

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL - 26TH OCTOBER, 2022

REPORT OF:

PRESENT:

Councillors C. Smith (Presiding Member)
C. Bainton
P. Baldwin
S. Behr
D. Bevan
K. Chaplin
M. Cross
H. Cunningham
D. Davies
G. A. Davies
M. Day
S. Edmunds
W. Hodgins
J. Holt
G. Humphreys
R. Leadbeater
E. Jones
J. Morgan, J.P.
J. C. Morgan
J. P. Morgan
L. Parsons
D. Rowberry
T. Smith
G. Thomas
J. Thomas
S. Thomas
J. Wilkins
L. Winnett

WITH:

Interim Chief Executive
Corporate Director of Education
Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services
Interim Corporate Director of Social Services
Chief Officer Resources
Chief Officer Commercial & Customer
Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance
Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships
Service Manager – Public Protection
Service Manager – Performance & Democratic
Specialist Environmental Health Officer
Press & Publicity Officer
Communications & Marketing Officer

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <p>Councillors J. Gardner, J. Hill, H. Trollope and D. Woods.</p>	
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>The following declaration of interest was reported:</p> <p>Item No. 8: Regional Integration Fund Financial Plan</p> <p>Councillor W. Hodgins</p>	

No. 4

BLAENAU GWENT COUNCIL SELF-ASSESSMENT 2021/22

Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Chief Executive.

Following a discussion, it was:

- Noted that the details of political make-up contained in the document would need to be amended prior to the publication on the Council's website.

- Clarified that the information contained in the document was retrospective and there was no capital funding available to undertake any further highway works at present. However, at the request of Members of the Scrutiny Committee this matter would be further investigated, and further reports would be presented via the democratic process relating to any potential future funding opportunities and options going forward. It was noted that if funding did become available it would be a matter for Council to prioritise any potential works.

- Agreed that as the Self-Assessment was a public document, the format of future documents be considered to improve public accessibility.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted, and the Council's Self-Assessment 2021/22 be approved for publication on the Council's website and shared with key partners as outlined in paragraph 2.42 of the statutory guidance.

No. 5

COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN 2022/27

Members considered the report of the Interim Chief Executive.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED that the report be accepted, and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the content of the Corporate Plan 2022/2027 be agreed for publication.

No. 6

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance/Monitoring Officer.

A lengthy debate ensued when it was agreed that:

- The activities of the Presiding Member be publicised in a timely manner to communicate to the public the duties, events and engagements being undertaken. In addition, the Presiding Member produce a bi-annual report to Council detailing the engagements and events that had been attended in his capacity representing and promoting the County Borough.
- The Presiding Member's role description be added to going forward and the Constitution be updated to reflect any changes accordingly.
- In addition to electronic copies of the Constitution being available, hard copies of the document also be made available upon receipt of a written request.
- A legal briefing note be prepared by the Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance relating to the Democratic Services Committee and options going forward for Group Leaders to consider.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted, and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the suggested amendments be incorporated into the existing Constitution.

No. 7

RENEWAL OF PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS FOR DOG CONTROL OFFENCES

Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager Public Protection.

It was unanimously,

	<p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted, and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the new Public Spaces Protection Order outlined in Appendix 1 attached to the report be approved. The new Order to commence on 1st November, 2022.</p>	
No. 8	<p><u>FINANCIAL LIABILITIES OF THE REGIONAL INTEGRATION FUND</u></p> <p>Councillor W. Hodgins declared an interest in this item but remained in the meeting whilst it was considered.</p> <p>Members considered the report of the Interim Corporate Director of Social Services.</p> <p>It was noted that the People Scrutiny Committee had endorsed Option 2.</p> <p>It was, therefore, unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted, and Option 2 be endorsed, namely that the financial liabilities and implications of the new Regional Integration Fund and its tapered funding model be not accepted.</p>	