

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 13TH JULY, 2022

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

**PRESENT: Leader/
Executive Member - Corporate Overview & Performance
Councillor S. Thomas**

**Deputy Leader/
Executive Member – Place & Environment
Councillor H. Cunningham**

**Executive Member – Place & Regeneration
Councillor J.C. Morgan**

**Executive Member – People & Education
Councillor S. Edmunds**

**Executive Member – People & Social Services
Councillor H. Trollope**

**WITH: Interim Chief Executive
Chief Officer Resources
Chief Officer Commercial
Head of Organisational Development
Head of Regeneration
Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance
Head of School Improvement, Inclusion and Education
Press Officer**

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
No. 1	<u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.
No. 2	<u>APOLOGIES</u> An apology for absence was received from the Corporate Director Education.
No. 3	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u> There were no declarations of interest or dispensations raised.
No. 4	<u>TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u> It was proposed and seconded that future meetings be held at 10.00 a.m. RESOLVED accordingly.
	<u>MINUTES</u>
No. 5	<u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</u> Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Executive Committee held on 16 th March, 2022. RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.

	<p><u>GENERAL MATTERS</u></p>
<p>No. 6.</p>	<p><u>CONFERENCES, COURSES, EVENTS AND INVITATIONS</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the following:-</p> <p><u>The Installation of the next Archdeacon of the Gwent Valleys and Diocesan Director of Mission - Sunday 19th June 2022</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that Councillor D. Wilkshire, Deputy Presiding Member be approved to attend.</p> <p><u>Armed Forces Day 2022</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that Councillor D. Bevan, Armed Forces Champion be approved to attend.</p>
	<p><u>CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO</u></p>
<p>No. 7</p>	<p><u>WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITY FOR A 'BRIDGING LOAN' TO SUPPORT WITH THE INCREASING COST OF USING A CAR FOR WORK PURPOSES</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Organisational Development.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and an offer be made to employees who use their car for work purposes the opportunity of applying for a 'bridging' loan of £200 that was fully repayable. The situation would be reviewed in March 2023 or earlier should the cost of fuel reduce, the pay award has been implemented or there was any other change. The loan would be repayable via monthly instalments over 12 months. The 'bridging' loan was fully recoverable with immediate effect if an employee terminates their employment with the Authority.</p> <p>Discussions would continue in relation to the potential of a temporary review of mileage rates with the trade unions.</p>

	<p>The loan opportunity would be advertised through line managers and the Chief Executive Newsletter and would only be available to those who have claimed mileage over the last year and use their car for work purposes. The employee would be required to sign a declaration and commitment to repay the loan in the future (Option 1).</p>
	<p><u>PLACE AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO</u></p>
<p>No. 8</p>	<p><u>SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (SPF)</u> <u>LOCAL INVESTMENT PLAN AND REGIONAL INVESTMENT PLAN</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Regeneration and Development.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and agreed to proceed with the Regional Shared Prosperity Fund process (Option 1) as follows:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek agreement for Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (RCT) to act as Lead Local Authority for the UK SPF for the Cardiff Capital Region and for them to submit the CCR Investment Plan to the UK Government by the deadline of 1st August 2022. 2. Grant delegated authority for the Head of Regeneration and Development (in consultation with the Leader and Executive Member for Place and Regeneration, Chief Executive, Chief Officer Resources/Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer/ Head of Legal and Compliance) to take necessary actions to meet the submission deadlines and requirements. 3. A number of interventions be agreed to ensure that the 2022/23 funding was spent in a timely manner, including some at-risk recruitment. This would be at financial risk to the council in the first instance. Contracts could be further extended once confirmation of SPF funding was received. 4. It was agreed to use part of the 4% SPF (£1,120,000 over three years) administration/management fee to appoint a small project team to manage and administer the delivery of the SPF programme for BGCBC.

	<p><u>PEOPLE AND EDUCATION PORTFOLIO</u></p>
No. 9	<p><u>RIGHTS, VALUE, ETHICS (RVE) SYLLABUS</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Education.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Executive Committee adopted the agreed syllabus for use in primary schools from September 2022 and for those all through/secondary schools implementing Curriculum for Wales from 2023 as set out in the report (Option 1).</p>
	<p><u>PLACE AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO</u></p>
No. 10	<p><u>SALE OF LAND, ASHVALE, TREDEGAR</u></p> <p>Having regard to the views expressed by the Proper Officer regarding the public interest test, that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the public be excluded whilst this item of business is transacted as it is likely there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).</p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Head of Regeneration.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information which contained details relating to the business/financial affairs of persons other than the Authority be accepted (Option 2).</p>