

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 06 March 2025
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	All Scrutiny Committees
Report Title:	Draft Budget 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/26 to 2029/30
Purpose of Report:	To put forward draft proposals for the Budget 2024/25 and outline the financial position across the medium term 2024/25 to 2028/29 for approval by Full Council on 10th March 2025
Report Owner:	Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources
Responsible Officer:	Director of Corporate Resources
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Cabinet Members and Strategic Leadership Team
Policy Framework:	Approving the 2025/26 Budget is a Council function
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report sets out the Council’s Draft Budget 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/26 to 2029/30 to go forward to Council for approval on 10th March 2025. The Council’s approach to managing its finances and the setting of its budget is set out in the Financial Strategy agreed in July 2024 with the key consideration being the delivery of the Council’s objectives set out in its Corporate Plan. The new 2025-30 Corporate Plan is being developed alongside the budget and is key to the allocation of resources. The Council undertook a four week consultation period on its Budget for Consultation with the proposals also being considered by the Council’s scrutiny committees with Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee tasked with reporting back to Cabinet. There were 770 responses which was a marked increase in responses compared to previous years. The Council, in common with Councils across both Wales and England is experiencing significant financial pressures across social care – both Children’s and Adults, School finances especially Additional Learning Needs (ALN) as well as pay awards and Home to School Transport. The new Westminster Government has recognised these pressures and there was a favourable UK Budget at the end of October 2024 followed by a similarly favourable Provisional Settlement of 3.3% on 10th December 2024. However, the additional resources whilst appreciated fell well short of what is needed to sustain essential local services. The Settlement skews resources in favour of 	

Schools and Social Care and is also underpinned by a notional increase of 10.4% increase in Council Tax, for the Vale of Glamorgan which amounts to an assumed increase in Council Tax revenues of £10.896M.

- The Council has lobbied for an increase in the overall level of support and a funded floor to ensure that there were fairer allocations at a county level across Wales as well as requesting a review of the Schools and Social Care formulas.
- The Final Settlement was received on Thursday 20 February. There was positive news with a funded floor at 3.8% and additional funding of £30M nationally for the Social Care Pathways of Care Transitional Grant and a Highway Management Local Government Borrowing Incentive scheme generating spending power of £120M through revenue funding of £10M to support the financing costs.
- Future prospects remain low with the poorly performing UK economy likely to be a drag on settlements at the same or lesser level in future years.
- The Council continues to be the second lowest funded Council per head of population in Wales and spends significantly above its notional formula needs assessment for Education and Social Services given the continued pressures in these services. The Council nevertheless has the third lowest spend per head of all of the Welsh Counties and spend for all services with the exception of Education is benchmarked at low or very low. Council Tax is also low with the 2024/25 Council Tax at 5.63% below the Welsh Average.
- An increasing proportion of the Council's resources year on year are taken up by Schools and Social Care, 68% in 2023/24, 70% in 2024/25 and rising to 71% in the draft proposals for 2025/26.
- For 2025/26 the Council is faced with financial pressures of £29.007M and these total £83.371M across the medium term. The underlying pressures in 2025/26 were £39.257M and there has been an extensive review to manage these down whilst being mindful of there not being future overspends in those areas where pressures have not been accommodated in these proposals.
- A Council Tax increase of 5.9% is proposed for 2025/26. Whilst the Settlement was better than anticipated it falls well short of the resource required to meet the growing ALN and Social Care demands and the pressure of the NI increases in the Chancellor's budget on externally provided service provision.
- There is a gap of £8.771M in 2025/26 and £37.102M across the five year medium term which will be met from a mix of reshaping and savings initiatives.
- The Council published its Reshaping Prospectus alongside its draft Corporate Plan in October 2024, the approach to how services would be delivered to meet the Corporate Plan objectives. The Reshaping Programme is central to balancing the budget in 2025/26 and across the medium term. In contrast to previous years almost half of the gap is met from reshaping and transformation with the drive towards sustainable finances.
- There is an overarching Equality Impact Assessment in place for the overall budget proposals and individual assessments against all of the reshaping and savings proposals where appropriate, these were also available across the consultation period.
- The initial focus has been on 2025/26, given the size of the challenge but there has been progress on developing programmes of reshaping and transformation across the medium term and the report also sets out the approach to balancing years two to five in the MTFP.

- The report also describes the approach taken to developing the budget proposals and of the continuation of the approach of directing resources in line with the Council's Corporate Plan and protecting services supporting the most vulnerable members of the community. There is, nevertheless an extremely difficult balance to achieve, given the desire to continue to deliver a range of core services alongside escalating costs within Schools and Social Care representing 71% in the final proposals.

	Learning & Skills	Schools	Social Services	Others	Total Pressures
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjusted Original Budget	13,872	119,566	96,276	79,147	308,861
Recharge Adjustment	-819	-169	-178	1,166	0
Total Pressures	1,625	9,716	14,045	3,122	28,507
Use of Reserves	-267	300	0	1,944	1,977
Savings	-512	-1,200	-3,624	-3,436	-8,771
Reverse out Temporary Savings and Other Adjustments	0	0	0	1,000	1,000
Net Funding Increase	27	8,647	10,243	3,796	22,713
% Increase / (Decrease)	0.19%	7.23%	10.64%	4.80%	7.35%
Net Budget 2025/26	13,899	128,213	106,519	82,943	331,574

- The Council's Reserves have been under review and the report sets out an updated position. Reserves continue to be held against statutory obligations, capital commitments, known risks and to supporting reshaping and transformation. There is to be a further review of commitments against reserves post Council and in line with the in year arrangements in place in the current year all spend against reserves will require SLT sign off in 2025/26.
- The s151 Officer is required to assess the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves. This assessment highlights the risks associated with managing social care demand and delivery of the savings programme as well as the significant risk to reserves as schools continue to spend in excess of available resources.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet notes the updated financial position.
2. That Cabinet recommends that Full Council approves a Council Tax increase of 5.9%
3. That Cabinet recommends that Full Council approves the budget for 2025/26.
4. That Cabinet notes the forecasts across the medium term to 2029/30 and the approach to deliver sustainable finances.
5. That Cabinet notes the amendments to Fees & Charges presented for approval in January following further review, consultation and the views of Scrutiny as set out in paragraphs 2.120 to 2.128.
6. That Cabinet notes the realigned reserves which seek to match the risks the Council now faces and also notes the comments of the s151 Officer on the adequacy of reserves and robustness of estimates in paragraphs 2.135 to 2.145.
7. Cabinet notes the ongoing review of reserves focusing on service commitments and spend against all reserves to require prior SLT approval.
8. That Cabinet notes the arrangements put in place to ensure the delivery of the £8.771M savings programme and ensure the management and mitigation of those cost pressures not awarded.
9. That the use of the urgent decision procedure as set out in Section 15.14 of the Council's Constitution be approved in order for the Draft Budget 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/26 to 2029/30 to be considered by Full Council on 10th March 2025.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. It is important for Cabinet to be regularly appraised of the Council's medium term financial position.
2. Setting the annual rate of Council Tax is a key policy decision for Council.
3. Setting a balanced budget is a statutory responsibility and decision for Full Council.
4. Sustainability is one of the fundamental principles of the Financial Strategy.
5. To confirm fees & charges for 2025/26.
6. The review of the reserves was one of the fundamental principles of the Financial Strategy and given that the s151 Officer has a statutory duty to comment on the adequacy of reserves and robustness of estimates.
7. Social Care demand and school spending pose significant risk to the Council's reserves and additional controls are required to protect them to support wider risks and transformation of services.
8. To ensure all savings can be delivered in full for 2025/26 and also that the unawarded cost pressures do not come forward as overspends.

9. To allow the Draft Budget 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/26 to 2029/30 to be referred to Full Council on 10th March 2025 for consideration and approval.

1. Background

1.1 Financial Strategy

- 1.2 The underlying principles are unchanged and underpin the budget proposals described in this report:

- i. **Delivering the Corporate Plan** - aligning resources to Council objectives
- ii. **Focus on Supporting the Most Vulnerable** – these are continuing challenging times with the cost of living crisis impacting on many residents. It is more important than ever within financial restraints to target resources at those services supporting the most vulnerable.
- iii. **Sustainable Finances** – finances need to be sustainable over the medium term.
- iv. **Appropriate Level of Reserves** – reserves need to be at an appropriate level and aligned with the Council’s key risks.
- v. **Generating Local Tax Revenue** – key controllable revenue stream subject to a policy decision.
- vi. **Fees & Charges** – the Council should look to recover all costs in its approach to fees and charges other than where it consciously offers concessions.
- vii. **Collective Responsibility to Manage the Finances** - a key element of excellent track record in managing its finances is the collective ownership of the finances throughout the Council.
- viii. **Accessible and Transparent Finances** - the best decisions are based on having the best information available and the Council will strive to continue to present its finances in a way that makes them accessible and readily understandable.
- ix. **Deliver Best Value** – the Council must utilise its finite resources as efficiently as possible.

- 1.3 The Full Strategy is available at:

[Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2029/30](#)

1.4 Chancellor’s Budget

- 1.5 The first budget of the new Westminster Government was typical of a new Government with a significant change of direction. The Chancellor set out a tax and spend budget to underpin the new Government’s aims of investing in public services finances and stimulating increased economic growth.
- 1.6 There was extensive engagement with the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) in the delivery of the Budget. Inflation is forecasted at marginally in excess of the 2.0% CPI in the first four years of the Parliament. In addition there were some improvements in growth for years one and two in the OBR forecasts but falling

back in later years which are naturally a concern. There is further coverage on the economic outlook in section 2 of the report.

- 1.7** The fiscal stability rule stays in place with a commitment to bring the budget into balance by year five so the Government is not borrowing for day to day spending.
- 1.8** It was very much a tax raising budget with Employer's NI increasing by 1.2% and the threshold reducing from £9,000 down to £5,000. There's an exemption for public bodies but there will nevertheless be a significant impact on the cost of contracted services which will also be impacted by the 6.7% increase in the minimum wage, with the Real Living Wage still to be confirmed. There are also increases in Capital Gains Tax and Inheritance Tax for agricultural property. Also, as much trailed, the VAT exemption for private schools was removed.
- 1.9** There were a number of positives for public expenditure. Of note, all at a UK level, were £2.3Bn for core schools' budgets, £1bn for Special Education Needs and a range of measures for Local Government with at least £1Bn for essential services, £600M for social Care and £230M for Homeless and Rough Sleeping.
- 1.10** The result for Wales was £1.7Bn of consequentials through the Barnett formula. There was positive news for the Council with the £20M Towns Fund monies secured which had been considered at risk and also confirmation of the £20M Levelling Up Funding for the Barry Making Waves project. There is also a further interim year of Shared Prosperity Funding with £900M available across the UK which compares with £400M in 2022/23, £700M in 2023/24 and £1.5Bn in 2024/25.
- 1.11** There is to be a further budget in Spring 2025. There is a Spending Review Planned which will then provide a UK settlement for two years (2026/27 and 2027/28) for revenue and a three year settlement (2026/27 to 2028/29) for Capital. Welsh Government will also be undertaking a spending review, which will likely follow rather than run alongside the UK spending review. The outcomes of these reviews are clearly unknown at present, but they are welcome in terms of supporting financial planning by Local Authorities.
- 1.12** Welsh Government Provisional Settlement
- 1.13** The Welsh Government Settlement was Announced on 10th December with the full details available the following day. There was an increase in Aggregate External Finance (AEF) of £253M or 4.3% on a like for like basis. This comes on top of the additional funding package announced the previous week for the current financial year. Additional support for Local Government pay pressures (£52.3M) and teachers' pay (£18.2M) along with and teachers' pensions (£64M) has been built into the base for 2024/25.
- 1.14** There was a fairly wide range of increases across Wales, the chart below shows the range around the average of 4.3% driven by the funding formula which seeks to distribute resource by need. This is largely a reflection of redistributive effect of the relative size of the taxbase and changes in data, significantly population and pupil numbers.

1.15 The Council submitted a comprehensive response to the consultation on the Provisional Settlement, covering the three key points below:

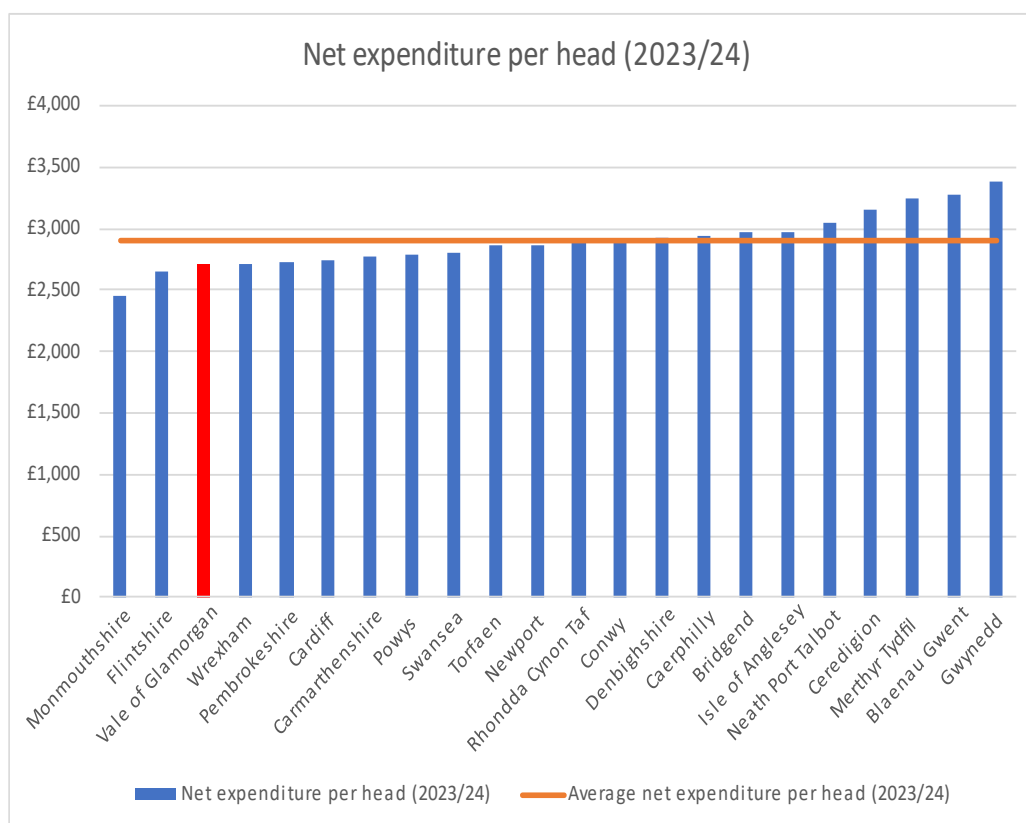
- Whilst better than had been anticipated in the early autumn, the provisional Settlement fell well short of the resources needed to maintain services across Wales. There had been a survey of Welsh counties coordinated by the Welsh Local Government Association in September which identified common pressures against schools, Additional Learning Needs Social Care, and Home to School Transport in the order of £599M even before factoring in the impact of increase employer national Insurance Contributions announced in the Chancellor's budget at the end of October. There is a need for further resource to come forward in the final Settlement.
- Despite common pressures there was a huge disparity in settlements at a council by council level, Newport receiving a 5.6% at the top end of the range with Monmouthshire at the bottom at 2.6%. The Vale's increase was 3.3% and the consultation response called for a funded floor at 4.3%.
- Finally, there were increases in the SSAs for Schools and Social Care broadly in line with the rest of Wales. However, the basis of the underlying allocations for the Vale of Glamorgan are understated and the SSA model flawed and also reliant on out of date data sets. Free School Meals drives upwards of 9% of the Schools formula and is used as a proxy for allocating ALN for which there is no correlation. The Social Care formula wasn't satisfactorily amended to reflect the demography of the Vale of Glamorgan following introduction of the care cap some years ago. The Vale has asked for the formula to be reviewed.

1.16 The Final Welsh Government Settlement was made on Thursday 20th February and is detailed in full in section 2 of the report.

1.17 Council Spending

1.18 The Vale of Glamorgan is a low spending and low taxing Council and is the third lowest funded per head of population of the 22 Welsh Counties. In 2023/24 its net expenditure per head of population was £2,709. Monmouthshire was the lowest at £2,452, Gwynedd the highest at £3,379 and the average being £2,900.

1.19 Chart 1 – Net Expenditure per Head of Population



1.20 The Council has undertaken detailed benchmarking as part of its budget setting continuing with work commenced when setting the budget for the current year. As well as there being a low spend at an overall level this applies to all most all of the Council’s service where they are typically bottom quartile for spend.

1.21 Table 1 – Service Comparators 2023/24

Service	Unit	Wales Max	Wales Min	Vale	Wales Context
		£	£	£	
Adult Social Care	18 +	977.30	502.88	682.80	Low
Central	Head	179.27	25.05	41.48	Very Low
Children’s & Families	0-17	2,422.39	1,240.46	1,322.68	Very Low
Cultural & Related	Head	119.31	42.34	54.53	Very Low
Education	0-18	6,715.54	4,800.85	5,824.22	High
Environmental & Regulatory	Head	231.58	113.88	135.17	Very Low
Highways & Transport	Head	165.03	66.13	66.13	Very Low

Housing	Head	399.21	229.20	278.67	Average
Planning	Head	289.07	4.24	37.50	Average
Total		3,378.68	2,451.82	2,709.21	Very Low

1.22 The Council delivers a very wide range of services (as set out below along with the net spend and proportion of the overall Council spend). The two largest spend areas Schools and Social Care accounted for 70% of the Council's spend in 2024/25, up from 68% the previous year and modelling of the current budget proposals below indicates that this proportion will grow still further in 2025/26 and across the medium term. There is little flexibility in much of the Council's spend with, for example, the Council Tax Reduction Scheme of £11.492M being a national scheme (albeit far from fully funded, nationally) and the Fire Levy of £8.311M being a levy set by South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

1.23 Table 2 – Net Expenditure 2024/25

Service	Description	Net Spend 2024/25	% of Base Budget
		£000	%
Schools	Delegated spend for primary, secondary and Special schools including Additional Learning Needs Provision	119,566	39%
Social Care	Support services for vulnerable Adults and Children and Young People in our Community.	96,243	31%
Corporate Services and Policy	HR and Payroll; Finance including Council Tax, Rates and Benefits; Legal and Democratic Services; and also ICT and Office Accommodation costs total £5M.	14,509	5%
Learning & Skills	Central support for schools, libraries, arts and cultural provision.	13,872	4%
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	Statutory scheme supporting those on the lowest incomes.	11,492	3%
Waste and Recycling	The cost of Waste and Recycling Services	9,489	3%
Borrowing Costs	Capital financing costs and investment income	7,622	2%
Fire Levy	Payment of the levy to South Wales Fire & Rescue Service	8,311	3%
Highways	The cost of Highways and Engineering including Flood, Drainage and road maintenance	5,658	2%

Other Neighbourhood Services	Leisure, Parks, Street Cleansing and Supported Bus Services	6,473	2%
School Transport	Transporting Children and Young People to Mainstream and Special sector schools	5,769	2%
Regeneration and Planning	Includes management of the Planning function including development of the LDP, Regeneration, Country Parks and Tourism services.	3,163	1%
General Fund Housing	Community Safety and Homelessness provision	3,390	1%
Democratic Costs	Democratic Costs	1,666	1%
Regulatory Services	Food safety, animal welfare	1,638	1%
Total		308,861	100%

1.24 Life in the Vale and Corporate Plan Consultation

1.25 The budget decisions are informed by continuous consultation and engagement undertaken by the Council as well as the targeted consultation following publication of this report. There are two key consultations which are of particular note, namely Let's Talk about Life in the Vale and the consultation on the Council's new draft Corporate Plan 2025-30 which is covered later in the report.

1.26 Life in the Vale

1.27 The Council launched its Let's Talk about Life in the Vale Survey in August 2023. It was run on behalf of the Council by independent researchers at Data Cymru. The survey was different to other Vale wide surveys that the Council had run in the past. It didn't simply ask how satisfied people are with Council services. Instead, there was a genuine attempt to understand what life is like for people living in the Vale of Glamorgan and how public services affect this.

1.28 This approach was being taken to enable (wherever possible, within funding constraints) services to be developed in a way that means they will improve people's quality of life, and wherever possible address the issues that matter to those who live in the Vale of Glamorgan.

1.29 The survey asked about people's experience of trying to influence decisions in their community. This was to help to give as many people as possible the opportunity to participate and become involved in the decision-making process, to shape what the Council does and how it does it.

1.30 The survey provided a wealth of data and much of this fed into deliberations on setting the budget for 2024/25 and the finances across the medium term. Much of this remains relevant today.

- 1.31** There were 4,009 responses to the survey. Analysts have calculated that this sample is representative of the Vale's population by using a margin of error calculation across all questions. Cost of Living was a significant issue for residents. 78% of respondents stated that they are either very or fairly concerned with the Cost of Living crisis. Over 60% had purposely not put their heating on in the previous six months and only 39% said they would be able to pay an unexpected but necessary payment of £850.
- 1.32** Residents were asked about their priorities and to rank their importance. The top priority for 42% of the population was 'Easily accessible care and health care services when I or my family need them' and 78.1% ranked this in their top three priorities. Second at 26.6% was 'buy or rent a good quality home' and 47.6% ranked this in their top three. It is reassuring that these are areas that the Council is focussing resources on through its Financial Strategy.
- 1.33** 68% of respondents stated they were either very or fairly concerned with the climate emergency and 65% were either very or fairly concerned with the nature emergency. 73% of respondents were also very or fairly concerned about services and support for older people and 61% about services and support for young people. All of these are areas of priority for the Council as reflected in the Council's Budget Strategy.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

2.1 Scrutiny and Consultation

2.2 Draft Corporate Plan Consultation

2.3 The Council approved its draft Corporate Plan 2025-30 Strong Communities with a Bright Future for consultation at Cabinet on 10th October. An ambitious programme of work has been set to deliver on five new objectives:

- i. Creating great places to live, work and visit,
- ii. Respecting and celebrating the environment,
- iii. Giving everyone a good start in life,
- iv. Supporting and protecting those who need us and
- v. Being the best Council we can be.

2.4 Consultation was undertaken between 14th October and 8th December 2024 with numerous groups and bodies - public, partners, staff, Trade Unions, Town and Community Councils and presentations to all scrutiny committees. The output from the consultation has been assessed and the Plan was amended across December and January to reflect this feedback. The revised Plan was considered by Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 19th February and is on the same agenda as this report to Cabinet.

2.5 257 people responded to the survey (on line and hard copy) and a small number of emails were received. A number of the responses to the consultation raised

issues related to engagement, the environment, transport, housing, supporting families and young people, budgets, rising costs and delivery. Overall people were supportive of the Council's Well-being Objectives. A number of actions have been amended following the consultation and scrutiny of the draft Plan as well as changes to other content in the Plan including greater reference to partnership working.

2.6 Budget Consultation with Residents

2.7 The Council published its budget for Consultation following Cabinet on 16th January, the consultation with residents running from 20 January to 14th February. Equality Impact Assessments were available for all savings proposals and were published on the Consultation Site along with an awareness raising quiz.

2.8 The full Consultation Report is set out in Appendix A.

2.9 There was a total of 770 responses to the consultation which a significant improvement on previous years. Also, on a positive note is the response from across the Vale with fairly equal representation from Wester Vale, eastern Vale and Barry as well as the spread across age groups.

2.10 The majority of respondents were support of the general approach (63%) and the ambition to protect services supporting the most vulnerable in the county (76%). These were in contrast to the 6.9% increase in Council Tax in the proposals with 79% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. There was also less support for the 3% increase in charges for services with only 51% agreeing or strongly agreeing and only less support again for charges for additional services, 43% agreeing or strongly agreeing.

2.11 Budget Scrutiny

2.12 The Council's Scrutiny Committees have all considered the Budget for Consultation and also the initial Capital Investment Proposals for 2025/26 to 2029/30 at their meetings across February starting on 3rd February with Learning & Culture on and concluding on 19th February with Corporate Performance and Resources, which also has the responsibility for collating all scrutiny comments and reporting back to Cabinet.

2.13 Learning & Culture – there was a wide ranging discussion covering the Welsh Government formula for funding schools and the current financial position for schools especially the potential for redundancy, Additional Learning Needs both managing and forecasting demand, whether there would be regard to consultation feedback, and the use of risk and reshaping reserves. Members also spoke of their pride in the services the Council provides. The Committee noted the report and made no recommendations.

2.14 Social Care & Healthy Living – the Committee received a presentation to support the Revenue and Capital reports but there was no discussion nor any questions which is disappointing given the pressures experienced in these services under its remit. The Committee noted both reports.

- 2.15** Homes & Safe Communities – the discussion covered sustainability and efforts by officers to develop a medium term approach to reshaping, engaging with a wider cross section of the community in consultation work as well as making it more meaningful through the publication of equality impact assessments and lobbying Welsh Government for changes to the formula. The Committee noted the report and recommended that lobbying with Welsh Government continue and the financial information to be presented in an accessible form.
- 2.16** Economy & Regeneration – given the breadth of service covered there was an extensive discussion on the proposals. There was some concern for the Parks transformation and potential for redundancy, comments that the car park charges were baked in, potential for Community Asset Transfers to lead to decline in town centres but also a counter view that it could have the opposite impact, the need for education on littering, and the contrast in the squeeze on neighbourhood services and growth in resources to social care and schools which were also areas of overspend.
- 2.17** The Committee recommended to pass through the following comments to Cabinet:
- i. In light of the car parking savings/proposals still being part of the report and consultation, it was important to consider the comments, etc. made and included as a recommendation at the Special Meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee on 28th January on these proposals and that, following consideration by the Committee, the report be referred back to Cabinet with the following comments / issues identified, in order for additional work to be done on the report's proposals prior to implementation:
 - The Committee welcomes the proposal concerning residential parking permits;
 - That Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) be applied to each of the proposals referred to in the report. The Committee felt there had been insufficient consideration on these and the impacts on the locations affected and further work was required;
 - Regarding the point on the use of EIAs above, this included Court Road multi-storey car park, with further work needed to identify current use and the potential impact of its closure on the availability of alternative car parking spaces, the potential impact that might have on nearby residents and any mitigation that would be required to address those concerns. The Committee was of the view that the future of Court Road car park should be set within a vision for the town centre in relation to town centre renewal and that consideration should be given to include a capital bid to secure the future of the car park as part of that process. Creative solutions should be explored to secure the future of the car park;

- Regarding the on-street car parking proposals, further consideration be given on this, including a period for free car parking of one or two hours and / or seasonal parking;
 - Should on-street parking charges be introduced, then there should be a review period built into that so appropriate changes could be made as required;
 - That the legal position in relation to the use of any money that might be raised through the introduction of car parking charges be clarified, in order to fully understand what that money could be spent on specifically;
 - With regard to off-street parking charges, the Committee's view was that work should be done to improve the car parking facilities at Cliff Walk – Penarth, and Bron y Mor – Barry, prior to the implementation of charging at those locations;
 - That appropriate enforcement capacity would be required to achieve the objectives of introducing charging both in on-street and off-street areas;
 - Consideration should be given to what approaches could be made to ensure affordability in relation to parking permits so that local residents who might be experiencing financial hardship were not disadvantaged; o In relation to off-street charges there should be engagement with the 5 Democratic –Scrutiny Committees NEW – References – CPR 25-02-19 Ref from ER – Initial Budget and MTFP relevant stakeholders in the Western Vale in relation to the service design of car parks in that area.
- ii. That the Council undertake an educational piece of work with schoolchildren around the issues of littering prior to summertime.
 - iii. A review and pause of the reduction of bins within the Vale of Glamorgan following the 25% removal.

2.18 There was a wide ranging discussion at Corporate Performance & Resources. Clarification was sought on a number of areas including how the Welsh Government Funding Formula worked, the unplanned use of reserves during 2024/25, measuring efficiency and the assessment of the efficiency of home working, the shortfalls in funding from the UK and Welsh Governments, the ICT restructure and the savings from reduced headcount and from Welsh Language translation.

2.19 The Committee recommended to forward on the references for Learning & Skills, Homes and Safe Communities and Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committees to Cabinet and for the comments of Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee to also be referred in particular the need to continue to lobby Welsh Government on the disproportionate funding allocated to the Vale of Glamorgan.

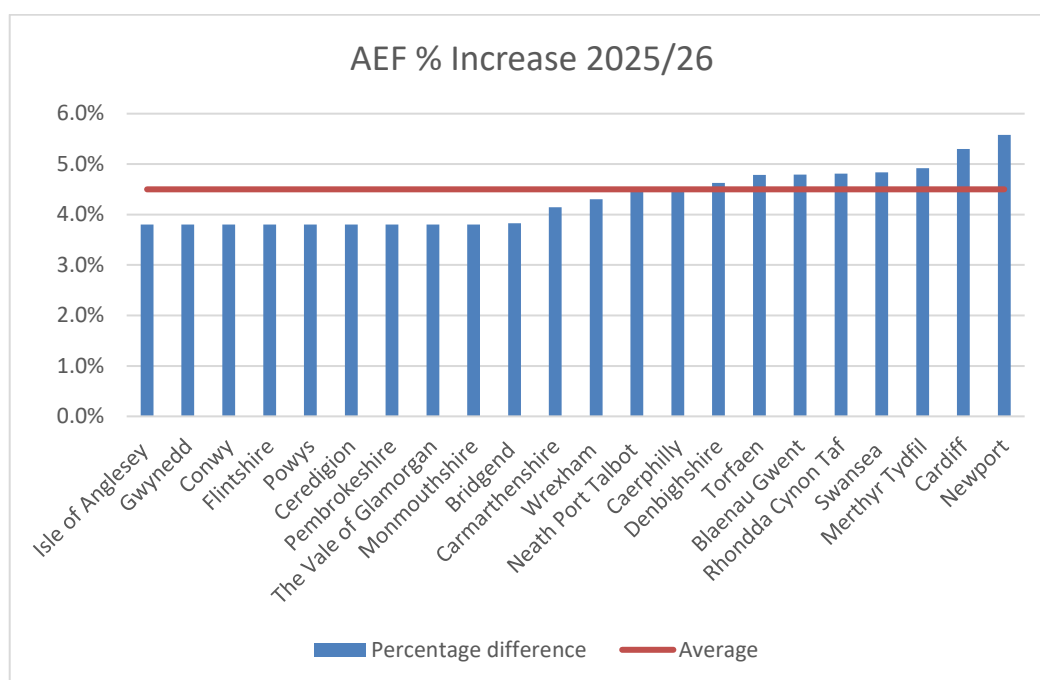
2.20 Welsh Government Final Settlement

2.21 The final Welsh Government Settlement was published on Thursday 20th February, full details are at:

[Local government revenue and capital settlement: final 2025 to 2026 | GOV.WALES](#)

2.22 There is good news for the Vale and eight other Welsh counties with a floor of 3.8% which provides Top Up Funding of £8.238M nationally which is a much needed improvement in the increase in the Provisional Settlement in December 2024. The AEF increases per Council do therefore provide an unfamiliar picture with the high number of authorities benefiting from the floor.

2.23 Chart 2 – AEF by County



2.24 Other key headlines across Wales are:

- i. **£30M** more for social care to target delayed hospital discharges and provide more care and support in local communities to prevent people being admitted to hospital unnecessarily.
- ii. **£5M** to improve playgrounds and play facilities for children.
- iii. **£5M** to support leisure centres to decarbonise.
- iv. **£15M** to deliver a new reduced bus fares pilot scheme for young people in 2025/26 and 2026/27.
- v. Extra support to create a two year, £120M local authority road and pavement repair scheme. **£6M and £4M over 2 years**
- vi. Funding to restore the fifth train service on the Heart of Wales line.
- vii. **£500,000** to improve roadside toilet facilities.
- viii. **£5M** extra for water quality enforcement.
- ix. An extra **£10M** for rural investment schemes.

2.25 The SSA calculations driving the grant allocations are little changed from the Draft Settlement, the overall total being £8,342,986K, an increase of £95K against

the £8,342,891K in the Provisional Settlement. Welsh Government has directed the majority of funding through Schools and Social Services as set out in the table below. This is in line with their policy objective of supporting schools and social care but consequently there is a real squeeze on resources for other Council core services.

2.26 Table 3 – SSA Blocks

Block	2024/25	2025/26	Change	Change
	£M	£M	£M	%
School Services	2,974,927	3,289,384	314,457	10.57
Other Education	42,013	42,490	477	1.14
Personal Social Services	2,361,239	2,644,900	283,661	12.01
Roads and transport	232,937	233,410	473	0.20
Fire	187,631	210,840	23,209	12.37
Other services	1,346,099	1,376,162	30,063	2.23
Deprivation Grant	22,000	22,000	0	0.00
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	244,000	244,000	0	0.00
Debt financing	305,509	279,799	-25,711	-8.42
Total	7,716,355	8,342,986	626,535	8.12

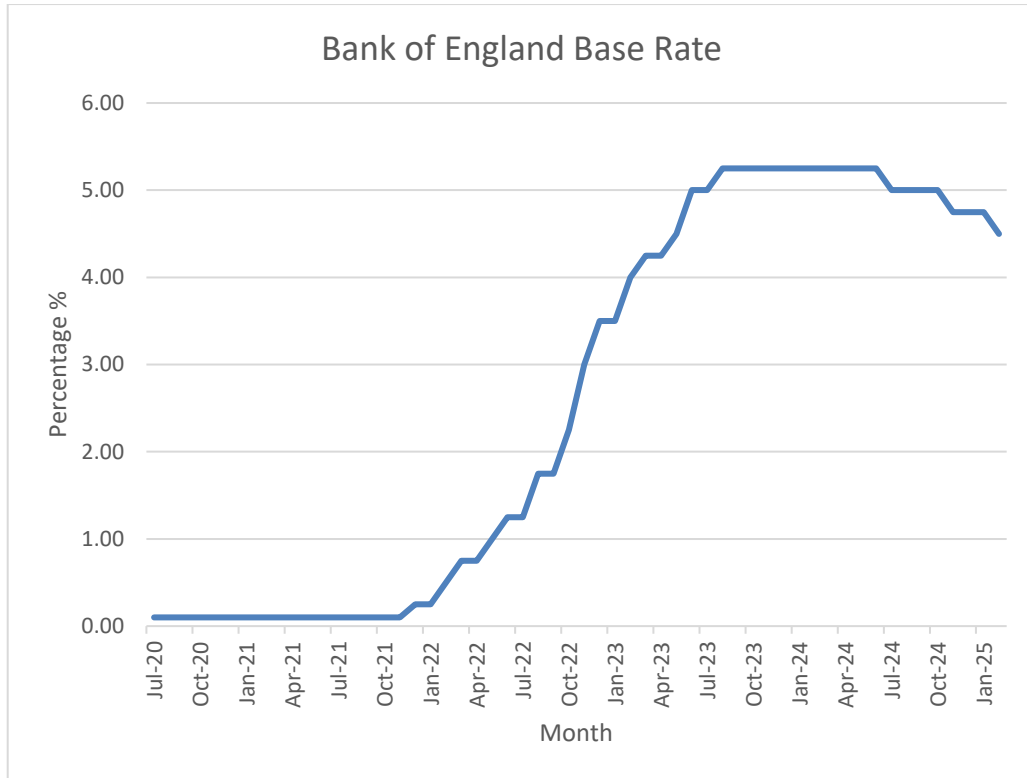
2.27 The funding of the increase in National Insurance Contributions remains unresolved. The UK Government has confirmed that the costs will be funded for public sector employees and that the funding will be passed on to Welsh Government to distribute. It is estimated to be in the order of £253M but the timing is not clear, late spring possibly at the earliest.

2.28 Economic Position and Future Prospects

2.29 As set out earlier in the report, there is to be a Spending Review in the late spring/summer with the prospect of multi year settlements which is very much to be welcomed. However, these settlements should be viewed in the light of the current economic climate and the global uncertainties at this time.

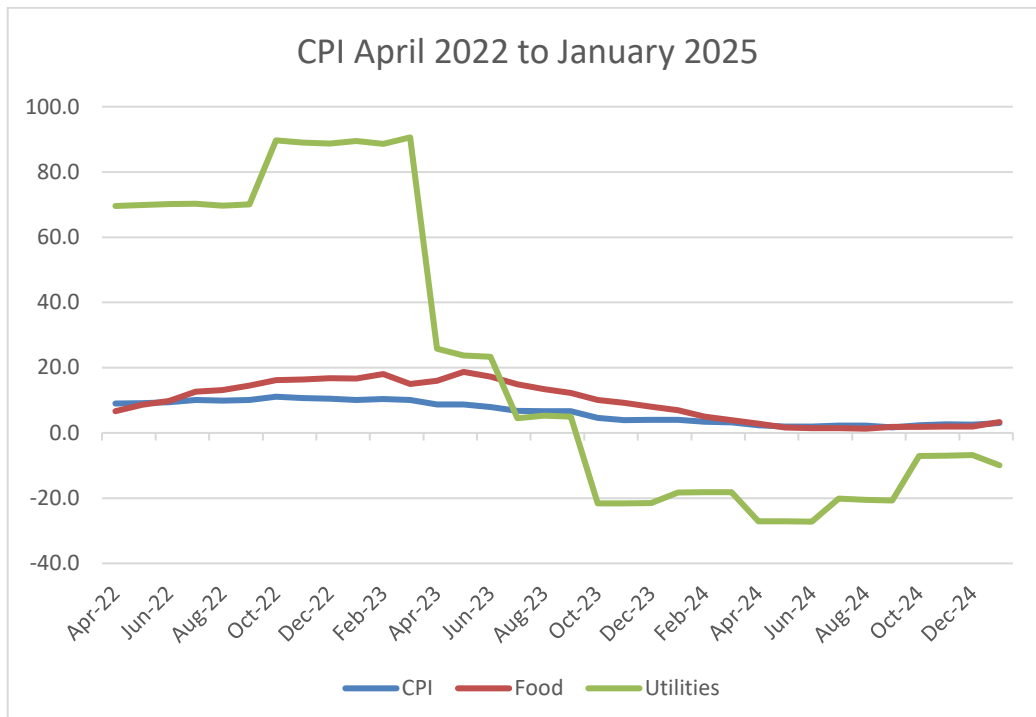
2.30 Economic growth has flat lined in the UK with some of the drag being caused by the relatively higher Bank of England Base rate as the Bank attempted to manage the high inflation down. There has been a distinction been made between the headline rate of inflation and core inflation and it has been primarily the reduction on core inflation that has given the Bank the confidence to ease back on the interest rate, reducing down to 4.50% in February 2025.

2.31 Chart 3 - Bank of England Base Rate



2.32 Inflation has picked back up in recent months after the dip to 1.7% in September 2024 and there is talk of it approaching 3.7% later in the year but alongside this there is also an expectation of the Bank of England Base Rate falling to 4.0% by the end of 2025.

2.33 Chart 4 - Inflation



2.34 As set out above growth remains flat. The Chart below sets out GDP monthly since October 2023 (indexed at 100.0 as at February 2022). There was a monthly

increase of 0.4% in December but this still only reflected a 0.3% increase of the last quarter of 2024. The latest Bank of England Forecast for 2025 is 0.75% only revised down from previous forecast of 1.5% with growth of 1.5% which is an upward revision. The OBR and some economic commentators such as Capital Economics are a little more optimistic.

2.35 Chart 5 - Month GDP October 2022 to December 2024



2.36 Draft Budget Proposals

2.37 There have been a number of changes made between the Budget for Consultation and the Draft Budget Proposals and these are set out in full in Appendix B as well as being covered in the commentary below.

2.38 The Council’s overall position for 2025/26 and across the Medium Term is set out in the table below and in detail in Appendix C(i) and C(ii), the Budgets by Services area for 2025/26 are reflected in Appendix C(iii). Cost pressures of £29.007M outweigh the additional funding through Grant and Council Tax of £20.601M by £8.8771M.

2.39 Table 4 – Overall MTFP Summary

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Additional Funding					
Grant Transfers In	6,449				
Grant Settlement	8,217	2,244	2,267	2,290	2,312
Council Tax	7,547	4,171	4,334	4,503	4,679
Use of smoothing Reserves	-2,244	-500	0	0	0

School Support from Reserves	267	-267	0	0	0
Total Additional Funding	20,236	5,648	6,601	6,793	6,991
Investment	645	-53	-214	0	0
Demography	1,546	2,652	1,947	1,923	1,933
Inflation Pay	10,821	5,325	5,463	5,605	5,750
Inflation Non Pay	9,010	5,275	5,275	5,275	5,275
Capital Financing	0	254	324	89	182
Other Pressures	6,485	259	328	330	417
Total Pressures	28,507	13,712	13,123	13,222	13,557
Reversal of One Off Savings	500	750	0	0	0
Overall Gap	8,771	8,814	6,522	6,429	6,566

2.40 Appendix C (iii) shows the distribution of Cost Pressures and Savings across service budgets for 2025/26. Whilst the arrangements for funding National Insurance Impact in 2025/26 will not be known until early 2025/26 the impact of the increase is reflected in this appendix with an assumption that this will be fully funded by grant. As no grant award has been made and the assumption is that this will be fully funded this sum has not been included as a cost pressure at this stage, the cost is estimated to be in the region of £4M in 2025/26 (excluding the impact on Housing Revenue Account, Joint Committee and Grant Funded staff).

2.41 Appendix C(iii) also sets out adjustments to remove the recharges for Building Cleaning and Security and Insurance for 2025/26 and these have been identified as budget lines, the schools element for Building Cleaning and Security will remain delegated as there is a mixture of private and internal provision across schools.

2.42 Review of Funding Assumptions

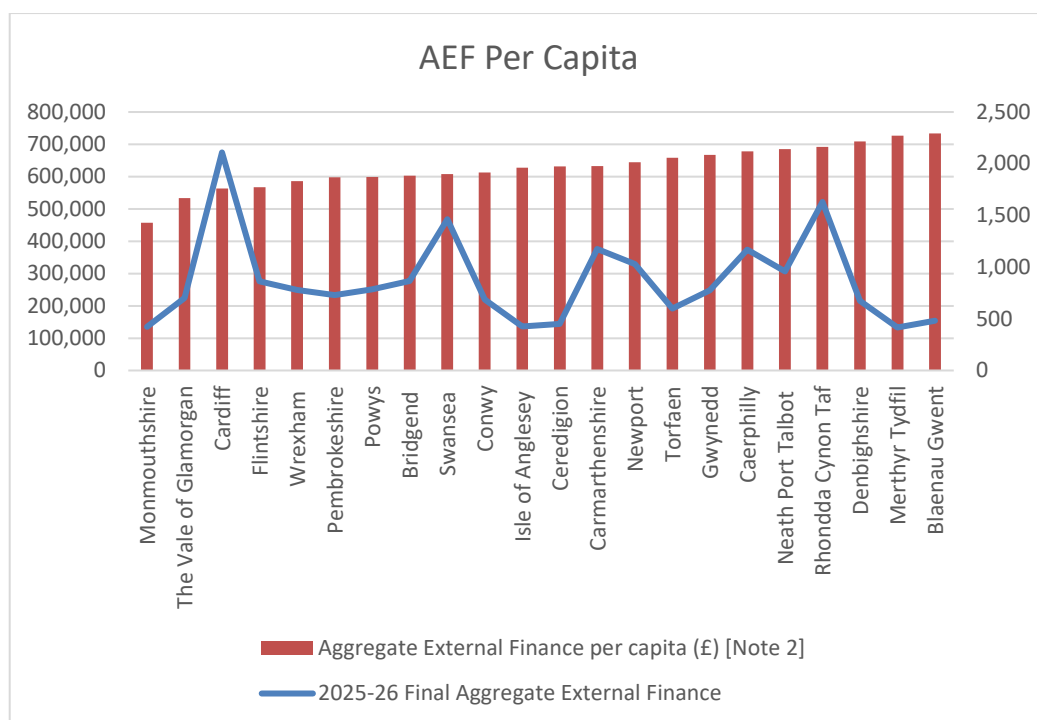
2.43 The Vale of Glamorgan has benefited from the 3.8% funded floor in place in the Final Settlement. The total increase in AEF for 2025/26 is £8.217M including £1.110M of Top Up Funding through the floor arrangement. Year on Year AEF is up £14.917M when the transfers in from the 2024/25 in year support are included. The total value of the Grant Settlement and Transfers in in the table is £14.666M and includes a -£0.251M Base Adjustment for AEF for data changes.

2.44 The increase in SSA blocks for the Vale of Glamorgan is broadly in line with the national position, the overall increase in need is up by 7.95%, the Wales figure being 8.12%. And as with the Wales position the additional need has been significantly weighted towards Schools and Social Care.

2.45 Table 5 – Vale of Glamorgan SSA by Block

Block	2024/25	2025/26	Change	Change
	£000	£000	£000	%
School Services	132.310	145.546	13.236	10.00
Other Education	1.569	1.582	0.013	0.82
Personal Social Services	88.010	98.426	10.416	11.83
Roads and transport	8.891	8.945	0.054	0.61
Fire	8.003	8.977	0.974	12.17
Other services	53.059	54.004	0.945	1.78
Deprivation Grant	0.167	0.167	0.000	0.00
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	9.284	9.293	0.008	0.09
Debt financing	9.486	8.548	-0.938	-9.89
Total	310.780	335.488	24.708	7.95

- 2.46** Grant is calculated as the overall need to spend, i.e. the SSA of £335.488M less notional Council Tax of £112.151M and Redistributed Non Domestic Rates £47.654M plus Top Up funding of £1.110M to effect the 3.8% Floor in place for 2025/26. The Council Tax is notional as a standard rate of £1,726 (same for all Welsh Councils) is applied to the adjusted tax base of 64,937, which is higher than both the Vale of Glamorgan’s current rate of £1,563 and the average £1,650 for Wales. The £1,726 rate does, therefore, assume a significant increase in Council Tax, the equivalent 2024/25 sum being £1,565, an increase of 10.4%.
- 2.47** The Vale of Glamorgan continues to receive the 2nd lowest AEF per head of population in Wales, £274 less per head than the average. The strength of the tax base is a factor in this but the key drivers are the composition of the SSA formulas for School Services which doesn’t recognise ALN costs in an appropriate manner and Social Services which was never properly adjusted for the introduction of the care cap.
- 2.48** Chart 6 – AEF per Head of Population



2.49 The Vale of Glamorgan has also benefited from two new grants in the Final Settlement.

2.50 There was a Pathways of Care Transitional Grant with £30M for all Welsh Councils announced in the Final Settlement to provide additional resource for reablement. The Council level allocations have not been announced but based on previous experience the Vale of Glamorgan will expect to receive in the order of £1M.

2.51 The Council benefits from the Highways Management Local Authority Borrowing Initiative. There is an additional £4.498M provision built into the Capital Programme across two years for highway and pavements improvement, the capital financing costs of £0.377M meeting the borrowing being met from the Initiative. This fund is likely to be transferred into general grant in 2026/27.

2.52 Council Tax

2.53 The Council had been modelling a Council Tax increase of 3.99% across all years of the Medium Term Financial Plan. Whilst the Settlement from Welsh Government was better than anticipated it fell short of the additional resources required by the Vale of Glamorgan and this has put upward pressure on the likely Council Tax increase for 2025/26 particularly in respect of the impact of NI increase to be borne by Social Care Providers and consequently for the Budget for Consultation the increase was modelled at 6.9% but in those proposals it was indicated that this could be eased back if Welsh Government was to increase the size of the settlement following consultation and/or put floor arrangements in place for the Final Settlement. Following the floor arrangement of 3.8% in the Final Settlement and feedback from the consultation with residents the proposed increase in Council Tax is reduced to 5.9%.

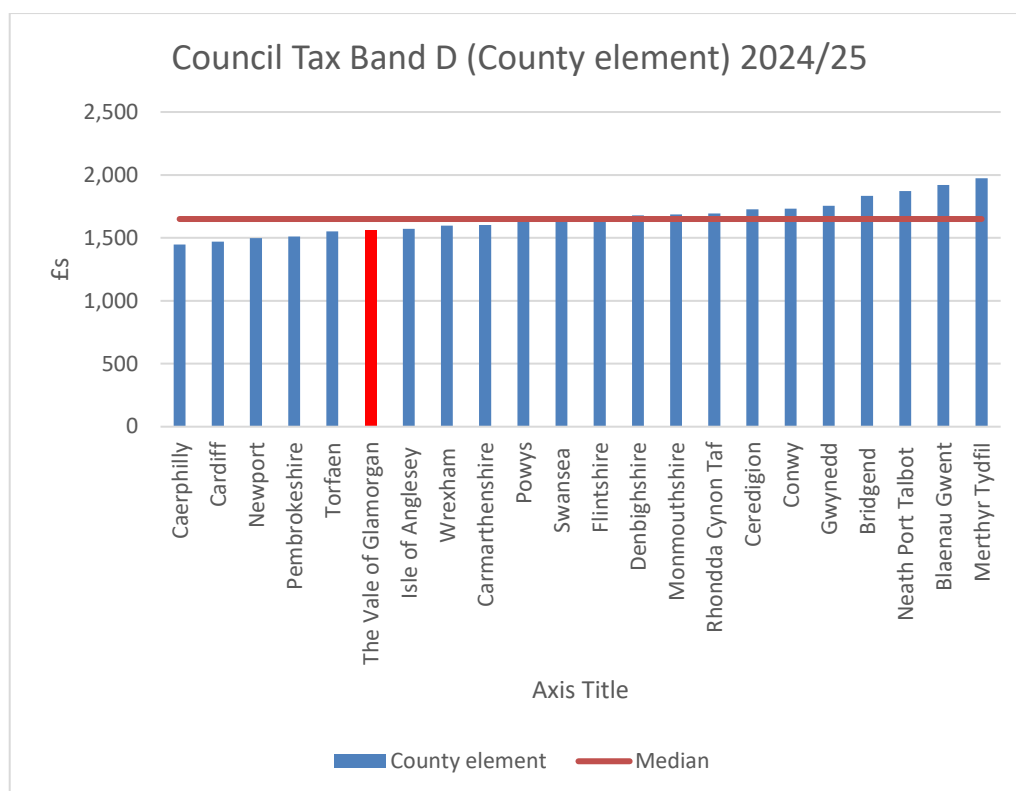
2.54 Council Tax for a Band D Property will be Band £92.25 annual increase, £1.77 weekly. The increases by Band for the county element of Council Tax are set out below.

2.55 Table 6 Council Tax by Band (County element only)

Band	2024/25	2025/26	Increase	Increase Per week
	£	£	£	£
A	1,041.90	1,103.40	61.50	1.18
B	1,215.55	1,287.30	71.75	1.38
C	1,389.20	1,471.20	82.00	1.58
D	1,562.85	1,655.10	92.25	1.77
E	1,910.15	2,022.90	112.75	2.17
F	2,257.45	2,390.70	133.25	2.56
G	2,604.75	2,758.50	153.75	2.96
H	3,125.70	3,310.20	184.50	3.55
I	3,646.65	3,861.90	215.25	4.14

2.56 It is likely that the Council will remain at below median for Council Tax compared with other Welsh counties given that the Council Tax is currently 5.63% below the Welsh median and the financial pressures experienced by the Vale of Glamorgan are being experienced by the rest of Wales too.

2.57 Chart 7 – Council Tax



2.58 As well as the rate increase the tax take is also forecast to increase for growth in the tax base and recovery of historical arrears. Cabinet on 19th December approved the tax base for 2025/26. There are 63,970 Band D properties which is an increase of 573 compared to 63,397 for 2024/25. The 64,937 Tax Base figure used in the Welsh Government Settlement differs to this number as it also includes long term empty properties and second homes. Additionally, a review of the number of Single Persons’ Discounts being claimed is planned which at a prudent estimate will generate £250K.

2.59 Reserves

2.60 The Council introduced a ‘smoothing’ approach to manage transitory pressures when setting the 2023/24 budget and this continues to operate but is now close to unwinding. There was a further review across the summer and autumn following restatement of the position in the Financial Strategy in July. Reserve support for Energy and Cost of Living drops out in 2025/26 and this is the continued approach with matching adjustments being made to the spend forecasts.

2.61 Table 7 – Smoothing Reserves

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Corporate Energy	1,200	900	0	0	0
School Energy	1,200	200	0	0	0
Homelessness	200	1,460	500	0	0
Cost of Living	200	100	0	0	0

Risk, Reshaping and Investment	0	84	0	0	0
Total Use of Smoothing Reserves	2,800	2,744	500	0	0
Movement in Use of Reserves	0	-56	-2,244	-500	0

2.62 Review of Pressures

2.63 **Investment £0.645M**

2.64 There is a need to invest in certain Council provision which ultimately would have a preventative benefit but given the scale of the overall pressures it simply cannot be accommodated. This is regrettable as investment in preventative services has a significant long-term benefit for public services and communities in general. There were investment proposals of £1.683M. However, in pursuing the strategy of reviewing the cost pressures with the aim of reducing them significantly, difficult decisions have had to be taken. For example, it has only been possible to take forward £0.128M of additional Resource Base provision for the specialist satellite base in the delegated schools' budget but not £0.170M provision in Learning & Skills to support disengaged pupils, and the Council have not been able to fund Wake In and Appointeeship support in Adult Social Care. The review has also postponed moving the Council Tax system into the cloud along with investing in apprentices in the team.

2.65 There is though, £0.267M short term support to assist schools in addressing the financial challenges they face in setting a balanced budget and £0.250M for the replacement Schools MIS system (an additional £50K to the proposal in the Budget for Consultation).

2.66 **Demography £1.546M**

2.67 There are underlying demographic pressures of £3.045M. £0.763M of this is in schools but represents £1.407M additional special school requirement but a £0.644M reduction in mainstream schools with a declining pupil population. It is proposed to only fund £1.0M of the special school growth which effectively squeezes the unit of resource. There is also provision of £0.190M towards the increased transport costs of ALN pupils which is linked to the demographic pressures highlighted in schools.

2.68 The remainder of the demographic pressures are in Adult Social Care with £1.000M of the £2.092M sought by the Directorate being taken forward as the forecasts continue to be reviewed. Year on year growth is anticipated and £0.650M per annum is included in future years but these numbers will need to be review annually.

2.69 **Pay Inflation £10.821M**

2.70 For schools, provision is included in full at 3% for both the 2025/26 Teachers Pay Award and NJC Pay Award for Non Teaching staff and the shortfalls in the funding of these awards in 2024/25 have also been addressed along with full

provision for the additional employer contributions for Teachers' pension contributions.

- 2.71** For the remainder of Council services, the NJC pay award is also forecast at 3% but only 75% of this is built into budget creating an underlying efficiency target for these services. Additionally, it has not been possible to build in the shortfall of the 2024/25 award.
- 2.72** The £10.821M is a marginal decrease in the £11.181M which represents the removal of the £365K MEDR funded element from the Budget for Consultation following a final review of staffing budgets.
- 2.73 Price Inflation £9.010M**
- 2.74** Price inflation is the second largest of the Council's pressures, the underlying pressure being £11.446M and these pressures are across social care and environmental services. Provider fees will be under pressure with the increases in the minimum wage and real living wage to follow as well as the increase in employers' national insurance contributions. The service pressures here had amounted to £8.767M but this has been pared back to £7.071M which includes a contribution towards the NI pressures which will certainly cover the pay pressures highlighted above. Elsewhere, school transport continues to be under pressure and a further £1.000M has been allocated at this stage and £0.450M for the increase in the Fire Levy.
- 2.75** There is a slight increase here with the earlier proposals, the annual uplift of £54K for Oracle Fusion licences and £75K for the Joint Equipment Store being added in.
- 2.76 Capital Financing £0.000M**
- 2.77** There had been £0.092M in the MTFP Refresh report for Capital Financing costs for the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. However due to the scheduling of the Programme, that requirement is pushed back a year.
- 2.78 Other Pressures £6.485M**
- 2.79** Pressures of £10.945M have been identified and these have been subjected to the greatest rigour in the initial management review. The majority of the pressures taken forward are in Social Care with the need to 'right size' the Children's and Adults budgets given the overspends in 2024/25 which amount to £4.500M. £0.500M has been allocated for highways repairs albeit the service was seeking £1.000M. £1.323M of pressures for the expansion of special resource places in mainstream schools have not been taken forward with existing provision having to meet this need. A minimal level of pressures have been able to be taken forward across Place and Corporate Resources directorates. At Policy level there is £1.000M for the growth in the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Commitments.
- 2.80** There are two other adjustments to Other Pressures since the Budget for Consultation. There has been significant progress with the delivery of the Rapid Rehousing Strategy which has led to a reduction of £0.960M in cost and an increase of £73K arising from a rebalancing of SRS partner contributions.

2.81 Reversal of One off Savings £0.500M

2.82 One off savings in the 2023/24 budget for investment income and reduced external borrowing cost due to the use of internal resources are reversed out in 2025/26.

2.83 Reshaping and Savings

2.84 The key driver to ensure financial sustainability is the Council's Reshaping Programme. This has emerged over the past two budget cycles and following an outline report to Cabinet in January 2024 the full prospectus was approved at Cabinet on 10th October 2024.

2.85 [Reshaping Programme Update](#)

2.86 The framework contains five interrelated themes:

- i. Target Operating Model
- ii. Service Transformation
- iii. Strengthening Communities
- iv. Digital Innovation
- v. Economic Resilience

2.87 These themes are being used to identify, develop and deliver individual streams of activity within the overarching Reshaping Programme. Sponsors and project managers are in place for all of the elements.

Target Operating Model

2.88 This theme considers issues around the Council's processes, people, structure, governance and technology and how the organisation should look and function to deliver our priorities and core activity.

2.89 The Council's Target Operating Model (TOM) is the way in which the overall strategy of the organisation (via the new Corporate Plan) will be delivered in strategic terms. Defining the organisation's TOM will take the objectives of the Reshaping Programme and vision of the organisation for Strong Communities with a Bright Future and enable a set of organisation-wide principles to be developed on issues such as structure, delivery models that will/will not be acceptable, the Council's strategic approach to partnership working, how people are managed and developed, as well as decision making, performance and scrutiny approaches. The TOM will provide the direction and enabling activity to deliver the work involved in the other transformation themes, supported by key Council strategies such as the People Strategy, Digital Strategy, Medium Term Financial Plan, Corporate Asset Management Strategy and forthcoming Data Strategy. This theme is both about 'what' we do and also 'how' we do it.

Service Transformation

2.90 A key component of the transformation programme will be in considering how individual services can be transformed to make them more sustainable in the medium to longer term.

- 2.91** This theme will take the principles defined by the TOM and apply them to individual services (or combinations of services). Consideration will be given to the best model for operating services, such as in collaboration with partners, by internal reorganisation, the role of digital technology and other service delivery models such as social enterprise, not for profit arms-length trading and others.

Strengthening Communities

- 2.92** This theme will develop the Council as an enabler and facilitator rather than direct provider of some services as well as defining how the organisation interacts with partners.
- 2.93** Work to strengthen our communities is integral to how we transform as an organisation and there are a range of activities underway to take forward this work, reflecting our role as an enabler and facilitator as well as a provider of services.
- 2.94** This theme will be important as the financial position of the Council means that in the future some services may not be possible to deliver directly (and indeed, as has been seen, are sometimes more appropriately and effectively delivered by others with support of the Council, for example, the previous service transformation to create community libraries which ensured libraries continued to be viable within individual communities).

Digital Innovation

- 2.95** The digital innovation theme will involve the Council seeking to ensure that digital innovation is at the heart of what we do and secures efficiency across the board.
- 2.96** The newly adopted Digital Strategy sets out four areas of digital activity:
- i. Community & Involvement
 - ii. Organisation & Processes
 - iii. People & Skills
 - iv. Data & Insight
- 2.97** This work will be progressed as outlined in the Digital Strategy and provide significant opportunity to support the other themes, notably Service Transformation and Strengthening Communities.

Economic Resilience

- 2.98** The theme of economic resilience is centred around the Council's role in supporting economic resilience in how to 'level up' and ensure that a place-based approach is effective in the creation of sustainable communities with good employment.
- 2.99** Areas of focus within this theme will include the Council's response to the UK Government's Levelling Up and Transforming Towns funding, alongside the use of Council assets to support economic resilience. The TOM will influence this theme in the Council's approach to working with Capital Region partners in the attraction of business to the county to support sustainable and high-quality jobs.

2.100 Reshaping and Savings proposals of £8.771M have been identified. Of the £8.771M savings £1.200M is a 1% efficiency target which schools will need to manage and the £7.571M which is set out in detail in Appendix D and summarised in the tables below.

2.101 Table 8a – Reshaping & Savings Proposals

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£000	£000	£000
Reshaping	3,743	642	0
Schools Efficiency	1,200	0	0
Savings	3,828	562	0
Total Reshaping and Savings Proposals	8,771	1,204	0

2.102 Reshaping proposals represent £3.743M or 43% of the £8.771M identified as savings for 2025/26. The Reshaping Proposals in the 2024/25 budget amounted to £1.190M or 16% of the total target £7.676M.

2.103 Reshaping and Transformation

2.104 Table 8b – Reshaping & Transformation

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£000	£000	£000
Target Operating Model - Other	20	20	0
Target Operating Model - Assets	110	85	0
Target Operating Model - Income	821	100	0
Strengthening Communities (including Schools)	0	0	0
Service Transformation	2,692	414	0
Digital	100	23	0
Economic Resilience	0	0	0
Total Reshaping Proposals	3,743	642	0

2.105 Savings

2.106 A proportion of the proposals and initiatives to address the budget gap have needed to be traditional savings.

2.107 Table 8c - Savings

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£000	£000	£000
Savings Proposals	3,828	562	0
Total Savings Proposals	3,828	562	0

2.108 Equality Impact Assessments were undertaken for all of the reshaping and savings proposals requiring one and were published as part of the consultation process. There are no new savings post consultation.

2.109 **Medium Term Financial Plan and Financial Sustainability**

2.110 Officers have continued to work on the forward years of the Medium Term Financial Plan to ensure the future financial sustainability of the Council with this work being framed by the Reshaping Prospectus, set out in some detail above.

2.111 Table 9a - Medium Term Gap

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Total
	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Total Funding Gap	8,064	6,522	6,429	6,566	27,581
Savings Already Proposed					
Target Operating Model – Other	20	0	0	0	20
Target Operating Model – Assets	85	0	0	0	85
Target Operating Model – Income	100	0	0	0	100
Service Transformation	414	0	0	0	414
Digital	23	0	0	0	23
Other Savings	562	0			562
Total Savings	1,204	0	0	0	1204
Reversal of Temporary Savings	-750	0	0		-750
Residual Gap	7,610	6,522	6,429	6,566	27,127

2.112 The focus of work on the 2025/26 budget means there are some continuing savings which start to address the future gaps. An approach to developing the medium term financial plan has been taken to utilise the transformation themes of Reshaping and to match them with the pressures the Council is facing in Social Care, ALN and from pay and contractual price pressures as well as identifying opportunities for further transformation in other areas of the Council's activity.

2.113 Table 9b – Medium Term Savings Strategies

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Additional Reshaping Targets					
Target Operating Model – Other					
Additional Learning Needs.	481	481	481	481	1,926
Social Services demand management.	2,358	2,358	2,358	2,358	9,434
School Transport	0	458	458	458	1,375
Target Operating Model – Assets					

Decarbonisation Work Streams	0	200	400	400	1,000
Target Operating Model – Income					
Key income generation opportunities	984	984	984	984	3,935
Increase Council tax Collection Rate 1%	363	363	363	0	1,089
Service Transformation					
Schools' agency staff model.	0	257	257	257	770
Waste Strategy	0	200	200	200	600
Investment in Pothole Emerging Practice	0	0	0	200	200
Service Transformation/Digital					
Brilliant basics & automation: improving customer/resident service, linked to automation and service reviews in high volume services.	1,005	1,005	1,005	1,005	4,021
Procurement Savings	625	625	625	625	2,500
Strengthening Communities					
Expand Community provision	0	0	50	50	100
Total Additional Reshaping Targets	5,816	6,932	7,182	7,019	26,948
Gap - Tactical Savings Required/ Temporary Use of Reserves	1,797	-410	-753	-452	182

2.114 The Target Operating Model 'Other Schemes' are aiming to mitigate by 25% the demand pressures coming through in Social Care and ALN and 50% of those in Home to School Transport. For assets, decarbonisation will ease utility costs as well as supporting the Council in meeting its Project Zero ambitions. The council continues to seek out improved and new income opportunities and is looking to increase this stream by 2.5% per annum as well as continue to increase in year Council Tax recovery. There is work already in play with schools to reduce agency costs, a number of strategies progressing in Waste to reduce cost including transport costs and also innovations to reduce the cost of maintaining the highway. There are numerous automation opportunities through the Council's Brilliant Basics programme with the savings being equivalent of 1% of the workforce costs per annum. The Council has a more comprehensive Contract

Register and Forward Plan in place which will enable amore target approach in reducing third party spend. And finally, opportunities to expand community provision will be sought.

2.115 The programme meets the financial demands across the medium term but the time of some of the earlier work is not 100% in synch with the gap. There are two options here; either short term tactical savings will be required and/or (subject to the further assurance on the deliverability of the programme) it would be in order to smooth the gap through the use of reserves on a one off basis.

2.116 Service Analysis

2.117 The Council continues to target its limited resources towards its Corporate Plan objectives and those services which residents have indicated are priorities in a number of consultations including on the Corporate Plan itself and the Life in the Vale across autumn 2023.

2.118 There has been a concerted effort to pass through the SSA increases for School Services and Social Services and this has been largely achieved but has been particularly difficult for 2025/26 given the wide disparity in the growth in the individual SSA funding blocks in the Settlement from Welsh Government. There is not a direct alignment between the blocks and the organisation of the Council’s directorates, Home to School Transport with growth of £1.190M counting against the Schools Block but managed in Environment and Housing.

2.119 Table 10 – Service Analysis

	Learning & Skills	Schools	Social Services	Others	Total Pressures
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Original Budget	13,872	119,566	96,276	79,147	308,861
Recharge Adjustment	-819	-169	-178	1,166	0
Pressures					
Investment	517	128	0	0	645
Demographic	0	356	1,000	190	1,546
Inflationary	0	0	7,971	1,039	9,010
Inflationary – Pay	288	8,968	410	1,156	10,822
Other Pressures	820	-101	4,664	1,102	6,485
Capital Financing	0	0	0	0	0
Total Pressures	1,625	9,351	14,045	3,487	28,507
Use of Reserves	-267	300	0	1,944	1,977

Savings	512	1,200	3,624	3,436	8,771
Reverse Out Temporary Savings	0	0	0	1,000	1,000
Net Funding Increase	27	8,647	10,243	3,796	22,713
% Increase /(Decrease)	0.19%	7.23%	10.64%	4.80%	7.35%
Net Budget 2025/26	13,899	128,213	106,519	82,943	331,574

2.120 Fees & Charges

- 2.121** Cabinet consulted on the increase in Fees and Charges in January. The proposed fees and charges for 2025/26 are detailed in full in Appendix E and with the exception of an adjustment to the proposed charge for the removal of green waste are unchanged and so included primarily for completeness, the increase reduced from £10 in the January proposals to £5 for the draft Budget. The following paragraphs are replicated from the January report to serve as a reminder to the approach taken across the Council.
- 2.122** A standard approach to fees and charges has been adopted for existing charges with increases in the main being at 3% to ensure the fees and charges continue to cover cost. CPI dipped to 1.7% in September 2024, but this is not representative of the cost pressures being experienced by the Council with pay having a greater impact.
- 2.123** There are a number of new charges for 2025/26 which are primarily born out of the Reshaping and Transformation initiatives the key headlines are summarised by Directorate below.
- 2.124** Place Appendix E (i) – A number of new charges were introduced in 2024/25 for Pre application advice and other Development Management Services and the introduction of these new products link to a saving of £20k for 2025/26. A new charge has also been implemented for 2025/26 for Camper Vans in Country Parks and a new consolidated filming fee has also been included. A number of charges have been held as they have been considered as being relatively too expensive and demand and hence overall income is more likely to increase by taking this approach. Filming operates across a number of the Council’s directorate with oversight by Place directorate, guide prices are in operation and negotiation will be signed off by a Place Chief Officer.
- 2.125** Social Services Appendix E (ii) – Fee increases are broadly in line with the 3% increase. Telecare fees have been expanded and increased and are aligned with a proposed £20k increase for 2024/25. An additional detailed property valuation fee has been outlined for property cases where a property is held abroad, these charges would be agreed on a case by case basis commensurate with the costs of completing the property valuation and the complexity of the case.
- 2.126** Learning and Skills Appendix E (iii) – A number of fee increases across Penarth Pier Pavilion, Libraries and Adult and Community Learning are in excess of 3% as part of a move to a cost recovery model in these service areas. With increases

from 4% to 17% at the Pier Pavilion reflecting increased cost recovery and market rates for wedding and premises hire. Increases in fines at libraries are 8% with room booking prices increasing from between 5% to 10% for some of the makerspace premises. A new charge has been introduced for digital commercial advertising for 2025/26. The Adult and Community Learning Charges increase by 8% and 9%. There were a number of income targets set as part of the 2024/25 budget which these price changes will support the achievement of.

- 2.127** Corporate Resources Appendix E (iv) – In the Corporate Resources Directorate there are a number of fees and charges that have been increased by more than 3% to maximise cost recovery. A number of the wedding related charges in Registrars have been increased via Delegated Powers to enable future years bookings to be taken with increases ranging from 4.2% to 7.4%. Legal and Land charges have been increased by around 5%. Land charges fees increased in line with national averages, and an hourly rate introduced for Environmental Information Requests (EIR) increased in line with inflation since last being reviewed in 2018. The Human Resources charges reflect the statutory fee increase for DBS checks of 2.9%.
- 2.128** Environment and Housing Appendix E (v) – Charges in the Directorate have been broadly increased by 3%. Charges for Car Parks will be set as part of the Car Parking Cabinet Report. Season Tickets for Car Parks have been held so that they remain affordable for residents. It is proposed that some Greenlinks charges have increased at between 14% to 20% which helps support the viability of the service. The Bulky Household waste charge is proposed to be increased by 11% for 2025/26 to ensure cost recovery. This appendix also includes the cemetery prices as provided by Barry Town Council.
- 2.129 Reserves**
- 2.130** The Council is continually reviewing its reserves and has established a clear approach and rationale for the reserves it holds, being regulatory, to meet service and capital commitments, address risk and facilitate investment and reshaping. In the Quarter 3 2024/25 Monitoring the Council is forecasting its overall level of reserves to be £57.371M at 31st March 2025 a reduction of £18.9M (25%) on the £76.254M as at 31st March 2024. A significant element of this reduction was planned but there has also been unplanned drawdown due to the in-year pressures in ALN and Social Care demand as well as a growing number of deficits in the Vale of Glamorgan’s schools which will be offset by £4M set aside in the School Deficits Reserve.
- 2.131** The continual review of the Council’s reserves has a particular focus during budget setting and year end. The table below sets out the recommendations of the review that has been undertaken to match reserve sums held to risk and the Council’s draft Corporate Plan Wellbeing Objectives. There is a need to replenish risk reserves and build up the Council Fund but also the challenge to ensure sufficient resources are in place to support the Council’s ongoing reshaping and transformation ambitions.

Capital Reserves						
Capital	5,251	429	400	400	400	400
Capital Regeneration and Levelling Up	2,500	1,675	1,550	1,550	1,550	1,550
Sub Total	52,506	41,714	39,412	38,362	37,770	37,485
Ringfenced Reserves						
Schools	-4,000	-4,000	-4,000	-4,000	-4,000	-4,000
Schools Deficit Reserve	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Hwb Schools ICT Reserve	673	673	673	673	673	673
Housing Revenue Account	4,192	4,232	4,474	2,095	2,115	2,172
Total Reserves	57,371	46,619	44,559	41,130	40,558	40,330

2.135 Adequacy of Reserves/Robustness of Estimates

2.136 S25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the local authority's s151 Officer to report on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of the proposed reserves. The report is attached at Appendix F.

2.137 There has been a forensic examination of the Council's budgets during the 2025/26 budget setting process building on the arrangements put in place in for setting the 2023/24 and 2024/25 budgets. The Council continue to review and look to improve its budget planning arrangements. It is, of course, good practice to do so, but also essential given the forecasts in the autumn indicating underlying cost pressures of £34.3M with little prospect of Government Grant and Council Tax coming close to closing the gap.

2.138 There has been extensive examination of the financial risks that the Council is exposed to: Government funding and policy; volume, complexity and cost of social care, inflation risk across pay, energy and third party supplies; and delivery of the savings programme along with mitigation of the unawarded cost pressures. There do remain some clear unknowns with the UK Government funding to cover the costs of the increased NI contribution rate and threshold for employed not expected to be confirmed until late spring at the earliest.

2.139 The report judges the Council's estimates to be robust and that there has been appropriate consideration of a wide range of risks.

2.140 The Council maintains strong reserves and is clear on the reasons for which they are held. There was a very extensive review as part of setting the 2023/24 and 2024/25 budgets and there has been a further exercise as the risks facing the Council have developed over the past twelve months. This approach has meant that there are less service based reserves and consequently a need to strengthen the Council's General Fund Balance to in the order of 4% of next expenditure to cover unknown risks.

- 2.141** The most prominent risk continues to be the cost of delivery of social services. There has been a significant increase in demand alongside increased complexity of cases and cost both of internal provision and externally with providers experiencing similar inflationary pressures to the Council. It has been necessary to set aside additional provision to address this volatility.
- 2.142** The savings programme is of a similar scale to last year, and there had been concerns about the Council's mixed track record for the delivery of large scale savings programmes, but the comprehensive arrangements in place to ensure delivery meant 85% of the 2023/24 programme is set to be delivered but capacity in part has seen only 77% of the 2024/25 programme coming through. In line with the approach adopted during 2024/25 budgets setting, in response to the non delivery in 2024/25 and the level of unawarded cost pressures the risk reserve has been topped up to provide additional cover in 2025/26. The Council continues to monitor the delivery of savings across multiple years, including those historically set as part of previous years' budgets.
- 2.143** The Council has considered pressures across the medium to ensure finances are sustainable and has a reshaping and transformation programme in place which has established a series of to feed into future years' budgets. These will be worked up in detail the spring and brought forward alongside the Financial Strategy in July.
- 2.144** School balances are a major concern and there has been a significant reversal of the growth of school balances experienced during the two years of the pandemic. There is an overall deficit on school balances forecast as at 31st March 2025 which needs to be offset against the Council's General Fund balances. The General Fund balance does, however, remain above its minimum policy level following this offset. However, if the current level of spend in schools isn't brought in line with budget during 2025/26 this is going to have a damaging impact on the Council's overall reserves and its ability to cover known risks and invest in future transformation.
- 2.145** The report judges that the reserves are adequate.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan and wellbeing objectives is significantly influenced by the available finance to deliver services. This report provides the context in which the Council will be operating in the immediate and medium term and is being published at the same time as the Council introduces a new Corporate Plan, Vale 2030.
- 3.2** This report provides an immediate and medium term projection of the Council's financial position, however the decisions to be taken on the Financial Strategy are also influenced by the need to think about the longer term implications of decisions. This includes the continued lobbying of Welsh Government for

genuine multi-year financial settlements to enable better forecasting and projection of budgets and continuing to protect preventative services. It is challenging to plan ahead with a single year settlement with no indication of settlements for future years albeit with the prospect of a multi year spending review in spring/summer 2025. The budget proposals, including savings schemes, have considered the role of prevention and the Reshaping programme makes reference to avoiding future costs at the same time as delivering cashable savings.

- 3.3** The approach to setting a balanced budget described in the body of this report includes reference to collaboration and the value of this approach has been well evidenced in recent years, most notably in the response to the pandemic, where the pooling of resources (whether financial, capacity or expertise) has resulted in improved outcomes and better value for money. In developing the budget proposals, the Council has considered the impact of changing service delivery on different departments, and on partners to ensure opportunities for integration are taken wherever possible.
- 3.4** Key to developing these proposals has been the involvement, engagement and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including the important views of residents. The consultation exercise is described in the main body of the report, demonstrating the Council's commitment to involving residents. This is supplemented by the use of insight gained through engaging on the Council's Annual Self Assessment and Let's Talk About Life in the Vale survey.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** The Council's response to the declaration of Climate and Nature Emergencies (in 2019 and 2021 respectively) involves significant council wide activity to deliver. The ability to respond to these plans will be impacted by the availability of financial resources to deliver them. The Council has established this area of work as a priority through the new Corporate Plan and therefore will continue to resource activity as far as possible, in conjunction with other priorities.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** The financial considerations are set out in the body of the report.

Employment

- 5.2** Salaries and wages are a major element of the Council's overall spend and the inflationary impact of the pressures represents a significant proportion of growth set out as part of these draft proposals.

- 5.3** There has been a better than anticipated but nevertheless modest settlement only from Welsh Government and the detailed review of pressures presents a challenging savings and efficiencies target of £8.771M for 2025/26 as a consequence of which there is likely to be an employment impact associated with these savings.
- 5.4** Where there are such potential impacts, the Council will follow its existing policies and procedures and ensure that there is full engagement with staff and the Trades Unions. Further, some of the potential impact will reduce through turnover or redeployment.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.5** The Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended, requires the Council to set a balanced budget, including the level of the Council Tax. This means the income from all sources must meet the proposed expenditure. Best estimates must be employed to identify all anticipated expenditure and resources. The approval of the Council's budget and Council Tax (which must be set for the financial year 2025/26 by 11th March 2025) and the adoption of a financial strategy for the control of the Council's borrowing or capital expenditure are matters reserved, by law, to full Council. However, the Cabinet has responsibility for preparing, revising and submitting to Council estimates of the various amounts which must be aggregated in making the calculations required in order to set the budget and the Council Tax; and may make recommendations on the borrowing and capital expenditure strategy, (pursuant to the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Functions and Responsibilities) (Wales) Regulations 2007)).
- 5.6** The Financial Strategy and process for approving the 2025/26 Budget and MTFP at Council in March 2026 is aligned to the Council's new Corporate Plan – 'Strong Communities with a Brighter Future' 2025-2030.
- 5.7** Equality Duty. The budget proposals as set out in the report has due regard to the requirements of the Council's Strategic Equality Plan and the Equalities Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty for Wales. These duties require the Council, in the exercise of its functions, to have 'due regard' to the need, in summary, to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations based on 'protected characteristics'. The 'Protected characteristics' are: Age, Gender reassignment, Sex, Race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality, Disability, Pregnancy and maternity, Marriage and civil partnership, Sexual orientation, Religion or belief – including lack of belief. The subsequent development of specific proposals and strategies set out in the report will require the completion of Equality Impact Assessments. This involves systematically assessing the likely (or actual) effects of policies on individuals who have a range of protected characteristics under the Act. The PSED is a duty to have 'due regard'. It therefore requires the decision-maker to be properly informed as to the equality implications of the decision to be made.

As with any decision, the decision maker will need to take account of the equalities impact assessments, consider whether it has sufficient information to assess the effects of the proposed decision on the aims in the PSED and consider gathering more information if needed.

- 5.8** When taking strategic decisions, the Council also has a statutory duty to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage ('the Socio-Economic Duty' imposed under section 1 of the Equality Act 2010). In considering this, the Council must take into account the statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers (WG42004 A More Equal Wales The Socio-economic Duty Equality Act 2010 (gov.wales) and must be able to demonstrate how it has discharged its duty.

6. Background Papers

[Financial Strategy 2025/26](#)

[MTEP Refresh and Update](#)

[Initial Budget for Consultation](#)

Vale of Glamorgan Council Budget Consultation 2025-26

Results Report

Methodology

The budget consultation was launched on 20 January 2025 and closed on 14 February 2025.

The consultation was supported by a promotional campaign aimed at encouraging responses and improving people's understanding of the Council's financial position.

The consultation was hosted on a dedicated budget consultation hub on Participate Vale. This featured an explanation of the Council's current financial position, links to the full Cabinet report and appendix detailing all of the savings proposals, equality impact assessments for each of the savings proposals, a budget quiz, and the online consultation form.

Printed consultation documents were also distributed to Council venues to enable those without access to the internet to respond.

The exercise was promoted to residents using media releases to local and regional news outlets, a social media campaign, adverts on Bro Radio. The consultation was promoted directly to the Participate Vale citizens panel and key partner organisations such as members of the Public Services Board and Equalities Consultative Forum by email.

The online promotional campaign utilised the budget quiz as a new method for seeking to help residents understand the financial context in which the organisation is operating. The Council also trialled the use of online polls on its recently established Instagram account for the first time.

All of the promotional materials were shared with elected members, schools, and teams across the Council with a request to share widely.

Results

There were 770 responses to the budget consultation.

Survey questions

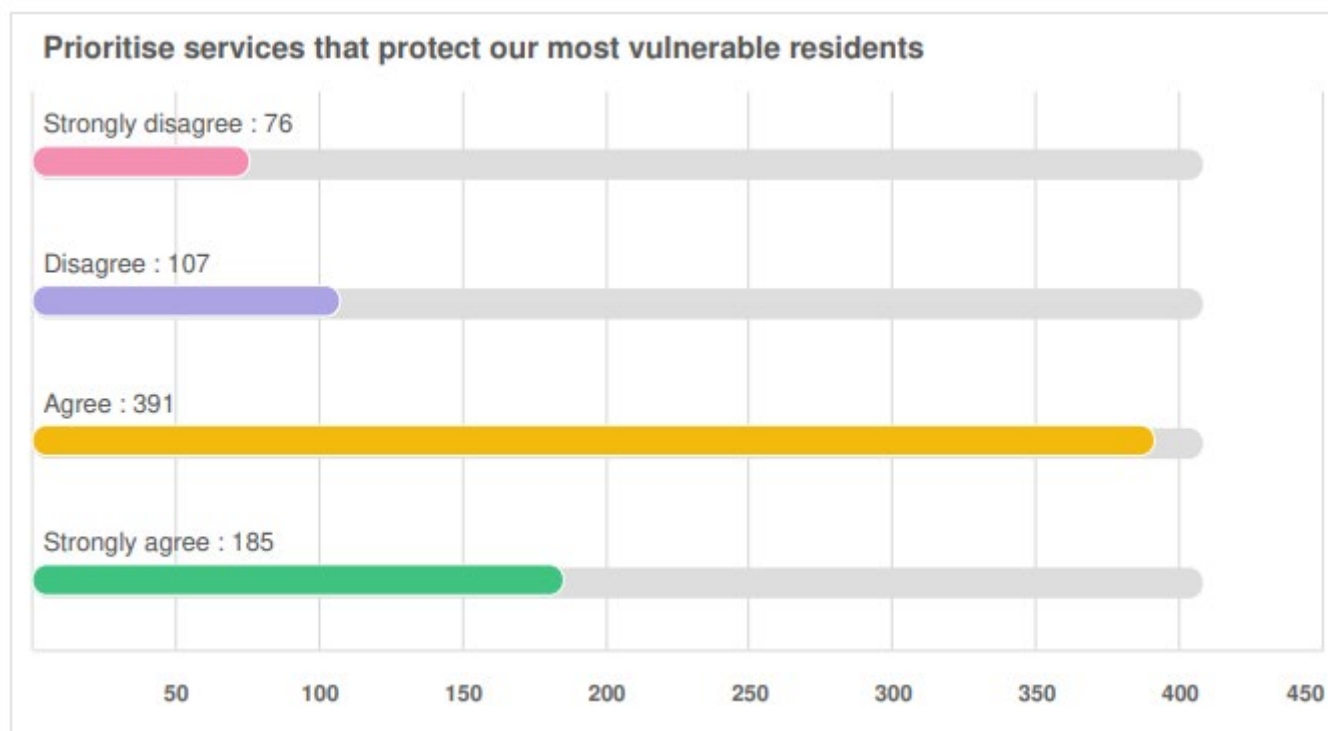
The survey asked respondents to express the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with five proposals that form the basis of the Council's budget strategy.

Firstly, respondents were asked to express a view on the proposal to continue to review the way services are delivered to make them as efficient as possible.



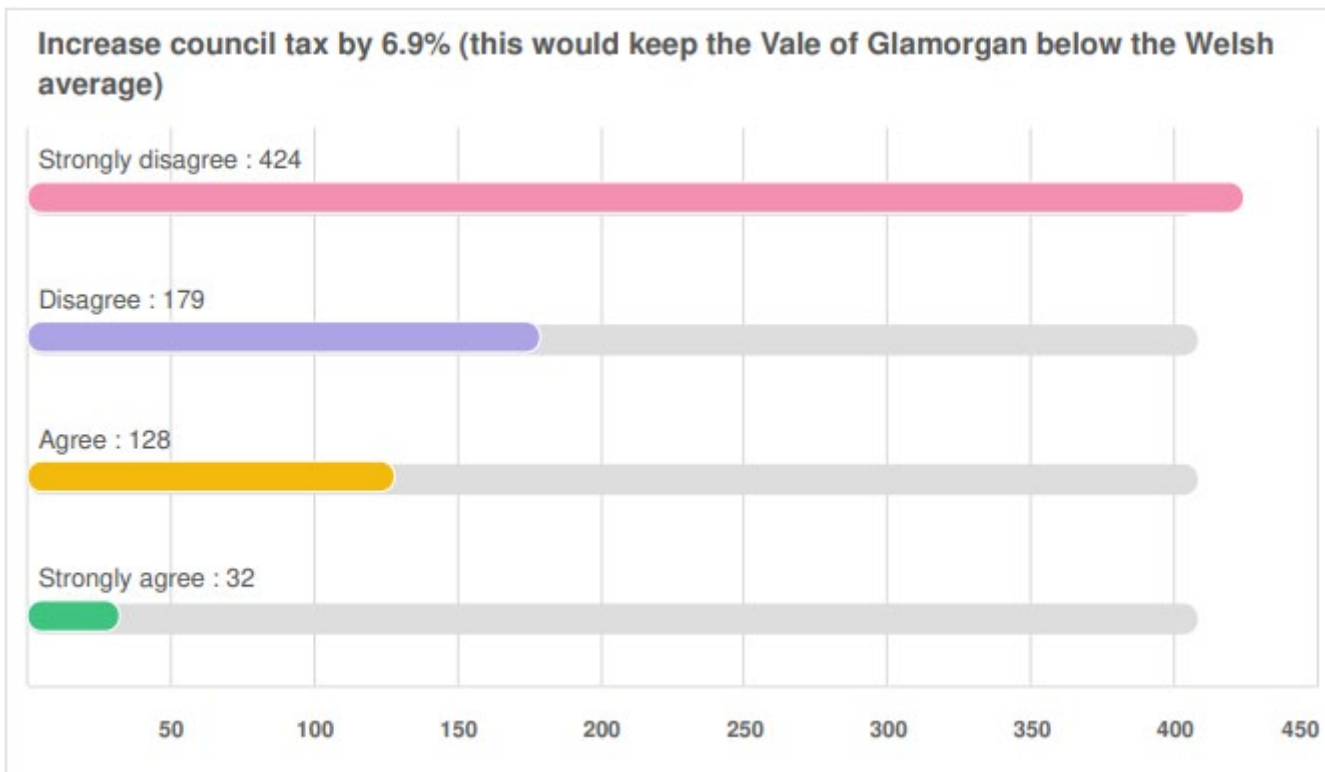
63% of respondents stated they either agreed or strongly agreed with this proposal. This indicates a majority in favour of the Council continuing with this approach to reviewing its ways of working.

Next respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed with the proposal to prioritise the services that protect our most vulnerable residents.



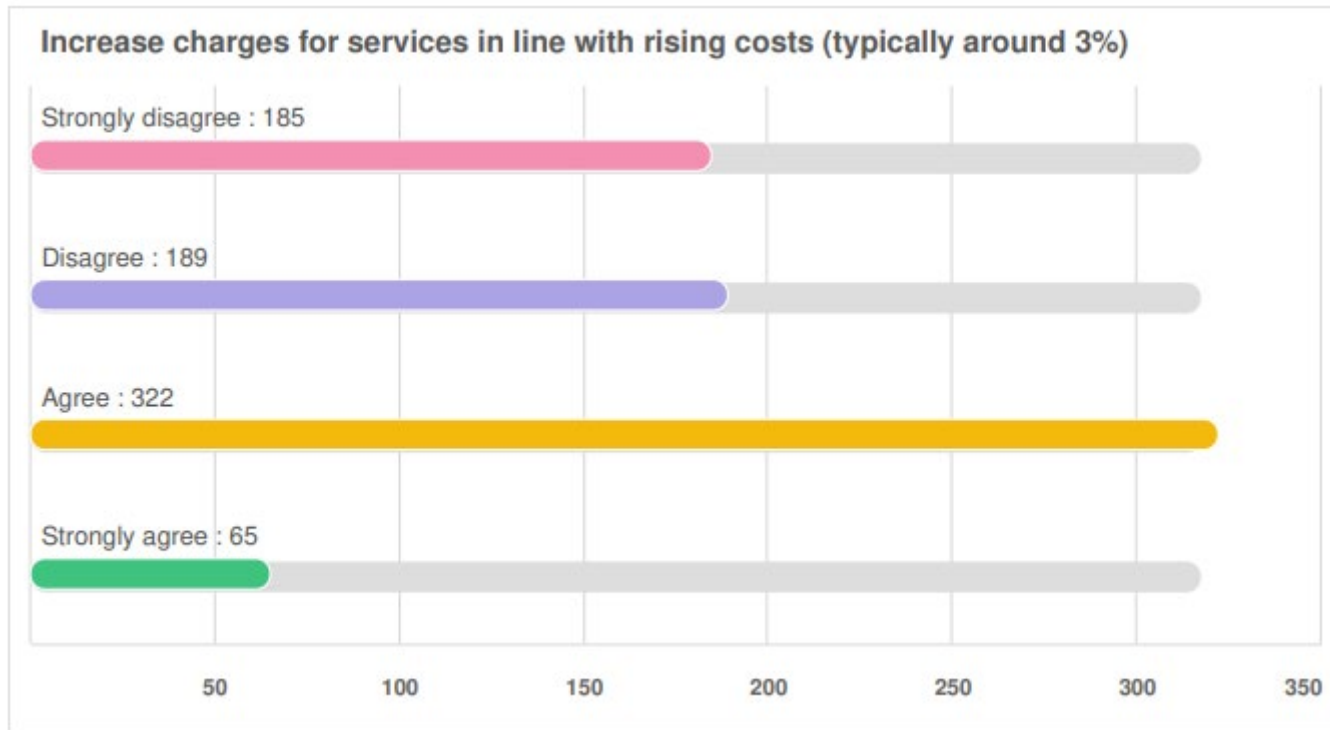
More than three quarters (76%) of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with this proposal. This indicates a strong level of support for the core principle of the Council's budget strategy.

The third question in the survey asked about the proposal to increase council tax by 6.9%.



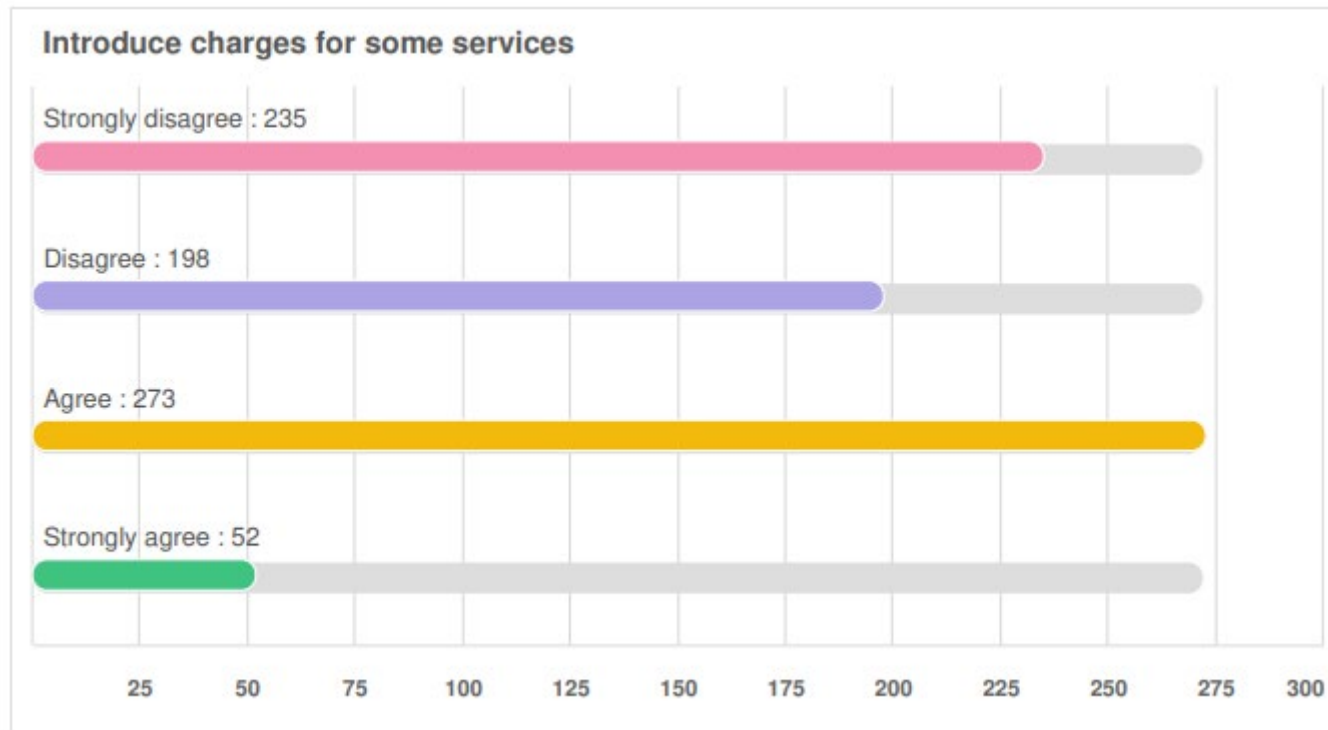
A very large majority (79%) of respondents stated that they either disagreed or strongly disagreed with this proposal. The results to this question show there is only very limited support for increasing council tax to the extent proposed.

The final two questions in the survey concerned charges for council services. The first asked the extent to which respondents agreed with the proposal to increase charges in line with rising costs (typically around 3%).



The response to this question was finely balanced. 51% of respondents stated they either strongly agreed or agreed with the proposal. 49% either disagreed or strongly disagreed. The most common single response was 'agree'. 42% of respondents indicated they agreed with the proposal.

The final survey question asked about the introduction of charges for some services.

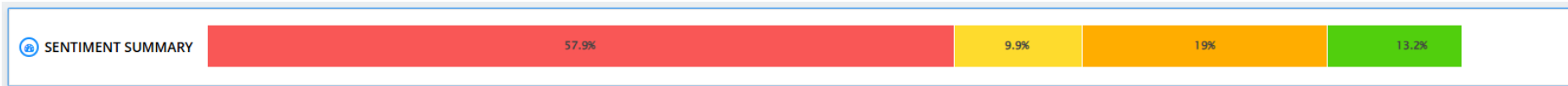


The sentiment of response to this question is split fairly evenly. 43% of respondents answered that they either agreed or disagreed with the proposal. 57% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed. The most common response was 'agree' which was given by 36% of respondents.

Further comments

Respondents were also given the opportunity to make any additional comments. 441 additional comments were received.

An automated text analysis of these found the majority of additional comments were largely negative.



58% of comments were analysed as negative, 10% as mixed, 19% as neutral, and 13% as positive.

The issue most frequently raised was opposition to the proposed increase in council tax. Suggestions that the Council could be run more efficiently and opposition to reductions in visible council services such as waste collection and street cleansing are also prominent in the responses. Reducing staff salaries and councilors allowances are the most common suggestions for cost savings.

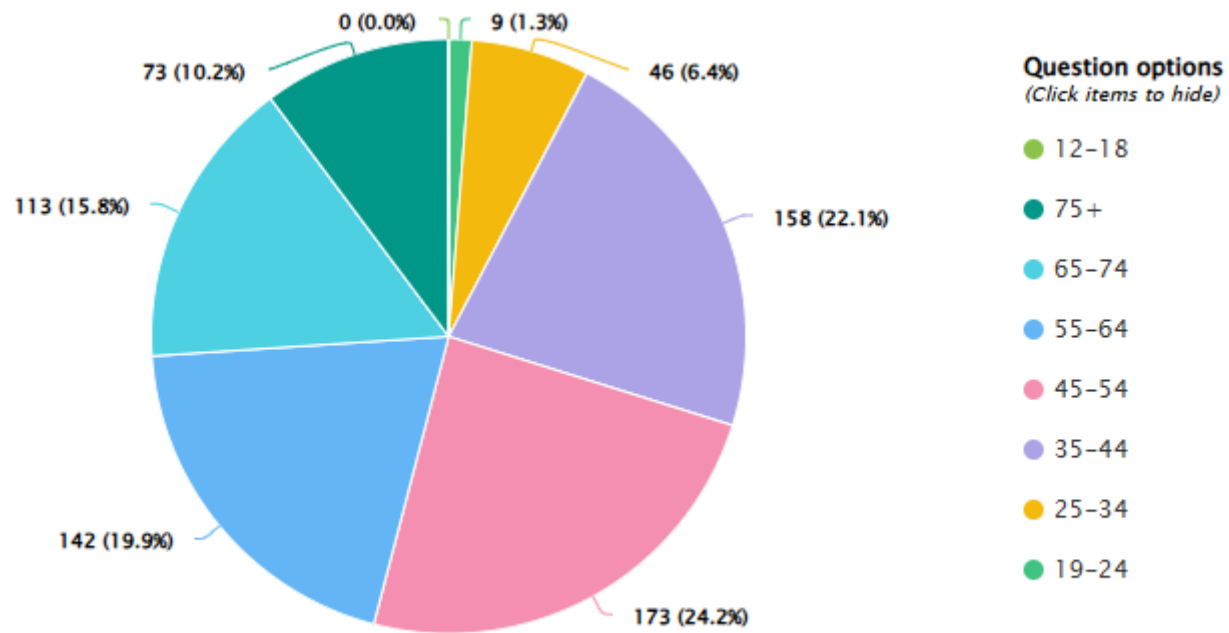
A full report of all comments received is included in Appendix B.

Profile of respondents

98% of respondents to the consultation survey identified themselves as residents of the Vale of Glamorgan. The remainder was made up from councillors, members of staff, community groups, and visitors.

30% of respondents were from Barry, 41% from the Eastern Vale (Penarth, Sully, Dinas Powys, Wenvoe), and 29% from the Western Vale (Rhoose, Llantwit Major, Bonvilston, St Brides, Cowbridge, Ogmere, St Athan).

There was a fairly even split of respondents by age, as shown in the chart below.



A full breakdown of respondents by protected characteristics can be found in Appendix A.

Reconciliation – Budget for Consultation to Draft Budget

1. The following table steps through the changes between the Budget for Consultation published on 16 January and the Draft Budget present to Cabinet for approval by Council on 10th March.

	Consultation *1	Settlement	Council Tax	Reserves	Costs/Savings	Total
Column	1	2	3	4	5	6
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Additional Funding						
Grant Transfers In	6,527	78				6,449
Grant Settlement	7,111	1,106				8,217
Council Tax	8,543		-996			7,547
Use of smoothing Reserves	-1,784			-460		-2,244
School Support from Reserves	267					267
Total Additional Funding	20,66	1,028	-996	-460	0	20,236
Investment	595				50	645
Demography	1,546					1,546
Inflation Pay	10,816				6	10,822
Inflation Non Pay	8,881				129	9,010
Capital Financing	0					0
Other Pressures	6,872			-460	73	6,485
Total Pressures	28,709			-460	258	28,507
Reversal of Temporary Savings	982				-481	501
Overall Gap	9,027	-1,028	996	0	-223	8,771
Corporate Savings	-7,827				255	-7,572
Schools Efficiencies	-1,200					-1,200
Overall Position	0	-1,028	996	0	32	0

*Note *1 Adjusted for £0.365M MEDR Post 16 Grant for Teachers Pensions, in Grant Transfers in and Pay Inflation.*

2. There were two upsides for the Council following publication of the final Welsh Government Settlement on Thursday 20th February 2025. Welsh Government has put a

funded floor in place at 3.8% which provided an uplift of £1.028M to the Vale of Glamorgan. Further there was £30M set aside across Wales to support reablement in Social Care of which Council's share is not yet known but this will be built into the Social Services Directorate Budget as a specific grant and not be presented as part of the Council's overall grant settlement.

3. Council has reviewed its proposals for Council Tax in light of the final Settlement and responses to the Consultation and will be taking forward an increase of 5.9% for 2025/26, 1% lower than the 6.9% consulted on.
4. There has been a further review of the Council's use of smoothing reserves given the significant progress made in the various initiatives in Rapid Rehousing Strategy. Pressures in Homelessness are reduced by £0.460M and it is therefore also possible to step down the reliance on the use of reserves.
5. There are a number of cost and savings changes between the Budget for Consultation and the Draft Budget. Starting with the costs:
 - i. There is a further £50K investment required for the new schools MIS system bring the total Investment to £250K.
 - ii. There has been a minor adjustment of £6K to the budget for the 2025/26 NJC pay award.
 - iii. There are two further non pay inflation pressures , firstly £54K for the annual uplift of Oracle Fusion Licences and secondly, £75K for the Joint Equipment Store.
 - iv. Finally, under other pressures there is £73K for rebalancing of partner contributions for SRS due to population changes.
6. Moving on to savings adjustments:
 - i. The proposed increases in charges for Garden Waste have been scaled back with prices held for those commitment to renewal early which reduced the saving from £140K back to £20K.
 - ii. The Community Centres saving of £50K has been taken out in full.
 - iii. The £85K saving for Building Cleaning and Security was reviewed and would have given rise to a cost pressure else where in the Council and has also been deleted in full.
 - iv. There was a short term saving for capital financing benefit arising from internal borrowing of £1.000M built into the 2023/24 Budget which was to be written out of subsequent budgets £0.500M in both 2024/25 and 2025/26. £0.481M is being retained.

Cost Pressures

Appendix C(i)

Description		Adjusted 2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Category of Growth
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Directorate: Learning and Skills							
Delegated Schools							
Schools	Special school demographic increase - Demographic increase in pupils requiring placement in special school Ysgol Y Deri	1,000	1,274	1,274	1,274	1,274	Demographic
Schools	Demographic Decrease in mainstream pupils - . (negative cost pressure) - The 2025/26 negative cost pressure is based on a reduction in pupils from the January 2023 plasc to the Janaury 2024 plasc. The projections for 2026/27 onwards are estimated and under annual review	-644	-462	-367	-391	-381	Demographic
Schools	Satellite specialist resource bases in secondary schools. - Develop satellite bases in Llantwit, Stanwell, Cowbridge, St Cyres and St Richard Gwyn to address the exponential increase in social, emotional and communication needs. Staffing would include a 0.5 FTE teacher, 1x L4 HLTA and 0.5 x L3 LSA at each satellite base at a cost of approx £64k per base).	128	0	0	0	0	Investment

Description		Adjusted 2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Category of Growth
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Schools	Expand Hafan primary resource base for Social and Emotional needs - The biggest gap in provision for SEMH is in the primary sector. There is a need to improve and extend provision in Hafan for high-end needs to avoid the over dependence on out of county placement through an extra primary class at Hafan with 1 FTE teacher, 1 x L4 HLTA and 3 x L3 LSAs	199					Pressure
Schools	Additional Learning Needs in mainstream schools - to retain pupils in the mainstream sector and ease pressure on specialist placements and Ysgol Y Deri mainstream schools need support to carry out statutory duties to deliver local interventions. ALN interventions can't be prioritised meaning that the LA is being requested to maintain IDPs. Normally would generally be expected to be provided by mainstream schools.	0	0	0	0	0	Pressure
Schools	Schools Teaching pay Award 25/26	3,492	2,670	2,750	2,832	2,917	Inflationary - Pay
Schools	Schools Non-teaching pay Award 25/26	1,138	1,172	1,207	1,244	1,281	Inflationary - Pay
Schools	Schools Teaching pay Award 24/25	1,116	0	0	0	0	Inflationary - Pay
Schools	Schools Non-teaching pay Award 24/25	760	0	0	0	0	Inflationary - Pay
Schools	Energy Step Down	-200	0	0	0	0	Pressure
Schools	FSM Step Down	-100	0	0	0	0	Pressure
Schools	Teachers Superannuation - 5% increase	2,827	0	0	0	0	Inflationary - Pay
Delegated Schools		9,716	4,654	4,864	4,959	5,091	
Central Learning and Skills							

Description		Adjusted 2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Category of Growth
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Learning & Skills	Specialist Head Teacher consultancy support - to assist schools with recovery plans for deficit schools, in particular in relation to transformation of teaching and learning. (two year project)	214	0	-214	0	0	Investment
Learning & Skills	Schools Procurement Officer - To provide contract support to schools and consider the feasibility of total school contracts on mass with certain suppliers in order to achieve efficiencies. Grade 9	53	-53	0	0	0	Investment
Learning & Skills	Expand Welsh Medium ALN specialist resource base at Gwaun Y Nant - in order to meet the increasing demand for pupils with autism and anxiety in the WM primary sector, and reduce the number of pupils requiring a specialist placement in Ysgol Y Deri, a new Welsh medium resource base was piloted and following consultation has now been established. (Allocated to Central Education for Delivery)	0	99	74	0	0	Pressure
Learning & Skills	Out of county complex needs placements. There is a significant increase in the number of placements out of county placements or with independent providers due to the lack of in-house provision to meet increasingly complex ALN.	500	0	0	0	0	Pressure

Description		Adjusted 2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Category of Growth
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Learning & Skills	Reduction in Out of County Income - income from other LAs in respect of placements in Ysgol Y Deri from Out of County is reducing each year as existing pupils become school leavers. There are less places available for out of county pupils at Ysgol Y Deri as more places are required by Vale of Glamorgan Pupils.	320	184	129	105	142	Pressure
Learning & Skills	New cloud based MIS platform for schools with Arbor	250	0	0	0	0	Investment
Learning & Skills	Pay Award (non-schools) Central Learning and Skills Staff	248	350	350	350	350	Inflationary - Pay
Learning & Skills	Teachers Superannuation (Non-schools) for centrally funded staff-5% increase	40	0	0	0	0	Inflationary - Pay
Learning & Skills	Revenue impact of additional Sustainable Communities for Learning St Richard Gwyn - Revenue cost of borrowing to progress the scheme	0	147	55	24	50	Capital Financing
Learning & Skills	Revenue impact of additional Sustainable Communities for Learning Ysgol Iolo - Revenue cost of borrowing to progress the scheme	0	0	120	13	0	Capital Financing
Central Learning and Skills		1,625	727	514	492	542	
Total Learning and Skills		11,341	5,381	5,378	5,451	5,633	
Directorate: Social Services							
Children Services							
Social Services	Practitioner Manager in Intake	64					Pressure
Social Services	Provider Fees - Additional funding for third party providers in 2025/26	825	500	500	500	500	Inflationary
Social Services	External Placements -Pressure on 2024/25 Budget	3,000					Pressure
Social Services	External Placements - Demographic Projections	0	1,000	200	200	200	Demographic

Description		Adjusted 2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Category of Growth
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Total Children Services		3,889	1,500	700	700	700	
Adult Services							
Social Services	Provider Fees - Additional funding for third party providers	7,071	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	Inflationary
Social Services	Increased demand / need to provide equipment via the joint equipment store and uplift in costs of equipment and the regional Section 33	75	0	0	0	0	Inflationary
Social Services	Adjusting Base Budget Adult Placements	1,500	0	0	0	0	Pressure
Social Services	Demographic Pressures - increased numbers of people requiring care and support	1,000	650	650	650	650	Demographic
Adult Services		9,646	5,150	5,150	5,150	5,150	
Resource Management and Safeguarding							
Social Services	Care Home Additional Funding	100	0	0	0	0	Pressure
Total Resource Management and Safeguarding		100	0	0	0	0	
Social Services	Pay Award Non Schools Social Services	410	399	407	415	424	Inflationary - Pay
Total Social Services		14,045	7,049	6,257	6,265	6,274	
Environment and Ho SAZS							
Environment and Housing	Waste Contract Contractual Inflation and New Developments	0	75	75	75	75	Inflationary
Environment and Housing	Cost of B&B Homelessness Accommodation	-960	-500	0	0	0	Pressure
Environment and Housing	Strategic Housing Coordinator	46	0	0	0	0	Pressure
Environment and Housing	Highway Repairs - Increased costs of footway and carriageway repairs due to continued underfunding of highway and footway resurfacing / refurbishment.	500	200	200	200	200	Pressure

Description		Adjusted 2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Category of Growth
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Environment and Housing	Ash Die Back	100	0	0	0	0	Pressure
Environment and Housing	Asset Maintenance Neighbourhood Services Asset Repairs	0	50	50	0	50	Pressure
Environment and Housing	Shared Regulatory Services Increased Contribution for Population Change	73	0	0	0	0	Pressure
Environment and Housing	Pay Award Non Schools General Fund Housing	29	22	22	23	23	Inflationary - Pay
Environment and Housing	Pay Award Non Schools Neighbourhood Services	311	336	343	350	357	Inflationary - Pay
Total Environment and Housing		99	183	690	647	705	
Environment and Housing - Schools Transport							
Environment and Housing	School Transport - Inflationary increase for School Transport reflecting rising fuel costs and shortage of drivers and providers in the market.	1,000	200	200	200	200	Inflationary
Environment and Housing	ALN transport - The cost of transport for the Demographic increase pupils Ysgol y Deri,	190	190	190	190	190	Demographic
Total Environment and Housing - Schools Transport		1,190	390	390	390	390	
Place							
Place	Replacement Local Development Plan - cost of public enquiry and Programme Officer	0	150	-150	0	0	Pressure
Place	Pay Award Non Schools Place	106	84	86	88	89	Inflationary - Pay
Total Place		106	234	-64	88	89	
Directorate: Corporate Resources							
Corporate Resources	Contract Inflation on Various ICT Contracts	35	0	0	0		Inflationary
Corporate Resources	Coroner	25	25	25	25	25	Pressure

Description		Adjusted 2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Category of Growth
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Corporate Resources	Network management & Security licence	115	0	0	0		Pressure
Corporate Resources	Occ Health - Ongoing cost pressure for the provision of an occupational health service, these costs include GP support, counselling support services, wellbeing, medical provisions and flu vaccinations	100	0	0	0		Pressure
Corporate Resources	Data Centre - Following the over-heating incident, it was identified that a higher level of service was required for Data Centre cooling	23	0	0	0		Pressure
Corporate Resources	Firewalls - Ongoing maintenance and support for Firewalls, previous 5 years were included in Capital Bid	35	0	0	0		Pressure
Corporate Resources	Registars - Proposed changes to birth and death registrations arising from a Home Office project for the digital transformation of the service.	0	51	0	0		Pressure
Corporate Resources	Backups - Ongoing maintenance and support for Backups, previous 5 years were included in Capital Bid	45	0	0	0		Pressure
Corporate Resources	Microsoft Licenses - The Enterprise Agreement we currently have is due for renewal in 2025 and the new DTA24 pricing agreement framework is not currently available. This pressure covers a potential 10% increase in costs.	100	0	0	0		Inflationary
Corporate Resources	Oracle Fusion Licenses - This pressure covers a projected 12% increase in costs.	54	0	0	0		Inflationary
Corporate Resources	Energy Step Down	-700	0	0	0	0	Inflationary

Description		Adjusted 2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Category of Growth
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Corporate Resources	Pay Award Non Schools Resources	395	292	298	304	310	Inflationary - Pay
Total Corporate Resources		227	368	323	329	335	
Policy	Members Remuneration - Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report	100	0	0	0		Inflationary
Policy	Fire Levy - additional funding to be passported to Fire Service	450	0	0	0	0	Inflationary
Policy	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	1,000	0	0	0	0	Pressure
Policy	City Deal - Revenue Costs Associated with Prudential Borrowing for the Council's Contribution	0	107	149	52	132	Capital Financing
Corporate Resources	Pay Award Adjustment	-52	0	0	0	0	Inflationary - Pay
Total Policy		1,498	107	149	52	132	

Total Cost Pressures		28,506	13,712	13,123	13,222	13,557	
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		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Total
Investment		644	-53	-214	0	0	377
Demographic		1,546	2,652	1,947	1,923	1,933	10,001
Pressure		6,485	259	328	330	417	7,819
Inflationary - Pay		10,822	5,325	5,463	5,605	5,750	32,965
Inflationary		9,009	5,275	5,275	5,275	5,275	30,109
Capital Financing		0	254	324	89	182	849
Total		28,506	13,712	13,123	13,222	13,557	82,120

Appendix C (iii)

Directorate/Service	Revised Budget	Adjustments back to Original from RE	Transfer Insurance	Transfer Building Cleaning and Security	Transfer other	Reserves Adjustment	Temp Savings	National Insurance Increase*	Pay Award	Other Cost Pressures	Savings	Funding	Total
	2024/25	2024/25											
	£'000	£'000											
Learning and Skills													
Schools	119,866				- 169			2,612	9,333	383	- 1,200		130,825
National Insurance	-							- 2,612					- 2,612
Planned Use of Reserves (Schools)	- 300					300							-
Strategy, Culture, Community Learning & Resources	6,213	- 111	- 767	- 29	49			88	99	517	- 11		6,047
Planned Use of Reserves (Strategy and Resources)	-					- 267							- 267
Directors Office	258							4	6				268
Additional Learning Needs & Wellbeing	4,646		- 1					78	123	820	- 274		5,392
Standards and Provision	2,806	61	- 7		- 64			39	60		- 227		2,668
National Insurance								- 209					- 209
Total Learning and Skills (incl. Schools)	133,488	- 50	- 775	- 29	- 184	33	-	-	9,621	1,720	- 1,712	-	142,112
Social Services													
Children and Young People	21,777			- 23				156	121	3,889	- 1,780		24,139
Adult Services	65,177		- 74	- 81				219	210	9,646	- 1,753		73,344
Resource Management & Safeguarding	8,642	- 50						45	58	100	- 91		8,704
Youth Offending Service	731							23	21				775
National Insurance								- 443					- 443
Total Social Services	96,326	- 50	- 74	- 104	-	-	-	-	410	13,635	- 3,624	-	106,519
Environment and Housing													
Neighbourhood Services & Transport	27,022	- 200		- 195				246	259	1,790	- 2,162		26,760
Building Services	655							19	11				686
Building Cleaning and Security				1,040					41				1,081
Regulatory Services	1,638									73			1,711
Council Fund Housing	3,390		- 4					25	29	- 914	- 159		2,367
Council Fund Housing Use of Reserves						- 500							- 500
National Insurance								- 290					- 290
Public Sector Housing (HRA)	- 667												- 667
Use of Reserves HRA	667												667
Total Environment and Housing	32,705	- 200	- 4	845	-	- 500	-	0	341	949	- 2,321	-	31,815
Corporate Resources													
Resources	16,827	300	- 125	- 719	92			338	395	- 168	- 876		16,064
Housing Benefit	- 431												- 431
National Insurance								- 338					- 338
Total Corporate Resources	16,396	300	- 125	- 719	92	-	-	-	395	- 168	- 876	-	15,295
Place													
Regeneration	1,505		- 5					45	40		- 98		1,487
Sustainable Development	1,559		- 34					86	59		- 140		1,530
Private Housing	183		- 2					8	7				196
National Insurance								- 139					- 139
Budgeted Use of Reserves	- 84					84							-
Total Place	3,163	-	- 41	-	-	84	-	-	106	-	- 238	-	3,074
Policy													
Members and Democratic	1,629									100			1,729
General Policy	746				40				- 52				734
Borrowing and Investments	7,622						500						8,122
Levies and Precepts	8,311									450			8,761
Insurance			1,019	7	52								1,078
National Insurance								-					-
Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Arrears	10,835									1,000		500	12,335
Council Tax Surplus	-												-
Total Policy	29,143	-	1,019	7	92	-	500	-	- 52	1,550	-	500	32,759
Use of Reserves	- 2,360					2,360							-
Grand Total	308,861	-	-	-	-	1,977	500	0	10,821	17,686	- 8,771	500	331,574
Funding													
Revenue Support Grant	- 161,928											- 14,865	- 176,793
NDR Contribution from Pool	- 47,853											199	- 47,654
Council Tax Arrears	-											- 1,250	- 1,250
Council Tax	- 99,080											- 6,797	- 105,877
Total Funding	- 308,861	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 22,713	- 331,574

* Not in the service at this stage but has been included in the schools formula allocations

Directorate	Service	Description of Saving Proposal	Impact on Residents/ Service Users	Lead Officer	Investment Resource	Equality Impact Assessment Required	FTE Impact 2025/26	Saving Category	2025/26 Proposed £000's	2026/27 Proposed £000's	2027/28 Proposed £000's	2028/29 Proposed £000's	2029/30 Proposed £000's	Total £000's
Learning and Skills	ALN and Wellbeing	5% cut to Resource Base Budgets	Y	Katy Williams	No	Y	Y	Tactical	16	-	-	-	-	16
Learning and Skills	ALN and Wellbeing	Vacant Post Review ALN	Y	Katy Williams	No	Y	Y	Tactical	196	-	-	-	-	196
Learning and Skills	ALN and Wellbeing	Remove Y Deri respite catering budget , respite provision previously stopped	N	Katy Williams	No	N	N	Tactical	12	-	-	-	-	12
Learning and Skills	ALN and Wellbeing	Remove Early Years Provision Budget	Y	Katy Williams	No	Y	Y	Tactical	31	-	-	-	-	31
Learning and Skills	ALN and Wellbeing	Review Sensory Team Level of Provision	Y	Katy Williams	No	Y	Y	Tactical	19	-	-	-	-	19
Learning and Skills	Strategy, Com. Learning and Resources	Remove Non-Maintained Nursery placements residual budget	N	Trevor Baker	No	N	N	Tactical	11	-	-	-	-	11
Learning and Skills	Standards and Provision	Central South Consortium reduced contribution	N	Morwen Hudson	No	N	N	Tactical	14	-	-	-	-	14
Learning and Skills	Standards and Provision	Reduction in Out of School Tuition service	Y	Morwen Hudson	No	Y	Y	Tactical	30	-	-	-	-	30
Learning and Skills	Standards and Provision	Alternative use of Local Authority Education Grant matchfunding budget	N	Morwen Hudson	No	N	N	Tactical	183	-	-	-	-	183
Total Learning and Skills									512	-	-	-	-	512
Social Services	Adults	Telecare Expansion & fee review	Y	Jason Bennett	No	Y	N	TOM - Income	20	-	-	-	-	20
Social Services	Adults	Adult Transport Review	Y	Jason Bennett	No	Y	N	Tactical	15	-	-	-	-	15
Social Services	Adults	Releasing time to care	Y	Jason Bennett	Yes	Y	N	Service Transform	350	-	-	-	-	350
Social Services	Adults	Complex Cases Review	Y	Jason Bennett	No	Y	N	Service Transform	250	-	-	-	-	250
Social Services	Adults	Agency Review	N	Jason Bennett	No	N	N	Tactical	10	-	-	-	-	10
Social Services	Adults	Reablement "intake" model of care	Y	Jason Bennett	No	Y	N	Service Transform	200	-	-	-	-	200
Social Services	Adults	Property payments growth in income (Finance Ref Additional Deferred Income)	N	Iain McMillan	No	N	N	Tactical	500	-	-	-	-	500
Social Services	Resource Management and Safeguarding	Debt Recovery	N	Iain McMillan	No	N	N	Tactical	200	-	-	-	-	200
Social Services	Resource Management and Safeguarding	Direct Payment Processes	N	Iain McMillan	No	N	N	Tactical	50	-	-	-	-	50
Social Services	Resource Management and Safeguarding	Increase Income	Y	Iain McMillan	No	N	N	Tactical	75	-	-	-	-	75
Social Services	Resource Management and Safeguarding	Vacant Post and Unutilised Budget Review	N	Iain McMillan	No	N	Y	Tactical	81	-	-	-	-	81
Social Services	Resource Management and Safeguarding	Advocacy contract	N	Iain McMillan	No	N	N	Tactical	10	-	-	-	-	10
Social Services	Resource Management and Safeguarding	Non-residential max charge uplift	N	Iain McMillan	No	N	N	Tactical	83	-	-	-	-	83
Social Services	Children and Young People	Residential Accommodation for children	N	Rachel Evans	Yes	N	N	Service Transform	790	275	-	-	-	1,065
Social Services	Children and Young People	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Supported Accommodation	N	Rachel Evans	Yes	N	N	Service Transform	75	-	-	-	-	75
Social Services	Children and Young People	Pre Birth Pathway	N	Rachel Evans	Yes	N	N	Service Transform	147	74	-	-	-	221
Social Services	Children and Young People	Regional projects review	Y	Rachel Evans	No	Y	N	Tactical	75	100	-	-	-	175
Social Services	Children and Young People	Children's Transport Review	N	Rachel Evans	No	N	N	Tactical	65	-	-	-	-	65
Social Services	Children and Young People	Eliminate Programme	N	Rachel Evans	No	N	N	Tactical	250	-	-	-	-	250
Social Services	Children and Young People	Agency Review	N	Rachel Evans	No	N	N	Tactical	136	78	-	-	-	214
Social Services	Children and Young People	Staffing Review	N	Rachel Evans	No	N	Y	Tactical	48	-	-	-	-	48
Social Services	Children and Young People	Independent Fostering Agency placements for children	N	Rachel Evans	No	N	N	Service Transform	90	45	-	-	-	135
Social Services	Children and Young People	Maximise impact of Additional funding	N	Rachel Evans	No	N	N	Tactical	104	-	-	-	-	104
Total Social Services									3,624	572	-	-	-	4,196
Neighbourhood Services	Neighbourhood Services	Restructure of Neighbourhood Services management	N	Colin Smith	No	N	N	Service Transform	100	-	-	-	-	100
Neighbourhood Services	Street Cleansing	Reduce litter bins by a further 25% (post 25% reduction) and reduce service standards for cleaning and public convenience provision across the Vale	Y	Colin Smith	No	Y	Y	Service Transform	200	-	-	-	-	200
Neighbourhood Services	Street Cleansing	Reduction of service standards across Resorts	Y	Colin Smith	No	Y	Y	Service Transform	50	-	-	-	-	50
Neighbourhood Services	Parks	Alternative delivery model for Parks and Open Spaces - A full service Transformation.	Y	Colin Smith	No	Y	Y	Service Transform	270	-	-	-	-	270
Neighbourhood Services	Waste Management	Resource reduction (Vehicles and Staffing)	Y	Colin Smith	No	Y	Y	Tactical	100	350	-	-	-	450
Neighbourhood Services	Winter Maintenance	Review of service routes and resources	Y	Mike Clogg	No	Y	Y	Tactical	15	-	-	-	-	15
Neighbourhood Services	Car Parks	Permanent closure of car park Court Road Multistorey (residual budget)	Y	Mike Clogg	No	Y	Y	Tactical	38	-	-	-	-	38
Neighbourhood Services	Transport	Fleet reduction and efficiency	N	Kyle Philips	No	Y	Y	Service Transform	50	-	-	-	-	50
Neighbourhood Services	Neighbourhood Services	Fees and Charges Increase to full cost recovery or 3%	Y	Colin Smith	No	Y	Y	Tactical	25	-	-	-	-	25
Neighbourhood Services	Waste Management	Income - Increase garden waste subscription charges for 2025/26	Y	Colin Smith	No	Y	Y	TOM - Income	20	-	-	-	-	20
Neighbourhood Services	Waste Management	Income - Increased market share Commercial Waste	N	Colin Smith	Yes	Y	Y	TOM - Income	50	-	-	-	-	50
Neighbourhood Services	Car Parks	Car Parking Income Coastal locations	Y	Mike Clogg	No	Y	Y	TOM - Income	320	-	-	-	-	320
Neighbourhood Services	Highway Construction	Income from capital projects	N	Mike Clogg	No	Y	Y	Tactical	50	-	-	-	-	50
Neighbourhood Services	Highway Development	Annual income target	N	Mike Clogg	No	Y	Y	Tactical	190	-	-	-	-	190
Neighbourhood Services	Enforcement	New camera car and increased enforcement opportunities	Y	Kyle Philips	Yes	Y	Y	TOM - Income	225	-	-	-	-	225

Neighbourhood Services	Waste Management	Waste Income	N	Colin Smith	No	Y	Y	Tactical	400	-	-	-	-	400
Neighbourhood Services	Community Centres	Declare all community centres surplus for Community Asset Transfer consideration or closure	Y	Dave Knevet	Yes	Y	Y	TOM - Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neighbourhood Services	Lifeguard Buildings	Declare all Lifeguard buildings surplus for Community Asset Transfer consideration or closure	Y	Colin Smith	Yes	Y	Y	TOM - Assets	10	-	-	-	-	10
Neighbourhood Services	Concessions	Introduce additional concessions across Neighbourhood Services assets	N	Colin Smith	Yes	Y	N	TOM - Assets	25	-	-	-	-	25
Neighbourhood Services	Other Assets	Community Asset Transfer of assets (Vale wide)	Y	Colin Smith	Yes	Y	N	TOM - Assets	25	-	-	-	-	25
Neighbourhood Services	General Fund Housing	Vacant Post review	N	Mike Ingram	No	N	Y	Tactical	103	-	-	-	-	103
Neighbourhood Services	General Fund Housing	Reduction in agency staffing budget	N	Mike Ingram	No	N	Y	Tactical	6	-	-	-	-	6
Neighbourhood Services	General Fund Housing	Reduction in management charges for leased accommodation	Y	Mike Ingram	Yes	Y	N	Tactical	50	-	-	-	-	50
Total Neighbourhood Services									2,322	350	-	-	-	2,672
Place	Regeneration	Vacant Post review	N	Phil Chappell	No	Y	N	Tactical	63	-	-	-	-	63
Place	Regeneration	Focus on income from business support	N	Phil Chappell	Yes	Y	N	Tactical	15	-	-	-	-	15
Place	Regeneration	Revisit operating models for BSC & Engine room	N	Phil Chappell	Yes	Y	N	TOM - Other	-	10	-	-	-	10
Place	Regeneration	Additional Income commercial lease income	N	Phil Chappell	Yes	Y	N	TOM - Other	20	10	-	-	-	30
Place	Sustainable Development	Planning Income target – WG fees increase	Y	Ian Robinson	No	Y	N	TOM - Income	70	-	-	-	-	70
Place	Sustainable Development	New Planning income opportunities- new products	Y	Ian Robinson	No	Y	N	TOM - Income	20	-	-	-	-	20
Place	Sustainable Development	Fee increases in both Planning and Building Control	Y	Ian Robinson	No	Y	N	Tactical	10	-	-	-	-	10
Place	Sustainable Development	Public Rights of Way Regionalisation	Y	Ian Robinson	No	Y	Y	Service Transform	-	20	-	-	-	20
Place	Sustainable Development	Country park Leisure commercialisation	Y	Ian Robinson	No	Y	N	TOM - Income	40	-	-	-	-	40
Total Place									238	40	-	-	-	278
Corporate Resources	Digital	Digital Services Operating Model Review	N	Nickki Johns	No	Y	Y	Service Transform	120	0	-	-	-	120
Corporate Resources	Finance	Finance Service Transformation: Invoice processing & structure.	N	Gemma Jones	Yes	N	N	Service Transform	0	100	-	-	-	100
Corporate Resources	Comms and Equalities	Welsh Language Translation: Adopt Amazon Translation Services.	N	Rob Jones	No	Y	N	Digital	100	TBC	-	-	-	100
Corporate Resources	Legal and Democratic	Records Management Unit: Digitise records and relinquish property.	N	James Langridge Thomas	No	N	N	Digital	0	23	-	-	-	23
Corporate Resources	Property	Corporate Landlord: Phase One – Direct Employment/ trading accounts.	N	Lorna Cross	No	Y	N	TOM - Assets	0	85	-	-	-	85
Corporate Resources	Property	Eich Lle: Docks Office	N	Lorna Cross	No	Y	N	TOM - Assets	50	TBC	-	-	-	50
Corporate Resources	All Directorate	Income: Income from traded DBS services, Service Level Agreements, Payroll SLAs, Fees and Charges and Shared Cost AVCs.	Y	All	No	Y	N	TOM - Income	80	TBC	-	-	-	80
Corporate Resources	Digital	C1V and ICT Budget Reduction: General reduction in non pay C1V budgets and ICT Budgets.	N	Nickki Johns	No	N	N	Tactical	305	10	-	-	-	315
Corporate Resources	Legal and Democratic	Mayor's Office: Further review expenditure with a view to reduction.	N	Vicky Davidson	No	N	N	Tactical	5	14	-	-	-	19
Corporate Resources	All Directorate	Managed Headcount Reduction (currently x5 roles)	Y	All	No	Y	Y	Tactical	205	10	-	-	-	215
Corporate Resources	Comms and Equalities	Communications Licences: Granicus Module	N	Rob Jones	No	N	N	Tactical	10	TBC	-	-	-	10
Total Corporate Resources and Policy									875	242	-	-	-	1,117
Schools		School Efficiencies	Y						1,200					1,200
Total Savings									8,771	1,204	-	-	-	9,975

Appendix E (i) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Place

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge £	2025/26 Suggested Increase £	2025/26 Proposed New Rate £	Increase %	Additional Comments
Cosmeston							
Launching fee (boats and diving) – scouts, guides and education			4.75	0.00	4.75	0.00	
Launching fee (boats and diving) -fee paying clubs/commercial			9.50	0.00	9.50	0.00	
Annual launching fee - scouts, guides, schools and charitable organisations			480.00	0.00	480.00	0.00	
Annual launching fee (fee paying organisations/ commercial)			600.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	
Model boats (per launch)			3.50	0.00	3.50	0.00	
Model boats (per year)			420.00	0.00	420.00	0.00	
Horse riding (individual)			30.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	
Horse riding (commercial)			150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	
Orienteering (Vale school)			2.15	0.00	2.15	0.00	
Orienteering (non Vale School)			3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	
Orienteering (public)			3.50	0.00	3.50	0.00	
Filming (per hour)	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Filming (per day)	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Filming (set and clear down days)	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Appendix E (i) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Place

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
Base unit parking (filming)	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required	Based on area used	By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Filming bond			550.00	0.00	550.00	0.00	
Commercial photo shoot							
Per hour	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Per Half day	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Per full day.	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Dedication (tree)			365.00	25.00	390.00	6.85	
Dedication (bench)			1,950.00	235.00	2,185.00	12.05	
Dedication (plaque)			370.00	0.00	370.00	0.00	
Educational talks/Ranger led visits (Vale Schools)		Min per booking	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	
		Per pupil	2.05	0.00	2.05	0.00	
Educational talks/Ranger led visits (non Vale school)		Min per booking	70.00	0.00	70.00	0.00	
		Per pupil	2.55	0.00	2.55	0.00	
Education talks (non-school)			52.00	0.00	52.00	0.00	
Ranger led walk (adult)			52.00	0.00	52.00	0.00	
Ranger led walk (child)			52.00	0.00	52.00	0.00	
Teacher training days			47.00	0.00	47.00	0.00	
Hire of new outdoor learning area			109.00	0.00	109.00	0.00	

Appendix E (i) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Place

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
Hire of new outdoor learning area			175.00	0.00	175.00	0.00	
Wedding event hire.			1,110.00	0.00	1,110.00	0.00	
Trade events/fetes, etc.		Min per day	222.00	8.00	230.00	3.60	
		Per stool	30.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	
Hire of Forest Schools woodland area (commercial)			85.75	0.00	85.75	0.00	
Event - country park use (commercial)		Min per day	325.00	0.00	325.00	0.00	
		Per participant	2.75	0.00	2.75	0.00	
Event - Lake (commercial)		Min per day	325.00	0.00	325.00	0.00	
		Per participant	2.75	0.00	2.75	0.00	
Commercial educational activities		Min per day	83.25	0.00	83.25	0.00	
		Per child	3.50	0.00	3.50	0.00	
Commercial `Pop up` events		From	240.00	0.00	240.00	0.00	
		To	475.00	0.00	475.00	0.00	
Car Parking (1) Fees –	Season 1	0-1HRS	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	
	9am – 10pm.	0-2HRS	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	
		0-3HRS	4.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	
		0-4HRS	4.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	
		All Day	5.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	
		Bus/Coach (All Day)	32.00	0.00	32.00	0.00	
Car Parking (1) Fees – camper vans		Overnight	15.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	
Car parking (1) fees – Parking permit		6 Month	35.00	5.00	40.00	14.29	
		12 Month	55.00	5.00	60.00	9.09	
Porthkerry							
Horse riding (individual)			30.00	1.00	31.00	3.33	
Horse riding (commercial)			160.00	10.00	170.00	6.25	
Orienteering (Vale school)			2.15	0.00	2.15	0.00	
Orienteering (non Vale School)			3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	
Orienteering (public)			3.50	0.00	3.50	0.00	
Filming (per hour)	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Filming (per day)	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Appendix E (i) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Place

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
Filming (set and clear down days)	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Base unit parking (filming)	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required	Based on area used	By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Filming bond			550.00	0.00	550.00	0.00	
Commercial photo shoot							
per hour	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	
per Half day	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	
per full day.	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Dedication (tree)			365.00	25.00	390.00	6.85	
Dedication (bench)			1,950.00	235.00	2,185.00	12.05	
Dedication (plaque)			370.00	0.00	370.00	0.00	
Educational talks/Ranger led visits (Vale Schools)		Min per booking	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	
		Per pupil	2.05	0.00	2.05	0.00	

Appendix E (i) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Place

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
Educational talks/Ranger led visits (non Vale school)		Min per booking	70.00	0.00	70.00	0.00	
		Per pupil	2.55	0.00	2.55	0.00	
Education talks (non school)			52.00	0.00	52.00	0.00	
Ranger led walk (adult)			52.00	0.00	52.00	0.00	
Ranger led walk (child)			52.00	0.00	52.00	0.00	
Teacher training days			47.00	0.00	47.00	0.00	
Trade events/fetes, etc.		Min per day	222.00	8.00	230.00	3.60	
		Per stool	30.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	
Lodge hire per hour (commercial)			52.00	-7.00	45.00	-13.46	
Lodge hire per half day (commercial)			108.00	-13.00	95.00	-12.04	
Lodge hire per full day (commercial)			172.00	-12.00	160.00	-6.98	
Lodge hire cleaning bond			27.50	0.00	27.50	0.00	
Lodge hire (6pm – 11pm only)			368.50	6.50	375.00	1.76	
Lodge hire bond for evening use			110.00	0.00	110.00	0.00	
Commercial educational activities		Min per day	83.25	0.00	83.25	0.00	
		Per child	3.50	0.00	3.50	0.00	
Hire of Forest Schools woodland area (commercial / educational)			85.75	0.00	85.75	0.00	
Event use of part of meadow (day time 9am – 5pm)	Per day	From	235.00	0.00	235.00	0.00	
	Per day	To	475.00	0.00	475.00	0.00	
	25% of ticket receipts per day	From	118.00	0.00	118.00	0.00	
	25% of ticket receipts per day	To	235.00	0.00	235.00	0.00	
Event use of part of meadow (evening 6pm – 11pm)	Per day	From	235.00	0.00	235.00	0.00	
	Per day	To	475.00	0.00	475.00	0.00	
	25% of ticket receipts per day	From	107.00	0.00	107.00	0.00	
	25% of ticket receipts per day	To	215.00	0.00	215.00	0.00	
Commercial `Pop up` events	Per day	From	240.00	0.00	240.00	0.00	
	Per day	To	475.00	0.00	475.00	0.00	
Event use of meadow cleaning bond.			235.00	0.00	235.00	0.00	
Nightingale Cottage meeting room hire 9am – 5pm	Full Day		95.00	-20.00	75.00	-21.05	
Nightingale Cottage meeting room hire	Half Day		65.00	-15.00	50.00	-23.08	
Cottage meeting room hire.			30.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	
Hire of Lodge for wedding blessings (weekday)	Max of 3 hours		450.00	0.00	450.00	0.00	
Hire of Lodge for wedding blessings (weekday)	max of 1 hour		200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	
Hire of Lodge for wedding blessings (weekend)	max of 3 hours		525.00	0.00	525.00	0.00	
Hire of Lodge for wedding blessings (weekend)	max of 1 hour		225.00	0.00	225.00	0.00	
Hire of Lodge - cleaning bond			50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	
Wedding event hire.			1,110.00	0.00	1,110.00	0.00	
Car Parking (1) Fees –	Season 1	0-1 hours	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	

Appendix E (i) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Place

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
		0-2 hours	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	
		0-3 hours	4.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	
		0-4 hours	4.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	
		All Day	5.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	
		Bus/Coach (All Day	32.00	0.00	32.00	0.00	
Car parking (1) fees – Parking permit		6 Month	35.00	5.00	40.00	14.29	
		12 Month	55.00	5.00	60.00	9.09	
Car Parking (1) fees – Disabled Persons with Blue Badges							
Heritage Coast							
Educational talks / visits (vale school)	Min per booking		50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	
	Per pupil		2.05	0.00	2.05	0.00	
Educational talks / visits (non vale school)	Min per booking		65.00	0.00	65.00	0.00	
	Per pupil		2.55	0.00	2.55	0.00	
Car Parking Fees	Weekends/low season only.	All Day	3.00	2.00	5.00	66.67	
Events/fetes, etc. within the TOURISM LOCATION.	Min per day		230.00	0.00	230.00	0.00	
	Per stool		30.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	
Commercial `Pop up` events within the TOURISM LOCATION	From		230.00	0.00	230.00	0.00	
	To		460.00	0.00	460.00	0.00	
Large Meeting room hire		Half Day	63.00	-3.00	60.00	-4.76	
		Full Day	89.00	-9.00	80.00	-10.11	
Small meeting room		Half Day	30.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	
		Full Day	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	
Ranger led walks (adult)			55.00	0.00	55.00	0.00	
Ranger led walks (child)			55.00	0.00	55.00	0.00	
Ranger led walks (educational talks / non school)			55.00	0.00	55.00	0.00	
Teacher training days			45.00	0.00	45.00	0.00	
Orienteering (Vale school)			1.95	0.00	1.95	0.00	
Orienteering (non Vale School)			2.70	0.00	2.70	0.00	
Orienteering (public)			3.15	0.00	3.15	0.00	
Cosmeston Medieval Village							
Filming (per hour)	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Appendix E (i) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Place

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
Filming (per day)	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Filming (set and clear down days)	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Filming bond			600.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	
Commercial photo shoot							
Per hour	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Per half day	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Per full day.	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Hire of Village for event (per day, per weekend day or bank holiday or per weekend/two days over bank holiday)	Per day	From	700.00	0.00	700.00	0.00	
	Per day	To	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	
	25% of ticket receipts per day	From	240.00	0.00	240.00	0.00	

Appendix E (i) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Place

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
	25% of ticket receipts per day	To	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	
	Hiring Bond (Covering cleaning, damage etc.)		550.00	0.00	550.00	0.00	
Hire of event field only (per day, per weekend day, per weekend/two days over bank holiday)	Per day	From	235.00	0.00	235.00	0.00	
	Per day	To	470.00	0.00	470.00	0.00	
	25% of ticket receipts per day	From	120.00	0.00	120.00	0.00	
	25% of ticket receipts per day	To	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	
	Hiring Bond (Covering cleaning, damage etc.)		220.00	0.00	220.00	0.00	
Trade events/fetes, etc	Min per day		230.00	0.00	230.00	0.00	
	Per stool		30.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	
Hire of Village for – Live Action Roll Play activities	Per 5 day week	January to March & October to December	1,380.00	0.00	1,380.00	0.00	
	Per weekend		925.00	0.00	925.00	0.00	
	Per 5 day week	April – June	1,620.00	0.00	1,620.00	0.00	
			1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	0.00	
	Per weekend						
	Per 5 day week	July – September	1,750.00	0.00	1,750.00	0.00	
	Per weekend		1,750.00	0.00	1,750.00	0.00	
	Hiring Bond (Covering cleaning, damage etc.)		550.00	0.00	550.00	0.00	
Public Rights of Way							
Kissing gate / stile (Gift/donation/dedication)			510.00	60.00	570.00	11.76	
Way marker post (Gift/donation/dedication)			190.00	20.00	210.00	10.53	
Footbridge (Gift/donation/dedication)		From	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.00	
		To	7,500.00	0.00	7,500.00	0.00	
Restoration of a stone stile (Gift/donation/dedication)			1,400.00	100.00	1,500.00	7.14	
Planning - Development Management Pre-Application Advice and other Development Management services							
Development Category							

Appendix E (i) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Place

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
Householder Development - Enlargement, improvement or alteration of an existing dwellinghouse (includes extensions to dwellings and outbuildings, enclosures etc...)	Up to 1 hour meeting with case officer via telephone or virtual meeting. A written response outlining the discussion, areas of consideration including planning history, policies and guidances and an initial officer assessment of the acceptability of the proposal.	Total Fee	130.00	0.00	130.00	0.00	
		On-site or Office Meeting (additional fee)	60.00	0.00	60.00	0.00	
		Additional meeting and written advice in connection with the same scheme	65.00	0.00	65.00	0.00	
	Desktop Appraisal with Letter Response only	Welsh Government - Statutory Service	25.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	
Single dwelling (including conversions to a single residential use)	Up to 1 hour meeting with case officer via telephone or virtual meeting. A written response outlining the discussion, areas of consideration including planning history, policies and guidances and an initial officer assessment of the acceptability of the proposal.	Total Fee	270.00	0.00	270.00	0.00	
		On-site or Office Meeting (additional fee)	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	

Appendix E (i) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Place

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
		Additional meeting and written advice in connection with the same scheme	135.00	0.00	135.00	0.00	
	Desktop Appraisal with Letter Response only	Welsh Government - Statutory Service	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	
Minor Development							
2-9 residential units or where residential site is below 0.5ha. Non residential, change of use or mixed use where the gross floor space is less than 1000 square metres or the site area is less than 0.5ha.	Up to 1 hour meeting with case officer via telephone or virtual meeting. A written response outlining the discussion, areas of consideration including planning history, policies and guidances and an initial officer assessment of the acceptability of the proposal.	Total Fee	400.00	0.00	400.00	0.00	
		On-site or Office Meeting (additional fee)	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	
		Additional meeting and written advice in connection with the same scheme	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	
	Desktop Appraisal with Letter Response only	Welsh Government - Statutory Service	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	
Major Development							

Appendix E (i) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Place

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
10 – 24 residential units or where residential site area is more than 0.5ha but less than 1.0 ha. Non residential, change of use or mixed use where gross floor space is more than 1000 square metres but less than 2000 square metres or the site area is more than 0.5ha but less than 1.0 ha.	Up to 2 hour meeting with case officer and team leader via telephone or virtual meeting. A written response outlining the discussion, areas of consideration including planning history, policies and guidances and an initial officer assessment of the acceptability of the proposal.	Total Fee	1,300.00	0.00	1,300.00	0.00	
		On-site or Office Meeting (additional fee)	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	
		Additional meeting and written advice in connection with the same scheme	650.00	0.00	650.00	0.00	
	Desktop Appraisal with Letter Response only	Welsh Government - Statutory Service	600.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	
Large Major Development							
25 or more residential units or where residential site is more than 1ha. Non residential, change of use or mixed use where gross floor space is more than 2000 square metres or site area is more than 1.0ha.	Up to 2 hour meeting with case officer and team leader via telephone or virtual meeting. A written response outlining the discussion, areas of consideration including planning history, policies and guidances and an initial officer assessment of the acceptability of the proposal.	Total Fee	1,700.00	0.00	1,700.00	0.00	

Appendix E (i) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Place

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
Listed Building Advice (Single dwellings and minor development)	Up to 2 hour site meeting with Heritage Officer. Scope of information required to support application. A written response outlining the discussion, areas of consideration including planning history, policies and guidance and an initial officer assessment of the proposal.	Total Fee Including site visit	370.00	0.00	370.00	0.00	
		Additional meeting and written advice in connection with the same scheme	185.00	0.00	185.00	0.00	
Listed Building Advice (Major and Large Major Development)	Up to 2 hour site meeting with Heritage Officer. Scope of information required to support application. A written response outlining the discussion, areas of consideration including planning history, policies and guidance and an initial officer assessment of the proposal.	Total Fee Including site visit	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	
		Additional meeting and written advice in connection with the same scheme	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	

Appendix E (i) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Place

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
Advertisement Consent Advice	Up to 1 hour meeting with case officer via telephone or virtual meeting. A written response outlining the discussion, areas of consideration including planning history, policies and guidance and an initial officer assessment of the acceptability the proposal.	Total Fee	130.00	0.00	130.00	0.00	
		On-site or Office Meeting (additional fee)	30.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	
		Additional meeting and written advice in connection with the same scheme	65.00	0.00	65.00	0.00	
Additional Development Management Services							
Duty Planner Surgery		Free	Free		Free		
Pre-Submission Validation Check		Householder	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	
		Other Developments	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	
Full Planning Search			125.00	0.00	125.00	0.00	
Confirmation of Compliance with Section 106 Agreement			150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	
Planning Site Specific Research		Per hour	62.25	0.00	62.25	0.00	
Other Enquiries		Price on enquiry	Price on enquiry		Price on enquiry		
Planning Performance Agreement		Price on enquiry	Price on enquiry		Price on enquiry		

Appendix E (ii) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Social Services

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge £	2025/26 Suggested Increase £	2025/26 Proposed New Rate £	Increase %	Additional Comments
Internal Day Services Service Charges and partner contributions							
Client Group:							
Older People	Per day		234.45	23.45	257.90	10.00	
Physical Disability	Per day		145.62	14.50	160.12	9.96	
Learning Disability	Per day		313.92	31.40	345.32	10.00	
Telecare Service Charges							
Clients may be eligible for the monitoring cost to be funded by Supporting People Grant. The grant allocation has not increased for several years. A fee increase will impact on the grant that is available to support monitoring costs.							
VCAS Monitoring	(For Existing Customers only. New customers refer to Telecare pricing below)	Per Week	1.39	0.04	1.43	2.88	
VCAS Rental	(For Existing Customers only. Price increase covers additional Falls service now provided to Customers. New customers refer to Telecare pricing below)	Per Week	3.73	0.11	3.84	2.95	
Tele V Monitoring	(For Existing Customers only. Price increase	Per Week	1.47	0.04	1.51	2.72	
Tele V Rental	(For Existing Customers only. Price increase	Per Week	5.76	0.17	5.93	2.95	
Tele V Installation	(For Existing Customers only. New customers refer to Telecare pricing below)		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	See Telecare Installation
Tele V+ Monitoring	(For Existing Customers only. New customers refer to Telecare pricing below)	Per Week	1.39	0.04	1.43	2.88	
Tele V+ Rental	(For Existing Customers only. Price increase	Per Week	8.32	0.25	8.57	3.00	
Telecare monitoring		Per week	1.39	0.04	1.43	2.88	

Appendix E (ii) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Social Services

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge £	2025/26 Suggested Increase £	2025/26 Proposed New Rate £	Increase %	Additional Comments
Telecare Essential Smart		Per week	5.76	0.17	5.93	2.95	
Telecare Bronze Smart		Per week	6.51	0.20	6.71	3.07	
Telecare Silver Smart		Per week	7.68	0.23	7.91	2.99	
Telecare Gold Smart		Per week	8.32	0.25	8.57	3.00	
Telecare Installation		One off	Free of charge		Free of charge		
Property cases (including Deferred Payment Scheme):							
Initial Fee for admin and legal costs		One off	200.00	6.00	206.00	3.00	
Desktop property valuation		One off	175.00	5.00	180.00	2.86	
Detailed property valuation standard (where required)		One off	400.00	15.00	415.00	3.75	
Detailed property valuation enhanced (where required)		One off			By negotiation		New Charge
Administrative charge		Annually	150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	No increase as first charge April 2025
St Michaels Gardens Charges:							
Service Charge			161.53	17.38	178.91	10.76	

Appendix E (iii) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Learning and Skills

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge £	2025/26 Suggested Increase £	2025/26 Proposed New Rate £	Increase %	Additional Comments
Penarth Pier Pavillion							
Classroom Hire 9am to 5pm	Corporate/ private	Weekend Supplement 25%	195.00	10.00	205.00	5.13	plus VAT if catering booked
	Community/ charity	Weekend Supplement 25%	30.00	5.00	35.00	16.67	per hour
Classroom Hire 6pm to 10pm	Corporate/ private	Weekend Supplement 25%	250.00	15.00	265.00	6.00	plus VAT if catering booked
	Community/ charity	Weekend Supplement 25%	40.00	5.00	45.00	12.50	per hour
Cinema Hire - Daytime for 3 hours	Corporate/ private	Weekend Supplement 25%	175.00	10.00	185.00	5.71	plus VAT - projectionist + film license fees apply
	Community/ charity	Weekend Supplement 25%	55.00	5.00	60.00	9.09	per hour
Cinema Hire -Evening let (e.g., 6pm to 9pm)	Corporate/ private	Weekend Supplement 25%	375.00	20.00	395.00	5.33	plus VAT + projectionist + film license fees
	Community/ charity	Weekend Supplement 25%	70.00	5.00	75.00	7.14	per hour
Room 617 Hire 9am to 5pm	Corporate/ private	Weekend Supplement 25%	295.00	15.00	310.00	5.08	plus VAT if catering booked
	Community/ charity	Weekend Supplement 25%	35.00	5.00	40.00	14.29	per hour
Room 617 6pm to 10pm	Corporate/ private	Weekend Supplement 25%	395.00	20.00	415.00	5.06	plus VAT if catering booked
	Community/ charity	Weekend Supplement 25%	50.00	5.00	55.00	10.00	per hour
Gallery Hire 9am to 5pm	Corporate/ private	Weekend Supplement 25%	475.00	25.00	500.00	5.26	plus VAT if catering booked
	Community/ charity	Weekend Supplement 25%	65.00	5.00	70.00	7.69	per hour
Gallery 6pm to 10pm	Corporate/ private	Weekend Supplement 25%	545.00	30.00	575.00	5.50	plus VAT / security rates may apply
	Community/ charity	Weekend Supplement 25%	80.00	5.00	85.00	6.25	per hour / security rates may apply
Concessions		20% concession will be given to 3rd sector/charitable groups					

Appendix E (iii) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Learning and Skills

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
Commissions		25% commission will be charged on all sales made during art exhibitions.					
Penarth Pier Pavilion Wedding Venue Hire - TO NOTE BANK Holiday Monday - Weekend Rates Apply							
Monday – Thursday	May – October (high season)	Ceremony only (room 617 or Gallery – based on 4 hour let)	575.00	75.00	650.00	13.04	Rates include VAT
Monday – Thursday	May – October (high season)	Wedding breakfast and/or evening party only	1,950.00	200.00	2,150.00	10.26	Rates include VAT; access from mid-day for set up + evening security
Monday – Thursday	March – April (mid-season)	Ceremony only (room 617 or Gallery – based on 4 hour let)	495.00	55.00	550.00	11.11	Rates include VAT
Monday – Thursday	March – April (mid-season)	Wedding breakfast and/or evening party only	1,750.00	175.00	1,925.00	10.00	Rates include VAT; access from mid-day for set up + evening security
Monday – Thursday	November – February (low season)	Ceremony only (room 617 or Gallery – based on 4 hour let)	450.00	45.00	495.00	10.00	Rates include VAT
Monday – Thursday	November – February (low season)	Wedding breakfast and/or evening party only	1,650.00	150.00	1,800.00	9.09	Rates include VAT; access from mid-day for set up + evening security
Friday -Sunday	May – October (high season)	Ceremony hire fee	795.00	100.00	895.00	12.58	Rates include VAT; access from mid-day for set up
Friday -Sunday	May – October (high season)	Venue hire - wedding breakfast and/or evening party (midnight finish, 11:30pm bar close)	2,750.00	275.00	3,025.00	10.00	Rates include VAT; access from mid-day for set up + evening security
Friday -Sunday	March – April (mid-season)	Ceremony hire fee	695.00	30.00	725.00	4.32	Rates include VAT
Friday -Sunday	March – April (mid-season)	Venue hire - wedding breakfast and/or evening party (midnight finish, 11:30pm bar close)	2,145.00	230.00	2,375.00	10.72	Rates include VAT; access from mid-day for set up + evening security
Friday -Sunday	November – February (low season)	Ceremony hire fee	695.00	80.00	775.00	11.51	Rates include VAT

Appendix E (iii) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Learning and Skills

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
Friday -Sunday	November – February (low season)	Venue hire - wedding breakfast and/or evening party (midnight finish, 11:30pm bar close)	1,925.00	325.00	2,250.00	16.88	Rates include VAT; access from mid- day for set up + evening security
Libraries							
Overdue Fines	Books	Per Week	0.60	0.05	0.65	8.33	
Overdue Fines	Talking Books	Per Week	0.60	0.05	0.65	8.33	
Overdue Fines	DVDs	Per Week	0.60	0.05	0.65	8.33	
Loan Charges	Talking Books	For Three Weeks	1.80	0.20	2.00	11.11	
Lost and Damaged Items	Library Card		2.00	1.00	3.00	50.00	
Photocopying/Printing	A4 Black and White	a sheet	0.20	0.00	0.20	0.00	
	A3 Black and White	a sheet	0.30	0.00	0.30	0.00	
	A4 Colour	a sheet	0.40	0.00	0.40	0.00	
	A3 Colour	a sheet	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.00	
Laminating	A4	a sheet	1.50	0.10	1.60	6.67	
	A3	a sheet	2.00	0.10	2.10	5.00	
Advertising - Physical & Digital Screens							
Physical - Commercial - Per branch		per month	15.00	1.00	16.00	6.67	
Ad - Digital - Commercial - Per branch		per month	25.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	NEW CHARGE for 2025/26
Room Bookings							
Barry library Philip John Room		Per Hour	20.00	1.00	21.00	5.00	
		Per Day	80.00	5.00	85.00	6.25	
Barry library Community room		Per Hour	15.00	1.00	16.00	6.67	
		Per Day	70.00	5.00	75.00	7.14	
Barry Library Board Room		Per Hour	20.00	1.00	21.00	5.00	
		Per Day	120.00	5.00	125.00	4.17	
Barry Library ICT suite		Half Day	40.00	2.00	42.00	5.00	
Cowbridge Library ICT Suite		Half Day	20.00	1.00	21.00	5.00	
Barry – Makerspace		Per Hour	20.00	2.00	22.00	10.00	
		Half Day	40.00	4.00	44.00	10.00	
Penarth - Makerspace		Per Hour	20.00	2.00	22.00	10.00	
Adult and Community Learning							
Full Fee No Concessions		10 week course	135.00	11.00	146.00	8.15	
Fitness Classes No Concessions		10 week 1.5 hour course	102.00	8.00	110.00	7.84	
One Day Courses		Per Day	46.00	4.00	50.00	8.70	

Appendix E (iv) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Corporate Resources

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge £	2025/26 Suggested Increase £	2025/26 Proposed New Rate £	Increase %	Additional Comments
Registrars							
Marriage and civil partnership ceremonies							
De-commissioned rooms	Dunraven room (up to 75 guests)	Monday to Thursday	190.00	10.00	200.00	5.26	Approved via delegated powers
	Dunraven room (up to 75 guests)	Friday	240.00	10.00	250.00	4.17	Approved via delegated powers
	Dunraven room (up to 75 guests)	Saturday	240.00	10.00	250.00	4.17	Approved via delegated powers
	Enhanced Southerndown room – committee room 3 (20 guests)	Monday to Thursday	160.00	10.00	170.00	6.25	Approved via delegated powers
	Enhanced Southerndown room – committee room 3 (20 guests)	Friday	160.00	10.00	170.00	6.25	Approved via delegated powers
	Enhanced Southerndown room – committee room 3 (20 guests)	Saturday	160.00	10.00	170.00	6.25	Approved via delegated powers
Additional services	Non-alcoholic first toast (1 bottle and 6 glasses)		11.00	1.00	12.00	9.09	
	Biodegradable confetti (1 cone)		3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	
	Biodegradable confetti (5 cone)		11.00	0.00	11.00	0.00	
Approved Premises	Monday to Thursday		540.00	40.00	580.00	7.41	Approved via delegated powers
	Friday		540.00	40.00	580.00	7.41	Approved via delegated powers
	Saturday		540.00	40.00	580.00	7.41	Approved via delegated powers
	Sunday & Bank Holiday		540.00	40.00	580.00	7.41	Approved via delegated powers
Pre-ceremony consultation (45-minute meeting)	During office hours		43.00	2.00	45.00	4.65	
	After 4:30pm Monday-Friday		64.00	1.00	65.00	1.56	
	Weekends		64.00	1.00	65.00	1.56	
Family history search			21.00	1.00	22.00	4.76	
First class post			1.70	0.05	1.75	2.94	
First class signed for			4.50	0.10	4.60	2.22	
Special delivery guaranteed by 1pm			16.90	0.30	17.20	1.78	

Appendix E (iv) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Corporate Resources

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
Airmail			5.60	0.10	5.70	1.79	
Copy certificates of entries in the registers of births, deaths, and marriages	statutory fee		11.00	1.50	12.50	13.64	
Proof of life for foreign pensions			11.00	0.20	11.20	1.82	
Document certification	per document		6.40	0.10	6.50	1.56	
Ceremony Enhancements	New Fee		0.00		50.00		
Legal Services							
Assignments including Licence to assign			187.45	9.35	196.80	4.99	
New Lettings (including Licences to underlet)			187.45	9.35	196.80	4.99	
Licences to Assign			187.45	9.35	196.80	4.99	
Licences to underlet			187.45	9.35	196.80	4.99	
Licence for Altercation			174.90	8.75	183.65	5.00	
Deed of Rectification (lease or transfer)			62.55	3.15	65.70	5.04	
Release Right to Buy Covenant			124.95	6.25	131.20	5.00	
Deed of Covenant			124.95	6.25	131.20	5.00	
Mortgage Redemption Fee			37.45	1.85	39.30	4.94	
Concessions			187.45	9.35	196.80	4.99	
Simple Workshop Tenancies			249.80	12.50	262.30	5.00	
Simple Grazing Licences			62.55	3.15	65.70	5.04	
Simple Farm Business Tenancies			249.80	12.50	262.30	5.00	
Property Services							
Assignments including negotiating Licence to assign			93.70	99.06	192.76	105.72	
Negotiating New Lettings			187.15	5.61	192.76	3.00	
Processing Licence for alteration requests			93.70	99.06	192.76	105.72	
Negotiating wayleaves, agreements, licences for utilities and telecommunications			187.15	5.61	192.76	3.00	
Consultation on Deed of			31.25	33.18	64.43	106.18	
Rectification (lease or transfer) - unless Council error				0.00			
Release of covenant negotiations	plus any external valuation fees applicable charged at cost		93.70	6.30	100.00	6.72	
Negotiating Sales of land to adjoining owners			187.15	62.85	250.00	33.58	
Negotiating terms for other transfers (unless major site which will be on case-by-case basis)			374.85	11.25	386.10	3.00	
Simple Grazing, concession, filming Licences			93.70	56.30	150.00	60.09	
Simple Farm Business tenancies			249.80	7.49	257.29	3.00	
Easements			124.95	67.81	192.76	54.27	
Human Resources							
DBS Umbrella Body Checks for External Organisations			17.00	0.50	17.50	2.94	Statutory Increase
Payroll Bureau Service for External Organisation			125.15	3.75	128.90	3.00	

Appendix E (iv) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Corporate Resources

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
Land Charges							
1. PLANNING AND BUILDING REGULATIONS							
1.1 Decisions and Pending Applications							
Which of the following relating to the property have been							
(a) a planning permission			4.62	0.23	4.85	4.98	
(b) a listed building consent)			4.62	0.23	4.85	4.98	
(c) a conservation area consent			4.62	0.23	4.85	0.05	
(d) a certificate of lawfulness of existing use or development			4.62	0.23	4.85	4.98	
(e) a certificate of lawfulness of proposed use or development			4.62	0.23	4.85	4.98	
(f) a certificate of lawfulness of proposed works for listed buildings			0.00	0.00	0.00	n/a	
(g) a heritage partnership agreement			4.62	0.23	4.85	4.98	
(h) a listed building consent order			0.00	0.00	0.00	n/a	
(i) a local listed building consent order			2.49	0.12	2.61	4.82	
(j) building regulations approval			2.49	0.12	2.61	4.82	
(k) a building regulation completion certificate and			2.49	0.12	2.61	4.82	
(l) any building regulations certificate or notice issued in respect of work carried out under a competent person self-certificate scheme?							
1.2. Planning Designations and Proposals							
What designations of land use for the property or the area, and what specific proposals for the property, are contained in any existing or proposed development plan ?			4.97	0.25	5.22	5.03	
2. ROADS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY							
2.1 Which of the roads, footways and footpaths named in the application for this search (via boxes B and C) are:							
(a) highways maintainable at public expense;			2.49	0.12	2.61	4.82	
(b) subject to adoption and, supported by a bond or bond waiver			2.49	0.12	2.61	4.82	
(c) to be made up by a local authority who will reclaim the cost from the frontagers;			2.49	0.12	2.61	4.82	
(d) to be adopted by a local authority without reclaiming the cost from the frontagers ?			2.49	0.12	2.61	4.82	
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY							
2.2 Is any public right of way which abuts on, or crosses the property, shown on a definitive map or revised definitive map?			2.49	0.12	2.61	4.82	

Appendix E (iv) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Corporate Resources

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
2.3 Are there any pending applications to record a public right of way that abuts, or crosses the property, on a definitive map or revised definitive map?			2.49	0.12	2.61	4.82	
2.4 Are there any legal orders to stop us, divert, alter or create a public right of way which abuts, or crosses the property not yet implemented or shown on a definitive map?			2.49	0.12	2.61	4.82	
2.5 If so, please attach a plan showing the approximate route.			5.69	0.28	5.97	4.92	
OTHER MATTERS							
Apart from matters entered on the registers of local land charges, do any of the following matters apply to the							
3.1. Land Required for Public Purposes							
Is the property included in land required for public purposes?			2.49	0.12	2.61	4.82	
3.2. Land to be Acquired for Road Works							
Is the property included in land required for road works?			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
3.3. Drainage Matters							
(a) Is the property served by a sustainable urban drainage			1.65	0.08	1.73	4.85	
(b) Are there SuDs features within the boundary of the			1.65	0.08	1.73	4.85	
(c) If the property benefits from a SuDs for which there is a charge, who bills the property for the surface water drainage			1.65	0.08	1.73	4.85	
3.4 Nearby Road Schemes							
Is the property (or will it be) within 200 metres of any of the following-:							
(a) the centre line of a new trunk road or special road specified in any order, draft order or scheme;			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
(b) the centre line of a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road involving construction of a subway,			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
(c) the outer limits of construction works for a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road, involving (i)			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
(d) the outer limits of (i) construction of a new road to be built by a local authority; (ii) an approved alteration or improvement to an existing road involving construction of a			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
(e) the centre line of the proposed route of a new road under			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
(f) the outer limits of (i) construction of a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road involving construction of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road or dual carriageway; (ii) construction of a roundabout (other than a			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
3.5. Nearby Railway Schemes							
(a) Is the property (or will it be) within 200 metres of the			8.05	0.40	8.45	4.97	

Appendix E (iv) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Corporate Resources

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
(b) Are there any proposals for a railway, tramway, light railway or monorail within the Local Authority's boundary?			8.29	0.41	8.70	4.95	
3.6. Traffic Schemes							
Has a local authority approved but not yet implemented any of the following for the roads, footways and footpaths (which are named In Boxes B and C) and are within 200 metres of the boundaries of the property?							
(a) permanent stopping up or diversion;			1.07	0.05	1.12	4.67	
(b) waiting or loading restrictions;			1.07	0.05	1.12	4.67	
(c) one way driving;			1.07	0.05	1.12	4.67	
(d) prohibition of driving;			1.07	0.05	1.12	4.67	
(e) pedestrianisation;			1.07	0.05	1.12	4.67	
(f) vehicle width or weight restriction;			1.07	0.05	1.12	4.67	
(g) traffic calming works including road humps			1.07	0.05	1.12	4.67	
(h) residents parking controls;			1.07	0.05	1.12	4.67	
(i) minor road widening or improvement;			1.07	0.05	1.12	4.67	
(j) pedestrian crossings;			1.07	0.05	1.12	4.67	
(k) cycle tracks;			1.07	0.05	1.12	4.67	
(l) bridge building;			1.07	0.05	1.12	4.67	
(Prior to publicity programmes for schemes etc).							
3.7. Outstanding Notices							
Do any statutory notices which relate to the following matters							
(a) building works			3.79	0.19	3.98	5.01	
(b) environment			3.79	0.19	3.98	5.01	
(c) health and safety			3.79	0.19	3.98	5.01	
(d) housing			3.79	0.19	3.98	5.01	
(e) highways			3.79	0.19	3.98	5.01	
(f) public health			3.79	0.19	3.98	5.01	
(g) flood and coastal erosion risk management			3.79	0.19	3.98	5.01	
3.8. Contravention of Building Regulations							
Has a local authority authorised in relation to the property any proceedings for the contravention of any provision contained			2.49	0.12	2.61	4.82	
3.9. Notices, Orders, Directions and Proceedings under							
Do any of the following subsist in relation to the property, or							
(a) an enforcement notice;			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
(b) a stop notice;			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
(c) a listed building enforcement notice;			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
(d) a breach of condition notice;			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
(e) a planning contravention notice;			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
(f) another notice relating to breach of planning control;			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
(g) a listed building repairs notice;			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
(h) in the case of a listed building deliberately allowed to fall into disrepair, a compulsory purchase order with a direction			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	

Appendix E (iv) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Corporate Resources

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
(i) a building preservation notice;			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
(j) a direction restricting permitted development;			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
(k) an order revoking or modifying planning permission;			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
(l) an order requiring discontinuance of use or alteration or			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
(m) a tree preservation order;			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
(n) proceedings to enforce a planning agreement or planning			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
We currently do not have CIL in place. It will be at least							
3.10 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)							
(a) Is there a CIL charging schedule?			n/a		n/a		
(b) If yes, do any of the following subsist in relation to the			n/a		n/a		
(i) a liability notice?			n/a		n/a		
(ii) a notice of chargeable development?			n/a		n/a		
(iii) a demand notice?			n/a		n/a		
(iv) a default liability notice?			n/a		n/a		
(v) an assumption of liability notice?(vi) a commencement			n/a		n/a		
(C) Has any demand notice been suspended?			n/a		n/a		
(d) Has the local authority received full or part payment of any			n/a		n/a		
(e) Has the local authority received any appeal against any of			n/a		n/a		
(f) Has a decision been taken to apply for a liability order?			n/a		n/a		
(g) Has a liability order been granted?			n/a		n/a		
(h) Have any other enforcement measures been taken?			n/a		n/a		
3.11. Conservation Area Do the following apply in relation to							
(a) the making of the area a Conservation Area before 31			2.49	0.12	2.61	4.82	
(b) an unimplemented resolution to designate the area a			2.49	0.12	2.61	4.82	
3.12. Compulsory Purchase Has any enforceable order or decision been made to compulsorily purchase or acquire the			2.49	0.12	2.61	4.82	
3.13. Contaminated Land							
Do any of the following apply (including any relating to land adjacent to or adjoining the property which has been							
(a) a contaminated land notice;			1.07	0.05	1.12	4.67	
(b) in relation to a register maintained under Section 78R of			1.07	0.05	1.12	4.67	
(i) a decision to make an entry;			1.07	0.05	1.12	4.67	
(ii) an entry;			1.07	0.05	1.12	4.67	
(c) consultation with the owner or occupier of the property conducted under Section 78G(3) of the Environmental			1.07	0.05	1.12	4.67	
3.14. Radon Gas Do records indicate that the property is in a "Radon Affected Area" as identified by Public Health England			1.30	0.07	1.37	5.38	
3.15 Assets of Community Value							
(a) Has the property been nominated as an asset of			n/a		n/a		
(i) Is it listed as an asset of community value?			n/a		n/a		
(ii) Was it excluded and placed on the "nominated but not			n/a		n/a		
(iii) Has the listing expired?			n/a		n/a		

Appendix E (iv) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Corporate Resources

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge	2025/26 Suggested Increase	2025/26 Proposed New Rate	Increase	Additional Comments
(iv) Is the Local Authority reviewing or proposing to review			n/a		n/a		
(b) If the property is listed:			n/a		n/a		
(i) Has the local authority decided to apply to the Land Registry			n/a		n/a		
(ii) Has the local authority received a notice of disposal?			n/a		n/a		
(iii) Has the community interest group requested to be			n/a		n/a		
1. References to the provisions of particular Acts of Parliament or Regulations include any provisions which they have replaced and also include existing or future amendments or re-							
2. The replies will be given in the belief that they are in accordance with information presently available to the officers of the replying local authority, but none of the local authorities or their officers accepts legal responsibility for an incorrect reply, except for negligence. Any legal responsibility for negligence will be owed to the person who raised the enquiries and the person on whose behalf they were raised. It							
3. This form should be read in conjunction with the guidance							
4. Area means any area in which the property is located.							
5. References to the Local Authority include any predecessor Local Authority and also any Local Authority committee, sub-committee or other body or person exercising powers delegated by the Local Authority and their approval includes their decision to proceed. The replies given to certain enquiries cover knowledge and actions of both the District							
6. Where relevant, the source department for copy documents should be provided.							
LLC1			6.00	0.00	6.00	0.00	
CON29			119.00	7.00	126.00	5.88	
CON29O 4-21			11.00	0.50	11.50	4.55	
Enquiry 22			14.00	0.75	14.75	5.36	
Freedom of Information							
Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) Requests	Hourly Rates		25.00	5.00	30.00	20.00	

Appendix E (v) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Environment and Housing

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge £	2025/26 Suggested Increase £	2025/26 Proposed New Rate £	Increase %	Additional Comments
ENGINEERING - SERVICE CHARGES							
COASTAL CAR PARKS							
Harbour Road and Nells Point, Barry. Brig y Don and Rivermouth, Ogmere By Sea, Cymlau, Southerndown							
Cars (Up to 2 Hours)			2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	Pending Car Park Report Jan 25
Cars (Up to 4 Hours)			4.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	Pending Car Park Report Jan 25
Cars (Up to 6 Hours)			6.00	0.00	6.00	0.00	Pending Car Park Report Jan 25
Cars All Day			8.00	0.00	8.00	0.00	Pending Car Park Report Jan 25
Coaches (where space available)			35.00	0.00	35.00	0.00	Pending Car Park Report Jan 25
Coastal Season Parking Tickets							
6 Months	Coastal Permits are valid for use at any chargeable Vale of Glamorgan Council run resort car park		60.00	5.00	65.00	8.33	
12 Months	Coastal Permits are valid for use at any chargeable Vale of Glamorgan Council run resort car park		100.00	5.00	105.00	5.00	
Replacement Charge for Lost/ Change of Vehicle							
Reserving parking bays or sections of adopted highway for filming implemented by highways authority only.	This should be moved down to Highway Maintenance section for neatness		80.00	5.00	85.00	6.25	
Refresh H Bar Markings			New Charge		Price on request		
H Bar Markings Administration and works Cost			427.00	13.00	440.00	3.04	
TOWN CENTRE CAR PARKS							
Wyndham Street, Barry and Cowbridge Town Hall Car Park							
Cars (up to 2 Hours)	Check Cowbridge Town Hall		Free		Free		
Cars (up to 4 Hours)	Charges apply Monday - Saturday from 8am - 6pm		2.50	0.00	2.50	0.00	
Cars (All Day)	Charges apply Monday - Saturday from 8am - 6pm		6.50	0.00	6.50	0.00	

Appendix E (v) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Environment and Housing

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge £	2025/26 Suggested Increase £	2025/26 Proposed New Rate £	Increase %	Additional Comments
Traffic Counts - Supply of Existing Data	For copy of data already held. Any additional works to be charged on a time charge basis to be agreed with applicant		207.00	8.00	215.00	3.86	
Traffic Counts - Obtaining New Data			623.00	22.00	645.00	3.53	
Permanent Traffic Order	Change Per Committee Report		4,925.00	150.00	5,075.00	3.05	
Supply of Accident Data	(where permitted by copyright) For copy of data already held. Any additional work to be charged on a time charge basis to be agreed with applicant.		205.00	10.00	215.00	4.88	
Adoption / Search Requiring A4 Plan			27.00	3.00	30.00	11.11	
Complex Search			160.00	5.00	165.00	3.13	
House Name Change			160.00	5.00	165.00	3.13	
Proof of Address Letter			53.00	2.00	55.00	3.77	
Change of Existing Street Name	Once agreed by all residents		213.00 plus 53.00	8.00	£219.00 plus £55.00	3.00	
Street Name / Number Redraw			2,623.00	127.00	2,750.00	4.84	
Technical Approval of Highway Structures	Value shown is a minimum. Any additional work to be charged on a time charge basis to be agreed with applicant.		534.00	16.00	550.00	3.00	

Appendix E (v) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Environment and Housing

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge £	2025/26 Suggested Increase £	2025/26 Proposed New Rate £	Increase %	Additional Comments
Tourism Sign Design, Cost Estimate, Manufacture and Erection	Non-Refundable charge to prepare design and provide cost estimate. Any additional work to be charged on a time charge basis agreed with applicant. Manufacture and erection costs as agreed with applicant.		373.00	12.00	385.00	3.22	
SAB Pre - Applicaton; not including meeting			Up to 20 Properties or 2000m2 - £373. Over 20 Properties or 2000m2 - 1,067		Up to 20 Properties or 2000m2 - £385. Over 20 Properties or 2000m2 - £1100		
SAB Pre - Application; including meeting			Up to 20 Properties or 2000m2 - £480. Over 20 Properties or 2000m2 - 1,280		Up to 20 Properties or 2000m2 - £495. Over 20 Properties or 2000m2 - £1320		
SAB Pre - Application; Site Visit			210.00	5.00	215.00	2.38	
Provision of Grit Bin or Salt Container (Subject to approval)			534.00	16.00	550.00	3.00	
Refill of Grit Bin or Salt Container			160.00	5.00	165.00	3.13	
Additional Street Name Plate			277.00	8.00	285.00	2.89	
TRANSPORTATION							
School Transport - Contracted Mainstream Services							
Annual Travel Pass (where available)			12.00	3.00	15.00	25.00	
Annual Travel Pass (where available)			450.00	0.00	450.00	0.00	
Greenlinks Fares							
Membership Fee			6.00	1.00	7.00	16.67	
1 Zone Single			2.50	0.50	3.00	20.00	
1 Zone Return			3.50	0.50	4.00	14.29	
2 Zone Single			3.50	0.50	4.00	14.29	
2 Zone Return			5.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	
3 Zone Single			5.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	
3 Zone Return			6.00	0.00	6.00	0.00	
Greenlinks Group Hire							

Appendix E (v) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Environment and Housing

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge £	2025/26 Suggested Increase £	2025/26 Proposed New Rate £	Increase %	Additional Comments
Half Day			35.00	5.00	40.00	14.29	
Full Day			70.00	10.00	80.00	14.29	
Charge per Miles Travelled	Per Mile		0.53	0.07	0.60	13.21	
Garage							
MOT'S			54.75	0.00	54.75	0.00	
HIGHWAYS / ENGINEERING							
Connection to Highway Surface Drainage (Re-Cover all Costs) To permit connection from private property to highway drainage system: (i) each individual property (ii) per 100m2 of roof and yard from commercial/industrial sites.	From		1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	
Section 278 / 38 review and technical approval of details prior to agreement being implemented: To approve a set of drawings for sites.	Bond value up to £7,000	Minimum charge	300.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	
To approve a set of drawings for sites.	Bond value up to £15,000	Minimum charge	600.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	
To approve a set of drawings for sites	Bond value over £15,000	Minimum charge	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	
A charge of on cost for inspection fees for each month the sites are continued to be inspected beyond the time limit within the legal agreement to be charged at an hourly rate of £65 / hr.	Per hr		65.00	0.00	65.00	0.00	
Section 38 Inspections Inspecting works up to a value of £15,000 Where works have a value greater than £15,000 a fee of 7.5% (Engineering Fees only) is charged for any Section 38 or 228 agreement under the Highways Act 1980 or any other agreement for the adoption of a road. Where works have a value greater than £15,000 a fee of 10% is requested for any Section 38 / 278 or 278 Agreement under the Highways Act 1980.	Minimum fee		1,125.00	0.00	1,125.00	0.00	
Review of Extinguishment of Highways Recover all costs associated with enquiries associated with extinguishment of the highway. A charge of non-refundable charge to provide advice on the process and a decision in principle whether a highway extinguishment would likely be granted.	Initial advice		250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	

Appendix E (v) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Environment and Housing

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge £	2025/26 Suggested Increase £	2025/26 Proposed New Rate £	Increase %	Additional Comments
	Hourly rate thereafter		65.00	0.00	65.00	0.00	
Pre check for Requests for AIP's in relation to Structures	Initial enquiry (half day)		300.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	
Recover of costs associated with process of technical approval for highway structures, including culverts, retaining walls and bridges. All technical approvals to be completed in accordance with CG300 of the DMRB as appropriate. Initial enquiry and thereafter hourly rate.	Hourly rate thereafter		65.00	0.00	65.00	0.00	
Design Line and Signs To provide advice or undertake technical design of highway signs and road markings for internal and external clients to appropriate highway standards. Charged at an hourly rate subject to a minimum fee or charge of £350.	Hourly rate		55.00	0.00	55.00	£0.00	Note minimum charge
Recovery of Personal Items from Gullies / Drainage systems			277.00	8.00	285.00	2.89	
Charge for Shields for LED Lights			107.00	3.00	110.00	2.80	
FOOTBALL AND RUGBY							
Senior							
Hire of pitch and changing facilities	Per Match		65.00	2.00	67.00	3.08	
Hire of pitch	Per Match		49.00	1.50	50.50	3.06	
Hire of pitch and changing facilities (coaching day)	Per Day		95.00	3.00	98.00	3.16	
For games organised through the Vale of Glamorgan League			58.00 (Maximum Charge to Club 54.00)	2.00	£60.00 (Maximum Charge to Club £56.00)	3.40	
New Charge Adam Wenvoe Petanque							
12 month trial licence for access to carpark and toilet (maintenance of petanque court to be undertaken by club)	Per 12 months (trial)		250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	
Hourly usage of Pavilion room and changing (short term use - up to 3 hours)	Per hour		12.00	0.00	12.00	0.00	
Half day usage of Pavilion room and changing - without attendant	Per half day		67.00	0.00	67.00	0.00	
Full day usage of Pavilion room and changing - without attendant	Per full day		103.00	0.00	103.00	0.00	
Youth							
Hire of pitch and changing facilities	Per Match		38.00	1.25	39.25	3.29	
Hire of Pitch	Per Match		26.00	0.80	26.80	3.08	
Hire of pitch and changing facilities (coaching day)	Per Day		95.00	3.00	98.00	3.16	
Junior (U12/U11 - 9v9) (U16/U15/U14/U13)							
Hire of pitch and changing facilities	Per Match		14.00	0.45	14.45	3.21	

Appendix E (v) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Environment and Housing

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge £	2025/26 Suggested Increase £	2025/26 Proposed New Rate £	Increase %	Additional Comments
Hire of pitch	Per Match		9.00	0.30	9.30	3.33	
Hire of pitch and changing facilities (coaching day)	Per Day		95.00	3.00	98.00	3.16	
Minis							
Hire of pitch	Per Game						
Changing facilities (1 Team)			14.00	0.50	14.50	3.57	
Changing facilities(up to 5 mini age groups)	Per Morning		22.00	0.70	22.70	3.18	
Hire of pitch and changing facilities (coaching day)	Per Day		95.00	3.00	98.00	3.16	
Cricket - Without Attendant							
Hire of pitch (weekday)	Per Match		67.00	2.00	69.00	2.99	
Hire of Pitch (Midweek Evening)	Per Match		57.00	1.75	58.75	3.07	
Hire of Pitch (Saturday)	Per Match		73.00	2.00	75.00	2.74	
Hire of Pitch (Sunday)	Per Match		100.00	3.00	103.00	3.00	
Youth & Junior hire including schools of pitch	Per AM / PM		17.00	0.50	17.50	2.94	
Schools	Per AM / PM		50.00	1.50	51.50	3.00	
Deposit Returnable for Keys			107.00	3.00	110.00	2.80	
ALLOTMENTS							
Barry / Rhoose	Per 25.3m2 (1 Perch)		12.00	0.50	12.50	4.17	
Cowbridge	Per 25.3m2 (1 Perch)		15.00	0.50	15.50	3.33	
JENNER PARK							
Barry Town United First Team - Full Pitch	Per Hour (excl Lighting)		Removed Normal Hire Fees	n/a	Removed Normal Hire Fees	0.00	
Barry Town United First Team - Half	Per Hour (inc. reduced lights)		Removed Normal Hire Fees	n/a	Removed Normal Hire Fees	0.00	
Barry and Vale Harriers	Per Hour (inc reduced lights)		37.00	1.00	38.00	2.70	
Intersensory Cycle Club	Free		Free	0.00	Free	0.00	
Full Pitch - Football	Per Hour (excl.lights)		90.00	3.00	93.00	3.33	
Half Pitch - Football	Per Hour (excl.lights)		55.00	1.75	56.75	3.18	
Schools Use of Jenner Park for Sports Days							
Junior Schools - Vale			87.00	3.00	90.00	3.45	
Senior School - Vale			128.00	3.75	131.75	2.93	
Athletic Track	Per Hour (inc.reduced lighting when required)		106.00	3.50	109.50	3.30	
Commercial Hire							
Full Lighting (per hour)	Per Hour		87.00	3.00	90.00	3.45	
Reduced Lighting (per hour)	Per Hour		21.00	0.75	21.75	3.57	

Appendix E (v) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Environment and Housing

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Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge £	2025/26 Suggested Increase £	2025/26 Proposed New Rate £	Increase %	Additional Comments
KINGS SQUARE							
Local or National Charities	Hiring organisations to ensure all statutory permissions have been obtained at hirers cost.		By Negotiation	0.00	By Negotiation	0.00	
Other Commercial Organisations	Single pitch either sharing the square with other local or national charities or other commercial users. Hiring organisation to ensure all statutory permissions have been obtained at hirers cost. (Minimum Fee)		256.00	4.00	260.00	1.56	
COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES IN PARKS							
Fitness classes in park			Licence fee by negotiation		Licence fee by negotiation		
Commercial Events within Parks / Openspaces / Recreation Grounds			Licence fee by negotiation		Licence fee by negotiation		
DEDICATION BENCHES							
Shared Bench	Price Per Plaque		300.00	10.00	310.00	3.33	
Exclusive Bench (Depending on Location)	Single Plaque		750.00	20.00	770.00	2.67	
Placement of a new bench on existing plinth (Depending on Location and Style)	With a Single Plaque plus Administration Costs / Installation and VAT		From 1,379.00	41.00	From £1,420	3.00	
DEDICATED TREES							
Dedicated Tree	No plaques permitted, from £320		402.00	13.00	415.00	3.23	
PIER PLAQUES							
Small Pier Plaques	100mm x 12mm (Max 20 Charaters including Spaces)		150.00	5.00	155.00	3.33	

Appendix E (v) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Environment and Housing

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge £	2025/26 Suggested Increase £	2025/26 Proposed New Rate £	Increase %	Additional Comments
Large Pier Plaques	100mm x 36mm (Max 60 Characters including spaces)		200.00	5.00	205.00	2.50	
TRADING/HIGHWAYS LICENCES							
Café Style Licences to Trade on the Highway							
1 - 2 Table with up to 8 Chairs / Seats			267.00	8.00	275.00	3.00	
3 - 4 Tables with up to 16 Chairs / Seats			534.00	16.00	550.00	3.00	
5 - 10 Tables with up to 40 Chairs / Seats			1,067.00	33.00	1,100.00	3.09	
11+ Tables with over 40 Chairs / Seats £35.00 per annum per chair over 40 chairs	Plus £35 per annum per chair over 40 Chairs		1,601.00	49.00	1,650.00	3.06	
Outdoor Trading Area for the Sale of Goods: Outside Trading Area to be no greater than 10 Square Metres on the adopted footway.							
Under 5 Square Metres	Annual Charge		267.00	8.00	275.00	3.00	
Over 5 Square Metres but no greater than 10m2	Annual Charge		534.00	16.00	550.00	3.00	
Outdoor Trading Area for business equipment occupying the highway/carriageway							
1 parking space	NEW ANNUAL CHARGE		0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	
per additional parking space	NEW ANNUAL CHARGE		0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	
A frame advertising board:	An application for A Frame advertising board with a maximum of two advertising boards per business. Annual Charge		119.00	3.50	122.50	2.94	
Street Works Licence	For each 150 metre length		570.00	15.00	585.00	2.63	
Crane working on Highway, without the requirement of Traffic Management	Per day if no traffic management is required		480.00	15.00	495.00	3.13	
Temporary Traffic Order			660.00	20.00	680.00	3.03	
Emergency or 5 Days Order			554.00	16.00	570.00	2.89	

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Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge £	2025/26 Suggested Increase £	2025/26 Proposed New Rate £	Increase %	Additional Comments
360 l - Plastic & Metal	Weekly Charge		By Negotiation				
360 l - Cardboard or Paper	Weekly Charge		By Negotiation				
500 l - Plastic & Metal	Weekly Charge		By Negotiation				
500 l - Cardboard or Paper	Weekly Charge		By Negotiation				
660 l - Plastic & Metal	Weekly Charge		By Negotiation				
660 l - Cardboard or Paper	Weekly Charge		By Negotiation				
1100 l - Plastic & Metal	Weekly Charge		By Negotiation				
1100 l - Cardboard or Paper	Weekly Charge		By Negotiation				
Mix & Match 4 Containers (Plastic & Metals, Paper, Cardboard) Weekly Collection on RRV	Annual Charge		By Negotiation				
Quad Bag (Weekly Collection RRV)	Annual Charge		By Negotiation				
23 l Annual Food (Weekly Collection on RRV)	Annual Charge		By Negotiation				
Replacement Charge for Duty of Care Note Documentation			20.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	
Domestic Recycling Services							
Sale - reuse 90L green polypropylene handled sacks for garden waste			2.50	0.00	2.50	0.00	
Hygiene Caddy			10.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	
Kitchen Caddy Liner Bags Per Roll					Free		
Blue Dog Poo Bags Pack of 100	Includes VAT at 20%		2.50	0.10	2.60	4.00	
Domestic Waste Collection Service for Bulky Household Goods	Comments						
Bulky household goods (up to a max of 3 No. items) at the kerbside	Up to 3 Items		27.00	3.00	30.00	11.11	
Bulky household goods (up to a max of 5 No. items) at the kerbside	Charge for an additional item (up to a maximum of 2 additional items)		5.50	0.00	5.50	0.00	
Administration charge for issuing a HWRC van and / or trailer permit	Per Permit		18.50	0.50	19.00	2.70	
DOCKING CHARGES							
Docking Charges for Waverley and Balmoral (Penarth Pier) within normal working hours.							
Weekdays			63.00	2.00	65.00	3.17	
Saturdays			79.00	6.00	85.00	7.59	
Sundays and Bank Holidays			95.00	5.00	100.00	5.26	
Slipway Permits							
Slipway Permits for domestic and pleasure (Penarth and Watch Tower Bay)	Annual Charge		150.00	5.00	155.00	3.33	
Slipway Permits for Commercial Use (Penarth)	Annual Charge		151.00	5.00	156.00	3.31	
Replacement or Additional Slipway Keys			24.00	1.00	25.00	4.17	

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Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge £	2025/26 Suggested Increase £	2025/26 Proposed New Rate £	Increase %	Additional Comments
BEACH HUT BOOKING FEES							
Summer Season 1st April - 31st October							
Large Beach Hut - Full Day - 10am - 8pm			40.00	0.00	40.00	0.00	
Large Beach Hut - Half Day - 2pm - 8pm			20.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	
Small Beach Hut - Full Day - 10am - 8pm			23.00	0.00	23.00	0.00	
Small Beach Hut - Half Day - 2pm - 8pm			14.00	0.00	14.00	0.00	
Winter Season 1st November - 31st March							
Large Beach Hut - Full Day - 10am - 8pm			14.00	0.00	14.00	0.00	
Small Beach Hut - Full Day - 10am - 8pm			8.00	0.00	8.00	0.00	
Annual Pass 1st April - 31st March							
Large Beach Hut			927.00	23.00	950.00	2.48	
Small Beach Hut			683.00	17.00	700.00	2.49	
Ceremonies (Wedding and Civil Partnerships)							
VENUE							
Beach Hut			1,200.00	50.00	1,250.00	4.17	
Barry Island Amphitheatre			1,200.00	50.00	1,250.00	4.17	
Band Stand			1,200.00	50.00	1,250.00	4.17	
Jackson Bay Beach			1,200.00	50.00	1,250.00	4.17	
FILMING FEES							
Filming on Highways							
Full Day	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements with agreement of Chief Officers Plus VAT where required.		By Negotiation				
Per Hour			By Negotiation				
Filming Within Resorts							
Full Day	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements with agreement of Chief Officers Plus VAT where required.		By Negotiation				
Per Hour			By Negotiation				
Filming within Car Parks							

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Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge £	2025/26 Suggested Increase £	2025/26 Proposed New Rate £	Increase %	Additional Comments
Full Day	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements with agreement of Chief Officers Plus VAT where required.		By Negotiation				
Per Hour	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation				
Filming within Parks and Grounds							
Full Day	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation				
Per Hour	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation				
Commercial Photo Shoot							
Full Day	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation				

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Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge £	2025/26 Suggested Increase £	2025/26 Proposed New Rate £	Increase %	Additional Comments
Per Hour	Guide price negotiable depending on special requirements within agreement of Chief Officer plus VAT where required		By Negotiation				
CEMETERY FEES							
Exclusive Right of Burial							
	In any earthen grave 7' x 4' (70 years)		594.00	14.00	608.00	2.36	
	In any earthen cremated remains grave 4' x 3' (70 years)		312.00	7.00	319.00	2.24	
In Graves for which an Exclusive Right of Burial has been granted	For an interment in an earthen grave	Below Eighteen Years (Charged to WG MOU) 1 Depth	440.00	10.00	450.00	2.27	
		Below Eighteen Years (Charged to WG MOU) 2 Depth	648.00	15.00	663.00	2.31	
		Below Eighteen Years (Charged to WG MOU) 3 Depth	885.00	20.00	905.00	2.26	
		Eighteen years and over 1 Depth	585.00	13.00	598.00	2.22	
		Eighteen years and over 2 Depth	822.00	19.00	841.00	2.31	
		Eighteen years and over 3 Depth		n/a	n/a	n/a	
	For any interment of cremated remains in any earthen grave		310.00	7.00	317.00	2.26	
	For every 1 inch or part thereof in width excavated for a grave which is to admit a coffin or casket having a greater width than 2' 6".		83.00	2.00	85.00	2.41	

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Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge £	2025/26 Suggested Increase £	2025/26 Proposed New Rate £	Increase %	Additional Comments
	Cancellation Fee		50% of original fee (For re-opened graves only).	n/a	50% of original fee (For re-opened graves only).	n/a	
	To provide a test dig for one depth		301.00	7.00	308.00	2.33	
	To provide a test dig for two depth		423.00	10.00	433.00	2.36	
Memorial Fees	For the right to erect any monument, not exceeding 4' high x 3' wide, on a full grave where an Exclusive Right of Burial has been granted		254.00	6.00	260.00	2.36	
	For the right to erect any monument, not exceeding 2' 3" high x 2' wide, on a cremated remains grave where an Exclusive Right of Burial has been granted		215.00	5.00	220.00	2.33	
	For the right to erect a tablet, not exceeding 18" x 12", on any grave where an Exclusive Right of Burial has been granted		161.00	4.00	165.00	2.48	
	To carry out any additional inscription in relation to any form of memorial		109.00	3.00	112.00	2.75	
Other	Search for, and a certified copy of an entry of burial in the register books		11.00	0.00	11.00	0.00	
	Providing a duplicate burial deed		11.00	0.00	11.00	0.00	

Appendix E (v) Fees and Charges

Directorate: Environment and Housing

Where applicable, VAT will be charged at the current rate

Service	Comments		2024/25 Current Charge £	2025/26 Suggested Increase £	2025/26 Proposed New Rate £	Increase %	Additional Comments
	For the assignment (transfer) of the Exclusive Right of Burial		30.00	1.00	31.00	3.33	
	For the exhumation of human remains from an earthen grave		1,227.00	27.00	1,254.00	2.20	
	For the exhumation of an urn containing cremated remains from any grave		303.00	7.00	310.00	2.31	
	Capping fee for any earthen grave.		188.00	4.00	192.00	2.13	



APPENDIX F

Head of Finance/s151 Officer

Report on Robustness of Estimates and Sufficiency of Reserves

Each year as part of the budget setting process the Chief Financial Officer to report to the Authority when setting its council tax on:

- i. the robustness of the estimates included in the budget, and
- ii. the adequacy of the financial reserves in the budget.

The Council should have regard to this report in approving the budget and council tax. The focus of this statement is primarily on the risk, uncertainty, and robustness of the budget for the next financial year rather than the greater uncertainties in future years. Nevertheless, the Head of Finance/s151 Officer has considered the Medium Term Financial Plan, reserve projections and Treasury and Capital Strategy when preparing this statement over the period to 2029/30.

Robustness of Estimates in the Budget

Budget Setting Process

The Budget Setting process at the Vale of Glamorgan Council for 2025/26 is based on increasing the budgets each year included a review of pay and price inflation alongside a full review of potential cost pressures prioritised on a Directorate Level.

The initial assessment of cost pressures in autumn 2024 identified pressures in the region of £34.3M a considerable proportion of these pressures were inflationary i.e. pay awards or related to demographic growth evident in the 2024/25 financial year and therefore unlikely to be mitigated significantly. An initial incredibly challenging review was undertaken that reduced the cost pressures allocated to £25.9m and an overall gap of 14.8M for the November budget update. A further review following the provisional settlement and allocation of £1.7Bn Barnett consequential funding across Wales have seen the gap reduce to £8.8M.

Cost pressures were subject to a series of reviews at service specific Budget Working Groups with attendance from key Chief Officers from the Directorates, and the Leader and relevant Cabinet Member, these pressures were also considered alongside an analysis of the budget for the service. As part of the 2025/26 budget setting, taking into account learning from the previous years, the Budget Working Groups were split into two rounds, the first considered existing spend, benchmarking of service costs, cost pressures and early reshaping opportunities.

The second Budget Working Group focussed in on the revised cost pressures and both reshaping savings opportunities and tactical savings proposals. In line with the Reshaping Services Programme there was a greater emphasis on reshaping proposals with a consideration of the Target Operating Model for 2030.

The Reshaping Services Programme highlighted 5 categories of reshaping savings for focus.

1. Target Operating Model
2. Service Transformation
3. Digital
4. Community Cohesion
5. Economic Resilience

To build on some of the learning as a result of the Council's Covid Pandemic Response and to provide urgent focus to some critical areas emerging in terms of opportunities and threats for the Council ten high priority workstreams have been identified as part of the Reshaping programme which have been the received high level coordinated effort across

the organisation in the run up to budget setting these are set out below and are considered in greater detail in the next section of this report.

Table 1 - Priority Workstreams

Priority Workstreams
All (TOM): Brilliant basics & automation: improving customer/resident service, linked to automation and service reviews in high volume services.
TOM & EH: Key income generation opportunities
EH: Neighbourhood Services standards and approach (Linked to Brilliant basics).
L&S: School budget management – working with schools, especially those in deficit/at risk of financial deficit.
All (TOM): Key assets – Dock Office and Kymin.
- Decarbonisation Work Streams
- Asset Transfers
- Corporate Landlord
L&S: Schools’ agency staff model.
L&S: Additional Learning Needs.
SS: Social Services demand management.
EH: Homelessness.
EH and L&S: Public transport and school transport services.

Identification of and Deliverability of Savings

The Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget Strategy identified a need to identify savings at a high level to balance the budget and outlined a framework for the categorisation of savings, alongside the methodology outlined in the Reshaping Services Programme.

Reshaping Services Programme

The Reshaping Services Programme was under development throughout 2024 with an initial Cabinet paper at the start of the year and the prospectus formally approved by Cabinet in October 2024. To underpin the change agenda a new Transformation team was established to provide additional capacity and challenge to the workstreams identified.

The team meets with the Director of Corporate Resources and Head of Finance on a regular basis and provide frequent updates to SLT. They also report to boards that have been established for individual workstreams such as Assets to coordinate various asset reshaping initiatives across the Council.

Savings Identified for 2025/26

Savings were identified at Directorate level with an indicative guide in the context of the funding gap identified giving some protection to Education and Social Care services it was considered that in the context of the funding position when compared with Welsh Government Standard Spending Assessment blocks that it would be appropriate for a savings target to be directed at schools for 2025/26. Discretionary services were asked to put forward savings proposals at a consolidated rate to address the gap of 8%

Savings were outlined by services at the Budget Working Groups which were attended by the Leader, Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Resources, Head of Finance, Head of Human Resources, representatives of Finance and Human Resources and the Directorate's Senior Leadership Team. Savings were categorised as Tactical or Transformational over several headings. Consideration of fte impact and any investment requirements were also outlined.

These savings were further reviewed by Senior Leadership Team in the context of Cost Pressures and the overall budget position.

Further work has been undertaken to carry out service review and Equality Impact Assessments for the identified savings and building on some of the feedback and learning from the 2024/25 budget process these Equality Impact Assessments were all completed at Draft Budget stage and published alongside the Public Consultation.

Addressing the Funding Gap Across the Medium Term Financial Plan Period 2025/26 to 2029/30

Having considered the feedback from Audit Wales as part of their review of the Financial Sustainability of Local Authorities and also concerns raised by Members in respect of the sustainability of the Council's finance it was felt important that as part of the Final Budget Proposals the Council set out the initiatives that will be progressed to enable the Council to address the assumed budget shortfall across the period (£28M).

The advantage of this approach is that it sets clear targets for the Reshaping Services Programme to work towards and is predominantly focussed on reshaping and transforming areas of high pressure trying to minimise tactical savings which will help to maintain the Council's capacity and safeguards preventative services.

The rationale for setting these savings targets is linked to cost pressures set out in the report, Potential areas of invest to save and areas of significant Council spend and income have also been considered. These targets will be further considered at a full day Senior Leadership Team Workshop and an update on this strategy brought as part of the MTFP and Budget Strategy in July. It is hoped that this approach will allow for savings to be planned for which could reduce the lag on delivery of savings which can lead to significant unplanned drawdown of reserves.

Table 2 - Strategy to Close MTFP Gap through Reshaping

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Total
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's

Total Funding Increase	5,648	6,601	6,793	6,991	26,033
Total Spending Pressures	13,712	13,123	13,222	13,557	53,614
Reversal of one off Savings	750	0	0	0	750
Total Funding Gap	8,814	6,522	6,429	6,566	28,331
Savings Already Proposed	1,201	0	0	0	1,201
Additional Reshaping Targets					
Target Operating Model - Other	2,839	3,298	3,298	3,298	12,734
Target Operating Model - Assets	0	200	400	400	1,000
Target Operating Model - Income	1,347	1,347	1,347	984	5,024
Service Transformation	0	457	457	657	1,570
Service Transformation/Digital	1,630	1,630	1,630	1,630	6,521
Community Cohesion	0	0	50	50	100
Total Additional Reshaping Targets	5,816	6,932	7,182	7,019	26,948
Gap -Tactical Savings Required/ Temporary Use of Reserves	1,797	-410	-753	-452	182

This will need to be considered alongside the medium term funding horizon that is expected for Local Authorities following the Comprehensive Spending Review that is due to be undertaken by UK Government.

Monitoring and Review of Delivery of Savings

A robust Savings Tracker building on processes established in 2023/24 and 2024/25 will be in place to ensure the delivery of all savings. It will be an early warning system treating each saving as a project and ensuring key milestones are met and where any slippage occurs mitigations are identified in a timely fashion. It will be reported alongside the monitoring and regularly to Senior Leadership Team. To ensure delivery there have also been extensive officer discussions to explore and understand where individual service might need additional support from across the Council.

Building on feedback from Audit Wales in respect of the Council's financial sustainability and good practice across the sector the savings tracker will now also include a broader consideration of the impact of the saving on residents and service users.

Identification and Mitigation of Risk

Inflationary Risk

Pay Inflation

Pay Inflation represents a key risk for the 2025/26, it is expected that inflation will creep back up towards 3.7% during 2025. The Council has calculated pay pressures based on a 3% award for single status staff and has calculated a 3% pay award for teaching staff. However, the budgets allocated only awards 75% of the funding required for non schools provision and therefore an assumed vacancy provision or saving will be required to balance budgets if pay awards are negotiated at the level assumed. Should there be additional pressures the

Pay Pressures reserve can be utilised to address the additional funding need if required. This reserve will also be utilised to support restructuring or redundancy and early retirement pressures.

Contractual Inflation Revenue

The Council has included some pressures in respect of contractual inflation these are in relation to Waste contracts, Social Services residential and domiciliary care providers and School Transport. Pressures in the Social Care sector are complex for 2025/26 they are in part associated with the Welsh Government commitment in respect of payment of the Real Living Wage. Despite the approximately 11% increase in funding in the Social Care sector the increase that has been allowed for providers is expected to cover Inflationary and National Insurance pressures although may not cover all demands in full. In practice the changes to the structure of provider fee payments will be far more complex reflecting further work on the sliding scale of payments that was established as part of the 2024/25 fee setting.

Capital Programme Inflationary Risk

The Council has encountered significant inflationary pressure on the delivery of schemes in recent years. This inflationary pressure will continue to be managed on a case-by-case basis through scheme redesign and re-engineering, review of scope and scale and application for additional grant funding.

Government Funding and Policy

The Initial Budget Proposals that were reported to Cabinet in January and formed the basis for the Public Consultation reflected an increase in funding from Welsh Government of 3.3%

The Council has benefited from an increase of 3.8% in Aggregate External Finance following the introduction of a floor for Local Authorities as part of the Final Settlement 2025/26. It should be noted that this increase is below the significant pressures reported by services. The Welsh Government settlement includes additional funding to correct the base budget for the 2024/25 pay award and teachers and fire fighters pension costs. However, the settlement does not fully reflect the pressures reported in the Social Care and Additional Learning Needs sector as well as general inflationary pressures experienced by councils across important preventative services such as Leisure, Parks and Regeneration.

Following consideration of the response to the public consultation the Council has determined that it would be appropriate to utilise the additional funding from the introduction of the floor to reduce the Council Tax increase from 6.9% to 5.9% as set out in the section below.

The Council's forward projections are based on limited information provided by Welsh Government including some Fiscal Analysis carried out by Cardiff University. The Council has assumed a 1% increase in AEF across the Medium Term Financial plan period, some commentators would expect this increase to be nearer 0%. A much welcomed element of the UK Chancellor's budget in October 2024 was the commitment to a three year spending

review in late spring/early summer 2025. This should enable the Council to reassess its forecast as part of its Financial Strategy work to be reported to Cabinet in July 2025.

There remains some uncertainty of funding where schemes are delivered through grant allocation, and this can expose the Council to some risk in terms of the continuation of service provision. The Council can also encounter risk in respect of whether grant funding is continuing at 2024/25 levels in respect of specific grants also.

Council Tax

Whilst the collection rate for Council Tax has remained low in recent years in the context of Covid and the Cost of Living crisis, the Council has benefitted from several new developments in the area and changes in allowances during financial years that have enabled the Council to benefit from a Council Tax Surplus, the Council has also made really good progress in terms of the collection of historic arrears which contributed to an in year surplus in both 2023/24 and 2024/25. The level of arrears and therefore required provision for bad and doubtful debts will need to be monitored carefully during this period but are projected to improve and further provision has been made for some collection of arrears as part of the 2025/26 budget assumptions.

The Empty Homes and Second Homes policies that were implemented as part of the 2023/24 and 2024/25 budgets are reflected in the Council Tax base and Council Tax assumptions utilised as part of the budget analysis and assumptions monitored to ensure they are achievable and prudent.

The ambition set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan will be to increase the Council Tax collection rate by 1% across the period to 98.1%, if this ambition is realised this would mean the Council is in the top quartile of Welsh Authorities for collection.

Resource Constraints

The deliverability of some of the challenging proposals in the budget strategy need to be considered against the capacity issues within the organisation. The Council experiences challenges in recruiting and retaining specialist resources across the organisation. Vacant posts in key strategic areas will have been cut as part of the budget proposals and there will be a need to commission additional temporary resource and external resource to implement the extensive savings proposals in accordance with the desired timescales, funding for this can be leverage utilising the Risk Investment and Reshaping and Digital Reshaping reserves. External expertise will also need to be utilised where the Council does not hold the required specialist experience such as in the identification and assessment of investment opportunities under the Non Treasury Investment Strategy and delivery of schemes such as the UK Government Levelling Up.

In response to these capacity issues and to support the delivery of the Reshaping Programme a transformation team has been established to drive through service transformation and support the various corporate initiatives such as School Transport, Brilliant Basics and Neighbourhood Services service transformation in Parks and Cleansing.

Mitigation of Unawarded Cost Pressures

In addition to the savings identified an additional budgetary risk in 2025/26 will be where there is a gap between the Cost Pressures put forward by services and the Cost Pressures awarded. This funding gap will impact all services and totals £10.7M across the Council.

The first category of cost pressures in this funding gap relates to cost pressures associated with new additional resource and capacity, a number of which were of a preventative nature, and this is regrettable as the Council strives to deliver financial sustainability across the medium and long term. These include expansion of ALN provision in Learning and Skills and Wake In and Appointeeship support in Social Services. There are clearly implications with the decision not to invest in these areas that the Council will need to keep under close review.

The second category of unawarded cost pressures relate to part funding of statutory service pressures such as funding 75% of pay award projections, part funding of ALN (Additional Learning Need) demographic pressures and uplifts for Provider fees. The funding gap in these areas may be mitigated by part implementation of schemes, will be dependent on the level of vacant posts and the negotiated pay awards for 2025/26. Inflation was coming under control in the later summer and early autumn and in line with the targets given to the Bank of England by the Government but are starting to pick up again which is of concern for the potential level of pay awards.

Climate and Nature Emergency

The Council has declared a climate and nature emergency and is required to work towards the delivery of Project Zero by 2030. The need to invest in decarbonisation of the Council's asset base and supply change is a key challenge, some additional investment has been included as part of the Council's 2025/26 Capital Strategy, but further investment will be required to achieve this challenging target.

Over the next five years of the Capital Programme the Council will continue to improve the energy efficiency of its housing stock to meet the requirements of Welsh Government legislation in relation to decarbonisation and the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS). The Sustainable Communities for Learning programme is committed to contributing to the decarbonisation agenda, Welsh Government announced in November 2021 that all new school projects within the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme will be required to meet net zero carbon (in operation) from January 2022 onwards.

A variety of energy reduction measures and renewable energy installations have been identified across several assets within the council's portfolio which include installation of LED lighting, PV panels and Air Source Heat Pumps. An allocation of funding has also been made available in each of the five years for tree planting and the cyclical maintenance of trees was made as part of 2024/25 budget setting.

Cost of Living Crisis

The crisis does continue and represents a significant risk to the residents of the Vale of Glamorgan and has potential to impact on numerous Council services such as homelessness, social services, free school meals and housing benefits and council tax collection. The impact of the Cost of Living Crisis has featured in budget setting with an appreciation of demand pressures on homelessness, social services for example. Officers have also been mindful of the impact that the savings programme may have an Equality Impact Assessments have been completed for all savings lines to ensure there are no unintended consequences for the community, especially more vulnerable groups. A small reserve is also specifically held and has been utilised in part to support the Council's response to the crisis with its partners.

Treasury Risk

The Council has extremely limited exposure to interest rates as most of the borrowing has been undertaken on a fixed basis. However, the Council has a borrowing need in the coming period due to the maturing of historic debt and the planned use of reserves requiring a reduction in the internal borrowing arrangements. Borrowing need in year has also been kept to a minimum and terms for new borrowing kept relatively short in accordance with forward interest rate projections and the advice of the Council's independent Treasury Management Adviser this approach is currently being utilised to minimise cost to the Council.

The timing of the new and replacement borrowing will need to be carefully managed in the context of projections around interest rates and the advice from the Council's Treasury Management adviser is to utilise short term borrowing in the interim until fixed term interest rates start to reduce in the medium term however this will need to be set against a rising borrowing need and reduced resilience in the form of lower levels of reserves. This approach is likely to tie in with the forecast reduction in reserves and additional borrowing need that has been identified associated with the pipeline schemes St Richard Gwyn, Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg and Penarth cluster.

A temporary saving that was originally included in the 2023/24 budget strategy was extended for 2024/25 to reflect the expectation that the Council will continue the internal borrowing approach to a certain extent because of projected reserve balances and analysis carried out as part on the preparation of the Treasury management strategy including the Liability benchmark. This approach continues in the context of minimal external borrowing during 2024/25 and therefore there is continued reliance in the 2025/26 budget at around £1M.

The Council prioritises the liquidity and security of its investments as part of its Treasury Management Strategy and most of the Council's investments are held with Local Authorities, the UK (United Kingdom) Government or AAA rated Money Market Funds domiciled in the UK.

A temporary saving was extended into 2024/25 to reflect the expected increased level of investment return in associated with the Council's forecast level of reserves and the

increased level of investment return being experienced in the market in the context of the increase Bank Base rate and associated cost of borrowing. This is reduced by £500K in the 2025/26 budget reflecting reduced investments associated with a reduced level of reserves held.

Medium Term Position

A key feature of the Financial Strategy is the principle of sustainability, this is an issue faced by all Welsh councils and has been given additional prominence through the Audit Wales work to which the Council is positively responding.

As has been the case in recent year with significant year one financial challenges to manage the focus the Budget report has been on 2025/26 and balancing the budget for that year but there has also been attention given to the medium term financial prospects. The forecasts in later years of the plan are less robust and will naturally be subject to regular review but nevertheless place a marker on future cost pressures. Understanding these future pressures interplays with the Adequacy of Reserves in the next section and is especially important in assessing how short term pressures can be managed.

It is clear that pressures across Social Care, Education and Housing are likely to be sustained across the Medium Term and it is also clear that the organisation will be unable to sustain further significant savings of a tactical nature and therefore, the organisation is undertaking important work to refresh the Reshaping and Transformation Programme. A report setting out the proposed approach was taken to Cabinet on 18th January 2024 and alongside this the Council has initiated some work to consider the Target Operating Model of the Council and what the organisation will need to look like in 2030. Work continued on the Reshaping and Transformation Programme and a comprehensive prospectus was approved at Cabinet on 16th October 2024.

There are five key themes to the Reshaping and Transformation Programme, and these are set out in some detail in the body of the Draft Budget Report. As part of the preparation of the budget specific reserves have been identified to support these workstreams as identified in the adequacy of reserves section below.

- i. Target Operating Model
- ii. Service Transformation
- iii. Strengthening Communities
- iv. Digital Innovation
- v. Economic Resilience

There has been a necessary change in the mix of proposals coming forward in the 2025/26 budget with £3.743M (43%) of the £8.771M being through reshaping initiatives. The Target Operating Model was one of the transformation themes that officers were asked to put forward proposals for as part of the Budget Working Groups as part of last year's budget and this is delivering £0.951M through Assets, Income and other streams. Service Transformation is delivering a further £2.692M.

More importantly is establishment of the longer programme of efficiencies being identified against this framework and the move to a rolling programme of efficiencies which are set out in paragraphs 2.109 onwards in the main report.

Projected growing cost for Social Care commissioning is a significant contributor to the overall Cost Pressures figure across the medium term and assumes a significant ongoing inflationary pressure in this sector which will need to be met to ensure market stability in the supply sector and continue to tackle the recruitment and commissioning issues that the Council had experienced prior to 2023/24. This is alongside the known demographic growth and there are similar cost and demographic pressures in Additional Learning Needs which also give rise to greater Home to School Transport pressures. Service Transformation will be a critical mitigation of these costs and there are streams of work identified for ALN, Social Care Demand Management and Schools Transport.

There are several Target Operating Model strategies also emerging which will help cushion the Council from inflationary pay and price pressures. There's a Brilliant Basics stream in place delivering improved process and automation which will generate efficiencies as well as giving a better customer experience for residents drawing on the Digital Strategy work and aimed at mitigating workforce pay pressures. The Council is targeting procurement savings of 1% of third party supplier costs which will be facilitated through review of the Contract Forward Plan which had recently been completed. Income generation has been a major contributor to balancing the 2025/26 budget and it is central to future sustainability with income from new and existing fees and charges targeted to grow 2.5% per annum over the medium term and improvements in in year Council Tax collection also to continue.

Included within the Medium Term projections are the Capital Financing costs for several Pipeline schemes namely the Sustainable Communities for Learning St Richard Gwyn High School at £64.9m and Cowbridge Phase 2 (Iolo) at £18M totalling £83M over the period. The inclusion of these schemes will be subject to a business case and further Cabinet report.

Adequacy of Reserves

The Council holds reserves for a number of reasons which are set out in the following bullet points: General Fund set at a policy level to cover unknown risks; smoothing reserves to address pressures in a managed way; insurance reserve set at actuarially determined level; reserves to address corporate risks; reserves to invest in the future development of services; and to contribute to the Council's Capital Programme as well as ring fenced reserves for Schools and the Housing Revenue Account. These are adjudged to be held at an appropriate level and there is a five year forecast of their use in place.

The Council undertook a review of reserves in preparation for the 2025/26 budget in the context of reduced reserve balances and a new approach has been adopted to align reserves with Corporate Risk and the Council's Draft Corporate Plan, as part of this approach service specific reserves are minimised and reserves are held corporately and directed by

the Senior Leadership Team, this ensures that the Council’s funds are aligned with the strategic direction of the Council rather than service specific priorities.

- The Authority’s policy on general balances has historically been to hold a minimum prudent level which was set at £10M. When considering the significant unplanned use of reserves in 2024/25 it is considered that it would be more prudent to increase the level held in accordance with the Council’s net budget for 2025/26. Therefore, it is proposed to increase the level of General balances to 4% of the Council’s budget which equates to approximately £13.240M. This balance is also mitigated by several service specific and risk based reserves.
- Budget Risk – In 2023/24 the Council has achieved approximately 85% of the budget target and a slightly reduced achievement of 77% in 2024/25 with a contribution of £884K projected to be drawn down from the budget risk reserve. The reserves review therefore and increased this reserve to £2M to mitigate this risk in 2025/26.
- The Council has identified some use of reserves as part of the budget strategy however this is in a prudent manner to smooth costs that are expected to be temporarily high or can be stepped down in a prudent manner following investment or identification of some savings in the area. The use of smoothing reserves as part of the Budget Strategy is set out in the table below.

Table 3 – Smoothing Reserves

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Corporate Energy	1,200	900	0	0	0
School Energy	1,200	200	0	0	0
Homelessness	200	1,460	500	0	0
Cost of Living	200	100	0	0	0
Risk, Reshaping and Investment	0	84	0	0	0
Total Use of Smoothing Reserves	2,800	2,744	500	0	0
Movement in Use of Reserves	0	-56	-2,244	-500	0

- Due to the volatility associated with Social Care demand and provider fees and the high cost of some placements particularly in the Children and Young People’s Social Care sector it is important that Social Care reserves are maintained at a sufficient level to manage emerging high cost pressures in future years. Following the review of reserves as part of the preparation of the 2025/26 budget a reallocation to ensure that the Social Care reserve is maintained at around £2.5M just over 2% of the base budget for the service.

- The Insurance reserve is held at £4.8M which is considered prudent for the continuation of current insurance arrangements the levels of reserves are subject to external review on a triennial basis and the next review is due in the coming months and will inform the level of funding maintained in the reserve in future years.
- As part of the review of reserves the Council has identified corporate reserves aligned to key strategic budgetary risks as set out in the table below.

Table 4 – Reserves Forecast

As at	Estimated Balance 31/03/24	Estimated Balance 31/03/25	Estimated Balance 31/03/26	Estimated Balance 31/03/27	Estimated Balance 31/03/28	Estimated Balance 31/03/29
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Risk and Smoothing Reserves						
Homelessness and Housing Reserve	4,139	3,719	3,319	2,919	2,519	2,519
Cost of Living	130	100	100	100	100	100
Pay Pressures	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Legal	1,409	1,305	1,198	1,088	974	857
Project Zero	992	866	957	1,047	1,131	1,131
Reshaping Risk and Investment	1,972	1,443	1,043	913	779	641
Corporate Landlord	2,501	1,201	1,050	1,000	1,000	1,000
Digital Reshaping	1,300	1,154	1,116	1,077	1,036	994
Budget Risk	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total	17,443	14,788	13,783	13,144	12,539	12,242

- A further key element of the Council’s budget strategy is to invest in areas to release savings or avoid costs in future years. Examples of reserves identified to support this approach are set out below and these balances have been increased as part of the current reserve review proposals.

- Digital Reshaping Reserves
- Reshaping, Risk, and Investment Reserve

Some of this funding may need to be utilised to manage the implementation of the Social Care System which will limit the ability of the Council to adopt future reshaping schemes funded from these reserves.

- Capital Regeneration and Levelling Up – The Council was advised in 2023 that it had been awarded grant for the UK Government’s Levelling Up Fund equalling £19.785M. Match funding of £2M is funded from £949k ringfenced reserves, £825k in 2025/26 and

£125k in 2026/27 and £1.051M virement of borrowing from the Non Treasury Investment strategy fund scheme. The Levelling Up grant will be used to fund the refurbishment of the Docks Offices, the construction of a new Barry Watersports Centre, the development of a new Linear Park and a Marina and subsequent facilities and infrastructure.

- Capital Reserve balances at 31st March 2025 are projected to stand at £5.251M and include provision of £1.7m funding towards the Penarth Land Slip (overall scheme of £3M in 2025/26), £500K funding towards scheme for the retaining wall at Windsor Road and £195K towards Ty Jenner Air Source Heat Pump. These reserves have been utilised to match fund UK Government Levelling Up Fund and other emerging Capital schemes.
- The Schools Reserves are ringfenced and are the responsibility of the individual schools under delegation. The Council has seen significant net deficits in 2024/25 currently estimated at around £6M by year end. These are exceedingly difficult to forecast as they can be impacted to a great extent by Welsh Government grant, however it is expected that the full £4M provision for school deficits will be utilised in year, further deficits in 2025/26 would require redirecting existing commitments and reserves and therefore it is vital that the action being undertaken by the ~~director~~Director of Learning & Skills to address the deficit position maintains focus and continues into 2025/26. Additional funding has been allocated to appoint a head teacher to provide peer support in the budget setting space and a programme to review and challenge deficits will be developed in the run up to 2025/26.
- The HRA (Housing Revenue Account) is a prescribed account for the Council's Social Housing. The level of these reserves will fluctuate as they are built up at the current time to support the Housing Development Programme. It has been over its forecast level in recent times due to the challenges in delivering the capital programme, but the need is there in the context of an ambitious capital programme, it is projected to reduce to around £2M in 2027/28 and be maintained at that level for the Medium Term Financial Plan period.

Conclusions

The Council is facing wide ranging financial pressures and has had a comprehensive in approach in addressing them in making its financial plans for 2025/26 and across the medium term. The estimates are considered to be robust and the reserves adequate.

The Council has built on the existing budget processes and taken into account best practice and feedback from stakeholders and Audit Wales to provide additional strategic direction in respect of the Council's longer term sustainability. With clear targets for closing the Council's funding gap set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan reported as part of the budget proposals.