

Annex 6f: Response Blackwood Town Council

Members recognised the financial problems faced by the Borough, and after significant discussion on the proposed savings, it was agreed the following comments be forwarded –

B09 Public Protection – Members felt the proposal to merge the Community Safety Wardens with the Environmental Health General Enforcement Team and to delete 4 CSW posts to provide a streamlined service is ill judged and believe this could further exacerbate problems in and around the area. The loss of these posts could further increase the call on police resources, and members query if this proposal has been discussed with the Public Services Board ?

C10 Infrastructure – Members feel the School Crossings Patrols should be retained from a child safety perspective, especially with the ever increasing number of vehicles present around school sites.

C11 Infrastructure – Members have concerns that the withdrawal of subsidy might have an adverse effect on the town itself. The report briefly mentions an alternative less frequent service, and details including timings would be helpful.

C16 Community & Leisure Services – Members are concerned that further cuts in playground maintenance budget will lead to closure/removal of playground facilities which will result in even less children potentially enjoying some form of physical exercise, at a time when child obesity is on the increase. Again has this proposal been discussed with the Public Services Board as the decision could well lead to increased pressures on Health budgets ?

C25 Public Protection – Again Members have concerns that the Decommissioning of all BT line rental cameras could lead to an increase in anti social behaviour and again an additional call on police resources.

C28 Corporate Policy – The proposed reduction in the Voluntary Sector budget will have a significant effect on the most vulnerable people in our communities, as they regularly rely on the free, confidential information and advice on money, legal, consumer and various other problem areas they provide.

D09 Public Protection – Members have concerns that the Review of Pest Control Fees, and especially the introduction of a charge for rat treatments could well affect the most vulnerable/ elderly in our communities and potentially lead to increased numbers of infestations (if the charges cannot be afforded), and all manners of public health issues. An indication of the new charge would be helpful.