financial impacts?	challenge – we have high use of agency cover and service is a critical risk on LA risk register due to challenges in quarter 2. This has however stabilised

	during quarter 3 and use of agency staff has
	reduced.
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R	ef Disadvantage
	Goes against current WG policy and externalisation /
	sustainability of markets policy
2	It is anticipated that due to the increasing frailty and deteriorating health needs, some of the existing tenants will need to move out of service in the next few months as they will require nursing care. It had been anticipated that once this happened then the model of service would be revised to accommodate new tenants.
	Any plans to freeze or close a property will impact on the opportunities to use these vacancies to further develop more specialist support for our younger adults with a LD who require 24 hrs supported living opportunities.
3	
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	dditional Comments:

Proposal Title:	Income generation proposals - Community Options	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Alyson Hoskins / Mary Welch
Ref No:	SS11	Directorate:	Social Services
Date:	19/1/23	Section:	Provider Services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

#### Option 1 –

Market the availability of the Hydrotherapy pool by offering sessions to partners/external providers, this will increase the income on the allocated budget. Prior to the COVID pandemic 2020, During 19/20 the total pool hire annual income was £10,000.

It is important to note; in 21/22 the Hydro Pool underwent a complete refurbishment at a cost of £11,000.

We estimate by marketing the facility based on the 19/20 hire charges, we will potentially increase the income by 20% to approximately £12,000 during 23/24 by introducing an annual uplift in charges in line with the Authorities Fees and Charges.

The proposal includes revisiting the current charges and implement an increase in line with additional energy charges and Staffs uplift in salaries.

#### Option 2 –

Market the Bert Denning facility, reintroducing opportunities for partners/external providers to hire the Sensory/relaxation and activity rooms inclusive of equipment. As above prior to the pandemic these facilities were hired outside of core times, inclusive of weekends.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan ?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:         Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent

	Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities         An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place         Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient         Additional Comments::
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services ?	<ul> <li>Option 1; Provide opportunities to citizens who do not access the Bert Denning Centre.(i.e Health, third sector). by offering opportunities to hire the facility</li> <li>Option 2; Continue to meet the needs of citizens and increase income to during 23/24</li> </ul>
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Description $2023/24$ $\pounds$ $2024/25$ $\pounds$ $2025/26$ $\pounds$ $2026/27$ $\pounds$ $2027/28$ $\pounds$ Option 1 & 212,000Image: constraint of the second sec
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Investment Required         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Image: Line Structure         Image: Line Structure <td< td=""></td<>

	-			-	-				
		Additional Comments: N/a							
Will this proposal									
have any non-		Ref	Benefit						
financial impacts?		1&2	1&2       Pool will require regular running maintenance costs however the income generated will offset these charges						
		3							
		4							
		5							
		. <u> </u>							
		Ref	Disadvantage						
		1							
		23							
		3							
		5							
		Additional Comments:							
		Income have been impacted by COVID – we have not re-started the commercial opportunities of offering the for hire etc.							

Proposal	Outsource / closure of	Lead / Responsible	Alyson Hoskins /
Title:	Cwrt Mytton	Officer:	Hannah Baulch
Ref No:	SS13	Directorate:	Social Services
Date:	27/11/22	Section:	

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

### Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Planned closure / outsourcing of current care home (EMI) placements in Cwrt Mytton – currently accommodating 26 residents with dementia (capacity for 34) plus provides 2 respite beds and is the only respite care home Provider in BG. Total capacity 36 but we have closed the upstairs beds due to low staffing levels

Current cost pressure of estimated £147,000 due to staffing costs and high use of agency due to vacancy levels / staff sickness etc.

Need to scope:

- 1. Current costs per bed at Cwrt Mytton weekly charge is £913 per week compared to current EMI rate external of £825.70 commissioned cost for BG.
- 2. Scope the % of residents at Cwrt Mytton who pay full charge no LA contribution
- 3. Capital value of the possible sale of the building and land
- 4. Capital costs for equipment etc
- 5. Long term capital building costs replacement roof / problems with retaining walls etc

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan ?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:         Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent
		Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities

	An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right placeYesEmpowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient						
	Additional Comments::						
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services ?	<ul> <li>Approximately 45 redundancies – recent employment of an additional 10 staff who would not be eligible for redundancy.</li> <li>Move 26 residents living with dementia to alternative homes – there are currently 105 empty dementia res beds in Gwent – including 13 in BG but not all of these beds are able to be occupied due to low levels of staff and quality issues (escalating concerns etc) across Gwent region.</li> </ul>						
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Description         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Tbc						
	Additional Comments Previous Financial Efficiency Project in 2017/ 18 was not completed and full cost savings not finalised						
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Investment Required         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Financial capacity to cost – 2023/24						

	Addii N/a	tional Comments:
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?	Ref 1 2 3 4 5	Benefit Less pressure on AS in relation to staffing / OD issues
	Ref	Disadvantage
	1	Impact of moving 26 people with dementia to other care homes across Gwent
	2	Concerns regarding the quality / financial sustainability of external care home provision across Gwent / neighbouring LA's
	3	May require additional commissioning capacity to monitor external provision
	4	Against current WG policy – more emphasis on internal markets and not externalised provision
	5	There are plans to access WG funding to create a specialist dementia hub in Cwrt Mytton – closure will mean that this can not progress.
	Add	itional Comments:

Proposal Title:	Frontline Staff reduction within Neighbourhood Services	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Matt Stent
Ref No:	ENV01	Directorate:	Community Services
Date:	09/11/22	Section:	Neighbourhood Services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1	09/11/2022	1 st Draft
2	17/01/2023	2 nd Draft

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Reduction to frontline staff within Neighbourhood Services by 1 FTE (full time equivalent)

Savings - £30k

This proposal has not identified any specific roles as the service offers an integrated front line and so jobs cover a few different roles and can be interchangeable to a point.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
<ul> <li>Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan?</li> <li>Pick One:</li> <li>Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent</li> <li>Respond to the</li> </ul>	Y	<ul> <li>The less front line staff we are able to deploy, the less we can do – so there may be less cleaning of streets done, there may be fewer bin emptying rotas, etc</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities</li> <li>An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality</li> </ul>	Y	<ul> <li>We work to standards of cleanliness and waste collections and are aiming for 70% recycling by 2025.</li> </ul>

<ul> <li>services at the right time and in the right place</li> <li>Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient</li> </ul>	Y	<ul> <li>Safety within communities could be compromised e.g. road safety [delays to road repairs], waste &amp; litter on streets for longer [can attract vermin].</li> </ul>					
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?		<ul> <li>Impact to service provision across the following service areas:</li> <li>Street Cleansing – Increase in litter / Increase in vermin</li> <li>Grass cutting – open spaces cut much less regularly</li> <li>Cemeteries – Delays in burial provision</li> <li>Waste Collections – missed collections, waste remaining on streets for a day longer (comms will be provided)</li> <li>Highways – slower response to road repairs and potholes</li> </ul>					
Will this proposal	Y	Description	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
have any financial benefit?			£	£	£	£	£
		1 FTE	£30,000				
		Additional Comm	nents:				
Will this proposal	Y –						
require investment	possible	Investment Required	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
to implement?	redundancy payments						
	[tbd]						
		Additional Comm	nents:				

Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?	Yes – all negative [see above]	Ref     Benefit       1
		4 5
		Ref Disadvantage
		1 Reputational damage
		2 Slower response to service requests across all services
		3 Delays to waste collections – some service suspension
		4 Higher risk of insurance claims & associated costs (roads/potholes)
		5
		Additional Comments:

Proposal Title:	Closure of all Play Areas	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Matt Stent
Ref No: Date:	ENV02 09/11/22	Directorate: Section:	Community Services Neighbourhood Services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1	09/11/22	1 st Draft
2		

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

£50,000 budget impact

The play area budget consists of 1 FTE who carries out the maintenance of all play areas, with the remaining budget used for reactive maintenance. Removal of this budget would mean all play areas with play equipment would need to close as we wouldn't be able to guarantee any maintenance to minimum standards.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan? Pick One:		
Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent	Y	<ul> <li>Learning and development of skills of young people through play would be impacted.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities</li> </ul>	N	

<ul> <li>An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place</li> <li>Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient</li> </ul>	Y Y	<ul> <li>Service / Outdoor Play equipment provision would be totally removed under this proposal.</li> <li>Proposal specifically impacts on young children throughout all communities within BG</li> </ul>
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?		No outdoor play area equipment provision for children throughout BG
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Y	Description         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Shut all play areas         £50k         Image: Comparison of the second
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Y	Investment Required       2023/24       2024/25       2025/26       2026/27       2027/28         £       £       £       £       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1       1
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?		Ref     Benefit       1     2

3	
4	
5	
Ref	Disadvantage
1	No learning through play
2	Reputational damage
3	
4	
5	
Add	litional Comments:

Proposal Title:	Reduction in Street Cleansing provision	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Matt Stent
Ref No: Date:	ENV03 09/11/22	Directorate: Section:	Community Services Neighbourhood Services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1	09/11/2022	1 st Draft
2	17/01/2023	2 nd Draft
3	01/02/2023	3 rd Draft

# Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Reduce number of street cleansing gangs from 4 to 3.

The current 4 Cleansing gangs are made up of 3 FTE each [1 driver & 2 operatives], 16 FTE in total.

£120,000 saving

Street cleansing went from 5 gangs to 4 in 2018/19/20 savings and to contribute funding to the new HWRC. The 5th gang was subsequently reinstated using agency workers to pick up the fly tipping work that had built up and now sits as a cost pressure. A further reduction to 3 gangs will result in less resource available in terms of street cleaning, some elements of work will be reactive only. Public complaints may rise.

Supporting Data: Please answer the following questions, with information available at this stage. Further information may need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.		
Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
<ul> <li>Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan?</li> <li>Pick One:</li> <li>Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent</li> <li>Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities</li> </ul>	Y	<ul> <li>A reduction in gangs may lead to longer waiting for cleansing to be arranged and less cleansing overall to happen.</li> </ul>

<ul> <li>An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place</li> <li>Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient</li> </ul>	Y Y	<ul> <li>Streets may have litter collected less often. We know there is a correlation between litter and increased numbers of vermin.</li> </ul>
What is the impact		Increase in litter – less pleasant environment for
of this proposal on the public & other		communities Slower response to cleansing reports / fly tipping incidents
services?		Linked to potential increase in vermin [linked to possible
		increased work for Pest Control Service] Reputational damage
Will this proposal	Y	
have any financial benefit?		Description         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £         <
		3 FTE's £120,000
		Additional Comments:
Will this proposal require investment	Y	Investment Required 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 2026/27 2027/28
to implement?		Ê Ê Ê Ê
		Additional Comments: Potential Redundancy payments
Will this proposal		
have any non-		Ref Benefit
financial impacts?		1 2

3	
5	
Re	f Disadvantage
	Increase in litter / dirtier environment
	Reputational damage
3	Increase in vermin
4	Slower service response to cleansing & fly tipping reports
5	Overflowing litter / dog bins
A	Iditional Comments:
	gnificant service failure Borough wide
	• If an additional team is removed, it is likely that they will only
	be undertaking reactive duties to MCS reports with no
	scheduled litter picking being done. Therefore, the impact
	will be that the service delivery standard will have to
	realigned with direction required on what is priority i.e. Litter
	picking streets or only emptying bins and being reactive to MCS.
	• External factors already impact service delivery which with
	further reductions may put service delivery at critical levels
	i.e. supporting Waste & Recycling collections, holidays and
	sickness.
	• A directive will be required as to what council wants to make
	the new cleansing service delivery to look like in respect of
	priorities.
	<ul> <li>Unlikely that we will be able to adhere to and meet the</li> </ul>
	outcomes of the Council approved Litter and Fly tipping
	Strategy.
	• Following previous reduction in number of crews, public
	complaints and amount of litter increased to such an extent
	that the 5 th crew had to be reinstated via agency staff.
	• A re-structure of the Directorate with the enforcement
	element of Enviro Health being transferred to
	Neighbourhood Services, it was decided to allow
	enforcement officers to concentrate on prosecutions the first
	responding, investigation and clearance duties would be the
	responsibility of the Street Cleansing section. No funding was
	provided with these duties which meant the duties were
	absorbed within the re-introduction of the 5 th crew as
	detailed above. The funding of this crew resulted in a Street
	Scene service budget pressure due to associated costs being
	vired from other service areas. However, this crew has been
	a service success story with fly tipping responses and
	clearances improvement along with evidence gathered
	resulting in high increases in successful prosecutions.
	ו בסמונווא ווו וואו וווגו במסבס ווו סענגבססונו אוספנענוטווס.

Proposal Title:	Reduction in Street Lighting Provision	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Matt Stent
Ref No: Date:	ENV04 09/11/22	Directorate: Section:	Community Services Neighbourhood Services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1	09/11/22	1 st Draft
2		

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Switching off street lights.

Currently – Lighting throughout the Borough is as follows...

- Residential Every other light off at midnight
- Main Roads Lights off at midnight [except for roundabout [RABs] & junctions]
- Industrial Estates Lights off at midnight [except for RABs & junctions & where shift pattern of business dictates all night as agreed with Business Portfolio Team].

There are numerous options associated with this proposal, for example...

- Switching all lights off at in residential areas at midnight [with the exception of RABs & junctions].
- Switch every 2 in 3 off at midnight in residential areas
- Switch main road lighting off earlier [11pm / 10pm / 9pm] each will have different impact on the budget.
- Switch of lighting on Industrial Estates earlier [11pm / 10pm / 9pm] each will have a different impact on the budget.

It should be noted that approximately three quarters of the lighting stock is now LED and therefore more energy efficient, therefore the likely savings will be less than previous years.

Due to the costs and complexity of the work needed to identify the budget impact for the examples given above, the most efficient way forward is to decide what, if any, options are agreeable and then get costs.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan? Pick One:		

<ul> <li>Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent</li> <li>Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities</li> <li>An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place</li> <li>Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient</li> </ul>	Y Y Y	•
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?		<ul> <li>Switching off street lights will reduce the Councils carbon footprint, however, the majority of our lighting stock is already LED so reductions would be minimal.</li> <li>Previous experience tells us that residents feel that street lighting provision is a key, quality of life service.</li> <li>This proposal would likely impact on community safety and could result in an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour. Road safety would also be compromised. Safe routes to school would be affected.</li> </ul>
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Y – to be identified when specific proposal agreed	Description         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           TBA
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	N	Investment Required         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Image: Second secon

	Additional Comments:
	Additional comments.
Will this proposal	
have any non-	Ref Benefit
financial impacts?	1     Reduction in carbon footprint [minimal]       2
	3
	4
	5
	5
	Ref Disadvantage
	1 Road safety is compromised [vehicles &
	pedestrians]
	2 Increase in Anti-Social Behaviour
	3 Perception around personal security – depending
	on option chosen, if after midnight then mitigation
	through engagement with public.
	4
	5
	Additional Comments:

Proposal Title:	Public Toilet Provision – Withdraw Funding	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Matt Stent
Ref No: Date:	ENV05 09/11/22	Directorate: Section:	Community Services Neighbourhood Services

Version	Date	Changes Made		
1	09/11/22	1 st Draft		
2				

# Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

The proposal is to dis-continue funding for town centre toilet provision

Budget impact - £17,000

There is no budget identified for this provision, the money comes from the Street Cleansing budget

There is an option to charge the public for their use i.e. 20p per visit.

Supporting Data: Please answer the following questions, with information available at this stage. Further information may need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.						
Question	Y/N	Comments / impact				
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan? Pick One:						
<ul> <li>Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent</li> </ul>	N					
Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities	N					
<ul> <li>An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place</li> </ul>	Y	Service provision would become financially dependent on Community Groups				

Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient	N						
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?		Toilet provision is BG, if this funding centres would like	g is withdra				
Will this proposal have any financial	Y	Description	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
benefit?		Site closure	£17,000	~	~	~	~
		Additional Comme	ents:				
Will this proposal	N	Investment Required	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
require investment to implement?			£	£	£	£	£
		Additional Comme	ents:				
Will this proposal	Y						
have any non- financial impacts?		Ref Benefit 1					
		2 3					
		4					
		5					

Ref	Disadvantage
1	Reputational damage
2	
3	
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Add	itional Comments:
L	

Proposal Title:	Closure / part-closure of Household Waste Recycling Centres [HWRC's]	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Matt Stent
Ref No:	ENV06	Directorate:	Community Services
Date:	09/11/22	Section:	Neighbourhood Services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1	09/11/22	1 st Draft
2	17/01/2023	2 nd Draft

### Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Closure / part – closure of HWRC's

BG has 2 HWRC's [Roseheyworth [RH] in Abertillery and New Vale [NV] in Ebbw Vale], both are open 6 days a week with RH being closed on a Tuesday and NV on a Thursday.

Options are:

**Full closure of 1 site** - £100,000 saving mainly associated with staffing [the site would still need to be maintained etc for any future re-opening].

**Part closure** i.e. RH open 4 days a week / NV open 3 days a week – this still allows for service provision of 1 site for the whole of the week - £70,000 saving [There will still be running and operating costs associated with keep a site both sites open]

Time taken to undertake staff consultation will impact saving achieved in year.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan?		
<ul> <li>Pick One:</li> <li>Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous,</li> </ul>	Ν	
<ul> <li>thriving, resilient</li> <li>Blaenau Gwent</li> <li>Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable</li> </ul>	Y	<ul> <li>Waste Management / Recycling is integral to our local environment, but also when it comes to how plastic in particular is used, disposed of and recycled on a global basis, the impact on climate and wildlife.</li> </ul>

<ul> <li>connected communities</li> <li>An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place</li> <li>Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient</li> </ul>	Y Y	<ul> <li>HWRC's allow for resident to dispose of their waste correctly themselves, this proposal could encourage more fly tipping.</li> </ul>
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?		Potential increase in fly tipping Reduced recycling performance – leading to WG fines Potential increase in vermin / disease – Pest Control impacted
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Y	Description         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Full closure of 1         100,000         Image: state of the state
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	tbd	Investment Required         2023/24         2024/25         2025/26         2026/27         2027/28         £           E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E <td< td=""></td<>
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?	Y	Ref     Benefit       1

2	
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5	
Ref	Disadvantage
1	Increase in flytipping
2	Reduced recycling performance – leading to WG
	fines
3	Increase in vermin / disease – Pest control impacted
4	Reputational Damage
5	Increase intruder activity
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Add	ditional Comments:
Site	closure / part closure will impact on site access to
	d party provision such at Re-use shop and Education
Cer	

Proposal Title:	Reduction of 1no. Recycling Round / Crew	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Matt Stent
Ref No: Date:	ENV07 09/11/22	Directorate: Section:	Community Services Neighbourhood Services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1	09/11/22	1 st Draft
2	17/01/2023	2 nd Draft

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Reduction of 1no. Recycling collection round / crew

Using Route Optimisation and redistributing properties amongst other rounds, we believe that we can remove 1 recycling round with minimal impact to residents, although this will need some testing. Costs associated with the vehicle would remain, but the staffing element could be removed – **3 Agency staff** 

Budget Impact - £100,000

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan? Pick One:		
<ul> <li>Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent</li> </ul>	Ν	
<ul> <li>Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities</li> </ul>	Y	<ul> <li>Waste Management / Recycling is integral to our local environment, but also when it comes to how plastic in particular is used, disposed of and recycled on a global basis, the impact on climate and wildlife.</li> </ul>

<ul> <li>An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place</li> <li>Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient</li> </ul>	Y	<ul> <li>Possibility of missed collections, delays to collections. Comms can be used to manage community expectations.</li> </ul>
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?		Possible delays to waste collections resulting in fly tipping
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Y	Description         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Remove 1no.         100,000         Image: state sta
Will this proposal require investment to implement? Will this proposal	tbd	Investment Required         2023/24         2024/25         2025/26         2026/27         2027/28         £           E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E         E <td< td=""></td<>
have any non- financial impacts?		Ref     Benefit       1

3
4
5
Ref Disadvantage
1 Possible missed collections / delays to collections
2 Increase in fly tipping
3 Possible Waste accumulations on streets
4 Impact on recycling performance [Statutory WG
target not achieved, possible fines]
5
Additional Comments:
Additional new Housing developments will increase
demand for the service
Increase in recycling performance / participation will
increase service demand

Proposal Title:	Removal of School Crossing Patrollers	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Kevin Kinsey
Ref No:	ENV08	Directorate:	Regeneration & Communities
Date:	7 th November 2022	Section:	Infrastructure Services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Remove existing school crossing patrol service, this is a non-statutory service with an annual cost of £177,838.00

We have 35 school crossing patrollers and of those around 15 are servicing school crossing that would not usually need an accompanied crossing service. However, a service has been uniformly applied in BG.

Potentially a smaller number could be removed with less impact on crossing safety, and a smaller overall saving, however this would then not be a uniform service across the Borough.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan? Pick One:	N	
<ul> <li>Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent</li> </ul>	N/A	Will have no impact
Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected	N/A	Will have no impact
<ul> <li>communities</li> <li>An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right</li> </ul>	N/A	Will have no impact

time and in the right place • Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?	N/A	Will have no impact Pedestrian safety cor	icerns	(Child fc	ocused)		
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?			023/24 £ 78,000	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
Will this proposal		Additional Comme this service	n <b>ts:</b> Cu	urrently	35 empl	loyees p	roviding
to implement?		Investment Required       2         Redundancy cost	2023/24 £ ?	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
		Additional Comme associates with the r depend on length of	remova	al of this	service	, total co	st will
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?		Ref         Benefit           1					

Ref	Disadvantage
1	Pedestrian safety concerns (Child focused)
2	
3	
4	
5	
Add	itional Comments:

Proposal Title:	Removal of Match Funding re: Subsidised Bus Service	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Kevin Kinsey
Ref No:	ENV09	Directorate:	Regeneration & Communities
Date:	7th November 2022	Section:	Infrastructure

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Welsh Government provide a Bus Service Support Grant which is match funded by BG, currently the match funding is in the sum of £107,685. The proposal is to remove this match funding. This would result in the deletion of bus services that are not commercially viable. There are a number of services in this category in BG, they are as follows:

X15 evenings, X15 Sundays Tredegar local services 4A, 4C, E11, E12, E14 4A Tredegar - Rhymney 4C Tredegar - Rhymney E11 Ebbw Vale to Tredegar via Morrisons E12 Tredegar via Dukestown E14 Tredegar via Gwent Way 31 Brynmawr – Forgeside 1 (Cwmtillery-Abertillery-Brynithel)

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan? Pick One:		
Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent	N	This will reduce the ability to use public transport to access educational establishments.
Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable	N	Potential negative effect due to a shift to greater reliance of private transport

	1	
<ul> <li>connected communities</li> <li>An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place</li> <li>Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient</li> </ul>	N	Presents a blocker to creating the right environment to facilitate a model shift form private transport to public Places a greater reliance on private transport provision thus reducing the resilience of the community.
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services? Will this proposal		If BG stop subsiding bus services match funding then WG would withdraw their Bus Service Support Grant, there are currently 5 bus services that are subsidence in this way as well as the Fflecsi bus service which would potentially be withdrawn.
have any financial benefit?		Description         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Budget saving         £108K
Will this proposal require investment to implement?		Investment Required         2023/24         2024/25         2025/26         2026/27         2027/28         £           Image: Ima
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?		Ref     Benefit       1

	1
3	
4	
5	
Ref	Disadvantage
1	Removal of bus service on 5 routes
2	Removal of Fflecsi service
3	No access to public transport for a number of our
	communities
4	Reduced public transport overall in BG.
5	
Δdd	itional Comments:
//////	

Proposal Title:	Discontinuation of Pest Control Treatment Service	Lead / Responsible Officer:	
Ref No:	ENV11	Directorate:	Regen & CS
Date:	Nov 2022	Section:	Public Protection

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

#### Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

**Discontinuation of Pest Control Treatment Service** 

Statutory or Non-statutory Function?

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 (legislation.gov.uk) - Reg 2 – The Local Authority has a duty to take steps to ensure the district is free from rats and mice - including carrying out inspections, destroying vermin on our own land, and enforcement action to private owners and occupiers including direct immediate intervention in certain circumstances.

We do not have a duty to provide (directly or indirectly) a Pest Control Treatment service although district Councils having done so historically as part of their public health function.

We currently provide a Pest Control Treatment service via an external contractor that is free at the point of use for rat treatments at all domestic dwellings in the area. All other services are chargeable with the income retained by the contractor. Full details - Pest Control | Blaenau Gwent CBC (blaenaugwent.gov.uk)

Current Budget - £63,000

•••		er the following questions, with information available at this need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.
Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan? Pick One: • Maximise learning	No	The withdrawal of the service would leave the Authority with significant challenges relating to rat problems. There is a high demand for free rat treatments that has remained steady over the last few years:
and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent		Rat treatment numbers over the last few years 19-20 – 1,185 20-21 – 1,729 21-22 – 1,705

Respond to the	22-23 – to end Q2 - 943
<ul> <li>Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities</li> <li>An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place</li> <li>Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient</li> </ul>	22-23 – to end Q2 - 943
What is the impact	1. Increase in rat complaints from individuals.
of this proposal on	2. Increased public health risks
the public & other services?	<ol> <li>Significant Impact on Environmental Health – leading to an increase in the need for statutory enforcement action.</li> </ol>
	The Authority has previous experience of both moving to
	charging for rats and then cutting the service completely and
	leaving Pest Control treatment services to the market
	Charges were introduced when the service was being delivered in partnership with CCBC from 2013/14. During 2014/15 (following PWC input) we began to charge for rat treatments. After six months of charging, a report was considered by the Scrutiny Committee – (Blaenau Gwent CBC: Democracy (blaenau-gwent.gov.uk) – item 9). The report outlined the effect of charges during the first 2 quarters after their introduction. It showed there was a 90% decrease in demand for rat treatments, and a significant increase in public health/rat related complaints to Environmental Health. Service Discontinuation. For 2015/16, the service was
	discontinued by full Council as part of the budget setting process. As a result, the Authority began receiving a large number of complaints about rodent activity in conjunction with the changes to household waste and recycling arrangements. A Cross party working group was convened with a view to reintroducing the service and it was agreed that the most cost effective option was to contract out the service on the basis that is still ongoing today.
Will this proposal	Description 2022/24 2024/25 2025/26 2026/27 2027/20
have any financial benefit?	Description         2023/24         2024/25         2025/26         2026/27         2027/28           £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £
	Net benefit (see 35,000 note)

					1	T			
	Add	litional Comments:		Rudaet is f	COR but	emoval of	treatment		
	serv and	vice would lead to a enforcement acti ca £28k)	an increas	e in rat rel	ated com	plaints to i	nvestigate		
Will this proposal require investment	Inve	stment Required	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28		
to implement?		-	£	£	£	£	£		
	Se	e above							
	Add	ditional Comment	S:						
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?	Ref 1 2 3 4 5	<ul> <li>2 May be able to recoup some element from HA's</li> <li>3</li> <li>4</li> </ul>							
	Ref	Ref Disadvantage							
		1 Increase in rodent complaints in Constituencies.							
	2								
		relating to rodent complaints relating to rodent complaints relations							
	3		ease in public health risks due to rat complaints.						
	4								
	5								
	The pro the inc	ditional Comm e Pest Control t ocess of being r e end of the cale rease significar ce the last tend	reatmen e-tender endar yea ntly due t	ed. The ar. It is e to the tin	outcom estimate ne that l	e is exp d that co has pass	ected by osts will		

Page 160

Proposal Title:	Closure of Mechanical Link	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Paul Colston
Ref No:	ENV12	Directorate:	Community Services
Date:	3/11/22	Section:	Property Services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

To mothball the Mechanical Link from the works site adjacent to the College to the lower road in Ebbw Vale, The link is open Monday to Friday between 07.30 to 17.00 with a permanent security guard presence for 6 hours each day in the link cabin.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
<ul> <li>Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan?</li> <li>Pick One:</li> <li>Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent</li> <li>Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities</li> <li>An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right</li> </ul>	Ŷ	It would lower Carbon Emissions for the Authority and Blaenau Gwent to help respond to the Climate Crisis and the Authorities net zero aspirations

time and in the right place • Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient							
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?		There are many ways to walk from the Works Site to Ebbw Vale Town centre and back to the works site, closing the link would mean an extra 5 to 10 Minuit walk					
Will this proposal		Description	0000/04	0004/05	2025/20	0000/07	0007/00
have any financial benefit?		Description	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
benefit?		Mothball Link	41,000				
		Additional Commen	ts:				
Will this proposal							
require investment		Investment Required	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
to implement?		No Investment					
		required					
		Additional Commen	ts:				
Will this proposal							
have any non-		RefBenefit1Extra exerci	se for pu	blic			
financial impacts?		2	se ioi pu	DIIC			
		3					
		4					
		5					

Def	Dipodvantago
Ref	Disadvantage
1	Social media denouncements for a limited time
2	
3	
4	
5	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
close nega were	itional Comments: The Mechanical ling has been ed fully during the Covid Pandemic with no discernible ative impact even when Schools and other buildings e reopened, there was some negativity on Social ia for some time.

Proposal Title:	Cease Support for Armistice Parades	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Matt Stent
Ref No:	ENV14	Directorate:	Community Services
Date:	09/11/22	Section:	Neighbourhood Services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1	09/11/22	1 st Draft
2		

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Cease support for Armistice Parades

There is £2,400 in the events budget for events such as this, supporting Armistice Parades actually costs the Council a further £4000 in staffing costs which is un-funded but is picked up by the Community Services revenue/staff budget.

Total saving - £2,400

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Does this proposal		
align with the		
Corporate Plan?		
Pick One:		
<ul> <li>Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent</li> </ul>	Ν	
<ul> <li>Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected</li> </ul>	Ν	
<ul> <li>communities</li> <li>An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality</li> </ul>	Ν	

<ul> <li>services at the right time and in the right place</li> <li>Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient</li> </ul>	N	
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?		Reputational damage
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Y	Description         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Events budget         £2,400
Will this proposal require investment to implement? Will this proposal	N	Investment Required         2023/24         2024/25         2025/26         2026/27         2027/28         £
have any non- financial impacts?		Ref         Benefit           1

Ref	Disadvantage
1	Reputational damage
2	
3	
4	
5	
Δdd	itional Comments:
/////	

Proposal Title:	Dog Waste bag provision	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Matt Stent
Ref No: Date:	ENV23 25/01/23	Directorate: Section:	Community Services Neighbourhood Services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1	25/01/23	1 st Draft
2		

# Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Cease provision of dog waste bags to residents

£14,596.00 per year

Supporting Data: Please answer the following questions, with information available at this	
stage. Further information may need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.	

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan?		
Pick One:		
Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient	N	
<ul> <li>Blaenau Gwent</li> <li>Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected</li> </ul>	N	
<ul> <li>communities</li> <li>An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place</li> </ul>	N	
Empowering and supporting communities to be	Ν	

safe, independent and resilient		
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?		Reputational damage – removing a provision resident[s] are used to having Passing costs to the resident [dog owner]
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Y	Description         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Dog waste bags         14,596
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	N	Investment Required       2023/24       2024/25       2025/26       2026/27       2027/28         £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?	Y	Ref       Benefit         1

-	
2	Potential for an increase in dog mess on the streets
	– increase in demand of our street Cleansing Teams
3	Possible increase in dog waste in residual [black bag] waste – increase in disposal costs for residual waste and impact on recycling performance.
4	
5	
5	
Add	litional Comments:

Proposal Title:	Move from weekly to fortnightly collections for green waste	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Matt Stent
Ref No:	ENV24	Directorate:	Community Services
Date:	25/01/23	Section:	Neighbourhood Services

Version	Date	Changes Made
1	25/01/23	1 st Draft
2		

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Green waste collections are currently weekly – proposal is to change to fortnightly collections. This proposal will require restricting the amount of green waste sacks households can present at the kerbside to ensure teams can cope with the demand.

£60,000 - £95,000 depending on tonnage collected at the kerbside

		er the following questions, with information available at this need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.
Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
<ul> <li>Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan?</li> <li>Pick One:</li> <li>Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent</li> <li>Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities</li> <li>An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right</li> </ul>	N N Y	Possibility of a negative impact on the Council's recycling performance, increases the risk of fines by Welsh Government for not meeting statutory recycling targets

time and in the right place • Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?	N	Reputational dam frequency of colle		luction i	n servic	e provis	ion i.e.
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Y	Description 2 x FTE's 1 vehicle Disposal costs Additional Comme Disposal Savings f 6,365.00 f 15,557.00 f 31,115.00	2023/24 £ 40,000 23,000 see below nts: Based on 10% reduc 25% reduc	tion in to	onnage	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
Will this proposal require investment to implement? Will this proposal	N	Additional Comme	nts:	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?	Ŷ	RefBenefit1233					

	4				
	5				
	L				
F	Ref	Disadvantage	Э		
	1 Reputational damage				
	2 Possibility of reduction in participation by residents				
	3	Possible negative impact on recycling performance			
		[see table b	belowj		
	4		recycling performance rate co WG for not meeting statutory		
	5		of green waste being put into		
	5				
			waste stream – increasing re		
			osts and further negative impa	act on	
		recycling p	erformance.		
	Addi	tional Com	ments:		
	Imna	act on			
		ormance	Based on		
	perio	-0.20%			
			10% reduction in tonnage		
		-0.50%	25% reduction in tonnage		
		-1%	50% reduction in tonnage		

Proposal Title:	Reduction in ISB School Funding	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Lynn Phillips
Ref No:	ED01	Directorate:	Education
Date:	11/11/22	Section:	Schools

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

### Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Presently, BG passports any uplift received from WG in respect of our AEF settlement onto schools. For 23/24 this uplift is estimated to be 3%, there is a potential to reduce this uplift resulting in the following:

0.0% uplift for Schools = £1.5m saving

1.0% uplift for Schools = £1m saving

1.5% uplift for Schools = £756,000 saving

2.0% uplift for Schools = £500,000 saving

2.5% uplift for Schools = £252,000 saving

However, it is important to take the following into account:

- The ability of schools to fund staff increments, pay award, increased utility costs and inflationary increases, which could lead to an increase in deficit budgets and redundancies. Currently, schools are highlighting cost pressures of £3.4m in relation to these cost pressures.
- Overall, school balances continually increased over the last few years and in 2021/22 it increased by £2.55m to £6.23m with no school in deficit.
- In 2022/23 ISB school funding was increased by 8.4%

Supporting Data: Please answer the following questions, with information available at this stage. Further information may need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.					
Question	Y/N	Comments / impact			
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan?	Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:         Y       Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent				
		Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities			

	An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place       Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient         Additional Comments::       Additional Comments::
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services ?	Currently, schools are highlighting cost pressures of £3.4m in relation to pay award, inflationary rises and utility costs and are already facing service cuts, this will have a negative impact on the service delivered for our learners
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Description       2023/24       2024/25       2025/26       2026/27       2027/28 $\underline{E}$
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Investment Required         2023/24         2024/25         2025/26         2026/27         2027/28           £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £

	Additional Comments: NA
Will this proposal	
have any non-	Ref Benefit
financial impacts?	1 Revenue savings.
	2
	3
	4
	5
	Ref         Disadvantage           1         Recovery and renewal planning and the associated
	1 Recovery and renewal planning and the associated negative impact on the service delivered for Blaenau Gwent's learners.
	2
	3
	4
	5
	Additional Comments:

Proposal Title:	Home to School Transport Service Review	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Lynn Phillips
Ref No: Date:	ED07a 11/11/22	Directorate: Section:	Education Home to School Transport

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

### Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Potential to look at options for delivery of this service, as the service is currently looking to retender their contracts during the next financial year. Potential options include:

- Revised procurement options
- Joint service with another LA
- Bring service 'in-house' and look at joint service utilising the Social Services fleet
- Engage with Environment Directorate around electric fleet

During the 2022/23 financial year the service is experiencing a cost pressure of £450,000 due to the Cost-of-Living crisis whereby an uplift of 20% had to be awarded to current contracts to retain the service. It is likely that this will remain a cost pressure for the 2023/24 financial year, with a cost pressure being highlighted of £500,000.

			e following questions, with information available at this ed to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.
Question	Y/N	Comr	ments / impact
Does this proposal			
align with the		Pleas	se indicate which priority the proposal links to:
Corporate Plan ?		Y	Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent
		Y	Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities
		Y	An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place

		Empowering independent onal Comment	and resi		commu	nities to	be safe,
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services ?		determined, l e delivery	nowever	, would	need to	result ir	n better
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	To be	onal Comment e determined neframe of re	- no ben				
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Additi	ent Required onal Comment e determined	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £

Will this proposal	To be determined:		
have any non-	Ref Benefit		
financial impacts?	1 Better service delivery, less travel time for learners		
· ·	etc		
	2 Could have a positive impact on the environment		
	3 Could result in collaborative working		
	4		
	5		
	Ref Disadvantage		
	1		
	2		
	3		
	4		
	5		
	Additional Comments:		

Proposal Title:	Home to School Transport - Policy review	Lead / Responsible Officer:	?
Ref No:	ED07b	Directorate:	Education
Date:	7 th November 2022	Section:	?

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

### Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Review current policy, BG policy more favourable than that of the statutory distance requirements specified within the Welsh Governments Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance.

BG currently provides transport for children under age 8 where the walking distance is more than 1.5 miles from home and 2 miles from home for those aged 8 and over compared to WG requirements of 2 miles and 3 miles respectively.

Bringing BG policy in line with WG guidance could realise savings in the overall numbers of buses required to provide this service.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact
Question         Does this proposal         align with the         Corporate Plan?         Pick One:         • Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent         • Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable	Y/N N N/A	Comments / impact Could impact on attendance levels at educational establishments
<ul> <li>connected communities</li> <li>An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality</li> </ul>	N/A	

<ul> <li>services at the right time and in the right place</li> <li>Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient</li> </ul>	N/A	
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?		
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?		Description       2023/24       2024/25       2025/26       2026/27       2027/28         ?
Will this proposal require investment to implement?		Investment Required       2023/24       2024/25       2025/26       2026/27       2027/28         £       £       £       £       £       £       £       £         Image: Second Seco
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?		Ref         Benefit           1

Ref     Disadvantage       1     2       3     4
4         5         Additional Comments: Likely to meet with public opposition.

Proposal Title:	Reduction in Aneurin Leisure Trust Management Fee	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Lynn Phillips
Ref No:	ED08	Directorate:	Aneurin Leisure Trust
Date:	11/11/22	Section:	

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

#### Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

The management fee for the ALT is based on CPI as at 30th September. This is 10.1%, 2.1% higher than the agreed inflation rate for the 23/24 estimates, resulting in a cost pressure of £64,800. Potential reduction to this uplift could result in the following:

0% uplift on Management fee = £246,000 saving 2% uplift on Management fee = £185,000 saving 4% uplift on Management fee = £123,000 saving 5% uplift on Management fee = £92,000 saving

This needs to be considered in conjunction with all partnership arrangements across the Council and may require a Change Control Notice.

Supporting Data: Please answer the following questions, with information available at this stage. Further information may need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.							
Question	Y/N	Comments / impact					
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan ?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:         Y       Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent					
		Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities					
		An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place					
		Y Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient					

	Additional Comments::							
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services ?	This will need to be considered with Aneurin Leisure Trust, however, it is likely to result in a reduction in the Leisure service provision available to the public.							
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	The 30 th agre cost could 0% t 2% t 4% t	tional Comr managem Septembe ed inflation pressure o d result in uplift on Ma uplift on Ma uplift on Ma	ent fee f r. This i n rate for of £64,80 the follow anageme anageme	for the s 10 r the 00. wing ent f ent f ent f	2.1%, 2. 23/24 Potentia : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :	1% high estimate al reduc 246,000 85,000 23,000	er than es, resul tion to th saving saving saving	the ting in a
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Investment Required         2023/24         2024/25         2025/26         2026/27         2027/28         £							

Will this proposal	
have any non-	Ref Benefit
financial impacts?	1 Revenue savings
•	2
	3
	4
	5
	Ref Disadvantage
	1 Reduction/cuts in service provision available to the
	public
	2
	3
	4
	5
	Additional Comments:

Proposal	Collaboration on a Gwent	Lead / Responsible	Ellie Fry
Title:	wide basis	Officer:	_
Ref No:	ENV19-21	Directorate:	R&CS
Date:		Section:	Various

Version	Date	Changes Made
1	06.12.22	
2		

### Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

Initial meeting with TCBC, and will be following this up on a Gwent wide basis on the 14th December.

There were a number of areas where we really felt *resilience* was the key driver as there are just insufficient staff doing the job now. A number of these are commercial in nature so I've included Bernadette in the circulation.

We could share resources in: Building Control Estates Rights of Way Tree Management

One area that we felt could be a combination of teams could be the Highways Teams – more to develop on that.

Technical Services (design/maintenance team) potentially to grow and one team cover Gwent – may not bring in much more income but an opportunity. (separate proforma)

Bulking up recycling for joint sale might be more profitable on a Gwent wide basis – depending on collection techniques.

Setting up our own staffing agency – Cornwall have done this. <u>Home - Jobline Staffing</u> Gareth Beer has just joined TCBC from Cornwall and so could share some learning. Much cheaper than using other agencies as we can drip feed any small profits back into Gwent authorities.

		er the following questions, with information available at this need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.			
Question Y/N Comments / impact					

Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan? Pick One: • Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent • Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities • An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place • Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other	From the last sche the Council in 2019 maintenance outsta	) that the				
services? Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Description	2023/24 £ ?	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
	Additional Commen Unknown at this stage resilient as we can es delivering statuary se	e, some of pecially w				
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Investment Required	2023/24 £ ?	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £

		itional Comments: nents could do. Further discussions to be had.
Will this proposal		
have any non-	Ref	Benefit
financial impacts?	1	Resilience in teams
	2	Some cost savings
	3	
	4	
	5	
	Ref	Disadvantage
	1	Doesn't look like much fat to cut in some of these options/areas
	2	Making the collaboration work can sometimes be difficult.
	3	
	4	
	5	
		ditional Comments:

Proposal Title:	ALN Reform – Placement Review	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Lynn Phillips
Ref No: Date:	ED05 11/11/22	Directorate: Section:	Education Out of County Placements

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

# Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

The recent ALN Reform has resulted in identifying more demand for places, this is a national issue with local consequences. There is growing demand for ALN places and insufficient capacity within BG settings to place our children. Therefore, resulting in the Council having to utilise out of county placements, which is more expensive.

The Education Directorate are currently looking at alternative options to increase BG's settings thereby avoiding the higher costs associated with out of county placements.

A business case has been submitted to WG for £15m to extend our current facilities which would significantly increase the number of places available to learners. If this is not successful it would result in the LA having to find resources to match fund an alternative funding route. If successful, this could result in cost reductions in our out of county placement budget and increased income due to recoupment from other LAs utilising our places. The Education Directorate are also exploring alternative delivery methods and systems approaches across the school estate to support learners in mainstream settings with support, particularly behaviour support.

A cost pressure has been highlighted for the 2023/24 financial year due to 4 learners requiring out of county placements amounting to £464,000.

Supporting Data: Please answer the following questions, with information available at this stage. Further information may need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact		
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:YMaximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent		

	Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities
	Y An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place
	Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient
	Additional Comments::
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?	The proposal will result in an increased number of local placements for ALN and vulnerable learners and also provide improved service provision by the re-instatement of specialist provisions
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Description         2023/24 £         2024/25 £         2025/26 £         2026/27 £         2027/28 £           Image: Constraint of the second se
	Additional Comments: Yes – to be determined, likely to be realised from 2025/26 onwards
Will this proposal require investment to implement?	Investment Required         2023/24         2024/25         2025/26         2026/27         2027/28           £         £         £         £         £         £         £         £
	Additional Comments:

	Dependent on the success of the business case to WG. If unsuccessful may need investment from 2024/25 onwards. Financial modelling will be required to determine figures.
Will this proposal have any non- financial impacts?	Ref       Benefit         1       Increased number local placements for ALN and vulnerable learners.         2       It will address issues in relation to capacity/ insufficient specialist provision/co-location in the current settings.         3       Reduce out of county placements at a significant cost.         4       5         5       1         Additional Comments:       1

Proposal Title:	Review of Operational Buildings	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Ellie Fry
Ref No:		Directorate:	
Date:	06/02/2023	Section:	

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

## Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

It is proposed to review the Council's operational buildings to determine both the current and future requirements in terms of:

- Number / type of buildings required
- Opening Hours of these buildings
- Energy efficiency opportunities
- Alternative use for surplus building assets (sale / rental/ community asset transfer)

The aim of the review is for the Council to divest itself of building assets no longer required and where possible generate either a capital receipt or a long term income stream from rental and / or to reduce the running costs of the buildings (maintenance, energy).

Supporting Data: Please answer the following questions, with information available at this stage. Further information may need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.

Question	Y/N	Comments / impact		
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan ?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to: Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent		
		Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities		
		x An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place		
		Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient		

	Additional Comment	s::				
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services ?	Depending upon the delivered from Cour may be amended. It is anticipated that be limited however where service chan	ncil buildi the impa commun	ings ma act on B ity enga	iy chang Iaenau	ge and a Gwent r	residents will
Will this proposal have any financial benefit?	Description Reduced running costs (maintenance, energy) Additional Comment	2023/24 £ 250,000	2024/2 £	5 2025/2 £	6 2026/2 £	27 2027/28 £
Will this proposal require investment	Investment Required	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
to implement?	Energy efficiency measures (solar panels for example)	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd
	Additional Comment	s:				

Will this proposal		
have any non-	Ref	Benefit
financial impacts?	1	Identification of future requirements
	2	Reduced carbon footprint (dependent upon findings) ?
	3	Staff implications (movement of base office for agile workers)
	4	Possible town centre regeneration implications/opportunities
	5	· · · ·
	Ref	Disadvantage
	1	May be identified during review
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	Add	itional Comments:

Proposal Title:	Consolidation of Procurement and Commissioning function	Lead / Responsible Officer:	Bernadette Elias / Alyson Hoskins
Ref No:	CS08	Directorate:	Corporate Services
Date:	10/11/22	Section:	Commercial & Customer

Version	Date	Changes Made
1		
2		

#### Summary of Proposal: (brief description of proposal being explored including indicative budget impact

A proposed consolidation of the Corporate Procurement team with the Commissioning team in Social Services and any other capacity in service areas identified as undertaking commissioning and procurement roles.

The review would identify financial efficiencies which would need to be identified as part of a scoping exercise including a reduction of staffing and possible integration of systems where relevant.

NB: An alternative proposal is being considered regarding a regional collaboration of Social Service Commissioning. This will be progressed in the first instance as a separate BtG proposal.

		hay need to be added prior to finalisation of proposal.		
Question	Y/N	Comments / impact		
Does this proposal align with the Corporate Plan?		Please indicate which priority the proposal links to:         Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent		
		Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities		
		X An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place		
		Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient		

Supporting Data: Please answer the following questions, with information available at this

	Additional Comments::					
What is the impact of this proposal on the public & other services?	Aiming for a streamlined service which would not have a negative impact on the public and would maximise excellent commissioning and contract management expertise, Any consolidation and efficiencies would need to ensure an acceptable level of service delivery.					
Will this proposal	Description	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
have any financial benefit?	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	£	2024/25 £	2025/20 £	£	£
	Reduction in number of staff	TBD				
	Reduction /	TBD				
	integration of					
	systems					
	Additional Comments Potential to improve co commissioned service Potential to reduce sta responsibilities)					
Will this proposal	Investment Required	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
require investment to implement?		2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/20 £	2020/27 £	£
	Additional Comments:					

Will this proposal	
have any non-	Ref Benefit
financial impacts?	1 Maximising internal skills and capacity
	2
	3
	4
	5
	Ref Disadvantage
	1 Perception of loss of focus which would need to be
	managed
	2
	3
	4
	5
	Additional Comments:

### Agenda Item 5

Committee:	Special Council
Date of Meeting:	23 rd February, 2023
Report Subject:	Memberships Report
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor S. Thomas – Leader/ Cabinet Member – Corporate Overview & Performance
Report Submitted by:	Democratic Services
Report Written by:	Democratic Services

Reporting Pathway									
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance & Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)	
							23/03/23		

#### 1. **Purpose of the Report**

1.1 To present a list of Memberships for consideration and determination by Members of the Council.

#### 2. **Scope**

#### 2.1 DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

To appoint a Chair of the Democratic Services Committee

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

3.1 To consider the above.

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