



COFNOD O BENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO GAN SWYDDOG
RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

Penderfyniad Allweddol | Key Decision



Mae'r Penderfyniad Wedi'i Ddirprwyo hwn wedi'i bennu yn 'Benderfyniad Allweddol' gan ei fod yn debygol o:

This Delegated Decision has been established as a 'Key Decision' as it is likely:

a) arwain at y Cyngor yn ysgwyddo gwariant sylweddol neu wneud arbedion sylweddol;
to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant;

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neu / or:

b) fod yn arwyddocaol o ran sut mae'n effeithio ar gymunedau sy'n byw neu'n gweithio mewn ardal sy'n cynnwys dwy etholaeth neu adran etholiadol neu ragor.

to be significant in terms of its effects on Communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral wards.

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c) Eraill / Other:

PWNC | SUBJECT: ENGAGEMENT ON THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2027/28

DIBEN YR ADRODDIAD | PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To outline the proposed approach to resident engagement and consultation in respect of the 2027/28 budget setting process.

PENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO | DELEGATED DECISION:

It was **AGREED:**

1. To continue to support the approach to the Council's budget consultation introduced in recent years, using both online engagement through the Council's 'Let's Talk' website and face-to-face community events, and continue to provide alternative means of engagement for those having reduced or no access to the Internet and those who prefer to engage through traditional methods.

2. To support the Council's statutory requirements regarding consultation on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and also Council Tax levels, and that these will be met via the recommended approach.
3. To approve the launch of a Phase 1 budget consultation in Autumn 2026, ahead of the Welsh Government's provisional budget settlement.
4. To authorise the Service Director – Democratic Services, Welsh Language & Communications to finalise a detailed engagement timeline in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and Deputy Chief Executive and Group Director for Corporate Resources.

Llofnod y Prif Swyddog

Chief Officer Signature



Christian Hanagan

Enw (priflythrennau)

Name (Print Name)

Service Director – Democratic
Services, Welsh Language &
Communications

Swydd

Designation

6th October 2026

Dyddiad

Date

Mae'r penderfyniad yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag Adran 15 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 2000 (Swyddogaethau'r Corff Gweithredol) ac yn y cylch gorchwyl sy wedi'i nodi yn Adran 5 o Ran 3 o Gyfansoddiad y Cyngor.

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

YMGYNGHORI | CONSULTATION

	Cllr Maureen Webber – Deputy Leader of the Council	6 th October 2026
LLOFNOD YR AELOD YMGYNGH O'R CABINET CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE	ENW A SWYDD NAME AND DESIGNATION	DYDDIAD DATE
LLOFNODSWYDDOG YMGYNGH CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE	ENW A SWYDD NAME AND DESIGNATION	DYDDIAD DATE

A FYDD Y PENDERFYNIAD YMA'N CAEL EFFAITH AR Y WARD?

WILL THIS DECISION HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE WARD?

BYDD | YES NA FYDD | NO**Unrhyw sylwadau pellach/Oes angen rhoi gwybod i'r Aelod Lleol:**

Any further comments/Need for Local Member to be informed:

This decision is applicable to all wards of RCT

RHEOLAU'R WEITHDREFN GALW-I-MEWN | CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.

**A YW'R PENDERFYNIAD YN UN BRYN A HEB FOD YN DESTUN PROSES GALW-I-MEWN
GAN Y PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU?:**

IS THE DECISION DEEMED URGENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

NAC YDY | NO ✓

Rheswm dros fod yn fater brys | Reason for Urgency:

Os yw'n cael ei ystyried yn fater brys - llofnod y Llywydd, y Dirprwy Lywydd neu Bennaeth y Gwasanaeth Cyflogedig yn cadarnhau cytundeb fod y penderfyniad arfaethedig yn rhesymol yn yr holl amgylchiadau iddo gael ei drin fel mater brys, yn unol â rheol gweithdrefn trosolwg a chraffu 17.2:

If deemed urgent - signature of Presiding Member or Deputy Presiding Member or Head of Paid Service confirming agreement that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances for it being treated as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.2:

.....
(Llywydd | *Presiding Member*)

.....
(Dyddiad | *Date*)

DS - Os yw hwn yn benderfyniad sy'n cael ei ail-ystyried yna does dim modd galw'r penderfyniad i mewn a bydd y penderfyniad yn dod i rym o'r dyddiad mae'r penderfyniad wedi'i lofnodi.

NB - If this is a reconsidered decision then the decision Cannot be Called In and the decision will take effect from the date the decision is signed.

AT DDEFNYDD Y SWYDDFA YN UNIG | FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DYDDIADAU CYHOEDDI A GWEITHREDU | PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES

CYHOEDDI | PUBLICATION

Cyhoeddi ar Wefan y Cyngor | Publication on the Council's Website:- ____07-10-26____

DYDDIAD | DATE

GWEITHREDU'R PENDERFYNIAD | IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

Nodwch: Fydd y penderfyniad hwn ddim yn dod i rym nac yn cael ei weithredu'n llawn nes cyn pen 3 diwrnod gwaith ar ôl ei gyhoeddi. Nod hyn yw ei alluogi i gael ei "Alw i Mewn" yn unol â Rheol 17.1, Rheolau Gweithdrefn Trosolwg a Chraffu.

Note: This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 3 clear working days after its publication to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Yn amodol ar y drefn "Galw i Mewn", caiff y penderfyniad ei roi ar waith ar:

Subject to Call In the implementation date will be:

____13-10-26____
DYDDIAD / DATE

WEDI'I GYMERADWYO I'W GYHOEDDI: ✓ | APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION :✓

Rhagor o wybodaeth | Further Information:

Cyfadrn Directorate:	Democratic Services and Communications
Enw'r Person Cyswllt Contact Name:	Chris Davies
Swydd Designation:	Corporate Policy & Consultation Manager
Rhif Ffôn Telephone Number:	07769 164761

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

KEY DELEGATED DECISION

5TH OCTOBER 2026

ENGAGEMENT ON THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2027/28

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES,
WELSH LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATIONS IN DISCUSSION WITH THE
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL.**

Author: Chris Davies (Corporate Policy & Consultation Manager)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to outline the proposed approach to resident engagement and consultation in respect of the 2027/28 budget setting process.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended:

- 2.1 To continue to support the approach to the Council's budget consultation introduced in recent years, using both online engagement through the Council's 'Let's Talk' website and face-to-face community events, and continue to provide alternative means of engagement for those having reduced or no access to the Internet and those who prefer to engage through traditional methods.
- 2.2 To support the Council's statutory requirements regarding consultation on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and also Council Tax levels, and that these will be met via the recommended approach.
- 2.3 To approve the launch of a Phase 1 budget consultation in Autumn 2026, ahead of the Welsh Government's provisional budget settlement.
- 2.4 To authorise the Service Director – Democratic Services, Welsh Language & Communications to finalise a detailed engagement timeline in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and Deputy Chief Executive and Group Director for Corporate Resources.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To provide residents with the opportunity to provide feedback to the Cabinet on the 2027/28 budget setting process, via a range of engagement methods.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Each year the Council aims to undertake a comprehensive approach to its annual budget consultation, involving a range of residents and stakeholders.
- 4.2 The Council uses a phased approach, so that we can ensure residents and stakeholders have as much opportunity as possible to provide views on the budget and to make sure that views are informed by the most up to date and relevant information.
- 4.3 Phase 1 provides residents and stakeholders with the opportunity to feedback their views on some of the key elements used to construct the Council's budget. Phase 2 then asks for views on the draft budget strategy.
- 4.4 The widespread approach we use and the range of views we capture provides senior managers and Cabinet with the necessary information to inform budget setting for the year ahead.
- 4.5 The approach includes a range of face-to-face events in the community across the County Borough, increased digital engagement using the successful [Let's Talk Engagement](#) platform and the use of a user-friendly budget simulator to assist residents in understanding where and how the Council distributes its Revenue Budget. Around 600 people were involved in the 2026/27 budget consultation process.
- 4.6 Building on this success, the Council will seek to further increase engagement opportunities during the 2027/28 process through a greater presence within local communities, enhanced promotion of consultation activities and continued development of digital engagement tools.
- 4.7 Section 5 outlines the detailed engagement approach proposed for 2027/28.

5. PROPOSED ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

- 5.1 The 2027/28 budget consultation process will run in two phases:
- Phase 1 (Autumn 2026): Collecting views on the Council's investment priorities, council tax levels and efficiency savings. The phase 1 process enables the Cabinet time to consider the initial feedback received, and in doing so, assists in the development of a draft Budget Strategy for 2027/28.
 - Phase 2 (Early 2027): Engagement with residents on the draft Budget Strategy. The specific dates are dependent on the release dates of the Welsh Government settlement.
- 5.2 The approach will make use of our digital tools through the Let's Talk online engagement platform and face-to-face events and provide a number of alternative methods to ensure that it is inclusive of those who are not online or would rather provide their views in a different way, as set out in more detail at paragraph 5.11.
- 5.3 All of our engagement materials will be written in a clear and accessible format to reduce barriers to engagement and help provide clarity on questions asked. These will be produced and placed online as well as being available in paper copy on request.
- 5.4 The use of the Let's Talk platform will continue to ensure a user friendly and interactive form of engagement. The "Let's Talk Budget" site will provide key information, documents, graphics and videos to outline the background and context to the Council's budget, in addition to a number of engagement tools to allow feedback.
- 5.5 Last year, we enhanced the Budget Simulator to enable residents to prioritise services in greater detail through an interactive sliding scale, helping them better understand how the Council distributes its Revenue Budget and the challenges of balancing available resources. Further developments are planned to improve the user experience, encourage greater public engagement, and provide a deeper understanding of residents' priorities and perceptions of Council services.
- 5.6 The Council's social media platforms, website, stakeholder networks and communication channels will be used to promote the consultation and encourage participation. Particular emphasis will be placed on increasing awareness of both the online consultation and budget simulator to ensure residents have access to clear information and opportunities to contribute.

- 5.7 Emails will be distributed to all key stakeholders (including the Council's Citizens' Panel, Councillors, staff etc.).
- 5.8 The Council will seek to further expand both the number and variety of face-to-face engagement opportunities available across the County Borough. This will include attendance at community events, neighbourhood meetings, local groups and other public forums where residents can discuss budget issues directly with officers and elected Members. These events will provide opportunities to explain the financial context facing the Council, answer questions and obtain valuable local feedback to inform budget setting.
- 5.9 The RCT Together Team facilitates a number of Neighbourhood Networks that provide a point of contact to respond to resident and community support. As part of the Council's Budget Consultation Process, we aim to provide presentations to a number of the Networks.
- 5.10 Engagement will also take place with the following:
- Older people via the Older Persons Advisory Group meeting.
 - Report / presentation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Joint Consultative Committee and School Budget Forum.
 - Young people, through the RCT Youth Forum.
 - Town & Community Councils.
- 5.11 As with all of the Council's consultations we will continue to consider those having reduced or no access to the Internet and those who prefer to engage through traditional methods. This will cover:
- A telephone Consultation option will be available through the Council's Contact Centre – the contact centre number will be made available for people to discuss their views or as a minimum to request consultation materials.
 - Individual call backs if required.
 - Paper surveys and information available on request.
 - Consultation freepost address for postal responses.
- 5.12 The approach will be underpinned by the principles set out in the Council's Involvement Strategy.
- 5.13 In addition to the above, all Members have had opportunity over recent months at Cabinet and through Full Council to engage in the ongoing work on the Council's Medium Term Financial Planning arrangements.

Council Tax, Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Investment Priorities

- 5.14 The proposed approach will ensure the Council's duty to consult regarding Council Tax and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme are met as well as providing residents and service users with the opportunity to feedback on the Council's investment priorities.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 6.1 As noted in section 5, there will be a range of options for all stakeholders to get involved in the budget consultation process.
- 6.2 The online Let's Talk platform is accessible on mobile phones and tablet devices, and residents without internet access or smart phone/tablet devices can request a hard copy of the budget consultation questionnaire from the Contact Centre or at libraries.

7. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 All consultation materials and the Let's Talk platform will be bilingual.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The recommendations outlined in the report seek to ensure a range of engagement opportunities are provided to residents and service users as part of the budget consultation process.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 9.1 There are no financial implications directly aligned to this report.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 10.1 The Council has a statutory duty to consult on Council Tax and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme which will be met under the approach to budget consultation outlined in this report.

11. LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 11.1 The budget setting process clearly impacts on the delivery of all Council services and contributes in turn to the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan.

12. CONCLUSION

- 12.1 The comprehensive approach undertaken in previous years has increased the range of engagement in the budget consultation process through a more interactive and varied approach.
- 12.2 During the 2027/28 process, particular emphasis will be placed on increasing participation through face to face engagement activities and further developing the Council's digital consultation tools, including the budget simulator. This will help ensure residents have greater opportunities to understand the financial challenges facing the Council and influence decisions regarding future spending priorities.
- 12.3 The results of the phase 1 consultation will be presented to senior officers and Cabinet Members early in 2027 to inform the development of a proposed 2027/28 Revenue Budget Strategy. A phase 2 consultation will then take place on the draft strategy itself.

Other Information: -

Relevant Scrutiny Committee: Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Contact Officer: Chris Davies