

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 26TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

REPORT OF: LEADERSHIP AND DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT OFFICER

**PRESENT: Leader of the Council/Executive Member Corporate Services
Councillor N.J. Daniels (Chair)**

**Deputy Leader of the Council/
Executive Member – Environment
Councillor G. Collier**

**Executive Member – Social Services
Councillor J. Mason**

**Executive Member – Education
Councillor J. Collins**

**Executive Member –
Regeneration & Economic Development
Councillor D. Davies**

WITH: Managing Director
Chief Officer Resources
Chief Officer Commercial
Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services
Head of Children's Services
Head of Education Transformation
Solicitor

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
No. 1	<u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>The following apologies for absence were received from:-</p> <p>Corporate Director Social Services Corporate Director Education</p>	
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>The following declaration of interest was made:-</p> <p>Councillor N. Daniels, Leader of the Council Item No. 22 – Service Review</p> <p>Councillor Daniels reported and the Managing Director confirmed that advice had been sought from the Council’s Monitoring Officer who had advised that Councillor Daniels would be permitted to remain in the meeting whilst the item was discussed and could take part in any discussion if he chose to do so.</p>	
	<p><u>MOTION TO COUNCIL</u></p> <p>The Executive Member for Education referred to a request from Carmarthenshire County Council for schools to commemorate annually the Aberfan memorial on 22nd October and the loss of life associated with the coal industry. This commemoration would be undertaken in a sensitive and age appropriate way.</p> <p>The Executive Member advised that this had been discussed at the Head Teacher Forums and the motion had been agreed, therefore, if the Executive agreed, a proposal would be submitted to Council for this to become an annual commemoration.</p> <p>RESOLVED accordingly.</p>	
	<p><u>MINUTES</u></p>	
No. 4	<p><u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</u></p>	

The minutes of the Executive Committee held on 17th July, 2019 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.

DECISION ITEMS

GENERAL MATTERS

No. 5

CONFERENCES/COURSES

Consideration was given to attendance at the following:-

National Social Care Conference

11th and 12th September, 2019

RESOLVED that approval be granted for Councillor J. Mason, Executive Member for Social Services, to attend.

Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day – 31st August, 2019

RESOLVED that approval be granted for Councillor M. Moore, Chair of Council, to attend.

Red Flag Day - 3rd September, 2019

RESOLVED that approval be granted for Councillor M. Moore, Chair of Council, to attend.

WLGA Annual Conference

Thursday 28th November and Friday 29th November, 2019

RESOLVED that approval be granted for Councillor J. Mason, Executive Member for Social Services, to attend.

ITEM	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<p><u>Churches Together</u> <u>Service and Launch of BGCA - Saturday 14th September, 2019.</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that approval be granted for Councillor Julie Holt, Deputy Chair of Council, to attend.</p> <p><u>Rededication Service – Ebbw Vale Cenotaph</u> <u>Saturday, 14th September, 2019</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that approval be granted for Councillor Brian Thomas, Armed Forces Champion, to attend.</p> <p><u>Project 360 – Supporting Older Veterans in Wales Conference 2019</u> <u>Thursday, 24th October, 2019 – Cardiff City Stadium</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that approval be granted for Councillor Brian Thomas, Armed Forces Champion, to attend.</p> <p>It was noted that the above events would incur no cost for the Council.</p>	
No. 6	<p><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – 6TH NOVEMBER 2019</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Leader/Executive Member for Corporate Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the forward work programme for 6th November 2019 be noted.</p>	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>DECISION ITEMS – CORPORATE SERVICES MATTERS</u>	
No. 7	<p><u>CAPITAL PROGRAMME</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Chief Resources Officer advised that the report outlined options to allocate £9.9 million of capital funding to the capital programme for the period to 2025/26. The capital programme had been based on a review of current available capital resources and the assumption of capital funding anticipated from Wales Government for 2024/25 & 2025/26.</p> <p>The Chief Resources Officer noted that there had been a significant over requirement for capital resources in the five year period of 2019/2020 to 2023/2024. Therefore, a prioritisation mechanism had been used to ensure that the highest priority projects could proceed. The Chief Officer advised that a two stage approach for prioritisation had been utilised with stage 1 being an initial prioritisation of bids by officers and stage 2 gave a political priority ranking by the Executive. The outcome of stage 1 had been considered by Executive Members to determine whether the prioritisation aligned with their political priorities. She further referred Members to Appendix 3 which summarised the potential projects, their associated scores and ranks based on the two stage process aforementioned.</p> <p>The Chief Resources Officer further spoke to the report and outlined the options for consideration.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council welcomed the report and commended the work that officers had undertaken on the capital programme. 27 worthy bids had been submitted for capital funding but this number had now been reduced to 12 projects using the scoring and matrix included within the appendix.</p> <p>The Leader continued by advising that the matrix did not take into account political preferences in terms of the ranking of the projects and, therefore, the Executive would remain true to the commitment to prioritise Education and Social Services. In addition, two further projects that had both political and professional support from across the authority and would hopefully be welcomed by residents were:-</p>	

- Household Waste and Recycling Centre at Roseheyworth
- Cemeteries - £210,000 had been allocated for a programme of works to be carried out in cemeteries as it had been acknowledged that many of the cemeteries needed some attention.

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development referred to capital bids to address the Tredegar Company Shop and Big Arch which had been long standing issues for the Council. It was felt that by addressing these areas it would benefit the Council going forward.

RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and Option 3, namely a combination of paring down the schemes in period 1 (19/2020 to 23/2024 which was the most oversubscribed) by 20% to allow the funding to meet the requirements of an optimum number of schemes and allocating to the highest scoring projects in periods 2 and 3, leaving funding remaining in each period for allocation at a future date. This option would deliver an optimum number of requisite projects in the medium term whilst leaving £2m funding remaining in the future for allocation to existing schemes/additional priorities as they may arise.

The projects to be funded based on this option were as follows:-

Scheme Name	2019/20 to 2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £
Band B Secondary School Remodelling		750,000	750,000
Band B Welsh Medium Remodelling	280,000		
Household Wales Recycling Centre - Roseheyworth Industrial Estate	520,000		
Cemeteries	210,000		
Emergency Electrical & IT work Civic Centre	240,000		
Corporate Landlord Planned Replacement	560,000	300,000	300,000
Social Services Community Equipment	570,000	285,000	285,000
Tredegar Company Shop	200,000		
Constrained/Industrial Units Improvement Programme	280,000	300,000	300,000
Disabled Facility Grants	250,000	200,000	200,000
Big Arch refurbishment	640,000		
Tech Valley & Enterprise Board Match	500,000		
TOTAL	4,250,000	1,835,000	1,835,000

FUNDING REMAINING FOR ALLOCATION AT A FUTURE DATE 712,667 665,000 665,000

- A total of £7.9m would be allocated to the capital programme with £2m remaining as a contingency
- A revised capital programme based upon Option 3, for the period 2019/2020 to 2025/2026, including the projects above was detailed in Appendix 5. This also reflected the latest profile of the 21st Century Band B schemes.
- WG had announced a number of enhanced capital grants for the period 2019 to 2021. For example, the Council would receive £410,000 in 2019/2020 for the Public Highways Refurbishment Grant. In addition, Welsh Government had recently announced Capital grant funding to Support Economic Stimulus within Local Authorities. For 2019/20 the Council would receive £444,465, the purpose of this funding would be:-
 - To invest in capital schemes to drive important changes in communities.
 - To fund a range of projects that could be delivered quickly in year, providing economic benefits which are aligned with the Welsh Government's priorities and which could stimulate wider economic demand at a time when it was needed most.
 - To consider any positive impacts on biodiversity and the environment that could be delivered through the investment of this funding
- Through the maximisation of these (and other) capital grants, there would be the potential to further review the re-allocation of capital resources in this timeframe.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>																														
No. 8	<p data-bbox="199 327 751 365"><u>GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS</u></p> <p data-bbox="199 412 1345 450">Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p data-bbox="199 497 1385 663">The Leader reported that the payments made to Ebbw Vale Welfare Bowls Club for £50.00 by Beaufort Ward Members and £100.00 by Ebbw Vale North Ward Members was to be removed as the Club had now ceased to operate.</p> <p data-bbox="199 710 616 748">RESOLVED accordingly.</p> <p data-bbox="199 795 1385 878">Members were further advised of the following additional grants that had been submitted for approval since the preparation of the report:-</p> <p data-bbox="199 925 464 963"><u>ABERTILLERY</u></p> <p data-bbox="213 1021 904 1059"><u>Abertillery Ward- Councillor N. Daniels</u></p> <table data-bbox="213 1115 1385 1153"> <tr> <td data-bbox="213 1115 245 1153">1.</td> <td data-bbox="325 1115 695 1153">Tredegar AFC Juniors</td> <td data-bbox="1318 1115 1385 1153">£50</td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="213 1211 900 1249"><u>Cwmtillery Ward- Councillor J. Wilkins</u></p> <table data-bbox="213 1305 1385 1590"> <tr> <td data-bbox="213 1305 245 1344">1.</td> <td data-bbox="325 1305 715 1344">Abertillery Ladies Darts</td> <td data-bbox="1318 1305 1385 1344">£50</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="213 1355 245 1393">2.</td> <td data-bbox="325 1355 1110 1393">Abertillery Business & Professional Ladies Ass.</td> <td data-bbox="1318 1355 1385 1393">£50</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="213 1404 245 1442">3.</td> <td data-bbox="325 1404 660 1442">Abertillery Mini RFC</td> <td data-bbox="1295 1404 1385 1442">£100</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="213 1453 245 1491">4.</td> <td data-bbox="325 1453 911 1491">Ebbw Vale Wheelchair Sports Club</td> <td data-bbox="1295 1453 1385 1491">£100</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="213 1503 245 1541">5.</td> <td data-bbox="325 1503 695 1541">Abertillery Town Band</td> <td data-bbox="1318 1503 1385 1541">£50</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="213 1552 245 1590">6.</td> <td data-bbox="325 1552 459 1590">CANCO</td> <td data-bbox="1318 1552 1385 1590">£50</td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="213 1644 1137 1682"><u>Llanhilleth Ward- Councillor J. Collins & N. Parsons</u></p> <table data-bbox="213 1738 1385 1872"> <tr> <td data-bbox="213 1738 245 1776">1.</td> <td data-bbox="325 1738 616 1776">Ebbw Fach Choir</td> <td data-bbox="1295 1738 1385 1776">£100</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="213 1787 245 1825">2.</td> <td data-bbox="325 1787 715 1825">Abertillery Ladies Darts</td> <td data-bbox="1295 1787 1385 1825">£100</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="213 1836 245 1874">3.</td> <td data-bbox="325 1836 820 1874">Blaenau Gwent Nature Group</td> <td data-bbox="1295 1836 1385 1874">£100</td> </tr> </table>	1.	Tredegar AFC Juniors	£50	1.	Abertillery Ladies Darts	£50	2.	Abertillery Business & Professional Ladies Ass.	£50	3.	Abertillery Mini RFC	£100	4.	Ebbw Vale Wheelchair Sports Club	£100	5.	Abertillery Town Band	£50	6.	CANCO	£50	1.	Ebbw Fach Choir	£100	2.	Abertillery Ladies Darts	£100	3.	Blaenau Gwent Nature Group	£100	
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<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<p><u>Six Bells Ward- Councillor M. Holland</u></p> <p>1. Six Bells Community Centre £100 2. Abertillery Excelsiors FC £100</p> <p><u>BRYNMAWR</u></p> <p><u>Brynmawr Ward - Councillor J. Hill</u></p> <p>1. Brynmawr SOTS Group £100 2. Brynmawr Dragons FC £100</p> <p><u>EBBW VALE</u></p> <p><u>Badminton Ward – Councillor G. Paulsen</u></p> <p>1. Ebbw Vale Mini Rugby £50</p> <p><u>Ebbw Vale North Ward – Councillor D. Davies & P. Edwards & B. Summers</u></p> <p>1. Ebbw Vale Mini Rugby £200</p>	
	<p><u>NANTYGLO & BLAINA</u></p> <p><u>Blaina Ward – Councillor G. Collier</u></p> <p>1. Tredegar AFC Juniors £50</p>	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<p data-bbox="199 324 406 369"><u>TREDEGAR</u></p> <p data-bbox="215 425 1173 548"><u>Georgetown & Central & West Ward – Councillors K. Hayden & J. Morgan & S. Thomas & H. Trollope & B. Willis</u></p> <ol data-bbox="215 593 1380 1713" style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stocktonville Senior Citizens £200 2. Royal British Legion (Moose International) £280 3. Planet Fitness £200 4. Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir £200 5. 2167 Air Force Cadets £400 6. Tredegar Angling Club £200 7. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum £200 8. St John Ambulance Tredegar £200 9. Trefil RFC £100 10. Trefil Junior RFC £100 11. Tredegar Horse Show £200 12. Tredegar Ironsides Junior RFC £200 13. Liam Davies £200 14. Southend Allotments £200 15. Georgetown Community Centre £200 16. Gwent Area Association of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society £100 17. Southend Bee Keepers £100 18. Sirhowy Valley Woodlands £200 19. Tredegar Business Forum £600 20. Carl Bennet MS Walk £200 21. St Georges Court Tenants & Residents Association £200 	
	<p data-bbox="215 1758 989 1803"><u>Central & West Ward – Councillor M. Moore</u></p> <ol data-bbox="215 1836 1380 1892" style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tredegar Business Forum £100 	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>Sirhowy Ward – Councillor M. Cross & T. Smith</u>	
1.	Royal British Legion (Moose International)	£120
2.	Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir	£50
3.	2167 Squadron Air Training Corps	£50
4.	Tredegar Angling Club	£50
5.	Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum	£50
6.	St John Cymru Wales	£50
7.	Trefil RFC	£100
8.	Trefil Junior RFC	£100
9.	Tredegar Horse Show	£50
10.	Tredegar Ironsides RFC	£100
11.	Liam James Davies	£50
12.	Gwent Area Association of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society	£50
13.	Sirhowy Valley Woodlands	£50
14.	Nantylwch Community Centre	£250
15.	Sirhowy Community Centre	£250
16.	Ystrad Deri Community Centre	£250
17.	Sirhowy Senior Citizens	£250
18.	Horeb Chapel	£25
19.	Sardis Chapel	£25
20.	Ebenezer Independent Chapel	£50
21.	Siloam Chapel	£50
22.	St George's Church	£50
23.	Immaculate Conception Church	£50
24.	Valleys Life Afterstroke	£50

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	25. Bedwellty Park Men's Bowls £50 26. The Green Club £50 27. Blaenau Gwent Otters £50 28. Silurian Boxing Club £50 29. Tredegar Ladies Netball Club £50 30. Tredegar Scout Group £50 31. Girl Guides Gwent £50 32. Tredegar Women's Institute £50 33. Oak Football Club £50 34. Sirhowy Angling Club £50 35. Tredegar History and Archive Society £50 36. Tredegar Operatic Society £50 37. Blaenau Gwent Film Academy £50 38. Tredegar Twinning Association £100 39. Glanhwy Primary (Autism) £100 40. Brynbach Running Club £50 41. Sirhowy Flying Start (Planting) £50	
	<p><u>DECISION ITEMS – REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS</u></p>	
<p>No. 9</p>	<p><u>ENTERPRISE FRAMEWORK</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Regeneration and Development.</p> <p>The Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development advised that the Enterprise Framework had been developed in conjunction with the Blaenau Gwent Enterprise Board which now included political representation. At a recent meeting of the Blaenau Gwent Enterprise Board it had been reported that there was an increase in businesses locating within Blaenau Gwent, an increased number in retention of businesses and business start-up rates in Blaenau Gwent was one of the best in Wales. The Enterprise Framework would enhance this economic development work across Blaenau Gwent and would pay dividends going forward.</p>	

The Executive Member concluded by expressing his appreciation to the work undertaken by the Council's Economic Development Team and the Chair of the Blaenau Gwent Enterprise Board, Mark Langshaw who had produced the framework.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and option 2, namely approval be given to the Enterprise Framework to support the BG Enterprise Board and enable a proactive approach in our efforts to increase the coordination of our business support with a targeted approach based on the UKCI measurement.

No. 10

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN –
ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT**

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.

The Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development advised that the all Councils were required to produce an annual monitoring report in relation to the Local Development Plan. As the Local Development Plan was currently under review this particular document had not changed greatly since the last report. It was anticipated that the revised LDP would be considered in the next few months.

It was noted that as part of the review process for the LDP consideration would be given to the Cardiff Capital Regional Area Strategic Development Plan which had recently been developed.

The Executive Member continued by highlighting two main areas within the plan and these were:-

- Increase Housing Development within Blaenau Gwent
- Industrial Portfolio

The Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services advised that whilst targets were not being met in relation to the above areas there were positive signs that there was an increase in house building and a strong demand for new houses in the area.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the contents agreed prior to the submission to Welsh Government.

No. 11

SELF BUILD WALES

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.

The Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development advised that the report provided information on the Self Build Wales Programme. The Executive Member added that the Authority was committed to increase housing which aligned to Welsh Government's commitment in the delivery of additional housing. The Housing Delivery Group had already recognised potential sites at The Works, Ebbw Vale, Nantyglo School Site, Abertillery Bowls Centre and Former Six Bells Collier Site. The initial site to be piloted would be The Works, however, consultation would be undertaken around the other areas.

The Deputy Leader referred to a number of small areas of land in the Ebbw Fach Valley which had the potential for small builds and felt that these areas should also be included in the programme. The Deputy Leader felt that these were 'quick fix' areas and had hoped that these areas would be included.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<p>The Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development stated that all these areas would be considered and advised that there would be areas that would be developed quicker than other. He welcomed the information on available land and felt that all Councillors had a role to play in identifying such area as well as directing individuals who wished to develop land for housing.</p> <p>The Executive Member for Social Services mentioned the need for older people's accommodation and had hoped that older people's housing would also be considered.</p> <p>The Leader referred to the former Six Bells Colliery Site and the former Abertillery Bowls Centre site and had hoped that these areas could be developed at the earliest convenience. Both the sites had good selling factors and these should be emphasised in order to see the sites developed as soon as possible. The Leader stated that he did not want to see reports being presented in 12-24 months which still reported that these areas had been put forward for development.</p> <p>The Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development advised that the above were two prime sites in the Council's control/ownership that could be brought forward in terms of development. In reply to a question, the Executive Member confirmed that sites would be developed a 'complete' package and would include infrastructure such as roads.</p> <p>RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and option 2, namely approval was given for BGCBC involvement in the initiative and recommended preferred site (Works) to pilot the self-build initiative and gauge public interest within Blaenau Gwent.</p>	

No. 12

**RASSAU AND TAFARNAUBACH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.

The Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development provided an overview of the Business Improvement District and advised that this Authority was one of the first authorities to take this forward on Industrial Estates. The Executive Member added that a BID was funded by businesses on the industrial estates paying a fee against their business rates based on the physical size of their business. This funding was then used to enhance the industrial estate.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<p>The Executive Member advised that a ballot process of the businesses would take place in November and a positive outcome would be required before the work could be progressed. He concluded by advising that if the process worked well it could be undertaken in other areas.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and option 1, namely to implement the BID Process be to the ballot stage and implement the outcome of the ballot if there was a positive outcome to support the creation of a BID.</p>	
	<p><u>DECISION ITEMS – EDUCATION MATTERS</u></p>	
<p>No. 13</p>	<p><u>EDUCATION DIRECTORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Education.</p> <p>The Executive Member for Education spoke briefly to the report and advised that the Joint Education & Learning & Social Services Scrutiny Committee (Safeguarding) had recently support the policy with no amendments.</p> <p>The Executive Member for Social Services commended the links within the policy to looked after children and said he supported the policy.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Education Directorate Safeguarding Policy be approved prior to distribution to schools.</p>	

No. 14

HOME TO SCHOOL AND POST 16 TRANSPORT POLICY 2019/20

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Education.

The Head of Education Transformation provided an overview of the report and outlined the revised changes made to the document which required adoption and publication by 1st October, 2019 for implementation from September 2020.

It was noted that Members of the Education & Learning Scrutiny Committee had raised a point regarding breakfast club provision but as this provision was only available at primary schools, there would be no impact on the proposed policy. This point would be made more explicit when the document was published.

The Deputy Leader said he was aware of some buses were transporting single passengers to schools and asked if a review could be undertaken on how Council allocated the funding in respect of home to school and post 16 transport to ascertain whether value for money was being achieved.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<p>The Head of Education Transformation agreed to undertake this work with colleagues in Environment as the operation arrangements came under the remit of the Head of Community Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED accordingly.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and the Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy 2020/21 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved for adoption and publication by 1st October, 2019.</p>	
	<p><u>MONITORING REPORTS</u></p> <p>The Leader referred to the monitoring reports to be considered at this juncture and advised that the Executive had discussed a more strategic approach to the agenda. Therefore, it had been agreed that the agenda be split into a decision pack and monitoring pack and whilst decision items would generate discussion it did not mean that the monitoring reports were less important. It was agreed that if an Executive Member wished to highlight a report in the monitoring pack this could be done, however as these recommendations noted options for information they had been presented to update the Executive on ongoing matters.</p> <p>For this particular agenda it had been agreed that Item Nos. 15, 18 & 21 would be discussed in detail.</p>	
	<p><u>MONITORING ITEMS – CORPORATE SERVICES MATTERS</u></p>	
<p>No. 15</p>	<p><u>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING - 2019/2020, FORECAST OUTTURN TO 31 MARCH 2020 (AS AT 30 JUNE 2019)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Chief Resources Officer advised that the report provided the financial forecast outturn position across all portfolios for the financial year 2019/2020 and outlined the key points as detailed in the report in terms of the impact on the budget along with portfolio analysis</p>	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<p>The Chief Officer Resources further advised that the favourable variance reported for Social Services of £240,000 against a budget of £45m and adverse variances reported in Education and Environment. The Chief Officer also referenced the forecast outturn for fees and charges and highlighted the budget virements undertaken during the period. The Chief Officer continued by stating that 97% of the Financial Efficiency Projects for 2019/20 had been achieved with a shortfall of £80,630 and advised that the further detail was contained in the appendices to the report.</p> <p>The Leader welcomed the report which reflected the work being undertaken and an Authority was changing both political and professionally.</p> <p>The Leader further referred to discussions at Joint Scrutiny Committee and pointed out that there would be a need for some budget realignments otherwise cost pressures would be carried forward year on year and this needed to be eradicated. He pointed out that a suggestion had been that the provision of dog waste bags and dog bins would cease from October 2019. He pointed out that these had been officer proposals and would not be progressed as there was no political support for this. Therefore, the funding relating to these areas would not be removed from the departmental budget.</p> <p>RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and the action plans was noted as detailed in Appendix 4 which had been developed to address the forecast adverse variances as at the end of June 2019 and approval was given for the budget virements as detailed in Appendix 5 which exceed £250,000.</p>	
No. 16	<p><u>CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, APRIL TO JUNE 2019, 2019/2020 FINANCIAL YEAR</u></p> <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"> • the appropriate financial control procedures as agreed by Council be supported; • the budgetary control and monitoring procedures in place within the Capital Team to safeguard Authority funding was noted; and 	

- the virement of £520,000 from the generic European Structural Capital Match Fund to the European Match Funded be approved.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
No. 17	<p><u>USE OF GENERAL AND EARMARKED RESERVES 2019/2020</u></p> <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"> • the planned forecast increase of the General Reserve to 4.47% (above the 4% target level) for 2019/2020 and future years, strengthening the Council’s Financial Resilience be noted; and • the impact of £0.150m forecast adverse variance for 2019/2020 would have on the General Reserve target be noted. 	
No. 18	<p><u>WALES AUDIT OFFICE REVIEW SERVICE USER PERSPECTIVE: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Governance and Partnerships.</p> <p>The Leader welcomed the acknowledgement by the Wales Audit Office of the Authority’s commitment to engagement. He added that this administration had changed how the Council engaged with residents and although criticism had been received, the Council must be mindful that the engagement process had only been taking place for the last 2 years. Following each engagement session a better understanding was gained and he concluded by stating the Council was committed to the on-going engagement with the public and its staff.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein noted.</p>	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>MONITORING ITEMS – SOCIAL SERVICES MATTERS</u>	
No. 19	<p><u>SAFEGUARDING PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND EDUCATION</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the joint report of the Corporate Director Social Services and Corporate Director Education.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p>	
No. 20	<p><u>ADULTS SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2018/2019</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Social Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p>	
No. 21	<p><u>SUPPORTING CHANGE TEAM INTERNAL AND INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL EVALUATION</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Children’s Services.</p> <p>The Executive Member for Social Services spoke to the report and advised that since the introduction of the Team, the number of Looked After Children had started to plateau and since January 2019 the numbers had slowly reduced. Therefore, it was felt that this had been due to the work undertaken with families to prevent issues escalating to a point where children were placed into care. The Executive Member further outlined the impact on the budget and supporting evidence in terms of performance information and data which identified the reduction in numbers. He concluded that the Appendix 2 contained the full report and recommendations.</p>	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<p>The Executive Member for Social Services welcomed the report and congratulated the Department on the work undertaken which had reduced the number of Looked After Children and said that the work of the Team was paramount to protect those children in care These comments were echoed by the Leader and Executive Members.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council said that this was an excellent piece of work and requested that the appreciation of the Executive be forwarded onto the team. In reply to a request relating to service funding, the Leader said that consideration of future funding for the service would form part of the budget setting process.</p> <p>RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and the information and recommendations contained within the external evaluation report on Supporting Change Team be noted.</p>	
	<p><u>DECISION ITEMS – ENVIRONMENT MATTERS</u></p>	
<p>No. 22</p>	<p><u>SERVICE REVIEW</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>The Leader of the Council declared an interest in this item and reiterated that he had been advised by the Monitoring Officer that due to the nature of the report he would be permitted remain in the meeting and participate in the discussion if he chose to do so.</p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Commercial.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader/Executive Member for Environment spoke to the report and highlighted the main points contained therein.</p>	

A discussion ensued around the recommendations contained in the report and the Deputy Leader proposed an additional recommendation to include options around whole service in house provision and elements of in house service provision be investigated as part of the soft market testing. He felt that the proposed recommendation would allow Members to make an informed decision and not delay the process if other alternative avenues were not forthcoming.

Councillor N. Daniels left the meeting at this juncture due to the nature of discussions.

The Managing Director explained that the financial information for the additional recommendation requested was available and was contained within the report before Executive. The Managing Director referred to the decision made by Council in November 2018 to seek alternative service delivery models and noted that the proposal – to bring the service in-house - was not a recommendation approved by Council, however to ensure all aspects of financial implications were provided the consultants had identified this information albeit at a high level.

The Chief Officer Commercial advised that the financial information to support the proposal was available as the option had been considered originally, therefore if there was a request for detailed financial information against another avenue it could be provided once the soft market testing had been completed.

RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report which contained information relating to the financial/business affairs of persons other than the Authority be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.