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#TeamCaerphilly - Better Together

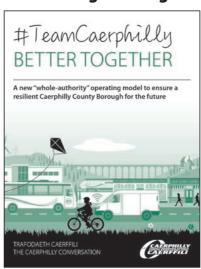
Caerphilly county borough council is on a journey of transformation. We need to transform the way we do things in order to respond to the changing needs and priorities of our community and to meet the significant financial challenges facing us.

A major new strategy called **#TeamCaerphillly – Better Together** was approved by the council's cabinet earlier this month and sets out the way we are going to deliver these changes over the coming months and years.

Leader of council, Cllr Dave Poole said, "We provide over 800 key services to all sections of the community from the cradle to the grave, but the pressures facing us mean that we need to do things differently in order to adapt and thrive."

"The challenge ahead of us is a big one, but the opportunities to repurpose and reshape the council - and the county borough as a whole - are even greater. Our transformation journey must happen at scale and at pace, and the core principle that underpins everything we do is 'Social Heart and Commercial Head.'

"We must be bold and brave. We must be able to anticipate future opportunities and be ready to make the most of them for the benefit of our residents," added Christina Harrhy Interim Chief Executive.



See page 2 and **3** to find out more...

The council is branding this ambitious transformation programme as **#TeamCaerphillly - Better Together.**This reflects the team ethos we are developing within the organisation and also captures our efforts to work with residents, businesses, partner agencies and other key stakeholders to make a difference.



Cllr Dave Poole and Christina Harrhy.

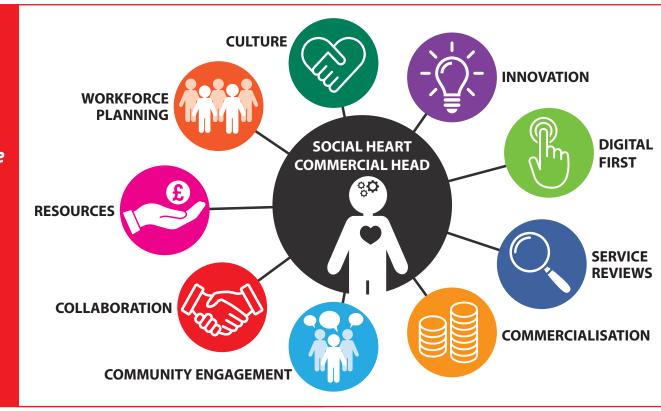


#TeamCaerphilly -

The council is embarking on a major programme of transformation and we want as many people as possible to join our collective efforts as #TeamCaerphillly to help shape the way we deliver our services in the future.

Some of the key areas we will focus on include:

- Prioritising services to meet the needs of residents.
- Considering how we can become more business efficient.
- Exploring opportunities for greater collaboration.
- Improved customer focus.
- Greater emphasis on digital services.
- Seeking more commercial opportunities.





INNOVATION

We need to challenge the way we deliver services and embrace new technologies to increase efficiency and secure value for money. We will learn from best practice nationally and internationally and be prepared to take well managed risks. Staff will also be encouraged to explore alternative ways of working and to embrace innovation.



DIGITAL FIRST

The council is keen to maximise the use of digital technology in order to improve service delivery. We will explore opportunities for automation wherever appropriate and will aim to improve the customer experience in interactions with the council. That said, we will also need to consider those sections of the community who may not be able to access digital services, so we will ensure that we provide a balanced approach.



COMMERCIALISM

Central to our programme of transformation is our new mantra of 'Social Heart and Commercial Head.' This recognises our commitment to public service and the needs of our citizens, but also demonstrates our desire to explore commercial opportunities where appropriate, to generate additional income to reinvest in services.



COLLABORATION

We will explore the potential for new collaborative opportunities with other public sector bodies, where there are tangible benefits for our communities and/or the opportunity to reduce costs. As an example, the council is currently working with the Health Board and Police to develop proposals for Community Hubs across the county borough.



SERVICE REVIEWS

We will introduce a structured programme of reviews that will evaluate the services that we provide to ensure that they remain relevant and are provided in the most effective and efficient ways to ensure that value for money is being achieved. These service reviews will also provide an opportunity to generate further financial savings.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our #**TeamCaerphillly** transformation programme is about reshaping the council for the future. We must do things differently to protect the services that are required and valued. Effective communication and engagement is fundamental to the transformation agenda, and we will achieve this with our communities through the 'Caerphilly Conversation' where residents will be encouraged to get involved.

It is clear that we will have to do things differently in the future if we are to protect frontline services from the full impact of budget cuts and meet the growing needs of our communities.

Watch this space!

Lots of work will be taking place over the coming months to help redefine the shape of the council as we embark on a iourney of transformation and it is important that residents play a key role in this process.

For more information visit:

www.caerphilly.gov.uk/teamcaerphilly

Help us shape YOUR Future



Over the next 3 years we will begin to re-shape our communities across the Caerphilly county borough through a programme of transformation, which will include: -



The introduction of an integrated 'one-stop shop' public service offer located within the heart of our communities, through the provision of strategically located integrated hubs, enhancing our engagement and service offer to the public.

Implementing the **Shared Ambitions Strategy** to raise standards and ensure our learners are healthy. confident, proud and ambitious and can benefit from high quality educational opportunities, settings and experiences.





The commencement of the second phase of the 21st Century schools programme, providing £110million of new educational facilities.

Delivering the council's emerging **Digital Strategy** by 'opening the digital front door' and introducing a wide ranging digital transformation programme that transforms every aspect of service delivery.



The provision of a new Children's Centre, which will be a 'state of the art' centre of excellence providing respite care and therapeutic services for our vulnerable children and their families.



Continuing the delivery of the **Sports and Active Recreation Strategy**, providing a sustainable approach to leisure and physical activity provision.



The completion of a £261million physical improvement programme to our housing stock by 2020, through the delivery of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS). This will be further enhanced with an exciting and innovative new build programme.



An exciting programme of economic, social and environmental investments to enable growth and opportunity across the county borough, that aligns and positions us firmly with the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal's economic ambitions.

Making best use of our financial resources through a managed 'risk-based' investment approach to enable delivery of the programme.

Robust governance and programme management arrangements will be established to ensure that **key milestone**s are agreed to support the successful delivery of these key strategic projects.

Did you know? Education Special

One of the council's key priorities is to improve standards in education and raise attainment levels in schools.

Much work has been done over recent years to deliver improvements across the county borough and millions of pounds have also been invested in new school developments and refurbishment works.

Below are a few key facts and figures about education across the county borough:



School Attendance

94% Attendance in secondary schools. 95.2% Attendance in primary schools.



Applications from parents for Childcare Offer up from **429** (17/18) to **1,486** (18/19).

Savings for working families up from £104k (2018) to £274k (2019).



Adult Education

Since September 2018, the service has helped over 500 learners gain accredited vocational qualifications.

350 learners have also enrolled on Essential Skills courses, with 225 achieving accreditation so far this academic year.



School Admissions – ALL pupils who live in their school catchment who applied by the closing date were accommodated.



Our Library Service is considered to be among the best in the country. It met 8 out of 10 key indicators set by Welsh Government (with the other 2 met in part).



All 18 of our libraries now offer free WiFi access to residents.



The Youth Service

has engaged with over 15,000 young people in the past year (and 300+ of the most in need families). Reducing the proportion of young people that are not in education, employment or training (NEET) to 0.97%.





Bids totalling £14.5 million secured from Welsh Government for School Capital Works since October 2018. Including:



£5.1 million investment in developing New Childcare Provision.



£2.4 million on School Maintenance projects.



£755k Community Hub grant for new Athletics Track in Oakdale.



£6.3 million investment to grow Welsh Medium Education.



Promoting period dignity

The council has taken decisive action against period poverty by providing free sanitary products to every schoolgirl in the county borough.

Funding from Welsh Government has allowed the authority to supply every secondary school, primary school, youth centre and community centre in the area with a box full of sanitary products.

To help raise awareness of the new initiative, a special competition was held in schools to design a new logo for the campaign. **Emily Jones** from Lewis Girls School in Ystrad Mynach won the competition with her eye catching heart-shaped logo (above) and received a £50 prize.

The council has also received a grant to fund two short films highlighting the issue of period dignity. These were officially launched earlier this month at a special premiere.

Cllr Philippa Marsden, Cabinet Member for Education and Achievement said "It is vital that our young people have access to free feminine hygiene products when required - this cannot be a barrier to them attending school. We have taken positive action to change the narrative from 'Period Poverty' to 'Period Dignity' to help remove the stigma of periods in schools.

Work is already underway to examine eco-friendly alternatives to sanitary protection which supports our plastic free agenda. If we choose this option, we will be the first council in the UK to use the grant on environmentally friendly/plastic free products."

Street lighting update

A programme to convert all of the county borough's street lanterns to LED and at the same time implement part night lighting between the hours of midnight and 5.30am, to all lighting, except at junctions and in major town centres is underway.

Caerphilly county borough has 27,300 street lights in total, and the programme to convert the lanterns to LED (Light Emitting Diode) and implement part-night lighting to over 20,000 of the lights began in April and is continuing on a ward-by-ward basis Cllr Sean Morgan said, "We've already achieved significant savings by fitting energy efficient LED lanterns to over 11,500 columns and through part-night lighting in non

even more energy efficient. This programme of works is helping ensure a consistent approach to street lighting across the county borough, play a key role in delivering on our

The indicative energy cost increase for 2019/20 was also in the region 2018/19. While costing around £4.2 million to implement in total. tune of £4.1 million, which is interest free funding to the public which upon repayment of the funding, is anticipated to save

Just as significantly, the works will also generate carbon savings of 2,836 tonnes a year for the council. A series of frequently asked questions have been developed, giving lots of useful information around the works. They can be



Recycling rates continue to rise

Recent recycling figures show that Caerphilly county borough has once again increased the amount of waste that is recycled, reused or composted

- thanks to the efforts of 'green' residents across the area.

Figures for 2018/19 show that Caerphilly County Borough Council recycled, reused or composted an impressive 68.2% of all waste collected. This figure was an increase from the previous year of 66.7%.

Cllr Nigel George said, "We certainly welcome these latest recycling figures and would say a big thank you to all residents across our area that are doing their bit to help ensure we reach the ambitious recycling targets we are set. There's still more work to do, but by working together we can further boost our recycling rates and help Caerphilly continue to be one of the greenest places in Wales".

The council is currently encouraging more people to participate in the weekly food waste recycling scheme. Cllr George added, "Food waste caddies are available to households free of charge and I'd encourage anyone who isn't currently participating in the weekly food waste recycling scheme to give it a go".

To request a free food waste caddy or for more information on what can be recycled, please visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk/recycling or call 01443 866533

Where to go...When you need to go!



If you are shopping, socialising or visiting the county borough you may want to keep an eye out for a new sign which indicates where the nearest toilet facilities are located.

In addition to the 'Use Our Toilets' signs and window stickers, a website has also been developed allowing users to map the location of their nearest toilet.

The council has signed up to the Welsh Government initiative after developing a Local Toilet Strategy for the county borough. All local authorities have a duty to prepare a strategy, but are not required to provide and maintain public toilets directly.

A number of council-run toilets closed earlier this year due to significant financial pressures, so the council is now keen to highlight the range of other facilities that are available in shops, pubs, libraries, leisure centres and other establishments.

"The council took the difficult decision to close most of its public toilets, but it is important to point out there are plenty of alternative facilities available for residents and visitors alike," said Cllr Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services.

"Positive discussions are also taking place to reopen some of the sites thanks to interest from third parties. An example of this is the Taxi Drivers Association in Caerphilly offering to take over the running of the toilets next to the train station. Hopefully we will see similar positive announcements for the other sites in the near future."

www.gov.wales/toilets



Governors Needed!

Would you like to gain valuable volunteering experience, learn new skills and make a real difference to your local community?

If so, you should consider becoming a school governor and get the chance to shape the education of children and young people across the county borough.

Every school has a Governing Body, which works closely with the Head Teacher to set the strategic direction of the school and monitor performance. The Governing Body is made up of members of the local community, parents, teachers, staff and representatives of the council. There are currently a number of vacancies for Governors in schools across the area, so we are keen to get more people involved.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact the Governor Support and Development Team on **01443 863155**





Did you know that victims of persistent anti-social behaviour have the power to trigger a review of actions taken by agencies such as the police, council or their housing provider?

The 'Community Trigger' was introduced by the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for victims of persistent anti-social behaviour to request a review if they feel not enough has been done to address their concerns. In the first instance, anti-social behaviour should be reported to the police, the council or your housing provider (if not privately owned).

In order to reach the threshold for a Community Trigger, anti-social behaviour or hate crime must have been reported at least 3 times, relating to separate incidents, in the last 6 months. For the Community Trigger to be activated, reports must be made within one month of the incident occurring to allow a timely adequate response. The application to activate the Community Trigger must be made within six months of a reported incident.

If you believe your compliant meets the criteria for a Community Trigger you will need to complete an application form. You will be provided with a form to help you list the details of the reports you have made so that we can begin our enquiries with relevant agencies.

Contact CCBC Community Safety Unit: 01443 811307 or email: safercaerphilly@caerphilly.gov.uk

Sizzling Summer Fun!

Visitors will once again get the chance to soak up the fun and sunshine at two of the area's most popular summer events over the coming weeks.

Blackwood Beach Party

Saturday 29th June 9am - 6pm

Organised by Blackwood Town Council and supported by CCBC, visitors of all ages are in for a treat, as Blackwood town centre turns into an urban beach, complete with amusements, live music and street entertainment.

A variety of stalls will line the high street selling delicious food and crafts, offering a feast of fun and entertainment for visitors to enjoy. The Blackwood Carnival parade will start at midday at Blackwood Bus Station.



The BIG CHEESE Sponsored by Ron Skinner & Sons

Fri 26th - Sun 28th July

Rediscover The Big Cheese! This year's new look festival will have a new layout and new feel with street food, urban beach, Live Lounge bar area, three huge food halls, a cheese market, live cookery demonstrations AND we are pleased to announce our headline sponsor Ron Skinner & Sons will be having a fantastic car display onsite for the weekend. Caerphilly Castle will be offering FREE entry on Saturday and Sunday. Join us for our opening evening on Friday 26th July from 3pm and enjoy the annual Great Cheese Race, funfair rides and not forgetting the spectacular fireworks finale at 10pm. The full programme (including stalls and food halls) starts at 10am on Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th July. www.bigcheesecaerphilly.co.uk

Opening times: Friday 3pm - 10.15pm ■ Saturday 10am - 9pm ■ Sunday 10am - 8pm



For more information, please call the Visitor Centre Caerphilly on 029 2088 0011 or visit WWW.caerphilly.gov.uk/events

Julian announced as new Mayor

The new Mayor, Cllr Julian Simmonds, was announced at the Annual Meeting of Council last month.

Cllr Simmonds said, "I consider it a real honour and privilege to be serving as the county borough's Mayor and look forward to meeting as many residents as possible in the various civic engagements that the year ahead will bring."

Julian was elected in a 2015 by-election in the Crosskevs ward and has continued to represent the residents of Crosskeys ever since. Julian also held the position of Deputy Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council last year.

Julian has chosen to support two charities during his year in office - Action for Children and Liver4Life. He is hoping to raise as much money as possible for these two very worthy causes.

The Deputy Mayor is Cllr Carol Andrews, who represents the Bargoed ward.



Green drainage Scheme in full flow

Caerphilly is playing a lead role in improving the management of drainage and surface water across the region thanks to a new collaborative approach.

Major new drainage legislation was introduced in January 2019 which requires all new developments of more than 1 house (or where the construction area is 100m2 or more) to have sustainable drainage infrastructure to manage on-site surface water flows and water quality. All new surface water drainage systems must be designed and built in accordance with mandatory standards. In addition, plans must be agreed by the Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB).

Caerphilly council is considered to be a lead SAB authority in this region and has already undertaken preliminary discussions with other local councils to provide technical advice and support where required. "It's good to see that Caerphilly is once again leading the way and we are always happy to work with our neighbours to improve services for the benefit of all," said Cllr Sean Morgan, Deputy Leader of the Council.

Visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk and search 'sustainable drainage'





Rhifau Defnyddiol **Useful Numbers**

PRIF SWITSFWRDD

MAIN SWITCHBOARD **2** 01443 815588

Minicom Minicom

2 01443 873626

Rhif argyfwng ar gyfer **Gwasanaethau'r Cyngor:**

Emergency Number for Council Services:

2 01443 875500

(Allan o Oriau yn unig • Out of hours only)

Gwasanaethau **Cymdeithasol i Blant**

Children's Social Services 22 0808 100 1727

Gwasanaethau **Cymdeithasol i Oedolion**

Adults' Social Services 2 0808 100 2500

BalchderStryd StreetPride

2 01443 866566

Cyngor i Ddefnyddwyr

Consumer Advice

2 03454 040506

Ymholiadau Treth v Cyngor **Council Tax Enquiries**

2 01443 863002

Ailgylchu Dodrefn

Furniture Recycling

2 01685 846830

Bathodyn Glas Blue Badge 2 01443 866571

Budd-daliadau Tai /Treth y Cyngor

Housing & Council Tax Benefits

2 01443 866567

2 01443 864099

Rydym yn croesawu galwadau yn Gymraeg.

We welcome calls in Welsh

Digwyddiadau/Whatson

Parti Traeth Coed Duon **Blackwood Beach Party** Dydd Sadwrn 29 Mehefin Saturday 29 June, 9am - 6pm

Wedi'i drefnu gan Gyngor Tref Coed Duon a'i gefnogi gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, mae ymwelwyr o bob oedran yn cael hwyl wrth i Ganol Tref Coed Duon droi'n draeth trefol, gan gynnwys difyrion, cerddoriaeth fyw ac adloniant strvd.

Bydd amrywiaeth o stondinau ar hyd y stryd fawr ar ddydd Sadwrn 29 Mehefin yn gwerthu bwyd blasus a chrefftau, gan gynnig gwledd o hwyl ac adloniant i ymwelwyr eu mwynhau.

Organised by Blackwood Town Council and supported by Caerphilly County Borough Council, visitors of all ages are in for a treat, as Blackwood Town Centre turns into an urban beach, complete with amusements, live music and street entertainment.

A variety of stalls will line the high street on Saturday 29th June, selling delicious food and crafts, offering a feast of fun and entertainment for visitors to enjoy.





Dydd Gwener 26 - Dydd Sul 28 Gorffennaf Friday 26 - Sunday 28 July

Adfywiwyd, Adnewyddwyd, Ail-ddarganfuwyd Refreshed, Rejuvenated, Rediscovered

Ail-ddarganfyddwch Y Caws Mawr! Bydd gan ŵyl eleni wedd newydd a theimlad newydd gyda Gwerthwyr Bwyd Stryd, Traeth Trefol Anferth, Ardal Lolfa Fyw, TAIR Neuadd Fwyd Anferth ac Arddangosiadau Coginio Byw. Mae Castell Caerffili, yr ail Gastell fwyaf ym Mhrydain, yn dal i fod yn seren yr ŵyl gyda mynediad am ddim dros y penwythnos. Gyda rhaglen o adloniant fydd yn ymestyn o fore hyd nos, bydd yna ail-greu canoloesol o fewn tir y Castell, cerddoriaeth fyw a rhaglen lawn yn Y Neuadd Fawr.

Rediscover The Big Cheese! This year's new look festival will have a new layout and new feel with Street Food Vendors, Giant Urban Beach, Live Lounge Bar Area, THREE Huge Food Halls and Live Cookery Demonstrations. Caerphilly Castle, the second largest Castle in Britain still remains the star of the festival with free entry all weekend. With an entertainment program that'll stretch from morning until evening, there'll be medieval re-enactments within the Castle grounds, live music and a packed program in The Great Hall.

Gŵyl 'Brotherhood of the Black Pirate' 2019 The Brotherhood of the **Black Pirate Festival 2019**

Dvdd sadwrn 31 Awst -Dydd Sul 1 Medi Saturday 31 August - Sunday 1 September, 10am - 5pm

Dewch i wisgo i fyny, ymarferwch eich cerddediad môr-leidr a dewch draw am benwythnos llawn hwyl ac adloniant i'r teulu cyfan.

Get dressed up, practice your pirate swagger and come along for a weekend full of fun and entertainment for all the family

www.brotherhood-of-the-black.co.uk



Ffiliffest 2019

Dydd Sadwrn 29 Mehefin Saturday 29 June 10am - 6pm

Mae Ffiliffest, gŵyl gyffrous y celfyddydau, iaith a cherddoriaeth Gymreig yn dychwelyd i Gastell Caerffili'r mis nesaf. Mae Menter Caerffili wedi trefnu'r digwyddiad hwn i ddathlu a chefnogi'r defnydd o'r iaith Gymraeg a thraddodiadau yn y gymuned.

Bydd y diwrnod llawn gweithgareddau hwn, mewn cydweithrediad â CADW, yn cynnwys gweithgareddau i bobl o bob oedran gan gynnwys gweithdai cerddoriaeth fyw, celf a chrefft a chwaraeon, stondinau gyda busnesau lleol vn awerthu eu cynnyrch. cymeriadau S4C, Cosplay a phlant o ysgolion cynradd lleol yn perfformio dawnsiau gwerin draddodiadol.

Ffiliffest, the exciting Welsh language festival of arts, language and music returns to Caerphilly Castle. Menter Caerffili have organised this event to celebrate and support the use of Welsh language and traditions in the community.

This action packed day will have activities for all ages including live music, arts and crafts and sporting workshops, stalls with local businesses selling their produce, S4C characters, cosplay and children from local primary schools performing traditional folk dances.

www.mentercaerffili.cymru



Cofrestrwch i dderbyn gwybodaeth reolaidd am ddigwyddiadau lleol drwy e-bostio: digwyddiadau@caerffili.gov.uk I gael gwybodaeth am sgyrsiau, clybiau llyfrau a sesiynau crefft sydd ar y gweill yn eich llyfrgell leol ewch i www.caerffili.gov.uk neu ffoniwch 01443 864068

www.caerffili.gov.uk/digwyddiadau 🔴 www.caerphilly.gov.uk/events

Sign up to receive regular information about local events by e-mailing: events@caerphilly.gov.uk For information about uncoming talks, book clubs and craft sessions at your local library visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk or call 01443 864068

DEWIS CYMRU

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Gwefan yw **Dewis Cymru** sy'n ceisio helpu pobl gyda'u llesiant. Dyma'r lle GORAU i bobl fynd am wybodaeth neu gyngor am lesiant – boed eu llesiant eu hun neu lesiant aelod o'r teulu neu ffrind. Mae ganddo wybodaeth sy'n gallu eich helpu i feddwl am beth sy'n bwysig i chi, yn ogystal â gwybodaeth am bobl a gwasanaethau yn eich ardal chi sy'n gallu eich helpu gyda'r pethau sy'n bwysig i chi.

www.Dewis.Cymru Cael dewis a chymryd rheolaeth

Dewis Cymru is a website that aims to help people with their well-being. It's THE place to go for people who want information or advice about well-being – whether that's their own well-being or the well-being of a family member or friend. It's got information that can help you think about what matters to you, and it's also got information about people and services in your area that can help you with the things that matter to you.

> www.Dewis.Wales Have choice and take control

Rhyddhad Ardrethi Manwerthu **Retail Rate Relief**

Mae'r cyngor wedi mabwysiadu Cynllun Rhyddhad Ardrethi Manwerthu a'r Stryd Fawr Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer 2019/20.

Mae'r cynllun hwn yn darparu cymorth i fusnesau manwerthu cymwys trwy gynnig gostyngiad hyd at £2,500 ar y bil ardrethi busnes fesul eiddo. Gall busnesau'r stryd fawr a safleoedd manwerthu, fel siopau, bwytai a chaffis, sydd â gwerth ardrethol o £50,000 neu lai, elwa ar y cynllun hwn.

Yn ddiweddar, mae'r rhyddhad ardrethi wedi'i ddyfarnu'n awtomatig i'r busnesau hynny a dderbyniodd ryddhad o'r fath y llynedd. Mae Tîm Ardrethi Busnes v cyngor wrthi'n vsgrifennu at fusnesau nad ydynt wedi derbyn y rhyddhad hwn eto, a allai fod yn gymwys, i'w gwahodd i ymgeisio dan y cynllun eleni. Mae'r ffurflen gais yn hawdd i'w llenwi, a dim ond ychydig gwestiynau byr sydd ynddi.



The council has adopted Welsh Government's High Street and Retail Rate Relief Scheme for 2019/20.

The scheme provides support for eligible retail businesses by offering up to £2,500 discount on the business rate bill per property. Occupied high street businesses and retail premises, such as shops, restaurants and cafes, with a rateable value of £50,000 or less may benefit from this scheme.

The rate relief has recently been automatically awarded to those businesses that received this type of relief last year. The council's Business Rate Team is now writing to businesses yet to receive this relief who may be eligible, inviting them to apply under this year's scheme. The application form is easy to complete and only has a few short questions.