CHIEF EXECUTIVE
PRIF WEITHREDWR
Stephen Vickers

Public Agenda

TORFAEN COUNTY BOROUGH / BWRDEISTREF SIROL TORFAEN

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Date/Dyddiad: 31.03.25

Dear Councillor / Gynghorydd

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **COUNCIL** which will be held as a hybrid (multi-location) meeting at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Pontypool (NP4 6YB) and via Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday, 8 April 2025** at **10.00 am** to consider the business set out in the attached agenda.

You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

This meeting will be live streamed and can be viewed via the following link - TCBC Webcasting

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Fe'ch gwahoddir i gyfarfod **CYNGOR** fydd yn cael ei gynnal ar ffurf cyfarfod hybrid (aml-leoliad) yn Siambr y Cyngor, Y Ganolfan Ddinesig, Pont-y-pŵl (NP4 6YB) ac ar Microsoft Teams, **Dydd Mawrth, 8 Ebrill 2025** am **10.00 am** i ystyried y materion sydd wedi eu nodi yn yr agenda atodedig.

Mae croeso i chi ddefnyddio Cymraeg yn y cyfarfod; mae angen rhoi rhybudd o 3 diwrnod gwaith o leiaf os ydych yn dymuno gwneud hynny. Bydd cyfieithu ar y pryd ar gael os gofynnir am hynny.

Bydd y cyfarfod hwn yn cael ei ffrydio'n fyw a gellir ei weld ar y ddolen ganlynol – Gweddarlledu CBST

Yours sincerely / Yn gywir

Stephen Vickers,
Chief Executive / *Prif Weithredwr*

CIRCULATION:	**AELODAU:**
All Councillors	**Holl Gynghorwyr**
Appropriate Officers	**Swyddogion Priodol**
TOTAL - 40	**CYFANSWM - 40**
QUORUM - 10	**CWORWM – 10**

COUNCIL

10.00 am
Tuesday, 8 April 2025

CYNGOR

10.00 am
Dydd Mawrth, 8 Ebrill 2025

AGENDA

AGENDA

1	**Attendance**	**Presenoldeb**	
2	**Apologies for Absence**	**Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb**	
3	**Declarations of interest**	**Datganiadau o fudd**	
4	**Confirmation of Council minutes - 04.03.25**	**Cadarnhau cofnodion y Cyngor - 04.03.25**	3 - 68
5	**Updates on actions**	**Y diweddaraf ar y camau gweithredu**	69
6	**Receipt of petitions**	**Deisebau a dderbyniwyd**	
7	**Public Question Time**	**Cwestiynau gan y Cyhoedd**	
8	**Announcements from the Leader or Chief Executive**	**Cyhoeddiadau gan yr Arweinydd neu'r Prif Weithredwr**	
9	**Torfaen Education Services Update**	**Y Diweddaraf am Wasanaethau Addysg Torfaen**	71 - 120
10	**Violence Against Women and Girls Member Champion**	**Aelod Eiriolwr Trais yn erbyn Menywod a Merched**	121 - 122
11	**Motions on Notice**	**Cynigion â rhybudd**	123 - 124
12	**Member Question Time**	**Cwestiynau gan yr Aelodau**	
13	**Date and time of next meeting**	**Dyddiad ac amser y cyfarfod nesaf**	

Please note: The Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee may meet if needed to consider any challenges received to these Cabinet decisions. If that Committee requests Cabinet to reconsider any of its decisions, the Cabinet may meet immediately.

This paragraph acts as the convening notice and the agenda for both the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet meetings if required to consider any challenges.

Noder: Gall Bwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu'r Cyngor gyfarfod os oes angen ystyried unrhyw heriau a dderbyniwyd yn erbyn penderfyniadau'r Cabinet. Os yw'r Pwyllgor yn gofyn i'r Cabinet ailystyried unrhyw rhai o'i benderfyniadau, gall y Cabinet gyfarfod ar unwaith.

Mae'r paragraff hwn yn gweithredu fel yr hysbysiad ymgynnull a'r agenda ar gyfer cyfarfodydd Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu'r Cyngor a bod angen ystyried unrhyw heriau.

Minutes of a MEETING OF THE Council OF TORFAEN COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL Held on Tuesday 4 March 2025 at 10.00am

The Presiding Member welcomed everyone to the hybrid meeting of Council. The Presiding Member informed Members that the meeting was being broadcast live and a recording of the meeting would also be available to view in the future. She reminded Members participating via Teams to use the chat bar to indicate when they wanted to speak and to keep their microphones muted when they were not talking. She also asked members to use their cameras for the duration of the meeting as outlined Statutory Guidance under Section 4 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and in line with the Council's formally adopted Hybrid Meeting Policy.

1 ATTENDANCE

Councillors:

Rose Seabourne (Chair)

Stuart Ashley
Alfie Best
Catherine Bonera
Ron Burnett
Nick Byrne
Richard Clark (Deputy Leader)
Lynda Clarkson
Liam Cowles
Fiona Cross
David Daniels
Giles Davies
Steven Evans
Joanne Gauden
Karl Gauden
Elizabeth Haynes
Jon Horlor
Nick Horler
Anthony Hunt (Leader)
Gaynor James
Jon James
Janet Jones
Mark Jones
Peter Jones
Stuart Keyte
Rosemary Matthews
Susan Morgan
Jason O'Connell
Amanda Owen
Norma Parrish
Caroline Price
Nicholas Simons
Alan Slade
Chris Tew
Colette Thomas
David Thomas
Jayne Watkins
David Williams
Lucy Williams
Nathan Yeowell

Officers:
Louise Day, Communications Manager
Robert Green, Head of Financial Services
Rebecca Fahey-Jones, Team Leader Scrutiny
Delyth Harries, Monitoring Officer and Assistant Chief Legal Officer
Neil Jones, Head of Communications, Elections and Civil Contingencies
Dave Leech, Strategic Director, Adults and Communities
Andrew Lovegrove, Strategic Director Resources
Robert Green, Head of Financial Services
Jason Lewis, Director Corporate Services & Head of Democratic Services
Dominique Redman, Team Leader Democratic and Member Services
Tom Roberts, Business & Democratic Support Services Manager
Jason O'Brien, Strategic Director, Children and Family Services
Chris Slade, Assistant Democratic and Member Services Team Leader
Stephen Vickers, Chief Executive
Dave Weaver, Group Finance Officer

Others in Attendance:

Representatives of Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen Local Nature Partnership
Representatives of Pontnewydd Primary School
Representatives of Torfaen Youth Council
X2 members of the press and public

ACTION

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Giles Davies.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 The Monitoring Officer and Assistant Chief Legal Officer (MO&ACLO) referred to Agenda Item 9, Budget 2025-26 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025/26 and advised members that they would have a personal interest if they were a member of a Community Council. She also referred to Agenda Item 10, County Plan 2022-27: Delivery Plan 2025-26 which referred to Community Councils, namely Blaenavon, Pontypool and Cwmbran and she advised members of those community councils that they would also have a personal interest in relation to this item. The following members confirmed their personal interests:

Members of Pontypool Community Council, Councillors:
Nick Byrne
Lynda Clarkson
Jon Horler
Gaynor James
Jon James
Rosemary Matthews
Caroline Price
Nicholas Simons

Members of Cwmbran Community Council, Councillors:
Stuart Ashley
David Thomas
Peter Jones
Sue Morgan

Member of Henllys Community Council, Councillor:
Ron Burnett
Colette Thomas

Member of Croesyceiliog & Llanyrafon Community Council, Councillor:
David Williams

Member of Blaenavon Town Council, Councillor:
Liam Cowles

3.2 The MO&ACLO referred to Agenda Item 14, Pay Policy Statement 2025 and advised members that they would have a personal and prejudicial interest if they had a close personal associate who worked for the local authority. She explained

that the Pay Policy covered Shared Resource Service (SRS), but it did not cover teachers or support staff. The following members confirmed their personal and prejudicial interests:

Councillors:
Janet Jones
Alan Slade
Jayne Watkins
Joanne Gauden
Colette Thomas
Rose Seabourne

3.3 The MO&ACLO explained that Councillor Stuart Ashley, Deputy Presiding Member would Chair the meeting for Agenda Item 16, Pay Policy Statement 2025, as the Presiding Member has a prejudicial interest. She also advised that all officers should leave the meeting for this agenda item as the content of the report concerned them. Members agreed that Jason Lewis, Director – Corporate Services, and Democratic Services Officers namely Dominique Redman and Chris Slade who were assisting with the operation of the meeting could remain for this item.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 21/01/2025

4.1 Council confirmed the minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 January 2025 as an accurate record.

5. UPDATES ON ACTIONS

5.1 Council noted the action sheet.

6. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

6.1 There were no petitions.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

7.1 There were no public questions.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

8.1 The Leader:

- Welcomed Councillor Stuart Keyte who had recently won the by-election to serve as councillor for the Trevethin & Penygarn ward alongside Councillor Jon Horlor.
- Referred to the positive case study produced by Estyn on Torfaen Council and the effective practices following the most recent inspection. He informed council that this had been published on Estyn's website, and he further commented that publishing effective practice was a great way of sharing information, knowledge and learning.

- Referred to the new park and ride facility at Pontypool and New Inn Railway Station which opened last Friday. He informed council that the facility includes 129 general spaces, 11 accessible parking bays, motorcycle bays, secure bike spaces and drop off bays, a new footbridge, and lifts suitable for wheelchairs and bikes. He stated that the project had been funded by Cardiff Capital Region, Welsh Government and the council, and it was one of the first to be completed as part of the Cardiff Capital Region Metro Plus scheme to create a South Wales Metro system. The work also included:
  - Improvements to the platform and seating area
  - Improved CCTV and lighting
  - New customer information systems and help point

  He hoped the new facility would encourage more people to use the station, leading to an increase in train services.
- Referred to the COVID-19 Day of Reflection 2025 which was a UK-wide Day of Reflection which would take place on Sunday 9 March 2025, and was one of the ten recommendations set out by the UK Commission on Covid Commemoration. He explained that, to mark the fifth anniversary of the pandemic, people across the UK were invited to come together to remember and reflect on the unique period of history as well as their own experiences. The day will be an opportunity for the public to remember and commemorate those who lost their lives during the pandemic, reflect on the sacrifices made and the impact on daily lives, and pay tribute to the work of health and social care staff, frontline workers, and all of those who volunteered and showed acts of kindness during this unprecedented time. He stated that the council would also help a local support group mark International Long Covid Awareness Day on the 15th of March by lighting up the civic centre in teal. He informed council that the support group meets at Pontypool Active Living Centre twice a month.
- Welcomed the Head Boy and Head Girl of Pontnewydd Primary School to receive a Civic Award on behalf of the school in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the completion of the Tiny Forest Project, dedicated in memory of their late Headteacher, Kerry Waters who sadly passed away in October 2024. He explained that during December pupils from Nursery through to year 6, their parents and family members planted trees alongside the teachers, governors, players from Newport County Football Club, the Dragons Rugby Club and businesses from the local community. The new area within the school grounds which had 600 trees was being built with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This project would enable the children to have more lessons in nature.
- Welcomed Steve Williams who many knew from his former ecological role at the Council before his retirement, who was accepting a Civic Award on behalf of the Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen Local Nature Partnership in recognition of their 25 years working together for the benefit of the community. He explained that across 25 years, the partnership had worked tirelessly to improve nature throughout the borough including holding the annual Go Wild event for many of those years, giving people the chance to celebrate local nature. During the past five years, they had benefitted from funding from Local Places for Nature and, in that time, had planted thousands of trees, created hedgerows and orchards, encouraged a change in roadside verge management and supported community groups to create gardens and other spaces for nature. He further commented that this year also saw Wales reflecting on and celebrating 10 years of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, and the Local Nature Partnership was an excellent example of how different organisations and individuals could collaborate to achieve a common goal.

He thanked Steve who continued to be actively involved in the partnership – along with many others who volunteer their time to this important cause and also thanked Veronika Brannovic who is the Partnership Co-ordinator and had been a member for over 20 years.

- Welcomed members of Pontypool Youth Council who gave a presentation on their Twinning Experience in Paris which took place during the summer of 2024. He thanked Community Councils for supporting Twinning Experiences which offered valuable opportunities for young children.

8.2 The Deputy Leader congratulated members of Pontypool Youth Council on their presentation, recognising that it was not easy to stand in the Chamber and present to Members. He commented on the fantastic opportunities involved in the twinning experience, particularly on the approach to the 80th Anniversary of the War in Europe.

8.3 As Leader of Pontypool Community Council, Councillor Gaynor James commented around the amazing opportunities for young children to visit European countries, and she congratulated Members of Pontypool Youth Council.

8.4 Other members commented on how refreshing it was to see young children in the Chamber and encouraged future engagement with young children.

8.5 The Chief Executive praised the fast thinking and actions of employee Brian Moylan who was a member of the Waste Team. He explained that in early January Peter Scott, former Headteacher of Abersychan Comprehensive School had a heart attack when visiting a local post office. Brian had recently completed a first aid refresher course, and with help from other crew members who ran out of the post office to alert Brain of the emergency, Brian was confident enough to carry out CPR for around 20 minutes until the ambulance arrived and he was told that the CPR had saved Peter's life. Peter had now met Brian and the team who had been shocked by the experience. The Chief Executive praised the work of the crew more broadly and he thanked them for stepping up in the emergency. Council applauded Brian and the team and thanked them for their involvement in saving Peter's life.

9. BUDGET 2025/26 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

9.1 The Strategic Director Resources (SDR) outlined the report which sought approval of:

- The revenue budget for 2025/26
- The level of Council Tax for 2025/26
- The Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2026/27 to 2029/30 (MTFP)
- The Virement Policy
- The Reserves Policy
- The Capital & Treasury Management Strategy, including the Prudential Indicators

9.2 The SDR commented as follows:

- He thanked Cabinet and all other members for their full engagement throughout the budget setting process for 25/26, and Nigel Aurelius for the smooth transition of S151 Officer prior to his retirement.

- The budget was a whole council activity including the Executive Team, Leadership, and senior management who had been fully inversed in the process.
- As a Marmot Council the budget was focused on ensuring that the council spent money in support of the Marmot Principles, and in delivering the County Plan.
- The budget setting process was an ongoing task that started last March, and at the time, the MTFP showed that over four years the gap was in excess of £35million. He was pleased to report that the council had a balanced budget for 2025/26 presented to them today, and the gap for the next four years showed an improvement and was just over £9million.
- The recommended budget included an increase in council tax which was one of the lowest in Wales.
- The council operated several schemes to help with low-income households and residents were encouraged to get in touch should they require any support.
- It was important for residents to pay their council tax in a timely manner as this paid for frontline services.
- The Settlement from Welsh Government was welcomed and was more than originally planned. There was still further work to do with MTFP to bridge the gap and this work was ongoing.
- The Children's Services Transition Plan was one of the significant challenges that faced the council. This was a significant piece of work to review and improve the way that the council supported families and young people. The current cost pressures would continue for a while longer, and the budget presumed the use of earmarked reserves to bridge the gap, however, there was confidence that the changes could be made and that the budget could be bought back into balance on an ongoing basis.
- With reference to the Capital Programme, there had been investment in schools, highways, recycling, Greenmeadow Farm, the Civil Facilities Grants and contributions to the Cardiff Capital Region.
- As S151 Officer, there was a need for him to be satisfied that the level of reserves were appropriate, and that the assumptions used to set the budget were robust and appropriate.
- The current reserve levels were higher than predicted in the MTFP a year ago, and the papers showed an expectation of some moderate use of reserves during the coming years, but he was still comfortable that the predicted use of reserves and the balances were appropriate.
- It was important that the council did not become complacent and that it delivered the planned savings as they were mapped out in the budget. It was also important that council tax was paid and collected and that the council continued to recognise the managed risks it faced, however, he was comfortable that the budget being presented was deliverable and appropriate.

The Leader commented as follows:

- Section 3.3 of the report outlined how the budget process for 2025/26 was started 12 months ago, where a funding gap of almost £20million was forecasted. Work had been undertaken to bridge that gap through efficiency savings, reorganising the way things were done, and always putting services and protecting the front line first. He thanked all Cabinet and Scrutiny members for their input into the process, and he valued the approach taken by scrutiny as it gave members the opportunity to examine the proposals at

the estimates stage in the autumn, as well as at the draft savings stage in the New Year.

- The settlement of 4.8% had made a huge difference, giving the council over £7m extra to invest in local services and keep bills down. This hadn't made things easy, however, it meant that the council could re-invest efficiency savings in key priorities, including schools, social care, transforming children's services and repairing roads.
- Paragraph 3.15 of the report outlined the key priorities that the budget delivered on, including an increase to the school budget comprising funding of £5.4m to schools; the second tranche of funding for the expansion of Crownbridge Special School; further investment in schools related ALN support and funding for demand pressures with School Transport and ALN; funding to recognise the impact on Social Care providers of a 5% increase in the Real Living Wage which provides for pressures associated with commissioned care services; extra funding to Adult Social Care to maintain services at levels of demand of around 1,030 clients; extra funding to help Children's Services with their transformation plan; £385,000 for waste services and £227,000 for waste education and enforcement, to help keep recycling rates improve and maintain fortnightly bin collections; £250,000 to continue the school leaver employment/apprentice scheme; extra funding towards the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme which was currently helping 9,426 households across Torfaen; and extra funding for highways repairs over the next two years which recognised the public desire for investment in road surfaces.
- He referred to some of the services that the council provided that had not been highlighted in the budget report:
- There were no council car parking charges.
- The council had retained two weekly residual bin collections for the coming year, whilst working hard to drive up recycling and reducing waste.
- The Council Tax Reduction Scheme was 100% and helped almost 10,000 households across the borough.
- The Play service brightened up the lives of so many young people and their families, especially those with additional needs or disabilities.
- Libraries were open, and work to invest in them was ongoing.
- Work was ongoing to keep bills down and to protect local services. The council was making changes, driving efficiencies, taking difficult decisions and protecting front line services. There were no closures of facilities or cutbacks to core services in the budget.
- Thanks to members, schools had been one of the top funding priorities in recent years, with funding in the budget being up by £6.7million which would help keep teachers and support staff to help young people learn and thrive.
- Despite the huge amount of work done by the 21st Century Schools Programme, there was further work to do in high schools and, alongside the Deputy Leader, he would continue to work with Welsh Government to do everything in his power to invest in facilities in the future.
- Like every other council across the UK, roads were in need of investment. With help from Welsh Government, work would start on an unprecedented programme of investment in the council's roads, concentrating on the local roads within the council's communities. An extra £3m would be invested over the next two years, on top of the previously agreed increase in funding to fix roads. This didn't mean that every road would be repaired immediately, but it was a positive, pragmatic and realistic plan to make a real difference.
- Older residents or those with disabilities or illnesses relied on social care

services and an extra £1m would be invested in these services. Adult Services have also been protected from having to make damaging cuts to services.

- Around £500,000 of additional Housing Support Grant has been allocated, including to help pay the real living wage in commissioned services, to increase funding for young people facing homelessness and to better support those with complex needs.
- Children's Services were working on a transformation plan, to deliver better outcomes for those young people and to make the service more sustainable in the long term. The budget delivered the investment that's needed to deliver those improvements.
- Work was ongoing with residents to recycle more and waste less. The extra investment would help deliver this plan whilst keeping residual collections fortnightly.
- An extra £250,000 was being invested to continue the council's school leaver apprenticeship scheme, giving jobs to young people. This recognised the need to train up the next generation of local service works to keep vital services running.
- The proposed Council Tax rise of 4.95% was currently the second lowest proposed rise in Wales, following on from the lowest or equal lowest in Wales over the past three years. Torfaen now had the fifth lowest council tax in Wales. The Council Tax Reduction Scheme was one of the most generous schemes in the UK, which helped nearly 10,000 households in Torfaen.

Discussion ensued and in the main members commended the budget setting process. In response to questions and comments by members, the following main points were made:

- Freezing council tax was a short-term decision that cost more in the long run. Councils that had frozen council tax had been forced into much higher rises in the following years, often double digits, which resulted in vital services being slashed or closed.
- The budget continued to provide over £380k to community groups, venues and charities who delivered against the council's objectives of the County Plan through the council's Third Sector Major Grants Programme. Over 200 sports qualifications were delivered to people in Torfaen, and £3.3million had been invested in the Shared Prosperity Fund 2025/26 in addition to prevention, support, community grants and commissions with the third sector.
- It was pleasing to see targeting towards those in most need such as the continuation of the CTRS, increased budgets for schools and increased capital and revenue funds. It was hoped that the council could be in a position to keep council tax rises low for the long term.
- Every effort was being made to meet pressures, and the council had a good track record of doing this whilst keeping council tax as low as possible. 4.95% was the maximum figure in the MTFP. The council would continue work to keep bills as low as possible, however, there was a need to provide a balance and to make the sums add up
- There had been investment in services within adult and social care. The increase in council tax enabled investment in children and young people to reconfigure services, and adult services. People were living longer with more complex needs and there was a need to invest to save. The 5% increase for social care providers to enable them to pay the real living wage would keep people in the sector.

- Conscious decisions had been made to put schools at the front of the agenda and funding pot. Budgets received for schools were virtually 'passported' to them. Children's Services was important and there was no doubt that there was a financial pressure, however, the council had continued to protect the children that it was responsible for. The long-term outcome of looking at what the council provided and how it was provided, would result in a leaner, more efficient focus, and better outcomes for children.
- The whole authority effort in the budget setting process achieved maximum levels of efficiency and economy. Environmental services had worked collaboratively in the past year by prioritising and doing their best to deliver services under real pressures.
- Capital Funding for the British was existing funding.
- Bulking and Bailing was an ongoing process as part of the revenue budget.
- On page 165 under Asset Maintenance in 29/30, there was a '1' missing off the core capital, the figure should read £1,460,000.
- Whilst members of the public didn't want a council tax rise, there had been overwhelming support for funding in areas such as schools, highways and social care. It was difficult to meet the overwhelming desire for investment whilst not raising revenue.

The Leader commented as follows:

- It was important for the council to invest in the roads and footpaths within communities and local environments in a sustainable way.
- It was important to recognise the impact of the council's decisions on the most vulnerable members of the community. The council provided a number of visible services, however, a number of confidential services were also provided and without these services, vulnerable members of the community may not be able to live independently and their lives could be transformed in a negative way.
- The council had to think long term, and think about what could be done to intervene earlier to stem the rise in demand for acute services. There was also a need to think about staffing in terms of sustainability. Across local government there were more vacancies than ever and more of an issue with retention of staff, particularly in some areas. There was a need to look to the long term and consider what could be done to ensure that the people of the future could provide these services.
- The track record of the council in terms of council tax should be recognised. The increase of 1.95% two years in a row, and 4.95% now for two years in a row if this budget was passed. There was more work to do, however, every effort was made to do things in a sustainable way. It was recognised that an increase of 4.95% was not easy for local people, however, in other areas council tax had increased by as much as 10%. The council could not use reserves to plug the gap, sustainability was important, and the council had not dipped in to reserves to make things look better because people would pay for that in the longer run. The council was not prepared to be reckless with people's services or with council tax levels.
- It was important to get figures out to schools as quickly as possible so that they could set their budgets for the next year. The figures of £100,000 on average extra for each primary school and £440,000 extra for each high school would help to keep staff in schools.
- It was important to look to the long term in terms of Children's Services to achieve sustainability and better outcomes for children. Considering how this

could be done whilst also driving change was a key balance to make as a council.

- This budget was the result of a whole authority effort. The collaborative work with Blaenau Gwent was ongoing and savings would be made where possible from the top and not from the frontline. Efforts were being made to be transformative in the way that things were done and to get to the forefront of change in order to deliver a better future.
- He recognised the pressure on staff who were hugely committed to the public they served even though workloads had risen and their pay in real terms had decreased by 20% over the last 15 years. He paid tribute to the staff that worked in and with the council.
- The council recognised that things were tough, and it could help by investing in key services that could keep communities strong and give people the best chance for the future, whilst keeping costs down.
- The scrutiny process was a worthwhile process, and going to scrutiny whilst putting estimates together, and again after receiving the draft budget from Welsh Government, gave members the opportunity to look at the choices that could be made as a council before any final decisions were made.
- He defended the right of all members to ask questions, and he welcomed the valid questions asked about the Capital Programme, which he felt was important for councillors to scrutinise.
- He thanked members for their comments and questions.

9.3 Council agreed, with the majority voting in favour, that:

Part 1 – Revenue Budget 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Plan

i. The budget for 2025/26 and the Medium-Term Financial Plan, as set out in Appendices 1-5 to this report, are approved.

Part 2 – Statutory Council Tax Resolutions

ii. It is noted that at its December 2024 meeting, Cabinet approved the following amounts for the year 2025/26 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Act 1992 (as amended):

a) 34,580 being the amount calculated by the Council 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) The Council Tax base estimate for each Community Council levy for 2025/26 is as follows:

Community Council Area	**Council Tax Base**
Cwmbran	14,037
Pontypool	13,213
Blaenavon	1,969
Henllys	1,152
Croesyceiliog & Llanyrafon	3,474

Ponthir	735

c) Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent proposes the following amounts in precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40(2)(b) of the Local Government Act 1992 for each banding of dwellings:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
251.54	293.46	335.39	377.31	461.16	545.00	628.85	754.62	880.39

iii. The following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2025/26 in accordance with Section 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

a) £351,242,299 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act.
b) £100,945,486 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) (a) to (c) of the Act.
c) £250,296,813 – being the amount by which the aggregate at (iii) (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (iii) (b) calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.
d) £89,000 – being the amount the Authority estimates in relation to Section 37 and 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended), discretionary non-domestic rate relief.
e) £192,215,585 – being the aggregate of the sums the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its Council Fund in respect of the redistribution of Non-Domestic Rates and Revenue Support Grant.
f) £1,682.19 - being the amount at (iii)(c) above plus the amount at (iii)(d) and less the amount at (iii)(e) above all divided by the amount at (ii)(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.
g) £1,897,502 - being the amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
h) £1,627.32 - being the amount at (iii) (f) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (iii) (g) above by the amount at (ii) (a), 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.
i) The County Borough Tax including Community Council Precepts Valuation Bands for 2025/26.

	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	I £
Cwmbran	1,117.79	1,304.08	1,490.39	1,676.68	2,049.28	2,421.87	2,794.47	3,353.36	3,912.25
Pontypool	1,123.98	1,311.31	1,498.64	1,685.97	2,060.63	2,435.29	2,809.95	3,371.94	3,933.93
Blaenavon	1,154.53	1,346.94	1,539.37	1,731.79	2,116.64	2,501.47	2,886.32	3,463.58	4,040.84
Henllys	1,107.33	1,291.88	1,476.44	1,660.99	2,030.10	2,399.20	2,768.32	3,321.98	3,875.64
Croesyceiliog & Llanyrafon	1,114.99	1,300.82	1,486.66	1,672.49	2,044.16	2,415.82	2,787.48	3,344.98	3,902.48
Ponthir	1,110.53	1,295.62	1,480.71	1,665.80	2,035.98	2,406.15	2,776.33	3,331.60	3,886.87

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (iii)(f) above by the number which in the properties set out in Section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by

the number which is that proportion 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 valuations bands.

j) Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts (ii)(c) and (iii)(i) above the Council in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the Council Tax for the year 2025/26 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	A **£**	**B** **£**	**C** **£**	**D** **£**	**E** **£**	**F** **£**	**G** **£**	**H** **£**	**I** **£**
Cwmbran	1,369.33	1,597.54	1,825.78	2,053.99	2,510.44	2,966.87	3,423.32	4,107.98	4,792.64
Pontypool	1,375.52	1,604.77	1,834.03	2,063.28	2,521.79	2,980.29	3,438.80	4,126.56	4,814.32
Blaenavon	1,406.07	1,640.40	1,874.76	2,109.10	2,577.80	3,046.47	3,515.17	4,218.20	4,921.23
Henllys	1,358.87	1,585.34	1,811.83	2,038.30	2,491.26	2,944.20	3,397.17	4,076.60	4,756.03
Croesyceiliog & Llanyrafon	1,366.53	1,594.28	1,822.05	2,049.80	2,505.32	2,960.82	3,416.33	4,099.60	4,782.87
Ponthir	1,362.07	1,589.08	1,816.10	2,043.11	2,497.14	2,951.15	3,405.18	4,086.22	4,767.26

Part 3 – Related plans and assessments

iv. The Reserves Policy, as set out in Appendix 6, is approved.
v. The Virement Policy, as set out in Appendix 7, is approved.
vi. The assessment of equality and wellbeing in Appendix 9 be noted.

Part 4 – Capital & Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators

The Capital Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators, as outlined in Appendix 8, are approved.

10. COUNTY PLAN 2022-27: DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26

10.1 The Chief Executive outlined the report which presented the County Plan Delivery Plan 2025-26 (attached at Appendix 1 to the report) for approval and adoption by Council. The plan outlined the Council's commitments for delivering the County Plan during the 2025-26 financial year.

10.2 The Executive Member, Corporate Governance & Resources, commented as follows:

- The report proposed Torfaen's Delivery Plan 2025/26 for approval by Council.
- Since adopting the County Plan in December 2022, the council had produced and published an Annual Delivery Plan for each financial year. This would continue throughout the lifespan of the County Plan, highlighting the key activities planned for the financial year ahead.
- Appendix 1 set out the latest Annual Delivery Plan describing planned activity that could be used to assess progress during the year ahead.
- As had been done in previous iterations of the Plan, its publication sat alongside the annual budget as it did through the scrutiny process more closely aligning the council's services and financial planning.
- The scrutiny process was extremely useful in helping to fine tune the final product being presented to council today, particularly in ensuring that the Delivery Plan was clear to all members, staff and residents regarding the

council's commitment as it aimed to further strengthen accountability across the council.

- The basket of activities, milestones and performance measures described within the proposed 25/26 Delivery Plan aimed to bring to life the council's commitment to improving the wellbeing of those who lived and worked in Torfaen using the budget available.
- He was happy to recommend the Plan to council for approval.

10.3 Members welcomed the opportunity for Cross Cutting Overview & Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the County Plan Delivery Plan and commented that it was pleasing to see acknowledgement of the key points and inclusion of them in the forward plan. Members hoped that this process continued going forward.

10.4 Council unanimously agreed to approve the Council's delivery plan for 2025-26, aligning its key activity with the Council's agreed budget for the year ahead.

11. THE CHARTER FOR FAMILIES BEREAVED BY PUBLIC TRAGEDY

11.1 The Head of Communications, Elections and Civic Contingencies (HoCE&CC) outlined the report with sought approval for the council's commitment to embedding the principles of the Charter for Families Bereaved by Public Tragedy into its culture, policies, and operational practises. He explained that by adopting this Charter and honouring its principles it would provide the council with a basis to support bereaved families and the community in the aftermath of a major incident. It also highlighted the council's commitment to becoming more people-focused and to providing services that meet people's needs before, during and after an incident.

11.2 Council welcomed the report and the principles outlined in the Charter.

11.3 Council unanimously agreed to approve the adoption of the Charter for Families Bereaved by Public Tragedy and to honour its principles.

12. PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL

12.1 The Business & Democratic Support Services Manager (B&DSSM) outlined the report which provided Council with a proposed protocol for facilitating public speaking at scrutiny committee meetings.

12.2 Members commented in favour of the report and felt that frank conversations with members of the public would strengthen the scrutiny process. Reference was made to the Youth Forum, and members recognised the benefits of actively encouraging the involvement of young people.

12.3 Some concern was expressed around vetting members of the public attending scrutiny. Members were assured that members of the public would be expected to be respectful and to adhere to the protocol, and if this was not the case, the Chair would be expected to intervene.

12.4 Council unanimously agreed to approve the draft Public Speaking at Scrutiny Protocol and to delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer (in consultation with the Members Constitution Working Party) to make the changes required to the Council's Constitution.

13. UPDATE TO POLITICAL BALANCE, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

13.1 The Director Corporate Services & Head of Democratic Services (DCS&HoDS) outlined the report which:

- Informed members of revisions to the political balance of the Council as a result of the By-Election held on 13 February 2025 for the Trevethin & Penygarn Ward,
- Sought agreement to the updated political balance until AGM in May 2025 or until further changes are required.

13.2 Council unanimously agreed:

- the change in political balance and adopted the political balance calculations attached at Appendix A to the report.
- To appoint members to serve on the committees affected by these changes as shown in Appendix B to the report which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

14. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2025

14.1 The Director Corporate Services outlined the report which sought council approval of the 2025 Pay Policy Statement in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

14.2 The Leader welcomed the report and drew member's attention to the following points set out in the Pay Policy Statement which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report:

- Section 1.2 mentioned the continuation of the Foundation Living Wage which was recommended by the foundation rather than the minimum wage and which would be welcomed by the lowest paid staff.
- He welcomed the update in Section 6 on the Joint Chief Executive, a joint post which saved both councils money. It was anticipated that this would lead to more savings in senior leadership costs.
- Section 8.6 outlined the ratio of Chief Executive pay to the median pay in Torfaen, which had decreased to 4.50:1, the guidelines were that organisations stayed below 12:1, which showed that Torfaen's ratio was well within the boundaries of what was recommended by the fair pay reports.
- He welcomed the second table under 8.6 which confirmed the number of Chief Officer grades now at 29 from 31 las year, which confirmed the work being done to work from the top to streamline, make services more efficient, and to get money to the front line.

14.3 Council unanimously agreed to approve the 2025 Pay Policy Statement attached as Appendix 1 to the report as an accurate summary of the council's current policy for the purposes of publication under the Localism Act.

15. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

15.1 Councillor Janet Jones proposed the following motion:

'*Central government is committed over the next decade to halve the number of cases of violence towards women and girls. This a bold statement but one that can only be achieved with support from all local authorities who can take action to stem and turn the tide.*
We need to ensure that:
A. Victims have access to specialist support and are safe.
B. The authority undertakes to fulfil the pledges of the motion.
C. The local authority ensures there is comprehensive education within our schools and colleges on healthy relationships.
D. We undertake regular reviews to ensure that our actions are aligned to statutory guidelines and address the needs of survivors.
E. That this local authority appoints a VAWG CHAMPION who will hold the authority to account and pledges to amplify the voice of survivors.
So much goes on behind closed doors. Women and girls live in fear of speaking out and very often it's too late. Please support the motion.'

15.2 Councillor Janet Jones provided additional data from Lotus Flower Charity which stated that as of August 2024:

- Violence against women and girls had increased across England and Wales by 40% over five years.
- Approximately 20% of reported crime included harassment, stalking, sexual assault and domestic violence, while data from other sources included rape, genital mutilation, forced marriages, exploitation and coercion.
- There appeared to be an increase crime against women and girls in minority groups.
- One in three female suicides were linked to domestic abuse.
- Many victims were left with long term mental health issues.
- It took seven attempts for a woman to leave a violent and abusive relationship.
- Many crimes go unrecorded, and victims have little or no confidence in them being offered access to the necessary support. This is coupled with a failure in the criminal justice system.
- Many girls under the age of 16 suffered abuse and sexual abuse within the home environment, and this often went undetected
- Women and girls lived in fear of speaking out and very often it was too late.

Councillor Jones urged the authority to take action.

15.3 The motion was seconded.

15.4 The motion was welcomed and supported with members commenting in particular as follows:

- International Women's Day was on Saturday 8 March.
- There were more 30 Women's Refuges in Wales.
- Women and girls should not live in fear of speaking out as it was never their fault - they should report all incidents.
- As elected members respected in the community and as school governors respected by young people who observed how they behaved, there was a

need to recognise the importance of being a role model.

- The language of members as role models was powerful, offensive language, written text, song lyrics or banters all sent layers of messaging into the community and created an impression to reinforce the culture of discrimination and abuse against women and girls. It was not ok to use offensive language to or about women and girls, degrade women or girls, devalue women or girls, or to trivialise or normalise offensive or misogynistic language.
- As respected role models within the community, members must call out offensive or harmful language to protect women and girls from future harm.
- It was important to set the tone in terms of expectations.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner of Gwent had recently set up a forum involving local authorities, the police and the third sector to look at ways of tackling this issue. The Executive Member Corporate Governance & Resources had been attended the forums on behalf of the council and would continue to do so.

15.5 A recorded vote was taken, with members voting as shown in the table below, with all 36 members voting in favour of the motion. Council unanimously agreed to support the motion:

COUNCILLOR	**FOR**	**AGAINST**
Stuart Ashley	✓	
Alfie Best	✓	
Catherine Bonera	*Not present for the vote*	
Ron Burnett	*Not present for the vote*	
Nick Byrne	✓	
Richard Clark	✓	
Lynda Clarkson	✓	
Liam Cowles	✓	
Fiona Cross	✓	
David Daniels	✓	
Steven Evans	✓	
Joanne Gauden	✓	
Karl Gauden	✓	
Elizabeth Haynes	*Not present for the vote*	
Nick Horler	✓	
Jon Horlor	✓	
Anthony Hunt	✓	
Gaynor James	✓	
Jon James	✓	
Janet Jones	✓	
Mark Jones	✓	
Peter Jones	✓	
Stuart Keyte	✓	
Rosemary Matthews	✓	
Sue Morgan	✓	
Jason O'Connell	✓	
Amanda Owen	✓	
Norma Parrish	✓	
Caroline Price	✓	

Rose Seabourne	✓	
Nicholas Simons	✓	
Alan Slade	✓	
Chris Tew	✓	
Colette Thomas	✓	
David Thomas	✓	
Jayne Watkins	✓	
David Williams	✓	
Lucy Williams	✓	
Nathan Yeowell	✓	

15.6 Councillor Karl Gauden proposed the following motion:

'This council notes:
The Employment Rights Bill 2024 is a bill that will update and strengthen employment rights in the UK.

Measures being introduced in the bill include;
Ban exploitative zero hours contracts by introducing rights to guaranteed hours.
End unscrupulous "fire and rehire" practices by considering any dismissals for failure to agree a change of contract as automatically unfair
Provide a day one right to protection from unfair dismissal.
Make entitlements to paternity leave from day one of employment.
Introduce a new right to unpaid bereavement leave allowing employees to take from leave from work to grieve the loss of a loved one.
Strengthen employers' duty to prevent sexual harassment of their employees by requiring them to take all reasonable preventative steps
Improve access to Statutory sick pay by removing the lower earnings limit and removing the three day waiting period.
The list above is not exhaustive and the bill includes a raft of measures designed to increase productivity, raise living standards and create opportunities for all.
This council believes:
That the measures contained in the bill represent the biggest upgrade in employment
rights in a generation and that once the bill is passed that the working and family lives
of the residents of Torfaen will be significantly improved
This council resolves to:
Writes to the UK government on behalf of Torfaen residents supporting the measures
contained in the bill.'

15.7 The motion was seconded.

15.8 Members commented in favour of the motion.

15.9 A recorded vote was taken, with members voting as shown in the table below, with 31 members voting in favour of the motion and 3 members voting against the motion. Council agreed, with the majority voting in favour to support the motion:

COUNCILLOR	**FOR**	**AGAINST**
Stuart Ashley	✓	

Alfie Best	✓	
Catherine Bonera	*Not present for the vote*	
Ron Burnett	*Not present for the vote*	
Nick Byrne	✓	
Richard Clark	✓	
Lynda Clarkson	✓	
Liam Cowles	✓	
Fiona Cross	✓	
David Daniels	✓	
Steven Evans	✓	
Joanne Gauden	✓	
Karl Gauden	✓	
Elizabeth Haynes	*Not present for the vote*	
Nick Horler	✓	
Jon Horlor	✓	
Anthony Hunt	✓	
Gaynor James	✓	
Jon James	✓	
Janet Jones	✓	
Mark Jones	✓	
Peter Jones	✓	
Stuart Keyte		✓
Rosemary Matthews	✓	
Sue Morgan	✓	
Jason O'Connell	*Not present for the vote*	
Amanda Owen	✓	
Norma Parrish	✓	
Caroline Price	✓	
Rose Seabourne	✓	
Nicholas Simons	✓	
Alan Slade		✓
Chris Tew	*Not present for the vote*	
Colette Thomas	✓	
David Thomas		✓
Jayne Watkins	✓	
David Williams	✓	
Lucy Williams	✓	
Nathan Yeowell	✓	

16. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

16.1 Member questions with replies are set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

17. CABINET DECISIONS – 14/01/2025

17.1 Council unanimously agreed to note the Cabinet Decisions.

18. CABINET DECISIONS – 04/02/2025

18.1 Council unanimously agreed to note the Cabinet Decisions.

19. CABINET DECISIONS – 18/02/2025

19.1 Council unanimously agreed to note the Cabinet Decisions.

16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

16.1 The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 8 April at 10.00am.

Minutes produced by Dominique Redman, Team Leader Democratic and Member Services on 7 March 2025

Cofnodion CYFARFOD
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL TORFAEN
A gynhaliwyd ddydd Mawrth 4 Mawrth 2025 am 10.00am

Croesawodd yr Aelod Llywyddol bawb i gyfarfod hybrid y Cyngor. Hysbysodd yr Aelod Llywyddol yr Aelodau bod y cyfarfod yn cael ei ddarlledu'n fyw ac y byddai recordiad o'r cyfarfod hefyd ar gael i'w wylio yn y dyfodol. Atgoffodd yr Aelodau a oedd yn cymryd rhan ar Teams i ddefnyddio'r bar sgwrsio i nodi pan roeddynt eisiau siarad ac i gadw eu microffonau'n dawel pan nad oeddynt yn siarad. Gofynnodd hefyd i'r aelodau ddefnyddio eu camerâu ar gyfer y cyfarfod cyfan fel y amlinellir yn y Cyfarwyddyd Statudol yn Adran 4 Mesur Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) 2011 ac yn unol â'r Polisi Cyfarfodydd Hybrid a fabwysiadwyd gan y Cyngor.

1 YN BRESENNOL

Cynghorwyr:

Rose Seabourne (Cadeiryddr)

Stuart Ashley
Alfie Best
Catherine Bonera
Ron Burnett
Nick Byrne
Richard Clark (Dirprwy Arweinydd)
Lynda Clarkson
Liam Cowles
Fiona Cross
David Daniels
Giles Davies
Steven Evans
Joanne Gauden
Karl Gauden
Elizabeth Haynes
Jon Horlor
Nick Horler
Anthony Hunt (Arweinydd)
Gaynor James
Jon James
Janet Jones
Mark Jones
Peter Jones
Stuart Keyte
Rosemary Matthews
Susan Morgan
Jason O'Connell
Amanda Owen
Norma Parrish
Caroline Price
Nicholas Simons
Alan Slade
Chris Tew
Colette Thomas
David Thomas
Jayne Watkins
David Williams
Lucy Williams
Nathan Yeowell

Swyddogion:
Louise Day, Rheolwr Cyfathrebu
Robert Green, Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Ariannol
Rebecca Fahey-Jones, Arweinydd Tîm Craffu
Delyth Harries, Swyddog Monitro a Phrif Swyddog Cyfreithiol Cynorthwyol
Neil Jones, Pennaeth Cyfathrebu, Ymgysylltu a Digwyddiadau Sifil Posibl
Dave Leech, Cyfarwyddwr Strategol, Oedolion a Chymunedau
Andrew Lovegrove, Cyfarwyddwr Strategol Adnoddau
Robert Green, Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Ariannol
Jason Lewis, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol a Phennaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd
Dominique Redman, Arweinydd Tîm Gwasanaethau Democrataidd ac Aelodau
Tom Roberts, Rheolwr Gwasanaethau Cefnogi Busnes a Democrataidd
Jason O'Brien, – Cyfarwyddwr Strategol, Gwasanaethau Plant a Theuluoedd
Chris Slade, Arweinydd Cynorthwyol Tîm Gwasanaethau Democrataidd ac Aelodau
Stephen Vickers, Prif Weithredwr
Dave Weaver, Swyddog Cyllid Grŵp

Eraill Yn bresennol:

Cynrychiolwyr Partneriaeth Natur Leol Blaenau Gwent a Thorfaen
Cynrychiolwyr Ysgol Gynradd Pontnewydd
Cynrychiolwyr Cyngor Ieuenctid Torfaen
2 Aelod o'r wasg a'r cyhoedd

2. YMDDIHEURIADAU AM ABSENOLDEB

2.1 Derbyniwyd ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan y Cynghorydd Giles Davies.

3. DATGAN BUDDIANNAU

3.1 Cyfeiriodd y Swyddog Monitro a Phrif Swyddog Cyfreithiol Cynorthwyol (SMPhSCC) at Eitem 9 ar yr Agenda, Cyllideb 2025-26 a Chynllun Ariannol Tymor Canolig 2025/26 a dywedodd wrth aelodau y byddai ganddynt fuddiant personol os oedden nhw'n aelod o Gyngor Cymuned. Cyfeiriodd hefyd at Eitem 10 yr Agenda, Cynllun Sirol 2022-27: Cynllun Cyflawni 2025-26 a oedd yn cyfeirio at Gynghorau Cymuned, sef Blaenafon, Pont-y-pŵl a Chwmbrân a dywedodd wrth aelodau o'r cynghorau cymuned hynny y byddai ganddynt hefyd fuddiant personol mewn perthynas â'r eitem hon. Cadarnhaodd yr aelodau canlynol eu buddiannau personol:

<u>Aelodau o Gyngor Cymuned Pont-y-pŵl, Y Cynghorwyr:</u>
Nick Byrne
Lynda Clarkson
Jon Horler
Gaynor James
Jon James
Rosemary Matthews
Caroline Price
Nicholas Simons

<u>Aelodau o Gyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân, Y Cynghorwyr:</u>
Stuart Ashley
David Thomas
Peter Jones
Sue Morgan

<u>Aelod o Gyngor Cymuned Henllys, Y Cynghorwyr:</u>
Ron Burnett
Colette Thomas

<u>Aelod o Gyngor Cymuned Croesyceiliog a Llanyrafon, Y Cynghorydd:</u>
David Williams

<u>Aelod o Gyngor Tref Blaenafon, Y Cynghorydd:</u>
Liam Cowles

3.2 Cyfeiriodd y SMPhSCC at Eitem 14 ar Agenda, Datganiad Polisi Tâl 2025 a dywedodd

wrth aelodau y byddai ganddynt fuddiant personol a niweidiol pe bai ganddynt gydymaith personol agos a oedd yn gweithio i'r awdurdod lleol. Eglurodd fod y Polisi Tâl yn cynnwys y Gwasanaeth Adnoddau a Rennir (SRS), ond nid oedd yn cynnwys athrawon na staff cymorth. Cadarnhaodd yr Aelodau canlynol eu buddiannau personol a niweidiol:

Y Cynghorwyr:
Janet Jones
Alan Slade
Jayne Watkins
Joanne Gauden
Colette Thomas
Rose Seabourne

3.3 Eglurodd y SMPhSCC y byddai'r Cynghorydd Stuart Ashley, Dirprwy Aelod Llywyddol, yn cadeirio'r cyfarfod ar gyfer Eitem 16 ar Agenda, Datganiad Polisi Tâl 2025, gan fod gan yr Aelod Llywyddol fuddiant sy'n niweidiol. Dywedodd hefyd y dylai pob swyddog adael y cyfarfod ar gyfer yr eitem hon ar yr agenda gan fod cynnwys yr adroddiad yn berthnasol iddyn nhw. Cytunodd yr aelodau y gallai Jason Lewis, Cyfarwyddwr – Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol, a Swyddogion Gwasanaethau Democrataidd sef Dominique Redman a Chris Slade a oedd yn cynorthwyo gyda gweithrediad y cyfarfod aros ar gyfer yr eitem hon.

4. CADARNHAU COFNODION – 21/01/2025

4.1 Cadarnhaodd y Cyngor fod cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ar 21 Ionawr 2025 yn gywir.

5. Y DIWEDDARAF AM Y CAMAU GWEITHREDU

5.1 Nododd y Cyngor y daflen weithredu.

6. DEISEBAU A DDERBYNIWYD

6.1 Ni chafwyd unrhyw ddeisebau.

7. CWESTIYNAU GAN Y CYHOEDD

7.1 Ni chafwyd unrhyw gwestiynau gan y cyhoedd.

8. CYHOEDDIADAU GAN YR ARWEINYDD NEU'R PRIF WEITHREDWR

8.1 Yr Arweinydd:

- Croesawodd yr Arweinydd y Cynghorydd Stuart Keyte a oedd wedi ennill isetholiad yn ddiweddar i wasanaethu fel cynghorydd ward Trefddyn a Phen-y-garn ochr yn ochr â'r Cynghorydd Jon Horlor.
- Cyfeiriodd at yr astudiaeth achos gadarnhaol a gynhyrchwyd gan Estyn ar Gyngor Torfaen a'r arferion effeithiol yn dilyn yr arolygiad diweddaraf. Dywedodd wrth y cyngor fod hyn wedi cael ei gyhoeddi ar wefan Estyn, a dywedodd ymhellach fod cyhoeddi arfer effeithiol yn ffordd wych o rannu gwybodaeth a dysgu.

- Cyfeiriodd at y cyfleuster parcio a theithio newydd yng Ngorsaf Reilffordd Pont-y-pŵl a'r Dafarn Newydd a agorodd ddydd Gwener diwethaf. Dywedodd wrth y cyngor bod y cyfleuster yn cynnwys 129 o fannau parcio cyffredinol, 11 o leoedd parcio hygyrch, cilfachau beiciau modur, mannau diogel i feiciau a chilfachau gollwng, pont droed newydd, a lifftiau sy'n addas ar gyfer cadeiriau olwyn a beiciau. Dywedodd fod y prosiect wedi cael ei ariannu gan Brifddinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd, Llywodraeth Cymru a'r cyngor, a'i fod yn un o'r cyntaf i gael ei gwblhau fel rhan o gynllun Metro Prifddinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd i greu system Metro De Cymru. Mae'r gwaith hwn wedi cynnwys:
  - Gwelliannau i'r platfform a'r ardal eistedd
  - Gwell teledu cylch cyfyng a goleuo
  - Systemau gwybodaeth newydd i gwsmeriaid a phwynt cymorth

  Roedd yn gobeithio y byddai'r cyfleuster newydd yn annog mwy o bobl i ddefnyddio'r orsaf, gan arwain at gynnydd mewn gwasanaethau trenau.
- Cyfeiriodd at Ddiwrnod Myfyrdod COVID-19 2025 a oedd yn Ddiwrnod Myfyrio ledled y DU a fyddai'n cael ei gynnal ddydd Sul 9 Mawrth 2025, ac roedd yn un o'r deg argymhelliad a nodwyd gan Gomisiwn y DU ar Goffáu Covid. Eglurodd fod pobl ledled y DU, i nodi pum mlynedd ers y pandemig, wedi cael gwahoddiad i ddod at ei gilydd i gofio a myfyrio ar y cyfnod unigryw o hanes yn ogystal â'u profiadau eu hunain. Bydd y diwrnod yn gyfle i'r cyhoedd gofio a choffáu'r rhai a gollodd eu bywydau yn ystod y pandemig, myfyrio ar yr aberth a wnaed a'r effaith ar fywydau bob dydd, a thalu teyrnged i waith staff iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol, gweithwyr rheng flaen, a phawb a wirfoddolodd ac a ddangosodd garedigrwydd yn ystod y cyfnod digynsail hwn. Dywedodd y byddai'r cyngor hefyd yn helpu grŵp cymorth lleol i nodi Diwrnod Rhyngwladol Ymwybyddiaeth Covid Hir ar 15fed Mawrth trwy oleuo'r ganolfan ddinesig yn wyrddlas. Dywedodd wrth y cyngor bod y grŵp cymorth yn cyfarfod yng Nghanolfan Byw Egnïol Pont-y-pŵl ddwywaith y mis.
- Croesawyd Prif Fachgen a Phrif Ferch Ysgol Gynradd Pontnewydd i dderbyn Gwobr Ddinesig ar ran yr ysgol i gydnabod eu cyfraniad eithriadol at gwblhau Prosiect Coedwig Fechan, a gysegrwyd er cof am eu diweddar Bennaeth, Kerry Waters, a fu farw ym mis Hydref 2024. Eglurodd fod disgyblion o'r Meithrin hyd at flwyddyn 6, eu rhieni ac aelodau teuluol wedi plannu coed, ochr yn ochr â'r athrawon, llywodraethwyr, chwaraewyr o Glwb Pêl-droed Casnewydd, Clwb Rygbi'r Dreigiau a busnesau o'r gymuned leol. Roedd yr ardal newydd ar dir yr ysgol oedd â 600 o goed yn cael ei hadeiladu gyda chyllid gan Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri Genedlaethol. Byddai'r prosiect hwn yn galluogi'r plant i gael mwy o wersi ym myd natur.
- Croesawodd Steve Williams a oedd yn adnabyddus i lawer o'i rôl ecolegol flaenorol yn y Cyngor cyn iddo ymddeol, ac a oedd yn derbyn Gwobr Ddinesig ar ran Partneriaeth Natur Leol Blaenau Gwent a Thorfaen i gydnabod eu 25 mlynedd yn cydweithio er budd y gymuned. Eglurodd fod y bartneriaeth wedi gweithio'n ddiflino dros 25 mlynedd i wella natur ledled y fwrdeistref gan gynnwys cynnal digwyddiad blynyddol Go Wild yn ystod nifer o'r blynyddoedd hynny, gan roi cyfle i bobl ddathlu natur leol. Yn ystod y pum mlynedd diwethaf, roedden nhw wedi elwa o gyllid gan Leoedd Lleol ar gyfer Natur ac, yn y cyfnod hwnnw, wedi plannu miloedd o goed, wedi creu gwrychoedd a pherllannau, wedi annog newid mewn rheolaeth ymylon ffyrdd ac wedi cefnogi grwpiau cymunedol i greu gerddi a mannau eraill ar gyfer natur. Dywedodd ymhellach fod Cymru eleni hefyd yn ystyried ac yn dathlu 10 mlynedd o Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol, ac roedd y Bartneriaeth Natur Leol yn enghraifft wych o sut y gallai gwahanol sefydliadau ac unigolion gydweithio i gyflawni nod cyffredin. Diolchodd i Steve a oedd yn parhau i fod yn rhan weithredol o'r bartneriaeth - ynghyd â llawer o rai eraill sy'n gwirfoddoli eu hamser i'r achos pwysig hwn a diolchodd hefyd i Veronika

Brannovic sef y Cydlynydd y Bartneriaeth ac a fu'n aelod am dros 20 mlynedd.

- Croesawyd aelodau o Gyngor Ieuenctid Pont-y-pŵl a roddodd gyflwyniad ar eu Profiad Gefeillio ym Mharis a ddigwyddodd yn ystod haf 2024. Diolchodd i Gynghorau Cymuned am gefnogi Profiadau Gefeillio a oedd yn cynnig cyfleoedd gwerthfawr i blant ifanc.

8.2 Llongyfarchodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd aelodau Cyngor Ieuenctid Pont-y-pŵl ar eu cyflwyniad, gan gydnabod nad oedd yn hawdd sefyll yn y Siambr a chyflwyno i'r Aelodau. Soniodd am y cyfleoedd gwych sy'n gysylltiedig â'r profiad gefeillio, yn enwedig wrth nesáu at 80 mlynedd ers y Rhyfel yn Ewrop.

8.3 Fel Arweinydd Cyngor Cymuned Pont-y-pŵl, soniodd y Cynghorydd Gaynor James am y cyfleoedd anhygoel i blant ifanc ymweld â gwledydd Ewrop, a llongyfarchodd Aelodau Cyngor Ieuenctid Pont-y-pŵl.

8.4 Gwnaeth aelodau eraill sylwadau ar ba mor dda oedd gweld plant ifanc yn y Siambr ac anogon nhw ymgysylltiad â phlant ifanc yn y dyfodol.

8.5 Canmolodd y Prif Weithredwr feddwl cyflym a gweithredoedd y gweithiwr Brian Moylan a oedd yn aelod o'r Tîm Gwastraff. Eglurodd fod Peter Scott, cyn Pennaeth Ysgol Gyfun Abersychan, yn gynnar ym mis Ionawr, wedi cael trawiad ar y galon wrth ymweld â swyddfa bost leol. Yn ddiweddar, roedd Brian wedi cwblhau cwrs gloywi cymorth cyntaf, a gyda chymorth aelodau eraill o'r criw a redodd allan o'r swyddfa bost i rybuddio Brian o'r argyfwng, roedd Brian yn ddigon hyderus i wneud CPR am tua 20 munud nes i'r ambiwlans gyrraedd a dywedwyd wrtho fod y CPR wedi achub bywyd Peter. Erbyn hyn roedd Peter wedi cwrdd â Brian a'r tîm oedd wedi cael sioc gan y profiad. Canmolodd y Prif Weithredwr waith y criw yn ehangach a diolchodd iddynt am gamu i'r adwy yn yr argyfwng. Cymeradwyodd y Cyngor Brian a'r tîm a diolch iddynt am eu rhan wrth achub bywyd Peter.

9. CYLLIDEB 2025/26 A'R CYNLLUN ARIANNOL TYMOR CANOLIG

9.1 Amlinellodd y Cyfarwyddwr Strategol Adnoddau (CSA) yr adroddiad a oedd yn ceisio cymeradwyaeth o:

- Y gyllideb refeniw ar gyfer 2025/26
- Lefel Treth y Cyngor ar gyfer 2025/26
- Y Cynllun Ariannol Tymor Canolig ar gyfer 2026/27 i 2029/30
- Y Polisi Trosglwyddo Arian
- Polisi Arian Wrth Gefn
- Strategaeth Rheoli'r Cyfalaf a'r Trysorlys, gan gynnwys y Dangosyddion Darbodus

9.2 Dywedodd y CSA fel a ganlyn:

- Diolchodd i'r Cabinet a'r holl aelodau eraill am eu hymgysylltiad llawn drwy gydol y broses o osod cyllideb ar gyfer 25/26, ac i Nigel Aurelius am drosglwyddo cyfrifoldebau Swyddog a151 yn rhwydd cyn iddo ymddeol.
- Roedd y gyllideb yn weithgaredd cyngor cyfan gan gynnwys y Tîm Gweithredol, yr Arweinyddiaeth ac uwch reolwyr a oedd wedi ymwneud yn llwyr â'r broses.
- Fel Cyngor Marmot roedd y gyllideb yn canolbwyntio ar sicrhau bod y cyngor yn gwario arian i gefnogi Egwyddorion Marmot, ac wrth gyflawni'r Cynllun Sirol.
- Roedd y broses o osod cyllideb yn dasg barhaus a ddechreuodd fis Mawrth

diwethaf, ac, ar y pryd, dangosodd y Cynllun Ariannol fod y bwlch dros gyfnod bedair blynedd yn fwy na £35miliwn. Roedd yn falch o adrodd bod gan y cyngor gyllideb gytbwys ar gyfer 2025/26 yn cael ei chyflwyno iddynt heddiw, ac roedd y bwlch am y pedair blynedd nesaf yn dangos gwelliant ac roedd nawr ychydig dros £9 miliwn.

- Roedd y gyllideb a argymhellwyd yn cynnwys cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor a oedd yn un o'r isaf yng Nghymru.
- Roedd cyngor yn gweithredu sawl cynllun i helpu aelwydydd incwm isel ac anogwyd trigolion i gysylltu os oes angen unrhyw gymorth arnynt.
- Roedd yn bwysig i drigolion dalu eu treth gyngor mewn modd amserol gan fod hyn yn talu am wasanaethau rheng flaen.
- Croesawyd y setliad gan Lywodraeth Cymru ac roedd yn fwy na'r hyn a gynlluniwyd yn wreiddiol. Roedd rhagor o waith i'w wneud o hyd gyda'r Cynllun Ariannol i bontio'r bwlch ac roedd y gwaith hwn yn parhau.
- Roedd y Cynllun Trawsnewid Gwasanaethau Plant yn un o'r heriau sylweddol oedd yn wynebu'r cyngor. Roedd hwn yn ddarn sylweddol o waith i adolygu a gwella'r ffordd yr oedd y cyngor yn cefnogi teuluoedd a phobl ifanc. Byddai'r pwysau costau presennol yn parhau am rywfaint eto, ac roedd y gyllideb yn rhagdybio'r defnydd o gronfeydd wrth gefn wedi'u clustnodi i bontio'r bwlch, fodd bynnag, roedd hyder y gellid gwneud y newidiadau ac y gellid dychwelyd y gyllideb i gydbwysedd yn barhaus.
- Gan gyfeirio at y Rhaglen Gyfalaf, roedd buddsoddiad wedi bod mewn ysgolion, priffyrdd, ailgylchu, Fferm Greenmeadow, y Grantiau Cyfleusterau Sifil a chyfraniadau i Brifddinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd.
- Fel Swyddog A151, roedd angen iddo fod yn fodlon bod lefel y cronfeydd wrth gefn yn briodol, a bod y rhagdybiaethau a ddefnyddiwyd i osod y gyllideb yn gadarn ac yn briodol.
- Roedd lefelau presennol y cronfeydd wrth gefn yn uwch na'r hyn a ragwelwyd yn y Cynllun Ariannol flwyddyn yn ôl, ac roedd y papurau'n dangos disgwyliad o rywfaint o ddefnydd cymedrol o gronfeydd wrth gefn yn ystod y blynyddoedd i ddod, ond roedd yn dal yn gyffyrddus bod y defnydd a ragwelir o gronfeydd wrth gefn a'r gweddillion yn briodol.
- Roedd yn bwysig nad oedd y cyngor yn dod yn hunanfodlon a'i fod yn cyflawni'r arbedion arfaethedig wrth iddynt gael eu mapio allan yn y gyllideb. Roedd hefyd yn bwysig bod y dreth gyngor yn cael ei thalu a'i chasglu a bod y cyngor yn parhau i gydnabod y risgiau yr oedd yn eu hwynebu, fodd bynnag, roedd yn gyfforddus bod y gyllideb a oedd yn cael ei chyflwyno yn un y gellir ei chyflawni ac yn briodol.

Dywedodd yr Arweinydd fel a ganlyn:

- Roedd adran 3.3 yr adroddiad yn amlinellu sut y dechreuwyd ar broses y gyllideb ar gyfer 2025/26 12 mis yn ôl, lle rhagwelwyd bwlch cyllido o bron i £20 miliwn. Roedd gwaith wedi'i wneud i bontio'r bwlch hwnnw drwy arbedion effeithlonrwydd, ad-drefnu'r ffordd yr oedd pethau'n cael eu gwneud, a rhoi gwasanaethau a diogelu'r rheng flaen yn gyntaf bob amser. Diolchodd i holl aelodau'r Cabinet a Chraffu am eu mewnbwn i'r broses, ac roedd yn gwerthfawrogi dull y pwyllgor craffu gan ei fod yn rhoi cyfle i'r aelodau archwilio'r cynigion yn y cam amcangyfrifon yn yr hydref, yn ogystal ag yn y cam arbedion drafft yn y Flwyddyn Newydd.
- Roedd y setliad o 4.8% wedi gwneud gwahaniaeth enfawr, gan roi dros £7m yn ychwanegol i'r cyngor fuddsoddi mewn gwasanaethau lleol a chadw biliau i lawr. Nid oedd hyn wedi gwneud pethau'n hawdd, fodd bynnag, roedd yn golygu y gallai'r cyngor ail-fuddsoddi arbedion effeithlonrwydd mewn blaenoriaethau

allweddol, gan gynnwys ysgolion, gofal cymdeithasol, trawsnewid gwasanaethau plant ac atgyweirio ffyrdd.

- Roedd paragraff 3.15 yr adroddiad yn amlinellu'r prif flaenoriaethau yr oedd y gyllideb yn eu cyflawni, gan gynnwys cynnydd yng nghyllideb ysgolion sy'n cynnwys cyllid o £5.4m i ysgolion; yr ail gyfran o gyllid ar gyfer ehangu Ysgol Arbennig Crownbridge; buddsoddiad pellach mewn cymorth ADY sy'n gysylltiedig ag ysgolion a chyllid ar gyfer pwysau galw ar Drafnidiaeth Ysgol ac ADY; cyllid i gydnabod effaith cynnydd o 5% yn y Cyflog Byw Gwirioneddol ar ddarparwyr Gofal Cymdeithasol sy'n darparu ar gyfer pwysau sy'n gysylltiedig â gwasanaethau gofal a gomisiynwyd; cyllid ychwanegol i Ofal Cymdeithasol i Oedolion i gynnal gwasanaethau ar lefelau galw o tua 1,030 o gleientiaid; cyllid ychwanegol i helpu Gwasanaethau Plant gyda'u cynllun trawsnewid; £385,000 ar gyfer gwasanaethau gwastraff a £227,000 ar gyfer addysg a gorfodaeth gwastraff, i helpu i gadw cyfraddau ailgylchu i wella a chynnal casgliadau biniau bob pythefnos; £250,000 i barhau â'r cynllun cyflogaeth/prentisiaeth i'r rhai sy'n gadael yr ysgol; arian ychwanegol tuag at Gynllun Gostyngiadau'r Dreth Gyngor a oedd ar hyn o bryd yn helpu 9,426 o aelwydydd ar draws Torfaen; a chyllid ychwanegol ar gyfer atgyweirio priffyrdd dros y ddwy flynedd nesaf a oedd yn cydnabod awydd y cyhoedd i fuddsoddi mewn arwynebau ffyrdd.
- Cyfeiriodd at rai o'r gwasanaethau a ddarparwyd gan y cyngor nad oeddent wedi'u hamlygu yn adroddiad y gyllideb:
- Nid oedd talu i barcio ym meysydd parcio'r cyngor.
- Roedd y cyngor wedi cadw casgliadau biniau gwastraff gweddilliol pob pythefnos ar gyfer y flwyddyn i ddod, tra'n gweithio'n galed i gynyddu ailgylchu a lleihau gwastraff.
- Roedd y Cynllun Gostyngiadau'r Dreth Gyngor yn 100% ac roedd yn helpu bron i 10,000 o aelwydydd ledled y fwrdeistref.
- Roedd y Gwasanaeth Chwarae'n gwella bywydau cymaint o bobl ifanc a'u teuluoedd, yn enwedig y rhai ag anghenion ychwanegol neu anableddau.
- Roedd llyfrgelloedd ar agor, ac roedd gwaith i fuddsoddi ynddynt yn parhau.
- Roedd gwaith yn mynd rhagddo i gadw biliau i lawr ac amddiffyn gwasanaethau lleol. Roedd y cyngor yn gwneud newidiadau, yn gyrru effeithlonrwydd, yn gwneud penderfyniadau anodd ac yn diogelu gwasanaethau rheng flaen. Nid oedd unrhyw gau cyfleusterau na thoriadau i wasanaethau craidd yn y gyllideb.
- Diolch i'r aelodau, roedd ysgolion wedi bod yn un o'r prif flaenoriaethau ariannu yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, gyda chyllid yn y gyllideb i fyny £6.7 miliwn a fyddai'n helpu i gadw athrawon a staff cynorthwyol i helpu pobl ifanc i ddysgu a ffynnu.
- Er gwaethaf y gwaith enfawr a wnaed gan Raglen Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif, roedd rhagor o waith i'w wneud mewn ysgolion uwchradd ac, ochr yn ochr â'r Dirprwy Arweinydd, byddai'n parhau i weithio gyda Llywodraeth Cymru i wneud popeth o fewn ei allu i fuddsoddi mewn cyfleusterau yn y dyfodol.
- Fel pob cyngor arall ar draws y DU, roedd angen buddsoddiad mewn ffyrdd. Gyda chymorth Llywodraeth Cymru, byddai gwaith yn dechrau ar raglen fuddsoddi ddigynsail yn ffyrdd y cyngor, gan ganolbwyntio ar y ffyrdd lleol yng nghymunedau'r cyngor. Byddai £3m ychwanegol yn cael ei fuddsoddi dros y ddwy flynedd nesaf, ar ben y cynnydd a gytunwyd yn flaenorol mewn cyllid i drwsio ffyrdd. Nid oedd hyn yn golygu y byddai pob ffordd yn cael ei hatgyweirio ar unwaith, ond roedd yn gynllun cadarnhaol, ymarferol a realistig i wneud gwahaniaeth go iawn.
- Roedd preswylwyr hŷn neu'r rhai ag anableddau neu afiechydon yn dibynnu ar wasanaethau gofal cymdeithasol a byddai £1m yn ychwanegol yn cael ei fuddsoddi yn y gwasanaethau hyn. Mae'r Gwasanaethau Oedolion hefyd wedi'u

diogelu rhag gorfod gwneud toriadau niweidiol i wasanaethau.

- Mae tua £500,000 o Grant Cymorth Tai ychwanegol wedi'i ddyrannu, gan gynnwys helpu i dalu'r cyflog byw gwirioneddol mewn gwasanaethau a gomisiynwyd, i gynyddu cyllid i bobl ifanc sy'n wynebu digartrefedd ac i gefnogi'r rhai ag anghenion cymhleth yn well.
- Roedd y Gwasanaethau Plant yn gweithio ar gynllun trawsnewid, i sicrhau gwell canlyniadau i'r bobl ifanc hynny ac i wneud y gwasanaeth yn fwy cynaliadwy yn y tymor hir. Roedd y gyllideb yn darparu'r buddsoddiad sydd ei angen i gyflawni'r gwelliannau hynny.
- Roedd gwaith yn mynd rhagddo gyda thrigolion i ailgylchu mwy a gwastraffu llai. Byddai'r buddsoddiad ychwanegol yn helpu i gyflawni'r cynllun hwn tra'n cadw casgliadau bob pythefnos ar gyfer gwastraff gweddilliol .
- Roedd £250,000 yn ychwanegol yn cael ei fuddsoddi i barhau â chynllun y brentisiaeth y cyngor i'r rhai sy'n gadael yr ysgol, gan roi swyddi i bobl ifanc. Roedd hyn yn cydnabod yr angen i hyfforddi'r genhedlaeth nesaf o weithwyr gwasanaethau lleol i gadw gwasanaethau hanfodol i fynd.
- Y cynnydd arfaethedig yn Nhreth y Cyngor o 4.95% oedd yr ail gynnydd isaf arfaethedig yng Nghymru ar hyn o bryd, yn dilyn ymlaen o'r isaf neu'r cyfartal isaf yng Nghymru dros y tair blynedd diwethaf. Erbyn hyn Torfaen oedd â'r pumed dreth gyngor isaf yng Nghymru. Roedd y Cynllun Gostyngiadau'r Dreth Gyngor yn un o'r cynlluniau mwyaf hael yn y DU, a oedd yn helpu bron i 10,000 o aelwydydd yn Nhorfaen.

Cafwyd trafodaeth ac ar y cyfan canmolodd yr aelodau'r broses o osod y gyllideb. Mewn ymateb i gwestiynau a sylwadau gan aelodau, nodwyd y pwyntiau canlynol:

- Roedd rhewi treth y cyngor yn benderfyniad tymor byr a oedd yn costio mwy yn y tymor hir. Roedd cynghorau a oedd wedi rhewi treth y cyngor wedi cael eu gorfodi i godi llawer yn uwch yn y blynyddoedd canlynol, digidau dwbl yn aml, a arweiniodd at dorri neu gau gwasanaethau hanfodol.
- Roedd y gyllideb yn parhau i ddarparu dros £380k i grwpiau cymunedol, lleoliadau ac elusennau a oedd yn cyflawni yn ôl amcanion y Cyngor o'r Cynllun Sirol trwy Raglen Grantiau Mawr Trydydd Sector y cyngor. Darparwyd dros 200 o gymwysterau chwaraeon i bobl yn Nhorfaen, ac roedd £3.3 miliwn wedi'i fuddsoddi yng Nghronfa Ffyniant Gyffredin 2025/26 yn ogystal ag atal, cymorth, grantiau cymunedol a chomisiynau gyda'r trydydd sector.
- Roedd yn braf gweld targedu tuag at y rhai sydd â'r angen mwyaf, megis parhad y CGTC, gyllidebau uwch i ysgolion a mwy o gronfeydd cyfalaf a refeniw. Y gobaith oedd y gallai'r cyngor fod mewn sefyllfa i gadw'r cynnydd y dreth gyngor yn isel am y tymor hir.
- Roedd pob ymdrech yn cael ei wneud i ateb pwysau, ac roedd gan y cyngor hanes da o wneud hyn tra'n cadw'r dreth gyngor mor isel â phosibl. 4.95% oedd y ffigwr uchaf yn y CATC. Byddai'r cyngor yn parhau i weithio i gadw biliau mor isel â phosibl, fodd bynnag, roedd angen cael cydbwysedd a sicrhau bod y gylideb yn iawn.
- Roedd buddsoddiad wedi bod mewn gwasanaethau o fewn gofal oedolion a chymdeithasol. Roedd y cynnydd yn y dreth gyngor yn galluogi buddsoddiad mewn plant a phobl ifanc i ad-drefnu gwasanaethau, a gwasanaethau oedolion. Roedd pobl yn byw'n hirach gydag anghenion mwy cymhleth ac roedd angen buddsoddi i arbed arian. Byddai'r cynnydd o 5% i ddarparwyr gofal cymdeithasol i'w galluogi i dalu'r cyflog byw go iawn yn cadw pobl yn y sector.
- Cafodd penderfyniadau ymwybodol i roi ysgolion ar flaen yr agenda a'r gronfa ariannu. Roedd cyllidebau a dderbyniwyd ar gyfer ysgolion yn cael eu trosglwyddo

bron yn llwyr iddynt. Roedd y Gwasanaethau Plant yn bwysig ac nid oedd amheuaeth bod pwysau ariannol, fodd bynnag, roedd y cyngor wedi parhau i ddiogelu'r plant yr oedd yn gyfrifol amdanynt. Byddai canlyniad hirdymor edrych ar yr hyn a ddarparwyd gan y cyngor a sut yr oedd yn cael ei ddarparu yn arwain at ffocws mwy darbodus, mwy effeithlon, a chanlyniadau gwell i blant.

- Cyflawnodd holl ymdrech yr awdurdod yn y broses o osod cyllideb y lefelau uchaf o effeithlonrwydd ac economeiddio. Roedd gwasanaethau amgylcheddol wedi cydweithio yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf drwy flaenoriaethu a gwneud eu gorau i ddarparu gwasanaethau dan bwysau gwirioneddol.
- Roedd Cyllid Cyfalaf ar gyfer safle'r British yn gyllid cyfredol.
- Roedd Swmpio a Beilio'n broses barhaus fel rhan o'r gyllideb refeniw.
- Ar dudalen 165 o dan Gynnal a Chadw Asedau yn 29/30, roedd '1' ar goll o'r cyfalaf craidd, dylai'r ffigwr ddarllen £1,460,000.
- Er nad oedd aelodau'r cyhoedd eisiau cynnydd yn nhreth y cyngor, roedd cefnogaeth ysgubol ar gyfer ariannu meysydd fel ysgolion, priffyrdd a gofal cymdeithasol. Roedd yn anodd bodloni'r awydd aruthrol am fuddsoddiad heb godi refeniw.

Dywedodd yr Arweinydd fel a ganlyn:

- Roedd yn bwysig i'r cyngor fuddsoddi yn yr heolydd a'r llwybrau troed mewn cymunedau ac amgylcheddau lleol mewn ffordd gynaliadwy.
- Roedd yn bwysig cydnabod effaith penderfyniadau'r cyngor ar aelodau mwyaf bregus y gymuned. Roedd y cyngor yn darparu nifer o wasanaethau gweladwy, fodd bynnag, darparwyd nifer o wasanaethau cyfrinachol hefyd a, heb y gwasanaethau hyn, efallai na fydd aelodau bregus o'r gymuned yn gallu byw'n annibynnol a gellid trawsnewid eu bywydau mewn ffordd negyddol.
- Bu'n rhaid i'r cyngor feddwl am y tymor hir, a meddwl am yr hyn y gellid ei wneud i ymyrryd ynghynt i atal y cynnydd yn y galw am wasanaethau difrifol. Roedd angen meddwl hefyd am gynaliadwyedd o ran staffio. Ar draws llywodraeth leol roedd mwy o swyddi gwag nag erioed a mwy o broblem gyda chadw staff, yn enwedig mewn rhai ardaloedd. Roedd angen edrych i'r tymor hir ac ystyried yr hyn y gellid ei wneud i sicrhau y gallai pobl y dyfodol ddarparu'r gwasanaethau hyn.
- Dylid cydnabod hanes y cyngor o ran treth y cyngor. Y cynnydd o 1.95% ddwy flynedd yn olynol, a 4.95% bellach am ddwy flynedd yn olynol pe bai'r gyllideb hon yn cael ei phasio. Roedd mwy o waith i'w wneud, serch hynny, roedd pob ymdrech yn cael ei wneud i wneud pethau mewn ffordd gynaliadwy. Cydnabuwyd nad oedd cynnydd o 4.95% yn hawdd i bobl leol, fodd bynnag, mewn ardaloedd eraill roedd y dreth gyngor wedi cynyddu cymaint â 10%. Ni allai'r cyngor ddefnyddio cronfeydd wrth gefn i lenwi'r bwlch, roedd cynaliadwyedd yn bwysig, ac nid oedd y cyngor wedi mynd i gronfeydd wrth gefn i wneud i bethau edrych yn well gan y byddai pobl yn talu am hynny yn y tymor hirach. Nid oedd y cyngor yn barod i fod yn fyrbwyll gyda gwasanaethau pobl na gyda lefelau'r dreth gyngor.
- Roedd yn bwysig cael ffigurau allan i ysgolion cyn gynted â phosibl fel y gallent osod eu cyllidebau ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf. Byddai'r ffigyrau o £100,000 yn ychwanegol ar gyfartaledd ar gyfer pob ysgol gynradd a £440,000 yn ychwanegol ar gyfer pob ysgol uwchradd yn helpu i gadw staff mewn ysgolion.
- Roedd yn bwysig edrych i'r tymor hir o ran Gwasanaethau Plant er mwyn sicrhau cynaliadwyedd a chanlyniadau gwell i blant. Roedd ystyried sut y gellid gwneud hyn wrth ysgogi newid ar yr un pryd yn gydbwysedd allweddol i'w wneud fel cyngor.
- Roedd y gyllideb hon yn ganlyniad ymdrech awdurdod gyfan. Roedd y gwaith cydweithredol gyda Blaenau Gwent yn mynd rhagddo a byddai arbedion yn cael

eu gwneud lle bo hynny'n bosibl o'r brig ac nid o'r rheng flaen. Roedd ymdrechion yn cael eu gwneud i fod yn drawsnewidiol yn y ffordd yr oedd pethau'n cael eu gwneud ac arwain o ran newid er mwyn sicrhau dyfodol gwell.

- Roedd yn cydnabod y pwysau ar staff a oedd yn ymrwymedig dros ben fawr i'r cyhoedd yr oeddent yn eu gwasanaethu, er bod llwythi gwaith wedi cynyddu ac roedd eu cyflog mewn termau real wedi gostwng 20% dros y 15 mlynedd diwethaf. Talodd deyrnged i'r staff oedd yn gweithio yn a gyda'r cyngor.
- Roedd y cyngor yn cydnabod bod pethau'n anodd, a gallai helpu drwy fuddsoddi mewn gwasanaethau allweddol a allai gadw cymunedau'n gryf a rhoi'r cyfle gorau i bobl ar gyfer y dyfodol, gan gadw costau i lawr.
- Roedd y broses graffu yn broses werth chweil, ac roedd mynd ati i graffu wrth roi amcangyfrifon at ei gilydd, ac eto ar ôl derbyn y gyllideb ddrafft gan Lywodraeth Cymru, yn rhoi cyfle i aelodau edrych ar y dewisiadau y gellid eu gwneud fel cyngor cyn gwneud unrhyw benderfyniadau terfynol.
- Amddiffynnodd hawl pob aelod i ofyn cwestiynau, a chroesawodd y cwestiynau dilys a ofynnwyd am y Rhaglen Gyfalaf, yr oedd yn bwysig i gynghorwyr graffu arni yn ei farn ef.
- Diolchodd i'r Aelodau am eu sylwadau a'u cwestiynau.

9.3 Cytunodd y Cyngor, trwy fwyafrif:

Rhan 1 - Cyllideb 2025/26 a'r Cynllun Ariannol Tymor Canolig

vii. Y cymeradwyir y gyllideb ar gyfer 2025/26 a'r Cynllun Ariannol Tymor Canol, fel y nodir yn Atodiadau 1-5 i'r adroddiad hwn.

Rhan 2 – Penderfyniadau Statudol Treth y Cyngor

viii. Y nodir i'r Cabinet, yn ei gyfarfod Rhagfyr 2024, gymeradwyo'r symiau canlynol ar gyfer y flwyddyn 2025/26 yn unol â'r rheoliadau o dan Adran 33(5) Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1992 (fel y'i diwygiwyd):

a) 34,580 sef y swm gyfrifwyd gan y Cyngor yn unol â rheoliad 3 Rheoliadau Awdurdodau Lleol (Cyfrifo Sylfaen Treth Gyngor) (Cymru) 1995 (fel y'i diwygiwyd), fel sylfaen Treth y Cyngor ar gyfer y flwyddyn.

b) Mae'r acangyfrifon sylfaen Treth y Cyngor ar gyfer ardoll pob Cyngor Cymuned ar gyfer 2025/26 fel a ganlyn:

Ardal y Cyngor Cymuned	**Sylfaen Treth y Cyngor**
Cwmbrân	14,037
Pont-y-pŵl	13,213
Blaenafon	1,969
Henllys	1,152
Croesyceiliog a Llanyrafon	3,474
Ponthir	735

c) Mae Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throsedd Gwent yn cynnig y symiau canlynol mewn praesept i'r Cyngor, yn unol ag Adran 40(2)(b) Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1992 ar gyfer pob band aelwydydd:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
251.54	293.46	335.39	377.31	461.16	545.00	628.85	754.62	880.39

ix. Bod y symiau canlynol yn cael eu cyfrif nawr gan y Cyngor ar gyfer y flwyddyn 2025/26 yn unol ag Adrannau 32 i 36 Deddf Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol 1992:

a) £351,242,299 - sef cyfanswm y symiau y mae'r Cyngor yn amcangyfrif ar gyfer yr eitemau yn Adran 32(2) (a) i (e) y Ddeddf.
b) £100,945,486 - sef cyfanswm y symiau y mae'r Cyngor yn amcangyfrif ar gyfer yr eitemau yn Adran 32(3) (a) i (c) y Ddeddf.
c) £250,296,813 - sef y swm ble mae'r cyfanswm yn (iii) (a) uchod yn fwy na'r cyfanswm yn (iii) (b) a gyfrifwyd gan y Cyngor, yn unol ag Adran 32(4) y ddeddf, fel gofyniad y gyllideb ar gyfer y flwyddyn.
d) £89,000 - sef y swm y mae'r Awdurdod yn amcangyfrif mewn perthynas ag Adrannau 37 a 49 Deddf Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol (fel y'i diwygiwyd), gollyngiad o'r dreth annomestig yn ôl disgresiwn.
e) £192,215,585 - sef cyfanswm y symiau y mae'r Cyngor yn amcangyfrif bydd yn daladwy am y flwyddyn i mewn i Gronfa'r Cyngor mewn perthynas ag ailddosbarthu Trethi Annomestig a'r Grant Cynnal Refeniw.
f) £1,682.19 - sef y swm yn (iii)(c) uchod a'r swm yn (iii)(d) a thynnu i ffwrdd y swm yn (iii)(e) uchod a rhannu'r cwbl gyda'r swm yn (ii)(a) uchod a gyfrifwyd gan y Cyngor yn unol ag Adran 33(1) y Ddeddf, fel swm sylfaenol Treth y Cyngor eleni.
g) £1,897,502 - sef cyfanswm yr holl eitemau arbennig y cyfeirir atynt yn Adran 34(1) y Ddeddf.
h) £1,627.32 - sef y swm yn (iii) (f) uchod a thynnu'r swm a geir o rannu'r swm yn (iii) (g) uchod gan y swm yn (ii) (a), a gyfrifwyd gan y Cyngor, yn unol ag Adran 34(2) y Ddeddf, fel y swm sylfaenol ar gyfer Treth y Cyngor i aelwydydd yn y rhannau hynny o'i ardal nad oes unrhyw eitem arbennig yn berthnasol iddynt.
i) Treth y Fwrdeistref Sirol gan gynnwys Bandiau Prisio Praeseptau Cynghorau Cymuned ar gyfer 2025/26.

	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	I £
Cwmbrân	1,117.79	1,304.08	1,490.39	1,676.68	2,049.28	2,421.87	2,794.47	3,353.36	3,912.25
Pont-y-pŵl	1,123.98	1,311.31	1,498.64	1,685.97	2,060.63	2,435.29	2,809.95	3,371.94	3,933.93
Blaenafon	1,154.53	1,346.94	1,539.37	1,731.79	2,116.64	2,501.47	2,886.32	3,463.58	4,040.84
Henllys	1,107.33	1,291.88	1,476.44	1,660.99	2,030.10	2,399.20	2,768.32	3,321.98	3,875.64
Croesyceiliog a Llanyrafon	1,114.99	1,300.82	1,486.66	1,672.49	2,044.16	2,415.82	2,787.48	3,344.98	3,902.48
Ponthir	1,110.53	1,295.62	1,480.71	1,665.80	2,035.98	2,406.15	2,776.33	3,331.60	3,886.87

Sef y symiau a geir trwy luosi'r swm yn (iii)(f) uchod gyda'r rhif sydd, yn yr eiddo a restrir yn Adran 5 (1) y Ddeddf, yn berthnasol i'r aelwydydd a restrir mewn band prisio penodol wedi ei rannu gan y rhif sydd y rhan honno sy'n berthnasol i aelwydydd a restrir ym Mand Prisio D a gyfrifwyd gan y Cyngor yn Adran 36(1) y Ddeddf, fel y symiau i'w hystyried ar gyfer y flwyddyn mewn perthynas â chategorïau aelwydydd a restrir mewn bandiau prisio gwahanol.

j) Bod y Cyngor, ar ôl cyfrif y cyfansymiau yn achosion y symiau (ii)(c) a (iii)(i) uchod, yn unol ag Adran 30(2) Deddf Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol, yn gosod y symiau canlynol fel Treth Cyngor ar gyfer y flwyddyn 2025/26 ar gyfer pob un o'r categorïau aelwydydd a ddangosir isod:

	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	I £
Cwmbrân	1,369.33	1,597.54	1,825.78	2,053.99	2,510.44	2,966.87	3,423.32	4,107.98	4,792.64
Pont-y-pŵl	1,375.52	1,604.77	1,834.03	2,063.28	2,521.79	2,980.29	3,438.80	4,126.56	4,814.32
Blaenafon	1,406.07	1,640.40	1,874.76	2,109.10	2,577.80	3,046.47	3,515.17	4,218.20	4,921.23
Henllys	1,358.87	1,585.34	1,811.83	2,038.30	2,491.26	2,944.20	3,397.17	4,076.60	4,756.03
Croesyceiliog a Llanyrafon	1,366.53	1,594.28	1,822.05	2,049.80	2,505.32	2,960.82	3,416.33	4,099.60	4,782.87
Ponthir	1,362.07	1,589.08	1,816.10	2,043.11	2,497.14	2,951.15	3,405.18	4,086.22	4,767.26

Rhan 3 – Cynlluniau ac asesiadau cysylltiedig

x. Mae'r Polisi Arian Wrth Gefn, fel nodir yn Atodiad 6, yn cael ei gymeradwyo.
xi. Mae'r Polisi Trosglwyddo Arian, fel y nodir yn Atodiad 7, yn cael ei gymeradwyo.
xii. Mae'r asesiad o gydraddoldeb a lles yn Atodiad yn cael ei nodi.

Rhan 4 - Strategaeth Rheoli'r Trysorlys a Chyfalaf a Dangosyddion Darbodus

Mae'r Strategaeth Gyfalaf, Strategaeth Rheoli'r Trysorlys a Dangosyddion Darbodus, fel yr amlinellir yn Atodiad 8, yn cael eu cymeradwyo.

10. CYNLLUN SIROL 2022-27: CYNLLUN CYFLAWNI 2025-26

10.1 Amlinellodd y Prif Weithredwr yr adroddiad a oedd yn cyflwyno Cynllun Cyflawni'r Cynllun Sirol 2025-26 (sydd ynghlwm fel Atodiad 1 i'r adroddiad) i'w gymeradwyo a'i fabwysiadu gan y Cyngor. Roedd y cynllun yn amlinellu ymrwymiadau'r Cyngor ar gyfer cyflawni'r Cynllun Sirol yn ystod blwyddyn ariannol 2025-26.

10.2 Dywedodd yr Aelod Gweithredol, Llywodraethu Corfforaethol ac Adnoddau fel a ganlyn:

- Roedd yr adroddiad yn cynnig Cynllun Cyflawni Torfaen 2025/26 i'w gymeradwyo gan y Cyngor.
- Ers mabwysiadu'r Cynllun Sirol ym mis Rhagfyr 2022, roedd y cyngor wedi llunio a chyhoeddi Cynllun Cyflawni Blynyddol ar gyfer pob blwyddyn ariannol. Byddai hyn yn parhau drwy gydol oes y Cynllun Sirol, gan dynnu sylw at y gweithgareddau allweddol a gynlluniwyd ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol sydd i ddod.
- Mae Atodiad 1 yn nodi'r Cynllun Cyflawni Blynyddol diweddaraf sy'n disgrifio gweithgarwch a gynlluniwyd ac y gellid ei ddefnyddio i asesu cynnydd yn ystod y flwyddyn i ddod.
- Fel y gwnaed mewn fersiynau blaenorol o'r Cynllun, roedd ei gyhoeddiad yn cyd-fynd â'r gyllideb flynyddol fel y gwnaeth trwy'r broses graffu gan alinio gwasanaethau'r cyngor a chynllunio ariannol yn agosach.
- Roedd y broses graffu yn hynod ddefnyddiol wrth helpu i fireinio'r gyllideb derfynol a oedd yn cael ei chyflwyno i'r cyngor heddiw, yn enwedig wrth sicrhau bod y Cynllun Cyflawni yn glir i'r holl aelodau, staff a phreswylwyr ynghylch ymrwymiad y cyngor wrth iddo anelu at gryfhau atebolrwydd ymhellach ar draws y cyngor.
- Nod y fasged o weithgareddau, cerrig milltir a mesurau perfformiad a ddisgrifir yn y Cynllun Cyflawni 25/26 arfaethedig oedd dod ag ymrwymiad y cyngor yn fyw i wella lles y rhai a oedd yn byw ac yn gweithio yn Nhorfaen gan ddefnyddio'r gyllideb sydd ar gael.
- Roedd yn hapus i argymell y Cynllun i'r cyngor i'w gymeradwyo.

10.3 Croesawodd yr Aelodau'r cyfle i'r Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Trawsbynciol graffu ar Gynllun Cyflawni'r Cynllun Sirol a dywedon nhw ei fod yn braf gweld cydnabyddiaeth o'r pwyntiau allweddol a'u cynnwys yn y blaengynllun. Roedd yr aelodau yn gobeithio y byddai'r broses hon yn parhau yn y dyfodol.

10.4 Cytunodd y Cyngor yn unfrydol i gymeradwyo cynllun cyflawni'r Cyngor ar gyfer 2025-26, gan alinio ei weithgarwch allweddol â chyllideb y Cyngor ar gyfer y flwyddyn i ddod.

11. Y SIARTER I DEULUOEDD MEWN PROFEDIGAETH TRWY DRYCHINEB GYHOEDDUS

11.1 Amlinellodd y Pennaeth Cyfathrebu, Etholiadau ac Argyfyngau Dinesig (PCEAG) yr adroddiad a oedd yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth ar gyfer ymrwymiad y cyngor i ymgorffori egwyddorion y Siarter i Deuluoedd Mewn Profedigaeth Trwy Drychineb Cyhoeddus yn ei ddiwylliant, ei bolisïau a'i arferion gweithredol. Eglurodd y byddai'r cyngor, drwy fabwysiadu'r Siarter hon ac anrhydeddu ei egwyddorion, yn rhoi sail i'r cyngor gefnogi teuluoedd mewn profedigaeth a'r gymuned yn sgil digwyddiad mawr. Tynnodd sylw hefyd at ymrwymiad y cyngor i ganolbwyntio mwy ar bobl ac i ddarparu gwasanaethau sy'n diwallu anghenion pobl cyn, yn ystod ac ar ôl digwyddiad.

11.2 Croesawodd y Cyngor yr adroddiad a'r egwyddorion a amlinellir yn y Siarter.

11.3 Cytunodd y Cyngor yn unfrydol i gymeradwyo mabwysiadu'r Siarter ar gyfer Teuluoedd sydd mewn Profedigaeth oherwydd Trychineb Cyhoeddus ac i anrhydeddu ei egwyddorion.

12. PROTOCOL SIARAD CYHOEDDUS

12.1 Amlinellodd y Rheolwr Gwasanaethau Cymorth Busnes a Democrataidd (RhGCBD) yr adroddiad a oedd yn rhoi protocol arfaethedig i'r Cyngor ar gyfer hwyluso siarad cyhoeddus mewn cyfarfodydd pwyllgorau craffu.

12.2 Gwnaeth yr Aelodau sylw o blaid yr adroddiad ac roeddyn nhw'n teimlo y byddai sgyrsiau gonest gydag aelodau'r cyhoedd yn cryfhau'r broses graffu. Cyfeiriwyd at y Fforwm Ieuenctid, ac roedd yr aelodau'n cydnabod manteision annog cyfranogiad pobl ifanc.

12.3 Mynegwyd rhywfaint o bryder ynghylch pwyso a mesur aelodau o'r cyhoedd a oedd yn bresennol yn y broses graffu. Rhoddwyd sicrwydd i'r Aelodau y byddai disgwyl i aelodau'r cyhoedd fod yn barchus a chadw at y protocol, ac os nad felly oedd pethau, byddai disgwyl i'r Cadeirydd ymyrryd.

12.4 Cytunodd y Cyngor yn unfrydol i gymeradwyo'r Protocol drafft Siarad Cyhoeddus mewn Cyfarfodydd Craffu a dirprwyo awdurdod i'r Swyddog Monitro (mewn ymgynghoriad â Gweithgor yr Aelodau ar y Cyfansoddiad) i wneud y newidiadau sydd eu hangen i Gyfansoddiad y Cyngo

13. Y DIWEDDARAF AM Y CYDBWYSEDD GWLEIDYDDOL, CADEIRYDDION PWYLLGORAU AC AELODAETH PWYLLGORAU

13.1 Amlinellodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol a Phennaeth Gwasanaethau Democrataidd (CGCPhGD) yr adroddiad a oedd yn:

- Rhoi gwybod i'r Aelodau am o ddiwygiadau i gydbwysedd gwleidyddol y Cyngor o ganlyniad i'r Isetholiad a gynhaliwyd ar 13 Chwefror 2025 ar gyfer Ward Trefddyn a Phen-y-garn,
- Ceisio cytundeb i'r cydbwysedd gwleidyddol wedi'i ddiweddaru tan y Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol ym mis Mai 2025 neu hyd nes y bydd angen newidiadau pellach.

13.2 Cytunodd y Cyngor yn unfrydol:

- y newid mewn cydbwysedd gwleidyddol a mabwysiadodd aelodau'r cyfrifiadau cydbwysedd gwleidyddol yn Atodiad A i'r adroddiad.
- Penodi aelodau i wasanaethu ar y pwyllgorau yr effeithiwyd arnynt gan y newidiadau hyn fel y dangosir yn Atodiad B i'r adroddiad a gylchredwyd cyn y cyfarfod.

14. DATGANIAD POLISI CYFLOG 2025

14.1 Amlinellodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol yr adroddiad a oedd yn ceisio cymeradwyaeth y Cyngor o'r Datganiad Polisi Cyflog 2025 yn unol â Deddf Lleoliaeth 2011.

14.2 Croesawodd yr Arweinydd yr adroddiad a thynnodd sylw'r Aelodau at y pwyntiau canlynol a nodwyd yn y Datganiad Polisi Cyflog a atodwyd fel Atodiad 1 i'r adroddiad:

- Soniodd Adran 1.2 am barhad y Cyflog Byw Sylfaenol a argymhellwyd gan y sefydliad yn hytrach na'r isafswm cyflog ac a fyddai'n cael ei groesawu gan y staff ar y cyflogau isaf.
- Croesawodd y diweddariad yn Adran 6 am y Cyd-Brif Weithredwr, swydd ar y cyd a oedd yn arbed arian i'r ddau gyngor. Rhagwelwyd y byddai hyn yn arwain at fwy o arbedion mewn costau uwch arweinyddiaeth
- Amlinellodd Adran 8.6 gymhareb cyflog Prif Weithredwr i'r cyflog canolrif yn Nhorfaen, a oedd wedi gostwng i 4.50:1, y canllawiau oedd bod sefydliadau'n aros o dan 12:1, a oedd yn dangos bod cymhareb Torfaen ymhell o fewn ffiniau'r hyn a argymhellwyd gan yr adroddiadau cyflog teg.
- Croesawodd yr ail dabl o dan 8.6 a oedd yn cadarnhau fod nifer y graddau Prif Swyddogion bellach yn 29, i lawr o 31 llynedd, a oedd yn cadarnhau'r gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud i weithio o'r brig i'r symleiddio, gwneud gwasanaethau'n fwy effeithlon, ac i gael arian i'r rheng flaen.

14.3 Cytunodd y Cyngor yn unfrydol i gymeradwyo'r Datganiad Polisi Cyflog ar gyfer 2025, fel y'i cyflwynir yn Atodiad 1 yr adroddiad, fel crynodeb cywir o bolisi cyflog presennol y Cyngor at ddibenion cyhoeddiad o dan Ddeddf Lleoliaeth.

15. CYNIGION Â RHYBUDD

15.1 Cynigiodd Y Cynghorydd Janet Jones y canlynol:

'*Mae llywodraeth ganolog wedi ymrwymo dros y degawd nesaf i haneru nifer yr achosion o drais yn erbyn menywod a merched. Mae hwn yn ddatganiad beiddgar ond yn un sy'n gallu cael ei gyflawni dim ond gyda chefnogaeth gan bob awdurdod lleol sy'n gallu*

gweithredu i atal a throi'r llanw.
Mae'n rhaid i ni sicrhau:
A. Bod gan ddioddefwyr fynediad at gymorth arbenigol a'u bod yn ddiogel.
B. Bod yr awdurdod yn ymrwymo i gyflawni addewidion y cynnig.
C. Bod yr awdurdod lleol yn sicrhau bod addysg gynhwysfawr yn ein hysgolion a'n colegau ar berthnasoedd iach.
D. Ein bod yn cynnal adolygiadau rheolaidd i sicrhau bod ein gweithredoedd yn cyd-fynd â chanllawiau statudol ac yn mynd i'r afael ag anghenion goroeswyr.
E. Bod yr awdurdod lleol hwn yn penodi HYRWYDDWR TRAIS YN ERBYN MENYWOD A MERCHED a fydd yn dal yr awdurdod i gyfrif ac yn addo i gynyddu llais goroeswyr. Mae cymaint yn digwydd y tu ôl i ddrysau caeedig. Mae menywod a merched yn byw mewn ofn o siarad ac yn aml iawn, mae'n rhy hwyr. Cefnogwch y cynnig os gwelwch yn dda.'

15.2 Rhoddodd y Cynghorydd Janet Jones ddata ychwanegol gan Elusen Lotus Flower a nododd ym mis Awst 2024:

- Bod trais yn erbyn menywod a merched wedi cynyddu 40% ar draws Cymru a Lloegr dros bum mlynedd.
- Roedd tua 20% o'r troseddau a adroddwyd yn cynnwys aflonyddu, stelcio, ymosodiad rhywiol a thrais domestig, tra bod data o ffynonellau eraill yn cynnwys treisio, anffurfio organau rhywiol, priodasau dan orfodaeth, ecsbloetio a gorfodaeth.
- Roedd yn ymddangos bod mwy o droseddau yn erbyn menywod a merched mewn grwpiau lleiafrifol.
- Roedd un o bob tri achos o ferched yn lladd eu hunain yn gysylltiedig â cham-drin domestig.
- Gadawyd llawer o ddioddefwyr â phroblemau iechyd meddwl hirdymor.
- Roedd yn cymryd saith ymgais i fenyw adael perthynas dreisgar a chamdriniol.
- Mae llawer o droseddau'n mynd heb eu cofnodi, ac nid oes gan ddioddefwyr fawr o hyder os o gwbl o gael cynnig y gefnogaeth angenrheidiol. Mae hyn ochr yn ochr â methiant yn y system cyfiawnder troseddol.
- Roedd llawer o ferched o dan 16 oed yn dioddef camdriniaeth a cham-drin rhywiol yn y cartref, ac yn aml nid oedd yn cael ei ganfod
- Roedd menywod a merched yn byw mewn ofn o siarad ac yn aml iawn roedd hi'n rhy hwyr.

Anogodd y Cynghorydd Jones yr awdurdod i weithredu.

15.3 Eiliwyd y cynnig.

15.4 Croesawyd a chefnogwyd y cynnig gydag aelodau'n gwneud sylwadau'n benodol fel a ganlyn:

- Byddai Diwrnod Rhyngwladol y Menywod ar ddydd Sadwrn 8 Mawrth.
- Roedd mwy na 30 o lochesi merched yng Nghymru.
- Ni ddylai menywod a merched fyw mewn ofn o godi eu llais gan nad oedd yn fai arnynt byth - dylent roi gwybod am bob digwyddiad.
- Fel aelodau etholedig a oedd yn cael eu parchu yn y gymuned ac fel llywodraethwyr ysgol oedd yn cael eu parchu gan bobl ifanc a oedd yn gweld sut yr oedden nhw'n ymddwyn, roedd angen cydnabod pwysigrwydd bod yn enghreifftiau da.
- Roedd iaith yr aelodau fel enghreifftiau da yn iaith bwerus. Roedd iaith, testun

ysgrifenedig, geiriau caneuon neu dynnu coes sarhaus i gyd yn danfon negeseuon niferus i'r gymuned ac roedden nhw'n creu argraff a oedd yn atgyfnerthu'r diwylliant o wahaniaethu a cham-drin yn erbyn menywod a merched. Nid oedd yn iawn i ddefnyddio iaith sarhaus tuag at neu am fenywod a merched, diraddio menywod neu ferched, dibrisio menywod neu ferched, na bychanu neu normaleiddio iaith sarhaus neu misogynistaidd.

- Fel modelau rôl uchel eu parch yn y gymuned, mae'n rhaid i aelodau herio iaith sarhaus neu niweidiol i amddiffyn menywod a merched rhag niwed yn y dyfodol.
- Roedd yn bwysig gosod y naws o ran disgwyliadau.
- Yn ddiweddar, roedd Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddu Gwent wedi sefydlu fforwm yn cynnwys awdurdodau lleol, yr heddlu a'r trydydd sector i edrych ar ffyrdd o fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn. Roedd yr Aelod Gweithredol Llywodraethu Corfforaethol ac Adnoddau wedi bod yn bresennol yn y fforymau ar ran y cyngor a byddai'n parhau i wneud hynny.

15.5 Cafwyd pleidlais a gofnodwyd, gyda'r aelodau'n pleidleisio fel y dangosir yn y tabl isod, gyda'r 36 aelod yn pleidleisio o blaid y cynnig. Cytunodd y Cyngor gefnogi'r cynnig yn unfrydol:

CYNGHORYDD	**O BLAID**	**YN ERBYN**
Stuart Ashley	✓	
Alfie Best	✓	
Catherine Bonera	*Ddim yn bresennol ar gyfer y bleidlais*	
Ron Burnett	*Ddim yn bresennol ar gyfer y bleidlais*	
Nick Byrne	✓	
Richard Clark	✓	
Lynda Clarkson	✓	
Liam Cowles	✓	
Fiona Cross	✓	
David Daniels	✓	
Steven Evans	✓	
Joanne Gauden	✓	
Karl Gauden	✓	
Elizabeth Haynes	*Ddim yn bresennol ar gyfer y bleidlais*	
Nick Horler	✓	
Jon Horlor	✓	
Anthony Hunt	✓	
Gaynor James	✓	
Jon James	✓	
Janet Jones	✓	
Mark Jones	✓	
Peter Jones	✓	
Stuart Keyte	✓	
Rosemary Matthews	✓	
Sue Morgan	✓	
Jason O'Connell	✓	
Amanda Owen	✓	
Norma Parrish	✓	
Caroline Price	✓	
Rose Seabourne	✓	
Nicholas Simons	✓	

Alan Slade	✓	
Chris Tew	✓	
Colette Thomas	✓	
David Thomas	✓	
Jayne Watkins	✓	
David Williams	✓	
Lucy Williams	✓	
Nathan Yeowell	✓	

15.6 Cynigiodd y Cynghorydd Karl Gauden y cynnig canlynol:

'Mae'r cyngor hwn yn nodi:
bod y Mesur Hawliau Cyflogaeth 2024 yn fesur a fydd yn diweddaru ac yn cryfhau hawliau cyflogaeth yn y DU.

Mae'r mesurau sy'n cael eu cyflwyno yn y Bil yn cynnwys;
Gwahardd contractau sero oriau ecsbloetiol trwy gyflwyno hawliau i oriau gwarantedig.
Dod ag arferion "diswyddo ac ailgyflogi" diegwyddor i ben trwy ystyried unrhyw ddiswyddo am fethiant i gytuno ar newid cytuneb fel rhywbeth sy'n annheg yn awtomatig
Rhoi hawl diwrnod cyntaf i amddiffyniad rhag diswyddo annheg.
Rhoi hawl i absenoldeb tadolaeth o ddiwrnod cyntaf cyflogaeth.
Cyflwyno hawl newydd i absenoldeb profedigaeth di-dâl a fydd yn caniatáu i gyflogeion fod yn absennol o'r gwaith i alaru am golli rhywun annwyl.
Cryfhau dyletswydd cyflogwyr i atal aflonyddu rhywiol ar eu gweithwyr drwy ei gwneud yn ofynnol iddynt gymryd pob cam rhesymol i atal
Gwella mynediad at dâl salwch statudol drwy gael gwared ar y terfyn enillion is a dileu'r cyfnod aros o dri diwrnod.
Nid yw'r rhestr uchod yn gynhwysfawr ac mae'r mesur yn cynnwys llu o fesurau sydd wedi'u cynllunio i gynyddu cynhyrchiant, codi safonau byw a chreu cyfleoedd i bawb.
Mae'r cyngor hwn yn credu:
Bod y mesurau a gynhwysir yn y mesur yn cynrychioli'r gwelliant mwyaf mewn hawliau cyflogaeth mewn cenhedlaeth ac unwaith y bydd y mesur wedi cael ei basio y bydd bywydau gwaith a theuluol trigolion Torfaen yn cael eu gwella'n sylweddol
Mae'r Cyngor hwn yn penderfynu:
Ysgrifennu at lywodraeth y DU ar ran trigolion Torfaen i gefnogi'r darpariaethau yn y mesur.'

15.7 Eiliwyd y cynnig.

15.8 Gwnaeth Aelodau sylwadau o blaid y cynnig.

15.9 Cymerwyd pleidlais a gofnodwyd, gyda'r aelodau'n pleidleisio fel y dangosir yn y tabl isod, gyda 31 aelod yn pleidleisio o blaid y cynnig a 3 aelod yn pleidleisio yn erbyn y cynnig. Cytunodd y Cyngor, gyda'r mwyafrif yn pleidleisio o blaid, i gefnogi'r cynnig:

CYNGHORYDD	**O BLAID**	**YN ERBYN**
Stuart Ashley	✓	
Alfie Best	✓	
Catherine Bonera	*Ddim yn bresennol ar gyfer y bleidlais*	
Ron Burnett	*Ddim yn bresennol ar gyfer y bleidlais*	
Nick Byrne	✓	
Richard Clark	✓	

Lynda Clarkson	✓	
Liam Cowles	✓	
Fiona Cross	✓	
David Daniels	✓	
Steven Evans	✓	
Joanne Gauden	✓	
Karl Gauden	✓	
Elizabeth Haynes	*Ddim yn bresennol ar gyfer y bleidlais*	
Nick Horler	✓	
Jon Horlor	✓	
Anthony Hunt	✓	
Gaynor James	✓	
Jon James	✓	
Janet Jones	✓	
Mark Jones	✓	
Peter Jones	✓	
Stuart Keyte		✓
Rosemary Matthews	✓	
Sue Morgan	✓	
Jason O'Connell	*Ddim yn bresennol ar gyfer y bleidlais*	
Amanda Owen	✓	
Norma Parrish	✓	
Caroline Price	✓	
Rose Seabourne	✓	
Nicholas Simons	✓	
Alan Slade		✓
Chris Tew	*Ddim yn bresennol ar gyfer y bleidlais*	
Colette Thomas	✓	
David Thomas		✓
Jayne Watkins	✓	
David Williams	✓	
Lucy Williams	✓	
Nathan Yeowell	✓	

16. CWESTIYNAU GAN YR AELODAU

16.1 Mae cwestiynau'r aelodau a'r atebion wedi eu nodi yn Atodiad A sydd ynghlwm wrth y cofnodion hyn.

17. PENDERFYNIADAU'R CABINET – 14/01/2025

17.1 Cytunodd y Cyngor yn unfrydol i nodi Penderfyniadau'r Cabinet.

18. PENDERFYNIADAU'R CABINET – 04/02/2025

18.1 Cytunodd y Cyngor yn unfrydol i nodi Penderfyniadau'r Cabinet.

19. PENDERFYNIADAU'R CABINET – 18/02/2025

19.1 Cytunodd y Cyngor yn unfrydol i nodi Penderfyniadau'r Cabinet.

16. DYDDIAD AC AMSER Y CYFARFOD NESAF

16.1 Nodwyd y byddai'r cyfarfod nesaf ddydd Mawrth 8 Ebrill am 10.00am.

Cofnodion gan Dominique Redman, Arweinydd Tîm Gwasanaethau Democrataidd ac Aelodau ar 7 Mawrth 2025

COUNCIL MEETING – 4 MARCH 2025 - MEMBER QUESTIONS

	Question:	Reply:
1.	From Councillor Janet Jones: A recent newspaper article states that Blaenau Gwent council is looking into the possibility of operating a four-day week. As many companies, including Bron Afon are trailing this working practice, is it something that Torfaen Council are considering.	Councillor Anthony Hunt, Leader: Thank you for your question. There are no plans to introduce a four day week at Torfaen Council. We have just appointed Stephen as Joint Chief Executive with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. We will be looking at collaboration and transformation to sustain our services for the long term. As part of this we will start to look at a new workforce strategy to deliver services to our community to ensure we have a fit for purpose workforce. That will look at how we attract and retain staff, as well as how we organise ourselves in the most efficient way, to save money from the top of the organisation to be put into services at the front line. The savings in salary from sharing a Chief Executive is just the first step in those efforts, and we will update council as they take shape. There are many challenges to adopting a four day week that would need to be fully explored and understood, including the impact that such a decision might have upon our ability to deliver services over a full week within existing limited resources.
2.	From Councillor Janet Jones: Can you please explain why Blaenavon Heritage School remains the only school within the borough without a secure perimeter fence. Surely this should sound alarm bells as to the safety of staff, pupils and all involved within the campus together with leisure centre staff who operate after school hours.	Councillor Richard Clark, Executive Member Children, Families & Education Thank you Councillor Jones. The site of Blaenavon Heritage Voluntary Controlled School was purposefully designed to be open plan. As you know, it is a community campus with the school, leisure centre and medical practice centre sited together. Given concerns raised indeed only yesterday I received an email from the Chair of governors, Officers in the Economy & Environment Service have been investigating whether it would be possible to

		instal a fence but at present it does not appear to be covered by permitted development rights and would probably require planning permission for a standard fence of the sort typical at other sites. As such the officer's progressing the issues have therefore been asked to explore design options that would preserve the character and appearance of the site and wider World Heritage Site. I am assured that officers will continue to keep the school and local members informed about progress as and when it occurs. Parallel to this the education service is looking at funding options.
3.	From Councillor Nick Horler: Commoners and others are continually raising concerns about off-roaders that are blighting our landscapes. With the breeding season of our wildlife and lambing soon to arrive and I believe the Shared Prosperity fund is due to finish in April in the current format. What is TCBC doing as a collective approach with other organisations to deal with offroading within our Heritage site as this destruction that is been caused by unnecessary wheels that many are saying is becoming an environmental impact with the land torn up cannot continue as we are the safe guarders of the landscapes for generations that come after us.	Councillor Peter Jones, Executive Member Corporate Governance & Resources: Thank you Councillor Horler. The Council's work to tackle this problem, which I agree is a nuisance and causes environmental damage, involves collaborative efforts between my own Community Safety Team and Councillor Owen's Environment Team. In response to concerns expressed by yourself and the Executive Member for Environment, Safer Torfaen has recently prioritised off-road biking, acknowledging the impact it has on our community. Whilst the UK funded SPF project comes to end in March, we are encouraged that Gwent Police has confirmed the appointment of a specialist team dedicated to this issue and have appointed a full-time staff member, specifically to tackle off-roading biking. Safer Torfaen have recommended that part of the role should include developing a communications strategy to share positive news about interventions and enforcement with the community. Gwent Police and the Community Safety Team are collaborating with partners to support a broader approach to tackling the problem.
4.	From Councillor Nick Horler: Residents are raising justified concerns of rubbish within the roadside verges that are the Gateways to our World Heritage site, expressly on the A4043 from Cwmavon to Blaenavon. This is currently an embarrassment and myself and Cllr Jones are having conversations with Street Clean to deal with this	Councillor Amanda Owen, Executive Member, Environment Thank you Cllr Horlor for your question. I do share your concerns and frustration about rubbish being deposited along road verges throughout the borough, blighting our communities.

	concern that is becoming a rubbish magnet. Please can we as members have reassurance that matters to keep on top of this environmental issue can be kept up as a minimum in having regular litter picks along these gateways to our Heritage site, with Coms highlighting to residents that it is not good to litter our countryside and the ongoing cost and safety of the operatives that clear it up.	Much of the litter along roadsides is thrown from cars and some can fall from trade vehicles. Whilst many of our citizens dispose of their rubbish responsibly, the minority who litter can unfortunately have considerable negative impacts on our communities. Littering also has a significant impact on the public purse and our previous estimates indicate this Council spends over £1m a year on removing and disposing of litter and fly tipping. Our commitment, as a Council to tackle litter and fly tipping is demonstrated by the fact that we have adopted a litter & fly tipping strategy and employ an officer whose role is partly dedicated to supporting its implementation. The officer works closely with residents, schools and businesses to prevent littering, and I trust you are aware from their extensive social media presence, they do a great job. Members may also be aware that we are once again organising a spring clean, with a week-long programme of litter picks included, thanks to our committed volunteer litter pickers and groups who do an amazing job throughout the year. Within this year's programme, and as you have acknowledged, our own Council operatives are preparing to undertake cleansing of the A4043, Cwmavon to Blaenavon. We have not yet identified an exact date for this, as it is reliant on traffic management provision, which officers are currently organising. It is not possible to undertake this work on a frequent basis throughout the borough due to considerable costs associated with traffic management, which is required for health and safety reasons. The overall costs of a one-off cleansing along the A4043 is estimated to be several thousand pounds. As part of the Council's communities' approach, we need to encourage greater community involvement to tackle the problem and to include reporting illegal activity. You may have seen posts going out in our comms to encourage reporting of fly tipping in our Fight the Fly-tipper campaign posts. I do agree though that we can always do more so you have my assurance that I will ask for our

		communications to be further developed to highlight this problem, its consequences and the cost to the public.
5.	From Councillor Nick Horler: I am seeing many litter bins across our Borough been filled with Household waste which I believe could be called fly tipping. These bins within our community are designed solely for litter! What plans do TCBC have in place to reduce this and stopping residents filling bins up with waste that could be recycled that may help raise the rate.	Councillor Susan Morgan, Waste & Sustainability: Thank you for the helpful question, Councillor Horlor. I share your concern. Litter bins have been a feature of most communities for a long time and are designed for items that people need to dispose of when they are out and about - not for items they bring from home or their business. The small openings make it hard for people to dispose of bulky items and bags, but I appreciate that some people have been known to do so. Not only is it not neighbourly, it is an offence and people can be fined, for bringing waste from home to put it into or beside community litter bins. That said, it can be difficult to prove the nature and source of the waste when we find it. This is where neighbours peer pressure can do much to spotlight and hopefully change this form of antisocial behaviour. Sadly, we cannot sort through these bins to retrieve the recyclable materials. Like most local authorities, we combine litter and dog poo bins to make sure both facilities are available wherever they are needed. This makes it impossible to separate recyclable items safely due to the high levels of contamination. For the future, we are keen to explore where segregated recycling and litter bins might be positioned, if resources can be found. They could be effective at helping us recover recyclable materials in some locations. The Environment Service with the support of the Recycling and Waste team are reviewing the Council's operational approach to the management of public bins, with a focus on improving the recycling capture rate. Any changes to the litter bin management approach will be advised and implemented by the Environment Service. I know that Councillor Owen is keeping a keen eye on opportunities to improve the litter bin management strategy.
6.	From Councillor Nick Horler: In Blaenavon we have communal flats, and each resident has	Councillor Susan Morgan, Waste & Sustainability: Thank you for the question, Councillor Horlor. We work hard to

	their own recycling boxes and bags that I believe is the same across the Borough that are collected from outside the buildings at time becomes quite a mess. In view that these flat may be limited for space. Could it be the case to revisit how these flats recycle, as when these flats were built the rubbish was collected in one bin. Could we look at a continental approach working with Housing Associations and landlords so that larger communal containers instead of individual recycling bins can be achieved. Along with education to provide to assist the residents with recycling.	ensure that all households have the same capacity available to them for recycling and for residual waste as a matter of fairness – and this is a key advantage of separate containers for each flat. But, collective waste collection points can become unsightly, and we recognise it can be more difficult for residents to collect their containers when they live on upper floors. A key aim, as part of our raise the rate initiative, is to increase the levels of recycling from residents of flats, which currently stands at 50% of all schemes and work with RSLs to improve collection from communal living schemes. But, experience in independent living facilities, where larger bins are collected by commercial waste services, suggests that these larger bins too can cause problems. For example, where people who do not live there use these large bins to dispose of excess or unsorted domestic waste. So, while residents of some flats might find the situation improved by single large bins, others might find it worsened. For domestic waste, the Council vehicles that collect recycling are not able to collect from larger bins so other vehicles would have to be commissioned. At this stage we are not clear what the impact would be on cleanliness or recycling rates and if it would justify the potential costs. The team will soon review waste collections from flats as part of the new Waste Strategy, scheduled for publication in 2026. WRAP has been commissioned to review all flats and their requirements in the Borough. This will establish a good baseline, and help us take decisions that make sense in each instance. The review will start this June, as soon as WRAP are available. Once we understand what is needed, our team will recommend the best course of action for the 50% of flats currently without a recycling service. Working with our residents, private and social landlords we hope that we can put in place the best fit arrangements for each type of accommodation. In the meantime, if there are any particular schemes or blocks members wish to discuss, please inform the waste team, and they will look into how best to support collections.

7.	From Councillor Alfie Best: Could the executive member please provide an update on recent additions to play provision in the borough, and the extent to which they're inclusive to all children?	Councillor Amanda Owen, Executive Member Environment: Thanks you Cllr Best for your question. Objective 7 of our County Plan commits to support and promote healthier lifestyles in Torfaen to improve mental and physical wellbeing. To help meet this objective, during 23/24 we installed fully inclusive play facilities in Pontypool Park and Cwmbran Boating Lake and partially inclusive facilities at Oakfield Gardens and Garn Y Rhiw. Partially inclusive means only limited items are suitable for less able children. During the current financial year, we have installed a partially inclusive play area in Southville and recently a fully inclusive play area in Pontnewynydd, which I know you and fellow ward members attended the opening. A play sufficiency assessment was undertaken a few years ago and it identified that static play provision in Torfaen was lacking for children with special needs so these inclusive play areas are really important and gives children the opportunity to play on equipment such as inclusive roundabouts, swings, the Tango Swing which was installed at Pontnewynydd was the first to be installed in Torfaen and allows the parent and child to swing together. Sensory and musical items are also added along with many other types of equipment. Going forward, we will constantly review the communities and opportunities to install inclusive play parks and equipment in as many schemes as possible. We know they make a big difference to children who need inclusive play equipment.
8.	From Councillor Alfie Best: Can the executive member please explain the process by which local residents are informed of road closures, particularly urgent or emergency works?	Councillor Amanda Owen, Executive Member Environment: With regards to temporary traffic orders, these are temporary orders that would cover any major or planned works, usually relating to road closures (full road or part of). Temporary road closures are only put in place if it is absolutely necessary. We have to follow a statutory procedure with temporary orders and these are advertised in the local newspaper (Free Press), online via Torfaen website at Traffic Regulation Orders, TCBC and an email notification is also

		sent to the Council's latest statutory consultees, which are the emergency services, transport services, our waste dept. and members. Emergency orders are slightly different due to the nature of the works being an unplanned emergency and prepared on behalf of statutory undertakers who need to carry out work on the adopted highway. These are not advertised in the same way as the temporary orders; they are not advertised in the press or online. Notifications of emergency orders are distributed to our statutory consultees and in most cases any communication goes out via Torfaen's comms channels, e.g. Facebook. Given that in most cases with emergency road closures, the works are both urgent and time sensitive, any delay in the works could have a severe impact on highway safety and users of the highway network. This then limits the time officers have to prepare notices and advertise the closures. Details of the emergency order are distributed to statutory consultees by email.
9.	From Councillor David Thomas: Can you tell us what tangible benefits Torfaen residents have gained from the council's decision to declare a climate change emergency on June 25, 2019, beyond just the symbolic gesture, and provide a full account of how much money has been spent on this to date?	Councillor Susan Morgan, Waste & Sustainability: Thank you for your question, Councillor Thomas. This Council was clear in its support for declaring the climate change emergency in June 2019. The decision was momentous but far from a symbolic gesture. It has been and still is, a governing principle in every decision we make and everything we do. Addressing our climate and nature emergencies, recycling more and making improvements to the local environment is a key goal of our County Plan. The actions that we have taken so far are clearly set out in our annual performance report. I'm proud to say they are too many to list here today unless members are inclined to send out for pizza. But can I remind you of why they are so important.

Regardless of how you personally voted at that time, I am sure you would now agree that here in Torfaen we are feeling the very tangible impact of increasingly extreme weather. You won't need reminding of the dreadful storms and the local impact on travel, flooding of premises and the price of food in our supermarkets.

- This Council is investing in flood defence schemes and resilient local- food networks and those benefits are highly tangible in protecting homes and ensuring no one goes hungry at times of crisis.

I am so pleased that at present Torfaen does not have any significant issues with air quality, but this is not the case everywhere and cannot be taken for granted. There is no benefit more tangible than the ability to take each breath without struggle. My own grandson lives under the flight path of a major airport and when I play with him in the garden the air is thick with the taste of aviation fuel. When travelling around London I always keep the windows closed.

- So, I am proud of the way this Council is willing to prioritise the future by encouraging greener travel, managing green spaces and planting trees that help us preserve our air quality and combat pollution.

Let me turn to your question about money. While the emergency has to be tackled with urgency at global, national and local levels we are prepared to invest in the future of our children and grandchildren. But, we always balance that investment with the needs of the whole community today. So, Councillor Thomas, you needn't worry that those of us lucky enough to avoid the worst impacts of climate change in our own lifetime are missing out. Personally, I would be prepared to see more resources given to the future of my grandchildren than to my own needs and wants, but that may just be me.

The good news is that acting to address climate change and its impact on our world also makes good financial sense right now. After our staff, one of the biggest areas of expenditure for the

Council and for businesses, organisations and homes across Torfaen is energy. The costs savings that we can realise by improving energy efficiency and investing in renewable sources is worth pursuing even if we could bury our heads in the sand and pretend climate change wasn't happening.

As I have said, all of the council's activities have a role to play in responding to the climate emergency as we work for the well-being of our communities and residents today and in the future. I will give just a few of the most prominent examples

In education we are:

- Rolling out energy efficiency improvements across our schools, which not only save carbon, but mean that schools spend considerably less on energy. During 2023/24 we installed 15 photo-voltaic systems across educational settings generating energy, reducing costs and cutting carbon emissions. And we are making sure that those savings go straight back into schools' budgets. That's giving them the choice to retain staff and improve learning. Pretty tangible.
- The new extension at Crownbridge School not only increases provision for children and young people with severe learning difficulties but is also net zero, as is the new Maendy Primary school. Grant funding for tackling the climate emergency is bringing direct and tangible benefits to many aspects of school life.

Increasing the amount of household waste that is re-used, recycled and composted in Torfaen, is an important part of responding to the climate emergency.

- In Torfaen we are working to bring the whole community along on this journey and Welsh Government is supportive of our approach. Working together we are changing minds and hearts as we reduce and reuse as well as raise the rate of recycling. A tangible benefit of this partnership for our residents is that we have continued with two weekly collection of residual waste while most Councils in Wales have not been able to do that.

- We have worked collaboratively to establish a Repair Café in Torfaen which gives residents an alternative to throwing things away when they become broken or damaged. And The Steelhouse Reuse shop at the Household Waste Centre gives things that would otherwise have been discarded a longer period of use. Reducing and reusing items not only reduces waste, but it also saves families money.

In our own buildings the Council's Project Apollo Energy Savings Programme is reducing the Council's energy costs and carbon emissions.

- Total savings achieved in 2023/24 were £374,361, alongside a 39.9% reduction in TCBC buildings CO_2 emissions over 2019/20. Every penny of those savings is available for improving the services that every person in Torfaen relies on. Tangible savings and less polluting buildings immediately achieved and continuing on into a cleaner future for our little ones.

I am sorry that you felt unclear about how we embed climate and nature emergency consideration into all the Council's activities and service planning. I hope I have helped you understand the approach.

Given this joined up and integrated way of working, providing a full account of how much has been spent isn't currently possible. Let me just stress once again, that we do all this from within existing budgets, or by taking advantage of specific grant funding opportunities. Again - just a few examples of the funding our efforts have been able to secure.

- External funding has delivered electric vehicle chargers, installed roof mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, and air source heat pumps at council owned sites.
- Shared Prosperity Funding is supporting local businesses and community organisations to decarbonise. Because of this investment many small community groups are seeing reduced bills and improved comfort in their buildings as they

		serve our communities. Incidentally, I am pleased to say there will be a further round of funding for such projects very soon. The list is substantial. So, for your convenience, Councillor Thomas, in addition to the usual reporting routes we will look to include a summary of all external funding awarded in our next annual performance report. To conclude - all our investment to tackle the climate and nature emergencies is sensible, funded and economically justified and in many cases with immediate benefits. But, we are considering the needs of the generations that come after us in everything we do. I only wish we could do more – and given the resources and opportunity, I am determined that we will.
	Supplementary Question: Could you find out for me please, how much we have spent on this since 2019?	Councillor Susan Morgan, Waste & Sustainability: I refer you to the answer as to where that information is set out but I can ask officers to draw it to your attention to it.
10.	From Councillor David Thomas: On December 17, 2024, I asked Councillor Clark about the possibility of a 3G pitch for Cwmbran High, the response was and I quote "that 'plans were already in motion, with council officers discussing grant applications with funding bodies to replace the school's existing redgra pitch with a 3G surface in 2025" Could you provide an update on the progress of these plans and let me know when construction is likely to begin at Cwmbran High?	Councillor Richard Clark, Executive Member Children, Families & Education As previously advised the Education Service working with the school have identified the need for a 3G pitch at Cwmbran High School and before your last question were exploring funding streams as I pointed out in my previous answer. I can confirm that we are still in the process of trying to secure the funding and given that I cannot answer the second part of your question. Officers will continue to keep the school and members informed You will be kept informed of when the funding is secured and when the construction date will start.
11.	From Councillor David Thomas: Could the executive member provide members with information on where exactly the majority of car parking tickets	Councillor Amanda Owen, Executive Member Environment: Thank you for your question Cllr Thomas. To ensure fair and consistent enforcement and to react to any emergency issues or

	are being issued in Torfaen?	complaints, our officers work on a rota system. Our current enforcement strategy is designed to provide equal coverage across both the North and South of the Borough daily. Our enforcement officers alternate between AM and PM shifts, ensuring they are present across the borough throughout the day. This approach guarantees that no two days of enforcement are the same, which is a key aspect of our strategy and ensures that we can ensure enforcement officers are present across the borough. I did ask officers to go through the data to find out where the majority of PCN's are issued and after a thorough analysis of this data, it shows that Llantarnam emerged as the primary location for the issues of PCN's within Torfaen, followed closely by Pontypool and Pontnewydd. These results are not a surprise though, considering the regional attractors and traffic dynamics. As you know Cwmbran, town centre is situated within the Llantarnam ward, which is an area that does attract a significant volume of visitors due to the amount of attractions and retail stores. The influx of shoppers, tourists and commuters result in high foot traffic and vehicle movement, which naturally leads to increased enforcement activity to maintain compliance with parking regulations. Town centre locations have loading facilities and bays, which are designed for goods vehicles to deliver to shops and businesses. Regular enforcement of these bays is essential to ensure that the bays are kept clear for the vehicles to access them. In addition to these loading bays, there are numerous disabled bays and street limited time bays. Regular enforcement of the disabled bays ensure that these can be used by legitimate blue badge holders and regular enforcement of the limited time waiting bays ensures a regular turnover of spaces and deters long term or all day parking. Parking around schools is a big problem and one that generates regular requests for enforcement action. Our enforcement officers attend schools on a rotation system to ensure that all schools receive a weekly visit every morning and afternoon. Officers also respond to requests from members, schools and the public should a

		problem or issue be reported. I know Llantarnam has Llantarnam community school, Our Lady's of the Angels primary school, also the Torfaen Learning Zone along with several various private nurseries. Enforcement in Pontypool and Pontnewydd are reflective of similar patterns but on a smaller scale. These areas are not as busy as Llantarnam but they still require consistent monitoring to ensure parking compliance and free flow of traffic on the highway, it also still contributes to the overall parking management strategy. The data supports the importance of enforcement with high volume traffic and attractors, like Llantarnam. The Council's ongoing efforts to monitor and manage parking regulations will continue to be crucial in supporting local businesses to ensure positive experiences for visitors to Cwmbran and its surrounding areas. The Council believe it is crucial to patrol areas and shift timings and visits to prevent our enforcement strategy becoming predictable. By alternating operation times and the patrol areas, we create an environment that encourages parking regulation compliance. The unpredictability deters potential violation, drivers cannot anticipate when or where enforcement will occur. This dynamic approach not only enhances the effectiveness of enforcement but also allows and shows a sense of fairness and transparency. We are not always in one place. It allows us to address parking concerns that adapts to the needs of different areas and times but also ensures that we respond effectively to the varying levels and demand of parking challenges.
	Supplementary Question: Can we ask Enforcement Officers to concentrate more on problematic streets and schools, rather than the easy pickings of Cwmbran Town Centre?	Councillor Amanda Owen, Executive Member Environment: As I said in my response, they are in every school, every morning and afternoon, we don't advertise when they're going to turn up because it's defeating the object. I can ask officers to avoid Cwmbran Town Centre, and if you can provide some areas that you think are problematic that would be helpful.

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CYFARFOD CYNGOR – 4 MAWRTH 2025 – CWESTIYNAU'R AELODAU

	Cwestiwn:	**Ateb:**
1.	Gan y Cynghorydd Janet Jones: Mae erthygl papur newydd diweddar yn nodi bod cyngor Blaenau Gwent yn edrych ar y posibilrwydd o weithredu wythnos pedwar diwrnod. Gan fod llawer o gwmnïau, gan gynnwys Bron Afon, yn dilyn yr arfer gwaith hwn, a ydy'n rhywbeth y mae Cyngor Torfaen yn ei ystyried?	Y Cynghorydd Anthony Hunt, Arweinydd: Diolch i chi am eich cwestiwn. Does dim cynlluniau i gyflwyno wythnos pedwar diwrnod yng Nghyngor Torfaen. Rydym newydd benodi Stephen yn Gyd-Brif Weithredwr gyda Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent. Byddwn yn edrych ar gydweithio a thrawsnewid i gynnal ein gwasanaethau yn y tymor hir. Fel rhan o hyn, byddwn yn dechrau edrych ar strategaeth gweithlu newydd i ddarparu gwasanaethau i'n cymuned i sicrhau bod gennym weithlu addas i'r diben. Bydd hynny'n edrych ar sut rydym yn denu ac yn cadw staff, yn ogystal â sut rydym yn trefnu ein hunain yn y ffordd fwyaf effeithlon, i arbed arian o ben y sefydliad i'w roi mewn gwasanaethau ar y rheng flaen. Yr arbedion mewn cyflog o rannu Prif Weithredwr yw'r cam cyntaf yn unig yn yr ymdrechion hynny, a byddwn yn rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r cyngor wrth iddynt ddechrau ffurfio. Mae llawer o heriau o ran mabwysiadu wythnos pedwar diwrnod y byddai angen eu harchwilio a'u deall yn llawn, gan gynnwys yr effaith y gallai penderfyniad o'r fath ei gael ar ein gallu i ddarparu gwasanaethau dros wythnos lawn o fewn yr adnoddau cyfyngedig presennol.
2.	Gan y Cynghorydd Janet Jones: A allwch egluro pam mai Ysgol Treftadaeth Blaenafon yw'r unig ysgol o hyd yn y fwrdeistref heb ffens ddiogel o'i chwmpas? Yn sicr, dylai hyn beri pryder o ran diogelwch staff, disgyblion a phawb sy'n ymwneud â'r campws ynghyd â staff canolfannau hamdden sy'n gweithredu ar ôl oriau ysgol.	Y Cynghorydd Richard Clark, Aelod Gweithredol dros Blant, Teuluoedd ac Addysg Diolch Cynghorydd Jones. Roedd safle Ysgol Wirfoddol Treftadaeth Blaenafon wedi'i chynllunio'n bwrpasol i fod yn gynllun agored. Fel y gwyddoch, mae'n gampws cymunedol gyda'r ysgol, y ganolfan hamdden a'r ganolfan feddygol wedi'u lleoli gyda'i gilydd. O ystyried pryderon a godwyd ddoe, cefais e-bost gan Gadeirydd y

		llywodraethwyr, mae Swyddogion Gwasanaeth yr Economi a'r Amgylchedd wedi bod yn ymchwilio i weld a fyddai'n bosibl gosod ffens, ond ar hyn o bryd nid yw'n ymddangos bod hawliau datblygu a ganiateir yn ei gwmpasu ac mae'n debyg y byddai angen caniatâd cynllunio ar gyfer ffens safonol o'r math sy'n nodweddiadol ar safleoedd eraill. O'r herwydd, gofynnwyd i'r swyddogion sy'n datblygu'r materion hyn i archwilio opsiynau dylunio a fyddai'n diogelu cymeriad ac ymddangosiad y safle a Safle Treftadaeth y Byd yn ehangach. Rwy'n sicr y bydd swyddogion yn parhau i roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r ysgol ac aelodau lleol am gynnydd pan fydd yn digwydd. Ochr yn ochr â hyn mae'r gwasanaeth addysg yn edrych ar opsiynau ariannu.
3.	Gan y Cynghorydd Nick Horler: Mae cominwyr ac eraill yn codi pryderon yn barhaus am bobl yn gyrru oddi ar y ffordd sy'n difetha ein tirwedd. Gyda thymor bridio ein bywyd gwyllt a'r ŵyna ar gyrraedd, ac rwy'n credu fod y gronfa Ffyniant Gyffredin i fod i ddod i ben ym mis Ebrill yn y fformat presennol. Beth mae CBST yn ei wneud y cyd â sefydliadau eraill i ddelio â gyrru oddi ar y ffordd yn ein safle Treftadaeth gan fod y dinistr hwn a achoswyd gan olwynion diangen y mae llawer yn dweud sy'n dod yn effaith amgylcheddol gyda'r tir sydd wedi'i rwygo i fyny ac yn methu parhau gan ein bod yn warchodwyr y dirwedd ar ran y cenedlaethau sy'n dod ar ein hôl?	Y Cynghorydd Peter Jones, Aelod Gweithredol, Lywodraethu Corfforaethol ac Adnoddau Diolch Cynghorydd Horler. Mae gwaith y Cyngor i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon, yr wyf yn cytuno sy'n niwsans ac sy'n achosi difrod amgylcheddol, yn cynnwys cydweithio rhwng fy Nhîm Diogelwch Cymunedol fy hun a Thîm Amgylchedd y Cynghorydd Owen. Mewn ymateb i bryderon a fynegwyd gennych chi a'r Aelod Gweithredol dros yr Amgylchedd, mae Torfaen Mwy Diogel wedi blaenoriaethu beicio oddi ar y ffordd yn ddiweddar, gan gydnabod yr effaith y mae'n ei chael ar ein cymuned. Er bod y prosiect CFfG a ariennir gan y DU yn dod i ben ym mis Mawrth, mae'n galonogol bod Heddlu Gwent wedi cadarnhau penodiad tîm arbenigol sy'n ymroddedig i'r mater hwn ac wedi penodi aelod staff llawn amser, yn benodol i fynd i'r afael â beicio oddi ar y ffordd. Mae Torfaen Mwy Diogel wedi argymell y dylai rhan o'r rôl gynnwys datblygu strategaeth gyfathrebu i rannu newyddion cadarnhaol am ymyriadau a gorfodi gyda'r gymuned. Mae Heddlu Gwent a'r Tîm Diogelwch Cymunedol yn cydweithio â phartneriaid i gefnogi dull ehangach o fynd i'r afael â'r broblem.
4.	Gan y Cynghorydd Nick Horler:	Y Cynghorydd Amanda Owen, Aelod Gweithredol, Amgylchedd

	Mae trigolion yn codi pryderon teg am sbwriel mewn gwrychoedd wrth ymyl y ffordd sef y Pyrth i'n safle Treftadaeth y Byd, yn benodol ar yr A4043 o Gwmafon i Flaenafon. Mae hyn yn embaras ar hyn o bryd ac rwyf i a'r Cynghorydd Jones yn cynnal trafodaethau gyda Strydlun i ddelio â'r pryder hwn sy'n denu sbwriel. A allwn ni fel aelodau gael sicrwydd bod modd cynnal camau i ymdrin â'r broblem amgylcheddol hon o leiaf wrth gael casglu sbwriel rheolaidd ar hyd y ffyrdd yma i mewn i'n Safle Treftadaeth, gyda'r adran gyfathrebu'n tynnu sylw trigolion at y ffaith nad yw'n dda taflu sbwriel yn ein cefn gwlad a chost a diogelwch parhaus y gweithwyr sy'n ei glirio?	Diolch yn fawr Gyng. Horlor am eich cwestiwn. Rwy'n rhannu eich pryderon a'ch rhwystredigaeth ynghylch sbwriel yn cael ei adael ar hyd ymylon ffyrdd ledled y fwrdeistref, gan amharu ar ein cymunedau. Mae llawer o'r sbwriel ar hyd ochrau ffyrdd yn cael ei daflu o geir a gall peth ddisgyn o gerbydau masnach. Er bod llawer o'n trigolion yn gwaredu eu sbwriel yn gyfrifol, yn anffodus gall y lleiafrif sy'n taflu sbwriel gael effaith negyddol sylweddol ar ein cymunedau. Mae taflu sbwriel hefyd yn cael effaith sylweddol ar bwrs y wlad ac mae ein hamcangyfrifon blaenorol yn dangos bod y Cyngor hwn yn gwario dros £1m y flwyddyn ar gael gwared ar sbwriel a thipio anghyfreithlon. Mae ein hymrwymiad, fel Cyngor i fynd i'r afael â sbwriel a thipio anghyfreithlon yn cael ei ddangos gan y ffaith ein bod wedi mabwysiadu strategaeth sbwriel a thipio anghyfreithlon ac yn cyflogi swyddog sydd â'i rôl yn rhannol ymroddedig i gefnogi ei weithredu. Mae'r swyddog yn gweithio'n agos gyda thrigolion, ysgolion a busnesau i atal sbwriel, ac rwy'n gobeithio eich bod yn ymwybodol o'u presenoldeb helaeth ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol, maen nhw'n gwneud gwaith gwych. Efallai y bydd yr Aelodau hefyd yn ymwybodol ein bod unwaith eto yn trefnu gwaith gwanwyn glân, gyda rhaglen wythnos o gasglu sbwriel wedi'i chynnwys, diolch i'n casglwyr sbwriel gwirfoddol ymroddedig a grwpiau sy'n gwneud gwaith anhygoel trwy gydol y flwyddyn. Yn y rhaglen eleni, ac fel y wedi cydnabod, mae ein gweithwyr yn y Cyngor yn paratoi i lanhau'r A4043, o Gwmafon i Flaenafon. Nid ydym wedi pennu union ddyddiad ar gyfer hyn eto, gan ei fod yn dibynnu ar y ddarpariaeth rheoli traffig, y mae swyddogion yn ei threfnu ar hyn o bryd. Nid yw'n bosibl ymgymryd â'r gwaith hwn yn aml ledled y fwrdeistref oherwydd costau sylweddol sy'n gysylltiedig â rheoli traffig, sy'n angenrheidiol am resymau iechyd a diogelwch. Amcangyfrifir bod costau cyffredinol glanhau unwaith ar hyd yr A4043 yn rhai miloedd o bunnoedd.

		Fel rhan o agwedd y Cyngor tuag at gymunedau, mae angen i ni annog mwy o gyfranogiad cymunedol i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem a chynnwys rhoi gwybod am weithgarwch anghyfreithlon. Efallai eich bod wedi gweld postiadau yn mynd allan yn ein cyfathrebiadau yn annog adrodd am dipio anghyfreithlon yn ein postiadau ymgyrch Taclo'r Tipiwr. Rwy'n cytuno serch hynny y gallwn bob amser wneud mwy felly rwy'n eich sicrhau y byddaf yn gofyn i'n cyfathrebiadau gael eu datblygu ymhellach i amlygu'r broblem hon, ei chanlyniadau a'r gost i'r cyhoedd.
5.	Gan y Cynghorydd Nick Horler: Rwy'n gweld llawer o finiau sbwriel ar draws ein Bwrdeistref wedi'u llenwi â gwastraff Cartref, ac rwy'n credu y gellid ei alw'n tipio'n anghyfreithlon. Mae'r biniau hyn yn ein cymuned wedi'u gosod ar gyfer sbwriel yn unig! Pa gynlluniau sydd gan CBST ar waith i leihau hyn a rhwystro preswylwyr rhag llenwi biniau â gwastraff y gellid ei ailgylchu a allai helpu i godi'r gyfradd?	Y Cynghorydd Susan Morgan, Gwastraff a Chynaliadwyedd: Diolch am y cwestiwn defnyddiol, Gynghorydd Horlor. Rwy'n rhannu eich pryder. Mae biniau sbwriel wedi bod yn nodwedd yn y rhan fwyaf o gymunedau ers amser maith ac maent wedi'u cynllunio ar gyfer eitemau y mae angen i bobl eu gwaredu pan fyddant allan - nid ar gyfer eitemau y maen nhw'n dod â nhw o gartref neu o'u busnes. Mae'r agoriadau bach yn ei gwneud hi'n anodd i bobl waredu eitemau a bagiau swmpus, ond rwy'n deall bod rhai pobl wedi bod gwneud hynny. Nid yn unig nad yw hyn yn gymdogol, mae'n drosedd a gellir dirwyo pobl, am ddod â gwastraff o'r cartref i'w roi mewn biniau sbwriel cymunedol neu wrth eu hochr. Wedi dweud hynny, gall fod yn anodd profi natur a tharddiad y gwastraff pan fyddwn yn dod o hyd iddo. Dyma ble gall pwysau gan gymdogion wneud llawer i amlygu a newid y math hwn o ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Yn anffodus, ni allwn fynd trwy'r biniau hyn i gasglu'r deunyddiau y gellir eu hailgylchu. Fel y rhan fwyaf o awdurdodau lleol, rydym yn cyfuno biniau sbwriel a baw cŵn i sicrhau bod y ddau gyfleuster ar gael lle bynnag y mae eu hangen. Mae hyn yn ei gwneud hi'n amhosibl gwahanu eitemau ailgylchadwy yn ddiogel oherwydd y lefelau uchel o halogiad. Ar gyfer y dyfodol, rydym yn awyddus i archwilio lle y gellir gosod biniau ailgylchu a sbwriel ar wahân, os gellir cael hyd i adnoddau. Gallen nhw fod yn effeithiol wrth ein helpu i adfer deunyddiau ailgylchadwy mewn rhai lleoliadau. Mae Gwasanaeth yr Amgylchedd, gyda chefnogaeth y tîm Ailgylchu a Gwastraff, yn adolygu dull gweithredol y Cyngor o reoli biniau

		cyhoeddus, gan ganolbwyntio ar wella'r gyfradd ailgylchu. Bydd unrhyw newidiadau i'r dull o reoli biniau sbwriel yn dilyn cyngor y Gwasanaeth Amgylchedd ac yn cael eu gweithredu ganddynt. Rwy'n gwybod bod y Cynghorydd Owen yn cadw llygad barcud ar gyfleoedd i wella'r strategaeth rheoli biniau sbwriel.
6.	Gan y Cynghorydd Nick Horler: Ym Mlaenafon mae gennym fflatiau cymunedol, ac mae gan bob preswylydd eu bocsys ailgylchu a'u bagiau ailgylchu eu hunain sydd, rwy'n credu, yr un fath ar draws y Fwrdeistref, yn cael eu casglu o'r tu allan i'r adeiladau ar y pryd ac yn dod yn dipyn o lanast. O ystyried y gall y fflatiau yma fod yn gyfyngedig o ran lle. A allem ailedrych ar sut mae'r fflatiau hyn yn ailgylchu, fel pan adeiladwyd y fflatiau hyn casglwyd y sbwriel mewn un bin? A allem edrych ar ddull cyfandirol o weithio gyda Chymdeithasau Tai a landlordiaid fel y gellir cyflawni cynwysyddion cymunedol mwy yn hytrach na biniau ailgylchu unigol? Ynghyd ag addysg i helpu'r trigolion i ailgylchu.	Y Cynghorydd Susan Morgan, Gwastraff a Chynaliadwyedd: Diolch am y cwestiwn, Gynghorydd Horlor. Rydym yn gweithio'n galed i sicrhau bod gan bob cartref yr un capasiti ar gael iddynt er mwyn ailgylchu ac ar gyfer gwastraff gweddilliol fel mater o degwch - a dyma fantais allweddol cynwysyddion ar wahân ar gyfer pob fflat. Ond, gall mannau casglu gwastraff ar y cyd fynd yn hyll, ac rydym yn cydnabod y gall fod yn anoddach i drigolion gasglu eu cynwysyddion pan fyddant yn byw ar loriau uchaf. Un o'r prif nodau, fel rhan o'n menter codi'r gyfradd, yw cynyddu lefelau ailgylchu gan drigolion fflatiau, sydd ar hyn o bryd yn 50% o'r holl gynlluniau, a gweithio gyda Landlordiaid Cymdeithasol i wella'r broses o gasglu o adeiladau byw cymunedol. Ond, mae profiad gyda chyfleusterau byw'n annibynnol, lle mae biniau mwy yn cael eu casglu gan wasanaethau gwastraff masnachol, yn awgrymu bod y biniau mwy hyn hefyd yn gallu achosi problemau. Er enghraifft, mae pobl nad ydynt yn byw yno yn defnyddio'r biniau mawr hyn i gael gwared ar wastraff domestig gormodol neu wastraff heb ei ddidoli. Felly, er y gallai trigolion rhai fflatiau weld y sefyllfa'n gwella gan finiau mawr sengl, efallai y bydd eraill yn gweld ei fod yn gwaethygu. Ar gyfer gwastraff y cartref, nid yw cerbydau'r Cyngor sy'n casglu ailgylchu yn gallu casglu o finiau mwy felly byddai'n rhaid comisiynu cerbydau eraill. Ar hyn o bryd nid yw'n eglur beth fyddai'r effaith ar lendid neu gyfraddau ailgylchu ac a fyddai'n cyfiawnhau'r costau posibl. Cyn bo hir, bydd y tîm yn adolygu casgliadau gwastraff o fflatiau fel rhan o'r Strategaeth Gwastraff newydd, a drefnwyd i'w chyhoeddi yn 2026. Mae WRAP wedi'u comisiynu i adolygu pob fflat yn y Fwrdeistref a'u gofynion. Bydd hyn yn sefydlu gwaelodlin dda, ac yn ein helpu i wneud penderfyniadau sy'n gwneud synnwyr ym mhob achos. Bydd yr adolygiad yn dechrau ym mis Mehefin, cyn gynted

		ag y bydd WRAP ar gael. Unwaith y byddwn yn deall yr hyn sydd ei angen, bydd ein tîm yn argymell y ffordd orau o weithredu ar gyfer y 50% o fflatiau sydd heb wasanaeth ailgylchu ar hyn o bryd. Gan weithio gyda'n trigolion, landlordiaid preifat a chymdeithasol rydym yn gobeithio y gallwn gyflwyno'r trefniadau gorau ar gyfer pob math o lety. Yn y cyfamser, os oes unrhyw gynlluniau neu flociau penodol y mae aelodau'n dymuno eu trafod, rhowch wybod i'r tîm gwastraff, a byddant yn edrych ar y ffordd orau i gefnogi casgliadau.
7.	Gan y Cynghorydd Alfie Best: A allai'r aelod gweithredol roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am ychwanegiadau diweddar at ddarpariaeth chwarae yn y fwrdeistref, ac i ba raddau y maen nhw'n gynhwysol i bob plentyn?	Y Cynghorydd Amanda Owen, Aelod Gweithredol, Amgylchedd: Diolch yn fawr, Gyng. Best am eich cwestiwn. Mae Amcan 7 ein Cynllun Sirol yn ymrwymo i gefnogi a hyrwyddo ffyrdd iachach o fyw yn Nhorfaen i wella lles meddyliol a chorfforol. Er mwyn helpu i gyflawni'r amcan hwn, yn ystod 23/24 fe wnaethom osod cyfleusterau chwarae cwbl gynhwysol ym Mharc Pont-y-pŵl a Llyn Cychod Cwmbrân a chyfleusterau rhannol gynhwysol yng Ngerddi Cae Derw a Garn y Rhiw. Mae rhannol gynhwysol yn golygu mai dim ond rhai eitemau sy'n addas ar gyfer plant llai abl. Yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol bresennol, rydym wedi gosod ardal chwarae rhannol gynhwysol ym Mhentref Isaf ac yn ddiweddar ardal chwarae gwbl gynhwysol ym Mhontnewynydd, ac rwy'n gwybod eich bod chi a chyd-aelodau'r ward wedi mynychu'r agoriad. Cynhaliwyd asesiad digonolrwydd chwarae ychydig flynyddoedd yn ôl a nododd fod darpariaeth chwarae sefydlog yn Nhorfaen yn brin i blant ag anghenion arbennig felly mae'r ardaloedd chwarae cynhwysol hyn yn bwysig iawn ac yn rhoi cyfle i blant chwarae ar offer fel cylchfannau cynhwysol, siglenni, y Siglen Tango, a osodwyd ym Mhontnewynydd oedd y cyntaf i gael ei osod yn Nhorfaen ac mae'n caniatáu i'r rhiant a'r plentyn siglo gyda'i gilydd. Mae eitemau synhwyraidd a cherddorol hefyd yn cael eu hychwanegu ynghyd â llawer o fathau eraill o offer. O hyn ymlaen, byddwn yn adolygu'r cymunedau a'r cyfleoedd yn gyson i osod parciau ac offer chwarae cynhwysol mewn cynifer o

		gynlluniau â phosibl. Rydym yn gwybod eu bod yn gwneud gwahaniaeth mawr i blant sydd angen offer chwarae cynhwysol.
8	Gan y Cynghorydd Alfie Best: A all yr aelod gweithredol, os gwelwch yn dda, esbonio'r broses y mae trigolion lleol yn cael gwybod trwyddi am gau ffyrdd, yn enwedig gwaith brys neu argyfwng?	Y Cynghorydd Amanda Owen, Aelod Gweithredol, Amgylchedd: O ran gorchmynion traffig dros dro, mae'r rhain yn orchmynion dros dro a fyddai'n cynnwys unrhyw waith mawr neu waith a gynlluniwyd, fel arfer yn ymwneud â chau ffyrdd (yn llawn neu'n rhannol). Mae cau ffyrdd dros dro dim ond yn digwydd os yw'n gwbl angenrheidiol. Mae'n rhaid i ni ddilyn gweithdrefn statudol gyda gorchmynion dros dro ac mae'r rhain yn cael eu hysbysebu yn y papur newydd lleol (Free Press), ar-lein trwy wefan Torfaen yn 'Gorchmynion Rheoleiddio Traffig', CBST, ac anfonir hysbysiad e-bost hefyd at ymgyngoreion statudol diweddaraf y Cyngor, sef y gwasanaethau brys, gwasanaethau trafnidiaeth, ein hadran wastraff, ac aelodau. Mae gorchmynion brys ychydig yn wahanol oherwydd bod natur y gwaith yn argyfwng heb ei gynllunio ac maen nhw'n cael eu paratoi ar ran ymgymerwyr statudol sydd angen gwneud gwaith ar y briffordd sydd wedi ei mabwysiadu. Nid yw'r rhain yn cael eu hysbysebu yn yr un modd â'r gorchmynion dros dro; nid ydyn nhw'n yn cael eu hysbysebu yn y wasg nac ar-lein. Mae hysbysiadau o orchmynion brys yn cael eu dosbarthu i'n hymgynghoreion statudol ac yn y rhan fwyaf o achosion mae unrhyw gyfathrebu'n mynd allan trwy sianeli cyfathrebiadau Torfaen, e.e. Facebook. Gan fod y gwaith yn y rhan fwyaf o achosion o gau ffyrdd argyfwng yn frys ac angen eu gwneud yn brydlon, gallai unrhyw oedi yn y gwaith gael effaith ddifrifol ar ddiogelwch priffyrdd a defnyddwyr y rhwydwaith priffyrdd. Mae hyn wedyn yn cyfyngu'r amser sydd gan swyddogion i baratoi hysbysiadau a hysbysebu'r cau. Mae manylion y gorchymyn brys yn cael eu dosbarthu i ymgyngoreion statudol drwy e-bost.
9.	Gan y Cynghorydd David Thomas: A allwch chi ddweud wrthym ba fuddion go iawn y mae	Y Cynghorydd Susan Morgan, Gwastraff a Chynaliadwyedd: Diolch am eich cwestiwn, Cyng. Thomas

	trigolion Torfaen wedi'u cael o benderfyniad y cyngor i ddatgan argyfwng newid hinsawdd ar 25 Mehefin, 2019, y tu hwnt i'r ystum symbolaidd yn unig, a rhoi disgrifiad llawn o faint o arian sydd wedi'i wario ar hyn hyd yn hyn?	Roedd y Cyngor hwn yn glir yn ei gefnogaeth i ddatgan yr argyfwng newid hinsawdd ym mis Mehefin 2019. Roedd y penderfyniad yn un pwysig ond yn bell o fod yn symbolaidd. Mae wedi bod, ac yn dal i fod, yn egwyddor lywodraethol ym mhob penderfyniad a phopeth a wnawn. Mae mynd i'r afael â'n hargyfyngau hinsawdd a natur, ailgylchu mwy a gwneud gwelliannau i'r amgylchedd lleol yn un o nodau allweddol ein Cynllun Sirol. Mae'r camau yr ydym wedi'u cymryd hyd yn hyn wedi'u nodi'n glir yn ein hadroddiad perfformiad blynyddol. Rwy'n falch o ddweud eu bod yn ormod i'w rhestru yma heddiw oni bai bod aelodau am ddanfon archeb pizza. Ond a gaf i eich atgoffa pam eu bod mor bwysig. Waeth sut y gwnaethoch bleidleisio'n bersonol bryd hynny, rwy'n siŵr y byddech yn cytuno ein bod yma yn Nhorfaen yn teimlo effaith go iawn tywydd cynyddol eithafol. Does dim angen atgoffa unrhyw un am y stormydd ofnadwy a'r effaith leol ar deithio, llifogydd mewn adeiladau a phris bwyd yn ein harchfarchnadoedd. • Mae'r Cyngor hwn yn buddsoddi mewn cynlluniau amddiffyn rhag llifogydd a rhwydweithiau bwyd lleol gwydn, ac mae'r buddion hynny'n rhai go iawn wrth amddiffyn cartrefi a sicrhau nad oes unrhyw un yn llwglyd ar adegau o argyfwng. Rwyf mor falch nad oes gan Dorfaen unrhyw broblemau sylweddol o ran ansawdd aer ar hyn o bryd, ond nid yw hyn yn wir ym mhobman ac ni ellir cymryd hyn yn ganiataol. Nid oes unrhyw fudd mwy diriaethol na'r gallu i gymryd pob anadl heb frwydro. Mae fy ŵyr fy hun yn byw o dan lwybr hedfan maes awyr mawr a phan fyddaf yn chwarae gydag ef yn yr ardd mae'r awyr yn drwchus gyda blas tanwydd awyrennau. Wrth deithio o amgylch Llundain rwyf bob amser yn cadw'r ffenestri ar gau. • Felly, rwy'n falch o'r ffordd y mae'r Cyngor hwn yn barod i flaenoriaethu'r dyfodol drwy annog teithio gwyrddach, rheoli mannau gwyrdd a phlannu coed sy'n ein helpu i warchod ansawdd ein hawyr a mynd i'r afael â llygredd. Gadewch i mi droi at eich cwestiwn am arian. Er bod yn rhaid mynd

i'r afael â'r argyfwng ar frys ar lefelau byd-eang, cenedlaethol a lleol, rydym yn barod i fuddsoddi yn nyfodol ein plant a'n hwyrion. Ond, rydym bob amser yn cydbwyso'r buddsoddiad hwnnw ag anghenion y gymuned gyfan heddiw. Felly, Cynghorydd Thomas, does dim rhaid i chi boeni bod y rhai ohonom yn ddigon ffodus i osgoi effeithiau gwaethaf newid hinsawdd yn ein hoes ni yn colli allan. Yn bersonol, buaswn i'n barod i weld mwy o adnoddau yn cael eu rhoi i ddyfodol fy wyrion nag i'm hanghenion a'm dymuniadau fy hun, ond efallai mai fi yn unig yw hynny.

Y newyddion da yw bod gweithredu i fynd i'r afael â newid yn yr hinsawdd a'i effaith ar ein byd hefyd yn gwneud synnwyr ariannol da ar hyn o bryd. Ar ôl ein staff, un o'r meysydd gwariant mwyaf i'r Cyngor ac i fusnesau, sefydliadau a chartrefi ar draws Torfaen yw ynni. Mae'r arbedion costau y gallwn eu gwireddu drwy wella effeithlonrwydd ynni a buddsoddi mewn ffynonellau adnewyddadwy yn werth eu dilyn hyd yn oed pe gallem gladdu ein pennau yn y tywod ac esgus nad oedd newid hinsawdd yn digwydd.

Fel rwyf wedi dweud, mae gan holl weithgareddau'r cyngor ran i'w chwarae wrth ymateb i'r argyfwng hinsawdd wrth i ni weithio er lles ein cymunedau a'n trigolion heddiw ac yn y dyfodol. Rhoddaf dim ond rhai o'r enghreifftiau mwyaf amlwg

Mewn addysg, rydym yn:

- Cyflwyno gwelliannau effeithlonrwydd ynni ar draws ein hysgolion, sydd nid yn unig yn arbed carbon, ond sy'n golygu bod ysgolion yn gwario llawer llai ar ynni. Yn ystod 2023/24 fe wnaethom osod 15 system ffotofoltaidd mewn lleoliadau addysgol gan gynhyrchu ynni, lleihau costau a thorri allyriadau carbon. Ac rydym yn sicrhau bod yr arbedion hynny'n mynd yn syth yn ôl i gyllidebau ysgolion. Mae hynny'n rhoi'r dewis iddyn nhw gadw staff a gwella dysgu. Eithaf sylweddol.
- Mae'r estyniad newydd yn Ysgol Crownbridge nid yn unig yn cynyddu'r ddarpariaeth ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc ag anawsterau dysgu dwys ond mae hefyd yn sero net, felly hefyd Ysgol Gynradd newydd Maendy. Mae arian grant ar

gyfer mynd i'r afael â'r argyfwng hinsawdd yn dod â manteision uniongyrchol a diriaethol i sawl agwedd ar fywyd ysgol.

Mae cynyddu faint o wastraff cartref sy'n cael ei ailddefnyddio, ei ailgylchu a'i gompostio yn Nhorfaen, yn rhan bwysig o ymateb i'r argyfwng hinsawdd.

- Yn Nhorfaen rydym yn gweithio i ddod â'r gymuned gyfan ar y daith hon ac mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n gefnogol o'n dulliau. Gan weithio gyda'n gilydd rydym yn newid meddyliau a chalonnau wrth i ni leihau ac ailddefnyddio yn ogystal â chodi cyfradd ailgylchu. Un o fanteision pendant y bartneriaeth hon i'n trigolion yw ein bod wedi parhau â chasgliadau gwastraff gweddilliol pob pythefnos tra nad yw'r rhan fwyaf o gynghorau Cymru wedi gallu gwneud hynny.
- Rydym wedi cydweithio i sefydlu Caffi Atgyweirio yn Nhorfaen sy'n rhoi dewis arall i breswylwyr yn lle taflu pethau i ffwrdd pan fyddant yn cael eu torri neu eu difrodi. Ac mae siop Ailddefnyddio Steelhouse yng Nghanolfan Ailgylchu Gwastraff y Cartref y galluogi i bethau a fyddai fel arall wedi cael eu taflu gael eu defnyddio llawer yn hirach. Mae lleihau ac ailddefnyddio eitemau nid yn unig yn lleihau gwastraff, ond mae hefyd yn arbed arian i deuluoedd.

Yn ein hadeiladau ein hunain, mae Rhaglen Arbedion Ynni Prosiect Apollo y Cyngor yn lleihau costau ynni ac allyriadau carbon y Cyngor.

- Cyfanswm yr arbedion a gafwyd yn 2023/24 oedd £374,361, ynghyd â gostyngiad o 39.9% yn allyriadau CO_2 o adeiladau CBST yn ystod 2019/20. Mae pob ceiniog o'r arbedion hynny ar gael i wella'r gwasanaethau y mae pob person yn Nhorfaen yn dibynnu arnynt. Cafwyd arbedion diriaethol ac adeiladau llai llygrol ar unwaith ac rydym yn parhau at ddyfodol glanach i'n rhai bach.

Mae'n ddrwg gennym eich bod yn teimlo'n aneglur ynghylch sut rydym yn ymgorffori ystyriaethau argyfwng hinsawdd a natur yn holl weithgareddau a chynllunio gwasanaethau'r Cyngor. Rwy'n gobeithio fy mod wedi eich helpu i ddeall y dulliau.

		O ystyried y ffordd gydgysylltiedig ac integredig hon o weithio, nid yw darparu cyfrif llawn o faint sydd wedi'i wario yn bosibl ar hyn o bryd. Gadewch imi bwysleisio unwaith eto, ein bod yn gwneud hyn i gyd o fewn y cyllidebau presennol, neu drwy fanteisio ar gyfleoedd arian grant penodol. Unwaith eto - dim ond ychydig o enghreifftiau o'r cyllid y mae ein hymdrechion wedi gallu ei sicrhau. • Mae cyllid allanol wedi darparu gwefryddion cerbydau trydan, wedi gosod paneli ffotofoltaidd (PV) solar ar doeau, a phympiau gwres ffynhonnell aer mewn safleoedd sy'n eiddo i'r cyngor. • Mae Arian Ffyniant Cyffredin yn cefnogi busnesau lleol a sefydliadau cymunedol i ddatgarboneiddio. Oherwydd y buddsoddiad hwn mae llawer o grwpiau cymunedol bach yn gweld biliau llai a gwell cysur yn eu hadeiladau wrth iddyn nhw wasanaethu ein cymunedau. Gyda llaw, rwy'n falch o ddweud y bydd rownd arall o gyllid ar gyfer prosiectau o'r fath yn fuan iawn. Mae'r rhestr yn sylweddol. Felly, er hwylustod i chi, y Cynghorydd Thomas, yn ogystal â'r llwybrau adrodd arferol, byddwn yn ceisio cynnwys crynodeb o'r holl gyllid allanol a ddyfernir yn ein hadroddiad perfformiad blynyddol nesaf. I gloi - mae ein holl fuddsoddiad i fynd i'r afael â'r argyfyngau hinsawdd a natur yn synhwyrol, wedi'i ariannu a'i gyfiawnhau'n economaidd ac mewn llawer o achosion gyda manteision uniongyrchol. Ond, rydym yn ystyried anghenion y cenedlaethau sy'n dod ar ein holau ym mhopeth yr ydym yn ei wneud. Hoffwn pe gallem ni wneud mwy - ac o ystyried yr adnoddau a'r cyfle, rwy'n benderfynol y byddwn ni.
	Cwestiwn Atodol: A allech chi ddarganfod i mi, os gwelwch yn dda, faint rydyn ni wedi'i wario ar hyn ers 2019?	Y Cynghorydd Susan Morgan, Gwastraff a Chynaliadwyedd: Rwy'n eich cyfeirio at yr ateb o ran ble mae'r wybodaeth honno wedi'i nodi ond gallaf ofyn i swyddogion dynnu at eich sylw ati.
10.	Gan y Cynghorydd David Thomas:	Y Cynghorydd Richard Clark, Aelod Gweithredol dros Blant,

	Ar Ragfyr 17, 2024, gofynnais i'r Cynghorydd Clark am y posibilrwydd o gael cae 3G ar gyfer Ysgol Uwchradd Cwmbrân, a'r ateb oedd, ac rwy'n dyfynnu, "bod 'cynlluniau eisoes ar waith, gyda swyddogion y cyngor yn trafod ceisiadau grant gyda chyrff cyllido i newid cae presennol yr ysgol i fod yn un gydag arwyneb 3G yn 2025". A allech roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am ddatblygiad y cynlluniau hyn a rhoi gwybod i mi pryd mae'r gwaith adeiladu yn debygol o ddechrau yn Ysgol Uwchradd Cwmbrân?	Teuluoedd ac Addysg Fel y dywedwyd yn flaenorol, mae'r Gwasanaeth Addysg sy'n gweithio gyda'r ysgol wedi nodi'r angen am gae 3G yn Ysgol Uwchradd Cwmbrân a chyn eich cwestiwn diwethaf, roedden nhw'n archwilio ffrydiau cyllido fel y nodais yn fy ateb blaenorol. Gallaf gadarnhau ein bod yn dal i fod yn y broses o geisio sicrhau'r cyllid ac o gofio hynny, ni allaf ateb ail ran eich cwestiwn. Bydd swyddogion yn parhau i hysbysu'r ysgol a'r aelodau. Byddwch yn cael gwybod pryd y caiff yr arian ei sicrhau a phryd y bydd y dyddiad adeiladu yn dechrau.
11.	Gan y Cynghorydd David Thomas: A allai'r aelod gweithredol roi gwybodaeth i aelodau am ble yn union y mae mwyafrif y tocynnau parcio ceir yn cael eu rhoi yn Nhorfaen?	Y Cynghorydd Amanda Owen, Aelod Gweithredol, Amgylchedd: Diolch am eich cwestiwn, Cyng. Thomas. Er mwyn sicrhau gorfodaeth deg a chyson ac ymateb i unrhyw faterion neu gwynion brys, mae ein swyddogion yn gweithio ar system rota. Mae ein strategaeth orfodi gyfredol wedi'i chynllunio i roi sylw cyfartal ar draws Gogledd a De'r Fwrdeistref bob dydd. Mae ein swyddogion gorfodi yn newid rhwng sifftiau bore a phrynhawn gan sicrhau eu bod yn bresennol ar draws y fwrdeistref drwy gydol y dydd. Mae'r dull hwn yn gwarantu nad oes dau ddiwrnod o orfodi yr un fath, sy'n agwedd allweddol yn ein strategaeth ac yn sicrhau y gallwn sicrhau bod swyddogion gorfodi yn bresennol ar draws y fwrdeistref. Gofynnais i swyddogion fynd drwy'r data i ddarganfod ble mae'r rhan fwyaf o hysbysiadau'n cael eu rhoi, ac ar ôl dadansoddiad trylwyr o'r data hwn, mae'n dangos bod Llantarnam wedi dod i'r amlwg fel y prif leoliad ar gyfer rhoi hysbysiadau yn Nhorfaen, ac yna Pont-y-pŵl a Phontnewydd. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'r canlyniadau hyn yn syndod, gan ystyried yr atynwyr rhanbarthol a dynameg traffig. Fel y gwyddoch chi mae canol Tref Cwmbrân wedi'i leoli yn ward Llantarnam, sy'n ardal sy'n denu nifer sylweddol o ymwelwyr oherwydd nifer yr atyniadau a'r siopau manwerthu. Mae'r mewnlifiad o siopwyr, twristiaid a chymudwyr yn arwain at lawer o symud ar droed a cherbydau, sy'n naturiol yn arwain at fwy o weithgarwch gorfodi i gydymffurfio â

		rheoliadau parcio. Mae gan leoliadau canol y dref gyfleusterau a chilfachau llwytho, sy'n bod er mwyn i gerbydau nwyddau gludo at siopau a busnesau. Mae gorfodaeth reolaidd o'r cilfachau hyn yn hanfodol er mwyn sicrhau bod y cilfachau'n cael eu cadw'n glir er mwyn i'r cerbydau gael mynediad atynt. Yn ogystal â'r cilfachau llwytho hyn, mae yna nifer o gilfachau i'r anabl a chilfachau amser cyfyngedig. Mae gorfodaeth reolaidd o'r cilfachau i'r anabl yn sicrhau bod modd defnyddio'r rhain gan ddeiliaid bathodyn glas cyfreithlon ac mae gorfodi'r mannau aros am amser cyfyngedig yn rheolaidd yn sicrhau bod mannau parcio ar gael yn rheolaidd ac mae'n atal parcio am amser hir neu drwy'r dydd. Mae parcio o amgylch ysgolion yn broblem fawr ac yn un sy'n creu ceisiadau rheolaidd am gamau gorfodi. Mae ein swyddogion gorfodi yn mynychu ysgolion yn eu tro i sicrhau bod pob ysgol yn cael ymweliad wythnosol bob bore a phrynhawn. Mae swyddogion hefyd yn ymateb i geisiadau gan aelodau, ysgolion a'r cyhoedd pe bai dweud am broblem neu fater. Rwy'n gwybod bod gan Lantarnam ysgol gymunedol Llantarnam, ysgol gynradd Mair a'r Angylion a, hefyd Parth Dysgu Torfaen ynghyd â nifer o wahanol feithrinfeydd preifat. Mae gorfodaeth ym Mhont-y-pŵl a Phontnewydd yn adlewyrchu patrymau tebyg ond ar raddfa lai. Nid yw'r ardaloedd hyn mor brysur â Llantarnam ond mae angen monitro cyson arnynt o hyd i sicrhau cydymffurfio â rheolau parcio a llif traffig ar y briffordd, mae hefyd yn dal i gyfrannu at y strategaeth rheoli parcio gyffredinol. Mae'r data'n cefnogi pwysigrwydd gorfodi gyda llawer o draffig ac atynnwyr, fel Llantarnam. Bydd ymdrechion parhaus y Cyngor i fonitro a rheoli rheoliadau parcio'n parhau i fod yn hanfodol wrth gefnogi busnesau lleol i sicrhau profiadau cadarnhaol i ymwelwyr â Chwmbrân a'r ardaloedd cyfagos. Mae'r Cyngor o'r farn ei bod yn hanfodol mynd o gwmpas ardaloedd a symud amseru ymweliadau i atal ein strategaeth orfodi rhag dod yn rhagweladwy. Trwy newid amseroedd a'r ardaloedd yr ydym yn

		mynd iddynt, rydym yn creu amgylchedd sy'n annog cydymffurfiaeth â rheoliadau parcio. Mae ansicrwydd ymweliadau'n atal torri posibl ar y rheoliadau, ni all gyrwyr ragweld pryd na ble y bydd gorfodaeth yn digwydd. Mae'r dull hwn nid yn unig yn gwella effeithiolrwydd gorfodi, ond mae hefyd yn caniatáu ac yn dangos ymdeimlad o degwch a thryloywder. Nid ydym bob amser mewn un lle. Mae'n ein galluogi i fynd i'r afael â phryderon parcio sy'n addasu i anghenion gwahanol ardaloedd ac amseroedd ond sydd hefyd yn sicrhau ein bod yn ymateb yn effeithiol i lefelau amrywiol a galw heriau parcio.
	Cwestiwn Atodol: A allwn ni ofyn i Swyddogion Gorfodi ganolbwyntio mwy ar strydoedd ac ysgolion sy'n peri problemau, yn hytrach na dewis hawdd Canol Tref Cwmbrân?	Y Cynghorydd Amanda Owen, Aelod Gweithredol, Amgylchedd: Fel y dywedais yn fy ymateb, maen nhw ym mhob ysgol, bob bore a phrynhawn, dydyn ni ddim yn rhoi gwybod pryd maen nhw'n mynd i fod yno oherwydd bod hynny'n nacau'r pwrpas. Gallaf ofyn i swyddogion osgoi Canol Tref Cwmbrân, ac os gallwch chi roi manylion rhai ardaloedd yr ydych chi'n meddwl sy'n broblem, byddai hynny'n ddefnyddiol.

COUNCIL
8 April 2025

UPDATE ON ACTIONS

NB the action sheet lists decisions previously taken by the Council which require specific follow-up action. Decisions/actions are removed when the Council has been informed that they are complete

Date of meeting	Minute para	Action to be taken	By whom	Action taken or planned
21.01.25	Member Questions	To provide a response to a supplementary question asked by Cllr David Thomas: Can you detail the exact financial investment made by the Council in each of the sectors I've mentioned over the last financial year and provide examples of job creation or business expansion. Additionally, how does this investment compare to the average across Welsh authorities, and what metrics are used to evaluate the success or failure of these initiatives?	Executive Member, Economy, Skills and Regeneration	Action complete – response provided via Email to Cllr Thomas on 10.03.25
04.03.25	15.1	Motion – That this local authority appoints a VAWG Member Champion who will hold the authority to account and pledges to amplify the voice of survivors.	Leader	Action complete – report included on the Council Agenda for 8.4.24 proposing the establishment of a Violence Against Women and Girls Member Champion and to nominate a Member to serve as VAWG Member Champion.

Action list updated on 19.03.25

CO = Chief Officer EM = Executive Member MQ = Member Question PQ = Public Question

NB The Consultation Monitor (which lists consultations being undertaken by other organisations, to which the Council may wish to respond, and who will respond if so) which was previously submitted to Council meetings is now circulated by e-mail to all members for information and comment as required. Please contact Dominique Redman, Team Leader, Democratic and Member Services on 01495 766294 or Dominique.redman@torfaen.gov.uk in the event of any queries on the consultation monitor

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Full Council
April 2025

Torfaen Education Services Update

Report Submitted by: *Jason O'Brien, Strategic Director (Children and Families)*
Report Written by: *Andrew Powles, Director of Education*

Key messages

- Estyn has published an 'effective practice' case study on the Local Authority entitled 'Leaders securing improvement in a local authority'.
- An updated Education Improvement Plan (EIP) has been co-constructed with stakeholders
- The EIP for the financial year 25/26 comprises of six objectives, which align with the County Plan and national educational priorities
- Inspection reports and letters outlining findings from Estyn interim visits are available via the Estyn website
- Rates of pupil attendance continue to improve but remain below pre-pandemic levels
- Rates of exclusions have reduced but remain high
- The Education Service has continued to provide regular and varied reports to both the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Children and Families and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Core elements of the County Plan have been delivered including the roll out of universal free school meals, reducing the rate of learners identified as not in education, employment or training on leaving year 11, the community youth and play provision across Torfaen, and delivery of substantial capital investment projects.

1. Area Affected

1.1 All areas of the county borough

2. Purpose of report

2.1 To provide an update to Council on the work of the education service.

2.2 This report complements scrutiny and Council reports that have been provided over the last year.

3. Background

3.1 The Education Service last provided an update to Council in November 2024.

3.2 This report highlights key developments and provides an update on key performance measures for the Local Authority and schools.

4. Information and Discussion

4.1 Estyn Case Study

In February 2025, Estyn published an 'effective practice' case study entitled 'Leaders securing improvement in a local authority'. The case study details how the Local Authority progressed recommendations from the last full Estyn inspection, including how "The local authority has worked pro-actively with all stakeholders and secured notable improvements in many aspects of their work". The case study is available from the link below:

Leaders securing improvement in a local authority - Estyn

4.2 Education Improvement Plan

Following consultation with officers, headteachers and school governors an updated Education Improvement Plan (EIP) has been developed to support delivery of the County Plan. The EIP, which also reflects national education priorities, is constructed around six key objectives:

1. Improve learner outcomes, particularly in literacy and numeracy, and reduce the attainment gap for vulnerable and disadvantaged learners
2. Ensure effective targeted and specialist provision for learning with Additional Learning Needs
3. Promote learner wellbeing and facilitate community engagement
4. Develop learner progression pathways and encourage lifelong learning
5. Promote staff wellbeing
6. Develop the physical and digital learning environment

Appendix 1 is a full copy of the EIP. Appendix 2 is an overview of key objectives, strategies and success criteria/impact measures contained in the plan.

Progress of the EIP will be monitored through the Continued Improvement Group (CIG), which comprises of the Executive Member for Children, Families and Education, senior officers and representatives from the Torfaen school improvement service.

4.3 Estyn Inspections

School and settings inspection reports are available on the Estyn website:

Welcome to Estyn | Estyn (gov.wales)

Between the core LA inspection in March 2022 and July 2024, Estyn inspected eleven primary schools, eight non-maintained settings, two secondary schools and one special school. Overall, inspection outcomes were positive. Of these schools and settings, one primary school and one non maintained setting were placed into Estyn review. Two non-

maintained settings and two primary schools were asked to provide case studies of effective practice.

A new, six-year, Estyn inspection cycle began in September 2024. The table below details the schools and settings that have received a full inspection since September 24, the outcome of the inspection and the link to their inspection report:

School / Setting	Outcome	Link to Inspection Report
Osbourne Lodge Day Nursery	No follow up	Inspection report Osbourne Lodge Day Nursery 2024
Belle Vue Nursery	No follow up	Inspection report Belle Vue Nursery Ltd 2025
Blenheim Road Community Primary School	No follow up	Inspection report Blenheim Road Community Primary School 2025
Coed Eva Primary School	No follow up	Inspection report Coed Eva Primary School 2025
Poppies Day Nursery	No follow up	Inspection report Poppies Day Nursery Limited 2025
Ty Glyn Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	Requiring Significant Improvement	Inspection report Alternative Tuition Ty Glyn PRU 2025
Two Counties Creche CIC	Removed from Estyn Review	Outcome of estyn review Two Counties Creche CIC 2025

Interim visit reports are a new feature that have been introduced in this new inspection cycle. The table below details the schools that have received interim visits and contains links to their interim visit reports:

School	Link to Interim Visit Report
Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School	Interim visit letter Blaenavon Heritage Voluntary Controlled Primary School 2024
New Inn Primary School	Interim visit letter New Inn Primary School 2025
Crownbridge School	Interim visit letter Crownbridge School 2025

4.4 Attendance and Exclusions

Overall rates of attendance in Torfaen continue to improve although they have not yet recovered to pre-pandemic rates. This is evident across all Local Authority areas in Wales.

Monthly Attendance Analysis (percentage)			
Sector	**Feb 2019**	**Feb 2025**	**Difference**
Primary	93.8	93.02	-0.78
Secondary	91.5	89.40	-2.1

At the end of February 2025, Torfaen's overall attendance rate 91.4%. This placed the authority in 6/22 position of Welsh Local Authorities.

Primary school rates of attendance are higher than secondary school rates of attendance.

If the rates of attendance are maintained for the rest of this academic year, we would expect to see further improvements compared to previous years.

7-year attendance trend (percentage)							
Sector	**2023/24**	**2022/23**	**2021/22**	**2020/21**	**2019/20**	**2018/19**	**2017/18**
Primary	92.44	91.7	90.81	92.1	94.8	94.52	94.60
Secondary	88.55	86.5	83.78	88.9	93.9	94.04	93.71

There has been a reduction in the number of fixed term exclusions and permanent exclusions in comparison to the same period last year:

Type of Exclusion	Sept 23 – Feb 24	Sept 24 – Feb 25	Difference
Fixed Term - 5 days or fewer	1178	917	-261
Fixed Term – 6 days or more	29	9	-20
Days lost to exclusion	2034.5	1103.5	-931
Permanent Exclusion	10	5	-5

The trend is improving in terms of numbers of exclusions and days lost, but overall numbers of exclusions and days lost remain high and are an area of focussed work. For example, a specialist Educational Psychologist has been working with all Torfaen secondary schools. She leads a termly meeting at each school with a focus on data analysis in relation to exclusions and an emphasis on problem solving and reviewing policies and provision. Additionally, the Improving Behaviour in Schools (IBIS) project, also led by Educational Psychology, provides schools with a range of professional learning opportunities to support the wellbeing of learners.

4.5 **Education Overview and Scrutiny**

The Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee is in the process of completing the work schedule for this year. Scrutiny sessions have been attended by the Executive Member for Children and Families, Strategic Director for Children and Families, officers within Education Services, and partners from the Education Achievement Service (EAS).

The completed scrutiny sessions, and links to their papers, are set out in the table below:

Item	Date
School Capital Maintenance Programme Agenda for Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 10th October, 2024, 10.00 am | Torfaen County Borough Council	10th October 24
Torfaen School Improvement Services Agenda for Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 5th December, 2024, 10.00 am | Torfaen County Borough Council	5th December 24
Mid-Year Review of Work Programme & Additional Learning Needs Transformation	6th February 24

Agenda for Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 6th February, 2025, 10.00 am | Torfaen County Borough Council	
Torfaen Youth Service Agenda for Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday, 2nd April, 2025, 10.00 am | Torfaen County Borough Council	2nd April 24

Additionally, a joint meeting of the Children and Families and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on in January 2025 to examine 'Early Years Intervention':

Agenda for Joint Meeting of Children & Families and Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday, 29th January, 2025, 10.00 am | Torfaen County Borough Council

4.6 **County Plan Commitments**

The Education Service continues to support a range of other Wellbeing Objectives in the County Plan. Related activities include, but are by no means limited to:

- Serving more than 702,000 nutritious emails in primary schools across the county borough in 2024-2025 as part of the universal free school meals programme, exceeding the take up target of 75% whilst continuing to reduce carbon emissions across the School Catering Service's provisions.

- Reducing the percentage of young people who leave education in year 11 classified as of Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) to 2%, which equated to 22 learners in academic year 2023/2024.

- The Play Service running 56 different weekly community provisions: 31 community play provisions, 11 family play provisions, 5 Pop Up and Play Saturday Sessions and 9 Play & Respite Disability Weekend Sessions. In addition, the team provides over 400 hours of in-school support per week.

- The Youth Service increasing the offer of holistic well-being options for young people through youth work activity, led and designed by young people accessing the service demonstrating personal, social and education growth, positively impacting more than 2500 young people over the last year.

- Maximising funding from the council, Welsh Government, Shared Prosperity Fund and other sources to enhance our schools: completion of the £12m, 50 place extension at Crownbridge Special School; significant progress with the new £17m Maendy school due to open in Summer 2025; c.£6m on new 3G pitches and associated works at Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw, Abersychan School and Llantarnam Primary School; £1.1m invested in enhanced facilities for children with Additional

Learning Needs at four schools plus the Pupil Referral Unit and £1.9m on new or improved community use facilities at 10 schools across the borough.

5. Consultation

5.1 The report is for information and discussion only and does not require any decisions. Consequently, no consultation has taken place.

6. Implications

6.1 This report is for information and discussion. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6.2 This report is not supported by a completed integrated assessment tool. Where appropriate, specific activity, plans and strategies will have their own associated in-depth integrated assessments.

7. Action to be taken following decision

7.1 Monitoring the implementation and impact of the Education Improvement Plan will take place through the Continued Improvement Group (CIG) in addition to regular reports to the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7.2 Provide further updates to Council as required.

8. Recommendations

8.1 It is recommended that Council accepts this report as an update of the progress made within education services.

Appendices	Appendix 1 – Education Improvement Plan 25/26 Education%20Improvement%20Plan%2025‘ Appendix 2 – Education Improvement Plan Overview EIP%20Overview%2025%2026.pptx

Background Papers	**Note: Members of the public are entitled, under the Local Government Act 1972, to inspect background papers to reports. The following is a list of the background papers used in the production of this report.** N/A

For a copy of the background papers or for further information about this report, please contact:

Andrew Powles, Director of Education – Andrew.powles@torfaen.gov.uk

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Education Improvement Plan (EIP)

April 2025

Torfaen Education Service Improvement Plan (April 2025)

Introduction

In October 2024, Estyn removed the LA from Significant Improvement. Although Estyn judged appropriate progress had been made against the four recommendations from the March 2022 inspection, they will be kept under regular review to ensure that progress is sustained. The recommendations were:

R1 Improve outcomes for learners, particularly in secondary schools
R2 Strengthen performance management
R3 Strengthen self-evaluation and improvement planning processes and the link between them
R4 Improve strategic leadership of learning and ALN

Education Service Objectives

This action plan is framed under six service objectives that align with the Estyn inspection recommendations and the wellbeing priorities detailed in the county plan. The six objectives are:

- **Objective 1** – Improve learner outcomes, particularly in literacy and numeracy, and reduce the attainment gap for vulnerable and disadvantaged learners
- **Objective 2** – Ensure effective targeted and specialist provision for learners with Additional Learning Needs
- **Objective 3** – Promote learner wellbeing and facilitate community engagement
- **Objective 4** – Develop learner progression pathways to encourage lifelong learning
- **Objective 5** – Promote staff wellbeing
- **Objective 6** – Develop the physical and digital environment for learning

The objectives, and associated actions, have been developed to reflect the dimensions of a learning organisation (Schools as learning organisations (SLO) - Hwb):

- Shared vision: leaders involve the whole community to develop a shared, inclusive, inspiring vision that aims to enhance the learning experiences and outcomes of all learners.
- Continuous learning: develop a 'learning culture' with time and resources provided for all staff to engage in professional learning. Staff identify their individual priorities for professional development, which in turn support the goals of the school or setting.
- Learning and collaboration: staff reflect and evaluate practice together. Create opportunities for staff to collaborate and examine practice together.
- Culture of enquiry: the whole community is actively engaged in enquiry with staff encouraged to take risks, experiment and be innovative to support them to extend their practice. Trust and mutual respect are core values which underpin the development of innovation.

- Exchanging knowledge: staff regularly discuss and evaluate whether actions, including professional learning, have had the desired outcomes and they work together, referring to research evidence when appropriate, to improve practice.
- External environment: develop partnerships with parents/carers, other schools, universities, businesses, public organisations, and the community to respond to change and develop mutual learning.
- Learning leadership: leaders model learning leadership and ensure all staff have access to strong collaborative learning opportunities.

The County Plan 2022-2027

Teams plans within Education Services align with the objectives and key outcomes of the County Plan and mirror key activities contained within this PIAP. The County Plan is available via this following hyperlink:

https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/AboutTheCouncil/ImprovingTorfaen/County-Plan/County-Plan-2022-2027.aspx

The nine wellbeing objectives of the County Plan are:

- Well-being Objective 1 - We will raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives
- Well-being Objective 2 - We will encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive
- Well-being Objective 3 - We will tackle inequality by focusing on early identification and prevention activities that support people to live independent and fulfilling lives
- Well-being Objective 4 - We will make Torfaen more sustainable by connecting people and communities, socially, digitally and physically
- Well-being Objective 5 - We will address our climate and nature emergencies, recycle more and make improvements to the local environment
- Well-being Objective 6 - We will make Torfaen a great place to do business by working with local employers, encouraging new business start-ups and entrepreneurial activities
- Well-being Objective 7 - We will promote healthier lifestyles in Torfaen to improve mental and physical well-being
- Well-being Objective 8 - We will support our local culture and heritage and make Torfaen a thriving, safe and attractive place to live and visit
- Well-being Objective 9 - We will provide efficient customer focused services that reflect the way people live their lives and wish to access services

Objective 1: Improve learner outcomes, particularly in literacy and numeracy, and reduce the attainment gap for vulnerable and disadvantaged learners
Estyn Recommendation 1: Improve outcomes for learners, particularly in secondary schools
Link to County Plan: Well-being Objective 1 - We will raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives Well-being Objective 2 - We will encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive

Estyn development notes (From Oct 24):	**Objective Leader:** Head of Learning and Achievement, Andy Rothwell **Evidence:**
• attendance in Torfaen is lower than it was prior to the pandemic, as it is nationally. • exclusion rates remain too high, particularly in a few secondary schools • in a few cases, school support overviews are too positive about the progress that schools have made	• Strategic Improvement Board (SIB) Meetings together with reports on progress of PIAP • Monthly Accelerated Improvement Group (AIG) Monitoring meetings with Executive Member and Chief Executive with Education Leadership Team (ELT) and School Improvement Service • Monthly Partnership meetings with LA and School Improvement Service • Wider Group Meeting minutes and outcomes • School Improvement Service termly impact reports • ELT and half-termly Extended ELT meetings agendas and action points • Inspection outcomes (as they become available) compared to School Improvement Service /LA pre-inspection reports • Corporate Leadership Balanced Score Card – Education Service report

Objective 1: Improve learner outcomes, particularly in literacy and numeracy, and reduce the attainment gap for vulnerable and disadvantaged learners			
Recommendation 1: Improve outcomes for learners, particularly in secondary schools			
Link to County Plan: Well-being Objective 1 - We will raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives Well-being Objective 2 - We will encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive			
Links to Team Plans: • All Education Service Team Plans			
Strategy	**Lead Officer**	**Success criteria / intended impact**	**Resources needed**
1.1 Refine LA strategic overview and impact on school performance, with a particular focus on national priorities	Head of Learning and Achievement	• Thematic review quantifiers indicate improvements in the impact of teaching and learning and leadership in most schools e.g. provision and progress in literacy and numeracy • Learner exam outcomes are in line with, or better than, modelled expectations i.e. Capped 9; Literacy; Numeracy; Science; Thirds • Wider Group/Heatmap data of school support requirements demonstrate a positive improvement in performance across all aspects considered e.g. exclusions, attendance, quality of teaching and learning, evaluation and improvement planning, finances, rates of staff absence.	Officer time – additional capacity now in place.
Key Actions	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**
1.1.1 Monthly LA/LA School Improvement Service meetings coordinate support for schools, identify and address developing issues- all actions are clearly	Head of Learning and Achievement	April 25 (Monthly)	March 26

Objective 1: Improve learner outcomes, particularly in literacy and numeracy, and reduce the attainment gap for vulnerable and disadvantaged learners			
Recommendation 1: Improve outcomes for learners, particularly in secondary schools			
documented, delivered and partners held to account.			
1.1.2 Torfaen Thematic Reviews establish strengths and areas of development of teaching and learning across Torfaen Schools, with a particular focus on national priorities e.g. specific subject and phase support, literacy, numeracy, digital competence, Welsh language development and changes to qualifications.	Head of Learning and Achievement	April 25 (Termly)	March 26
1.1.3 Analysis of Torfaen exam outcomes are shared and discussed with secondary headteachers to identify themes and enable joint improvement planning.	Head of Learning and Achievement	August 25	January 26
Strategy	**Lead Officer**	**Success criteria / intended impact**	**Resources needed**
1.2 Develop leadership and governance in Torfaen Schools	Head of Learning and Achievement	• Governor vacancies are minimal and addressed quickly • Governors engage in appropriate professional learning • Governing body minutes demonstrate effective support and challenge • Delegated budgets are effectively managed • All SDPs meet statutory requirements.	Officer Time
Key Actions	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**

Objective 1: Improve learner outcomes, particularly in literacy and numeracy, and reduce the attainment gap for vulnerable and disadvantaged learners			
Recommendation 1: Improve outcomes for learners, particularly in secondary schools			
1.2.1 Coordinate and issue at least annual LA briefings for all governors highlighting key issues/actions for schools/LA.	Head of Learning and Achievement	April 25 (Termly Review)	March 26
1.2.2 SDP Professional Discussions, informed by SIP supported self-evaluation activity and Wider Group data, take place at least annually in all Torfaen schools	Head of Learning and Achievement Principal School Improvement Partner (PSIP)	April 25	March 26
1.2.3 Termly Torfaen LA governor professional learning programme is coordinated, delivered, and evaluated.	Head of Learning and Achievement	April 25 (Termly)	March 26
1.2.4 LA Governor networking and professional learning events take place at annually, in addition to termly Torfaen Association of School Governors (TASG) meetings.	Head of Learning and Achievement	Summer Term 2025	March 26
1.2.5 Improve oversight of school governance through termly dip sampling of governing body minutes; monitoring of governor vacancies; and monitoring of governor statutory training compliance	Head of Learning and Achievement Principal School Improvement Partner (PSIP)	April 25 (Termly)	March 26
1.2.6 Development of an LA level DHT network to support succession planning. Monitor impact of sessions.	Head of Learning and Achievement	May 25	March 26

Objective 1: Improve learner outcomes, particularly in literacy and numeracy, and reduce the attainment gap for vulnerable and disadvantaged learners			
Recommendation 1: Improve outcomes for learners, particularly in secondary schools			
Strategy	**Lead Officer**	**Success criteria / intended impact**	**Resources needed**
1.3 Implement recommendations of Welsh Government Middle Tier Review	Director of Education	• Wider Group/Heatmap support ratings demonstrate a positive improvement in performance across all areas considered.	
Key Actions	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**
1.3.1 Develop Torfaen Teaching and Learning Strategy for all learners, and associated wellbeing strategy, in collaboration with schools	Head of ALN, Inclusion & Wellbeing Head of Learning and Achievement	April 25	Launch Sept 25
1.3.2 Develop peer-to-peer collaboration and professional challenge for individual schools, clusters and borough-wide – horizonal and vertical collaboration.	Director of Education Head of Learning and Achievement	April 25	March 26
1.3.3 Develop shared professional learning opportunities for LA and schools, including use of professional shadowing	Director of Education	April 25	March 26

Objective 1: Improve learner outcomes, particularly in literacy and numeracy, and reduce the attainment gap for vulnerable and disadvantaged learners			
Recommendation 1: Improve outcomes for learners, particularly in secondary schools			
1.3.4 Update LA/School partnership agreement in collaboration with the headteacher strategy group and seek agreement with all governing bodies.	Director of Education	April 25	September 25
Strategy	**Lead Officer**	**Success criteria / intended impact**	**Resources needed**
1.4 Improve schools in statutory categories and schools causing concern	Director of Education	• Schools have made demonstrable progress against all Estyn recommendations; LA review recommendations and warning notice requirements. • Delegated budgets are effectively managed • Supported self-evaluation activity indicates leaders have had a significant impact on improving the effectiveness of teaching and self-evaluation/ quality improvement processes - these are being consistently applied.	Officer time
Key Actions	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**
1.4.1 Multi-agency/Team Around the School (TAS) meetings for schools causing concern take place on a half-termly cycle to review progress against PIAP/SDP. Refine support for schools in statutory categories using findings from half termly meetings.	Director of Education Head of Learning and Achievement	April 25 (Half termly)	March 26

Objective 1: Improve learner outcomes, particularly in literacy and numeracy, and reduce the attainment gap for vulnerable and disadvantaged learners			
Recommendation 1: Improve outcomes for learners, particularly in secondary schools			
1.4.2 Regular forward monitor of school budgets to reduce risk of deficits and provide deficit recovery support, where required	Head of Resources and Planning Senior Education Finance Partner	April 25 (Monthly)	March 26

Objective 2: Ensure effective targeted and specialist provision for learners with Additional Learning Needs
Recommendation 4: Improve strategic leadership of learning and ALN
Link to County Plan: Well-being Objective 1 - We will raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives. Well-being Objective 2 - We will encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive. Well-being Objective 3 - We will tackle inequality by focusing on early identification and prevention activities that support people to live independent and fulfilling lives Well-being Objective 7 - We will promote healthier lifestyles in Torfaen to improve mental and physical well-being. Well-being Objective 9 - We will provide efficient customer focused services that reflect the way people live their lives and wish to access services.

Estyn observations (From Oct 24):	**Objective Leader:** Head of ALN, Inclusion and Wellbeing, Claire Williams **Evidence:**
• at times the capacity across the teams limits the scope of support and guidance that the local authority can provide to all settings, schools and the PRU	• Strategic Improvement Board (SIB) Meetings together with reports on progress of PIAP • Monthly Accelerated Improvement Group (AIG) Monitoring meetings with Executive Member and Chief Executive with Education Leadership Team (ELT) and School Improvement Service • Monthly Partnership meetings with LA and School Improvement Service • Wider Group Meeting minutes and outcomes • School Improvement Service termly impact reports • ELT and half-termly Extended ELT meetings agendas and action points • Inspection outcomes (as they become available) compared to pre-inspection reports • Corporate Leadership Balanced Score Card – Education Service report

Objective 2: Ensure effective targeted and specialist provision for learners with Additional Learning Needs			
Recommendation 4: Improve strategic leadership of learning and ALN			
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Links to Team Plans: Head of Learning and Achievement – School Improvement Plan ALN/Educational Psychology Team Plan SenCom Service Plan Early Years Team Plan Youth Service			
Strategy	**Lead Officer**	**Success criteria / intended impact**	**Resources needed**
2.1 Keep local and out of county provision under review to ensure it meets the needs of Torfaen learners	Head of ALN, Inclusion and Wellbeing	• Targeted and specialist provision is in line with demand/needs • Learners have access to local specialist provision where possible. • Progress of individual ALN learners from their baseline aligns with LA/school expectations	Officer time
Action	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**
2.1.1 Monitor and evaluate outcomes for learners in targeted provision in collaboration with schools	Head of ALN, Inclusion & Wellbeing	April 25	March 26

Objective 2: Ensure effective targeted and specialist provision for learners with Additional Learning Needs			
Recommendation 4: Improve strategic leadership of learning and ALN			
2.1.2 Map and quality assure alternative/specialist providers in collaboration with schools and neighbouring Local Authorities	Head of ALN, Inclusion and Wellbeing	April 25	March 26
2.1.3 Analyse data trends and create a forward projection of ALN need to inform provision planning, including joint commissioning of alternative provision	Head of ALN, Inclusion and Wellbeing	April 25	March 26
2.1.4 Adjust specialist provision capacity to meet local needs	Head of ALN, Inclusion and Wellbeing	April 25	Sept 25
Strategy	**Lead Officer**	**Success criteria / intended impact**	**Resources needed**
2.2 Develop ALN multi-agency partnership practices.	Head of ALN, Inclusion and Wellbeing	• Improve in-county provision to reduce the number of Out of County specialist placements. • Pupil voice and person-centred approaches are embedded in all planning. • Number of learners on modified days is minimal, and all modified days are effectively monitored and agreed with LA, where appropriate • Increase time spent of supervised provision for those learners on modified days.	Officer time

Objective 2: Ensure effective targeted and specialist provision for learners with Additional Learning Needs			
Recommendation 4: Improve strategic leadership of learning and ALN			
		• Reduce incidents and days lost due to exclusion	
Action	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**
2.2.1 Review SENCOM provision in collaboration with regional partners.	Head of ALN, Inclusion & Wellbeing Head of SenCom	April 25	Sept 25
2.2.2 Engagement with statutory (health and social care) and voluntary organisations.	Head of ALN, Inclusion & Wellbeing	April 25	March 26
Strategy	**Lead Officer**	**Success criteria / intended impact**	**Resources needed**
2.3 Develop ALN workforce skills and knowledge	Head of ALN, Inclusion and Wellbeing	• Robust transition arrangements for learners at key points of transition (pre-school to Nursery, Primary to secondary and Post 16 provision) so learners maintain appropriate levels of progress • Reduced need for Independent Special Post-16 Institutions (ISPI) provision, • Principles and provision for Post 16 ALN learners in Torfaen is implemented	Officer time ALN Grant Funding
Action	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**
2.3.1 Revise ALN team structures and embed processes for ALN transition support in Early Years and post 16 provisions.	Head of ALN, Inclusion and Wellbeing	April 25	Sept 25

Objective 2: Ensure effective targeted and specialist provision for learners with Additional Learning Needs			
Recommendation 4: Improve strategic leadership of learning and ALN			
2.3.2 Identify professional learning needs across Torfaen, and use ALN Headteacher Group, LRB Network, ALN Outreach, and ALNCO Forum to facilitate multi-agency collaboration and ongoing professional learning	Head of ALN, Inclusion & Wellbeing	April 25	March 26
Strategy	**Lead Officer**	**Success criteria / intended impact**	**Resources needed**
2.4 Strengthen rationale for funding and of governance of ALN provision	Head of ALN, Inclusion and Wellbeing	• ALN provision managed within agreed delegated budget. • Reduced proportional expenditure on out of County specialist placements.	Officer time ALN Grant Funding
Action	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**
2.4.1 Evaluate the allocation and use of ALN mainstream funding in Torfaen Schools	Head of ALN, Inclusion & Wellbeing	April 25	March 26
2.4.2 Establish Learning Resource Base (LRB) partnership agreement, including a review specialist provision funding formula	Head of ALN, Inclusion & Wellbeing	April 25	Sept 25 for School Budget Forum October 25 and implementation 26/27 financial year
2.4.3 Review Specialist provision entry and exit criteria.	Head of ALN, Inclusion & Wellbeing	April 25	Sept 25

Objective 3: Promote learner wellbeing and facilitate community engagement
Estyn Recommendation: 1, 2, 3, 4
Link to County Plan: Well-being Objective 1 - We will raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives Well-being Objective 2 - We will encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive Well-being Objective 3 - We will tackle inequality by focusing on early identification and prevention activities that support people to live independent and fulfilling lives Well-being Objective 7 - We will promote healthier lifestyles in Torfaen to improve mental and physical well-being Well-being Objective 9 - We will provide efficient customer focused services that reflect the way people live their lives and wish to access services.

Context Statement: To support the improvement of learner wellbeing, greater integration of children's services and education services will be strengthened, and provision informed by learner voice. The development of a joint Directorate Wellbeing strategy, which includes strengthening the role of play and youth services in promoting the wellbeing of children and young people is a priority for the joint Directorate. In addition to addressing issues identified through the School Health Research Network (SHRN) survey, the Wellbeing strategy will support improvements in the rates of learner attendance and exclusions in Torfaen schools, which are currently not in line with pre-pandemic levels.	**Objective Leaders:** Strategic Director, Jason O'Brien Director of Education, Andrew Powles Head of Resources and Planning, John Tushingham Head of ALN, Inclusion and Wellbeing, Claire Williams Head of Learning and Achievement, Andy Rothwell **Support Person** Evaluation and Improvement Officer, Jess Gabriel **Evidence:** • Strategic Improvement Board (SIB) Meetings together with reports on progress of PIAP • Monthly Accelerated Improvement Group (AIG) Monitoring meetings with Executive Member and Chief Executive with Education Leadership Team (ELT) and School Improvement Service • Monthly Partnership meetings with LA and LA School Improvement Service • Wider Group Meeting minutes and outcomes • School Improvement Service termly impact reports • ELT and half-termly Extended ELT meetings agendas and action points

	• Inspection outcomes (as they become available) compared to School Improvement Service /LA pre-inspection reports • Corporate Leadership Balanced Score Card – Education Service report

Objective 3: Promote learner wellbeing and facilitate community engagement			
Estyn Recommendation: 1, 2, 3, 4			
Link to County Plan: Well-being Objective 1 - We will raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives Well-being Objective 2 - We will encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive Well-being Objective 3 - We will tackle inequality by focusing on early identification and prevention activities that support people to live independent and fulfilling lives Well-being Objective 7 - We will promote healthier lifestyles in Torfaen to improve mental and physical well-being Well-being Objective 9 - We will provide efficient customer focused services that reflect the way people live their lives and wish to access services			
Link to Team Plans: • Safeguarding • Youth Service • Play Service • ALN/Educational Psychology Team Plan • Education Welfare Service • Head of Learning and Achievement – School Improvement Plan • Early Years Team Plan			
Strategy	**Lead Officer**	**Success criteria / intended impact**	**Resources needed**
3.1 Promote attendance and inclusion practices to raise attendance and reduce exclusions	Head of ALN, Inclusion and Wellbeing Head of Learning and Achievement	• Rates of attendance and exclusions in all schools return to pre-pandemic levels, including a reduction in the rate of persistent absenteeism	Officer time

Objective 3: Promote learner wellbeing and facilitate community engagement			
Estyn Recommendation: 1, 2, 3, 4			
		• Number of schools achieving pre-pandemic rates of attendance increases	
Action	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**
3.1.2 Target support for school attendance where the need is greatest (e.g. vulnerable and disadvantaged learners) to improve overall attendance rates in Torfaen.	Head of Learning and Achievement	April 25 (Monthly Review)	March 26
3.1.3 Review and strengthen alternative provision, behaviour support, anti-racism and anti-bullying support offered by the Local Authority	Head of ALN, Inclusion and Wellbeing Head of Resources and Planning	April 25	March 26

Objective 3: Promote learner wellbeing and facilitate community engagement			
Estyn Recommendation: 1, 2, 3, 4			
Strategy	**Lead Officer**	**Success criteria / intended impact**	**Resources needed**
3.2 Integrate Education and Children's Services to improve provision and outcomes for children and young people.	Strategic Director Director of Education	• Reduced exclusions; increased attendance rates; fewer children accessing modified days; fewer school leavers identified as NEET or unknown	Officer time
Action	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**
3.2.1 Develop strengthened joint working practices for Safeguarding leads within Education and Children's Services.	Head of Children's Services Head of Resources and Planning	April 25	March 26
3.2.2 Develop shared MER practices across the Children and Families Directorate	Strategic Director	April 25	March 26
Strategy	**Lead Officer**	**Success criteria / intended impact**	**Resources needed**
3.3 Development of community focussed schools' provision in areas with highest need	Head of Resources and Planning Head of ALN, Inclusion and Wellbeing	• Reduced exclusions; increase attendance rates; fewer children accessing modified days; fewer school leavers identified as NEET or unknown; Youth Service Performance Measures	Officer time

Objective 3: Promote learner wellbeing and facilitate community engagement			
Estyn Recommendation: 1, 2, 3, 4			
Action	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**
3.3.1 Develop a Youth and Play Strategy to shape and promote future work priorities.	Head of Resources and Planning	April 25	August 25
3.3.3 Map and share good practice in Community Focussed Schools approaches	Evaluation and Improvement Officer	April 25	March 26
Strategy	**Lead Officer**	**Success criteria / intended impact**	**Resources needed**
3.4 Strengthen learner voice in Local Authority improvement planning	Director of Education	• All teams use learner voice to inform their provision and improvement planning	Officer time
Action	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**
3.4.1 Embed Torfaen Youth Alliance	Evaluation and Improvement Officer/ Children and Young People Participation Officer	April 25	March 26

Objective 4: Develop learner progression pathways to encourage lifelong learning	
Estyn Recommendation: 1, 2, 3, 4	
Link to County Plan: Well-being Objective 1 - We will raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives Well-being Objective 2 - We will encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive Well-being Objective 3 - We will tackle inequality by focusing on early identification and prevention activities that support people to live independent and fulfilling lives Well-being Objective 7 - We will promote healthier lifestyles in Torfaen to improve mental and physical well-being Well-being Objective 9 - We will provide efficient customer focused services that reflect the way people live their lives and wish to access services	
Link to Team Plans: • All Education Service Team Plans	
Context Statement: Workstreams within this objective support the positive pathway of learners through their educational journey starting with targeted early years support through, and receive high quality transition arrangements for learners, including at pre- and post-statutory school points. Whilst in statutory education, learners, including those in alternative provision, will be supported so that on exiting statutory education young people are supported into Education, Employment and Training. Additionally, learners will be offered equality of opportunity to learn in English or Welsh medium provision through implementation of the Torfaen Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP).	**Objective Leaders:** Head of Resources and Planning, John Tushingham Head of ALN, Inclusion and Wellbeing, Claire Williams Head of Learning and Achievement, Andy Rothwell **Support Person** Evaluation and Improvement Officer, Jess Gabriel **Evidence:** • Strategic Improvement Board (SIB) Meetings together with reports on progress of PIAP • Monthly Accelerated Improvement Group (AIG) Monitoring meetings with Executive Member and Chief Executive with Education Leadership Team (ELT) and School Improvement Service • Monthly Partnership meetings with LA and School Improvement Service • Wider Group Meeting minutes and outcomes • School Improvement Service termly impact reports • ELT and half-termly Extended ELT meetings agendas and action points • Inspection outcomes (as they become available) compared to School Improvement Service LA pre-inspection reports • Corporate Leadership Balanced Score Card – Education Service report

Objective 4: Develop learner progression pathways to encourage lifelong learning			
Estyn Recommendation: 1, 2, 3, 4			
Strategy	**Lead Officer**	**Success criteria / intended impact**	**Resources needed**
4.1 Provide targeted Early Years support to children across Torfaen	Head of Learning and Achievement	• All children in early years settings are offered appropriate access to early years education and receive support that allows them to progress from their own baseline.	Welsh Government Grant Funding Officer time
Action	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**
4.1.1 Rollout of Flying Start expansion to all identified locations	Flying Start Manager	April 25	March 26
4.1.2 Implement corporate Early Intervention and Prevention work	Strategic Directors	April 25	March 26
Strategy	**Lead Officer**	**Success criteria / intended impact**	**Resources needed**
4.2 Links with employers/NEETs to reduce the rates of those NEETs and those with 'unknown' destinations.	Head of Resources and Planning	• Maintain/continue to reduce proportion of young people leaving school not engaging in further education, employment, or training	Officer time
Action	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**

Objective 4: Develop learner progression pathways to encourage lifelong learning			
Estyn Recommendation: 1, 2, 3, 4			
4.2.1 Use early identification toolkit to identify and support those learners at risk of becoming NEET.	Head of Resources and Planning	April 25	March 26
4.2.3 Use Post 16 Partnership Forum to strengthen vocational and other local provision for learners	Head of Resources and Planning	April 25	March 26
Strategy	**Lead Officer**	**Success criteria / intended impact**	**Resources needed**
4.3 Deliver the Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and progress the individual outcomes detailed in it.	Director of Education	• Annual progress reports identify appropriate progress towards the five- and ten-year targets contained in the WESP.	Officer time Immersion Grant funding
Action	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**
4.5.1 Welsh Education Forum (WEF) sub-groups meet at least half-termly and provide evaluation reports to map progress against the Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)	Evaluation and Improvement Officer	April 25	March 26
4.5.2 Welsh Government feedback on the WESP annual report on the WESP reported to Corporate Leadership Team and recommendations implemented	Evaluation and Improvement Officer	April 25	March 26

Objective 5: Promote staff wellbeing
Recommendation 2: Strengthen performance management. **Recommendation 3: Strengthen self-evaluation and improvement planning processes and the link between them**
Link to County Plan: Well-being Objective 1 - We will raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives Well-being Objective 2 - We will encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive
Links to Team Plans: • All Education Service Plans

Estyn observations (October 24)	**Objective Leader:** Director of Education, Andrew Powles **Support Persons:** Head of Resources and Planning, John Tushingham Head of ALN, Inclusion and Wellbeing, TBC Head of Learning and Achievement, Andy Rothwell Head of Access and Engagement, Steve Tong Evaluation and Improvement Officer, Jess Gabriel **Evidence:**
• the impact of actions agreed in line management meetings are not always considered precisely enough • at team level the planning approach, which follows the corporate system, does not enable officers to identify precisely the success criteria. As a result, the outcome and impact of actions taken are not always monitored or reported effectively. • At times, team evaluations focus too heavily on the activity that has taken place and are not always sufficiently precise regarding the impact of those actions	• Strategic Improvement Board (SIB) Meetings together with reports on progress of PIAP • Monthly Accelerated Improvement Group (AIG) Monitoring meetings with Executive Member and Chief Executive with Education Leadership Team (ELT) and School Improvement Service • Monthly Partnership meetings with LA and School Improvement Service • Wider Group Meeting minutes and outcomes • School Improvement Service termly impact reports • ELT and half-termly Extended ELT meetings agendas and action points

	• Inspection outcomes (as they become available) compared to School Improvement Service /LA pre-inspection reports • Education Leadership Team and extended leadership team meetings agendas and action points • Monitoring, Evaluation and Review reporting and performance management cycle. • Corporate Leadership Balanced Score Card – Education Service report

Objective 5: Promote staff wellbeing			
Estyn Recommendation: 1, 2, 3, 4			
Link to County Plan: Well-being Objective 1 - We will raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives Well-being Objective 2 - We will encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive			
Links to Team Plans: • All Education Service Plans			
Strategy	**Lead Officer**	**Success criteria / intended impact**	**Resources needed**
5.1 Staff Wellbeing Promotion Promote provision available and monitor uptake and impact	Head of ALN, Inclusion and Wellbeing	• Staff absence rates at individual school and within the Children and Families Directorate are below the corporate target	Officer time
Key Actions	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**
5.1.1 Devise and incorporate a wellbeing strategy as part of an overall teaching and learning strategy	Head of ALN, Inclusion and Wellbeing	March 25	Sept 25
5.1.2 Host a wellbeing marketplace for school and LA leaders to highlight employee benefits/support services	Head of ALN, Inclusion and Wellbeing	April 25	July 25
5.1.3 Quarterly monitor of staff sickness levels at individual school and Children and Families and review/interventions are reported to corporate leadership team and discussed at Wider Group.	Director of Education	April 25	March 26

Strategy	Lead Officer	Success criteria / intended impact	Resources needed
5.2 Performance Management/ Development: Strengthen monitoring, evaluation, and review by Officers at all levels.	Director of Education	• Evaluation reports by Officers inform team/service planning and, over time, demonstrate improved outcomes/performance	Officer time Headteacher time
Key Actions	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**
5.2.1 Review and update of Education Service Monitoring, Evaluation and Review Policy (MER), including schedule of reports for Education Leadership Team and Accelerated Improvement Group	Evaluation and Improvement Officer	April 25 (Weekly Meeting)	March 26
5.2.2 Evaluate the impact of professional learning with Extended Education Leadership Team based on GUSKEY style model.	Evaluation and Improvement Officer	April 25 (Termly Review)	6 monthly
5.2.3 Strengthen process for identification of professional learning requirements and links to Education Service planning. Including professional learning opportunities for Headteachers to work jointly with Children and Families managers	Evaluation and Improvement Officer	April 25	March 26
5.2.4 Improve use of data dashboards to support the Wider Group/Heatmap	Evaluation and Improvement Officer	April 25	Half-termly review

approach in line with the corporate use of Power BI and Data tools.			
5.2.5 Annual and Mid-year Performance Management (WorkSmarts) to be completed with all staff.	Education Leadership Team	April 25	Oct 25 Review March 26
5.2.7 School Improvement Partners to form greater links with LA Officer to support improvements in e.g. ALN and Attendance	Head of Learning and Achievement Principal School Improvement Partner	April 25	March 26
5.2.8 Monitor Implementation and impact of scrutiny recommendations and MER actions	Director of Education Evaluation and Improvement Officer	April 25 (Monthly Review)	March 26
5.2.9 Senior leaders regularly review action points from team meetings to ensure middle leaders are being consistently held to account and to support middle leaders in holding their team members to account.	Evaluation and Improvement Officer	April 25 (Termly Review)	March 26
5.2.10 Maintain Executive Forward Work Programme/Decision Making Timetable	Head of Resources and Planning	April 25	March 26
Strategy	**Lead Officer**	**Success criteria / intended impact**	**Resources needed**
5.3 Professional Learning Develop effective leadership at all levels within the directorate and within schools	Strategic Director – Children, Families and Education	• Evaluation reports by Officers inform team/service planning and, over time, demonstrate improved outcomes/performance in specific leadership portfolios	Officer time

Key Actions	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**
5.3.1 Identify and implement strengthened joint working opportunities for LA Officers within Children's Services and Education Services	Strategic Director – Children, Families and Education C&F Leadership Team	April 25 (Monthly meeting)	March 26
5.3.2 Develop expertise in report writing skills across senior and middle leaders through implementation of the calendar of evaluation and decisions for 2025-2026	Evaluation and Improvement Officer Education Leadership Team	April 25	March 26
5.3.3 Extended Education Leadership Team (EELT) reviews Estyn Thematic Reviews and inspection reports and implements recommendations, where appropriate.	Evaluation and Improvement Officer	April 25 (Half-termly meeting)	March 26
5.3.4 Devise professional learning programme based for individuals, teams, Extended Education Leadership Team, and whole Service.	Evaluation and Improvement Officer Director of Education	April 25	May 25
5.3.5 Develop joint professional learning programme for LA Officers and school leaders.	Evaluation and Improvement Officer Director of Education	April 25	May 25

Strategy	Lead Officer	Success criteria / intended impact	Resources needed
5.4 Digital Solutions/Flooding Staff capacity is optimised through use of digital solutions	Evaluation and Improvement Officer	• Digital solutions/flooding releases staff time for developmental work – resulting in improved outcomes for learners and improved staff wellbeing	Officer time
Key Actions	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**
5.4.1 Complete deep dives of team working and develop efficiencies of processes e.g. Referral Processes, general administration	Evaluation and Improvement Officer	April 25	March 26
5.4.2 Share good practice in digital solutions/process efficiencies with Extended Education Leadership Team and headteacher strategy group	Evaluation and Improvement Officer	April 25	March 26
Objective 6: Develop the physical and digital environment for learning			
Estyn Recommendation 1: Improve Outcomes for Learners, particularly in secondary schools			
Link to County Plan: Well-being Objective 1 - We will raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives Well-being Objective 2 - We will encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive. Well-being Objective 3 - We will tackle inequality by focusing on early identification and prevention activities that support people to live independent and fulfilling lives Well-being Objective 4 - We will make Torfaen more sustainable by connecting people and communities, socially, digitally, and physically. Well-being Objective 7 - We will promote healthier lifestyles in Torfaen to improve mental and physical well-being. Well-being Objective 9 - We will provide efficient customer focused services that reflect the way people live their lives and wish to access services			
Link to Team Plans: • Head of Resources & Planning • Head of Access & Engagement – Capital			

Objective 6: Develop the physical and digital environment for learning			
Estyn Recommendation 1: Improve Outcomes for Learners, particularly in secondary schools			
• Head of Learning and Achievement • Early Years Team Plan			
Context Statement: The Education Service will work with directorates across the Local Authority and with external partners to develop the physical and digital environments for learners so there is equality of opportunity for all learners to progress and gain positive educational outcomes.	**Objective Leaders:** Head of Resources and Planning, John Tushingham Head of Learning and Achievement, Andy Rothwell **Support Person** Head of Access and Engagement, Steve Tong Evaluation and Improvement Officer, Jess Gabriel **Evidence:** • Strategic Improvement Board (SIB) Meetings together with reports on progress of PIAP • Monthly Accelerated Improvement Group (AIG) Monitoring meetings with Executive Member and Chief Executive with Education Leadership Team (ELT) and School Improvement Service • Monthly Partnership meetings with LA and School Improvement Service • Wider Group Meeting minutes and outcomes • School Improvement Service termly impact reports • ELT and half-termly Extended ELT meetings agendas and action points • Inspection outcomes (as they become available) compared to School Improvement Service/LA pre-inspection reports • Corporate Leadership Balanced Score Card – Education Service report • PMO Minutes • Project Highlight reports • Cabinet or Council reports		
Strategy	**Lead Officer**	**Success criteria / intended impact**	**Resources needed**
6.1 Provide learners with a physical environment that promotes positive engagement and supports learning.	Head of Resources and Planning	• Improved capital assets provide a suitable environment for learning and demonstrates investment is appropriately directed.	Capital maintenance; Welsh Government funding; LA capital contributions

Objective 6: Develop the physical and digital environment for learning			
Estyn Recommendation 1: Improve Outcomes for Learners, particularly in secondary schools			
	Head of Access and Engagement		
Action	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**
6.1.1 Deliver capital projects on time, on budget, and on schedule and provide regular reports to the Children and Families Board - A and E (Forward Planning and Access General and Capital Projects) Performance monitoring team plan activity 5,7,8.	Head of Resources and Planning Head of Access and Engagement	April 25	March 26
6.1.2 Target Capital maintenance funding in line with asset survey responses – A and E (Forward Planning and Access General and Capital Projects) Performance monitoring team plan activity 9.	Head of Access and Engagement Head of Economic Development, Assets and Property	April 25	March 26
Strategy	**Lead Officer**	**Success criteria / intended impact**	**Resources needed**
6.2 Provide learners with a digital infrastructure that promotes positive engagement and supports learning.	Head of Learning and Achievement	• Torfaen Digital Education Strategy (DES) is shared and adopted by all schools in Torfaen. • All schools in the LA have a digital sustainability plan, aligned to the DES, to ensure devices and infrastructure adhere to the education digital standards.	LA Digital funding; school ICT funding

Objective 6: Develop the physical and digital environment for learning			
Estyn Recommendation 1: Improve Outcomes for Learners, particularly in secondary schools			
		• Learners demonstrate appropriate digital competency skills, against a locally agreed framework.	
Action	**Lead**	**Start**	**End**
6.2.1 Support all schools in Torfaen to develop a 5-year digital sustainability plan aligned to the principals of the Torfaen DES. Wave 2 funding is released to schools following and update of their commitments document.	Head of Learning and Achievement	April 25	March 26

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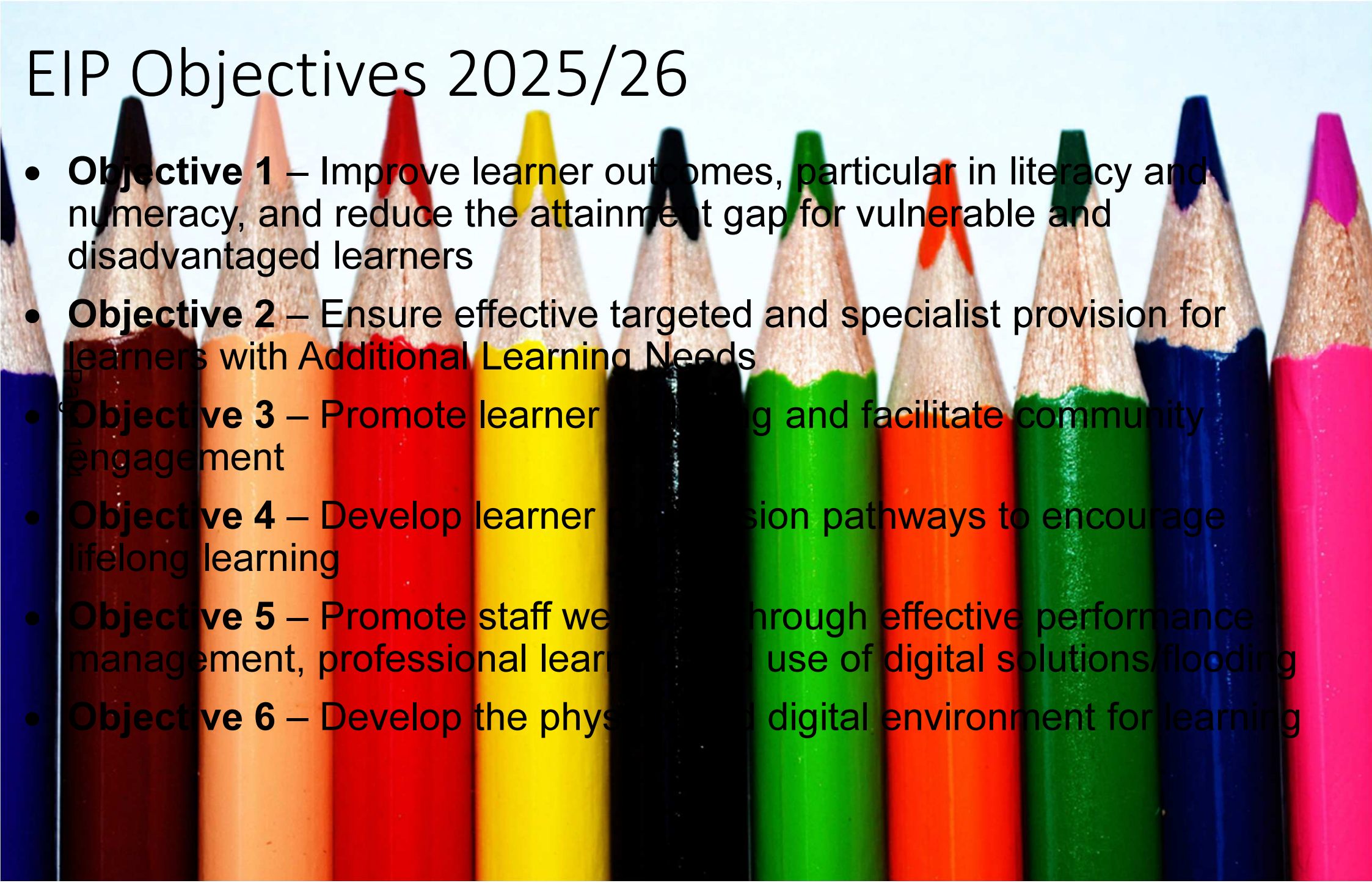
Torfaen County Borough Council

Education Improvement Plan (EIP)

Overview

EIP Objectives 2025/26



- **Objective 1** – Improve learner outcomes, particular in literacy and numeracy, and reduce the attainment gap for vulnerable and disadvantaged learners
- **Objective 2** – Ensure effective targeted and specialist provision for learners with Additional Learning Needs
- **Objective 3** – Promote learner [illegible]g and facilitate community engagement
- **Objective 4** – Develop learner [illegible]sion pathways to encourage lifelong learning
- **Objective 5** – Promote staff we[illegible]hrough effective performance management, professional lear[illegible] use of digital solutions/flooding
- **Objective 6** – Develop the phys[illegible] digital environment for learning

Objective 1 Improve learner outcomes, particular in literacy and numeracy, and reduce the attainment gap for vulnerable and disadvantaged learners

Strategies	Success Criteria
Refine LA strategic overview and impact on school performance, with a particular focus on national priorities	• Thematic reviews indicate improvements in the impact of teaching and learning and leadership in most schools. • Learner exam outcomes are in line with, or better than, modelled expectations • Wider Group/Heatmap data of school support requirements demonstrate a positive improvement in performance across all aspects considered.
Develop leadership and governance in Torfaen Schools	• Governor vacancies are minimal and addressed quickly • Governors engage in appropriate professional learning • Governing body minutes demonstrate effective support and challenge • All SDPs meet statutory requirements.
Implement recommendations of Welsh Government Middle Tier Review	• Wider Group/Heatmap support ratings demonstrate a positive improvement in performance across all aspects considered.
Improve schools in statutory categories and schools causing concern	• Schools have made demonstrable progress against all Estyn recommendations. • Delegated budgets are effectively managed • Supported self-evaluation activity indicates leaders have had a significant impact on improving the effectiveness of teaching and self-evaluation/ quality improvement processes - these are being consistently applied.

Objective 2 – Ensure effective targeted and specialist provision for learners with ALN

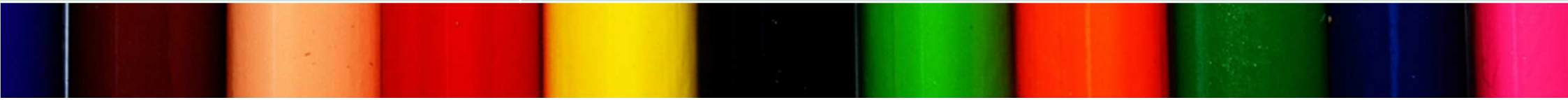
Strategies	Success Criteria
Keep local and out of county provision under review to ensure it meets the needs of Torfaen learners	• Targeted and specialist provision is in line with demand • All learners have access to local specialist provision where applicable.
3.2 Develop ALN multi-agency partnership practices.	• Improve in-county provision to reduce the number of Out of County specialist placements. • Pupil voice and person-centred approaches are embedded in all planning. • Number of learners on modified days is reduced • Increased time spent of supervised provision for those learners on modified days.
3.3 Develop ALN workforce skills and knowledge.	• Robust transition arrangements for learners at key points of transition (pre-school to Nursery, Primary to secondary and Post 16 provision). • Reduced need for Independent Special Post-16 Institutions (ISPI) provision, • Principles and provision for Post 16 ALN learners in Torfaen is implemented
3.4 Strengthen rationale for funding and of governance of ALN provision	• ALN provision managed within agreed delegated budget. • Reduced proportional expenditure on out of County specialist placements.

Objective 3 – Promote learner wellbeing and facilitate community engagement

Strategies	Success Criteria
Promote attendance and inclusion practices to raise attendance and reduce exclusions	• Rates of attendance and exclusions in all schools return to pre-pandemic levels, including a reduction in the rate of persistent absenteeism
Integrate Education and Children's Services to improve provision and outcomes for children and young people.	• Reduced exclusions; increased attendance rates; fewer children accessing modified days; fewer school leavers identified as NEET or unknown
Development of community focussed school provision in areas with highest need	• Reduced exclusions; increased attendance rates; fewer children accessing modified days; fewer school leavers identified as NEET or unknown; Youth Service Performance Measures
Strengthen learner voice in improvement planning.	• All teams use learner voice to inform their provision and improvement planning

Objective 3 – Develop learner progression pathways.

rategies	Success Criteria
ovide targeted Early Years support to ldren across Torfaen.	• All children in early years settings are offered appropriate access to early years education and receive support that allows them to progress from their own baseline.
ks with employers/NEETs to reduce the es of those NEETs and those with known destinations.	• Reduced proportion of young people leaving school not engaging in further education, employment, or training
liver the Welsh Education Strategic Plan ESP) and progress the individual tcomes detailed in it.	• Annual progress reports identify appropriate progress towards the five- and ten-year targets contained in the WESP.



Objective 5 - Promote staff wellbeing through effective performance management, professional learning and use of digital solutions/flooding

Strategies	Success Criteria
<u>Performance Management</u>: Strengthen monitoring, evaluation, and review by Officers at all levels.	• Evaluation reports by Officers inform team/service planning and, over time, demonstrate improved outcomes/performance
<u>Professional Learning:</u> Develop effective leadership at all levels within the directorate.	• Evaluation reports by Officers inform team/service planning and, over time, demonstrate improved outcomes/performance
<u>Digital Solutions:</u> Officer capacity is optimised through use of digital solutions	• Digital solutions release officer time for developmental work – resulting in improved outcomes for learners and improved staff wellbeing

Objective 6 – Develop the physical and digital environment for learning.

Strategies	Success Criteria
6.1 Provide learners with a physical environment that promotes positive engagement and supports learning.	• Capital assets provide a suitable environment for learning and investment is appropriately directed.
6.2 Provide learners with a digital infrastructure that promotes positive engagement and supports learning.	• Torfaen Digital Education Strategy (DES) is shared and adopted by all schools in Torfaen. • All schools in the LA have a digital sustainability plan, aligned to the DES, to ensure devices and infrastructure adhere to the education digital standards. • Learners demonstrate appropriate digital competency skills

COUNCIL
8 APRIL 2025

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS MEMBER CHAMPION

Report Submitted by: *Jason Lewis, Director Corporate Services and Head of Democratic Services*
Report Written by: *Dominique Redman, Team Leader Democratic and Member Services*

Key messages

To inform Council of the establishment of a Violence Against Women and Girls Member Champion, and to note that Councillor Janet Jones be nominated to serve as Violence Against Women and Girls Member Champion for the remainder of the 2024/25 municipal year.

1. Area Affected

1.1 Borough wide.

2. Purpose of report

2.1 To inform Council of new Violence Against Women and Girls Member Champion, and for Council to note that Councillor Janet Jones is nominated to serve as Violence Against Women and Girls Member Champion for the remainder of the 2024/25 municipal year.

3. Background

3.1 At Annual Council on 14 May 2024 Council considered a report submitted by the Head of Democratic Services and agreed that:

- Any in year appointments or changes made to Member Champions by the Leader will be communicated in writing to the Chief Executive; and
- That Council is advised during the year of any such decisions as they arise in line with the Council's Constitution.

3.2 Member Champions exist to provide a voice for traditionally underrepresented groups, or issues which need to be kept at the forefront of council business although they may not be the responsibility of any individual or committee

3.3 The main responsibility of each Member Champion is to encourage communication and positive action over the issue they represent.

3.4 The Leader is responsible for appointing Member Champions. Any member of the Council may be a Member Campion, including the Leader.

3.5 On 4 March 2025, Councillor Janet Jones submitted a Motion to Council seeking support from the local authority to tackle violence against women and girls. One

of the pledges of the motion was for the authority to appoint a Violence Against Women and Girls Member Champion. A recorded vote was taken, and Council unanimously agreed to support the Motion 'Together Against Violence towards Women and Girls'.

3.6 The Leader has communicated the establishment of the Violence Against Women and Girls Member Champion in writing to the Chief Executive and Council is being asked to note the Leader's decision to nominate Councillor Janet Jones to serve as Violence Against Women and Girls Member Champion.

4. Action to be taken following the decision

4.1 The Member Champion Protocol included at Appendix 25 of the Council's Constitution will be updated to include the Violence Against Women and Girls Member Champion under the non-portfolio group of Champions.

5 Recommendation

5.1 That Council notes the establishment of the Violence Against Women and Girls Member Champion and that Councillor Janet Jones is nominated to serve as Violence Against Women and Girls Member Champion for the remainder of the 2024/25 municipal year.

5.2 That the Member Champion Protocol included at Appendix 25 of the Council's Constitution be updated to include the Violence Against Women and Girls Member Champion under the non-portfolio group of Champions.

Appendices	None

Background Papers	Report to Council - 14 May 2024 - Nominations to Member Champions Motion to Council - 4 March 2025 - Violence Against Women and Girls

For a copy of the background papers or for further information about this report, please telephone:
Jason Lewis, Director Corporate Services and Head of Democratic Services jason.lewis@torfaen.gov.uk

COUNCIL
8 April 2025

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

SUBMITTED UNDER PARAGRAPH 4.17 OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR NICK HORLER

Motion

CARING FOR THE DECEASED

This council:

- Believes that everyone deserves to be remembered on their death and receive a dignified send-off.
- Notes the concerns about people passing with no next of kin or others to attend their funeral.
- Welcomes the steps taken by the council to provide more affordable arrangements for those who pass away without the means to pay for their funeral.
- Commends efforts by officers, members and others in the community in recent months to explore how we work together to co-ordinate a list of volunteers prepared to pay their respects in these circumstances.
- Requests that these are taken forward and reported back to council, with the assistance of Members to raise awareness.

Rationale - Caring for the Deceased.

A few months ago, I received a very impacting email from a Caring Professional who is a local resident who wanted me to help spread the word about his poignant thought for humanity.

I have been considering an idea for a while now, which came to me after reading a story about a service person who had died and was buried (presumably at the cost of the LA), unacknowledged. No one to attend his funeral, no clear identification of next of kin, not even any neighbours or passing acquaintances. That was a tragedy.

If anyone should die and be buried/interred/cremated, service person or not, unnoticed and unacknowledged that is a sad moment, not just for that person, but for us as a society/community. I am afraid it happens a lot. Imagine a life that ends in loneliness and isolation. One which, at the final moment may appear meaningless.

Clearly, there are some reasons why that might happen. Sometimes by personal choice, sometimes by family break ups. I get that. However, for someone to pass away in circumstances of absolute isolation can never be something we should be comfortable with. It is a symptom of an increasingly selfish and self-absorbed society.

To have just one person, graveside, to acknowledge a passing might be a good thing.

Imagine if there was a body of volunteers, who would be prepared to attend a funeral of someone they didn't know, just to be there as a human presence to acknowledge the existence of that individual and their life……
I think we could make that happen. Anecdotally, I know people who would take on that role. It would take imagination, drive and persuasion, but it could be done.

The services, often via the RBL do it for 'their own' but I would like to think it could be done for everyone.

For communities like Welsh valleys town, who like to think they are friendly and inclusive there are plenty of 'cracks' that people fall through. Reaching out in life is one thing, but reaching out in death is just as important

Over the last few months, we collectively with officers have been looking into how this poignant thought could be made into positive reality and have come to conclusion. Although there is limited amount of need, however, there is and could be a time when a resident of our community falls into this tragic circumstance.

In essence the Cemetery team could call a body of volunteers headed up by a co-ordinator to facilitate attendance of volunteers who want to pay their respects at these funerals to represent TCBC impartiality suited and booted.

Therefore, I ask members to support this valuable motion for our communities with a collective approach in order increase to raise awareness. Whilst I fully understand topics like this are hard for some to take onboard surely, we must address the care on the life journey of our residents that we all serve.