

Council Priority:	PROSPERITY - <i>creating the opportunity for people and businesses to be innovative, be entrepreneurial and fulfil their potential and prosper</i>
Lead Director:	Chris Bradshaw

Commitments linked to this Council	1 - Investing in our town centres, bringing jobs and homes into our town centres to create vibrant, thriving places people wish to live, work and
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Delivery Actions	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
Support new businesses to open up in town centres and existing businesses to expand their offer through a wide package of financial support and interventions					
Deliver a range of support for businesses to support their continued recovery from the covid-19 pandemic and encourage investment and innovation	Implement an integrated package of support for town centre businesses	Review Mar-22	Peter Mortimer	On Target	An integrated approach to supporting town centre businesses is important in achieving successful outcomes. This has been put into practice during the Covid Pandemic in delivering specific packages of support to businesses to help them adapt to new business conditions. For example 69 businesses have been supported in key and smaller town centres to develop outdoor spaces to improve their trading opportunities. This has required a joint effort across Council service areas and is a good basis for future working. Now that Covid restrictions are lifted the Regeneration Team will be on the ground in key town centres identifying further opportunities to support businesses to recover and grow. This will involve obtaining views and feedback from the business community to better inform developing packages of support.
	Deliver a Property Investment Programme in eligible key town centres	Review Mar-22	Peter Mortimer	On Target	A range of property and site redevelopment projects are currently underway as part of this programme.
	Roll out and lead on the WG Targeted Regeneration Programme on behalf of the Cardiff Capital Region Authorities to provide support to new businesses and help existing businesses to expand	Review Mar-22	Derek James/ Peter Mortimer	On Target	The Council continues to lead on the rollout of the Transforming Towns grant scheme to support town centre redevelopment across the Cardiff Capital Region on behalf of Welsh Government and the other 9 local authorities. This is currently a £15 million investment programme. A strong pipeline of potential redevelopment projects is in development across key town centres.
Where the private sector is unable to tackle empty or rundown sites and premises in town centres, proactively acquire specific key strategic sites and, in partnership with Welsh Government, seek to develop suitable town centre solutions					
Identify key empty properties and disused sites across our town centres and develop suitable site specific solutions to bring them back into use	Map and identify empty properties and disused sites across our town centres and consider options appraisals for key sites	Mar-22	Derek James/ Peter Mortimer	On Target	Work to identify and prioritise town centre sites and premises which require redevelopment continues as part of the delivery and development of town centre regeneration strategies and frameworks
	Roll out and lead on the WG Targeted Regeneration Programme on behalf of the Cardiff Capital Region Authorities to support the acquisition and redevelopment of disused sites	Mar-22	Derek James/ Peter Mortimer	On Target	As stated above, the Council continues to lead on the rollout of the Transforming Towns grant scheme and as part of this work disused sites are being reviewed for the potential for redevelopment.
	Ensure the successful delivery of current projects including new commercial premises on derelict land in Hannah St, Porth, a major refurbishment to the vacated Barclays Bank, Mountain Ash and creating new homes from vacant upper floor space in High St, Pontypridd.	Review Mar-22	Peter Mortimer	On Target	A range of property and site redevelopment projects are currently underway as part of this programme. These include the former Barclays Bank building in Mountain Ash which is being transformed into a multi use building by Cynon Valley Cancer Care who will operate the range of its services from the premises. Other notable redevelopments are nearing completion in Mill Street and High Street, Pontypridd
	Continue pipeline project development in town centres including Porth, Mountain Ash, Aberdare, Treorchy and Tonypany	Ongoing	Derek James/ Peter Mortimer	On Target	A strong pipeline of potential redevelopment projects is in development across key town centres.

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Further develop and deliver regeneration opportunities set out in the Pontypridd Strategic Opportunity Area, targeting empty and rundown sites which are significant to the regeneration of the town centre	Coordinate the delivery of major regeneration projects in Pontypridd including the Bingo Hall, YMCA and the Muni. In relation to the Muni redevelopment, submit a UK levelling up bid to support delivery of the scheme	Ongoing	Derek James/ Peter Mortimer	On Target	A major programme of regeneration investment is underway in Pontypridd. The Valleys Regional Park funded programme of improvement in Ynysangharad Park is nearing completion including completely upgrading paths and roads and associated lighting and the installation of a changing places facility in the Lido Visitor Centre block. Work continues on the YMCA redevelopment which will complete this financial year. Works are onsite to demolish the former Bingo Hall site in readiness for redevelopment and a bid has been made to the UK Government Levelling Up Fund for the major redevelopment of the Muni Buildings into a major cultural hub.
	Coordinate and support the development of further significant regeneration projects in Pontypridd such as the redevelopment of the former M&S building	Ongoing	Peter Mortimer	On Target	Further major investment and regeneration opportunities are being investigated and developed including the former M&S, Burton and Dorothy Perkins buildings which have been acquired. Investigation work is now underway on the building structures and options for future use being developed
Develop a tourism offer including a range of attractions that encourages people to come to the County Borough and support businesses to develop a range of complementary services including quality accommodation					
Develop a strategic approach to maximising the potential of the visitor economy throughout the County Borough	Produce an overarching Strategy that provides direction for the development of the Visitor Economy throughout the County Borough	Sep-21	Ian Christopher	On Target	A Visit RCT Tourism Strategy has been written that covers key themes around Attractions, Accommodation, Skills and Employment, Accessibility, Infrastructure and Connectivity and also Experience. This Strategy was consulted upon with residents, business owners and visitors on 17 May 2021 (321 responses), for a five-week period, and has also been presented to Scrutiny Group for further comment/input. A final proof (including recommended updates) is set to be presented to Cabinet in September for final approval.
	Support the development and delivery of significant visitor economy regeneration projects throughout RCT such as Zip World tower, Gravity family bike park and the Rhondda and Abernant Tunnels projects	Ongoing	Ian Christopher	On Target	Highways colleagues have worked with Zip World representatives in respect of the discharge of their planning obligations, provided technical feedback on preliminary designs for their new access and also provided guidance on permission for signage to their attraction. The finalisation of key Valleys Regional Park works at Dare Valley Country Park continue, with Gravity Family Bike Park opening in August. Discussions on Bike Park operations are ongoing and private operator Black Rock have taken ownership of the lease of the cafe and catering onsite. New signage has been provided throughout the park to enhance the visitor experience. Onsite visits/meetings have taken place with the Rhondda Tunnel Society and other groups with the objective of obtaining the necessary finances and business plans to open the attraction in the future.
	Establish an RCT strategic steering group involving key stakeholders from across the visitor sector to help drive forward the RCT Tourism strategy	Jun-21	Ian Christopher	Complete	The Visit RCT Strategic Steering Group was established as a closed membership group, consisting of members representing organisations including Edwards Coaches, Penderyn Whisky Distillery, Royal Mint Experience, Zip World and the accommodation sector. An initial meeting has been held where a number of key themes were discussed including signage, promotion and the Tourism Strategy. The group intends to meet every 4-6 weeks.
Make it easier for shoppers to visit town centres using public transport or active travel and keep car park charges to a minimum					
Investigate options for improving active travel within the Pontypridd, Aberdare and Porth town centres	Commission studies into active travel in the Pontypridd, Aberdare and Porth town centres	Mar-22	Andrew Griffiths	On Target	Feasibility studies have been commissioned for all 3 town centres
Deliver schemes to improve active travel into our town centres	Deliver the Commercial Street footbridge scheme in Aberdare to provide an active travel friendly route into the town centre	Jan-22	Andrew Griffiths	On Target	Tenders have been returned and a contractor appointed for construction
Review car parking charges in our town centres	Realign parking charges to encourage better use of the town centres of Aberdare and Pontypridd	Jun-21	Andrew Griffiths	On Target	Parking charges completed

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Support local small and medium sized businesses to supply goods and services to the Council					
Build on the work delivered to date to provide opportunities to local small and medium sized businesses	Develop the Council's website to include an e-form for potential suppliers to record their details and express interest	Oct-21	Marc Crumbie	On Target	This area is currently under consideration and potential actions are being discussed
	Include details of current and upcoming tenders on the Council website	Oct-21	Marc Crumbie	On Target	
Support small and medium sized house builders and self builders to develop new and empty housing through the RCT Housing Strategy and Investment Service	Monitor and record the number of local contractors that are contracted by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) to deliver affordable housing schemes in RCT that have been allocated Social Housing Grant.	Mar-22	Claire Hutcheon	On Target	WG have yet to confirm the Social Housing Grant allocation programme from 2021/2022, once confirmed the number of local contractors will be recorded
	Monitor and record the number of local SME builders who are contracted by RCT through the Housing Grants Contractor Framework to adapt homes in RCT, ensuring our vulnerable and elderly residents are able to stay in their homes safely for longer	Mar-22	Claire Hutcheon	On Target	57 Disabled Facilities Grants have been completed this quarter totalling a grant amount of £335,000. Of the 57 cases, 26 (46%) of the grants have been completed by contractors within RCT.
	Monitor and record the number of local SME builders that are provided building work through RCT Housing Grants and loans. This would include the RCT Empty Homes Grant and the Houses into Homes loans.	Mar-22	Claire Hutcheon	On Target	There have been 6 Houses into Homes Loans completed this reporting period, all 6 contractors that carried out the works were from RCT. The total costs for the works was £271,250, of which £123,251 was made through the loans scheme. There have been 77 Valleys TaskForce Empty Homes Grants completed this quarter, all in Rhondda Cynon Taf, 91 contractors have been used to undertake the works on the 77 homes, of which 87% are from RCT, resulting in just over £1.3M being invested (grant and client contribution).

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Lead Director:	Chris Bradshaw				
Commitments linked to this Council priority	2 - Delivering major regeneration and transportation schemes, maximising the impact of the South Wales Metro, to create better places to live and work, whilst protecting and enhancing the County Borough				
Delivery Actions	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
Consider a radically different approach to mobility in the new Local Development Plan to create a socially just, zero carbon mobility plan. This shifts mobility away from the car by eliminating the conditions that make cars necessary and enabling the use of electric vehicles					
Prepare the Council's Revised Local Development Plan through to its adoption in 2024, ensuring climate change is a key consideration through the preparatory process.	Prepare the Preferred Strategy for the Revised LDP (RLDP), to include strategic level policies which include consideration of carbon reduction and climate change impacts and identify broad areas for strategic intervention in line with the development of the Council's climate change strategy	Nov-21	Owen Jones	On Target	As part of the preparation of the Preferred Strategy stage of the Revised LDP, a series of Visioning events have taken place, to ascertain the key issues, aims and objectives for the Revised LDP. The feedback throughout all these events has seen Climate Change as one of the key matters to address through the LDP. This was particularly prevalent through the public feedback. The preparation of a Visioning Report is underway to gather, summarise and focus the information gathered. This will appropriately evidence the focus of the Preferred Strategy and its policies. In addition, the preparation of the comprehensive RCT Climate Change Strategy alongside the work undertaken by the Climate Change Working Group and across Council services are all being incorporated into the considerations for appropriate Preferred Strategy policies.
	Undertake full stakeholder and public engagement in the preparation of the Preferred Strategy and Deposit RLDP along with full statutory public consultation on the produced documents	Preferred strategy Dec-21 Deposit RLDP Nov-22	Owen Jones	On Target	With regards to the Visioning events mentioned above, there have been two engagement events with officers from all sections of the Council, another two events with the Members Steering Group, another with the LDP Forum set up for external key stakeholders and organisations, and a presentation and discussion with the RCT Climate Change Working Group. There has also been a recent 6 week RCT engagement for the Visioning process – consulting identified bodies and organisations along with all RCT staff and also the general public, using the 'Lets Talk' RCT webpage platform. A Call for Candidate Sites took place from September through until the end of March. From this, over 220 sites have come forward for consideration for allocation in the Revised LDP for housing or other uses. This open call for sites encouraged all developers and landowners to put forward sites that are in suitable and sustainable locations.
	Prepare the Deposit RLDP to consider the most appropriate location of development and determine the most suitable land allocations, expanding on the strategic policies to more detailed local land use policies, embedding the principles of reducing carbon and climate	Nov-22	Owen Jones	On Target	The Deposit LDP will be formulated following the Preferred Strategy. However, the initial stages of preparation as mentioned above, alongside the production of evidence to date, will ultimately contribute to its content, aims and objectives.
Develop town centre strategies for our principal town centres which values the uniqueness of each town while building on the benefits of the Metro and including new office accommodation to increase town centre employment, and homes above shops to create footfall in the towns					
Lead and facilitate the delivery of Porth Town Centre Strategy	Co-ordinate the delivery programme for the Strategy project package	Ongoing	Derek James	On Target	The Porth Town Centre Strategy has been adopted for delivery by the Council and is now in its delivery phase. The co-ordination of the development and delivery arrangements for the strategy project package is being undertaken by a Project Board with associated delivery groups. These groups include officers from the relevant Council Service areas and technical advisors and representatives of construction contractors. This ensures the most effective project delivery arrangements.
	Lead on the development and delivery of the Porth Transport Hub and submit a UK levelling up bid to support delivery of the scheme	Ongoing	Peter Mortimer	On Target	The Porth Transport Hub is a cornerstone of the Strategy and will transform the northern entry to the town. Development work is now well advanced with planning in place, detailed design reaching its conclusion and procurement of the construction contractor underway.

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Support the delivery of Mountain Ash Town Centre Framework to take the town centre into the future that delivers economic growth and job creation	Support the development and delivery of projects within the framework such as Mountain Ash Town Hall	Ongoing	Derek James	On Target	The redevelopment of the Mountain Ash Town Hall is currently being delivered with a private sector led approach. Works are currently on site and the redevelopment will provide an innovative business space for co-working and small businesses to locate and share space.
	Lead on the development and delivery of agreed projects in the Framework such as the Redevelopment of Rhos (Guto) Square and Oxford Buildings	Ongoing	Peter Mortimer/ Claire Hutcheon	On Target	Oxford Buildings has now been complete. The development provides up to 8 self-contained, high quality apartments specifically for adults with a learning disability. Individuals will have access to targeted support from care partners DRIVE to enable them to maximise their independence and promote choice. The redevelopment of Rhos (Guto) Square is currently onsite with construction due for completion before the end of 2021
Lead and facilitate the development of Tonypanyd Town Centre Strategy, an integrated, co-ordinated and holistic approach that takes into account the distinctive role of the town centre at the heart of the community and its important location for services, employment, housing and transport functions.	Co-ordinate the delivery programme for the Strategy project package	Ongoing	Derek James	On Target	A draft Placemaking Plan is being developed with the support and input of key stakeholders and advisors which will provide a framework for future investment and development
	Lead on the development and delivery of agreed projects within the town centre strategy, this includes the redevelopment of the co-op and 122 Dunraven street (burnt out building)	Ongoing	Peter Mortimer	On Target	The development and delivery of agreed projects will build on the successful delivery of regeneration projects in Tonypanyd. These include the reintroduction of traffic into parts of Dunraven Street, the redevelopment of the former Llwynypia Court House into a flexible business space for SMEs and the demolition and redevelopment of the key Dunraven Street buildings recently gutted by fire damage
Produce a town centre strategy/placemaking plan for Pontypridd	Develop a draft strategy/placemaking plan with the support of key stakeholders and advisors	Dec-21	Derek James	On Target	As outlined in priority one, a major programme of regeneration investment is underway in Pontypridd.
	Lead on the development and delivery of agreed projects within the town centre strategy	Ongoing	Peter Mortimer	On Target	Further major investment and regeneration opportunities are being investigated and developed including the former M&S, Burton and Dorothy Perkins buildings which have been acquired. Investigation work is now underway on the building structures and options for future use being developed.
Deliver major road schemes such as the dualling of the A4119, the cross valley link, the Llanharran bypass and the A465 Cynon valley link road					
Deliver dualling of the A4119 to improve road capacity and integrate into the wider regional transport network, supporting growth and development	Complete Dwr Cymru Welsh water (DCWW) advanced works to divert main sewer away from the proposed route	Oct-21	Andrew Griffiths	On Target	Dwr Cymru Welsh Water works commenced onsite in May
	Go out to tender for construction of main works	Oct-21	Andrew Griffiths	On Target	Draft documents being undertaken
	Submit a UK levelling up bid to support delivery of the scheme	Jun-21	Andrew Griffiths	Complete	BID submitted to UK Government
Deliver Cynon Gateway North, to link the A465 to the strategic highway network	Obtain planning permission for the Cynon Gateway North scheme	Nov-21	Andrew Griffiths	On Target	Planning submitted and currently awaiting determination
	Go out to tender for design and build for the main works	Dec-21	Andrew Griffiths	On Target	Tender documents being considered, awaiting planning decision
Deliver Llanharran Bypass to fully integrate the Llanilid corridor into the wider transport network	Obtain pre-planning permission for the Llanharran bypass scheme	Dec-21	Andrew Griffiths	On Target	EIA for the project is currently being undertaken
Investing in a number of park and ride facilities across the County Borough at key strategic metro sites, including Junction 34 of the M4					
Deliver Porth Park and Ride Phase 3 to increase car parking provision	Gain planning permission and develop proposals through to detail design	Mar-22	Andrew Stone	On Target	Planning application submitted, expected to be at planning committee in October. Gearing up for detail design once planning permission is granted
Deliver Treorchy Park and Ride to increase car parking provision	Develop proposals through to detail design	Mar-22	Andrew Stone	On Target	Planning application determined and permission granted. Design and development of the project commissioned
Deliver Llwynypia Park and Ride to increase car parking provision	Gain planning permission and develop proposals through to detail design	Mar-22	Andrew Stone	On Target	Planning application submitted, expected to be planning committee in October. Gearing up for detail design once planning permission is granted.

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Ensuring all homes and businesses have at least access to superfast connectivity, with all key industrial and commercial hubs having access to ultrafast connectivity					
Seek to ensure that connectivity is improved across the County Borough and that citizens can effectively access	Prepare report to SLT to outlines options and recommendations to provide an enhanced Broadband coverage to areas of the local authority	Sep-21	Tim Jones/Simon Gale	On Target	Draft Report and recommendations has been prepared in collaboration between ICT & Digital and Prosperity & Development.
	Continue to work with partners and key suppliers to reduce the number of broadband "not spots" within the County Borough	Mar-22	Tim Jones	On Target	Baseline of "not spots" has been defined and BT Openreach engaged as key supplier to support identification of opportunities. Paper in draft to provide recommendations to SLT on approach.
	Complete rollout of Town Centre Wi-Fi to Pontypridd and Tonypany	Jul-21	Tim Jones	Not on Target	Tonypany Town Centre Completed and Live. Pontypridd delayed to September 21 due to BT Openreach requirements.
Leading on the master planning of the new settlement at Llanillid and the connectivity with the M4 and existing rail connections					
Further develop and deliver the regeneration opportunities set out in the Llanilid Strategic Opportunity Area	Develop a masterplan approach for Llanilid that maximises the current regeneration opportunities being presented including those through the Cardiff Capital region	Ongoing	Derek James	On Target	Work continues with the landowners on developing a masterplan to enable early phases to be considered as a candidate site in the emerging LDP
	Work with landowners and key stakeholders to develop and deliver the best use mix and outcomes for the potential of the Llanilid site	Ongoing	Peter Mortimer	On Target	Discussions are ongoing with landowners at the site. Plans are developing for further expansion within the Dragon Studios complex with Disney and Lucas Films taking out a lease for the production of new film and TV content. Work also continues in partnership with developers to enable the Llanharan Bypass to come forward within agreed timescales.
Supporting housing developers to bring forward major housing developments on former brownfield sites, such as former Cwm Coking Works in Beddau and the former Phurnacite Works in Aberaman					
Support the development of 1,000 new homes on the former Cwm Coking works site, including a percentage of affordable housing	Support developer in the submission of a planning application to enable them to carry out the necessary remediation works (funded by CCR)	Mar-22	Chris Jones	On Target	Working with Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) on progressing the Housing Viability Gap Funding to remediate contaminated land conditions across all three sites.
	Completion of all remediation works on site	May-24	Chris Jones	On Target	
Support the development of 300 - 400 new homes on the former Aberdare hospital site, including a percentage of affordable housing	Support developer in the submission of a planning application to enable them to carry out the necessary remediation works (funded by CCR)	Mar-22	Chris Jones	On Target	
	Completion of all remediation works on site	May-24	Chris Jones	On Target	
Support the development of 150 new homes on the Heol y Wenallt site, including a percentage of affordable housing	Support developer in the submission of a planning application to enable them to carry out the necessary remediation works (funded by CCR)	Mar-22	Chris Jones	On Target	
	Completion of all remediation works on site	May-24	Chris Jones	On Target	

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Commitments linked to this Council priority	3 - Ensuring we have good schools so all children have access to a great Education
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Delivery Actions	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
Improving pupils' achievement and narrowing the attainment gap					
Develop a highly skilled Educational workforce and excellent leadership at all levels	Co-construct an Educational Directorate strategy that effectively supports schools and the community to plan for recovery	Sep-21	Gaynor Davies	Not on Target	Document is currently in draft and due to be shared with schools in September. A development session was held with all headteachers in June to revisit mission, vision, values and high level strategic priorities. This feedback has been used to update the strategic document. Wider consultation on the strategy with schools is planned in September; delivery date for launch of the strategy revised to November 2021.
	Ensure the robust self-evaluation of Education Services to inform strategic planning, including the effective use of data, stakeholder feedback and learner voice to shape services and policy development	Ongoing	Gaynor Davies	On Target	Continue to develop the use of data, including development of a robust system to manage safeguarding records to make it easier to monitor compliance, and development of dashboards for SEREN students and birth data to inform service planning.
Support schools to deliver a transformational curriculum, high quality teaching and learning and improved outcomes for all, working in partnership with Central South Consortium to support schools with the greatest need to ensure accelerated progress	Through working with Central South Consortium, broker appropriate support to schools to identify and deliver improved standards of literacy	Ongoing	Tim Britton Sarah Corcoran	On Target	Improvement Partners appropriately identify needs and broker support for each individual school where necessary. A Local Authority based project has been developed and offered through self-evaluation of the need across the Local Authority.
	The regional school improvement service, alongside LA officers will develop school and cluster-based research informed initiatives aimed at improving outcomes in writing	Ongoing	Tim Britton Sarah Corcoran	On Target	LA writing project has been developed, costed and offered to all schools. This will begin in the Autumn term 2021.
	In partnership with CSC, develop and implement an early intervention programme to promote the acquisition of early developmental skills in the foundation phase	Ongoing	Tim Britton Sarah Corcoran	On Target	Early years teachers from the LA are currently working with nominated staff in CSC to promote the acquisition of early developmental skills in the Foundation Phase
	Identify learners most adversely affected by Covid-19 and support them to make progress through targeted and evaluated interventions	Dec-21	Tim Britton Sarah Corcoran	On Target	LA officers working with Principle Improvement Partners in CSC to discuss and determine how there will be effective use of assessment and tracking across the LA to identify those learners most adversely affected by Covid-19 and inform targeted and evaluated interventions.
	Schools in statutory categories or causing concern are actively involved in progress meetings, access intensive support from CSC and make the required level of progress. Schools will be held to account where progress is deemed to be insufficient.	Mar-22	Gaynor Davies Sarah Corcoran Tim Britton	On Target	All schools in statutory categories have undertaken regular progress meetings and have accessed brokered support as needed. Most schools have made significant progress, with many moving out of LA or Estyn categories

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Support and enhance the wellbeing of learners and provide a positive foundation for learning	Further improve attendance across schools and develop effective family engagement approaches to improve levels of attendance and participation	Feb-22	Daniel Williams Sarah Corcoran	On Target	Schools are being supported to make effective use of family engagement officer posts and share best practice and termly reports, analysis and feedback continues. Following a report to Cabinet on 17th June, the Secondary pilot has been extended for another year. Family engagement officer posts will also be extended to 13 primary settings for 2 years from September. Schools have been consulted on future service delivery models for the Attendance and Wellbeing Service and findings will be factored into future service delivery. https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s28978/Report.pdf?LLL=0
	Develop an effective strategy to minimise the digital exclusion of learners	Oct-21	Catrin Edwards Elaine Pritchard	On Target	Approaches to support digitally excluded learners have been developed and a report for Cabinet has been prepared.
Improving outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities					
Ensure the right learning pathway for vulnerable learners and their families	Ensure effective delivery of the ALN Transformation plan to meet the requirements of the new ALNET Act and ALN Code	Mar-22	Ceri Jones	On Target	Transformation Plan 2021/22 has been approved by CSC lead and the Access & Inclusion service continue to address actions as appropriate
	Enhance the capacity of mainstream schools to meet learners' ALN through further development of training and outreach models	Sep-21	Ceri Jones	On Target	School ALN Co-ordinators were consulted in the ALNCO Forum session in July and feedback sought on required training opportunities. 2 Behaviour Support Teachers are now based at Tai Centre and work interactively with Tai staff to provide outreach to mainstream schools. The Early Years Outreach Support from Ysgol Hen Felin has been reviewed and revised processes and remit put in place to ensure it operates in line with revised Early Years Forum processes. An evaluation of the revised service will take place in Summer Term 2022.
	Continue to support mainstream schools to improve the quality of provision for learners with significant social, emotional and behavioural needs, including the development of bespoke alternative provision	Mar-22	Ceri Jones Sarah Corcoran	On Target	Monitoring and Governance Group and Operational Group in place to review progress and to advise schools on any supportive actions. Monitoring and advisory visits undertaken by the Behaviour support and Educational Psychology service. End of Project and end of year evaluation reports were requested from tranche 1 and 2 schools by 21st July to review progress / impact. Further information, including impact data and case studies, will be collated to evaluate the progress of provisions and overall impact.
	Explore the potential for developing a regional sensory service	Apr-22	Ceri Jones Gaynor Davies	On Target	Following Cabinet approval to undertake a review to consider a sub-regional sensory service, an independent educational consultant has been commissioned to progress the work. Further information has been sought from the LAs to inform the next stage of the review.

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Ensure that the needs of Children Looked After are effectively met	Evaluate the impact of PDG LAC on the outcomes of CLA and develop an action plan to address areas requiring further development	Sep-21	Head of EPS	On Target	PDG LAC funding for RCT schools has been evaluated by CSC and a report presented to the Corporate Parenting Board (12th July 2021). Tuition for year 10 and 11 was trialled and positively evaluated in July 21. Virtual tuition will be extended to year 6 and for a further year for year 10 and 11. Evaluation of RCT bursary grant completed 20/21 and will be reported to Corporate Parenting Board.
Supporting children to have the best start in life and be ready for learning through an improved early years' system and childcare offer					
Develop a more integrated model of early years provision across the County Borough	Map early years provision across RCT and identify possible areas for development	Ongoing	Tim Britton Jess Allen Denise Humphries	On Target	A mapping exercise has been undertaken to map Welsh medium sessional care services in the LA. This has identified potential gaps and areas of development. The next full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment report is due in 2022 and consultation for this will begin in Autumn 2021. This work will include a thorough review of current provision and identify areas of development over the next 5 years. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a detrimental impact on the supply of childcare in some areas. Local knowledge is being used to address these issues.
	Develop online partnership forum and networking opportunities to support childcare sector	Jul-21	Andrea Richards Denise Humphries	Complete	The Early Years, Childcare and Play Development Partnership (EYCPDP) has been re-established and provides a forum for LA and childcare/play sector reps to share information and good practice. Online engagement and training events are held for the childcare sector and are well received.
	Continue to progress and deliver the remaining projects funded via the Welsh Government's Early Years Grant: - YGG Aberdar - Cwmlai Primary - Dolau Primary - Gwauncelyn Primary - YGGG Llantrisant	Mar-22	Andrea Richards Lisa Howell	On Target	Works are ongoing and are at various stages on the projects. Full spend will be achieved on all projects by the end of the financial year in compliance with the funding conditions.
Investing in new and replacement 21st Century Schools, whilst also meeting the demand for Welsh language provision throughout the County Borough					
Effectively deliver the ambitious Band B programme and Education Capital Programme across the County Borough	Submit revised Band B Strategic Outline Programme to Welsh Government to request additional funding to extend the current envelope of funding	Jul-21	Andrea Richards Lisa Howell	Complete	Revised Band B SOP submitted 5th July 2021.
	Complete Stage 1 design process of the 3 pathfinder Mutual Investment Model (MIM) schemes	Jul-21	Andrea Richards Nicola Goodman	Complete	Stage 1 submission received from WEPCo on 5th July 2021
	Complete the outline business case for the 3 pathfinder MIM schemes for: Penygawsi Primary School Llanilltud Faerdref Primary School Pontyclun Primary School	Sep-21	Andrea Richards Nicola Goodman	Complete	Outline business case submitted July 2021
	Continue to progress the design stage for Greater Pontypridd school projects, including Bryncelynog Comprehensive, a new 3-16 school at Hawthorn, a new 3-16 school at Pontypridd and a new Welsh Medium primary school	Ongoing	Lisa Howell Andrea Richards	On Target	Contractors have been appointed on a design and build basis. Projects are current on target. Business cases are being progressed.
	Continue to progress and deliver the Welsh medium capital projects to provide additional pupil capacity at YG Rhydywaun and YGG Aberdar	Aug-22	Lisa Howell Andrea Richards	On Target	Works on site have commenced and are currently on programme
	Consult on developing a new Welsh medium school for YGG Llyn y Forwen	Sep-21	Lisa Howell Andrea Richards	On Target	Consultation had been undertaken and the results will be reported to Cabinet in September.

Delivery Actions	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
Strengthen partnership approaches to the development and implementation of the new WESP	Work with key stakeholders on the development and implementation of the new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and promote uptake of Welsh Medium Education	Mar-22	Gaynor Davies Grace Zecca-Hanagan Steffan Gealy	On Target	WESP Virtual Planning Day hosted by Director of Education and Inclusion Service bilingually via Zoom with a number internal and external officers in attendance. The input throughout the WESP Virtual Planning Day and additional information collated later, via the completion of templates, has assisted in the development of a robust draft WESP. The Draft WESP has been presented to the Cabinet Welsh Language Steering Group on 19th July 2021 and formal Cabinet on 20.07.2021 in order to gain approval to conduct a statutory consultation, which is planned to take place for an 8 week period from mid September.
Review special school provision across the County Borough	Undertake a comprehensive review and feasibility study of special school provision across the board and possible proposals for change and future investment in the special school sector	Oct-21	Ceri Jones Andrea Richards	On Target	Review undertaken and report to be presented to Cabinet in the autumn
Support schools to successfully introduce and embed the new curriculum, raising the standards of educational performance for all pupils					
Ensure that teaching and learning across RCT is adapted and developed in line with the demands of the Areas of Learning in the new curriculum for Wales	Ensure all schools short, medium and long term planning has been adapted and is in place to meet the needs of pupils and the new curriculum	Mar-22	Tim Britton Sarah Corcoran	On Target	CSC is providing advice, training and guidance to ensure schools are equipped and ready with their curriculum offer to meet the needs of the pupils and address the demands of the new curriculum.
	Ensure that, through Central South Consortium, there is effective monitoring and quality assurance of all schools robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Review cycles and this evidence is securely identified in the Evaluation For Improvement.	Ongoing	Tim Britton Sarah Corcoran	On Target	This work is currently at an early stage of development.
	Ensure that, through Central South Consortium, all schools' readiness for curriculum reform is monitored termly and schools with the greatest distance to travel are well supported to engage in transformational change	Ongoing	Tim Britton Sarah Corcoran	On Target	Discussions about schools' curriculum readiness have been taking place between LA officers and Principle Improvement Partners over the spring and summer terms 2021. This will continue in Autumn 2021 with PIPs identifying which schools will need additional support and what support is being provided so that they will be ready for the implementation of Curriculum 2022 at the start of the autumn term 2022.
	Identify and share good practice across the LA through gathering knowledge from school Evaluation For Improvement (EFI) documents, performance meetings, discussion with CSC officers, feedback from families and learners and through the termly teaching and learning group	Ongoing	Tim Britton Sarah Corcoran	On Target	Termly teaching and learning forums have identified good practices linking schools together to develop 'non negotiables' that could be used across the LA. All information is shared and easily accessible through a teams channel. Many Improvement Partners (IP) have gathered evidence to ensure there is effective teaching and learning in all schools and further development of reporting strategies are currently underway at CSC. From autumn 2021 the PIPs will undertake half-termly scrutiny of IP reports and will produce a report for LA officers identifying the strengths and areas for development in RCT schools as well as identifying good practice that is worthy of sharing, entitled "snippets of success".
Continue to strengthen the ICT infrastructure and effective implementation of the Hwb programme and the digital strategy for schools	Ensure effective delivery of the Hwb Infrastructure investment programme and provide regular updates of progress	Ongoing	Catrin Edwards Tim Jones	On Target	The first phase of the infrastructure project has been completed and weekly updates provided to Welsh Government

Delivery Actions	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
Support pupils to understand the world of work and access good careers advice and guidance.					
Support schools to develop a wider range of learning pathways for 14–19-year-olds and strengthen preparation for the world of work, training and further education	Create a system of support and training for career leaders to link learning to careers in the new curriculum, making subjects more relatable to working life.	Mar-22	Sarah Corcoran Kate Owen	On Target	A pilot has been developed to start in the Autumn term. Three schools have been selected and each school will select five year 10 pupils currently not reaching their potential. The Gatsby + provision has been written and disseminated to schools and initial meetings with career leads arranged. Support will include one to one mentoring with pupils and development of a career plan; support in gaining high quality work experience placements; support and guidance for staff. Four working parties have been developed from across all secondary schools in four subject areas. The groups have met to discuss how Gatsby Benchmark 4 can be used to improve engagement and motivation in their subject. Dates have been arranged to facilitate training for Primary and Secondary schools on the new CWRE guidance due to be published
	Develop and implement a framework to improve the safeguarding of learners undertaking extended work	Oct-21	Sarah Corcoran Kate Owen	On Target	Policies and safeguarding audits have been written and are currently being piloted by two secondary schools.
	Explore the possible establishment of the Junior Apprenticeship with Coleg Y Cymoedd	Jul-21	Sarah Corcoran Martyn Silezin	On Target	Initial meeting held and Coleg Y Cymoedd to provide costings and outline
Provide opportunities for pupils to learn more about potential career paths available to them, particularly in the local area	Develop and deliver a virtual work experience programme, providing opportunities for pupils to understand more about careers in the Council and other sectors	Mar-22	Sian Woolson	On Target	A number of videos have been recorded from various departments within the Council. Currently planning with other service areas for future videos.

Council Priority:	PROSPERITY - creating the opportunity for people and businesses to be innovative, be entrepreneurial and fulfil their potential and prosper				
Lead Director:	Chris Bradshaw				
Commitments linked to this Council	4 - Increase the number of quality homes available and affordable to provide greater housing choice for residents				
Delivery Actions	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
Increase the land supply for new sustainable, low carbon homes through an updated Local Development Plan or Strategic Development Plan from 2021					
Work in partnership with Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) and other relevant stakeholders to explore opportunities to increase the amount of low carbon homes being developed.	Co-ordinate and chair the RCT Fuel Poverty working group, ensuring the most relevant stakeholders are engaged to maximise the impact of the Fuel Poverty strategy and action plan.	Mar-22	Derek James/ Claire Hutcheon	On Target	A meeting was held on 22nd April 2021 with guest speakers from Cardiff University's Welsh School of Architecture and EON to discuss ECO funding options for RSL homes. The group is used to facilitate engagement and networking between RSL partners and to align delivery opportunities to communities in RCT.
	Ensure, where possible, Housing Schemes that are allocated Social Housing Grant deliver energy efficient, low carbon homes.	Ongoing	Derek James/ Claire Hutcheon	On Target	
	Identify opportunities with RSLs/stakeholders for community based energy projects that include designing/building zero carbon affordable homes using local resources and labour	Ongoing	Claire Hutcheon	On Target	The Council are working with Rhondda Housing (RHA) who have secured funding via The Skyline Project to carry out a feasibility study which would enable the construction of a zero-carbon home in RCT in the Treherbert area. The dwelling would be constructed using timber from the 'Skyline catchment'. NRW, Welcome to Our Woods, Wood Knowledge Wales and Down 2 Earth are involved in the project. A meeting was held with council colleagues and RHA to identify a plot of land that could be used for this scheme. This will continue to be explored into Qtr 2. The Council is also working with Cynon Taf Housing to explore options for Porth Infants School site and to increase the levels of energy performance/carbon reduction of homes utilising local sustainable products wherever possible
	Continue with existing funding and explore new opportunities for external funding to enable the on-going delivery of capital retrofitting schemes that assist with the low carbon agenda/decarbonisation of existing housing stock	Mar-22	Derek James/ Claire Hutcheon	On Target	The Council has continued to work with installers and there are now 6 registered companies delivering ECO 3 Flex funding in RCT. Under the scheme, energy companies provide funding for energy efficiency improvements to households in receipt of particular benefits. The Council has attracted Arbed am Byth (WG Warm Homes) funding into Penrhiwceiber and is continuing working with Arbed am Byth to seek opportunities for further schemes in RCT. The Council has met with Daikin (heat pump manufacturer) hosted by GN Group to discuss and review heat pump technologies including funding options available, as well as hybrid systems for consideration and inclusion in future energy company schemes and suitability for residents. Further meetings will be undertaken with manufactures of other energy products over the coming months to help inform local energy policies and seek locally based solutions. The Council is piloting a heating grant which can also be used as a customer contribution which is also enabling applications to access ECO 3 flex funding which otherwise they would not have been able to receive due to inability to afford the shortfall costs.
Identify the need for affordable housing provision across RCT	To produce a Local Housing Market Assessment 2022/23 - 2027/28 that will provide a robust, evidence base to inform the RCT housing strategy and the local development plan and its policies. It will also be used as a tool for determining housing mix, affordable housing provision in new developments and allocating social housing grants	Mar-22	Claire Hutcheon	On Target	Discussions taking place with WG regarding the development of the Local Housing Market Assessment - on track to complete by March 2022

Delivery Actions	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
Ensure that new housing and commercial developments include solar, where feasible, and have the capability to generate, store and use renewable energy onsite					
Support an increase in renewable energy usage in new housing across RCT	Explore opportunities to ensure that new housing developments include renewable energy technologies to support properties to be not reliant on grid	Mar-22	Derek James/ Claire Hutcheon	On Target	The Council is working with Development Teams in local Housing Associations to raise standards of new homes above current Building Regulations. This led to the development of ICFs bids for 4 homes which intend to be EPC A rated and using modern methods of construction based on locally sourced and sustainable products (where possible) for use as temporary accommodation for hospital discharge and care leavers. Bids are still being considered by the Regional Commissioning Board
Support an increase in renewable energy usage in commercial developments across RCT	Complete development of modern business units, including PV solar panels integrated into the building, at the former Coedely colliery site and market for occupation	Sep-21	Peter Mortimer	On Target	The construction of the modern business unit at Coedely is now substantially complete with snagging work being undertaken by the contractor. Integrated PV solar panels have successfully been installed as part of the construction
	Commence construction of the new Porth Transport Hub, with integrated PV solar panels and electronic charging points for buses	Mar-22	Peter Mortimer	On Target	Design and development stages are being completed and procurement of construction contractors underway. The final scheme will include integrated solar PV panels and electric charging points for buses
	Complete construction of small business units at Robertstown, Aberdare which contain integrated PV solar panels in the roof systems	Mar-22	Peter Mortimer	On Target	The Robertstown modern business units development is on site and expected to complete in this financial year to include the provision of integrated solar PV panels as part of the roofing system
	Deliver the development of business units at the former Mayhew Chicken factory site at Trecynon, ensuring renewable energies such as integrated PV solar panels are included in the design development and submit a UK levelling up bid to support delivery of the scheme	Mar-22	Peter Mortimer	On Target	Early design work is underway at this development and the inclusion of all potential renewable energy opportunities is a priority in the design development stages
Support small and medium sized house builders and self builders to develop new housing					
Support local self builders and small and medium sized house builders to develop appropriate housing to meet the needs of our local communities	Support SME developers to build more homes by ensuring they are able to access available funding streams	Ongoing	Simon Gale	On Target	The Developer Forum has continued to meet during the pandemic and support has been given to two local SME developers to access the CCR Housing Investment Fund scheme.
	Support the plot shop/self build wales initiative, enabling local people to self-build their own homes	Ongoing	Chris Jones	On Target	Working with The Urbanists and the Development Bank of Wales to examine all Council owned land in order to progress Plot Shop. Plot Shop Working Group also looking to consider privately owned land within the scheme.
Continue to build Extra Care and specially adapted homes for elderly and vulnerable residents, develop innovative housing solutions for younger people in need, and provide suitable housing solutions for the homeless					
Provide housing solutions to meet the needs of elderly and vulnerable residents	Review the approach to the provision of adapted housing supply in the County Borough	Mar-22	Derek James/ Claire Hutcheon	On Target	Adapted Housing Review is progressing well and on track for completion by the target date.
	Continue to implement the affordable warmth strategy, including piloting the new RCT Heating grant that will support the child poverty agenda	Mar-22	Claire Hutcheon	On Target	A total of 15 new applications have been received for the Heating Grant. 3 have been approved to date with the other applications in progress. The Anti-Poverty project in Penrhiwceiber continues, this project is in partnership with Arbed am Byth, with funding available for the installation of renewable energy measures to homes. If any homes do not fall into the specified area that has been identified by Arbed am Byth they will be able to access the RCT Heating grant and receive renewable energy measures to their home through that grant.

Delivery Actions	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
Provide support and suitable homes for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness	Develop a four year housing support plan strategy and needs assessment, setting out the strategic direction and objectives in delivering homelessness and housing related support services	Dec-21	Claire Hutcheon/ Cheryl Emery	On Target	Housing Strategy have worked closely with Supporting people to create a Housing Support Plan Briefing paper that will be used to commission an independent consultant who will complete the Needs Assessment and Strategy. Housing Strategy and Supporting People have attended all WG workshops regarding the development of the assessment and strategy
	Complete a rapid review of Homelessness across RCT	Aug-22	Claire Hutcheon	On Target	On target to complete by Qtr 2
	Review existing Housing First Projects to provide a new service model for single people who experience repeat homelessness with multiple support- needs including substance misuse, domestic	Jan-22	Cheryl Emery	On Target	Project Officer appointed and will start new role in August 2021, with responsibility for establishing a project group and developing an action plan to deliver a service review and new service model.
	Review support arrangements for households in temporary accommodation.	Feb-22	Sue Preece/ Rachel Gronow	Not on Target	A revised model of support and service specification has been implemented from June 21. However, decommissioning of existing services and recommissioning of new services may be delayed due to the impact of covid-19 and the need for a wider review of temporary accommodation arrangements for single homeless people.
	Explore opportunities to develop 2 assessment centres each containing 15-20 units	Mar-22	Claire Hutcheon/ Cheryl Emery	On Target	Discussions have been held with all RSLs and internal colleagues from Corporate Estates to start to identify possible buildings/land for the development of the 2 assessment centres
Develop innovative housing solutions for young people	Develop a new build (Modern Methods of Construction) 4 bedroom supported accommodation project for young people aged 16 -24 in Penygraig	Oct-21	Sue Preece	Not on Target	Planning has been approved and a contractor confirmed by Rhondda Housing Association but there has been a delay in starting groundworks due to complications identified at the site. Ongoing monitoring is in place. Revised completion date March 2022.
	Develop an innovative housing scheme for young people (care leavers) aged 18-24 with complex needs, through ICF.	Mar-22	Claire Hutcheon/ Katherine Tyler	On Target	An ICF application was put forward in partnership with Children's Services and has progressed to stage 2
	Explore opportunities to develop 2 supported Housing Schemes for young people aged 18 - 24 years, who are ready to live independently.	Mar-22	Claire Hutcheon/ Cheryl Emery	On Target	The Hughes Street (Tonypandy), Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) development with Rhondda Housing Association utilising Phase 2 Homelessness Funding is progressing well. A further scheme has been identified with Newydd and included in the Social Housing Grant Programme Development Plan (awaiting approval from WG).

Delivery Actions	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
Continue to bring back empty properties back into use through a range of interventions and support					
Increase the scale of empty homes being brought back into use	Continue to implement the RCT Empty Homes strategy and action plan and monitor progress quarterly through the Empty Homes Working group	Ongoing	Derek James/ Claire Hutcheon	On Target	SLT paper complete to be presented to members evidencing the impact of the Empty Homes Strategy in 2020/2021 and advising that the strategy is extended until March 2022. A new Strategy will then be developed for implementation from 1st April 2022.
	Complete an Empty Homes Report and present to SLT evidencing the impact of the council over the past 2 years to bring empty homes back into use	Aug-22	Claire Hutcheon	On Target	Report is complete and will be presented to SLT in qtr. 2. There have been 1,144 interventions delivered over the last 2 years, which is above the provisional target of 400 per year; this has helped to bring 419 properties back into use. Council tax records show that between 2017-2018 and 2020-21, the period the Empty Homes Strategy has been implemented, the number of empty homes across the borough has reduced from 3,556 to 2,870, a reduction of 19% or 686 properties. Furthermore, according to council tax data in 2020-2021 RCT brought a total of 240 (8.4%) properties back into use directly from Council intervention. This is an increase of 61 properties from the previous year, which again in the context of the Pandemic over the past year is a positive outcome.
	Evaluate the impact of the Valleys Taskforce Empty Homes Grant Scheme that ended on the 31st March 2021	Sep-21	Claire Hutcheon	On Target	The scheme received 1076 applications, of which 941 were valid applications. This resulted in the initial £10million budget for the scheme being increased by WG in order to meet the number of applications received. As of the 31st March 2021, the total committed grant claim is £11.4million. RCT received 557 (53%) applications, of which 494 (87%) were valid applications. This has resulted in almost £5.5million of grant funding being awarded to residents of RCT in order to bring empty homes back into use, which is 52% of the overall budget. 92 local contractors (VTF areas) have been involved in the scheme, 67% of these are RCT based contractors, resulting in a positive impact on the local economy. Whilst applications to the scheme has ended, approved grants have until the 31st March 2022 to complete all works, therefore final outcomes and claims cannot be confirmed until then.
	Implement and monitor the RCT Empty Homes Grant Scheme to support home owners to bring empty properties back into use, the grant also offers home owners the opportunity to use the grant towards renewable energy measures make the home more energy efficient	Mar-22	Claire Hutcheon	On Target	102 applications received since the 1st April 2021, of which 65 have been valid applications. The council is receiving approximately 30 applications per month. Online applications are being reviewed and are likely to be closed in the next few weeks as the budget will be fully committed.
	Continue to implement and monitor the Houses into Homes loans which is specifically aimed at bringing empty properties back into residential use	Mar-22	Claire Hutcheon	On Target	6 Houses into Homes Loans have been completed this quarter totalling a loan amount of £123,250. These 6 loans have supported the 6 empty properties to be brought back into use. During this period there were also a further 6 applications received and 37 information packs sent out to possible applicants.
Continuing to support responsible local landlords and agents to ensure we have a good quality, affordable private rented sector. We will maintain our targeted enforcement approach against bad landlords and unsafe rented housing, maximising the Council's regulatory intervention powers to improve housing conditions					
Provide support to local landlords to support a good quality private rented sector	Improve the support offered to landlords to improve tenancy sustainability through recruiting support workers to provide a dedicated service for the private rented sector	Jun-21	Susan Preece	Complete	3 Private Rented Sector workers have been successfully recruited, 1 worker for each locality of Rhondda, Cynon and Taf. The service went live on the 17th May 21
	Continue to deliver the RCT landlord forum and newsletter to support local landlords to provide good quality, affordable private sector homes	Ongoing	Claire Hutcheon	On Target	Landlord Forum organised for 29th July 2021
Implement the RCTCBC Social Housing Letting Agency to enhance housing options and provide affordable accommodation for homeless households in the private rented sector	Launch the social housing letting agency scheme and promote publicly	May-21	Jodie Warburton	Complete	All operational arrangements are in place and publicity has been developed. Welsh Government are planning a national launch of the social letting agency later in 2021.
	Monitor and evaluate the social housing letting agency scheme to ensure long term financial sustainability	Jan-22	Cheryl Emery	On Target	

Council Priority:	PROSPERITY - creating the opportunity for people and businesses to be innovative, be entrepreneurial and fulfil their potential and prosper				
Lead Director:	Chris Bradshaw				
Commitments linked to this Council priority	5 - There will be a broad offer of skills and employment programmes for all ages				
Delivery Actions	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
Work with partners to provide employment support, utilising remaining European Funding					
Support residents to develop skills for employment and progression	Review current Employment Support grant funded programmes, CfW, CfW+ and commissioned current provision to ensure there is support available to help people find work, developing a blend of provision that can be offered both remotely/online as well as face to face	Jun-21	Nicola Lewis	Complete	Some face to face delivery recommenced in Q1, by appointment only and on a one to one basis. More face-to-face delivery is planned in Q2, however, a mix with online delivery continues where this has proved effective. Delivery will be reviewed quarterly to ensure clients are getting appropriate support
	Work with local employers to identify local employment opportunities and to support the expansion of 'In Work Support' provision to help people already in work develop into more secure or more skilled roles	Mar-22	Nicola Lewis	On Target	Regular meetings held with Regen Officers, partners and the Employer Liaison team. Arranged for staff to attend the Town Centre bid group meetings during Q2 and Employers event in Treforest to be used to promote support on offer to employers through the employment support programmes. Employer Liaison Officers are contacting local employers with live vacancies and offering support with recruitment and promoting opportunities with our employment programme clients
	Continue to provide targeted employability and essential skills courses, ensuring this meets the new Community Learning requirements set out by Welsh Government	Sep-21	Heulyn Rees	On Target	A Service Delivery Plan has been submitted to WG outlining our provision under the Community Learning Grant. Work is on-going with the Adult Community Learning partnership.
	Review the current Employment and Skills Strategy 2019 - 21 to take account of recent and planned local and national developments	Mar-22	Wendy Edwards	On Target	Performance is monitored and work undertaken to identify any gaps in provision. New employability project developed and submitted to CRF funding to meet an identified need. The strategy will be reviewed and refreshed later in the financial year, when it is hoped there will be more clarity on future employability and skills funding to replace the European Social Fund.
	Deliver two virtual careers fairs, working with stakeholders to plan events and establishing a structure & format for each employer to showcase the opportunities they can offer	Sep-21	Sian Woolson	On Target	Steering group has met and discussed a future careers fair in September 2021, future regular planning meetings have been arranged. Currently working with employers/stakeholders to develop booths and webinars for employers to showcase their opportunities.
	Identify future funding opportunities for employment support programmes	Dec-21	Nicola Lewis	On Target	Community Renewal Fund Applications approved for submission to UK Govt
	Offering employment schemes and apprenticeships in the Council, on the regeneration sites, and through other Council contractors				
Continue to support a range of work experience, apprenticeship and training opportunities across Council services	Explore the potential to develop a virtual work experience programme in the Council, providing opportunities for people to undertake virtual placements in Council services	Mar-22	Sian Woolson	On Target	A number of videos have been recorded from various departments within the council. Currently planning with other service areas for future videos.
	Continue to offer apprenticeship and graduate opportunities within the Council across a wide variety of areas	Mar-22	Sian Woolson	On Target	Apprenticeship and graduate programme on track
	Ensure apprenticeship and training opportunities are made available on all Council regeneration schemes	Mar-22	Derek James Peter Mortimer	On Target	This approach has successfully been developed as part of the development and delivery of major regeneration investments such as Llys Cadwyn, Coedely and Robertstown as part of agreed Community Benefit Plans with appointed contractors. This will be further developed on major projects currently in development such as the Porth Transport Hub

Delivery Actions	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
Offering specific support to help people find work such as care leavers, people with disabilities and Universal Credit claimants					
Review current Employment Support grant funded programmes and commissioned provision to ensure there is specific support offered to help people find work	Work with partners and other specialist organisations to specifically target and engage with groups of clients who have a work limiting health condition, disability or learning difficulty to increase referrals into employment support programmes	Sep-21	Nicola Lewis	On Target	Ongoing attendance at Transformation Group and WG Disability Network meetings with updates given on employment support programmes. Further staff disability awareness training booked for Q2 with Elite
	Implement the Kickstart scheme, providing opportunities for young people who are unemployed to gain workplace experience, and support local employers to apply for funding	Jun-21	Nicola Lewis	Complete	Rolling programme of applications being made to DWP for employers in RCT to obtain funding for Kickstart opportunities. A Kickstart post to support RCT to carry out the Gateway Body role has been applied for and will be appointed in Q2
	Review contracts for commissioned provision through the legacy grant to include activities that have a focus on engaging specific/targeted groups of clients	Jun-21	Nicola Lewis	Complete	Initial review of delivery and discussions with partners on starting back face-to-face delivery undertaken. Contract review meetings with partners will be organised for later in the year to discuss targeting and engaging specific client groups
	Identify, develop and/or commission in work learning and training programmes for specific/targeted groups of clients e.g. disabilities, learning difficulties.	Jun-21	Nicola Lewis	Complete	Staff training planned for Disability awareness.
Facilitate meaningful work placements in the Council to provide specific support to help people gain work experience and training	Provide opportunities in the Council for young people who are unemployed to gain workplace experience through the Kickstart scheme	Mar-22	Sian Woolson	On Target	Kickstart opportunities live on DWP website for placements within the Council
	Continue to deliver Step in the Right Direction and Care 2 work schemes to support young people leaving care to identify career paths and develop their skills	Mar-22	Sian Woolson	On Target	Engaging CLA to enrol on various programmes delivered by the Education Employment and Training Team
	Continue to deliver Gateway to employment placements to support people with learning disabilities to develop work related skills	Mar-22	Sian Woolson	On Target	On track, working with Coleg y Cymoedd and Elite to ensure placements meet individual's needs
Promoting apprenticeships across the County Borough, and supporting businesses to make use of the apprenticeship levy					
Promote the benefits of apprenticeships and traineeships to local businesses	Work with Business Improvement Districts to promote the apprenticeship levy & kickstart scheme	Ongoing	Darren Notley	On Target	Supported Treorchy BID to recruit Kickstart placement to assist with communications and marketing. Arrangements made for Council's Communities for Work Plus team to attend future BID board meetings in Pontypridd and Aberdare to promote work placement and apprenticeship opportunities.
Continuing to support working parents back into employment through the Welsh Government's 30 Hours Childcare offer					
Enable eligible families to access and benefit from the childcare offer for Wales	Ensure that the childcare offer is marketed and administered effectively and continues to meet local demand	Ongoing	Andrea Richards/ Denise Humphries	On Target	Face to face events were not possible during this period, our marketing was adapted to reach as many families as possible. This included sending newsletters and marketing materials to childcare providers for use in their settings, advertising in a parenting magazine distributed to GP surgeries and email updates to schools, as well as new video content on the Council's website. We are also currently working with Welsh Government to support the development of a new national online portal for parents and providers to replace the 11 local systems currently in use..