

## Tracy

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**From:** Tracy Gilmartin <tgilmartin@onevoicewales.wales>  
**Sent:** 14 December 2021 09:31  
**To:** Tracy Gilmartin  
**Subject:** FW: Cyflwyno'r Bil Deddfau Trethi Cymru (Pŵer I Addasu) | Welsh Tax Acts etc. (Power to Modify) Bill

For your information / Ar gyfer eich gwybodaeth

**From:** [Ceri.Sullivan001@gov.wales](mailto:Ceri.Sullivan001@gov.wales) <[Ceri.Sullivan001@gov.wales](mailto:Ceri.Sullivan001@gov.wales)> **On Behalf Of**  
[WelshTreasury.GovernmentBusiness@gov.wales](mailto:WelshTreasury.GovernmentBusiness@gov.wales)  
**Sent:** 14 December 2021 07:58  
**Subject:** Cyflwyno'r Bil Deddfau Trethi Cymru (Pŵer I Addasu) | Welsh Tax Acts etc. (Power to Modify) Bill

### **Welsh Tax Acts etc. (Power to Modify) Bill**

Thank you to those who have contributed to the development of this Bill which has been introduced to Senedd

**Rebecca Evans, MS:**

*"This Bill aims to provide a new tool to support our devolved taxes, allowing Ministers to respond in a timely and agile way to make tax policy changes when external events impact our taxes and the revenues they generate which fund our essential public services".*

We look forward to continuing to work with you through the scrutiny process.

### **Welsh Tax Acts etc. (Power to Modify) Bill**

Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government – Written Statement:

**Introduction of the Welsh Tax Acts etc. (Power to Modify) Bill (13 December 2021) | GOV.WALES**

# Welsh Tax Acts (Power to Modify) Bill

The Bill enables Welsh Ministers to make changes to the Welsh Tax Acts where necessary or appropriate for any of the following purposes:



ensure that landfill disposals tax and land transaction tax are not imposed where to do so would be incompatible with any international obligations



to protect against tax avoidance in relation to landfill disposals tax and land transaction tax



to respond to changes to 'predecessor' UK taxes which impacts or could impact the amount paid into the Welsh Consolidated Fund



to respond to decisions of the courts/tribunals which affect or may affect the Welsh Tax Acts, or regulations made under them.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

#WelshTaxes

Sganiwyd y neges hon am bob feirws hysbys wrth iddi adael Llywodraeth Cymru. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn cymryd o ddifrif yr angen i ddiogelu eich data. Os cysylltwch â Llywodraeth Cymru, mae ein [hysbysiad preifatrwydd](#) yn esbonio sut rydym yn defnyddio eich gwybodaeth a sut rydym yn diogelu eich preifatrwydd. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn anfon ateb yn Gymraeg i ohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi. On leaving the Welsh Government this email was scanned for all known viruses. The Welsh Government takes the protection of your data seriously. If you contact the Welsh Government then our [Privacy Notice](#) explains how we use your information and the ways in which we protect your privacy. We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

**Tracy**

**From:** Wendi Patience <wpatience@onevoicewales.wales>  
**Sent:** 15 December 2021 13:26  
**To:** Wendi Patience  
**Cc:** Wendi Patience  
**Subject:** TRAINING - JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH 2022 / HYFFORDDIANT - IONAWR, CHWEFROR & MAWRTH 2022  
**Attachments:** Application for free training place Cym.docx; Application for free training place.docx; Letter in relation to free training places November 2020.docx; Letter in relation to free training places November 2020Cym.doc; Bursary letter up to Feb 2021-22 - £100.docx; Bursary letter up to Feb 2021-22 £100 Cym.docx

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below details of Remote training sessions that are taking place in January, February and March, please bring this to the attention of your council.

The cost of the training is £30 for members or £50 per person for non members. You will be invoiced after the training has taken place.

There is a bursary available to eligible councils.

Session times are listed against the module date – Please note all training sessions are in English unless otherwise stated.

18/01/2022	Tuesday	Health & Safety - Module 7	6.30-8.00pm
18/01/2022	Tuesday	Effective Staff Management - Module 18	6.30-8.00pm
18/01/2022	Tuesday	Creating a Community Plan - Module 12	2.00-3.30pm
19/01/2022	Wednesday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	6.30-8.00pm
19/01/2022	Wednesday	Local Government Finance - Module 6	6.30-8.00pm
19/01/2022	Wednesday	Advanced Local Government Finance - Module 21	6.30-8.00pm
20/01/2022	Thursday	Chairing Skills - Module 10	6.30-8.00pm
20/01/2022	Thursday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3	2.00-3.30pm
20/01/2022	Thursday	The Council - Module 1	6.30-8.00pm
24/01/2022	Monday	The Councillor - Module 2	6.30-8.00pm
25/01/2022	Tuesday	Advanced Local Government Finance - Module 21	6.30-8.00pm
25/01/2022	Tuesday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3	2.00-3.30pm
25/01/2022	Tuesday	Equality & Diversity - Module 14	6.30-8.00pm
26/01/2022	Wednesday	Chairing Skills - Module 10 - IN WELSH	6.30-8.00pm

26/01/2022	Wednesday	Introduction to Community Engagement - Module 8	2.00-3.30pm
26/01/2022	Wednesday	Information Management - Module 15	6.30-8.00pm
27/01/2022	Thursday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	6.30-8.00pm
27/01/2022	Thursday	Local Government Finance - Module 6	6.30-8.00pm
31/01/2022	Monday	The Council - Module 1 - IN WELSH	2.00-3.30pm
01/02/2022	Tuesday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3	6.30-8.00pm
01/02/2022	Tuesday	Advanced Local Government Finance - Module 21	6.30-8.00pm
01/02/2022	Tuesday	Local Government Finance - Module 6	6.30-8.00pm
02/02/2022	Wednesday	The Council Meeting - Module 5	6.30-8.00pm
02/02/2022	Wednesday	Community Engagement Part II - Module 13	2.00-3.30pm
03/02/2022	Thursday	Code of Conduct - Module 9	6.30-8.00pm
03/02/2022	Thursday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	6.30-8.00pm
07/02/2021	Monday	Advanced Local Government Finance - Module 21	6.30-8.00pm
08/02/2022	Tuesday	Health & Safety - Module 7	6.30-8.00pm
08/02/2022	Tuesday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	2.00-3.30pm
09/02/2022	Wednesday	Chairing Skills - Module 10	6.30-8.00pm
09/02/2022	Wednesday	Local Government Finance - Module 6	6.30-8.00pm
09/02/2022	Wednesday	The Council - Module 1	2.00-3.30pm
10/02/2022	Thursday	Effective Staff Management - Module 18	6.30-8.00pm
10/02/2022	Thursday	The Councillor - Module 2 - IN WELSH	6.30-8.00pm
10/02/2022	Thursday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3	6.30-8.00pm
15/02/2022	Tuesday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3	6.30-8.00pm
15/02/2022	Tuesday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	6.30-8.00pm
16/02/2022	Wednesday	Advanced Local Government Finance - Module 21	6.30-8.00pm
16/02/2022	Wednesday	The Council Meeting - Module 5 - IN WELSH	2.00-3.30pm
17/02/2022	Thursday	The Councillor - Module 2	6.30-8.00pm
17/02/2022	Thursday	Local Government Finance - Module 6	6.30-8.00pm
17/02/2022	Thursday	Introduction to Community Engagement - Module 8	2.00-3.30pm

21/02/2022	Monday	Local Government Finance - Module 6	6.30-8.00pm
21/02/2022	Monday	Code of Conduct - Module 9	2.00-3.30pm
22/02/2022	Tuesday	Information Management - Module 15	6.30-8.00pm
22/02/2022	Tuesday	The Council as an Employer - Module 3	6.30-8.00pm
23/02/2022	Wednesday	Advanced Local Government Finance - Module 21	6.30-8.00pm
23/02/2022	Wednesday	Creating a Community Plan - Module 12	6.30-8.00pm
24/02/2022	Thursday	The Council Meeting - Module 5	6.30-8.00pm
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24/02/2022	Thursday	Understanding the Law - Module 4	6.30-8.00pm
28/02/2022	Monday	Advanced Local Government Finance - Module 21	6.30-8.00pm
01/03/2022	Tuesday	Health & Safety - Module 7	6.30-8.00pm
01/03/2022	Tuesday	Local Government Finance - Module 6	6.30-8.00pm
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22/03/2022	Tuesday	Health & Safety - Module 7	6.30-8.00pm
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24/03/2022	Thursday	Equality & Diversity - Module 14	6.30-8.00pm
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30/03/2022	Wednesday	Information Management - Module 15	6.30-8.00pm
30/03/2022	Wednesday	Advanced Local Government Finance - Module 21	6.30-8.00pm
31/03/2022	Thursday	The Councillor - Module 2	6.30-8.00pm
31/03/2022	Thursday	The Council Meeting - Module 5	2.00-3.30pm

Please contact me via email to place a booking.

Many thanks.  
Wendi

Mobile – 07929 715990

## Tracy

**From:** Tracy Gilmartin <tgilmartin@onevoicewales.wales>  
**Sent:** 04 January 2022 09:45  
**To:** Tracy Gilmartin  
**Subject:** FW: Cyllideb ddrafft 2022-23 Llywodraeth Cymru | Welsh Government draft budget 2022-23

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

For your information / Ar gyfer eich gwybodaeth

**From:** Ruth.Leggett@gov.wales <Ruth.Leggett@gov.wales>  
**Sent:** 20 December 2021 17:35  
**To:** WelshTreasury.GovernmentBusiness@gov.wales  
**Subject:** Cyllideb ddrafft 2022-23 Llywodraeth Cymru | Welsh Government draft budget 2022-23

<p><b>Prynhawn da,</b></p> <p>Heddiw mae'r Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol, Rebecca Evans AS, wedi cyhoeddi cyllideb ddrafft Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer 2022-23.</p> <p>Mae'r gyllideb ddrafft, a nifer o ddogfennau perthnasol, ar wefan Llywodraeth Cymru:</p> <p><b>Cyllideb Ddrafft 2022-2023:</b>  <a href="#">Cyllideb Ddrafft 2022 i 2023   LLYW.CYMRU</a></p> <p><b>Datganiadau i'r wasg:</b>  <a href="#">Cyllideb i greu Cymru gryfach, decach a gwyrddach   LLYW.CYMRU</a></p> <p><a href="#">Buddsoddiad gwyrdd i fynd i'r afael ag argyfwng hinsawdd a natur   LLYW.CYMRU</a></p> <p><b>Datganiadau ysgrifenedig:</b>  <a href="#">Datganiad Ysgrifenedig: Cyllideb Ddrafft 2022-23 (20 Rhagfyr 2021)   LLYW.CYMRU</a></p> <p><a href="#">Datganiad Ysgrifenedig: Rhyddhad Ardrethi Annomestig i Fusnesau yn 2022-23 (20 Rhagfyr 2021)   LLYW.CYMRU</a></p> <p><a href="#">Datganiad Ysgrifenedig: Trethi Datganoledig Cymru a Chyfraddau Treth Incwm Cymru – Cyllideb Ddrafft 2022-23 (20 Rhagfyr 2021)   LLYW.CYMRU</a></p> <p><b>Dysgwch mwy</b></p>	<p><b>Good afternoon,</b></p> <p>Today the Minister for Finance &amp; Local Government, Rebecca Evans MS, has published the Welsh Government's draft budget for 2022-23.</p> <p>The draft budget, along with a number of supporting documents, can be found on the Welsh Government's website:</p> <p><b>Draft Budget 2022-2023:</b>  <a href="#">Draft Budget 2022 to 2023   GOV.WALES</a></p> <p><b>Press releases:</b>  <a href="#">Budget to build stronger, fairer, greener Wales   GOV.WALES</a></p> <p><a href="#">Green investment to tackle climate and nature emergency   GOV.WALES</a></p> <p><b>Written statements:</b>  <a href="#">Written Statement: Draft Budget 2022-23 (20 December 2021)   GOV.WALES</a></p> <p><a href="#">Written Statement: Non-Domestic Rates Relief for Businesses in 2022-23 (20 December 2021)   GOV.WALES</a></p> <p><a href="#">Written Statement: Welsh Devolved Taxes and Welsh Rates of Income Tax - Draft Budget 2022-23 (20 December 2021)   GOV.WALES</a></p> <p><b>Find out more</b></p>
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<p>Cofiwch, mae'n bosib dilyn ac ymgysylltu â ni ar ein sianeli swyddogol i gael mwy o wybodaeth a'r newyddion diweddaraf am gyllideb 2022-23.</p> <p><u>Twitter:</u>  @LlywodraethCym  @TrysorlysCymru</p> <p><u>Hashnodau:</u>  #CyllidebCymru  #TrethiCymru</p> <p>Os fydddech mor garedig, plis rhannwch unrhyw gynnwys bydd yn berthnasol i'ch cynulleidfaoedd chi.</p> <p>Diolch,</p>	<p>Don't forget, you can follow and engage with us on our official channels for more information and updates about the 2022-23 budget.</p> <p><u>Twitter:</u>  @WelshGovernment  @WelshTreasury</p> <p><u>Hashtags:</u>  #WelshBudget  #WelshTaxes</p> <p>Please kindly share any content you think relevant to your audiences.</p> <p>Thanks,</p>
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## Ruth Leggett

Pennaeth Ymgysylltu Strategol a Chyfathrebu | Head of Strategic Engagement and Communications  
Trysorlys Cymru | Welsh Treasury  
Llywodraeth Cymru | Welsh Government  
T: 03000 25 6907

Sganiwyd y neges hon am bob feirws hysbys wrth iddi adael Llywodraeth Cymru. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn cymryd o ddifrif yr angen i ddiogelu eich data. Os cysylltwch â Llywodraeth Cymru, mae ein [hysbysiad preifatrwydd](#) yn esbonio sut rydym yn defnyddio eich gwybodaeth a sut rydym yn diogelu eich preifatrwydd. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn anfon ateb yn Gymraeg i ohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi. On leaving the Welsh Government this email was scanned for all known viruses. The Welsh Government takes the protection of your data seriously. If you contact the Welsh Government then our [Privacy Notice](#) explains how we use your information and the ways in which we protect your privacy. We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.



Item no. 2b  
NANTYGLO & BLAINA  
20 DEC 2021  
TOWN COUNCIL

0000161

Mrs Tracy Hughes  
Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

December 2021

£234 p.a.

Dear Tracy,

**Renew your SLCC membership online TODAY!**

Firstly, we would like to thank you for your valued support over the past year. We hope that your membership has provided you with training, guidance, advice and support so that you can develop the professional skills, knowledge and experience necessary to best serve your council(s) and community.

Your membership has enabled us to accomplish so much in 2021, some of the highlights include:

- **Local Governance Toolkit** – the Toolkit, available to members on the website, provides information on a range of issues including governance, roles and responsibilities, public engagement, managing information and elections, along with template policies, protocols and forms
- **Financial Introduction to Local Council Administration (FILCA)** – the Level 2, online learning tool provides an introduction to council finance for RFO's or officers with a financial element to their role
- Dedicated resource for external affairs and policy development covering priorities such as standards and behaviour, business rates, direct access to government funding and remote meetings

Join us in 2022 to help us celebrate 50 years of SLCC! As a thank you for your loyalty and to mark the anniversary we are excited to announce a schedule of enhancements for 2022:

- **SLCC Rewards** – an exclusive new benefit for SLCC members. The comprehensive discount scheme will provide a range of wellbeing discounts for the clerk as well as savings for the council
- **Inclusive training** – national and local events delivered in-person and virtually covering topical training such as climate change, wellbeing, finance, community engagement, management etc.
- **The Clerk magazine** – a special souvenir edition of The Clerk as well as access to all editions at a touch of a button using a new app!

**According to our records your annual membership is due for renewal on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022.**

To renew your membership please visit [www.slcc.co.uk](http://www.slcc.co.uk) and follow these simple steps:

1. Login using your existing SLCC login details – your username is [REDACTED] and password is Reset By User
2. Once on your 'My Account' page, on the menu on the right click 'Membership'
3. Click the button 'Click here to renew'
4. This will show the membership that is due for renewal. Click the button 'Click here to renew'
5. This will take you to the form that needs to be completed. Renew your membership and pay via cheque, bank transfer, credit or debit card.

**\*\*Please ensure that you complete this online renewal before sending payment\*\***

For help with renewing your membership online call 01823 253646 or email [membership@slcc.co.uk](mailto:membership@slcc.co.uk)

We hope that you continue to find your membership beneficial to your role and look forward to hearing from you soon.

If you are no longer working for the council, please let us know so we can update our records.

Yours sincerely,

R. Langdon

Roxanne Langdon  
SLCC Membership Officer



*Hem no. 2C*  
CLC Aneurin Bevan  
Ty Raglan  
Parc Busnes Llantarnam  
Cwmbran NP44 3AB

Aneurin Bevan CHC  
Raglan House  
Llantarnam Business Park  
Cwmbran NP44 3AB

## MEETING OF ANEURIN BEVAN COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Full Council of Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council will take place at 5.30 pm, via Microsoft Teams, on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council is a statutory organisation representing the public who use the National Health Service. Our meetings are open to the public and local people are invited to attend. There will be an opportunity for people to raise issues of concern directly.

Members of the public also have the right to inspect or be given copies of agenda papers which are available at the meeting. If you would like to receive a copy of the papers in English or Welsh prior to the meeting or if you would like to attend and require simultaneous Welsh translation, please contact the address below within 7 days of the meeting.

If you would like to know more about our work, please contact us at:

Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council  
Raglan House  
Llantarnam Business Park  
Cwmbran  
NP44 3AB

Tel: 01633 838516

Email: [Enquiries.AneurinBevanCHC@waleschc.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries.AneurinBevanCHC@waleschc.org.uk)

**Jemma McHale**  
**Chief Officer**

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**Cadeirydd / Chair:** Alan Davies

**Prif Swyddog / Chief Officer:** Jemma McHale

**E-bost / E-mail:** [enquiries.aneurinbevanchc@waleschc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.aneurinbevanchc@waleschc.org.uk)

**FFÔN/Tel:** 01633 838516

## Tracy

**From:** Tim.Donegani@gov.wales on behalf of LGPartnerships@gov.wales  
**Sent:** 17 December 2021 13:07  
**To:** LGPartnerships@gov.wales  
**Subject:** Deddf Llywodraeth Leol ac Etholiadau (Cymru) 2021: Canllawiau Statudol Drafft ar gyfer Cyngorau Cymuned a Thref/The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils

<p><b>Annwyl Glenc</b></p> <p>Deddf Llywodraeth Leol ac Etholiadau (Cymru) 2021: Canllawiau Statudol Drafft ar gyfer Cyngorau Cymuned a Thref</p> <p><a href="#">Deddf Llywodraeth Leol ac Etholiadau (Cymru) 2021: canllawiau statudol Cyngorau Cymuned a Thref   LLYW.CYMRU</a></p> <p>Mae'r ymgynghoriad hwn yn ceisio barn ar ganllawiau statudol drafft ar gyfer cyngorau cymuned a thref.</p> <p>Ymgynghoriad ysgrifenedig, electronig yw hwn. Byddwchystal ag ymateb drwy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gwblhau'r ffurflen ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad; neu</li> <li>Anfon e-bost neu bostio eich ymateb gan ddefnyddio'r manylion cyswllt isod.</li> </ul> <p>Daw'r ymgynghoriad i ben ar 17 Mawrth 2022</p> <p>Oddi wrth: Yr Is-adran Llywodraeth Leol a Phartneriaethau Llywodraeth Cymru <a href="mailto:LGPartnerships@gov.wales">LGPartnerships@gov.wales</a></p>	<p><b>Dear Clerk</b></p> <p>Please find attached link to the consultation The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils</p> <p><a href="#">Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Community and Town Councils statutory guidance   GOV.WALES</a></p> <p>This consultation is seeking views on draft statutory guidance for community and town council.</p> <p>This is a written, electronic consultation. Please respond by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completing the consultation response form; or</li> <li>Emailing or posting your response to the contact details below.</li> </ul> <p>The consultation closes on 17 March 2022</p> <p>From: The Local Government and Partnerships Division Welsh Government <a href="mailto:LGPartnerships@gov.wales">LGPartnerships@gov.wales</a></p>
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Llywodraeth Leol: Perfformiad a Phartneriaethau / Local Government: Performance and Partnerships

### **Hysbysiad preifatrwydd Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government Privacy Notice**

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth Gymraeg. Cewch ateb Cymraeg i bob gohebiaeth Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not involve any delay.

## **BG Community & Town Councils Update Dec 2021**

### **1. Local Government & Elections Act (Wales) 2021 requirement for all Town & Community Councils to hold remote/hybrid meetings**

The Performance & Democratic Services Lead will attend the next Clerks forum meeting for a conversation around any advice and support for getting set up for hybrid virtual & in-person meetings. Noted that One Voice Wales are currently lobbying WG for funding to support wifi and hybrid meeting infrastructure in TCC chambers across Wales.

### **2. Gwent Public Services Board and Blaenau Gwent Local Well-being Arrangements**

Links provided to the [BG Council report](#) and new [Gwent PSB website](#) for background info. Andrew and David will provide a further update at the next Clerks forum meeting in January.

### **3. Update regarding ongoing Highways Issues**

**A465 Heads of the Valleys Road:** the connecting road between Clydach and Brynmawr has now been opened. For any further information you could contact [Hannah.Lewis@costain.com](mailto:Hannah.Lewis@costain.com) from the contractors completing the works.

**Highway improvement works associated with the former NMC site:** The original 4 week road closure on Blaina Road, and overall 6 week programme of works have been adversely affected by an underground electrical fault within the existing street lighting apparatus within the works site boundary. This fault had occurred prior to the contractor commencing works (and was outside their control). It was subsequently agreed that both the planned and fault repair works be completed simultaneously to avoid any newly surfaced areas being dug back up. Unfortunately, the fault repair took several weeks to complete, this was due to the time required to locate the faults, agree a suitable design solution and subsequently carry out the permanent repairs alongside the programmed highway improvement works. This has resulted in the subsequent delay to the contractors original planned programme of works.

It is anticipated that the majority of the footway surfacing, reinstatement works and new street lighting will be completed by the end of this week. Following completion of these elements of works it is anticipated that the majority of the traffic management can be temporarily reduced/removed.

This will leave minor highway works to be completed and also the main carriageways are going to be planed off and resurfaced along both Blaina Road and the Brynmawr Roundabout. Currently these works are programmed as follows:

Blaina road and southern half of roundabout (days)

Plane road surface – Tuesday 07/12/21

Surface carriageway – Wednesday 08/12/21

Northern half of roundabout (evenings)

Plane road surface – Thursday 09/12/21

Surface carriageway – Friday 10/12/21

The surfacing works are subject to availability of the road surfacing sub-contractor and favourable weather conditions.

#### **4. Town Centres (Blaina)**

A council report on Town Centres that originally went forward missed reference to Blaina, however this was clarified during the Scrutiny and Executive Meetings where they were discussed. Please refer to report and minutes attached below.



Scrutiny



Printed minutes

Report\_Partnership D:\22nd-Sep-2021 10.00

Due to resourcing we are not able to start on the Blaina Placemaking work until next year but it is the intention to follow the same approach as all other towns and develop a placemaking and delivery plan for the Town. To support this we would also look to establish a Blaina advisory group of key individuals/organisations who can drive forward and support our work in the future.

We will be looking to put a funding proposal together for the funds to commission a placemaking plan in early 2022 and if approved we would then look to commission the work to be undertaken. Projects within Blaina Town Centre are still able to apply for funding under the Transforming Towns fund whilst the placemaking process is being undertaken.

# Agenda Item 15

*Executive Committee and Council only*

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 03.09.21

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Executive Committee**  
Date of meeting: **22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021**  
Report Subject: **Partnership Delivery Approach – Town Centres**  
Portfolio Holder: **Councillor D. Davies, Executive Member for  
Regeneration and Economic Development & Deputy  
Leader**  
Report Submitted by: **Amy Taylor, Team Manager Regeneration  
Opportunities**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
15.06.21	x	07.09.21			15.09.21	22.09.21		

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To seek approval for the formulation of Town Centre Advisory Boards across the Town Centres of Abertillery, Brynmawr and Ebbw Vale to support a partnership delivery approach for future project delivery.

## 2. Scope and Background

- 2.1. In 2015, Members provided approval for the formulation of an Advisory Board to support delivery of the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) and Vibrant and Viable Places (VVP) Programmes within the Town of Tredegar.
- 2.2. The establishment of an Advisory Board was an obligation under the funding terms and conditions of both the THI and VVP programmes. It was intended that the Board would oversee the delivery of projects for both funding programmes and it would be a consultative body who would advise on the control and management of the THI and VVP initiatives in Tredegar.
- 2.3. Since 2015, the Advisory Board has worked alongside Council Officers and Elected Members to deliver projects in Tredegar and this approach has received positive feedback from all stakeholders involved.
- 2.4. A placemaking approach is being developed across the Towns within Blaenau Gwent. These will establish key visions and projects to deliver across each of the Towns but there are some challenges we face in order to deliver on these plans.
- 2.5. The Council only has limited financial and human resources in order to deliver projects. Therefore, we need to look at ways we can involve other key stakeholders and partners to achieve our vision.

2.6. The Tredegar Advisory Board has provided a platform for both discussion, development and delivery of projects. Adopting a similar approach across each of the other towns could help the Council to support projects across each of the Towns supported by a wide range of stakeholders.

2.7. Stakeholders could include potential funders, project delivery partners, Elected Members, business forms and any other key groups.

### 3. **Options for Recommendation**

This report will be considered by the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021, and any feedback will be provided verbally to the Executive Committee.

#### **Option One**

3.1. That the Executive Committee provide approval for the formation of a series of Advisory Boards for the Town Centres of Abertillery, Brynmawr and Ebbw Vale based upon the Tredegar Advisory Board approach and acknowledge the draft Terms of Reference (**Appendix One**). The Advisory Board shall act as a consultative body to oversee development and delivery of Town Centre Strategies and Plans.

3.2. Each shall start with a small membership identified by members of the Town Centres Task and Finish Group alongside Officers. The membership can then be expanded and developed further as discussions develop.

#### **Option Two**

3.3. No action is taken and delivery continues using existing approaches and mechanisms for engagement and consultation.

#### **Preferred Option**

3.4. Option one is the preferred option and we propose that the Advisory Board is initially established with members for a one-year term up until the Welsh Local Government Elections in 2022.

3.5. If the initial one-year term is successful, the boards would continue and board members would serve for up to a 3-year period.

3.6. The Executive Member for Economic Development and Regeneration will be invited to chair the first meeting of each of the Boards. In their first meeting each Board will then nominate and select a chairperson to oversee the term of the Board (initially one-year, three years thereafter).

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

4.1. The report supports the following Corporate Plan priorities:

- To protect and enhance our environment and infrastructure to benefit our communities;
- To support a fairer sustainable economy and community; and
- An ambitious and innovative council delivering the quality services we know matter to our communities.

The Town Centre strategy will consider existing infrastructure within our town centres and explore ways that this can change to support regeneration activity.

4.2. It also supports delivery of the Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan:

- Safe and friendly communities;
- To look after and protect the environment;
- To forge new pathways to prosperity; and
- To encourage and enable people to make healthy lifestyle choices in the places that they live, learn, work and play

The Town Centre strategy will seek to ensure that our town centres are safe and friendly communities for our residents and visitors to shop within. This will include projects to maintain and enhance the local environment, increase business occupancy and create an environment in our town centres that encourages our residents to spend time there for work, learning and leisure.

4.3. In supporting our statutory responsibilities towards the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act, the Town Centre Strategy will support in creating:

- A more prosperous Wales;
- A resilient Wales; and
- A Wales of cohesive communities

## 5. Implications Against Each Option

### *Cost*

5.1. There are no direct cost implications associated with this report.

### *Risk including Mitigating Actions*

5.2. There is a risk that new Advisory Boards are not as successful as the Board that has been operating in Tredegar. To mitigate this, we will adapt and refine the Advisory Board approach to ensure that it continues to support project delivery. Should the Advisory Board approach not be successful and cause barriers to project delivery we will review the approach and any further changes that may be required.

5.3. There is a risk that the Advisory Board does not support a proposed approach for a Town Centre. In these cases we will be able to utilise the feedback from



the Advisory Board to understand the issues/barriers and use this to adapt our approach to ensure a positive outcome.

- 5.4. There is a risk that we are unable to properly resource and support Advisory Board set up across all Towns identified in section 3.1. As a result of the placemaking work already carried out set up will start with the set-up of the Advisory Boards in Brynmawr and Ebbw Vale. Once these are fully set-up we will move onto Abertillery.

#### *Legal*

- 5.5. A terms of reference will be established for the members of the Advisory Board and these will be reviewed alongside the stakeholders and the Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development at each of the initial meetings of the Advisory Boards.

#### *Human Resources*

- 5.6. Overseeing projects approved by the Advisory Boards may have implications on existing staffing resources from Officers in Regeneration and where possible we will seek to perform a supporting role to the Advisory Boards. It will act as a key stakeholder for Projects in each of the respective areas.
- 5.7. Setting up advisory boards across all the Towns at the same time could have resourcing issues and so we are proposing to start with Brynmawr and Ebbw Vale followed by Abertillery.

### **6. Supporting Evidence**

#### *Performance Information and Data*

- 6.1. Annual reports of the Advisory Boards will be prepared and reported to the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and Executive Committee. This will enable monitoring of performance of the Advisory Boards and areas for further development.

#### *Expected outcome for the public*

- 6.2. It is hoped that by bringing Advisory Boards together we will be able to deliver projects that encourage future use of our Town Centres. Changing the way our Town Centres operate and offering a diverse range of uses would improve the variety of services that residents have access to.

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

- 6.3. Advisory Boards provide a mechanism for engagement with key stakeholders across each of the Towns. They can bring forward their own proposals / thoughts for projects for consultation with other Board Members and they can also provide their thoughts / feedback on proposals put forward by other Board Members or the Local Authority.

*Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)*

- 6.4. In the long term the Council needs to find ways to work with Stakeholders across Blaenau Gwent but with only limited resources we need to find ways of encouraging other stakeholders to develop and deliver projects. The Council can still support these projects but accountability and resourcing could be brought forward from other organisations. This could result in projects receiving greater local support and increase long term sustainability.

*Preventative focus*

- 6.5. By establishing Advisory Boards now, we hope to prevent further deterioration of our Town Centres. They all face significant challenges to survive but bringing groups of stakeholders who want to support and help could prevent them from facing even bigger challenges in the future.

*Collaboration / partnership working*

- 6.6. The Advisory Boards rely on collaboration / partnership working in order to be successful. By bringing local stakeholders together it is hoped that they can all work together to identify and support projects that will benefit their Towns.

*Integration(across service areas)*

- 6.7. The Advisory Boards will be utilised by the Regeneration Team and other service areas as a means of engaging with key stakeholders across the Town Centres. It will set up the means of contact for engagement about potential projects across the Towns.

**7. Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1. As advised in section 6.1 performance monitoring will be carried out annually and reported through the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme. It will also be reported on through the Regeneration Business Plan.

**8. Background Documents /Electronic Links**

- *Appendix One – Terms of Reference, Advisory Board*

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**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT**

**REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2021**

**REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER**

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**PRESENT**      Councillors    J. Collins  
   D. Davies  
   J. Mason  
   J. Wilkins

**WITH:**            Managing Director  
                         Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services  
                         Corporate Director Social Services  
                         Corporate Director Education  
                         Head of Organisational Development  
                         Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance  
                         Communications, Marketing and Customer Access Manager  
                         Corporate Procurement Manager - Commercial Services  
                         Service Manager - Customer Experience & Benefits

**DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWER**

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.	
No. 2	<b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b>  The following apologies for absence were received:-  Councillor N. Daniels Chief Officer Commercial and Customer	

No. 3	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest and dispensations raised.</p>	
	<p><b><u>MINUTES</u></b></p>	
No. 4	<p><b><u>EXECUTIVE</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2021.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
No. 5	<p><b><u>SPECIAL EXECUTIVE</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings</p>	
No. 6	<p><b><u>SPECIAL EXECUTIVE</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2021.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
	<p><b><u>GENERAL MATTERS</u></b></p>	
No. 7	<p><b><u>CONFERENCE, EVENTS AND INVITATIONS</u></b></p> <p><u>Wales Festival of Remembrance 2021</u> <u>6<sup>th</sup> November, 2021</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that Councillor Brian Thomas, Armed Forces Champion be approved to attend.</p>	

	<p><u>Reserve and Cadets Association for Wales Event</u> <u>7<sup>th</sup> October, 2021</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that Councillor Brian Thomas, Armed Forces Champion be approved to attend.</p> <p><u>Merchant Navy Day</u> <u>2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2021</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that Councillor Brian Thomas, Armed Forces Champion be approved to attend.</p>																
	<p><b><u>DECISION ITEMS - CORPORATE SERVICES MATTERS</u></b></p>																
No. 8	<p><b><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – 10TH NOVEMBER 2021</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Leader of the Council.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Forward Work Programme be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p>																
No. 9	<p><b><u>GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The following grants were received following publication of the report:-</p> <p><b><u>ABERTILLERY</u></b></p> <p><u>Llanhilleth Ward - Councillor N. Parsons</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>1.</td><td></td><td>£100</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Abertillery Belles FC</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p><u>Six Bells Ward - Councillor M. Holland</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>1.</td><td>Alzheimer's Research UK</td><td>£400</td></tr> <tr> <td>2.</td><td>Friends of Six Bells Park</td><td>£300</td></tr> <tr> <td>3.</td><td>Six Bells Over 50's Club</td><td>£100</td></tr> </table>	1.		£100		Abertillery Belles FC		1.	Alzheimer's Research UK	£400	2.	Friends of Six Bells Park	£300	3.	Six Bells Over 50's Club	£100	
1.		£100															
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1.	Alzheimer's Research UK	£400															
2.	Friends of Six Bells Park	£300															
3.	Six Bells Over 50's Club	£100															

	<p>4. Six Bells Bowls £300</p> <p>5. Six Bells Community Centre £200</p> <p><b><u>EBBW VALE</u></b></p> <p><u>Badminton Ward - Councillor C. Meredith</u></p> <p>1. RTB Ebbw Vale FC £100</p> <p><u>Badminton Ward - Councillor G. Paulsen</u></p> <p>1. RTB Ebbw Vale FC £100</p> <p><u>Rassau Ward - Councillor D. Wilkshire</u></p> <p>1. Beaufort RFC £150</p> <p>RESOLVED accordingly.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p>	
<b>No. 10</b>	<p><b><u>ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE 2020/21</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager Performance and Democratic.</p> <p>The Managing Director advised that the report presented the Council's Assessment of Performance 2020/2021 and informed that the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 had been replaced by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. Therefore, the Managing Director advised that this would be the last Assessment of Performance under these regulations. The Council would still be required to develop reports on the progress made against the Corporate Plan and also implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and reports would be presented to Executive accordingly.</p>	

The Managing Director further noted Appendix 1 which detailed the progress the Council had made during 2020/21 and an assessment of the work undertaken as part of the response to the COVID 19. The Managing Director recognised that 2020 had been a challenging year for everyone including the Local Authority and it was a credit to the workforce that this performance was achieved against such challenges. There had been some issues in service areas due to the effects of the pandemic, however all services had picked back up in the summer.

The Managing Director referred the Executive to the options which sought to ensure that it fulfilled all required statutory legislative requirements before being submitted to Council for approval.

The Deputy Leader concurred that the workforce, communities and businesses had all been affected by the pandemic and extended thanks and admiration on the work achieved during this period.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the retrospective progress made be endorsed and included within the Council's Assessment of Performance for 2020/21 and be assured that it fulfils all required statutory legislative requirements before being submitted to Council for approval (Option 1).

#### **DECISION ITEMS - EDUCATION MATTERS**

No. 11

#### **HOME TO SCHOOL AND POST 16 TRANSPORT POLICY REVIEW 2022 - 2023**

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

The Corporate Director Education spoke to the report which sought the views of Executive in relation to the review of Blaenau Gwent Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy for the 2022/23 and summarised the changes and additions made.



	<p>In response to comments raised at the Education and Learning Scrutiny Committee it was reported that the Policy was reviewed on an annual basis and there was an opportunity for the review, if required. The Corporate Director Education also added that it would feature on the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme and it would be brought back for consideration in 12 months.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and approved the Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy 2022/23 as outlined in Appendix 2 (Option 1).</p>	
<b>No. 12</b>	<p><b><u>EDUCATION ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN REVIEW</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Education.</p> <p>The Corporate Director Education advised that the report provided an overview of the Education Accessibility Strategy Review process and associated timelines. The Corporate Director outlined the key points as contained in the report and pointed out that Blaenau Gwent had been recognised by the Children's Commissioner for Wales as being one of the only Councils in Wales to have a published Accessibility Strategy and associated action plan.</p> <p>The Executive Member for Education welcomed the report which reflected well on the Local Authority and reiterated that Blaenau Gwent had been recognised by the Children's Commissioner for Wales as being one of the only Councils in Wales to have a published Accessibility Strategy.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted (Option 1).</p>	

No. 13	<p><b><u>INCLUSION STRATEGY AND REVIEW (2021-2022)</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Education.</p> <p>The Corporate Director Education outlined the report which detailed plans to review the Inclusion Service during the period of September 2021 – August 2022 in line with the requirements of Welsh Government's Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018. The Corporate Director felt that Blaenau Gwent was well placed to take forward the review and referred the Executive to the key priorities of the Strategy.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader advised that schools had made good progress during these challenging times and the Strategy would give further support to pupils with special needs. The Executive Member for Executive concurred with the comments raised and welcomed the common approach to be taken by schools across Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the review of the Inclusion Service be agreed to ensure that the requirements of the ALN Act are met, this would include reviewing relevant resourcing, structures, job descriptions and ensuring that relevant arrangements are in place to fulfil the needs of the ALN Act (Option 2).</p>	
	<p><b><u>DECISION ITEMS – REGENERATION &amp; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS</u></b></p>	
No. 14	<p><b><u>INVESTMENT IN MICRO-HYDRO DEVELOPMENT</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Team Manager Regeneration Opportunities.</p> <p>The Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services advised that the report provided an update on progress of the Micro-Hydro Feasibility Study carried out in Cwm and Llanhilleth and sought approval for the next steps of the Project. The Corporate Director noted the potential eleven areas for investigation and advised that following further research sites in Llanhilleth and Cwm were determined as the preferred locations.</p>	

Although electricity could be generated at the aforementioned areas it was decided that at this time it was not feasible for the Council to take the work forward further investigations and development.

It was reported that the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee supported the preferred option as the Council had committed to undertake investigations at all eleven areas identified as worthy sites of further exploration for hydro generation.

The Deputy Leader felt that all aspects of energy should be considered in line with work being undertaken around carbonisation and although the commercial element for Council investment was not available, there could be other opportunities to be explored in our communities.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Council choose not to take these schemes forward for further investigation and development. The projects would be closed from the current point and would only be revisited should costs significantly reduce or new technologies become available (Option 1).

No. 15

**PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY APPROACH – TOWN CENTRES**

Consideration was given to the report of the Team Manager Regeneration Opportunities.

The Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services spoke to the report which sought approval to formulate the Town Centre Advisory Boards across the Town Centres of Abertillery, Brynmawr and Ebbw Vale to support a partnership delivery approach for future project delivery. It was hoped that the work undertaken in Tredegar could be built upon and rolled out across all Town Centres.

The Corporate Director advised that the report had been considered by the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and it was requested that Blaina be included in the project. It was confirmed that that this course of action was agreed and Blaina would be undertaken once the Abertillery area had been completed.

	<p>The Deputy Leader noted the work undertaken with Tredegar Forum and advised that working with our partners and other businesses was vital to improving our town centres and footfall.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report accepted and the Executive provided approval for the formation of a series of Advisory Boards for the Town Centres of Abertillery, Blaina, Brynmawr and Ebbw Vale based upon the Tredegar Advisory Board approach and acknowledge the draft Terms of Reference as outlined in Appendix One. The Advisory Board shall act as a consultative body to oversee development and delivery of Town Centre Strategies and Plans. Each shall start with a small membership identified by members of the Town Centres Task and Finish Group alongside Officers. The membership can then be expanded and developed further as discussions develop.</p>	
	<p><b><u>MONITORING ITEMS - CORPORATE SERVICES</u></b></p>	
No. 16	<p><b><u>COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY</u></b>  <b><u>QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MONITORING</u></b>  <b><u>(APRIL-JUNE 2021)</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Commercial and Customer.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Quarter 4 (January to March 2021) update against the Communication Strategy (Option 1).</p>	
No. 17	<p><b><u>COMMERCIAL STRATEGY QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MONITORING (APRIL-JUNE 2021)</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Commercial and Customer.</p> <p>An overview of the progress made for Quarter 1 against the Commercial Strategy was provided. A detailed overview of the key points in relation to the Strategic Commissioning and Commercial Board, Customer Experience, Digital, Procurement Officer Group, Procurement Plans and Contract Management and Procurement Strategy and Policy was provided.</p>	

The Deputy Leader welcomed the report and acknowledged that the commercial aspect of the Council was important for this administration and advised that positive feedback had been received on the community hubs. The Deputy Leader also recognised the work of the procurement team which was paramount in achieving value for money

RESOLVED that the report be accepted along with the performance of the Commercial Strategy during the period April – June 2021 as presented (Option 1).

No. 18

**SICKNESS ABSENCE PERFORMANCE 2020/21**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Organisational Development.

The Head of Organisational Development spoke to the report which outlined sickness absence performance for 2020/21, the continued actions to support improvement in attendance and recognise the positive attendance of the majority of the workforce. It was reported that the overall year end outturn figure for the Council of 11.67 days per full time employee (9.98 days excluding COVID-19 sickness). This was a decrease from the previous year's outturn of 13.91 days (13.48 days excluding COVID-19 sickness). The Head of Organisational Development advised that the outturn exceeded the target set of 10.50 days. It was added that when sickness absence related to COVID-19 had been excluded the outturn figure reduced to 9.98 days which was an overall reduction of 3.93 days bringing the outturn figure below the corporate target. The Head of Organisational Development added that Quarter 1 figures for this financial year are showing an increase in sickness and it was understood that other Councils are experiencing a similar trend in performance.

The Deputy Leader recognised the challenges within the workforce which had been experienced by all Councils due to the pandemic. The Deputy Leader felt that the robust recording and monitoring of sickness in place which was paramount as well as support for staff's health and well being.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the ongoing actions to support improvement in attendance (Option 2).

	<b><u>MONITORING ITEMS - EDUCATION</u></b>	
<b>No. 19</b>	<b><u>EDUCATION SERVICES - MAIN SELF-EVALUATION REPORT (SER)</u></b>  Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Education.  RESOLVED that the report be accepted and acknowledged that effective self-evaluation was an on-going process (Option 1).	
<b>No. 20</b>	<b><u>SAFEGUARDING SELF-EVALUATION OUTCOMES</u></b>  Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Education.  RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted (Option 1).	
	<b><u>MONITORING ITEMS – REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</u></b>	
<b>No. 21</b>	<b><u>REGENERATION &amp; DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT</u></b>  Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.  The Corporate Director Regeneration and Community advised that the report sets out a range of the activities undertaken across Blaenau Gwent and highlighted work taken forward around housing, skills and enterprise, energy.  The Deputy Leader noted the positive work carried out across the Council over the last 12 months, particularly the Regeneration Team who had worked well in supporting and encouraging businesses to Blaenau Gwent throughout these challenging times. The Deputy Leader wished to thank the Team for the work achieved.  RESOLVED that the report be accepted and information contained therein be noted (Option 2).	

**PROGRESS UPDATE ON DECARBONISATION PLAN**

Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.

The Managing Director advised that this was the first progress report since the adoption of the Council's Decarbonisation Plan. The Managing Director spoke to the report and outlined the progress made along with the actions of the Board. The Council had made good progress but there was still a significant amount of work to be done to overcome the challenges presented by climate change.

In terms of the next steps, the Managing Director noted that further readiness assessments on the remaining transitions would be undertaken. It was anticipated that all of the readiness assessment will be completed during this financial year and progress on agreed actions would be monitored via the Council's existing business planning process on an ongoing basis with updates provided on a quarterly basis. The Managing Director added that the Council was well placed to respond to the Welsh Government's Net Zero Reporting for Local Authorities.

It was further reported that Blaenau Gwent was the first area in Wales to host a Climate Assembly and referred to the members briefing session which was held and the commitment given to publish a Council Response to the findings. This work was underway and would be reported to the Executive and Scrutiny Committee in due course. The Council was also taking a lead role in developing the response provided to the Climate Assembly on behalf of the Public Services Board which would be completed this autumn.

The Deputy Leader stressed the importance of Climate Change and advised that this report helped us to understand the work undertaken to date and further work to be achieved. The Deputy Leader noted that this matter was a worldwide issue and he felt that Blaenau Gwent would play its part. The work done to date placed the Authority in a good position to play our critical part in climate change and decarbonisation. There was a significant amount of work to be undertaken in our communities and as Elected Members we needed to play a part in this work to assist in reducing Blaenau Gwent's carbon footprint.

	RESOLVED that the report be accepted along with the progress made as presented (Option 1).	
	<b><u>MONITORING ITEMS - SOCIAL SERVICES</u></b>	
No. 23	<p><b><u>UPDATE ON STRATEGY TO SAFELY REDUCE THE NUMBERS OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Social Services.</p> <p>The Corporate Director Social Services advised that the report outlined progress made on the Safe Reduction of Children Looked After Strategy. The Corporate Director noted that a new strategy was in place for 2020 – 2025, however it contained the objectives of the previous strategy with additional actions following the independent review by Worcester University.</p> <p>The Corporate Director stated that the reduced number of children coming into care had been recognised by Welsh Government as a priority and as a result integrated care monies could be accessed to invest and develop services to safely reduce the number of children coming into care. The Corporate Director advised that this had enabled the Council to fund family group conferences, support special guardians and enhance resources in our Supporting Change Team and Enhance the Young Person's Mediation Service.</p> <p>The Corporate Director further noted the impact of the joint team with Monmouthshire which had resulted in a significant underspend in our children residential budget at the end of 20/21. This was due to the hard work of the My Support Team and 14 plus Team who worked to reduce the numbers of children in residential care and worked to prevent children entering residential care. The Corporate Director noted the reduction in numbers and advised that today the number was 12. Further reference was made to the work undertaken and the Corporate Director informed that as at Monday our children looked after numbers was 189. Although these figures could change at any time there is a continued downward trend in the right direction.</p>	



In conclusion the Corporate Director noted the number of vacancies in the Team which made the figures even more remarkable and showed the excellent work of the staff in Blaenau Gwent. The report was positive and showed the continued progress of the Strategy and the positive impact for the children and families of Blaenau Gwent and allowed families to stay together when it was safe to do so as well as reduce the budget pressures.

The Executive Member for Social Services welcomed the report and wished to thank staff in Social Services for their excellent contribution in reducing looked after children in Blaenau Gwent. The Executive Member informed that the CIW had acknowledged Blaenau Gwent's way in which the safe reduction of children Strategy had proved successful.

The Executive Member also reported that there was today 187 looked after children in Blaenau Gwent which was a further reduction since Monday's figure as reported by the Corporate Director.

**RESOLVED** that the report be accepted and the information therein be noted (Option 1).

## Tracy

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**From:** McCarthy, Janet <Janet.McCarthy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 January 2022 14:17  
**Cc:** McCarthy, Janet  
**Subject:** Draft Gwent Well-being Assessment - Statutory Consultation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi everyone,

The Gwent Public Services Board is consulting on the Draft Gwent Well-being Assessment and local area well-being assessments until **31<sup>st</sup> January 2022**.

Please provide your professional insight and feedback via [emma.scherptong@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:emma.scherptong@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk) in regards to:

- The specific chapters relevant to your area of expertise or Blaenau Gwent's local area assessments; or
- The documents in general.

Also, please share with your networks.

Many thanks  
Emma Scherptong

Janet McCarthy  
Engagement & Partnerships Support Officer  
Swyddog Cymorth Ymgysylltu a Phartneriaethau  
Epost/email: [janet.mccarthy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:janet.mccarthy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)  
FFon/phone 01495 355091

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.

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu yn y ddwy iaith. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Mae'r neges ebost hon, ynghyd ag unrhyw ffeiliau sydd ynghlwm wrthi, yn gyfrinachol ac at ddefnydd yr unigolyn neu sefydliad y cyfeiriwyd hi ato. Pe dderbynioch y neges hon mewn camgymeriad, byddwch mor garedig a rhoi gwybod i'r rheolwr system. Mae'r nodyn hwn hefyd yn cadarnhau bod y neges ebost hon wedi cael ei archwilio am bresenoldeb feirws cyfrifiadurol.

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**Safety Inspections – Salem Chapel**

**Inspection of Salem Chapel – December 2021**

<b>MAIN CHAPEL / WEEK</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Report of any defects And action taken</b>
Main Hall of Chapel	./	./	./	./	Dry rot detected & floor part lifted. Investigations undertaken 31/8/16. Organ supports re-enforced Sept 2016.
Fire Alarm	./	./	./	./	Inspected 20/05/2021
Emergency Lighting	./	./	./	./	Inspected 20/05/2021
Stairways to Balcony	./	./	./	./	Stair lift not working, evidence of damp on walls
Balcony	./	./	./	./	Damage to display possibly from insects/woodworm. Greater evidence of damp on walls.
Toilets	./	./	./	./	Removed due to dry rot
High Street Entrance	./	./	./	./	Black mould on walls & ceilings
Office	./	./	./	./	Broken window secured
General Condition	./	./	./	./	General deterioration evident
Fire Extinguishers	./	./	./	./	Inspected & replaced as necessary 02/12/20
Observations/ Other Comments	./	./	./	./	J Dyer opinion is fungal rot. Valuation survey carried out by J Dyer 3/11/21. Issue with alarm sounding since 15/12/21, inspected and reset possibly due to rats. R Dunham asked to lay poison.
<b>ANNEX BUILDING</b>					
Ground Floor	./	./	./	./	
Kitchen	./	./	./	./	Mould/rot on floor. Floor rotten through. Kitchen units coming away from wall due to severe damp in floor of kitchen. R Dunham inspected.
First Aid Box	./	./	./	./	
Seating Area	./	./	./	./	Considerably amount of new damp on interior walls to left side of premises entering from the back entrance. Extensive rotting of wooden floor.
Stairway to upper room	./	./	./	./	
Upper Room	./	./	./	./	
Rear Entrance	./	./	./	./	Paint flaking off walls
Side Door	./	./	./	./	
Observations/ Other Comments					General deterioration evident.
<b>Statutory annual Inspections:</b>					Dragon Fire & Security Systems (fire extinguishers) 02/12/2020. Dragon Fire & Security Systems (Intruder & fire alarms) 20/05/2021.

**Signed:** *T Hughes*

Town Clerk

**Date:** 11/01/22

Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee