

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 13TH NOVEMBER, 2019

REPORT OF: LEADERSHIP AND DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT OFFICER

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

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

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

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

WITH: Chief Officer Resources
Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services
Corporate Director Education
Corporate Director Social Services
Chief Officer Commercial
Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance
Head of Community Services
Service Manager – Community Services
Communications, Marketing and Customer Access Manager

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:-</p> <p>Councillor D. Davies Managing Director</p> <p><u>WELCOME</u></p> <p>The Leader welcomed Councillor Wilkins, Chair of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee to the meeting. The Leader advised that the Chair had been invited to feedback the comments/ recommendations made at the Community Services Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Waste Management and Recycling Strategy 2018-2025 and the Strategic Business Case – Development Of A Second Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Reports.</p>	
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.</p>	
	<p><u>MINUTES</u></p>	
No. 4	<p><u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The minutes of the Executive Committee held on 26th September, 2019 were submitted.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>DECISION ITEMS</u>	
	<u>GENERAL MATTERS</u>	
No. 5	<p><u>CONFERENCES/COURSES</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to attendance at the following:-</p> <p><u>CLAW AGM & Conference – 14th November, 2019</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that approval be granted for Councillor G. Collier, Deputy Leader/Executive Member – Environment and Clive Rogers, Head of Community Services to attend.</p> <p><u>Army Presentation Evening – 21st November, 2019</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that approval be granted for Councillor B. Thomas, Armed Forces Champion to attend.</p>	
	<u>DECISION ITEMS – CORPORATE SERVICES MATTERS</u>	
No. 6	<p><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – 18TH DECEMBER, 2019</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Leader/Executive Member for Corporate Services.</p> <p>The Executive Member for Social Services advised that the Assisted Transport – Charging Policy report would need to be deferred to the January meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED accordingly.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and the forward work programme for 18th December, 2019 be noted.</p>	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
No. 7	<p><u>GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>Members were further advised of the following additional grants that had been submitted for approval since the preparation of the report:-</p> <p><u>ABERTILLERY</u></p> <p><u>Abertillery Ward- Councillor N. Daniels</u></p> <p>1. Remembrance Parade £24</p> <p><u>Abertillery Ward- Councillor J. Holt</u></p> <p>1. Remembrance Parade £24</p> <p><u>Abertillery Ward- Councillor M. Cook</u></p> <p>1. Remembrance Parade £24</p> <p><u>Cwmtillery Ward- Councillor T. Sharrem</u></p> <p>1. Remembrance Parade £24</p> <p><u>Cwmtillery Ward- Councillor J. Wilkins</u></p> <p>1. Remembrance Parade £24</p> <p><u>Cwmtillery Ward- Councillor M. Day</u></p> <p>1. Remembrance Parade £24</p> <p><u>Llanhilleth Ward- Councillor H. McCarthy</u></p> <p>1. Remembrance Parade £24</p> <p><u>Llanhilleth Ward- Councillor J. Collins & N. Parsons</u></p> <p>1. Remembrance Parade £48</p>	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<p><u>Six Bells Ward – Councillor D. Hancock</u></p> <p>1. Remembrance Parade £24</p> <p><u>Six Bells Ward – Councillor M. Holland</u></p> <p>1. Remembrance Parade £24</p> <p><u>BRYNMAWR</u></p> <p><u>Brynmawr Ward- Councillor J. Hill</u></p> <p>1. Remembrance Parade £62</p> <p>2. Brynmawr Musical Theatre Company £100</p> <p><u>Brynmawr Ward- Councillor L. Elias</u></p> <p>1. Remembrance Parade £62</p> <p>2. Brynmawr Musical Theatre Company £100</p> <p>3. Ebbw Vale Mini Rugby £50</p> <p><u>Brynmawr Ward- Councillor W. Hodgins</u></p> <p>1. Remembrance Parade £62</p>	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>EBBW VALE</u>	
	<u>Badminton Ward – Councillor G. Paulsen</u>	
	1. Remembrance Parade	£95
	<u>Badminton Ward – Councillor C. Meredith</u>	
	1. Remembrance Parade	£95
	<u>Beaufort Ward – Councillor G. Thomas & S. Healy</u>	
	1. Remembrance Parade	£232.50
	<u>Ebbw Vale North – Councillor D. Davies, P. Edwards & R. Summers</u>	
	1. Remembrance Parade	£285
	2. Blaenau Gwent Otters	£100
	<u>Ebbw Vale South – Councillor J. Millard & K. Pritchard</u>	
	1. Remembrance Parade	£190
	<u>Rassau Ward – Councillor G. Davies</u>	
	1. Remembrance Parade	£116.25
	<u>Rassau Ward – Councillor D. Wilkshire</u>	
	1. Remembrance Parade	£116.25
	<u>NANTYGLO & BLAINA</u>	
	<u>Nantyglo Ward – Councillor P. Baldwin</u>	
	1. Remembrance Parade	£110.50

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
<u>Nantyglo Ward – Councillor J. Mason & K. Rowson</u>		
1.	Remembrance Parade	£221
2.	Nantyglo OAP	£200
3.	Winchestown OAP	£200
4.	St Annes Church	£200
5.	Wesleyan Chapel	£200
6.	Hermons Cemetary Trust	£200
7.	Nantyglo RFC	£200
8.	Coed y Garn School	£200
9.	Ysgol Cymraeg Bro Helyg	£200
10.	275 Squadron Nantyglo & Blaina ATC	£100
11.	Nantyglo & Blaina Scouts	£100
12.	Falcon Martial Arts	£100
13.	PHAB	£100
14.	BGFM	£100
15.	Nantyglo Football Club	£100
16.	Nantyglo Community Shop	£100
17.	Hooks & Pins	£100
18.	Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council Xmas Lights	£100
19.	Blaenau Gwent Rhythm & Ukes	£100
20.	Nantyglo & Blaina Mayors Appeal	£100
<u>Blaina Ward – Councillor J. P. Morgan</u>		
1.	Remembrance Parade	£110.50
2.	Jacks Appeal ABUHB	£285
<u>Blaina Ward – Councillor L. Winnett</u>		
1.	Remembrance Parade	£110.50
2.	Jacks Appeal ABUHB	£285
<u>Blaina Ward – Councillor G. Collier</u>		
1.	Remembrance Parade	£110.50
RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and the grants contained therein be approved.		

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
No. 8	<p><u>CHARTER OF COMMON AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS AND BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the joint Officers' report.</p> <p>The Leader noted the Charter of Common Agreement between Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and each of the four Community and Town Councils which had been agreed with all Town and Community Councils. The Leader advised that the Charter would provide a more strategic and relevant approach between Town Councils and the Borough Council.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the new Charter of Common Agreement between BGCBC and the four CTCs be approved. This Charter was approved by the CTCs and endorsed by QLC members in September 2019.</p>	
No. 9	<p><u>TIME OFF FOR RESERVISTS POLICY</u></p> <p>The report of the Head of Organisational Development was submitted for consideration.</p> <p>The Leader noted the report which was self-explanatory in seeking endorsement for a new policy for the Authority for time off for Reservists. The Leader advised that providing support for reservists was an important element of the Silver Award which had been granted pending approval of the Policy.</p> <p>The Leader added that Blaenau Gwent was a lead organisation in delivering on the Armed Forces Covenant and wished to mention Councillor Brian Thomas the Armed Forces Champion who represented Blaenau Gwent very well at all related events</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely the Time Off for Reservists Policy be supported and endorsed.</p>	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
No. 10	<p><u>THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES 2018/19</u></p> <p>Members considered the report of the Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely the information contained therein be noted and the report be referred to the Audit Committee for assurance that the process for the monitoring of complaints was robust and the performance information provided reflected these practices.</p>	
	<p><u>DECISION ITEMS – ENVIRONMENT MATTERS</u></p>	
No. 11	<p><u>WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING STRATEGY 2018 – 2025</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager, Neighbourhood Services.</p> <p>The Head of Community Services spoke to the report which provided the Executive with the draft Waste Management and Recycling Strategy. The Officer advised that the Strategy had been developed in two parts with the Strategy outlined the vision, context, objectives and methods of delivery and the Action Plan detailed the actions and timelines which reflected the objectives and delivery requirements.</p> <p>The Head of Community Services advised that the Strategy set out the long term vision for waste management and recycling services. The Strategy went beyond meeting Welsh Government targets it identified a single integrated strategy which set out how Blaenau Gwent would achieve its vision, work with others, engage with residents and place the Well-Being and Future Generation goals and ways of working at the heart of all that it does. The vision for waste and recycling was further outlined as noted in the report.</p>	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<p>The Head of Community Services advised that the Scrutiny Committee supported the draft policy with the recommendation that any future service changes return to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration prior to implementation.</p> <p>The Head of Community Services noted the financial implications and the potential impact on both revenue and capital funding requirements associated with the development and implementation of the strategy. The Officer advised that these related matters would be brought forward in determining service changes moving forward.</p> <p>At this juncture the Leader invited the Chair of the Community Services Scrutiny to provide the observations of the Scrutiny Committee. The Chair advised that the draft strategy had been considered by the Scrutiny Committee and reiterated the recommendation made in terms of any future service changes be considered by the Scrutiny Committee prior to implementation.</p> <p>The Chair of the Community Services Committee also advised that there had been a request for officers to investigate ways in which pet waste could be collected.</p> <p>The Leader advised that he sat in the public gallery of the Scrutiny Committee and it had been a very good meeting and had been Chaired well by Councillor Wilkins who had kept Members on track really well. The Leader noted the issues raised in relation to pet waste and advised that this was an issue reflected at Streetscene Engagement Sessions. It was noted the Council run a successful hygiene collection therefore the same process could be explored for pet waste.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader/Executive Member for Environment supported the Policy which would help tackle recycling rates to avoid the Authority paying fines incurred. The Deputy Leader felt that the monies used for any potential fines are better spent on other services.</p>	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<p>The Deputy Leader further concurred with the suggestion to investigate pet waste collections which he felt was not an impossible task as a similar collection to hygiene waste could be introduced.</p> <p>The Executive Members concurred with the investigations to address pet waste and it was thereupon agreed that it be added to the recommendation that a report be drafted for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee and Executive accordingly. The Leader added that there would be a cost implication, however in this instance it would be a cost worth being considered.</p> <p>RESOLVED accordingly.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the draft Waste Management and Recycling Strategy be approved. Also, a report be drafted in to develop a pet waste collection service and it be presented to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee and Executive Committee for consideration.</p>	
No. 12	<p><u>THE STRATEGIC BUSINESS CASE – DEVELOPMENT OF A SECOND HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE (HWRC)</u></p> <p>The report of the Head of Community Services was submitted for consideration.</p> <p>The Service Manager – Neighbourhood Services spoke to the report and outlined the main points contained therein. The Service Manager noted the support provided by WRAP to develop the Strategic Business Case which formed part of the bid to Welsh Government. The Council’s Leadership had met with the Deputy Minister in July to outline the business case and confirm the Council’s commitment to meet the 64% and 70% recycling targets.</p> <p>It had now been confirmed by Welsh Government that the Council had been successful in obtaining the full award of capital funding for £2.8m and noted the estimated costs of the new HWRC which included the installation of traffic lights on A467 which was welcomed by Members due to the number of accidents on the junction to Roseheyworth Business Park.</p>	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<p>The Service Manager referred to the options and advised that the Scrutiny Committee raised concerns around the continued fly tipping incidents if there was a reduction in the number of days the facility would be open. Therefore a recommendation had been agreed for a report to be presented to the January meeting to give consideration to the revenue costs of the facility being open 5, 6 and 7 days a week.</p> <p>The Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services advised that in order to increase future recycling streams as we move beyond the 70% target, a wider range of services could be offered at the second Household Waste and Recycling Centre in the future and the proposed facility would allow provide the Council with future capacity to deal with these new opportunities and these would be brought forward at the appropriate time. The Service Manager added that there had been discussions around a re-use facility for bric-a-brac and small furniture as the Council does not perform well at the moment in this area. There were a number of opportunities to be explored as the site grew including an education centre and interest had been received from the Hospice of the Valleys to work together in this area.</p> <p>The Chair of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee advised that the report had been welcomed by Scrutiny and noted that concerns had been raised in relation to the revenue costs on the opening hours therefore it was requested a report be presented to the next Scrutiny Committee for consideration as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader felt that the second HWRC would address the flytipping issues in the Ebbw Fach area and address Welsh Government targets. The Deputy Leader extended thanks to WRAP for their support and to Welsh Government for awarding the grant to develop the facility.</p> <p>The Executive Members supported the development of the second HWRC which was the vision for the Borough and concurred that it would tackle the issues of flytipping in the Ebbw Fach Valley. The new site would also assist in the Authority meeting Welsh Government targets.</p>	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<p>The Leader welcomed the full award of the grant from Welsh Government which reflected the confidence Welsh Government had in Blaenau Gwent in relation to waste and recycling. The Leader felt that recent meetings with the Minister had been very positive and it had been pleasing to be recognised for the work which had been undertaken.</p> <p>The Leader also wished to thank the Service Manager – Neighbourhood Services for the excellent presentation given to the Deputy Minister and her advisors and the Leader was sure the Managing Director would concur that it was an excellent presentation.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely the Strategic Business Case for the development of a second Household Waste Recycling Centre be approved.</p>	
	<p><u>DECISION ITEMS – SOCIAL SERVICES MATTERS</u></p>	
<p>No. 13</p>	<p><u>WELSH GOVERNMENT CHILDCARE OFFER – BLAENAU GWENT AND TORFAEN</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Children’s Services.</p> <p>The Executive Member for Social Services noted the report and highlighted the progress made in delivering Welsh Government’s Childcare Offer Programme. It was added that there was a recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee for the Executive Member to write to Welsh Government to express their concerns around the cap in numbers of Flying Start placements for Blaenau Gwent as there are many more communities which would benefit from Flying Start Schemes.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 2, namely the recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee as identified be approved.</p>	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>MONITORING ITEMS – EDUCATION</u>	
No. 14	<p><u>2019 SCHOOL PERFORMANCE FOR: END OF FOUNDATION PHASE, KEY STAGE 2, KEY STAGE 3, KEY STAGE 4 (PROVISIONAL ONLY)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Education.</p> <p>The Executive Member for Education provided an overview of the report and advised that this was a positive report for the Authority. The Corporate Director Education concurred with the comments and advised that Blaenau Gwent was performing in line with other authorities in South East Wales region. The Corporate Director added that this was due to the dedication of head teachers, teachers and support staff.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1, namely to accept the content and format of the report, noting feedback from Scrutiny, which sets out the requirement to continue to develop content and format in line with the changes in the interim Key Stage 4 measures over the coming years.</p>	