

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Action Sheet

Joint Budget Scrutiny Committee – Monday 16th September 2019

Item	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
6	<p><u>Action Sheet 6th February 2019</u></p> <p><i>Revenue Budget 2019/20</i> - A Member referred to ENV018 – Full cost recovery of premises related costs for occupancy of Town and Community Councils – and requested that a breakdown of the full cost recovery be provided to Members.</p> <p><i>Revenue Budget 2019/20</i> - A Member referred to ENV003 – Reduction of Street Lighting Provision – and the potential 20% increase in utility costs and enquired if the Council paid at a higher rate or if the Council paid any penalties.</p>	<p>Rhian Hayden Chief Officer Resources</p> <p>Matthew Perry, Service Manager</p>	<p>The Asset review as (as part of Bridging the Gap) will include full cost recovery.</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent is incurring the following costs for Town & Community Councils:-</p> <p>Tredegar Town Council - £21,520 Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council - £7,330 Brynmawr Town Council - £5,578</p> <p>Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council are based in Mitre Street, which is part of the Corporate Landlord Budget. The costs of maintaining this building is currently estimated to be £38,000pa.</p> <p>We procure energy via the National Procurement Services (Wales) and subsequently via the Crown Commercial Services, which is part of the UK Gov Treasury Dept. Our energy spend/requirements are added to the rest of the Welsh public sector and procured as a much larger cohort of energy in an attempt to maximise competitive opportunities.</p>

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			Based on this collaborative model, our energy costs are the same as other LA's. Furthermore, no penalties have been incurred by the Authority.
8	<p><u>Action Sheet 11th February 2019</u></p> <p><i>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2018/19, Forecast to 31st March 2019</i> - Members requested an explanation on the 13% increase in energy costs and Corporate Services energy rebates.</p>	Oriel Price, Senior Energy Officer	Update attached.
10	<p><u>Action Sheet 12th July 2019</u></p> <p><i>Capital Expenditure Provisional Outturn 2018/19 – Company Shop, Tredegar</i> – A member requested an update position.</p>	Clive Rogers Head Community Services	Currently identifying an agent to act for the Council. They will be instructed to submit an application to CADW to demolish parts of the listed building.
11	<p><u>Revenue Budget Monitoring – 2019/20, Forecast Outturn to 31st March 2020 (as at 30th June 2019)</u></p> <p>A member requested that the Cemeteries Task and Finish Group recommendations with regards to the use of Crematorium funding be reported to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee.</p>	Scrutiny & Democratic Officer	<p>The recommendations of the Task and Finish Group were reported to the Environment, Regeneration and Economic Development Committee on 12th September 2018. The committee recommended that Option 1 be supported – to utilise surplus funding from the Crematorium.</p> <p>The report was considered by the Executive Committee on 26th September 2018, and the</p>

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	<p>Appendix 1 – Cwmcrachen Caravan Site – Member sought clarification on the adverse variance and enquired if this was due to rents and high utility costs.</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Civil Parking Enforcement – Members requested that Brynbach Primary School and Tredegar Comprehensive be identified as priority areas for enforcement.</p>	<p>Rhian Hayden, Chief Officer Resources</p> <p>Clive Rogers, Head Community Services</p>	<p>recommendation was not supported (see Extract from Executive minutes attached).</p> <p>The Executive Members for Corporate Services and Environment attended the Environment, Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee meeting on 29th November, to respond to questions in relation to the Executive's decision (see Extract from scrutiny minutes attached).</p> <p>The Adverse variance is a combination of higher than expected utility costs at the site and rental income being lower than estimated as a result of vacancies.</p> <p>As at quarter 2:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • utilities forecast is £42k adverse variance – a potential error with the meters is being investigated. • Income is forecasting a £19k adverse variance <p>Both schools are included on the patrol list for enforcement and have been visited by the Civil Enforcement Officers. Both school sites will be visited on a regular basis, as part of the wider school-site parking enforcement.</p>

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	<p>Appendix 4 – A Member referred to Public Conveniences funding and requested a breakdown of the funds provided to each of the Town Centres over the last 2 years.</p>	<p>Rhian Hayden, Chief Officer Resources</p>	<p>Information requested provided below:-</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><u>2018/19</u></th> <th><u>2019/20</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Brynmawr</td> <td>£1,530</td> <td>£2,100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Blaina</td> <td>Nil</td> <td>Nil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Abertillery</td> <td>Nil</td> <td>Nil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tredegar</td> <td>£2,160</td> <td>£2,160</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ebbw Vale</td> <td><u>£9,000</u></td> <td><u>£9,000</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td><u>£12,690</u></td> <td><u>£13,260</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2019/20</u>	Brynmawr	£1,530	£2,100	Blaina	Nil	Nil	Abertillery	Nil	Nil	Tredegar	£2,160	£2,160	Ebbw Vale	<u>£9,000</u>	<u>£9,000</u>	Total	<u>£12,690</u>	<u>£13,260</u>
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	<p>Members requested consideration is given to minutes being included on special meeting agenda.</p>	<p>Head Governance and Partnerships</p>	<p>It has been agreed that the minutes will go to the next available meeting. As stated in the Constitution:</p> <p>7.27 Procedure at Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meetings</p> <p>7.27.1 An Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall consider the following business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) minutes of the last meeting; (b) declarations of interest; (c) consideration of any matter referred to that Overview and Scrutiny Committee; (d) responses of the Executive to reports of that Overview and Scrutiny Committee; (e) the business otherwise set out on the agenda for the meeting; (f) Consideration of agenda items for the next meeting. 																					