



CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2.00 PM WEDNESDAY, 12 MAY 2021

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

All mobile telephones to be switched to silent for the duration of the meeting

Part 1

1. Welcome and Roll Call
2. Chairs Announcements
3. Declarations of Interests
4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (*Pages 5 - 22*)
 - 24 February 2021
 - 8 March 2021
 - 16 March 2021
5. Pre-decision Scrutiny
 - To select appropriate items from the Cabinet agenda for pre-decision scrutiny (cabinet reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members)
6. Forward Work Programme 2021/22 (*Pages 23 - 36*)
7. Urgent Items
Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairman pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972

8. Access to Meetings
To resolve to exclude the public for the following items pursuant to Regulation 4 (3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No.2290 and the relevant exempt paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972

Part 2

9. Pre-Decision Scrutiny of Private Item/s
- To select appropriate private items from the Cabinet (Finance) Sub Committee agenda for pre-decision scrutiny (Cabinet Finance Sub - Committee reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members)

K.Jones
Chief Executive

Civic Centre
Port Talbot

Wednesday, 5 May 2021

Committee Membership:

Chairperson: **Councillor S.Rahaman**

Councillors: S.E.Freeguard, N.T.Hunt, S.K.Hunt, D.Keogh,
S.A.Knoyle, A.Llewelyn, S.Miller, R.Mizen,
S.Paddison, L.M.Purcell, S.M.Perry,
S.H.Reynolds, A.N.Woolcock and W.F.Griffiths

Notes:

- (1) *If Committee Members or non-Committee Members wish to have relevant items put on the agenda for future meetings, then please notify the Chief Executive/Chair eight days before the meeting.*
- (2) *If non-Committee Members wish to attend for an item of interest, then prior notification needs to be given (by 12.00 noon on the day before*

the meeting). Non-Committee Members may speak but not vote, or move or second any motion.

- (3) For pre scrutiny arrangements, the Chair will normally recommend forthcoming executive items for discussion/challenge. It is also open to Committee Members to request items to be raised - though Members are asked to be selective here in regard to important issues.*
- (4) The relevant Cabinet Board Members will also be invited to be present at the meeting for Scrutiny/ Consultation purposes.*
- (5) Would the Scrutiny Committee Members please bring the Cabinet Board papers with them to the meeting.*

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Cabinet Scrutiny Committee

(Via Microsoft)

Members Present:

24 February 2021

Chairperson: Councillor M.Harvey

Vice Chairperson: Councillor S.Rahaman

Councillors: S.E.Freeguard, N.T.Hunt, S.K.Hunt, D.Keogh, S.A.Knoyle, A.Llewelyn, S.Miller, R.Mizen, J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison, L.M.Purcell, S.M.Penry, S.H.Reynolds and A.N.Woolcock

Officers In Attendance K.Jones, A.Evans, A.Jarrett, C.Griffiths, N.Pearce, S.Rees, H.Jones, C.Furlow-Harris, R.Headon, C.Plowman, J.Woodman-Ralph and C.Davies

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors C.Clement-Williams, D.Jones, L.Jones, R.G.Jones, E.V.Latham, A.R.Lockyer, P.A.Rees, P.D.Richards and A.Wingrave

1. **Pre-decision Scrutiny**

The Committee scrutinised the following cabinet items:

Strategic Equality Plan 2015-2019 - Annual Report 2019 – 2020

Members were presented with the Strategic Equality Plan 2015-2019 Annual Report for the period 2019-2020, as detailed within the circulated report.

Discussions took place around Equality Objective 6 - Improve access to the environment by meeting the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people. Members queried whether there were any developments in relation to Shopmobility being located in Neath Town Centre to improve usage. Members were advised that the Shopmobility service was currently located within the new multi-storey carpark, to give immediate access

to the users straight from parking their vehicle. It was also noted that there had been a decline in usage due to the impact of the pandemic and following recovery of the pandemic it is hoped that usage of the service would increase.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposal to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

Welsh Language Promotion Strategy Progress Report October 2019-March 2020

Officers presented the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy progress report for the period October 2019-March 2020.

Members noted the affect that covid-19 has had on the promotion of Welsh Language, however it was noted that the progress report was for the period just prior to the start of the Pandemic. It was noted that over the past year there would likely be an effect to the progress report for the period 2020-2021, however, there had been a positive take up of virtual welsh language training courses.

Concern was raised around the loss of the oral use of the Welsh Language, following the closure of Schools due to the pandemic and the affect that this would have caused on the students. Officers took on board the concerns that were raised and reassured members that as pupils start to return to School, it would be a priority of theirs to do a local review in ensuring the loss of education is considered. Members commended teachers for their work in providing support and education to pupils during the pandemic.

It was noted that Human Resources were able to report on the number of employees who have welsh language skills via the employee portal, members queried this figure. Officers informed members that they would gather this information outside of the meeting.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposal to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan - Progress Report

Members were provided with a half year update on the progress made on the Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan for 2020-2021. It was noted that the action plan reflects the governance

issues identified in the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2019-2020 which was reported to Cabinet on 21st May 2020.

Within the Governance Improvement Action Plan members queried the action that was taken to ensure that lawful decision making could take place in the event that the Urgency Action Protocol could not be utilised. Officers informed members that this action was taken to ensure that decisions could still take place in any scenario. It was noted that delegated authority was granted to the Chief Executive and Corporate Directors in the event that the Executive could not be contacted.

Following Scrutiny, the report was noted

CHAIRPERSON

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Cabinet Scrutiny Committee

(Via Microsoft Teams)

Members Present:

8 March 2021

Chairperson: **Councillor M.Harvey**

Vice Chairperson: **Councillor S.Rahaman**

Councillors: S.E.Freeguard, N.T.Hunt, S.K.Hunt, D.Keogh, S.A.Knoyle, A.Llewelyn, S.Miller, R.Mizen, J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison, L.M.Purcell, S.M.Penry, S.H.Reynolds and A.N.Woolcock

Officers In Attendance: A.Evans, A.Jarrett, H.Jenkins, C.Davies, C.Griffiths, K.Jones, A.James, H.Jones, N.Pearce, A.Thomas and J.Woodman-Ralph

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors C.Clement-Williams, D.Jones, L.Jones, E.V.Latham, A.R.Lockyer, P.A.Rees, P.D.Richards, A.Wingrave, M.Caddick, J.Hale, L.Newman, D.Whitelock, S.Renkes and R.W.Wood

Observers: Councillor Wyndham Fryer Griffiths
Councillor Sean Pursey

1. Chairs Announcements

The Committee was informed of a change to the following report on the Cabinet Board Agenda:

- Agenda Item 8 – Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2020/2021 – The Implementation of Decisions was to be changed from ‘3 day call in period’ to ‘immediate implementation’

Following the update, Members were happy with the changes, therefore chose not to scrutinise the report.

2. **Declarations of Interests**

The following member made a declaration of interest:

Cllr. M.Harvey -	Re. Item 11 – Revenue Budget 2021/2022 as he works for South Wales Police.
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3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting which took place on 3 February 2021 were approved.

4. **Pre-decision Scrutiny**

The Committee scrutinised the following cabinet items:

Education through Regional Working Consortium Developments

Members were updated on the Education through Regional Working (ERW) consortium developments.

It was highlighted that ERW had provided various training courses and information to educational practitioners such as teachers, teaching assistants and school governors; Members asked what had replaced that provision, since the Council had withdrawn from ERW.

Officers explained that the Council provided its own school improvement services to schools within the County Borough; some examples of the arrangements included:

- The core visit, to which chairs of governors were invited, was undertaken by the Councils Education Support Officers (ESOs);
- The support for curriculum development was also provided by the school improvement staff. There were opportunities for schools to share practice to ensure they benefitted from each other in terms of learning, and there were a number of pioneer schools who had been involved in the development of the curriculum since the outset;
- The Education department were involved in running governor support programmes;
- The Council bought in a number of national leadership programmes from ERW, such as the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH), as well as programmes for middle leadership etc.

Following on from this, Officers stated that it was important to ensure that the quality of what was being delivered to pupils was in line with the aspirations. Members were informed that a curriculum advisory group had been developed in which school practitioners were involved in along with other individuals for example, people in the community who run their own businesses and Officers from the Environment Directorate; this enabled Officers to gain an understanding of how the skills that had been developed at school level, were benefitting young people in terms of their future work prospects and the skill demands that will be in place over the next 10-15 years, to ensure that those young people were equipped with those skills as well as being made aware of work opportunities. It was added that staff in the Education Directorate had been completing work around the creative industry; a very successful curriculum convention was held in which local companies, involved in production programmes such as S4C, attended.

The Chair of the Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee assured Members that the Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee had been and would continue to receive updates in relation to ERW; the Chair stated that Members who were interested in the subject matter had the opportunity to attend the Scrutiny Committee if they wished to be informed further.

A discussion took place in relation to Swansea and Carmarthen's withdrawal notice, to which Officers confirmed that the notices to withdraw were rescinded as they were unable to complete the legal processes within the timescale that they were originally looking at.

Detailed within the circulated report it highlighted that Officers had requested details of the redundancy liability, however were yet to receive a response; it was asked if Officers had any idea as to when they would receive an answer to this. It was noted that Officers hadn't received an indication as to when they would receive the breakdown, and they will be sending a reminder of this in due course; however, there was considerable work currently being undertaken regarding a potential re-configuration of ERW that could mitigate some of the redundancy costs. It was added that it was a case of working with regional colleagues to understand the redundancy liability, including the costs and how it could be mitigated going forward.

In relation to the Welsh Governments response to the Council withdrawing from ERW and if they were going to continue to provide funding, it was confirmed that the Council had received funding from

the Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG) for the current financial year and the next financial year.

Members asked if there was any regret in withdrawing from ERW. Officers stated that the most important factor in current discussions was if the support that schools needed was being delivered. It was highlighted that Neath Port Talbot's school improvement profile and data in terms of categorisation, were very positive and one of the best across Wales. In regards to the Estyn categories, Neath Port Talbot was one of the lowest across Wales; there were currently two local schools in Estyn review and currently no schools in the 'statutory category' (for reference, the statutory category meant a school was either in need of significant improvement or special measures). Officers mentioned that these factors vindicated the decisions that had been taken, however as school improvement practitioners, it was important to always reflect back to the needs of the schools; there was a need to understand what was required moving forward from the current position of the pandemic, and thinking around how the Council could ensure it was delivering against those requirements. It was mentioned that Officers were starting to receive feedback from schools, since they had started to re-open, around some of the issues that young people were presenting with as they returned; there had been reports from the Health Authority regarding an increase in eating disorders amongst children and young people, therefore it was essential to work closely with health colleagues and children services to plan and deliver a recovery programme that would be agile enough to understand the issues as children returned to school. It was added that there was additional funding being made available to support recovery, which would need to reach the classroom in order to try and compensate from the experiences that young people have had over the past 12 months.

Following scrutiny, the report was noted.

Budget Update and Monitoring Report 2020/2021

The committee was presented with an overview of the financial implications of COVID19 on the Council's Financial Resources and 2020/21 Budget.

Members asked Officers to provide a commentary on the end of year out turn and the potential £1.2million underspend, and how that would be treated going forward. It was highlighted that the circulated report detailed that the projected underspend of the year was £1.9million, which would be put into the general reserves; this meant that the

projected reserve balance at the end of March 2021 would be £19.845million. Officers mentioned that Members would be receiving a final report in relation to the budget figures in due course. In relation to the £1.2million underspend, it was stated that it had been factored into the circulated reports.

Officers were asked if they could provide details of the general reserves and net revenue expenditure for the neighbouring authorities. It was confirmed that Officers did not have the general reserves figures for other authorities and they weren't aware of how this information could be obtained; however, the net revenue budget information could be found on the Stats Wales website. It was noted that Officers would download this information from the website and circulate it to Members.

It was queried whether the general reserves table that Members had previously received, which captured information from every Local Authority in Wales from March 2019, was the most up to date version. Officers confirmed that the table referred to was very likely out of date as the general reserves data changed regularly, therefore it would not capture the current position of any Local Authority.

Members asked if it was mandatory that all Local Authorities publish information in regards to their general reserves. The committee was informed that, as part of their statement of accounts, all Local Authorities were required to do this; Neath Port Talbot Council published the latest position on the general and specific reserves in every budget monitoring report presented to Cabinet Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet, before it then would be presented to the Audit Committee at the end of the year for the statement of accounts.

A discussion took place in relation to comparative information to other Councils, to which it was stated that the population/size of County Boroughs was very varied and even though the services that Councils provided were statutory similar, the level of which they provide was very different, therefore it was difficult to complete a comparison.

It was asked if Officers were comfortable with the current planned level of projected reserves. In terms of the calculations, they were noted to be the best estimate of the Councils current position; there were still a few weeks to go before the end of the financial year, and there were processes to go through with Audit Wales in order to verify the accuracy of the accounts. It was added that all of those factors will be taken into account over the next few months, with the aim of

having all the accounts for the current year signed off by the end of July. The Director of Finance and Corporate Services added that since being in the role, the Council had never had a qualified audit report in terms of the accounts.

Officers were asked if the council tax take tended to reduce as the level of council tax increased. Members were informed that the collection of council tax had been exceedingly good over the past 5 years; the Council were one of the highest ranked in council tax collection in Wales, and in the last financial year was the highest with 98.1% of council tax collected. It was mentioned that the Council Tax Team had been working very hard to allow people to re-profile their instalments from early this year to the end of this financial year; at the end of February 2021 it was recorded that 96.4% of council tax had been collected with further instalments being higher than normal.

Following scrutiny, the committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by Cabinet

Revenue Budget 2021/2022

A report in relation to the revenue budget for 2021/22 was presented to the Committee.

The circulated report stated that the Council would use £3.1million to balance the budget from the reserves; Members asked for clarity on what was meant by using reserves to balance the budget.

It was explained that reserves were the arrangement of making sure the Council had sufficient monies to deal with the unexpected and large purchases that the Council would need or want to undertake in the future; it was essential that the Council had the ability to deal with unexpected measures, for example flooding and other emergency situations. Officers highlighted that the Covid 19 pandemic was also an example of this, however this had been slightly different to usual circumstances as Welsh Government had stated they would provide funding through the Hardship Fund for the unexpected costs; normally the first £6,013 of the Councils work associated with emergencies would need to be paid by the Council itself, this calculated to 0.2% of the budget, along with a further 15% of anything over and above the £6,013 threshold. It was noted that this was called the Emergency Financial Assistance Scheme that Welsh Government had in place for dealing with issues. Officers added that the general reserves were there for these types of situations along with fluctuations in service levels and costs; it was important to

ensure that the Council had sustainable budgets and processes to manage both activity and financial matters through the years.

Members asked how Officers had been able to reduce the original proposed council tax of 3.75% down to 2.75%. It was stated that at the previous meeting of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee in which the draft budget proposals were presented (13 January 2021), Welsh Government had indicated that they were only able to provide support up to a certain level; the Councils projected overspend at that time was £2.5million and now it was projected at £1.2million. It was highlighted that since then, Welsh Government had announced they were providing additional monies to support the challenges around council tax support; the Council had received £7,027 for that and a further £6,003 towards council tax support. Officers explained that Welsh Government had confirmed that Councils could recover more monies in terms of loss of income up until the end of December, which had resulted in more monies being made available to put into the reserves; this enabled the £3.1million to be pulled from the reserves next year in order to reduce the council tax by 1%.

A discussion took place in relation to the increase of council tax for Neath Port Talbot Council in comparison to the council tax increase for other Local Authorities. Members were informed that most Councils either recently set their council tax for next year or were about to finalise their figures; the information that Officers had seen to date suggested that Neath Port Talbot Council will be the second lowest increase in terms of council tax for next year. It was noted that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council was likely to have the lowest rate at 2.65%; other Councils had declared their rate between 3-4% and a few higher than that. It was noted that currently there was a projected forward financial gap of £49million over the next three years if the UK and Welsh Government were not able to increase the current level of financial support they were providing; this was quite substantial as they provided just under 75% of the funding towards running council services which was equivalent to £236.68million. It was added that the 25% was the amount that the local council tax payer contributes towards running council services.

Following on from this, it was noted that overall Neath Port Talbot Council had the third highest council tax rate in Wales. Officers explained that the reasoning for this goes back to when there was a local government re-organisation; the details of this resulted in higher council tax in the first year. It was stated that the decisions that had

been made every year since then, had been to try and get closer towards the standard spending assessment.

Members were informed that the projected closing balance on the reserves for this financial year had increased to £19.845million, which was detailed to be the opening balance of 2021/22; with the projected use of £3.1million worth of general reserves to underpin the budget for 2021/22, it meant that the projected reserves on 31 March 2022 would reduce to £16.86million.

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services read an extract from an article written by Rob Whiteman, the Chief Executive Officer of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), which was written on 2 April 2020.

Officers then stated that if too much money was taken out of general reserves in one year, preparations would need to be put in place to reduce activities and/or services for the following financial years; the strategy that needed to be place would focus on the sustainability of Neath Port Talbot Council for future financial years, not just the current financial year. It was highlighted that the forward financial plan had identified that if there was no extra monies being brought in from any source, then there would be a £49million challenge over the next three years; this challenge needed to be considered each year when looking at the budget. Officers added that over the past few months, since the budget proposals were being considered, they had not received any alternative proposals from Members.

In addition, it was noted that whilst the £206.6million that Welsh Government had put into the Hardship Fund to cover Covid 19 next year was welcomed, the longevity or the impact of the pandemic on the overall finances was unknown; therefore, the amount of monies that may need to be pulled from reserves could be higher than £3.1million which was currently set out in the circulated budget report. The Committee was informed that all of these issues needed to be considered whilst producing a sustainable budget strategy for the next and future financial years.

Members asked what support was available for those who struggle to pay their council tax. It was stated that the total amount of money which was available for council tax support this year was £18.7million, which would rise to £19.8million for the next financial year; this money would be supporting around 17,500 council tax payers out of 64,000 properties across the Country Borough, with over 12,000 residents having full financial support towards their

council tax. It was added that the other 5,500 residents would be receiving partial support as their earnings and income levels allowed them to make some contributions towards council tax. Officers highlighted that the proposed band D value for council tax in Neath Port Talbot was detailed in the circulated report (£1,660), however the report also mentioned that about 80% of properties in the County Borough were in the three lowest bands (A,B and C) of the council tax regime; those in band C with two paying adults in the house would pay around £1,457, and those who were single occupants would receive a 25% discount towards their total council tax amount. Members were informed that the majority of residents in Neath Port Talbot paid less than the £1,457 that was mentioned for band D, and whilst the 2.75% increase would be applied to every band, the ratio of council tax payers in the County Borough were mainly in bands A,B and C which had the lower council tax rate.

A vote was undertaken to determine which Members were for and against the recommendations detailed in the circulated report. The results of the vote were as follows:

- For – 12
- Against – 4
- Obtaining – 0

Following scrutiny, the majority of the committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by Cabinet.

Treasury Management Strategy 2021/2022

Members were provided with a report which set out the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2021/22.

Officers provided a commentary on the indications for the rate of inflation during the course of the year and how it could affect the treasury management strategy. The circulated report provided an indication of what the probable impact on investment interest was going to be for the current year through to 2024/25. It was noted that the probable returns were likely to be 0.10% for the next three years and then rising to 0.25% in 2024/25; this was the treasury advisors view of how interest rates could apply over the next few years. In terms of inflation, it was stated that 1% had been built into the Councils estimates for pay awards for both teaching and non-teaching staff; the demand for pay awards was likely to be higher

than this, however that would be resolved with negotiations elsewhere. Members were informed that the government target was to continue to keep inflation at or around 2% over time, currently it was much lower than that; at the moment inflation was higher than the investment interest, however most of the loans that were in place were for long term (over 40-50 years). It was highlighted that the more challenging issue going forward was identifying what interest rates were going to be from now on to support the Councils capital programme and the funding needed to underpin the capital programme. Officers made reference to the Capital Financing Requirement and the prospect for interest rates which were detailed in the circulated report; these factors would have an impact on the capital programme, however they had been built into the treasury management budget and will be managed accordingly.

A discussion took place in relation to the additional monies that had been announced for Wales and the impact that it would have on the Councils capital projects, particularly the 21st century schools, as it was stated that none of the money would be available for capital projects. It was noted that Officers had put forward their initial plans for the £80million worth of investment through band B; the first investment was in relation to Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School, which had been delivered during the pandemic and was due to open in June 2021. Members were informed that some of the other projects in the capital programme had been reflected earlier on and were included within the £80million package; the fact that there hadn't been any additional announcement from UK Government shouldn't have an impact on the band B strategy, however it could have an impact on what Welsh Government may want to do with either extending it for further bands of investment or for other projects. It was concluded that Officers did not think this would have an impact on 21st century schools projects from this point of time.

Following scrutiny, the committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by Cabinet.

5. **Forward Work Programme 2020/21**

The Committee noted the Cabinet Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2020/21.

CHAIRPERSON

Cabinet Scrutiny Committee

(Via Microsoft Teams)

Members Present:

16 March 2021

Chairperson: **Councillor M.Harvey**

Vice Chairperson: **Councillor S.Rahaman**

Councillors: S.E.Freeguard, N.T.Hunt, S.K.Hunt, D.Keogh, S.A.Knoyle, A.Llewelyn, S.Miller, R.Mizen, J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison, L.M.Purcell, S.M.Penry, S.H.Reynolds and A.N.Woolcock

Officers In Attendance K.Jones, A.Evans, A.Jarrett, C.Griffiths, N.Pearce, H.Jones, C.Furlow-Harris, C.Plowman and J.Woodman-Ralph

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors C.Clement-Williams, L.Jones, E.V.Latham, A.R.Lockyer, P.A.Rees and P.D.Richards

1. Declarations of Interests

The following members made a declaration of interest at the start of the meeting:

Councillor Nigel Hunt Re: Extension of Grant Support to Businesses affected by additional trading restrictions in March 2021, as he was in receipt of the business support grant.

Councillor Saif Rahaman Re: Extension of Grant Support to Businesses affected by additional trading restrictions in March 2021, as he owns a business.

Councillor Linet Purcell Re: Extension of Grant Support to Businesses affected by additional trading restrictions in March 2021,

as a family member was in receipt of the business support grant.

Cllr. Rhidian Mizen

Re: Extension of Grant Support to Businesses affected by additional trading restrictions in March 2021, as he is the Social Sec. of Cwmafan RFC.

Cllr. Sharon Freeguard

Re: Extension of Grant Support to Businesses affected by additional trading restrictions in March 2021, as she is a Member of the Board of Age Connects NPT.

2. **Urgent Items**

Because of the need to deal now with the matters contained in Minute No. 3 below, the Chairperson agreed that these could be raised at today' s meeting as urgent items pursuant to Statutory Instrument No.2290 (as amended).

Reason for Urgency:

Due to the time element.

3. **Extension of Grant Support to Businesses affected by additional trading restrictions in March 2021**

(At this point in the meeting, Councillors N.Hunt, S.Rahaman, S.Knoyle, R.Mizen, L.Purcell and S.Freeguard reaffirmed their interest in this item and left for the discussion and voting thereon.)

Members were informed of an extension to the current grant support scheme, enabling the Council to make grant payments of £4,000 and £5,000 to eligible businesses in Neath Port Talbot. This is following an announcement from Welsh Government on the continuation of restrictions that came in to effect on 20th December 2020 to March 2021.

Members noted that within this extension there was no discretionary support available for sole traders as previously available in the

previous round. It was noted that this was still a difficult time for businesses currently and some businesses would rely on that discretionary support therefore it was suggested that representation be sent to Welsh Government requesting additional support. Officers informed Members that they had requested additional funding for discretionary support and a further £300,000 was provided, meaning there would be funding available for a 135 grants.

Following scrutiny, the committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by Cabinet.

4. **Access to Meetings**

(Councillors N.Hunt, S.Rahaman, S.Knoyle, R.Mizen, L.Purcell and S.Freegaard re-join the meeting)

RESOLVED: that pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following items of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

5. **Pre-Decision Scrutiny of Private Item/s**

The Committee scrutinised the following private Cabinet item:

Centre of Rail Excellence in Wales

Members were updated in relation to the current position around the Centre of Rail Excellence in Wales, as detailed within the private circulated report.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposal to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

CHAIRPERSON

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SCRUTINY
FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

March 2021 – 2022

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<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>Officer Responsible</u>
Cabinet Scrutiny Committee	Charlotte Davies / Chloe Plowman
Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee	Charlotte Davies
Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Sub Committee	Charlotte Davies
Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Charlotte Davies
Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee	Chloe Plowman
Community Safety and Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee	Chloe Plowman
Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee	Chloe Plowman

Cabinet Scrutiny Committee (All starting 2pm unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2021		
8 th March	Budget Special (please see Cabinet FWP for items)	Hywel Jenkins
16 th March	Please see Cabinet FWP for items	
7 th April	Meeting cancelled	
22 nd May	Please see Cabinet FWP for items	
29 nd June	Items to be confirmed	
30 th June	Items to be confirmed	
28 th July	Items to be confirmed	
1 st September	Items to be confirmed	
22 nd September	Items to be confirmed	
20 th October	Items to be confirmed	
17 th November	Items to be confirmed	

15 th December	Items to be confirmed	
2022		
12 th January	Items to be confirmed	
9 th February	Items to be confirmed	
9 th March	Items to be confirmed	
6 th April	Items to be confirmed	
9 th May	Items to be confirmed	

Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee (All starting 2pm unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2021		
18 th March	Update Report on Libraries	Andrew Thomas
	Report on the work of Cynnydd and the Wellbeing Service	Andrew Thomas
29 th April	Meeting cancelled	
10 th June	Items to be confirmed	
27 th July	Items to be confirmed	
2 nd September	Items to be confirmed	
14 th October	Items to be confirmed	
25 th November	Items to be confirmed	
2022		
6 th January	Items to be confirmed	
17 th February	Items to be confirmed	

31 st March	Items to be confirmed	

To be scheduled in:

- Update on Leisure - Andrew Thomas/Paul Walker

Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Sub Committee (All starting 2pm unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2021		
1 st July	Items to be confirmed	
23 rd September	Items to be confirmed	
16 th December	Items to be confirmed	
2022		
10 th March	Items to be confirmed	

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Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (All starting 2pm unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2021		
1 st April	Update on Homelessness	Angela Thomas
13 th May	Items to be confirmed	
24 th June	Update Report on the impact of Covid-19 on Disabled Facilities Grants	Angela Thomas
29 th July	Items to be confirmed	
16 th September	Items to be confirmed	
21 st October	Items to be confirmed	
9 th December	Items to be confirmed	
2022		
20 th January	Items to be confirmed	
3 rd March	Items to be confirmed	
7 th April	Items to be confirmed	

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To be confirmed:

- Impact of dischargers from hospitals on the availability of care packages. An update on Delayed Transfer of Care (DTOCS) - Angela Thomas

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee (All starting 10am unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2021		
16 th April	Trends in Domestic Abuse	Claire Jones/Elinor Wellington
14 th May	Update Report on Active Travel	Ceri Morris
25 th June	Items to be confirmed	
30 th July	Items to be confirmed	
10 th September	Items to be confirmed	
22 nd October	Items to be confirmed	
3 rd December	Items to be confirmed	
2022		
14 th January	Items to be confirmed	
4 th March	Items to be confirmed	

8 th April	Items to be confirmed	

Community Safety and Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee (All starting 10am unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2021		
9 th July	Neath Town Centre Anti-Social Behaviour	Elinor Wellington
1 st October	Items to be confirmed	
17 th December (2.00 pm)	Items to be confirmed	
2022		
18 th March	Items to be confirmed	

Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee (All starting 10am unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2021		
26 th March	Please see Cabinet Board FWP for items	
21 st May	Items to be confirmed	
2 nd July	Items to be confirmed	
24 th September	Items to be confirmed	
9 th November	Items to be confirmed	
17 th December	Items to be confirmed	
2022		
28 th January	Items to be confirmed	
11 th March	Items to be confirmed	
29 th April	Items to be confirmed	

To be scheduled in:

- Road Traffic Regulations – The Enforcement Service

