

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018**

**DELIVERING THE CORPORATE PLAN – “THE WAY AHEAD” – INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR A MORGAN**

**Author:** Chris Bradshaw, Chief Executive (01443 424026)

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to set out the strategic capital investment priorities that this Council will commit to over the next three to five years, over and above its recurring annual capital programme, to deliver its Corporate Plan – “the Way Ahead”.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Cabinet:-

- 2.1 Consider the contents of this report.
- 2.2 Agree in principle to a strategic outline capital investment programme of in excess of £300m over the next 5 years over and above its recurring annual capital programme, recognising the Council’s ambition and that additional funding will be required from the Council, Welsh Government and public and private sector partners over the life of the programme.
- 2.3 Request that regular reports are presented to Cabinet and full Council (as appropriate) bringing forward business plans and funding requirements, for the respective projects, in order to deliver the ambition of the Corporate Plan.

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Increasing financial cutbacks nationally are leading to pressures locally but despite that, the Council is determined to deliver the best services and opportunities for everyone in the County Borough. Be that in education, securing well paid employment, being healthy and independent or benefitting from a range of good quality housing, clean streets, well maintained highways and an effective transport network that stimulates economic development.

3.2 Different times require different thinking and solutions. We are being creative and ambitious in our delivery of services and in the way we secure new sources of investment to ensure we have the community infrastructure that enables the delivery of good public services and attracts and retains residents and businesses to thrive in the County Borough.

#### 4. **BACKGROUND**

4.1 In February 2016, the Council approved its Corporate Plan for 2016-2020, which set out its significant ambitions for the County Borough as set out in the **Corporate Plan - The Way Ahead 2016 – 2020**.  
<http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/PerformanceBudgetsandSpending/Councilperformance/RelatedDocuments/CorporatePlan201620/CorporatePlan201620.pdf>

4.2 The focus of the Corporate Plan is on three priorities:

- **ECONOMY** - Building a strong economy;
- **PEOPLE** - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone;
- **PLACE** - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work.

4.3 The Corporate Plan recognises that to deliver these priorities, the Council will have to respond to a range of challenges and opportunities by:

- Redesigning local services that are integrated and efficient;
- More involved and resilient communities;
- Health and Social Care services being personalised and integrated, with more people supported to live longer in their own homes;
- Our schools being amongst the best in the country, and with all children achieving the best they can;
- Our children and young people receiving a great start in life;
- Ensuring there will be a broad offer of skills and employment programmes for all ages;
- Our local environment being clean and attractive, with well maintained roads, pavements, flowing traffic, increased recycling and less waste sent to landfill;
- Our parks and green spaces continuing to be valued by residents;
- Being amongst the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion and residents feeling safe;
- Taking a responsible approach to regeneration, with new homes being built and job opportunities created;

- Ensuing customer services will be intuitive and flexible, with increased user satisfaction;
  - Working in a way that makes the best and most sustainable use of our limited and decreasing resources, always looking at alternative ways of doing things, to limit the impact on the Council taxpayer.
- 4.4 The Annual Corporate Performance Report, presented to Council on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017 set out the good progress made in: responding to the challenges we face; and capitalising on the opportunities to invest in our communities - <http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/CouncillorsCommitteesandMeetings/Meetings/Council/2017/07/19/Reports/AgendaItem7.DraftCouncilPerformanceReport.pdf>
- 4.5 The Corporate Plan is ambitious for the County Borough. Through strong financial management, working in partnership with Welsh Government and other private and public sector bodies the Council proposes a comprehensive strategic investment programme that focuses on delivering the ambitions of the Corporate Plan.
- 4.6 The next stage of this report sets out a number of significant strategic investments, some of which are fully funded, whilst others have yet to secure all of the funding required and as such will be the subject of future reports.

## **5 PROPOSED WAY FORWARD**

- 5.1 To deliver the vision and objectives of the Corporate Plan, it is proposed that Cabinet supports a major programme of strategic capital investment in the following services:
- **Highways and Transportation Infrastructure – £65m;** investing in:
    - A4119 Corridor enhancements including the dualling of the Ely Valley Road (Stinkpot Hill);
    - Llanharan By-Pass road;
    - A4058/A4061 Corridor enhancements in the Upper Rhondda Fawr, Treorchy area;
    - Direct access from A465, via a new A4059 route, to Aberdare;
    - New Metro park and ride facilities;
    - New and upgraded footpaths, pavements and cycle paths.
    - Replacing/upgrading key strategic bridges and roads;
  - **21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools - £160m** - Investing in 10 new build schools and refurbishing 9 existing schools. In December 2017, Welsh Government confirmed that the Council had secured a £160m funding envelope to deliver a range of new schools and school refurbishments over the period

2019 – 2026, subject to the approval of individual business plans. This investment builds on the £160m of funding already delivered by the Council over the period 2014 - 2019;

- **New Housing - £450m+ (£11m of Council funding)** - investing in:
  - **Independent Living - £45m (£9.5m of Council funding)** - Five new Extra Care facilities for elderly people and for those with disabilities enabling individuals and their partners to live independently as possible within an environment that can offer a range of care as and when required. The Council will seek to commit £9.5m to develop these Extra Care facilities in partnership with Linc Cymru Housing Association, who are building the first of the **five** new Extra Care facilities in Aberdare. Further Extra Care facilities will be built in Pontypridd, Porth, Treorchy and Mountain Ash to complement the existing Extra Care facility operated by Hafod Care in Pontyclun;
  - **Bringing Empty Properties back into use - £1.5m** – the Council will continue to invest to encourage owners' of empty properties to refurbish the properties and bring them back into use, building on the success of the new grant introduced in 2017/18 (Council approval on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 to allocate a further £1.5M to the Council's Empty Property Grant);
  - **New Homes on Council land - £70m of Housing Association funding** - A range of social and private housing across the County Borough on Council owned sites in partnership with a number of housing associations and housing developers. The first example of this investment is the new housing development to be built in Mountain Ash by Persimmon plc, adjacent to the new Cynon Cross Valley Gateway Road. It is estimated that across these sites 750 homes will be built, a significant number of which will be social housing. The capital investment to be committed by the developers is estimated to be in excess of £70m;
  - **New housing developments - £340m of public and private sector developer funding** - Supporting social housing and private sector housing developers to build 3,000 homes across the County Borough using CIL, S106 and other available funding to ensure the right community infrastructure is in place to facilitate the development of a wider range of good quality housing. The capital investment to be committed by the developers is estimated to be in excess of £340m;
  
- **Community Assets – £4m** - investing in:
  - Parks and playgrounds;
  - Community hubs that provide a range of community based services in one or a number of closely located buildings, which best serve the community. These community hubs will include a range of

service providers including key council services, voluntary sector, local businesses and other public sector providers;

- Leisure centres and recreational facilities, continuing to improve the facilities available to individuals and sports clubs, which includes further new 3G pitches;
- Improved library facilities in a number of communities.

- **Town Centre and Economic Regeneration – £70m;** investing in:

- Taf Vale Development – Pontypridd - £50m has been secured;
- Ynysangharad War Memorial Park – the refurbishment and renovation of the Victorian Park – Heritage Lottery Funding has been sought;
- Tonypany Town Centre – improved car and pedestrian access, with an investment in the street scene – the Council has set aside £1.5m to facilitate this project;
- Aberdare, Mountain Ash, Porth, Tonypany – exploring opportunities to invest in vacant buildings and land to create a mix of commercial, retail and housing solutions for these key towns.
- Investing £9m in building new high quality industrial units in Coed Ely, Tonyrefail and Robertstown, Aberdare, to encourage local businesses to grow or encourage businesses to relocate.

5.4 Further large investment projects at a number of Rhondda Cynon Taf strategic sites are being developed, under the auspices of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, which will have a major impact in the County Borough. Over the coming months a number of reports will be presented to Cabinet bringing forward the business cases for the infrastructure projects listed above.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

None at present. As individual projects are developed and reports considered by Members, equality impact assessments will be prepared as required.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

As individual projects are developed and reports considered by Members, the Council will be consulting and engaging with residents, service users, businesses, local authority members and the wider community as appropriate.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

None at present. Financial implications will be considered as and when individual reports are considered by Members.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

None at present. Any legal implications will be considered as and when individual reports are considered.

10. **LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN/OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

This Report is focused on the delivery of the Community Plan.

**Other Information:-**

***Relevant Scrutiny Committee*** - Overview & Scrutiny Committee

***Background Papers*** - None

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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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**Background Papers**

None

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