

T: 01495 357788 Ext./Est: 7788

E: committee.services@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Democratic Services



**THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND**

10th January 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

**COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee will be held in Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale on Thursday, 16th January, 2020 at 10.30 am.

***Please note that a pre and post meeting will be held 30 minutes prior to the start and following the conclusion of the meeting for members of the committee.***

Yours faithfully

Michelle Morris  
Managing Director

**AGENDA**

**Pages**

**1. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION**

You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation

We welcome correspondence in the medium of Welsh or English. / Croesawn ohebiaith trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.

will be provided if requested.

2. **APOLOGIES**

To receive.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

To receive.

4. **COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** 5 - 16

To receive the minutes of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.

(Please note the minutes are submitted for accuracy points only).

5. **ACTION SHEET - 5TH DECEMBER 2019** 17 - 20

To receive action sheet.

6. **EXECUTIVE DECISION SHEET** 21 - 22

To receive the Executive Decision Sheet.

7. **LOCAL NATURE RESERVE DESIGNATION AND DECLARATION** 23 - 46

To consider the report of the Head of Community Services.

8. **STREET LIGHTING SERVICE REVIEW** 47 - 60

To consider the report of the Head of Community Services.

9. **COMMUNITY SERVICES WORKFORCE SICKNESS ABSENCE PERFORMANCE** 61 - 68

To consider the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.

10. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME - 27TH FEBRUARY 2020** 69 - 72

To receive the report.

To: Councillor J. Wilkins (Chair)  
Councillor C. Meredith (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor P. Baldwin  
Councillor M. Cook  
Councillor G. L. Davies  
Councillor L. Elias  
Councillor S. Healy  
Councillor W. Hodgins  
Councillor J. Holt  
Councillor H. McCarthy  
Councillor J. P. Morgan  
Councillor G. Paulsen  
Councillor T. Sharrem  
Councillor B. Summers  
Councillor L. Winnett

All other Members (for information)  
Manager Director  
Chief Officers

This page is intentionally left blank

**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT**

**REPORT TO:** **THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT:** **COMMUNITY SERVICE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2019**

**REPORT OF:** **DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT OFFICER**

**PRESENT:** COUNCILLOR J. WILKINS (CHAIR)

Councillors C. Meredith  
 L. Elias  
 S. Healy  
 W. Hodgins  
 H. McCarthy  
 B. Summers

**WITH:** Managing Director  
 Corporate Director Community Services & Regeneration  
 Head of Community Services  
 Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance  
 Service Manager Community Services  
 Service Manager Public Protection  
 Service Manager Accountancy  
 Team Leader - Waste & Fleet Management  
 Team Leader Housing Solutions & Compliance  
 Senior Housing Access Officer  
 Communications, Marketing & Customer Access Manager  
 Scrutiny & Democratic Officer/Advisor

**AND:** **Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd.**  
 Mr. Dave Waggett ) Item No. 11 Silent Valley Waste  
 Mr. Noel Chard ) Services Ltd. Performance

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<b><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></b>	

	It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.	
<b>No. 2</b>	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received for Councillors G.L. Davies, J. Holt and G. Paulsen.</p>	
<b>No. 3</b>	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></b></p> <p>Councillor J. Wilkins (Chair) declared an interest in the following item:</p> <p>Item No. 6 – Bridging the Gap – Trade Waste Service – Strategic Business Review</p>	
<b>No. 4</b>	<p><b><u>COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 were submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
<b>No. 5</b>	<p><b><u>ACTION SHEET – 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019</u></b></p> <p>The action sheet arising from the meeting of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 was submitted, whereupon:-</p> <p><u><i>The Strategic Business Case – Development of a Second Household Waste Recycling Centre</i></u></p> <p>The Chair said it was intended that a report be submitted to the Special Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2019. In relation to the request for a Joint Committee, she said at this stage she had taken the decision to remain with a Special Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, and this decision was based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a Joint Committee was held, only those Members of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee would have voting rights;</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ebbw Fach Valley was very well represented on the Scrutiny Committee;</li> <li>• She did not want to undermine the work of the Scrutiny Committee, and this matter sits clearly within the remit of the Committee; and finally</li> <li>• The Scrutiny Committee makes a recommendation not a decision.</li> </ul> <p><u>Activities Report – Littering and Dog Control Order Enforcement for the Financial Year</u></p> <p>In response to a question raised by a Member regarding pest control, the Officer confirmed that the contractor had changed and the new details would be circulated to Members. The Council’s website had been updated.</p> <p><u>Item Referred from the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee</u></p> <p>The Chair confirmed that this matter would be included within the Committee’s Forward Work Programme.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the action sheet be noted.</p>	
-----	<p><b><u>ORDER OF AGENDA</u></b></p> <p>It was agreed that Item No. 11 (Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd. Performance) be considered at this juncture.</p>	
No. 11	<p><b><u>SILENT VALLEY WASTE SERVICES LTD. PERFORMANCE</u></b></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,</p>	

	<p>Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).</p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Head of Community Services.</p> <p>The Service Manager Community Services presented the report which provided the Committee the performance information of Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd covering the period 2018/2019 (Appendix 1). The report was presented as a result of a recommendation to Council in 2017 from the review of Silent Valley.</p> <p>In response to questions raised by a Member regarding the figures detailed in section 5.1 of the report, Mr. Waggett said a decision was taken in 2016 to support the Local Authority in the midst of financial austerity by not fully recharging the Local Authority. As a result of this the Company was operating at a loss which meant that the reserve position was also deteriorating due to the year on year loss. In terms of the figure held in Company House, he explained that this was different to the figure held in the escrow account, which was held jointly with NRW. The escrow account currently stood at £1.6m and was identified for aftercare of the site. This account was included within the overall figures, but did not form part of the reserves. He concluded that the £1.6m would take the company up to the end of the lease to 2044, however, provision beyond that for the remainder of the 60 year term would have to be provided for.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report which contained information relating to the business/financial affairs of persons other than the Authority be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p>	
<p><b>No. 6</b></p>	<p><b><u>BRIDGING THE GAP – TRADE WASTE SERVICE – STRATEGIC BUSINESS REVIEW</u></b></p> <p>Councillor J. Wilkins (Chair) declared and interest in this item.</p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Corporate Director Regeneration &amp; Community Services.</p>	



The Team Leader Waste & Fleet Management presented the report which provided an update on progress of the Trade Waste Service Strategic Business Review, and also provided options in relation to the revised pricing strategy for implementation in April 2020.

In response to a question raised by a Member regarding funding of the proposed increase in receptacles to customers, the Officer confirmed that this had been factored into the budget, and some had already been procured.

A Member asked whether there was any benchmarking information available to compare costs with the private sector.

The Officer said it was difficult to compare with the private sector as their costs were commercially confidential. They were able to offer prices on an ad hoc basis, whilst our prices were set and published.

The Service Manager Community Services said one of the requirements of the new Environment Act coming into force next year was that the public sector and the private sector would have to separate the trade waste collected. This placed the Local Authority in a positive position as we were already doing this, whereas the private sector operated a co-mingled collection.

A Member then referred to Appendix 6 and expressed concern regarding the response to the on-line customer survey.

The Team Leader Waste & Fleet Management agreed that the response was disappointing, however, the survey had not been undertaken for a number of years. He said a new Officer had recently been appointed within the section, and part of that role was to go out and engage with businesses and our customers.

The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted the introduction of a revised pricing strategy for commercial dry recycling, food recycling and residual collections be supported (Option 2).

No. 7

**BRIDGING THE GAP – ASSETS AND PROPERTY STRATEGIC BUSINESS REVIEW**

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

The Corporate Director presented the report which sought Members' views on the proposals identified as part of the review of the Council's property and land holdings. The review included all Council owned properties and land, and all property used by the Council on a lease/rental basis. He confirmed that the industrial property portfolio would be covered in a separate review.

A Member referred to Table 2 on page 33 of the report and questioned the figure relating to Anvil Court. He also expressed concern regarding the amount of money being spent on the building.

The Corporate Director confirmed that the figure should be amended to read £218,947. In terms of the money being spent he explained that the Council leased the building, and also had an annual maintenance programme in place in order to mitigate any maintenance costs being incurred on completion of the lease.

A brief discussion ensued when the Corporate Director clarified points raised by Members in relation to Anvil Court and Church Street, Ebbw Vale. He confirmed that relevant discussions were taking place in terms of options and future delivery of Council services.

The Committee **AGREED** to recommend, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and Proposals 1 – 7 be supported (Option 1), namely:

- Proposal 1 – To dispose of all non-operational buildings currently being held by the Council having regard to any grant clawback or legal obligations that may be in place which may affect its saleability. This could secure capital receipts as well as providing savings to the corporate land budget in holding costs as well as reducing/avoid rates on the premises (short term).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal 2 – To ensure the rates paid by the Council are minimised by reviewing the accuracy of current rates payments, and the rating of property in the Council’s portfolio and to introduce a systematic approach to regularly review the rates paid on Council premises. The Council are currently securing specialist advice in this area in order to manage its rates position more efficiently.</li> <li>• Proposal 3 – To review the Council’s occupation of properties held on a leasehold basis to establish whether there are any opportunities to reduce payments to landlords. The Council are currently securing specialist advice in this area (short to medium term).</li> <li>• Proposal 4 – To develop a proposal for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Civic Centre/office facility for Council staff in line with best practice space utilisation. This could be based around a single or two site solution and involve partners (medium term).</li> <li>• Proposal 5 – To increase the income derived for land and other assets. All of the Council’s land holdings need to be assessed to identify why land is being held, and the values to the Council in terms of income streams through a series of area reviews. This is an opportunity to not just potentially increase income but to divest the Council of land that may have long term maintenance liabilities (medium term).</li> <li>• Proposal 6 – To utilise capital receipts received from the disposals to crease an investment fund for use in bringing residential sites forward and other income generating opportunities.</li> <li>• Proposal 7 – To secure the energy savings delivered by the ReFit investment in the Council’s estate.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>No. 8</b></p>	<p><b><u>COMMUNITY SERVICES QUARTERS 1 AND 2 PERFORMANCE 2019/20</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Head of Community Services.</p>	

	<p>The Corporate Director Community Services &amp; Regeneration presented the report which provided an update of Community Services performance outcomes for Quarters 1 and 2 of 2019/20. This was the first time the report had been submitted in the new format, and he commended the Performance Team for their support. He then went through the report and highlighted points contained therein.</p> <p>A brief discussion ensued when Officers clarified points raised by Members in relation to fly tipping and highways resurfacing works.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted (Option 1).</p>	
<p><b>No. 9</b></p>	<p><b><u>REVIEW OF BLAENAU GWENT HOMES ALLOCATION POLICY</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Team Manager Housing Solutions and Compliance.</p> <p>The Team Manager presented the report which proposed policy and operational changes to the Blaenau Gwent Homes Allocation Scheme as a consequence of a recent review of the Scheme and consultation process. The Team Manager, and the Senior Housing Access Manager went through the report and highlighted points contained.</p> <p>In response to a question raised by a Member regarding the proposed changes to the quotas, the Team Manager said this had been done so that an applicants' priority for housing better reflected the type of accommodation available, their level of housing need and length of time spent on the waiting list.</p> <p>A brief discussion ensued regarding the banding scheme, and a Member asked how many properties an applicant was able to refuse.</p> <p>In response the Team Leader said if an applicant refused three offers, they would be brought before the Local Housing Panel where a decision could be taken to exclude them from</p>	

	<p>the waiting list, however, an applicant had the right to appeal any decision made.</p> <p>Another Member referred to the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements, and asked whether the Team had any control over private landlords renting to high risk applicants.</p> <p>The Officer said they had no control over private landlords, but pointed out that high risk applicants usually come through a certain pathway and various agencies would have a risk management plan in place to identify suitable accommodation for them, and they would also be monitored by the Police.</p> <p>A brief discussion ensued when Officers clarified points raised by Members.</p> <p>The Service Manager Public Protection thanked the Housing Solutions Team for their work in undertaking a review of the Policy.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and Members considered the proposed policy changes to the Blaenau Gwent Homes Allocation Scheme for implementation in April 2020 and recommend approval by the Executive Committee (Option 1).</p>	
<p><b>No. 10</b></p>	<p><b><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2020</u></b></p> <p>Councillor L. Elias left the meeting at this juncture.</p> <p>Consideration was given to the Forward Work Programme for the meeting scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2020.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted.</p>	
<p><b>No. 12</b></p>	<p><b><u>WASTE TRANSFER STATION AND HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE</u></b></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</p>	

interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.

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, Part 4, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).

Consideration was given to report of the Managing Director which presented the findings of the due diligence activity commissioned in relation to the Waste Transfer Station and Household Waste Recycling Centre.

The Managing Director spoke to the report and highlighted points contained therein. The report sought approval to move to the next stage in the process as outlined in the preferred option at section 3.6 of the report.

A discussion ensued when the Managing Director clarified points raised by a Member regarding the financial implications outlined at section 2.15 of the report.

The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report which contained information relating to the business/financial affairs of persons other than the Authority be accepted, and Option 1 be supported, namely:

- i. Take forward Option One and carry out soft market testing to better understand the opportunity to achieve a public sector collaboration;
- ii. Should there not be sufficient interest from the public sector to take forward the preferred option, Scrutiny be requested to endorse a proposal for Officers to develop a contingency plan for the delivery of services;
- iii. To mitigate against the risks associated with depleting the general reserves that should be retained to cover the costs associated with the aftercare liabilities of the site, it is proposed that the Council explores options for securing sufficient reserves to meet the assessed costs and liabilities up to 2076.



This page is intentionally left blank



**Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council**

**Action Sheet**

**Community Services Scrutiny Committee – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Item	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
	<p><b><u>Referral from Regeneration Scrutiny Committee – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019</u></b></p> <p><i>Leisure and Culture Services Review</i> – Chair to consider inviting all scrutiny committee members to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee in February 2020 at which the Leisure and Culture Services Review will be presented.</p>	<p>Chair of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Response to be provided.</p>
5	<p><b><u>Action Sheet – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019</u></b></p> <p><b>Activities Report – Litter and Dog Control Order Enforcement for the Financial Year:</b> Members requested that a communication be circulated with contact information for Rentokil.</p>	<p>Dave Thompson, Service Manager</p>	<p>A communication circulated to Members on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019.</p>
6	<p><b><u>Bridging the Gap – Trade Waste Service – Strategic Business Review</u></b></p> <p>A Member referred to appendix 6 and enquired of the responses listed as 'other', what type of businesses were those.</p>	<p>Matthew Stent, Team Manager</p>	<p>Information included in report at Appendix 6 and attached for information.</p>
8	<p><b><u>Community Services Quarters 1 and 2 Performance</u></b></p> <p><b>Fly Tipping:</b> Members requested information on the number of Fly Tipping incidents that had proceeded to prosecution.</p>	<p>Dave Thompson, Service Manager</p>	<p><u>In 2019/20 (as at 6/12/19):</u>                      3 persons prosecuted (one of which was for 2 offences)                      4 Fixed Penalty Notices issued and paid                      1 Fixed penalty Notice issued – not paid and proceeding to prosecution                      3 Fixed penalty Notices issued – awaiting payment.</p>

This page is intentionally left blank

## **Community Services Scrutiny Committee – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**Action:** Bridging the Gap – Trade Waste Service – Strategic Business Review – A member referred to appendix 6 and enquired of the responses listed as ‘other’, what type of businesses were those.

### **Response:**

**Appendix 6 – Bridging the Gap – Trade Waste Service – Strategic Business Review**

### **Respondent’s Business Type**

<b>Response Options</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Sample</b>
Other	5	24%
Retail	3	14%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	3	14%
Office	2	10%
Real Estate Activities	2	10%
Human Health & Social Work Activities	2	10%
Repair Of motor vehicles	1	5%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities	1	5%
Administrative & Support Service Activities	1	5%
Education	1	5%
Hospitality	0	-
Transportation & Storage	0	-

- Other 1.) Manufacturing (Plastics)
- Other 2.) Manufacturing
- Other 3.) Groundworks
- Other 4.) Electronic design & manufacture

This page is intentionally left blank

Report to: **Community Services Scrutiny Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

Subject: **Executive Decision Sheet**

Item	Scrutiny Committee Recommendation	Executive Decision	Recommendation			Executive Member invited to attend if recommendation accepted in part or rejected
			Approved	Accepted in Part	Rejected	
<p>Executive Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019</p> <p>Waste Management and Recycling Strategy 2018 – 2025</p>	<p>The Committee recommended, Option 2, that the draft Waste Management and Recycling Strategy be recommended for approval by the Executive Committee; and further recommended that any proposed service changes, i.e. residential waste collection, be brought to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee for consideration.</p>	<p>RESOLVED, that the report be accepted and that the draft Waste Management and Recycling Strategy be approved. Also, a report be drafted to develop a pet waste collection service and it be presented to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee and Executive Committee for consideration.</p>	Scrutiny recommendation accepted.			No further action
<p>Executive Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019</p> <p>The Strategic Business Case – Development of a Second Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)</p>	<p>The Committee recommended that the report be accepted and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrutiny Members support the Strategic Business Case for the development of a second Household Waste Recycling Centre and recommend approval of the Strategic Business Case to Executive (Option 1); and</li> <li>• That a further report be submitted to Committee on the detailed revenue costs, to include operational issues.</li> </ul>	<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>	Item referred to Council on 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2019.			No further action

This page is intentionally left blank

# Agenda Item 7

*Executive Committee and Council only*

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **16<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

Report Subject: **Local Nature Reserve Designation & Declaration**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr. Garth Collier**

Report Submitted by: **Head of Community Services  
Clive Rogers**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
10/12/19	17/12/19	05.01.20			16/01/20	29/01/20		

## 1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend the approval of the designation and declaration of five Local Nature Reserves; Beaufort Hill Ponds & Woodland, Central Valley, Garden City, Parc Bryn Bach and Sirhowy Hill Woodlands.

1.2 Local Nature Reserves are important for both people and nature.

## 2. Scope and Background

2.1 The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 says that "For a site to become a Local Nature Reserve it must have natural features of special interest to the local area, and the authority must either have a legal interest in the land or have an agreement with the owner to manage the land as a reserve." Local Authorities have the power to designate Local Nature Reserves on any land in their area, provided that the power is exercised in consultation with NRW (Appendix 1 shows form to submit to NRW when council approved).

2.2 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council currently has seven Local Nature Reserves designated; Cwmcelyn Pond (2013), Cwmtillery Lakes (2009), Parc Nant y Waun (2009), Roseheyworth Community Woodlands (2013), Six Bells / Parc Arrail (2013), Trevor Rowson (2013) and Silent Valley (1997). The area designated and declared totals 120.3 hectares.

2.3 More information is available on the Local Nature Reserves proposed to be designated and declared. In summary:

Beaufort Hill Ponds & Woodland	79.7 ha	Community group supports
Central Valley	10.5 ha	Gwent Wildlife Trust supports
Garden City	45.3 ha	
Parc Bryn Bach	109.7 ha	'Friends of' group supports

Sirhowy Hill Woodlands                      70.1 ha      Community group supports  
Maps are in Appendix 2.

- 2.4 Declaration and designation will contribute to the council's Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Forward Plan (2019-22) to comply with the duty placed on us by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- 2.5 Four of the sites have been put forward before for declaration but have had issues with disputed land and boundaries, which are now resolved. The fifth is Central Valley nature reserve which demonstrates positive regeneration for nature and people on part of The Works site.
- 2.6 Common land is considered suitable to be designated as LNRs<sup>1</sup>. This is relevant to the Beaufort Hill Ponds and Woodland site, which is also designated as Mynydd Llangattock Common (BCL018). It is also relevant to the Garden City and Sirhowy Hill Woodland sites which are noted as replacement common land should the deregistration of part of Trefil-Las and Twyn Bryn-March Common (BCL015) go ahead.
- 2.7 Four of the sites, all except for Garden City, were acquired and reclaimed using former Welsh Development Agency (now Welsh Government) Derelict Land Reclamation Funding and as such the Council needs to comply with its Explanatory Memorandum on Derelict Land Reclamation, which broadly means Welsh Government has to approve the principle of the designation of the sites as Local Nature Reserves.
- 2.8 There are several leaseholders on the sites including community groups, Welsh Water, Network Rail, Aneurin Leisure Trust and individuals. A draft letter to inform leaseholders is included in Appendix 3.

### 3. Options for Recommendation

#### 3.1 Options Appraisal

- **Option 1:** Not to designate and declare five Local Nature Reserves
  - **Option 2: Preferred option** To designate and declare five Local Nature Reserves; Sirhowy Hill Woodlands, Beaufort Hill Ponds & Woodland, Parc Bryn Bach, Garden City, and Central Valley.
- 3.2 Designating and declaring 5 more Local Nature Reserves primarily meets the objective in the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Forward Plan (2019-22) to 'Maintain and enhance biodiversity and improve ecosystem resilience on council owned land, particularly with regard to priority species and habitats' which meets our duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
  - 3.3 No recommendations were received from Community Services DMT.



- 3.4 No recommendations were received from Regeneration & Community Services SMT meeting on 10/12.
- 3.5 Comments were received regarding section 5.1 from CLT on 17<sup>th</sup> December and the report modified accordingly.
- 3.6 Community Services Scrutiny Committee 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 will be included.
4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**
- 4.1 **Corporate Plan Priority:**  
Designating and declaring five more Local Nature Reserves primarily contributes to meeting the following priority:
- 4.2 Strong and Environmentally Smart Communities  
- To improve the access to and quality of open spaces for the benefit of our communities, businesses and visitors.
- 4.3 **Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**  
Designating and declaring five more Local Nature Reserves meets all of the well-being plan objectives:
- The best start in life for everyone
  - Safe and friendly communities
  - To look after and protect the environment
  - To forge new pathways to prosperity
  - To encourage and enable people to make healthy lifestyle choices in the places that they live, learn, work and play
- 4.4 **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**
- 4.5 The Plan directly contributes to actions needed for the ‘resilient Wales’ goal: “A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change)”
- 4.6 By designating and declaring five more Local Nature Reserves the Local Authority will be acting in line with the approved Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Forward Plan (2019-2022), to meet our duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and maximise its contributions to the Well-being Goals.

## 5. Implications Against Each Option

### 5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

Designating and declaring five more Local Nature Reserves requires resource to maintain and enhance their biodiversity and ecological resilience.

The officer resource will be covered within the existing revenue budget. The ecology technical support maintains the management plans for the Local Nature Reserves, which meets our Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Section 6 Duty.

The council has secured funding from the Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being Grant, funded by Welsh Government, for the Resilient Greater Gwent project, until July 2022. The total project value is £1.3million to deliver 12 sub-projects across the five local authority areas in Greater Gwent with a range of public, charitable and private sector partners. The sustainable communities work stream will deliver the management actions required for the sites, such as woodland management, hedge laying, species surveys and meadow cuts. The Resilient Greater Gwent project will encourage long-term sustainable management through skills and capacity building within existing and new community groups.

The existing three community groups and Gwent Wildlife Trust manage the Local Nature Reserves in partnership with us in line with the ecological management plans. The community groups do apply to and succeed in securing external funding streams such as the Tesco bags for life scheme.

The potential loss of future funding is a risk however the mitigating factors are:

- Partnership working
- Long term management agreements
- Community Groups, especially after skills and capacity building
- Seeking alternative funding sources

### 5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

The main risk is that failure to designate and declare these Local Nature Reserves may cause community group disengagement; not give protection to the sites under the Local Development Plan and ultimately would make our corporate commitment to 'improving the access to and quality of open spaces for the benefit of our communities, businesses and visitors' more difficult to achieve.

### 5.3 ***Legal***

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 says that "For a site to become a Local Nature Reserve it must have natural features of special interest to the local area, and the authority must either have a legal interest in the land or have an agreement with the owner to manage the land as a reserve." The allocation of the sites as LNR's will restrict the ability of the Council to dispose of the sites, disposal will require seeking Ministerial consent.

#### 5.4 **Human Resources**

Local Nature Reserves can contribute to staff health and well-being. For example, by raising awareness of the nearest Local Nature Reserves to council buildings for walks during breaks and walking meetings staff health and well-being could be enhanced.

### 6. **Supporting Evidence**

#### 6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

The Local Nature Reserves have current management plans or plans under review.

#### 6.2 **Expected outcome for the public**

Biodiversity underpins the health and resilience of all of our ecosystems. In turn, these ecosystems support all life on Earth. This means that taking positive action for biodiversity and ecosystem resilience in Blaenau Gwent will enhance the natural resources the public utilise such as clean water, air and food production including pollination services. The natural environment is also a vital resource to enhance mental and physical health and well-being.

#### 6.3 **Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)**

The sites proposed for designation and declaration have been discussed with the Estates department who have provided information around land ownership and the current position with the allocation of some of the sites as replacement Common Land for an internal project. The proposal was discussed with the community group involved with each Local Nature Reserve and their letters of support are in Appendix 4.

#### 6.4 **Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)**

Declaring a LNR protects it for the long-term in the Local Development Plan. To de-declare a LNR the local authority would have to consult with Natural Resources Wales (NRW). LNRs should only be de-declared if absolutely necessary.

#### 6.5 **Preventative focus**

Contributing to the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem resilience will help to mitigate climate change and provide positive opportunities to maintain and improve mental and physical health and well-being.

#### 6.6 **Collaboration / partnership working**

Management of the LNRs is undertaken in partnership with community groups and Gwent Wildlife Trust. Information about LNRs should be shared with the Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board. Many of the community groups who assist in managing the nature reserves are partners of the Blaenau Gwent & Torfaen Local Nature Partnership, which will assist with a strategic approach to environmental and ecological management in both boroughs.

## 6.7 **Integration(across service areas)**

Access to a healthy natural environment has many benefits to all services.

## 6.8 **EqlA(screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)**

A brief Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is attached as Appendix 5.

Local Nature Reserve management plans and the community groups managing the sites will take into account each of the protected characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2010. They are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Further work is required to ensure that Local Nature Reserves are meeting Equality requirements, particularly with regards to access for disabled people.

These actions are being considered following the Welsh Audit Office assessment of the corporate plan objective 'to improve the access to and quality of open spaces for the benefit of our communities, businesses and visitors.'

## 7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 The status of Local Nature Reserve management will be monitored as part of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Forward Plan (2019-22) monitoring through service area business plans.
- 7.2 An annual monitoring report will be submitted to the ERED Scrutiny committee in the first quarter of each financial year (2020, 2021 and 2022) summarising progress and any updates on the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Forward Plan 2019-2022.
- 7.3 Further monitoring may be available from the monitoring and evaluation activity for the ENRaW funded Resilient Greater Gwent and Gwent Green Grid projects (numbers 075 and 076 respectively).

### **Background Documents /Electronic Links**

- <sup>1</sup><https://www.gov.uk/guidance/create-and-manage-local-nature-reserves>
- <sup>2</sup><https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-01/common-land-at-trefil-order.pdf>
- <https://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/150512-biodiversity-and-resilience-of-ecosystems-duty-en.pdf>
- <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2018-10/Nature%20and%20mental%20health%20infographic.pdf>

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 - NRW LNR Declaration Blaenau Gwent
- Appendix 2 - Maps of proposed Local Nature Reserves
- Appendix 3 - Letter to leaseholders

Appendix 4 - Letters of support  
Appendix 5 - Equality Impact Assessment

**Glossary**

Biodiversity - means 'biological diversity' which refers to all the variety of life on Earth (plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms) as well as to the communities that they form and the habitats in which they live.

Ecosystem - dynamic network of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

Ecosystem Resilience - is the ability of an ecosystem to maintain its normal patterns of nutrient cycling and biomass production after being subjected to damage caused by an ecological disturbance.

This page is intentionally left blank

SITE NAME: **Sirhowy Hill Woodlands / Beaufort Hill Ponds & Woodland / Parc Bryn Bach / Garden City / Central Valley**

ATTACHMENTS:            SITE MAPS

1. Background

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council had seven Local Nature Reserves designated; Cwmcelyn Pond (2013), Cwmtillery Lakes (2009), Parc Nant y Waun (2009), Roseheyworth Community Woodlands (2013), Six Bells / Parc Arrail (2013), Trevor Rowson (2013) and Silent Valley (1997).

The designation and declaration of five further Local Nature Reserves in January 2020; Sirhowy Hill Woodlands, Beaufort Hill Ponds & Woodland, Parc Bryn Bach, Garden City, and Central Valley brings this total to twelve.

The area designated and declared now totals 447.8 hectares.

The designations have been supported by local community groups and Gwent Wildlife Trust, please see attached letters of support. The reserves are managed for their value to local people and to enhance ecosystem resilience. The council oversees their management through ecological management plans. The council and community groups work in partnership to deliver objectives for maintaining and enhancing the nature conservation interest of the sites. Further efforts to involve more people and to promote awareness and understanding of nature recovery issues are underway through Welsh Government grant funded projects such as A Resilient Greater Gwent.

2. LNR Management Plans have been produced?

The LNR management plan (**date**) is being implemented **and/or currently being reviewed**.

3. The objectives for the proposed Local Nature Reserve as identified in the Management Plan are:

- A biologically diverse site, where existing features and informed management combine to maximise the value of the site for nature conservation;
- A site that all members of the community are able to use and enjoy;
- A site that proudly retains its sense of history, at the same time as offering new possibilities as a focus for the community in the local area;
- And, above all, a site that helps develop a sense of the reserve as a special place, of great value to the local area and the wider region.

4. Reason for Declaration:

Declaration and designation will contribute to the council's Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Forward Plan (2019-22) to comply with the duty placed on us by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

5. Resource Implications:

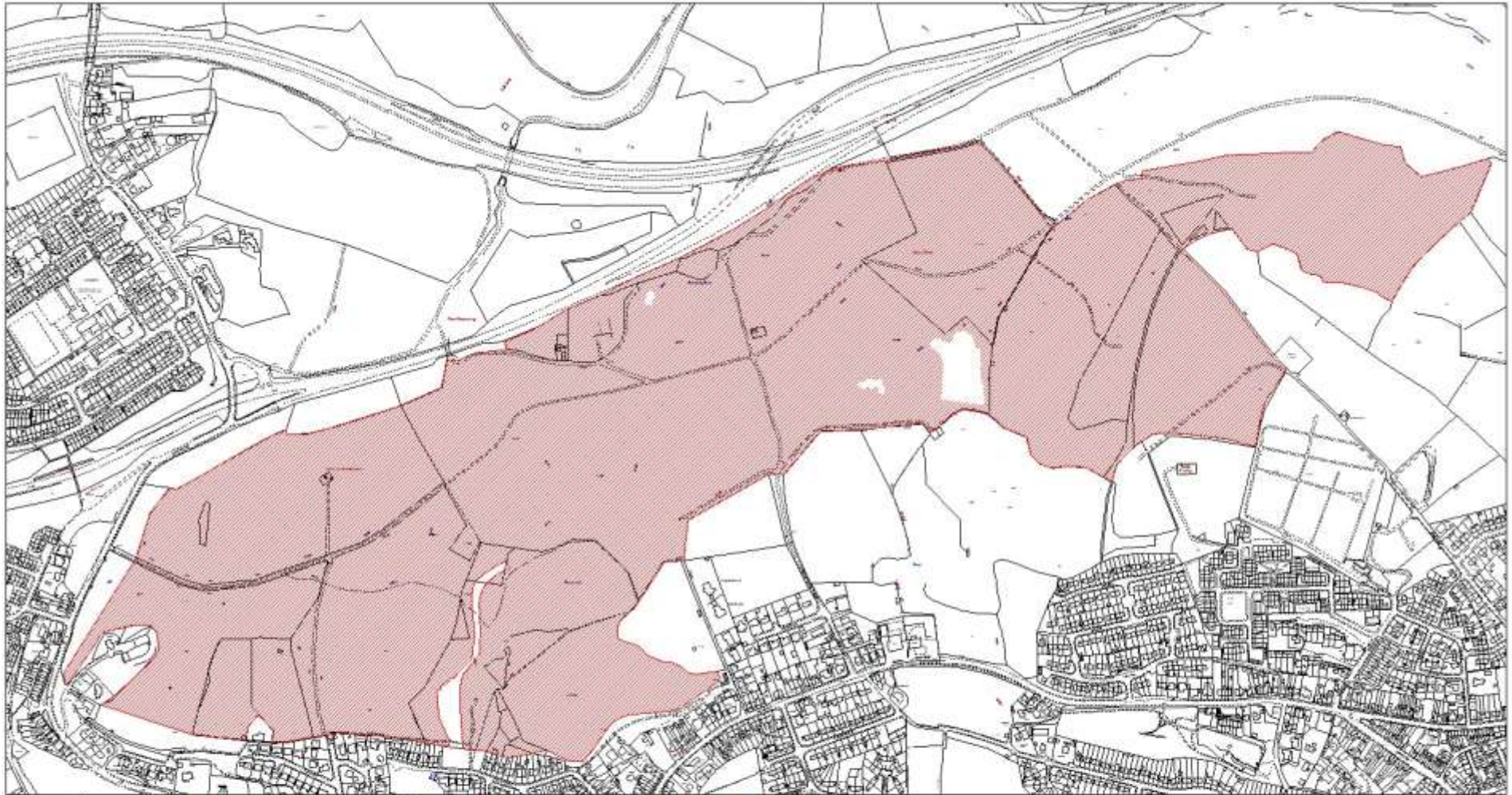
Designating and declaring five more Local Nature Reserves the plan will have a cost neutral impact on budgets.

The sites and managing community groups will be able to access [Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being Grant](#) and other funding streams.

## 6. Compliance

Under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended), Local Authorities have the power to designate Local Nature Reserves on any land in their area, provided that the power is exercised in consultation with NRW.





**Cyngor Bwrdeisdref Sirol Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council**

Corporate Services & Strategy Directorate, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale, Gwent, NP23 6XB

Tel/Ffon: (01495) 350555

Fax/Ffacs: (01495) 355291

A. M. Jones J.B. (Hon.) – Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance

Date: 05/11/2019

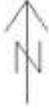
Map Reference: S01712

Scale: 1:5500

TITLE: BEAUFORT WOODLANDS	AREA: 79.7Ha
	GRID REF:

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Mapping with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationary Office (C) Crown Copyright.  
Crown copyright and database rights 2011 Ordnance Survey LA09002L

DRG NO:



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Corporate & Legal Services, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale, Gwent, NP23 6XB

Tel/Ffon: (01495) 350555

Fax/Ffacs: (01495) 355291

A. M. Jones I.J.B. (Hons) – Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance

Date: 05/11/2019

Map Reference: SO1708

Scale: 1:5000



a better place to live and work

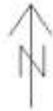
TITLE: CENTRAL VALLEY

AREA: 10.5Ha  
GRID REF:

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Mapping with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationary Office (C) Crown Copyright.  
Unauthorized reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. BGCBC - LA09082L.

Drq No:





Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Corporate & Legal Services, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale, Gwent, NP23 6XB

Tel/Ffon: (01495) 350555

Fax/Ffacs: (01495) 355291

A. M. Jones I.J.B. (Hons) – Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance

Date: 05/11/2019

Map Reference: SO1607

Scale: 1:5000



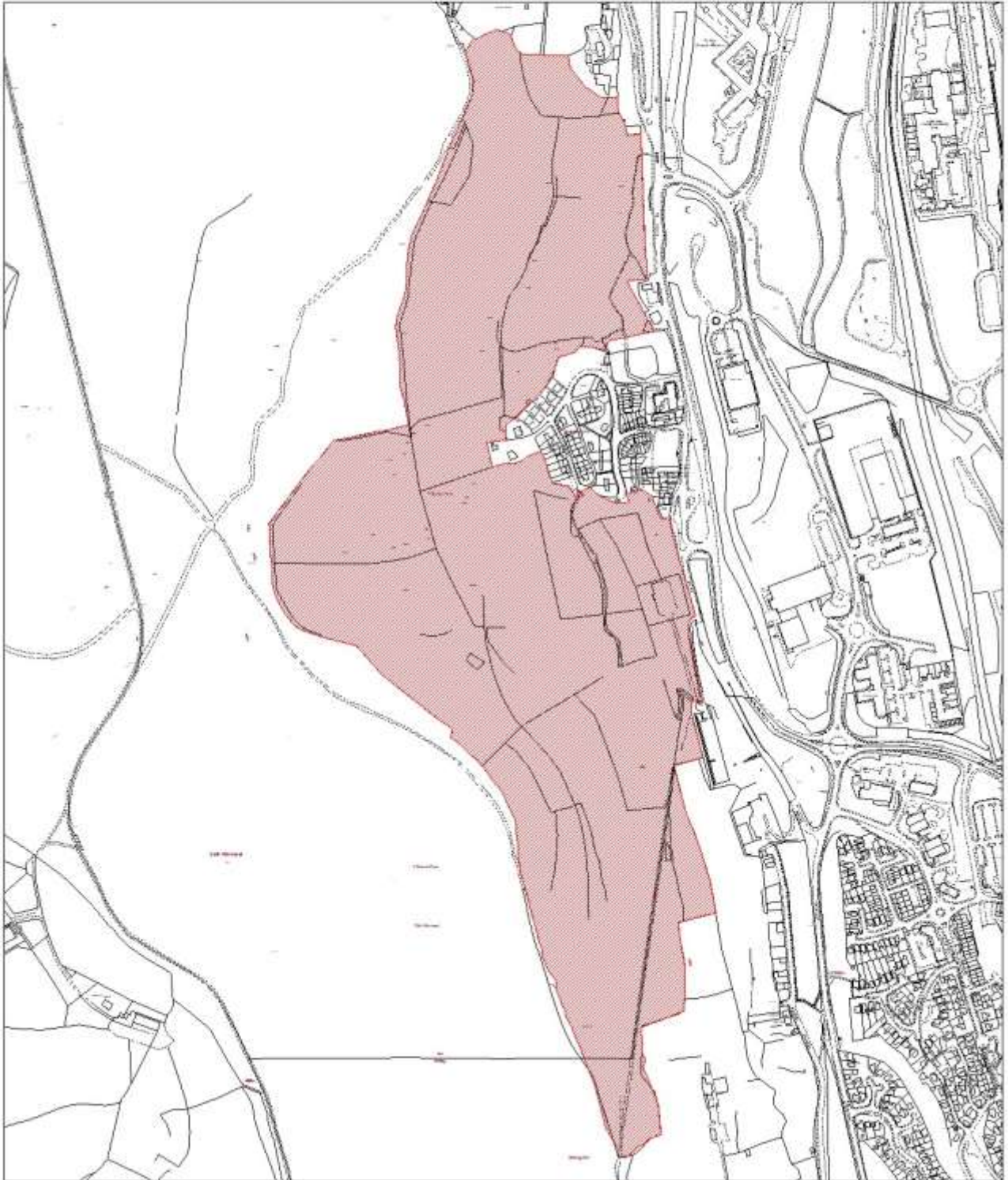
a better place to live and work

TITLE: GARDEN CITY

AREA: 45.31a  
GRID REF:

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Mapping with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationary Office (C) Crown Copyright.  
Unauthorized reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. BGCBC - LA09082L.

Drq No:



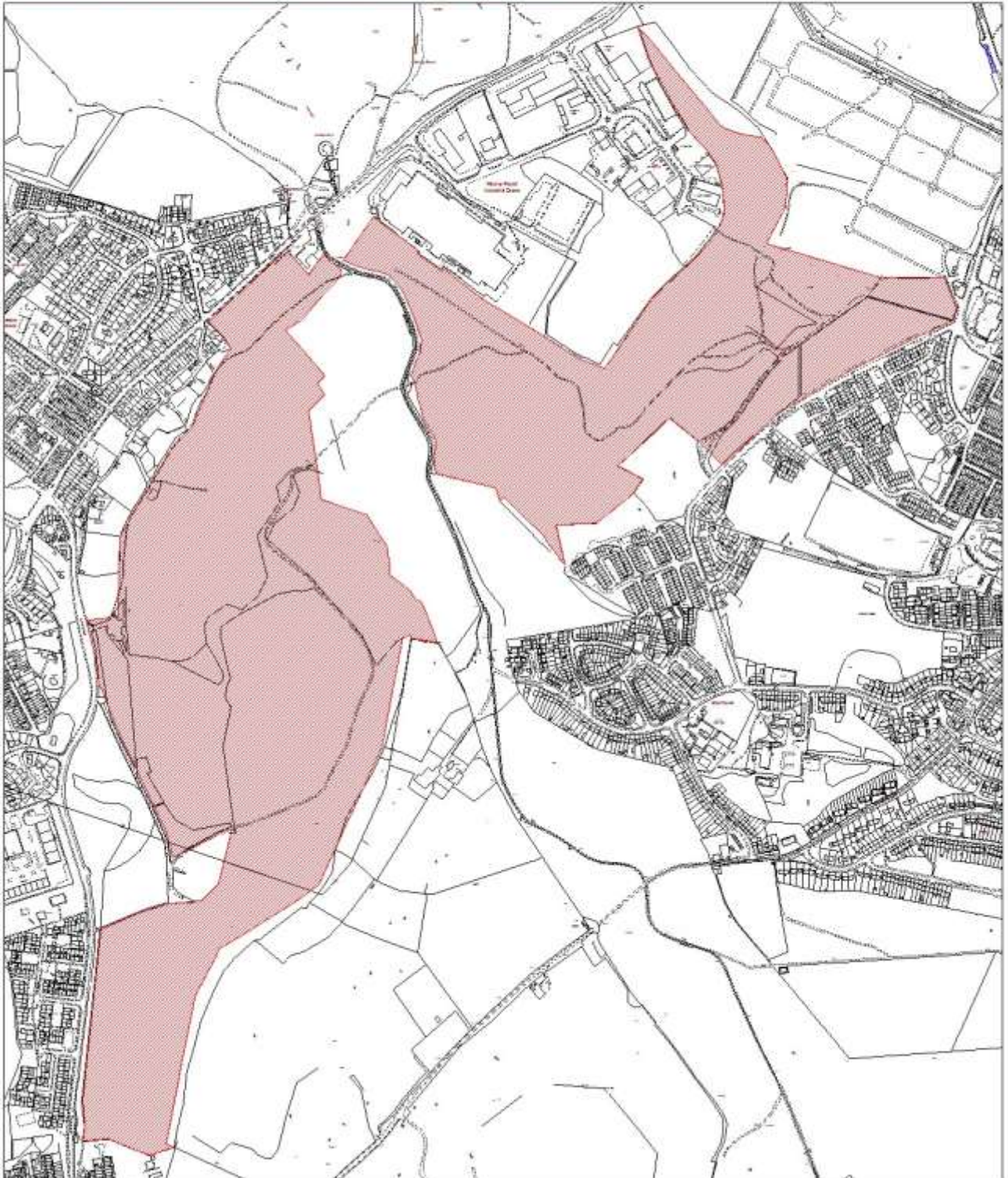


TITLE: BRYN BACH PARK	AREA: 110ha GRID REF:
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Mapping with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationary Office (C) Crown Copyright. Unauthorized reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. BOCBC - L408052L	Dra No:





TITLE: SIRHOWY WOODLANDS	AREA: 70.1Ha GRID REF:
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Mapping with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationary Office (C) Crown Copyright Unauthorized reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. BGCBC - LA0902L	
Dro No:	



This page is intentionally left blank

T: (01495) 356089 DDI: (01495) DX: 43956 Ebbw Vale  
F: (01495) E: [another@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:another@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)



Our Ref./Ein Cyf.

Your Ref./Eich Cyf.

Contact:/Cysylltwch â:

January 2020

## RE: Designation of Local Nature Reserve

I am writing on behalf of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to inform you that the land you lease from the council has been designated and declared as a Local Nature Reserve.

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 says that "For a site to become a Local Nature Reserve it must have natural features of special interest to the local area, and the authority must either have a legal interest in the land or have an agreement with the owner to manage the land as a reserve." Local Authorities have the power to designate Local Nature Reserves on any land in their area, provided that the power is exercised in consultation with NRW (Appendix 1 shows form to submit to NRW when council approved).

Declaration and designation contributes to the duty placed on us by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to 'seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity' and 'to promote the resilience of ecosystems'.

This does not affect your current lease with us.

If you would like further information about the ecological management or public access to the Local Nature Reserve, or any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Kind regards,

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn cyfathrebu gyda chi yn eich dewis iaith, dim ond i chi rhoi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

This page is intentionally left blank





## BEAUFORT HILL PONDS & WOODLANDS PRESERVATION SOCIETY

---

49 Highlands Road, Beaufort, Ebbw Vale. NP23 5RG  
E-mail - [john.hillier@beauforthillwoodlands.org.uk](mailto:john.hillier@beauforthillwoodlands.org.uk)  
Web - [www.beauforthillwoodlands.org.uk](http://www.beauforthillwoodlands.org.uk)

Chairperson – David White

Liz Hancocks  
Ecologist  
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council  
Ebbw Vale  
NP23 6XB

Wednesday, 30 October 2019

### **RE: Designating Beaufort Hill Woodlands as a Local Nature Reserve**

Dear Liz,

We would like to show our support regarding the proposed designation of Beaufort Hill Woodlands as a Local Nature Reserve.

The Beaufort Hill Ponds & Woodlands Preservation Society was formed in March 2005 in response to the threatened loss of the Beaufort Ponds after the closure of the local steelworks. The aims of the Society were to help maintain and improve the ponds and woodlands and to preserve the environment for future generations. The site comprises of two man made ponds and several natural ‘scrapes’ with a community woodland to the west and north-west. A car parking area overlooking the ponds aims to encourage visitors from further afield and make it easier for people with disabilities to visit the woodland; the old informal pathway network has been upgraded and resurfaced linking up much of the Woodlands. A bridge with the inclusion of an “all ability” circular path was constructed around the Upper Boat Pond, giving good access not only to walkers, but also to wheelchair and pushchair users. This pathway links up with a network of other pathways throughout the Woodlands site. The main ethos of the society is to reduce feelings of social exclusion by providing opportunities for social and recreational activities and by fostering well-being and social cohesion through community events and celebrations.

The Society has developed access to the area through several access points and local children had designed the gateway artwork, and these were so successful the themes were continued throughout the site. Site interpretation concentrates on the flora, fauna and industrial heritage of the site. The society is particularly pleased with the level of community involvement and usage of the site and considers the amount of volunteer involvement as important both for the project and for the individuals involved. The involvement of local children in the design of the artwork throughout the site has encouraged them to take pride in their work and to take ‘ownership’ of the site. Their involvement in the early stages of planning and development has helped to lessen anti-social behaviour on the site and has resulted in greatly increased use of the site by families. This highlights the importance of getting children involved in projects at the early stages and encouraging them to stay involved through providing appropriate opportunities.

Designating Beaufort Hill Woodlands as a local nature reserve will ensure that the community of Beaufort Hill and the surrounding areas will be able to continue to appreciate the flora and fauna knowing that they will be protected for the future. Beaufort Hill Ponds & Woodlands Preservation Society therefore supports an application for the site to be designated as a Local Nature Reserve.

Regards

John Hillier – Secretary



Liz Hancocks  
Ecologist  
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council  
Ebbw Vale  
NP23 6XB

Seddon House  
Dingestow  
Monmouth  
NP25 4DY  
Tel: 01600 740600

## Re: Designating Central Valley as a Local Nature Reserve

Dear Liz,

Thank you for contacting Gwent Wildlife Trust regarding the proposed designation of Central Valley as a Local Nature Reserve.

Gwent Wildlife Trust has been managing Central Valley Reserve for people and wildlife, on behalf of Blaenau Gwent Council, since 2015. Although a relatively new reserve, it contains a variety of habitats including grassland, scrub, woodland, ponds and reedbeds, which all support a wide range of species. A recent bioblitz of the site recorded more than 200 different species on just one day. We know that the site is used by toads, slow worm and lizards, and barn owls and kestrels hunt over the reserve. Almost every year a new plant species is identified by our reserve officer, and during the spring and summer it is alive with bees and butterflies, supporting bilberry bumblebees as well as a shrill carder bee.

The site is an urban oasis within Ebbw Vale, enjoyed regularly by locals as a walking route between main amenities. Our Education and Reserve Officers also use the site as an educational resource, supporting school, college and adult learners' groups through the year to explore and learn more about the habitats and species on site. It is ideally situated for this, being nearly adjacent to our office and classroom – the Environmental Resource Centre, on Steelworks Road.

The Trust has been managing the site for wildlife for four years, rotationally cutting areas of grassland on an annual basis, thinning out reedbeds as required and creating feature dry stone walls. Future work we would like to do includes repairing the boundary dry stone walls and laying some of the boundary hedges. We have also been partners within the Ebbw Fawr Trail project, led by Blaenau Gwent Council, and through this we have been able to install interpretation panels and artwork on site, to make it more informative and appealing to the people who enjoy using it.

Designating Central Valley as a local nature reserve will ensure that the habitats and species here remain protected for the future, as well as recognising its value to the people of Ebbw Vale and the surrounding areas. We wholeheartedly support its declaration as an LNR.

With best wishes,



Natalie Waller, Living Landscape Manager, Eastern Valleys  
[nwaller@gwentwildlife.org](mailto:nwaller@gwentwildlife.org)





## Welsh Newfoundland Activity Group

Liz Hancocks  
Ecologist  
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council  
Ebbw Vale  
NP23 6XB

Secretary:  
Kay Burridge  
30A Dinas Baglan Rd  
Baglan  
SA12 8AE

### **Re: Designating Parc Bryn Bach as a Local Nature Reserve**

Dear Liz,

Thank you for contacting Welsh Newfoundland Activity Group regarding the proposed designation of Parc Bryn Bach as a Local Nature Reserve.

Designating Parc Bryn Bach as a local nature reserve will ensure that the habitats and species here remain protected for the future, as well as recognising its value to the people of Tredegar and the surrounding areas. We wholeheartedly support its declaration as an LNR.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kay Burridge".

Kay Burridge  
Secretary Welsh Newfoundland Activity Group



Web: [www.sirhowyvalleywoodlands.co.uk](http://www.sirhowyvalleywoodlands.co.uk)  
E-Mail: [info@sirhowyvalleywoodlands.co.uk](mailto:info@sirhowyvalleywoodlands.co.uk)

Sirhowy Valley Woodlands  
Roseland  
Dukestown Road  
Tredegar  
Blaenau Gwent  
NP22 4RE

Liz Hancocks

Borough ecologist

BGBC

29/10/19

Hi Liz

This is to confirm our support for the designation of LNR for Sirhowy Hill Woodlands a 70 hectare site of mixed woodland, ponds and grasslands situated between Ebbw vale and Tredegar, which our organisation manages in conjunction with BGBC.

Yours sincerely

Susy Arnold

Company Secretary and director of SIRHOWY HILL WOODLANDS CIC  
( formerly known as Sirhowy valley woodlands paperwork website etc in process of name change)



Web: [www.sirhowyvalleywoodlands.co.uk](http://www.sirhowyvalleywoodlands.co.uk)  
E-Mail: [info@sirhowyvalleywoodlands.co.uk](mailto:info@sirhowyvalleywoodlands.co.uk)

Sirhowy Valley Woodlands  
Thomas Ellis Way  
Tredegar  
Blaenau Gwent  
NP22 4QF

**Blaenau Gwent Equality Impact Assessment 2018**

**Statutory duties under The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949**

<b>Name of Policy:</b>	Designation and declaration of five Local Nature Reserves; Beaufort Hill Ponds & Woodland, Central Valley, Garden City, Parc Bryn Bach and Sirhowy Hill Woodlands.	<b>Person(s) completing this form:</b>	Liz Hancocks
<b>Department:</b>	Regeneration & Community Services	<b>Division:</b>	Community Services / Technical Services / Green Infrastructure
<b>Start Date of Assessment:</b>	04/11/19	<b>Tel No:</b>	01495 355702

**Q.1. Please outline the purpose of the policy or practice: (include the aims, objectives, expected outcomes and any key emerging themes from the policy; you may want to outline any key priorities / objectives outlined in the policy or practice)**

Local Nature Reserves are important for people and for nature.

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 says that “For a site to become a Local Nature Reserve it must have natural features of special interest to the local area, and the authority must either have a legal interest in the land or have an agreement with the owner to manage the land as a reserve.” Local Authorities have the power to designate Local Nature Reserves on any land in their area, provided that the power is exercised in consultation with NRW.

**Q.2. Is the policy or practice new, existing, or under review:**

**Q.2.1. Is this policy or practice subject to any of the following processes:**

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. <i>A Financial Efficiency Saving</i> | 2. <i>A Policy</i>                |
| 3. <i>A Report</i>                      | 4. <i>Decision Making Process</i> |
| 5. <i>Business or service plan</i>      |                                   |

New

1. No  
3. Yes  
5. No

2. No  
4. Yes

**Q.3. Potential Positive, Adverse or Neutral effects on Protected Characteristics:**

<u>Protected Characteristic</u>	<u>Positive, Negative, Neutral</u>	<u>Relevance of the Policy or Practice</u>
Age	Neutral	Local Nature Reserves are open to all members of the public

<i>Disability</i>	Neutral	Local Nature Reserves are open to all members of the public however improvements could be made to improve access for disabled people
<i>Gender Reassignment</i>	Neutral	Local Nature Reserves are open to all members of the public
<i>Marriage &amp; Civil Partnership</i>	Neutral	Local Nature Reserves are open to all members of the public
<i>Pregnancy &amp; Maternity</i>	Neutral	Local Nature Reserves are open to all members of the public
<i>Race</i>	Neutral	Local Nature Reserves are open to all members of the public
<i>Religion &amp; Belief</i>	Neutral	Local Nature Reserves are open to all members of the public
<i>Sex</i>	Neutral	Local Nature Reserves are open to all members of the public
<i>Sexual Orientation</i>	Neutral	Local Nature Reserves are open to all members of the public
<i>Welsh Language</i>	Neutral	Any printed or published communications related to Local Nature Reserves will be bi-lingual and consider the heritage of the nature reserve.

### Q.3.1. Overall evaluation on the potential impact on each protected characteristic:

No impact or improvements anticipated.  
 Local Nature Reserve management plans and the community groups managing the sites will take into account each of the protected characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2010.  
 Further work is required to ensure that Local Nature Reserves are meeting Equality requirements, particularly with regards to access for disabled people.

**\* Please ensure that relevant arrangements are made for the publishing of this assessment on the Equality section of the website.**

# Agenda Item 8

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**  
Date of meeting: **16<sup>th</sup> January 2020**  
Report Subject: **Street Lighting Service Review**  
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr. G. Collier, Deputy Leader / Executive Member, Environment**  
Report Submitted by: **Clive Rogers – Head of Community Services.**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
10/12/19	17/12/19	05.01.20			16/01/2020	06.02.20		

1. **Purpose of the Report**  
To provide the Members of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee with an update on the Street Lighting review.
2. **Scope and Background**
  - 2.1 Following a Member's briefing on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 on Street Lighting, there was a desire by members for the service to undergo a full review.
  - 2.2 As a result, the Neighbourhood Services section set out a terms of reference (**Appendix 1**), which consisted of three overarching priorities:
    - Priority 1 - Financial Diligence
    - Priority 2 – Stock Management & Assets; and
    - Priority 3 – Legislative drivers and performance of the service.

Below outlines the outputs against the priorities to date. The outstanding elements will be reported in February 2020 upon the conclusion of the review.

- 2.3 **Outputs against Priority 1 – Financial Diligence**
  - a) **Current revenue budget including Energy costs - (Completed)**  
The Street Lighting Team met with the accountants in May to identify current and future energy costs. This allowed the service to identify the revenue budget available to cover ongoing maintenance on a month by month basis.
  - b) **Capital programme – (Completed)**  
As part of the review, the street lighting team identified capital investment that was required to bring industrial estates back up to an acceptable standard. As a result, all Industrial estate entrances, including Junctions and roundabouts are now lit. Furthermore, we have ensured the lighting as you enter into the Industrial units, are also lit to cover for shift workers.

c) Insurance claims – (Completed)

The Street Lighting Team has been working closely with Cardiff Council to identify the best approach for dealing with Insurance Claims. As a result, the Street Lighting team have mirrored their approach and have set up a system which is bespoke to Blaenau Gwent (**Appendix 2**). This method was tested following a recent RTA, and the Council was successful in reclaiming the monies back from the insurance company.

2.4 **Outputs against Priority 2 – Stock Management & Assets**

a) Redundant stock – (Completed)

The redundant stock within stores was also written off to reduce the ongoing deficit on the budget to the sum of £317,000. This stock is now going through a process of being auctioned off. The remaining stock will then be used as part of the ongoing maintenance budget.

b) List of assets on the various road networks – (Completed)

Held on Mayrise database [13000 street lights / 2000 signs & bollards / 36 traffic signal sites]

c) Monitoring systems – (Ongoing)

We need to reduce from three monitoring systems down to one system. Much of the day burning issues are associated with the outdated Mayflower system. The preferred monitoring system is Telensa. However, there are approximately 700 Mayflower nodes left to move onto Telensa [£45 per node = £31,500]. In 2016 there were 4,300 units, so significant strides have been made in this respect.

d) Examine new technologies – (Completed)

We are trialling Solar LED lanterns in Newtown, Ebbw Vale and some of the Industrial Estates. This is a new technology which doesn't incur any energy costs and are useful when there are expensive underground faults, which historically prevented the Council lighting certain areas. The department is also exploring digital reporting to eliminate paper output. Whilst this task is completed, it is critical for the department to ensure it looks for new technologies to ensure the service is sustainable for the future.

2.5 **Outputs against Priority 3 – Legislative drivers & Performance of the service.**

a) To understand and confirm the Council's statutory duties in relation to street lighting and highway based power supplies – (Completed).

A local authority does not have a duty to provide street lighting; however once provided, the local authority does have a duty to maintain the system in a safe condition. The standards for street lighting are laid down in British Standard: BS.5489 and European Standard BS EN 1320.



- b) To review how our duties are discharged, including how priorities are arrived at and how resources are allocated – (Completed)  
 We have 3 engineers, plus 1 apprentice to carry out reactive maintenance, Electrical Testing and Structural testing. We have outsourced the 'Out of Hour' service, which is provided by SSE. For Traffic Signals, this, along with general maintenance is carried out by Centregreat. Having this in-house and external arrangement provides resilience to the Street Lighting department.
- c) To review recent performance and the methods of performance measurement that are applied to this area; (Ongoing)  
 Recent performance at the end of 2018/19 was greatly affected by a significant budget overspend, the service was reduced to dealing with only essential / risk to life maintenance issues, all other routine maintenance ceased with the exception of electrical Testing. Since the review, the street lighting department is now dealing with complaints in a more, timely manner. That said, the Street Lighting department will be setting out a new 'Street Lighting Policy', which will be public facing and this will set out reaction times to complaints.
- d) To review what service improvements are being implemented and what improvements could be implemented, to improve performance still further. – (Ongoing)  
 As part of the department's succession planning, we introduced a new Apprenticeship in 2019, which has created further resilience within the Street Lighting section. We are also upgrading some of the LED lanterns through the Refit programme, which will reduce future maintenance levels.
- e) To review whether the Council's own processes and response rate in dealing with street lighting is timely, effective and cost-efficient, and what effect the responsiveness of the utility companies can have on the service - (Ongoing)

The Street Lighting section will be setting out a new Policy as outlined above, which will be public facing through the Council's internet. Our aspirations within the policy will be as follows:

- 1) Lamps will be checked if a fault is found on the monitoring systems
- 2) Routine repairs will be carried within 5 working days of the fault being reported.
- 3) Communication (Monitoring) and underground cable faults will be dealt with in a timely manner.
- 4) Western Power Distribution will repair any faults they are responsible for within 20 working days.

### 3. Options for Recommendation

- 3.1 **Option 1** to accept the information in the report.
- 3.2 **Option 2** to consider the information contained within the report and provide challenge and/or further action for consideration to make improvements.

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

**Council Priorities**

The improvement of the Street Lighting departments performance supports the Council Priority '*Strong and Environmentally Smart Communities*' in particular 'To re-invest in highways maintenance particularly improvements to our residential roads, streets and pavements'

**Statutory Responsibilities**

A local authority does not have a duty to provide street lighting; however once provided, the local authority does have a duty to maintain the system in a safe condition. The standards for street lighting are laid down in British Standard: BS.5489 and European Standard BS EN 1320.

**Well-being Plan**

Street Lighting supports the Well-being objective '*Blaenau Gwent wants to look after and protect the environment*' by using our resources in a fair and sustainable way.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 **Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)**

As part of the service review we identified where the cost pressures were within the service area, whereby a growth item of £284,000 was put in place to cover current and future energy increases, whilst at the same time providing a revenue budget that will allow the service to react to complaints within five working days. Furthermore, the write off of obsolete stock to the sum of £317,000 has also put the service in a good position, making it more sustainable for the future.

5.2 **Risk including Mitigating Actions**

Failure to ensure that there is robust monitoring of the Street Lighting Service, including services provided by Contractors, carries with it a number of significant risks:

- Undetected and unaddressed decline in service performance and the quality of provision; and
- Negative impact on the reputation of the Council.

Regular monitoring of the Street Lighting performance is a key element in ensuring that the Council knows its services well and is able to support and intervene appropriately.

5.3 **Legal**

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

5.4 **Human Resources**

There are no direct human resource implications for the local authority in relation to this report.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

N/A

6.2 **Expected outcome for the public**

A more sustainable and reliable street lighting service which meets customer demands.

6.3 **Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)**

We have engaged with other local authorities to enable us to proceed with future insurance claims, where street lighting columns have been damaged through road traffic accidents.

6.4 **Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)**

Having a more sustainable street lighting service will ensure the service is resilient and meets the needs of residents living in Blaenau Gwent.

6.5 **Preventative focus**

Investment into the Street Lighting service through one monitoring system will ensure the service is fit for purpose and creates more control over the lighting network throughout Blaenau Gwent.

6.6 **Collaboration / partnership working**

The Street Lighting section will continue to work in collaboration with other authorities in Wales to seek best practice. It will also continue to work with the private sector through SSE, Western Power Distribution and Roman Builders. Having this diverse set of skills will ensure the service is resilient and meets the demands of the customer.

6.7 **Integration (across service areas)**

The Street Lighting Service works closely with its counterparts in Highways and this joined up integration allows the service to be more responsive to the demands on the service.

6.8 **EqlA (screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)**

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The performance of the Street lighting department will be measured through:

- Reaction times to complaints / service requests and outages

**Background Documents /Electronic Links**

- Appendix 1 - Terms of Reference
- Appendix 2 – Insurance Claims procedure.



# Street Lighting – Service review

## Terms of reference

### Priority 3

#### Legislative drivers and performance of the service

- To understand and confirm the Council's statutory duties in relation to street lighting and highway based power supplies;
- To review how our duties are discharged, including how priorities are arrived at and how resources are allocated;
- To review recent performance and the methods of performance measurement that are applied to this area;
- To review what service improvements are being implemented and what improvements could be implemented, to improve performance still further.
- To review whether the Council's own processes and response rate in dealing with street lighting is timely, effective and cost-efficient, and what effect the responsiveness of the utility companies can have on the service;

### Priority 2

#### Stock Management & Assets

- Redundant stock
- List of assets on the various road networks.
- Monitoring systems
- Examine new technologies

### Priority 1

#### Financial diligence

- Current revenue budget incl Energy costs
- Capital programme
- Insurance claims

This page is intentionally left blank

# RECOVERABLE REPORT

**Our Ref / Recoverable Code:**

**Site / Location:**

**Date of Incident:**

**Vehicle registration:**



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

# Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

---

**Community Services**

**Central Depot, Barleyfield Ind Est, Brynmawr, NP23 4YF**

**Tel: 01495 311556**

**Email: [matthew.stent@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.stent@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)**

# RECOVERABLE REPORT – CONTENTS

**Our ref / recoverable Code:**

**Site / Location:**

**Date of incident:**

**Vehicle Registration:**

---

## CONTENT DESCRIPTION

---

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

---

**Community Services**

**Central Depot, Barleyfield Ind Est, Brynmawr, NP23 4YF**

**Tel: 01495 311556**

**Email: [matthew.stent@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.stent@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)**



# RECOVERABLE COSTS - BREAKDOWN

**Our ref / recoverable Code:**

**Site / Location:**

**Date of incident:**

**Vehicle Registration:**

**For the repair / replacement of Blaenau Gwent CBC [traffic signals/  
Street Lighting and / or Highways infrastructure] assets only:**

## A – Direct Costs


## B – Other Costs e.g. Third party call outs


<b>Sub Total</b>	
Uplift 16.43% as per BT v Geraghty & Miller International	
<b>Total</b>	

**Matthew Stent**  
**Team Manager – Waste & Fleet Management**  
**Community Services**

**Community Services**  
**Central Depot, Barleyfield Ind Est, Brynmawr, NP23 4YF**  
**Tel: 01495 311556**  
**Email: [matthew.stent@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.stent@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)**

# RECOVERABLE REPORT - IMAGES

**Our ref / recoverable Code:**

**Site / Location:**

**Date of incident:**

**Vehicle Registration:**

---

**BEFORE INCIDENT**

---

---

**AFTER INCIDENT**

---

---

**Community Services**

**Central Depot, Barleyfield Ind Est, Brynmawr, NP23 4YF**

**Tel: 01495 311556**

**Email: [matthew.stent@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.stent@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)**

# RECOVERABLE REPORT

Our ref / recoverable Code:

Site / Location:

Date of incident:

Vehicle Registration:

---

Authorisation to proceed with recovery

---

Reporting Officer:

Signature:

Authorised by:

Matthew Stent  
[Team Manager]

---

Signature:



---

---

**Community Services**

**Central Depot, Barleyfield Ind Est, Brynmawr, NP23 4YF**

**Tel: 01495 311556**

**Email: [matthew.stent@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.stent@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)**

This page is intentionally left blank

# Agenda Item 9

*Executive Committee and Council only*

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **16<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

Report Subject: **Community Services Workforce Sickness Absence Performance**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor G. Collier, Deputy Leader / Executive Member**

Report Submitted by: **Andrea J Prosser, Head of Organisational Development  
Richard Crook, Corporate Director Regeneration and  
Community Services**

Reporting Pathway								
DMT	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
	17.12.19	05.01.20			16.01.20			

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members of Community Services Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge relevant Directorate sickness absence performance and the proposed actions for improvement.

## 2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 Staff attendance is critical in delivering services and the Council's priorities and is a key performance indicator reflected in the quarterly Finance and Performance report. Improving attendance remains a key priority for the Council and is linked to the need to create efficiencies and improve service delivery.
- 2.2 Sickness absence within the Authority is identified as a key risk and it is acknowledged that high levels of sickness absence will have a detrimental impact on the ability of the Council to deliver services effectively. Therefore, the need to reduce the impact and cost of sickness absence has been identified as a corporate priority.

## 3 Performance Information

- 3.1 The overall year end outturn figure for 2018/19 the Council was 12.66 days per full time equivalent (FTE) employee. An increase from the previous year's outturn of 11.2 days and exceeds the target set of 8.5 days.
- 3.2 Whilst sickness levels remain high it is important to note that the majority of employees have little or no sickness absence and attend work regularly. The vast majority of Council employees have excellent attendance levels as data indicates that 2463 employees attended work every day during the period from April 2018 to March 2019 with the Council having an attendance level of 94.3%.

- 3.3 A report reviewing workforce Sickness Absence Performance for the Council went to the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations for improvement and also recommend the following; that processes be put in place for individual Directorates to report quarterly to their specific scrutiny committees for challenge and scrutiny on Directorate's sickness absence performance; and that the Executive Committee also have the opportunity to review this report.
- 3.4 **Appendix 1** outlines the sickness performance information for the Regeneration and Community Services Directorate for quarter 1 and 2 of 2019/20 as well as summarising the position in 2018/19.

#### **4. Directorate Comments/Actions for Improvement**

- 4.1 Whilst there is evidence of managerial action in managing sickness the Community Services Division acknowledges that better use of the iTrent system is required, at present 16.48% of return to work meetings were recorded on iTrent, and the department needs to ensure that all return to work meetings are recorded within iTrent.

##### **Actions**

- Targets and improvement objectives set for each service area
- Focussed quarterly session with Regeneration and Community Services Management Team and OD to review sickness absence and application of the Managing Attendance Policy
- Continued awareness raising with managers on the importance of application of the Managing Attendance Policy and the timely updating of iTrent
- Review of sickness absence to be added to all managers 121 sessions
- Update training for managers on managing sickness will be facilitated jointly with OD in new year

Regeneration and Community Services Management Team to monitor agreed actions – sickness absence to continue to be a regular item on the management team agenda.

#### **5. Options for Recommendation**

##### **5.1 Option 1**

That the Scrutiny Committee having scrutinised the sickness absence performance information and proposed arrangements to improve attendance rates within the Regeneration and Community Services Directorate identify any further areas for improvement in order to drive forward performance improvement.

##### **5.2 Option 2**

That the Scrutiny Committee endorse the report and proposed arrangements to support the improvement in attendance.

- 6. Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**
- 6.1 Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)**  
There are direct and indirect costs of sickness absence which are a key driver in the Council's approach to effectively improve attendance at work.
- 6.2 Risk including Mitigating Actions**  
The underperformance in relation to the high levels of sickness absence does present a significant risk in terms of the impact on front line service delivery and continuity through lost time and staffing changes. In addition, the financial implications associated with sickness absence directly impact on the Council's financial efficiency targets and the level of financial savings that the Council needs to achieve. Mitigating actions are detailed within the report.
- 6.3 Legal**  
There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 6.4 Human Resources**  
The staffing implications are detailed within the content of the report.
- 7. Supporting Evidence**
- 7.1 Performance Information and Data**  
The detailed performance evidence is detailed in appendix 1 as well as the actions taken to address the level of underperformance.
- 7.2 Expected outcome for the public**  
Information included within the report will provide opportunity for the public to scrutinise the Council's performance and provide accountability across the Council.
- 7.3 Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation) – Trade Union** have been consulted on the sickness absence performance and are committed to working with the Council to improve attendance.
- 7.4 Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)**  
Options detailed in this report contribute directly to enabling the workforce for the future.
- 7.5 Preventative focus**  
The review of the Organisational Development Strategy will focus on prevention.
- 7.6 Collaboration / partnership working**  
There are regular discussions with the national Human Resources Directors Network and regionally in terms of good practice or emerging practice in reducing sickness absence. There are early discussions with the WLGA to launch a project to learn from England any initiatives in relation to wellbeing.
- 7.7 Integration (across service areas)**  
NA

- 7.8 **EqlA**(screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)  
The review of sickness absence performance was carried out and included all employees of the Council.

## **8. Monitoring Arrangements**

- 8.1 Sickness absence statistics are reported to the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) and Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis and an annual performance report is presented to Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee. Directorate positions and actions for improvement will be reported to specific scrutiny committees. Biannual workforce profiles are discussed with Managers and Headteachers.

### **Background Documents /Electronic Links**

Appendix 1 – Sickness Absence Monitoring Quarters 1 and 2



## Sickness Absence 2019/20 (Quarter 1 & 2) – Regeneration & Community Services

Corporate Director – Richard Crook

Head of Regeneration & Development – Ellie Fry

Head of Community Services – Clive Rogers Evans

Service Manager Public Protection – Dave Thompson

### Total Days lost per FTE Employee (Annual Council Target 11 days per FTE Employee)

2019/20	Qtr1 (Target 2.75)	Qtr2 (Target 5.50)
Council	3.06	5.93
Corporate Services	1.71	4.34
Social Services	3.62	7.45
Education	2.84	5.09

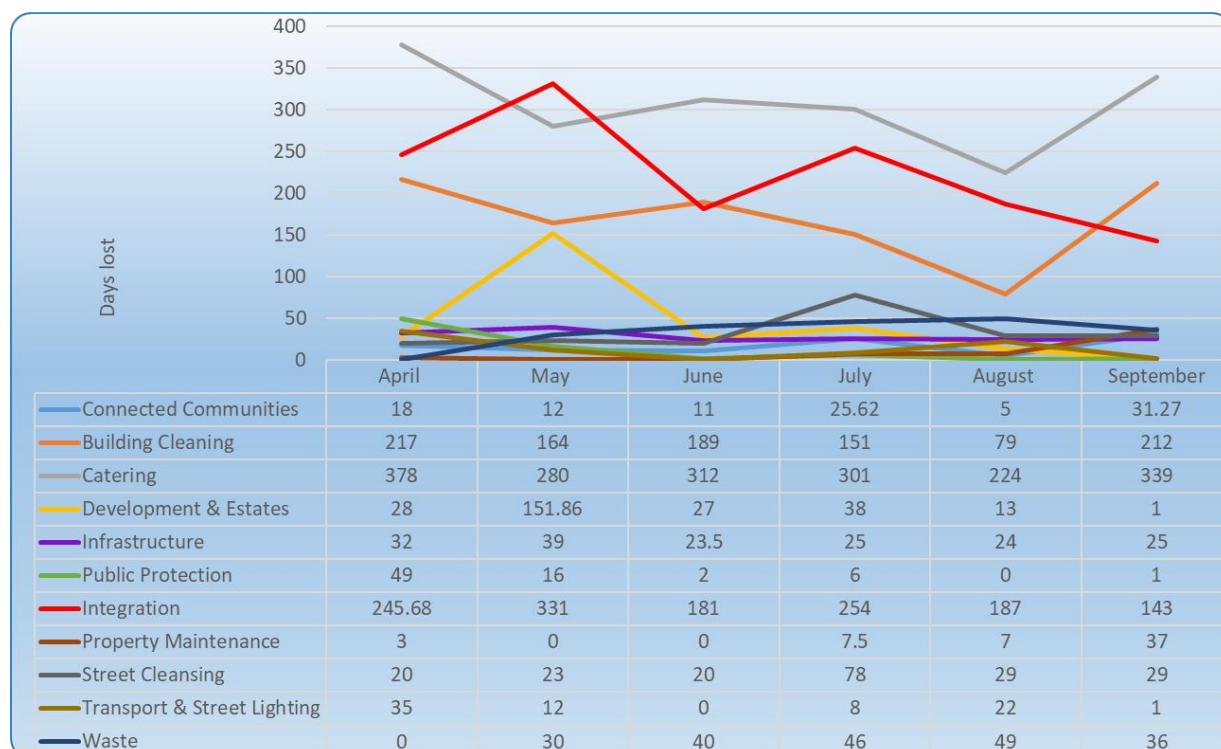
2019/20	Qtr1 (Target 2.75)	Qtr2 (Target 5.50)
Regeneration & Community Services	3.78	7.09
Regeneration & Development	1.57	2.80
Community Services	4.74	9.00
Public Protection	1.71	1.86
Senior Management	0.00	0.00

### 2018/19 – Annual Review Regeneration & Community Services

- 11.21 FTE days lost ( Quarter 1 – 2.93, Quarter 2 – 6.62)
- 65.96% of absences were long term
- 69 employees with one or more absences - mental health
- 4706 calendar days lost - mental health
- 16 employees with more than 6 calendar months sickness
- 9 employees disciplined for sickness absence

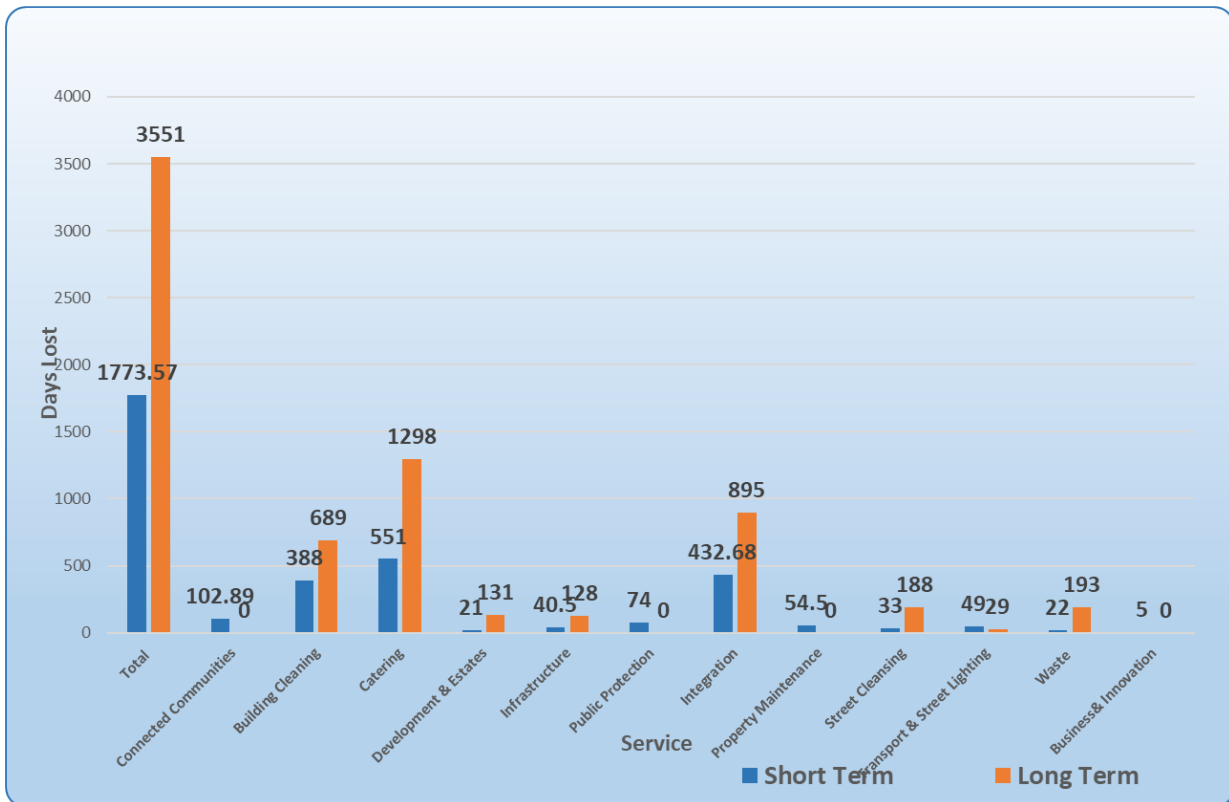
### Total Working Days Lost - 01.04.19 – 30.09.19

- 5,324.57 working days lost to sickness absence (24,094.24 hours)



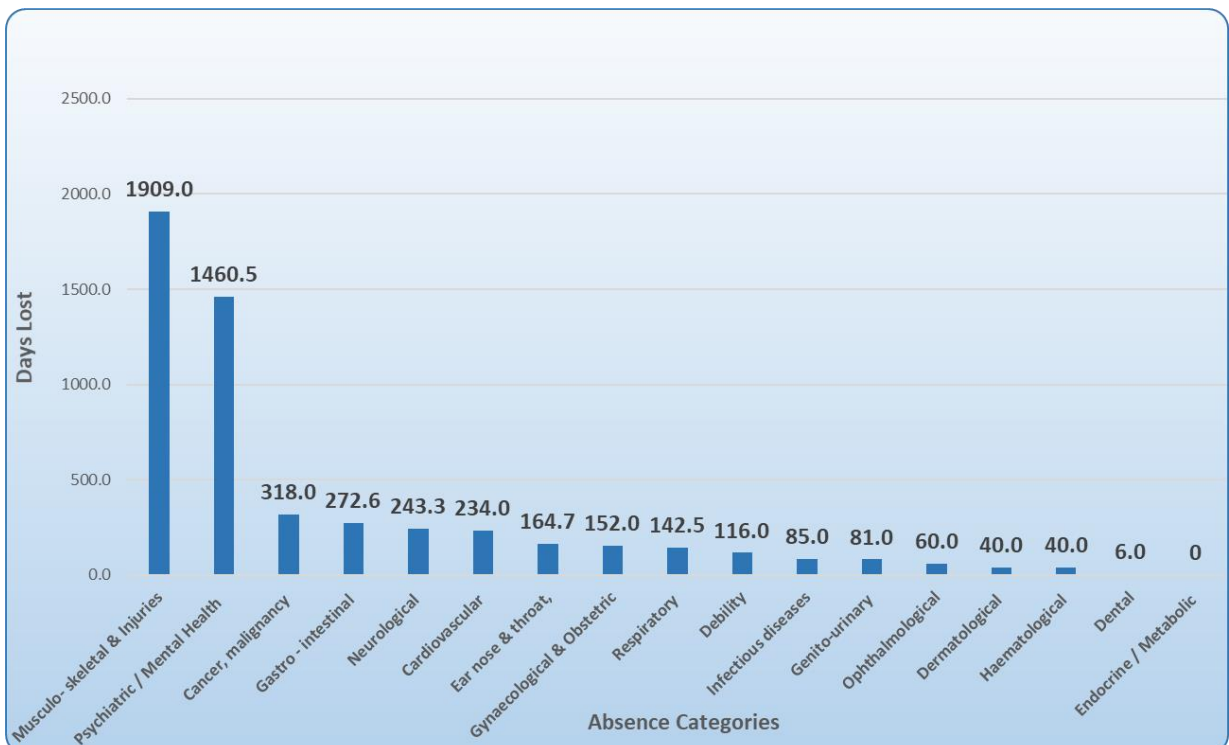
### Total Working Days Lost - Short Term / Long Term

- **66.7%** of absence is long term



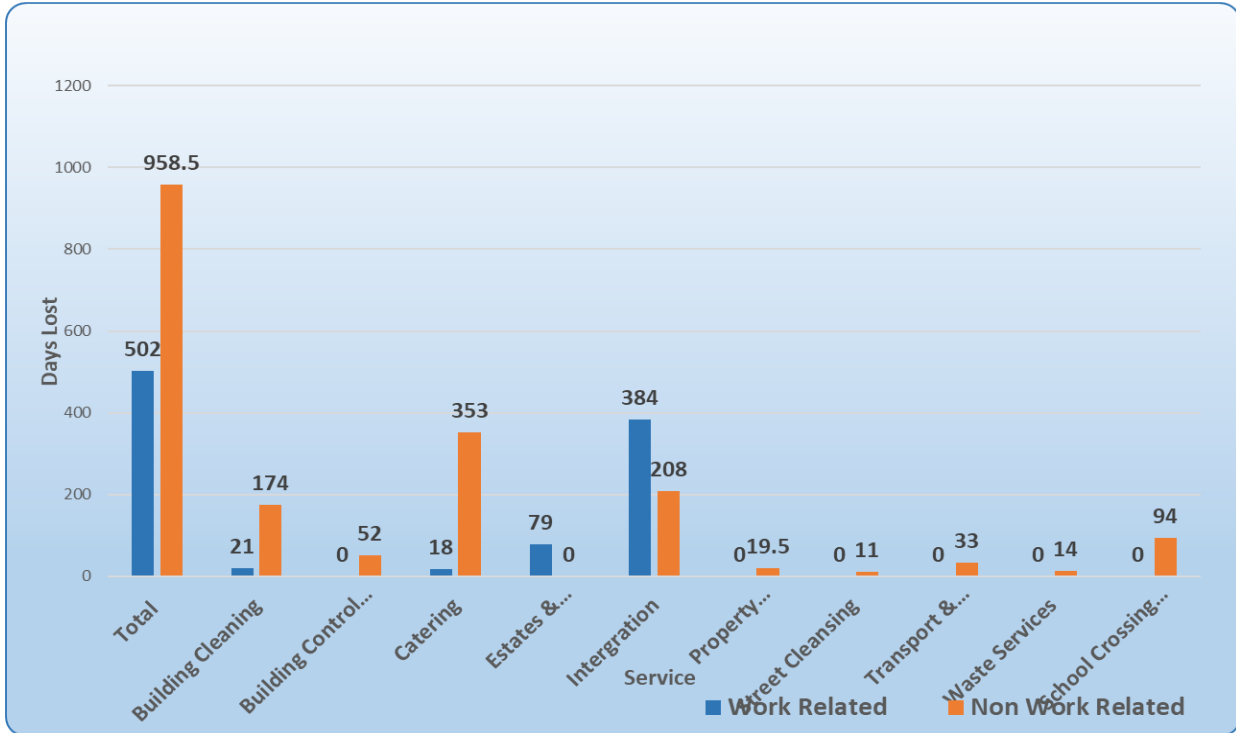
### Total Working Days Lost by Reason

- **Top 3** reasons – Musculoskeletal & Injuries, Psychiatric/Mental Health, Cancer/ malignancy
- **1909** working days lost to Musculoskeletal & Injuries



**Total Working Days lost Psychiatric / Mental Health (Work / Non Work Related)**

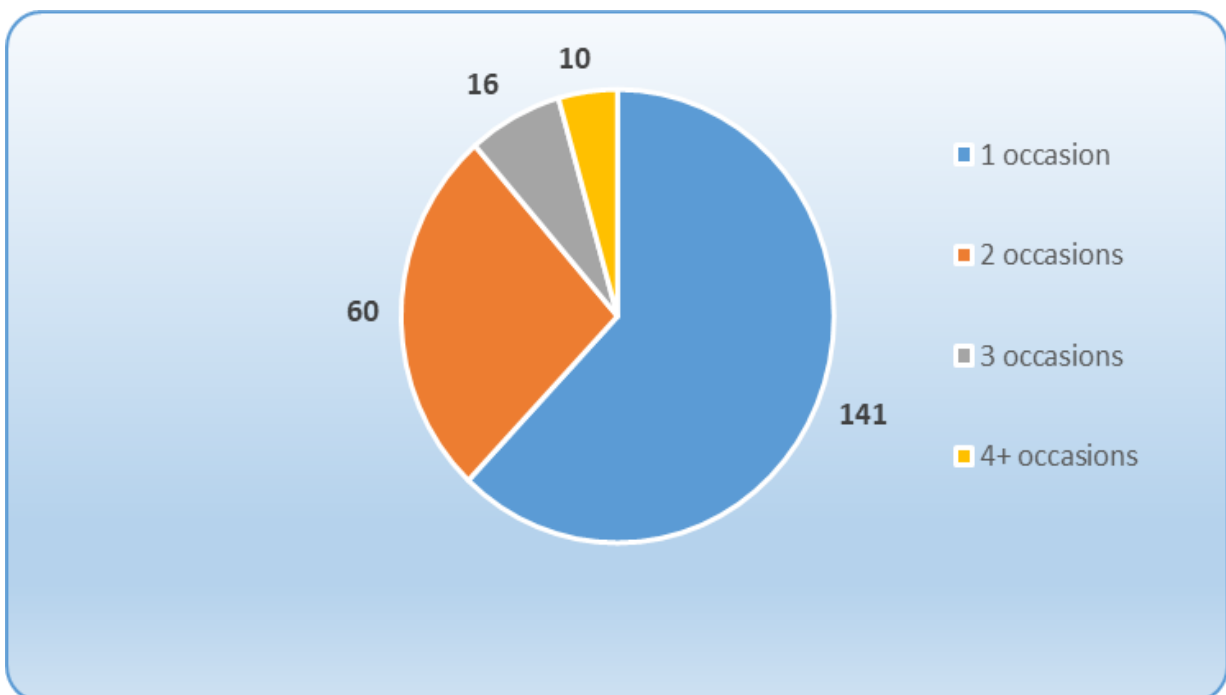
- **34%** of days lost to Psychiatric / Mental Health identified as work related
- **46** employees with one or more absences - Mental Health
- **65** occasions of absence - Mental Health



**Number reporting sickness**

- Number of staff reporting sick – **231**
- Number of occasions of sickness absence - **357**

**Number of occasions of absence per employee**



### Impact - Financial / Staff Resources

- The cost of lost time for the six-month period is estimated at **£288,649** based on an average salary of **£23,107.11 – £11.98** per hour (Average Salary - Pay Policy calculation excluding staff on the Teachers pay and conditions). These costs do not include on-costs, cover arrangements or management time to manage the sickness.
- This equates to **25 FTE** employees being absent for the full 6 months.

### Management of Sickness Absence

- **25** Open sickness cases as at 30.09.19
- **40** Occupational health referrals made during the period
- Number of Trigger Breaks based on the most recent absence in the period for each employee (however they may have broken more than one trigger in the rolling year)
  - **95 employees - 3 or more occasions**
  - **144 employees - 10 or more days absence**
  - **75 employees - 3 or more occasions & 10 or more days**
  - **118 employees - Did not hit a trigger**
- **16.48%** Return to works have been recorded on iTrent
- **5** Written Warnings issued
- **1** Dismissal on Medical Capability

# Agenda Item 10

*Executive Committee and Council only*

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**  
Date of meeting: **16<sup>th</sup> January 2020**  
Report Subject: **Forward Work Programme: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020**  
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Garth Collier, Deputy Leader / Executive Member Environment**  
Report Submitted by: **Cllr Joanna Wilkins, Chair of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
x	x	05.01.20			16.01.20			

1. **Purpose of the Report**
  - 1.1 To present to Members the Community Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for the Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 for discussion and to update the Committee on any changes.
2. **Scope and Background**
  - 2.1 The Scrutiny Work Programmes are key aspects of the Council's planning and governance arrangements and support the requirements of the Constitution.
  - 2.2 The topics set out in the Forward Work Programme link to the strategic work of the Council as identified by the Council's Corporate Plan, corporate documents and supporting business plans. Effective work programmes are essential to ensure that the work of scrutiny makes a positive impact upon the Council's delivery of services.
  - 2.3 The Committee's Forward Work Programme was agreed in June 2019, recognising the fluidity of the document to enable the Committee to respond to urgent and emerging issues, and included timescales when reports will be considered by the Committee. The work programme is managed and implemented by the Scrutiny and Democratic Officer under the direction of the Chair and Committee.
  - 2.4 The forward work programme for the forthcoming meeting will be presented to Committee on a 6 weekly cycle in order that Members can consider the programme of work; request information is included within the reports, as appropriate and / or make amendments to the work programme.
3. **Options for Recommendation**
  - 3.1 **Option 1:** The Scrutiny Committee consider the Forward Work Programme for the meeting 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020, and
    - Make any amendments to the topics scheduled for the meetings;

- Suggest any additional invitees that the committee requires to fully consider the reports; and
- Request any additional information to be included with regards to the topics to be discussed.

3.2 **Option 2:** The Scrutiny Committee agree the Forward Programme for the meeting 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020, as presented.

**Background Documents /Electronic Links**

- Appendix 1 – Forward Work Programme – Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**Community Services Scrutiny Committee**  
**Forward Work Programme**

**Scrutiny Meeting Date:** Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**Scrutiny Deadline to receive reports:** Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Report Title	Lead Officer	Purpose of Report	Method/ Expert Witness/Exec Member	Latest CLT Sign Off Date	Executive Meeting Date	Council Meeting Date
WAO - Well-being of Future Generations: An examination of 'Improving access to, and the quality of open spaces for the benefit of our communities, business and visitors'	Clive Rogers Chris Engel	<b>Monitoring</b> To consider the WAO review.	Agenda Item  <i>Audit: 28.01.20</i>	11.02.20  <i>Audit: 31.03.20</i>	N/A	N/A
WAO – Environmental Health follow-up Review	Dave Thompson	<b>Monitoring</b> To consider the WAO review.	Agenda Item  <i>Audit: 28.01.20</i>	11.02.20  <i>Audit: 31.03.20</i>	N/A	N/A
Leisure and Culture Services Review	Anne-Louise Clark	<b>Service Review</b> Members to consider the service review.	Agenda Item	11.02.20	11.03.20	26.03.20
Welsh Public Library Standards (WPLS) Annual Return 2018/19	Dave Watkins	<b>Monitoring</b> Members to consider the Annual Assessment from Welsh Government which highlights Blaenau Gwent's performance against the Welsh Public Library Standards.	Agenda Item	11.02.20	11.03.20	N/A
Highways Capital Works Programme 2019/20 Update	Clive Rogers	<b>Monitoring</b> To provide Members with update on progress of the current Highways Capital Works Programme for 2019/20.	Agenda Item	11.02.20	11.03.20	N/A
National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme <i>(Response to National Audit Findings)</i>	Dave Thompson / Lisa Griffin	<b>Monitoring</b> This report will outline the findings of the audit, the local position, and the actions that re being taken in response	Agenda Item	11.02.20	11.03.20	N/A

Report Title	Lead Officer	Purpose of Report	Method/ Expert Witness/Exec Member	Latest CLT Sign Off Date	Executive Meeting Date	Council Meeting Date
		to the audit findings. Members' observations and recommendations will be considered as appropriate.				
Blaenau Gwent Cemeteries – Future Provision	Alun Watkins / Dave Watkins	<b>Service Delivery</b> Members to consider the burial capacity review of existing cemeteries and the options presented to increase the capacity.	Agenda Item	11.02.20	11.03.20	N/A
Pest Control Review	Dave Thompson	<b>Service Delivery</b> To consider the review.	Agenda Item	11.02.20	11.03.20	N/A
<b>INFORMATION ITEMS</b>						
Annual Air Quality	Dave Thompson / Andrew Long	<b>Information</b> Annual report on the Authority's fulfilment of its duties under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 in relation to air quality management.	Information Item	11.02.20	11.03.20	N/A