

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs T Hughes - Town Clerk/RFO

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Dear Member,

You are summoned to attend a hybrid meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee at the Council Chamber, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina to commence following the Planning and Highways Committee meeting on **Tuesday 10th February 2026**.

If any member of the public wishes to attend the meeting remotely, please contact the Town Clerk at the above email or phone by 3pm on 10th February 2026 for details of how to access the meeting.

Yours Sincerely



Town Clerk

A meeting to which members of the public are entitled to attend.

AGENDA

Declaration of Interest

Members are invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Members are reminded that all declarations must be recorded in the book provided.

1. Apologies for absence:

Members are invited to consider the apologies for absence and to formally resolve to accept.

2. Questions from the Public:

To receive any questions from the public regarding matters itemised on the agenda (limited to 10 minutes total).

3. Correspondence:

Members are invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chairman's permission, any urgent information that may be received prior to the date of the meeting.

- a) Celebrating the Bahá'í New Year – Rafi Abbas (for information/consideration - copy attached)

Invitation to Town Mayor Glyn Morvan and one other Town Council member (and partner) to a celebration event in The Cwtch, Blaina Community Centre on March 21st.

- b) Budget Consultation 2026/27 – David Arnold (*for information – copy attached*)

Slides from meeting held 27th January regarding the Budget for 2026/27

4. S.137 donations (Local Government Act 1972 & Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

As previously resolved, Members are invited to consider making further financial donations to Blaenau Gwent Foodbank to assist residents of Nantyglo and Blaina for the month of February 2026.

5. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

Members are invited to consider the listed application(s), plus with the Chairman's permission any additional applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting. Members are also reminded that applications will need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

- a) *None received to date.*



Celebrating the Bahá'í New Year

From rabbas4280@aol.com <rabbas4280@aol.com>

Date Wed 28/01/2026 10:28

To Clerk <clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk>

Hi Tracy,

I am writing this on behalf of the Bahá'í group of Blaina/Nantyglo to extend an invitation to our town mayor Glyn Morvan, and another town councillor with their partners to join us celebrating the Bahá'í New Year which is on the 21st of March.

The Bahá'í group of Blaina/Nantyglo is the smallest Faith community in Blaenau Gwent and we are aiming to use this occasion to bring local people together in the spirit of friendship and fellowship. It is going to be on the afternoon of Saturday the 21st at Blaina community centre, we are hoping to have a programme to include music, art and dance similar to the Building Musical Bridges event which we had in Blaina in 2019, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRf4oFyhWj0&t=>).

The theme for the event is going to focus on building strong and positive local communities based on the following quotation;

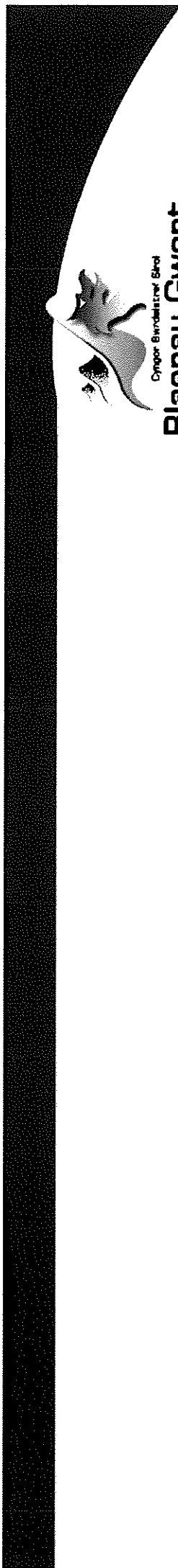
"The betterment of the world can be accomplished through pure and goodly deeds, through commendable and seemly conduct." Baha'u'llah (1817 – 1892)

I look forward to hearing from you regarding confirmation of attending.

Regards,

Rafi Abbas

Group Secretary



 **Blaenau Gwent**
County Borough Council

BUDGET CONSULTATION 2026/2027

January 2026



Budget 2026/2027 - Overview



- Final Settlement announced 20 January 2026
- All Wales increase in Aggregate External Finance - £282m (4.5%)
- Blaenau Gwent increase - £7.73m (4.9%) to £165.5m, after adjustments for grants transferring in, 3rd highest in Wales
- Increase in Capital Funding of £100,000 to £4.4m



Budget 2026/2027 - Overview



- Positive Settlement for Wales & Blaenau Gwent
- Safeguard jobs and protect front line services
- Support the real living wage
- No large increases in Council Tax



Data Set Changes – BG Impact



- **Overall impact of data changes – an increase of £92,000**

- Increased Population – 0.8% compared to the all Wales increase of 0.7%.
- Decrease in Pupil population – 1.33% compared to the all Wales decrease of 1.42%.
- Free School Meals – 0.18% increase compared to the all Wales increase of 0.64%



Grant Transfers into the Settlement

Grant	All Wales £'000	Blaenau Gwent £'000
Teachers Pay	17,850	375
ALNCO Pay	4,019	84
Public Sector Pay	14,900	336
Fire Pay	273	6
Employer National Insurance	97,223	2,189
TOTAL	134,265	2,990

Review Of MTFS

Settlement provides opportunity to review budget approach and assumptions with the aim:

- Set a balanced budget over the life of the MTFS
- Fully fund pay pressures for schools
- Continue to rebalance school budgets by addressing pressures where funding uplifts have fallen short of pay increases in prior years

Budget & MTFs Assumptions



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	Budget Assumptions 2026/2027	2027/2028 Onwards
Inflation	%	%
Fees & Charges	2	2
Pay	2	2
ISB - Pay	3	3
Employer Pensions	3	3
	-1%	-1% (27/28 & 28/29)
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	4.95	4.95
AEF increase	4.9	3
Council Tax Increase	4.95	4.95
Grants passported to relevant service area		

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Financial Impact on Draft Estimates of Assumptions

2026/2027		
	%	£'000
Inflation	2	1,720
Pay	3	2,420
National Insurance		1,360
Pensions	-1%	(420)
School Pay Pressures less Demographic Changes		3,370
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	4.95	540
Grants Transferring into the Settlement		90
Capital Adjustment Forecast		740
Sub Total – Expenditure Budget Uplift		9,820
Fees & Charges	2	(360)
RSG increase (cash increase)		(10,970)
Council Tax Increase	4.95	(2,100)
Sub Total – Increase in Funding		(13,430)
Funding Gap (Surplus)		(3,610)

Cost Pressures

	2026/2027 £'000	2027/2028 Onwards £'000
Fee Uplifts – Community Care	500	
Children Looked After	1,560	
ALN Resource Base – Year 2	480	
New Welsh Primary School	50	
Rivercentre School	435	
Out of County Placements	230	
Home to School Transport	220	
Leisure Trust Management Fee	70	
Fire Levy	45	
Foundation Living Wage – review of spinal column points	600	
The Deal	350	
TOTAL	4,540	3,000

MTFS 2026/2027 to 2030/2031

	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	2030/31 £000	TOTAL £000
Budget Gap (Surplus) (1)	(3,610)	(780)	(1,455)	(995)	(960)	(7,800)
Cost Pressures						
Assumed Cost Pressures *	4,540	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	16,540
Schools – Prior Year	2,445					2,445
Contribution to Reserves		200	200	200	200	800
TOTAL BUDGET GAP (2)	3,375	2,420	1,745	2,205	2,240	11,985

Bridging the Gap

The Federation and the newly launched Deal will take time to deliver financial efficiencies & cost management



The following approach is proposed to mitigate the budget gap of £3.3m

Short Term:

Budget Management

- Reviewing 2025/2026 forecast and 2026/2027 Draft Estimates to identify alternative funding to mitigate service cost pressures identified.

Alternative Funding & Managing Demand

Propose the use of transitional reserve funding in the short term to support services whilst we look at how service delivery will change and the impact on demand in line with the delivery of The Deal and Missions.



Bridging the Gap cont..

Medium to Long Term:

The Federation

Closer working with Torfaen CBC has delivered financial savings for the Council through the Joint Leadership structure. As services restructure and redesign, it is anticipated that further efficiencies will be identified and achieved over future years through shared services and/or shared posts, to support services with managing cost pressures.

School Reorganisation and Rationalisation

To support schools in achieving financial stability and reduce deficit balances, it is proposed to review the school estate for opportunities to:

- Reduce the school estate where surplus capacity exists
- Federate schools to share leadership, resources and administrative functions
- Reduce the number of buildings to lower maintenance and operational costs

Estimated Financial Efficiencies 2026/2027



Theme	£'000	
Managing Demand Alternative Funding	Adults Social Care	500
	Children Looked After	1,500
Budget Management		- 2 year Transitional Funding (£1.5m 2026/7 & £0.75m 2027/28)
	Education - Out of County Placements	230
	Home to School Transport	220
	ISB (Rivercentre)	435
Growth Strategy	Fee & Charges (3% fee increase proposed)	90
	Council Tax Increase	100
Asset Management	Anvil Court	300
	lease terminate December 2025	
	TOTAL	3,375



Cynghor Blaenau Gwent

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

Impact on Budget Gap

	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	2030/31 £000
Budget Gap – In Year	3,375	2,420	1,745	2,205	2,240
BtG Financial Efficiencies	(3,375)				
Contribution to Reserves	0				
TOTAL BUDGET GAP	0	2,420	1,745	2,205	2,240

Conclusion

- Better than initially expected settlement
- Balanced Budget for 2026/2027
- Provides funding for schools over and above 2026/2027 increased pay to address prior year pay pressures and rebalancing of school budgets
- £1.65m funding for cost pressure (after mitigation)