

**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT**

**REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**SUBJECT: JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
(BUDGET MONITORING) – 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2021**

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

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

Councillors M. Cook  
D. Bevan  
P. Baldwin  
G.A. Davies  
G.L. Davies  
L. Elias  
P. Edwards  
J. Hill  
L. Parsons  
G. Paulsen  
J. Millard  
M. Moore  
H. McCarthy  
K. Rowson  
T. Smith  
B. Summers  
H. Trollope  
B. Willis  
L. Winnett

**WITH: Managing Director  
Chief Officer Resources  
Corporate Director Education  
Corporate Director Social Services  
Head of Community Services  
Chief Officer Commercial & Customer  
Service Manager Neighbourhood Services  
Scrutiny & Democratic Officer/Advisor**

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ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<p><b><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
No. 2	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were reported for Councillors S. Thomas, K. Hayden, C. Meredith, D. Wilkshire and Mr. T. Baxter.</p>	
No. 3	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</u></b></p> <p>The following declarations of interest were reported:-</p> <p><i><u>Item No. 6 - Revenue Budget Monitoring - 2021/2022, Forecast Outturn to 31 March 2022 (As at 30th June 2021)</u></i></p> <p>Councillors B. Summers and M. Cook (Silent Valley Waste Services)</p>	
No. 4.	<p><b><u>JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BUDGET MONITORING)</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 was submitted.</p> <p>It was reported that Councillor W. Hodgins' attendance had been omitted from the front page of the minutes.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
No. 5	<p><b><u>ACTION SHEET – 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2021</u></b></p> <p>The action sheet arising from the Joint Scrutiny (Budget Monitoring) Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2021, whereupon:-</p> <p><i><u>Festival Park</u></i></p>	

	<p>A Member asked whether the Council’s SLA with the new company could potentially impact on the Council’s budget should they request an increase to the management fee</p> <p>In response the Corporate Director Regeneration &amp; Community Services explained that the lease arrangement between the Council and the new owners was the same as the previous arrangement. The management fee was built into the current long term lease, which protected both parties, and could not be renegotiated. He reported that positive dialogue had taken place with the company and hopefully the site would be improved in the future.</p> <p><u>Update on the Truck Shop, Tredegar</u></p> <p>The Corporate Director confirmed that a submission had been that agreement was awaited from CADW. However, discussions were positive and they were aware of the urgency for us to progress and would hopefully be resolved during this financial year.</p> <p>A brief discussion ensued when a Member stated that a response to a question raised by a Member in a Scrutiny meeting should be reported back to the Committee.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that the Officer responded directly to the Member.</p> <p>The Corporate Director undertook to provide a briefing note to Members.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, the Action Sheet be noted.</p>	
<p><b>No. 6</b></p>	<p><b><u>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2020/2021 FORECAST OUTTURN TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2022 (AS AT 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2021)</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and Members noted the virements detailed in paragraphs 5.1.4 to and 5.1.7.</p>	

<p><b>No. 7</b></p>	<p><b><u>BRIDGING THE GAP (BTG) PROGRAMME 2021/2022 – PROGRESS UPDATE APRIL TO JUNE 2021</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted; and Members provided appropriate challenge to the Bridging the Gap programme.</p>	
<p><b>No. 8</b></p>	<p><b><u>CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING FORECAST FOR 2021/2022 FINANCIAL YEAR AS AT 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2021</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted, and;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided appropriate challenge to the financial outcomes in the report.</li> <li>• Continued to support appropriate financial control procedures agreed by Council.</li> <li>• Noted the budgetary control and monitoring procedures in place within the Capital Team, to safeguard Authority funding.</li> </ul>	