

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

SUBJECT: CABINET - 10TH FEBRUARY, 2025

REPORT OF:

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S. THOMAS (CHAIR)

Councillors H. Cunningham
J. C. Morgan
H. Trollope
S. Edmunds

WITH: Joint Chief Executive
Corporate Director of Corporate Services
Corporate Director of Education
Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services
Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance
Service Manager - Accountancy
Press Officer

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.	
No. 2	<u>APOLOGIES</u> An apology for absence was received from the Interim Corporate Director of Social Services.	
No. 3	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u> No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.	

No. 4

REVENUE BUDGET 2025/2026 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Corporate Services and Service Manager Accountancy.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and recommended Option 1 to the Council, as follows:-

- The assumptions applied in developing the 2025/2026 Draft Estimates (paragraphs 5.1.4 to 5.1.10).
- The cost pressures identified in paragraphs 5.1.11 to 5.1.17 and shown in table 2 at 5.1.8 relating to:-
 - the Council - £2.3m
 - Schools - £2.4m
 - Aneurin Leisure Trust - £0.4m
- The grants transferring into the Settlement for 2025/2026 be passported to the relevant services as detailed in paragraph 2.8 and included in table 2 at 5.1.16.
- The Bridging the Gap budget cuts/efficiencies in paragraphs 5.1.18 to 5.1.23.
- A Council Tax increase of 4.95% for 2025/2026.
- The updated MTFS for 2025/2026 to 2029/2030 attached at Appendix 2.

No. 5

DISCRETIONARY FEES AND CHARGES 2025/26

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

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and agreed Option 1, as follows:-

1. Cabinet recommended to Council the register of Fees & Charges for 2025/2026 attached at Appendix 1, and for discretionary fees & charges approved a fee uplift of 3% in line with the assumption for inflation within the MTFS the alternative fee proposed as detailed in paragraphs 5.1.5 to

5.1.14;

2. recommended to Council to approve delegated power and responsibility to the Interim Corporate Director of Social Services for setting the fees and charges for 2025/2026 relating to the provision of external social care and Cwrt Mytton as detailed in paragraph 5.1.7; and
3. recommended to Council to approve the core price increases relating to Aneurin Leisure Trust attached at Appendix 2.