

Join the Caerphilly Conversation



Residents are being encouraged to help shape the future of council services by getting involved in the 'Caerphilly Conversation.'

Last month, the council's Cabinet reluctantly agreed to consult on a list of savings proposals totalling almost **£8.5million** for 2020/21.

While the council is anticipating a similar funding settlement from Welsh Government for the forthcoming year, there are millions of pounds of inescapable pressures that the council must fund, such as school cost pressures, social care pressures, the living wage and more. The council therefore needs to find savings of £8.5 million in order to deliver a balanced budget for 2020/21.

The proposed savings focus on the following key areas and are aligned to the council's ambitious transformation agenda for the future, through:

- **Being more efficient**
- **Doing things differently**
- **Service reductions/cuts**
- **Increases in fees and charges**
- **Embracing the new authority-wide operating model called 'Team Caerphilly – Better Together.'**

'Team Caerphilly – Better Together' focuses on delivering efficiencies through process reviews, embracing automation and other technologies and a review of the council's investment strategy.

The draft budget proposals also include a council tax increase of 6.95% for 2020/21, which would equate to a weekly increase of £1.51 for a Band D property.

While council tax is a very important element of the council's funding, it makes up just 20% of the council's total budget for delivering the wealth of services that Caerphilly county borough residents receive every day of the year. Even with a 6.95% increase in council tax, Caerphilly county borough residents would still pay among the lowest council tax in Wales.

It's time for residents to get involved in the Caerphilly Conversation by taking part in the council's budget consultation.

Please see the centre page pull out for full details. Alternatively, residents can get involved in the Caerphilly Conversation online at www.caerphilly.gov.uk



New CCBC Leader announced



Cllr Philippa Marsden has been announced as the new Leader of Caerphilly County Borough Council.

Philippa, who represents the Ynysddu Ward, was formally elected at a meeting of Full Council on Tuesday 19th November and will take over from the Interim Leader Cllr Barbara Jones.

"I feel extremely proud and privileged to become the Leader of Council and I would like to give a commitment to members, staff and residents across the area that I will do my utmost to be a positive ambassador for the council - and our county borough - in everything that I do" said Cllr Marsden.

Philippa was first elected as a Councillor in 2016 and joined the Cabinet in 2017 responsible for the Education and Achievement portfolio.

In her spare time she enjoys running, reading and attending music festivals. Philippa is married and has 3 children.

"These are exciting times and I am delighted to be able to lead this authority as we start a new chapter in Caerphilly county borough council's history. I want to work together for the good of all and position this authority as one of the leading councils in the UK, delivering quality services to our residents and let's set the bar for the way a modern, forward-thinking local authority should be run, she added.

"I look forward to working with you all on this journey."

£260m Housing transformation on track

An ambitious £260m programme to improve council homes across the county borough remains on track for completion by the 2020 deadline.

The Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) programme is transforming homes thanks to widespread internal and external refurbishments along with attractive environmental improvements in the community.

A recent report showed that surveys to homes were almost 100% complete, 85% of homes met WHQS internally and 71% were externally compliant. In addition, considerable work is underway to deliver the environmental improvement element of WHQS, with £8.8million of works already identified in communities throughout the county borough.

Energy efficiency works have also been delivered to homes as part of the programme, contributing towards addressing fuel poverty and reducing carbon emissions. There are numerous other community benefits delivered through the programme, such as the creation of training, apprenticeships and job opportunities.

It is acknowledged that some of the work to people's homes is extensive and can be inconvenient, but those who have already benefitted from the improvements are now realising the benefits. We would therefore like to thank our tenants for their patience and support during the delivery of this major investment programme.

The WHQS programme is the council's largest ever single investment and one that we hope will leave a lasting positive legacy in the county borough. Despite some challenges, the council continues to make great progress in delivering this programme.



#TeamCaerphilly - Better Together

Readers will recall that in the last edition of *Newsline*, we highlighted that the council is embarking on a major programme of transformation called 'Team Caerphilly - Better Together.'

In this feature, we mentioned some of the key areas that the council will focus on over the coming years. These included – considering how we can become more business efficient, exploring opportunities for collaboration, improved customer focus, seeking commercial opportunities, becoming more innovative and embracing greater use of digital.

Six months on from the launch of the 'Team Caerphilly - Better Together' programme, the transformation journey is making solid progress. In October, the council welcomed two new Transformation Managers who will help support delivery of the new strategy.

Victoria Camp has joined the council as Transformation Manager for Commercial Investment. The role will see her help the council become more entrepreneurial in its approach, by actively seeking commercial opportunities to generate income – with a social heart and commercial head – that can be reinvested back into services.



#TeamCaerphilly



For more information on 'Team Caerphilly - Better Together' please visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk

Appointed to the role of Transformation Manager for Innovation is James Penfold. The role will see James support the council in reviewing the way the council currently delivers its services; finding new, innovative approaches to increasing efficiency and improving services.

Solid progress continues to be made in pilot service review areas of catering and building cleaning, where work streams have been established

to deliver efficiency and increased income generation. Reviews are also currently underway in waste services and fleet management.

Over the coming weeks and months, further progress will be made in key areas including supporting innovation, embracing new technologies, engaging and working with our communities and seeking opportunities for collaboration, as well as some other key projects as part of the council's place-shaping agenda.

Council Begins Winter Preparations

Caerphilly County Borough Council has begun its winter preparations, with a fleet of new vehicles ready to grit over 250 miles of primary routes.

The council has added 8 new vehicles to its fleet for the coming winter, featuring the latest health and safety design features along with up to date fuel efficient engines. These new vehicles will see the council invest an additional £1.4million into its winter maintenance service over the next four year period. This investment includes new digital mapping and route navigation technology to increase the efficiency of the council's winter maintenance service.

With this new technology routes are uploaded into the vehicle and the in-cab route navigation system guides the driver around the route, enabling drivers to follow any route with no prior knowledge. Pre-determined levels of salt are deposited and spread as it progresses around the route, thanks to its automated salting technology.

Real time route tracking also alerts the team if any parts of the route have been missed so that the driver can return to salt the missing section of road, ensuring full coverage of the county borough's routes.

Keeping the county borough's main highway network operational during periods of inclement weather is a key priority. The council's advance preparations, along with this latest investment, will help to ensure the winter maintenance service is carried out effectively and efficiently; for the safety of our residents and staff.



8
New Vehicles -
£1.4million
additional
investment

FLU CAN KILL

Protect yourself and others

The best way to prevent flu is to get a flu vaccine every year.

Check if you are eligible for a free vaccine.

www.beatflu.org



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd
Aneurin Bevan
Health Board

Choose Pharmacy

Do you need to see a doctor today? **If you think it's ...**

indigestion, constipation, diarrhoea, piles, hay fever, head, lice, teething, nappy rash, colic, chicken pox, threadworms, sore throats, athlete's foot, conjunctivitis, mouth ulcers, cold, sores, acne, dermatitis, verruca, back pain, ingrowing toenails, vaginal thrush, oral thrush, scabies.

Your pharmacist can provide free confidential NHS advice and treatment without you having to make an appointment to see your GP.



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board



Dewis
doeth
Choose
well

Spotlight On... Street Lights!

Did you know that CCBC is responsible for lighting and maintaining over 27,000 street lights across the county borough.

What is currently happening?

The council is currently in the process of converting all these lights so that they use modern, energy efficient LED bulbs and at the same time we are introducing part night lighting where the street lights are switched off for five and a half hours from midnight (except at junctions and in major town centres).

Why?

We need to save money and reduce our carbon footprint. Full year energy savings are expected to be 6,884,477KWh (£940,000).

How long will it take?

The programme started back in April and will continue on a ward-by-ward basis for a period of approximately two years.

How much will this cost?

The cost is expected to be £4.2 million, but the council has obtained special funding of £4.1 million towards the scheme. This is interest free funding to the public sector to enable them to improve their energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and lower energy bills.

What happens if there is an increase in crime or road traffic accidents?

A recent study concluded that there is no evidence of an association between reduced street lighting and increased crime.

All roads affected by this change in policy will be monitored for increases in accidents and should any issues become apparent appropriate investigation measures will be taken by the council's Road Safety team.

Is this only happening in the CCBC area?

NO - All neighbouring authorities have introduced a reduction in their street lighting operating hours.

When will the works be carried out in my area?

The full timetable of works can be found on the CCBC website - visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk/streetlighting for timescales and other useful Q&As on this issue.



Flagship housing development

The council's Cabinet has agreed ambitious plans to create a flagship housing development in Pontllanfraith that would include 83 new affordable homes.

The scheme is an exciting collaboration between the council and Pobl which, subject to planning permission, could result in an attractive development comprising 125 homes - of these 83 (two thirds of the development) will be affordable homes.

The development includes 42 homes for market sale, 41 low cost ownership homes (rent to buy or shared ownership) and 42 will be social rented homes developed in collaboration with the council and matched to local need. The delivery of these new homes will make a significant contribution towards addressing the increasing housing waiting list and demand for affordable housing within the county borough.

The scheme will be developed on the former Pontllanfraith Council Office site and both the design and construction will be sympathetic to the protected Local Nature Reserve and SSSI (Harold Finch Memorial Park) to the north of the site. Contractual arrangements will now be finalised between the council and Pobl. Public consultation will soon commence and it is anticipated that a planning application will be submitted in the near future.



“The number of affordable homes that are proposed on this impressive new site will be far in excess of the usual target for local housing developments.”



Spotlight on CCBC performance

Each year the council produces a document called an Annual Performance Report which provides a comprehensive overview of how we are performing, highlighting things that went well and areas where we need to improve.

The report outlines how we are meeting our 6 key priorities – called Wellbeing Objectives – and below is a snapshot of what went well:

Well-being Objective 1

Improve education opportunities for all

Inspire 2 Work has supported:

- 160 young people (age 16-24).
- 95 have gained qualifications.
- 40 have gained employment.
- 9 have progressed to further learning opportunities.
- Our Families First programme showed 3,874 of 4,317 (90%) participants reported improved emotional and mental well-being over the two year period.
- 97% of children improved their speech, language and communication skills.
- We have been successful in getting funding in order to provide additional childcare by 2021 totalling £5.1million investment.
- We have also secured £5.4million funding for infrastructure so we can increase places in Welsh medium schools.
- Successful delivery of the £56.5 million 21st century schools Band A programme.
- Attainment at Foundation Phase and KS2 above Wales Average.
- Improvement in LA ranking position for attendance at Primary & Secondary.



Well-being Objective 2

Enabling employment

- Our Programme for Procurement gives greater opportunity for more ethical procurement of the local supply chains. E.g we have 3 suppliers currently working on our Housing & WHQS programme which have created numerous employment opportunities.
- Communities for Work programmes have supported 246 people into employment across the borough.
- The City Deal unveiled a five year business plan for South East Wales, with the overarching economic objective to create 25,000 new jobs.



Well-being Objective 3

Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people's well-being

- 6,116 homes completed under the WHQS programme.
- Overall we have 10,717 homes in total. (source: StatsWales March 2019)
- Home visits resulted in an extra £628,000 additional income for tenants.
- We have provided loans & grants totalling approx £794,000 to improve owner – occupier homes.
- We successfully prevented 471 households from becoming homeless in 2018/19.
- 35% of cases were provided with alternative accommodation.
- 86% of tenants were satisfied with the internal work to their home.
- 71% of tenants were satisfied with the external work to their home.



Well-being Objective 4

Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimizes the adverse impacts on the Environment

- We continue to play a leading role in shaping and delivering the ambitious City Deal programme, which will deliver a far-reaching package of benefits to the region totalling £1.2 billion in investment.
- We were among the first in Wales to have our Active Travel Routes and Integrated Network Maps approved by Welsh Government.
- The Caerphilly Interchange will be a transport hub located at the top of Caerphilly town to provide access to bus, coach, rail & other transport links to other areas/regions.
- A "Foundation for Success" the councils 5 year Regeneration Strategy was adopted in July 2018.



Well-being Objective 5

Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle

- There were 1.5 million visits to our parks & countryside, this is the highest level recorded to date, the most popular activity being walking.
- 41% of girls now participating in sport & physical activity at least 3 times a week.
- 71% of girls are confident of trying new activities. (source: Schools sport survey Oct 2018)
- The adoption of the Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy (2019-29) in November 2018 is a significant milestone.
- There were 84,000 participants that took part in Sport Caerphilly activities.
- Of those, Disability Sport engaged with over 3,600 participants offering a variety of opportunities for those with disabilities.



Well-being Objective 6

Support citizens to remain independent and improve their Well-being

- Supporting people to help themselves by providing advice and information including signposting to other services.
- Having meaningful conversations to help people identify 'what matters' to them to inform 'their choices.'
- At the end of March 2019 the number of carers (including young carers) we have supported is:
 - Adult carers – 1130
 - Young carers – 58
- We have invested in the DEWIS Cymru web base system, this is an online support resource that can help you think about what matters to you, and gives information about the people and services in your area.



The full Annual Performance Report can be view on the council's website www.caerphilly.gov.uk

Star Volunteers Honoured



Grass roots heroes from across the Caerphilly county borough have been recognised at the annual Voluntary Sector Achievement Awards, held at Blackwood Miners' Institute.

Caerphilly County Borough Council and Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) organise the award ceremony to honour volunteers



who undertake work from all sections in the local community.

During the evening, winners were congratulated and presented with awards in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, the High Sheriff and the Mayor of Caerphilly county borough council. The overall winner and Inspirational Volunteer of the year 2019 (sponsored by Blackwood Town Council) was Jamie Howell.



The CCBC Mayor said, "The awards are a celebration of the endless spirit, enthusiasm and dedication of our thriving voluntary sector and I am delighted and honoured to be a part of it. Volunteers are an inspiration to us all as they play such a vital role in our society. Award ceremonies like this allow us to do our little bit to recognise the positive contribution they make to so many people's lives."



SAFER STREETS

More than 4,000 Enforcement Notices were issued to motorists in the first four months following the introduction of new parking enforcement powers earlier this year.

Following a period of 'bedding in', when the council proactively worked with residents to inform them of the changes by issuing warning notices, the team began to undertake enforcement from the 8th of April.

The new arrangements are helping to improve road safety, reduce obstructions and improve traffic flow across the county borough.

We have seen a huge improvement since the council assumed responsibility for parking enforcement within the area and we would like to thank residents for their co-operation in making our streets safer.

Residents can request enforcement at a particular location or report an illegally parked vehicle via the website

www.caerphilly.gov.uk



Christmas Refuse & Recycling Collections



Normal Collection Day:	Revised Collection Day:
Monday 23rd December	Normal Collection Day
Tuesday 24th December	Normal Collection Day
Wednesday 25th December	Friday 27th December
Thursday 26th December	Saturday 28th December
Friday 27th December	Sunday 29th December
Monday 30th January 2018	Normal Collection Day
Tuesday 31st January	Normal Collection Day
Wednesday 1st January	Thursday 2nd January
Thursday 2nd January	Friday 3rd January
Friday 3rd January	Saturday 4th January

Please note: There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day. Residents are reminded to have their bins, boxes or bags out for collection prior to 6am on their revised collection day. Additional recycling will be collected if placed in CLEAR BAGS.

Household Waste Recycling Centres will be **closed** on **Christmas Day, Boxing Day** and **New Year's Day**. Please provide proof of I.D. when using these sites.

www.caerphilly.gov.uk/recycling or call **01443 866 533**

Rhifau Defnyddiol Useful Numbers

**PRIF SWITSFWRDD
MAIN SWITCHBOARD**
☎ **01443 815588**

Minicom Minicom
☎ **01443 873626**

**Rhif argyfwng ar gyfer
Gwasanaethau'r Cyngor:
Emergency Number for
Council Services:**
☎ **01443 875500**
(Allan o Oriau yn unig - Out of hours only)

**Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol i Biant
Children's Social Services**
☎ **0808 100 1727**

**Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol i Oedolion
Adults' Social Services**
☎ **0808 100 2500**

Balchder Stryd StreetPride
☎ **01443 866566**

**Cyngor i Ddefnyddwyr
Consumer Advice**
☎ **03454 040506**

**Ymholiadau Treth y Cyngor
Council Tax Enquiries**
☎ **01443 863002**

**Ailgylchu Dodrefn
Furniture Recycling**
☎ **01685 846830**

Bathodyn Glas Blue Badge
☎ **01443 866571**

**Budd-daliadau Tai
/Treth y Cyngor
Housing & Council
Tax Benefits**
Ceisiadau Newydd New Claims:
☎ **01443 866567**
Hawlfwr Presennol Existing Claimants:
☎ **01443 864099**

**Rydym yn croesawu
galwadau yn Gymraeg.
We welcome calls in Welsh.**

Digwyddiadau / What's ON

Cofrestrwch i dderbyn gwybodaeth reolaidd am ddigwyddiadau lleol drwy e-bostio: digwyddiadau@caerffili.gov.uk • Sign up to receive regular information about local events by e-mailing: events@caerphilly.gov.uk

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

CAERFFILI ★ CAERPHILLY
**MARCHNAD NADOLIG
CHRISTMAS MARKET**
7/12 - 08/12/2019 (9AM-4PM)
CANOL TREF CAERFFILI
CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE

Profwch olygfeydd, synau ac arogleuon tref a chastell sy'n paratoui ar gyfer y Nadolig gyda reidiau ffair traddodiadol, arogl gwin poeth, adloniant stryd a thros 100 o stondinau bwyd, crefft a rhoddion.

Mae yna Farchnad Ffermyr yng Nghanolfan Gymuned y Twyn a ffeiriau crefftau yn y Senotaff a Chanolfan Siopa Cwrt y Castell, sy'n ychwanegu at gymysgedd o siopau annibynnol a siopau stryd fawr y dref.

www.marchnadnadoligcaerffili.co.uk

Experience the sights, sounds and smells of a town and castle preparing for Christmas with traditional funfair rides, the smell of mulled wine, street entertainment and over 100 food, craft and gift stalls.

There's also a Farmers Market at the Twyn Community Centre, a Food & Craft Fair at Castle Court Shopping Centre and a Craft Fair at the Cenotaph, complementing the town's mixture of independent & high street stores.

www.caerphillychristmasmarket.co.uk

02920 880 011

Gorymdaith
Llusernau Afon
y Goleuni
River of Light
Lantern
Parade

CANOL TREF CAERFFILI
19/12/2019 - 6.30PM - 8PM
CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE

Peidiwch â cholli allan ar Orymdaith Llusernau Afon y Goleuni Caerffili eleni. Yn enwedig gan fod yr orymdaith anhygoel Nadoligaidd hon yn gorffen gydag arddangosfa tân gwyllt bendigedig sy'n goleuo ein Castell Caerffili gwych! Mae'r orymdaith yn cychwyn ym Maes Parcio a Theithio Gorsaf Drenau a Bysiau Caerffili, gan lifo drwy'r dref tuag at gefn Castell Caerffili (Crescent Road).

Ymhlith y cyfranogwyr bydd dawnswyr Samba, bandiau Jazz a dawnswyr yn creu môr o liw drwy'r dref. Dewch a'ch llusern a chymryd rhan yn y digwyddiad blynyddol hwn.

You won't want to miss the Caerphilly River of Light Lantern Parade this year. Especially, as this simply fabulous festive parade ends with a wonderful fireworks display that lights up our fantastic Caerphilly Castle!

The parade starts at Caerphilly Train & Bus Station Park & Ride, then flows through the town to the rear of Caerphilly Castle (Crescent Road).

Participants will be accompanied by Samba dancers, Jazz bands and dancers creating a sea of colour through the town. Bring your lantern along and take part in this annual event.

Sglefrio Iâ Castell Caerffili Caerphilly Castle Ice Rink 6/12/2019 - 6/1/2020

Mae'r profiad gwych o sglefrio ar dir castell mwyaf Cymru hyd yn oed yn fwy hudolus eleni gyda'r cyfle i sglefrio ar Noswyl Nadolig a Nos Galan hefyd!

Bydd y llawr sglefrio iâ ar agor o 12pm tan 9pm, dydd Mercher - dydd Iau, ac o 10am tan 9pm, dydd Gwener - dydd Sul. Bydd pob slot yn para 45 munud, gyda'r sesiwn olaf am 8pm. Bydd y llawr sglefrio iâ ar gau ar ddydd Llun a dydd Mawrth.

Dylid archebu tocynnau ar-lein ymlaen llaw o ticketsource.co.uk/caerphilly-castle-ice-rink. Cost tocynnau yw £6.50 ar gyfer plant o dan 14 oed, £9.00 i oedolion a £27 i deuluoedd (2 oedolyn a 2 plentyn) gyda chost hurio esgidiau sglefrio wedi'i chynnwys yn y pris.

The wonderful experience of ice skating within the grounds of Wales' largest castle will be even more magical this year with the opportunity to go ice skating on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve too!

The ice rink will be open from 12pm to 9pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays and from 10am to 9pm on Friday, Saturday and Sundays - last skate at 8pm - with each slot lasting 45 minutes. The rink will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Tickets should be pre-booked online at ticketsource.co.uk/caerphilly-castle-ice-rink, with tickets priced at £6.50 for children under 14, £9.00 for adults and £27.00 for families (two adults and two children) with standard skate hire included in the skate price.

Ogof Siôn Corn yng Nghastell Caerffili Santa's Grotto at Caerphilly Castle 7 a 8 Rhagfyr | 7 & 8 December ■ 10am - 4pm

Beth am fynd i Gastell Caerffili dros y Nadolig i brofi hud Nadolig canoloesol! Dewch i weld Siôn Corn yn y castell canoloesol hwn, ac efallai ymuno ag ambell weithgaredd celf a chrefft hefyd!

Ogof Siôn Corn £5 y plentyn. Mae angen cadw lle ymlaen llaw. Rhaid bod gan bob plentyn sy'n ymweld â Siôn Corn, a'r person sy'n dod gyda nhw, docyn mynediad safonol y gellir ei brynu ar y diwrnod o swyddfa docynnau Castell Caerffili.

Why not head to Caerphilly Castle this Christmas to experience the magic of a medieval Christmas! See Father Christmas in this splendid medieval castle, and maybe join in with some arts & crafts too!

Father Christmas Grotto £5 per child. Pre-booking is essential. Each child visiting Santa, and accompanying person, will require a standard admission ticket, which can be purchased on the day at the Caerphilly Castle ticket office.



Creu Ceirw Pren: Parc Cwm Darran Wooden Reindeer Making: Parc Cwm Darran 7 Rhagfyr | 7 December ■ 10am - 2pm

Dewch i greu un o geirw Siôn Corn sy'n 3 troedfedd o daldra. Gallwch hefyd archebu carw pren o'r Parc, os na hoffech chi greu un, drwy ffonio 01443 875557 (yn amodol ar argaeledd). Rhaid cadw lle trwy Sefydliad y Glowyr, Coed Duon, ar 01495 227206.

Come along and make your own 3ft tall Rudolph, Prancer or Dancer. You can also order a wooden reindeer from the Parc, if you don't fancy making one, by phoning 01443 875557 (subject to availability). Booking is essential via Blackwood Miners Institute on 01495 227206.

Creu Torch Nadolig: Llancaiach Fawr Wreath Making: Llancaiach Fawr 13, 14 a 15 Rhagfyr | 13, 14 & 15 December ■ 10am - 1.30pm

Sesiynau bore neu brynhawn i greu Torch - £25 y pen. Dysgwch sut i greu ac addurno torch eich hun! Wreathmaking Sessions am or pm £25 per person. Learn how to create and decorate your very own wreath!

Aladdin

Sefydliad y Glowyr, Coed Duon Blackwood Miners' Institute 13, 14 a 15 Rhagfyr | 13, 14 & 15 December ■ 10am - 1.30pm

Os ydych eisiau chwerrthin yn ddi-baid, cadwch eich seddi ym mhantomeim llawn hwyl eleni gan Rainbow Valley Productions. Rhwng y jôcs a'r triciau, chwarae ar eiriau ffracth a chomedï gwirion, bydd digon o ganu, dawnio, rhant, hud, dirgelwch a chyffro hefyd i ddiwyro cynulleidfaoedd o bob oedran.

If it's non-stop laughter you're after, then book your seats for this year's fun-packed pantomime from Rainbow Valley Productions. Between the jokes & japes, witty wordplay and silly slapstick, there'll also be enough singing, dancing, romance, magic, mystery and excitement to entertain audiences of all ages.



Gweithdy Creu Llusernau Afon y Goleuni ■ River of Light Lantern Making Workshop 7 Rhagfyr | 7 December (10am-5pm) Eglwys Fethodistaidd Wesley, Caerffili Wesley Methodist Church Caerphilly 14 a 15 Rhagfyr | 14 & 15 December (10am-5pm) Canolfan Hamdden Caerffili Caerphilly Leisure Centre

Gyda thymor y Nadolig yn agosáu'n gyflym, beth am fwynhau adloniant i'r teulu cyfan AM DDIM a dod â'r plant i greu llusern arbennig ar gyfer Gorymdaith Llusernau Afon y Goleuni drwy Ganol Tref Caerffili ddydd Iau 19 Rhagfyr. Trefnir y gweithdai AM DDIM gan Gyngor Tref Caerffili.

With the Christmas season quickly approaching, why not enjoy some FREE family fun time and bring the children along to make an extra special festive lantern ready for the River of Light Lantern Parade through Caerphilly Town Centre on Thursday 19th December. The FREE workshops are organised by Caerphilly Town Council.

digwyddiadau@caerffili.gov.uk 029 2088 0011 events@caerphilly.gov.uk



I gael gwybodaeth am sgysysau, clybiau llyfrau a sesiynau crefft sydd ar y gweill yn eich llyfrgell leol ewch i: www.caerffili.gov.uk / www.caerphilly.gov.uk

For information about upcoming talks, book clubs and craft sessions at your local library visit: neu.fffoniwch/ or call **01443 864068**



DIOGELU: Busnes pawb yw e

Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili yn atgoffa pawb mai cyfrifoldeb pawb yw diogelu plant, pobl ifanc ac oedolion sy'n agored i niwed.

Gall pob un ohonom chwarae rhan allweddol wrth sicrhau bod yr asiantaethau priodol yn dod i wybod am unrhyw bryderon ynghylch. Mae'r Cyngor wedi ymrwymo i greu cymunedau gofalgar i sicrhau bod trigolion yn teimlo'n ddiogel ac yn cael eu gwarchod. Mae gan bob un ohonom gyfrifoldeb i sicrhau bod plant ac oedolion yn cael eu trin â pharch ac yn cael eu hamddiffyn rhag eraill a allai eu cam-drin.

Os oes gennych unrhyw bryderon am blentyn, person ifanc neu oedolyn sy'n agored i niwed, gallwch roi gwybod am eich pryderon i'r canlynol:

Oedolion: 0808 100 2500 / GCChOedolion@caerffili.gov.uk

Plant: 0808 100 1727 / cyswlltcatgyfeirio@caerffili.gov.uk

SAFEGUARDING: It's everybody's business

Caerphilly County Borough Council is reminding everyone that the safeguarding of vulnerable children, young people and adults is everyone's responsibility.

We can all play a key role in ensuring that any concerns about safeguarding are reported to the appropriate agencies.

The council is committed to creating caring communities to ensure that residents feel safe and protected. We all have a responsibility to ensure that children and adults are treated with respect and protected from others who may abuse them.

If you have any concerns about a child, young person or vulnerable adult, you can report your concerns to the following:

Adults: 0808 100 2500 IAAADULTS@caerphilly.gov.uk

Children: 0808 100 1727 contactandreferral@caerphilly.gov.uk

Diogelu - Busnes pawb yw e
Mae gan BOB UN ohonom ddyletswydd gyfreithiol i ddiogelu plant ac oedolion sy'n agored i niwed.
Os oes gennych unrhyw bryderon, cysylltwch â:
Oedolion - 0808 100 2500 / GCChOedolion@caerffili.gov.uk
Plant - 0808 100 1727 / cyswlltcatgyfeirio@caerffili.gov.uk



Safeguarding - It's everyone's business
We ALL have a legal duty to safeguard children and vulnerable adults. If you have any concerns, please contact:
Adults - 0808 100 2500 / IAAADULTS@caerphilly.gov.uk
Children - 0808 100 1727 / contactandreferral@caerphilly.gov.uk



Join the Caerphilly Conversation!

In order to deliver a balanced budget for 2020/21, Caerphilly County Borough Council is having to make savings of almost £8.5 million for the forthcoming year. This is in addition to the £103 million the council has had to take from its budget since 2008.

The table below details the list of draft savings proposals, which the council's Cabinet have agreed to consult on. **Your views matter!** Please take the time to consider the proposals and let us have your feedback.



Please return this form to any of the main council offices or your nearest Library, Leisure Centre, Cash Office, Housing Office or Customer First Centre.

If you prefer, you can also return the survey and any additional comments in the post to: Consultation and Public Engagement Officer, Business Improvement Services, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed, CF82 7PG.



The closing date for getting involved in this consultation is Monday 13th January 2020.

A) BEING MORE EFFICIENT

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Proposal	Saving	Description	Public Impact
Adult Education - Delete vacant Manager's post.	£42k	Service review and restructure.	NONE
14 to 19 Initiative Transport Costs - Budget realignment.	£25k	Proposal based on recent spend profile.	NONE
Support Services and Resources - Delete vacant post.	£15k	Service review / vacant post not filled.	NONE
Library Service - Delete Library Manager post.	£50k	Service review and restructure. Displaced postholder now part of the 21st Century Schools Team.	NONE
Education Welfare Service - Restructure of service.	£28k	Restructure within the Team at the end of March 2019 allowed a review of the structure with a subsequent saving.	NONE
Music Service - Curriculum Leader - Vacant post.	£59k	Vacant post not filled following review.	NONE
Music Service - Delete Music Teacher post but some hours retained.	£26k	Vacant post not filled following review.	NONE
Music Service - Delete Music Teacher post.	£53k	Vacant post not filled following review.	NONE
Language Support Primary - Delete vacant post.	£33k	Vacant post not filled following review.	LOW
Library Service - Back office efficiencies & transport related savings.	£18k	Budget realignment based on trends and review.	NONE
Youth Service - 1 Caretaker at Crumlin Institute not replaced (vacant post).	£11k	Vacant post not filled following review.	NONE
Youth Service - Deletion of admin post.	£21k	Vacant post not filled following review.	NONE
Youth Service - Duty Officer/Caretaker post not to be replaced when the postholder leaves in the Autumn.	£25k	Vacant post not filled following review.	NONE
Youth Service - Deletion of part-time Grade 10 vacant post.	£28k	Vacant post not filled following review.	NONE
Early Years Team.	£15k	Savings identified following a general spend review. No impact on staff.	NONE
Education Achievement Service (EAS) - 1.5% reduction in contribution.	£15k	As advised by EAS.	NONE
Gwent Sensory & Communication Support Unit (SenCom) - 1% reduction.	£7k	Savings target for Sensory Service hosted by Torfaen CBC for 5 LAs. £7k relates to CCBC saving only.	NONE

SOCIAL SERVICES & HOUSING

Private Housing - Minor restructure.	£27k	Will result in the deletion of 1 post.	NONE
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A) BEING MORE EFFICIENT

Proposal	Saving	Description	Public Impact
COMMUNITIES			
Business Support & Funding - Budget realignments.	£40k	In addition to budget realignments in previous years, budgets can be reduced in further budget headings in 2020/21. The most significant savings are Cleaning (£3.5k), Oakdale Joint Venture (£27k), Telephone Recharges (£2k), Postage (£4k) and Subscriptions (£2k). This totals £38.5k and the remaining £1.5k will be taken in small amounts from other budget headings.	NONE
Business Support & Funding - Increased rental income from Lowry Plaza Unit Shops.	£5k	Lowry Plaza currently has one shop unit unlet, unit 6A. It is anticipated that this unit will be let by the 2020/21 financial year. The income from the unit will generate circa £5k.	NONE
Urban Renewal - Reduction in Publicity & Promotion budget.	£2k	Budget realignment.	NONE
Urban Renewal - Reduction in mileage, printing and miscellaneous expenditure budgets.	£2k	Budget realignment.	NONE
Tourism - Blackwood Miners Institute - Reduced Box Office opening hours.	£8k	As a consequence of the purchase of a new cloud based box office system complemented by a revamped website, the ticket booking process has become more user friendly and appealing thus increasing the number of users booking online and supporting the Council's Customer & Digital Strategy.	NONE
Tourism - Blackwood Miners Institute - Staffing restructure.	£20k	Staff restructure to reduce the number of management hours required and reorganise duties amongst existing staff.	NONE
Tourism - Winding House - Budget realignment and reduction in staffing budget.	£30k	The staffing element can be achieved following changes to the service in recent years where the venue has closed on a Sunday and Monday and through an integration of staff resource at Llancaich Fawr Manor.	NONE
Tourism - Marketing and Events - Reduction in marketing spend.	£8k	Budget realignment to marketing and administrative budgets to reflect a reduction in paid for advertising and reduced postage as use of digital and social media increases as a marketing tool.	NONE
Tourism - Additional budget efficiencies across all venues.	£21k	To be achieved through efficiency savings across the Tourism Venues expenditure budgets.	NONE
Infrastructure Division - Minor restructure.	£31k	A minor restructure will be undertaken to better align staff resources to service provision maximising efficiency opportunities in service delivery within Highway inspection.	LOW
Community & Leisure Services - Deletion of Admin post.	£25k	Deletion of 1 of 8 posts.	NONE
Community & Leisure Services - Budget realignment.	£56k	Includes realignment of Green Spaces (£30k) and Pavilion Attendant budget (£10k), reduction in overhead, materials, vehicle costs and shrinking contractor payments (£10k), and savings on Environmental works linked to reservoirs in Upper RV (£6k).	NONE
Registrars - Vacancy Management.	£10k	A minor restructure has resulted in unfilled staffing hours.	NONE
Public Protection - Budget realignment.	£39k	Includes a £20k reduction in electricity recharges in CCTV.	NONE
Corporate Property - Penmaen House - Running costs to be met by new tenant.	£33k	Costs to be met by new tenant who has occupied the premises from June 2019.	NONE
Corporate Property - Ty Penallta - Reduction in building cleaning.	£25k	Reduced hours were introduced from June 2019.	NONE
Corporate Property - Other Offices - Reduction in building cleaning.	£20k	Based on a reduction of 15% on the current budget of £130k.	NONE
Corporate Property - Reduction in utility costs.	£15k	Budget realignment.	NONE
CORPORATE SERVICES			
Corporate Finance - Vacancy management.	£208k	Vacant posts to be reviewed as they arise.	NONE
Building Cleaning - Reduction in printing costs.	£4k	Budget realignment.	NONE
Building Cleaning - Reduction in subscriptions.	£4k	No longer subscribe to BICS.	NONE
Building Cleaning - Reduction in training budget.	£4k		NONE
Building Cleaning - Reduction in fleet costs.	£5k	Downsizing fleet by 1 van.	NONE
Legal & Governance - Deletion of vacant solicitor post.	£12k	Some of the saving is being retained to fund a new part-time Committee Services Officer.	NONE
Legal & Governance - Reduction in supplies & services expenditure.	£20k	Budget realignment.	NONE
Legal & Governance - Reduction in Counsel Fees budget.	£50k	Budget realignment.	NONE
			Sub-Total: £1,195k

B) DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

COMMUNITIES			
Infrastructure - Reduction in Street Lighting maintenance budget.	£40k	Reducing maintenance costs by undertaking a reactive response to outages rather than a proactive replacement strategy. Further savings will also be achieved from the ongoing rollout of new LED Lighting.	LOW
Community & Leisure Services - Bowling Green Rationalisation.	£10k	Ongoing phased removal of the grants to Bowls Clubs as previously agreed by Cabinet; reduction from £1,500 to £1,000.	NONE
Community & Leisure Services - Closure and sale or lease of Ynys Hywel Farm.	£40k	Release Farm Manager and relocate Farm Hand with remaining livestock to Aberargoed. Environmental Health will need to make alternative arrangements for impounded straying animals. Potential to lease the farm for grazing.	NONE
Community & Leisure Services - Closure of Penallta Parks Depot.	£24k	Close 1 of 3 Parks Depots and relocate operations into Tir-y-Berth Depot.	NONE
Community & Leisure Services - Closure of Trehir Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC).	£15k	There are Health & Safety issues that will need to be addressed if a service is maintained at the Trehir site. The proposed closure of Trehir is underpinned by a proposed expansion of Penallta HWRC into the vacated adjacent Parks Depot (see above). There is a part-year saving of £15k in 2020/21 (full-year £30k) to allow the necessary works to take place. A capital allocation will be required to fund the expansion of Penallta HWRC. The proposed expansion at Penallta also includes the provision of a recycling shop.	MEDIUM
Public Protection - Merge Community Safety Wardens with the Environmental Health General Enforcement Team.	£160k	3 of 6 CSW posts are on fixed-term contracts to 31/3/2020 and 1 is vacant. Proposal is to delete 4 CSW posts and incorporate the remaining 2 into the General Enforcement Team in Environmental Health to provide a streamlined service.	HIGH
Corporate Property - All leaseholders to discharge maintenance obligations.	£20k	Historically the maintenance of some community centres and pavilions has been funded by Corporate Property despite the lease making the tenant responsible for these costs. Currently we fund circa £60k of works per annum that are not our responsibility. Assumes transition over 3 years.	LOW
CORPORATE SERVICES			
Corporate Policy - Reduction in external Welsh Language Translation budget.	£15k	This can be achieved due to the in-house Translation Team now being fully staffed.	NONE
Customer Services - Service redesign.	£68k	Rationalisation of existing service provision. This is a part-year saving, full-year is £136k.	MEDIUM
Central Services - Service redesign in Mail Room.	£24k	Rationalisation of existing service provision. This is a part-year saving, full-year is £48k.	LOW
SOCIAL SERVICES & HOUSING			
Social Services - Temporary use of reserves to underpin alternative ways of working.	£800k	Based on current information the projected 2020/21 growth requirement for Social Services is £800k. For 2020/21 only it is proposed that this anticipated growth requirement will be met through a one-off contribution of £800k from Social Services reserves. This is proposed on the basis that there are a number of initiatives currently underway that will reduce costs in the medium to long-term and therefore mitigate the current cost pressures in the system.	NONE

B) DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Proposal	Saving	Description	Public Impact
Library Service - Deletion of 2 Community Librarian posts (Grade 8).	£80k	6 Community Librarians reduced to 4, with each taking a share of the sites (currently split 6 ways). Not anticipated that compulsory redundancies will be required as alternative roles within a two grade level will become available following recent expressions of interest by staff.	LOW
Library Service - Full-year effect of workforce remodelling savings approved as part of the 2019/20 budget.	£32k	Full-year effect of approved 2019/20 savings.	NONE
Sub-Total: £1,328k			

C) SERVICE REDUCTIONS / CUTS

CORPORATE SERVICES

Corporate Policy - Reduction in Voluntary Sector budget.	£80k	This saving will be achieved through a further reduction in the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) funding allocated to three voluntary sector organisations (Citizen's Advice, GAVO and Groundwork). The total remaining budget available to fund the SLAs will be £129k.	HIGH
Corporate Policy - Delete remaining Technical Assistance budget.	£11k	The Technical Assistance budget is currently available to the voluntary and community sector on an application basis to enable obtaining professional and technical reports to support grant applications e.g. surveyors, architects, plans and drawings, CCBC legal fees etc.	MEDIUM
Corporate Policy - Further reduction in the Well-being budget.	£6k	The well-being budget has supported work in communities to deliver well-being initiatives that promote local economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being e.g. environmental projects, community clean-up projects, projects that support the 50+ partnership and projects to support pollinators (local bee population). A residual budget of £10k will remain.	MEDIUM
Corporate Policy - Further reduction in publicity and promotion budgets.	£2k	Budget realignment.	NONE

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

2% reduction in Individual Schools Budget.	£2,060k	The Individual Schools Budgets (ISB) of £103m equates to circa 30% of the Authority's total net budget. We are currently working with schools to monitor the potential impact of a 2% reduction and early projections indicate that posts will need to be reduced in circa 20 to 25 Schools.	MEDIUM
2% reduction in Former Key Stage 2 Grant.	£30k	Budget in 2019/20 is £1.5m. Impact across Primary Foundation Phase.	LOW
2% reduction in Secondary Additional Funding.	£22k	Budget in 2019/20 is £1.08m. Impact across Secondary Schools.	LOW
Youth Service - Reduction in top-up to grant funded projects.	£15k	Funds sessional staff hours, vehicle and venue hire and other youth work delivery costs. Supports engagement in a timely manner with approximately 45 of the most vulnerable young people. Budget reduction may result in greater demand on other teams within the Youth Service.	MEDIUM
Youth Service - Withdrawal of service from Bedwas High School.	£6k	Premises related saving. Service will be provided from an alternative venue at a reduced cost.	NONE

SOCIAL SERVICES & HOUSING

Housing - Withdrawal of General Fund Housing contribution to Community Environmental Warden Service.	£45k	Review of the service to achieve efficiencies in conjunction with Refuse and Cleansing.	MEDIUM
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COMMUNITIES

Business Support & Funding - Reduction in the revenue budget for the Community Enterprise Fund.	£50k	The revenue budget for grants previously administered by the Business Support & Funding Team has reduced from £232k (Community Regeneration Fund) and £62k (Business Development Grants) in 2015/16 to a combined revenue budget for the new Caerphilly Enterprise Fund of £101k. It is proposed that this be reduced by a further £50k in 2020/21. It should be noted that there is a separate capital allocation for the Fund of £149k that will be retained.	LOW
Urban Renewal - Reduction in Town Centre / Community Projects budget.	£8k	The total budget is £41k and it is used to deliver small capital improvements in our town and village centres, mainly concentrating on the public realm.	LOW
Community Regeneration - Reduction in Community Projects budget.	£35k	Due to the reduction of Community Regeneration Co-ordinator posts and the phasing out of the Communities First Programme, a number of community partnerships have ceased across the borough. This budget helped support the partnerships with annual running costs including liability insurance for events, marketing, administration fees etc.	LOW
Infrastructure - Withdraw the School Crossing Patrol sites that no longer meet the national standards criteria.	£158k	The provision of School Crossing Patrols is a non-statutory service. There are currently 55 sites and this proposal will reduce this to 22. 17 of the existing sites already have vacancies.	MEDIUM
Infrastructure - Blackwood to Ystrad Link - Withdrawal of subsidy.	£80k	Termination of the Blackwood to Ystrad Mynach Raillinc contract as this has the highest subsidy per passenger. Requires a minimum of 12 weeks notice to be served on the contract. An alternative service is available albeit that this is less frequent.	MEDIUM
Infrastructure - Reduction in Carriageway maintenance budget.	£514k	The reduction in the resurfacing budget will increase demand and resources on the reactive maintenance budget (pot holes) and will put pressure on the Infrastructure Division's statutory duty to maintain the Highway in a safe condition to road users. However, in recent years one-off grants have been made available by the Welsh Government and internal capital resources will be reviewed to establish whether sums can be released to support the programme of works on highways.	HIGH
Infrastructure - Reduction in other Highway maintenance budgets.	£95k	This is an overall reduction of circa 3% in other Highway maintenance budgets covering 3 main areas i.e. structures maintenance (£40k), footway maintenance (£35k) and reactive repairs (£20k).	MEDIUM
Infrastructure - Reduction in Traffic Management maintenance budget.	£10k	This is a combination of reduced spend on traffic management (e.g. speed bumps etc.) and the fact that it is hoped Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) will cover line markings and signage in future.	MEDIUM
Infrastructure - Reduction in Risca Canal budget.	£40k	This is a 42% reduction in the revenue budget but the capital budget of circa £200k per annum will be retained.	MEDIUM
Community & Leisure Services - Reduction in playground maintenance budget.	£10k	A further 3.6% reduction in this budget which has been cut in successive years. This will reduce the ability to replace play equipment and ultimately could lead to the closure / removal of facilities.	LOW
Community & Leisure Services - 50% Reduction in maintenance of land budget.	£16k	This was a temporary saving in Countryside in 2019/20 and it is now proposed to make this permanent.	LOW
Community & Leisure Services 50% Reduction in Public Rights of Way budget.	£32k	This was a temporary saving in 2019/20 and it is now proposed to make this permanent.	LOW
Community & Leisure Services - Reduction in Cemeteries Maintenance budget.	£20k	A further reduction in this budget which has been cut in successive years. This will reduce the ability to improve or repair cemetery infrastructure.	LOW
Community & Leisure Services - Reduction in War Memorial Maintenance budget.	£5k	A further reduction in this budget which has been cut in successive years. This will reduce the ability to maintain war memorials across the county borough.	LOW
Community & Leisure Services - Reduction in Allotment budget.	£2k	Reduction in service area budget to undertake maintenance works.	NONE
Community Centres - Withdrawal of funding for 2 Centres not in CCBC ownership (Rudry and Glan-y-Nant).	£13k	Removal of subsidy.	LOW
Community Centres - Reduction of 1 hour Caretaker support across all Centres.	£18k	Removal of a further 1 of 11 hours caretaker subsidy; community centre management committees can choose to fund. Future of ongoing subsidy to be considered as part of a service review of Community Centres.	LOW
Waste Management - Reduction in Cleansing staff numbers (6 posts).	£145k	A reduction in cleansing staff numbers by 6 posts. Cleansing staff numbers have been reduced in successive years. The proposed reduction in the Housing contribution to the Community Environmental Warden Service will also have an impact on Cleansing. Cleansing schedules will need to be adjusted as part of the wider service review that is currently being undertaken within the Refuse & Cleansing service.	MEDIUM
Public Protection - Decommission all BT line rental cameras.	£24k	Decommission all 26 Public Open Space CCTV cameras. 2 cameras in Nelson, 3 in Cefn Forest, 2 in Llanbradach, 2 in Senghenydd, 4 in Abertridwr, 1 in Graig-Y-Rhacca, 1 in Oakdale, 6 at Pengam Train Station, 1 in Trinant and 4 in Crescent Rd Car Park Caerphilly. Need to give BT 3 months notice so assume part year 20/21 saving of 10 months with £5k to follow in 21/22.	MEDIUM

C) SERVICE REDUCTIONS / CUTS

COMMUNITIES

Proposal	Saving	Description	Public Impact
Corporate Property - Reduction in DDA budget.	£30k	A reduction of 50% is proposed. There have been significant investments in recent years to ensure DDA compliance and this reduced budget will be sufficient to address any residual issues moving forward.	NONE
Corporate Property - 7% reduction in building maintenance budgets.	£106k	Whilst Health & Safety and statutory maintenance works will be delivered, some discretionary projects will be subject to delays.	LOW

MISCELLANEOUS FINANCE

Miscellaneous Finance - Deletion of Match Funding for Community Schemes budget.	£15k	This will result in the withdrawal of CCBC's contribution to the Bargoed Ice Rink (£12k) and the Senghenydd Splash Pad (£3k)	LOW
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Sub-Total: £3,703k

D) #TEAMCAERPHILLY - BETTER TOGETHER

SOCIAL SERVICES & HOUSING

Housing - Increase in Housing Revenue Account (HRA) recharges - Minor works of adaptation.	£25k	An increased recharge to the HRA to support the minor works of adaptation work currently managed by Social Services and commissioned to Private Sector Housing.	NONE
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COMMUNITIES

Planning - Income from charging for advice.	£6k	This consists of increasing the current charges for non-statutory planning advice and introducing a new charge for discretionary pre-application advice in respect of Conservation/Built Heritage applications to bring them in line with other applications.	LOW
Urban Renewal - Increased staff fee income from project management on grant funded projects.	£2k	Increase in fee income from Urban Renewal project management of externally funded projects, predominantly European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) schemes.	NONE
Tourism - Cwmcaern Visitor Centre - Additional income.	£10k	Additional income arising from a number of investments that have developed on site aimed at attracting more visitors. Recent investments include the installation of an adventure park aimed at family audiences and 6 new accommodation units that provide a greater yield per pitch compared to the camping pitches they have replaced.	NONE
Tourism - Caerphilly Visitor Centre - Additional catering income.	£5k	As a consequence of an investment in new furniture at the site the number of café 'covers' have increased and a more appealing café offer has been created.	NONE
Tourism - Blackwood Miners Institute - Additional income.	£5k	A focus on secondary spend through the provision of a mobile bar and confectionery unit aims to improve sales to customers by taking items into the auditorium during shows.	NONE
Tourism - Marketing and Events - Additional income from review of Pitch Fees.	£12k	Further income generation can be achieved through an increase in pitch fees and sponsorship where there is commercial demand for the more popular events.	NONE
Waste - Increase charges for bulky collections (from £16 to £25 for 1 to 3 items).	£25k	A new charging policy for all bulky items (with no items being collected free of charge) was introduced in 2019/20 based on charging £16 for 1-3 items. Proposed increase to £25 for 1-3 items would generate £38k extra income at budgeted levels, but assume £25k for prudent budgeting purposes.	LOW
Public Protection - Review Pest Control Fees and Charges and introduce a charge for rat treatments.	£20k	Introduce a revised schedule of pest control fees and charges to ensure consistency for the various services offered.	MEDIUM
Corporate Property - Ty Duffryn rental income.	£69k	Phased increase in rental income from tenant.	NONE
Corporate Property - Penmaen House rental income.	£31k	Rental income from new tenant who occupied the premises from June 2019.	

CORPORATE SERVICES

Meals Direct - Increase price of meals by 25p from April 2020.	£5k	Increase from £3.30 to £3.55	LOW
Catering - Increase price of primary school meals by 10p from April 2020.	£28k	Increase from £2.10 to £2.20	LOW
Catering - Increase price of secondary school meals by 10p from April 2020.	£54k	Increase £2.35 to £2.45	LOW
Catering - Increased income in Secondary Schools (budget realignment).	£12k	Budget realignment.	NONE
Catering - Increase price of meals in the staff canteen by 3%.	£6k		NONE
Building Cleaning - Increase in income.	£12k	Budget realignment.	NONE
Building Cleaning - Increase income from window cleaning.	£4k	Combination of new marketing strategy and price increases.	NONE
Building Cleaning - Increase charges for Portable Appliance Testing.	£3k	Impact on internal customers - an extra 2p an item.	NONE
Building Cleaning - Increase in charges for Trinity Fields.	£14k	Previously undercharged.	NONE
Building Cleaning - New contract with Morrison Utilities.	£5k		NONE
Procurement - Income generation through collaboration.	£10k	A number of collaborative opportunities are being explored that will generate income for the Procurement Team.	NONE
Catering - Introduce a charge for providing current free provisions to meeting rooms i.e. water.	£3k		NONE
Corporate Services - Digital Services - Efficiency savings through process reviews and automation.	£200k	£600k has been invested in the Abavus and Thoughtonomy software products. Payback is assumed over a period of three years through savings arising from an ongoing process of system reviews and automation to digitise routine procedures.	NONE
Review of Investment Strategy	£718k	It is proposed to redirect £20m of our current investments into long-term investment funds. This would be split across various funds in order to smooth out any volatility that can be associated with such investments. The funds that are to be considered are a property fund; an equity fund and a bond fund. The £20m investment will be locked in for a minimum of 3-5 years but there would be a significant improvement on returns. We will only invest in funds that have been screened by our Treasury Advisors, Arlingclose.	NONE

Sub-Total: £1,284k

E) OTHER

Miscellaneous Finance - Temporary reduction in Debt Charges budget.	£500k	This temporary reduction was applied in 2019/20 and can also be repeated temporarily for 2020/21. This is due to approved borrowing not being required at present through the use of short-term cash balances.	NONE
Miscellaneous Finance - 2019/20 savings in advance.	£475k	These are savings in advance that were achieved for 2019/20 that can now be released to support the budget moving forward.	

Sub-Total: £975k

TOTAL SAVINGS FOR WHOLE AUTHORITY £8,485,000

Join the Caerphilly Conversation!

Having reviewed the list of savings proposals, please take the time to answer the questions below so we can use your views to help inform our budget decisions over the coming years.

In order to deliver a balanced budget for 2020/21, Caerphilly County Borough Council is having to make savings of almost £8.5 million for the forthcoming year. This is in addition to the £103 million the council has had to take from its budget since 2008.



A list of draft budget proposals was presented to the council's Cabinet on 13th November 2019, which would allow the required savings of £8.495 million for 2020/21. The proposals are focussed this year in the following areas:

- **Being more efficient**
- **Doing things differently**
- **Service reductions/cuts**
- **Increases in fees and charges**
- **Embracing the new #TeamCaerphilly – Better Together operating model**
(primarily focussing on efficiencies through process reviews, automation and a review of the council's investment strategy).



Your views matter! Please take the time to answer the questions below so we can use your views to help inform our budget decisions over the coming years.

1 Having read and considered the list of savings proposals please indicate if you particularly agree or disagree with any of those listed, giving reasons for your answer. It would help us if you could write in the proposal that you most strongly agree/disagree with first:

Proposals that I particularly agree with:	Proposals that I particularly disagree with:
1]	1]
2]	2]
3]	3]

2 To achieve the savings we must make, we are proposing a council tax increase of 6.95% for 2020/21. This would equate to an additional £1.51 per week based on a council tax Band D property. While council tax is a very important element of the council's funding, it makes up just 20% of the council's total budget for delivering the wealth of services that Caerphilly county borough residents receive every day of the year. Even with a 6.95% increase in council tax, Caerphilly county borough residents would still pay among the lowest council tax in Wales. Taking this and the level of savings required into account, please select one of the following options to tell us your preference about council tax.

✓ **Please select ONE only.**

I support the proposed increase in council tax (6.95%) which would mean an increase of £1.51 per week for a Band D property.

I do not support the proposed council tax increase – it's too much. However, **I'd support a lower increase** in council tax. (Please note – every 1% reduction from the proposed 6.95% would mean us having to find an extra £535k of savings).

I support the proposed increase in council tax and would be **prepared to pay an even greater increase** if required. (Every 1% increase above the proposed 6.95% would mean we have to find £535k less savings).

I do not support any increase in council tax and understand that this would mean the council having to find further savings elsewhere in order to balance the budget.

3 If you said that you would not be happy to support the proposed increase in council tax, please provide details of how else you feel we can achieve the required savings:

The council has recently embarked on a major transformation programme called #TeamCaerphilly – Better Together.

In the context of the current financial situation, the programme looks at how we can do things differently; become more innovative and efficient, explore opportunities for greater customer focus, embrace more digital opportunities, look at collaborative opportunities, consider alternative delivery models and seek out commercial opportunities.

4 Looking towards 2022 and beyond, and given the financial situation facing councils across the country, what ideas do you have for how we could deliver our services differently in order to meet the current needs of our residents and those of our future generations?

The **#TeamCaerphilly** transformation programme is about reshaping the council for the future. As we have highlighted already, we must do things differently in order to protect the council services that are needed and valued. In future, this means that the council will be smaller and will deliver fewer services, and may deliver its remaining services in a different way. If we are going to continue to deliver some of the discretionary services (that is things we don't legally have to do) we will need the help of our communities and the voluntary sector to support us in delivering them.

5 What ideas do you have about how you and the wider community can work to support the council to help achieve this?

6 If your responses to any of the questions in this survey have been influenced (positively or negatively) because of any of the following; ethnic origin, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, religious beliefs or non beliefs, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality or responsibility for any dependents, please give details below:

A bit about you...

I am completing this survey ...

- As a resident of the County Borough
- As a member of staff
- As a business person
- Representing a third sector organisation
- As an elected member

Other please write in: _____

I am (select one) ...

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

Other, please write in: _____

My postcode is:

What is your main language? (select one)

- English
- Welsh
- Other (including British Sign Language)
- Prefer not to say

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

- Yes
- No

Thank you for completing the survey. Please return this form to any of the main council offices or your nearest Library, Leisure Centre, Cash Office, Housing Office or Customer First Centre. If you prefer, you can also return the survey and any additional comments in the post to: Consultation and Public Engagement Officer, Business Improvement Services, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed, CF82 7PG

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