

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: CABINET – 4TH DECEMBER, 2024

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

**PRESENT: Leader/
Cabinet Member - Corporate Overview & Performance
Councillor S. Thomas**

**Deputy Leader/
Cabinet Member – Place and Environment
Councillor H. Cunningham**

**Cabinet Member – Place and Regeneration
Councillor J.C. Morgan**

**Cabinet Member – People & Social Services
Councillor H. Trollope**

WITH: Joint Chief Executive
Corporate Director Corporate Services
Corporate Director Education
Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services
Interim Corporate Director Social Services
Chief Officer Customer & Commercial
Head of Organisational Development
Service Manager Accountancy
Service Manager Neighbourhood Services
Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance
Press & Public Relations Officer

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

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

	<p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>
No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>An apology for absence was reported for Councillor S. Edmunds, Cabinet Member for People & Education.</p>
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p>
	<p><u>DECISIONS</u></p>
No. 4	<p><u>CABINET</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the decisions of the Special Cabinet Meeting held on 16th October, 2024.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the decisions be received as a true record of proceedings.</p>
	<p><u>CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO</u></p>
No. 5	<p><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – 15th JANUARY, 2025</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Scrutiny & Democratic Officer.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Forward Work Programme for the meeting on the 15th January, 2025 be approved. (Option 1)</p>
No. 6	<p><u>GRANTS WORKING GROUP – MINUTES</u></p> <p>To receive the minutes of the Grants Working Group held on 10th October, 2024.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the minutes be received.</p>

No. 7

GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS

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

The following additional grants were received since submission of the report.

ABERTILLERY

Abertillery & Six Bells Ward - Councillors K. Chaplin & R. Leadbeater

1.	Tillery Dragons Junior Netball	£200
2.	Abertillery Excelsiors AFC	£200
3.	Abertillery Male Orpheus Choir	£162
4.	Abertillery Ladies Orpheus Choir	£162

EBBW VALE

Ebbw Vale North Ward - Councillor D. Davies

1.	Royal British Legion Gwent County	£60
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Ebbw Vale South Ward - Councillor J. Millard

1.	Falcons Martial Arts	£100
2.	Ebbw Vale Christmas Lights	£500

Ebbw Vale South Ward - Councillor S. Edmunds

1.	Ebbw Vale Christmas Lights	£500
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Rassau Ward - Councillor G. Davies

1.	Royal British Legion Gwent County	£100
2.	Garnlydan Football Club	£100
3.	Rhos y Fedwen School	£200
4.	Toppers School of Dance & Drama	£100
5.	Rassau OAP's	£100
6.	Beaufort RFC	£100

	<p>RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p>
No. 8	<p><u>GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS – 4TH DECEMBER 2024 (RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL FOR PAYMENTS MADE 18TH JUNE 2024)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Corporate Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted, and the information contained therein be noted.</p>
No. 9	<p><u>HEALTH & SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT - 1ST APRIL 2022 TO 31ST MARCH 2023</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Organisational Development.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Cabinet support and approve the actions recommended to mitigate areas of concern (Option 1).</p>
No. 10	<p><u>EMPLOYEE WELLBEING AND SICKNESS ABSENCE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Organisational Development.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted, and Cabinet endorse the ongoing actions to support improvement in attendance. (Option 2).</p>
No. 11	<p><u>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2024/2025 – FORECAST OUTTURN TO 31 MARCH 2025 (AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager Accountancy.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted, and Option 1 be approved, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members to consider and provide appropriate challenge to the financial outcomes in the report; • Note the application of reserves; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider and challenge the Action Plan attached at Appendix 2.
<p>No. 12</p>	<p><u>CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, FORECAST FOR 2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR (AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Corporate Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted, and Option 1 be approved, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members provide appropriate challenge to the financial outcomes in the report; • Continue to support appropriate financial control procedures agreed by Council; and • Note the budgetary control and monitoring procedures in place within the Capital Team, to safeguard Authority funding.
<p>No. 13</p>	<p><u>THE ANNUAL LETTER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES 2023/2024</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted, and Cabinet is informed of the Council's performance with regard to complaints made to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. (The report has been referred to the Governance and Audit Committee with assurance that the process for the monitoring of complaints is robust and the performance information provided reflects these practices). (Option 1).</p>
<p>No. 14</p>	<p><u>THE CALCULATION OF THE COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR THE YEAR 2025/26</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Corporate Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted, and Cabinet approves the Council Tax base calculation for 2025/26 as detailed in</p>

	<p>Appendix 1 tables 1 to 6, and that the Council Tax Base for tax setting purposes be 21,197.98.</p>
	<p><u>PEOPLE & EDUCATION PORTFOLIO</u></p>
No. 15	<p><u>IMPROVING SCHOOLS PROGRAMME</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Education.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted as provided. (Option 2).</p>
No. 16	<p><u>REVIEW OF INCLUSION POLICIES</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Education.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted, and the revised policy documentation be approved as presented. (Option 1).</p>
	<p><u>PLACE AND ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO</u></p>
No. 17	<p><u>WASTE AND RECYCLING ANNUAL PERFORMANCE 2023-24</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager Neighbourhood Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted, and the information contained therein be approved. (Option 1).</p>
No. 18	<p><u>CLIMATE CHANGE, NET ZERO ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager Policy & Partnerships.</p> <p>RESOVLED that the report be accepted, and Cabinet approve and agree that the report be published on the Council's Website. (Option 1).</p>

	<p><u>JOINT PORTFOLIO – PLACE & ENVIRONMENT/PLACE & REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</u></p>
<p>No. 19</p>	<p><u>FORMER COMMUNITY CENTRE, ORCHARD STREET, BRYNMAWR</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted, and the Cabinet agreed Option 1, namely that the Martial Arts Group, supported by Ward Members, be allowed to take the building by agreeing to enter into an agreement for a lease followed by a formal lease. This to be granted following completion of works estimated to cost more than £87,000 which the group would have to fund.</p> <p>A schedule outlining the works that must be undertaken to make the building compliant is attached at Appendix 3. It is only on completion of the works will a formal lease be granted.</p>
	<p><u>EXEMPT INFORMATION</u></p>
	<p><u>PEOPLE & EDUCATION PORTFOLIO</u></p>
<p>No. 20</p>	<p><u>IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MIDDLE TIER REVIEW</u></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, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).</p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Education.</p>

RESOLVED that the report which contained information relating to the financial/business affairs of persons other than the Authority be accepted, and that Option 2 be approved.
