

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special meeting held on 1st March, 2017.

Present: Councillor Stuart Egan (Mayor); Councillors Julie Aviet, Antony Bennett, Richard Bertin, Janice Birch, Rhiannon Birch, Jonathan Bird, Bronwen Brooks, Lis Burnett, Geoff Cox, Claire Curtis, Pamela Drake, John Drysdale, Kate Edmunds, Christopher Elmore, Christopher Franks, Eric Hacker, Howard Hamilton, Val Hartrey, Keith Hatton, Nic Hodges, Jeff James, Hunter Jarvie, Gwyn John, Fred Johnson, Dr. Ian Johnson, Maureen Kelly Owen, Peter King, Kevin Mahoney, Anne Moore, Neil Moore, Andrew Parker, Bob Penrose, Anthony Powell, Rhona Probert, Adam Riley, Gwyn Roberts, John Thomas, Ray Thomas, Steffan Wiliam, Margaret Wilkinson, Christopher Williams, Clive Williams, Edward Williams and Mark Wilson.

848 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors Audrey Preston and Rhodri Traherne.

849 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

The following declarations were received:

Name of Member	Agenda Item/Nature of Interest
Councillor Julie Aviet	Agenda Item 10(a) – Tenant of one of the properties. Councillor Aviet withdrew from the meeting during discussion on this item.
Councillor Claire Curtis	Agenda Item 10(f) - Minor Authority Governor on Colcot Primary School and Ysgol Sant Curig Councillor Curtis withdrew from the meeting during discussion on this item
Councillor Keith Hatton	Agenda Item 10(f) - Local Authority Governor on Dinas Powys Primary School
Councillor Gwyn John	Agenda Item 10(f) - Local Authority Governor on Llantwit Major Comprehensive School
Councillor Dr. Ian Johnson	Agenda Item 10(f) - Local Authority Governor on Barry Comprehensive School and Gladstone Primary School
Councillor Anthony Powell	Agenda Item 10(f) - Local Authority Governor on Barry Comprehensive School and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School
Councillor Rhona Probert	Agenda Item 10(f) - Local Authority Governor on Romilly Primary School

Councillor Steffan Wiliam	Agenda Item 10(f) – Local Authority Governor on Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and Minor Authority Governor on Barry Island Primary School Councillor Wiliam withdrew from the meeting during discussion on this item.
Councillor Edward Williams	Agenda Item 10(f) - Local Authority Governor on Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

850 MINUTES –

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th December, 2016 and the two Special meetings held on 9th February, 2017 were approved as a correct record.

851 ANNOUNCEMENTS –

The Mayor made the following announcements.

He had continued to attend civic functions, both inside and outside the Vale of Glamorgan, including charity events, concerts and a 100th Birthday party.

The Deputy Mayor had welcomed Guests and Councillors to a poignant preview commemorating 10 years of Holocaust Memorial Day at Arts Central Gallery. The Mayor was also delighted to have replicated an event initiated by his colleague and past Mayor, Councillor Fred Johnson, and had invited all Vale Police Community Support Officers to tea in recognition of their support to the community.

Fundraising for his charities had continued to gain momentum and he thanked everyone who had supported the fundraising so far.

Work on the Llandough Hospital Orchard project had started. Further funds were being raised through the sale of the Mayor's Charity Cookbook, as well as a St. David's Day Celebration concert which would take place on 3rd March, 2017 at All Saints Church, Penarth, with the City of Cardiff Brass Band. Further fundraising would continue, with a Whiskey tasting event on 17th March, Mayor's Ball on 31st March and the Golf Day on 7th April. Tickets were still available for all events and he again thanked all those who had donated so far for their support and generosity.

The Leader, on behalf of all Members, congratulated Paula Ham on her recent appointment to the post of Director of Learning and Skills.

The leader also referred to the signing of the City Deal Joint Working Agreement earlier in the day. He also welcomed Councillor Kate Edmunds back after the birth of her daughter.

852 PETITION –

The following petition was received:

- (i) Petition regarding road safety improvements at the Witchell (submitted by Councillor Bertin).

853 USE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR'S EMERGENCY POWERS (MD) –

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

- (a) To give effect to the following with immediate effect and until further notice:

Councillor Julie Aviet to replace Councillor Kate Edmunds on the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Bronwen Brooks to replace Councillor Kate Edmunds on the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee.

(Scrutiny - Corporate Performance and Resources)

RESOLVED – T H A T the report be noted.

Reason for decision

To inform Council.

854 ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES (MD) –

Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 required that the total number of seats across all Committees should, as far as practicable, reflect the political balance of the Council.

The procedure previously agreed by Full Council to determine the allocation of seats across Committees included giving specific consideration initially to the allocation of seats across the five Scrutiny Committees.

Attached as Appendix A to the report was the calculation relating to the political balance requirements for Committees in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, following the resignation of Councillor Clive Williams from the Conservative Group. The Conservative Group's overall entitlement to seats across Committees reduced by a total of five. It was important to note that (given the procedure referred to above regarding dealing with Scrutiny Committee memberships initially), one of those five seats that the Conservative Group was required to give up came from within their overall allocation of seats across Scrutiny Committees. Subject to the approval of Full Council, that seat would then fall to Councillor Clive Williams. Of the remaining four seats, one would fall to the Llantwit First Independent Group and the remaining three to Councillor Williams.

As an Independent Member of the Council, Councillor Williams' entitlement to seats on Committees was a matter for Full Council to consider and determine.

Councillor John Thomas, Leader of the Conservative Group, confirmed that the Group would be giving up a seat on each of the following:

- Scrutiny Committee (Corporate Performance and Resources);
- Audit Committee;
- Discretionary Housing Payments Review Committee;
- Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee;
- Standards Committee.

In addition to the above, Councillor Thomas confirmed that Councillor Mrs. Kelly Owen would be taking up the seat on the Planning Committee, formerly held by Councillor Clive Williams. Councillor John indicated he would inform the Head of Democratic Services which seat the Llantwit First Independent Group would be taking up. The remaining three seats, together with the place on Scrutiny Committee (Corporate Performance and Resources) would then fall to Councillor Clive Williams.

RESOLVED – T H A T the changes to committee membership be noted.

Reason for decision

To comply with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 in terms of political balance.

855 CONSULTATION WITH NON-DOMESTIC RATEPAYERS (MD) –

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

RESOLVED – T H A T the position be noted.

Reason for decision

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

856 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION / OFFICER DELEGATIONS (MO) –

Since the formal introduction of the Council's new Executive arrangements in May 2002, the Constitution had remained under review and would continue to be so on an ongoing basis. Under Section 2.4 of the Constitution, the Monitoring Officer had a duty to monitor and review the operation of the Constitution to ensure that the aims and principles contained therein were given full effect.

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

Council, on 14th December, 2016, considered and approved a report regarding a number of changes to the Constitution, including a number of minor amendments to the Financial Procedure Rules and Contract Procedure Rules designed to guarantee accuracy of the wording of the documents rather than alterations to their meanings. As indicated in the earlier report, those changes were part of a wider ranging review to update all procurement documentation.

Since the above report, officers had identified a discrepancy between the wording of Contract Procedure Rule 17.15.2(c)(iii) and Officer Delegations to All Directors or Service Heads 1(c).

The above Section of the Contract Procedure Rules stated:

"17.15.2 Award of Contract

.....

(c) Chief Officers have been granted delegated authority to accept tenders for the supply of goods or materials and services and for the execution of works subject to:

.....

(iii) for amounts greater than £75,000, the approval of the relevant Cabinet Member being obtained.

....."

Notwithstanding the above, the relevant delegation resting with All Directors or Service Heads (pages 257-259 of the Constitution) stated:

"ALL DIRECTORS OR SERVICE HEADS

1. Authority to accept contracts for the supply of goods, materials or services and for the execution of works to £300,000, subject to

.....

(c) for amounts greater than £100,000, the prior approval of the relevant Cabinet Member having been obtained."

In order to align the Officer Delegations with the Contract Procedure Rules, the amount quoted within the above Officer Delegation should be amended from £100,000 to £75,000.

RESOLVED – T H A T, in order to align the Officer Delegations with the Contract Procedure Rules, the amount quoted within the Officer Delegation to All Directors or Service Heads at paragraph 1(c) of the Constitution be amended from £100,000 to £75,000.

Reason for decision

To provide consistency of wording between the Contract Procedure Rules, Financial Procedure Rules and Officer Delegations.

857 REFERENCE FROM STANDARDS COMMITTEE: DELEGATION TO MONITORING OFFICER (REF) –

The Standards Committee on 25th January, 2017 had resolved that the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman or in his / her absence the Vice-Chairman, be granted delegated powers to consider, refuse and approve urgent applications for dispensation on behalf of the Standards Committee, and thereafter report the use of such delegation to the next relevant meeting of the Standards Committee. The Committee further resolved that the above delegation be referred to Full Council for approval.

In moving the report, the Leader moved that the wording be amended from “to consider, refuse **and** approve urgent applications” to “to consider, refuse **or** approve urgent applications”.

RESOLVED – T H A T the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman or in his / her absence the Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee, be granted delegated powers to consider, refuse or approve urgent applications for dispensation on behalf of the Standards Committee, and thereafter report the use of such delegation to the next relevant meeting of the Standards Committee.

Reason for decision

To facilitate consideration of applications for dispensations which are required to be considered on an urgent basis.

858 GIBBONSDOWN EXTERNAL WALL INSULATION AND DECORATION (REF) –

Approval was sought to proceed with external wall insulation to properties in the Ramsey Road area of Gibbonsdown and to decorate external walls to all Council owned property on the eastern side of the Gibbonsdown area.

The Council had been successful in securing a £2m grant fund to install external wall insulation to both public and private sector homes in the Ramsey Road and Pendine Close area of Gibbonsdown. In addition to the Welsh Government grant funding the scheme was also supported by a £250k Housing Revenue Account contribution for

Council homes and further funding from the Energy Company Obligation which was a duty placed on energy providers by OFGEM.

The £2m grant was part of the Welsh Government Warm Home (Arbed) grant, which targeted both public and private sector homes in the area. In total 157 Council homes and 66 privately owned homes were improved through the scheme.

To continue the success already delivered through the Arbed fund; Council officers submitted a further bid to continue the work in the remaining properties of similar archetype in the St. Catherine's Court, Dale Court and Ramsey Road area of the estate. However, reduced budget availability in Welsh Government saw more stringent conditions being applied to the grant and the Council was unsuccessful in the current round of bids. The main reason cited by Welsh Government for the lack of success was the small number of private properties being addressed through the bid (7 out of 87 properties).

The Leader considered it regrettable that Welsh Government had discontinued the funding. However, the Council wished to extend the scheme and continue to improve its housing stock. He stated that the first scheme had been well received, the Council's Capital Programme was able to support the work and that he wished to finish the job that had been started.

Having considered the reference from Cabinet, it was

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the installation of external wall insulation of properties in the western side (St. Catherine's Court, Dale Court and Ramsey Road areas) of Gibbonsdown at an estimated value of £800k be approved.

(2) T H A T the external painting to all Council owned dwellings to the eastern side of Gibbonsdown at an estimated value of £500k be approved.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To continue the energy efficiency work already delivered to property in the area previously delivered through the Welsh Government's Warm Home (Arbed) scheme.

(2) To protect the existing building fabric and cavity injected insulation and deliver similar community benefits to those experienced in the Ramsey Road area of Gibbonsdown.

859 EMPLOYEE PAY POLICY 2017/18 (REF) –

The Leader indicated that he would be moving the item for consideration to the end of the Council Summons, bearing in mind the presence of Chief Officers who were subject to the above Policy.

860 VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMPACT (REF) –

This matter had been considered by the Voluntary sector Joint liaison Committee on 8th February 2017.

It had been good practice for a number of years for Councils and other partners to have established mechanisms for working with the Voluntary Sector in their areas. Since 2008 the Council had had in place a formal Compact with the Voluntary Sector in the Vale of Glamorgan which set out the shared vision and values for joint working together with the expectations of the partners and the various activities that would be pursued to further these expectations. This Compact had been between the Voluntary Sector (Vale Centre for Voluntary Services), Vale of Glamorgan Council, Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board and Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust. Since that time, however, changes to the structure of the Voluntary Sector (with the creation of the Glamorgan Voluntary Services organisation) and health organisations (with the creation of the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board [UHB]) had taken place. Joint working between all partners had increased and had also been increasingly formalised in recent years.

The Compact had therefore been revised, maintaining much of the original version in relation to the aim, objectives and themes of joint working, but updates had been made to reflect the Council's new corporate vision, values and Well-being Outcomes as well as the changes that had been made in the creation of Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS). References were also made to other areas of joint working, notably on the Council's transformational change programme, Reshaping Services. The revised Compact was proposed to cover the period 2017-2021 and could be updated sooner should it be felt appropriate. An annual work plan for 2017/18, attached at Appendix B to the report, was proposed to enable the Committee to set actions to be progressed each year with updates against each of the work plan actions being provided to each meeting of the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee.

Due to the emergence of alternative governance arrangements with the Health Service (and the Public Services Board's increasing role), it was proposed that in order to maintain a link between the Committee and the work of the Compact, the Terms of Reference regarding membership should also be amended. The current composition of the Committee was ten Vale Elected Members, eight representatives (one currently vacant) from the Voluntary Sector and two from the Health Service. It was proposed that the future membership of the Committee would be formed of eight Elected Members of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and eight representatives of the Voluntary Sector (including one representative as nominated by the Community Liaison Committee from Town and Community Councils to provide a link between the work of the two Committees).

The UHB was supportive of the proposals suggested, advising that they had withdrawn due to the fact they considered that there were a number of other avenues, with formal arrangements that they were involved in. GVS had also advised that similar arrangements to the Compact were in place between GVS and the UHB in the form of a strategic framework document.

Cabinet had approved the recommendations of the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee and referred them to Full Council for consideration.

Whilst not opposing the recommendations, Councillor Dr. Johnson wished to reiterate his concerns regarding the Local Health Board not interacting with the Council Committee in the same way it had in the past. He considered it to be an “opportunity missed by the Health Board to maintain that link” with Members of the Council. He felt that, whilst there were many different committees and organisations, they generally constituted interaction with Executive Members. He was of the hope that during the next Council, the Voluntary Sector would play a greater role in the work of the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee. He hoped that the Compact would prove to be a success.

In response, the Leader cited the fact that the Health Board could still meet with Council Members through, for example, attendance at a Scrutiny Committee. He felt it advisable that the Council sought to continue and improve its co-operation with the Voluntary Sector and acknowledged that attendance from the Sector at the Committee, on occasions, had not been particularly good. He considered that the Compact would present a more positive way forward.

Councillor Bertin asked whether the Compact would be legally binding and what would happen should a body breach the Compact.

The Leader did not consider the Compact would represent a legally binding contract but a document that organisations who had signed up to were expected to abide by. He considered it an approach of like-minded parties coming together in order to work together for the common aim.

Having considered the reference from Cabinet, it was

RESOLVED – T H A T the changes to the Terms of Reference and Membership of the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee (as outlined below) be approved, with the changes to take effect from the Annual Meeting:

- (i) Membership of the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee to consist of eight Elected Members of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, seven representatives of the Voluntary Sector and one representative, as nominated by the Community Liaison Committee from Town and Community Councils within the Vale, to provide a link between the work of the two Committees;
- (ii) Terms of Reference –
 1. To refer, as appropriate, reports and recommendations to the Council's Cabinet and the Executives of Voluntary Sector organisations.
 2. To appoint a Chairman and Vice-Chairman from amongst the eight Members of the Council and an Honorary Vice-Chairman from amongst the seven representatives from the Voluntary Sector.

3. To advise the Council of the needs, views and concerns of the Voluntary Sector.
4. To report on the work of those organisations grant funded by the Council, either in full or in part.
5. To act as a consultative forum where the Voluntary Sector and the Council may, in partnership, put forward policy proposals for discussion and decision.
6. To facilitate and promote joint working between the Council and the Voluntary Sector.
7. In accordance with the statutory provisions, only Members of the Council will have voting rights. However, where there is no consensus, this will be reported in the minutes and placed before the Cabinet prior to a decision being taken.
8. To review the Compact and associated Annual Work Plan and to monitor and report on progress made towards achieving the actions contained within the Compact and the Plan.
9. To consider reports of the Cabinet and other Committees of the Council which have a bearing and impact on the Voluntary Sector.

Reason for decision

In compliance with the Council's Constitution, given that Full Council is responsible for determining Membership and Terms of Reference of Committees.

861 TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STATEMENT 2017/18
(REF) –

In presenting the report, the Leader alluded to the recent training provided for Members which it was stated could be provided again as part of the Member Induction Programme following the May 2017 election. He also alluded to a typographical error in Paragraph 20 of the report, which stated that: "the Council has concluded that a 4% charge in line with the **CFR** Method is sufficient to ensure prudent provision for supported borrowing". This should instead refer to the "**Regulatory** Method" and the report had been amended accordingly by Cabinet prior to it being forwarded to Full Council.

RESOLVED – T H A T the proposals of the Cabinet, as set out in Cabinet Minute No. C3467, 20th February, 2017, be approved.

Reason for decision

To agree the basis of the Minimum Revenue Provision calculation for 2017/18.

862 FINAL HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET PROPOSALS 2017/18 (REF) –

In presenting the report, the Leader reminded Members that it had been considered by both the Homes and Safe Communities and Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committees as well as Cabinet. He also alluded to anticipating that the draft 30 Year Housing Business Plan would be reported to Cabinet in March 2017. He then proceeded to outline the report, referring to relevant paragraphs in doing so.

The purpose of the report was to set the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for the financial year 2017/18 and to set the rents and service charges for the forthcoming rent year beginning on 3rd April, 2017.

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

During the course of the year, Local Authorities had to review their HRA expenditure and income and if, on the basis of the information available, the account was heading for a deficit, they had to take steps that were reasonably practical to prevent the deficit. A Local Authority was not prohibited from being in deficit but would need to demonstrate that the deficit had arisen through exceptional circumstances and that it had revised its original proposals so far as reasonably practical to avoid the deficit. Such a deficit had to be carried forward and made good the following year. Each Local Authority should endeavour to have a working balance on the HRA, for any exceptional circumstances that might arise.

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

The 2017/18 rent bands for each Local Authority were issued by Welsh Government on 20th December, 2016 and the agreed increase was CPI (as at September 2016) 1% plus 1.5% + £2.00, i.e. 2.5% + £2.00 as laid out in the new rent policy.

The initial HRA budget proposals were considered by Cabinet on 14th November, 2016 (Minute C3364). They were subsequently referred to the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee on 7th December, 2016, which noted the proposals as did Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 13th December, 2016.

Base Budget 2017/18

The Budget Strategy for 2017/18 outlined that, in order to establish a baseline, services should prepare revenue budgets for next year based on the cost of providing the current level of service and approved policy decisions. This meant that the cost of price increases and pay awards should be included.

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

It was anticipated that the 2017/18 draft 30-year Housing Business Plan would be reported to Cabinet during March 2017, once the latest guidance had been received from Welsh Government. The Plan would also require Council approval.

The proposed 2017/18 budget was set out at Appendix 1 attached to the report and was identified over the following areas.

- Supervision and Management (General) – This budget head related to the general management of the Council's housing stock, for work carried out within the Housing service, and for various issues relating to the Council tenancies excluding the repairs and maintenance function.
- Supervision and Management (Special) – This budget related to the running expenses and the cost of staff employed directly within the Housing Service, in relation to functions such as sheltered housing schemes, running the hostel and temporary accommodation.
- Repairs and Maintenance – This budget related to the revenue repairs and maintenance service for the Council Housing Stock.
- Capital Financing Costs – Costs associated with financing debt.
- Rents, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges – This budget head related to items such as expenditure on Council Tax at long void properties, legal expenses, surveying costs, compensation and insurance.
- Increase in Provision for Bad Debts – This budget identified the amount by which the current level of provision should be increased by in year.
- Capital Expenditure from Revenue Account (CERA) – This budget related to a contribution made from the Housing Revenue Account to fund capital expenditure.
- Dwelling Rents – This was the net rent due to the Council for all properties whether General Needs, OAP designated, Sheltered Complexes, Hostel or Temporary Accommodation.
- Non Dwelling Rents – This represented the net rental income due to the Council for HRA owned garages.
- Interest – This budget related to interest receivable on the average HRA Reserve Balance.
- Charges for Services and Facilities – This budget identified amounts due to the Council by tenants and leaseholders and some private individuals for services and facilities provided by the HRA.

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

2016/17 Original Budget	Inflation / Pay Award	Committed Growth / (Savings)	Rent Increase	Increase/ (Decrease) in CERA	2017/18 Proposed Budget
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
(22)	136	(232)	(621)	608	(131)

Inflation included an allowance of 1% pay awards in 2017/18. 1% increase in pay amounts to approximately £26k.

The net saving of £232k was due to a number of factors:

- A decrease in Capital Financing charges of £28k in relation to unsupported borrowing being taken out in 2017/18 to fund the Housing Improvement Programme.
- An increase in staff costs for increments and staff changes of £79k.
- A reduction of £290k in central recharges.
- A reduction in the cost for Council Tax at void properties of £67k.
- An increase in the revenue repairs costs of £185k.
- Various other minor savings of £111k.

An increase in Capital Expenditure from Revenue Account (CERA) to finance the Housing Improvement Programme of £608k had been assumed. The amount of revenue contribution required was dictated by available revenue balances and the value of the Housing Improvement Programme. Adjusting the level of CERA by this amount would leave a minimum HRA Reserve of £831k as at 31st March, 2018 which was in line with the draft Housing Business Plan. The minimum level of the HRA Reserve had been re-assessed from the £600k included in the previous plan. The revised level was equivalent to approximately 5% of revenue and capital expenditure, excluding any new build development costs. 5% was a generally accepted percentage used for assessing levels of reserves to be held.

Proposed Increases in Rents

The rent policy set a target rent band for each landlord and landlords were required to operate with average weekly rent levels that fell within the scope of those bands. The target rent band provided a low end figure, a mid-point and a high end figure for each landlord. The average weekly rent level for each social landlord was compared to the target rent band. In addition, the maximum amount a social landlord could increase an individual tenant's weekly rent was CPI +1.5% plus £2.00 (i.e. 2.5% plus £2.00). If the Vale of Glamorgan applied a 2.5% plus a maximum of £2.00 per week rent increase to Council House Rents then the average weekly rent would fall within the target rent band. The additional increase would be applied across the stock based on the local rent policy currently in place.

It was usual practice that the Vale of Glamorgan only increased rent by an amount specified via Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to prevent a breach of the Housing Benefit Rent Rebate Limitations. Breach of the limitation would mean that the HRA would be liable for a proportion of the additional increase. The current rent for the Vale of Glamorgan was within the draft limit issued by Welsh Government.

It was proposed that rents were increased within the limit of 2.5% plus the maximum of £2.00 which had been set in line with the Council's existing rent policy, which took into account the number of bedrooms, type and size of property along with location, whilst still ensuring that the current draft Housing Business Plan commitments was achieved. The rent increase per property type was detailed below:-

Type	Present Target Rent for 2016/17 (Based on 50 Chargeable Weeks)	Proposed Average Rent Incr (+)/ Decr (-) (Based on 50 Chargeable Weeks)	Proposed Average Target Rent for 2017/18 (Based on 50 Chargeable Weeks)
Bungalow	£91.41 per week	+£3.20 per week	£94.61 per week
Flat	£79.84 per week	+£2.79 per week	£82.63 per week
House	£99.47 per week	+£3.47 per week	£102.94 per week
Maisonette	£87.24 per week	+£3.05 per week	£90.29 per week
TOTAL	£91.21 per week	+£3.19 per week	£94.40 per week

Proposed Increases in Other Charges

Garage Rents – The rent of freestanding garages was currently £7.32 per week. It was proposed that rent for all garages be increased by 3.5% to £7.58 per week. The percentage increase was broadly in line with the rent increase.

Ty lolo Hostel – The current charge for persons accommodated was £163.50 per week. It was proposed that the weekly rent charge be increased by a maximum of 2.5% + £2.00 to £169.59 per week. As rooms at the hostel were classified as HRA dwellings, the rents charged were also subject to Housing Benefit Rent Rebate Limitations, which meant that hostel rents should be in line with the Welsh Government recommended rent increase.

Evans Street, Barry – This property, owned by the Council, was let to Llamau Housing Trust and comprised of six units of accommodation. The current weekly charge was £540.39. It was proposed that the charge be increased by a maximum

of 2.5% + £2.00, in line with the recommended increase for the Hostel. The weekly charge would therefore be £555.90 per week.

Temporary Accommodation – The average current weekly charge including additional management, utility and service charge costs was £161.76. It was proposed that the rent element be increased by a maximum of 2.5% + £2.00 in line with the Welsh Government recommended guideline increase. The total charge would therefore be £167.80 per week.

Sheltered Housing Guest Suites – It was proposed that the charges for guest room facilities be increased by 3.5% to £12.70 per person per night for double occupancy and £18.15 for single occupancy.

Vale Community Alarm Service (VCAS) – This was a charge which formed part of the inclusive rent, but was separately identifiable. No increase was proposed on VCAS charges and a review of the charging structure currently in place would be undertaken during 2017/18.

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

Heating – The cost of providing heating to sheltered properties had decreased. It was proposed that the charge be decreased from £7.97 per week to £6.41 per week based on the actual costs incurred in the 12 months prior to the budgeting period.

Warden Management and Support Charge – The proposed charge for the Warden Management element was £4.06 per week, and the proposed charge for the Warden Support element was £5.63 per week.

Lift Maintenance – The cost of lift maintenance had increased, due to an increase in the number of emergency call-outs. It was proposed that the charge be increased from £0.83 per week to £0.92 per week based on the actual costs incurred in the 12 months prior to the budgeting period.

Door Entry and Intercom – The cost of providing maintenance on the door entry systems had decreased. It was proposed that the charge be decreased from £1.18 per week to £0.75 per week based on the actual costs incurred in the 12 months prior to the budgeting period. The cost of providing the Intercom systems had also decreased from £0.98 per week to £0.73 per week.

Sewerage Treatment Plants – The charge to owners of all purchased and private dwellings connected to Council owned and maintained treatment plants was currently £318.45 per annum, based on the average charge payable if the properties were connected to the main sewerage system. It was proposed that the dwellings continued to be charged at a similar sewerage rates to the Water Schedule 2017/18 issued by Dwr Cymru Welsh Water. The Welsh Water Schedule was not available at the time of writing.

Cesspool Emptying – The current charge of £6.23 per week was based on an equivalent rate to those properties connected to the main sewerage system. It was proposed therefore that the dwellings would continue to be charged at a rate equivalent to the Water Schedule 2017/18 issued by Dwr Cymru Welsh Water. Whilst the schedule was not available at the time of writing, the 2017/18 equivalent charge could be in the region of £6.35 per week.

Councillor Councilor Jarvie suggested that the table setting out proposed increases in rents should read “median” or “average” rather than “total”. It was agreed that this, in the future, should read “average”.

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the final HRA budget proposals for 2017/18 as outlined below be approved:

	Proposed Budget 2017/18
	£'000
Expenditure	
Supervision and Management	4,967
Repairs and Maintenance	4,043
Capital Financing Costs	5,278
Rent, Rates and Taxes and Other Charges	227
Increase in Bad Debt Provision	1,104
Capital Expenditure from Revenue Account (CERA)	3,539
	19,158
Income	
Dwelling Rents	(18,487)
Non Dwelling Rents	(187)
Interest	(4)
Charges for Services and Facilities	(611)
	(19,289)
(Surplus)/Deficit for the Year	(131)
Working Balance Brought Forward	(700)
Working Balance Carried Forward	(831)

- (2) T H A T a rent increase of 2.5% plus up to a maximum of £2.00, as set out in paragraphs 16-18 of the report to Cabinet on 20th February, 2017, be approved.

(3) T H A T the increase suggested for other services, as set out in paragraphs 19-31 of the report to Cabinet on 20th February, 2017 be approved.

(4) T H A T the following charges for 2017/18 financial year be approved:

50 Week Basis	Current Charges	Proposed Charges
Heating	£7.97 per week	£6.41 per week
Warden Support Charge	£5.63 per week	£5.63 per week
Warden Management Charge	£4.94 per week	£4.06 per week
VCAS:		
- Piper	£4.34 per week	£4.34 per week
- Communicall	£4.92 per week	£4.92 per week
Grounds Maintenance	£1.32 per week	£1.33 per week
Cleaning of communal areas	£1.89 per week	£2.02 per week
Lighting of communal areas	£0.96 per week	£0.87 per week
Laundry Facilities	£0.29 per week	£0.38 per week
Window Cleaning	£0.33 per week	£0.32 per week
Lift Maintenance	£0.83 per week	£0.92 per week
Door Entry	£1.18 per week	£0.75 per week
Intercom	£0.98 per week	£0.73 per week
CCTV	£0.88 per week	£0.84 per week
Sewerage Treatment Plants	£318.45 per annum	Based on the Rateable Value (RV) from the Welsh Water Schedule 2017/18
Cesspool Emptying	£6.23 per week	Based on the Rateable Value (RV) from the Welsh Water Schedule 2017/18

- (5) T H A T all changes to rents and service charges be implemented from 3rd April, 2017 and that increase notices be sent to tenants 28 days in advance of the new charges coming into effect.

Reasons for decisions

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

863 FINAL CAPITAL PROPOSALS 2017/18 TO 2021/22 (REF) –

In introducing the report, the Leader stated that it related to setting the Capital Programme for 2017/18 to 2021/22 as well as certain changes to the Capital Programme for 2016/17 and 2017/18 to 2021/22.

The Initial Capital Programme Proposals 2017/18 to 2021/22 were presented to Cabinet on 14th November, 2016 (Minute C3363). They were subsequently referred to Scrutiny Committees in December 2016.

In responding to the Initial Capital Programme Proposals, no specific recommendations to amend the Initial Proposals were made by Scrutiny Committees.

Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 13th December, 2016 (Minute No. 617), recommended that the Initial Capital Budget Proposals be endorsed.

The minutes and recommendations of Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee were referred to Cabinet on 9th January, 2017 (Minute C3420) and as no recommendations were made, Cabinet recommended that the contents of the report be noted and passed to the Budget Working Group for consideration in concluding the budget proposals for 2017/18.

On 21st December, 2016 the Welsh Government announced the final 2017/18 General Capital funding settlement. There had been a £14k (0.26%) reduction in funding from 2016/17. The Initial Capital Programme Proposals in November 2016 assumed a 10% reduction year on year. Having considered that the Authority's capital funding had been flatlined for the past two financial years and reviewing the assumptions adopted by a number of other Authorities across Wales, the assumed future funding had been revised to a 5% reduction year on year to 2021/22. The

change to this assumption increased the funding in 2018/19 by £270k and had a knock on effect throughout the Programme.

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

Resources from Welsh Government	17/18 £'000	18/19 £'000	19/20 £'000	20/21 £'000	21/22 £'000
Supported Borrowing – General Fund	3,360	3,192	3,032	2,880	2,736
General Capital Grant	2,045	1,943	1,846	1,754	1,666
Total	5,405	5,135	4,878	4,634	4,402

Another means of financing capital expenditure was through capital receipts resulting from the sale of assets. Receipts from the sale of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) assets could only be spent in the HRA and could not be used to finance General Fund capital schemes. As at 31st March, 2017 the forecast balance of useable capital receipts totaled £6.085m of which £1.327m was ring-fenced for Social Services and £1.299m was ring-fenced for Education. No further general capital receipts or ring-fenced Social Services capital receipts were anticipated between 2017/18 and 2021/22. A further £9.114m ring-fenced Education capital receipts for the School Investment Programme was estimated to be generated between 2017/18 and 2021/22. It should be noted, however, that projected future capital receipts were not guaranteed and failure to achieve the projected level of capital receipts could impact the affordability of the current 21st Century Schools Band B proposals.

HRA capital receipts arose from the sale of dwellings under the Right To Buy Act, HRA land and other HRA assets. In the case of HRA receipts, regulations set out that receipts since 1st April, 2004 could only be used to fund HRA capital expenditure or to repay HRA debt. As at 31st March, 2017 the forecast balance of useable HRA capital receipts was nil as any receipts received in a year were used to fund expenditure incurred in that same year. No further HRA receipts had been assumed.

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

Capital Receipts	General	Ringfenced Social Services	Ringfenced Education
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Anticipated Balance as at 1st April, 2017	3,459	1,327	1,299
Anticipated Requirements – 2017/18	(2,583)	0	0
Anticipated Receipts – 2017/18	0	0	0
Balance as at 31st March, 2018	877	1,327	1,299
Anticipated Requirements – 2018/19	(100)	(1,327)	0
Anticipated Receipts – 2018/19	0	0	0

Balance as at 31st March, 2019	776	0	1,299
Anticipated Requirements – 2019/20	(127)	0	(2,617)
Anticipated Receipts – 2019/20	0	0	4,557
Balance as at 31st March, 2020	649	0	3,239
Anticipated Requirements – 2020/21	(313)	0	(7,796)
Anticipated Receipts – 2020/21	0	0	4,557
Balance as at 31st March, 2021	336	0	0
Anticipated Requirements – 2021/22	(100)	0	0
Anticipated Receipts – 2021/22	0	0	0
Balance as at 31st March, 2022	236	0	0
Anticipated Requirements – 2022/23	0	0	0
Anticipated Receipts – 2022/23	0	0	0
Balance as at 31st March, 2023	236	0	0

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

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

The Leader pointed out that, whilst the Council had usable reserves of some £65m currently, by March 2020 those reserves would have been used and there would only be £25.8m left.

One such reserve was the Project Fund which existed to finance capital and revenue projects. The estimated balance of the Fund as at 31st March, 2017 was £4.293m. A balance of £2m would be retained as a balance on this fund. The following table showed the projected position of the fund over the next five years.

	£'000
Project Fund	
Anticipated Balance as at 1st April, 2017	4,293
Anticipated Requirements – 2017/18	(2,054)
Anticipated Receipts – 2017/18	0
Balance as at 31st March, 2018	2,239
Anticipated Requirements – 2018/19	(22)
Anticipated Receipts – 2018/19	0

Balance as at 31st March, 2019	2,217
Anticipated Requirements – 2019/20	(62)
Anticipated Receipts – 2019/20	0
Balance as at 31st March, 2020	2,155
Anticipated Requirements – 2020/21	(150)
Anticipated Receipts – 2020/21	0
Balance as at 31st March, 2021	2,005
Anticipated Requirements – 2021/22	0
Anticipated Receipts – 2021/22	0
Balance as at 31st March, 2022	2,005

In a similar vein, the Council had an IT Fund estimated at £3.493m as at the end of 2016/17. The Council relied heavily on technology to deliver its services and the Fund allowed investment in this infrastructure and also enabled the Council to exploit opportunities to reduce the cost of services. This was in accordance with a report from the Wales Audit Office in December 2012 entitled “Use of Technology to Support Improvement and Efficiency in Local Government”. Best practice highlighted in the report recommended that “A corporate technology development fund was used to fund all developments with commitment that efficiencies replenish funds”.

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

Outside of the above, the Council was heavily dependent on specific grant funding to supplement its own resources if certain capital schemes were to be progressed. Generally, this came via Welsh Government, although contributions from other public sector organisations or associated bodies were also forthcoming. It was estimated that over the next five years, the level of specific grant funding for General Fund Capital Schemes was approximately £67.804m which was around £43m more than the level of General Capital Funding for the same period (£24.454m). The £67.804m grant funding was made up of £0.205 Band A 21st Century Schools grant, £31.2m Band B 21st Century Schools grant, £3.338m Flood Defence and Structures grants, £13.85m Major Repairs Allowance grant and £19.211m Five Mile Lane Improvement grant. Many of these schemes required a match funding contribution to be made by the Council to the cost of the scheme.

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

The Council must ensure that its capital investment plans:

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

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

The projected amount of prudential borrowing utilised at 31st March, 2017 was £95.053m which was made up of £6.690m for Highway Improvements under the Local Borrowing Initiative, £7.444m for 21st Century Schools Programme, £16.626m Housing Improvement Programme, £63.156m Housing Subsidy Buyout and the Local Government Borrowing Initiative for 21st Century Schools £1.137m. After allowing for repayments the balance was expected to be £90.968m at 31st March, 2017.

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

Prudential Borrowing

Scheme	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	Total £000
21st Century Schools Local Borrowing Initiative	1,500	0	0	0	0	1,500
21st Century Schools Band B	0	0	0	2,000	0	2,000
Housing Improvement Programme	13,269	5,430	4,149	639	212	23,699
Total	14,769	5,430	4,149	2,639	212	27,199

Total new Prudential Borrowing over the next 5 years was estimated at £27.199m, of which £23.699m related to the Housing Improvement Programme.

Future Prudential Borrowing for School Investment Programme Band B schemes totalled £2m in 2021/22.

At the end of the Capital Programme period (31st March, 2022) the outstanding prudential borrowing taking into account repayments was expected to be £13.564m General Fund and £91.8m HRA.

Amendments to the 2016/17 Capital Programme

Reprofiling was required across some significant schemes in the Capital Programme as set out below:

Romilly Primary School – The Council received approval of the award of funding for this scheme in December and the funding for the scheme now needed to be reprofiled as follows:

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Original Profile	0	1,200	0
Revised Profile	40	1,124	36

Barry Comprehensive School Internal and External Refurbishment Works – There was a significant underspend against the original schedule of works as a result of the items being determined to be unsuitable for the school and also some of the works being delivered below the initial cost estimate. The current underspend offered the opportunity for additional works to be carried out at the school or for other priority schemes to be progressed across the wider School estate. The proposed use for this underspend would be subject to a further report.

Modular Building Resiting – It was requested that £82k be carried forward to 2017/18 and £1k to 2018/19. Of this £20k would be utilised as per the Cabinet report of 31st October, 2016 for adaptations at Fairfield Primary School to enable Nursery provision to be established at the school. The balance of £62k in 2017/18 and £1k in 2018/19 would be utilised to complete the resiting works.

St. Joseph's Nursery and Early Intervention Base (EIB) – The Council had secured Section 106 funding of £801k from local housing developments. In addition Capital Receipts of £230k would be utilised for a projected total scheme cost of £1.031m that would be used to enhance facilities at St. Joseph's RC Primary School. The funding would be used to:

- Facilitate internal alterations to the school learning environment and thus increasing school capacity;
- Establish a new nursery unit; and
- Locate an Early Intervention Base (EIB) at the school

The Early Intervention Base would operate as a satellite of Ysgol Y Deri special school and therefore staff would be employed by Ysgol Y Deri who would be responsible for their management. Pupils attending the EIB would be either on roll at Ysgol Y Deri or their home school and not St. Joseph's.

Vehicle Replacement Programme – Following a delay in purchasing a number of new vehicles pending the outcome of the Reshaping Services review of Visible Services, it was requested that £2.095m be carried forward to 2017/18. The Vehicle Replacement Programme had been reprofiled throughout the Programme as set out in paragraph 46 of the report.

Coldbrook Flood Risk Management – As reported to Cabinet on 23rd January, 2017 the scheme had encountered some delays and additional costs. The Cabinet report requested that the Capital Programme sum was increased to £3.801m in 2016/17 and £0.670m in 2017/18 subject to Welsh Government approval of the 85% grant funding required. Delegated Authority was also granted to increase the contract sum beyond this amount. As it was now anticipated that this Delegated Authority would be requested, it was proposed to increase the Capital Programme in line with the maximum contract sum as set out in the 23rd January, 2017 report. The revised profile of the scheme would be £4.820m in 2016/17 and £1.412m in 2017/18. This would be funded from £5.298m Welsh Government Grant funding, £66k from capital receipts and £868k from reserves.

SPACE Project and Civic Office Rewire and Network Rewire Schemes – New fire barriers were required to the second and third floors above the suspended ceilings which could not be determined until the ceilings were removed. These additional works had resulted in an extension to the programme for the SPACE and network rewiring projects and the scheme budgets had been reprofiled as shown below:

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Original Estimates	2,929	125	0
Revised Estimates	1,400	1,600	54

Court Road Depot – As options for the site were still being explored it was proposed that the current sum of £300k be carried forward to 2017/18 to enable the rationalisation of Council accommodation to proceed as required.

Proposed Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2021/22

Following consideration of all of the above, the proposed five year Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2021/22 was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

Several schemes had been included in Appendix 1 attached to the report which would be funded from Section 106 monies. These included schemes to enhance Fferm Goch Public Open space, improve sustainable transport and ongoing enhancements for the local community in respect of the Penarth Heights development. Schemes to expand Rhws Primary education, to implement Nursery and Early Intervention provision at St. Joseph's and the Mixed Sex and Welsh Medium Band B schemes also had significant contributions from Section 106 as a result of local developments in the respective areas.

As part of the transport review, the use of vehicles by the Council had been extensively reviewed, which had meant that the purchase of new vehicles under the scheme had been delayed. In addition, an amendment to the level of expenditure in the Capital Programme was required, to reflect the continuing need to replace

vehicles across the Council. The proposed revised expenditure was set out in the table below and differed from the Initial Capital Programme Proposals which were reported to Cabinet in November 2016:

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Original Expenditure	1,140	1,140	1,140	1,140	1,128
Revised Expenditure	3,235	1,756	1,250	901	922

Vehicles could be funded from the Vehicle Renewals Fund; alternatively the vehicles could be leased or borrowed for using prudential borrowing. The level of and financing of this expenditure would be reviewed during 2017/18.

Slippage requested through Capital Monitoring reports at Cabinet on 23rd January, 2017 and 6th February, 2017 had been included in Appendix 1 attached to the report.

As part of the Initial Revenue Proposals report presented to Cabinet on 14th November, 2016 it was projected that the outturn for Policy for 2016/17 would be a favourable variance of £4m. Cabinet resolved "That the sum of £4 million be set aside to the General Fund and consideration be given for that allocation to be used to offset the shortfall in the revenue budget and/or used for capital schemes, the details of which will be considered by the budget working group before the final revenue proposals are presented to Cabinet and Council for approval".

The Leader reminded Members of the consultation exercise which had been undertaken as part of the budget setting process. This, in turn, had led to a reappraisal of the £4m alluded to above. Options for the funding had been considered by the Budget Working Group. £1m would be transferred into the Visible Services fund and used to carry out additional road and pavement resurfacing works over the next two years as shown in Appendix 1 attached to the report.

Under the Local Development Plan, site provision must be made for Gypsy Travellers. Further work would need to be undertaken as to the final requirements and £1m would be set aside in a fund for a Gypsy / Traveller site scheme. It was also proposed that £500k was placed in the Council Building Fund to generally finance schemes included in the proposed Capital Programme and £500k was transferred into the Visible Services fund to be used to finance future capital expenditure.

Delivering Well Being

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

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

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

Examples were as follows:

- Continued investment in housing through the Housing Improvement Programme to achieve the Welsh Housing Quality Standard and with further expenditure planned for new build and environment and regeneration programmes;
- Investing in the introduction of LED street lighting would bring environmental benefits;
- Further investment in schools through the School Investment Programme with Band A substantially complete and future development under Band B anticipated to commence in 2019/20;
- Additional funding being provided in 2018/19 and 2021/22 for Disabled Facilities grants; and
- Investment in the Leisure Centres to encourage more use and activity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Financial Strategy

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

Capital Budget Pressure	Mitigating Action Taken
The possibility of increased demands upon flooding, coastal protection and the environment generally (including an accelerated deterioration of the highways infrastructure).	Recurring sums had been set aside to fund annual works for flood and coastal protection. Recurring sums had also been set aside for resurfacing. An additional sum of £1m was to be set aside from the projected 2016/17 underspend into the Visible Services Reserve to assist with the pressures in these areas.
The general shortfall of funding available to address the Council's asset renewal requirements.	Rationalisation of accommodation should assist with this pressure as it would minimise the number of properties with Asset Renewal requirements. In light of this pressure the asset renewal budget for schools had increased to £823k in 2017/18 and £1m in 2018/19. In the 2016/17 to 2020/21 Capital proposals a recurrent £100k for Social Services asset renewal was allocated. Any underspends against these budgets should be reported and would be ringfenced for future asset renewal requirements against the service's assets.
The Council's ambitions for further regeneration and how they could be realised.	Regeneration was a central theme of the Capital Programme. The Council had committed to a recurring sum for Regeneration of £300k and had prioritised regeneration schemes as part of the 2017/18 bids.
The continued expansion over time of the Schools Investment Programme.	Band B Schemes for the School Investment Strategy had been included in the Capital Programme. Welsh Government had confirmed that Band B would commence in 2019/20. It was estimated that the cost of Band B would be in the region of £63.3m and it was assumed that the Welsh Government grant intervention rate would be 50%.
Funding of Renewal Areas to address housing, social and environmental problems in the light of reduced grant availability.	The Welsh Government renewal area grant came to an end in March 2017. The Council had allocated in the Capital Programme a sum of £150k, £300k and £300k in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 respectively to Housing Regeneration and this could be used as match funding for any potential future sources of Welsh Government funding.

School Investment Programme

The 21st Century Schools Programme was the Welsh Government's funding initiative for investment in schools. The first tranche of schemes under the Band A

funding was submitted prior to November 2011. Band A schemes ran between 2013/14 and 2018/19. Band B schemes were expected to commence in 2019/20.

The schemes included under the Band A submission for construction, between 2013/14 and 2018/19, were Ysgol Nant Talwg, Ysgol Dewi Sant, Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant and Oakfield, Colcot, Romilly Primary and Llantwit Learning Community.

The Band A Programme was progressing well. Penarth Learning Community, Ysgol Nant Talwg, Ysgol Dewi Sant, Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant and Oakfield were complete and occupied. The Llantwit Learning Community scheme was substantially complete and the school was due to be occupied in February 2017. The Colcot Primary scheme was underway with further works due to take place over the Summer holidays. The Romilly Primary Scheme received approval in December 2016 and was currently in the design phase with the majority of works expected to take place in 2017/18.

The following table showed the planned spend on the Education Capital Programme from 2017/18 to 2021/22 incorporating expenditure under Band A and Band B schemes funded under 21st Century Schools Programme. Gross Expenditure totaled £77.379m.

By Scheme	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	Total
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Llantwit Major Learning Community	1,240	29	-	-	-	1,269
Colcot Primary	375	-	-	-	-	375
Band B Preparatory Works Changing Rooms etc.	250	500	-	-	-	750
Band B Schemes Welsh Medium	150	100	5,650	10,500	2,600	19,000
Band B Schemes Co Ed	350	150	12,900	24,000	6,000	43,400
Band A Romilly Primary	1,124	36	-	-	-	1,160
Eagleswell Demolition	100					100
Eagleswell Marketing and Disposal	39	-	-	-	-	39
St. Cyres Lower School Marketing and Disposal	48	-	-	-	-	48
St. Joseph's Nursery and EIB	1,031	-	-	-	-	1,031
Schools Asset Renewal/Other	810	601	600	600	600	3,211
Additional Schools Asset Renewal	223	400	-	-	-	623
Education Asset Renewal – contingency	50	50	-	-	-	100
Victorian Schools	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Rhose Primary New School	1,500	1,762	-	-	-	3,262
Gwenfo Primary Expansion	11	-	-	-	-	11
Schools IT Loans	200	200	200	200	200	1,000
Total	9,501	3,828	19,350	35,300	9,400	77,379

The Leader alluded to the fact that the Council had already committed some £83.5m which, in total, would equate to approximately £160m over ten years. He considered that to be an achievement of which the Council should be really proud.

The total allocation for Victorian Schools in 2017/18 was £2m to support ongoing works across 21 Victorian Schools to address the existing issues with lath and plaster and masonry deterioration. These works were expected to be completed during 2017/18.

There was an asset renewal budget of £0.823m in 2017/18 and £1m in 2018/19. From 2019/20 the asset renewal budget had to reduce to the original £600k allocation due to increasing constraints on resources and the 21st Century Schools Band B Programme. Education in consultation with Property Services, allocated the budget in year to various schemes including rolling programmes of boiler and toilet renewal.

Band B Schemes were expected to commence in 2019/20 and in December 2016 the Council submitted aspirations for a number of schemes to Welsh Government in addition to the Mixed Sex Barry Secondary and Welsh Medium Barry schemes that the Council had committed to. Based on latest indications, it had been assumed that 50% funding would be available from Welsh Government to fund the schemes. However, there was no guarantee that the funding would be available from Welsh Government or what form it would take. An intervention rate in excess of 50% would increase the Council's capacity to deliver Band B schemes. The delivery of Band B schemes was contingent on the realisation of the projected level of capital receipts, the receipt of projected Section 106 sums and an intervention rate of at least 50%.

Indicative strategic projects for the Council under Band B funding would seek to address the following:

- Expanding primary sector capacity and addressing the condition of school buildings in various areas across the Vale; and
- Rationalisation of school buildings currently situated on split sites.

The total cost for Mixed Sex Barry Secondary Schools and Welsh Medium Band B schemes was projected to be in the region of £63.3m and of this totalled £0.5m, £0.25m, £18.55m, £34.5m and £8.6m had been included in Appendix 1 for 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 respectively. The final £0.9m for the Band B schemes was profiled in 2022/23.

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

By Funding Source	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	Total
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
General Capital Funding	2,743	2,055	2,448	2,204	1,972	11,422
Capital Receipts	1,643	1	2,644	8,009	0	12,297
Other Reserves and Revenue Contribution	64	0	2,166	1,539	0	3,769
School Investment Reserve	1,352	192	2,242	2,075	2,928	8,789

IT Fund	200	200	200	200	200	1,000
Prudential Borrowing	1,500	0	0	2,000	0	3,500
Total Internal Funding	7,502	2,448	9,700	16,027	5,100	40,777
Section 106 Agreements	1,812	1,362	0	2,023	0	5,197
Welsh Government Grant	187	18	9,650	17,250	4,300	31,405
Total Funding	9,501	3,828	19,350	35,300	9,400	77,379

Housing Improvement Programme

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

It was anticipated that the draft Housing Business Plan would be reported to Cabinet during March 2017, once the latest guidance had been received from Welsh Government and the Plan would also need to be approved by Council. The Plan would form the basis of the Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) grant application, which was a pivotal financing component for the Housing Improvement Programme (to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS)).

The MRA for 2017/18 had not yet been announced by the Welsh Government but the assumed budget in Appendix 1 attached to the report remained at £2.770m per annum as received in 2016/17.

The Final Capital Programme Proposals reflected the level of works required to meet and maintain WHQS. It was expected that WHQS would be attained by the end of 2017 calendar year, with ongoing work required to maintain the standard based on component lifecycles. In addition, the proposed Housing Improvement Programme included new build and regeneration work between years 2017/2018 and 2021/2022.

The budget for the Housing Improvement Programme was shown in Appendix 1 attached to the report and the sources of funding were detailed in the table below.

Original Funding	2017/18 £'000's	2018/19 £'000's	2019/20 £'000's	2020/21 £'000's	2021/22 £'000's
Housing Reserves	3,532	4,192	4,451	4,844	5,412
MRA Grant	2,770	2,770	2,770	2,770	2,770
Unsupported Borrowing	13,269	5,430	4,149	639	212
Total Budget	19,571	12,392	11,370	8,253	8,394

The Leader pointed out that the total budget shown in the table above was almost £60m, which was a further illustration of how reserves were being utilised.

Other Schemes

A sum of £1.350m per annum in 2017/18 and 2018/19 and £800k in 2019/20, 2021/21 and 2021/22 was included to address high priority Visible Services assets and infrastructure improvements.

Flood Risk Management funding of £100k per annum was provided in addition to recurring coastal protection funding of £110k per annum. Increased match funding had been made available to ensure that the Coldbrook Flood Risk Management was able to be completed during 2017/18. The Llanmaes and Boverton schemes which were included in the Capital Programme would also enhance flood protection in the area. Given the complexity associated with Flood Risk Management schemes it was proposed that £150k be ringfenced in the Visible Services Reserves for potential additional match funding for these schemes.

A sum of £339k (including slippage from 2016/17) in 2017/18 and £300k from 2018/19-2021/22 had been allocated in relation to the Barry Regeneration Partnership. As well as being used for preparatory work (e.g. site investigations), this could also be applied as match funding to lever additional sources of grant funding. In addition to this £155k had been allocated to a regeneration scheme at Nells Point former toilet block.

Funding for Disabled Facilities Grants of £5.350m had been provided in total over the five years.

The Leader formally moved the six recommendations, those being duly seconded by the Deputy Leader.

Councillor Franks sought clarification on the following:

- Confirmation as to the nature / implications of the drop shown in the Schools Asset Renewal funding
- That £1.2m should have been spent in the current financial year on Victorian Schools, but his understanding being that nothing had actually been spent but that the sum had been rolled over into the next financial year. As such, he asked whether the Leader was confident that the Council could utilise the sum of £2m shown
- Clarification as to the reason for the slippage in relation to Rhws Primary School and whether the Leader was confident that the work would be commenced in the forthcoming financial year.

Councillor Dr. Ian Johnson sought clarification regarding the anticipated completion date on the Coldbrook Flood Risk Management Scheme.

Councillor Wilson, whilst welcoming the budget (especially the increases in expenditure for St. Joseph's Primary School in Penarth), asked for some additional information regarding the Early Intervention Base.

Councillor Bertin asked when the LED Light Replacement Programme was likely to commence and be completed. He considered it would be advantageous if areas such as Blackwell Close were covered first.

The Leader responded as follows. As far as the Schools Asset Renewal budget was concerned, historically, the figure had been £600k, but an additional element had been provided for the current budget. The reason the figure had reverted to £600k was due to constraints on the 21st Century Schools budgets so, consequently, the funding had been reallocated / vired. The Leader pointed out the funding was linked to a rolling programme and did not just exist as a fixed budget. One of the other elements contributing to the reduction was the provision of additional funding for Victorian Schools.

As far as the query regarding Victorian Schools was concerned, there had been a considerable amount of specialist consultant work required (including a full inspection of all 22 schools to provide detailed schedules of stonework repairs, along with the budget estimates for the required works). The project had, therefore, been vired in order that Members could be provided with the full details before tenders were invited and worked commenced. The Leader confirmed that projects would be split between a number of contractors, given there was work to be done to ensure that high priority repairs were completed as early as possible, with all works completed by the end of March 2018.

As far as slippage on the Rhws Primary School scheme was concerned, the Leader undertook to provide the information to Councillor Franks, but his understanding was that work was due to begin early in 2017/18.

In terms of the Coldbrook Flood Risk Management Scheme, work was ongoing and the Leader was hopeful that it would be completed around the end of 2018 / early 2019, albeit that would be dependent on any findings such as the culverts which had been found containing concrete and which could affect timescales. He also alluded to problems having been identified with ground works and services that were in place but not scheduled or mapped and which could not, therefore, have been anticipated. Referring to Councillor Wilson's query regarding the Early Intervention Base, the Leader indicated it would operate as a satellite from Ysgol y Deri, with staff, therefore, being employed by Ysgol y Deri, which would be responsible for their management. Pupils attending the Early Years Intervention Base would either be on roll at Ysgol y Deri or their home school, St. Joseph's.

The Leader understood that the contract for the LED Lighting Replacement Programme was due to commence very shortly and would be rolled out in the same way that the previous work had been undertaken (i.e. from east to west). He confirmed that, throughout the process, the Council had worked with the Police if problems had been identified in particular areas and suggested that, if he had not already done so, Councillor Bertin should report any specific issues accordingly. The Leader also referred to previous work including a desktop study to identify where it was considered the best places that lights could be turned off; for example, they were not turned off at junctions.

The Leader commented that, in a separate report on the agenda, reference was included to the initial 40 week programme for the Coldbrook Catchment Scheme having been extended, with a planned completion date now of 22nd August, 2017.

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the final budget proposals for the Capital Programme for the years 2017/18 to 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report to Cabinet on 20th February, 2017 be approved.
- (2) T H A T the Managing Director and the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member responsible for Finance, be granted delegated authority to make additions, deletions or transfers to or from the 2017/18 to 2021/22 Housing Improvement Programme as appropriate.
- (3) T H A T the Managing Director and the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member responsible for Finance, be granted delegated authority to make additions, deletions or transfers to or from the 2017/18 to 2021/22 Asset Renewal budgets as appropriate.
- (4) T H A T the Managing Director and the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member responsible for Finance, be granted delegated authority to make additions, deletions or transfers to or from the 2017/18 Victorian Schools budget as appropriate.
- (5) T H A T the Managing Director and the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member responsible for Finance, be granted delegated authority to make additions, deletions or transfers to Section 106 funded schemes subject to Member consultation as required under the existing process.
- (6) T H A T the following changes to the 2016/17 and 2017/18 to 2021/22 Capital Programme be approved:
 - Romilly Primary School: That the budget for this scheme be reprofiled as set out in paragraph 35 of the report.
 - Modular Building Resiting: The carry forward of £20k to 2017/18 to fund Fairfield Nursery Adaptations and £62k to 2017/18 and a further £1k to 2018/19 fund the Modular Building Resiting scheme.
 - St. Joseph's Nursery and Early Intervention Base (EIB): The Capital Programme in 2017/18 be increased by £1,031k for the scheme to establish Nursery Provision and to locate an EIB at the school. The scheme would be funded from £801k Section 106 contributions and £230k capital receipts.
 - Vehicle Replacement Programme: That the budget for this scheme be reprofiled as set out in paragraphs 39 and 46 of the report.
 - Coldbrook Flood Risk Management: That the budget for this scheme be increased to £4.820m in 2016/17 and £1.412m in 2017/18 in line with the approved Contract sums, this would be funded from £5.298m Welsh Government Grant funding, £66k from capital receipts and £868k from reserves.

- SPACE Project and Civic Office Rewire and Network Rewire Schemes: That the budget for this scheme be reprofiled as set out in paragraph 41 of the report.
- Court Road Depot: That £300k be carried forward to 2017/18 for this scheme.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To set and approve future Capital Programmes to 2021/22.
- (2) To enable the Housing Capital budget to be managed effectively.
- (3) To enable the Asset Renewal budgets to be managed effectively.
- (4) To enable the Victorian Schools budget to be managed effectively.
- (5) To enable Section 106 schemes to be managed effectively.
- (6) To amend the 2016/17 and future years' Capital Programme and to seek approval from Cabinet and Council.

864 FINAL PROPOSALS FOR THE REVENUE BUDGET 2017/18 (REF) –

The Leader reminded Members that Welsh Government indicated what the Council's Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) was. This year, it had increased by around £2.5m, which equated to a total spend of £216, 807,000. What was being proposed was a budget of £215,720,000. It had been the hope of the Administration that it would be possible to achieve expenditure of the full SSA and a Council Tax equating to roughly the average across Wales. However, total SSA spend had not yet been possible.

As far as the Aggregated External Funding (AEF) was concerned, this was the Revenue Support Grant plus the Non-domestic Rates. This figure was £149,554,000 which meant that it was necessary to find £66m (approximately 30% of the budget) from Council Tax.

Referring to paragraphs 14 and 93 of the report, the Leader pointed out that there would be a reduction of £1.786m in funding provided from the Welsh Government. The proposed budget of £215,720,000 equated to a 2.8% increase in Council Tax being required.

The Council was required under statute to fix the level of Council Tax for 2017/18 by 11th March, 2017. The final decision on the budget could not be delegated and must be made at the meeting of Council scheduled to be held on 1st March, 2017.

The proposed budget for 2017/18 had been set in line with the current financial strategy and a summary of the overall position was attached at Appendix C to the report to Cabinet on 20th February 2017.

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

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

Budget Adjustments related to the £320k reduction in the use of the Social Services Fund in 2017/18.

Inflation (excluding schools) totalled £1.637m, of which £844k related to general price increases and a 1% allowance for pay awards amounts to £793k.

The Budget Working Group (BWG) had reviewed and updated the cost pressures. Those which could not be mitigated or reduced were included within the Net Growth figure of £5.192m. The breakdown of this sum was shown at Appendix D attached to the report.

The savings had also been reviewed by the BWG. It would not be possible to implement some of the larger Reshaping Services savings in full during 2017/18 as they would require further time to be implemented and therefore the targets of some of the savings had been reprofiled over the three year period. For 2017/18 proposed savings total £4.017m and details were included at Appendix E attached to the report.

As part of the Initial Revenue Proposals report presented to Cabinet on 14th November, 2016 it was projected that the outturn for Policy for 2016/17 would be a favourable variance of £4m. Cabinet resolved "That the sum of £4 million be set aside to the General Fund and consideration be given for that allocation to be used to offset the shortfall in the revenue budget and/or used for capital schemes, the details of which would be considered by the budget working group before the final revenue proposals were presented to Cabinet and Council for approval".

Options for the funding had been considered by the BWG. In light of the results of the consultation, £1m would be transferred into the Visible Services fund and used to carry out additional road and pavement resurfacing works over the next two years. The consultation exercise also demonstrated the value placed on Visible Services by residents and therefore £500k would be transferred into the Visible Services fund to support capital projects. Under the Local Development Plan, site provision had to be made for Gypsy Travellers. Further work would need to be undertaken as to the final requirements however it was proposed that £1m would be set aside in a fund for a Gypsy/Traveller site scheme. It was also proposed that £500k would be placed in the Council Building Fund to generally finance schemes included in the proposed Capital Programme. Further details of the schemes were contained in the Final Capital Programme Proposals 2017/18 report. There was pressure on the Education recoupment income budget and, while the base budget would be increased in

2017/18, this would not be by the full cost pressure requested. However, it was proposed that £200k be transferred into the Schools Placements reserve to cover any potential shortfall while further Reshaping work and assessment was undertaken.

During the year it had been reported that the Planning Fee income budget was unlikely to meet its target. This was considered to be due to uncertainty in the construction market as a result of the referendum for the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union and a cost pressure was submitted by the department. It was very difficult to forecast the level of Planning Fee income in the near future and therefore in order to cover a possible shortfall, £100k had been transferred into a Planning Fee reserve.

As already stated, it would not be possible to implement some of the larger Reshaping Services savings in full during 2017/18 as they would require further time to be implemented and therefore the targets of some of the savings had been reprofiled. This would result in a shortfall in the revenue budget for 2017/18. As recommended by Cabinet at the initial budget proposal stage, part of the 2016/17 projected underspend would be set aside to the General Fund to be used to offset a shortfall in 2017/18. A sum of £700k would be held in the General Fund and would be used to fund the revenue budget in 2017/18.

Services

Learning and Skills

	Schools	Strategy, Culture, Comm Learning & Resources	Achieve- ment for All	School Improve- ment	Strategy & Reg	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Budget 2016/17						99,359
Recharges/Tfrs						(496)
Changes in Asset Rentals/IAS 19						168
Inflation						175
Restructure	81,684	12,135	3,982	1,162	243	99,206
Net Growth	831	19	473	0	0	1,323
Savings	(78)	(357)	(165)	(40)	0	(640)
Budget 2017/18	82,437	11,797	4,290	1,122	243	99,889

Welsh Government no longer required Councils to provide a Minimum Funding Commitment for school funding, which had been equivalent to 1% above the change in the Assembly's block grant funding allocation from the UK Government.

A breakdown of the net growth was attached as Appendix D of the report. Even though the Education SSA had decreased by £696k from 2016/17, additional funding had been allocated to the service. The BWG had decided to fund the one off additional pay cost pressures for schools on the same basis as the rest of the Council, i.e. full funding for the increase in non-teaching staff employers superannuation contributions and 50% of the Apprenticeship Levy. £689k had also been provided to contribute towards other cost pressures.

During the year it had been reported that there had been pressure on the inter-authority recoument budget and the out of county placements budget, with projected overspends of £793k and £268k respectively. Part of the overspend was being offset by some budget underspends within the Directorate and as part of the 2015/16 closing report, £500k was set aside in a Schools Placements reserve which would be fully utilised during 2016/17. The BWG acknowledged the pressures in the area and had allocated recurring funding of £450k and had transferred £200k into the Schools Placements reserve. The BWG requested that further work should be undertaken in the area through the Reshaping Service programme to mitigate the position.

A breakdown of the savings target was shown in Appendix E to the report. Reshaping savings targets were included in 2017/18 to be achieved from the Additional Needs and the Strategy and Resources services. Work was ongoing, not only to achieve this saving, but to reduce the pressure in the services. It was acknowledged by the BWG that further time was needed to implement changes and therefore the savings targets had been reprofiled over a two year period.

It was suggested that the Schools Budget Forum be consulted before any final decision was made on the split of the funding between Central Education and the Schools. It was recommended that delegated authority be given to the Director of Learning and Skills to determine the split in the light of that consultation. It was also planned that, as part of the 2017/18 budget setting process, the budget for Catering Services would be delegated to Schools.

After the changes above the Education budget would be substantially above the Indicator Based Assessment (IBA), i.e. by £3M.

Social Services

	Children & Young People	Adult Services	Business Mgmt. & Innovation	YOS	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Budget 2016/17	14,858	39,906	295	696	55,755
Recharges/Tfr	(4)	4	(68)	(6)	(74)
Adjustments	115	205	0	0	320
Inflation	133	529	30	11	703
Net Growth	19	1,606	10	0	1,635
Savings	0	(335)	0	0	(335)

Changes in Asset Rentals/IAS 19	3	(5)	0	0	(2)
Budget 2017/18	15,124	41,910	267	701	58,002

The latest projected outturn for Social Services in the current financial year indicated an overspend of £600k. There remained continuing pressures on the service, particularly in relation to the cost of adult care packages which could outturn this year up to £1m over budget and the full year effect of this year's commitments would further increase the figure. This overspend related mainly to domiciliary care packages provided for frail elderly clients.

A breakdown of the net growth was shown in Appendix D to the report. Having regard to the current financial pressures and the results of the budget consultation, where concerns were raised by the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee and residents over the support for older people, the BWG acknowledged that there were significant issues in the area. Not only was there an increase in the population, but clients were increasingly frail with complex needs. There was a 'knock on' effect from pressures within Health and work was being undertaken to ensure integration between the two services.

There were also pressures on the service from changes in legislation such as the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 which came into force on 1st April, 2016. Fees paid to residential and domiciliary providers during 2016/17 were increased by above the level of inflation to allow for the introduction of the National Living Wage. Providers had also requested an above inflation increase in 2017/18, due to the continuing impact of the National Living Wage. However, the Social Services SSA for 2017/18 had decreased by £262k from 2016/17. The BWG had taken all these factors into account and it was proposed that an additional £1.25m should be included in the budget for Adult Services. In addition, it had been announced by Welsh Government that the maximum weekly charge for non-residential care was due to increase from £60 to £70 per week and this should generate up to £250k of additional income for the service.

The Council for the past three years had received Delivering Transformation Grant from Welsh Government. The grant had been used to implement the introduction of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. This funding would be transferred into the RSG in 2017/18 to enable the continuation of work required to fully implement the Act. Previously the Council had worked in collaboration with Cardiff Council to implement the changes required, with the Vale of Glamorgan Council acting as host Authority and receiving grant funding for both Authorities. It was proposed that the collaborative working between the Authorities continued in 2017/18 with the Vale of Glamorgan Council continuing to act as the host.

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

On 5th January, 2017 the Minister for Social Services and Public Health announced an additional £10m funding for Social Care. The new investment was to form part of a three-way agreement to be established between the Welsh Government, local government and social care employers to work together to create a more stable social care workforce. The funding was to help to meet the extra costs associated with the introduction of the National Living Wage. How this funding would be transferred to Local Authorities was not yet known; however, if it was allocated on the basis of the Older Persons Residential and Domiciliary Care SSA formula, then the Council could receive around £370k.

A breakdown of the savings target was shown in Appendix E to the report. There had previously been a saving included of £270k to be achieved from a review of the way in which domiciliary care was procured. However, the BWG understood the pressure on this service and, while the service needed to continue to review and implement alternative ways of working and managing demand, the saving had been removed.

During 2012/13, the Social Services Budget Programme was established which outlined a series of savings for future years and provided the required funding for the managed reduction of the budget, via the setting up of the Social Service Fund. The following table showed the continued use of the Social Services Fund.

Financial Year	Use of Fund
	£'000
2017/18	650
2018/19	330
TOTAL	980

The Director of Social Services would continue to review the Social Services Budget Plan and take the necessary action to achieve the level of savings required in accordance with the above timeframe. It was also essential that tight control over expenditure was achieved.

Environment and Housing

	Visible	Transport	Building	Regulatory	Council Fund Housing	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£000
Budget 2016/17	20,068	4,834	0	2,056	744	27,702
Recharges/Tfr	338	(20)	(9)	84	182	575
Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inflation	265	46	9	19	10	349

Net Growth	308	3	0	8	190	509
Savings	(819)	(22)	0	0	0	(841)
Changes in Asset Rentals/IAS 19	(246)	0	0	(1)	0	(247)
Budget 2017/18	19,914	4,841	0	2,166	1,126	28,047

A breakdown of the net growth was shown in Appendix D to the report. As part of the consultation process, residents commented on the Waste Collection service and, therefore, the BWG thought it appropriate to support some of the increased costs and pressures on the Waste Collection and Recycling services. The Leader alluded to additional cost pressures in the event that legislative requirements regarding recycling methods were to change (as might be the case).

A breakdown of the savings target was shown in Appendix E to the report. A Reshaping Services savings target of £1.9m had been included for 2017/18. A report also on the agenda outlined proposals for the way in which part of this saving would be achieved; however, it would not be possible to implement the full level of this saving during 2017/18. The saving target had therefore been reprofiled over two years.

Managing Director and Resources

	Resources	Regen	Develop Mgt	Private Hsing	General Policy	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£000
Budget 2016/17	920	2,172	958	11,262	16,660	31,972
Recharges/Tfr	1,296	(101)	(9)	(428)	(763)	(5)
Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inflation	227	20	16	107	40	410
Net Growth	59	8	5	62	91	225
Savings	(1,769)	0	(2)	0	(430)	(2,201)
Changes in Asset Rentals/IAS 19	(5)	(8)	0	0	94	81
Budget 2017/18	728	2,091	968	11,003	15,692	30,482

A breakdown of the net growth was shown in Appendix D to the report. The implementation of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal was beginning to progress. A sum of £50k had been included in the 2017/18 budget to contribute towards regional working in this area. A budget of £60k had been included for staff costs as part of the Renewal Area budget, which was required to support the capital bid which had been included as part of the final Capital Programme proposals.

A breakdown of the savings target was shown in Appendix E attached to the report. Included as part of the Tranche 2 Reshaping Services programme was £1.4m which was to be achieved from the Corporate Workstream in 2017/18. The implementation

of this review had already commenced; however a full saving would not be achieved in 2017/18 and therefore the saving had been reprofiled over the next two years.

Delivering Well Being

In setting the revenue budget, the Council needed to consider its corporate priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan 2016-2020 through the four well-being outcomes which were shown below with examples of how the Council was providing support through the 2017/18 revenue budget.

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

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

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

- Looking to the long term – The budget proposals were a means of planning for the future and took a strategic approach to ensure services were sustainable and that future need and demand for services was understood.
- Taking an integrated approach – The budget proposals highlighted and encouraged ways of working with partners.
- Involving the population in decisions – As part of the budget proposal process there had been engagement with residents, customers and partners.
- Working in a collaborative way – The budget proposals recognised that more could be achieved and better services could be provided by collaboration and it encouraged this as a way of working in the future.
- Understanding the root cause of issues and preventing them – The budget process was proactive and allowed an understanding of the financial position so that issues could be tackled at the source.

Financial Strategy for 2018/19 to 2019/20

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

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

Education and Schools increases should at least match the overall percentage change in the Council's budget as amended for adjustments to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) and the Council Tax base. The Council would continue to strive to ensure that the budget for Education would be the same proportion of the Council's total budget as the Education SSA was to the total SSA where it was feasible to do so. This would be dependent on future settlements.

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

Welsh Government had not provided the Council with indicative settlement figures for 2018/19 onwards. The MTFP was based upon a cash reduction of 3% in both 2018/19 and 2019/20. Each 1% change in AEF affected the Council by approximately £1.5m. It was assumed that the same levels of reduction were used for these projections.

Pay and price inflation (excluding schools) was estimated at £3.323m over the two years based upon a 1% per annum uplift for both areas. This assumption would be reviewed again when the next iteration of the MTFP was produced.

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

Cabinet, as part of the initial budget setting process for 2016/17, agreed to the commencement of Tranche 3 of its Reshaping Services programme. As part of the work recently completed with Price Waterhouse Cooper, areas of savings for 2018/19 onwards had been identified. They were currently not allocated to individual

services but identified for the Council as a whole. Appendix F to the report included the proposed savings for 2018/19 and 2019/20, including the Tranche 3 Reshaping Services programme.

Cost pressures for future years had been considered and assessed by the BWG and totalled £4.616m for 2018/19 and 2019/20. Details were attached at Appendix G to the report. This included a possible level of funding for schools which was estimated at £986k over the two years and potential pressures on Social Services as a result of increased demographic growth and further increases in the National Living Wage. Any further cost pressures would need to be managed down or mitigated by Services in order to avoid further savings targets being required. An allocation had been included for Housing as recognition of the possible reduction in transition grant funding and in order to support homelessness prevention services.

Previously there were no plans to use the Council Fund reserve in future years after 2016/17; however, this budget proposal recommended the use of £700k to support the 2017/18 budget on a one off basis, leaving a balance of £8.572m in the fund as at 31st March, 2018. However, there was considerable uncertainty on the effects of Britain's exit from the Europe Union and there was a distinct possibility that inflation would increase in the coming years. Coupled with that, the Reshaping Services savings might not be achieved in the short term. That being the case, it had to be assumed that the Council Fund could be used to support the budget in the coming years, while at the same time, being mindful that the Section 151 Officer required a balance of £7m to be maintained as a minimum balance for this particular fund.

Assuming a Council Tax increase in each of the two years of 2% and adjustments for 'one-off' items flowing from the 2017/18 budget, the table below showed the projected shortfall for the period. It was emphasised that these projections were based upon information available at the current time and they would be subject to change, e.g. changes in AEF. The projection was also based upon the assumed achievement of a high level of savings. The position would be reassessed as part of the MTFP and future year budget setting processes, to identify if these savings were not achieved or were not implemented in the year required, or additional cost pressures were not mitigated.

Financial Projections to 2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Assumed Decrease in AEF (3% and 3%)	4,487	4,352	8,839
Cost Pressures (inc Schools)	2,642	1,974	4,616
1% Pay and 1% Price Inflation (excl. schools)	1,653	1,670	3,323
Net Savings Targets	(5,226)	(2,270)	(7,496)
Assumed 2% Gross Council Tax Increase	(1,323)	(1,350)	(2,673)
Adjustment for 'One Off' Items *	320	330	650
(Surplus)/Shortfall in Savings Required	2,553	4,706	7,259

Reserves

Reserves were a way of setting aside funds from budgets in order to provide security against future levels of expenditure and to manage the burden across financial years. Funds no longer required might be transferred to the Council Fund and then set aside for other purposes or used to reduce Council Tax.

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

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

One of the main risks to the Council's financial planning was the uncertainty as to the level of funding to be received from Welsh Government in future years. No indication had been provided by Welsh Government after 2017/18. Projections had been based on the assumed cash reduction in AEF of 3% in both 2018/19 and 2019/20. Each 1% change in AEF affected the Council by approximately £1.5m.

Projecting forward on this basis, there was a gap in funding in the coming years that would need to be identified. Savings of £18.772m needed to be achieved over the next three years, of which £11.513m had been identified. This figure was extremely challenging and there was significant pressure on services to deliver these existing savings in full and on time. There was a risk of non-achievement of these savings and the ability to identify and implement further savings given the already high level of savings previously delivered by services. Reserves had been set up where possible to facilitate this process, e.g. Early Retirement Fund, Reshaping Services Fund.

There were risks in the budget and the most significant of these were set out in the report. Social Services care packages budget was currently overspending. Even though additional funding had been proposed for 2017/18, further action would need to be undertaken by the Director of Social Services to achieve a balanced budget. The budget recovery plan for Social Services required an estimated £980k from the Social Services Fund to cover revenue expenditure over the next two years to give

the Service time to plan and implement remedial action, in order to bring their expenditure within their base budget.

Pay and price inflation was a further risk. From 2017/18 onwards, provision had been made in the budget at a rate of 1% for each element. The Consumer Price Index had been gradually increasing and for the 12 months to December 2016 it rose by 1.6%. Services would need to manage spending as costs rises about the 1% included in their budgets.

The Leader referred to the budget as seeking to address specific pressures (e.g. in Social Services and in respect of the National Living Wage). Allocations had also been included for General Fund Housing in recognition of the reduction in the Transition Grant funding in order to support the Homeless and Prevention Services. The budget proposals therefore used £700,000 to balance the budget. There also still remained uncertainty regarding the impact of Brexit.

As far as Reshaping Services was concerned, whilst it was possible it might be necessary in future to utilise the Council Fund to achieve a balanced budget, the Council needed to be mindful of the Section 151 Officer's requirement to keep £7million in that fund.

The Leader confirmed that, every year, the level of reserves was looked at, but that reserves were a way of setting aside funds for budgets which the Council knew would be needed and to provide security for the levels of expenditure that you know you are going to have. The Administration had always taken a prudent approach with regards to specific reserves. The Council had benefitted from them, but that had taken a long time to achieve. The levels of reserves had been considered in the context of the financial risk and been revised accordingly. They would continue to be revised at least twice a year.

The leader reiterated the uncertainty regarding future levels of funding from Welsh Government and the resultant savings that would be needed to be made. Savings identified so far for the next three years were £18.7M, of which £11.5M had been identified, so the challenge facing the Council was difficult one.

There were risks of not achieving certain savings, risks from inflation, from specific grants being withdrawn and legislative risks (e.g. re increases in the National Living Wage and the implications of Welfare Reform). Consequently, it was necessary to retain appropriate levels of reserves.

Details of all specific grants had not yet been finalised and there was a risk that, should grants be cut and it was not possible to reduce expenditure correspondingly, the Council could overspend. This risk was mitigated by the fact that Services had in place "exit" plans for any specific grant ceasing and were usually aware of likely developments in the level of grant. In the first place each Service would be expected to fund any shortfall from its revenue budget. There were however some reserves held to cover future grant reductions but these could only be seen as a contingency in the short term, e.g. Adult Community Learning and Youth Offending reserves. The payment of redundancy costs, when a grant ceased, was not normally allowed as eligible expenditure to be set against the grant and therefore it was for the Council

to set aside funds to cover this eventuality. A Grant Exit Strategy reserve was being held under the Social Services heading to fund such costs if they arose and in the main related to the Flying Start grant.

Legislative changes provided a major risk to the Council. The impact of the introduction of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 was continuing to be assessed and the Social Services Legislative Changes reserve could be used to mitigate issues in the short term. Any increase in the National Living Wage would put further pressure on staffing budgets. There was uncertainty for future recycling costs as a result of Article 11 of the Revised Framework Directive which were yet to be confirmed. In addition, the impact of changes to welfare reforms were at present not clear and a reserve was held for this purpose. With the introduction of the new Housing (Wales) Act in April 2016 Welsh Government secured transitional funding for all Local Authorities to help mitigate the potential significant challenges of the Act and the number of additional statutory duties within the Act. As the funding was transitional and was likely to reduce in the future, the Authority needed to ensure that it could fund its new duties from within its future resources.

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

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

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

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

The requirement for each specific reserve had also been considered in light of the Council's priorities and it had been deemed necessary to move funding from lower priority areas to higher priority areas.

The Regulatory Improvements reserve was set up several years ago and covered the previous Public Protection service which included Private Housing. Part of this reserve related to Private Housing and therefore the allocation of £284k now needed to be transferred to a separately identifiable reserve for that service. Also the reserve currently included the repayment to the Council of its proportion of the underspend achieved by the Shared Regulatory Service in 2016/17 which was £142k. It was proposed that the Regulatory Improvements reserve was set at the level of the repayment from the Shared Regulatory Service and that the remaining balance be transferred into the Visible Services fund.

The estimated level of the Council Fund Reserve at 1st April, 2017 was £9.272m, with £700k being used to fund the revenue budget in 2017/18. This left a balance as at 31st March, 2018 of £8.572m.

The Section 151 Officer's view was that the minimum level for the Council Fund Reserve was £7m. This was considered sufficient to cover unforeseen expenditure whilst, in the short term, maintaining a working balance. Unforeseen expenditure could be substantial and several instances could occur in a year. Whilst there was no set requirement for the minimum level for the Council Fund Reserve, some commentators used 5% of the net budget as a guide. For the Vale of Glamorgan this was currently about £10.8m. However, in view of the prudent approach the Council took with regard to Specific Reserves, £7m was considered a reasonable minimum.

The Schools Balances were unspent budgets delegated to individual schools. It was projected that the aggregate nursery, primary and secondary balances would be £705k in surplus at 31st March, 2017. Attached at Appendix H to the report was a schedule showing the reserves and the anticipated balances at 31st March, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. The Appendix set out the title of the reserve together with its purpose. A summary of the position was set out below:

Summary of Estimated Reserves Projected to 2019/20	Est. Bal. 31/3/2017	Net Movement	Est. Bal. 31/3/2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Reserves	9,272	(700)	8,572
Specific Reserves :			
- Insurance Fund	1,743	0	1,743
- Capital Reserves	26,483	(14,851)	11,632
- Other Specific Reserves	23,566	(11,071)	12,495
Total Council Fund Reserves(excl. Schools)	61,064	(26,622)	34,442

It was projected that there would be a large fall (44%) in the level of reserves over the three year period as substantial calls on funds were made. However, these were still deemed to be adequate as known risks were largely covered and the Council Fund Reserve was at a reasonable level, not expected to fall below £7m.

The Leader confirmed that reductions in funding from Welsh Government of £1.786m equated to a 2.8% change in Council Tax, or £31.14 for Band D properties. Any rise in Council Tax had to strike a balance between financial pressures facing

Council Taxpayers and the growing pressure on services, particularly in light of reduced funding from Central Government being received by the Welsh Assembly. The average Council Tax set by Councils in Wales for 2016/17 at Band D was £1,127, whilst the Vale of Glamorgan's was £1,111.23, and other Local Authorities were planning much higher rises in Council Tax this year.

The Leader formally moved the budget recommendations, with the Deputy Leader duly seconding.

Councillor Dr. Ian Johnson stated that, if the proposed budget and Council Tax rise was agreed then the current Administration would have increased Council Tax by 21.5% in the past five years (an increase from £940 for a Band D property in 2012/13 year to £1,142 in 2017/18), i.e. a much higher increase than the level of inflation and at a time of low borrowing costs.. He suggested that the Administration had consistently increased both Council Tax and reserves whilst pleading poverty and blaming others.

He suggested that, given the amount of additional Council Tax eventually collected following the setting of last year's budget and Council Tax, there had actually been no need to increase Council Tax.

Councillor Dr. Johnson referred to having commented on reserves during each of the last five years' budget debates. He stated that, each year he had been on the Council, there had been a difference of £15 million between the figure provided to the budget meeting on specific reserves and what was actually there on 31st March. The current year's figures indicated a difference of £17.5M. He felt that the Council should not, therefore, be seeking to take additional money from its citizens.

Referring to the use of the Band D figure usually being quoted as close to the Wales average, he suggested that whilst it might be close to the Welsh mean average, there were a far higher number of higher value properties in the Vale of Glamorgan and to the average Vale household as paying £200 more in Council Tax than the Wales average. For the same reason, he considered the comparison of percentage increase also to have little meaning.

In concluding, Councillor Dr. Johnson stated that the Plaid Cymru Group would be proposing no increase in Council Tax, but, instead, to use the reserves that the Council possessed in full expectation that, like last year they would not be required. He indicated that would mean £2.486 million would be in the Council Fund reserve and necessitate no increase in Council Tax. He queried why the Administration was only seeking to utilise £700,000 from the Council Fund reserve, compared to £1.5M in 2016/17.

Councillor Dr. Johnson moved an amendment to the Motion, which was duly seconded by Councillor Franks, i.e. that the use of the General Fund Reserve be increased from £700k to £2.486m in order that the Council Tax would not be increased and would be £1,111.23 for Band D properties, with other Bands calculated accordingly.

Councillor Dr. Johnson indicated he would be requesting a Recorded Vote on the issue. Sufficient Members stood to confirm that a Recorded Vote would, indeed, take place.

Councillor John Thomas, Leader of the Conservative Group, stated that the Group would be opposing the budget as they did not believe that the Council Tax increase was acceptable, that not enough had been done to find savings and that the Reshaping Services agenda was not delivering the required savings. He suggested that all that had come out of Reshaping Services was the converting of libraries to community libraries and that to have only happened with the goodwill of the communities.

Councillor Thomas referred to the Labour Group, running up to the last election, having promised to bring back the Mobile Libraries service, but that this had never happened and now funding to the regular libraries had been cut.

As he had commented previously, there appeared to be no appetite within the current Administration for outsourcing services to the private sector. The last Conservative Administration had outsourced the leisure centres and this was held up as a great success of this Council but, as yet, nothing else had happened.

Councillor Thomas alluded to the ongoing lack of funding which the Council received from Welsh Government and expressed the view that funding on an equal basis to neighbouring authorities should be provided.

As far as blaming "austerity" was concerned, Councillor Thomas suggested that recent national by-election results indicated the public could actually see the need for austerity and the reasons for it.

Councillor Riley, whilst acknowledging that these were difficult times for Councils, pointed out they were also difficult times for the people of the Vale of Glamorgan. Expecting local taxpayers to "pick up the tab" for the reduction of the Welsh Government funding lacked imagination and looked bad.

He alluded to the proposed 2.8% increase as being well in excess of the rate of inflation and to the 2017/18 savings identified at £4million, which equated to approximately just 2% of the proposed budget. He asked what assurances existed that the current level of reserves was not already excessive and that it was not actually possible to utilise the current reserves to reduce any increase in Council Tax.

Councillor Franks, Leader of the Plaid Cymru Group suggested that the influence of Plaid Cymru within the Welsh Assembly had resulted in £25m extra funding for local government due to our influence in the Assembly.

He referred to the previous figure of £7m of savings as now having been reduced to £4m and to the increase in reserves as being "disguised" and difficult to identify within the budget figures. He felt the growth in reserves from the previous year to be "staggering" and the overall budget to be "out of control".

Councillor Franks felt there to have been a lack of reference being made to the reduction in Post 16 education income, which, he understood, would affect schools within the Vale (especially schools in Barry) very badly.

He referred to reference during the earlier debate on the Capital Programme to slippage on the Rhws Primary School scheme, to delays with repairing the Victorian Schools and a drop in funding for Asset Management. Finally, he questioned whether the budget was being manipulated purely for electoral reasons.

Councillor Penrose, Leader of the Independent Group, stated that the Independent Group would not be supporting any Motion for increasing Council Tax by 2.8% for a number of reasons and would be supporting the amendment put forward by Plaid Cymru.

Councillor Penrose firstly referred to the current Administration having continually over the last five years increased the level of Council Tax by blaming both the Welsh and Westminster Governments for reducing the funding levels of the Authority. However, he considered this argument could not realistically be used if one believed the Welsh Government figures that only showed a 0.7% reduction the Council's funding.

Secondly, he considered the Administration had failed to reach its published savings targets and in some instances overspent in areas such as Education and Social Services. Thirdly, the Administration had failed to really implement its Reshaping Services Programme which to date, in his view, seemed to comprise mission statements with little or no achievements, with, perhaps, the only exception being community libraries, where the impetuous had been driven by the stakeholders.

Given the above, the Independent Group did not consider that Council Tax payers should have to pay extra and that was why the Group was endorsing the amended Motion for no increase in Council Tax in the aim of setting more ambitious saving targets, a rapid acceleration of the Reshaping Services programme and drawing from the reserves in the interim.

Councillor Bertin also expressed his support for the amended Motion and his opposition to the attempt by the Administration to impose another "inflation busting "increase", which would hit people hard. He alluded to there also being a significant interest in the Police precept of some 5%. He felt the Council should be making more use of reserves and he hoped for improved management and leadership following the elections in May.

Councillor James echoed the sentiments expressed earlier by the Leader of the Conservative Group and the views of other Members concerned about the proposed increase in Council Tax. He wished to focus on paragraph 92 of the report in relation to the SSA, which was set by the Welsh Government and which was based on a formula which they decided. It did disadvantage the Vale of Glamorgan and the people of the Vale of Glamorgan and, indeed, the report made that clear. However, his concern related to what the Administration was doing to attempt to redress the situation.

He asked whether the Leader had approached and/or lobbied the Welsh Government, the Minister for Finance or the First Minister, or, indeed, spoken to the Secretary of State for Wales to see whether the Westminster Government could offer any additional resources to cover the fact that this Council and other Councils who were affected by the poor standard of the SSA assessment were actually missing out.

Councillor Mahoney, as he had done in previous years' budget debates, stated that he did not see why the Vale of Glamorgan residents should be so substantially disadvantaged by the settlement from Welsh Government and to there being a massive discrepancy compared to adjoining Councils compared to the Vale of Glamorgan Council. He questioned why the Administration was not lobbying and fighting with Welsh Government

He suggested that millions of pounds had been sent from Westminster to the Welsh Assembly specifically to freeze or reduce Council Tax rises throughout Wales and that Welsh Government had kept by them instead of passing them on.

Referring to AMs taking an 18% pay rise of a minimum of £10,000 per year, there appeared to Councillor Mahoney to be no austerity for them.

Councillor Burnett, Deputy Leader reiterated (as alluded to by the Leader) that the Administration would be funding both Social Services and Education at £3m above SSA. She referred to the budget as being a "budget for the future, the future of our children and a dignified future for our most vulnerable".

Having earlier agreed the Capital Programme, she questioned how, for example, the building of schools could be funded/achieved in the future if money was taken from reserves now.

Councillor Burnett felt that, whilst it was possible to argue where the blame lay in terms of levels of funding, it was also the case that in England, where Conservatives were in power, Council Tax levels were far above those in Wales.

She alluded to academies in England and whether Councils could build schools without having to go out to PFI arrangements and the private sector. Some Councils in England were talking about a 15% Council Tax rise potentially. The only Conservative Council in Wales would soon be voting on an almost 4% Council Tax increase. In concluding, Councillor Burnett referred to the amount of money that had been saved by the Cabinet in reducing the number of Members down to five and claiming no expenses whatsoever over the past five years, which equated to over £0.5m.

Councillor John, Leader of the Llantwit First Independent Group, referred to the increase in Council Tax by Cardiff Council of some 3.7% (following a previous, and unsustainable, 0% increase). He considered suggesting significant spending of reserves to be inappropriate. He referred to attempts by opposition groups during previous years to approve a 0% Council Tax increase, but pointed out that insufficient funding was being provided to the Council and, therefore, an increase was necessary.

Councillor Dr. Johnson repeated the proposed amended Motion, i.e. that the use of the General Fund Reserve be increased from £700k to £2.486m in order that the Council Tax would not be increased and would be £1,111.23 for Band D properties, with other Bands calculated accordingly.

The Leader, in summing up, made the following points.

Whilst the proposed budget sought to utilise £700k, a sum of £8.5m would still exist in the Council Fund. The proposed amendment to the budget would leave some £6.786m in the Fund and go against the advice of the Section 151 Officer regarding retaining a minimum level of £7m. He alluded to some being of the view that reserves should be 5% of a Council's total budget, which would mean the Council having reserves of £10.8m. The Leader resisted the suggestion that more reserves should be utilised as they were set aside for very good reasons and for specific purposes, such as the School Investment Strategy. The Leader pointed out that, whilst reserves indicated a provision of £51m as of 31st March, 2017, by 2020 it would have halved to £25m. He also reiterated the fact that the United Kingdom Government had passed on reductions in local government spending to the Welsh Government who, in turn, had passed those on to the Council. He referred to the fact that the previous Administration had also increased Council Tax by approximately £111 for Band D properties, when the funding from the Welsh Government had in fact increased by almost £7million.

During the current Administration, the increase in Council tax was £202 but that was due to a reduction in AEF funding from Welsh Government compared to that provided under the previous Administration. Despite suffering approximately £16m of reduced external funding, the Leader considered the Council to be providing services of an extremely high quality, with the Authority being the best performing Local Authority in Wales.

He rejected the suggestion that the budget was being proposed for political gain, pointing out that the easiest thing if that was the case would have been to have proposed a 0% Council Tax increase; however, that would have been wrong as the Council was still required to provide services.

Referring to the comments regarding Reshaping Services, he acknowledged that the process was taking a long time, but that was due to the complexity of some of the issues. All Members had had access to numerous reports on Reshaping Services so were aware of what was happening.

The Leader reminded Members of the reason reserves were in place, i.e. to cover aspects such as legislative changes. Turning to the comments regarding Mobile Libraries, the Council had, indeed, sought to reintroduce the service via Town and Community Councils but only Barry Town Council had expressed any interest in doing so.

The Leader did not wish to discuss the concept of outsourcing services, he alluded to moves underway to create an "arms-length" company for the Catering Services and suggested that might be the way forward for other services. He pointed out that

the Leisure Centres were operating through a Trust system so that did not constitute actual private sector outsourcing.

The Leader reminded Councillor John Thomas that it was a Conservative Secretary of State that had put the formula governing funding in place originally. He had argued the case with Welsh Government and would continue to do so in an effort to achieve better funding for the Council.

The Leader acknowledged Councillor Riley's point regarding it being difficult times for everyone, but disputed any suggestion that the Council was retaining excessive reserves whilst proposing an increase in Council Tax. He again alluded to reserves being there for specific purposes and to the Council having, earlier in the meeting, agreed the Capital Programme which would utilise certain reserves over time.

Referring to Councillor Franks' comments, the Leader questioned the effectiveness of Plaid Cymru in terms of the distribution of Welsh Government funding to Local Authorities. He also disputed the suggestion that the Council was not attempting to make savings, alluding to that being the very reason for the Reshaping Services programme. He retained confidence in officers to progress the programme, but acknowledged it was going to take some time. Similarly, he acknowledged the process of working with communities in seeking to deliver changes to service delivery.

Again, the Leader disputed the suggestion that the budget was "out of control" acknowledging that more Council Tax had, indeed, been collected during the current year than had been anticipated, the Leader referred to the calculations having been made taking into account the potential effects of austerity.

With regard to Post 16 education, the Leader acknowledged that some schools would be affected and that those issues were being addressed on an ongoing basis. One of the reasons they affected sixth form provision was because the number of sixth form pupils was decreasing and the funding formula was applied accordingly. As far as slippage on the Rhws Primary School scheme was concerned, he had already responded to that earlier.

The Leader pointed out that the Secretary of State had already indicated that the Cabinet Secretary had stated that the following year was going to be even worse in terms of funding.

Responding to Councillor Penrose's comments, the Leader pointed out that Members had received numerous reports on the overspend in Education and Social Services and been informed of issues with Assisted Learning Needs. The Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee had been informed of the intended recovery plan.

In talking about the proposed increase in Council Tax, the Leader hoped that people would also take account of the services that had been provided such as work on many schools and initiatives such as "Big Fill".

Addressing Councillor James' comments regarding SSA, the Leader acknowledged that SSA levels disadvantaged the Council in some respects and that he would

continue to argue the case to address that. He pointed out the Vale of Glamorgan Council had never received the Deprivation Grant that other Councils had received and again he would continue to argue the case for the Council.

The Leader indicated he would continue to argue the case for comparative funding per head from Welsh Government as received by neighbouring Councils. The Leader disputed the suggestion by Councillor Mahoney that the Welsh Government had not passed on any of the funding from Welsh Government. However, the funding had been used for purposes other than attempting to achieve a Council Tax freeze and that process had been agreed between various parties within the Welsh Assembly.

The Leader reiterated the Deputy Leader's comment regarding the budget being one designed for the future. He alluded to the considerable amount of work on improving schools within the Vale of Glamorgan, including Cowbridge Comprehensive School, the new Welsh medium school and, imminently, work on Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

In concluding, the Leader was proud of what the current Administration had achieved. He reiterated the fact that the Council was the best performing Local Authority in Wales and that considerable regeneration work had been undertaken in many areas of the Vale of Glamorgan. He deplored the concept of using significant elements of reserves and going against the advice of the Council's Section 151 Officer and urged Members to support the budget as originally proposed.

The amended Motion was subject to a Recorded Vote as follows:

For the Motion	Against the Motion	Abstain
Councillors	Councillor	Councillor
Antony Bennett	Julie Aviet	
Richard Bertin	Janice Birch	
Jonathan Bird	Rhiannon Birch	
Geoff Cox	Bronwen Brooks	
Christopher Franks	Lis Burnett	
Val Hartrey	Claire Curtis	
Keith Hatton	Pamela Drake	
Nic Hodges	John Drysdale	
Jeff James	Kate Edmunds	
Hunter Jarvie	Stuart Egan	
Dr. Ian Johnson	Christopher Elmore	
Maureen Kelly Owen	Eric Hacker	
Kevin Mahoney	Howard Hamilton	
Andrew Parker	Gwyn John	
Bob Penrose	Fred Johnson	
Adam Riley	Peter King	
John Thomas	Anne Moore	
Ray Thomas	Neil Moore	
Steffan Wiliam	Anthony Powell	
Clive Williams	Rhona Probert	

Christopher Williams	Gwyn Roberts	
	Margaret Wilkinson	
	Edward Williams	
	Mark Wilson	
21	24	0

The amended Motion having been lost, it was

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the budget for 2017/18 be fixed at £215.72 million, including a provision of £200k for discretionary rate relief to rural shops and post offices and charitable organisations.
- (2) T H A T the budgets for 2017/18 as set out in Appendix C attached to the report to Cabinet on 20th February 2017 and the totals as set out below be approved:

	£'000
Schools	82,437
Strategy, Culture, Community Learning & Resources	11,797
Strategy and Regulation	243
Achievement for All	4,290
School Improvement	1,122
Children & Young People	15,124
Adult Services	41,910
Business Management & Innovation	267
Youth Offending Service	701
Visible Services	19,914
Transportation	4,841
Building Services	0
Regulatory Services	2,166
Council Fund Housing	1,126
Resource	728
Regeneration	2,091
Development Management	968
Private Housing	11,003
General Policy	15,692
Council Fund Reserve	(700)
Grand Total	215,720

- (3) T H A T the recommendations regarding Net Growth for 2017/18 as set out in Appendix D attached to the report to Cabinet on 20th February 2017 and Savings for 2017/18 as set out in Appendix E attached to the report be approved.

- (4) T H A T the Council Tax for 2017/18 be set for its own purposes (excluding Police and Town and Community Council precepts) at the following levels:

Band	Council Tax £
A	761.58
B	888.51
C	1,015.44
D	1,142.37
E	1,396.23
F	1,650.09
G	1,903.95
H	2,284.74
I	2,665.53

- (5) T H A T the proposed draft report on Education Budget and Indicator Based Assessment (IBA) attached at Appendix A to the report to Cabinet on 20th February 2017 be endorsed and the Interim Director of Learning and Skills make arrangements for it to be forwarded to the School Budget Forum.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To set the 2017/18 budget in line with statutory requirements.
- (2) To allocate budgets to services.
- (3) To reduce risk to services and balance the budget.
- (4) To set Council Tax levels for 2017/18.
- (5) So that the report could be presented to the Schools Budget Forum.

865 CARDIFF AND VALE OF GLAMORGAN POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT (REF) –

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 required Local Authorities and the Local Health Board within each region to jointly prepare and publish before April 2017 an assessment of the care and support needs of their population, including carers who needed support.

The Local Authorities and the Local Health Board were required formally to approve the population assessment report. This needed to be done by the Board of the Local Health Board and, in the case of the Local Authority, by the Full Council on submission by the Executive so that the information contained within the report was considered at the most senior levels within these organisations.

The purpose of the Population Needs Assessment was to ensure that Local Authorities and Local Health Boards jointly produced a clear and specific evidence base in relation to care and support needs and carers' needs to underpin the delivery of their statutory functions and inform planning and operational decisions. This would ensure services were planned and developed in an efficient and effective way by public sector partners, in order to promote the well-being of people with care and support needs.

The report included information on the methods used to undertake the assessment, as well as information on care and support needs, assets, and prevention needs under each topic area. Specific findings for each topic were given in the relevant chapter and summarised in the Executive Summary.

A number of overarching care and support needs emerged which were identified in more than one topic area. These were presented in Section B13 of the report and included:

- The need to reduce persistent health inequalities in our populations.
- Easy access to information about support and services available.
- Timely access to mental health services, including diagnosis and counselling.
- Timely access to other services and information.
- The impact of social isolation.
- Building healthy relationships, including emotional, mental and sexual health.
- Practical life skills, including financial skills (for all ages).
- Support for young and adult carers, including respite.
- Enabling smoother transitions from child to adult services.
- Maintaining and increasing provision and sustainability of community services and support.
- Healthy lifestyles including tobacco use, alcohol, diet and physical activity.
- Transport to aid with access to services.
- Healthy environment and accessible built environment.

Councillor Dr. Ian Johnson considered the Assessment to be a very important document and, as Vice-Chairman of the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee, he wished to add weight to the document. He referred in particular to gap of 24 years for the healthy living age between the affluent and non-affluent residents and to the fact that 12% of Vale of Glamorgan residents had relationships with the Armed Forces.

RESOLVED – T H A T the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Population Needs Assessment be approved.

Reason for decision

Approval by the Full Council was required by the statutory framework for producing the Assessment.

866 COUNCIL TAX 2017/18 –

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T it be noted that at its meeting on 28th November, 2016, Cabinet (the Executive) calculated the following amounts for the year 2017/2018 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

(a) 57,920 being the amount calculated by Cabinet (the Executive) in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995, as amended, as its Council Tax base for the year.

(b) Part of the Council's area

Barry	19,676
Colwinston	307
Cowbridge with Llanblethian	2,546
Dinas Powys	3,615
Ewenny	431
Llancarfan	473
Llandough	947
Llandow	432
Llanfair	376
Llangan	444
Llanmaes	249
Llantwit Major	4,049
Michaelston	232
Penarth	11,292
Pendoylan	343
Penllyn	1,008
Peterston-Super-Ely	553
St. Athan	1,432
St. Brides Major	1,260
St. Donats	190
St. Georges and St. Brides-Super-Ely	239
St. Nicholas and Bonvilston	535
Sully and Lavernock	2,489
Welsh St. Donats	313
Wenvoe	1,259
Wick	403

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

- (2) T H A T the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2017/2018 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
- | | | |
|-----|---|--------------|
| (a) | Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (2) (a) to (d) and (2A) of the Act (including Town / Community Council Precepts totalling £2,513,301). | £335,671,060 |
| (b) | Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3) (a), (aa) and (c), and (3A) of the Act. | £117,637,773 |
| (c) | Amount by which the aggregate at (2)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (2)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year. | £218,033,287 |
| (d) | Aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its Council Fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant, its Council Tax reduction scheme, additional grant or special grant less certain Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Reliefs. | £149,353,916 |
| (e) | The amount at (2)(c) above less the amount at (2)(d) above, all divided by the amount at (1)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. | £1,185.76 |
| (f) | Aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act. | £2,513,301 |
| (g) | Amount at (2)(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (2)(f) above by the amount at (1)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates. | £1,142.37 |

(h) Part of the Council's area	£
Barry	1,192.45
Colwinston	1,171.69
Cowbridge with Llanblethian	1,202.19
Dinas Powys	1,169.71
Ewenny	1,178.33
Llancarfan	1,163.65
Llandough	1,182.02
Llandow	1,160.43
Llanfair	1,152.69
Llangan	1,165.48
Llanmaes	1,186.55
Llantwit Major	1,199.40
Michaelston	1,167.42
Penarth	1,205.68
Pendoylan	1,159.86
Penllyn	1,151.79
Peterston-Super-Ely	1,166.93
St. Athan	1,161.37
St. Brides Major	1,160.62
St. Donats	1,165.37
St. Georges and St. Brides-Super-Ely	1,145.51
St. Nicholas and Bonvilston	1,159.37
Sully and Lavernock	1,177.72
Welsh St. Donats	1,157.87
Wenvoe	1,166.60
Wick	1,150.44

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

(i) Part of the Council's Area

	Valuation Bands								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Barry	794.97	927.46	1,059.96	1,192.45	1,457.44	1,722.43	1,987.42	2,384.90	2,782.38
Colwinston	781.13	911.31	1,041.50	1,171.69	1,432.07	1,692.44	1,952.82	2,343.38	2,733.94
Cowbridge with Llanblethian	801.46	935.04	1,068.61	1,202.19	1,469.34	1,736.50	2,003.65	2,404.38	2,805.11
Dinas Powys	779.81	909.77	1,039.74	1,169.71	1,429.65	1,689.58	1,949.52	2,339.42	2,729.32
Ewenny	785.55	916.48	1,047.40	1,178.33	1,440.18	1,702.03	1,963.88	2,356.66	2,749.44
Llancarfan	775.77	905.06	1,034.36	1,163.65	1,422.24	1,680.83	1,939.42	2,327.30	2,715.18
Llandough	788.01	919.35	1,050.68	1,182.02	1,444.69	1,707.36	1,970.03	2,364.04	2,758.05
Llandow	773.62	902.56	1,031.49	1,160.43	1,418.30	1,676.18	1,934.05	2,320.86	2,707.67
Llanfair	768.46	896.54	1,024.61	1,152.69	1,408.84	1,665.00	1,921.15	2,305.38	2,689.61
Llangan	776.99	906.48	1,035.98	1,165.48	1,424.48	1,683.47	1,942.47	2,330.96	2,719.45
Llanmaes	791.03	922.87	1,054.71	1,186.55	1,450.23	1,713.91	1,977.58	2,373.10	2,768.62
Llantwit Major	799.60	932.87	1,066.13	1,199.40	1,465.93	1,732.47	1,999.00	2,398.80	2,798.60
Michaelston	778.28	907.99	1,037.71	1,167.42	1,426.85	1,686.27	1,945.70	2,334.84	2,723.98
Penarth	803.79	937.75	1,071.72	1,205.68	1,473.61	1,741.54	2,009.47	2,411.36	2,813.25
Pendoylan	773.24	902.11	1,030.99	1,159.86	1,417.61	1,675.35	1,933.10	2,319.72	2,706.34
Penllyn	767.86	895.84	1,023.81	1,151.79	1,407.74	1,663.70	1,919.65	2,303.58	2,687.51
Peterston-Super-Ely	777.95	907.61	1,037.27	1,166.93	1,426.25	1,685.57	1,944.88	2,333.86	2,722.84
Rhoose	761.58	888.51	1,015.44	1,142.37	1,396.23	1,650.09	1,903.95	2,284.74	2,665.53
St. Athan	774.25	903.29	1,032.33	1,161.37	1,419.45	1,677.53	1,935.62	2,322.74	2,709.86
St. Brides Major	773.75	902.70	1,031.66	1,160.62	1,418.54	1,676.45	1,934.37	2,321.24	2,708.11
St. Donats	776.91	906.40	1,035.88	1,165.37	1,424.34	1,683.31	1,942.28	2,330.74	2,719.20
St. Georges & St. Brides-Super-Ely	763.67	890.95	1,018.23	1,145.51	1,400.07	1,654.63	1,909.18	2,291.02	2,672.86
St. Nicholas and Bonvilston	772.91	901.73	1,030.55	1,159.37	1,417.01	1,674.65	1,932.28	2,318.74	2,705.20
Sully and Lavernock	785.15	916.00	1,046.86	1,177.72	1,439.44	1,701.15	1,962.87	2,355.44	2,748.01
Welsh St. Donats	771.91	900.57	1,029.22	1,157.87	1,415.17	1,672.48	1,929.78	2,315.74	2,701.70
Wenvoe	777.73	907.36	1,036.98	1,166.60	1,425.84	1,685.09	1,944.33	2,333.20	2,722.07
Wick	766.96	894.79	1,022.61	1,150.44	1,406.09	1,661.75	1,917.40	2,300.88	2,684.36

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

(3). T H A T it be noted that for the year 2017/2018 the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 , for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

£	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	145.50	169.75	193.99	218.24	266.74	315.24	363.74	436.49	509.24

(4).T H A T, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (2)(i) and (3) above , The Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council , in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 , hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2017/2018 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below :-

Part of the Council's Area	Valuation Bands									
	£	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Barry	940.47	1,097.21	1,253.95	1,410.69	1,724.18	2,037.67	2,351.16	2,821.39	3,291.62	
Colwinston	926.63	1,081.06	1,235.49	1,389.93	1,698.81	2,007.68	2,316.56	2,779.87	3,243.18	
Cowbridge with Llanblethian	946.96	1,104.79	1,262.60	1,420.43	1,736.08	2,051.74	2,367.39	2,840.87	3,314.35	
Dinas Powys	925.31	1,079.52	1,233.73	1,387.95	1,696.39	2,004.82	2,313.26	2,775.91	3,238.56	
Ewenny	931.05	1,086.23	1,241.39	1,396.57	1,706.92	2,017.27	2,327.62	2,793.15	3,258.68	
Llancarfan	921.27	1,074.81	1,228.35	1,381.89	1,688.98	1,996.07	2,303.16	2,763.79	3,224.42	
Llandough	933.51	1,089.10	1,244.67	1,400.26	1,711.43	2,022.60	2,333.77	2,800.53	3,267.29	
Llandow	919.12	1,072.31	1,225.48	1,378.67	1,685.04	1,991.42	2,297.79	2,757.35	3,216.91	
Llanfair	913.96	1,066.29	1,218.60	1,370.93	1,675.58	1,980.24	2,284.89	2,741.87	3,198.85	
Llangan	922.49	1,076.23	1,229.97	1,383.72	1,691.22	1,998.71	2,306.21	2,767.45	3,228.69	
Llanmaes	936.53	1,092.62	1,248.70	1,404.79	1,716.97	2,029.15	2,341.32	2,809.59	3,277.86	
Llantwit Major	945.10	1,102.62	1,260.12	1,417.64	1,732.67	2,047.71	2,362.74	2,835.29	3,307.84	
Michaelston	923.78	1,077.74	1,231.70	1,385.66	1,693.59	2,001.51	2,309.44	2,771.33	3,233.22	
Penarth	949.29	1,107.50	1,265.71	1,423.92	1,740.35	2,056.78	2,373.21	2,847.85	3,322.49	
Pendoylan	918.74	1,071.86	1,224.98	1,378.10	1,684.35	1,990.59	2,296.84	2,756.21	3,215.58	
Penllyn	913.36	1,065.59	1,217.80	1,370.03	1,674.48	1,978.94	2,283.39	2,740.07	3,196.75	
Peterston-Super-Ely	923.45	1,077.36	1,231.26	1,385.17	1,692.99	2,000.81	2,308.62	2,770.35	3,232.08	
Rhoose	907.08	1,058.26	1,209.43	1,360.61	1,662.97	1,965.33	2,267.69	2,721.23	3,174.77	
St.Athan	919.75	1,073.04	1,226.32	1,379.61	1,686.19	1,992.77	2,299.36	2,759.23	3,219.10	
St.Brides Major	919.25	1,072.45	1,225.65	1,378.86	1,685.28	1,991.69	2,298.11	2,757.73	3,217.35	
St. Donats	922.41	1,076.15	1,229.87	1,383.61	1,691.08	1,998.55	2,306.02	2,767.23	3,228.44	
St.Georges & St.Brides-Super-Ely	909.17	1,060.70	1,212.22	1,363.75	1,666.81	1,969.87	2,272.92	2,727.51	3,182.10	
St. Nicholas and Bonvilston	918.41	1,071.48	1,224.54	1,377.61	1,683.75	1,989.89	2,296.02	2,755.23	3,214.44	
Sully and Lavernock	930.65	1,085.75	1,240.85	1,395.96	1,706.18	2,016.39	2,326.61	2,791.93	3,257.25	
Welsh St. Donats	917.41	1,070.32	1,223.21	1,376.11	1,681.91	1,987.72	2,293.52	2,752.23	3,210.94	
Wenvoe	923.23	1,077.11	1,230.97	1,384.84	1,692.58	2,000.33	2,308.07	2,769.69	3,231.31	
Wick	912.46	1,064.54	1,216.60	1,368.68	1,672.83	1,976.99	2,281.14	2,737.37	3,193.60	

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

Reason for decisions

(1-7) To facilitate the setting of the Council Tax in accordance with legislative requirements.

867 COLDBROOK CATCHMENT FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEME (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C3441, 23rd January, 2017) as set out in Section 14.14 of the Council's Constitution, be noted.

Reason for decision

To note in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

868 UPGRADE OF CISCO TELEPHONY SERVICE (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C3444, 23rd January, 2017) as set out in Section 14.14 of the Council's Constitution, be noted.

Reason for decision

To note in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

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

Due notice had been given of the following questions:

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

Following the response provided to Council after my question on 14th December, 2016 regarding the future of Communities First clusters, could the Cabinet Member provide an update on their future funding?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Education

On 14th February the Cabinet Secretary announced the way forward for Communities First. It is intended to provide funding at 70% of current levels for the programme for 2017/18, which will allow the Barry Cluster to continue in operation for a further year. A legacy fund has also been identified to allow the best of Communities First projects to seek funding going beyond March 2018.

Supplemental

Councillor Dr. Johnson asked how the Council would determine which of the schemes would be going forward and how other Councillors would be involved in that process.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that the Council was working very closely with stakeholders. The focus would be on prosperity, which was very much in line with the focus taken within the Council. She was sure that, as had occurred with reports on Communities First, reports would be presented in the same way regarding matters going forward.

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

Following the response provided to Council after my question on 14th December, 2016 regarding the impact of business rates revaluations upon high street shopping centres in the Vale of Glamorgan, could the Cabinet Member confirm the amount of relief available for the Vale of Glamorgan and how this will be implemented in the Vale, with particular reference to the Holton Road shopping quarter and the High Street area of Barry?

Reply from the Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Inward Investment

Can I begin by stating that the Council has had no direct input into the revaluation exercise undertaken by the Valuation Office Agency. It does, however, have the duty to administer the statute and associated regulations in regard to Non-Domestic Rates.

The Welsh Government has now announced its support for local businesses which have been adversely impacted upon by the recent revaluation exercise which takes effect from 1st April 2017.

The Minister has announced a Non Domestic Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) scheme, a Transitional Rate Relief (TRR) Scheme and more recently a High Street Rate Relief (HSR) Scheme.

SBRR and TRR are targeted at small businesses with rateable values below £12,000 whilst HSR is targeted at businesses within urban areas wholly or mainly used for the sale of goods, food and/or drink or the provision of retail services with rateable values below £50,000.

From preliminary estimates of the 2017/18 Non Domestic Accounts the value of Relief attributable to SBRR is £3,634,783 which impacts on 1,868 Vale ratepayers and the amount attributable to TRR is £765,614 which impacts on 599 Vale ratepayers.

Further detailed guidance and specific criteria is awaited from the Welsh Government on the HSR proposal in order to calculate the amount of relief afforded to businesses in the Vale.

I can confirm that applicable rate relief will be afforded to those businesses in Holton Road and High Street and other appropriate retail areas that meet the necessary relief criteria.

I would again stress that the Council had no input into the re-evaluation exercise, but simply had to collect the money.

Supplemental

Councillor Dr. Johnson asked the Leader whether he could clarify whether businesses' funding would continue or whether they would need to reapply.

The Leader indicated that the information was not yet available, but that he would ascertain the position and inform Councillor Dr. Johnson accordingly. He did allude to the fact that some of the rateable values were already known.

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

Could the Cabinet Member update us upon the number of adults and children so far resettled in the Vale of Glamorgan under (a) the Syrian Vulnerable People's Relocation Scheme and (b) provisions to assist unaccompanied child refugees (the so-called 'Dubs' scheme)?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Housing and Social Care and Health

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has been working in partnership with the City of Cardiff Council to participate in the Syrian Resettlement Programme (SRP). Through careful planning and collaboration with key stakeholders, I am delighted to report the Authority has successfully resettled nine adults (18+) and nine children in the Vale of Glamorgan since June 2016. The most recent arrivals on the 28th February, 2017 meant that we have fulfilled the commitment we made at the beginning of the Programme to provide refuge to four families with accommodation and support.

The recent announcement regarding the Dubs Amendment has created much uncertainty about the UK Government's policy for assisting vulnerable, unaccompanied children. The scheme played a crucial role during the closure of the Calais refugee camps in October and the subsequent reception of children in to the UK. While the Vale of Glamorgan Council offered its full support to the multi-agency

task force co-ordinated by the City of Cardiff Council, care placements were not ultimately required on that- occasion.

Supplemental

Referring to the Government's lack of support on Dubs Amendments, Councillor Dr. Johnson asked whether the Cabinet Member would make her concerns clear to Cabinet Members and Secretaries in the Welsh Assembly with a view to ensuring that they were fully aware and pushed for support from the United Kingdom Government on this matter.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that the matter had been discussed at the Resettlement Programme Board, of which she was a member, and that a letter was being formulated. She also referred to the fact that the Welsh Local Government Association had written to the Home Office.

(iv) Question from Councillor K.P. Mahoney

A recent publication delivered to houses in my ward and attributing quotes and statements from the Deputy Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council has caused much concern to residents of Sully Lavernock and Cosmeston.

Claims made in the delivered publication indicated that Welsh Assembly Planning Inspector Mr. Richard Jenkins who is currently examining the Vale's submitted LDP for soundness has personally proposed an allocation of 576 new houses at Upper Cosmeston Farm. Mr. Jenkins felt compelled to publicly declare during a recent LDP examination hearing that he has put forward no figures whatsoever for new housing provision at Upper Cosmeston farm but is only examining for soundness, housing allocation figures put forward to him from the Vale of Glamorgan Council in their LDP plan.

Could you please confirm whether the Vale of Glamorgan Council has put forward the proposal for allocation of 576 new houses at the Upper Cosmeston Farm site or if indeed it was Mr. Jenkins who put forward the figure of 576 new houses at this location?

Rely from the Leader

The new allocations were required because of the Planning Inspectors' Action Point 5 from Hearing Sessions 2 and 3 (Housing Provision) held on the 19th and 20th January 2016 (which Councillor Mahoney did not participate in). The action point required that the Council reconsider the proposed windfall allowances and should consider the implications of incorporating a more realistic windfall allowance on the housing land supply.

The Council's response to this action point is available on the examination website (under the matters arising documents for Hearing Session 2 and 3).

The Council response disputed the Inspector's assertions that the Windfall allowance was too high but ultimately the Inspector maintained his concerns. This resulted in a

reduction in the windfall allowance element of the housing supply and a housing supply shortfall of 653 dwellings.

As a direct result of this intervention, amendments were made to the housing allocations of the Plan.

It was the Inspector's refusal to accept the originally proposed windfall allowance and the robust justification behind this that left a shortfall of housing allocations (653) and the Inspector clearly required the Council to address that shortfall. In doing so the Council was required by the Inspector to identify readily available and deliverable sites and to explain how any new allocations would address the Plan's aims, objectives and overall spatial strategy as well as the underlying evidence base.

Supplemental

Councillor Mahoney referred to having asked a specific question regarding a specific site and to seeking a specific answer as to whether the Planning Inspector had put forward 576 houses or the current Administration had done so.

The Leader referred to it as being indisputable that it was the Inspector's direct intervention that had resulted in these changes to allocations. Or to put it another way, if it had not been for the Inspector's intervention, would such a change have been made, with the answer being "it would not".

(v) Question from Councillor K.P. Mahoney

A recent publication delivered to houses in my ward and attributing quotes and statements from yourself as Deputy Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council has caused much concern to residents of Sully Lavernock and Cosmeston.

Claims made in the delivered publication indicated that Welsh Assembly Planning Inspector Mr. Richard Jenkins who is currently examining the Vale's submitted LDP for soundness had personally proposed an allocation of 576 new houses at Upper Cosmeston Farm, if these claims were true then of course it would mean that Mr. Jenkins would in fact be examining the soundness of a housing allocation of 576 new houses at this site which he proposed himself which surely cannot be considered correct behaviour or process?

Could you please reassure residents in my ward that Mr. Jenkins is not examining the soundness of an allocation for 576 new houses in the LDP at Upper Cosmeston Farm that he has proposed and put forward himself..... in effect examining his own housing number proposal?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing

I would refer you to the answer in response of your earlier question. The allocations are as a direct result of the Inspector's intervention in relation to windfall assumptions.

In terms of the role being undertaken by the Inspector, he is examining the soundness of the LDP, and in doing so, will be examining the soundness of assertions, policies and allocations. This is why he has examined the housing supply figure and how it is proposed that the housing supply figure be met. He has raised concerns that the windfall contribution is too high and that the shortfall be made up by additional provision through allocations. These new allocations are required as a direct consequence of his intervention. This is indisputable.

If you have any concerns with the way the Inspector is examining the LDP, then you need to take up those concerns with Welsh Government and the Planning Inspectorate.

Supplemental

Councillor Mahoney confirmed that he had done so and that the Inspector had refuted what the Cabinet Member had just said, both in public and during the LDP hearing. He had asked specifically for one site, Cosmeston Farm, and considered the Cabinet Member to have ignored the question. He again asked who had put forward the 576 houses.

At that point, the Mayor reminded Councillor Mahoney that he had already been provided with the answer in response to his preceding question.

(vi) Question from Councillor R.J. Bertin

Will the Leader please inform this Council how many electoral registration letters that were recently sent out contained errors?

Reply from the Leader

51,104 Household Notification Letters dated 30th January, 2017 contained an error in respect of open register preference. All other electoral registration data in respect of whether a household member was registered and voting method was accurate.

At no time was the Electoral Register affected by the error and there was no data protection breach.

Supplemental

Councillor Bertin asked what the cost of the error had been and what would be done to ensure that it did not happen again.

The Leader advised that the cost of printing the replacement HNLs was £4,289.17, with the postage costs being £14,891.07. An investigation was ongoing regarding the error, with a debrief of staff to follow to highlight how the error had occurred. It had been a human error and at no time was the Electoral Register affected as a result of the error. All other electoral registration data contained in the January HNL in respect of whether a household member was registered and voting method was accurate and no data breach occurred.

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

What plans does the Cabinet Member have for the future of English language education in Barry for those aged 16-19 years?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Education

Councillor Johnson will be aware that a statutory notice was published in January to establish two mixed sex English medium for pupils aged 11 - 18 to replace Barry and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive Schools.

It is proposed that the new schools operate a joint sixth form under a single Head of Sixth Form.

Cabinet will consider an Objection Report on the proposal and will make a decision on 6th March.

Supplemental

Councillor Dr. Johnson asked whether the forthcoming discussions on 6th March, 2017 would include consideration of the implications on the robust nature of a sixth form that would operate across both sites so that Post 16-19 education was not ignored.

The Cabinet Member referred to it having been a long journey to arrive at the current point. The process had been informed by an Advisory Panel, which had been established to develop the proposal as well as consider various other options for Post 16 education; these had included a standalone tertiary college, a shared provision with Cardiff and Vale College and the option of a sixth form being provided by one of the schools. The Advisory Panel had concluded that the proposed model of a joint sixth form would enable sustainable Post 16 provision to be developed. However, the Council would continue to work very closely with its schools and to discuss all pressures on them as it moved forward.

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

Ahead of International Womens' Day on 8th March, could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the implementation of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 within the Vale of Glamorgan?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Housing and Social Care and Health

A new Domestic and Sexual Abuse Coordinator commenced employment with the Vale of Glamorgan in January 2017. Part of their role is to ensure that the Vale of Glamorgan implement the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015. The focus of is on Prevention, Protection and Support. To date excellent progress has been made, including 57 properties receiving target hardening in 2016/17 which has enabled vulnerable tenants to remain in their homes without the need to relocate into alternative accommodation. Feedback from victims is that not only has it let them remain within their homes but their feeling of safety

and protection has increased. In January 2017, a perpetrator was sentenced to 20 weeks in prison for breach of a restraining order that was caught on CCTV as part of the target hardening service.

Supporting People Services were retendered for domestic and sexual abuse services in 2016/17. Community Safety and Supporting People ensured that the specifications for services were relevant to the need in the Vale and that robust monitoring is in place to ensure victims are receiving the support that is required.

The Council has implemented the national training framework within the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The training is to ensure that all staff receive the relevant training that is proportionate to their role. This provides employees with the opportunity to identify potential victims/perpetrators and where they can signpost them for the relevant support.

Work has now progressed to review the joint opportunities that exist between the substance misuse and domestic abuse services. A development day has been organised to take place on 25th April, 2017. There are obvious links between the two priority areas, however better information sharing across the two service areas is required to ensure that the victims receive the correct support at the most appropriate time.

Supplemental

Councillor Dr. Johnson asked whether it was a requirement for the Council to pass a scheme related to violence against women as part of the Act and, if so, when that was intended to be put forward.

The Cabinet Member indicated that she would provide a written reply to Councillor Dr. Johnson.

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

It was recently reported that, in December 2016, 17 of Barry's 61 CCTV cameras were not in full operational order. Although I understand that this issue has now been resolved, except for two cameras upon our own Civic Offices building, can the Cabinet Member explain how we reached a situation in which a quarter of cameras on our network were not working as they should and what will be done to ensure prompt maintenance of the camera network in future?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Housing and Social Care and Health

The Council took a decision in 2014 to enter into a partnership arrangement with Bridgend County Borough Council for the monitoring of CCTV cameras in the Vale. The live monitoring system transferred to Bridgend in March 2016 and it was agreed that the two Local Authorities would also tender a joint maintenance contract to allow consistency in repairs / service and to gain greater efficiency savings due to the increase in the number of cameras to be maintained. This has unfortunately taken some time to arrange. The maintenance contract for the Vale expired in 2015 and whilst cameras were being maintained on a reactive basis in the interim period, prior

to the joint maintenance contract commencing, there was no formal maintenance contract in place and this led to a number of cameras suffering a range of faults and a number not being fully operational. As Councillor Johnson indicates, this position has since been rectified.

A new and improved joint maintenance contract has now been agreed in principal between ourselves and Bridgend. In this new contract shorter response times by the contractor to attend to faults on priority cameras have been included. This means that in future if any of our priority cameras develops a fault then the contractor must respond within 4 hours, if we deem this to be necessary. For all other faults it will be 24 hours. All cameras will also be checked twice a year to enable cleaning and to allow general maintenance to take place.

In addition, Members will hopefully take comfort from the fact that there are now improved arrangements in place for monitoring all contracts with regular updates to Corporate Management Team on issues relating to contract provision and monitoring.

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

What plans does the Cabinet Member have to increase the availability of electric vehicle charging in the Vale?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Building Services, Highways and Transportation

This is not a matter that is the direct responsibility of the Council, in the same way we don't sell petrol or diesel. It is not a top priority for the Council at present, but we will keep the matter under review, which will include the provision that is being made commercially.

Supplemental

Referring to a £2.5m fund available from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles, Councillor Wiliam asked whether, in the event he passed the details on the Cabinet Member, he would consider the Council making a bid for such funding.

The Cabinet Member confirmed he was aware of the scheme, but that it would cover only 75% of installation costs. He also alluded to there seemingly being a very low take-up of electric vehicles of a corporate nature and to there seemingly being little demand for such at present.

(xi) **Question from Councillor C.P. Franks**

Members will be aware that the Vale of Glamorgan Council with Welsh Government has agreed to fund a Study to explore the transport network issues and opportunities for Dinas Powys.

It is said that the Vale Council hopes that this study will identify realistic and deliverable solutions to the issues identified.

Will you provide further information regarding this study including the start date of the survey and the anticipated date when the findings will be made public?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Building Services, Highways and Transportation

The study is a WelTag Stage 1 Appraisal which includes six separate tasks as follows:

Task 1 – Baseline Review

This involves the review of all previous work / studies undertaken on improvements and transport linkages in this area.

Task 2 – Data Analysis

This involves an appraisal of all relevant data sources to understand and evidence the current situation, such as existing travel patterns and movements, together with an appraisal of the existing multi-modal transport provision on the Dinas Powys transport network.

Task 3 – Problems, Objectives and Options

This will summarise the problems based on the gathered evidence and set objectives for the area based on national and locally specific objectives. The report will identify a long list of options that could address the problem. The options identified will aim to address the road based congestion at key junctions of this corridor, and will consider a range of different modes.

Task 4 – Stakeholder Workshops

Two stakeholder events will be held in March 2017. The first event will be a structured workshop involving key stakeholders such as the Community Council(s) and the transport operators and invites for this event have been sent out.

The second event, will be a drop-in event for the public on Monday, 13th March, 2017 at Dinas Powys Parish Hall from 1-30pm to 6-30pm.

Task 5 – Option Appraisal

The various options will be put into a list for possible detailed appraisal based on:

- their ability to solve the problem
- their ability to meet the objectives set
- their short and longer term impacts
- their deliverability
- their robustness to uncertainty

Task 6 – Report

The outputs from the work will be a Strategic Outline Case report.

It is currently anticipated that a Draft report will be presented to Cabinet in June 2017. In addition, a Transport Grant bid has been submitted to Welsh Government to take any options identified by this first report forward to the next stage. It is hoped

that we will know whether this bid has been successful in late March / early April 2017.

Supplemental

Referring to the total budget for the investigation as being £15k, Councillor Franks asked whether the Cabinet Member was able to give some comfort regarding the robustness of the investigation and how effective it would be in tackling problems within the Dinas Powys area.

The Cabinet Member considered he had already done that, having read out the six phases of the report. The sum of £15k was for the investigation only and not for any work that might follow.

(xii) Question from Councillor S.T. Wiliam

Can the Cabinet Member give a progress report and a date as to when the text for the sign at St. Baruc's Chapel will be in place so that visitors to the site can see it?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Education

There are currently issues regarding an information sign that has been erected within the confines of the ruins of St. Baruc Chapel, Barry Island. We were asked to look at installing an interpretation at the site some time ago. This was delayed due to budgets but was progressed as part of the Barry Island Interpretation project. Our plan was to install an information sign outside the gates.

The copywriting and translation was completed a few months ago, however in the meantime a blank sign appeared within the confines of the site without the knowledge of the Council, on the same location as an old sign.

Initially we were unable to find out who had arranged the installation of the sign. I understand that during a discussion with officers, Cllr Wiliam mentioned he would look into it, and reported back some three months later in early January, at which time he asked for a progress update.

Notwithstanding this delay, the Tourism team were able to trace the newly installed sign back to All Saints Church, Romilly. A member of their congregation had donated funding to have the sign re-installed. Rev. Kevin Lake confirmed that they had commissioned the installation, but had not progressed content to date. To our understanding this was not discussed at a wider committee by the Diocese, and that the commissioning of the work was done at a local level.

The remains of St Baruc's is a scheduled monument [GM126(GLA)] and as such any works to demolish, damage, remove, repair, add or alter requires authorisation from the Welsh Ministers (effectively Cadw). Unfortunately, no permission was sought by the Church to erect the sign from either CADW or the Council. The Council's Senior Planner for Conservation and Design has visited the site with a representative from CADW and they have concluded that the sign should be removed. Given the

sensitivity of the site the removal of the sign may need to be supervised by an appropriately qualified archaeologist.

It was further concluded that an interpretation sign would be better placed outside the gates of the site, and that confirmation will be provided in terms the permissions required for its installation.

Once the issues above have been settled and confirmation of approval to install a/the sign external to the site, the Tourism Team will liaise with the Parks Department to progress.

Supplemental

Councillor Wiliam questioned why a timetable could not be provided or why the owners of the land could not put up their own sign.

The Cabinet Member considered she had answered virtually everything referred to in the supplemental in the original answer. Given an important Scheduled Monument was involved, there were a lot of permissions that were required to be obtained. She reiterated that once due process had been followed and a budget was in place, the sign would be installed. She was sure that officers would keep Councillor Wiliam informed of progress.

(xiii) Question from Councillor C.P. Franks

The Local Development Plan makes reference to a significant number of junctions that require highway improvements. There are over 20 such junctions highlighted in the Plan. These include the Cardiff Road / Murch Road Junction, Waycock Road / Pontypridd Road roundabout, the Merrie Harrier junction, Leckwith Road / Penyturnpike Road junction, the McDonalds Roundabout on Cardiff Road and Palmerston Road / Cardiff Road junction. This list is not exhaustive.

Given the large number of sites identified in the Local Development Plan that have been approved, will you indicate which junctions remain to be improved?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Building Services, Highways and Transportation

The findings of a Highway Impact Assessment (HIA) have been used by the Council to inform the Council's LDP and will continue to be useful in planning strategic improvements to the highway network in the Vale of Glamorgan. I acknowledge it highlights areas where there are, or are likely to be, capacity problems on the highway network and the Council will endeavour to maximise opportunities to manage these impacts and plan improvements where possible.

In particular, the Council will review requirements for improvement of individual junctions on a case by case basis as and when development identified within the LDP are submitted to the Council for planning approval. I am delighted to advise the Member that a number of transport related schemes have already come forward and have been or are in the process of being implemented as a result of the Council's

LDP. These include a new Barry Island Link Road, Improvements to the A4226 between Weycock Cross, Barry and Sycamore Cross, A48 Five Mile Lane, improvements to the B4265 at Gileston - Old Mill, Cross Common Road junction, improvements north of A48, Bonvilston Road improvements and a link road between A48 and Llantwit Major Road, Cowbridge.

Supplemental

Councillor Franks asked whether the “failure” of the Cabinet Member to address the specific junctions referred to that had been extracted from the Local Development Plan showed how residents had been misled by expectations raised in the LDP.

The Cabinet Member stated that, apart from the ones he had just mentioned that had been improved, the two at either end of Five Mile Lane had not yet been approved.

(xiv) Question from Councillor C.P. Franks

We are told that a key priority of this Council is to encourage people to use public transport. With that in mind will you provide an update regarding the Metro scheme concerned with the Dinas Powys, Penarth and Cardiff bus corridor?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Building Services, Highways and Transportation

The next stage of work on this important transport corridor is to carry out transport modelling of the Merrie Harrier Junction to ensure that the proposals being considered as part of the recent Capita report will not have a detrimental impact on the traffic flow and congestion. Funding has been identified to carry out the modelling, and officers will soon be commissioning the work. The outcome of this work will inform future Metro proposals in this location.

Supplemental

Councillor Franks asked how the public could have confidence that the scheme would significantly improve the public transport network in the Dinas Powys, Penarth and Cardiff Bus corridor.

The Cabinet Member did not consider that any research or modelling would persuade the public but he felt that the proof would be in what was eventually delivered.

(xv) Question from Councillor C.P. Franks

Will you make a statement regarding the future of Penarth Pier Pavilion especially detailing any recent discussions the council has had with the Penarth Arts and Crafts Ltd?

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Education

As Councillor Franks will be aware the operation and management of the Pier Pavilion is subject to a long lease agreement between the Council and Penarth Arts and Crafts Ltd (PACL). As with other similar lease arrangements Council officers are in contact with representatives of PACL as tenants. However, I am unable to publically disclose the details of any discussions due to issues of commercial confidentiality associated with the lease.

I am able to confirm that discussions have taken place with the management at PACL to consider the long term financial viability of the organisation. To this end I am also able to confirm that the Council will be meeting with representatives from PACL, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery in the very near future to continue these discussions.

Supplemental

Councillor Franks asked the Cabinet Member how the Council would ensure that the Pavilion continued to play an important role in the life of Penarth and the Vale of Glamorgan generally.

The Cabinet Member pointed out that resilience of an organisation did not just revolve around money. The Council had been working with PACL and also working to renovate the Pier and Pier Pavilion over a long period. Both she and Councillor Kelly Owen had been on the Board around 2005 when the Pier Pavilion Project had first been mooted. The Council had also been supportive in term of project management in the construction phases of the renovation of the Pier Pavilion and would continue to work with PACL. The Council would continue to be committed to the future of the Pier Pavilion, but Members needed to note that there were two previous charges on the property, i.e. Big Lottery and Heritage Lottery Fund. As such, any discussions regarding future resilience of the property would have to involve those two organisations as, indeed, it was doing.

870 QUESTION FROM THE PUBLIC -

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

(i) **Question from Mr Neil Pendlebury-Brown**

I have not been consulted about a change of use of land at the rear Salisbury Road known as the dump. The proposal was for a refurbishment of the existing play area. I am led to believe that this is a new development as new engineering works have taken place moving the development to behind my property. I am not opposed to a play area in the vicinity but cannot accept that no consultation has taken place! The Planning Department have told me that they are unaware of any such development and that no plans exist. My local Councillor informs me that the plans have been

before a Committee of the Council and work will start soon. I hope this is not the case.

Reply from the Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources and Inward Investment

I am disappointed that Mr. Pendlebury-Brown was not aware of this scheme as a comprehensive public consultation has taken place regarding this scheme, which is being implemented following a request from the local community for improved play facilities in this area.

I can confirm that a leaflet was distributed to all houses in the area Park Crescent to Salisbury Road, Cwm Barry Way, parts of Pontypridd Road and Jenner Road, Peterswell Road and streets off the Cwm Ciddy estate, in July 2015 following an initial meeting with Councillors, interested residents and Council Officers.

A further leaflet was then distributed to the same houses in September 2015 inviting residents to attend a public meeting in Romilly School which was held on 30th September, 2015.

Following this meeting a local play association was formed which undertook the following community events that were also used to consult on the proposed new playground. These included an egg hunt, summer play sessions, consultation events in local schools, press releases that were published in the local press and an active social media network.

Further meetings were then held with representatives of the new play association, Councillors and Council Officers in April and June 2016.

In September 2016 a further leaflet was distributed detailing that funds had been secured for the play area at Salisbury Road and that improvements would also be made to the Peterswell Road play area.

Throughout the process it was made clear from consultation that the existing site of the play area was not in the best location in terms of the safety of children and that the existing site had significant challenges in terms of constructing a new facility. The decision to move the site to a more visible location which offered greater scope for an enclosed play area, excluding dogs, was made early in the process and this was firmly supported by the new play association. Discussions also took place with the Council's planning department regarding the proposed new location and confirmation was received that no planning permission was required.

I have also been in e-mail correspondence with Mr. Pendlebury Brown and I also know that local Members have been in e-mail correspondence with him. I have also contacted him today to offer him a further meeting (as I was aware he would not be in attendance tonight), but I am satisfied that full consultation has taken place.

871 EMPLOYEE PAY POLICY 2017/18 (REF) –

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

The Leader referred to the Council's statutory responsibility under the Localism Act 2011 to prepare a pay policy statement for the new financial year 2017/18. The statement needed to be approved and published by 31 March, 2017.

The Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18 had once again been produced on the basis of statutory guidance, advice from the Welsh Local Government Association and guidance from Welsh Government.

The document provided a framework for ensuring that employees were rewarded fairly and objectively, in accordance with the service needs of the Council and that there was openness and transparency in relation to the process.

The Leader highlighted the table on page 4 of Appendix A contained within the original Cabinet report and reminded Members of the decision made at the Special Council meeting held on 9th February, which approved changes to senior management structure within the Social Services Directorate which included the change of grade to the Director of Social Services post which meant the "Director 1" pay range would no longer apply, leaving only 1 Chief Officer post with a Salary Range over £100,000.

RESOLVED – T H A T the Employee Pay Policy 2017/18 be approved.

Reason for decision

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