

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET
SUBJECT: CABINET – 19th JULY, 2023
REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

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

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

Cabinet Member – Place and Regeneration
Councillor J.C. Morgan

Cabinet Member – People & Social Services
Councillor H. Trollope

Cabinet Member – People & Education
Councillor S. Edmunds

WITH: Interim Chief Executive
Chief Officer Resources
Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services
Interim Corporate Director Education
Chief Officer Customer and Commercial
Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance
Head of Adult Services
Partnerships Team Leader
Policy Officer
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> The following apologies for absence were received:- Interim Corporate Director Social Services Head of Democratic Services, Partnerships & Governance
No. 3	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u> No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.
	<u>DECISIONS</u>
No. 4	<u>CABINET</u> Consideration was given to the decisions of the Cabinet Meeting held on 7 th June, 2023. RESOLVED that the decisions be received as a true record of proceedings.
No. 5	<u>SPECIAL CABINET</u> Consideration was given to the decisions of the Cabinet Meeting held on 21 st June, 2023. RESOLVED that the decisions be received as a true record of proceedings.

	<p><u>CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO</u></p>
No. 6	<p><u>PROPOSED CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Scrutiny and Democratic Officer.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Forward Work Programme for Cabinet for 2023/24 be agreed.</p>
No. 7	<p><u>GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS</u></p> <p>Consideration was given the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p>
No. 8	<p><u>WELSH LANGUAGE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 /</u> <u>ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL YR IAITH GYMRAEG 2022/23</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Democratic Services, Governance and Partnerships.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Welsh Language Annual Report 2022/23, as published on 30th June 2023 be noted (Option 1).</p>
No. 9	<p><u>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2022/2023 –</u> <u>PROVISIONAL OUTTURN</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted, the appropriate challenge to the financial outcomes in the report was provided and Cabinet noted the net use of specific reserves (Option 1).</p>

No. 10	<u>CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2022/2023 FINANCIAL YEAR (AS AT 31 MARCH 2023)</u>
	<p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p>
	<p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) the appropriate challenge was provided to the financial outcomes in the report;(b) continued to support the appropriate financial control procedures agreed by Council; and(c) noted the budgetary control and monitoring procedures in place within the Capital Team, to safeguard Authority funding (Option 1).
No. 11	<u>MEETING SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE EQUALITY ACT 2010: STRATEGIC EQUALITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT</u>
	<p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Democratic Services, Governance and Partnerships.</p>
	<p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and supported the proposed approach for developing the Strategic Equality Plan 2024/28 and Equality Objectives to be approved by Cabinet (Option 1).</p>
No. 12	<u>CHARTER OF COMMON AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL</u>
	<p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager – Policy and Partnerships.</p>
	<p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and a return to the existing Charter of Common Agreement arrangements be approved with the four TCCs, with a revised Charter for 2023/24 onwards to be presented for agreement at a future meeting (Option 1).</p>

No. 13 **COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS ON LONG-TERM EMPTY AND SECOND HOMES**

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

The Deputy Leader noted the consultation questions outlined in Appendix 2 and proposed that the word 'feel' in question 2 be amended to read 'views' as the consultation was seeking people's views. The Deputy Leader also proposed an extra open question which would allow people to include any further comments they feel are relevant when responding to the consultation.

The Deputy Leader also suggested it would be useful when considering the consultation responses that we are aware of what capacity people are responding to the consultation. It was felt that a response from a housing or homelessness charity would be quite different from a landlord and potentially an RSL.

The proposals were supported and seconded by Cabinet Members.

RESOLVED accordingly.

FURTHER RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and the details of the discretionary powers that Councils have relating to council tax premiums be noted, and it was agreed that a public consultation exercise be undertaken on proposals to introduce a council tax premium for long term empty properties and second homes within Blaenau Gwent. The proposed consultation questions are in Appendix 2 (Option 1).

PEOPLE AND EDUCATION PORTFOLIO

No. 14 **SAFEGUARDING PERFORMANCE INFORMATION (INCLUDING SOCIAL SERVICES 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST MARCH AND EDUCATION SPRING TERM – 2023 AND CORPORATE SERVICES)**

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Interim Corporate Director Social Services and Interim Corporate Director Education.

RESOLVED that the report and approach be accepted and the revised Safeguarding in Education Policy as shown in Appendix 3 be agreed (Option 1).
