

No.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on 28th February, 2018.

Present: Councillor Janice Charles (Mayor); Councillors Julie Aviet, Vincent Bailey, Jonathan Bird, Bronwen Brooks, Lis Burnett, George Carroll, Christine Cave, Millie Collins, Geoff Cox, Robert Crowley, Pamela Drake, Vincent Driscoll, Stewart Edwards, Ben Gray, Owen Griffiths, Stephen Griffiths, Anthony Hampton, Sally Hanks, Nic Hodges, Hunter Jarvie, Gwyn John, Dr. Ian Johnson, Gordon Kemp, Peter King, Matthew Lloyd, Kevin Mahoney, Kathryn McCaffer, Neil Moore, Michael Morgan, Jayne Norman, Rachel Nugent-Finn, Andrew Parker, Bob Penrose, Sandra Perkes, Andrew Robertson, Leighton Rowlands, Ruba Sivagnanam John Thomas, Neil Thomas, Steffan Wiliam, Margaret Wilkinson, Edward Williams, Mark Wilson and Marguerita Wright.

730 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors Rhiannon Birch and Anne Moore.

731 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

The following declarations of interest were received:

Name of Member	Agenda Item / Nature of Interest
Councillor Julie Aviet	Agenda Item 11(c) - tenant of a Council-owned property.
Councillor Dr. Ian Johnson	Agenda Item 11(d) - Local Authority Governor on schools receiving funding
Councillor Gordon Kemp	Agenda Item 11(a) – daughter is an employee of the Council. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee to speak and vote.
Councillor Peter King	Agenda Item 5 – member of the Planning Committee
Councillor Neil Thomas	Agenda Item 5 – member of the Planning Committee
Councillor Steffan Wiliam	Agenda Item 11(d) - Local Authority Governor on Ysgol Bro Morgannwg
Councillor Margaret Wilkinson	Agenda Item 5 – member of the Planning Committee Agenda Item 11(c) - tenant of a Council-owned property

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732 MINUTES –

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th December, 2017 were approved as a correct record.

733 ANNOUNCEMENTS –

The Mayor made the following announcements:

During this term of her office, she had attended civic functions, charity events and concerts, both inside and outside the Vale of Glamorgan. She was particularly delighted to invite The Royal British Legion to the Mayor's Parlour and present certificates to the many local businesses who took part in The Poppy Appeal.

She had been very pleased to honour and take part in Equality and Diversity events, including Holocaust Memorial Day, joining local schools for a 'showing racism the red card' workshop and attending The Muslim Council of Wales Open Mosque Day.

She also valued the opportunity to mark 100 years since the Representation of the People Act was passed – an Act that gave some women the right to vote for the very first time. Events like this, and the celebration that the Council would be hosting on 8th March for International Women's day, were significant in demonstrating the progress made in establishing equality across local politics, and she would continue work to promote that equality. She wished to thank all of the Council's employees and her fellow Councillors for joining her in marking the centenary.

She was pleased to announce that she had written to congratulate on behalf of the Members of the Authority, and the people of the Vale of Glamorgan, citizens who were awarded medals in Her Majesty the Queen's New Year Honours List, including Mr. Brian Excell MBE and Mrs. Catherine Clay MBE.

She had been greatly pleased and honoured to meet His Royal Highness Prince Charles at Ty Hafan Hospice and to have witnessed at first-hand what a happy, joyful and delightful place Ty Hafan was.

Fundraising for the Mayor's charities had continued. She thanked everyone who had supported the fundraising so far. During her Mayoral year, over 20 local charities had benefitted from fundraising opportunities and exposure. There were limited tickets available for her charity dinner dance which would take place on 23rd March.

No.

734 PETITION –

The following petition was received:

(1) Petition regarding a long-running issue relating to a boundary wall of 14 Bastion Close, Barry and the responsibility for such (submitted by Councillor Nugent-Finn).

735 NOTICE OF MOTION –

Given that a number of members of the Planning Committee had alluded to whether there would be any implications (i.e. in terms of their future consideration of related planning applications) arising from their participation in the debate on this item.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer advised that the Motion was specific to Natural Resources Wales' function. However, with regard to the members of the Planning Committee going forward, the Monitoring Officer would be reminding them in due course, in light of the extensive commentary and debate regarding the Biomass plant in general that:

- when considering further applications which would come before the Planning Committee, they needed to be objective in their decision-making and to declare any personal or prejudicial interests;
- they were not to have pre-determined or to be biased with regard to the application;
- only Members who were objective in their consideration of such applications, had no personal prejudicial interests, had not pre-determined and were not biased with regard to such applications should remain at, and take part in and vote at, subsequent Planning Committee meetings.

The following Notice of Motion (submitted by Councillors Bailey and Cave) had been included on the agenda for discussion:

“The Vale of Glamorgan Council:

- Notes with concern Natural Resources Wales' decision to grant Biomass UK No 2 Ltd a permit to operate its gasification facility in Barry;
- Regrets NRW's decision not to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment before taking a decision;
- Calls on NRW to ensure independent and robust monitoring of emissions from the plant.”

In introducing the Motion, Councillor Bailey stated it had been submitted with a view to establishing a clear consensus, across all parties, in all parts of the Vale and to take an opportunity to speak with “one voice” on behalf of Vale residents.

He referred to it being disappointing news that Natural Resources Wales (NRW) were minded to grant the incinerator an Environmental Permit, but he considered it vital that Members recognised that it was still possible to stop the facility from going ahead.

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Before speaking on the Motion, he wished (in light of recent developments) to seek Council's approval to his amending his own original Motion. In terms of "recent developments", he alluded to an announcement by the Environment Minister that the Welsh Government was minded to issue a requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment on the application. He also referred to Members in Barry having been in receipt of e-mails and calls regarding the "proliferation" of dust around the town in recent days (an issue which had prompted a number of constituents to seek medical advice).

Councillor Bailey moved the following amended Motion (the amendments being shown in bold):

"The Vale of Glamorgan Council:

- Notes with concern Natural Resources Wales' decision to grant Biomass UK No 2 Ltd a permit to operate its gasification facility in Barry;
- Regrets NRW's decision not to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment before taking a decision;
- **Urges the Minister for Environment to ensure that an Environment Impact Assessment accompanies the developer's current planning application;**
- Calls on NRW to ensure independent and robust monitoring of emissions from the plant, **and to investigate resident concerns over the impact of dust from the site.**"

Councillor Bailey referred to the campaign against the Barry incinerator as having clearly been driven by the Dock Incinerator Action Group (DIAG) – who, he suggested, had singlehandedly undermined the idea that, where politics was concerned, "apathy rules the day".

However, he also asked that Members note the range of voices from all sides of the political divide, which had added pressure on the Welsh Government to prevent the facility. This had included the MP and AM (both from different parties), unanimous support from Barry Town Council (working together to put politics aside and oppose the application), regional AMs and representations from many Council Members. He considered that the Council now had a chance to add itself to the list and to send a message to the public (including the 10,000 people who had signed a petition opposing the facility) that it spoke for them.

Opposing the incinerator had been one of his key priorities since being elected to this Chamber, and for him, the case against was very clear. At the heart of the campaign was a genuine concern about the effect of the proposed plant and its effect on public health. He referred to concern regarding NRW's decision to grant a permit and to particular concerns regarding the fact that there had never been an Environmental Impact Assessment carried out.

He felt the evidence against the granting of a permit to Biomass to be overwhelming, but also, that too much of it had been provided by the applicants, with too little focused on the risk to human health. There was also a significant aspect of EU law to consider, i.e. the precautionary principle, which placed the burden of proof on to the applicant in such instances, to demonstrate that there

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was no danger to human health and the environment. He questioned whether this had, indeed, happened. Many technical planning objections had also been raised, together with the fundamental question as to whether an incinerator would contradict the underlying principles of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

The initial decision not to impose an Environmental Impact Assessment had been taken at a planning stage by Welsh Government. However, Councillor Bailey felt that the “significant movement” they had made in recent weeks should be applauded. He considered it to be the result of considerable pressure created by a “constructive and passionate campaign” and to be a clear sign that the campaign was not over and that the facility could be prevented from happening.

Councillor Bailey felt that the public were looking to the Council to lead by example and to show that it spoke for them, was “in touch” and shared their concerns.

He asked that all Members back the amended Motion.

The Mayor asked Members whether they were happy to agree to the amended Motion as being the Motion for discussion and it was confirmed accordingly.

Councillor Dr. Johnson again asked for clarification as to whether there would be any potential impact on the future ability of Members of the Planning Committee to discuss the matter as a result of the amended wording. The Deputy Monitoring Officer, having considered the matter, stated that her earlier advice still applied and that the matter before Council was one of procedure, not determination.

In seconding the amended Motion, Councillor Cave felt that the people of the Vale of Glamorgan had little faith in the ability of NRW or the Welsh Government to adequately monitor and control the biomass gasification incinerator project. As far as she was aware there were no processes in place to systematically monitor or record any of the adverse effects of the project, such as the breathing problems that people were currently facing since the arrival of the facility.

Councillor Cave considered there to be a need for essential recording systems that could monitor what was happening on a day to day, hour by hour basis, in order to provide protection for the people of Barry and the rest of the Vale. She wished to personally thank DIAG for all their efforts on behalf of everyone in the Vale of Glamorgan. Finally, she called on all Members to back the Motion.

Councillor Collins confirmed that Plaid Cymru would be supporting the Motion and she confirmed that she had been elected to the Council whilst opposing the facility and that, at her first Council Meeting, she had asked the Administration to change their views and also oppose it. She had also previously asked the Council to investigate the planning process that had approved the planning application in 2015.

Councillor Collins referred to her constituents as feeling extremely let down by the 2015 decision of the Planning Committee to pass it and now by NRW’s actions. She would continue to oppose it, but if it was to be there, then the Council must ensure that it was as safe as it could be.

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Councillor William echoed the views expressed by Councillor Collins. He referred to his disappointment regarding the action of NRW in terms of how they had dealt with the issue. He considered it should not have been down to members of the public to identify issues of concern and felt there to have been a lack of ability on the part of NRW to act upon relevant information. He considered NRW to be a “grossly underfunded” body. He also suggested that there should have been cross-party support for the issue two or three years ago. Finally, he trusted that the Environmental Impact Assessment would be a meaningful exercise. He confirmed his support for the Motion.

Councillor Perkes confirmed that the Labour Group would be supporting the Motion. She referred to all Political Parties on Barry Town Council as having worked together on this matter and she felt it important that the Vale of Glamorgan Council sent a message to Biomass making it clear that the Council opposed what was happening.

Councillor Owen Griffiths echoed the sentiments expressed by Councillor Bailey earlier in the meeting and also alluded to the Labour Group as wholeheartedly supporting the Motion.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Mahoney referred to the fact that, on two previous occasions, he had asked whether the Council would be engaging someone of national, or international, renown to act on the Council’s behalf and that he had been told no on both occasions. Nevertheless, he was pleased that the Labour Group was eventually confirming its opposition to the facility. However, he questioned whether, in reality, an Environmental Impact Assessment commissioned by an applicant had ever resulted in the scheme itself not proceeding. He asked whether the Council itself could, perhaps, carry out, or commission, an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Councillor Hodges, whilst supporting the Motion, was nevertheless concerned, angry and regretted the fact that (unlike Barry Town Council) the Vale of Glamorgan Council had chosen not to commission expert advice on the matter. He referred to comments he had made in 2015 in terms of his view that the facility would be “a blight on the town”. He suggested that it was time for an admission that certain errors had been made by the Council. He also felt there would be no net gain to the town of Barry and he suggested that jobs may, in fact be lost and that there would be an inevitable “snarl up” on the road network.

Councillor Hodges considered it to be time for NRW to prove that it was a body of use to the people of Wales, the Vale of Glamorgan and Barry. Whilst he hoped the Environmental Impact Assessment would not be a “rubber stamp” exercise, he feared that, in fact, it would be.

Councillor John confirmed that the Llantwit First Independent Group would support the Motion. He alluded to issues within Llantwit Major itself which had led to concerns regarding NRW (i.e. a number of fires at a Llandow facility). He suspected that NRW must have been consulted at a very early stage of the proposal and he, too, felt that the facility would represent a blight on the town of Barry.

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Councillor Carroll referred to the issue as having been a controversial one for many years. He considered the site to be wholly unsuitable and was bitterly disappointed by the decision of NRW to grant the Environmental Permit. He believed that the Council should always put the people first and not let party politics get in the way of such issues. As such, he was very pleased to see cross-party support from Members of all Groups at the Council Meeting, as well as support from AMs, MPs and others, members of the public and the DIAG campaign group, who had all worked tirelessly for the benefit of the campaign.

Councillor Carroll referred to the situation as having moved on somewhat since the submission of the original Motion, with the new Minister for Environment now indicating that she was minded to direct that an Environmental Impact Assessment be carried out. He therefore welcomed the amended Motion now under discussion.

While being previously disappointed by a lack of willingness on the part of Welsh Government to intervene, he was pleased that they had now indicated a desire to do so. It was a step in the right direction and one that should be welcomed. However, he considered it vital that to keep up the pressure on such an important issue and ensure that the Minister carried out her initial pledge to insist on an Environmental Impact Assessment. The Minister had also made it clear that any requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment was still subject to representations from the applicant.

Councillor Dr. Johnson confirmed his support for the Motion. However, he would not be saying anything that would compromise his position in the Planning Committee when the next set of applications was considered.

Councillor Dr. Johnson considered it heartening that people had pointed to the way in which DIAG had worked hard for such a long time. He referred to one of the problems with the Motion as being the fact that the Council did not have control over NRW and their actions.

He also referred to the problem of the separation of powers within the system between Planning and licensing / permitting. He stated that every step taken by Barry Town Council, DIAG and others to challenge and qualify had, in fact, been used by the applicant to improve their application and, therefore, make it more likely that it would be acceptable to NRW.

Councillor Dr. Johnson was grateful that there was cross-party support amongst Members, but he referred to the reality as being a system both set up and maintained by the Welsh Government. The Council did not control NRW, but he felt that those who did should have stepped in earlier and should have asked for briefings to be taking place such as an Environmental Impact Assessment back in 2015 and before that. He felt a previous decision that an Environment Impact Assessment was not required to be wrong and, therefore, he was pleased that it was being looked at again.

The Leader confirmed he fully support the Motion. What concerned him most was that one person appointed by Welsh Government could overturn the decision of a

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democratically elected Committee of the Council, which, in his view, had quite rightly refused the first application for the Biomass plant. He believed it was inappropriate to build the plant in the position in which it was situated, and his opinion had not changed. However, should the plant get up and running, the Leader indicated he would ensure that the Council's Shared Regulatory Services officers did everything in their power to ensure the health of the residents of Barry. He pointed out that they were independent specialists and that they had commented on all aspects of the permit and process to date and had recommended that the plant should not receive an Environmental Permit for use, but, obviously, that had been overturned by NRW.

Councillor Bailey, in summing up, expressed his delight with the cross-party support shown and he thanked all those who had spoken.

Upon being put to the vote, it was:

RESOLVED – T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council:

- Notes with concern Natural Resources Wales' decision to grant Biomass UK No 2 Ltd a permit to operate its gasification facility in Barry;
- Regrets NRW's decision not to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment before taking a decision;
- Urges the Minister for Environment to ensure that an Environment Impact Assessment accompanies the developer's current planning application;
- Calls on NRW to ensure independent and robust monitoring of emissions from the plant, and to investigate resident concerns over the impact of dust from the site.

736 PUBLIC QUESTIONS –

Given that all but one of the Public Questions included later in the agenda related to the issues discussed under the Notice of Motion, the Mayor asked Members whether they would agree to Public Questions being dealt with at this point of the meeting, rather than at the end. It was agreed accordingly.

The following questions were submitted and replied to as shown, in accordance with the protocol agreed by Council on 5th May, 2010:

(i) **Question from Mrs. Beverley Bailey**

What is the process the VOG Council must undertake and in what timeframe is reasonable, in a scenario when a section 77 is raised with an owner for Dangerous Structures to be removed from their property, identified as a danger to the public by you, noting the ownership is proven with the said owner and he / she takes no action for more than 10 years?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning

The Building Control function of Local Authorities includes responsibility for dealing with Dangerous Structures and seeks to ensure that reasonable

No.

standards of safety are achieved under Sections 77 and 78 of the Building Act 1984. However, it is important to note that it is the responsibility of the relevant owner to ensure that if a structure is deemed dangerous, it is removed. In addition, a structure would normally only be deemed dangerous if it is considered to be in danger of imminent collapse

If an owner fails to remove a dangerous structure, and if it appears to a Local Authority that a building or structure is in such a condition or is used to carry such loads as to be dangerous, that Local Authority can, under Section 77, apply to a Magistrates Court for an order requiring the owner to:

- Execute such work as may be necessary to obviate the danger; or
- If they so elect, demolish the building or structure or part; or
- Restrict its use.

Having said this, it is normal practice to serve an informal notice / letter requesting the owner to remedy the problem within a stated period, before the Authority resorts to court action. The Local Authority may recover from the owner the expenses reasonably incurred by them under Section 78 (i.e. removal of immediate danger), but the Act does not allow for the recovery of expenses for work done under Section 77 unless work is done in default.

The Council will in the first instance always try to work with the relevant owners to try and remedy any issue especially when those affected are the owners of the actual structure itself.

(ii) **Question from Mrs. Joanne Cheek**

As the Council works with NRW and Welsh Water to improve the water quality in the Vale, does the Council feel the Sustainable Drainage System will reduce pollution entering the dock? With 170 breaches in 12 months into the dock of contaminated effluence, will the 94,104 litres a day discharged by Biomass 2 Ltd as well as highways surface water from the 2,000 extra homes and facilities at the Waterfront, cause an immense strain on a system obviously struggling to cope?

Reply from the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources

The foul and surface water systems for this site are separate and were properly assessed as part of the planning process. Any surface water drainage discharges from the site will be assessed by Natural Resources Wales and the Council to ensure that the water quality is appropriate for the discharge location.

(iii) **Question from Mr. Dennis Clarke**

NRW's spokesperson announced that the Biomass Incinerator on Woodham Road will, amongst other materials, burn fence panels. These are defined as hazardous fuel. Is the Vale of Glamorgan Council concerned about this announcement by NRW due to the additional pollution this will generate? If so

No.

what would the Vale suggest should be done about it?

Reply from the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources

Operations on site are regulated by NRW through compliance with the Environmental Permit they have issued. The Permit details the types of wood waste that can be accepted on site for processing and the controls that are in place to prevent harmful emissions to the environment.

The Environmental Permit includes conditions on the commissioning and testing phase, including a requirement that at least one month prior to the commencement of commissioning the operator must provide a written commissioning plan for approval by Natural Resources Wales.

Our specialist officers within Shared Regulatory Services have confirmed with Natural Resources Wales that they are content that the pre-operational conditions set have been complied with, and are content that the proposed commissioning plan will provide a high level of environmental protection.

Specifically in relation to fence panels, the majority of fence panels would be suitable for being processed. However, any wood that has been treated with hazardous substances such as creosote would not be classified as suitable for processing at the plant.

(iv) **Question from Miss. Julia Brunskill**

Do you think that the public should be given the date of full commissioning and Occupation of the Biomass 2 Incinerator in order to show the new transparency that has been shown by the Council?

Reply from the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Regulatory and Legal Services

This will be a matter for the owners of the plant. That said, the Council will clearly be seeking to ensure that all relevant pre-commencement conditions attached to the planning permission are discharged prior to the first operation of the plant and subsequent generation of electricity.

The Council do not regulate the site but are in contact with Natural Resources Wales and will encourage the Operators and Natural Resources Wales to provide regular updates to the local community on the operations at the site.

As mentioned in the previous reply, the Environmental Permit includes conditions on the commissioning and testing phase, including a requirement that at least one month prior to the commencement of commissioning the operator must provide a written commissioning plan for approval by Natural Resources Wales.

No.

Our specialist officers within Shared Regulatory Services have confirmed with Natural Resources Wales that they are content that the pre-operational conditions set have been complied with, and are content that the proposed commissioning plan will provide a high level of environmental protection.

(v) **Question from Mr. Alexis Liosatos**

The Combined Sewer Overflow at Wimbourne Road, Barry, overflows untreated sewage into the docks. In 2016, this happened on 170 occasions. But it seems neither Dwr Cymru or Natural Resources Wales know why this happens. Is the Vale of Glamorgan Council concerned that the polluted trade effluent from the Biomass incinerator will be directed into this Combined Sewage Overflow and be emptied into the dock?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning

We have seen no evidence to suggest this will be the case. There is a separate strategy for managing foul and surface water at this site and this is detailed as part of the latest planning application. The proposals for a foul water connection serving the site will be subject to approval by the appropriate regulators including Dwr Cymru (Welsh Water) and Natural Resources Wales. This separate disposal of foul and surface water, make any adverse impact on the number and duration of discharges of the current Combined Sewer Overflow to the docks unlikely.

Again, as mentioned previously, the Environmental Permit includes conditions on the commissioning and testing phase, including a requirement that at least one month prior to the commencement of commissioning the operator must provide a written commissioning plan for approval by Natural Resources Wales.

Our specialist officers within Shared Regulatory Services have confirmed with Natural Resources Wales that they are content that the pre-operational conditions set have been complied with, and are content that the proposed commissioning plan will provide a high level of environmental protection

(xi) **Question from Miss. Christina Paulakis**

Will the Leader of the Council assure the public that the regular 'liaison meetings' between Natural Resources Wales and Council Planning Officers are advertised, properly minuted and made available for the public to attend?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning

While officers of the Council do meet colleagues from Natural Resources Wales on occasion, this is on an ad hoc basis and usually with regard to specific sites or issues that emerge during the consideration of planning proposals. These meetings are at officer level and are not public meetings and are only arranged as and when required.

No.

SRS liaise with NRW on a range of sites that they regulate within the Vale and will discuss any emerging issues, intelligence or complaints. NRW take the lead in convening meetings with the Council and, again, they are not public meetings.

(vii) **Question from Miss. Christina Paulakis**

As the Vale of Glamorgan Council are agreed that they are against the operation of the Incinerator, and that the plant comes squarely within Schedule 1 of the Environmental Impact Directive, being an incinerator that burns more than 100 tonnes per day, leaving no doubt that it requires an Environmental Impact Assessment, will the Leader be demanding that the Biomass no.2 UK Ltd. undertake an EIA?

Reply from the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources

Following an assessment of amended proposals for the Barry gasification plant, Welsh Government is now minded to direct that the planning application should be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment and the Council is currently awaiting the outcome of discussions between Welsh Government and the applicant over the requirement for this.

The Welsh Government has advised that it is not currently minded to detail why they have changed their view in this instance and the Council awaits further clarification in this regard. At this stage Welsh Government has invited comments from the applicant prior to issuing a final direction.

The Environmental Impact Assessment procedures are governed by the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2016 and if required, the applicant for planning permission must provide the required information so the environmental effects of the development can be assessed. The Regulations stipulate the way in which information should be presented, provide for additional advertising and consultation by the applicant and also require a longer statutory period to determine an application (16 weeks instead of 8).

The requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment (or EIA for short), does not necessarily mean that any additional environmental information will be required to be submitted to the Council as in the case of all developments the Authority should consider the environmental impact. However the Regulations do require this information is provided in a particular format known as an Environmental Statement.

With regard to the current applications, if Welsh Government directs that an EIA is required the Council will of course require the applicant to undertake an EIA and submit an Environmental Statement and full consultation will be undertaken with all relevant statutory consultees prior to any recommendation being made to the Planning Committee. Any subsequent report to the Planning Committee will fully deal with all matters including the environmental impact of the proposals and it will be for the Planning Committee to make its decision having full regard to all

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relevant material considerations, including national guidance and the policies contained within the Local Development Plan

(viii) **Question from Mr. Max Wallis**

The Biomass-Aviva incinerator was built close to homes without regard to noise from industrial steam cleansing and pressure release disturbing residents. Will the Council use its powers on environmental nuisances strictly, without accepting excuses that these are common industrial processes?

Reply from Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Regulatory and Legal Services

The Environmental Permit issued by Natural Resources Wales stipulates that emissions from the activities at the site shall be free from noise and vibration at levels likely to cause pollution outside the site. The schedule to the Permit also includes requirements on the Operator to monitor and report on any adverse impacts due to noise from the operation of the plant.

Whilst Natural Resources Wales remain the primary regulator for the site, the Council would work closely with them to investigate any noise complaints from local residents.

737 NOMINATION OF MAYOR ELECT AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018/19 (MD) –

Section 22 of the Local Government Act 1972 provided for the Chairman of the Principal Council to be elected annually by the Council from among the Councillors. Section 23 of the Act provided for the election of the Chairman to be the first business transacted at the Annual Meeting of the Principal Council. Section 25A of the Local Government Act 2000 provided that the Chairman of the Council was entitled to the style of 'Mayor' or 'Maer'. On 30th October, 2002 the Cabinet considered the legal provision relating to the style of Mayor and resolved that the entitlement of the Chairman to use the style be supported and introduced with effect from the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2003.

It had also been decided to nominate a Deputy Mayor Elect at this meeting.

Councillor Neil Moore moved that Councillor Bronwen Brooks be nominated as the Mayor of the Council for 2018/19, the proposal being duly seconded.

Councillor Kathryn McCaffer moved that Councillor Leighton Rowlands be nominated as the Mayor of the Council for 2018/19, the proposal being duly seconded.

Councillor Neil Moore moved that Councillor Lis Burnett be nominated as the Deputy Mayor of the Council for 2018/19, the proposal being duly seconded.

No.

Councillor Vince Driscoll moved that Councillor Christine Cave be nominated as the Deputy Mayor of the Council for 2018/19, the proposal being duly seconded.

Upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T Councillor Leighton Rowlands be nominated for election as Mayor at the Annual Meeting to be held on 9th May, 2018.

(2) T H A T Councillor Christine Cave be nominated for election as Deputy Mayor at the Annual Meeting to be held on 9th May, 2018.

738 USE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR'S EMERGENCY POWERS (MD) -

The following use of the Managing Director's Emergency Powers was reported:

- (a) The request of the Leader of the Conservative Group that Councillor Anthony Hampton replace Councillor Rachel Nugent-Finn on the Standards Committee with immediate effect.
- (b) The request of the Leader of the Plaid Cymru Group that Councillor Dr. Ian Johnson replace Councillor Steffan Wiliam on the Licensing Committees with immediate effect.
- (c) The request of the Leader of the Labour Group that:
 - Councillor Lis Burnett replace Councillor Anne Moore on the Standards Committee
 - Councillor Anne Moore replace Councillor Lis Burnett on the Standards Committee Appointments Panel.
- (d) The request of the Leader of the Conservative Group that Councillor Stephen Griffiths replace Councillor Kathryn McCaffer on the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Kathryn McCaffer replace Councillor Stephen Griffiths on the Audit Committee; both changes to take effect from 1st February, 2018.
- (e) The request of the Leader of the Conservative Group, following the resignation of Councillor Anthony Hampton from certain Committees, that the following appointments be made with immediate effect:
 - Statutory Licensing and Public Protection Licensing Committees – Councillor Leighton Rowlands
 - Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Stephen Griffiths
 - Standards Committee – Councillor Rachel Nugent-Finn
 - Welsh Church Act Estate Committee – Councillor Ben Gray
 - Joint Consultative Forum – Councillor Vince Bailey.

(Scrutiny Committee – Corporate Performance and Resources)

RESOLVED - T H A T the report be noted.

No.

Reason for decision

To inform Council.

739 CONSULTATION WITH NON-DOMESTIC RATEPAYERS (MD) –

In accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council had consulted with representatives of local non-domestic ratepayers regarding the current, and preceding, years' expenditure proposals. An advertisement had been placed in the press and representations had been invited. No responses had been received.

RESOLVED – T H A T the position be noted.

Reason for decision

To comply with Section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

740 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION: OFFICER DELEGATIONS (MO) –

The Constitution remained under review on an ongoing basis. Under Section 2.4 of the Constitution, the Monitoring Officer had a duty to monitor and review the operation of the Constitution to ensure that the aims and principles contained therein were given full effect.

Section 2.6.2 of the Constitution provided for any changes considered by the Monitoring Officer to be "required to be made to remove any inconsistency, ambiguity or typographical correction to be made in a report to the next Full Council meeting for information".

Section 25 of the Constitution – Officer Delegations – required a number of minor amendments as follows:

Cabinet, on 18th December, 2017, agreed that delegated authority be granted to all Directors, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member to authorise submission and acceptance of future external funding grant applications and allocations for revenue funding over £75k and to enter into the associated grant terms and conditions. This would allow grant funding applications to be submitted and accepted on a timely basis and enable the progression of bids with oversight from the relevant Director in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member.

The Local Government Act 1972 contained provisions relating to the requirement for newly-elected Members' Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Members' Code of Conduct (in the presence of the "Proper Officer"). In order to ensure availability of the "Proper Officer", it was proposed that the definition of "Proper Officer" for this particular purpose be extended to the Managing Director, or in his absence, the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer.

No.

The Delegated Powers of the Managing Director, Section 151 Officer and Deputy Section 151 Officer required a number of minor amendments, which were shown emboldened in the report for ease of reference):

In order to reflect current terminology within the Social Services Directorate structure, reference on pages 254 and 311 to “Business Support Manager” be amended to read “Operational Manager (Commissioning and Information)”.

Also, within the Social Services Directorate, it was proposed that amendments be made to the wording of certain delegations, in order to reduce the number of people required for approving and deciding upon the operational delivery of Social Services. This, in turn, would result in speedier decision making, while still ensuring professional scrutiny close to where the decisions are needed. Other amendments recognised new legislative changes and the changing nature of grant funding available to the Council. Again, the amendments were shown emboldened in the report for ease of reference.

The revised Code of Corporate Governance, as previously agreed by Cabinet, would also be incorporated in the updated Constitution.

RESOLVED – T H A T the changes to Officer Delegations as set out in paragraphs (4) to (9) of the report be approved and the Constitution be amended accordingly.

Reason for decision

To update the Officer Delegation Scheme to reflect current structures and relevant provisions within the current Constitution.

741 HOUSING BUSINESS PLAN (DEH) –

In moving the report, the Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services referred to the Welsh Government requiring all Local Authorities who had retained their housing stock to submit an annual 30 year Housing Business Plan. The Business Plan must be submitted by 31st March, 2018 and required Council approval. The submission formed the basis of the Major Repairs Allowance grant application which provided the Council with nearly £2.8m of grant funding from the Welsh Government. The financial model in the Plan incorporated investments required to maintain the housing stock, the Council’s aspirations for the development of new housing stock and regeneration and environmental works. This Plan was more ambitious than the previous Plan as additional investment was being allocated to the new build and acquisitions programme. It was proposed that 176 units were developed in the first five years of the Plan, with £24.993m of investment and £9.5m would be spent on environmental and regeneration during the same period. £32m had been allocated over the five year period for maintenance of the current housing stock.

The Plan was viable over the 30 years as it retained an annual surplus throughout and also the borrowing used to fund capital expenditure did not exceed the

No.

borrowing cap of £103.7m which had been set by the Welsh Government. The timings were based on a series of assumptions and, therefore, sensitivity analysis had to be carried out to check whether the Plan was robust. Under some of the sensitivities the Plan failed. However, it did not fail until Year 8 at the earliest and therefore, this would prove sufficient time to adjust investment decisions if the scenarios materialised. In the first instance the Council would reassess its development programme to mitigate any shortfalls. The Plan would ensure that housing stock was maintained and developed over the coming years.

Councillor Dr. Johnson referred to it as a good and valuable report and referred to his being very supportive of the positive impact on the Council of the subsidy buyout in 2015. He alluded to some of the elements regarding the capital finance requirements having been discussed at the previous evening's meeting of the Audit Committee.

Councillor Dr. Johnson referred to a reference on page 6 to 28 houses being built during 2018/19. He assumed that referred to Brecon Court, which was the subject of a recent Cabinet report. He referred to Brecon Court as originally comprising some 32 units, so there seemed to be a reduction in the number of units. He also alluded to one of the issues that had been raised as a risk as being the impact of the 2012 Welfare Reform Act. That suggested an impact of up to £4m as a result of the introduction of Universal Credit and various other issues that surrounded welfare reform. He wondered what conversations the Cabinet member had had with the Secretary of State for Wales to see what could be done to mitigate these risks by, for example, scrapping the policy altogether.

In response, the Cabinet Member confirmed that the Council was bringing forward the planning application in respect of Brecon Court. He would clarify the number of units if different to 28. He also confirmed that there were no problems envisaged in terms of the collection of rents.

RESOLVED – T H A T the Housing Business Plan 2018 be approved.

Reason for decision

To enable submission of the Housing Business Plan to Welsh Government by the required deadline of 31st March, 2018.

742 EMPLOYEE PAY POLICY 2018/19 (REF) –

Given the fact that Chief Officers would be required to leave whilst this item was considered, it was agreed that the item would be dealt with at the end of the agenda.

743 TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STATEMENT 2018/19 (REF) –

In presenting the report, the Leader referred to its purpose as being to present the interim report on the Council's Treasury Management operations for the period

No.

1st April, 2017 to 31st December, 2017 and to submit for consideration the proposed 2018/19 Treasury Management and Investment Strategy.

Insofar as the Council's Treasury Management operations entered into for the period 1st April, 2017 to 31st December, 2017 were concerned, all activities were in accordance with the Council's approved strategy on Treasury Management. The details of the monies borrowed and repaid and those invested were outlined in the report. Capital expenditure, when financed by long term debt, incurred two elements of cost, interest on and repayment of the principal sum borrowed. Resources the Council must put aside each year to repay the principal sum borrowed was known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). On 31st January, 2018, the Audit Committee considered and agreed a report proposing changes in the way in which this would be calculated in 2018/19 onwards. The new approach was in line with the approach a number of Welsh Authorities had adopted to reflect new guidance in England and for the treatment of MRP and the Welsh Audit Office had confirmed that it was comfortable with the approach being taken.

With regard to the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2018/19, there were a few changes with documents in particular. Due to the recent announcement by Northamptonshire that it was unlikely to submit a balanced budget in 2018/19, the Investment Strategy has been amended to reflect the maximum period of six months for any investments in Local Authorities and the Council would pursue the possible use of other investment tools. However the importance of capital security would still outweigh the importance of financial performance.

Councillor Wilson, as Chairman of the Audit Committee, referred to the long discussion at the previous evening's meeting of the Committee. As Chairman of the Committee, he fully supported the Strategy. However, as he had alluded to at the Audit Committee, he also felt there to be a need for the Council to look at other possible streams for investment (which the Section 151 Officer would indeed be looking at).

Councillor Dr. Johnson referred to a number of changes which had been agreed by the Audit Committee at its meeting in January, some of which he considered to be quite substantial. He referred to figures in the report for Agenda Item Item 11(c) of savings of £1.6m, making up a quarter of the savings that the Council would be making next year, so he considered the changes in guidance were, therefore, bringing out a major impact as that was £1.6m of savings that the Council would not be required to find from front line services and should not be needing to find anyway.

RESOLVED – T H A T the proposals of the Cabinet, as set out in Cabinet Minute No. C227, 19th February, 2018, be approved.

Reason for decision

To meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003.

No.

744 FINAL HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET PROPOSALS 2018/19 (REF) –

At this point, Councillors Wilkinson and Aviet referred to the fact that they were Council tenants, but that both of them had received a dispensation from the Standards Committee to speak and vote on such matters.

In presenting the report, the Leader referred to it as the final Housing Revenue Account budget proposals for 2018/19 and the proposed rents and service charges for the coming financial year, commencing on 2nd April, 2018.

Each local housing authority was required under Section 74 of the 1989 Local Government and Housing Act to keep a Housing Revenue Account. Section 76 of the Act required Local Authorities to set a budget for their Housing Revenue Account (HRA) on an annual basis. The budget must be such that the Housing Revenue Account was not in deficit at the year end.

Each Local Authority should endeavour to have a working balance on the HRA, for any exceptional circumstances that might arise.

The initial HRA budget proposals were considered by Cabinet on 20th November, 2017 (Minute No. C141). They were subsequently referred to the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee on 6th December, 2017 who noted the proposals, as did Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 14th December, 2018.

In finalising the budget, the Administration had been mindful of the Policy for Social Housing Rents which was issued by Welsh Government in December 2017 which allowed a maximum uplift of CPI as at September 2017 plus 1.5% plus £2.

The details of how the budget had been made up were in the Cabinet report. It was proposed that rents be increased by 3%, which was within the Welsh Government limits and was enough to support the Housing 30 Year Business Plan.

As well as increasing rents, the report also outlined the proposed increases in other charges.

The basis for rent increases was set by the Welsh Government Policy for Social Housing Rents. The policy set a target rent band for each Authority. In order to comply with the rent policy, social landlords had to ensure their average weekly rent for their general needs and sheltered housing was within their target rent bands. Landlords had to also ensure a tenant's rent was not increased by more than (CPI +1.5%) plus £2.00 per week.

The 2018/19 Policy for Social Housing Rents was issued by Welsh Government on 11th December, 2017 which included the 2018/19 rent bands and the maximum allowable uplift which had been outlined as CPI (as at September 2017) 3% plus 1.5% + £2.00, i.e. 4.5% + £2.00.

No.

Base Budget 2018/19

The Budget Strategy for 2018/19 outlined that, in order to establish a baseline, services should prepare revenue budgets for next year based on the cost of providing the current level of service and approved policy decisions. This meant that the cost of price increases and pay awards should be included.

Due to the nature of the HRA, in that it was ring-fenced and any growth had to be funded from the balance, no cost pressures had been formally identified.

The proposed 2018/19 budget was set out at Appendix 1 to the report and was identified over the following areas:

- Supervision and Management (General) – This budget head related to the general management of the Council's housing stock, for work carried out within the Housing service, and for various issues relating to the Council tenancies excluding the repairs and maintenance function.
- Supervision and Management (Special) – This budget related to the running expenses and the cost of staff employed directly within the Housing service, in relation to functions such as sheltered housing schemes, running the hostel and temporary accommodation.
- Repairs and Maintenance – This budget related to the revenue repairs and maintenance service for the Council Housing Stock.
- Capital Financing Costs – Costs associated with financing debt.
- Rents, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges – This budget head related to items such as expenditure on Council Tax at long void properties, legal expenses, surveying costs, compensation and insurance.
- Increase in Provision for Bad Debts – This budget identified the amount by which the current level of provision should be increased by in year.
- Capital Expenditure from Revenue Account (CERA) – This budget related to a contribution made from the HRA to fund capital expenditure.
- Dwelling Rents – This was the net rent due to the Council for all properties whether General Needs, OAP designated, Sheltered Complexes, Hostel or Temporary Accommodation.
- Non Dwelling Rents – This represented the net rental income due to the Council for HRA owned garages.
- Interest – This budget related to interest receivable on the average HRA Reserve Balance.
- Charges for Services and Facilities – This budget identified amounts due to the Council by tenants and leaseholders and some private individuals for services and facilities provided by the HRA.
- Contribution towards expenditure – This budget identified any contributions received from outside bodies or persons towards expenditure which had been incurred by the HRA.
- Grant Income – This budget related to revenue grant income received. From 2018/19 onwards the HRA would receive the Housing Finance Grant 2 (HFG2) from Welsh Government which supported new Council house building. The Council would take out a loan to fund capital expenditure and the HFG2 would be paid as an annual grant over a 30 year period and would be used to finance the interest and capital repayments of the debt.

No.

In summary the change in the budget was itemised as follows:

2017/18 Original Budget	Inflation / Pay Award	Committed Growth / (Savings)	Rent / Income Increase	Increase / (Decrease) in CERA	2018/19 Proposed Budget
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
(131)	79	(453)	(562)	1,046	(21)

Inflation included an allowance of 2% pay awards in 2018/19 which amounted to approximately £53k.

The net saving of £453k was due to a number of factors:

- A decrease in Capital Financing charges of £301k in relation to unsupported borrowing being taken out in 2018/19 to fund the Housing Improvement Programme.
- A decrease in staff costs for vacant posts and staff changes of £65k.
- An increase of £43k in central recharges.
- A reduction in income of £76k, £60k of which was due to the cessation of Supporting People funding from October 2017. The balance of which was due to reduced service charge income from tenants.
- A reduction in Premises costs of £123k.
- A reduction in Supplies & Services of £83k.

An increase in Capital Expenditure from Revenue Account (CERA) to finance the Housing Improvement Programme of £1,046k had been assumed. The amount of revenue contribution required was dictated by available revenue balances and the value of the Housing Improvement Programme. Adjusting the level of CERA by this amount would leave a minimum HRA Reserve of £852k as at 31st March, 2019 which was broadly in line with the Housing Business Plan.

Proposed Increases in Rents

The Welsh Government rent policy set a target rent band for each landlord and landlords were required to operate with average weekly rent levels that fell within the scope of those bands. The target rent band provided a low end figure, a mid-point and a high end figure for each landlord. The average weekly rent level for each social landlord was compared to the target rent band for 2018/19. In addition, the maximum amount a social landlord could increase an individual tenant's weekly rent was CPI +1.5% plus £2.00 (i.e. 4.5% plus £2.00).

It was usual practice that the Vale of Glamorgan Council only increased rent by an amount which would not breach the Housing Benefit Rent Rebate Limitation set by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). Breach of the limitation would mean that the HRA would be liable for a proportion of the additional increase. The draft limit, issued by Welsh Government, was not available at the time of writing.

No.

It was proposed that rents were increased by 3% (the CPI element only), which was within the limit of 4.5% plus the maximum of £2.00 and had been set in line with our existing rent policy, which took into account the number of bedrooms, type and size of property along with location, whilst still ensuring that the current Housing Business Plan commitments were achieved. The rent increase per property type was detailed below:

Type	Present Target Rent for 2017/18 (Based on 50 Chargeable Weeks)	Proposed Average Rent Incr (+) / Decr (-) (Based on 50 Chargeable Weeks)	Proposed Average Target Rent for 2018/19 (Based on 50 Chargeable Weeks)
Bungalow	£94.61 per week	+\$2.84 per week	£97.45 per week
Flat	£82.63 per week	+\$2.48 per week	£85.11 per week
House	£102.94 per week	+\$3.10 per week	£106.04 per week
Maisonette	£90.29 per week	+\$2.71 per week	£93.00 per week
TOTAL	£94.40 per week	+\$2.83 per week	£97.23 per week

Proposed Increases in Other Charges

Garage Rents – The rent of freestanding garages was £7.58 per week. It was proposed that rent for all garages be increased by 3% to £7.81 per week. This percentage increase was in line with the rent increase.

Ty lolo Hostel – The charge for persons accommodated was £169.59 per week. It was proposed that the weekly rent charge be increased by 3% to £174.68 per week. As rooms at the hostel were classified as HRA dwellings, the rents charged were also subject to Housing Benefit Rent Rebate Limitations, which meant that hostel rents should be in line with the Welsh Government recommended rent increase.

28 Evans Street, Barry – This property, owned by the Council, was let to Llamau Housing Trust and comprised of six units of accommodation. The weekly charge was £555.90. It was proposed that the charge be increased by 3% to £572.58 per week.

Temporary Accommodation – The average current weekly charge including additional management, utility and service charge costs was £167.80. It was proposed that the rent element be increased by 3%. The total charge would therefore be £172.84 per week.

No.

Sheltered Housing Guest Suites – It was proposed that the charges for guest room facilities were increased by 3% to £13.08 per person per night for double occupancy and £18.69 for single occupancy.

Vale Community Alarm Service (VCAS) – This was a charge which formed part of the inclusive rent, but was separately identifiable. No increase was proposed on VCAS charges and a review of the charging structure currently in place would be undertaken.

The following paragraphs outlined the main changes to the Service Charges. The proposed charges were based on the agreed Service Charge Policy which stated that charges would be based on the best estimated cost of providing the service in the forthcoming year, using prior year's information and any known contract costs:

Heating – The cost of providing heating to sheltered properties had decreased. It was proposed that the charge be decreased from £6.41 per week to £5.74 per week based on the actual costs incurred in the 12 months prior to the budgeting period.

Warden Housing Management Charge – The proposed new charge was £9.97 per week. This combined the previous two charges for Warden Management and Warden Support.

Cleaning of communal areas – The cost of cleaning communal areas had increased. It was proposed that the charge be increased from £2.02 per week to £2.31 per week based on the estimated costs for 2018/19.

Lighting of communal areas – The cost of providing lighting had increased. It was proposed that the charge be increased from £0.87 per week to £0.94 per week based on the actual costs incurred in the 12 months prior to the budgeting period

Lift Maintenance – The cost of lift maintenance had decreased, due to a reduction in the number of emergency call-outs. It was proposed that the charge be decreased from £0.92 per week to £0.48 per week based on the actual costs incurred in the 12 months prior to the budgeting period.

Sewerage Treatment Plants – The charge to owners of all purchased and private dwellings connected to Council-owned and maintained treatment plants was currently £329.22 per annum, based on the average charge payable if the properties were connected to the main sewerage system. It was proposed that these dwellings continued to be charged at a similar sewerage rates to the Water Schedule 2018/19 issued by Dwr Cymru Welsh Water. The Welsh Water Schedule was not available at the time of writing the report to Cabinet.

Cesspool Emptying – The current charge of £6.35 per week was based on an equivalent rate to those properties connected to the main sewerage system. It was proposed therefore that these dwellings continued to be charged a rate equivalent to the Water Schedule 2018/19 issued by Dwr Cymru Welsh Water. Whilst the schedule was not available at the time of writing the report to Cabinet, the 2018/19 equivalent charge could be in the region of £6.60 per week.

No.

Councillor Dr. Ian Johnson welcomed the change to using a comparison to CPI. He also sought clarification regarding the projected income and expenditure, in that there was a figure of £90,000 in the previous year in relation to 'provision for "bad deb"' of £90,000, which compared to the figure in the current report of £1.159m.

The Leader confirmed that the figure was a precautionary one in anticipation of the potential effects of the rollout of Universal Credit. However, he was hopeful that it would not, in fact, need to be used.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the final HRA budget proposals for 2018/19 as outlined below be approved:

	Proposed Budget 2018/19 £'000
Expenditure	
Supervision & Management	4,855
Repairs & Maintenance	4,043
Capital Financing Costs	4,977
Rent, Rates & Taxes & Other Charges	211
Increase in Bad Debt Provision	1,159
Capital Expenditure from Revenue Account (CERA)	4,585
Income	
Dwelling Rents	(18,767)
Non Dwelling Rents	(170)
Interest	(3)
Charges for Services and Facilities	(537)
Contribution towards expenditure	(291)
Grant Income	(83)
(Surplus)/Deficit for the Year	(21)
Working Balance Brought Forward	(831)
Working Balance Carried Forward	(852)

(2) T H A T a rent increase of 3% (CPI), as set out in paragraphs 15-17 of the report, be approved.

(3) T H A T the increase suggested for other services, as set out in paragraphs 18-31 of the report, be approved.

(4) T H A T The following charges for 2018/19 financial year be approved:

No.

50 Week Basis	Current Charges	Proposed Charges
Heating	£6.41 per week	£5.74 per week
Warden Support Charge	£5.63 per week	£0.00 per week
Warden Management Charge	£4.06 per week	£0.00 per week
Warden Housing Management Charge (above two charges combined into new charge)	£0.00	£9.97 per week
VCAS:		
- Piper	£4.34 per week	£4.34 per week
- Communicall	£4.92 per week	£4.92 per week
Grounds Maintenance	£1.33 per week	£1.35 per week
Cleaning of communal areas	£2.02 per week	£2.31 per week
Lighting of communal areas	£0.87 per week	£0.94 per week
Laundry Facilities	£0.38 per week	£0.26 per week
Window Cleaning	£0.32 per week	£0.17 per week
Lift Maintenance	£0.92 per week	£0.48 per week
Door Entry	£0.75 per week	£0.73 per week
Intercom	£0.73 per week	£0.71 per week
CCTV	£0.84 per week	£0.90 per week
Sewerage Treatment Plants	£329.22 per annum	Based on the Rateable Value (RV) from the Welsh Water Schedule 2018/19
Cesspool Emptying	£317.50 per annum	Based on the Rateable Value (RV) from the Welsh Water Schedule 2018/19

(5) T H A T all changes to rents and service charges be implemented from 2nd April, 2018 and that increase notices be sent to tenants 28 days in advance of the new charges coming into effect.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) As required by statute.
- (2) In order that new rent levels were set within the specified Welsh Government guidelines.
- (3) In order that charges were approved for the coming year.
- (4) In order that charges were approved for the coming year.
- (5) In order to meet the deadline to notify tenants of the new charges as required by Statute.

745 FINAL CAPITAL PROPOSALS 2018/19 - 2022/23 (REF) –

The Leader indicated the report presented the final proposals for the Capital Budget for the Council for the five year period 2018/19-2022/23. The initial Capital Programme Proposals were presented to Cabinet on 20th November, 2017 and subsequently referred to the Scrutiny Committees in November and December 2017. The comments of the Scrutiny Committees had been taken into account in the development of this five year programme.

In the draft proposals submitted in November 2017, all schemes in the Capital Programme had been reviewed to determine whether the scheme was still required and to review if there were any changes to the timings and / or costs of the schemes. Changes requested were reflected in these proposals and were outlined in the report. All bids had been prioritised in terms of corporate priority, the risk to the Authority if they were not progressed and the contribution they make to the Wellbeing of Future Generations criteria. The programme detailed in the report would be funded through a number of different sources, including General Capital Funding from the Welsh Government, the use of capital receipts resulting from the sale of assets, use of reserves which had been established for that purpose and Section 106 monies for borrowing money which had to be repaid through the revenue budget.

The Leader referred to there being some amendments to the 2017/18 Capital Programme detailed within the report. In particular, changes were requested where schemes were unlikely to be completed in the coming financial year. Therefore, there were requests to slip the funding to 2018/19. The proposed programme for 2018/19 to 2022/23 was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and showed total spend at £60m for 2018/19 and the total five year programme in excess of £250m.

There had been a number of changes to the programme since the Initial Capital Programme Proposals were prepared, including new schemes for Llansannor and Gwenfo Schools, open space improvements, play area improvements and sustainable transport improvements, all of which were funded by Section 106 contributions. The Programme also included a significant investment in the

No.

resurfacing of the roads in the county as a result of Welsh Government support for the road infrastructure in the current year and that funding of £1.136m had been carried forward to 2018/19. In addition to that, a further £1m had been put into the Programme for further resurfacing work next year.

In relation to 21st Century Schools, the Leader confirmed that the Council had received an approval in principle for Band B funding, with an estimated cost envelope of £142m and this was approved by Cabinet on 22nd January. These proposals were now included in the five year Capital Programme. The report also detailed the level of investment required to maintain WHQS standards, flood prevention works, funding for Disabled Facilities Grants and funding in relation to the Barry Regeneration Partnership.

Councillor Neil Moore, Leader of the Labour Group, noted that the Budget Working Group had taken some notice of the Scrutiny Committees' recommendations and he was very pleased to see the previous highway improvements being amended, as was the provision for play areas and the vehicle replacement forecast. He also noted the continuation of the Schools Investment Strategy that had been put in place in order to get to the Band B schools funding and the continued improvements of other schools from the Section 106 and asset renewals.

He was also very pleased that Welsh Government had agreed in principle to continue the funding of 50% of the Band B costs, subject to appropriate business plans being presented. However, he noted that the 21st Century Schools Strategy was heavily dependent upon capital receipts, which could not be guaranteed.

Whilst he considered it would be a tough budget to achieve, Councillor Moore indicated he was broadly supportive of the Capital Budget proposals. However, he was very mindful of the budgetary problems experienced this year and, therefore, the Council's financial position at the end of this financial year. In addition, he could not ignore the extent of changes to the 2017/18 Capital Programme. He was very concerned that there had been too many schemes slipped and carried forward into next year, along with the requirement to re-profile many of the savings over a longer period, which he considered to be managed slippage by another name.

Councillor Moore referred to over £4.2m having been slipped from 2017/18 to 2018/19 and that the figure did not take into account the significant amount of re-profiling that had taken place. He alluded to £1.7m of that slippage as relating to Five Mile Lane, but there seemed to have been little activity on that scheme since the last report to Cabinet in July 2017. He asked, therefore, that a further report be submitted to the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the delays occurring and the reasons for such.

Councillor Moore also alluded to significant slippage on the Street Lighting LED Lanterns Replacement scheme. He considered it regrettable that the projected winter month savings had not been achieved, thus adding to the Council's savings shortfall this year.

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Finally, whilst agreeing with the proposals put forward in the programme of works, (as the Council had to do them) he hoped they would actually be carried out in 2018/19 but, regrettably, had no confidence that they would be achieved (bearing in mind the substantial amount of slippage and re-profiling). As such, Councillor Moore indicated he would be abstaining during the vote on the proposed budget and he suggested that there would be a great deal more scrutiny in the coming financial year because he did not consider that the Administration had done its job properly.

Councillor Dr. Johnson stated he would be supporting this budget because he wanted to see the various schemes happen. He welcomed the investment in the Band B 21st Century Schools projects and was glad to see that the comprehensive schools in Barry would be “catching up” in terms of investment over the next couple of years. He also welcomed the amounts being spent or re-profiled for road improvements and resurfacing.

Councillor Dr. Johnson referred to the level of Council investment in its community centres network as being shown as just £15,000 and wondered whether a report to the relevant Scrutiny Committee on this aspect might be appropriate. In terms of his own Ward, he was aware of Section 106 monies being allocated, or having been consulted upon or discussed in the past, which he understood were intended to be spent at Central Park in Barry, but he was unaware of where those monies now sat. Finally, he referred to lack of a mention of the Dinas Powys Bypass in the list of projects.

The Leader responded to the points made as follows.

The Council would make every effort to reinvest in the 21st Century Schools. He felt it was the ambition of everybody within the Council to improve schools and he acknowledged the work undertaken by the previous Administration and he intended to continue that.

The Leader pointed out that there had also been slippage in schemes under the previous Administration. In setting ambitious and stretching targets, slippage and re-profiling would inevitably occur on occasions. The LED lighting scheme would be starting very shortly and would all be in place before next winter, when the savings would then be made.

The Leader assured Members that he did think that the savings in the Capital Budget being proposed were achievable and, as such, he welcomed the scrutiny process. Work on Five Mile Lane had commenced, despite earlier slippage. He welcomed the positive comments made by Members regarding the planned investment in schools and road re-surfacing. As far as Community Centres were concerned, the budget was not large, but a lot of competing pressures had to be considered. He confirmed that there were Section 106 monies that were utilised for improvements to Community Centres, as well as the budget within the Capital Programme.

Regarding the Dinas Powys Bypass, the Leader considered the current Administration had done more in nine months than the Council had done in the previous nine years.

No.

As far as the detail of the report was concerned, on 20th December, 2017 the Welsh Government announced the final 2018/19 General Capital funding settlement. There had been a £100k (1.85%) increase in funding from 2017/18. Following consideration of the Authority's capital funding for the past two financial years and reviewing the assumptions adopted by a number of other Authorities across Wales, the Initial Capital Programme Proposals in November 2017 assumed a 5% reduction year on year to 2022/23. This assumption had not changed for the final proposals.

On this basis, a table representing the capital funding from the Welsh Government was shown below:

Resources from Welsh Government	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Supported Borrowing – General Fund	3,422	3,251	3,088	2,934	2,787
General Capital Grant	2,083	1,979	1,880	1,786	1,697
Total	5,505	5,230	4,968	4,720	4,484

Another means of financing capital expenditure was through capital receipts resulting from the sale of assets. Receipts from the sale of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) assets could only be spent in the HRA and could not be used to finance General Fund capital schemes. As at 31st March, 2018 the forecast balance of useable capital receipts totalled £8.474m of which £1.339m was ring-fenced for Social Services and £1.299m was ring-fenced for Education. No further general capital receipts or ring-fenced Social Services capital receipts were anticipated between 2018/19 and 2022/23. A further receipt of £13.937m was estimated from Education assets between 2018/19 and 2023/24 and would be ring-fenced for the School Investment Programme. It was noted, however, that the projected value and timing of future capital receipts was not guaranteed and failure to achieve the projected level of capital receipts to timescale could impact on the affordability of the current 21st Century Schools Band B proposals.

HRA capital receipts arose from the sale of dwellings under the Right To Buy Act, HRA land and other HRA assets. In the case of HRA receipts, regulations set out that receipts since 1st April, 2004 could only be used to fund HRA capital expenditure or to repay HRA debt. As at 31st March, 2018 the forecast balance of useable HRA capital receipts was nil as any receipts received in a year were used to fund expenditure incurred in that same year. The Abolition of the Right to Buy and Associated Rights (Wales) Act 2018 gained Royal Assent on 24th January, 2018. The provisions in the Act meant abolition of the rights would come into force on 26th January, 2019 however there were some exceptions. As a result of this change in legislation, no further HRA receipts would be assumed.

If the schemes shown in Appendix 1 attached to the report were approved, the effect on General Fund useable capital receipts would be as shown in the following table.

Capital Receipts	General	Ring-fenced Social Services	Ring-fenced Education
	£000	£000	£000
Anticipated Balance as at 1st April 2018	5,836	1,339	1,299
Anticipated Requirements – 2018/19	-4,387	0	-88
Anticipated Receipts – 2018/19	0	0	0
Balance as at 31st March 2019	1,449	1,339	1,211
Anticipated Requirements – 2019/20	-438	-1,339	-3,326
Anticipated Receipts – 2019/20	0	0	3,250
Balance as at 31st March 2020	1,011	0	1,135
Anticipated Requirements – 2020/21	-320	0	-6,685
Anticipated Receipts – 2020/21	0	0	5,550
Balance as at 31st March 2021	691	0	0
Anticipated Requirements – 2021/22	-100	0	-455
Anticipated Receipts – 2021/22	0	0	455
Balance as at 31st March 2022	591	0	0
Anticipated Requirements – 2022/23	0	0	0
Anticipated Receipts – 2022/23	0	0	0
Balance as at 31st March 2023	591	0	0
Anticipated Requirements – 2023/24	-4	0	-4,682
Anticipated Receipts – 2023/24	0	0	4,682
Balance as at 31st March 2024	587	0	0

The Education Capital Programme utilised general capital receipts in addition to capital receipts ring-fenced for Education.

Capital expenditure could also be funded by revenue contributions or the utilisation of existing reserves. A reserve was a sum of money that had been set aside by the Council for a specific purpose, they were voluntary and could be made when the Council determined. Advances could be made from a reserve for the purchase of assets, which were then repayable over the life of the asset and the reserve was constantly replenished e.g. Vehicle Renewals Fund. Alternatively schemes could be funded from reserves with no repayment, however, once spent that source of funding was lost.

One such reserve was the Project Fund which existed to finance capital and revenue projects. The estimated balance of the Fund as at 31st March, 2018 was £3.011m. A balance of £2m would be retained as a balance on this fund. The following table showed the projected position of the fund over the next five years.

Project Fund	£'000
Anticipated Balance as at 1st April 2018	3,011
Anticipated Requirements – 2018/19	-568
Anticipated Receipts – 2018/19	0
Balance as at 31st March 2019	2,443
Anticipated Requirements – 2019/20	-62
Anticipated Receipts – 2019/20	0
Balance as at 31st March 2020	2,381
Anticipated Requirements – 2020/21	-150
Anticipated Receipts – 2020/21	0
Balance as at 31st March 2021	2,231
Anticipated Requirements – 2021/22	0
Anticipated Receipts – 2021/22	0
Balance as at 31st March 2022	2,231
Anticipated Requirements – 2022/23	0
Anticipated Receipts – 2022/23	0
Balance as at 31st March 2023	2,231

In a similar vein, the Council had an IT Fund estimated at £2.689m as at the end of 2017/18. The Council relied heavily on technology to deliver its services and the Fund allowed investment in this infrastructure and also enabled the Council to exploit opportunities to reduce the cost of services. This was in accordance with a report from the Wales Audit Office in December 2012 entitled 'Use of Technology to Support Improvement and Efficiency in Local Government'. Best practice highlighted in the report recommended that 'A corporate technology development fund was used to fund all developments with commitment that efficiencies replenish funds'.

Other means of generating income to fund capital projects was through monies forthcoming under Section 106 planning obligations.

Outside of the above, the Council was heavily dependent on specific grant funding to supplement its own resources if certain capital schemes were to be progressed. Generally, this came via Welsh Government, although contributions from other public sector organisations or associated bodies were also forthcoming. It was estimated that over the next five years, the level of specific grant funding for General Fund Capital Schemes was approximately £100.508m which was around £75.6m more than the level of General Capital Funding for the same period (£24.907m). The £100.508m grant funding was made up of £0.018m Band A 21st Century Schools grant, £68.757m Band B 21st Century Schools grant, £1.307m Flood Defence and Structures grants, £13.895m Major Repairs Allowance grant and £16.531m Five Mile Lane Improvement grant. Many of these

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schemes required a match funding contribution to be made by the Council to the cost of the scheme.

When considering options for capital financing, the ability of the Council to finance the repayment of any loans it raised for the funding of capital schemes must be evaluated. Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003 required Local Authorities to have regard to the Prudential Code, which had been developed by CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) as a professional code of practice. In setting the Capital Programme, the Council had to ensure that the key objectives of the Prudential Code were complied with. The Council had to ensure that its capital investment plans:

- Were affordable;
- All external borrowing and other long term liabilities were within a prudent and sustainable level; and
- The consequent treasury management decisions for Prudential Borrowing (also referred to as Unsupported Borrowing) were taken in accordance with good professional practice.

The Code recognised that in making capital investment decisions the Council had to have regard to option appraisal, asset management planning and strategic planning. However, given the expected severity of cuts in future revenue resources, the potential for servicing debt not funded by Welsh Government as part of General Capital Funding or already provided for (e.g. Prudential Borrowing for the Schools Investment Programme and Housing Improvement Programme) was extremely limited as this would need to be funded through the revenue budget.

The projected amount of prudential borrowing utilised at 31st March, 2018 was £100.533m, which was made up of £6.690m for Highway Improvements under the Local Borrowing Initiative, £7.444m for 21st Century Schools Programme, £17.354m Housing Improvement Programme, Vehicles £1.2m, City Deal £2.052, Housing Subsidy Buyout £63.156m and the Local Government Borrowing Initiative for 21st Century Schools £2.637m. After allowing for repayments the balance was expected to be £95.844m at 31st March, 2018.

The table below set out the anticipated Council's Prudential Borrowing over the next 5 years:

Prudential Borrowing

Scheme	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	Total £000
21st Century Schools Band B	0	0	0	2,000	1,116	3,116
Housing Improvement Programme	12,765	7,756	5,930	2,862	1,096	30,409
Borrowing Pending Capital Receipt	0	0	919	774	2,290	3,983
City Deal					675	

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	1,501	429	429	675		3,709
Total	14,266	8,185	7,278	6,311	5,177	41,217

Total new Prudential Borrowing over the next five years was estimated at £41.217m of which £30.409m related to the Housing Improvement Programme.

Future Prudential Borrowing for School Investment Programme Band B schemes totalled £3.116m over the five year Capital Programme. A significant proportion of the Band B funding was projected to come from capital receipts, some of these sites would only be vacated as a result of building a new school and therefore funding was required to bridge the timing differences between when the funding was required and when the funding would actually be received by the Authority. It was proposed that prudential borrowing was used in the short term to provide the temporary funding. It was noted that there were revenue costs associated with this approach.

At the end of the Capital Programme period (31st March, 2023) the outstanding prudential borrowing taking into account repayments was expected to be £25.726m General Fund and £98.8m HRA.

Amendments to the 2017/18 Capital Programme

Re-profiling was required across some significant schemes in the Capital Programme which was set out below:

Band B Preparatory Works, Changing Rooms etc. – Work was anticipated on site after Easter however, the only spend this year would relate to fees. It was therefore proposed to carry forward £210k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.

St. Joseph's Nursery and Early Intervention Base (EIB) – Work on delivering ongoing large projects had taken priority over this scheme and therefore resulted in a delay in its progression. Work would now be undertaken from Easter 2019 with a completion date of August 2019. It was therefore proposed to re-profile the scheme budget as shown below:

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Original Budget	67	964	0	0	1,031
Revised Budget	10	150	864	7	1,031

Band A Romilly Primary – It had previously been reported that this scheme had been delayed due to inaccurate utility plans and the consequential need to redesign the scheme. Work was anticipated to commence late March 2018 and complete late August 2018. It was proposed that the scheme budget be re-profiled as shown below:

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	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Original Budget	285	894	0	1,179
Revised Budget	210	961	8	1,179

Victorian Schools – Final agreed accounts for works carried out in year were lower than originally anticipated and it was therefore proposed to carry forward £50k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.

St. Richard Gwyn R/C School Window Renewal Phase 1 – This scheme had previously been tendered however no tenders were returned. The scheme would be retendered in March 2018. It was proposed to carry forward £95k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.

Legionella Control – Further legionella testing works were planned however they would not be carried out until next financial year, it was therefore proposed to carry forward £17k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme for remedial works if necessary following testing.

Disabled Access Improvements – Works were based on referrals from Pupil Support. Referrals had been low this year and it was therefore proposed to carry forward £15k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.

Social Services

ICT Infrastructure – This funding had been allocated to implement an all Wales ICT system which would enable the interfacing of a range of different systems across Local Authorities and NHS organisations. The system had been implemented in part; however it was proposed that £370k be carried forward into the 2018/19 Capital Programme to complete full implementation.

Environment and Housing

Dinas Powys Library Bridge – Due to capacity to implement this scheme this financial year it was proposed to carry forward £170k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.

Murchfield Access Bridge – Due to capacity to implement this scheme this financial year it was proposed to carry forward £44k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.

Boverton Flooding – This scheme was due to complete by the end of March 2018. It was proposed to carry forward £631k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme to finalise accounts.

Coldbrook Flood Risk Management Construction Phase – A proposed increase in the Capital Programme of £525k in 2017/18 and £58k in 2018/19.

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Cemetery Approach – Tenders for the community building were to be returned by 2nd March, 2018 and would need to be evaluated. It was therefore proposed that £198k be carried forward into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.

Leisure Centre Capital Bids – Within this programme there was a £242k budget for electrical rewiring at Llantwit Leisure Centre. Tenders had been returned and the contractor was being appointed. Works were anticipated to commence late February 2018. It was therefore proposed that £175k be carried forward into the 2018/19 Capital Programme. There was also a budget of £25k in 2017/18 for Cowbridge Leisure Centre Roofing works. This scheme was being redesigned and only fees would be charged this year. It was therefore proposed that £10k be carried forward into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.

Housing Improvement Programme 2017/18 – Slippage of £4.581m.

Internals – The contract for Housing Electrical Installations was to be presented to Cabinet for approval during February 2018. Delays in the tendering process had meant that the anticipated level of work during 2017/18 had not been achieved and would therefore continue into 2018/19. It was proposed that £850k be carried forward to 2018/19.

Externals – The contract for Gibbonsdown External Wall Insulation (EWI) was yet to be confirmed. Tenders were to be returned and assessed by the beginning of March 2018 with work commencing in due course. It was therefore proposed that £805k was carried forward to 2018/19.

Common Parts – Works to communal areas were not included in the original framework agreement and as a result, had to be tendered. This, along with contractor capacity issues had caused delays, pushing the work back to 2018/19. It was proposed that £2.75m be carried forward to 2018/19.

Williams Crescent – Works to the communal areas at Williams Crescent were delayed due to the issues described above. It was therefore proposed that £176k be carried forward to 2018/19.

Managing Director and Resources

Penarth Pier Pavilion – £70k had been included in the Capital Programme as a contingency to cover any repairs and maintenance work required at the Pavilion. To date no works had been identified and it was therefore proposed that the £70k be removed from the Capital Programme. Any future requirement for repairs would be considered as they were identified.

Tackling Poverty – There was £5k unallocated within the Tackling Poverty Scheme. It was proposed to vire and carry this forward to the Barry Regeneration Partnership Project Fund scheme to contribute towards the Main Street area improvements. Works would include the construction of a new boundary wall.

Barry Regeneration Partnership Project Fund – Within this scheme there was a budget of £19k for Main Street Area improvements, which would include the construction of a new boundary wall. Work would require planning consent and a

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licence agreement. It was therefore proposed to carry forward £19k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.

Five Mile Lane – Delays with regard to compulsory purchase orders along with programme delays appointing the main contractor had meant that the full budget would not be spent in 2017/18. It was proposed that £1.7m be carried forward into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.

Innovation Quarter Regeneration Fund – Due to a change in the scope of the project this scheme was expected to underspend. It was therefore proposed that the budget for the scheme be reduced by £124k.

North Penarth Open Space Improvements – Plassey Square had now been completed, albeit some wild flower planting which would be implemented in the Spring. The new play area and multi-use games area proposed at Paget Road was being tendered (closing mid-February). It was anticipated that works would start on site in April 2018, subject to contracts. A project team comprising Highway Officers and Landscape Architects was working together to undertake feasibility for improvements to The Dingle and associated highway works on Windsor Road/Plassey Street. Cogan Skate Park required further consultation. It was therefore proposed to carry forward £475k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.

Civic Offices Re-wire / Space Project – Reduced Office accommodation – There had been some delays due to additional fire precaution works and the scheme was anticipated to complete in May 2018. It was proposed to carry forward £198k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.

Carbon Management Fund – £387k was ring-fenced within the scheme to match fund the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Strategy Salix Scheme. The application for an interest free loan to Salix would be made imminently and if successful works would commence next financial year. It was therefore proposed to carry forward the £387k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme as a new scheme called “Street Lighting Energy Reduction Strategy”.

Carbon Management Allowances – The advance purchase of Carbon Management Allowances attracted a reduction in cost and was therefore more cost effective. However when purchased in advance, the expenditure had to be classed as capital. Purchases to the sum of £261k would be undertaken this year and it was therefore proposed that the 2017/18 Capital Programme be increased accordingly, funded by a revenue contribution from the Policy budget.

City Deal – The Cardiff Capital Region joint Cabinet was responsible for preparing the Joint Working Agreement (JWA) Business Plan in respect of the wider investment fund. The JWA Business Plan would then be submitted to each of the ten Local Authority partners for approval. At its meeting on 15th January, 2018 joint Cabinet reviewed proposals for the financing of the JWA Business Plan which included £120m of Local Authority funding. The Vale of Glamorgan Council's share of this was £10.17m in the period to 2026/27 as set out below. It was proposed that these current indicative funding proposals were reflected in the Capital Programme. At the time of writing the Cabinet report the final Business

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Plan had not been approved and therefore the figures in the report were indicative only. The development of the Business Plan would be kept under review by the Section 151 Officer and when, approved by all ten Local Authority partners' Councils, the Capital Programme would be amended accordingly.

Proposed Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2022/23

Following consideration of all of the above, the proposed five year Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2022/23 was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Slippage requested in the report had been included in Appendix 1 attached to the report.

Since the Initial Capital Programme Proposals were prepared, a small number of amendments were received and were outlined below.

Llansannor Extension – It was proposed to include a new scheme into the 2018/19 Capital Programme with a budget of £120k, to be funded £85k from Section 106 monies and £35k from the 2018/19 schools asset renewal allocation. Works included an extension of a small teaching room and were anticipated to start on site June 2018 and complete August 2018.

Gwenfo Primary Extension – It was proposed to include a new scheme into the Capital Programme with a budget of £75k, split £5k in 2017/18 and £70k in 2018/19. This scheme would be funded from Section 106 monies. Works would include a classroom extension to increase capacity at the school and were anticipated to start during the Easter School holidays.

Social Services Asset Renewal – Social Services had a £100k asset renewal budget for 2018/19 and it was proposed that £80k of the budget was allocated to the following schemes:

- Hen Goleg Day Centre Fire Alarm £35k
- Hen Goleg Day Centre Lighting Upgrade £20k
- External ground works to Youth Offending and Cartref Porthceri buildings £25k.

Several schemes had been included in Appendix 1 attached to the report which would be funded from Section 106 monies. These included Maes Dyfan Open Space Improvements, North Penarth Open Space Improvements, Colwinston play area, Court Ward park improvements, improving the pedestrian and cycling facilities between St. Joseph's School and Ash Path and sustainable transport improvements at Maendy, St. Athan and Fferm Goch. Schemes to implement Nursery and Early Intervention provision at St. Joseph's, Llansannor Extension, Wick Primary Nursery and Remodel of Building and the Band B schemes also had significant contributions from Section 106 as a result of local developments in the respective areas.

Vehicle Replacement Programme – An amendment to the level of expenditure in the Capital Programme was required, to reflect the continuing need to replace vehicles across the Council. The latest revised budget profile was set out in the

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table below. Vehicles could be funded from the Vehicle Renewals Fund; alternatively the vehicles could be leased or financed by a loan using prudential borrowing. The level of and financing of this expenditure would be reviewed during 2018/19.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Original Expenditure	2,256	1,184	900	900	900
Revised Expenditure	2,256	684	900	900	900

Welsh Government Highway Refurbishment Fund – A road refurbishment scheme of up to £30m across Wales had been announced by Welsh Government and the Vale of Glamorgan Council had been awarded a grant allocation of £1.136m based on an established highway allocation formula. This grant would provide vital new investment for the Council's roads. This allocation was for one year and would be received for 2017/18. It would operate as a capital displacement fund allowing the Council to fund expenditure it had incurred during 2017/18 from the grant which would allow the Council to carry its original funding forward into 2018/19 for further resurfacing works to be carried out. It was proposed that a budget of £1.136m was included in the 2018/19 Capital Programme to be funded from the funds no longer required in 2017/18.

As part of the Initial Revenue Proposals report presented to Cabinet on 20th November, 2017 it was projected that the outturn for Policy for 2017/18 would be a favourable variance of £4m. Cabinet resolved "T H A T a sum of £2m be set aside in the Schools Investment Strategy reserve, funded by the projected underspend on revenue in 2017/18, with further details in the Initial Capital Programme Proposals 2018/19 report" and "T H A T a sum of £2m be set aside in the Council Fund, with its use being considered as part of the final budget proposals for 2018/19".

The Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee had recommended "T H A T in noting the healthy position of the reserves, the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee be requested to recommend to Cabinet that the use of further reserves for resurfacing throughout the Vale of Glamorgan be considered". The Budget Working Group considered options for this funding and it was proposed that £500k be transferred into the Visible Services reserve and used to carry out additional road and pavement resurfacing works in 2018/19.

Energy Conservation Refit Programme – On 4th September, 2017 a report was considered by Cabinet on Refit works for Council Building Assets (Minute C63 refers). Refit Cymru was a Welsh Government promoted scheme that aimed to accelerate the energy efficiency improvement of all public sector buildings in Wales. Refit Cymru gave Welsh public bodies the opportunity to use a UK framework comprising 16 contractors to undertake works to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings. Measures such as energy efficient lighting upgrades, boiler system upgrades and fabric insulation were some of 63 potential measures that could be included within Refit.

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Loans could be made available for Refit phases that included measures with an overall eight year simple payback through the guaranteed energy savings. It was the appointed contractor that guaranteed the savings, over the loan term. The monitoring and verification report that they provided alongside their saving predictions specified an agreed methodology for how the savings were going to be measured. If there was an under performance then the contractor would make payments to the Council against the guarantee. The loans had to be repaid by the Council through the savings over what could be up to a maximum term of ten years. The costs of the Refit works would be resourced through interest free invest to save loans from the Welsh Government. The loans would be repaid through the guaranteed savings resulting from the installed measures. Refit works would be carried out in phases, and for each phase a loan would be bid for from Welsh Government. At the present time the cost of the first phase was unknown therefore delegated authority had been requested within this report to increase the Capital Programme as and when the information became available.

Carbon Management Fund – The Carbon Management Fund Scheme was an ongoing scheme to assist with the Council's energy reduction measures. To enable these works to continue, it was proposed that a budget of £200k be included in the 2018/19 Capital Programme. This would be funded from the Energy Management Fund Reserve.

Delivering Well Being

The Capital Programme was set having regard to the Council's corporate priorities, which were included in the Corporate Plan through the 4 well-being outcomes which were:

- An Inclusive and Safe Vale
- An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale
- An Aspirational and Culturally Vibrant Vale
- An Active and Healthy Vale.

These outcomes demonstrated the Council's commitment to the Well-being of Future Generations Act which aimed to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales and ensured that the needs of the present were met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own need. Examples were:

Continued investment in housing through the Housing Improvement Programme to maintain the Welsh Housing Quality Standard and plans for new build and environment and regeneration programmes:

- Investing in the introduction of LED street lighting would bring environmental benefits;
- Further investment in schools through the School Investment Programme with Band A substantially complete and future development under Band B anticipated to commence in 2019/20;
- Additional funding being provided in 2018/19 through to 2022/23 for Disabled Facilities grants; and

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- Investment in the Leisure Centres to encourage more use and activity.

In developing the Corporate Plan, the Council had reflected on the way it worked and had stated five principles it would follow. These budget proposals reflected the new approach to working. The five ways of working were:

Looking to the long term – The capital proposals were a means of planning for the future and takes a strategic approach to ensure services were sustainable and that future need and demand for services was understood;

Taking an integrated approach – The capital proposals highlighted and encouraged ways of working with partners as it utilised funding received from various sources to deliver schemes such as Welsh Government and Section 106 funding;

Involving the population in decisions – As part of the budget proposal process there had been engagement with residents, customers and partners;

Working in a collaborative way – The capital proposals recognised that more could be achieved and better services could be provided by collaboration and it encouraged the a way of working in the future which included providing funding to work with local communities; and

Understanding the root cause of issues and preventing them – The capital budget setting process was proactive and allowed an understanding of the financial position so that issues could be tackled at the source.

Financial Strategy

In previous Capital proposals a number of pressures had been identified that would need to be subject to ongoing review and management as follows:

Capital Budget Pressure	Mitigating Action Taken
The possibility of increased demands upon flooding, coastal protection and the environment generally (including an accelerated deterioration of the highways infrastructure).	Recurring sums had been set aside to fund annual works for flood and coastal protection. Recurring sums had also been set aside for resurfacing. An additional sum of £500k was to be set aside from the projected 2017/18 underspend into the Visible Services Reserve to assist with the pressures in these areas.
The general shortfall of funding available to address the Council's asset renewal requirements.	Rationalisation of accommodation should assist with this pressure as it would minimise the number of properties with Asset Renewal requirements. The asset renewal budget for schools was £965k in 2018/19 but dropped to £550k in 2019/20. In the 2018/19 to 2022/23 capital proposals a recurrent £100k for Social Services asset renewal was allocated. Any underspends against these budgets should be reported and would be

	ring-fenced for future asset renewal requirements against the service's assets.
The Council's ambitions for further regeneration and how they could be realised.	Regeneration was a central theme of the Capital Programme. The Council had committed to a recurring sum for Regeneration of £300k within the Capital Programme.
The continued expansion over time of the Schools Investment Programme.	Band B Schemes for the School Investment Strategy had been included in the Capital Programme. Welsh Government had confirmed that Band B would commence in 2019/20. It was estimated that the cost of Band B would be in the region of £142.417m and that the Welsh Government grant intervention rate would be 50%, the intervention rate for Faith schools would be 85%.
Funding of Renewal Areas to address housing, social and environmental problems in the light of reduced grant availability.	The Welsh Government renewal area grant came to an end in March 2017. The Council had allocated in the Capital Programme a sum of £300k in 2018/19 and 2019/20 to Housing Regeneration and this could be used as match funding for any potential future sources of Welsh Government funding.

School Investment Programme

The 21st Century Schools Programme was the Welsh Government's funding initiative for investment in schools. The first tranche of schemes under the Band A funding were submitted prior to November 2011. Band A schemes ran between 2013/14 and 2018/19. Band B schemes were expected to commence in 2019/20.

The schemes included under the Band A submission for construction between 2013/14 and 2018/19 were as follows: Ysgol Nant Talwg, Ysgol Dewi Sant, Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant and Oakfield, Colcot, Llantwit Learning Community and Romilly Primary School. The Ysgol Nant Talwg, Ysgol Dewi Sant, Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant and Oakfield schemes were now complete. The tenders for the Romilly Primary School scheme were in the process of being evaluated and Llantwit Learning Community was complete, except for minor snagging items and grass seeding and planting which would take place at Easter 2018.

Band B Schemes were expected to commence in 2019/20 and in December 2014 the Council submitted proposals for a number of schemes to Welsh Government. During 2016/17 reports were taken to Cabinet regarding two key schemes to be progressed under Band B, namely, a proposal to establish new Mixed Sex Secondary Schools in Barry and a proposal to increase Welsh Medium Secondary School Places.

At the end of July 2017 the Council had to submit a Strategic Outline Programme to Welsh Government for Band B. Based on latest indications, it had been

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advised that 50% funding would be available from Welsh Government to fund non Faith school schemes and 85% funding would be available for Faith school schemes.

On 6th December, 2017 the Council received an approval in principal letter for Band B with an estimated programme envelope cost of £142.4m, subject to the approval of individual project business cases. A report was presented to Cabinet on 22nd January, 2018 (Minute C199 refers) to seek Cabinet approval to progress the proposed Band B phase of the 21st Century Schools Programme subject to the approval of the final Capital Programme 2018/19 by Full Council. A detailed business case would be required for each scheme contained in the Band B Programme.

Band B schemes were included in the Initial Budget Proposals however it was proposed that Band B schemes were re-profiled as shown in the table below and were included in Appendix 1 attached to the report:

Band B Schemes	2017/18*	2018/19*	2019/20*	2020/21*	2021/22*	2022/23*	2023/24*	Total*
Barry Comprehensive & Bryn Hafren Comprehensive	50	315	19,635	20,000	8,840	0	0	48,840
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg	50	518	11,115	9,740	0	0	0	21,423
Barry Waterfront	0	23	3,977	3,417	0	0	0	7,417
Primary Provision in the Western Vale	0	19	2,311	1,855	0	0	0	4,185
Cowbridge Primary Provision	0	0	0	4,000	4,417	1,430	0	9,847
St David's Primary School	0	4	348	3,833	0	0	0	4,185
St Nicholas	0	0	0	0	515	2,183	0	2,698
St Helen's/St Richard Gwyn	0	0	0	0	3,857	16,000	12,000	31,857
Penarth Cluster - Review Primary Provision to include Cosmeston	0	0	0	0	0	2,478	6,761	9,239
Review Nursery Provision	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,726	2,726
Total	100	879	37,386	42,845	17,629	22,091	21,487	142,417

Funding for the above proposals were set out below:

Funding	£000
Welsh Government Grant	83,823
Section 106	18,211
Borrowing Pending Capital Receipts	3,982
Capital Receipts	11,496
General Capital Funding	5,430
Reserves and Revenue Contribution	13,488
Prudential Borrowing	5,987

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Total	142,417
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The total allocation for Victorian Schools in 2018/19 was £1.438m to support ongoing works across 21 Victorian Schools to address the existing issues with lath and plaster and masonry deterioration. These works were expected to be completed during 2018/19.

There was an asset renewal budget of £0.965m in 2018/19. From 2019/20 the asset renewal budget would reduce to £550k due to increasing constraints on resources due to the funding of the 21st Century Schools Band B Programme. This also allowed for a £50k contingency budget each year within the Capital Programme. Education in consultation with Property Services, allocate this budget in year to various schemes including rolling programmes of boiler and toilet renewal.

Appendix 1 attached to the report detailed the planned spend on the Education Capital Programme from 2018/19 to 2022/23 incorporating expenditure under Band A and Band B schemes funded under 21st Century Schools Programme. Gross expenditure totalled £130.484m.

The Education Capital Programme was anticipated to be funded as follows:

By Funding Source	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
General Capital Funding	2,001	2,448	2,204	1,972	956	9,581
Capital Receipts	2,296	3,664	6,905	455	0	13,320
Other Reserves and Revenue Contribution	25	1,066	504	0	0	1,595
School Investment Reserve	467	9,114	685	875	0	11,141
IT Fund	46	200	981	200	200	1,627
Prudential Borrowing	0	0	0	2,000	1,116	3,116
Prudential Borrowing pending capital receipts	0	0	919	774	2,290	3,983
Total Internal Funding	4,835	16,492	12,198	6,276	4,562	44,363
S106 Agreements	1,111	5,078	7,384	2,223	1,549	17,345
Welsh Government Grant	508	17,488	24,070	9,930	16,780	68,776
Total Funding	6,454	39,058	43,652	18,429	22,891	130,484

Housing Improvement Programme

The Welsh Government required all Local Authorities who retained their housing stock to submit an acceptable Housing Business Plan annually that incorporated a detailed financial forecast in the form of a 30 year financial model. The Business Plan was the primary tool for a Local Authority's housing landlord service and includes all assets within the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

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The Housing Business Plan would be reported to Cabinet during March 2018 and would also need to be approved by Council. The Plan would form the basis of the Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) grant application, which was a pivotal financing component for the Housing Improvement Programme.

The MRA for 2018/19 had not yet been announced by the Welsh Government but the assumed budget in Appendix 1 attached to the report remained at £2.779m per annum as received in 2017/18.

The Final Capital Programme Proposals reflected the level of works required to maintain WHQS. It was expected that WHQS would be attained by 31st March, 2018, with ongoing work required to maintain the standard based on component lifecycles. In addition, the proposed Housing Improvement Programme included new build and regeneration work from 2018/2019 going forward.

The budget for the Housing Improvement Programme had been re-profiled since the Initial Capital Proposals report in line with the Housing Business Plan and was shown in Appendix 1 attached to the report. A slippage request of £4.581m had been made as part of the report and was detailed in paragraph 50 of the report. The sources of funding were detailed in the table below.

Funding	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Revenue/Reserves	4,585	5,152	5,540	6,157	6,746
MRA Grant	2,779	2,779	2,779	2,779	2,779
Unsupported Borrowing	12,765	7,756	5,930	2,862	1,096
Total Budget	20,129	15,687	14,249	11,798	10,621

Other Schemes

A sum of £2.986m in 2018/19 and £800k per annum in 2019/20 – 2022/23 was included to address high priority Visible Services assets and infrastructure improvements.

Flood Risk Management funding of £100k per annum was provided in addition to recurring coastal protection funding of £110k per annum. The Llanmaes, Coldbrook and Boverton schemes which were included in the Capital Programme would also enhance flood protection in the area.

A sum of £324k (including slippage from 2017/18) in 2018/19 and £300k from 2019/20-2022/23 had been allocated in relation to the Barry Regeneration Partnership. As well as being used for preparatory work (e.g. site investigations), this may also be applied as match funding to lever additional sources of grant funding.

Funding for Disabled Facilities Grants of £5.750m had been provided in total over the five years.

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T the final budget proposals for the Capital Programme for the years 2018/19 to 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report be approved.

(2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Managing Director and the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, to make additions, deletions or transfers to or from the 2018/19 to 2022/23 Housing Improvement Programme as appropriate.

(3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Managing Director and the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, to make additions, deletions or transfers to or from the 2018/19 to 2022/23 Asset Renewal budgets as appropriate.

(4) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Managing Director and the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, to make additions, deletions or transfers to or from the 2018/19 Victorian Schools budget as appropriate.

(5) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Managing Director and the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, to make additions, deletions or transfers to Section 106 funded schemes subject to Member consultation as required under the existing process.

(6) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Managing Director and the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, to make additions, deletions or transfers to or from the 2018/19 Energy Conservation Refit budget as appropriate.

(7) T H A T the following changes to the 2017/18 and 2018/19 to 2022/23 Capital Programme be approved:

- Band B Preparatory Works Changing Rooms etc. – The carry forward of £210k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.
- St. Joseph's Nursery and Early Intervention Base (EIB) – That the budget for this scheme be re-profiled as set out in paragraph 37 of the report.
- Band A Romilly Primary – That the budget for this scheme be re-profiled as set out in paragraph 38 of the report.
- Victorian Schools – The carry forward of £50k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.
- St. Richard Gwyn R/C School Window Renewal Phase 1 – The carry forward of £95k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.
- Legionella Control – The carry forward £17k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.
- Disabled Access Improvements – The carry forward of £15k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.
- Band B Schemes – That the budget for these schemes be re-profiled as set out in paragraph 84 of the report.

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- Gwenfo Primary Extension – Request to include a new scheme into the Capital Programme with a budget of £75k, split £5k in 2017/18 and £70k in 2018/19, to be funded from s106 monies.
- ICT Infrastructure – The carry forward £370k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.
- Dinas Powys Library Bridge – The carry forward of £170k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.
- Murchfield Access Bridge – The carry forward of £44k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.
- Boverton Flooding – The carry forward of £631k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.
- Cemetery Approach – The carry forward of £198k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.
- Leisure Centre Capital Bids – The carry forward of £185k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme, £10k for Cowbridge Leisure Centre Roofing and £175k for Llantwit Leisure Centre Electrical Works.
- Housing Improvement Programme 2017/18 – The carry forward of £4.581m into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.
- Penarth Pier Pavilion – Remove the £70k scheme from the 2017/18 Capital Programme.
- Tackling Poverty – Request to vire and carry forward £5k to the Barry Regeneration Partnership Project Fund scheme.
- Barry Regeneration Partnership Project Fund – The carry forward of £19k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.
- Five Mile Lane – The carry forward of £1.7m into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.
- Innovation Quarter Regeneration Fund – Reduce the 2017/18 budget by £124k.
- North Penarth Open Space Improvements – The carry forward of £475k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.
- Civic Offices Re-wire / Space Project – Reduced Office accommodation – The carry forward of £198k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme.
- Carbon Management Fund – The carry forward of £387k into the 2018/19 Capital Programme into new scheme called “Street Lighting Energy Reduction Strategy”.
- Carbon Management Allowances – It was requested to increase the 2017/18 Capital Programme by £261k to be funded by a revenue contribution from the Policy budget.
- City Deal – Increase the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 60 of the report.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To set and approve future Capital Programmes to 2022/23.
- (2) To enable the Housing Capital budget to be managed effectively.
- (3) To enable the Asset Renewal budgets to be managed effectively.
- (4) To enable the Victorian Schools budget to be managed effectively.

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- (5) To enable Section 106 schemes to be managed effectively.
- (6) To enable the Energy Conservation Refit budget to be managed effectively.
- (7) To amend the 2017/18 and future years' Capital Programme and to seek approval from Cabinet and Council.

746 FINAL PROPOSALS FOR THE REVENUE BUDGET 2018/19 -

The Leader indicated that the report before Council presented the final proposals for the revenue budget for the financial year 2018/19. The 2018/19 Revenue Budget had been prepared in a climate of ongoing austerity. The initial revenue budget proposals report for 2018/19 was presented to Cabinet on 20th November, 2017 and, subsequently, by all Scrutiny Committees and the Budget Working Group. The budget setting process also included consultation with residents of the Vale of Glamorgan and the budget presented to Council had taken into account the comments received as part of that exercise.

Welsh Government had provided the Council with final figures for next year's settlement which showed a Standards Spending Assessment (SSA) of £222.84m, which represented an adjusted increase of £2.473m over 2017/18. Certain grants had been transferred to Revenue Support Grant (RSG) in 2018/19 which had answered the requests from local government that the money would be better used to meet local needs included in the RSG rather than received via a grant. However, some of these funding streams had been reduced, in fact, when transferred into the RSG; in particular the waste element of the Environment and Sustainable Development Single Revenue Grant and the Minority Ethnic Achievement Grant in Education, which for 2017/18 equated to £239,000 for the Vale of Glamorgan. The details with regard to these grants were contained within the report and the Leader confirmed that dialogue was continuing with Welsh Government in relation to these reductions. These changes had had an impact on the Council's resources going forward to 2018/19.

The Leader stated that during 2018/19 additional pressure would continue to be placed on staffing budgets as a result of the implementation of the National Living Wage, which was an increase of 4.4% from the 2017/18 rate of £7.50. Also a pay award of 2% had been included with a higher percentage being assumed for Scale Point 19 and below. This had required additional funding to be identified from the initial budget proposals.

The proposed budget for 2018/19 had been set in line with the current financial strategy and the summary of the overall position was attached at Appendix C to the report before Council.

The Budget Working Group had reviewed and updated the cost pressures. Those which could not be mitigated or reduced were included within the net gross figures of £8.717m. The breakdown of this sum was shown at Appendix D to the report and also included transfers into the RSG. The savings had also been reviewed by the Budget Working Group. It would not be possible to implement some of the

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larger Reshaping Services savings in full during 2018/19 as they would require further time to be implemented and, therefore, the targets for the Visible Services and Commercial Opportunities, Establishment Review and Digital Strategy projects were being re-profiled over a two to three year period. The 2018/19 proposed savings total £6.298m and details were included at Appendix E to the report. The Leader confirmed that the level of savings would continue to be a challenge for all services in the forthcoming financial year.

The report detailed the proposed budgets for all services for the coming year. With regard to schools, the proposals had taken into account the pressures reported during the current year and the funding available. This budget would continue to fund schools above their Indicator Based Assessment for 2018/19 by £2.98m. The Council had also recently written to the Minister for Education in Welsh Government expressing its grave concerns concerning the funding made available by Welsh Government to Education in this Authority.

With regards to other services, the Administration had been mindful of the pressures facing Social Services as a result of increasing costs in the independent sector and the increasing demand for services to the aging population in the Vale and had therefore provided additional funding for that service.

Account had also been taken of the increased pressure on the Waste Management service and this had been reflected by reducing some of its savings and re-profiling others to enable the service to plan effectively for the changes which had to be made.

As part of the budget setting process, the Council was also required to look at the budget situation for the coming financial years. The report detailed a shortfall of £3.7m and £4.3m in 2019/20 and 2020/21 respectively and the Leader confirmed that work would be ongoing throughout the next year to identify how this shortfall could be met. When Cabinet considered the draft estimates it was reported that there would be a £4m underspend for the current financial year. Of this, £2m was used as part of the funding for 21st Century Schools to show the Council's commitment to that scheme, and the remaining £2m was placed in the Council Fund for consideration as part of the final estimates.

The report detailed the £500,000 to be used to supplement the road resurfacing programme in 2018/19. £500,000 would be placed in the City Deal reserve to assist in funding for this initiative going forward and £258,000 provided to fund part of the overspend in Learning and Skills in the current year. There were no proposals to use the remaining sum to support this year's budget and this would remain in the Council Fund going forward.

The report detailed the Reserves held by the Council, together with the likely draw down of these in coming years. Between 31st March, 2018 and 31st March, 2021 it was estimated that the level of reserves would fall by £28.9m to £35.4m. The details of those reserves were shown in Appendix H to the report.

The impact on Council Tax in 2018/19 of this budget was an increase of 3.9%.

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The Leader concluded by stating that, in summary therefore, the balancing of the budget for 2018/19 had been difficult due to competing pressures faced by the Authority. However, he believed the budget was achievable.

Councillor Neil Moore, Leader of the Labour Group, acknowledged that it remained hard times in terms of setting a budget. He noted that the proposed revenue budget followed on from the previous Administration's recommendations not to use any General Fund reserves for the budget next year. He agreed with that approach as he felt the Fund would very likely be needed to be used.

Councillor Moore did not consider the current Administration to have handled or managed the budgets very well at all and he referred to significant shortfalls in it meeting its savings targets. He referred to the latest finance reports to the end of January 2018 as showing show a failure to deliver £1m of the £4m savings that were agreed to date, with £2.289m being taken from various reserves, plus the planned £700,000 from the General Reserve as planned in the budget last year. That made a total of almost £3m of reserves used this year alone.

Councillor Moore felt it to be ironic that, at previous Council budget setting meetings, the now Leader (when Leader of the Main Opposition Group) had previously stated that his Group would be opposing the budget as they did not believe that the Council Tax increase was acceptable and that the Reshaping Services agenda was not delivering the required savings. He felt the latter to most definitely be the case in terms of the current Administration's handling of the budget.

Councillor Moore noted that the budget proposals included cost pressures of £8.7m, but also required savings of £6.3m, which meant the proposed budget was actually getting more difficult and it would go further into deficit. In real terms, he suggested the Council would have to find an extra £2.419m to balance the books as a result because the cost pressures outweighed the savings. Councillor Moore questioned whether or not the budget proposals were sound and reasonable, particularly in relation to whether or not the savings would be made in 2017/18, bearing in mind there were shortfalls of over £1m on the savings target of £4m. With only 75% of the targets achieved there was no guarantee it would be any different next year or in following years.

Councillor Moore referred to there also being assumptions made to the following years that he considered to be flawed. The report suggested that the Welsh Government funding would only decrease by 1% or £1.5m per year for the following two years, but he felt that was not correct and he questioned why, therefore, the lower 1% reduction had been assumed for 2020/21. If the previous assumptions within the Medium Term Financial Plan of 3% were more accurate, it would mean a further reduction in Welsh Government funding of £3m after next year. It would therefore mean that further savings would need to be found beyond those identified to date.

He alluded to the assumptions for future increases in Council Tax contained within the report and suggested the figures had been adjusted arbitrarily to make the budget more acceptable. In terms of Education, although forced to spend above the Welsh Government's projected spending level IBA, the actual amount had

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been reduced in real terms by £400k when compared to last year's IBA comparison figures. There were also expected returns of £824k from Schools for the year, but no indication where it would come from.

Councillor Moore was pleased to see that Social Services budgets were increased but they were still going to be under pressure

In terms of Environment and Housing, he referred to their substantial savings target for 2017/18 as not being met and he could not see how this would be achieved. Many of the savings had been re-profiled over several years and others had been deleted. He was also extremely concerned about the Cabinet's proposal to move away from co-mingling the Council's recycling service, which could lead to a reduced recycling service, with added costs for new vehicle and associated enforcement difficulties.

Councillor Moore concluded by referring to being gravely concerned about the political management of the budget and ongoing budgets and, as such, he would not be supporting the proposed budget, which he considered to be ill-conceived and flawed.

Councillor Dr. Johnson referred to the need to deliver quality, or at least adequate, services in the areas for which the Council was responsible, whilst also ensuring value for money for residents. That was why he considered it required "exceptional circumstances" to support an above inflation Council Tax rise such as the one being proposed. He would, in due course, be moving an amendment.

He suggested Local Authorities overestimated the amount they required in the financial year and underestimated the amount they would receive. He did recognise the need for the Council to raise Council Tax by some extent. However, he reiterated views he had expressed in previous years regarding the estimated collection rates for Council Tax being significantly exceeded (by an amount similar to, or greater than, the proposed Council tax rise at the time). Last year the estimated Council Tax collection level had been exceeded by £1.6m and the total variance was £4m. Whilst some of that money had been re-profiled into different services, £742,000 had not been used for anything and £500,000 had been put into the City Deal reserve, which was not going to be used for several years at least.

Councillor Dr. Johnson alluded to the Council's reserves. He referred to the amounts actually held in reserves at the end of March 2017 as being around £13m more than the estimated figures given to Council in the comparable budget meeting this time last year. That did not include school balances and the Housing Revenue Account. He questioned, given such discrepancies, how Members could be expected to meaningfully debate a £2.6m increase in Council Tax.

He felt some of the reasons why the Council's budgets were healthier than they might otherwise be was that the cuts to the Revenue Support Grant by Welsh Government had not been as great as had been previously anticipated by the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

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Whilst recognising the problems faced by any ruling Group on the Council, Councillor Dr. Johnson referred to, on the one hand, the Council to be saying how good its services were and, on the other, it being “on the point of ruin” unless Council Tax was raised as proposed.

He referred to the Council as having allocated £1.5m of reserves from the General Fund in 2016 in order to mitigate the effects of Council Tax rises. Last year, it had been £700,000 (with the actual amounts raised being more than £2m and £1.6m respectively).

Councillor Dr. Johnson stated he would not support a Council Tax increase above inflation except in extraordinary circumstances, and he did not consider these to be extraordinary circumstances. As such, Plaid Cymru proposed a Council Tax of 3% in line with CPI inflation.

Councillor Dr Johnson moved the following amendment:

That £603,000 be taken from Reserves, thereby reducing that balance in the overall total accordingly and, consequently, the Council Tax level for Band D would be reduced to £1,176.64, with all other areas rebalanced accordingly as a percentage of that.

Councillor Hodges duly seconded the above amendment. In doing so, he noted (as previously stated during the meeting) that across the aspects of housing that the Council had control over, there was a 3% rise. He also referred to “two significant attacks” upon Council expenditure as set out in the report. Firstly, Universal Credit and, secondly, the potential implications of Britain’s exit from the European Union. He felt that these impacts on residents should not be added to by an above-inflation rise in Council Tax.

Councillor John, Leader of the Llantwit First Independent Group, referred to the current Administration as previously (i.e. whilst in opposition) “electioneering” on the basis of a 0% increase in Council Tax. He suggested that, now they comprised the Administration, they would realise how tough the budget position was. He commented on the reference in the report to Cabinet on job losses and reference to the possibility of services being transferred to Town / Community Council level (whose own charges would, in turn, have to rise). He expressed his concern regarding the direction the Council was taking, as well as referring to the yearly increase in the South Wales Police Authority budget. In concluding, he agreed, however, that he did not consider it feasible to propose an increase any lower than 3.9%.

Councillor Burnett referred to the residents of the Vale of Glamorgan as having repeatedly indicated they did not wish to see cuts to services. On the surface, she considered a proposed increase of 3.9% “to appear reasonable” if it was required to achieve a balanced budget. She was also pleased that comments of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee had been taken into account.

Councillor Burnett referred to the current Administration as having (whilst in opposition) referred to the need for a more radical approach and to previous comments regarding austerity. She suggested it was not possible to “champion”

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austerity and also complain about cuts having to be made. She also alluded to, and questioned previous comments of the current Leader regarding the School Funding formula. Another one of her concerns related to procurement and to the risk of the Council's approach resulting in a move away from contracts being awarded to smaller/local businesses and, instead, to large national / multi-national organisations.

Councillor Burnett stated she had little confidence in the ability of the Administration to deliver the budget and, therefore, felt unable to support it.

Councillor Mahoney expressed his view, that despite references to austerity, all the major political parties supported the provision of a significant amount of Foreign Aid. He felt it to be "sheer irony" that Vale of Glamorgan residents were, in his view, subsidising the provision of aid to scores of other countries.

Councillor Neil Thomas wished to make a plea on behalf of Youth Service Provision, which he considered was being "decimated" under the budget proposals. He considered the Youth Service to play a crucial role and for the cuts proposed to be shortsighted and self-defeating in the longer term. He urged the Administration to provide the level of funding the service required.

At this point, the Mayor asked Councillor Dr. Johnson to reiterate the amended Motion which was under discussion, which he duly did.

Councillor Wilson reiterated the comments of Councillor Thomas in terms of concerns regarding the impact on the Youth Service. He referred to a very limited level of youth facilities in Penarth and he did not wish to see an increase in anti-social behaviour. Councillor Wilson expressed concern regarding the Council's recycling proposals and suggested that, although reference was made to planned consultation regarding the proposals, his view that such consultation should take place before any budget decision was made.

Councillor Neil Moore, Leader of the Labour Group referred to the amendment from the Plaid Cymru Group as not being unexpected. Having opposed such an approach in previous years, he would continue to do so. He alluded to the estimated, and actual, figures for Council Tax collection from previous years. The previous Administration's decision to increase the estimated collection rate to 97.5% had had the effect of reducing the eventual surplus. However, any possibility of a surplus remained, in his view, better than the risk of a deficit. In the event that the impact of Universal Credit turned out to be as anticipated, he suggested that an estimated collection rate of 97.5% may still be inefficient.

The Leader also referred to having expected an amended Motion along the lines proposed. He was firmly of the view that, should a surplus arise in terms of Council Tax collection rates, this was far preferable to a deficit situation. The proposed increase of 3.9% represented the CIP inflation rate.

In terms of Council Tax, the Leader stated that the Council was simply collecting the money it was owed. If it did not do so, it would not be fair on the rest of the residents in the Vale who actually did pay their Council Tax.

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With regard to 3% as being the CPI inflation rate and, therefore, an appropriate figure to raise the Council tax by, the Leader felt that failed to take into account the 0.4% reduction in the Council's funding from Welsh Government which would actually add an additional 1% onto that. He confirmed he would resist the amendment proposed.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment that:

“A change be made on Page 15, Recommendation (2), adding a reference to £603,000 to be taken from the General Reserve and then a knock on effect as a consequence of that on Recommendation (4), to change the amount against the Band D Council Tax from £1,186.92 to £1,176.64, with a recalculation of the other Bands.”

was not carried.

In summing up, prior to a vote taking place on the original substantive Motion, the Leader acknowledged that he had probably been mistaken in supporting Plaid Cymru's proposal last year for a 0% rise in Council Tax.

The Leader referred to times as, indeed, being hard. As such, the Council Fund needed to remain a buffer as it was not known what might arise throughout the year. He acknowledged the shortfall in meeting current savings targets and also that savings were getting ever harder to find. The main reason for current shortfalls was that the targets were very stretching. They had to be, but such stretching targets were, by nature, difficult to achieve and / or sometimes need to be re-profiled.

The budget was getting more difficult, but the Leader was confident that most of the savings would be achieved (or, at least, a long way towards them). Regarding Welsh Government predictions for funding, a 1% reduction for next year had been confirmed. The Council was budgeting on the basis of a further 1% for the year after, but that was simply a “best estimate”.

The Leader referred to the Education budget as having reduced in real terms, which was probably the case, but then so had nearly all the budgets within the Council. However, he was pleased to be able to support Education to virtually £3m over IBA (as was done by the previous Administration).

In terms of Environment and Housing not achieving their savings, he had already commented how stretching the savings were. Most of them had been re-profiled rather than deleted.

Any changes to recycling that might come about would be due to such changes being forced upon the Council by Welsh Government who had basically said there would be no waste management grants coming to the Council if it did not follow their blueprint. That was very disappointing as the Vale has traditionally had one of the best recycling rates in Wales.

Regarding the possibility of outsourcing services, all options for savings would be considered. As far as Council Tax rises were concerned, the Leader hoped they

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could be kept to a reasonable level, allowing the Council to provide the services residents relied upon.

In terms of Council Tax collection rates, the £4m surplus at the end of the year was approximately 2% of the Council's overall budget and the Leader was happy with the position.

Turning to the level of reserves, they did, indeed, fluctuate as they were used when necessary. However, the Leader considered the proposal to use the Council Fund to reduce the level of Council Tax increase as not adding up.

The Leader responded to the reference earlier to job losses and confirmed the Council would do everything possible to keep redundancies to a minimum.

The Leader agreed with references to residents of the Vale not wanting services cut and the Administration was doing its very best to maintain services. He referred to the significant level of savings already made due to austerity in the early years, but like everyone else here, he wished to see the end of austerity. Regarding procurement, he did not want to see it moving away from local suppliers to national suppliers, but, again, it was imperative that the Council looked at procurement to see what savings could be made.

The Council's proposals for the Youth Service were designed to make the service fit for the future, but any comments from the Scrutiny Committees would be taken into account before any decision was made.

In terms of the detail of the report, the purpose of the report was to set out final proposals for Cabinet to consider, before making their recommendations to Council, in respect of the final revenue budget for the financial year 2018/19.

The Council was required under statute to fix the level of Council Tax for 2018/19 by 11th March, 2018.

The proposed budget for 2018/19 had been set in line with the current financial strategy and a summary of the overall position was attached at Appendix C to the report.

Asset rentals were accounting adjustments reflecting charges to services for the use of assets. They did not constitute "real" expenditure and were reversed out and replaced by the cost of capital within Policy. Similarly IAS 19 changes were technical accounting adjustments to the costs of pension contributions, which were reversed out in Policy. Neither of these adjustments were therefore a part of the total expenditure of the Council.

Recharges / Transfers related to movements in charges between internal Council Services and the transfer of functions. Overall there was a neutral impact on the budget.

Budget Adjustments related to the £320k reduction in the use of the Social Services Fund in 2018/19.

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Inflation totalled £3.594m, of which £3.16m related to an allowance for pay awards. Excluding Schools, an amount of £405k had been allocated for non-pay inflation. Not all contracts the Council entered into would have a requirement to be increased year on year by inflation. In view of this, a review of the Council's contracts had been undertaken and it was proposed that this sum was allocated specifically to contribute towards funding inflation where it was a contractual commitment for large contracts. It was therefore proposed that £200k be allocated to Neighbourhood Services for commitments under Waste Management contracts and £205k was allocated to Social Services for Community Care packages.

The Budget Working Group had reviewed and updated the cost pressures. Those which could not be mitigated or reduced were included within the Net Growth figure of £8.717m. The breakdown of this sum was shown at Appendix D attached to the report and also included transfers into the RSG.

The savings had also been reviewed by the Budget Working Group. It would not be possible to implement some of the larger Reshaping Services savings in full during 2018/19 as they would require further time to be implemented and therefore the targets for the Visible Services, the Commercial Opportunities, the Establishment Review and the Digital Strategy projects had been re-profiled over a two to three year period. The 2018/19 savings targets relating to Reshaping Tranche 3 for Commercial Opportunities, Establishment Review and the Digital Strategy were currently shown centrally pending final allocation to individual service areas/projects by 31st March, 2018. Due to the nature of the savings identified it was felt more appropriate that £350k of the Procurement saving should be transferred to the Establishment Review workstream. An additional £100k had been added to the existing £600k Reshaping Corporate Services savings target bringing its total for 2018/19 to £700k. For 2018/19 proposed savings total £6.298m and details were included at Appendix E attached to the report.

As part of the Initial Revenue Proposals report presented to Cabinet on 20th November, 2017 it was projected that the outturn for Policy for 2017/18 would be a favourable variance of £4m. Cabinet resolved " THAT a sum of £2m be set aside in the Schools Investment Strategy reserve, funded by the projected underspend on revenue in 2017/18, with further details in the Initial Capital Programme Proposals 2018/19 report" and "THAT a sum of £2m be set aside in the Council Fund, with its use being considered as part of the final budget proposals for 2018/19".

Options for the use of the £2m funding had been considered by the Budget Working Group. On 16th January, 2018 Mark Drakeford, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, announced an additional £30m of funding across Wales for a capital highways refurbishment scheme. The allocation to the Vale of Glamorgan Council was £1.136m. It was proposed that, in order to continue the much needed investment in the Council's roads, an additional £500k would be transferred into the Visible Services reserve and used to carry out additional road and pavement resurfacing works in the coming year.

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The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal brought together ten Local Authorities and financial support from Welsh and UK Governments to generate significant economic growth and to improve transport and other infrastructure within the Cardiff Capital Region over the next 20 years. The contribution to be made by the Council would be substantial over the coming years and £1.25m had already been set aside in a reserve. It was anticipated that the Council would need to carry out unsupported borrowing to fund our contribution to the programme which would require revenue funding to be identified to support these loans. It was therefore proposed that the reserve be increased by £500k with further funding being identified in future years.

As part of the revenue monitoring report to Cabinet on 22nd January, 2018 (Minute C193 refers), it was agreed that £258k of the projected Learning and Skills overspend would be funded from the £2m set aside in the Council Fund. With the continuation of austerity measures it was becoming increasingly difficult to deliver savings, to balance the budget in future years and to meet any unforeseen cost pressures following agreement of the budget. It was therefore proposed that the remaining balance from the £2m set aside, which was £742k, continued to be held in the Council Fund.

Learning and Skills

	Schools	Strategy, Culture, Comm Learning & Resources	Achievement for All	School Improvement	Directors Office	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Budget 2017/18	82,437	11,797	4,290	1,122	243	99,889
Recharges/Tfrs	370	75	(468)	(10)	(8)	(41)
Changes in Asset Rentals/ IAS 19	0	(316)	(10)	0	0	(326)
Inflation	1,607	77	86	1	5	1,776
Net Growth	868	57	849	0	0	1,774
Savings	(824)	(113)	(85)	(80)	(8)	(1,110)
Budget 2018/19	84,458	11,577	4,662	1,033	232	101,962

A breakdown of the net growth was shown in Appendix D attached to the report. The Education SSA had increased by £2.458m from 2017/18. In light of this and the comments made by the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee, additional funding of £1.774m had been allocated to this service, in addition to £1.776m for inflationary pressures.

During the year it had been reported that there was pressure on the inter-Authority recoupment budget and the out of county placements budget with projected overspends of £403k and £200k respectively. Part of this overspend was being offset by budget underspends within the Directorate and as part of the Final Budget Proposals 2017/18, £200k was set aside in a Schools Placements reserve

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which would be fully utilised during 2017/18. Welsh Government had advised that the Minority Ethnic Achievement Grant (MEAG) would not be issued in 2018/19. This grant had been transferred into the RSG on an all Wales formula basis however it was unclear how much of the allocation had been received by the Vale of Glamorgan and how it compared to the £239k grant received in 2017/18. The Budget Working Group acknowledged the pressures in this area and had allocated recurring funding of £849k to central Education which was to be allocated to specific areas by the Director of Learning and Skills. It had also allocated funding for demographic growth of £868k to Schools.

A breakdown of the savings target was shown in Appendix E attached to the report. Reshaping savings targets were included in 2018/19, £166k of which were to be identified from Additional Learning Needs. Due to the pressures in this area the savings target had now been reallocated to service areas across the Directorate. A savings target of £824k had been allocated to Schools.

The Schools Budget Forum would be consulted before any final decision was made on the split of the funding between Central Education and the Schools. It was recommended that delegated authority be given to the Director of Learning and Skills to determine the split in the light of that consultation.

After the changes above, the Education budget would be substantially above the IBA.

Social Services

	Children & Young People	Adult Services	Resource Mgmt. & Safe-guarding	YOS	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Budget 2017/18	15,124	41,910	267	701	58,002
Recharges/Tfr	13	(103)	37	7	(46)
Adjustments	(168)	553	(65)	0	320
Inflation	83	602	25	20	730
Net Growth	294	4,105	0	0	4,399
Savings	(41)	(342)	(35)	(1)	(419)
Changes in Asset Rentals/IAS 19	(9)	(6)	1	1	(13)
Budget 2018/19	15,296	46,719	230	728	62,973

The latest projected outturn for Social Services in the current financial year indicated an overspend of £1.4m. There remained continuing pressures on the service, particularly in relation to the cost of adult care packages which could outturn this year up to £1.2m over budget and the full year effect of this year's commitments would further increase this figure. The overspend related mainly to domiciliary care packages provided for frail elderly clients. There had also been pressure this year on the Children's Placement budget which was resulting in a

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projected overspend of £200k for Children's Services. This was due to the increasing complexities of the children currently being supported, which resulted in their placement in very high cost units.

A breakdown of the net growth was shown in Appendix D attached to the report. Having regard to the current financial pressures and the comments made as part of the budget consultation and the concerns raised by the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee, the Budget Working Group acknowledged that there were significant issues in this area. Not only was there an increase in the population, but clients were increasingly frail with complex needs. There was a 'knock on' effect from pressures within Health and work was ongoing to ensure integration between the two services. Fees paid to residential and domiciliary providers during 2017/18 was increased by above the level of inflation to allow in part for the National Living Wage. Providers had also requested an above inflation increase in 2018/19, due to the continuing impact of the National Living Wage. The Social Services SSA for 2018/19 had increased by £864k from 2017/18. The Budget Working Group had taken all these factors into account and it was proposed that an additional £2.334m should be included in the budget for Adult Services. At this point, Welsh Government had not announced any change in the maximum weekly charge for non-residential care from the current £70 per week.

The Intermediate Care Fund (ICF) grant would continue to be provided to Health by Welsh Government and the Service would work with Health to ensure that monies were spent in the most cost effective way.

There were a number of grants that were received from Welsh Government in 2017/18 that would be transferred into the RSG from 1st April, 2018 including Independent Living Grant, Social Care Workforce Grant and grants relating to Children's Services. A breakdown of the savings target was shown in Appendix E attached to the report.

During 2012/13, the Social Services Budget Programme was established which outlined a series of savings for future years and provided the required funding for the managed reduction of the budget, via the setting up of the Social Service Fund which had an initial value of £6.209m. The savings programme had continued since that date and during 2018/19 the final £330k from the fund would be utilised.

The Director of Social Services should continue to review the Social Services Budget Plan and take the necessary action to achieve the level of savings required and where possible mitigate the effects of increasing demands on the service.

Environment and Housing

	Neighbour -hood and Transport	Building	Regulatory	Council Fund Housing	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Budget 2017/18	24,755	0	2,166	1,126	28,047
Recharges/Tfr	140	(22)	70	66	254
Adjustments					
Inflation	562	22	0	14	598
Net Growth	1,581	0	0	189	1,770
Savings	(827)	0	0	(12)	(839)
Changes in Asset Rentals/IAS 19	755	0	3	9	767
Budget 2018/19	26,966	0	2,239	1,392	30,597

A breakdown of the net growth was shown in Appendix D attached to the report. During 2018/19 there would be a further reduction in the funding received from WG for Waste Collection and Recycling services. With increasing costs in this sector, pressure was being placed on this service. The Budget Working Group therefore thought it appropriate to fund the projected reduction in grant from Welsh Government of £230k.

A breakdown of the savings target was shown in Appendix E attached to the report. A Reshaping Services savings target of £1.375m had been included for 2018/19, which included the full year effect of the 2017/18 reorganisation saving. It was acknowledged that this was a high target which would be made up of a number of options and would be difficult to achieve in one year. This saving had therefore been re-profiled over a two year period so that £775k was allocated to 2018/19 with the remaining £600k allocated to 2019/20. Due to the pressures in the Waste Management service it was proposed that the Waste Collection savings of £62k for 2018/19 and £63k for 2019/20 were removed from the programme. The Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee requested that a report be produced on the Public Conveniences across the Vale and therefore the saving of £50k for 2018/19 had been removed, at this time, pending a further assessment of the service.

Managing Director and Resources

	Resources	Regen	Develop Mgt	Private Hsing	General Policy	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Budget 2017/18	728	2,091	968	11,003	15,692	30,482
Recharges/Tfr	464	(33)	70	(3)	(665)	(167)
Inflation	393	50	37	10	0	490
Net Growth	35	0	0	0	39	74

Savings	(1,151)	(44)	(10)	(3)	(2,722)	(3,930)
Changes in Asset Rentals/IAS 19	103	19	11	0	(561)	(428)
Budget 2018/19	572	2,083	1,076	11,007	11,783	26,521

A breakdown of the net growth was shown in Appendix D attached to the report. The implementation of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal was beginning to progress. A sum of £39k had been included in the 2018/19 budget to contribute towards regional working in this area. A revised funding requirement of £10k had also been included to contribute towards additional costs of the Coroners service which was run on a regional basis and hosted by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

A breakdown of the savings target was shown in Appendix E attached to the report. As part of the Initial Revenue proposals a target of £150k had been included for ICT. However, with the development of the Digital Strategy and the level of savings to be achieved from its introduction it was decided that this was not the appropriate time to reduce the ICT departmental resources as they would be key to the delivery of the Strategy. An additional savings of £100k had been allocated to the Corporate Reshaping Services target for 2018/19 which was originally £600k and had now been increased to £700k.

Delivering Well Being

In setting the revenue budget, the Council needed to consider its corporate priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan 2016-2020 through the four well-being outcomes which were shown below with examples of how the Council was providing support through the 2018/19 revenue budget.

- An Inclusive and Safe Vale – There had been a transfer into the RSG to support prevention;
- An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale – Funding had been allocated for the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal which would maximise opportunities for economic development and job creation and through the provision of additional funding for waste recycling;
- An Aspirational and Culturally Vibrant Vale – Funding had been provided for schools; and
- An Active and Health Vale – Funding had been provided to support Social Services and collaborative work would continue with Health as part of the ICF grant funding.

These outcomes demonstrated the Council's commitment to the Well-being of Future Generations Act which aimed to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales and ensured that the needs of the present were met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own need. Even with reductions in funding, where practical, the Council would strive to maintain services which contributed to this agenda.

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Financial Strategy for 2019/20 to 2020/21

The 2014/15 final budget proposals were informed by a budget review exercise that included the reappraisal of the Council's financial strategy. Consequently, separate strategies were put in place for Education and Schools, Social Services and all Other Services.

The Budget Working Group had continued to have regard to the continued appropriateness of these strategies given the significant level of savings that now had to be found, the relative size of the Education and Schools and Social Services budgets as a proportion of the Council's net budget requirement and the pressures on the services.

The Council would strive to ensure that the Education and Schools increases should match the overall percentage change in the Council's budget as amended for adjustments to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) and the Council Tax base and that the budget for Education would be the same proportion of the Council's total budget as the Education SSA was to the total SSA where it was feasible to do so. However, this would be dependent on future settlements and would become increasingly difficult as austerity measures continue to be anticipated in future years.

The Budget Working Group considered that the principles applied above to Education and Schools also continue to apply to Social Services. It was proposed that the financial strategy for all Other Services would need to continue. This would require services to manage downwards or meet the bulk of their cost pressures through additional savings. For the purpose of these projections, it had been assumed that the financial strategies set out in the report for Education and Schools and Social Services would continue to be applied.

Welsh Government had provided the Council with indicative settlement figures for 2019/20 which was a reduction of 1%. There was no indication of changes to the settlement past that year. The MTFP was based upon a cash reduction of 3% in both 2019/20 and 2020/21. Each 1% change in AEF affected the Council by approximately £1.5m. It was assumed that the WG indicative reduction of 1% was used for the projections in the report.

Pay and price inflation (excluding schools) was estimated at £3.98m over the two years based upon a 0.5% per annum uplift for non pay inflation and a similar pay award in 2019/20 as for 2018/19. This assumption would be reviewed again when the next iteration of the MTFP would be produced.

In November 2014, Cabinet agreed to commence a Reshaping Services strategy and change programme. This programme was the Council's proactive response to central government's austerity drive that had created a period of unprecedented financial pressure in the public sector. The savings targets set as part of this programme were large and challenging, and required substantial input for their achievement. As detailed by service area above, some of the targets had been re-profiled over a number of years to ensure their successful and considered implementation.

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Cabinet, as part of the initial budget setting process for 2016/17, agreed to the commencement of Tranche 3 of its Reshaping Services programme. Appendix F attached to the report included the proposed savings for 2019/20 and 2020/21, including the Tranche 3 Reshaping Services programme.

Cost pressures for future years had been considered and assessed by the Budget Working Group and totalled £8.3m for 2019/20 and 2020/21. Details were attached at Appendix G attached to the report. This included a possible level of funding for schools which was estimated at £2.6m over the two years and potential pressures on Social Services as a result of increased demographic growth and further increases in the National Living Wage. Any further cost pressures would need to be managed down or mitigated by Services in order to avoid further savings targets being required.

There were currently no plans to use the Council Fund reserve in 2018/19 and onwards to support the revenue budget. After the use of the fund as details above, the balance as at 31st March, 2019 would be £9.351m. However, there was considerable uncertainty on the effects of Britain's exit from the European Union and inflation had started to increase during this year. In addition, after achieving savings over the past years it was becoming increasingly difficult to achieve savings in the short term and they would need a longer lead in time to implement. That being the case, it had to be assumed that the Council Fund could be used to support the budget in the coming years, while at the same time, being mindful that the Section 151 Officer required a balance of £7m to be maintained as a minimum balance for this particular fund.

Assuming a Council Tax increase in each of the two years of 3%, based on CPI for December 2017 and adjustments for 'one-off' items flowing from the 2018/19 budget, the table below showed the projected shortfall for the period. It was emphasised that these projections were based upon information available at the current time and they would be subject to change e.g. changes in AEF. The projection was also based upon the assumed achievement of a high level of savings. The position would be reassessed as part of the MTFP and options for achieving the shortfall in savings would be addressed further.

Financial Projections to 2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Assumed Decrease in AEF (1% and 1%)	1,525	1,510	3,035
Cost Pressures (inc Schools)	4,673	3,654	8,327
Pay and Price Inflation (excl. schools)	1,989	1,991	3,980
Net Savings Targets	(2,920)	(707)	(3,627)
Assumed 3% Gross Council Tax Increase	(2,087)	(2,150)	(4,237)
Adjustment for 'One Off' Items *	330	0	330
(Surplus)/Shortfall in Savings Required	3,510	4,298	7,808

Reserves

Reserves were a way of setting aside funds from budgets in order to provide security against future levels of expenditure and to manage the burden across

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financial years. Funds no longer required may be transferred to the Council Fund and then set aside for other purposes or used to reduce Council Tax.

The Council had always taken a prudent approach with regard to Specific Reserves and used them to mitigate known risks (financial and service) and contingent items, e.g. Insurance Fund. Other Reserves had been established to fund Council priorities, e.g. Visible Services and in particular the Capital Programme, e.g. School Investment Reserve, Project Fund, Building Fund. This was important as the Council had limited capacity to realise sufficient sums from the sale of assets for capital investment. Sums had also been set aside to assist in budget management. The Housing Revenue Account Reserve was ring-fenced to Housing and the majority would be used to fund improvements to the Council's housing stock.

The Council benefited from a reasonable level of reserves, however, they were not inexhaustible and have taken years of careful financial management to develop to their current position. After several years of real term reductions in funding and with the continuation of austerity measures into the foreseeable future, there was reduced contingency in the normal operational Council budgets and the management and use of reserves would become increasingly important to be able to continue to provide services and to mitigate risks, while still trying to deliver corporate priorities.

The level of reserves had to be considered in the context of the financial risk facing the Council over the coming years.

One of the main risks to the Council's financial planning was the uncertainty as to the level of funding to be received from Welsh Government in future years. Welsh Government had indicated a reduction of 1% in 2019/20 with no indication for 2020/21. Projections had therefore been based on the assumed cash reduction in AEF of 1% in both 2019/20 and 2020/21. Each 1% change in AEF affected the Council by approximately £1.5m.

Projecting forward on this basis, there was a gap in funding in the coming years that would need to be identified. Excluding Schools, savings of £16.909m needed to be achieved over the next three years, of which £9.101m had been identified. This figure was extremely challenging and there was significant pressure on services to deliver these existing savings in full and on time. There was a risk of non-achievement of these savings and the ability to identify and implement further savings given the already high level of savings previously delivered by services. Reserves had been set up where possible to facilitate this process e.g. Early Retirement Fund, Reshaping Services Fund.

There were risks in the budget and the most significant of these were set out in the report. The Social Services care packages budget was currently overspending. Even though additional funding had been proposed for 2018/19, further action would need to be undertaken by the Director of Social Services to achieve a balanced budget.

Pay and price inflation was a further risk. From 2019/20 onwards, provision had been made in the budget at a similar rate to 2018/19 for pay, with a targeted

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approach to allocating non pay inflation. The Consumer Price Index had been gradually increasing and for the 12 months to December 2017 rose by 3%. Services would need to manage spending as costs rises.

Details of all specific grants had not yet been finalised and there was a risk that should grants be cut and it was not possible to reduce expenditure correspondingly, the Council could overspend. This risk had to be mitigated by the fact that Services should have in place “exit” plans for any specific grant ceasing and were usually aware of likely developments in the level of grant. In the first place each Service would be expected to fund any shortfall from its revenue budget. There were however some reserves held to cover future grant reductions but these could only be seen as a contingency in the short term e.g. Adult Community Learning and Youth Offending reserves. The payment of redundancy costs, when a grant ceases, was not normally allowed as eligible expenditure to be set against the grant and therefore it was for the Council to set aside funds to cover this eventuality. A Grant Exit Strategy reserve was being held under the Social Services heading to fund such costs if they arise and in the main related to the Flying Start grant.

Legislative changes provided a major risk to the Council. The increase in the National Living Wage would put further pressure on staffing budgets. There was uncertainty for future recycling costs as a result of Article 11 of the Revised Framework Directive which were yet to be confirmed. In addition, the impact of changes to welfare reforms were at present not clear and a reserve was held for this purpose.

There were risks associated with climate change, in particular energy costs and the Council held an Energy Fund to implement energy saving initiatives. The effect of adverse weather conditions increased the cost of running and maintaining the Council’s infrastructure and provision needed to continue to be set aside to fund works over and above that held in the normal operational revenue budget, as covered for instance by the Bad Weather reserve.

It was important to point out that a large proportion of the reserves were held for capital expenditure as well as for revenue purposes. There was a large commitment required for the future development of local schools and for the risks in maintaining aging premises. Also, the Council relied heavily on its IT infrastructure and the Wales Audit Office had recommended that a corporate technology development fund should be held.

The Council also held funds to enable it to fulfil its priorities set out in the Corporate Plan through the four well-being outcomes. The Council had to demonstrate its commitment to the Well-being of Future Generations Act and ensure that the needs of the present were met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own need, thus ensuring that funding was available in the long term through sound financial planning.

As part of the usual Budget process, an examination of the level of reserves was undertaken to ascertain their adequacy and strategy for use. The reserves were examined with a view to their level (i.e. whether the amount held in the fund was sufficient to requirements) and purpose (i.e. whether the need to hold the fund

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was still relevant). The requirement for each specific reserve had also been considered in light of the Council's priorities

There was only one proposed transfer between reserves. The Employment Training reserve was set up to assist with costs associated with the ending of the Employment and Training Services contract (Work Programme). This service would come to an end on 31st March, 2018. Part of the reserve would be used this year; however, it was proposed that any remaining balance be transferred into the Regeneration Fund.

The estimated level of the Council Fund Reserve at 1st April, 2018 was £9.351m with no future use proposed for 2018/19 and onwards.

The Section 151 Officer's view was that the minimum level for the Council Fund Reserve was £7m. This was considered sufficient to cover unforeseen expenditure whilst, in the short term, maintaining a working balance. Unforeseen expenditure could be substantial and several instances could occur in a year. Whilst there was no set requirement for the minimum level for the Council Fund Reserve, some commentators used 5% of the net budget as a guide. For the Vale of Glamorgan this was currently about £11.1m. However, in view of the prudent approach the Council took with regard to Specific Reserves, £7m was considered a reasonable minimum.

The Schools Balances were unspent budgets delegated to individual schools. It was projected that the aggregate nursery, primary and secondary balances would be around £1.7m in surplus at 31st March, 2018.

Attached at Appendix H to the report was a schedule showing the reserves and the anticipated balances at 31st March, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. The Appendix set out the title of the reserve together with its purpose. A summary of the position was set out below and excluded Schools balances and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA):

Summary of Estimated Reserves Projected to 2020/21	Est. Bal. 31/3/2018	Net Movement	Est. Bal. 31/3/2021
	£000	£000	£000
General Reserves	9,351	0	9,351
Specific Reserves :			
- Insurance Fund	2,545	0	2,545
- Capital Reserves	28,281	(17,778)	10,503
- Other Specific Reserves	24,170	(11,145)	13,025
Total Council Fund Reserves(excl. Schools and HRA)	64,347	(28,923)	35,424

It was projected that there would be a large fall (45%) in the level of reserves over the three year period as substantial calls on funds were made. However, these were still deemed to be adequate as known risks were largely covered and the Council Fund Reserve was at a reasonable level, not expected to fall below £7m.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the budget for 2018/19 be fixed at £222.053 million, including a provision of £200,000 for discretionary rate relief to rural shops and post offices and charitable organisations.

(2) T H A T the budgets for 2018/19, as set out in Appendix C attached to the report to Cabinet on 19th February, 2018, and the totals as set out below be approved:

	£000
Schools	84,458
Strategy, Culture, Community Learning & Resources	11,577
Achievement for All	4,662
School Improvement	1,033
Directors Office	232
Children & Young People	15,296
Adult Services	46,719
Resource Mgt & Safeguarding	230
Youth Offending Service	728
Neighbourhood & Transport Services	26,966
Building Services	0
Regulatory Services	2,239
Council Fund Housing	1,392
Resources	572
Regeneration	2,083
Development Management	1,076
Private Housing	11,007
General Policy	11,783
Grand Total	222,053

(3) T H A T the recommendations to Cabinet on 19th February, 2018 regarding Net Growth for 2018/19 as set out in Appendix D attached to the report and Savings for 2018/19, as set out in Appendix E attached to the report, be approved.

(4) T H A T the Council Tax for 2018/19 be set for its own purposes (excluding Police and Town and Community Council precepts) at the following levels:

Band	Council Tax £
A	791.28
B	923.16
C	1,055.04
D	1,186.92

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E	1,450.68
F	1,714.44
G	1,978.20
H	2,373.84
I	2,769.48

(5) T H A T the proposed draft report on Education Budget and Indicator Based Assessment (IBA) attached at Appendix A to the report to Cabinet on 19th February, 2018 be endorsed and the Director of Learning and Skills make arrangements for it to be forwarded to the School Budget Forum.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To set the 2018/19 budget in line with statutory requirements.
- (2) To allocate budgets to services.
- (3) To reduce risk to services and balance the budget.
- (4) To set Council Tax levels for 2018/19.
- (5) In order that the report can be presented to the Schools Budget Forum.

747 VALE OF GLAMORGAN PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD DRAFT WELLBEING PLAN (REF) -

In introducing the report, the Leader advised that the purpose of the report was to seek Council approval of the Public Services Board's draft Wellbeing Plan to enable the Public Services Board to publish the Plan by 4th May as per the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The Public Services Board had agreed four wellbeing objectives which provided a framework for the Plan:

- To enable people to get involved, participate in their local communities and shape local services
- To reduce poverty and tackle inequalities linked to deprivation
- To give children the best start in life
- To protect, enhance and value our environment.

The draft Plan detailed how the Wellbeing Objectives had been set, proposed actions, how the Plan fitted with other partnership plans and strategies and the outcomes the Public Services Board wanted to achieve. The actions in the draft Plan had been discussed at length across the Public Services Board and reflected where partners thought their collective action could add the greatest value in contributing to the seven national wellbeing goals for Wales.

Consultation on the draft Plan had been undertaken and, overall, there was a great deal of support for the Wellbeing Objectives and content of the Plan. In

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order for the Plan to be published in May, each of the partners had to take the Plan through their respective approval mechanisms. The Plan therefore needed to be approved by Council prior to publication in early May.

Cllr. Dr. Johnson suggested that (having seen a number of others) the draft Wellbeing Plan was one of the best and he was very pleased with the objectives that were being set. He would be interested to see how the plan would be scrutinised and implemented over time, as he considered a lot of the ideas to be very well meaning and quite “lofty” (as could be expected).

He referred to the question of alignment between the Plan and other initiatives and strategies that were taking place. One of the issues he alluded to related to consultees and to, for example, the Welsh Language sector aspect.

Given that a key part of the Welsh Government strategy was to achieve 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050 (which was also the same timeframe as the Public Services Board long term goals and one of the key elements to the Future Generation Act) he suggested it had been quite an important omission. He hoped the Leader would report that back to the Public Services Board at its next meeting so the Board could fully consider how they might best engage with Welsh speakers and how they would promote it as part of this Plan going forward.

The Leader confirmed he would convey Councillor Dr. Johnson’s comments to the Public Services Board.

RESOLVED – T H A T the Draft Wellbeing Plan be approved.

Reason for decision

To enable the Public Services Board to publish the Plan by 4th May, 2018 in accordance with the requirements of the Wellbeing and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

748 COUNCIL TAX 2018/19 –

The Leader referred Members to the revised version of the information circulated with the original agenda, as tabled at the meeting. This followed consideration of the matter by Barry Town Council at its meeting on 26th February, 2018. The revised information had also been e-mailed to all Elected Members the previous day.

(1) T H A T it be noted that at its meeting on 4th December, 2017, Cabinet (the Executive) calculated the following amounts for the year 2018/19 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

(a) 58,616 being the amount calculated by Cabinet (the Executive) in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of

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Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995, as amended, as its Council Tax base for the year.

(b) Part of the Council's area

Barry	19,872
Colwinston	353
Cowbridge with Llanblethian	2,562
Dinas Powys	3,638
Ewenny	437
Llancarfan	473
Llandough	941
Llandow	427
Llanfair	374
Llangan	442
Llanmaes	250
Llantwit Major	4,072
Michaelston	229
Penarth	11,356
Pendoylan	345
Penllyn	1,022
Peterston-Super-Ely	553
St. Athan	1,465
St. Brides Major	1,342
St. Donats	192
St. Georges and St. Brides-Super-Ely	236
St. Nicholas and Bonvilston	545
Sully and Lavernock	2,485
Welsh St. Donats	314
Wenvoe	1,348
Wick	459

being the amounts calculated by Cabinet (the Executive), in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as amended, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(2) T H A T the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2018/19 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

- (a) Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (2) (a) to (d) and (2A) of the Act (including Town / Community Council Precepts totaling £2,666,718) **£319,369,770**
- (b) Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3) (a), (aa) and (c), and (3A) of the Act **£94,850,000**

No.

(c)	Amount by which the aggregate at (2)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (2)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.	£224,519,770
(d)	Aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its Council Fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant, its council tax reduction scheme, additional grant or special grant less certain Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Reliefs	£152,280,479
(e)	The amount at (2)(c) above less the amount at (2)(d) above, all divided by the amount at (1)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.	£1,232.41
(f)	Aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.	£2,666,718
(g)	Amount at (2)(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (2)(f) above by the amount at (1)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.	£1,186.92
(h)	<u>Part of the Council's area</u>	<u>£</u>
	Barry	1,239.50
	Colwinston	1,212.42
	Cowbridge with Llanblethian	1,252.72
	Dinas Powys	1,214.26
	Ewenny	1,224.39
	Llancarfan	1,209.29
	Llandough	1,228.02
	Llandow	1,208.70
	Llanfair	1,199.24
	Llangan	1,210.13
	Llanmaes	1,232.52
	Llantwit Major	1,245.12
	Michaelston	1,213.06
	Penarth	1,254.67
	Pendoylan	1,205.18

No.

Penllyn	1,196.75
Peterston-Super-Ely	1,215.85
St. Athan	1,205.92
St. Brides Major	1,206.92
St. Donats	1,202.79
St. Georges and St. Brides-Super-Ely	1,190.10
St. Nicholas and Bonvilston	1,203.61
Sully and Lavernock	1,222.78
Welsh St. Donats	1,203.48
Wenvoe	1,211.22
Wick	1,196.18

*Now confirmed by Barry Town Council following meeting 26th February 2018.

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (2)(g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at (1)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(i) Part of the Council's Area

	Valuation Bands								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Barry	826.33	964.06	1,101.78	1,239.50	1,514.94	1,790.39	2,065.83	2,479.00	2,892.17
Colwinston	808.28	942.99	1,077.71	1,212.42	1,481.85	1,751.27	2,020.70	2,424.84	2,828.98
Cowbridge with Llanblethian	835.15	974.34	1,113.53	1,252.72	1,531.10	1,809.48	2,087.87	2,505.44	2,923.01
Dinas Powys	809.51	944.42	1,079.34	1,214.26	1,484.10	1,753.93	2,023.77	2,428.52	2,833.27
Ewenny	816.26	952.30	1,088.35	1,224.39	1,496.48	1,768.56	2,040.65	2,448.78	2,856.91
Llancarfan	806.19	940.56	1,074.92	1,209.29	1,478.02	1,746.75	2,015.48	2,418.58	2,821.68
Llandough	818.68	955.13	1,091.57	1,228.02	1,500.91	1,773.81	2,046.70	2,456.04	2,865.38
Llandow	805.80	940.10	1,074.40	1,208.70	1,477.30	1,745.90	2,014.50	2,417.40	2,820.30
Llanfair	799.49	932.74	1,065.99	1,199.24	1,465.74	1,732.24	1,998.73	2,398.48	2,798.23
Llangan	806.75	941.21	1,075.67	1,210.13	1,479.05	1,747.97	2,016.88	2,420.26	2,823.64
Llanmaes	821.68	958.63	1,095.57	1,232.52	1,506.41	1,780.31	2,054.20	2,465.04	2,875.88
Llantwit Major	830.08	968.43	1,106.77	1,245.12	1,521.81	1,798.51	2,075.20	2,490.24	2,905.28
Michaelston	808.71	943.49	1,078.28	1,213.06	1,482.63	1,752.20	2,021.77	2,426.12	2,830.47
Penarth	836.45	975.85	1,115.26	1,254.67	1,533.49	1,812.30	2,091.12	2,509.34	2,927.56
Pendoylan	803.45	937.36	1,071.27	1,205.18	1,473.00	1,740.82	2,008.63	2,410.36	2,812.09
Penllyn	797.83	930.81	1,063.78	1,196.75	1,462.69	1,728.64	1,994.58	2,393.50	2,792.42
Peterston-Super-Ely	810.57	945.66	1,080.76	1,215.85	1,486.04	1,756.23	2,026.42	2,431.70	2,836.98
Rhoose	791.28	923.16	1,055.04	1,186.92	1,450.68	1,714.44	1,978.20	2,373.84	2,769.48
St.Athan	803.95	937.94	1,071.93	1,205.92	1,473.90	1,741.88	2,009.87	2,411.84	2,813.81
St.Brides Major	804.61	938.72	1,072.82	1,206.92	1,475.12	1,743.33	2,011.53	2,413.84	2,816.15
St.Donats	801.86	935.50	1,069.15	1,202.79	1,470.08	1,737.36	2,004.65	2,405.58	2,806.51
St.Georges & St.Brides-Super-Ely	793.40	925.63	1,057.87	1,190.10	1,454.57	1,719.03	1,983.50	2,380.20	2,776.90
St.Nicholas and Bonvilston	802.41	936.14	1,069.88	1,203.61	1,471.08	1,738.55	2,006.02	2,407.22	2,808.42
Sully and Lavernock	815.19	951.05	1,086.92	1,222.78	1,494.51	1,766.24	2,037.97	2,445.56	2,853.15
Welsh St.Donats	802.32	936.04	1,069.76	1,203.48	1,470.92	1,738.36	2,005.80	2,406.96	2,808.12
Wenvoe	807.48	942.06	1,076.64	1,211.22	1,480.38	1,749.54	2,018.70	2,422.44	2,826.18
Wick	797.45	930.36	1,063.27	1,196.18	1,462.00	1,727.82	1,993.63	2,392.36	2,791.09

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (2)(g) and (2)(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1/1A) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36 (1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

(3) T H A T it be noted that for the year 2018/19 the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 , for each of the categories of dwellings shown below :-

£	Valuation Bands								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	155.68	181.63	207.57	233.52	285.41	337.31	389.20	467.04	544.88

(4) T H A T, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (2)(i) and (3) above , The Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 , hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2018/2019 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below :-

Part of the Council's Area

£	Valuation Bands								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Barry	982.01	1,145.69	1,309.35	1,473.02	1,800.35	2,127.70	2,455.03	2,946.04	3,437.05
Colwinston	963.96	1,124.62	1,285.28	1,445.94	1,767.26	2,088.58	2,409.90	2,891.88	3,373.86
Cowbridge with Llanblethian	990.83	1,155.97	1,321.10	1,486.24	1,816.51	2,146.79	2,477.07	2,972.48	3,467.89
Dinas Powys	965.19	1,126.05	1,286.91	1,447.78	1,769.51	2,091.24	2,412.97	2,895.56	3,378.15
Ewenny	971.94	1,133.93	1,295.92	1,457.91	1,781.89	2,105.87	2,429.85	2,915.82	3,401.79
Llancarfan	961.87	1,122.19	1,282.49	1,442.81	1,763.43	2,084.06	2,404.68	2,885.62	3,366.56
Llandough	974.36	1,136.76	1,299.14	1,461.54	1,786.32	2,111.12	2,435.90	2,923.08	3,410.26
Llandow	961.48	1,121.73	1,281.97	1,442.22	1,762.71	2,083.21	2,403.70	2,884.44	3,365.18
Llanfair	955.17	1,114.37	1,273.56	1,432.76	1,751.15	2,069.55	2,387.93	2,865.52	3,343.11
Llangan	962.43	1,122.84	1,283.24	1,443.65	1,764.46	2,085.28	2,406.08	2,887.30	3,368.52
Llanmaes	977.36	1,140.26	1,303.14	1,466.04	1,791.82	2,117.62	2,443.40	2,932.08	3,420.76
Llantwit Major	985.76	1,150.06	1,314.34	1,478.64	1,807.22	2,135.82	2,464.40	2,957.28	3,450.16
Michaelston	964.39	1,125.12	1,285.85	1,446.58	1,768.04	2,089.51	2,410.97	2,893.16	3,375.35
Penarth	992.13	1,157.48	1,322.83	1,488.19	1,818.90	2,149.61	2,480.32	2,976.38	3,472.44
Pendoylan	959.13	1,118.99	1,278.84	1,438.70	1,758.41	2,078.13	2,397.83	2,877.40	3,356.97
Penllyn	953.51	1,112.44	1,271.35	1,430.27	1,748.10	2,065.95	2,383.78	2,860.54	3,337.30
Peterston-Super-Ely	966.25	1,127.29	1,288.33	1,449.37	1,771.45	2,093.54	2,415.62	2,898.74	3,381.86
Rhose	946.96	1,104.79	1,262.61	1,420.44	1,736.09	2,051.75	2,367.40	2,840.88	3,314.36
St.Athan	959.63	1,119.57	1,279.50	1,439.44	1,759.31	2,079.19	2,399.07	2,878.88	3,358.69
St.Brides Major	960.29	1,120.35	1,280.39	1,440.44	1,760.53	2,080.64	2,400.73	2,880.88	3,361.03
St.Donats	957.54	1,117.13	1,276.72	1,436.31	1,755.49	2,074.67	2,393.85	2,872.62	3,351.39
St.Georges & St.Brides-Super-Ely	949.08	1,107.26	1,265.44	1,423.62	1,739.98	2,056.34	2,372.70	2,847.24	3,321.78
St.Nicholas and Bonvilston	958.09	1,117.77	1,277.45	1,437.13	1,756.49	2,075.86	2,395.22	2,874.26	3,353.30
Sully and Lavernock	970.87	1,132.68	1,294.49	1,456.30	1,779.92	2,103.55	2,427.17	2,912.60	3,398.03
Welsh St.Donats	958.00	1,117.67	1,277.33	1,437.00	1,756.33	2,075.67	2,395.00	2,874.00	3,353.00
Wenvoe	963.16	1,123.69	1,284.21	1,444.74	1,765.79	2,086.85	2,407.90	2,889.48	3,371.06
Wick	953.13	1,111.99	1,270.84	1,429.70	1,747.41	2,065.13	2,382.83	2,859.40	3,335.97

No.

- (5) T H A T discount for prompt payment of the Council Tax be not granted.
- (6) T H A T the Common Seal be affixed to the said Council Tax.
- (7) T H A T notices of the making of the said Council Taxes signed by the Managing Director be given by advertisement in the local press under Section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

749 TRANSPORT GRANT 2017/18 AND 2018/19 (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the Use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C206, 22nd January, 2018), as set out in Section 14.14 of the Council's Constitution be noted.

Reason for decision

To enable the bids to be submitted to Welsh Government by 26th January, 2018 deadline.

750 STREET LIGHTING ENERGY REDUCTION STRATEGY: SALIX APPLICATION FOR LOAN FUNDING (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the Use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C207, 22nd January, 2018), as set out in Section 14.14 of the Council's Constitution be noted.

Reason for decision

To meet the funding application deadline of 31st January, 2018.

751 REVISED WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY: THE FUTURE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR WASTE AND RECYCLING (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the Use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C235, 19th February, 2018), as set out in Section 14.14 of the Council's Constitution be noted.

Reason for decision

To ensure continuity of recycling services from 1st April, 2018 and to submit a timely Capital Funding bid to Welsh Government.

No.

752 COLDBROOK CATCHMENT FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEME –
UPDATE (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the Use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C242, 19th February, 2018), as set out in Section 14.14 of the Council's Constitution be noted.

Reason for decision

To enable the Council to continue to meet its contractual obligations for funding delivery of the scheme and ensure compliance with the Council's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

753 QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4.18 OF THE COUNCIL'S
CONSTITUTION –

Due notice had been given of the following questions:

(i) **Question from Councillor B.T. Gray**

Could the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport give a statement on how the Council plans to collect increases in kerbside recycling?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport

A detailed report on a revised Waste Management Strategy and the future collection arrangements for waste and recycling was considered by Cabinet on Monday, 19th February, 2018.

Subject to Welsh Government capital funding and the outcome of a comprehensive public consultation exercise, the Council intends to introduce a revised strategy that increases recycling sufficient to meet and exceed the statutory recycling target of 70% by 2024/25.

The new arrangements proposed include a change to source separated dry recycling collections, reducing the amount of contaminated recyclate and also a limit on the number of black bags that can be placed out for collection, driving up the waste elements currently being placed in black bags that can be recycled.

We intend to raise awareness of the recycling options available and the amount of materials generally left in black bags that can be recycled, and we have already started a social media campaign when we are seeking volunteers with various size families to take part in a 'What's in your Bin' experiment.

This will be followed by further educational and support initiatives prior to the black bag restrictions being implemented. We will be seeking the views of the public on what they consider to be the potential problems of the change via our public consultation exercise, which will commence in March 2018.

No.

I note that Councillor Wilson, during the debate on the budget earlier this evening, criticised the fact that the Council was proposing two elements of recycling – kerb-separated and co-mingled. However I feel the next paragraph of my reply will provide, to some extent, an explanation to both Councillors Wilson and Gray.

We know that flats and apartments, or where communal bins stores are located, will be challenging, so initially we intend to keep these on a commingled collection service until a suitable alternative, that effectively separates recycling, can be established.

Supplemental

Councillor Gray stated that, over the Christmas period, residents in his Ward and across Penarth had found that their recycling had not been collected, resulting in streets littered with uncollected kerbside recycling. He asked the Cabinet Member whether he could assure residents of Penarth that this would not occur again.

The Cabinet Member assured Councillor Gray that lessons had been learned regarding the level of resources required to deal with the Christmas period recycling and he gave an assurance that all steps would be taken to try and prevent this from happening in the future.

(ii) Question from Councillor B.T. Gray

Would the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport give a statement on what the Council is doing to prevent parking on pavements which have a detrimental effect on those people using pavements who are visually impaired?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport

The parking of heavy commercial vehicles (HGVs exceeding 7.5 tonnes) on the footway contravenes Section 19 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and can be enforced by a Civil Enforcement Officer. However, no such prohibition exists for pavement parking for smaller vehicles / private cars, outside of London.

Rule 244 of The Highway Code states: "You MUST NOT park partially or wholly on the pavement in London, and should not do so elsewhere unless signs permit it. Parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments and people with prams or pushchairs."

Somewhat paradoxically, it is an offence to drive onto the pavement outside of London, whether with intention to park or not and this is a criminal offence only enforceable by the Police. Currently, the only way that pavement parking can be dealt with in the Vale is under this legislation or legislation governing obstruction and dangerous parking; all of which generally requires the Police to take the necessary action. It is, however, becoming significantly difficult for the Police to take any enforcement action in such cases as the threshold for proving such actions is considerable.

No.

The Council is generally restricted to enforcing areas where there are already defined parking restrictions over the particular stretch of highway identified by road markings (i.e. double or single yellow line, zig zag markings etc.) and supported by an appropriate Traffic Road Order or TRO.

Since March 2017 the Council has been promoting a 'Park Tidy' campaign, utilising social media to encourage drivers to park responsibly and safely. Part of this campaign is aimed at addressing inconsiderate parking, such as parking on pavements and footways, where pedestrian access is subsequently restricted. Members of the public or elected Members are able to follow the links on our website to report such parking incidence and these will be investigated to establish what action can be taken. Further promotion of this campaign is planned in the near future.

My advice is that, should there be specific areas where there are major problems with people parking on the footway, then Members report it to officers and the Council will then consider whether there is a need to paint double yellow lines or place "No Parking on the Pavement" notices which could then be enforced through the Civil Parking Officers.

(iii) **Question from Councillor K.P. Mahoney**

I'm sure that many Vale residents and representatives were, like I, disgusted to discover recently exactly how much Vale of Glamorgan School children are being underfunded per head in their educational pursuits compared to other areas of Wales, due to yet another example of the Welsh Assembly discriminating financially against the population of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Could we be advised as to what measures are being taken by the Vale Cabinet in order to redress this alarming shortfall in funding for our local school children?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Learning and Culture

Let me start by providing you and other members in the Chamber some insight into the scale of the problem.

- The budgeted expenditure per pupil in 2017/18 is at the same level it was in 2012/13. When considering the cost of inflation, and increases in superannuation, in addition to the new apprenticeship levy, there is significantly less funding available per pupil now than there was in 2012.
- The gap between funding levels per pupil in the Vale of Glamorgan and the national average has increased by £163 per pupil. In 2015/16 pupils in the Vale of Glamorgan were funded at £443 below the Welsh average and in 2016/17 Vale of Glamorgan pupils were funded at £606 below the Welsh average.

No.

- The gap between the lowest and highest funded Authorities in terms of funding per pupil has increased each year from 23% in 2014/15 to 27% in 2017/18. This equates to £1,360 per pupil in 2017/18. Surely it is not right that every single pupil in Ceredigion receives £1,360 more per year than a pupil in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- The Vale of Glamorgan Council has funded education services above Indicator Based Assessment since April 2013 and yet funding per pupil remains the lowest across Wales.
- Other Local Authorities have funded Education below IBA and yet pupils in those Authorities still receive higher funding than pupils in the Vale of Glamorgan. This leads us to believe that there is something inherently wrong with the Welsh Government IBA and SSA formulae.

So, what have we done about it?

Over a number of months the Vale of Glamorgan Council, in conjunction with the Vale Schools Budget Forum have sought clarity from Welsh Government on the methodology applied at a national level to Local Authority Indicator Based Assessment (IBA) calculations that result in such apparent inequalities in levels of funding for students across Wales to the detriment of pupils in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Welsh Government state that the aim of the IBA, their method of demonstrating the indicative spending level for education, is to strike a balance between the four principles that underpin the education funding formula: equity, stability, clarity and relevance.

A formula which results in pupils in the Vale of Glamorgan being funded at the lowest level in Wales and one which has seen the gap between the Vale's funding per pupil and the average funding per pupil widen year on year, is anything but equitable, stable, relevant and clear.

The draft revenue budget for 2018/19 funds education at £3 million above IBA but given the continued reduction in local government funding, this is clearly not a sustainable strategy for the future. In view of this we are committed to challenging the continued use of the current formula; aspects of which use data from the 1991 census.

Having not had particularly helpful replies to our various correspondence over recent months and no commitment whatsoever that the inequality in funding would even be looked at let alone addressed, we have taken the unprecedented step of alerting parents about the low level of funding our schools receive. Many parents have already contacted the Cabinet Secretary for Education directly to challenge this inequality and at the start of this week we were aware that almost 200 separate letters or e-mails had been sent to the Cabinet Secretary on the issue although I would say that these are only the ones that we are aware of.

No.

Supplemental

Councillor Mahoney asked whether, since the Council had issued a statement highlighting the gap in funding, any of the five Assembly Members representing the area, or any other national politician, had contacted the Council and whether the Cabinet Member felt that any help from those individuals would assist in addressing the gap in funding.

The Cabinet Member stated the Administration would continue to highlight the impact the unfair funding system had on the Council's schools at every opportunity. This was not just about funding the Vale received through the settlement, but also encompassed specific grants for education and schools, many of which were equally questionable. The Council was currently raising issues around the loss of the Minority Ethnic Achievement Grant, but again, despite a number of requests for information and clarity, answers were not being provided.

An invitation had been extended to all local AMs and MPs to a meeting on Friday, 2nd March, to brief them on the situation and to seek their support in lobbying Welsh Government to carry out a fundamental review of the funding of education and schools in Wales. The Council had received a good response to its invitation, but it was extremely worrying and disappointing to the Council, and no doubt headteachers, governors and parents, that the locally elected Assembly Member for the Vale of Glamorgan constituency had decided not to attend this cross-political, cross-party briefing.

The Cabinet Member also extended an invitation to Group Leaders to attend this meeting so that a unilateral approach could be taken to Welsh Government in claiming this additional funding.

(iv) Question from Councillor Dr. I.J. Johnson

What actions are the Council taking to reduce vacant shop premises, with particular reference to Holton Road?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning

The Council addresses vacancies in retail centres in many ways.

- Its day to day maintenance of the town centre contributes to a healthy retail environment supplemented by, for instance, our marketing and events programmes, including the ice rink last year and the Christmas Market delivered by traders and funded in part by the Council.
- We work closely in partnership with traders in Holton Road, and at their request we are currently trialling the use of under-used taxi bays for additional customer car parking. This was agreed through the Town Centre Forum, which was established to improve communication and inform initiatives.
- The Town Centres Development Officer is in routine contact with traders, assisting with issues as they arise. For instance, a presentation was recently arranged for traders on the benefits and pitfalls of a Business Improvement

No.

District, which could generate additional revenue for promoting and improving the town centre. At the request of traders further information is being gathered by the Council and a further presentation planned.

In respect of investment, the Castleland Renewal Area, which ended in 2017, saw direct Council investment in commercial premises and residential property facelifts in upper Holton Road, and highway/signage improvements. More than £2 million was invested in Holton Road under this programme, with 34 new shop fronts installed, and 6 vacant shops converted to residential use. Some 7 new businesses moved into improved properties. This comprehensive investment programme has transformed the area.

In the main retail centre, the ongoing Holton Road Grant Programme encourages property owners to improve the external fabric of buildings, bring empty shop units back into beneficial use and, improve access to vacant or underutilised upper floors to encourage conversion to residential accommodation. Up to 75% grants are available through this programme. The project involves engagement with local businesses, landlords and property agents. Since the grant programme was launched in 2014 five schemes have been completed - at 157 Holton Road, 1 Regent Street, 86 Holton Road, 50 Holton Road and 80 Holton Road respectively.

As a result of the grant funding, the empty shop units at 86 Holton Road and 80 Holton Road are now occupied by tenants. A further five schemes are currently on-site - at 3 Thompson Street, 51 Holton Road, 12-14 Holton Road, 60 Holton Road and 74 Holton Road. Following the completion of works it is hoped that the empty shop units at 3 Thompson Street, 60 Holton Road and 74 Holton Road will soon be occupied by tenants. Further projects are in the pipeline for the coming year, the Council having recently been successful in securing a further £80 000 in grant from Welsh Government to extend the programme.

Supplemental

Councillor Dr. Johnson, whilst welcoming much of the response, referred to the number of properties surrounding the Holton Road area that had been empty for a considerable time. He asked whether the Cabinet Member would be willing to arrange meetings with Registered Landlords of those properties to identify why some were still empty despite the work going on in the area.

The Cabinet Member indicated he would be more than willing to do so and requested Councillor Johnson's assistance should he feel that he had access to any contacts or assistance.

(v) Question from Councillor Dr. I.J. Johnson

Which transport priorities within the Vale of Glamorgan have the Council identified with the Cardiff Capital Region Transport Authority?

No.

Reply from the Leader

The Head of Service of Neighbourhood Services and Transport advised all Members earlier this month that The Regional Transport Authority is currently consulting on its Draft Outline Regional Transport Strategy which can be viewed on the Council's website.

The closing date for this consultation is **23rd March, 2018.**

This Outline Strategy proposes a way forward in prioritising transport interventions and identifies a number of top priorities for improving GVA for the region and wider afield. Appendix 2 of the Draft Outline Regional Transport Strategy lists a number of schemes which the CCRTA is in the process of developing as a prioritised and fully appraised long-term multi-modal Capital Programme. As a first step, existing rail, bus, highway, park and ride and access proposals have been gathered. These will be reviewed and evaluated against City Deal and Welsh Government targets. In the draft list for review for the Vale of Glamorgan are a number of schemes, including:

- Rail extension to Cardiff Airport
- New Stations at Cardiff Airport, St. Athan, Junction 34
- Bus priority schemes for Penarth to Cardiff and Airport / Barry to Cardiff
- Bus / Rail Interchanges or improvements at Barry, Barry Docks, Barry Island and Penarth
- Active Travel access to rail stations
- A4232 Improvements Making better use
- Junction 34 to Cardiff Airport – improve road, cycle and walking corridors
- St. Athan Northern Access Road.

Finally, it is important to note that the Cardiff Capital Region Cabinet agreed, last week the first Five Year Business Plan for the City Deal. This will be reported to Cabinet on 19th March and I know arrangements are in hand to convene a Special meeting of Council before the end of March so that this Business Plan can be debated.

Supplemental

Councillor Dr. Johnson referred to the Outlying Regional Transport Strategy as published as including some 202 different suggestions in the Vale of Glamorgan. Whilst welcoming many, he considered the Dinas Powys Bypass to be a glaring omission and asked where that fitted within the Regional Transport Strategy and what could be done to ensure that other Council Leaders and Cabinet Members were listening to this Council.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that the preferred transport solution for Dinas Powys had yet to be determined and that Councillor Dr. Johnson would be well aware of the Stage 2 WelTAG process that was ongoing. The consultation process would enable comments to be made regarding the Strategy and for schemes to be suggested for assessment which were not currently included.

No.

Irrespective of the above, the Cabinet Member stated that opportunity had been taken to raise awareness of the Dinas Powys Bypass proposals with colleagues across the Cardiff Capital Region, as had been the case in relation to the need to investigate improved links from Penarth to Cardiff Bay.

(vi) **Question from Councillor Dr. I.J. Johnson**

What potential problems have the Council identified with their proposals for a new approach to waste collection, with particular reference to collecting only two black bags per household per fortnight?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport

We are aware that restricting residual waste is effective for increasing recycling rates. It will, however, have an impact on a number of our residents, particularly those who do not currently recycle.

Our recent surveys showed an average of 3 black bags being placed out for collection every fortnight across all Wards, but it was clear that this figure was affected by some households placing 10 bags or more out for collection. I would refer Councillor Johnson to the answer that I gave to the question from Councillor Gray in relation to awareness raising and education campaign, as well as our approach to flats.

Supplemental

Councillor Dr. Johnson, as a Ward Member for an urban area, considered fly-tipping to be a regular problem. He asked how the Cabinet Member anticipated the impact of a restriction on individual waste collection would affect back lanes, the amount of fly-tipping and associated work that would have to be done to collect the waste.

The Cabinet Member was well aware of the need to ensure raised awareness of the issues. As mentioned earlier, the Council would be running an awareness-raising campaign and he hoped that all Members would assist in trying to convince the electorate to actively participate and recycle.

The Council certainly could not continue with the number of black bags which were currently being destroyed. Enforcement measures would be used where large numbers of black bags were identified as having been dumped. The Council was already taking enforcement measures on fly tipping and the level of enforcement could, no doubt, be increased.

In overall terms, the approach would be more one of gentle persuasion, with prosecution being a final resort. He agreed the Council should urge people to reduce, reuse and recycle. . The Council had to reduce black bag waste (which was currently being used for electricity generation) and increase recycling, but he accepted it would be a difficult job with the recycling industry itself obviously being under stress.

No.

(vii) **Question from Councillor S.T. Wiliam**

Many Vale residents now operate electric vehicles. However, some are reliant on public charging points, and the Vale Council has apparently made little attempt to support the creation of more publicly accessible charging points. What progress has been made on this subject since I last raised this, and the existence of a development fund, in Full Council a year ago?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport

The Council has set up an Electric Vehicles – Project Working Group, which is tasked with identifying potential efficiencies to be derived from the implementation of Electric Vehicles within the Council’s own Fleet and also to look at the infrastructure for publically accessible Electric Vehicle Charging Points, identifying the potential Grants available for assisting with the funding of such points. Whilst there are grants available up to a maximum of £7,500 per unit, rapid charging points and the associated infrastructure can cost in excess of £20,000 to install.

The project team is meeting regularly and is currently progressing with detailed investigations in several areas. This includes reviewing other good practice schemes throughout Wales and work being undertaken on the business case for grant funding. The provision of EV charging in Council car parks (as well as Council offices) has been discussed in detail at the EV Working Group meetings and relevant officers tasked with progressing detailed investigations into various options available.

We are also currently working in partnership with independent technical consultants on developing a new parking strategy for the County. This strategy will set principles for addressing a number of issues, including the Council’s position on the provision of electric vehicle charge points within the Vale. It is anticipated that the work undertaken will also consider the type and level of electric vehicle charging points in specific car parks; in particular, town centre car parks as a potential first phase to ensuring the Vale is fully prepared and ready to encourage the ever increasing use of electric vehicles.

It is hoped that the new parking strategy will be agreed by Cabinet early in the new financial year, with a phased implementation of relevant proposals, including electric vehicle charging points, subject to the necessary approvals and delegated authorities shortly afterwards.

(viii) **Question from Councillor S.T. Wiliam**

In the response to the public question from Mr. Mark Bowen in June 2017, the Cabinet Member referred to ‘opportunities for a Welsh immersion programme’. What progress has been made and what is the timetable for implementing a Welsh immersion programme within the Vale that will assist school-age pupils to transfer into the Welsh medium education system?

No.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Learning and Culture

Thank you for raising this matter. Welsh medium education is a key priority for the Vale of Glamorgan. A great deal of progress has been made in supporting the transition of pupils into Welsh medium education during the current academic year. A system is now in place to allow pupils identified as needing support to attend the Welsh Immersion Centre in Cardiff. These pupils spend up to 12 weeks in the immersion centre, whilst remaining registered at a Welsh medium school in the Vale of Glamorgan.

In addition to this arrangement, the Director of Learning and Skills has secured grant funding to develop capacity in the Welsh medium sector to support pupils with additional learning needs. This Welsh Government funded two year programme will release staff to provide additional support for pupils in school.

Supplemental

Councillor Wiliam sought clarification regarding the timetable for implementing the Welsh Immersion Unit within the Vale of Glamorgan and how many children from the Vale were currently attending the existing facility in Cardiff.

The Cabinet Member, whilst not having exact numbers to hand, indicated he would provide the information. He stated that it was not financially viable to establish a dedicated immersion unit in the Vale of Glamorgan. The Cardiff Centre was very effective and was able to support referrals from the Vale of Glamorgan at present. Rhondda Cynon Taf was currently developing proposals to establish an immersion unit which would be accessed by Bridgend and Merthyr. If established in due course, it could also be utilised by the Vale of Glamorgan, depending on its location. He hoped Councillor Wiliam would appreciate the budget position, given the scale of inequality that existed between the Council's funding levels and that of other Authorities in Wales, as described in his earlier answer earlier to Councillor Mahoney, but he would forward those numbers.

(ix) **Question from Councillor N.P. Hodges**

Recognising the concerns of the wider community over the amount of plastic waste pollution and its adverse effect upon wildlife and our coastline, what actions does the Council plan to take to reduce plastic use by the Council itself and within our supply chain?

Reply from the Leader

The Council recognises its responsibility to procure products and services from sustainable sources and is aware of the need to use environmentally conscious products and in doing so follows the current Welsh Government guidance and principles.

No.

The Council's Procurement Policy and Strategy has recently been reviewed and will be presented to Cabinet in March 2018. The document recognises the requirement to adapt to the changing environment and to quote from the draft:

"Procurement decisions will ensure that regardless of what is bought, the local environment can be safeguarded and also avoid adverse environmental impacts in the supply chain. When purchasing, the Council will make more efficient use of public resources. The Council will strive to meet the challenge of safeguarding and improving both the environment and quality of life without compromising economic growth whilst recognising the potential conflicting tensions that each may have."

The Policy is an aspirational document, but makes the Council responsible for its environmental effects when procuring goods and services.

Supplemental

Councillor Hodges asked whether the Cabinet Member believed that the Council should take a lead in working to reduce plastic use in the Vale of Glamorgan and to encourage traders, businesses and residents to do the same.

The Cabinet Member acknowledged it would be a good idea for the Council to, indeed, take the lead and he would discuss with officers what could be undertaken in the near future.

(x) Question from Miss. A.M. Collins

The Environment Minister has made it clear that she expects an Environmental Impact Assessment to be brought forward as part of the variation of planning for the plant on Barry Waterfront. It is unclear why this was not previously required by Welsh Government at the time of the application being determined by Planning Committee in 2015. Depending on the outcome of the EIA, what options are available to the Planning Committee when it discusses these variations and any discharge of conditions attached to the 2015 application?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning

This question is very similar to a public question that has been received and already answered. However, for completeness, I will reiterate the advice offered in response to that public question.

Following an assessment of amended proposals for the Barry gasification plant, Welsh Government is minded to direct that the planning application should be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment and the Council is currently awaiting the outcome of discussions between Welsh Government and the applicant over the requirement for this.

The Welsh Government has advised that it is not currently minded to detail why it has changed its view in this instance, something I find extremely surprising and the

No.

Council awaits further clarification in this regard. At this stage Welsh Government has invited comments from the applicant prior to issuing a final direction.

The Environmental Impact Assessment procedures are governed by the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2016 and, if required, the applicant for planning permission must provide the required information so the environmental effects of the development can be assessed and stipulate the way in which information should be presented, provide for additional advertising and consultation by the applicant and also require a longer statutory period to determine an application (16 weeks instead of 8).

The requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment does not necessarily mean that any additional environmental information will be required to be submitted to the Council as, in the case of all developments, the Authority should consider the environmental impact.

However, the Regulations do require this information is provided in a particular format known as an Environmental Statement.

With regard to the current applications, if Welsh Government direct an Environmental Impact Assessment is required the Council will, of course, require the applicant to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment and submit an Environmental Statement and a full consultation procedure will be carried out with all relevant statutory consultees prior to any recommendation being made to the Planning Committee. Any subsequent report to the Planning Committee will fully deal with all matters, including the environmental impact of the proposals and it will be for the Planning Committee to make its decision, having full regard to all relevant material considerations, including national guidance and the policies contained within the LDP.

Supplemental

Councillor Collins asked the Cabinet Member whether the Council would be robustly addressing any breaches of planning control that the operator proved to be guilty of, especially in relation to any of the conditions attached to the planning permissions.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that would be the case.

(xi) Question from Councillor P.G. King

Residents of Penarth are becoming increasingly concerned at the potential impact of a future Dinas Powys bypass on the fragile and interdependent road infrastructure in the Penarth, Dinas Powys, Sully and Llandough areas. Will the Cabinet Member ensure that any proposed route does not have a negative impact on the communities of the SE Vale of Glamorgan?

No.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport

The WeITAG Stage 2 Appraisal Report, once completed, will include an Impacts Assessment report for the 3 options under consideration. This will identify any impacts on Dinas Powys and surrounding communities and will be provided to Cabinet for consideration in due course.

Supplemental

Despite certain reports suggesting he was opposed to the Bypass, Councillor King stated that he was not. He asked whether the Cabinet Member agreed that the Transport Strategy was a multi-modal and a wider challenge than any one particular scheme in isolation.

The Cabinet Member recognised that surrounding areas would also be involved (as alluded to in his initial response). Should there be any change of scope to report, that would be reported to Cabinet and, subsequently, the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

(xii) Question from Councillor P.G. King

How does the Cabinet Member proposed to address neighbour disputes if people try to circumvent his new arrangements?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport

I would in part, refer Councillor King to my earlier responses around awareness raising and education.

We would propose to take an educational approach to the proposed recycling and waste changes.

Prior to commencement, effective marketing and promotional material will be used as part of the communication roll out and this will be supported by Welsh Government's 'Waste Resource Action Programme', as the officers involved in this programme have extensive experience of moving Councils to source-separated recycling collection services across Wales and the UK.

Once the service has been rolled out, the recycling collection crews will apply stickers to bags for service infringements. Initially officers will assist residents where waste has been left and knock doors and post letters reminding households of the new arrangements. If this persists further letters will be distributed with offers of support provided. If certain residents can be identified as not complying with the new arrangements and also failing to engage with us we would then send a recycling officer to the house for an educational visit where additional literature will be provided, along with any further equipment required and added participation support. In any investigations concerning waste that may have been inappropriately placed out for collection we can examine the contents of the bag and will use address-related waste to assist in resolving any disputes between neighbours.

No.

I hope you will appreciate we are saying this is not a “heavy approach” to the matter, but one we hope to achieve by education. I would repeat my earlier comment in my reply to Councillor Dr. Johnson in that I hope all Members will play their part in helping residents to adapt to any new proposals.

As a last resort we may have to consider environmental enforcement, but this would only be where all other efforts have failed.

Supplemental

Councillor King asked whether the Cabinet Member considered the Council had the resources for an educational process and timely enforcement.

The Cabinet Member reminded Members that a consultation exercise was to be undertaken and that resources would be determined following that consultation. It was possible that there would be a need identified for additional enforcement officers to assist in preventing fly-tipping.

(xiii) Question from Councillor G.D.D. Carroll

Will the Cabinet Member please confirm what action the Council is taking to combat dog fouling in the Vale of Glamorgan?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport

I took a report to Cabinet on 19th February where authority was granted to go out to public consultation on a range of proposals to introduce Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) under the new Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. This consultation will invite comments on specific areas where dog walking and fouling are of concern and what type of controls could be considered.

The Orders can make dog fouling an offence in all public places within the Vale of Glamorgan. They require (in identified areas) for a person to be in full control of a dog at all times, they could make it an offence when out with a dog not to carry dog fouling bags for the disposal of dog faeces and could allow the creation of “dogs on leads” areas, ban dogs from marked sports pitches and playgrounds and on beaches during the bathing season.

The outcome of the public consultation exercise will be considered by Cabinet later this year, when a decision will be taken whether or not to progress with the Public Space Protection Orders.

Supplemental

Councillor Carroll asked the Cabinet Member whether he could assure him that he would robustly use all measures at his disposal to combat dog fouling in the Vale of Glamorgan.

No.

The Cabinet Member assured Councillor Carroll that all possible action would be taken regarding the issue, which was of great concern to all Members. Whilst many owners were very responsible, unfortunately some people were not.

(xiv) **Question from Councillor Mrs. S.D. Perkes**

As the Biomass site is now reaching on of the most dangerous times, that is commissioning, could the Cabinet Member assure the Councillors and public, that Biomass has adhered to all required safety element and notification periods before it starts testing?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Regulatory and Legal Services

The cleaning processes that are currently being undertaken on the site are being closely monitored by the planning enforcement team in conjunction with Shared Regulatory Services and Natural Resources Wales (NRW). Officers met with the Developer and Contractor on site last week, following the concerns raised by the letter that was circulated to local residents.

The developer outlined the process and what works were being undertaken on the site to facilitate that 'pre-commissioning' work. At this juncture the 'pre-commissioning' work is essentially cleaning.

The Developer outlined that the purpose of this high pressure steam cleaning process is to ensure that there are no particles within the various layers and sections of pipework that may interfere with or degrade the turbine prematurely. They walked the site and inspected the buildings and concluded that no part of the plant is currently operational, as this cleaning process is being undertaken in sections through various process sections of pipework in advance of the final turbine / generator.

Having discussed the matter with colleagues in NRW and the Council's own Shared Regulatory Services, it was considered that these works could not be considered as the site being brought into beneficial use for the purposes of planning.

It should be noted that site safety will not be a matter for the Council and will be monitored by NRW when the site is operational, having regard to the permit issued by them and by the Health and Safety Executive in respect of construction and site employee operational safety.

The Environmental Permit includes conditions on the commissioning and testing phase, including a requirement that at least 1 month prior to the commencement of commissioning the operator must provide a written commissioning plan for approval by NRW.

Our specialist officers within Shared Regulatory Services have confirmed with NRW that they are content that the pre-operational conditions set have been complied with, and are content that the proposed commissioning plan will provide a high level of environmental protection.

No.

Supplemental

Councillor Perkes asked the Cabinet Member whether, should the Biomass go into full operation, the Council would be undertaking any monitoring of the pollution levels emitted, in particular around schools and residential homes, where certain sections of the population were vulnerable to emissions. She asked whether the Council would give a commitment to having monitoring equipment on high risk vulnerable sites in order that the Council and the Vale population could independently monitor pollution levels.

The Cabinet Member wholeheartedly supported that what Councillor Perkes was suggesting should be done, but it would be a matter for officers in the Shared Regulatory Services to decide on the positions and the points at which such monitoring equipment would be placed. They were the people the Council was relying on, employed jointly with Bridgend and Cardiff City Councils, and they had the expertise. They were monitoring at the moment and would continue to do so.

(xv) Question from Councillor L. Burnett

What is the total planned investment of the Vale of Glamorgan Council in the School Investment Programme 2017/18 – 2022/23 and what are the comparative contributions of Welsh Government and local developers through S106 contributions?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Learning and Culture

For the period 2017 to 2023 the following investment is planned:

Band A of the Schools Investment Programme has a remaining investment of £3.795m which consists of £1.794m Vale funding, £1.705m Welsh Government funding made up of grant and Local Government Borrowing Initiative and £296k Section 106 funding.

Band B of the School Investment Programme has a total investment value for this period of £142.4m. This consists of Welsh Government funding of £83.8m, £18.2m Section 106 funding and the remaining £ 40.4m is made up of capital receipts, reserves and prudential borrowing.

This represents a significant level of investment into school buildings and sites in the Vale of Glamorgan.

What we need next is more equity, stability, clarity and relevance from Welsh Government in the way they apply their approach to revenue funding across Wales. I'm sure you will agree that having shiny new buildings is one thing. We also need to have enough revenue funding to appoint, develop and support our teachers, invest in IT and text books and deliver a wide and varied curriculum in our new school buildings.

No.

Supplemental

Councillor Burnett felt that the “much publicised” major investment in schools (alluding to £142m over the next seven years) failed to point out that the Council’s internal investment was actually being reduced by about £300,000. Suggesting the overall increase was completely down to Welsh Government investment and increasing Section 106 monies, she asked the Cabinet Member whether he could provide clarification. She suggested that, from her perspective, the conversation with Welsh Government regarding the Schools Funding Formula was actually commenced by the former Leader and herself whilst in the previous Administration.

The Cabinet Member indicated he would discuss with his officers the comments made by Councillor Burnett in order to either validate, or dispute, her statements.

(xvi) Question from Councillor L. Burnett

What is the current completion date for the upgrade of the Penarth Leisure Centre changing rooms?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health and Leisure

Tenders for the refurbishment work at both Penarth and Barry Leisure Centres are due to be returned in March, with preliminary pre-contract works due to start in April. The main contract works in Penarth are programmed to commence in May 2018, with completion programmed by Friday 25th January 2019.

Supplemental

Referring to significant concern of users of the Leisure Centre that funding initially allocated in a Cabinet report in September 2016 had still not been utilised, Councillor Burnett asked the Cabinet Member whether members would be offered a refund given they would be very upset when they found out changing rooms were not to be provided for a further year.

The Cabinet Member accepted that there had been a delay. He agreed with the date quoted as to when the funding had been approved. His understanding was that it was firstly built into the Capital Programme for 2017/18, it was then brought forward for the year 2016/17, so obviously it should have been completed before May of last year, when he had not been the Cabinet Member and the Conservative Administration was not in place.

He understood the problem (which he assumed the previous Administration would have been aware of) to have been that it was necessary to appoint external consultants because of, at that time, the lack of officer time and availability in the Property Section.

The actual appointment of those consultants did not take place during the year 2016/17; in fact they were not appointed until 31st May 2017 and 25th July 2017.

No.

As he had said previously, the work was scheduled for completion by January of 2019. Tenders were due to be returned this coming month, March and the work is scheduled to start in April or May. He considered it to be unfortunate that there had been delays but pointed out that the slippage had largely occurred during the previous Administration.

(xvii) **Question from Councillor M.J.G. Morgan**

The Council and other agencies are reviewing proposals for improving the access from Junction 34 to Sycamore Cross on the A48. Can the Council assure the residents of the villages of Pendoylan, Welsh St. Donat's and Peterston-Super-Ely that careful consideration will be given to the effects of any proposed works on those communities and that any proposals will address the existing problems of traffic congestion on the local roads serving those communities?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport

The Council has engaged Arcadis Consulting Limited to carry out a WelTAG Stage 2 appraisal of the M4 Junction 34 to A48 highway route. These works include the preparation of an Outline Business Case of four possible options which have been agreed by the Cabinet:

At the end of the WelTAG Stage 2 process, the draft report will determine whether there are any transport options that can address the identified problem/s and can be delivered, and select a preferred option to be taken forward to the Full Business Case WelTAG Stage 3.

As part of the Stage 1 WelTAG process, members of the public identified a number of issues relating to the traffic congestion on the surrounding roads that directly affect the local communities. Therefore, the Consultants are taking that public concern into account when preparing their possible transport solutions and are seeking to address these concerns as part of the ongoing appraisal work.

I very much recognise the importance of consultation, communication and stakeholder engagement in this process. Therefore, there will be stakeholder sessions undertaken once the Consultants have prepared draft proposals. This will assist the public in keeping apprised of the recommended solutions and options being recommended to take forward to WelTAG Stage Three. The stakeholder sessions are due to commence next month

754 EMPLOYEE PAY POLICY 2018/19 (REF) –

All officers other than Jeff Rees, Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer left the meeting prior to consideration of this agenda item.

The Council had a statutory responsibility under the Localism Act 2011 to prepare a pay policy statement for the new financial year 2018/19. The statement needed to be approved and published by 31st March, 2018.

No.

The Pay Policy had been incrementally developed over recent years to reflect Welsh Government guidance, changes in statutory regulations, changes in the Council's management structure, national pay awards and the emerging provision of the National Living Wage. It now reflected changes the Council had made over recent months in relation to the removal of the first two points of the Council's Single Status Pay Structure as agreed by Cabinet on 9th October, 2017 and minor changes to the payment arrangements for Chief Officers as part of the Chief Officer Appraisal Scheme as agreed by Cabinet on 13th November, 2017.

The Leader asked Members to note at paragraph 10 that there would be additional revisions during the forthcoming year, specifically to reflect the following.

Firstly, the potential of significant changes necessary because of the 2018/19 pay negotiations for NJC green book employees and the effect of such negotiations on both the national and local pay base line. Those pay negotiations have not yet been concluded. Secondly, the impact of the UK Government's Enterprise Act 2016 and, specifically, in relation to any restrictions on Local Authorities' severance payments. Finally, any changes to election payments as a result of the Welsh Government's electoral reform review.

Members would be kept informed of the evolving detail involved in relevant issues and any necessary changes that were being incorporated within future Pay Policy statements.

RESOLVED – T H A T the Employee Pay Policy 2018/19 be approved.

Reason for decision

To respond to the legal requirement under the Localism Act and to provide openness and accountability in how the Council rewards its staff.